

July 5, 2007

To: Phil DiCarlo, Chair  
Harvey Brand, Vice Chair  
2007 Boston Yacht Club Marblehead to Halifax Race Committee

Since the 2005 Marblehead to Halifax Ocean Race, my husband, Dr. Arthur Macneil died. Arthur entered his first Marblehead to Halifax race in 1977. Because some of you knew him, I should add that his death was sudden and unexpected. He wasn't ill. He just sat down and didn't get back up. A good death for a doctor who did intensive care.

I have accessed the Boston Yacht Club web site many times in the lead up to this year's race and watched the entry list grow.

Reading the familiar names of boats Arthur and I have raced against, has brought back many wonderful memories of: starts, finishes, holes in the wind, mornings and evenings at sea counting and trying to identify the spinnakers on the horizon, the Halifax end of the race and award ceremony at our own yacht club, RNSYS when we got to meet the people we had raced against.

This year from my perspective, everyone is in Marblehead for the race and I am here. I now know it was a mistake for me to stay in Halifax. I should have travelled down not just to watch the start but because I very much want to say thank you to you and all the wonderful people who across the years have given time to the Halifax Race Committee, at the Boston Yacht Club, not only to make the race possible but to make visiting sailors feel very much at home.

Arthur and I didn't know one another when we met on the BYC dock in 1985 because of the Halifax race.

While I am sure our romance isn't the only romance to begin at BYC, I would like to think we were kind of special because we both loved ocean racing and together entered the Marblehead to Halifax Race as often as our work would allow either on Dies Irae, a C&C 35 Mark I, or more recently on Battle Hymn our C&C 40.

On years we didn't race, we would visit Marblehead, have breakfast at the Driftwood, drinks at Maddies, and recall our many wonderful memories of times spent with you....inclusive of the welcomes on arrival from your Dockmaster, to the warm kindness of the wonderful ladies who keep it all together and make it all work.

I can't end this note without also thanking the members of your club who across the years extended hospitality and space on board their boats to our family members and friends to see the start of the races we participated in.

Thank you so very much for the memories.

Our life together was richer because of all of you.

Perhaps you could send me information on Out-of-Port membership.

Sincere best wishes to all participating as a volunteer or entry in this year's race.

Patricia Walsh Macneil

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