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ASBURY PARK PRESS

SUNDAY, AUG. 4, 2002

YACHTING

Races, trophies honor key contributors

STAFF REPORT

OCEAN GATE — It was a day for remembrance in the Barnegat Bay Yacht Racing Association yesterday. For Ralph Bush, Kenneth Mease, Beck Crabbe and Breck Marshall.

Trophies in their honors were awarded yesterday as the BBYRA resumed its 88th season with the Ocean Gate and Pine Beach yacht clubs co-hosting on the Wanamaker Course in light, fluky air started out of the northeast, but later switched to the east and southeast.

Pine Beach Yacht Club presented the Ralph Bush Memorial Trophy to Tim Brown of Seaside Park Yacht Club for winning the Sunfish race, and the Marshall Trophy to Jim Davidson of Shore Acres Yacht Club for winning the Sander-

ling race.

Ocean Gate Yacht Club awarded the Beck Crabbe Trophy to the winner of the A Cat race, the Torch, skippered by Peter Kellogg of Mantoloking Yacht Club, and presented the Kenneth W. Mease Memorial Trophy to Paul Amon of Toms River Yacht Club as winner of the Sneakbox race.

The Ralph Bush Trophy was awarded last year for the first time. Ralph's son Wayne, a past commodore of Pine Beach Yacht Club, was instrumental in getting the Sunfish class involved in the bay races and his family decided to donate a trophy to the class in their father's memory shortly after his death. It is the only Sunfish trophy awarded in the BBYRA.

Ralph Bush was a "strong proponent of sailing on Barnegat Bay," according to BBYRA Commodore Patricia Applegate.

"He was one of those oldies but goodies, who would always go down to the club and do whatever he could do to help," said Applegate.

Mease, the original proprietor of Ocean Gate Yacht Basin — still a family run business — had much to do with keeping the Sneakbox class in operation over the years, according to Applegate.

"He was very instrumental," said Applegate. "He helped so many people rebuild their Sneakboxes. He was just a fountain of information."

The Beck Crabbe Trophy was donated by the Crabbe family after the death of Birbeck Crabbe in a 1938 hunting accident in North Carolina. It goes to the winner of an A Cat race in what has become one of the featured races of the BBYRA season. The Lotus was the first winner, in 1941.

The Deed of Gift specified that the boats start from anchor with their sails furled — wrapped around the boom, according to Dan Crabbe, a nephew of Beck.

"It's a fun start," said Crabbe. "Then after that it's a normal race."

The Crabbe family, raised in Toms River and sailed out of Toms River Yacht Club racing A Cats and 30-foot Sneaks. They built and owned the A Cat Bat until the mid-1950s.

The Marshall Trophy was donated to Pine Beach Yacht Club about 20 years ago by the Marshall Marine Company in South Dartmouth, Mass., which builds Sanderlings. The trophy is named for the company's founder, who patterned the Sanderling after another catboat design on Buzzards Bay.

Tim Brown of Seaside Park Yacht Club rounds the far buoy at the midpoint of the Sunfish race en route to victory.

MIKE JONES/Special to the Press

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