

## **Bob Mallasch In Memory**



Last month we lost Bob Mallasch, a kind man with a generous spirit who was admired by all who knew or met him. Bob was a long time club member and one of our most beloved and respected sailors. This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to him. Personally, I will always remember his engaging and genuine smile. Bob was a man who loved people and loved life. And clearly, people love him.

My thanks to Richard Hamilton for organizing the stories that follow. As a tribute to Bob and his family from the club and its members, here are three memories from members who knew him well and remember him with great respect, love and happiness.

### **A Tribute to Bob Mallasch From Mike Morse**

I first met Bob at a Yacht Club function back on June 29, 2001. When I arrived in Jamaica, I knew I wanted to be part of the Yacht Club, but at the time you had to know existing members in order to join. Not being a very social person myself, it took me a few years to make the right connections to get invited to a Yacht Club function. However, upon arriving, I distinctly remember Bob sharing some of his sailing experiences with me and welcoming me without hesitation.

Peter Harper was the first to bring me into the sailing group and he had to deal with the worst of me. Coming only from recreational dingy sailing, I didn't know the terminology or functions of all that we needed to do on

the J/22's. However, it wasn't long after that I was loaned out to Bob's boat Ayahso when he was short of crew, and my adventures and training with Bob from then on would begin.

It was evident from the start that Bob had a genuine love for sailing, as well as compassion for all those around him. He was a great teacher and had the patience to let us sharpen our skills without ever being critical. He would always be the first one to take the blame for something even if it was us that totally screwed up. No matter what the conditions or the results of the day, there was always a hearty smile to greet you on the docks, and another smile to send you on your way. Over the years, we had many different people on our team, and I witnessed the same kindness and love he shared with me extended to every person that crossed his path.

The sportsmanship award that Bob was awarded just a couple weeks ago sums up exactly who Bob was and what he stood for. He was always a gentleman first, always being on the side of giving a pass to someone who broke the rules, or freely loaning out parts to keep people on the water. The qualities and values that he lived by in his day to day life make us all aspire to be better people. I am thankful and honored for the privilege to have known and shared so much time with Bob over the years. I will miss Bob greatly, as my friend, and my mentor. But I know he will continue to live on in our hearts and minds as we continue our journey through life.

Bob, may your winds be steady and water calm until we meet again.

Mike

### **Robert Mallasch Remembrance From Felix**

Bob Mallasch was such an integral part of the Montego Bay Yacht Club. His vibrant, warm, enthusiastic and large personality filled the Club for as long as I remember it.

Bob and I became bonded friends in the late 1970's when we were both super-active club members and became Club drinking pals. We served together on the Club Management Committee for countless years (the latter part of the 70s and through the 80s and 90s) and he and I formed the Entertainment Committee seemingly forever. The club was a bit shabby, but super active back in those days. Together we organized some sort of social activity every month, be it a dancing party or a social boat cruise. Bob would decorate the club in whatever theme we had in mind, producing stage quality sets on many occasions - a Roman villa, an Arabian tent, a Hindu wedding mandap.

At every Club Halloween party he played his signature and most amazing role of Count Dracula. When he played this role on stage at the MLTM, he also built a magnificent set with flying screeching bats and lots of other eerie gimmicks, and he would apply these gimmicks to the Club Halloween Chamber of Horrors. I can still hear the children squealing as they ran from the room with the echo of Bob's Dracula laughter following them. Bob was also the definitive Club Santa Claus at the children's annual Christmas Party. He was probably one of the few that did not have to be cajoled into the role, but leapt at the opportunity with unbridled

enthusiasm. No other Santa has equaled Bob's enormous "ho ho ho" booming across the water as Santa approached the Club by boat.

Bob was so much fun. Whatever he did, laughter and enthusiasm were the main ingredients. Back in those days he played a mean game of pool, mostly with Roy Reid. This was a Friday afternoon ritual and his laughter would resonate through the Club as another Red Stripe was downed. One of his favourite words was "neato". The more Red Stripes that were imbibed, the more neato everything became.

Bob and I shared the same birthday, and Bob loved to tell people "Felix and I were born on the same day", with me always piping up "but *NOT* the same year!"

Bob became Commodore in 1986. He was the most involved, enthusiastic and democratic Commodore I ever knew, soliciting the opinions of all and weighing every option, sometimes driving the more dictatorial fast trackers crazy in the bargain. But he had the respect and love of them all. At the turn of the millennium he became MBYC Race Chairman for the Pineapple Cup Race, and undertook the organization of this daunting event with his usual fierce dedication. He applied the tools of his professional life to the Race and for the first time a professional critical path of race work was drawn up for it. Needless to say, in 1999 when the boat "Critical Path" entered the Race, Bob jumped at the chance to be its host.

His incredible love for, and commitment to sailing was unparalleled (lots more on that from Richard). He wasn't the performance hotshot, but he just loved to sail, shining through it all in his bright yellow Ayahso shirt! His dogged enthusiasm infected all. This was a man who loved life and lived life. To him life itself was neato!

As shocked and as sad as we are to lose Bob, I can only be happy that he lived life to the very end, doing what he so loved.

Bob was much loved by both the Club members and Club staff throughout the decades of his membership. His death is a huge loss to his family, his friends, the Montego Bay Yacht Club, the professional construction business, the Montego Bay Little Theatre Movement, and the Montego Bay community at large.

My heart is with Norma and with his children.

I will miss my old friend.

Felix

### **My Memories of Bob From Richard Hamilton**

Robert Mallasch was integral to my life in three ways – in my day job, in my hobby (at the Club) and on the water. In all three ways he was always positive, looking for solutions and using his vast experience to help



guide whatever issues existed around the obstacles to a successful result. Even in the darkest hour Bob was always confident and found a solution.

On the water in his beloved J/22 'Ayahso', Bob was always learning. He welcomed input from anyone on the latest tricks and techniques, or little changes to the boat to keep up with what the rest of the class was

doing. "How did you do that!?" he would always exclaim after racing, laughing as he launched into the analysis of what happened. No matter what the racing was like or how bad the result, he kept his cool and wanted to discuss how to make it better the next time. And to quote Mike Morse, Bob's most faithful crew of the last 12 years "Man, am I going to miss the post-race time discussing these things". We both enjoyed that time, and the discussion that ensued, almost as much as racing. Not only would we discuss and analyze the racing over lunch after the race, but Bob would always call me a few days later to continue the discussion. Knowing there was something he could do to improve his sailing next time round made him itch to get back out on the water and give it a try.

On the water, Bob was 'cautiously aggressive'. This might sound like an oxymoron, but it was true; he was cautious if another boat nearby started 'a discussion' on currently applicable rules in a situation and would stay well clear. And he was aggressive towards any boat behind, ALWAYS tacking on them even if it meant going the wrong way on the course or letting someone else past. Or was that Mike's tactic? 😊 He was also an aggressive starter and typically got flyers when they counted.

Oh to be a man of his years enjoying the competition on the water! But the reason that he was able to keep going was that he knew his physical limits. Although on one occasion in 2011 during an emergency maneuver out at sea in a 25 knot wind with big waves he was flung overboard; a very worrying situation in the circumstances. Getting him back on board was traumatic as Mike remembers: "He held on to the mainsheet, getting dragged along (sails were pounding and flapping madly and the boat still getting blown along, drifting,

in the heavy breeze) while he asked us to get out an emergency ladder he had stowed on the boat for just such an occasion. Unfortunately he had never tested it before, and when we got it all lashed on to the boat, and he put on foot on it, it would just go right up under the boat and gave him no leverage at all to get up. In the end, we had to ditch that option, and it was just the brute strength of Bob and the rest of the crew helping to get him up over the side and back in the boat. Our jib sheets were tangled so tight from flapping so much we ended up having to take down the jib and spent a lot of time untangling and re-tying them before we could use the jib again." Bob later laughed about it as he was awarded cut up pieces of pool noodle at the prize giving ceremony, presumably to help him back on board the next time. But I think that 'danger' was his middle name; events like this never gave him cause for concern. Even near misses on the course



didn't faze him - he would just check that all the pieces were attached, the crew still able, and keep on going!

The spelling of his boat name was always a source of frustration for him – no one could ever spell it right! He loved the name and enjoyed explaining what it meant when asked. Just recently we had a conversation about splitting it up so that people understood that it wasn't a Japanese cuss word but patois – A Yah So!

Bob valued his boat and his sails, always keeping everything meticulous. I believe that Ayahso still has the only original forepeak cushions from when the boat first came to Jamaica in the mid '80s. He was the only original owner of a J/22 from new; all of the others have been through a myriad of owners and some have even left and gone to Kingston. In recent years Bob was the glue that kept the racing fleet active – his enthusiasm was catching and his Thursday call before the weekend of "Richard! Will we see you on Sunday!" could only have one answer. "Yes, of course, Bob, see you there" as the brain went through the crew options and permutations. Unless your name was Frank, of course, who has retired for the golf course.

Unlike some boats, Bob never had problems finding crew. In fact he had a surplus of crew to the point where he was always having to leave someone out in order to achieve the 705 lb class rule. That was the sort of man that Bob was, meticulously honest and conscious of others: even on a usual day racing when there was no race committee and no one checking he would make sure that his boat did not race over weight.

We will miss Robert tremendously. We have undertaken as a class not to let the sailing stop or the fun finish (thanks Mike). His memory will live on.  
Respect due, A Yah So!

Richard



### **MBYC Manager's Report**

**Judith Dear, Club Manager**



**MBYC Past Commodore - Robert Mallasch**

The MBYC staff members will always remember this kind, gentle giant of a man with affection and gratitude. He would always stop by our offices and when asked for advice, he gave it from his vast knowledge of human nature and his beloved Montego Bay Yacht Club. It was such an absolute pleasure and honour to have known "our Bob". We will sorely miss him.

### **MBYC Swimming Pool License**

We are well on our way in completing the requirements for the Ministry of Health (MOH). Denise Taylor contributed a spine board and she has loaned us rings for the inspection. The sign is up and the racks for the rings will soon be in place. Pool maintenance guidelines have been written. The pool readings are being recorded in a pool log. We are experiencing an algae challenge, but it is improving. As soon as we have the pool in pristine order, the Microbiological test at NWC will be executed for the MOH inspection. The Emergency pool guidelines have been written and will be affixed to the door leading to the pool and copies will be each given to the cashier and the administrative office.



**Spine board and rings**

## Land Transfer

The land transfer exercise has been completed and MBYC is now the owner of the dry dock/tennis court parcel of land. It also comes with the responsibility of additional land taxes of \$75,000.00 per annum for MBYC

## Visiting Boats

The MOH representative has advised that visiting yachts without holding tanks will not be allowed to anchor on moorings in the bay. Those boats must be berthed on the dock so they can use the rest room facilities at the club.

## Fuel

The petrol gasoline tank was originally used for propane gas purposes and can only hold 500 liters. Tankers will only deliver a minimum amount of 500 liters. We therefore have to wait until our tank is nearly empty before re-ordering. We have asked the dock personnel to refrain from selling large quantities of petrol to any one boat when the fuel is getting low.

The diesel storage tank at MBYC is designed in such a way that when the pump cannot dispense anymore fuel there is still 600 liters of product in the tank. This is to prevent any "dregs" being dispensed.

Filters are changed by the fuel companies at the specified times according to the requirements of the regulators.

## CHILDREN- Rules for the play area/swimming pool/bar & lounge areas



**POOL RULES**

- Opening Hours 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Please shower before using pool
- No diving or jumping allowed in the pool
- No glass bottles/glasses in the pool
- No release of body fluids in the pool
- Running and horseplay around the pool is prohibited. Please be quiet

**NO LIFE GUARD ON DUTY**

- Children must be supervised by a guardian
- Use pool facilities at your own risk
- Maximum amount of persons in pool 10

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS 119 OR 115**



**CHILDREN UNDER  
16 YEARS  
ARE NOT ALLOWED  
IN  
THE LOUNGE  
OR  
BAR AREA**

CHILDREN SHOULD USE THE ENTRANCE TO THE BAR  
BY THE POOL

SIGNED BY: MBYC COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT



**Play Area  
Rules:**

- \* Members Only
- \* Children Must be under Adult Supervision at all times
- \* Keep clear of Moving Swings and the bottom of Slides

The Management Cannot Accept Any Liability for Injury caused whilst Using This Equipment.

We are asking members to be cognizant of the rules of the play area and swimming pool. It is imperative that parents watch their children while playing on the playset or in the swimming pool to ensure that no accidents

occur. We are also appealing to members to observe the bar and lounge area guidelines and to ensure that their children are safe.

### **Ambulance service**

We have been using the MOH ambulance services and are not satisfied with the equipment (or lack thereof) or the training of the attendants. We contacted two private firms to possibly contract with the club in the event of an emergency. This service is available from the MBYC to Cornwall Hospital at a cost of about \$8000.00 per incident. We would collect these charges from the client/family if they are not members.

### **Back Dining Room/Gazebo/Conference Room**

We have used venue rental income to finance the painting of the back dining room walls and the installation of two wall fans. We are now able to rent this room and the plan is to install more wall fans until the area is air-conditioned. Our last clients were very happy with the facility and have advised they will returning for their next launch.

The gazebo has also been painted as this area is the main generator of our venue income. We are considering purchasing fans that can be removed, as salt air and theft are factors to be considered. The gazebo does become very hot and that is usually where the main guests are seated.

We are marketing the conference room to corporate clients and have been getting good responses. We have secured a Wi-Fi connection to facilitate them in their presentations, and we also offer a projector and screen.

The revenue from these events has contributed greatly to the club's income so please contact the administrative department when you require space.

Members and clients must book all venue space in advance to ensure the room is available and to allow for preparation time.

### **Youth Sailing Summer Camp**

We are endeavouring to have one of our MBYC members trained as a certified sailing instructor in the UK to facilitate our sailing classes. We are also hoping to have our Junior Sailing Camp around August 11 to the 22nd 2014. These dates will be confirmed closer to the time.

The young people are required to be a minimum age of 7 years and be able to swim.

Please contact Davia Powell Tel: 979 8650 to have your names recorded for the sailing camp.

## July Quiz

I've renamed this item, as you can see, because 'mystery' implies a question that can't be answered. And apart from the seed pod 'mystery' back in March, I do have the answers to all the questions. My husband will confirm that for you.

Last month's question was promptly and correctly answered by Richard Hamilton, with Vince Miller in a very close second place. The answer is Cardero's. See how easy that was?

This month's quiz question and photos were submitted by Richard Hamilton. Check out the scandalous photos of the club dock area 'pre-cleanup' (thanks Judith!) and tell me what year you think they were taken.



## Letter from the Editor

Carole Small, Editor

[carolesmall@shaw.ca](mailto:carolesmall@shaw.ca)

This issue of the newsletter has been devoted to Bob Mallasch; friend and mentor to so many and admired and respected by all who knew or met him.

I'm hoping to receive submissions for next month's issue. Please send me any items or photos that you'd like me to use. Otherwise, well, the newsletter will just have to be shorter for the next few months because I'm 'away'.

## Sailing Quote

*"Under the wide and starry sky,  
Dig the grave and let me lie.  
Glad did I live and gladly die,  
And I laid me down with a will."*

Epitaph of Robert Louis Stevenson, British writer and poet, 1850-1894; on his tombstone in Samoa.