



Lake Michigan SuRF Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of the Lake Michigan Sail Racing Federation

LARRY KWIAT NAMED 2013 LMSRF AREA III YACHTSMAN OF THE YEAR

by Janet Hansen, Lauren Kwiat and Janet Webber

The Lake Michigan Sail Racing Federation Area III Steering Committee voted

Larry Kwiat the 2013 Yachtsman of the Year for his long standing contributions to



Larry Kwiat with Yachtsperson of the Year award at Columbia Yacht Club. Photo courtesy: LMSRF Area III.

the sport. The Steering Committee seeks to annually recognize an individual who has shown to perform deeds and/or services of an exceptional nature and is one dedicated to the sport of sailboat racing.

Kwiat, born and raised in Chicago, has been sailing since he was a boy. While in high school, he started working in boat yards, purchased his first boat in college and sailed his first Chicago-Mackinac race at age 22. Needless to say, he was hooked. Kwiat has since completed 39 Chicago-Mackinac races.

After finishing college, Kwiat took off with a friend and "a boat full of canned food and a hand compass," to sail down the Mississippi River to the Caribbean Sea. Two years later he made his way back to Chicago and to a relieved mother.

In 1972 Kwiat joined Columbia Yacht Club of Chicago, Illinois, and has been a dedicated and distinguished member ever since. He has served as:

Columbia Yacht Club Sail Fleet Chair for 18 years;

Columbia Yacht Club Dock Chair for 2 years;

Columbia Yacht Club Beer Can Racing Chair for 3 years;

Columbia Yacht Club Beer Can Bash Chair for 4 years.

Over the years, Kwiat has spent endless hours at Columbia Yacht Club helping, hauling, repairing and painting. Whatever the club ship needs, he will always lend a hand. Notably, in the past few years he developed a safer and more efficient way to launch and retrieve the race marks. Kwiat inspired the LMSRF Area III Boaters Bash that has become the perennial season ending event for distribution of awards, sharing stories and development of camaraderie.

Kwiat has also served the sport as:

LMSRF Area III Steering Committee for 22 years;

Lake Michigan Performance Handicap Racing Fleet for 3 years;

Island Goat Sailing Society Secretary for 2 years;

Island Goat Sailing Society Vice Commodore for 2 years;

Island Goat Sailing Society Commodore, 2011 – present;

Certified Freeboard Measurer, US Sailing, Americap II.



LMSRF Area III Vice Commodore Janet Hansen, LMSRF Area III Yachtsperson of the Year Larry Kwiat, and Port of PHRF Chair Deirdre Martin at the 2013 Boaters Bash. Photo courtesy: Janet Hansen.

Kwiat was owner and skipper of *Folie a Deux*, a Nelson/Marek 41, for 18 years, pulling together many dedicated crew members and establishing lifelong friendships. When *Folie a Deux* pulled into any harbor with her "Grateful Dead" flag flying, good times were sure to follow. He is noted for having on the water seamanship skills that are sharp and safe. Kwiat was well known for taking new sailors on Wednesday nights for Beer Can Racing. In 1999, Kwiat and the *Folie a Deux* crew helped launch the "Back from the Mac" party in Pentwater, Michigan. He has continued to serve as the Pentwater Yacht Club's Dock Master for the following 14 "Back from the Mac" parties. While *Folie a Deux* isn't in Chicago any longer, Kwiat and the *Folie a Deux* crew regularly get together and ride their Harley Davidson motorcycles all over the Midwest. Although he's found a love in motorcycles, sailing will always be his sport.

For the last six years, Kwiat has been the skipper of his good friends, Tom and Beth Ann Papoutsis', *Renegade*. He couldn't have found a better match. His times on *Renegade* have given him even more memories on Lake Michigan and lifelong friendships.

Kwiat graduated with a B.A. in Finance from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana. He is the owner of Kwiat Financial Services, LLC, in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Most importantly, he is the proud father of a beautiful daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, married this June in Mexico to Brad Burjan, followed by a reception later in the summer at Columbia Yacht Club.

