

2021 Hall of Fame Inductee



Com. Michael A. “Grizz” Thompson

Mike sailed his first race with his family on the Q Boat Siren in 1958. He raced over 30 Bayview Mackinac Races and 20 Chicago Mackinac Races. He became a Bayview Old Goat in 1989 and was a member of the Old Forts. He served as Bayview’s Mackinac Race Chairman twice and Principal Race Officer (PRO) numerous times, including 6 times on his PT Boat Endeavor II. He served on the Protest Committee almost every year from 1978 to 2005.

Mike sailed in many events under the Bayview Burgee including as skipper of Black Magic, the 1981 Canada’s Cup Contender. Mike was the winning skipper in the 1974 and 1985 Richardson Cup and as skipper of the 1975 Congressional Cup effort. Mike built and raced the Tanton One-Ton “Belly-Up” in several Mackinac Races, the SORC and One-Ton Championships from 1980 to 1985.

As the Area E North Training Director, Mike was instrumental in enhancing the quality of instruction in Junior and Adult sailing and racing programs nationally. Mike was a US Sailing Senior Judge and was the PRO for the International 50 Foot Association running regattas in the U.S., UK, Spain, Germany, France, Monaco, and Japan. He was also PRO for the Block Island Race Week in ’99, ’01, and ’03.

In 1995, when he was Commodore of Bayview Yacht Club, he helped move the starting line for the BYC Mackinac Race to the U.S. Side of the Channel near the Lakeside Park Beach. As a result, thousands of spectators watched from the beach and the race received national press coverage. Mike was also partly responsible for improving communication between RC's and Sailors using VHF Radios on the race course. Mike was awarded the Bayview Yacht Club Member of the Year Award (sailing) in 1981 and Member of the Year Award (non-sailing) in 1987.

**Congratulations to the 2021 BYC Mackinac Hall of Fame Inductee!
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