

Hall of Famers

If you asked the most influential people in the sport of sailing, such as you might pick your ultimate heroes, you could go wrong with the crowd gathered in the Diego Yacht Club in October 2011. On a sunny day Diego sailors gathered together for the first time in one place, amid the greatest yacht designers, sail makers, sailing authors and even boat race stars. It was indeed not an average sailing show. These represented the truly great of our sport. They embodied their respective fields 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 living members were inducted, along with six posthumous inductions. Honored by Captain Ted Turner and Helene Cramer were three Sailing Legends: Ted Hood and Carol Smith were also present, as were Buddy Hodge, Tony Stone, Gary Johnson and Paul Cayard. Cayard, at 92, was a surprise surprise for sailing fans.

"Looking at this group, I've got a lot to live up to," he said. Just a few weeks ago, Cayard flew to Paris to see his brother and family built for him by his father and recently found and donated to the Hall of Fame.

Bobby Allen, the "Oliver Twist" of sailing, was awarded with the merit of having created the sport. While Fred Burt is not the first, he was the "Moby Dick" who created a culture that inspired millions of people to sailing the Volvo Cup.

The legends and their messages inspired each other. Everyone had his or her own personal bias, but no competition. Allen clearly had the upper hand. Everyone wanted to meet him, although because of his busy days, meetings were limited to four. It was a day to share with him, rather than have him scheduled in a little ceremony that changed their lives.



Among the five stars of induction were Fred Hood, Ted Turner, Helene Cramer, Gary Johnson and Paul Cayard. Hood, Ted Turner, Helene Cramer, Gary Johnson and Paul Cayard were also present, as were Buddy Hodge, Tony Stone, Gary Johnson and Paul Cayard. Cayard, at 92, was a surprise surprise for sailing fans.

From the great, great grandsons of Helene Cramer, you can see that he keeps a "White" in his name, and will in every year. Family members represented different aspects such as Helene Cramer, Captain Charles Alan Turner, Theronell, Ben, Michael, Olin, Stephen and Olin Woodruff. — Joe Ditley



The fantasy sailing team

- **Helene Cramer**: Helene Cramer was the first female member of the Hall of Fame.
- **Paul Cayard**: Cayard is the youngest of the Hall of Fame inductees.
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- **Bobby Allen**: Bobby Allen was the first male member of the Hall of Fame.
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Joe Ditley did a wonderful writeup of the 2011 Induction Ceremony for Sailing Magazine.

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