

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to

BRIAN COLE and CHARLES COLE, JR.

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

US SAILING PRESS RELEASE:

On their way home to Stratford from a fishing trip in November of last year, Brian and Charles Cole heard a U.S. Coast Guard announcement reporting a 32' sailboat taking on water in Bridgeport. The report indicated that the vessel was about three miles south of Stratford, so Brian contacted the USCG and informed them that they were very close and would assist. In route, they made contact with the sailboat to get more details and were told that the keel of the 32 footer had ripped off and there was approximately four feet of water down below and rising.

Several minutes later, the Coles arrived and spotted red lifejackets on the two men in the now fully submerged vessel. They were clinging to the only visible part of the boat – the broken keel, of which only six inches was above the water. The victims had now been in the water about eight minutes and the Coles threw a line to them and aided them aboard their boat. A frightening aspect of the rescue, recalled Brian, was that the USCG didn't arrive until the victims had been aboard the Cole's Shawn C for 18 minutes.

THE RESCUERS WORDS:

Just thought I would drop in and tell about our day, 11/4/95.

Started off bluefishing just south of Bridgeport Harbor, CT. Tried the umbrella rig for a while but failed to catch anything.

On our way back to Stratford, CT, we heard an announcement from the CG group Long Island Sound. The report was of a 32' sailboat taking on water in Bridgeport. It mentioned that the vessel in trouble was about 3 miles south of Stratford, CT. I made contact and told the CG we were in route to the location. Also, we made contact with the vessel which was taking on the water.

He explained that the whole keel ripped off from the bottom of the boat and he had about 4 ft. of water downstairs. At this point we were approximately 4 minutes from the scene. Next, we lost contact because water had risen above their radio. I was told by CG that they had Park City EMS standing by and they wanted the status when we arrived.

The first thing we saw was the red lifejackets the two men were wearing (Rich and Tom of Avelon). We then drove our boat up to their vessel which was fully submerged aside from the broken keel which rose up about 6 inches. That was the part the men were grasping hold of. At this point they were in the Sound

for approximately 8 minutes. I threw a rope to them and aided them in boarding our vessel. Both were rejoicing that they had been rescued. Made us feel well too. CG didn't arrive until 18 minutes past the time the men boarded our vessel.

That was our day in a nutshell.

I can't stress enough => Have Lifejackets aboard; They might just save your life in a crucial situation, similar to the one we observed today.

Since this event, Rich the owner of Avelon, has purchased a new boat.

**The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Award was awarded
to Brian Cole and Charles Cole, Jr.**