

We met Dave and the Hldinger family at SLSC. They were well established members and very much involved with the success of the club. This history may not be totally accurate here but my recollections are that Dave and Jan sailed an International 14 for a time but when the club made the transition to Manning Cove, they moved to a Kestrel. I got more familiar with his expertise sailing against him in Lasers and he was clearly one of the best in the club. I believe Jan had a Laser also and was one of the first women in the club to sail singlehanded.

Dave's talents and knowledge extended to his service as a club officer and eventually Commodore in 1975. He was part of the transition team that moved the club from Kaydeross Park to our present location. The club records show he was Rear Commodore in 1973, the first year at Manning Cove. At that time the property suffered from many years of deferred maintenance. The road was barely one car wide, with many overhanging branches. The waterfront was so overgrown with trees and bushes that it was difficult to see the lake from the lower lawn. Dave was in charge of clearing this jungle, the first step to the wider road and lake views that we have now. He was Vice Commodore in 1974. In 1975 he was the third Commodore at the new location. As was the case with all our leadership during that building period, he led us through the challenges well.

Dave's support and help got me interested in serving the club also. Sometime in that period, Dave wrote an article he called the Winds of Saratoga. It was the product of his astute observations and analysis of the wind characteristics on the lake. That article was a great help to learning the lake for racing and it was a source of review each year before the racing season to get ready to race against and with him. This is where the memories get a little less clear but our families both skied also. I think Dave and the family were also among the people that introduced us to Hickory Ski Center. This was a place that always seemed like the winter residence of many club members and had that same kind of feel where the contributions of all the members like Dave made it run successfully. Our final commonality was that we both worked for Knoll Atomic Power Laboratory and while we had many good conversations about the place, nothing can be repeated here because it was all classified.

Dave and the family are among the longest member families in our club. The character of our organization today is in part a result of the contributions he made to it.

--- Allan Miller and John Hudson