



NEW YORK SAILING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Feb
2006

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Non-members welcome at all New York Sailing Club functions, on- or off-the-water.
Membership meetings, September to May: Raymond's Café, 88 Seventh Ave., New York City.
Meetings usually begin at 7:30 PM and are preceded by a social hour (cash bar).
Full dinner is available.

Check our web site: <http://www.newyorksailingclub.com>

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Commentary: Punxatawney Phil on February 2 said we have six more weeks of winter to endure. Well, if winter yet to come will be anything like winter just past, bring it on! There are no doubt some owners who are sorry they hauled their boats this year and who would have been delighted to go for a January sail or two. What better excuse for hot buttered rum or mulled wine? And also no doubt, there will be days in June when we wish we had the weather we had in January and, so far, February. It would be nice to know what the coming season holds.

Perhaps our **March** speaker can tell us. Sure, everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it. And our March speaker, Pat Pagano, head of Metro Weather Service of Valley Stream, LI, (<http://www.metroweather.com/>) will indeed talk about the weather — hurricanes and nor'easters and tornadoes, oh my! Mr. Pagano and his twenty-seven-year-old company can't do anything about the weather either. But he can tell us what *we* need to do to mitigate the effects of weather and, at least as important to his many commercial clients, tell us with greater accuracy than your national weather service or local TV weather man just when weather of interest will arrive and how long it will stick around. How close can he get? Well, many of Mr. Pagano's clients are film companies. On movies or even commercials they have to schedule all sorts of people and equipment to be at a certain shooting location at a certain time. If the location gets rained out or blown away, it's big money at stake. A forecast "fifty percent chance of showers starting sometime tomorrow afternoon" just isn't good enough. The film company needs to know to the hour what the weather will be a week from now. Metro Weather Service tells them. Maybe Mr. Pagano can also hazard a better than educated guess for us concerning the season we are looking forward to.

Our **February** speaker, Mathias Chouraki of Sailtime (<http://www.sailtime.com/>) will address that age-old problem of boat owners and would-be boat owners: how to get the most boat for the least money. The common way to have more boat than you can afford on your own is to go partners or joint-ownership with friends, family or even strangers. Though some such arrangements actually do work, it is nonetheless a solution fraught with potential disaster. Anyone who has ever taken a share in a Fire Island beach house knows all about it.

There is a better way. On land it's called "time-sharing." At sea it's called Fractional Sailing. And Mr. Chouraki's illustrated presentation is entitled "Fractional Sailing — Boating without the Hassle." In brief, seven Members and one Owner Member "share" a new sailboat. Each is guaranteed, but not restricted to, at least two weekend sail times and five weekday/night sail times every month. Additionally, each sailing Member is entitled to unlimited "as-available" use on 24-hour notice at no extra cost. SailTime has over thirty bases, including Long Island Sound, and more coming online this season. You pay a fee as a member and SailTime does the paperwork and, most important, the maintenance. No heated arguments about whose turn it is to stock the fridge or varnish the brightwork. And unlike one- or two-week charters, it's a year (or season) long commitment.

Coming Events:

Thursday, February 16, 2006: A photo-illustrated presentation of "Fractional Sailing — Boating without the Hassle" by Mathias Chouraki of Sailtime. See above.

Thursday, March 16, 2006: "Meteorology on the High Seas." Originally scheduled for the November 2005 meeting. See above.

Thursday, April 20, 2006: We are still thinking about it. It's a competition between a couple of really good topics. It's the last off-season meeting so we should do something a little bit different. All suggestions welcomed. Mark your calendar.

There will also be land-based socials in summer at 79th St. Boat Basin or other venues.

On-the-Water: Much more detail, of course, as we get closer to the dates.

May: May 20 — Hidden Harbor Cruise

May 21 — Hart Island Race and Going into Commission Dinner

May 27-29 — Memorial Day Weekend rendezvous Huntington Yacht Club

June: June 10 — On-the-water raftup and mixer, Oyster Bay

June 24 — Summer Solstice daysail, departing from skippers' ports.

July: July 1-4 — Independence Day, Cold Spring Harbor and Oyster Bay

July 15 — Day sail — Corinthian Skippers' Day

Aug.: August 5-20 — Club Cruise, details to come

August 24 — Lower Manhattan evening sail, commercial vessel.

Sept.: Sept. 2-4 — Labor Day Weekend rendezvous, Cedar Point YC and Saugatuck

Sep. 16 or 17 — Club picnic, Hempstead Harbor Club.

Oct.: Oct. 7-8 — Columbus Day Weekend rendezvous, Manhasset Bay

Oct. 7-9 — Optional Hudson River cruise

Oct. 28 — Hallowe'en sail, raftup, Manhasset Bay.

Member notes: A surprising number of people who are into sailing are also into flying. Sometimes the risks of flying are rather more than a flailing jibsheet, like over the runway and into the trees, such as long-time member and former Treasurer **Craig Denecke** did recently. As passenger in a light plane out for a spin (oops, poor choice of words), Craig found himself and his pilot walking away from the flaming wreck after it crashed into the tree line at Lincoln Park, NJ, Airport. Nobody was hurt. Well, Craig, they say any landing you walk away from is a good landing.

Geraldine B. Gaal of Manhattan has filed an application for membership. Geraldine has been sailing many years and has just bought a 26 ft. sloop so new it has no name yet.