



# NEW YORK SAILING CLUB

## NEWSLETTER <sup>Winter</sup> 2010

**Commodore:** *Lloyd Sarakin (201) 891-3466*  
**Vice Commodore:** *Leon Levy (718) 884-3190*  
**Rear Commodore:** *Scott Stevenson (631) 864-9584*  
**Fleet Captain:** *William Shrage (203) 227-8354*

**Asst. Fleet Capt:** *Walter Friedrichs (914) 633-5411*  
**Treasurer:** *Yvonne Raptis (917-657-7769*  
**Editor & Sec.:** *Geraldine Gaal (212) 734-5275*  
**Asst. Sec.:** *Susan Wheeler (212) 879-4991*

**Advisors:** *Dean Fuller (860) 526-1212 and Sally Small (718) 884-1786*

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**Non-members welcome at all New York Sailing Club functions, on- or off-the-water.**  
**Membership meetings, September to April: See below for present venue.**  
**Summer-season meetings June to September at various boating venues.**  
**Check our web site: <http://www.NewYorkSailingClub.org>**  
**Contacts Webmaster: Notify Commodore**

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### COMING EVENTS

#### The Yearly Schedule

Now that our newsletter is coming out quarterly, we have a new format for the Coming Events. At the end of this newsletter a yearly calendar is provided, on a separate page. You will note that there are a lot of TBD's, but we wanted you to save the dates. Our new Fleet Captain, Bill Shrage, is starting work on an On-the-Water Schedule which we hope to have published by the April newsletter. We will continue to hold our monthly Third Thursday meetings with speakers, parties or other events. We will keep you posted with further details. Stay tuned...CLUB —  
*Sally Small*



*Picture: Courtesy of Lloyd Sarakin*

## End of Decade Wrap-Up

Advisor, Sally Small

In spite of Mother Nature being uncooperative in 2009, we survived. Commodore Lloyd Sarakin, with the Board's help, got some great speakers for our Third Thursday General Meetings. All our rendezvous were held, in one way or another, even if many of us drove there in our Toyotas and BMWs. The good news is that the weather in 2010 can't possibly be as bad as 2009, so at least we can look forward to getting out on the water. We were also happy to welcome aboard 6 new members!

Our Change of Watch was held at Harlem Yacht Club. Kudos go to Carol Halterbeck for arranging the dinner. Lloyd and his band, the Re-treds – er, I mean the *Retros*, were fantastic as usual. I presented the perpetual trophies. The recipients were:

◆ The *Winsome Trophy* went to Carol Halterbeck for her extra work and service to the club. She hosted several board meetings and helped organize the 79<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Basin events as well as the Change of Watch. Thanks again, Carol, for all your hard work.

◆ The *Etta Morton Trophy* is for seamanship and sportsmanship. The 2009 trophy went to a person who is always willing to stand by another boat owner in distress. During the cruise last summer, Lloyd's boat broke down on the way to Branford and Leon sailed along with him until SeaTow picked Lloyd up closer to Branford. SeaTow took off at 90 miles an hour with *EKKO II* in tow, leaving poor Leon in the spray! For making sure his fellow sailor was OK, Leon Levy received the *Etta Morton Trophy*.

◆ The *Jack Brown Trophy* goes to members who helped fellow sailors in the Club in a remarkable way. The recipients for 2009



Rear Commodore, Carol Halterbeck receiving Winsome Trophy for outstanding service to the Club.

helped other members safely deliver their boats, housed homeless members, helped another member sell his boat. The *Jack Brown Trophy* was presented, with grateful thanks, to Ralph & Carol Swinburne.

Lloyd introduced the new Board for 2010. They are:

<i>Commodore</i>	<i>Lloyd Sarakin</i>
<i>Vice Commodore</i>	<i>Leon Levy</i>
<i>Rear Commodore</i>	<i>Scott Stevenson</i>
<i>Fleet Captain</i>	<i>Bill Shrage</i>
<i>Assistant Fleet Capt.</i>	<i>Walter Friedrichs</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Yvonne Raptis</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Geraldine Gaal</i>
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	<i>Susan Wheeler</i>
<i>Advisor</i>	<i>Sally Small</i>

As per tradition, I presented the *Gag Awards*. I am disappointed that more people did not screw up because it is getting harder to find things to poke fun at. So, I had to resort to making fun of the weather! (Everybody talks about the weather, but NO ONE does anything about it!) Did you notice the snow outside of HYC on December 5? That meant it must be time for a NYSC party. It was the perfect capper to a miserable summer – weather-wise.

One group that screwed up, much to the happiness of New Yorkers, was the Philadelphia Phillies. How about them Yankees? Holy Cow! Even though the World Series doesn't have anything to do with sailing, or NYSC, this year it was a New Yawk Thing and should be acknowledged. Stick a fork in the Phillies, they are DONE! Elle Hochberg helped hand out the keeper Yankee forks to everyone except Phillies or Mets fans so that we could stick a fork in the Phillies.

Usually my *Gag Awards* consist of things that I give to people who screw up. They are also awarded to people who have done extraordinary things. Occasionally they commemorate milestones. This year, however, a few of our members had medical challenges. This cannot be! I brewed up Sally's Medicinal Elixir (a small bottle of wine) in order to help our ailing members get better. They are: Marie Heaney, Jilda Brennan, Susan Wheeler and Leon Levy. Unfortunately, both the Levys and the Brennans could not make the party because of dear old Ms. Nature. Hopefully you all are on the mend and will be happily sailing away next summer. We Love You!

Malcolm Milligan's son, otherwise known as Malcolm Junior, served as our webmaster for the past few years. His website design made us a viable presence in cyberspace. To thank him for his service, Mary Donohue presented him with a Merit Award. Thanks, Malcolm Junior and, also thanks to Malcolm Senior and Mary Senior, for working long and hard for us.

For the next award, I considered giving these people all the Perpetual Trophies for their contribution to Kurt and me during the Club cruise. We love newspapers, especially enjoying the *New York Times*. Usually when Kurt and I cruise, we don't bother with newspapers. As soon as the boat hits the dock (not literally, of course) Kurt and I go find the closest bar. Walter & Leona Friedrichs, on the other hand, are hikers, so they'd go find the nearest newspaper stand. Even if it was miles from the marina! They bought newspapers,

hiked back to the dock, found *Pegasus* and delivered our daily papers. This continued throughout the summer. To thank them for their kind generosity, I presented them with the *New York Times* daily crossword puzzle calendar. That oughta keep 'em busy during the cold



*Advisor, Sally Small presenting awards at the Change of Watch.*

winter months!

The last award is the most sought after and coveted award of the Club including, but not limited to, the *Jack Brown Trophy*. It acknowledges good crew members for their ability to help skippers with navigation, provisioning, maintenance, keeping afloat, drink pouring, brow mopping, preparing gourmet meals, etc. The recipient for 2009 showed true grit in sailing abilities as well as serving the best hors d'ouerves east of the Mississippi River and north of the Mason Dixon line. I presented this most prestigious award - the *Foredeck Ape of the Year* to Laurette Shrage, the wife of our new Fleet Captain.

Since NYSC is an eclectic organization, we devised our now famous "New York Sailing Club Toast", which is: *Cheers, L'Chaim, Salud, A Votre Santé, Nostrovica, Prosit* and *God Bless the New York Sailing Club!* Happy New Year, Everyone. Here's to a wonderful 2010. Stay warm.

**From the Commodore:** Happy holidays to everyone. I hope you all had wonderful holidays and wish 2010 will bring peace, good health, happiness and fun times for all. We all wish several of our members who are under the weather a speedy recovery! As winter has set in, please attempt to attend the winter club events including the Third Thursday Evenings - starting with Lada Simek this Thursday, January 21, at The Parlour. See schedule attached. So that Sally will have less trouble with the *Gag Awards*, I will try my hardest this coming year to make sure she has plenty of material. (It shouldn't be hard for me). Stay warm and hope to see you soon. -- Lloyd Sarakin

**From the Rear Commodore:** Greetings from the Rear Commodore Well we're certainly in the dead of the winter season now with most of the fleet in hibernation. But, by the time of the next quarterly edition, early birds will be starting their annual fitting out in anticipation for the upcoming season. But in the meantime, socializing at the winter general meetings is a great way for Skippers and Corinthians (Crew) to get to know one another. As your Rear Commodore, I'm very much looking forward to helping the Club fulfill its mission of getting Skippers and Corinthians together for a fun and educational time on the water. -- *Scott Stevenson*

**From the Fleet Captain:** Our annual cruise will take place in July or August - dates to be determined. I welcome any correspondence from members stating preferences for cruise length (1 or 2 weeks), ports of call, etc. You can send me an email at [sailshrage@aol.com](mailto:sailshrage@aol.com). Dates and locations for 2010 'On the Water' events will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, you can call me at 203-216-2219. -- *Bill Shrage*

**From the Treasurer:** Please send your NYSC Renewal and Release Waiver (both included in this newsletter), with updated contact information, and a \$60 check, to Yvonne Raptis, 196 Scholes Street - #2B, Brooklyn, New York 11206-7809. We need this information, and check, by March 15, so that you will be included in the 2010 Roster. Thank you. -- *Yvonne Raptis*

*Change of Watch  
December 5, 2009  
Harlem Yacht Club*



*Thr Retros – setting up to play to the night away.*

*Some danced the night away. Mary and Scott Stevenson.*



*Some caught up with friends. Rodney and Barbara Myrvaagnes with Susan Wheeler.*

*Others, entertained family. Mary Donohue with her sister and brother-in-law.*



*All enjoyed a delicious repast. Rosemary Haggblad and Carol Halterbeck.*

*As the band played on as the fire crackled and glowed.*

*A good night for all.*



## *Christmas at Stuyvesant December 2009*

The NYSC Christmas party was a swashbuckling, singing success, as you can see.



*Bob Berent takes up his accordion and leads the happy crew in a Christmas Shanty sing-a-long.*



*Happy Crew: (left to right), Bill Shrage (our new Fleet Captain), Laurette Shrage, Randy Kamen, Leon Levy (our new Vice Commodore), Lisa Ferrara, and Ruth Levy.*



*More Happy Crew: (left to right) Back: Bob Berent, Cheryl Berent (our fearless song leader) Kurt Krimphove. Seated: Geraldine Gaal and Sally Small.*



*Lastly, our fearless Captain, Commodore Lloyd Sarakin, with Lisa Ferrara, and Laurette Shrage.*

*We look forward to seeing you all  
at our next Christmas Party!*

## *Spinetto Aboard*

or

Cruising with Music with Rodney and Barbara Myrvaagnes

Reprinted courtesy of Points East\*



*Barbara at the "board".*

My wife Barbara and I have been cruising the New England Coast for about thirty years now, and whenever we have been alone on a bareboat charter or in our own boat, we have never had canned music on board. This was not an original idea.

In 1976 we took a windjammer cruise on *Shenandoah*, a square-topsail schooner that sailed out of Vineyard Haven, MA. The skipper/owner was Captain James Douglas then. Captain Douglas had rules. No radios, no amplifiers. Acoustic instruments welcome. . . recorders, banjos, guitars, fiddles, etc. Another rule we appreciated was "smoking only at the lee rail."

Barbara brought a little clavichord that was easy to carry. The crew of the *Shenandoah* included one fiddle, one clarinet, one guitar, and a concertina. In the saloon was a Victorian reed organ, like many surviving today in Maine country churches.

Since 1989 we have cruised on our own boat *Gjøa*, a J36. The little clavichord came with us on some of these trips, but on two-week cruises, there wasn't much time to use it. We had to get from NYC to Maine, sail the coast for a few days, and return to New York, to get back to the jobs that paid for the boat.

In 2001 I retired, and Barbara followed suit in 2005. As long as our health allowed we wanted to spend the whole summer aboard. When we are at home, Barbara plays one or another harpsichord nearly every day. That meant an instrument was needed.

With the addition of a Murphy bed in the living room, the bedroom of our small New York apartment became a woodworking area along with the computer desk and bookshelves.

I did make a simple virginal by our first full summer, and it did work. But, two more notes were needed on this simple virginal to let Barbara play the same music she could at home, so back it came for a rebuild. The space for the keyboard in the old box wasn't big enough, so it now has a new box and a drastically altered keyboard. Ruggedness and portability were more important than elegance, and the virginal had to be stowed on a forward pipe berth. That's right, with no V-berth, the J36 is a little weird inside.



*Another view, in the cockpit of Gjøa.*

When we are at anchor, moored, or at a slip, we place the virginal out on the dining table and remove the mainsail bags that cover it. Barbara plays it as you see, sitting on cushions piled up on the settee.

Carrying a wooden stringed instrument on a boat is not trouble-free. We do carry tools and brass wire for string replacement. It is humidity sensitive. We are trying to collect enough gull feathers to replace the plectra with quill, in place of the Delrin ones now in use.



*Barbara rowing in "The Cow Yard" between Steele Harbor Island and Head Harbor Island.*

*Frenchboro is a fishing village on Long Island, Maine (10 miles south of the southern tip of Mt. Desert Island).*



At home Barbara plays my Opus 1 from 1972. I would not take this one on the boat, even if the boat had room for it. We call the current version of the boat virginal, "Spinetto Bar." It is decorated with Barbara's early American sperm whales and on the lid is a quote from *Moby Dick*—the moment

when Captain Ahab really loses it, "Curse thee, thou quadrant. Nevermore will I guide my earthly ways by thee."



*One of the many denizens of Perry Creek, a spectacular and popular anchorage on Vinal Haven.*

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(\*) If you are going to cruise Maine, or even dream of doing it, *Points East* is a wonderful source of practical information, lore and stories. Their website is [www.pointseast.com](http://www.pointseast.com). We appreciate their allowing us to reprint Rodney's article. — *The Editor*



*NEW YORK SAILING CLUB  
2010 SCHEDULE*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Jan. 21	Speaker - Lada Simek	Parlour Restaurant
Feb. 18	Don Riepe – American Littoral society	Parlour Restaurant
March 18	Kingsley Cox	Parlour Restaurant
April 15	General Meeting - Speaker TBD	Parlour Restaurant
May 15 or 22	Going Into Commission Dinner and 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party	TBD
May 29 – 31	Memorial Day Rendezvous	TBD
June 12	Annual Club picnic	TBD
July 3-5	July 4 <sup>th</sup> Rendezvous	TBD
July-Aug.	One or two week cruise	TBD
August 19	Adirondack sail (date approx.)	NY Harbor
Sept. 4-6	Labor Day Rendezvous	TBD
Sept. 16	General Meeting - Speaker TBD	79 <sup>th</sup> St. Boat Basin
Oct. 9-11	Columbus Day Rendezvous	TBD
Oct. 21	General Meeting - Speaker TBD	TBD
Nov. 18	General Meeting - Speaker TBD	TBD
Dec. 4	Change of Watch	TBD

The Parlour Restaurant  
250 West 86<sup>th</sup> St.  
NY, NY - at Broadway and 86<sup>th</sup> St.  
tele: 212-580-8923

**NEW YORK SAILING CLUB**

**2010 Membership Renewal**

Please return no later than March 15, 2010

To remain a member in good standing and to ensure that your name and particulars will be in the membership roster, please send your \$60 check for your dues to:

**Yvonne Raptis**  
**196 Scholes St. #2B**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11206**

Make your check payable to:  
**New York Sailing Club**

**Review the latest Roster!!!**

**Check area codes, ZIP codes, email and cell phone numbers.**

**Any corrections please call Yvonne Raptis (917) 657 7769 or email her**  
**(gbvoni@yahoo.com)**

Please provide below your name and any changes from the previous listing. If there are no changes please so indicate.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phones: (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (B) : \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Boat Owners**

Type or class of boat \_\_\_\_\_ LOA \_\_\_\_\_ Hull color \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of boat \_\_\_\_\_ R/T \_\_\_\_\_ Call # \_\_\_\_\_  
Sail # \_\_\_\_\_ PHRF Rating \_\_\_\_\_ Race w/ spinnaker? \_\_\_\_\_  
Home port: \_\_\_\_\_ Winter yard: \_\_\_\_\_  
Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

**Corinthians**

Experience racing \_\_\_\_\_  
Experience cruising \_\_\_\_\_  
Seamanship courses last two years \_\_\_\_\_  
Special skills (spinnaker, helm, navigation, cooking) \_\_\_\_\_

**All** Are you interested in chartering? \_\_\_\_\_ Summer? \_\_\_\_\_ Winter \_\_\_\_\_ Do you own a car? \_\_\_\_\_  
In the past year, did you accomplish any sailing feats that might interest other members?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WAIVER AND RELEASE**

In consideration of my membership and participation in any New York Sailing Club Inc. event, I hereby release and agree not to sue and forever discharge New York Sailing Club, Inc. and its predecessors, successors, assigns and the officers, directors, agents, representatives, attorneys, employees, committees and members past and present, from all actions, causes of action, suits, debts, demands and claims (including attorney's fees) including but not limited to any claims arising out of Federal, State or local laws, claims for personal injuries or tort claims wrongful death or any other claims whatsoever regardless of legal theory which I, my administrators and assigns hereafter can, shall or may have for, upon, or by reason of caused directly or indirectly by my membership and participation in the club. I understand that in connection with any on the water activity, that the safety of my yacht and crew and the decision whether to start or continue to participate is my responsibility and not that of any person sponsoring or undertaking such race or activity. I will inform all crew members of any yacht which I sail in any such race or activity of their responsibilities for their safety. I agree that this waiver is binding on my heirs, representatives, successors and assigns.

Signature (required): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_