

Mercury #1 - Sten Molin Memorial

Take a look in the yard for the boat which will soon join our fleet as Mercury #1.

Shortly after the tragedy of the American Airlines Flight 587 over Queens last Fall, friends of co-pilot Sten Molin called the Club to talk about how they might honor their friend and his love of sailing. Sten, a Cos Cob native who loved sailing as much as flying, had learned to sail on OGYC's Mercury fleet and had taken several GCS classes. It was decided that adding a new Mercury to our fleet in his memory would be a very fitting tribute.

An order was placed in April with Cape Cod Shipbuilding and both OGYC and the builder made contributions to its cost. This sparkling new boat was delivered to our marina on August 15th and will be christened by Sten's friends and family with a ceremony at the Club in early October.

Our deepest thanks to Sten's friends and family for this beautiful addition to our fleet and for the scholarship fund they have established in his name to enable more children to attend GCS courses. We accept these gifts of love with great appreciation both for Sten's sharing our love of sailing and for the efforts of his friends in helping us extend that opportunity to others.

Members of our Mercury program are invited to join the Flag Officers and Board at the Christening Ceremony.



Sten Molin Memorial Mercury Christening



Pilot is remembered for his love of sailing

By Ivan H. Golden
Staff Writer

As teenagers, Sten Molin and his friends would often ride their bikes down to the Old Greenwich Yacht Club to rent a sailboat or take sailing lessons.

His friends were sometimes preoccupied with other things, but they recalled that Molin was always focused on the weather conditions: Which way was the wind blowing? How fast was it blowing? And was the wind speed increasing or decreasing?

Molin's attention to such details served him well as a sailor, and it served him equally well later in his life as a captain for American Airlines. Trained by his father Stan Molin, a former commercial airline pilot, at nearby Bridgeport airport, the younger Molin was a truly gifted pilot, several colleagues said yesterday.

But on Nov. 12, 2001, Molin

was at the controls of American Airlines flight 587, which crashed in Queens, N.Y., en route to Santo Domingo, killing everyone on board. Just 34 years old, Molin had lived in Greenwich almost his entire life and had dozens of friends from the Old Greenwich Yacht Club, from his days at Greenwich High School as well as friends he had met at American Airlines.

The past year has been hard for all of them, friends and family said, as their emotions have gradually shifted from shock to sadness.

But yesterday was a happy day, as dozens of friends and family came to the Old Greenwich Yacht Club to dedicate a 15-foot sailboat in Molin's memory. The boat, the S.S. Sten Molin Memorial Sailboat, was donated to the club and will be used to teach

young people how to sail, in the same way that Molin learned two decades ago.

"I can't think of a better way to honor Sten than with this living memorial," said Gene Lee, a close friend who grew up with Molin and took sailing lessons with him as a teenager.

Lee and several other friends began raising money for the sailboat shortly after Molin's death. Although it seemed far-fetched at first, the idea quickly gained momentum, and Molin's friends ultimately raised even more than the \$9,000 necessary to purchase the boat. The extra money will be used to create scholarships to send children to the Old Greenwich Yacht Club's sailing camp.

At the commissioning ceremony for the sailboat yesterday, Molin's father thanked all the donors but confessed that even he had doubts at first that they



Bob Luckey Jr./Staff photo

On a dock near the Old Greenwich Yacht Club, Rhoda Molin, mother of the late Sten Molin, holds up a champagne bottle yesterday after christening a sailboat in honor of her son. At right is Stan Molin, Sten's father. With them are Eugene Fignar, left, the Old Greenwich Yacht Club commodore, and Dan Dobryn, director of the club.

would be able to raise so much money.

"I thought it was a grandiose idea and I thought they could not

pull it off," Stan Molin said. "But Gene told me, 'This will happen.' He really shocked me with

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his enthusiasm and confidence."

Although several of Molin's friends said the commissioning of the boat was a happy occasion, Molin's father said the ceremony, coming less than a year after his son's death, brought mixed emotions. Although he remained composed during a short speech on the beach outside the yacht club, the elder Molin said he was choked up when he, along with several close friends and family members, went down to the dock to christen the boat.

"It brought tears to my eyes," he said.

Jan Gisholt, one of Molin's oldest and closest friends, who served as the trustee for the Sten Molin Memorial Sailboat Fund, said he hoped that the sailboat, a Cape Cod Mercury which has been designated the flagship of the Old Greenwich Yacht Club fleet, would instill a love of sailing in young people.

"One of the purposes of this is that the children who learn to sail on the S.S. Sten Molin take to it like Sten did," he said.

Sten P. Molin
1967 - 2001

In memory of our dear friend Sten Molin, who died at the controls of American Airlines Flight 587 on November 12, 2001.

**Sten's love of flying was only matched by his love of sailing.
May those who sail aboard this boat develop a similar passion for the sea.**