

## OBITUARY

# Herb Schulz, 83, fishing boat captain

By WILLIE HOWARD  
*Palm Beach Post Outdoors Editor*

BOYNTON BEACH — The Palm Beach County fishing community has lost one of its most experienced offshore charter fishing captains.

Captain Herb Schulz, who ran charter boats for 57 years from docks in Boynton Beach and Lantana, died Saturday near his home in Winter Haven after being ill with cancer. He was 83.

Known to friends as Herbie, Mr. Schulz wore a white captain's hat and had a distinctive laugh. He started his charter fishing business out of Boynton Inlet in 1939 at the age of 16 and worked for many years from the old Boynton Inlet docks before moving to Sportsman's Park in Lantana, where his son, John, still operates Captain John's Bait & Tackle.

"He was a great guy with a great laugh," said Paul Fasolo, captain of the Ham 'R' Time charter boat, who used to wash Mr. Schulz's boat after school. "The minute he started laughing, the whole dock would hear him."

Soon after Mr. Schulz started fishing, World War II broke out, and he joined the Navy. He served on a landing craft that put troops on Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944.

"We never got hit," Mr. Schulz told *The Palm Beach Post* in a 1994 interview. "There were 36 ships in our flotilla. The day after the invasion we had six. We were very fortunate."

Working captains remember Mr. Schulz as one of a group of early ocean charter captains who caught fish off



Mr. Schulz

Palm Beach County and the Bahamas before the days of pre-rigged baits, high-tech lures or sophisticated navigation equipment.

Mr. Schulz also managed the B-Love drift-boat fleet on Ocean Avenue in Lantana.

"Herbie was quite a legend," said B-Love owner Bubba Smith. "He really kind of taught most of the guys around here ... or their fathers."

When Smith advertised a grand opening at Captain Bubba's restaurant on the old Boynton Inlet docks, he sent Mr. Schulz out to catch fish for that night's diners. He returned with 50 snapper, Smith said, and restaurant patrons were impressed.

"He was under the gun," Smith said. "He could produce."

Also known as a talented bowler, Mr. Schulz caught bottom fish by finding structure under the ocean using nothing more than landmarks along the coastline, said Butch Moser, a Boynton Beach guide who worked as a mate for Mr. Schulz in the late 1960s and once caught a 650-pound marlin with him in the Bahamas.

Mr. Schulz could find big grouper for his clients in memorized spots with names such as AJ Hotel and The Horseshoe, Moser said. He was one of a few Boynton Inlet captains who knew how to catch fish throughout the winter months.

"They were very, very good bottom fishermen," Moser said. "They would

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lay the dock full of fish, and they were booked all the time."

Mr. Schulz bought his first white captain's hat to kick off his business in the late 1930s. By the mid-1990s, he was working with his 50th hat and his sixth boat, a 42-foot Bertram named Southern Comfort III.

Through the years, Mr. Schulz's clients included comedian Jonathan Winters and hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Orr. When he ran the boat for a short movie starring a former Miss America, he burst out laughing when the actor serving as "mate" couldn't bring a fish in.

Mr. Schulz said he enjoyed watching novice anglers catch fish.

"About anything they catch is their first, and they are real excited," he told *The Post* in 1984. "You think they are going to jump overboard."

Mr. Schulz is survived by his wife of 60 years, Doris Schulz of Winter Haven; four children; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A visitation is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. today at Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home in Boynton Beach. The funeral is scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 400 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society.

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