

Boober and Joanie

The railroad tracks of the Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul crossed the driveway of our summer cottage on Lakeshore Drive in Arnolds Park in 1972 when my family came to Lake Okoboji as a resident. The cottage faced due west across the waters of Smith's Bay, an ideal view of beautiful sunsets, marvelous fireworks and Sunday afternoon sailboat races. We also had a keen look at "Boobers" as we affectionately referred to the Okoboji Boat Works. My uncle would occasionally tell me to go gas the boat up at "Boobers".

Bob Schneider, otherwise known as "Boober", was and still is a tall drink of water, very approachable and nonchalant in his ways. A real gem to know and everyone should if they don't.

A sack lunch was taken over to Dixon Beach to the Schneider home so as to chat with Boober and Joanie, his wife of 50 years. In fact, our noon lunch was the day after they had just renewed their marriage vows at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Spirit Lake. They and friends of the church and others close to them refreshed their commitment, 50 years to the day they were originally united in San Diego, California. Charming.

When asked how he came to be a sailor, Boober gave us the low down. His grandfather originally purchased the home where they reside now. The shoreline of Dixon Beach and Ft. Dodge Point was heavily sprinkled with residents who sailed. One in particular, Jerry Huse P-1, of Norfolk, Nebraska, a neighbor, was a great influence of his sailing. In 1949 a used sailboat was purchased and sailing became a common activity. After seeing the intrigue of the sport in Boober, his father purchased him a new Johnson sailboat in 1950. Years went by, and in 1962 Jerry Huse, Bob Graf, another neighbor / friend / pilot, and Boober all purchased a new Melges C. The three boats were delivered by Buddy Melges,



internationally known yachtsman and son of Harry Melges Sr. founder of Melges Boat Works, Zenda, Wisconsin. Pretty Cool.

Army service took Boober to Copenhagen, Denmark where he met Joanie who was from San Diego, California. She was there with some girlfriends from college. They had saved their monies for the trip abroad. In 1963 the two of them were married, children were soon born, the sailing continued and many friendships were made.

Regattas were a very large part of their lives. As Boober explained it, they were fast sailors because they practiced and sought bigger competition from surrounding areas. That meant Joanie and their kids and Jerry and Karla Huse and their kids would "double deck" their boats on a trailer and hit the road in a caravan to all kinds of regattas. Later, the skippers would fly and families and boats made the road trip.

The Black Tie, Rush Creek Yacht Club. The Minnetonka. The Big Inland. The Blue Chip, Pewaukee Yacht Club. To name a few.

Joanie recalls practice sailing was referred to as "noodling".

In 1973, Boober and Joanie bought Okoboji Boat Works after having a Hamms Beer Distributorship in Sheldon, Iowa where he is originally from. They ran the boat marina for 13 years. They sold it to Jim Jensen around 1986. Boober's sailing time was dampened while in the marina business but he certainly continued. After they sold the business, a sigh of relief was exhibited in both Boober and Joanie's life.

Joan had other interests. She was a driving force of the trail systems around the lake. She was appointed by the Governor to serve. Joanie was very instrumental in the designing and collaboration of the bike trails we have today. She served for 13 years with the Department of Natural Resources.

Boober's brother, Bud Schneider, sailed along side of him for years. Buddy passed away in 1996. You will find a memorial bench on the Henderson's Spine of the bike trail off of Rohr Street in Arnolds Park in Buddy's honor. The quote inscribed

on the bench pertains to their sailing...Best eyes in the Inland.

When asked how he acquired the name "Boober", he explained he completed a touchdown in a high school football game while in Sheldon. At the time, The Des Moines Register on the sports page reported Boob Schneider from Sheldon had made the play. Boober has been with him ever since. Sobeit.

Joanie explained at our sack lunch afternoon that she had just returned home from a fly fishing trip in southern Missouri. She and some friends have been doing this for years. She also has booked a cycling trip for Boober and herself for 2014. They too, are going to Idaho for a water rafting trip with their grandchildren this August. Things are good.

P-11, The Boober, the sailboat has been sold. It has been purchased by two sailors, Ben Zenor and Brandon Kass, local guys. They have plans of racing with P-11. They have also renamed the craft in honor of Boober. LeBoob. Look for it on the water. The Schneiders, on the other hand have decided to retire from sailing and enjoy their children and grandchildren. The new owners have great memories to build on.

The railroad tracks of the Chicago Milwaukee St. Paul have since been pulled and uprooted.

P-11, will sail on.

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**THANKS FOR THE
MEMORIES BOOBER,
YOUR OYC FAMILY WILL
FOREVER MISS YOU.**



Jerry Huse and Boober vacationing in Aspen, CO



Bill Perrigo (center) accepted his reward, the Gartz Trophy, Brad Robinson (left) of Minnetonka Yacht Club, Deephaven, MN, held the Perpetual Challenge Trophy he received for capturing the overall Class E Crown. Bob Schneider of Okoboji Yacht Club, Okoboji, IA, champion for the third straight year in Class C, exhibited the Warren-Carpenter-Freytag Cup. The trophies were presented alongside the Pioneer Inn and Marina pool Friday night. (1969)