

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to

**WILLY SCHWENZFEIER, WALTER PRAUSE, JULES IVESTER,
SAM FURR, GEORGE WOOD, JIM PURCELL, Kael MARTIN, JAMIE
EWING & BILLY CARTER**

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

On Saturday July 4, 1998, at the second rounding of the leeward mark in the five leg windward-leeward race in the Atlantic Ocean off of Charleston, SC a crewmember went overboard. The winds were relatively light at eight knots, with three-foot seas, water temperature of 79F and air temperature in the 80's. Tom Weir the 6' 3", 210 pound, bowman, was bringing the spinnaker down the forward hatch on a dead-down, windward-side takedown. The boat headed up slightly, partially filling the spinnaker and Tom slipped and flipped over the lifelines from Arrow, a J/35 owned by Willy Schwenzfeier. Tom was not wearing a PFD.

Devilfish, an Evelyn 32, owned by Buck Newsome, was about 2 boat lengths behind Arrow. The cockpit crew on Devilfish saw Tom go in the water, notified the skipper and Buck did a quick reverse (having already taken the spinnaker down) and came up next to Tom, who was treading water. They inquired of Tom if he was all right and he replied he was. Arrow then turned back and indicated that she would make the recovery. Devilfish stood by with a Lifesling in hand as the crew on Arrow picked up Tom using the vertical lift of human hands and backs on the first pass, and then racing continued. Skipper Schwenzfeier commented, "I like Tom, he's sailed with me for many years. I wouldn't leave him there..."

Sitting in the water, Tom Weir had a clear view of the event from the water and said it was absolutely perfect rescue protocol. Someone kept an eye on me at all time, fellow crewman Walter Prause had the Life Sling ready to throw, someone was timing the seconds lost, and the quick reverse by Devilfish was superbly executed. Time in the water was under 60 seconds. At the redress hearing Devilfish was awarded the forty-five seconds lost. They came in second in this race, but won the SAYRA Offshores with two firsts and a second.

US SAILING is pleased to present the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to those involved in this recovery.

Ernie Messer
Chair, Safety-at-Sea Committee
By Direction

The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Award was awarded on April 15, 1999 by US SAILING Council of Sailing Associations member Dick McGillivery.

DETAILS:

"A Rescue at Sea during the South Atlantic Yacht Racing Association Offshores!"

A man overboard incident occurred during the Saturday race, July 4, 1998, at the second rounding of the leeward mark in the 5 leg windward-leeward 16 mile race in the Atlantic Ocean off of Charleston, SC. The hosts were Charleston Yacht Club and Charleston Ocean Racing Association. The winds were relatively light at 8-10 MPH, with 2-3 foot seas, water temperature was 79F and the air temperature was hot. Tom Weir the 6' 3", 210 pound, bowman, was bringing the spinnaker down the forward hatch on a dead-down windward takedown. The boat headed up slightly, partially filling the spinnaker and Tom slipped and flipped over the lifelines from the lead boat, Arrow, a J/35 owned by Willy Schwenzfeier. Tom was not wearing a PFD. Devilfish, an Evelyn 32, owned by Buck Newsome, was about 2 boat lengths behind Arrow.

The cockpit crew on Devilfish saw Tom go in the water, notified the skipper and Buck did a quick reverse (having already taken the spinnaker down) and came up next to Tom, treading water. They inquired of Tom if he was OK and he replied he was, then Arrow turned back and indicated that she would make the recovery. Devilfish stood by with a Lifesling in hand as the crew on Arrow picked him up using a vertical lift of human hands and backs on the first pass and the racing continued. Willy commented "I like Tom, he's sailed with me for many years. I wouldn't leave him there..."

Sitting in the water, Tom Weir had a clear view of the event from the water and said it was absolutely perfect rescue protocol. Someone kept an eye on me at all time, Walter Prause had the Life Sling ready to throw, someone was timing the seconds lost, and the quick reverse by Devilfish was superbly executed. Immersion time in the water was under 1 minute. Devilfish was awarded the 45 seconds lost during the redress hearing. They came in second in this race, but won the SAYRA Offshores with two 1sts, and a 2nd.

The crew of Arrow included Willy Schwenzfeier, Walter Prause, Jules Ivester, Sam Furr, George Wood, Jim Purcell, Kael Martin, Jamie Ewing, Billy Carter and of course, Tom Weir.