

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to

E. HEWITT GAYNOR

and the Crew of

MIRIELLE

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

While racing his J/120 Mirielle in the Indian Harbor-Stratford Shoals race over the Columbus Day weekend, October 10, 1997, Captain Gaynor and his crew Tom Swift observed a dim light inshore of them as they came close to Stratford Point on the last leg, returning to Greenwich. Abandoning the race to investigate, the two heard people screaming as they approached the light. Circling the light under mainsail alone, they observed three men sitting on a capsized 18' aluminum skiff.

Stopping the boat nearby, Captain Gaynor instructed the men to swim to Mirielle one at a time. The first man did so, and was able to climb aboard using the installed stern ladder. The wind then increased, necessitating a further circling maneuver to get close to the capsized boat. A second man swam to Gaynor's boat and being unable to climb the stern ladder, was pulled over the lifelines by Gaynor and Swift. The third victim then came aboard by the ladder.

All were suffering from hypothermia, and were sent below to get out of wet clothes and warm up with blankets and hot liquids. Getting underway again, Mirielle resumed racing toward Greenwich while the Coast Guard was contacted and a rendezvous arranged to get the rescued men ashore to medical facilities. 45 minutes after the rescue, the men were transferred and Mirielle went on to finish the race. Authorities stated that the men probably would not have made it through the night had they not been rescued.

In his report of the incident to the Race Committee, Captain Gaynor estimated that the incident took some thirty minutes, but in absence of an accurate accounting of it, given that compensation in that amount would move him from third to first, he did not request a change in the order of finishes.

US SAILING is pleased to award the Hanson Rescue Medal to Captain Gaynor and his crew for their exemplary display of seamanship and observance of the finest traditions of the sea in effecting this rescue. WELL DONE!

John B. Bonds
Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee

By Direction

**The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Award was awarded to
Captain Gaynor and the crew of Mirielle**