

SJYCSF Named Awards and Trophies

Paul J. Coppola Memorial Distinguished Instructor Award

This monetary award given annually since 1990 is to honor the memory of a former SYC instructor, Paul Coppola. Each season the Sailing Program Director selects an SYC sailing instructor who has distinguished himself in his teaching and actions with the youth of the program.

Paul Coppola grew up sailing in the 70s and 80s both on the Cape and at the Southport Yacht Club. His passion for sailing led him to help with the SYC morning classes and later to become an SYC instructor under Norma Smith. He loved teaching and racing. His kindness and sense of humor made him a popular instructor.

During high school Paul sailed competitively in Boston and junior year he spent the winter outfitting his 17' O'Day Daysailor with fittings and new sails to compete in the weekend races at the SYC. His love of the sea was also inspired by a month-long participation on an open sailing dory as part of the Hurricane Island Outward Bound Program. While at Hamilton College, Paul started the sailing club on a nearby lake. During college summers he was a sailing instructor at Quissett Yacht Club on Cape Cod and at Edgartown Yacht Club on Martha's Vineyard and spent a third summer as a boat hand on John and Cindy Smith's tugboat in NY harbor.

After graduating from college he began a solo yearlong trip around Europe following another passion: rock climbing. Tragically, he was killed in an avalanche while climbing Mont Blanc in the French Alps. He had hoped to continue his love of the environment and the sea as part of the worldwide Greenpeace organization.

- Susan Coppola, August 2012

John H. Duncan Trophy Awarded annually since 1962

John H. Duncan, also known as Beano, was Norma Smith's only assistant instructor when she started as the Sailing Program Director in 1960. He remained her assistant instructor through the summer of 1965. This trophy was created at about the same time as the Glidden Trophy, and for similar reasons. Students were winning trophies because they were winning races. However, Beano and Norma Smith felt that a student who had a great attitude, who put out lots of effort, and who learned a lot during the course of a season, should be awarded a trophy even if they did not win many races. Therefore, Beano donated a trophy to the SYC in order to recognize that student. The focus of the Glidden trophy was more on sportsmanship, while the focus of the Duncan Trophy was more on learning and advancement.

An August 2012 quote from Robin Smith Farrin, who was the first recipient of the John H. Duncan Trophy in 1962: "I thought the world of Beano. He was always full of fun and he had I think the oldest turnabout, #383."

John's father, Roger F. Duncan, was the author of numerous nautical and Maine Coast history books including: 'A Cruising Guide to the New England Coast,' 'Coastal Maine,' 'Eastward' and 'Ashore and Afloat.'

Compiled by C. Jacobs, August, 2012, from conversation/e-mail with John H. Duncan and Norma Smith Farrin.

Hubert W. Glidden Memorial Trophy

Awarded annually since 1960

Inscription on trophy: "To be awarded annually for excellence in sailing and sportsmanship."

Hubert W. Glidden was one of the founding members of the Southport Yacht Club and was the sixth commodore. He served as commodore from 1941 to 1944. Mr. Glidden's widow, Mary Glidden, along with the Sailing Program Director at the time, Norma Smith, noticed in 1960 that there was a need for a trophy that went beyond simply who got first place in races. At the time there were trophies for point standings and month and season winners, but nothing for anyone who exemplified good seamanship and sportsmanship. Therefore, Mrs. Glidden donated a trophy in memory of her husband that could be given to a student demonstrating those skills.

Mrs. Glidden served as secretary for the SYC for many years, and also served as treasurer for a couple of years when the previous treasurer resigned unexpectedly.

Mr. and Mrs. Glidden's one son, Bradley C. Glidden, sailed successfully in the SYC sailing program during the 1960s. He won the trophy bearing his father's name in 1964.

Comments from Bradley Glidden in August, 2012: "One year Beano Duncan was doing the presentation, describing the kid who was to win as the one always out to the line early, and always leaving his boat shipshape and Bristol fashion....I looked at one of my contemporaries (Mark Cameron, who is also on the bowl if memory serves) and we both pointed at a third person. I literally hurt my jaw when it dropped open and I was named that year.....and almost 50 years and 50,000 miles later, I (obviously) still remember the lessons from the Club....be early to the line, leave the boat shipshape, and Do It Right because Past Generations are looking over your shoulder."

The first boat that Bradley Glidden sailed was turnabout #591, Yankee. He currently sails a Rhodes 37, which is also called Yankee. He is a four time winner of the Virgin Islands Wooden Boat Regatta hosted by the West End Yacht Club and Foxy's of Jost van Dyke, BVI. He authored a book, The Cruiser's Guide to Hurricane Survival, published in 2002 by Cruising Guide Publications.

- Compiled by C. Jacobs, August, 2012, based on conversations/e-mails with Bradley C. Glidden, Toni Helming, John H. Duncan, and Richard Charlesworth.

John Helming Memorial Trophy **Awarded annually since 1977**

The SYC has been awarding the John Helming cup since 1977 to worthy sailing class participants. It occurred to us that most if not all of you did not know him so we felt appropriate to talk a little about John; who he was and how this award came into being.

Like most of you John started in the morning class at age 8 (in 1967) with his swim test. He advanced rapidly, eagerly earning his stars and learning to become not only an accomplished sailor but a skilled boat handler in any type of watercraft available to him. To say that John lived and breathed all things Southport and SYC would be no exaggeration. After graduating to the afternoon class he was a morning class helper, most every day and was Commodore of the Junior Yacht Club. He crewed in afternoon races before advancing to being a skipper. Once a skipper of his beloved "Zonker, #693" he went on to win his share of races, and trophies, and eventually became an instructor. He started the Pratt's island Trophy Race, the first open race for turnabouts at the SYC.

So all of that seems pretty familiar, right? What isn't told there are the after class hours John spent sailing. He was often seen at the helm of a Mariner, Rhodes 19, Typhoon, Daysailer, Lightning, Boothbay One Design, Christmas Cove etc.; whatever he could get his hands on to broaden his sailing experience beyond a turnabout. Don't forget, in those days Turnabouts were all the sailing program had available. No 420's, Opti's, j24's etc. **Just imagine!**

In those days The SYC sailors were always competent and competitive in Turnabouts and won many regattas, but were at a disadvantage when competing at the Sears Cup as those were held in sloops. John met the challenge head on and competed successfully up and down the coast of Maine in sloops due to his passion (some might say obsession) to grow out of the turnabouts. John often sailed in the SYC open race series. In one particular race he split tacks with commodore Hawley (who just happened to be his boss at the SYC), and beat him. John decorated a bottle of water as "GO FAST" and sent it to the commodore for Christmas. Rumor has it that the commodore still has that bottle.

I remember one day when he asked me to help him try to fit the genoa jib from a Typhoon to our Mariner just to see if he could get it to go faster. It did! He had seen some of the "big boats" in the Seguin race flying bloopers downwind and sure enough, John was out there trying to fly two spinnakers at once on the Mariner. That experiment was less successful! One of the highlights of his teens was two cruises down east on Wyvern, the Cole's 42' ketch with his fellow afternoon class sailors. What a thrill!

John sailed on the Sheepscoot right up until he lost his battle with cancer at the all too young age of 17. His enthusiasm for and love of sailing were with him until the end. We know he'd be thrilled to see the way this program has grown and expanded, and how much you are all learning here. This cup both honors his spirit and drive that contributed to the program that we all enjoy today, and helps perpetuate that passion by encouraging another generation to spend time on the water.

- Tom Helming, July 2012

Norma H. Smith Memorial Trophy

Awarded annually since 2007

Inscription on trophy: "In memory of our much loved and long time Sailing Program Director. Awarded annually to the student exhibiting the greatest love for sailing and appreciation for the sea."

Norma Smith was the Southport Yacht Club Sailing Program Director from 1960 through 1990, which is THIRTY-ONE summers. Under her leadership the Sailing Program grew dramatically and became one of the premier sailing programs in the state of Maine, if not the premier program.

When Norma started in 1960 she only had one assistant instructor, John (Beano) Duncan. The fleet at that time consisted of three turnabouts. There were eight students in the morning beginner class and there were seven students in the one afternoon class. There was no Junior Building. All classes met upstairs in the Senior Building.

By the end of Norma's tenure the Sailing Program had undergone big changes. There were now six instructors. The fleet consisted of more than 30 turnabouts along with three O'day Daysailers owned by the SYC and used by the Advanced Class. There were more than a hundred students. And the Junior Building had been built and hosted most classes.

During Norma's tenure the SYC Sailing Program started to participate in the Maine Yacht Racing Association events. In 1963 Mark Cameron won the Maine State Midgets/Turnabout Championship, which forced other Maine Yacht Clubs to take notice of the SYC. Subsequent to that victory the SYC went on to win many more Maine State Midget Championships and Bemis/Sears Cups.

Norma taught generations of sailors. This included her own family. In the 1960s the Program included her children Robin, Bonnie, and Barry. Later in her tenure she taught her grandchildren Michael and Christopher Bland, and Kelly and Kip Farrin.

Norma took great care of her assistant instructors. In most years she would invite the Sailing Program staff to David's Island, where she shared a house with her brother, for a cookout. She also knit sweaters that she gave as presents to many of her instructors.

Norma had a true love of sailing. She owned the Island Woman, an O'Day Mariner sloop. She raced this boat on weekends and frequently took Sailing Program students sailing on it so that they could experience a boat that was bigger than a turnabout. On a nice weekend day she often took the Island Woman out for a sail on the Sheepscoot by herself. Her grandson's boat, a J-24, is also called the Island Woman, and is now moored on the same mooring in Cozy Harbor that Norma used for her Island Woman. In her youth, she and Janet Elderkin Azzoni, sailed a boat from Cozy Harbor up the Sasanoa River to Bath (without their parents' permission).

- C. Jacobs, with assistance from John H. Duncan, August, 2012