

On January 28, Bill Aldrich passed after an unsuccessful extended battle with mortality.

Bill was a member since 2001. For many years, Bill chaired the Boat Committee. To my knowledge, Bill never missed a workday until 2020. I have known Bill for over 50 years. My perspective on Bill is much different than most members. I suspect most members think of Bill as:

Compulsive and fastidious about the maintenance of *Miss Magic* – his 32' Chris Craft Sea Skiff. It was not unusual to arrive at LCYC and find Bill and *Miss Magic* at the dock with a hose or a scrub brush in his hands. “Good enough” was never acceptable to Bill whether it was mechanical or cosmetic.

The unofficial membership cop, he had an uncanny ability to distinguish between a member’s guest and an uninvited guest. Many a tourist would anchor off Allen Point, hop in the dinghy with a towel and toothbrush and head for our facilities only to be confronted and dismissed by Officer Bill. If he could not apprehend the offender in person, he would alert the Stewards to the presence of an interloper.



Photo by Larry Asam

It is fair to understate Bill’s last few years as a challenge. Before 2020, Bill’s health was deteriorating. But as long as he could find someone to accompany him back to mooring #1 to pick up the buoy, he persevered. 2020 presented many challenges to LCYC, LCYC members and especially Bill. Yet, when Bill left the house with his caregiver, his first stop was often LCYC. He seemed to just enjoy just being there surveying the harbor activity and chatting with fellow members.

Epitaph on my own friend

Robbie Burns

*An honest man here lies at rest,
As e'er God with His image blest:
The friend of man, the friend of truth;
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd:
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.*

Bon voyage Bill.