

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to

PAM BASS

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

The Brewer 44 cutter "*Sea Bass*" had departed Puerto Rico on a trans-Atlantic voyage to the Azores. Aboard were its owners, Joe and Pam Bass doing their second circumnavigation. At 1700 hours and about 300 miles north of Puerto Rico, the "*Sea Bass*" was beam reaching to 7 knots in 20 to 25 knots of wind and 7 foot seas under control of the autopilot. Joe was alone on deck and Pam off watch asleep in her berth with evening approaching. Joe went forward to wipe an oil spot on deck. He clutched the lifeline for support as the boat rolled heavily in a sea. A cotter pin failed, or was missing, the lifeline parted, and Joe was overboard. Pam heard his call for help and came on deck to see Joe's head rise in the sea some distance astern. Pam's only prior experience in man overboard recovery had been limited to retrieving cushions on calm days. Pam let the sheets go, checked that there were no lines overboard, started the engine and powered back into the wind with sails flogging. Pam deployed the *Lifesling* only to notice that the trailing line was still seized around the coil. Joe and Pam had never unpacked the *Lifesling*, cut the seizing and stuffed it into the containment bag as per instructions. Pam found a knife, retrieved the line and cut the seizing. The *Lifesling* was then trailed astern and Pam circled Joe and delivered the line to him. After Joe made contact with the line he seized and donned the Lifesling. Pam pulled Joe to the stern where he was able to climb up the boarding ladder in spite of the stern heaving in the sea. This was not per-instruction nor a classic *Lifesling* recovery. However, Pam and Joe were aided by the warm water and as an experienced sailor, Pam was successful in recovering Joe in about 20 minutes.

**The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal was presented to
Pam Bass as a result of this event.**