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**OFFSHORE SAILING SCHOOL FOUNDER STEVE COLGATE TO BE INDUCTED INTO**

 **THE NATIONAL SAILING HALL OF FAME**

FORT MYERS, Fla. (July 21, 2015) - The National Sailing Hall of Fame (NSHOF) today announced the six sailors who make up its 2015 class of inductees. Among those is Offshore Sailing School founder, Steve Colgate (Ft. Myers, Fla.), whose company has taught more than 130,000 adults and families to sail or sail better since its inception in 1964.

 When the National Sailing Hall of Fame was formed in 2005, a central piece of its mission was to focus attention on Americans who had made outstanding contributions to the sport of sailing. In a statement released today from the National Sailing Hall of Fame, Gary Jobson, President of the NSHOF, said “The six members of the class of 2015 are joining 42 previously-recognized individuals whose achievements –on-the-water, at a drawing board or in the administration of the sport – have inspired and affected competitive sailors and recreational boaters alike. By recognizing these contributors and hearing their stories, the NSHOF is preserving the history of the sport and its impact on American culture while inspiring the next generation of sailors.”

 Steve Colgate has not only impacted recreational boaters, he has steered his own yacht, *Sleuth*, to impressive wins and sailed thousands of miles of blue water racing and round-the-buoy competitions as helmsman, tactician and crew on sailboats he helped bring to the winners’ circle. Colgate started his racing career at age 19 on his first of six Transatlantic Races, racing from Cuba to Spain on the winning yacht 72’ yawl *Mare Nostrum*. He immediately went on to participate in his first of seven Fastnet Races; and in 1979, on his Frers 54’ *Sleuth,* he won his class in the 1979 Fastnet where winds hit more than 80 knots, 15 died, and many yachts retired.

 In 1964 he turned his love for sailing into bringing more sailors to the lifestyle, and sport, of sailing. He started Offshore Sailing School with one location in New York City, and gradually expanded to its current eight locations in Florida, the British Virgin Islands, New Jersey and New York. With his wife and Offshore Sailing partner Doris (CEO and President of Offshore Sailing School), vowing to never get in the way of Colgate’s love for racing, he continued on to compete in two America’s Cup Trials, the Pan American Games, the Olympics, 20 Newport to Bermuda Races, 2 Sydney-Hobart races, 5 Antigua Race Weeks, and a host of other racing and sailing adventures too long to list here. Additionally, Colgate designed the school’s training vessel, the Colgate 26, with Naval Architect Jim Taylor. The Colgate 26 is the official training vessel of the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Coast Guard and Maine Maritime Academy.

 Following a two-month period this spring during which sailors from all corners of the country nominated their choice for induction, a selection committee – made up of representatives from US Sailing, the sailing media, the sailing industry, community sailing, a maritime museum, a previous inductee, and the NSHOF Board – reviewed the nominations.

 Inductees are American citizens, 45 years of age or older, who have made significant impact on the growth and development of the sport in the U.S. in the categories of Sailing, Technical/Design, and Contributor (coach, administrator, sailing media). “I am awed to be among the names of those already inducted,” stated Colgate when called by a member of the induction committee. “This is an incredible honor.”

 The 2015 class of inductees will be formally celebrated on October 4th, 2015 at an invitation-only ceremony at the Bayhead Yacht Club in Bay Head, New Jersey – sponsored by Rolex Watch U.S.A. and Condé Nast. Additional support is provided by SunSail, Volvo Penta and Mount Gay Rum.

 For more information on Steve Colgate, please visit: <http://www.offshoresailing.com/offshore-advantage/steve-doris-colgate/steve-colgate/>.

**About Offshore Sailing School:** Founded in 1964 by Steve Colgate, Offshore Sailing School has eight locations with a full range of courses, ranging from basic sailing for beginners to cruising, racing and passage making. Other programs include leadership development and corporate/group team building. Over the past 51 years, more than 130,000 individuals have graduated from an Offshore Sailing School course, attesting to the company’s mission to empower and inspire individuals to join the sailing and boating lifestyle. Offshore Sailing School partners with resorts and marinas to provide educational sailing training, events and vacations at these locations: Florida – South Seas Island Resort on Captiva Island, Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina on Ft. Myers Beach, Hampton Inn & Suites in St. Petersburg; New Jersey – Liberty Landing Marina, Jersey City, NJ;

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New York City – Pier 25 in Tribeca and North Cove Marina in Battery Park City; British Virgin Islands – The Moorings on Tortola; and Scrub Island Resort, Spa & Marina on Scrub Island. For more information please visit [www.offshoresailing.com](http://www.offshoresailing.com).

 **About The NSHOF:** Founded in 2005, The National Sailing Hall of Fame is a not-for-profit educational institution dedicated to preserving the history of the sport and its impact on American culture; honoring those who have made outstanding contributions to the sport of sailing; and the NSHOF has completed phase one of its plan to establish a permanent facility on the historic waterfront of Annapolis, Maryland. The NSHOF has partnered with US Sailing (the governing body of sailing in the United States) and the U.S. Naval Academy, and is associated with yacht clubs throughout the country in its efforts to recognize role models of outstanding achievement. For more information on The NSHOF, please visit [www.nshof.org](http://www.nshof.org).

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