



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

to
ROGER VAN HERTSEN and EVRARD VAN HERTSEN
for the rescue as follows:

On the afternoon of December 14, 2017 with air temperature of 60, water temperature of 50, wind speed of 10 knots, and one foot wave height, 56 year old Christian Einfeldt was on a regular swim 3/8 of a mile from the beach at Aquatic Park Cove, a man-made mostly enclosed bay near Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, CA. Being highly experience, he swims for 30 strokes, stops to see if a predator is following and this time a Sea Lion was 6' away. Knowing 80% of the time they attack legs, he pulled himself into a ball, and the Sea Lion baring teeth, swaying its head side to side attacked while he attempted to fend with his arms. One fang of the sea lion went into the elbow, cutting a blood vessel and shredding skin the size of a silver dollar. The attack lasted four seconds.

200 yards away, Roger Van Hertsen and his father Evrard Van Hertsen were weighing anchor on the Beneteau 37 *Grey Goose* and starting to move. Roger observed what he thought were two human heads, with one disappearing under the surface. When it resurfaced, he realized it was a sea lion. Einfeldt called out that he was bitten, the Van Hertsen's pulled alongside which scared the sea lion away, dropped the permanent boarding ladder on the transom and helped bring Einfeldt on deck.

At first the injury did not seem severe, Einfeldt even wanted to jump back in and swim to the beach. As the blood covered the deck it was clear things were bad. Calling the U.S. Coast Guard, they were advised to go to Pier 45. Pulling the chart they identified where to go and turned that way. Evrard brought out the first aid kit, and Einfeldt applied gauze putting pressure on the wound and holding it over his head. Einfeldt began to feel cold. They arrived at Pier 45 to an awaiting ambulance.

With professional medical treatment a tourniquet was applied by San Francisco Fire and Rescue, Einfeldt started in serious condition, with the wound being deep enough to see muscle, the doctor tied off the torn vessel to stop the bleeding, surgery performed to remove the shredded skin, a series of rabies shots were put right into the wound site, as well as a rarely used anti-biotic to treat mycoplasma as sea lions have no enamel on their teeth and can carry this disease. Einfeldt was upgraded to stable condition never having lost consciousness and released the following day.

US Sailing is pleased to award the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to Roger Van Hertsen and Evrard Van Hertsen for maintaining a lookout, coming to the aid of a severely injured swimmer, quickly getting the victim to professional emergency services, saving Christian Einfeldt.

Sally Honey
Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee
By Direction

Presentation

April 21, 2018, a Hanson Rescue Medal was presented to Roger and Evrard van Hertsen for rescuing a swimmer who was attacked by a sea lion in San Francisco Bay on December 14, 2017. Rich Jepson presented the medal to the father and son recipients at the Pacific Sail and Power Boat Show in Richmond, CA

Roger:



Evrard:



Nomination

Date of Incident 12-14-2017

What was the nature of this incident? Lifesaving

What happened? A swimmer was attacked and bitten by a Sea Lion. He was bleeding severely from the bite.

The crew of Grey Goose rescued the swimmer from the water, fending off the Sea Lion, and pulled him aboard. Once aboard they applied a tourniquet to the upper arm, staunching the bloodflow.

The victim was then transported to the SF Fire and Rescue who took him to the hospital. He is in critical condition.

According to reports the incident was life threatening. Had the crew not had both the lookout to see the incident, the ability to recover the injured man, and the skills to apply first aid, the man could easily have perished.

<http://abc7news.com/swimmer-bitten-by-sea-lion-in-san-francisco-bay/2782090/>

Event Name Day Sail

Sponsoring Yacht Club Club Nautique

Event State California

Event City San Francisco

Body of water San Francisco Bay

Was the race sailed under the World Sailing Special Regulations Governing Offshore and Oceanic Racing including US Sailing Prescriptions? No

Time of incident Day

Air temperature 60

Water temperature 50

Wind speed 10kts

Wave height 1ft

How many victims were involved in the incident? 1

Boat name Grey Goose

Boat length 37

Boat make & model Beneteau

Out of aquatic park weighing anchor, saw two human heads 200 yards away, and

realized one was a sea lion. Swimmer called out that he was bitten, circled, and brought him up the permanent ladder on transom, at first the injury didn't look too bad, swimmer wanted to go to the dock, but Roger called USCG on radio, and the USCG recommended he go to pier 45. Dad opened First Aid Kit. Swimmer was applying pressure and holding over his head. And then asked to jump in and swim ashore. Not. Met SF Emergency Response Unit. Swimmer was beginning to feel cold, without wetsuit. There was a lot of blood on the boat. Arterial bleed inside or just over the elbow or lower part of upper arm.

Sound of engine possibly scared off sea lion, there were other swimmers to navigate around. Swimmer was ½ mile from shore.

Start to finish 5 minutes

Went to the hospital in serious condition, later upgraded to good condition

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Went to the hospital in serious condition, later upgraded to good condition
Victim: age 56, male. Regularly swam there. 6' away baring teeth, pulled legs into ball, 80% of sea lion attacks bite the legs. Pushed him off, attacked and got one fang in, could see down to the muscle, in a silver dollar sized wound with the skin shredded. Allowing arm to be elevated was a great help. Kept in overnight at hospital. Surgery to remove shredded skin and tied off the vessel that was bleeding. The attack was less than 4 seconds from seeing the Sea Lion to bite.



Press

<http://abc7news.com/swimmer-bitten-by-sea-lion-in-san-francisco-bay/2782090/>

Hanson Medal To Be Awarded at Pacific Sail and Power Boat Show for 2017
Rescue in San Francisco Bay

US Sailing Awards Hanson Rescue Medal to the Rescuing Crew on Grey Goose

PORTSMOUTH, RI (April __, 2018) – The US Sailing Safety at Sea Committee will award the Arthur B. Hanson

Rescue Medal to a sailboat's crew for their rescue of a swimmer injured by an attacking sea lion in San

Francisco Bay near Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. The rescuing sailors aboard Grey Goose, will be

honored with the Hanson Rescue Medal, presented by US Sailing Board of Directors Member Richard Jepsen,

at the Pacific Sail and Power Boat Show at the Craneway Pavilion opposite the main entrance, under a tent,

Richmond, CA, April 21, 2018 at 5:30pm. The public is invited.

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10 knots, and one foot wave height, 56 year old Christian Einfeldt was on a regular swim 3/8 of a mile from the

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teeth, swaying its head side to side attacked while he attempted to fend with his arms. One fang of the sea

lion went into the elbow, cutting a blood vessel and shredding skin the size of a silver dollar. The attack lasted

four seconds.

200 yards away, Roger Van Hertsen and his father Evrard Van Hertsen were weighing anchor on the Beneteau

37 Grey Goose and starting to move. Roger observed what he thought were two human heads, with one

disappearing under the surface. When it resurfaced, he realized it was a sea lion. Einfeldt called out that he

was bitten, the Van Hertsen's pulled alongside which scared the sea lion away, dropped the permanent

boarding ladder on the transom and helped bring Einfeldt on deck.

At first the injury did not seem severe, Einfeldt even wanted to jump back in and swim to the beach. As the

blood covered the deck it was clear things were bad. Calling the U.S. Coast Guard, they were advised to go to

Pier 45. Pulling the chart they identified where to go and turned that way. Evrard brought out the first aid kit,

and Einfeldt applied gauze putting pressure on the wound and holding it over his head. Einfeldt began to feel

cold. They arrived at Pier 45 to an awaiting ambulance.

With professional medical treatment a tourniquet was applied by San Francisco Fire and Rescue, Einfeldt

started in serious condition, with the wound being deep enough to see muscle, the doctor tied off the torn

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on their teeth and can carry this disease. Einfeldt was upgraded to stable condition never having lost

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Hertsen for maintaining a lookout, coming to the aid of a severely injured swimmer, quickly getting the victim

to professional emergency services, saving Christian Einfeldt.

The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal is awarded to any person who rescues or endeavors to rescue any other

person from drowning, shipwreck, or other perils at sea within the territorial waters of the United States, or as

part of a sailboat race or voyage that originated or stopped in the U.S. The medal was established in 1990 by

friends of the late Mr. Hanson, an ocean-racing sailor from the Chesapeake Bay, with the purpose of

recognizing significant accomplishments in seamanship and collecting case studies of rescues for analysis by

the Safety at Sea Committee of US Sailing for use in educational and training programs. Any individual or

organization may submit a nomination for a Hanson Rescue Medal.

Visit the US Sailing Hanson Rescue Medal website for more information about these awards, including

nomination form instructions and guidelines.

US Sailing Media Contact: Jake Fish, jakefish@ussailing.org

About US Sailing

The United States Sailing Association (US Sailing), the national governing body for sailing, provides leadership,

integrity, and growth for the sport in the United States. Founded in 1897 and headquartered in Portsmouth,

Rhode Island, US Sailing is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. US Sailing offers training and education

programs for instructors and race officials, supports a wide range of sailing organizations and communities,

issues offshore rating certificates, and provides administration and oversight of competitive sailing across the

country, including National Championships and the US Sailing Team Sperry. For more information, please visit

www.ussailing.org.