

Sailboats Florida



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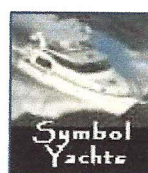
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"New Wave Dave" - Sailing all my life.....



Paging through the 2001 PYC Annual the photos of the kids holding their trophies caught my eye. Then the memories rushed back, I remember being in those photos. Thanks for sailing school and to Barb Frank. Was it really almost 50 years ago? Having grown up on Pewaukee Lake, sailing was something we all learned to do at an early age, whether in iceboats during the winter months or on scows in summer. Who knew we were sailing with people who would soon become famous. It wasn't until later that I would appreciate what a wonderful environment (and opportunity) that was.

The equipment was different then. We sailed wooden boats with cotton sails. You sure didn't want to tip over because you'd "turtle" once the sails got wet. Fiberglass came into existence only one lake over at Stamm Boatworks. Even then boat building captured my interest. I was one of the first to sail a fiberglass boat. At first, not understood, then sought after (especially on light wind days). Aluminum masts arrived which also made a huge difference to our sport. And of course, when the Harken's came to town, with their racing sailboat hardware, the whole world changed.

"David Erdman, Yacht Sales" - Selling Sailing all my life.....



I want to thank Peter and Olaf Harken, Peter Barrett, and Chuck Miller for this. After I graduated from college (to be an architect) I got excited about re-outfitting my E-scow (V-105). Soon I was in the mobile trailer next to the Vanguard Boat plant selling Harken Hardware, Chrysler Sailboats, Lasers, and those new boards called Windsurfers. My parents were getting worried now. Suddenly I was the first Certified Windsurf Instructor in Wisconsin, then sailing Lasers with Art Mitchell, John Bertram (America's Cup), and the gang. Wow, who wanted to be an architect any more?

I needed to participate more in this exciting sport of sailing! I joined Chrysler Marine and traveled over 30 states and sailed from coast-to-coast. I sailed around Florida, down the Keys, and the aqua waters of "the Islands". Met naval architects like Halsey Herreshoff, Rod MacAlpine Downey (world sail speed record holder), Jim Taylor, Cort Steck, Bill Cook and so many more. Met boat builders like

Charley Morgan, Bruce Bidwell, Bill Maxwell, Lon Seay, Frank Butler, Ted Irwin, Earl Blackwell, and so many more. Then there was all that experience of traveling to all those sailboat dealerships and boat shows, plus all the sailors I met and learned from around the country. How lucky was I?

Boat building and marketing was a passion. I worked for Chrysler Marine, Wellcraft Marine, Morgan Yacht, Spindrift Sailboats, Irwin Yachts, Impulse Marine, and even started my own sailboat company. Now I am a Yacht Broker in Florida where there are more good weather sailing days. Have a keelboat (a fast one though, and wood). I keep track of all of the quality boats for sale here and in "the Islands". I am one of the few brokers who haven't retired from some other business. I've been doing this for a long time and know boats and how they are built. I feel very fortunate. Thanks Pete and Olaf, Chuck, my parents (who were finally okay with it all), and Bruce.



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