

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

Kevin and Karen Kelly

for the rescue as follows:

On August 12, 2003 while cruising the Joaquin River in California in the mid-afternoon with 20-25 knot winds, 1'-2' seas, 60-degree water and 75-degree air temperature, Kevin and Karen Kelly were under mainsail on their 26' Clipper Marine when they observed a disabled 23' powerboat with a number of people in the water, near the leeshore and immediately headed that way.

They found a 9 year-old girl and two 15 year-old boys were holding their 300-pound uncle afloat in the water. The girl and one of the boys were wearing PFD's, the second boy was holding his PFD and the uncle was not wearing a PFD.

The Kelly's turned into the eye of the wind to stop, leaving their mainsail up for control in order to stay off the leeshore. The victims all spoke a foreign language and were screaming frantically. Both Kelly's knew some of the victims foreign language and were able to give directions. First, the teenage boys passed the young girl out of the water to the Kelly's. Second, the Kelly's deployed a rope ladder that the uncle wrapped his arms in as he dangled in the water. Third, the two boys climbed up the topsides while being lifted by the Kelly's. Next, they couldn't get the uncle out of the water and proceeded to get a PFD on him, one arm at a time.

Finally the victim's family unfouled their propeller and came along side the Kelly's boat. Using the victims powerboat's swim platform and a metal ladder, the uncle was able to climb back onto his powerboat. The victim had been in the cold water for 30-minutes. Then the three children were passed back on board their boat.

Congratulations to Kevin and Karen Kelly for maintaining a watch, recognizing other mariners in peril, and saving four souls. 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 presented at OCSC Sailing, #1 Spinnaker Way, Berkeley, CA on
January 31, 2004 by US SAILING President Janet Baxter
on behalf of US SAILING.**

DETAILS:

Nominators Name: Antonia Hare
Event Name: N.A. Cruising

Event City: Delta
Event State: CA
Date of Incident: August 12, 2003
Body of Water: Joaquin River
First Boat Name: Powerboat
First Boat Length: 23 ft.
Rescuing Skipper: Kevin Kelly
Rescuing1 Boat Make Model: Clipper Marine
Rescuing1 Boat Length: 26 ft.
What was the nature of this incident: Crew overboard
Did a Mayday call go out: No
Was any injury sustained by the victim: Not evident
Can your story be published: Yes
Can you provide articles about this event: No
Was a PFD worn: Yes
What type: Type II
What type1: Type III
What type2: Type III
What position was the victim working before they went in: Crew/ Skipper
Was this day or night: Day, 3 pm
Wind speed: 20-25 kt
Wave height: 1-2 ft.
Water temperature: 60 F
Air temperature: 75 F
How much time did the victim spend in the water: Over 30 minutes
What recovery method was used: Quick turn
Was a rescue swimmer put in the water: No
Did the victim have a strobe light or whistle: No
What color clothes were visible above the water: White t-shirts, blue PFDs
Was the victim able to help in the recovery: Yes
Was a Lifesling aboard: No
Was it used: No
Rescuing Crews Names: Karen Kelly (wife)- Kevin's crew
What happened: Kevin Kelly produced the following account of the event: "After sailing up to the their boat, we realized that the people in the water were in trouble and needed a rescue. We found a young girl, 8-9 years old; two boys, 14-15, all three trying to keep their 300 lb. uncle from drowning. Everyone was screaming - those in the water, and their family on their disabled powerboat. The girl and one of the boys were wearing life jackets. The other boy was holding a life jacket. We were able to get the children on board and put out our rope ladder for the uncle to hold onto and get a life jacket on him. Finally, their family was able to unfoul their prop and come along side to pick up the rest of their party. They had a swim platform and a ladder that the uncle was able to use to climb up on to."

How did victim help himself back onboard: The teenage boys were able to assist in passing the young girl out of the water and on to the Kellys' boat.

How did the victim get hoisted onto the deck: Kevin and Karen Kelly were unable to get the 300 lb. man into their boat so they put down their rope ladder for him to hang on to. When the victim's powerboat unfouled their prop, the swim platform was used to get him out of the water.