

S A R A T O G A L A K E S A I L I N G C L U B

A Memorial Statement for

Rowland W. Redington

In my lifetime, I have only known two persons who I felt were of true genius stature. The second was Rowland (Red) Redington - a member of Saratoga Lake Sailing Club. More of that in a minute.

But Red's fame (and General Electric's fortune) came as a research scientist/engineer at GE's Research Center in Niskayuna.

Born near Binghamton in a rural community, Red looked and talked like a farmer (Later, when he started sailing, he still looked and talked like a farmer: or, perhaps, "homespun" is a better description). But that really was a good part of his charm - to be a brilliant engineer and yet converse in everyday terms!

His scientific career culminated as the leader of the team that developed the CatScan and later, MRI machines for GE. This work earned him the prestigious "Engineer-of-the-Year" award in the US. He, in effect, became Employee-of-the-Year for GE. I say this because when I attended his retirement party about five years ago, the Research Lab Vice-President told the audience "Not everybody fully understands the contributions Red made to the GE company. We had the CatScan in development three years, then put it on the market. In the last four years we have sold 4,000 machines at \$1,000,000 each. That translates to \$4 Billion dollars that this man has brought into the company!!!

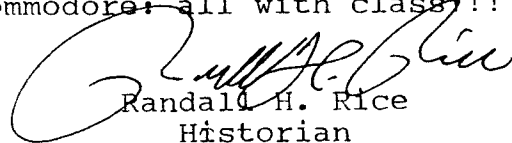
But our real interest is Red, the Sailor, and more important, Red, the person, one of SLSC's most dedicated members!

Red sailed a Jet-14, and later a Flying-Scot, and enjoyed the racing program with the camaraderie of all the racing crews. He particularly enjoyed having juniors at the club crew for him. Invariably they found that he was as much teacher as skipper.

With his deep interest in the club it is not surprising that in 1973 he was elected our 17th Commodore. Of greater importance, this was the year that we were deeply involved with purchasing our present property. Red took the tiller and supervised final negotiations. There is an excellent picture in the clubhouse of the Commissioning Ceremony.

The world owes Red an incredible gratitude for lives saved and SLSC will be forever in debt to his memory as the Farmer who became a Sailor who became a Commodore, all with class!!!

Rest easy, Red: We miss you.


Randall H. Rice
Historian

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