

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

ROCKET J

for the rescue as follows:

On April 21, 2001 at a Pamlico Sailing Club race, on the Pamlico River, in Washington, NC, the race committee boat, a 21-foot SeaOx Center console, with Paul Woodward and Sylvia Honse aboard sunk immediately after setting the starting line. The boat had been borrowed and had a low transom. The boat was in gear to avoid overriding its anchor line, when a competitors boat passed by with a wake that washed over the transom. Life preservers were grabbed as the boat went down quickly, stern first.

The astute Rocket J , a J/30 owned by Randy Boyles deployed their Lifesling to connect Sylvia Honse to Rocket J and was pulled aboard. Paul Woodward was rescued by another passing boat. Shortly thereafter the sunken boat was raised and towed to port.

Congratulations to Neal Craven, Keith Sparks, Tom Hughes, Mike Hession and Randy Boyles for their quick reaction. US SAILING is pleased to present the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal in recognition of this event.

Ralph Naranjo,

Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee
By Direction

The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Award was presented to "Rocket J" in the town of Eastern, NC, at the Washington Yacht and Country Club on November 16, 2002, by Past Area D Director of US SAILING Dr. Joseph M. James on behalf of US SAILING.

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Left to Right, Dr. Joseph James, Randy Boyles (skipper), Neal Craven (foredeck), Tom Hughes (trimmer), Keith Sparks (trimmer), Mike Hession (Main Trim and Tactician), and Paul Baumbach (mast and pit).

DETAILS:

Nominators Name: Gregory Miller
Event Name: Pamlico Sailing Club Spring Series
Sponsoring Yacht Club: Pamlico Sailing Club
Date of Event: 04/15/00

Event City: Washington
Event State: NC
Body of Water: Pamlico River
Rescuing Skipper: Randy Boyles
Rescuing1 Boat Make Model: J/30
Rescuing1 Boat Name: Rocket J
Rescuing1 Boat Length: 30
Was any injury sustained by the victim: n
Can your story be published: y
Can you provide articles about this event: y
What position was the victim working before they went in:
Skipper & Crew.
Was this day or night: day
Was the victim able to help in the recovery: y
Was a Lifesling aboard: y
Was it used: y
What happened:

This event for the crew of Rocket J occurred at the start of our 3rd race weekend in the spring of 2001. The committee boat, a 21 ft SeaOx Center console, with Paul Woodward and Sylvia Honse aboard was noted to have sunk immediately after setting the starting line. Life preservers were grabbed as the boat went down quickly by the stern. Woodward was pulled aboard a Hunter 27, called 3rd Step, owned by Elbert Kennard, and Honse was pulled aboard the J/30 Rocket J. A picture of this is noted at ([Click Here](#)) . The USCG was notified after the fact about the sunken boat (towed to port and raised immed) and of the safety of the occupants.

How did the victim get hoisted onto the deck: Brute force.

Additional Info:

RC on station, setting line. This particular boat has a low transom, but no bulkhead forward of transom to form a well. Open holes evident (ie. battery compartments with non-functioning doors, deck hatches without the screw in lids, etc. Operators not familiar with powerboats, bilge pumps, etc. Boat on anchor, motor in reverse "to keep the boat from sailing on anchor," boat squatting in water, race boat beam reaching just off transom kicked wave, boat filled up rapidly from the transom and inverted, with only bow section above water.