

## **A Memorial Statement: Ray & Del Biedron, 2007**

by Randall Rice

At age 82, your historian can look back over 42 years as a member of SLSC. Although now not an active sailor, I feel the same strength of belonging that I found when Elly and I joined the club in 1964.

As new members, we were quickly aware that this was a club made up of people with diverse personalities and talents. Regardless of age, occupation, gender or ability, there was one common thread that bound all together - and that thread grew stronger as the days and years of membership passed. That thread was dedication!!! And that thread could not be found stronger than in the lives of Ray and Del Biedron.

Ray and Del joined the club shortly after we commissioned our present property. Ray introduced his Rebel to the club, which turned out to be quite fitting, as Ray was quite a rebel himself. Over the years, there were several occasions where he vocally and vigorously opposed some of "managements" rulings and procedures.

On the other side of the page, Ray was an accomplished musician and sang with some of the most prestigious choral groups in the area. He also played guitar and banjo at some of our festivities.

Ray had the spark that kept the club's kettle boiling: fortunately Del was there to put a lid on the pot before it spilled over.

Ray was basically a day-sailor, but because of the club's emphasis on racing, he replaced the Rebel with a Rhodes-19 (a racing version of the O'Day Mariner) and later bought a 470 for his son.

But the one trait that he preserved over the years, was dedication. I don't know that he ever missed a work party and his specialty was the area near the boathouse. One person commented, "he cleaned it up so thoroughly, it looked like he was building a road to Saratoga"!

Ray and Del were killed last month in a tragic car accident in Florida. We will miss the fuse that set the spark!!