The Officers, Directors and Members of
US SAILING
are pleased to present the
ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL
to the crew of

Y-Wait

for the rescue as follows:

We had struggled up wind against a strong gusting breeze and a good size swell. On rounding the windward mark we set the spinnaker. It quickly became apparent that the downwind leg was going to be a wild ride. We had trouble furling the jib and as we tried to fix it we got an hour glass in the spinnaker. It took a while for us to get the spinnaker flying again and at one point we almost took it down. We ended up leaving the jib partially unfurled. All this time the boat was sailing fast downwind, surfing on the large swells. Flying the spinnaker wasn't easy, every time the boat would catch a wave it would literally out sail the spinnaker causing it to collapse. The three of us had to sit at the back of the boat in order to prevent the bow sprit from disappearing into the back of the next wave whenever we reached the bottom of a wave. It was a little crazy at times but never out of control, we had sailed before in similar conditions. Fairly soon it was time to jibe. The spinnaker jibed without a problem but I think the main sail remained on port and when it finally jibed the boat broached. Chupacabra parked on it's side, mast in the water. We'd been in this situation before and so we just patiently waited for the boat to right itself. Nothing happened - the boat remained on it's side. Jerome dropped into the water, released the main sheet and the vang. Mike and Nik climbed over the high side onto the keel. Slowly the boat began to rotate, but in the wrong direction. No amount of weight on the keel could stop the boat from turtling. With the boat upside down there was nothing holding the keel, at one point it almost fell back into the boat. With the three of us in the water pulling over on the keel the boat slowly started to come back up. At one point it looked really promising, however, as the boat righted itself it was apparent that it had taken on a lot of water. The bow started to sink and fairly soon the rest of the boat followed. We were about a mile out from shore and the sun was just beginning to set.

We spent about 10 minutes treading water trying to comprehend what just happened and trying to attract the attention of the other racers, two boats responded. It took them some time to pick us up - not an easy task in those conditions.

A big THANK YOU to Jack Mayer on Y-Wait who rescued us after the boat sank. I can't express how thankful I am to them. It was a very difficult rescue due to the waves breaking from everywhere and the wind still blowing in the low 30 knots. Jack and their crew have shown great skills to take us all out of the water. Thank you again so much.

Jerome Sammarcelli

The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal was awarded to the Rescuing Crew of Y-Wait on January 6, 2006 at California Yacht Club by US SAILING Americap II Chair Dick Hampikian.
DETAILS:

Nomination #1 - CYC Sunset Series
Date of Incident: April 20 2005
Event Name: Sunset series
Sponsoring Yacht Club: California Yacht Club
Event City: Marina Del Rey
Event State: CA
Body of Water: Santa Monica Bay
Was this day or night: 19:00
Air temperature: unknown
Water temperature: unknown
Wind speed: 25-30
Wave height: Breaking
First Victims Name: Jerome Sammarcelli
First Boat Name: Chupacabra
First Boat Length: 20
First Boat Make Model: Hotfoot 20
Second Victims Name: unknown
Third Victims Name: unknown
Third Boat Name: Chupacabra
Third Boat Make Model: hootfoot 20
Fourth Victims Name: unknown
Fourth Boat Name: Chupacabra
Fourth Boat Length: 20
Fourth Boat Make Model: hootfoot 20
Was a PFD worn: unknown
Rescuing Skipper 1: Jack Mayer
Rescuing 1 Boat Make Model: Laser 28
Rescuing 1 Boat Name: Y-Wait
Rescuing 1 Boat Length: 28
What was the nature of this incident: Boat sinking
Was any injury sustained by the victim: unknown
Was a Lifesling aboard: unknown
How much time did the victim spend in the water: 10 minutes then rescue time
Did a Mayday call go out: no
Was the race sailed under ISAF regulations: no
Nominators Name: Tucker Strasser / Del Rey Yacht Club
Can your story be published: Y
what position: Skipper and all (2) crew
Rescuing 1 Crews Names: unknown
What happened: See above
Chupacabra * Blow by Blow * Wednesday April 20th 2005