



NEW YORK SAILING CLUB NEWSLETTER **APR** **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>

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Commentary: “This has been a wonderful day!” said (the Mole), as the Rat shoved off and took to the sculls again. “Do you know, I've never been in a boat before in all my life.”

“What?” cried the Rat, open-mouthed: “Never been in a -- you never -- well I -- what have you been doing, then?”

“Is it so nice as all that?” asked the Mole shyly, though he was quite prepared to believe it as he leant back in his seat and surveyed the cushions, the oars, the rowlocks, and all the fascinating fittings, and felt the boat sway lightly under him.

“Nice? It's the only thing,” said the Water Rat solemnly, as he leant forward for his stroke.

“Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing -- absolute (*sic*) nothing -- half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats. Simply messing,” he went on dreamily: “messing -- about -- in -- boats; messing -- -- --”

“Look ahead, Rat!” cried the Mole suddenly.

It was too late. The boat struck the bank full tilt. The dreamer, the joyous oarsman, lay on his back at the bottom of the boat, his heels in the air.

“ -- about in boats -- or with boats,” the Rat went on composedly, picking himself up with a pleasant laugh. “In or out of 'em, it doesn't matter. Nothing seems really to matter, that's the charm of it. Whether you get away, or whether you don't; whether you arrive at your destination or whether you reach somewhere else, or whether you never get anywhere at all, you're always busy, and you never do anything in particular; and when you've done it there's always something else to do, and you can do it if you like, but you'd much better not.”

The Wind in the Willows, Kenneth Grahame, 1908

No one has ever said it better. Note that Mole doesn't have a boat but with the hospitality of Rat he is still going to get to mess about in one. We wonder if Rat put Mole to work

polishing the brass and varnishing the brightwork? Many of our members and guests also have no boats. But they too can get to mess around in boats by volunteering to polish the brass, prepare the brightwork, sand the bottom or just be there when needed, as our guest columnist of last month detailed. The first day of Spring is long past; the first Spring day yet to appear. If you want to mess about in boats, be there on that first Spring day and those to follow into glorious summer. If you want to lend a hand and adopt a skipper, call Rear Commodore Walter Friedrichs (914)633-5411 and tell him you are available to help some skipper get ready for sea..

Coming Events:

Thursday, April 21, 2005: Aside from being the last Raymond's Café event of the winter season, the program is a bigee and a must-attend at any time. Nigel Crockett, author of " Fair Wind and Plenty of It" will autograph copies of the book and show a film of the barque *Picton Castle* and her adventurous two-year voyage around the world, starting from Lunenburg , Nova Scotia. You can check out the book and author at <http://www.tallshipadventure.com>.

By then, many of us will have our boats in the water. What better moment can there be to mix with potential skippers and crew and line up berths/crew for some on-the-water events?

Saturday-Sunday, May 21-22: Busy, busy, busy. Both days, Hidden Harbor Tours, a 5-hour tour of New York's many waterfront industrial sites, nooks and crannies, coves and piers. For a mere \$5 you get to spend hours on the water peeking into places you would never think to peek. Check out the website at http://www.photoships.com/HiddenHarbor2004_Home.htm. Then on Sunday we have the Around Hart Island Race and the start of the on-the-water activities followed by the Going into Commission Dinner at Stuyvesant Yacht Club, at 5 PM. Details soon..

Saturday, May 28 — Monday, May 30: Memorial Day Weekend. Stay tuned. Corinthian-friendly weekend with pickup from shore and a race.

Saturday June 11: Blast-off on-the-water mixer. 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.

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.

Fiddler's Green: Time passes. So do people. The members of our club and their families are no exceptions. Fiddler's Green welcomes a few of us every year. Our sympathy and condolence's go to Maryann Stevenson and Scott on the recent loss of Maryann's mother; to Mary Stamm on the loss of her mother; and to the family of long-time member Andy Pommeti, who was also Chairman of the Board at Stuyvesant Yacht Club.

