



Growing Up Lightning



Larry, Joy, Ian, and Lauren at Bay Beach—Summer 1995

Buffalo Canoe Club sailors Lauren Jones and Joy MacDonald have been fortunate enough to grow up in the Lightning Class and have been competing from a young age. Thanks to their family, including their fathers, Ian Jones and Larry MacDonald, who won the Worlds together in 1997, they have had many wonderful experiences with the Lightning Class “family.”

What do you think your parents did that was most effective in making you want to stick around?

Lauren: My parents were so supportive of my junior team. They pretty much made going to any junior regatta possible. It was like having a personal travel coordinator to take care of hotels, restaurants, and transportation. At the same time, my dad worked hard at coaching us in preparation. He also taught us about the responsibilities of owning a boat and making sure it was ready for a major regatta. If I had not had so many positive experiences as a junior sailor in the Lightning Class, I probably would not have made so many close friends and great memories that have made me want to keep making more for years to come.

Joy: I was so fortunate that my dad involved me in Lightning sailing at such a young age. I was ten when I sailed my first North American Championship! We came in eighth in that regatta, and it showed the Lightning Class that even with a youngster on board, you could still be competitive. I have gone on to sail eight North American Championships and two World Championships and have loved every minute of it

because I was able to spend it with my family. My dad and mom were also very supportive of my junior team, with crew Kathryn Moloney and Mad-die Waldron. Not only did they help coach me and handle all the logistics, as Lauren discussed, they were always there for me on and off the water when I needed encouragement or a laugh. Sailing has become such a family activity for us, and I am so grateful to be a part of the Lightning Class.

Lauren: There are also little things my parents did, such as always having candy on the boat, which played a part in making my experiences out on the water so positive as a kid. Before regattas, we would go to the bulk section of the grocery store and buy pounds of gummies which would end up only lasting us two or three days. Gummies were very crucial to my success on the boat though! After every race, we would eat a few gummies that would supposedly allow the next race to be even better. I have learned this through instructing kids at the BCC as well making it fun out on the water in anyway you can is the most important thing to make them want to go back out again and again.

What are you really glad they NEVER did?

Lauren: The one thing I am very glad my parents never did was put pressure on me to be better than everyone else. I am not saying they did not care about my success, but I was never pressured into believing they would be made if I did not do well in a race. Again, as a kid, it is important for their experiences to be fun and safe, regardless of if they are in first or last place.

Joy: I agree completely! I never felt pressure to win. In the eyes of my parents, winning was second to being respectful to the other competitors and having fun. As long as I came off the water with a smile on my face, the day was a success. Of course, doing well in races was an added perk!

What do you think is particularly valuable to you now that you wouldn't have known if you hadn't started sailing Lightnings?

Lauren: I have gained so many important lessons and experiences from being part of the Lightning Class. Probably the most valuable thing I have gained is having the opportunity to learn from and sail with so many talented, world-class sailors. This has given me the inspiration and determination to strive to be as successful as they are.

Joy: Exactly! The Lightning Class has such a wide range of talented sailors from whom I am so fortunate to learn. I have also learned the value of family and the importance of cooperation. Being on a boat with my family or best friends can be trying at times; however, at the end of the day, I have made memories and strengthened bonds that I know will last a lifetime. Also, I am so happy to have grown up at the Buffalo Canoe Club, which is, without a doubt, my favorite place on earth! I cannot wait to help the BCC host the Youth Worlds in 2014 and the Open World' in 2015 (hope to see you there!!).

Favorite memories with the Lightning Class...

Lauren: One of my favorite memories, that pretty much began my journey as a Lightning sailor, was when I was given the opportunity to sail the 2004 Women's North Americans at the BCC, with Jody Starck and Maddie Waldron. I was eleven years old, and this was my first major Lightning regatta. I did not know what to expect at first, but it turned out to be a great time with some really intense moments mixed with of jokes and laughter. During one race, we rounded the windward mark, and as I hoisted the spinnaker, the knot came undone, and I succeed in pulling the halyard all the way up the mast. Jody was not going to let this stop us though. She handed Maddie the tiller and told



Joy and Larry at the 2013 Wild Oyster Regatta in Charleston, South Carolina

her to steer straight, and instructed me to just keep the boat balanced. Then she proceed to climb up the mast, grab the halyard, slide down and tie it back on,, so that we could hoist and go on our way. We ended up winning the regatta, and I was hooked from then on.

The memories are endless, but one other that has stuck with me was when my parents were in the process of buying our Lightning. Larry MacDonald contacted my sister and me and told us to pick out the colors for the spinnaker. Obviously, we picked hot pink and neon green because those are the best colors. Getting to look at that beautiful spinnaker made being out on the water that much more fun!

Joy: I also have countless memories with the Lightning Class. One of my favorite memories was at my first Lightning regatta in Spring 2002 at North Cape Yacht Club with my dad and Kevin Robinson. It was absolutely freezing, and I was decked out head to toe in warm gear (thanks to Jody Starck, who remains my gear guru!). I'm pretty sure at one point it was hailing, and there even were icicles forming on the boat. However, even though my dad said we could go in and warm up, I was determined to finish the regatta, which we ended up winning.

Another memorable moment was winning my first race as a junior skipper. It was the last race in the 2008 Newport Junior North Americans, and Maddie, Kathryn and I decided to bang the left corner for every upwind leg. Somehow, this paid off, and we were ecstatic as we crossed the finish line to the sound of cheers from our parents, and even the other competitors. My other favorite memories involve sailing BCC Tuesday nights with every member of my family on the water (two family boats). I also enjoyed traveling to regattas with my family, and I loved going to Chile and Italy for the Worlds.

Overall, the Lightning Class means so much to Lauren and me, and we are thankful for everyone who has helped us out along the way. Also, we are thankful to our parents for getting us involved at such a young age and hope to inspire other youth sailors to get out on the water!



Jones family out for a sail-summer 2008



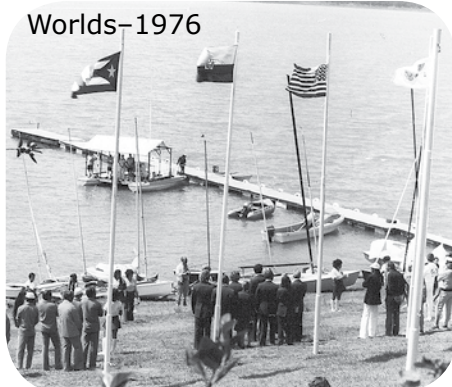
John McIntosh-1960



Allen/fiberglass float test-1968



Worlds-1976



George Fisher's 80-2006



Italy Fleet 449-2006



ILCA 75th



Pan Am Games-2007



Skaneateles -70th Anniversary-2008



Brazilian Nationals-2009



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Maegan Ruhlman & Jason Lutz-2011



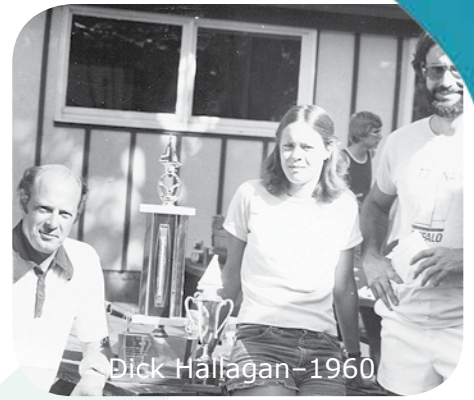
1938 - 2013



Karl Smither, 1943 National Lightning Class Champion, holding the Lightning Class Championship Cup, with crewmen par excellence—bareback Bob Crane and smiling Reg. Pegrum



BCC-1960



Dick Hallagan-1960



Bruce Goldsmith-1980



Bill & Rick Fastiggi-1990



Doug & Martin-2005

Anniversary



World Champin Lintons-2007



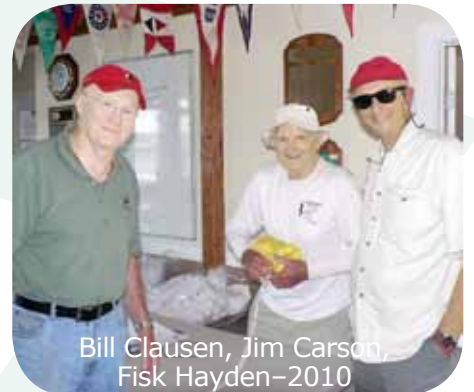
Muerello-2007



Connor Godfrey-Junior North American Champion-2009



Tom Allen at the Worlds-2009



Bill Clausen, Jim Carson, Fisk Hayden-2010



Jennifer & Jenna Princing-2012



Team Constants-2013





ILCA Boat Grant Program



(L-R) Bill Fastiggi (Program Creator), Stephanie Boucher ('09), Sarah (Costich) King ('07), Bob King ('07), Will Brown ('08), Leigh Kempton ('08), Justin Coplan ('08), Nick Farina ('08), Caroline Patten ('11), Allen Terhune (Program Creator) – Boat Grant Alumni Sailing at the Long John Regatta 2013



Jamie Simmons Team

2012 recipient Jamie Simmons seen here sailing with his crew of Caroline Hall and Connor Aswad at the 2012 Atlantic Coast Championship. Simmons from New Bedford, Massachusetts had a successful season and went on to purchase a boat of his own. He and his team qualified and competed in the 2013 World Championships in Castiglione de Lago, Italy. Jamie, Caroline and Connor are all still actively sailing in the Class.

2012 recipient Tyler Braun sailed extensively with Fleet 253 at the Susquehanna Yacht Club. He graduated from Penn State in 2010 and his job as an engineering consultant for the hydro-power industry in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania brought him to the Susquehanna Fleet. Prior to the Boat Grant Program he spent two full seasons jumping from Lightning to Lightning before settling into a steady crew position with Carol Park. His team included Jarrett Scherrer and Dustin Stauffer. The team is in action here from the 2012 Atlantic Coast Championship. Braun is in the market for a boat of his own and is still active with Fleet 253.



Tyler Braun Team

2013 recipient Mitch Hall sailed with Fleet 429 from Charleston, South Carolina. He and his team of Ali Blumenthal and Ben Spector had a great time in the boat. Hall is from St. Petersburg, Florida, and is the Assistant Coach for the College of Charleston Sailing Team. He spends the off-season coaching youth sailing at various clinics and regattas around the country and internationally. Mitch had a great season and took home the Thermis Trophy at the 2013 North American Championship for the highest finisher sailing in the Championship Fleet for the first time. Mitch, Ali and Ben are still active with the Charleston Fleet.



Mitch Hall(L) w/ crew Sam Ingham & Tanya Cuprak



CONGRATULATIONS
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for 75 years of great fun!
Our families have enjoyed
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Photo: Bill Clausen





YOU Can Make a Difference

How Can You Support the ILCA?

The ILCA has established many alternatives to enable members and friends to make special gifts and bequests of lasting significance to help ensure the long-term viability, vitality and mission of the Class:

- The ILCA Fund
- The Boat Grant Program
- The Limbaugh Fund
- The Mary Huntsman History Fund

The ILCA Fund **Charter of the Fund**

The ILCA Fund was established in 1981 as a way to guarantee the long-range operations of our Class. Contributions to the Fund may be used to pay for the ordinary operating expenses of the ILCA, to advertise and promote the sport of Lightning Class sailing or for any other purpose approved by its Board of Directors.

The ILCA Fund supports the US Sailing award winning [Lightning Boat Grant Program](#) and the [International Fleet Development Initiative](#).

Fund Directors: [Steve Davis](#), [Bill Fastiggi](#),
[Todd Wake](#), [John Bennett](#),
[David Starck](#)

The Boat Grant Program

You can donate cash, boats, covers, sails, trailers, etc. to support this innovative program to attract young racers to the Lightning. Designed to help young sailors experience the high level of competition offered by the Class, this revolutionary program offers a unique opportunity among one-design classes. While many one-design classes struggle to attract and retain young sailors, the Lightning Class is taking active steps to give young adults a leg up. Since its inception in 2007, the Class has provided fully rigged, insured and competitive boats for worthy teams for the sailing season. The recipients participated in Fleet, District and national regattas.

The Limbaugh Fund **Charter of the Fund**

The Limbaugh Fund was established in honor of two of our most avid supporters. Helen was our Executive Director from 1965 to 1982. Jay was our Class President in 1964. Both remained strong supporters of the Class long after their tenures were completed. Because of Helen and Jay's strong interest in Junior sailing, and their belief that our Juniors are the future members and officers of our Class, the organizers of the fund have dedicated these funds toward Junior activities.

Use of the Fund

The available monies in the Limbaugh Fund are restricted to the support of education, training, and the promotion of Junior sailing. Only income generated from Limbaugh Fund investments may be used. The principal may not be spent. Uses of these funds have included support for the Youth World Championships, the Sears Cup, funding Junior racing clinics, trophies, promotion of youth regattas, etc.

Fund Directors: [Michael Huffman](#), [Kip Hamblet](#),
[Matt Fisher](#), [Debbie Probst](#)

The Mary Huntsman History Fund **Charter of the Fund**

The Mary Huntsman History Fund's primary objective is to help recover and properly preserve the Lightning Class heritage. The Fund is named after Mrs. Mary Huntsman, Past President and Officer of the Class, and who was the first to hold the Historian VP position when it was established. Under her Presidency, Mary secured the purchase of Lightning number one and subsequently coordinated its donation to the Mystic Seaport Museum, where the boat has been restored and is displayed.

Use of the Fund

The Mary Huntsman Lightning History Fund was formed in 2004. Its primary objective is to help recover Lightning memorabilia and properly preserve Class heritage.

Fund Directors: [Clayton Gray](#), [Brian Hayes](#),
[Rob Ruhlman](#)

The laws of the U.S. permit its citizens to choose how to dispose of possessions at death. The ILCA has been granted status as a 501C3 charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service. As such, your gifts to the Class can be deducted from U.S. income and estate taxes. These tax laws make giving to the Class both economical and philanthropic.

Your donation will be recognized in the ILCA Yearbook as follows:

Benefactor	\$500	or more
Donor	\$100	or more
Supporting	\$50	or more
Contributing	\$20	or more

How may Gifts be Made During Your Lifetime?

Gifts of Cash: A gift of cash during a person's lifetime is the simplest type of gift. These can be made in person or anonymously, directly or on behalf of another person. Gifts within a year are deductible from that year's income taxes. You may send a check to the ILCA at any time or include an extra amount of money in the renewal form when you pay your membership every year.

Gifts of Marketable Securities and Investment Real Estate: Gifts of appreciated securities and real estate held for investment purposes are often more beneficial to the donor than gifts of cash. When such items are donated, the donor receives a contribution deduction equal

to the current market value of the security and, generally, the excess of the market value over the donor's cost basis is not taxed. Often it can be advantageous to donate substantially appreciated items than to sell them and pay the capital gains tax.

Gifts through Wills: Remembering The ILCA in your will is another method of giving. Such a gift is deductible in calculating estate taxes. Provisions for the gift may be included in the body of the will or by adding a simple codicil. If you desire to establish a separate memorial gift within either the ILCA Fund or the Limbaugh Fund, or to specify the purpose of the gift, this may be done by so stating in the provisions of the will.

Gifts of Boats and Equipment: You may consider donating your boat and equipment to the ILCA, thereby helping make them available to newcomers. You can deduct the fair market value of your donation from your income or estate taxes. It may be more advantageous for you to give the boat to the Class than to sell it. The Class has the procedures in place to facilitate making this important gift.

There is no time better than the present to make gifts to our Class. Your contribution will assure that the next generation of sailors will have the same support that we all now enjoy. We hope you will consider planning an ILCA donation, always informed, by appropriate legal and financial counsel.

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*ILCA Life Member & VP of Greece,
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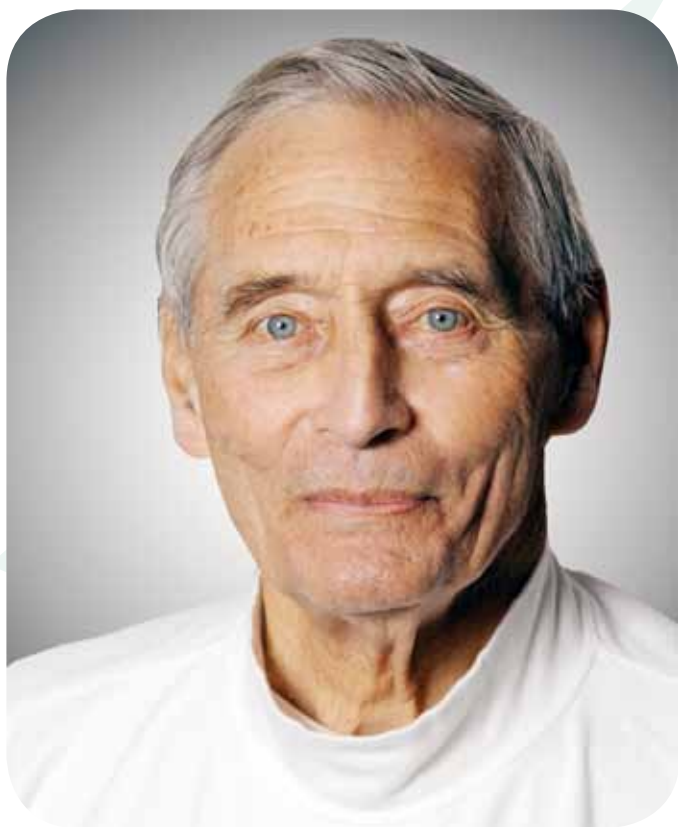
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Tom G Allen III

1931–2012



When the "Great TA," Tom Allen, sailed across the finish line for the last time, the Class lost an icon, and we all lost a friend. A man of few words but much accomplishment, never one to brag or boast, yet he taught legions of us many things by leading through quiet example. A master of boat speed and brilliant with tactics, lessons learned there came at the expense of following his transom. Perhaps the best sailing lesson all of us learned from him was the first time one tried to cross him on port. He'd instantly have another gear AND be able to point three degrees higher. At the next cross, one remembered to have ample room ahead.

He didn't excel in just Lightnings either. He sailed Finns, FDs and Tempests in Olympic trials, Solings a bit too. He finished second in two Olympic trials and won countless regattas in other classes, in addition to his multiple District, Southern Circuit, North American and Worlds Lightning championships.

Everyone who sailed Lightnings for probably the last fifty years knew Tom. It would be interesting to know all the different places he sailed. The list of regattas he never attended is probably much shorter than those he did. If there was a "frequent driver" award, he'd be on the A list.

We all know he owned a company that made boats. But he built something far more than important than boats; he helped to lead the Class, which for many people is as important as their family. Look at his wife and four children as an example of a great Lightning family. Then look

around at all the other families who have been part of the Class for generations. Boats come and go, families remain. In a way, you could say he helped to build families. We all sail Lightnings because they are fun and the competition is great, but we are a family of friends bound together by leaders like Tom.

The thing people will remember the most about the Great TA is a trait he shared with his late father-in-law, Karl Smither—the ability to win, and lose, with a dignity that is all too uncommon these days. Like Elvstrom taught us, he won the race, and he has our respect.

Peter Huston

The Stuff Legends Are Made Of, Forever a Part of Me, Forever Remembered, Forever Loved — By Shelby Allen, Granddaughter of Tom

The world lost a legend yesterday.

- He was a Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame member.
- He was a four-time Lightning World Champion and eight-time Lightning North American Champion.
- He was five-time Lightning Canadian Open Champion, and I have no idea how many other regattas he won or how many first place flags he earned.
- He was a gold and a silver medalist in the Pan Am games.
- He was a 1968 Olympian.
- He was a Champion in the Albacore and Flying Dutchman fleets.
- He was an assistant to the 1996 Olympic team.
- He was in the Navy.
- He was a man who had a heart attack, on the water, near the end of a race he was doing well in. Not only did he not die, but one of the first things he asked the doc was when he could get back to sailing.
- He was a man who started his own business doing something he loved, and he made a life-long career out of it.

The world lost a legend, I say goodbye to a grandfather. Goodbye to you, my partner in crime.

I will forever remember:

- ~ sneaking the good chocolate or the good cookies before dinner,
- ~ stuffing extra ice cream into whatever flavor float we were making,
- ~ eating ALL of the chex mix while guarding it from others.

Goodbye to the one who shared my love for water and water sports, for sunshine and summers at the beach.



Goodbye to mister, to a tiger, and to the other one who is trouble.

I will forever remember our sparing matches, even at the dinner table. You always had a dose of wit and words ready for me. There was never a shortage of growls, nicknames or comebacks on either side. Who is going to call me an elf at Christmas this year? You are the only one I let get away with that kind of thing.

You could hold your own with anyone, and you taught me how to do the same. You wouldn't have understood the reference, but all we do is win, gramps. It's true, and I definitely get that from you. You were always trouble, and you taught me how to be stubborn and trouble in the best way possible too. I will forever remember being one of the many you called trouble, especially since it was your last word to me as well.

Goodbye to a Grandfather who was always around. I will forever remember and be thankful for you coming to:

- ~ So many dance recitals
- ~ Birthday dinners
- ~ Chorus concerts
- ~ Long graduations and awards ceremonies
- ~ Bad band concerts

I will forever remember the months I lived with you and Gram in the summer so I could take sailing lessons at the club.

Goodbye to a Grandfather who encouraged me to be my best, in anything from swim to school, and shared whatever knowledge he had to help me be the best.

Goodbye to my favorite pair of blue eyes. I will forever remember

- ~ How they changed shades like mine,
- ~ How they could be piercing and match the sea or the sky,
- ~ That moment in Greece when you matched the radiance of the Mediterranean. You don't know but I wrote about that time for my essay that got me into college.

Goodbye to a man who had so many stories. I will forever remember:

- ~ So many of the great Allen road trip adventure stories
- ~ So many of the stories that spoke volumes of your wit, whether you were pranking someone or problem solving or jerry riggin' something. You taught Dad those skills, and the two of you did your best to pass some of them on to me—even if Karl got most of that.
- ~ Some of our trips too.
- ~ I remember when Dad and I almost lost you in the airport on the way to Greece.
- ~ I remember our family trip to St. Croix.

- ~ I remember being little and sitting the car with you talking about swim and about music. I don't remember where we were leaving from or going to, but I remember you playing opera in the car, like always, and I remember you telling me about the auditions at a school in town and asking if I wanted to go listen to the great singers with you.
- ~ I remember swimming from our cottage to the club and back with you, working on my stroke, always instilling a desire to improve.
- ~ I remember that time I thought I was going to the cub to help you take the boat out of the water before the lightning storm, just for you to tell me to hop in when we stood at the dock and then take me out for a quick sailing lesson before the storm and before coming in.
- ~ I remember our walks on the beach. Linked arm in arm or walking to our own rhythms and embracing the freedom, either way you were always the best beach walking partner.

I remember you. You are forever a part of me, you are forever remembered, you are forever loved.

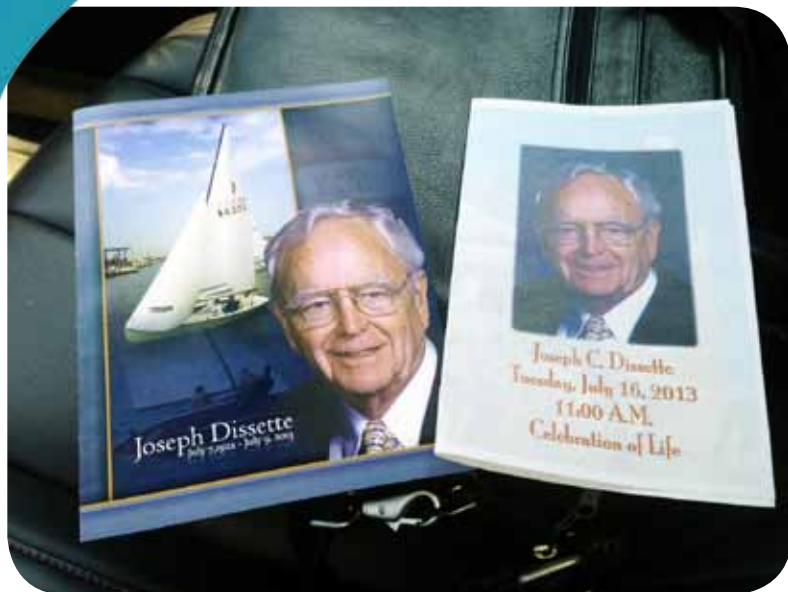
Of your myriad of accomplishments, I will always be the most proud and thankful for the following:

- for giving me two men who were consistently around as I grew up and who I could look up to, yourself and my dad.
- for building strong boats and a strong family. I am proud to be an Allen and always will be.

I only changed my name on here to hide from grad schools—don't worry I'll put it back. Sorry you won't see me graduate or go to graduate school. I know you'd be proud. You'd also ask me if I was top of my class yet and ask why not every time I say no. You'd also tell me to make sure to always have a big stick and to beat all the boys away with it. Don't worry, gramps, I know that high standards have a purpose, and I will always make sure to invest my time in the things that deserve it. If I'm gonna put the hard work into it, then that is the only way to go.

So, let me tell you. I'll meet you on the water on one of those pretty good days you always spoke of, one of those days where the sun sparkles on the water like your eyes did when you were being clever, one of those days when the wind is equally fierce and gentle, like you. You'll be there, telling me not to pinch and telling me when I should really be tacking and definitely telling me to feel the boat and telling me to make it go faster. You will always still challenge me to be the best in anything and everything. Though you will not physically be there and join us for a cook-out after, it will still be one of those good days because we did it all—enjoyed the beach, enjoyed the weather, enjoyed sailing, and enjoyed being with each other. You will be there with us all, you will always be in me.

Red skies always at night, fair winds and following seas, first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of the BCC. Go rest now in peace.



Joseph C. Dissette

Joe Dissette (91) passed away Wednesday, July 10, 2013. Joe is a long-time Lightning Class supporter and was a member of the Michigan District, Fleet 216. It is believed that Joe had 34 Lightnings during his lifetime.

One of Joe's greatest moments occurred in 1998 at the ILCA 60th Anniversary Regatta held at the Skaneateles Country Club in Skaneateles, New York. Joe was in the Green Fleet with 87 boats competing. WOW! What a starting lineup, an awesome event!

Joe had been having heart trouble, and that morning he and his wife, Ann, made an unscheduled trip to the hospital. The crew rigged the boat and circled off the end of the dock waiting for Joe to return. 223 of the 225 boats had been launched. With Ann driving through two barricades and down the launching ramp, Joe arrived and headed to the starting line. Joe finished 1st in the first race, setting the tone for the regatta.

"Because we were ahead in the race, we finished in a mix of boats in the Blue Fleet. John McCree and Joe Schofield, my crew, asked the Racing Committee for a finish signal. We finished at the tail end of the Blue Fleet boats. The following two races were back to back with 5th place finishes—with a total of eleven points—the Green Fleet was ours. What could be better than winning your fleet at the 60th Lightning Anniversary Regatta? That had to be the highlight of my sixty-two years of Lightning racing."



George Henry Nickels

George Henry Nickels passed away Monday, May 20, 2013, at the age of 68 while at home, surrounded by family, after fighting a short illness with cancer.

He was born July 19, 1944, in Flint, the son of Herman and Margaret (Turnbull) Nickels. He married Eloise Hukan in 1966 in Grand Blanc. He retired from GM Parts and Service after thirty years and was a previous co-owner of Nickels Boat Works in Fenton. He was an active member of the Lake Fenton Sailing Club and a member of the International Lightning Class Association.

Many of you will remember how kind, helpful and fun George was.

Surviving are: wife, Eloise; son, Brian Nickels and wife, Theresa of Flint; daughter, Traci Nickels of Columbus, Ohio; grandchildren, Timothy, Bradley, Heather and Elizabeth; siblings, David Nickels and wife, Marianne of Holly, Madolyn and husband, Edward Hukan of Holly, Louis Nickels and wife, Bonnie of Fenton; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Kim Suzanne, and parents, Herman and Margaret.