

Clarence W. MacFarlane Yachtsperson of The Year 2024 – Séamus Murphy

The Clarence W. Macfarlane Perpetual Trophy for Outstanding Service to the sport of Yachting began with Commodore Macfarlane (1858-1947) himself, the founder of the Transpac race in 1906, and in following years recognized others whose names are now legendary in Hawaii yachting. This year, the Hawaii Commodore's Association awardee is Pearl Harbor Yacht Club Sailing Director, Séamus Murphy.

After 26 years with the Navy, Sèamus Murphy retired in 2003 at the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer. He began his current career in 2005 as the Youth Sailing Director for the Navy's Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) department at Rainbow Bay Marina (RBM), home to the Pearl Harbor Yacht Club (PHYC).

Immediately Sèamus realized he found his passion as he was having the time of his life teaching kids to sail. Utilizing a variety of tools to share his knowledge of sailing skills, Seamus prepares his sailors to compete at yacht clubs around the island, he even envisioned some of his kids racing in the Olympics one day.

For many years, Sèamus had a column, "The Sailor's Corner" in the Navy's "Great Life Hawaii" writing short articles with photos highlighting the student's sailing skills.

In 2008, through his children's book "Sailing with Mr. Sèamus , Pull the Tiller Towards You", he shares his thoughts of welcoming new groups of kids, his eagerness to get started, and that the training system he designed will have new students sailing in four hours or less!

His unbridled enthusiasm immerses Sèamus in what he loves, guiding every student to find their potential and the power to push through their fears. Using fun challenges, he checks their progress while introducing his **three keys** to sailing success - learning how to **"feel"** the wind and the water, building **confidence and trust** by playing "follow the leader" and finally, encouraging them to **live their dreams**. It's not just about Sailing with Mr. Sèamus, it's about life - who we are and where we can go. And always remember to pull the tiller towards you!

Sèamus' love of sharing his sailing "know-how" in such a way that encourages and builds confidence is evident in that he has successfully taught over 2,500 kids to sail – so far! On a monthly basis, these former students return to RBM to visit Sèamus, share current life accomplishments and reflect on the confidence they gained while learning to sail with him. Many of Sèamus' students have gone on to sail in high school, college and beyond, and even pursue maritime careers.

In 2015, he started the Facebook page: "I love Rainbow Bay Marina" to showcase the Military's youth and young adult sailing program, posting photos and short videos of students' progress. Sèamus always manages to capture a picture of his students with an amazing rainbow, highlighting the "Rainbow" in Rainbow Bay Marina.

As if that was not enough, Sèamus unselfishly dedicated many hours of personal time to create the following professional-grade, easy-to-follow YouTube videos: How to Rig the 7 RBM boats / Tour of the "safe" Pearl Harbor sailing areas / Essential Sailing Knots / Square Knot, Where and How to Tie. He graciously shared these videos on the PHYC social media sites for easy access to members, students, and any curious sailor browsing the page.

Sèamus can be found almost every weekday at RBM and PHYC prepping for a class,

working with other instructors, tending to the resident cat (Telltale), ensuring boats and equipment are in good shape, or assisting junior sailors and parents load boats for transport to a neighbor club for regattas. In addition to running support as safety boat and/or race committee for the 3 regattas PHYC hosts each year, he is always on photo duty to capture the “Kodak” moments.

On top of the aforementioned duties and activities, Sèamus finds time to skipper and/or crew on Friday nights sailing on Country Boy (for 25 years), as well as Kurrewa and occasionally other boats . He also finds time to mentor our Military Wahine sailors in regattas around the island.

Earlier this year at PHYC’s 100th Anniversary Celebration, Sèamus was recognized and applauded for his extensive commitment and continued contributions to RBM and PHYC.

On behalf of Pearl Harbor Yacht Club, I would like to nominate Sèamus Murphy for the Clarence MacFarlane Trophy for the Yachtsperson of the Year.

Joining the ranks of MacFarlane recipients would be an incredible reward and fitting recognition for his many years of outstanding dedication, and his prolific contributions to Hawaii Sailing.



