



Class Association, Inc.

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A NEWSLETTER FOR J/44 OWNERS AND FRIENDS
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BOB SHEAR and CREW of *URANIA* AWARDED RESCUE MEDAL

Newport, RI. March 3. Bob Shear accepted the US SAILING Arthur B. Hansen Rescue Medal today on behalf of the crew of his J/44, *URANIA*. John Bonds, Chairman of US SAILING's Safety at Sea Committee, and Chip Barber, Executive Director of the J/44 Class Association, presented this prestigious award to Mr. Shear at the CCA's Newport to Bermuda Race Safety at Sea Seminar. The award was given in front of an audience of over 500 fellow sailors.

In accepting the award, Mr. Shear graciously gave full credit to his crew.

The incident occurred on May 29, 1995 during the third day of the Doyle-Sacony IMS Regatta. Approaching the top mark on the third leg of a 1.5 mile windward/leeward four leg race, *URANIA* was 30 yards behind the 12 Meter *VALIANT*. *VALIANT* was 50 yards from the mark on the starboard layline.

Both *URANIA* and *VALIANT* had rigged their spinnakers on the port side, preparatory to a bear-away set. Bob reported looking down to *URANIA*'s port rail to see the turtle going into the water and called to his bowman to tend it. The bowman went down to the port rail and called for help in controlling the bag. Several of Bob's crew members went down to the leeward rail, at which point Bob heard the frightening call, "Man Overboard!"

Bob's first thought was that *URANIA*'s bowman had been carried away with the spinnaker and he looked down to the port rail, expecting him to be in the water. He was not.

Bob immediately performed a crash tack. At this point, the victim in the water, who was later identified as *VALIANT*'s bowman, Ace Miller, came into view.

Doug Zern, who had been trimming *URANIA*'s jib had heard the "Man Overboard!" calls from *VALIANT*, and had signaled

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URANIA approaching the leeward mark during the 1994 Onion Patch Races in Bermuda. Photo by C. Barber

J/44 Summer Rendezvous Scheduled

The Class Association has scheduled the **Second Annual J/44 Cruising Rendezvous** for the weekend of August 12 at Pilot's Point Marina in Westbrook, CT. This rendezvous is being held in response to the requests of J/44 owners looking for an opportunity to get together with other owners and friends. Anyone can join in the fun, so even if you do not (presently) own a J/44, plan to be with us! Bring your boat, and bring the kids!

Plot's Point was recommended by several cruising J/44 owners because of its convenient location half-way between New York and Newport, as well as its great facilities. Pilot's Point is a full service marina with swimming pools and recreation/picnic facilities. The weekend will be tailored to the desires of the owners, with a dinner, a short fun race (non-spinnaker) in the Sound, games for the kids, and perhaps field trips to shopping, or near-by places of historical significance. We want this to be your weekend!

The Association has reserved dock space at Pilot's Point for the J/44 fleet for the rendezvous. Please contact the Class office, or call Chip Barber at 804-970-7775 for more information or to make reservations.