



NEW YORK SAILING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Feb
2005

Commodore: *Scott Stevenson (631)864-9584*

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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 (212)688-5976*

Non-members welcome at all New York Sailing Club functions, on or off water.
Membership meetings, September to May: Raymond's Café, 88 Seventh Ave., New York City.
Meetings usually begin at 8:00 PM and are preceded by a social hour (cash bar) and
Skippers' Meeting beginning at 7:00 PM. Full dinner available.
Check our web site: <http://www.newyorksailingclub.com/>

Commentary: Running more than a little late this month, folks. Sorry about that. February can be a strange month, the depths of winter yet with more than a hint of spring, all combining to bring on the winter blahs. The saffron Central Park Gates arrived just in time to bring glorious color to the gray and black landscape of the park and of the city. Too bad that color does not extend to the various marinas where our boats slumber cocooned in blue tarps, white plastic or just plain old leftover grimy snow and ice. Well, take cheer. The Gates will soon be gone so if you haven't walked in the Park for awhile now is the time. When gone, there will not be saffron ribbon left behind. But gone, according to Punxatawney Phil, there will be only three weeks of winter remaining and the crocuses, daffodils and forsythia will start brightening the land. When winter ends, calendar or not, can boating be far behind?

Some of you may have noticed that the Club has a website, address posted above. The site has been under the very capable managements of webmasters and members Kris Ohlen and Richard Zilli. But truth be told, it has not been getting the attention of either the membership or the Board itself that it should have. That is about to change. We are going to make the website a much more important and active tool for member interaction and as a gateway to the Club itself. For example, the present website basically suggests that if you have any questions, call someone and then gives a name and phone number. Instant gratification it's not. But starting immediately, the Club will post membership application forms on the website that you can complete and submit online. Renewal forms will also be online for downloading and completing in the usual manner. Because the renewal form contains a waiver that needs to be signed and dated it isn't really feasible to submit it online. The site will also link to message boards for cruises, products, crew wanted, berths sought as well as links to other sailing and boating venues such as yacht and sailing clubs, publications and other boating websites. And of course people will be able to post photos, subject to review by the webmasters. While we will welcome any number of hits and thereby know that people out there are interested, we also need to have some control over what gets posted and by whom. "On topic" is the expression often seen in the online world.

Coming Events:

Thursday, Feb. 17, 2005: Leah Lopez, Esq., of Connecticut-based Save the Sound (<http://www.savethesound.org/>) will talk about the organization's mission to restore and protect Long Island Sound (Whatever happened to the lobsters and oysters?) and especially about the enormous liquid natural gas storage facility planned for the middle of the Sound. Talk about floating bombs!

Thursday, March 17, 2005: An appropriately green topic will be a speaker from the Hudson River Riverkeeper (<http://www.riverkeeper.org/>) talking about the organization's ongoing efforts to clean and keep clean the Hudson River.

Thursday, April 21, 2005: To be announced. But be sure to block out the date on your calendar. By then, many of us will have our boats in the water and this will be the last Raymond's Café event of the winter season. What better moment can there be to mix with potential skippers and crew and line up berths/crew for some on-the-water events?

And keep in mind: Details for most of the following are still evolving. But do mark the dates on your calendars to be sure you don't miss them.

Saturday, May 21: Hidden Harbor Tours and Going into Commission Dinner, details to come.

Sunday, May 22: Around Hart Island Race and the start of the on-the-water activities.

Saturday, May 28 — Monday, May 30: Memorial Day Weekend. Port Jefferson at Setauket Yacht Club. Dinner. Sunday race with pickup of crew at yacht club.

Saturday June 11: We all recall with pleasure that marvelous party in Fleet Captain Chris Hulbert's Manhattan back garden last year. The only thing missing at that event was actual sailboats. This year, we will remedy that lack. We are going to have another blast-off mixer, but this time on actual boats. There will be a raftup of members' boats at Oyster Bay Town Dock and all partying will be on the boats where participants can hop from boat to boat. Oyster Bay is easy to get to by LIRR or car. One boat will be set aside for Designated Drivers, marine or road.

Thursday, June 16: 79th Street Boat Basin Café, dinner and social to watch the sun set across the Hudson.

Tuesday, June 21: Summer Solstice full moon evening cruise. Boats to be boarded at owners' marinas.

Saturday, July 2 — Monday, July 4: Independence Day weekend. Cold Spring Harbor/Oyster Bay raftup. Corinthian pickup at Oyster Bay. Race on Sunday, fireworks on Monday.

Saturday, July 16: Sadie Hawkins Sail. Your chance to skipper, ladies.

Thursday, July 21: Tubby Hook Marina at Dykman Street. Dinner and socializing. Full moon.

Saturday, July 30 — Sunday, August 14: Club cruise. Details to come.

Included with the January Newsletter were membership renewal forms for members and application forms for non-members. If you have not returned yours yet with \$60, please do so. Don't risk being left out of the Roster. If you have misplaced your form, please go to the website and download one.