

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

**JIM ROE AND RYAN MILLER**

**for the rescue as follows:**

On July 2, 2003 the Surf City Yacht Club in Barnegat Bay, NJ held the Junior Commodore Regatta. Another local club, Barnegat Light Yacht Club had sent two coach boats with their junior sailboats who were competing. Upon returning to Barnegat Light Yacht Club, Becky Mergenthaler wearing her PFD operating a 13' Boston Whaler was making a turn into the harbor when a rogue wave flipped her out of the boat. The boat started making circles coming closer with each pass.

Jim Roe and Ryan Miller on the other coach boat, a 20' Mako, saw this happen and headed in the direction of the Boston Whaler. They saw the Boston Whaler run Mergenthaler over twice rendering her unconscious. On the third rotation it looked as if the motor was lining up to hit Mergenthaler and Roe steered his boat into a t-bone collision to direct the Boston Whaler away from Mergenthaler just in time.

Roe turned the boat again and came alongside Mergenthaler and Miller pulled Mergenthaler out of the water over the transom and set her on the floor of the Mako. Mergenthaler regained consciousness soon thereafter.

A Spray Beach Yacht Club coach boat used his cell phone to call emergency services. New Jersey State Marine Police and USCG came out with EMT's. EMT's stayed on board and helped bring Mergenthaler to shore. Mergenthaler recovered completely from this event. The State Police threw a rope in the propeller of the Boston Whaler to stop it and Roe went back out and retrieved the Boston Whaler.

Congratulations to Jim Roe and Ryan Miller for coming to the aid of an injured mariner, protecting the mariner from additional harm, for saving her soul and clearing the waterway of a navigational hazard. US SAILING is pleased to present the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal in recognition of this event.

Ronald C. Trossbach  
Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee  
By Direction

**The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal was awarded to Jim Roe and Ryan Miller at the meeting of the Friends of Southern Sailing on January 13, 2004, at Spray Beach Yacht Club, Long Beach Island, NJ, by presenter Faye Bennet, US SAILING Adams Chair, on behalf of US SAILING.**



Left to right, presenter Faye Bennet, US SAILING Adams Chair, Jim Roe, and Roger Weber, who nominated Jim Roe and Ryan Miller. Miller was unable to attend. A second presentation is planned for Barnegat Light Yacht Club in June 2004.

Photo by Jake Bennet

## DETAILS:

Nominators Name: Roger G. Weber

Event Name: Junior Commodore Regatta

Sponsoring Yacht Club: Surf City Yacht Club

Date of Event: July 2-3,2003

Event City: Surf City

Event State: NJ

Date of Incident: July 2,2003

Body of Water: Barnegat Bay

First Victims Name: Becky Mergenthaler

First Boat Length: 13

First Boat Make Model: Boston Whaler

Rescuing Skipper 1: Jim Roe collided the two boats to prevent them from running over Becky & Ryan Miller pulled her out over the transom. Spray beach coach boat came along and used his cell phone to call emergency. Another boat came along with an EMT volunteered to look at Becky. New Jersey State Marine Police and USCG came out with EMT's. EMT's stayed on board and helped bring the boat to shore. State Police threw a rope in the propeller to stop it and Jim had to go back out later to pull it in.

Rescuing Boat: 20' Mako

What was the nature of this incident: Rescue

Did a Mayday call go out:

Who responded: Barnegat Light Coast Guard and the Atlantic City Marine Police

Was any injury sustained by the victim: Y

Can your story be published: Y

Can you provide articles about this event: N

Was a PFD worn: ?

What position was the victim working before they went in: captain

Was this day or night: D

What recovery method was used: Reach

Was a rescue swimmer put in the water: N

What happened: After the regatta Becky M. was returning her boat back to her yacht club, Barnegat Light Yacht Club. Jim Roe was following. Evidently, when she turned the boat she was hit by a wake at the same time and was flipped out of the boat. No kill switch was being worn at the time and her boat started doing circles coming back closer to her with each pass. It appeared that by the third pass the boat motor was going to hit her. Jim placed his boat between Becky and the runaway outboard absorbing the crash. The runaway boat managed to glance off Becky and she was pulled out of the water. She was taken to Southern Ocean County Hospital and released .

Talking to Jim Roe, he had a partner onboard, Ryan Miller who did a lot of the work. The boats actually t-boned. Pro's got involved too. PFD Yes. Becky's Boat 13' Whaler, Jim Roe 20' Mako.

Went to turn into cove at ICW and a rogue wave hit and threw her.