



# 2012



## Andrew Gove

Andrew Gove was born in Stonington in 1930. He was brought up by his grandparents, Earl & Laura Brown, on Eagle Island. At the age of 7, Andy got his lobster license and started fishing out of a rowboat his grandfather built him. Andrews next boat was a 14ft centerboard sailboat, which his grandfather removed the sail and installed a 5hp engine.

Andy moved to Stonington in 1944. The next boat that Andy fished out of was a 22 footer named "Lark", that's when he met his wife, Rose Hutchinson.

Andy and Rose married on June 14th, 1947. They have two daughters; Myrna and Sandra. They now have numerous grandchildren.

In the 1950's, Andy purchased his first big boat, a 36ft Rich Brothers named "Myrna L". In 1963 he had his first boat built, a 38 footer named "Rose". His first fiberglass boat was built for him in 1974 named "Myrna & Sandra".

It was during this time that Andy and his brother, Gene, entered into the herring business. In the beginning Andy would spend dawn to dusk looking for schools of fish. In 1977 he bought a plane which allowed him to cover the same amount of area in just an hour. Owning a plane and his knowledge of the area led Andy to be involved in many search and rescue missions.

In 1984, Andrew had a 35ft Duffy built named "Love Boat". It was then that he began his illustrious boat racing career. It had a 325hp engine, which made him come in dead last. He went home and made some modifications and the rest is history.

His last boat was built in 1997 named "Uncle's UFO". That boat is well-known in the boat racing circuit. He has numerous 1st place trophies, some of which he has given away to various organizations to hand out in other events. Andy still goes out to haul full time and spends his evening with Rose. If you ask Andy what he has to say about fishing, he'll tell you..." I can't make any money fighting but I can do pretty good just fishing. I'd rather have a friend than a barrel of lobsters."



We are proud to induct Andrew Gove into the 2012 Hall of Fame.

## Donald "Mert" Eaton

Donald "Mert" Eaton was born July 14th, 1960 to Merton and Ann Eaton. Around the age 9, Donald started going out fishing with his father any day that he had a chance. It didn't take long before he knew he wanted to be just like his father, and own his own boat.

At the age of 12, he bought his first boat. It was a 14ft aluminum outboard with a 25 horse power engine that went about 15 knots. That wasn't fast enough for him, so he put another 25 horse power engine, which caused all the rivets to leak. Even with his new leaky boat, Donald still managed to get his first pay check in the sum of .02 cents from the Stonington Co-op. Donald bought a bigger boat his senior year in high school, which he named "After U".

In the early 90's, Donald was newly married and eager to make a real living off of lobstering, so he purchased his last boat, "After U II". This boat brought some of his fondest memories. According to him, his birthday was the official mark of shedder season and was his biggest haul of the year.

Donald was known for his VHS humor. He would start the day off talking to his buddies about the weather and what they were going to have for breakfast. Around noon, they would start talking about what was for lunch. This was something that many people looked forward to each day.

The annual boat races were something that Donald looked forward to every year. He would joke about not racing but he'd be the first one in the registration line. In 2010, with his daughter and son in law, he won first place. It was one of his proudest moments of his life.

Although Donald lived for his life on the water, he was also just as happy on land. He loved spending time with his family and friends.

Donald passed away March 28th, 2010 from cancer.

We are proud to induct Donald "Mert" Eaton into the 2012 Hall of Fame.



## Byron Lewis Gross

Byron Gross was born on November 15th, 1942 to Damon and Ruby Gross of Stonington. He graduated from the Stonington High School in 1961. He went lobstering as a child. Even before he was old enough to tend a trap on his own, his mom would go and help him. He continued to go fishing with his dad up until he met his wife, Linda.

They moved to Millinocket where he worked in the paper mill for 5 years however the lure of the Island brought him home to Little Deer Isle. They have three daughters; Janet, Heidi, and Hillary. They also have three grandkids; Devon, Cortney, and Nick. He loved his grandkids.

In 1972 Byron and Linda owned and operated Gross's General store but always preferred being out on the water lobstering. His boat "Rawhide" was a speedboat that he converted into a lobster boat.

He built traps for Down East fishing gear in the later years of his fishing career; however he enjoyed and loved to go halibut fishing. Byron was a quiet, kind and gentle man who was always there to help if someone was in need. He was the happiest when he was on the quiet sea hauling traps and watching the ocean waves. The sea was his refuge, as well as his family, which he wouldn't give up for the world.

On October 27th, 2007, Byron went out in his boat, the "Ruby G", to bring in a load of traps but sadly never made it back. Byron was a cancer survivor.

It is our pleasure to announce that Byron L. Gross has been inducted into the 2012 Fishermen's Hall of fame. May Byron rest in peace.

