



# National Maritime Historical Society 2019 Annual Awards Dinner

24 October • New York Yacht Club • New York City

Dinner chairman **Christopher J. Culver**, honorary chairman **George W. Carmany III**, and NMHS chairman **Ronald Oswald** invite you to the gala National Maritime Historical Society 2019 Annual Awards Dinner at the New York Yacht Club on 24 October, as we celebrate four distinguished individuals of the maritime community: Pam Rorke Levy and Matt Brooks, Ding Schoonmaker, and Capt. Jean Wort. It is with great pleasure that the Society brings together those who love and serve the sea—to recognize those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community on this auspicious occasion.

*The NMHS Annual Awards Dinner takes place in the fabulous Model Room at the New York Yacht Club.*



PHOTO BY ALLISON LUCAS

## The 2019 NMHS Honorees:

### Matt Brooks and Pam Rorke Levy

Husband and wife team **Matt Brooks** and **Pam Rorke Levy** will receive the 2019 NMHS Distinguished Service Award for their restoration of the historic yacht *Dorade*, the famous ocean-racing yawl designed by Olin Stephens and regarded as one of the greatest yachts ever produced by Sparkman & Stephens.



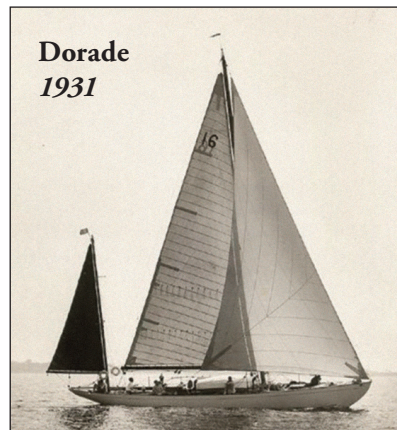
COURTESY ST. FRANCIS YACHT CLUB

Purchasing *Dorade* in 2010, Brooks and Levy restored the historic yacht to not just a seaworthy condition, but racing condition, before kicking off their “Return to Blue Water” campaign. Built in 1930 at the Minneford Yacht Yard in City Island, New York, *Dorade* claimed victories that decade in the Newport–Bermuda, Fastnet, TransAtlantic, and Transpac races. As part of her 21<sup>st</sup>-century campaign, *Dorade* has repeated each of these races in the last seven years, reaching the podium in every race, and winning the Transpac overall—77 years after her first victory there. In 2015, the campaign wrapped up by placing second in class in a 2,800-mile TransAtlantic Race, followed by second in class in the Rolex Fastnet Race, where *Dorade* finished 7th overall out of 356 boats. In the 2017 Rolex Sydney-to-Hobart Race, she finished second in class and was the oldest boat to ever complete the race. Beginning in May 2020, *Dorade* will compete in the 3,570-mile Transpac Tahiti

Race, which sails from Los Angeles to Tahiti. In addition to their efforts to restore *Dorade*, Levy and Brooks will also be recognized for restoring the Feadship *Serena*, a beautiful 74-foot motor cruiser designed by Carlo Riva and built in 1964 in the Netherlands by the De Vries Brothers, the fourth boat of the Caravelle series. *Serena* now serves as the support vessel to the *Dorade* racing team.

Matt Brooks learned to sail in Monterey Bay as a boy and went on to race on San Francisco Bay on his first yacht, *Quarter Pounder*. Brooks serves as chair and president of the New York Yacht Club Foundation and as a commissioner for San Francisco’s Asian Art Museum. He is a member of the Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun. With partner Pam Rorke Levy, he works to support the St. Francis Sailing Foundation based in San Francisco. Brooks is also an accomplished mountain climber and pilot.

**Dorade  
1931**



COURTESY DORADE.ORG



Pam Rorke Levy is an Emmy-winning television producer and creative director and now serves as board chair of the San Francisco Art Institute. She has produced documentary series and projects for PBS, National Geographic, The Discovery Channel, A&E, and The History Channel. An avid sailor and lover of classic wooden boats, Levy regards these vessels as an art form in their own right.

**Richard T. du Moulin**, master of ceremonies and NMHS overseer, will join **Christopher J. Culver** in presenting the award.



COURTESY DORADE.ORG

*Installing Dorade's new rudder.*

provides public access to Miami's waterfront, along with team training and community outreach. The Schoonmaker Center is a US Olympic Committee-sanctioned training site and the only one dedicated to sailing in the United States. It has hosted an internationally renowned Olympic Class regatta for more than twenty-five years, and welcomes sailors from around the world to South Florida to come train, practice, and compete.

In 1990, he and fellow ISAF members formed the World Youth Sailing Trust, which for the past twenty years has underwritten sailors from less experienced sailing nations and provided them with coaching at the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships.

Schoonmaker's sailing career is a many-storied one: As a youth at age eleven, he competed in his first race off Watch Hill, Rhode Island, in 1944. At sixteen he crewed for Olympian Jack Price in a Star-class one-design and fell in love with the boat. In 1951 he won his first Bacardi Cup in Havana crewing for the legendary Durward Knowles. Then at nineteen, he placed second in the Star US Olympic Yachting Trials and was named the team's alternate in 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki and repeated the role in Tokyo in 1954. In 1975 in Chicago he won the Star World Championship in a fleet of seventy-three boats. Schoonmaker is a twelve-time Star Continental Champion and the 1971 Rolex Yachtsman of the Year.

*Ding Schoonmaker in Biscayne Bay, Florida, in the 1964 Finn Midwinter Championship*



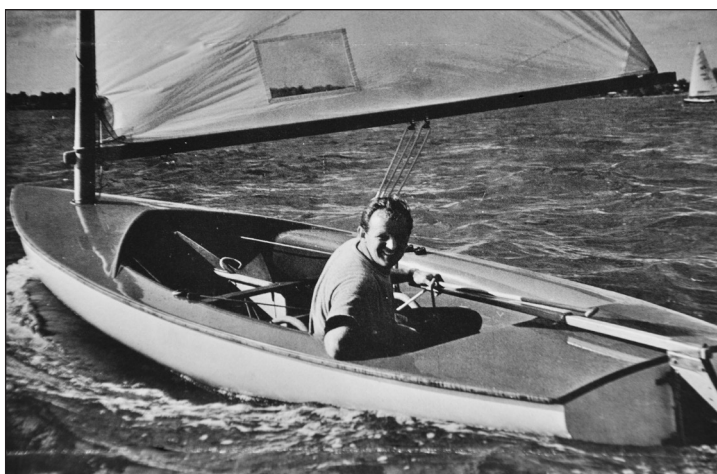
PHOTO BY SHARON GREEN, ULTIMATESAILING.COM

*Dorade competing in the 2013 Transpac Race.*

## Ding Schoonmaker

**Ding Schoonmaker** will receive the 2019 NMHS Distinguished Service Award for his contribution in introducing youth and individuals from emerging countries to sailing and sail racing. A champion sailor himself—having won gold medals in the Star World Championships, the Star North American Championship, European Championships, South American Championships, Western Hemisphere Championships and the Bacardi Cups—Schoonmaker has used his success and recognition to foster participation in the sport and support young sailors in accomplishing their dreams.

As an active member and officer in the International Yacht Racing Union and International Sailing Federation (now World Sailing), Schoonmaker helped establish the US Sailing Center in Miami, a volunteer based, not-for-profit organization that



COURTESY DING SCHOONMAKER





*Ding Schoonmaker (rear) in a Star boat on Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans, racing in the 1958 Jaenke Series, with crewmember Jim Hill.*

## Capt. Jean Wort

**Capt. Jean Wort** will receive the 2019 NMHS David A. O'Neil Sheet Anchor Award in recognition of her many outstanding contributions of the National Maritime Historical Society, serving 25 years as a trustee and six years as secretary, effectively advancing its mission and broadening its outreach. Capt. Wort established a formal yearly program through the NMHS Seminar Series (formerly the Charles Point Council), regional maritime excursions, and other outreach events for the Society to maximize its effectiveness. She has worked nationally and internationally to promote the organization and has represented the Society at conferences and maritime events around the world. She is an integral member of the executive committee and her vision, effort, and generosity have been critical to the Society's success.

A native of England, Wort became fascinated by ships and boats growing up along the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal. Her family moved to Brazil when she was eleven years old and emigrated aboard the Royal Mail Lines *Highland Princess*. During the next ten years, she made several Atlantic crossings by ship between South American and Europe. Jean went on to work in Hamburg for the Turkish State Shipping Company; and in England she edited travel guides for Thompson Press. Later, in Lisbon, where she managed a tourism and land development company, she married John Wort, a retired US naval officer working for CPC International.



With a move to the Hudson Highlands in New York State in 1980, Capt. Wort became inspired by the beauty of the Hudson River and wanted to encourage people to enjoy it and learn about its history and heritage. In 1982, she led a local group of supporters to bring the historic 1917 passenger vessel *Commander* up the river and form Hudson Highlands Cruises & Tours to provide excursions, parties, and a floating classroom for school children. MV *Commander* was listed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1984. Wort also worked with the City of Peekskill to provide docking and river access from the

*MV Commander on the Hudson River*

Schoonmaker received the National Sailing Hall of Fame's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. He also received the Nathanael Greene Herreshoff Award in 1988, US Sailing's highest honor; and the Beppe Croce Award in 2011, World Sailing's highest honor.

NMHS overseer **Gary Jobson**, America's Cup champion and the pre-eminent ambassador for the sport of sailing in the United States, will present the award to Ding Schoonmaker in absentia. The presentation will be shared via a special video created by **Richardo R. Lopes**, award-winning documentarian and NMHS vice chairman.



*Ding and Treecie Schoonmaker aboard Dixie, in Naples, FL.*



Riverfront Green Park and Charles Point Pier. She has been a pioneer in providing access to the river and classes on its history and ecology.

Governor George Pataki appointed Wort to serve as commissioner for Orange County for the 2009 Hudson Fulton Champlain Quadricentennial. In November 2016, the Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater* organization recognized her generosity, leadership, and commitment to the river with its Spirit of the Hudson Award. Capt. Wort continues her work to promote Hudson River history and access for all; she is active on the Scenic Hudson Mine Dock Park and kayak launch Friends Board, working with the Town of Highlands, New York. She also serves on the advisory council for the Orange County Land Trust and the SS Columbia Project. She has served on the Town of Highlands Planning Board; and as a trustee of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, the Nature Museum of the Hudson Highlands, the Orange County Citizens Foundation, and the Fort Montgomery Battle Site; and is involved in preservation efforts with the Constitution Island Association and Quassaick Creek Coalition.

NMHS Trustee and 24th Commandant of the US Coast Guard, **Admiral Robert J. Papp Jr., USCG (Ret.)**, will present Jean Wort with the award.



PHOTO BY ALLISON LUCAS

*Capt. Jean Wort*

Video introductions of the honorees, produced by NMHS Vice Chairman Richardo R. Lopes and Voyage Digital Media, are a highlight of the awards dinners. Richard du Moulin, shipping industry executive, will serve as the master of ceremonies. Entertainment will be provided by the US Coast Guard Academy Cadet Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Robert G. Newton. Dinner chairman Chris Culver would like to thank Fleet Sponsor Howard Slotnick for his generosity.

*Jean Wort gets assistance from Meriem and Leila Hamdoun picking raffle winners at the NMHS Seminar Series.*



PHOTO BY JIM NORDMANN

**We invite you to join us for this celebration and gala event on 24 October 2019**

New York Yacht Club, 37 W 44th Street, New York, NY 10036

**Reception begins at 6:00PM, with Dinner at 7:00PM**

Black Tie Optional • Military: Dinner Dress Blue.

**For information, to learn more about the dinner, auction or sponsorship or to buy tickets,**

Please check out our website at **[www.SeaHistory.org](http://www.SeaHistory.org)** or please contact

Wendy Paggiotta, NMHS Vice President: [vicepresident@seahistory.org](mailto:vicepresident@seahistory.org) • 914-737-7878, ext. 235