



NEW YORK SAILING CLUB SALLY'S 2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

I saw snow yesterday – large flakes of it, so it must be wintertime which means that boats are safely out of the water. Boo hoo. But it also means that spring can't be far behind, although I haven't seen any skunk cabbage yet. Kurt thinks I'm rushing the season. It is time to sit down at your desks and write lists of things to buy at West Marine in preparation for spring fitting out. No time like the present. The New York Sailing Club has had a busy year, as is our wont. We didn't start our social season in January because our cars were encased in ice and we couldn't get them out. It was a good time to go on a cruise on the tall ship the Star Flyer out of Costa Rica like Sally & Kurt did. But that's another story which brings us to



Star Flyer

FEBRUARY

On Feb. 20 we had our General Meeting at Da Rosina restaurant. Our speaker was Janet Teller from the NJ Boating Safety Classes. She was very informative and it was an inspiration for us to take one of the safety classes. Thanks go to Mary Donohue for setting all that up. Thinking more about the water in



Hope Wright
"Geez it's cold!"



The Watchers



The Watchee

MARCH

We went on our 3rd annual Seal Watch. This time we went on the NY Water Taxi out to Hoffman and Swinburne Islands, off of Staten Island. About 15 people attended. Although it was a little chilly (it was March, after all) everyone was bundled up and the hot chocolate kept us warm. It seems unreal to see the sea creatures so close to NY Harbor. The seals were a little shy but at least with binoculars we got to watch them sun themselves on rocks and feed on local fish. It is good to know that the harbor has been cleaned up enough in order to support ocean critters. We had a bite to eat at the (in)famous Jeremy's Old Ale House in the South Street Seaport area. Happily none of our bras were sacrificed to hang up on the ceiling. I guess not enough booze was consumed. In order to get away from our frozen tundra, two smart couples chartered a boat in the British Virgin Islands. Scott & Mary Ann and Kurt and Sally got a 41' boat from the Moorings in Great Harbor, Tortola. We sailed to the usual haunts: Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke, Norman Island (still haven't found the pirate treasure, even

though we've tried several times). We flew in and out of St. Thomas but before flying home we managed to leave some dough at the local establishments. Needing more inspiration for getting out on the water, in



*The Stevensons
At Foxy's*



*Sally, Kurt, Mary Ann, Scott
At "The Twisted Cork" On St. Thomas*



Mary Ann & Scott

APRIL

At Da Rosina, Sally presented a Power Point seminar that she did for another yacht club. It was entitled: "Cruising 101 – or how to allay your fears and get out on the water." We discussed the various harbors, yacht clubs, marinas, provisioning locations, and ice cream parlors from Manhasset Bay to Block Island and back. It was a lot of work so I am glad that I got to share it with our club members. I also got the chance to tell some of my funny stories. It is the beginning of a book that I want to write entitled: "If These Gloves Could Talk". Thanks go to Carol Swinburne for the idea for the title. On the cover I will show my old rotten sailing gloves that have seen better days and have lots of mileage on them. I'll let you know when I have it done. At least it's a start. It inspired us to move into

MAY

We did something different for our annual Going Into Commission dinner: We held it at the cute, quaint, adorable and delicious restaurant Bistro SK on City Island. The "SK" stands for "Stephane Kane" the lively and friendly host/chef. His charming wife Maria helped out and kept us well supplied with drinks. We started out with appetizers and cocktails in the garden out back. Susan Wheeler ordered an extra portion of escargot just for herself. Stephane does them the best. For the cocktail hour, the weather cooperated for the most part so we could enjoy the garden. When it rained, they pulled the cover over the garden so we could still enjoy the fresh air. We moved inside for the dinner hour. Stephane serves some really delicious French food. I especially love his sauces. I'll have to take a class from him to see how they are made. We chose our own entrée and everyone had the same veggies. For dessert, they passed around a sampling of all the yummy pastries which we shared. Unfortunately, no one complained about anything. I say unfortunately because I told them that if anyone had any complaints, they would have to organize the next event. The escargot slowly led us into



Stephane & Maria



Cheryl, Mary Ann & Scott



Lloyd, Escargot & Susan

JUNE

Our first sailing event. Because of the nasty winter and the early Memorial Day weekend, no one was ready for a rendezvous then. Even the boatyards were behind schedule. That made us more excited about the rest of the season. In early June we did some Corinthian daysails out of each skipper's harbor, either on Saturday or Sunday (or both). It was a lovely weekend and the winter seemed oh so far in the past.



In mid-June we received some sad news that our dear friend and stalwart sailor Fred Freder passed away at age 75. He had been having medical problems for a few years and finally succumbed to them. He was a wonderful friend and terrific sailor and will always be missed. A memorial is in the works for sometime in 2015.

On June 19 we had our usual social at the 79th Street Boat Basin and 20 people showed up. The weather cooperated so we got a prime location out on the terrace, overlooking the Hudson. The burgers there are the best and the liveliness and ambiance are always a plus. People must have been inspired because in



Yvonne, Sally & Kurt - 79th St. BB



Jonah, Joyce & Bob - Oyster Bay

JULY

We had a wonderful rendezvous at Sagamore Yacht Club in Oyster Bay. We had 8 boats representing 5 different yacht clubs and there were 30 people for dinner. The yacht clubs represented were: South Minneford YC, Stuyvesant YC, Morris YC, City Island YC and NYSC. Since the rendezvous was over a Saturday night, we didn't go to our usual restaurant "Wild Honey". They couldn't accommodate us because they are too small. That was OK because we found a new place: "Jack Halyard's". We had a private room in the back with several large tables. The food was delicious and the room was large enough so we could wander around from table to table to tell sea stories and also to discuss the cruise, which was scheduled to start on July 19. It did start, but with a greatly reduced participation. Where were all those folks from the July 4th rendezvous? The only cruisers were Scott & Mary Ann Stevenson on *GREAT ESCAPE* and Sally & Kurt on *PEGASUS*. We started out in Stamford CT at our dock at Brewers Marina. We enjoyed a wonderful BBQ on the dock. Unfortunately *GREAT ESCAPE* had some engine "issues" when starting out on Sunday and had to turn back. She got towed back into Stamford and thence got towed to Oyster Bay, her home port. *PEGASUS* had reservations elsewhere so had to continue on. Alone. So sad.

But not as sad as the news that we received at the end of July when we heard that our good friend Marie Heaney lost her battle with cancer. She was a brave little sailor up until the end, but just couldn't fight it any more. She will be sorely missed by all of us. Sail true, Marie.

LILI B with Marie & Mom



AUGUST

Kurt and I spent the next 4 weeks on *PEGASUS* cruising to Greenport, Mystic, Stonington, Narragansett Bay, Newport, Block Island, Port Jeff, etc. We originally wanted to get to Nantucket but we also had some engine “issues” consisting of a mysterious battery problem. Back in Westbrook, CT we found an engine maestro and in 2 ½ minutes, he found the problem. We were back in business.



*Chefette Mary Ann
Stamford*



*Captain Scott
Stamford*



*Full Moon over
Ida Lewis YC*

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, other club members went sailing on the gorgeous ship *ADIRONDACK* in Lower Manhattan Bay. Susan Wheeler organized the trip as usual. Unfortunately we had a low turnout and some of the tickets weren't used up right away. That is, until Kurt and Sally came back from their cruise and were able to use them in October, along with Myrna Truitt. The winds were between 15-25 with higher gusts. We were glad not to be on *PEGASUS*. But, I skipped



Leona & Walter



Don, Bernice & Susan



*Malcolm & Mary
The “M&M’s”*



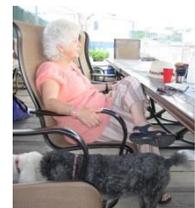
Myrna, Sally & Kurt



The ADIRONDACK

SEPTEMBER

And our annual Club Picnic – the 37th year. About 20 hungry sailing club members showed up with various treats and goodies. And that was just Lloyd, our host/Commodore, Captain Kurt, Malcolm & Jeanette.



As usual, we held the picnic at Lloyd's club – South Minneford Yacht Club on City Island. It was a lovely day and no one went home hungry.

At our Labor Day Rendezvous we had 5 boats and 30 people. It was Commodore Lloyd's Mumsy's 80th birthday so we helped to celebrate it with the rest of his family. We held it at Huntington Yacht Club. It is a lovely club with a great dock staff (Thanks Otto!). We had dinner at the restaurant and although the food was good, the location stunning and the wait staff attentive, it seems we always have problems regarding the "gratuity" on the bill. But we won't go there. We'll instead go to

OCTOBER

And the Columbus Day "rendezvous". The word "rendezvous" doesn't necessarily mean that boats get together and hang out. According to Webster it can also mean: "A popular gathering place" which, in our case, meant the Black Whale Restaurant on City Island. Twenty people showed up! The food was tasty and plentiful and the ambiance "rustic". The wait staff was friendly and attentive. We had our own private room in the back. Since the weather was so-so, they did not have many customers and were happy to have us. This sails us into

NOVEMBER

And our general meeting at Da Rosina. Malcolm Milligan, our webmaster, was kind enough to get a video of the 2013 America's Cup Race. The following is the info from Mary Donohue about the event:

"Video and Discussion of 2013 America's Cup Race, San Francisco Bay, CA. On Thursday, November 13, 2014, the NYSC held a meeting at Da Rosina's Restaurant on "restaurant row" in Manhattan. After dinner NYSC members viewed the video together, accompanied by fun comments during the presentation about the colored arrows in San Francisco Bay! (and all the cute bods on the crew – ed.) Afterwards, discussion centered on asking ourselves questions such as: Are these catamarans sailboats? Was Oracle the faster boat or the better team? How can the boats go faster than the wind? Why did Emirates lose? What strategies did each boat exhibit? Can we afford one of those boats (NOT!) The members enjoyed their discussion, interaction, food and drink."



The "Sail" Boats (?)



Ye Auld Cuppe

DECEMBER

Notes brought to you by Mary Donohue and Sally:

“The 44th Annual Change of Watch Dinner was held at Stuyvesant YC, City Island, NY on Saturday, December 6, 2014. Members enjoyed appetizers provided by Scavello’s Catering and some members such as VC Mary Donohue who served sushi with her compliments. Our Commodore, Lloyd Sarakin, tended bar, serving drinks from his home cabinet.” (The only thing missing was the grass umbrella from his 30’ Tiki Bar EKKO II and maybe a blender to make piña coladas. Oh – and his grass skirt! ed.) “Members brought their favorite wine to enjoy at their tables. Holiday and dance music was piped in by NYSC member and Stuyvesant YC Board Member Jeanette Westphal. We were happy to have “relatively” good weather this year as our celebration in the past has been often marred by challenging weather.” (“Relatively good weather” meant that there was no snow. It did rain dogs and catamarans and blew like stink. It wasn’t easy loading the cars after the event with all the goodies and gear, but we are strong! We are able! We are New York Sailing Club members! Yes we can... ed.) “The buffet was enjoyable, and many members had seconds and took some home as door prizes. Rear Commodore Scott Stevenson provided an opportunity to join in together in a 50-50 drawing. Malcolm Milligan won the prize money!” Half of the money was used as a fund raiser for NYSC and part to SYC.

“Sally, Club Fleet Captain and Advisor, presented the awards at the end of the dinner. Sally made all the arrangements for this gala event with Stuyvesant YC and with the caterer we used. The club members congratulate Sally on another job well done, and express their appreciation for her generosity.” (Note from Sally: No Problem, Mon. As long as everyone has fun, that’s all that matters.)

The awards given out were:

Winsome Trophy – for service to the club – went to Walter Friedrichs. He stepped up this year as Treasurer when our beloved Brit Yvonne Raptis moved back to England with her family. I guess she wanted to be someplace where the people don’t have funny accents. Walter was unable to attend because he and Leona were Snowbirding it down in Florida. It was discussed having next year’s Change Of Watch in Boca Raton.

Etta Morton Trophy – for seamanship and sportsmanship went again to Don Devaney. He made it out to most rendezvous and has come on club cruises on his 26’ Folkboat *SILENT REACH*. Single-handedly! If that ain’t seamanship, I don’t know what is. For his “keeper” this year, Sally presented him with a bottle of wine called Two Oceans. Sally said that they were: “Eastchester Bay and Long Island Sound”. It got a laugh.

Jack Brown/Nauti-Lass Trophy again went to Malcolm Milligan for all his work on the website and the new blog and also for taking care of Mary when she was recovering from an operation. For his “keeper” this year, Sally presented him with a bottle of the delicious wine from Kurt’s relatives in Deidesheim Germany. It is hard to find here in the states, but we managed to find one, just for Malcolm.

As per tradition, Sally gave out her usual gag awards. The first went to Jeanette Westphal, our DJ from “Stuyvesant Yacht Club Productions”. Since she is the owner of two adorable poodles Lili and Niko, she was presented with a Snoopy flag to hang over her desk.



Lili



*Dollie, Kurt, Niko,
Lili & Jeanette*



Niko



*Sally's Niece Dollie
(& Niko's GF)*

When Vice Commodore Mary Donohue moved to New Jersey (oh God! She is now a Jersey Driver!) to be nearer Malcolm, Himself set up a space in her basement which he refers to as “The Man Cave”. It is complete with desk, large screen TV, DVD player, exercise machine, etc. Sally gave him a mug for pencils to put on his desk. The label says: “What happens in the Man Cave stays in the Man Cave.” So there.

With a name like Milligan, it denotes Malcolm’s Scottish heritage. Sally decided to make Mary an “Honorary Scotswoman” and presented her with a tartan scarf to keep her warm, especially when Malcolm is not there – or is hiding in his “Man Cave.”

Our Secretary / Editor Geraldine Gaal loves “Wind In The Willows” and at the end of every newsletter and email she has the quote: “There is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing around in boats”. Unfortunately, Geraldine has sold her boat (or is it that she is between boats?) Even so, one can always use a little boat bag. Sally presented her with a canvas bag which had her favorite saying on it.

The Nominating Committee coerced Commodore Lloyd Sarakin to serve yet again. He has become our Tiki Bar Captain as well as Commodore. When we all ascended on his boat *EKKO II* last summer, we drank him out of house and sangria. So Sally presented him with a large box of her favorite sangria. I wonder if it will last until next summer? Probably not.



Lloyd “Tiki Bar Captain”



*Lloyd & Ruth on
Tiki Bar EKKO II*



*Lloyd, Ruth & Sally
in Milford, CT*

The last (but not least) of the awards is the Foredeck Ape of the Year. It goes to the person who has demonstrated the best crew work of the sailing season. We were pleased to present it to our youngest member—Jonah Weinberg Posner (age 9). He is a stout-hearted sailor, who has demonstrated his nimble abilities on *PEGASUS*. His Mother Joyce Weinberg is our new Treasurer. Welcome aboard Joyce, Bob and Jonah.



*Jonah Posner
Foredeck Ape of the Year*



Laurette's sheet cake



Just Desserts

Finally came dessert and dancing. Mary Ann Stevenson and Laurette Shrage brought beautiful cakes for dessert. Mary Donohue brought an assortment of berries for the dessert table. Sally brought some éclairs and puff pastries. No one went hungry. So gang, get out there and do some more stuff next summer so that Sally can have some material for next year's awards and gag gifts. How about a nice charter in the Caribbean this winter? Anyone up for it. Just give us a call...



Happy New Year and God Bless Us Everyone!