The Officers, Directors and Members of US SAILING are pleased to present the ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL to Steve and Charlotte Dube for the rescue as follows:

A crew that rescued a sailor from Payette Lake in Idaho was awarded an Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal by the US SAILING Safety-at-Sea Committee for the seamanship they displayed.

Steve and Charlotte Dube of Ontario, Ore. rescued a sailor in their Catalina 250 during the Mill Harbor Yacht Club’s Payette Cup Regatta on June 12, 2010.

After a boom knocked a sailor overboard from another boat, Steve and Charlotte deployed a Lifesling and Charlotte steered the boat in circles around the sailor until the line was in his hands and the boat was stopped.

Fortunately, he was wearing a life jacket. The sailor was in a state of mild hypothermia after five minutes in the lake’s 50 degree water. He was helped on board by Charlotte and Steve, and was soon in dry clothes as the boat returned to the marina. Charlotte, Steve and the rescued sailor are all in their 60s.

Dr. Gino Bottino, MD
Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee
By Direction
What happened: This occurred during the starting sequence of the second race of the day. Butch was at the beam of his boat adjusting the whisker pole when the boom knocked him into the water. Steve and Charlotte were one of the closest boats - they stopped racing and moved towards the man overboard. They were equipped with a Lifesling and threw it into the water. Two attempts were needed to get the sling to the victim. Butch was able to grab it and then Steve and Charlotte hand hauled him aboard their boat. It is estimated he spent no more than 5 minutes in the frigid water and was shivering and suffering mild hypothermia. Steve and Charlotte got him down below and provided a warm change of clothes and then transported him to the marina to change clothes and rest. Butch was able to return to the racing the next day with no ill effects. Steve and Charlotte's quick reactions, safety training and availability of safety equipment enabled a quick rescue in a situation that could have been worse. An additional fact is that the victim and the rescuers are all senior citizens in their 60's and had conditioning to perform a physical rescue. Two other boat were in the immediate vicinity ready to provide assistance - Sergio Mercado single handing in a San Juan 21 was preparing his swim ladder and John and Sherry Burke stood by in a Catalina 22.