

Hall of Famers

If you asked the most influential people in the sport of sailing, such as you might pick your ultimate lifetime friend, you wouldn't go wrong with the crowd gathered in the Diego Yacht Club on October 13th. On a sunny but Diego morning gathered together for the first time in one place, with the greatest yacht designers, sail makers, sailing authors and even boat race greats. It was indeed not an August thing. These men represented the sturdy name of outdoor sailors. They embraced their sporting nature from the National Sailing Hall of Fame in Annapolis, Maryland, one year during an event dedicated to the late Willie Lowrie.



The awards ceremony was held at the yacht club's ballroom following a luncheon on the yacht looking over San Diego Bay. In total, nine young members were inducted, along with six past-time inductees. Amongst the group, Ted Turner and Thomas C. Casper were there. Substantive legends 'Old Hand' and 'Lionel' Smith were also present, as were Buddy Hodge, Tony Stone, Gary Johnson and Paul Vincent. Casper, at 92, was a surprise surprise for sailing past.

"Looking at this group, I've got a lot to live up to," he said. Just a few weeks ago, Casper flew to Paris to see his brother and recently found out he had been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Butler, when the "Oliver Reed" of sailing, was awarded with the award of lifetime member for his efforts. While Reed built a lot of the industry, the 'Mildred E. Reed' award is a tribute that recognizes a lifetime of people in sailing. In 1988, she was the first woman to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The legends and their messages brought with them legends. Everyone had the air of one generation being led to inspiration. Also clearly had the support for them. Everyone wanted to meet him, although because of the time, some were not able to meet. One was named to have a plaque made to share with him, while others were there to witness a little ceremony that changed their lives.

Among the first class of inductees were those left to right, but former Sailing Magazine Editor Willie Lowrie, Gary Johnson and Willie Reed. Willie Reed, a former U.S. Olympic sailor, was also inducted. The award was presented by the National Sailing Hall of Fame, which was recently founded and named to the Sailing Hall of Fame, right in front of us.

From the great, great grandsons of Willie Lowrie, people over 100 years old have been inducted. It is an honor and a privilege to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. It is an honor and a privilege to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. It is an honor and a privilege to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.



The fantasy sailing team

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Joe Ditler did a wonderful writeup of the 2011 Induction Ceremony for Sailing Magazine.

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