

**The Officers, Directors and Members of**

**US SAILING**

are pleased to present the

**ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL**

to

**MORGAN STINEMETZ**

**FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:**

Morgan Stinemetz and crewmembers Sally and Bruce Kestin were in a race in Sarasota Bay, Florida in March of 1992. The winds were light and steady from the southwest, and there was minor wave action. The three were sailing on Stinemetz's 27-foot Ericson sloop, Reefer, with Stinemetz at the helm. While sailing to weather, the three tacked the boat from starboard to port tack. A beer cooler that Stinemetz had earlier placed on the coach roof on the starboard side went overboard when the boat heeled. Bruce Kestin reached overboard to get it, and when he did he put his free right hand onto the winch handle on the starboard side. His balance was precarious at best. The winch handle rotated outward, and Kestin immediately slid into the waters of the bay head first.

With the boat on port tack, Stinemetz did what he had practiced and taught--at the Annapolis Sailing School in St. Petersburg. He turned the boat through the eye of the wind and did a 180-degree turn so that he was heading right down his own wake for Kestin. He did not touch any sail controls. At this point the 155% gennie was backed and the main was vastly over trimmed for the point of sail Reefer was on, which was a broad reach. The boat was slowing down all the time. Kestin was never in any real danger, because he was a strong swimmer, but he said later that it gave him great comfort to see the boat coming right back for him. Just before he arrived at where Kestin was treading water, Stinemetz put the boat's outboard down in the water and gybed the boat. The boat was then heading on its original course with the sails trimmed as they should be, but it had little way on. As the stern came around to him, Kestin climbed back aboard, pulled the outboard out of the water and was handed a towel to dry off. The empty cooler was not recovered. The entire operation took less than 45 seconds. On top of that, despite the MOB emergency, Reefer and her crew finished the race in first place on corrected time.

**The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal was awarded to  
Morgan Stinemetz for this rescue event.**