

**The Officers, Directors and Members of**

**US SAILING**

are pleased to present the

**ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL**

to

**BOB GRIFFITHS**

**FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:**

On Sunday morning, September 12, 1993 the L-36 sloop Eventide, single-handed by Bob Griffiths, was en-route to Santa Cruz Island from Marina Del Rey, California. Eventide was under power. The Point Dume buoy was passed at about 10 A.M. and Eventide continued westward in a light variable breeze with about two miles visibility in overcast.

Shortly before 11 A.M., what appeared to be kayaks with an orange paddle, was sighted off the port beam at about 1000 yards. Upon closer inspection, the kayaks soon were found to be a capsized Hobie Cat. Two waterlogged sailors were standing on the netting between the hulls, dressed only in wet shorts and life jackets. Eventide came alongside and the sailors were taken aboard. The Hobie sailors stated that they had sailed from Zuma Beach the previous afternoon and had capsized about 5 P.M. having been exposed for seventeen hours, over night, and had been unable to see the shoreline through the fog.

As the Hobie Cat still had the mainsail hoisted, and the condition of the victims unknown, it was not feasible to attempt righting or towing the capsized craft. Coordinates were recorded and Eventide put an easterly course. Towels, blankets, milk, granola bars and hot coffee were provided to make the men more comfortable. The U.S. Coast Guard was advised of the situation of the victims and position of the abandoned Hobie Cat. The Coast Guard put out a Pan-Pan radio position alert for mariners to exercise caution due to the abandoned vessel with Lat/Long. The Coast Guard requested a rendezvous between Baywatch and Eventide, and a boat-to-boat personnel transfer was completed. The Baywatch crew checked out the victims, later again by paramedics and returned to their vehicle at Zuma Beach.

Baywatch located the abandoned Hobie Cat, returned it and the abandoned vessel Pan-Pan alert was canceled by the U.S. Coast Guard.

For maintaining a watch, recognizing sailors in distress, rescuing the hypothermic sailors, alerting other mariners of a hazard to navigation, US SAILING is pleased to present the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to Bob Griffiths

Ralph Naranjo, Chair  
Safety at Sea Committee  
By Direction

**The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Award was awarded to Bob Griffiths at the**

**Master Mariners Dinner at Encinal Yacht Club on May 25, 2002, by  
US SAILING Past Training Chair Rich Jepsen.**

Left to Right, Rich Jepsen and Bob Griffiths.  
Photo by Robert Rogers.

Presentation at Master Mariners Dinner at  
Encinal Yacht Club 5/25/02, by US SAILING  
Past Training Chair Rich Jepsen.

Photos by Robert Rogers

**DETAILS:**

Beverly Griffiths Maechling

I am forwarding this information on behalf of my Father, Bob Griffiths. He is always a hero to me, but he is a real lifesaver to those involved in this story and their families.

March 1, 2002

Dear Sir:

I recently read of the Award of the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal in a bi-monthly California boating newspaper, *The Log*, to a local San Francisco Bay Area sailing instructor by U.S. SAILING's Don Durant, the chair of the General Services Committee. The Rescue was of an un-identified paddler, separated from his craft in the South San Francisco Bay. I recalled my submission of the details of my rescue of two semi-hypothermic sailors from their capsized Hobie Cat off the Southern California Coast, about ten miles West of Zuma Beach.

I contacted Mr. Durant, recalled the above and asked about the chances of re-submission. Mr. Durant was kind enough to research my inquiry, and advised that he had consulted with Mr. Glenn McCarthy, and that as there were not time limits on this award, and that I should feel free to re-submit these details via e-mail to U.S. Sailing's website at [www.ussailing.org/safety/Rescues/submit\\_a\\_nomination.htm](http://www.ussailing.org/safety/Rescues/submit_a_nomination.htm). Attached please find the details as submitted in 1993. If additional information is needed, in the form of articles or correspondence, please feel free to contact me directly.

Many thanks to your Messrs. Durant and McCarthy for their kind assistance.

Yours,  
Bob Griffiths

Schroder/Magana Rescue  
Zuma Beach, CA  
September 12, 1993

On Sunday morning, September 12, 1993 the L-36 sloop *Eventide* of San Francisco Bay, California, single-handed by owner Bob Griffiths of Orinda, California, was en-route Santa Cruz Island from Marina Del Rey, Santa Monica Bay, California. *Eventide* was under power, having departed the Pacific Mariners Yacht Club shortly after dawn. Point Dume buoy was passed at about 10 A.M. and *Eventide* continued westward at about 5.5 knots in a light variable breeze with about two miles visibility in overcast.

Shortly before 11 A.M., what appeared to be a kayak with an orange paddle was sighted off the port beam at about 1000 yards. Upon examination with binoculars, the paddle appeared to be above two white kayaks. Eventide was brought to port for a closer look. The kayaks soon appeared to be the underside of the hulls of a capsized Hobie Cat, with two waterlogged sailors, standing on the netting between the hulls. They were clinging to the underside, dressed only in wet shorts and life jackets, one waving a paddle with an orange colored tee shirt covering the blade. As Eventide came alongside the sailors were taken aboard. Mr. Jeff Schroder and Mr. Ivan Magana stated that they had sailed from Zuma Beach the previous afternoon and had capsized about 5 P.M. having been wet and exposed for seventeen hours, over night, and had been unable to see the shoreline through the fog.

As the Hobie Cat still had the mainsail hoisted, and the condition of the rescuees was unknown, it was not feasible to attempt righting or towing the capsized craft. Loran Lat/Lon coordinates were recorded and Eventide put an easterly course. Towels, blankets, milk, granola bars and hot coffee were provided to make the men more comfortable. U.S. Coast Guard, Long Beach, California, was contacted, advised of the situation and position in detail and requested to provide instructions as to the disposition of the two semi-hypothermic rescuees.

Coast Guard Long Beach requested Baywatch (the rescue boat division of the Los Angeles County Lifeguards), dispatch their Malibu unit, commanded by Lt. James Richards to rendezvous with Eventide. Shortly before noon, about 2 miles West of Point Dume, a boat-to-boat personnel transfer was completed, also with the noted coordinates of the abandoned Hobie Cat. Coast Guard Long Beach put out a Pan-Pan radio position alert for mariners to exercise caution due to the abandoned vessel with Lat/Lon, etc. The Baywatch crew checked out Messrs. Schroder and Magana and returned them to Malibu, where they were again checked by paramedics, found to be O.K., and returned to their vehicle at Zuma Beach.

Baywatch, with the assistance of their diver, located and righted the abandoned Hobie Cat and returned it to the Baywatch mooring at Malibu and the abandoned vessel Pan-Pan alert was canceled.

Later that evening, Eventide was safely anchored at Santa Cruz Island while the CBS Radio news broadcast on KNX, Los Angeles, was reporting the rescue that morning by the owner of the San Francisco bound Evening Shade.

\*Newspaper accounts and personal correspondence available upon request.

The parents of Schroeder wrote a thank you letter.