

**The Officers, Directors and Members of**

**US SAILING**

are pleased to present the

**ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL**

to

**NEAL O'CONNELL**

**FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:**

On January 19, 2007 Neal O'Connell recalls the rescue.....

Our second adventure of the season occurred during the Vixen Ledge Weekend. It was blowing hard from the East as we left Vixen Ledge (a buoy located off New London at the entrance of Fishers IS Sound) headed for Silver Eel Bell (a bell located near the east end of Fisher's island). At Silver Eel we were to jibe and head for Dumping Ground buoy (buoy located at the eastern end of Long Island Sound a couple of miles from the race, the major entrance into Long Island Sound. In a big breeze, the waves caused by the adverse currents are imposing.) We had the spinnaker up and knew that we would have to be careful during the jibe to ensure that we didn't lose control of the boat. It has been many years since this event occurred and I cannot remember for certain when Kevin Farrar (Kevin is the owner of Farrar Sails, an IOD World Champion) in Gnat began to have trouble. He had rounded ahead of us and I do not recall whether his death roll to windward was an extension of his jibe or a separate event which occurred shortly after his jibe. After we successfully completed our jibe, I was looking ahead and saw Gnat roll to windward and then instead of righting herself, Gnat turned turtle, keel up, mast down.

As we approached Gnat we threw life jackets to the crew who were swimming close to the overturned boat. We told them that we would get our sails down and be right back to rescue them. We returned a short time later and decided that the Coast Guard who were sailing a Luders 44, should pick up 3 crew members and we would attempt to upright Gnat and tow her to shore. With the aid of Kevin and a crew member, an anchor line was attached to Gnat and we righted her. They quickly took the sails down on Gnat and proceeded to bail her out as we towed them back to Shennecossett Yacht Club.

**The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal was presented to  
Neal O'Connell as a result of this event.**