

The Officers, Directors and Members of

US SAILING

are pleased to present the

ARTHUR B. HANSON RESCUE MEDAL

to

RANDY JONES, PAT PAPANDREA & CLAY RIVERS

FOR THE RESCUE AS FOLLOWS:

On June 16-18, 1999, three students, Randy Jones of Crystal Lake, IL, Pat Papandrea of Schaumburg, IL and Clay Rivers, Franklin, TN attended Colgate's Offshore Sailing Schools Basic KeelBoat course, a US SAILING Keelboat Certified Program, out of Jackson Park Harbor, Chicago, IL. During the second day of school, crew overboard drills were taught and practiced. On the third day, the students were sent off on a solo sail from the south side harbor in Chicago to downtown and return, a ten-mile trip. The winds were blowing east/northeast at 15 knots gusting to 18, partly cloudy, seas were running 4 to 6 feet, the air temperature was 70 degrees and the water temperature was 65 degrees. When returning to Jackson Park Harbor at 5:30 p.m., people on shore were hailing the new sailors. They looked in the direction that the shore people were pointing and saw a buoy two hundred yards from shore and saw two people clinging to it. The two had been ejected from their Personal Water Craft in the large waves, the waves washed the PWC away and they swam to the buoy and clung on. The victims wore thin wetsuits and PFD's. Clay steered the boat while Pat and Randy handled the lines. Randy furled the jib and then started the engine. They headed into the wind to drop the mainsail. The sailors headed for the buoy approaching it on the starboard side and grabbed it. The engine was stopped and Randy ran forward and grabbed the female victim by the wrist, dragging her through the water along side the boat to the stern. They were on board a Colgate 26' which has an open transom which made it easy to pull the first victim on board. The same process was used for bringing the second victim on board. Neither victim had any strength left to assist in getting themselves on board. The victims were transferred to the harbormasters boat once inside the harbor suffering early stages of hypothermia.

For rendering assistance to mariners in distress; for using the rescue training learned one day prior; for their immediate response; US SAILING is pleased to award the Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal to Randy Jones, Pat Papandrea and Clay Rivers

Ernie Messer
Chairman, Safety-at-Sea Committee

**The Hanson Medal was awarded by US SAILING Vice President Janet Baxter at
Strictly Sail Chicago Boat Show on February 3, 2000.**

THEIR STORY:

Randy Scott Jones

Unfortunately, I did not save a copy of that e-mail, but I can tell you our story and answer your questions. Clay, Pat (last names unknown) and myself were taking Offshore Sailing Schools Basic KeelBoat training class. This class was scheduled for June 16, 17, and 18, 1999 at Offshore Sailing School, Jackson Park, Chicago, Illinois. The class was being taught by Dennis (last name unknown, Offshore should have it). The first two days of the class were very informative and covered all of the basics including man overboard drills (taught on the second day). During the third day of sailing our instructor accompanied us for the first hour of sailing, then we took him back to the dock and set out on our student solo sail. The winds were blowing east/northeast at 15 knots gusting to 18, seas were running 4 to 6 feet, and the water temperature according to the Chicago Marine forecast was 65 degrees at the mid lake buoy. We sailed north to Monroe Harbor and back (about 5 miles each way). During our return trip we were approaching Jackson Park Harbor at approximately 5:30 p.m. when some people on shore started yelling to gain our attention, we looked around and saw two people clinging to a channel marker buoy approximately two hundred yards from shore. It turns out that they were ejected from their PWC in the large waves. The waves then washed the PWC away and left them stranded at the buoy. I took charge of the situation as Clay and Pat asked me what to do (they both knew that I have been sailing small boats for six years). Clay was at the helm and Pat and I were handling the sheets. I furled the jib and went to the stern instructing Clay to hold his course. I proceeded to start the engine, after which I told Clay to jib then tack the boat (a 26' Colgate) into the wind as I throttled the outboard. Once the bow was pointed into the wind, I asked Pat to drop the main halyard which she required assistance to do (Clay did it). Returning to the helm, I instructed Clay to steer a course to bring the victims and channel marker buoy up on the starboard side as I controlled our speed (the motor throttle was mounted on the engine). We hit the mark on the first attempt and Clay grabbed the buoy. I stopped the engine, ran forward and grabbed the female victim by the wrist, dragging her through the water along side the boat to the stern. At this point I simply drug her into the boat (open transom design). I then took her forward with me and then grabbed the male victim's wrist and completed the same task. Once aboard, I fired the engine and we motored in just as our instructor Dennis and the HarborMaster were heading out to assist. We told them to meet us at the can where the victims could be transferred to the Harbor Masters boat. On our way in we also asked the victims if they suffered any injury, to which they replied no, just cold. The victims were wearing wet suit skins (less than 3 mil's) and life jackets. Neither had the energy to assist in climbing aboard. To answer the other questions; air temp. was about 70 degrees and the sky was partly cloudy. Again, last names are unknown, but Offshore Sailing School should have this information. This rescue was very satisfying for me as the sailing class was being taught at the old Jackson Park Coastguard Station which my father used to man right before WWII. At the outbreak of the war he requested overseas duty and captained a landing craft in the south pacific. He used to take my brothers and I out on the lake and tell us stories of his rescues. My father passed away last August and I spread his ashes at the mouth of Jackson Park Harbor from my sea kayak. I took this rescue as a sign from my father and thought to myself, I have some of him in me after all. Well I hope this is what you were looking for. I know I am not a writer, so feel free to correct any shortcomings.

How's this for a sailing school story -

On June 18th, 1999, the final day of my sailing class at your Chicago location, Clay, Pat and I were on our solo sail. The winds were East/Northeast at 15 knots with seas running four to five feet. All was going well as we sailed North to Monroe Harbor and back again. Upon entering Jackson Park Harbor, we noticed some people on shore yelling frantically at us. We took a good look around and noticed two people stranded in the water hanging onto a channel marker buoy about two hundred yards out. It seems that they were thrown from their PWC which promptly washed away in the seas leaving them in need of rescue. I quickly furled the jib, started the motor, and proceeded to jibe the boat bringing it into the wind. At this point, we dropped the main and motored to the buoy where the people were stranded. Clay grabbed the buoy to hold the boat in place as I locked hands with the women. I pulled her to the

transom and hauled her aboard. Again, I went forward and retrieved the man to haul hi aboard. With both victims safe, we proceeded to motor into the harbor where the harbormaster and our instructor were coming out to see what was happening. We explained the situation and met them at the mooring buoy where the harbormaster transferred the victims to his boat and took them to shore. To say the least, this was a very satisfying day. I first signed up for your class to expand my knowledge and skills from small boat sailing and as a confidence boost. Boy, did it work. This day also had special meaning to me as my recently deceased father used to run the old Jackson Park Coast Guard Station. He would tell me stories of rescues and serving overseas in WWII. I am glad we practiced man overboard drills the previous day. Thank you for the excellent instruction provided by Dennis, not only did we make a difference to two people, but I now have the confidence to sail my brother's S2 alone on the lake.

Sincerely,
Randy Jones

INSTRUCTOR
Dennis Braski, Palatine, IL

STUDENTS
Randy Jones, Crystal Lake, IL
Pat Papandrea, Schaumburg, IL
Clay Rivers, Franklin, TN