

Don Gray
Holder of three blue chevrons

November 16, 1931 – July 9, 2016

In 1949 Don Gray bought a new O.G. from Skip Etchells, #2857, which he named Barbie. At the time he was a member of the C.L.I.S. fleet. In 1950 he went to the 1st District Championship, then called “The Atlantic Coast Championship”, and got a series third, behind Art Deacon, winner of series first, and Robert Jill, series second.



A start at the 1950 “The Atlantic Coast Championship”.
Don Gray is in 2857.

In 1996 after a long hiatus Don bought from Joe Giunti a boat built by Mader for Durward Knowles, 7306, and joined the Mid-Connecticut Star Fleet. In 1999 he bought a new Mader from John MacCausland, 7964, and then in 2003 he bought yet another new Mader, 8152. He was out on the water consistently and could be counted on to show up for fleet events. The last year he actively competed was 2011. Health concerns compelled him to retire after the 2011 season.



This is a group photo of the contestants at the 1950 “The Atlantic Coast Championship” series. Seated directly behind the 1st District Trophy is Nancy Deacon, Art Deacon’s wife and crew, with Art Deacon kneeling to her left. Next to her is seated Jane Lawrence who crewed for her husband Andrew. Don Gray is standing directly behind Art Deacon.

On August 27, 2016, a memorial event was held at Mid-Connecticut Star Fleet’s S mark. Chris Batchelor is recounting one of many of Don’s exploits. Others also shared memories of Don.

