

ABOUT NED McINTOSH

From "An Interview with Ned" 11/07 June Pinkham

Ned built boats in Panama, this was in the '40's, where he met Alice. They were married and honeymooned on the Galapagos Islands. They lived in Panama where Ned built even more boats for the canal. He also skippered a fishing boat out of the Galapagos for some time - they sold the fish when they got to San Juan, quite a long haul!

When they got back to Dover, Ned's good friend, Phil Paine said to him "if you build two boats the same, we'll get out there and race!" So Ned did. The first MerryMac's were born. They "had some races and then Betty Robinson had a cocktail party at her home in Durham one night in 1953...." Ned said the people at the party "were all starved to have a cheap little boat..." Several people ordered a boat from Ned that night. And Ned says "that's how it all got started...it was the cocktail party...."

How did Ned come to know so much about boats, and how to build them? Captain Adams was Ned's neighbor, growing up, for one thing. They needed boats of course, to travel to and fro McIntosh Island, and Captain Adams was a huge influence on Ned back then. Ned built "Goober" - his first boat, when he was 10. It was an 8 foot skow, gaff-headed. Ned made the sail out of an old green and white striped awning, the fabric was so heavy, when he got out, the boat fell over! Ned was a driving force behind UNH's Jackson Lab, back in 1968. He was the first Captain of the first research vessel out of this estuarine educational facility, which today continues to provide educational opportunities to students, post-doctoral fellows and visiting scientists. He served as Captain for 11 years. They were fortunate to have such an experienced sailor on board with them and no doubt their success is due in large part to Ned's efforts back in its infancy.

And how fortunate are we, fifty years later, to be sailing out of Great Bay Yacht Club, thanks to Ned, Phil and Betty Robinson's cocktail party!