



NEW YORK SAILING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Oct
2006

Commodore: *Mary Donohue (516)593-2498*
Vice Commodore: *Chris Hulbert (917)498-0793*
Rear Commodore: *Scott Stevenson (631)864-9584*
Fleet Captain: *Mike Penney (917)673-0443*

Asst. Fleet Capt: *Walter Friedrichs (914)633-5411*
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: This month we have a guest commentator, Past Commodore (1986) Betsy Haggerty. The words are different; the message is the same.

If I were to write my life's story, the New York Sailing Club would play a starring role. When I joined in 1984, the club was a happening organization, with monthly meetings that drew 60 or so people and weekend rendezvous where 10 or more boats would raft-up. It was a place where skippers welcomed crew, and Corinthians happily participated in the sailing, cooking, and, oh yes, imbibing that went on at club events. I remember we laughed a lot, learned from one another, and rich friendships developed. The club taught me—a former small-boat racer and day sailor—the fun of cruising. Editing the club newsletter sparked my interest in becoming a boating writer, which is what I have been ever since.

After seven years in Boston as editor of *Offshore* magazine, I came back to New York City two years ago. I was happy to find many of my old friends still involved. But I've been troubled by the changes in the club. We're lucky now if 20 people show up for a meeting, and sailing events are a shadow of what they used to be. I hear, too, that Corinthians lament they can't find boats to sail on, and membership is way down. At the same time, I keep meeting sailors — both boat owners and would-be crew members — who are looking for sailing-related activities. It would be great to bring some of these people into the club.

Can we do it? I don't know. Some of us are working to find ways to revitalize the club, but we can't do it without your participation. For starters, please come to our next two meetings, and bring friends. At the October meeting, I will be speaking and showing pictures of my 1995 four-month-long cruise through the New York State Canals. Believe me, it was quite a trip! And in November, we have a real treat: Thad Koza, a world-famous Tall Ship photographer will show slides and give us the inside story on the world's largest sail-training ships. Meeting details are elsewhere in the newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions about the club, please feel free to contact me (at betsyhaggerty@aol.com or 212-222-3535) or speak to any of the board members. I hope to see you soon.

Coming events:

Oct.: **Oct. 7-9** — Columbus Day Weekend rendezvous, Manhasset Bay. Call Mike Penney or Walter Friedrichs. Day sailing and raftups, partying on board. Or,

Oct. 7-9 — Hudson River cruise. Down the East River, around the Battery and up the Hudson as far as time, wind and current allows to view the Fall foliage. Check with Chris Hulbert (917)498-0793.

Oct. 19, Thursday. Writer and Past Commodore Betsy Frawley Haggerty will discuss and illustrate her nearly four-month cruise of the 527-mile New York State Canal system, a bit of water few of us get to travel. At Jack Demsey's, 36 W 33rd St. (between 5th and 6th). Optional dinner at 6 PM downstairs, social and meeting at 7 PM upstairs.

Oct. 28, Saturday. Hallowe'en sail, raftup, Manhasset Bay. With costumes, cider, chili and all that. Once upon a time, this event attracted more boats than any other on our calendar. But in recent years, it has been a fleet when as many as two showed up. Let us reverse that dismal record.

Nov.: **Nov. 16, Thursday.** 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Tall Ships photographer and author Thad Koza (www.tallshipsinternational.net) will show slides about his many Tall Ship adventures and tell us what is happening aboard the world's largest sail-training ships. Koza's new book "Tall Ships: The Fleet for the 21st Century" and his 2007 Tall Ships calendar will be available. Social hour at 6 p.m.; meeting and presentation at 7 p.m. Suggested \$10 donation includes juice, soda and wine and light refreshments. The Seaman's Church Institute, 241 Water Street between Beekman and Peck Slip St. Free on-street parking at Peck Slip and nearby streets; paid parking at Central Parking Systems on Pearl and Beekman. Take The A,C, R, 2, 3, 4 or 5 trains to Fulton Street.

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

Recap: Courtesy of about-to-be-wed Fleet Captain Mike Penney, the annual picnic at Hempstead Harbour Club on September 16 found the twenty-five or so partiers awash in fresh lobsters, which stole the show from the multitudes of grilled shrimp, steaks, chicken, hamburgers and of course hot dogs and the requisite liquids with which to wash them all down. So much Lucullan largesse that the party ran on long after sundown. On the other hand, the less said about washed-out Labor Day weekend, the better. However, the first land-bound meeting at new venue Jack Demsey's went well as more than twenty members and guests attended Andy Bicking's presentation on our Scenic Hudson River.

Club stuff: We are in the last quarter of 2006 and need to have our panel of officers ready for the 2007 season. The new Board will take office at the Change-of-Watch dinner on December 2, weather permitting. Several Board members have agreed to serve another year but a few posts will be vacant. Secretary, for one. If you are interested in serving on the Board in 2007, or can suggest someone, please call Commodore Mary Donohue.

In years past, at land-bound meetings, the Club always had a person at the door to accept "donations," hand out name tags and even sell bits of yachty regalia. For many years, that person was the late Grace Tyler-Smith. Her post has been vacant. We would like to fill it. If you are a sociable greeter type, let Mary Donohue know and you will be first in line at every meeting.

We are aligning the Club with other major New York cultural institutions, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Natural History, by asking for an optional "donation" from non-member guests at the Club's on-land presentations. All persons are always welcome, donation or no, but it would help defray costs for audio/video equipment and the like.