

In 1975 when I moved from the Univ. of Alabama to Columbia to work as a psychologist for the Dept. of Mental Health, I would drive across Lake Murray Dam and see the sailboats on the lake and wonder why they were always leaning over. Why didn't they sail them upright! So much for my sailing ignorance. Nine years later, I bought a Catalina 22 from my boss, Dr. Norm Evans, member of CSC. During the first few months of ownership there were some scary moments in high winds, and I had no good idea of what to do. A DMH colleague in Charleston came to Columbia for a meeting, and we took the afternoon off and sailed in white caps. He taught me how to handle the winds, and without that singular afternoon I would have given up the boat and never known the fantastic world I would have missed out on.

It didn't take long before I *had to have* a bigger boat, and the Catalina 25 **Bandito** was it. Brand new, built in the Morgan Yacht plant in Clearwater, FL. I loved that boat! We sailed in LMYRA many years, three C-25 Nationals, anchored overnight at Goat and Midway Islands, raced Ron Loring's Long-Distance Overnight Race numerous times (one time 48 miles single handed!), and sailed and partied, sailed and partied.

Upon retirement in 2007, I was lucky to become the next owner of George Selkinghaus' magnificent Catalina 27 which, in keeping with my love of Spanish names, was renamed **Bohero**. You music lovers will recognize the association of the incessant drum cadence of Ravel's opus and its similarity to the waves lapping against the hull as *Bohero* sails up the lake, all tilted over. These days at age 75, I sail mostly single-handed, generally under only the roller furled North 3DI Nordac headsail which gives plenty of power to move along quite nicely. I plan to keep doing this forever.

Gary Hodo

Photo: Gary (L) with a real captain- Master Bob Beauregard (R)

