

News

Olin Stephens, friends celebrate rich century

July 19, 2008 may go down as one of the most memorable days at a New York Yacht Club (NYYC) Race Week at Newport, R.I. With 53 classic yachts gathered to race, there were plenty of friends and admirers to help legendary naval architect Olin Stephens celebrate his 100th Birthday. Mr. Stephens joined all of them for dinner and a birthday cake at Harbour Court, the NYYC's summer station. "It's hard to live up to what they say about me," said Stephens, whose designs comprised more than half the fleet at Race Week. "I don't know what all the fuss is about."

In a presentation to a crowd of 600, John Rousmaniere, Olin's friend, author and NYYC historian, explained, "I've always said you have to know the man by his works because he's too humble to talk about his contributions to the world of sailing."



Dan Nerney Photo

Olin Stephens enjoys his Bolero replica cake.

Stephens's birthday cake resembled one of the famous S&S designs competing here: Ed Kane's (Concord, Mass.) 73-foot *Bolero*, built in 1950. *Bolero* once belonged to John Nicholas Brown, whose family owned Harbour Court before it became the New York Yacht Club's summer clubhouse. After two races this day, *Bolero* finished 3rd overall in Class 1. In Class 2 Edgar Cato's (Charlotte, N.C.) 52-foot *Dorada*, one of Stephens' earliest designs, was in 2nd

place as the party commenced. Stephens, then in his early 20s, handily won the 1931 Transatlantic and Fastnet races, an accomplishment, unthinkable at the time for a yacht so small and being sailed by a young amateur crew, that was rewarded with a ticker-tape parade down Broadway in New York during the height of the Depression. For more details, visit www.nyyc.org.

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Here's a new club for Boston powerboaters

The Navigator Club is a powerboating club in the Charlestown Navy Yard that maintains a fleet of powerboats, including Boston Whalers and Grady-Whites. Club members can use these on a reservation basis once they have completed a boating-safety training program. The club handles and pays for all of the traditional boat ownership tasks such as insurance, slip fees, maintenance, storage, cleaning and parking.

Upon entry to the club, a member is only responsible for fuel and any extra items ordered from the club's concierge service, including provisions and fishing equipment. For more information, call 617-880-2525 or visit www.thenavigatorclub.com.