

July 22, 2003

Greetings fellow Seabreeze enthusiast.

I had no idea I would be publishing another A.S.O.A. letter so soon after my previous letter of June 28th. However, it is my sad duty to report that our good friend Gene Reardon passed away unexpectedly on Saturday July 5, 2003. Gene was 76. Seabreeze sailors will remember him for his dedication to, and love for, the Allied Seabreeze class. What follows is his obituary as it appeared in his local paper:

REARDON-Eugene M. of Bay Shore in his 76th yr., on July 5, 2003. He is survived by four cousins: Mary Elizabeth Ottavino, Vincent Morgan, Betty Agone and Rev. William Hennesey. Gene retired after a long career at Grumman. He was a long time member and current historian of the South Bay Cruising Club, past treasurer of Great South Bay Yacht Racing Association, Secretary of the Seabreeze Owners Association, and member of the Shelter Island Yacht Club. Reposing at the Fredrick J. Chapey & Sons East Islip Funeral Home, 200 East Main Street (1/2 mile west of the S.S. Parkway, Exit 45W). Celebration of the Liturgy of Christian Burial, St. Patrick's RC Church, Bay Shore, L.I. Wednesday 10:00am. Interment, Calvary Cemetery, Woodside, NY. In Lieu of flowers, contributions to Good Samaritan Hospital or Southside Hospital would be appreciated. Visiting, Tuesday 2-4:30 and 7-9:30pm.

The following was provided by Joe French. Gene's good friend, neighbor and fellow Seabreeze owner:

I became aware of a Gene Reardon in the local South Bay Cruising Club when he purchased a Seabreeze a few years after I had gotten Destiny. In a few more years he sold the first *Manatuck* (which was a local Indian Tribe) to purchase a Mercer 44. In the late 1980's he called to say that he was selling the Mercer and was starting a buying search for another Seabreeze. He looked and shopped for several years before finding one that suited him. After a couple of years (1992 or so) he called to say that he was considering starting or organizing an owners club. The registry was started with the local boats *Manatuck*, *Destiny*, *Carefree*, *Chiripa* and other Seabreeze owners that Gene had talked with during his shopping tours. He sent letters or phone calls to all the boating magazines asking them post a notice about a Seabreeze Club, called brokers or marinas that advertised a Seabreeze, and asked all listed owners to watch for Seabreezes and the rest is history.

The first meeting was at the Atlantic City Sailboat Show in 1995. He had found that meeting rooms were free and then after a couple of hours of talk and tall stories we would go out to a restaurant and continue the tall stories.

At the first meeting it was decided to call the club the Allied Seabreeze Owners Association. Gene was elected Secretary, Treasurer, Record Keeper, and any other title deemed necessary. Also at one of the early meetings, someone (probably Mel Converse) suggested using some new fangled thing called Email. Gene said, "Do what you want with it but without me."

These meetings at Atlantic City continued until 1999. There were meetings in 2000 in Mystic, CT at the museum, one in 2001 at the Miles River Yacht Club in St. Michaels, MD, and the last at the Essex Yacht Club in Essex, CT in 2002.

The first rendezvous was at Block Island in 1995. After that Gene always hosted one at his Shelter Island Yacht Club and Hank Towers started the tradition for Maine waters in 1996. A couple of years a rendezvous was held at the home dock of Helge Krarup, *Carousel* in Miami Beach. Annual rendezvous were begun in the Chesapeake in 2001.

I did not save the old newsletters so I am writing this from memory, feel free to correct any and all. Gene was a true gentleman from an era when gentlemen sailed yachts. He was a stickler to a fault on protocol, courtesy, and traditions of yachting. It was almost amusing to see him cringe when someone would pull a faux pas such as wearing a hat at a dinner table. Of course, the offender was finally told that he was in a proper yacht club! I have seen him go back to *Manatuck* just before seating for dinner because he had forgotten to strike the colors. Unthinkable that the launch would be delivering him back to *Manatuck* long after dark with the colors flying.

He became a good friend and I will miss him.

Thanks Joe

I would like to add another anecdote: In the summer of 2000 we held a rendezvous in Castine, Maine. Gene and a friend sailed in mad dash fashion all the way from Bay Shore, N.Y. He arrived several hours before dinner, dressed ship with his code flags and officiated at dinner. At daybreak he caught the tide out of Penobscot Bay and charged home. Such was his enthusiasm and dedication.

At the time of Gene's death we were working to turn over leadership of the group from him to myself. Many emails were shot back and fourth between Joe French, Mel Converse, Roy Harvey and me. We realized Gene's memory was failing and we rallied to help him by assuming the duties he had performed so diligently. I'll probably never know, but I like to think he received my recent letter. He would have read it Saturday the 5th, just a few hours before he died.

In that letter I stated that:

"There have never been any dues associated with A.S.O.A. membership. Funding has always been forthcoming by the generosity of the members. The good news for all of us is that there are ample funds available for the near future."

That was a true statement, however Gene had not yet transferred any funds to Roy Harvey who has agreed to serve as treasurer of the group. Gene made no secret that he did not maintain a separate account for A.S.O.A. Long-time members will recall that he kept an accurate accounting of the association's funds. Unfortunately they are tied up in his estate and it may be quite awhile before they are forthcoming. We will have to be patient and trusting in this regard. The funds in limbo amount to approximately \$1800. I have attempted to convey to you as an accurate an assessment of the situation as I can. If anyone would like to contact me regarding this situation, please feel free to do so. To prevent an occurrence like this in the future, Roy has opened a dedicated A.S.O.A account with Mel Converse as a co-signer. To keep it a 'no charge' account we must maintain a balance of \$500. So my fellow Seabreeze sailors, you can see where I am going with this. While expenses are minimal, we do need funds for copy service, postage and the checking account (until we reach the magic \$500 minimum). When we are flush again we can resume publishing newsletters with the color photo spreads.

Several years ago I found myself appealing to the membership for funds to commission a half model of *Manatuck*. Your generosity towards that project was over whelming. A magnificent, museum quality model was presented to Gene in appreciation of his efforts. I look back now and I am a grateful we acted when we did. I feel the greatest tribute we can pay to Gene is to keep the A.S.O.A. alive and thriving. A suggested donation of \$10-20 will be most appreciated. Please make checks payable to: "A.S.O.A" and send them to:

Roy G. Harvey
P.O.Box 886
Oriental, N.C.
28571

Fairwinds, Art Hall

Manatuck came close to being commissioned for the 2003 sailing season. Sad to say, Gene never got that last sail I'm sure he was looking forward to.

Farewell Eugene Morgan Reardon: Friend, gentlemen, yachtsman. Sail on.

