Hank Easom Biography

A lifelong resident of the Tiburon Peninsula, Hank began sailing a Moon boat with his older brother, Bruce, at age 8, but didn't win his first race against the adults until age 11. At 13, Hank landed a job working at Clipper boatyard in Sausalito on the condition that he buy a kit and build a 20-ft Clipper dinghy. Upon completion of the boat, Hank sailed his Clipper from Tiburon to work at the boatyard in Sausalito every day. Hank got a taste of his first big win as a 15-year-old crewing on a Mercury. He and his skipper won the 1950 Mercury National Championships representing Sausalito Yacht Club.

Hank mustered out of the Coast Guard on March 11, 1955, and on March 12, established *Easom Boatworks* on the historical Marinship waterfront in Sausalito. He continued to race at every opportunity, often recruiting his workers as crew.

We cannot help but remember Hank Easom as the owner, steward, and masterful tactician of *Yucca*, his classic 8-meter yacht. Built in 1937 and raced competitively under his ownership for 53 years — from 1964 until 2017 — this beautifully maintained wooden sailboat still graces San Francisco Bay. Not surprisingly, Hank's 36-ft Sabre Spirit *Serenade* also found its way to the podium.

Selected as Yachtsman of the Year by the St. Francis Yacht Club in 1971, and the San Francisco Yacht Club in 1990 and 2014, Hank Easom is the embodiment of gracious Corinthian spirit, which shapes and guides our lives on and off the water.

The YRA helped facilitate the purchase of a new buoy to replace the old Yellow Bluff buoy and named it in Hank's honor at a reveal party in January 2024. A few weeks later, Hank won his last race in the Golden Gate Midwinters aboard *Serenade* by beating his closest competition … by 20 minutes — a remarkable achievement. *Serenade* also came in first in her class.

He died a few weeks later.