

Acton Action

At right, Bob is flanked by sons Jamie (left) and Rob (right) with sister and often times crew Marie. Mabel is on the right. He raised his children right. All three were accomplished racing sailors as well.



Bob Hill 1932 - 2018

Awards List (partial)

- 1969 District 3 Snipe Champion
- 1970 District 3 Snipe Champion
- 1974 HSA Boies Series Champion
- 1975 Snipe Chattanooga Southern
Championship winner
- 1981 Frank Peters Memorial
Sportsmanship Award HSA
- 1983 HSA Boies Series Champion
- 1984 Tri State Snipe Champion
- 1987 HSA Boies Series Champion
- 1989 Snipe Ohio State Champion
- 2004 Bob Darlin Sportsmanship
Award winner HSA

Bob Hill Remembered

Back in 1973, Bob Hill was Governor of the Snipe class. The Snipe was the boat he raced most of his sailing career and at that nationals' regatta at Green Lake WI, Bob presided over the largest Snipe regatta in class history. There were **117 boats**. As the list at left shows, he was also quite a racing sailor.

The Snipe class is not as robust as it was in the day, and as the fleet at Hueston Woods shrank and disappeared, Bob tried out singlehanded racing in both Lasers and Sunfish. It was in the latter boat that Bob ended his in the boat racing days. (Yours Truly bought that boat from him when he retired from racing.)

But he had already taken up remote control racing and competed along with his son Rob (and other HSA members) against RC racers in Cincinnati until moving to Florida in 2007 and doing it there also. (continued next page)

'Tis evening on the moorland free, /The starlit wave is still; /Home is the sailor from
the seas, /The hunter from the hill. *A.E. Housman*



Champion, Regatta Chair, Fierce Competitor

Persistence, fair play, sportsmanship and a lively storyteller

When Bob passed away on December 9th, he left behind quite a legacy. He was not only a champion Snipe sailor; he was also a cherished member of our club where he often served as a regatta chair. And he was good at it.



Bob would almost always show up for regatta duties dressed in white, a tradition that harks back to an earlier time. But he was big on tradition and doing things the right way. He was not only knowledgeable about the rules, he made sure that all members of the race committee performed their duties well.

Most remember his affable style more than anything about his rigor as a chieftain of the committee. "He was very official as Race Chair," said Pete Peters. According to son Rob, Bob insisted all of the RC crew wear white, representing the good guys. "Rarely if ever did the regatta participants notice, but it sure looked clean and sharp on the water," Rob said.

Mark Costandi remembers Bob for his smile. "I recall his having a jolly attitude and a smile with a great sense of humor. He always seemed happy with his life at the lake."

But he wasn't a martinet and sometimes suspended the rules to accommodate the situation. "One time, Bob and I were the RC for a Rhodes Bantam Nationals on Acton Lake,"

writes long time member Jerry Callahan. "We had a Gold and a Silver Fleet. It was the last race of the series and the wind was dying. Both fleets were sailing a figure 8. We wanted to shorten the course to 2 1/4 laps but the Silver Fleet still had three legs to go.

"He always seemed happy with his life at the lake." Mark Costandi

"We were finishing near the Lodge, so we finished Gold off one side of the RC boat at 2 1/4 laps and Silver Fleet off the other side at 1 3/4 laps. When Bob and I put our heads together, we were unstoppable!"

According to son Rob Hill, Bob began racing in the 60's at Lake Onodaga near Syracuse, NY. General Electric (for which he worked until retirement in 1992).

Champion, Regatta Chair, Fierce Competitor (continued from previous page)

He was in the Sea Scouts there which led to his passion for Snipe sailing.

GE transferred him to Cincinnati in 1967 and that began his association with HSA. He and wife Mabel were snowbirds until 2007 before moving to Sun City Center in Florida.

He was a graduate of Princeton (class of 1955) where he majored in industrial engineering.

According to son Rob, Bob was a fierce competitor on and off the water.

"Persistence was among his greatest skills. Most always with a firm sense of sportsmanship and fair play."

Jerry Callahan remembers some of that persistence. "When we would complain about the light winds on Acton Lake, Bob would say how much he loved it. He said since everyone disliked it, he had decided to become an expert in light wind. And he did. He was almost unstoppable in light wind."

Rob tells us that somewhere there is a picture from a Boies Series around

1973 of Bob standing in a fully swamped Rhodes Bantam while the owner swims behind on a cold fall day, foul weather gear and all.

No doubt he was encouraging the swimmer to rejoin him.

He is also remembered as a storyteller. "We as children had heard them all many times," Rob recalls. "So he came up with a system.

"We could hold up fingers representing the number of times we had heard the story. When it got over 10 we were allowed to scream at the top of our lungs through the whole telling. Oddly enough, after that system was in place, we never got past 3 or 4, but thrilled at the prospect."

Bob's sailing career was studded with achievement as was his tenure as a member of our club. He will likely also be remembered as a father, husband, and as a professional, no matter what the task.

"He said that since everyone disliked it,

he had decided to become an expert in light wind. And he did. He was almost unstoppable in light wind." Jerry Callahan

Bob jumped from Soling One Meter RC's to racing 12 Meter RC's in Florida, but, whether it was Snipes, Lasers, Sunfish or RC's, he was a competitor who made a difference. We should all aspire to that level of passion and accomplishment.

Rob told us the Snipe fleets across the country are making a comeback. Bob would be pleased to hear that

