



NEW YORK SAILING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Aug
2006

Commodore: *Mary Donohue (516)593-2498*
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Treasurer: *Susan Wheeler (212)879-4991*
Secretary: *Peter J. Brennan (212)734-9474*
Asst. Sec.: *Vacant*

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

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.com>

Webmasters: **Kris Ohlén** (krisohlen@hotmail.com) and **Richard R. Zilli** (rzilli@nyc.rr.com)

Commentary: Many of you may have noticed — well, we hope you noticed — that we did not publish a *Newsletter* in July. Not for lack of topics. An unfortunate and fatal juxtaposition between a laptop computer and a stone floor, in Turkey, no less..

So here it is August already. Two of our big weekends are gone and Labor Day a mere four weeks off. In blistering heat we sense the end of summer and marina winter storage contracts will soon appear in our mail boxes. The crab netters are out in force around the marina piers and pilings, the U.S. Tennis Open is only weeks away and the end of the baseball season is in sight, though we hope our Mets will keep things hopping well into October. And we too will keep things hopping well into October with a final blast, the Halloween Raftup, on the weekend of October 28.

It's like being on a two-week holiday. All of a sudden the first week is gone and you wonder what happened to it and it's impossible to do in the second week all that you planned before you started. But we will set aside the gaffes and miscommunications that especially plagued the Independence Day Holiday and plan to make the most of what remains of Summer and into a glorious Fall of shortened days, cool nights, sparkling weather and the return in September of our off-the-water meetings at a new venue.

Coming events:

Aug.: August 5-20 — Club Cruise, schedule in May *Newsletter* and on our website, <http://www.newyorksailingclub.com>. First port is Milford, CT, on Saturday, August 5. Crew and boats may join the Cruise at any point. Cruisers will monitor VHF channels 16 and 72.

August 24 — Two-hour sunset sail aboard the 78-ft. schooner *Adirondack.*, departing at 6:00 PM from Pier 62 at West 23rd St. and Hudson River. The \$50 fare includes unlimited beverages (wine, champagne, beer and soda) but bring your own food. Space is limited so make your reservation quickly through Treasurer Susan Wheeler at (212)879-4991. Make check payable to New York Sailing Club and send to Susan at 421 East 78th St., #1-C. **Note:** Should the vessel be otherwise chartered on that date, alternate dates are August 19, 22 and possibly 26. Give Susan all dates you can make it if we lose the primary date.

Sept.: Sept. 2-4 —Labor Day Weekend rendezvous, Cedar Point YC and Saugatuck. Please let Fleet Captain Mike Penney know your intentions so that he may reserve slips. Parking is available for those who arrive by car. Also barbecue grills. Bring cash. They don't take credit cards.

Sep. 16, Saturday, 4:00 PM. — Club picnic, Hempstead Harbor Club. Reachable by boat or by car. Also has barbecue grills. It has been a most pleasant outing in years past.

Sep. 21, Thursday. First on-land meeting of the waning season. Jack Dempsey's, 36 West 33rd St. Dinner at 6:00 PM on main floor, social and meeting at 7:00 at upstairs bar. Speaker will be Andy Bicking of Scenic Hudson who will get us all hyped up to make the Hudson Excursion in October.

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

Oct. 7-9 — Optional Hudson River cruise.

Oct. 19, Thursday. Writer and Past Commodore Betsy Haggerty will discuss her New York State Canal trip. At Jack Dempsey's as above.

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

Nov.: Nov. 16, Thursday. Thad Koza, Tall Ships International photographer and author. Book signing. Venue to be announced.

Dec.: Dec. 2, Saturday. Change of Watch Dinner — Stuyvesant Yacht Club, City Island.

Recap: Sometimes, no matter how hard people try with all the good will in the world and the best attempts at communicating, things get screwed up. The Independence Day holiday was such an occasion. The plan was to meet and raftup in Oyster Bay West Harbor. Part of the problem was the structure of the holiday itself, which fell on a Tuesday. Some people had four-day weekends; some did not. By all accounts, there were plenty of Club boats out there. They just were not all in the same place and the Gremlins seem to have shut down everyone's communications. The largest raft, six boats, was in the Sand Hole. But only three of those boats were Club boats. Had we got it altogether, we might have had as many as ten boats. But nonetheless, a good time was had by all in their unintended separate anchorages.

No such communications problems dogged our visit to the Frying Pan light ship at the East 23rd St. Piers. Some twenty members and guests toured the old ship under the direct guidance of John Krevey, the man responsible for rescuing the vessel and maintaining it as a National Historic Site. Food and drink in abundance on the neighboring old railroad barge. And alongside, our August goal, the schooner *Adirondack*. Commodore Mary Donohue has written a personal letter of appreciation to Mr. Krevey..

Member notes: New member **Geraldine Gaal**, also a new boat owner, has shown her liking for the Club in the most concrete way possible — a financial gift. As Mary Donohue, speaking for all of us, wrote in her letter of thanks; " We are very grateful to you for your thoughtfulness and devotedness to the purpose of this organization." Indeed we are, Geraldine.

Other notes: It seems that NYSC members are not the only ones reluctant to traverse Hell Gate and the East River or to explore Sandy Hook and Raritan Bay. Some issues back we mentioned the Fifth Annual O'Day Rendezvous, to be held in July at Raritan Yacht Club. Some ten boats said they would attend, not an unreasonable number in light of previous rendezvous. Five showed, all but one of them old hands. Two came some distance, from New London and from sixty miles up the Hudson; the other three were sort of local but only one other east of the Hell Gate. What seemed a good central compromise that would attract boats from north, east and south instead proved a barrier. It appears that Barnegat Bay sailors are reluctant to brave the open sea and Sound sailors feel the same about Hell Gate. They missed a great party.