

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to

CHRIS SNOW, NADINE FRANCYK,

JACK LeMAIRE & KENT PIERCE

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

Southern California Yachting Association Midwinters, run by Santa Monica Yacht Club out of Marina del Ray was held in J/24's, Schock 35's, Martin 24 and Star boats on February 14-15, 1998. Saturday racing was cancelled due to 35+ knot winds and heavy seas. Sunday started out light with big leftover rolling seas. The winds built quickly during the first race of the day.

With 2 minutes to go to the start of the second race of the day, *Dragon Dance* was finishing up changing headsails aboard the Schock 35, the storm jib had a twist in it that took two hands of the bow person to undue. There were 10' seas and 22 knots of wind. Patti Eagan was working the bow without a PFD and on a wave was launched up into the air, lost her grip and clipped her forehead on the toe rail going right into the Pacific Ocean.

A J/24 following close by driven by Chris Snow, sailed right for her and passed, by hand, a life ring. The J/24 dropped their jib and backed their main to come to a stop. They noticed that Patti had a lot of blood on her face and clothing. Patti held the life ring with one arm, while Nadine Franczyk grabbed her free arm. Knowing the ramifications of other bay area drownings, Nadine was not going to let go. Patti was wearing a heavy sweater, foulies and looked very weak. Patti could not hang on herself. It took Dave Kurt, Kent Pierce and Nadine to lift Patti up the 2 feet of topside on the J/24. Patti estimated that she was treading water for 5 minutes. One crew volunteered a pair of clean socks to apply pressure to Patti's head wound. *Dragon Dance* headed up into the wind, dropped her sails, turned on her motor and found that the J/24 had already picked Patti up. The J/24 sailed for the harbor and transferred Patti over to a Coast Guard boat in the smooth water behind the breakwater. The crew of *Dragon Dance* followed Patti to the hospital to give their support.

Patti needed 25 stitches in the 2-1/2 inch laceration above her left eyebrow and spent 5 hours in the emergency room, then headed off to her evening job starting at 9PM! Patti is grateful to the crew of the J/24 for assisting her and getting her on her way to medical attention.

Its now a requirement aboard *Dragon Dance* that all crew buy their own inflatable PFD and wear it when wind conditions warrant it.

Congratulations to Chris Snow, Nadine Franczyk, Jack Lemaire, Dave Kurt and Kent Pierce. 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
Chris Snow, Nadine Franczyk, Jack Lemaire, Dave Kurt and Kent Pierce**