

MARY ELIZABETH HULL

A Memorial Statement

" The sea witch came in on the tide, riding on the waves like foam, and her hair floated out behind her like seaweed"

Robert Nathan -
(The Snowflake and the Starfish)

The Saratoga Lake Sailing Club has been incredibly blessed with a phenomenon that simply stated says: "Whenever there has been a crisis of any proportion, some member, somehow, someday, would rise to the occasion".

But we never had anyone who rose to every occasion. That is, until Mary Elizabeth Hull arrived!

I believe it was about 1976 when Mary Elizabeth and John first joined the club. I believe they had an old Snipe which was not considered a dominant fleet at the time. However they did not stay on the fringe of society long because the general friendliness and socialibility of the members showed them they had found a home - no matter what boat they sailed. Before long, Mary Elizabeth had been asked to crew in some of the more popular classes and a major facet of her life had been formed. And in sort order, daughter Cissy began sailing.

Being the person she was, she quickly became a member of the "In" group. (At SLSC, the "In" group is defined as someone who volunteers to do a job without being asked.)

Such talent and enthusiasm had to be used and Mary Elizabeth became Social Chairperson, then Membership Chairperson, and Flag Lieutenant-House which placed her on the Executive Committee.

And very quickly she was elected Rear Commodore, Vice-Commodore, and Commodore in the years 1980, 81, and 82. After flag office, true to form, she stayed on as Membership Chairperson.

Mary Elizabeth was the friendly face that greeted new members with warm hospitality. She was also an excellent executive who knew how to get things done. To this end, she was even pushy at times - but with such charm the recipient rarely knew he was being pushed.

There are a host of words that describe Mary Elizabeth: words like friendly, enthusiastic, beautiful, hard-working, effective, super-crew, loving and vital.

However, to me the definitive word describing Mary Elizabeth is "Vibrant"! Everything she did or said was infused with an inner-energy that radiated her personal warmth.

A good friend has now left us: We will miss her.

Randall H. Rice - Historian 1991