

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

JOHN HALL and PATRICK KENNEDY

**for the rescue as follows:**

On May 29, 2004 at the Ida Lewis Yacht Club and Sail Newport Memorial Day Regatta, winds were 17-20 mph with a 1'- 3' chop, water temperature at 43-degrees and air temperature at 53-degrees. Christopher Withers on Angela, a Shields was trimming main at the first windward mark where he lost his balance and fell overboard.

The Ida Lewis Yacht Club mark boat Limerock, a 22' ARC inflatable, immediately came to assist, with John Hall and Patrick Kennedy on board. Between the wet clothing, inflated PFD, weight of Withers, and the effects of hypothermia, Hall and Kennedy could not lift Withers out of the water. The fourth place Shields Ann, saw what was occurring and steered to Limerock's position. Skipper Peter Muir, left the helm on Ann to another crew and jumped aboard Limerock. Now with the strength of three on board Limerock, Muir gave directions to Withers to get one leg up within reach and the three were able to pull Withers on board after he had been struggling in the very cold waters for 5 minutes.

Congratulations to John Hall and Patrick Kennedy for coming to the aid of a mariner in distress, providing a platform to get more help and saving Withers from the clutches of hypothermia and potentially fatal consequences. US SAILING is pleased to present the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal in recognition of this event.

Bill Munster  
Safety at Sea Chairman  
by direction

**The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal was presented July 8, 2006 at Sail Newport  
by US SAILING Board Member Susan Epstein.**

**DETAILS:**

During the Memorial Day Regatta organized my Sail Newport on May 29th 2004; I was a crewmember and coach on "Angela" Shields # 164. As we rounded the windward mark in the lead in the first race, I lost my balance and fell overboard. Fortunately the mark boat belonging to ILYC saw the incident and immediately came to my aid. Since I was wearing full foul weather gear, warm clothes, and shoes with a body weight of 250# two men were unable to get me into the mark boat despite the fact that I had inflated my life jacket. Due to the cold water and struggling to inflate my life jacket I was completely exhausted and could not help my rescuers. Luckily Peter Muir who was skippering "Ann" shields # 163 in about 4th place saw the struggle and instead of rounding proceeded to circle around the mark boat and pulled alongside. Leaving the helm to another person he jumped into the mark boat and came to my aid. After telling him to grab my leg he and the other two persons were able to get me into the boat.

I feel that without his quick wit and selfless action I could have been lost or seriously injured.

To add further insult to injury, Peter Muir was in a later race knocked unconscious and knocked overboard during an accidental gybe. One of his crewmen knowing he did not have on a self-inflating life jacket jumped into the water and pulled the tabs inflating his lifejacket. By separate letter the alternate skipper of #163 will be recommended for a life saving award as well.

Date of Incident: 29 May 2004  
Event Name: Annual Newport Memorial Day Regatta  
Sponsoring Club: Sail Newport, Newport, RI  
Body of Water: Narragansett Bay  
Was this Day or Night? Day  
Air Temperature?: 50-55  
Water Temperature: 40-45  
What was the wind speed?: 17-20  
Sea State?: 1-3 ft  
Victims Name?: Christopher Withers  
Boat Name: "Angela" Shields #164  
What position was the victim working in: Main Trim, coaching  
Was a PFD Worn?: Yes, inflatable  
Rescuing Boat #1  
Skippers Name: John Hall  
Crews Name: Patrick Kennedy  
Boat Name: Limerock  
Boat Type: 22' ARC inflatable  
Rescuing Boat #2  
Skippers Name: Peter Muir  
Boat Name: "Ann" Shields #163  
Nature of the Incident: MOB  
What Happened: See Above  
Did the victims boat lose sight of the victim: No  
Was a GPS or other MOB tracking device employed: No  
Was a rescue swimmer put in the water: No  
What color clothes were visible from the water: Red  
Was the victim able to assist in the recovery: No  
How did the victim get hoisted from the water: The two crew members of boat #1 and the Skipper of boat #2 physically pulling.  
Did the victim sustain any injuries: No  
Was a lifesling aboard : No  
How much time did the victim spend in the water: 5 mins  
Did a mayday call go out: No  
Was the race sailed under ISAF special regs including US Sailing prescriptions? No  
Nominators Name: Christopher Withers  
Do you give permission to have this story published: Yes  
Do you have any copies of Articles about the incident to share: No