

## Fair Winds for Madelaine Mercure

The Barbados Sailing Association sadly notes the loss of lifetime member Madelaine Mercure on December 9, 2017. Madelaine came from Canada to the island's shores in 1990, freshly married to Dana Seymour (Doyle Offshore Sails, Barbados), and ready to sail the warm waters of the Caribbean. For Madelaine, this included racing in local and regional regattas as well as sharing her passion by volunteering precious time and knowledge to the sport of sailing.

Madelaine gave her time and endless energy to the Brighton Youth Sailing School, and was the perfect candidate as "shore mom" to the kids for a couple of summers back then. Madelaine also did her time on the race committee boat during some big regattas, and then held the position of Secretary on the BSA Board from 2000-2002 inclusive.

Madelaine raced on *Bruggadung!!* with skipper Ralph Johnson for several years, then jumped ship to race on Andrew Burke's *Countdown* and crewing alongside Dana, then back to *Bruggadung!!* for a bit, before rounding out her racing days on Paul Johnson's J24 *Sumting's Happ'nin*.

Anyone that had the great opportunity to race with Madelaine - lovingly nicknamed "Mads" by the crews - would know that she expected every crew member to give their best, just as she did. The reward was after the races, when Mads would bring out her yummy sandwiches for the crew lunch, taking care to remember people's sandwich likes and dislikes: I don't ever remember there being any leftovers!

The young children of all the racing sailors knew Madelaine as "Auntie Mads" - she had endless time for the young ones, and if there was a baby in the crowd, you could bet that at some point you would find that babe in Madelaine's arms, with the two grinning at each other.

Madelaine's love was boundless in so many ways, and I am sure one of her lasting legacies will be how integral she was in teaching so many of the island's youth to swim, leading them to the opportunity to learn to sail.

Madelaine will be missed by so many people of all ages on this island and in the region - she has left a lasting mark with those that were blessed to be her competitors, friends and colleagues.

The Board and Members of the Barbados Sailing Association wish for Madelaine fair winds and following seas, leaving her family with the knowledge that Madelaine will never be forgotten.



### A Sailor's Prayer

For fair winds and a following sea,

The smell of salt in the air.

The feel of skin as it's touched by the spray,

An albatross soaring above.

With dolphins in the ship's wake at play, they witness a work of art that only God could create:

The sunset at the end of the day;

At night a million stars in the sky;

Safe anchorage in an island lee.

When the time comes to die - as for all it must,

We wish to awake in sailor's heaven where nothing ever rusts,

And always there would be fair winds and a following sea!

