



The Officers, Directors and Members of  
US SAILING  
are pleased to present the  
ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL  
to  
The crew of *S/V Pegasus*  
for the rescue as follows:

On the July 20, 2018, Sea Scout Ship 09 and members from Troop 09, of Island Yacht Club were cruising on *S/V Pegasus*. As they were preparing to depart San Francisco, the Sea Scout on navigation watch heard the marine information broadcast PAN PAN, notifying vessels of an active missing person search and notified the captain.

Later, around 2:30 AM, skipper Ken Shupe noticed something dark floating in the water, and asked helmsperson Kenny Kirwin to steer to investigate. A faint voice was heard. Only when *Pegasus* was almost on top of the object, were they able to discern that it was a man not wearing a lifejacket clinging to a swamped inflatable kayak. The man tried to speak but was incoherent. When asked "Do you need help?" He nodded his head. Cole Harris slowed the boat by easing the sails while Ken assured the man they would return for him and called "Man Overboard!" Scouts Mason Ensley and Johnny Almaden responded to the hail and retrieved the First Aid kit and boat hooks. Meanwhile, Kenny performed a Williamson turn to return to the man in the water.

Mason and Johnny hooked the swamped kayak with the boat hooks while Kenny kept the vessel away from hazards. Ken and Cole retrieved the boarding ladder and mounted it, but a holding bolt broke so it had to be tied on. Cole, Mason, and Ken slowly helped the man out of the water. He was clearly sore, in pain, and suffering from hypothermia. Once on board, Scouts Johnny, Mason, and Cole treated the man for shock and hypothermia. He was dressed only in an undershirt and shorts. They learned the man's name was Oscar, and that he'd fallen out of his kayak in the daylight and was unable to re-board. Two other vessels had passed him that night but hadn't seen him or stopped. The US Coast Guard was hailed, and a USCG vessel came alongside just after 3:00 AM to take Oscar ashore for medical treatment and a full recovery.

For their efforts to rescue a fellow boater in peril in the water, US Sailing is pleased to award the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to the crew of *Pegasus*.

Sally Honey

Chairman, Safety at Sea Committee

By Direction

## **Presentation**

The Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal was awarded to the crew of S/V Pegasus on February 17, 2018, during the annual Sea Scout awards banquet held at the Alameda Elks Lodge. It was a well-attended event with lots of scouts, parents, and officers present. Crew member's family, friends, and fellow scouts enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the rescue and applaud the rescuers.

The presentation was made by Chuck Hawley, the recent past Chair of the US Sailing Safety at Sea Committee, and a well-known expert on the subject. Chuck noted that it was the 4<sup>th</sup> Hanson medal that he has been privileged to present. The medal, with a red, white, and blue ribbon was presented to the entire crew of S/V Pegasus. Each member of the crew was presented with an individualized citation framed by their skipper, and congratulated by Chuck, who also spoke of the importance of their training and leadership.

# Nomination

Date of Incident 07-20-2018

What was the nature of this incident? Rescue at Sea

What happened? On the morning of Friday July 20th 2018, Sea Scout Ship 09 and members from Troop 09, of Island Yacht Club, were cruising our two Vessels; The Sea Fox (42' ex Navy Powervessel) and Pegasus (36' Sailing Vessel) on our annual summer cruise. I was the adult in charge of the Pegasus and was standing the CON watch. As we were getting underway from San Francisco, the Sea Scout on navigation watch heard the marine information broadcast PAN PAN, notifying vessels of an active missing person search and noted so to me as CON. Once noted we continued to cruise north to our next destination which was the Pittsburg Marina, cruising from the San Francisco Mariposa-Hunters Point Yacht Club. We had set the sails and were motor sailing

Just before 2:30 am we crossed under the eastern span of the Richmond- San Rafael Bridge. It was noted by the scouts on watch that there were quite a few law enforcement vessels several miles to the west of us in San Rafael. Although it was a particularly dark night the flashing blue lights were unmistakable from the water. At 02:30am the scouts were rotating the Watch. In that the outgoing watch was sharing standing orders and directions to the on-coming watch; I was staying on watch. While the navigator went below to teach the next watch I noticed something dark floating in the water about 100 yards off of our port bow. I asked the Helmsman, Kenny Kirwin, to please come left, because I saw something and wanted a better look. Items don't normally float in this area that are not trash and we might be able to pick up some trash out of the waterway. As we approached, something didn't seem to look right so I asked Scout Cole Harris who was helping switch the watch to come back up on deck to put another set of eyes on this strange object.

As Cole Harris came on deck, I heard a voice. It was not clear at all. I gave the helmsman Kenny Kirwin direct orders on how to steer closer to the object in the water. As we approached we were able to get the vessel to come within ten feet of the object. Only as we were right on top of the object was it clear that a man was desperately clutching to a swamped inflatable kayak. He was saying something but it was incoherent. The man was not wearing any PFD. I asked him "Do you need Help?" He was trying to continue to speak but nodded his head. By this time Cole Harris had begun to slow the boat down via letting pressure out of the sails. I responded to him "I will come right back, I have to drop my sails! I will be right back just hold on!" and Immediately called out "Man Overboard!" Kenny Kirwan asked to do a Williamson turn and come about I said YES. I then directed the two scouts that had come up on deck Mason Ensley and Johnny Almaden to get the first aid kit and prepare for a water rescue. Next we let the sails fly and Cole had put slack into the jib halyard to reduce the sail.

The vessel was turned around and I gave directions to Kenny to drive up to the victim. He slowed the vessel and followed ever direction given. By this time Johnny Amaden and Mason Ensley were on deck with boat hooks. We approached the victim on our starboard side and hooked his swamped vessel with the two boat hooks. Once we had secured that Kenny kept the vessel safe and away from the abandoned piers, bridge and islands. Cole Harris and I opened the Port Lazarette onboard and retrieved the boarding ladder out. After mounting the ladder on the starboard quarter the holding bolt for the mount broke off and we tied off the ladder to our vessel using dock lines that we had pulled out of the

lazarette. Cole, Mason and I reached over and helped the man out of the water. The progress was slow he was clearly sore, in pain and suffering from hypothermia.

Once onboard, Scouts Johnny, Mason, and Cole treated for shock and hypothermia. They wrapped the man in several ship's blankets and administered room temperature bottled water. Once treatment began they started up a dialog to keep the man conscious. Once I knew that we had secured the victim I used our on-deck hand held radio to call the US Coast Guard on VHF channel 16. After establishing contact and description of our vessel and location, they asked for our GPS coordinates. At this time Kenny Kirwin asked for help with maneuvering the vessel so I handed off the VHF Radio to Scout Cole to transmit the coordinates. When he came back up on deck. Cole went back to first aid. The Coast Guard then asked if we had on our Masthead light and if we saw vessels approaching, which we confirmed.

Just after 03:00am a US Coast Guard vessel rendezvoused with ours and maneuvered to retrieve the victim, who at this time we had learned name was Oscar. Oscar informed us that two other vessels had passed him that night and hadn't seen him or stopped. It was clear that Oscar who was dressed in only an undershirt and shorts, had fallen out of his kayak in the daylight and was unable to reboard his craft. The Coast Guard Boat expertly came along our Starboard side and we were able to pass off Oscar and his inflatable kayak. By this time he had become more coherent and was blessing us. The Coast Guard departed right away and we continued on to our destination.

Once we had reached our destination at Pittsburg Marina I contacted Area Commodore Kris Leverich to inform him of the events, followed by a phone call to our Scout Executive Brian. Kris texted back later that he had confirmed the story with the US Coast Guard.

I have to say as a Skipper I am very proud of these four Scouts, They acted immediately, followed every direction given by myself or the US Coast Guard, and each one of them preformed a very critical part in saving Oscar. They acted how Scouting trained them to do; and did it with a smile. They were even cracking jokes with Oscar and instructing him on Lifejackets while showing him the lifejackets they each were wearing. Oscar could have been very easily swept out to sea with the strong currents that night. Bay waters are cold, and hypothermia had set in. We practice these skills with the scouts hoping to never have to use them, but I am glad we have that practice. Because we saved a life that night.

Event Name     Sea Scout Summer Cruise

Sponsoring Yacht Club   Island Yacht Club

Event State     California

Event City     SF Bay and Delta

Body of water   San Pablo Bay

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

Time of incident     Night

Air temperature     58

Water temperature   60

Wind speed 3-4kts

Wave height 2-4 feet

How many victims were involved in the incident? 1

Name Oscar G

AddressStreet Address: n/a

City: San Francisco

State / Province: CA

Postal / Zip Code: 94520

Country: United States

Boat name n/a

Boat length 9

Boat make & model Inflatable Kayak

Was a PFD worn? No

Type of PFD n/a

How many boats were involved in the rescue? 1

Skipper Name Ken Shupe

Phone Number (650) 7145191

Email ken.shupe@gmail.com

AddressStreet Address: 2948 Glenside Drive

City: Concord

State / Province: CA

Postal / Zip Code: 94520

Country: United States

Boat Name Pegasus

Boat Length 36

Boat Make & Model Schock NewYork36

Crew names and function performed during the rescue: Kenny Kirwin- Helmsmen

Cole Harris- FirstAid, Radio Call, Deckhand

Mason Ensley- First Aid, Boathook

Johnny Amaden- First Aid, Boathook

Was this a man-overboard situation? Yes

What maneuvers were executed (Quickstop, Figure 8, Reach Method, etc.)? williamson turn

Did the victim's boat lose sight of the victim? no

What emergency signaling device did the victim have (e.g. strobe, whistle, etc)? n/a

Was GPS or other electronic MOB function used to track or help locate the victim? No

Were there any difficulties with the electronic locator? n/a

What color clothes were visible above the water? torn white undershirt

How much time did the victim spend in the water? 6 plus hours

Was a lifesling aboard? Yes

Was it deployed? No

How did the victim get hoisted from the water onto the deck? Portable Boarding Ladder mounted to the starboard side

Was a rescue swimmer put in the water? No

Was the victim able to help in the recovery? No

Was any injury sustained by the victim? Yes

What type (hypothermia included)? Hypothermia, and beginning signs of shock