

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to

DOUG GARDINER, DOTTIE GARDINER

& ROBERT FLYNN

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

Doug and Dottie Gardiner were handling a mark boat for the Ensign Regionals and Noroton Yacht Club races for the J-24's and Sonars on June 22, 1997 when a microburst hit the fleet pushing 60 to 70 knot winds in steep 5 to 6 foot seas, dropping visibility to zero during which five crew from two different sailboats went overboard. Two race committee personnel off another mark boat who went overboard were rescued by professional rescuers.

Rescue 1.

A J/24 under bare poles was slammed down horizontal dumping two crew into the water. A mayday call was made via vhf radio when they lost sight of their two crew. All crew were wearing pfd's. The crew were in the water for 15 minutes until the arrival of Doug Gardiner and Dottie Gardiner, who effected the rescue. One of the rescued, Robert Flynn, climbed the three foot side of the 23' Sea-Ox with little assistance. Robert Flynn turned from rescued to rescuer by helping his crewmate aboard.

Rescue 2.

As the storm approached, skipper Sam Dorrance passed out pfd's to the crew and elected not to wear one for himself. On his Sonar running under bare poles, they also were slammed down to horizontal, dumping his family of three of the four crew into the water. His son David was able to swim back to the boat, losing sight of his mother and father instantly. At that point David made a mayday call on vhf radio. Doug and Dottie Gardiner appeared and rescued Sam Dorrance and his wife Fran. Again Robert Flynn helped pull Fran and Sam up into the cockpit. Sam, unfortunately, did not survive this event.

Finding the victims was pure luck. The fleet was gathered together somewhat prior to the storm and blew downwind together as a pack during its height. When visibility increased, Doug and Dottie were responding to a call of another boat when they initially found the J/24 crew in the water. After this rescue they again went for the first radio call for help when they came across Sam and Fran and made rescue a second time.

The actions of Doug Gardiner, Dottie Gardner and Robert Flynn reflected a high level of talent, determination and skill in finding these people in terrible conditions during this emergency. Doug, Dottie and Robert are hereby commended for following the law of the sea, by assisting those in peril over their

own personal safety. US SAILING is pleased to present the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal in recognition of this event.

John B. Bonds
Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee
By Direction

**The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Award was awarded to
Doug Gardiner, Dottie Gardner and Robert Flynn**