

GARDEN BAY SAILING CLUB

In Memoriam

David Zuest

It is with great sadness that we learned of David's untimely death on 27th. September, in San Diego, where he was visiting cousins.

David started his sailing career at the age of five, when his Father converted his boat's tender into a flat bottomed pram with bolted on lee boards and a gaff rigged sail. But this was not fast enough for young Dave who then together with his father built a 9' 9" streamlined V bottomed pram. This vessel really moved, and Dave spent many hours racing from West Vancouver Yacht Club in all weathers.

In his high school years Dave and his father decided to once again up the ante and built a Bluejay, which he paid for by running an early morning paper route. This boat went on to win most of the races which Dave entered, but by the late 1960's it once again was time to up grade to a new boat.

The choice, a Thunderbird, which they built in the carport of their West Vancouver home. *Boreas* as she was named, was so light that she almost had to take on penalty weight.... but she was a rocket. Dave and his father, Paul, won nearly every race they entered with this boat. After participating in the Maple Bay Regatta on one occasion, the boats raced from Porlier Pass to Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, at Jericho. A good sea was running together with a strong northwester. Under a working jib and with the mainsail vanged down hard they set off. As they neared the end they were 3/4 mile ahead of the the rest of the fleet. "By now the seas were running 6 to 8 feet in height, and it was debated whether we should try to set the

spinnaker. We went for the set and took a ride of a lifetime. *Boreas* broke onto a full plane, with a rooster tail of some height, and she never broke the plane except for climbing the back of the largest of seas. I had the tiller between my braced legs and aimed to the exact 90 degree approach to each successive roller. We blasted through the finish at Jericho without another "bird" in sight, they were miles back.....I have never sailed so fast since!!!"

As an adult Dave bought one of the first Canadian built Columbia 26, which he raced quite successfully with the WVYC fleet, but then it was time for a break from sailing and he took to kayaking. As can be expected Dave was as keen about this new sport as he had been about sailing.

However, it was not long before he bought a Spencer 31, which he cruised, but never raced, from 1984 to 2000.

In 2003 when Dave retired from Government service he moved to Pender Harbour together with his Beneteau Oceanis 351 *Ganache*. One of the first things he did in race preparation was to scan the bottom of the harbour, so he knew where he could and could not go. But *Ganache* proved to be too cumbersome to single hand so he decided to buy *Avanti* a heavily modified Kirby 30. Dave said that the performance of *Avanti* brought back memories of the 9 foot 9 inch pram....."with *Avanti's* fully battened mainsail, it is almost like sailing the cat rigged pram, there is so much power in the mainsail".

Dave was a keen and competitive sailor whose ability drew admiration from all who sailed against him. He will be missed by his friends in the Club.

Dave, we all wish you *Fair Winds*.

Summer Race Series 2012

September was the last month in this year's six month Summer Race Series, and we can look back on a successful season of racing. The full results will be available on the Website. A total of 22 different boats took part in the series, of which nine were new comers. The total number of boats which raced each month was 17 boats in April, 26 in May, 20 in June, 38 in July (not including the Malaspina Regatta), 37 in August: 37, and 33 in September.

Next meeting & Prize Giving

The next Pub Meeting will take place on October 13th. following the Saturday Race. It will also be the occasion to award the Summer Race Series Trophy to the winner, and runners up.

Skipper's Corner

Recently I read an article from the "Racing Edge" dated 1977, in which Ted Turner who had just won the America's Cup in *Courageous* said:

"I would say that there are a lot of people who get more enjoyment and camaraderie and friendship out of sailing just for relaxation. But the competition ought to be kept in perspective. Sailing is sport - at least, it's supposed to be. It ought to be fun. That does not mean you can't give it everything you have; but when poor sportsmanship and skinning the edges of the rules and so forth fall into it, as they have in certain areas, that is not good. Sailboat racing ought to be fun."

Wise words which can be applied to all levels of sailing, from the smallest club up to international competition.