

**Reford Bond**

August 16, 1930 - May 21, 1989

What is a sailboat?  
What does it mean?  
What is it for?  
A race?  
But, what is a race?  
What does it mean?  
What is it for?

Reford Bond knew the answers to these questions,  
For he had studied both sailboats and racing.

Those of us who knew Reford knew him as a student,  
A student of many things.  
Things ranging from subatomic particle physics  
To classic military battle theory to klondike jokes.  
But above all, to us here, a student of sailboats and racing.

When Reford first began sailing, he studied so much  
Some wondered whether he would ever put down the books,  
Pick up the tiller and try to test the theory.  
But he did.  
And, as we know, he did it well indeed.

But Reford was more than a student -- he was also a teacher,  
Always eager to share ideas with his fellow sailors.  
After winning a race, he was always willing to explain why,  
If you wanted to know.  
And if you won and didn't know why, he would explain that too,  
If you wanted to know.  
Through the years, Reford conducted many fine seminars  
On racing and the rules from which we all learned.  
His contribution to our club and sport is immeasurable.

We will miss him for these things.

But Reford was more than a teacher -- he was a friend,  
A man of the highest integrity  
Who held integrity in the highest esteem,  
No matter what the circumstances.  
He was a friend whom you could always count on  
And you always knew where he stood.

We will miss him for this.

The last thing Reford did was win a sailboat race,  
With his friends here at the club.  
We are pleased because we know he enjoyed that.  
We wish him fair winds, smooth water and a fast hull,  
To plane away into whatever he does next.

Bayless Kirtley