A Message from Our President:

Welcome to Beacon Sloop Club 2010!!

We had a good crowd, excellent food and a full agenda at the Jan 1st meeting, which our musicians opened with ‘If I had a Hammer’.

I’d like to thank the outgoing officers, Saul, David, and Joyce for making 2009 a great success, and especially Saul for his personal support during the transition.

The Environmental Committee has arranged for Shane ‘Whitefeather’ Hobel to speak on Jan 8th at the clubhouse. This is the first event in our monthly winter lecture series.

Phyllis will once again chair the Strawberry Festival. Phyllis’ experience and know-how is truly appreciated and she’ll need lots of help. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities.

The Building Committee has begun to assess repairs needed to the building as well as 2009 club input on making the interior more appealing. The idea is take advantage of the winter months to plan so we’re ready to work when the weather warms. Volunteers needed come spring!!

Woody repairs are still in discussion. Expect to hear more at the Feb meeting.

Between repairs to our boat and building, we surely can use fund raising in 2010. Bring your ideas to the Feb. meeting, or contact the Development Committee or me.

Please take a moment to renew your membership. Here’s why it’s so important – you get the newsletter and our grant writers can show our grass roots support. Consider getting your newsletter online, where the pictures are in color and the club saves money and paper.

Lastly, a great, big Thank You to the Howland Center for their December fundraiser which netted $1450 for the club.

Rosemary
BSC Membership Form

Name _______________________________ Street Address ____________________________________________
City _______________ State ___ ZIP _____-____ Phone ___-___-______ Email ________________________

Amount Enclosed $______. ___ Renewal ___ New Member ___ How did you hear of us?____________________

Are you a Clearwater member? ___ Would you like information regarding a Clearwater membership? ___

Newsletter format(check one):    Printed ☐ E-mail ☐ Please include your e-mail address if you want your newsletter e-mailed to you.

Membership suggested donation $25.00. Minimum of $10.00. Please give more if you can afford it!
If you can’t afford the minimum, the fee may be waived.

Mail to:   Beacon Sloop Club    P.O. Box 527    Beacon, NY  12508

The Beacon Sloop Club Broadside is the official monthly newsletter of the Beacon Sloop Club, Inc.
The Beacon Sloop Club, Inc. is a non-profit, volunteer environmental education/action and sailing organization dedicated to cleaning up the Hudson River and its environs. Our main focus is the Beacon, Fishkill and Newburgh area.
Members meet the first Friday of every month at the Sloop Club Building located just across from the Beacon train station. Look for the building with the Norway spruce tree growing out of the roof! A potluck dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.; bring a covered dish to share and your own place setting. The general meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and lasts about an hour or so. The meeting is followed by a sing-along.

The Beacon Sloop Club and newsletter are accessible from the web: www.beaconsloopclub.org.

BSC Officers 2010

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Vice President:  Claudine Craig 895-8758 c Craig2222@yahoo.com
Treasurer:   Sarah Elisabeth (917)683-4114 sage467@mac.com
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    Susan Berliner

Please submit articles for the Beacon Sloop Club Broadside by the 1st Monday after the Friday general meeting each month (early submissions are much appreciated) to acthoma@yahoo.com
Input requiring scanning must be in 1 week in advance To: Alan Thomas PO Box 430, Hughsonville, NY 12537

Contents:

President’s Message................. 1
Membership Form..................... 2
Minutes of the General Meeting. 3
The Shad situation.................. 4
General Interest............... 5, 6
Treasurers Report............... 7
Ads-------------------------------7
Calendar-------------------------8

Printed on 100% Recycled Paper
After Pete Seeger, Michael Skolnick, Sue Altkin, and others led the whole club in a powerful rendition of “If I Had a Hammer”, Pete introduced our new president, Rosemary Thomas.

Welcome & Call to Order: Rosemary called the meeting to order, thanked outgoing officers, Saul Rozinsky, Joyce Hanson and David Eberle for their service. She welcomed the new team and first-time attendees to the meeting.

Gingerbread Sloop: A model of the Clearwater was constructed in gingerbread and donated to the Sloop Club by artist Michael Byro. Rosemary asked that Dan Einbender convey the model to the Clearwater crew to share in its appreciation.

Standing Committee Chairs: Rosemary announced that all standing committee chairs had been reappointed at the Executive Committee Meeting. No objections came from the floor. She asked that committee chairs contact her to resolve any complications with the appointments.

Membership Report, Tom LaBarr: Tom reminded the meeting that memberships are due for renewal as of January 1. Those who joined or renewed in November and December will be counted as 2010 members. He asked that members kindly complete the form at the top of page 2 of the Newsletter, and return it with appropriate dues and any donations to Beacon Sloop Club, P.O. Box 527, Beacon, NY 12508.

Newsletter, Alan Thomas: Alan reported that the print version of the newsletter costs $.98 per copy for the 213 that are mailed to members. He asked that members consider opting for the email and/or on-line version [Add your email address to the membership form!]. Alan noted that the print version is limited to eight pages, while the online newsletter has all the content of the print version and may also contain articles that won’t fit into the eight-page print format.

Treasurer’s Report, Sarah Elizabeth: Sarah reported a beginning balance of $38,667.53 (as conveyed by out-going Treasurer, Joyce Hanson) with expenses of $617.39 and income of $485 for a current balance of $38,535.14. Checks from the Howland Center are expected to add around $1450 to income this month. Sarah requested that expenses and dues be submitted promptly. The Treasurer was authorized to buy Quickbooks for her computer by the Executive Committee at its last meeting.

Woody Report, Jim Birmingham: Gigi Fris, Rich Holtzman, Kevin Haydon and Jim finished covering the Woody in mid-December. Jim explained that sloops like the Woody originally had a life expectancy of 10-15 years. The Woody Guthrie is 30 years old. As a result, on-going maintenance requires significant investment. For example, Jim expects repairs or replacement of the cabin top, some bench seats, two hull planks and a toe rail to cost about $45,000. That may sound expensive, but the hull and cabin need to be handled by an experienced shipwright.

Environmental Committee, Edmund Fitzgerald: Friday, January 8 at 7 pm will be the first of this year’s environmental programs conducted at the Sloop Club. Hosted by Shane Whitefeather Hobel, the program is titled “Wilderness Survival, Tracking, Primitive Skills, and Living with the Earth.”

Building Committee, Claudine Craig: Claudine (re-elected Club Vice President) addressed four objectives for improving the building: 1. Replacement of the rotting studs and supports in the exterior walls. Saul & others replaced the NE corner last year and have developed ideas for the remainder; 2. Rebuilding, repair and/or replacement of the west river levee and picnic area; 3. Making the place pretty [Caitlin O’Heaney volunteered to chair a subcommittee for this], including a new bulletin board for current posters & pamphlets; lighting, paint, storage, furniture and fixtures; and 4. Heating options to make the clubhouse more amenable for year-round occupancy, meetings, education, &c. Volunteers and comments are welcome. Call either Claudine or Tom as appropriate.

Woody Dinner, Tom LaBarr: Tom is planning the Woody fund-raiser for the second weekend in March with arrangements much the same as in years past: $50 per seat, cash bar, donated prizes & auction items, at the River Terrace in Beacon. Contact Tom to volunteer items or help.

Strawberry Festival, Phyllis Newham: The festival will be the second or third weekend in June. Phyllis needs volunteers immediately to work on community outreach. She plans to meet this week to begin detailed planning.

Multrum, Caitlin O’Heaney: Caitlin suggests finding a supplier for new absorbent material for the Multrum based on her experience with a kitty litter made from pine-shavings. She will contact companies regarding the content and the possibility for donation of the material. Caitlin also reported that the lock was not closed, that the seat was raised and that the light was on, when she inspected the Multrum recently. Tom LaBarr suggests that we acquire a motion detector that would shut off the lights and lower the seat. He will check on price, wiring details and possible do the installation himself. Caitlin passed a sign-up sheet for volunteers for regular inspections & cleanups.

Announcements and Adjournment, Rosemary Thomas: A new progressive newspaper, Word, has an organizing meeting at Cafe Bocca, 10:30am, Sat., Jan. 9 under the Walkway and a fundraiser, 6pm Sat., Feb. 4 at Amici’s. The Pass-the-hat effort has raised over $1000 with this month’s hat pass! BSC’s Something to Say Cafe features Casey Baker and Jacob Bernz at BSC, 7-9 pm, Jan. 30. A motion to adjourn was offered by Saul Rozinsky and seconded by Tom LaBarr, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.
DEC Proposes American Shad Fishery Closures

With the American shad population in the Hudson River at historic lows, the New York State DEC announced draft regulations to prohibit commercial and recreational fishing for American shad both in the Hudson River and the Marine and Coastal District of New York.

The Hudson River shad stock has declined dramatically since the 1990s. Juvenile production dropped to below average in 2002 and has not rebounded. Hudson River recreational and commercial fisheries were restricted in 2008 with the hope that it would trigger some improvement in production of young American shad.

DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis said: "New York is proposing this measure because of the severity of the declines in the American shad population throughout the region and the importance of protecting this species. DEC has thoroughly evaluated all the data available and a closure is the most appropriate step to help this fishery recover."

Last year the DEC adopted the Hudson River American Shad Recovery Plan to help rebuild the stock. In 2009, several parts of the Recovery Plan were implemented, including: a tagging/tracking study to better understand adult spawning habitat use; a bycatch monitoring program to quantify American shad caught in ocean fisheries; sample collections to evaluate habitat use by early life stages of fish; and a continuation of diet studies on predatory fish such as striped bass. DEC is working on a Recovery Plan update which will include a progress report and is developing reopening criteria for the recreational and commercial fisheries.

The draft regulations were released in the New York State Register - www.dos.state.ny.us/info/register/2009.html. The public comment period will be open until Jan. 4, 2010. Written comments can be sent to Kathryn Hattala, NYSDEC 21 S. Putt Corners Rd., New Paltz, NY 12561 or by email to kahattal@gw.dec.state.ny.us. For further information regarding status of New York’s American shad stocks, please visit the DEC website and access Hudson River American Shad Status.

Commercial Fisherman John Mylod and Steve Nack respond:

For full text see: A net gain for the Hudson?

If the state Department of Environmental Conservation's recently announced proposal to ban shad fishing on the Hudson River goes into effect this year, it will be the first time in thousands of years that people will be prohibited from catching the estuary's signature fish......

There are approximately six serious commercial fishermen on the Hudson who regularly net shad for what is, in reality, a four-week season. Commercial fishing is already restricted to three days a week and often compromised by foul weather, tidal conditions and the tremendous abundance of striped bass in the river which clog our nets. We are not the problem, but we are the easiest for the state to control. Sadly:

Shad returning to the Hudson to spawn are caught offshore, or in other estuaries or as incidental by-catch in the ocean.

The DEC refuses to require the best available technology to upgrade power plants below Poughkeepsie which kill millions of eggs, larvae and young fish.

DEC minimizes the impacts of millions of striped bass swarming in the river each year and consuming vast numbers of shad eggs, larvae and young-of-the-year shad; A cultural touchstone in the valley will be lost, along with the skills and experience of the few remaining shad fishermen on the river who carry on the traditional fishery.

Closing the shad fishery to a half dozen commercial fishermen will not solve the problem of declining shad abundance and focuses the state's attention on the wrong target......

Although, to his credit, Gov. David Paterson initiated a shad recovery plan, the state's dismal financial condition has led to cuts of more than a million dollars in Estuary Management Program funding. Continuing budget woes will severely limit, if not flat-line, the scientific research funds needed to move forward swiftly on the plan.

In the meantime, the DEC has the option of moving immediately to reopen a commercial striped bass fishery on the Hudson that was closed in 1976 because of PCB contamination. At the time, then-DEC commissioner Ogden Reid promised that the state would reopen the commercial stripershiffery when PCB values dropped below the 2 parts per million action level. That happened a dozen years ago, but the department has been silent on its promise and has taken no action to reopen the fishery.

Contrary to a common perception, commercial fishermen will not decimate the striped bass population in a sustainable fishery and their catch data pale in comparison to landings by recreational fishing effort which is significantly greater than gill netting........

Finally, banning shad fishing completely does not bode well for keeping the Hudson a commercial fishery. The Atlantic sturgeon fishery will be closed for at least another 40 years. River herring are in decline from some of the same causes as shad. The blue crab fishery has suffered in recent years from unknown causes and contamination destroyed the commercial eel fishery.

If a shad recovery plan will take a generation to be brought back to sustainable levels, there will be few if any fishermen remaining with the river knowledge and techniques necessary to re-enter the fishery. The Hudson has been a shad fishery since before Henry Hudson sailed its waters and the skills for pursuing this traditional, small-boat, low-tech fishery have been passed down in a direct link to the earliest people who came to the river to fish for shad.

Breaking this bond with the past should be avoided. Even if it means reducing fishing to one or two days a week, the thread of history will be maintained. Such a link is not inconsequential.

Symbols are important and keeping even a limited commercial shad fishery open means that we have not completely failed in protecting and managing the river and its resources. It means that all that is associated with this iconic fish -- the American shad, the "fish most delicious," the fish that fed the troops during the Revolution, the fish that runs through family histories and stories, the fish fishermen toiled to harvest -- will not completely fade from our view.
Mural Update

Thanks to each and every BSC member, foundation (Puffin, Woody Guthrie Foundation, Dutchess County Arts Alliance, BACCA) and community members who supported the mural by Rick Price. It has truly done its own environmental part in the evolution of Beacon.

When I scoped Beacon for the perfect location, I was focused on the intersection of Cross Street and Main Street because of both the curve in the road and the unkempt parcel of land below the targeted wall. Fortunately, everything worked out better than hoped. The city approved the mural, took down the old rusted fence, planted grass and put up a bench.

You see, our club really does get the wheels of change rolling in a positive way. We have so much more to do together in upcoming years-the mural is just a lovely reminder of the rewards of green networking!

I've had some emails recently wondering why Kevin sent out his fundraising appeal after I had announce we'd completed mural fundraising on stage at the Howland Concert. Frankly, it was a miscommunication between Kevin and myself-he wasn't aware the money had been raised. HOWEVER, we could use additional dollars to pay for a proper commemorative plaque next to the mural. Currently there is just a laminated piece of posterboard.

Once again, deepest thanks for your generosity in this matter!!

gigi fris

Bannerman Tower collapse

I received an e-mail message and photos from members of the Bannerman's Castle Trust. The event was covered the next day in the Poughkeepsie Journal.

FISHKILL — A major portion of the southern and eastern walls of the Bannerman Tower collapsed over the weekend, officials from Bannerman Castle Trust said.

Officials estimate that 30 percent to 40 percent of the structure's front wall and about half of its east wall collapsed Saturday or early Sunday morning. It is unclear what caused the damage. The damage was reported by a motorist and by Metro-North Railroad officials who observed the damage from the eastern shore of the Hudson River.

Officials have yet to go to Bannerman Island to get a firsthand look at the damage. "We don't have a boat at the present time," said Wesley Gottlock, volunteer coordinator with the Bannerman Trust. "It would be too risky for us to go out there with a rowboat or canoe, given the temperature and the condition of the water."

For the full article:
http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20091229/NEWS01/912290317/1006/RSS01

Meet Steve van der Merwe (pronounced van der Merv), the first mate of Woody's Tuesday crew and the BSC member who set up the Woody Sailor Site. Steve van der Merwe's Dutch ancestors were from Dordrecht and his last name comes from the river which runs past that city. His ancestor, Willem Schalkkoon van der Merwe, arrived in Capetown, South Africa, in 1661, after working on board the VOC ship Dordrect as a "haaksbuuskutter." This translates into the guy who shoots the matlock at the enemy.

Steve got involved with the BSC fours years ago, when he joined his friend, Edmund Fitzgerald, for the Sail Training Classes. Steve's first impression of the BSC came when, "Ed and I went down to the clubhouse and encountered an older gentleman attaching a sign to a chimney. Within two minutes he had convinced us to join him on the roof. I still have no idea how Pete manages to hypnotize people so quickly."

Steve helps out with the Environmental Committee activities. "I've fallen in love with sailing, but I'm equally passionate about the environmental mission, because otherwise it would be just floating about for no particular reason."

"Recently, I've started learning more about alternative energy out of economic necessity, since I live in an 1887 Victorian with horse hair for insulation. In the summer of 2009, I installed solar heat collectors in order to turn my oil burner off for months at a time. My next project is replacing the old oil burner, which will cut my bill by 40%.

Steve's latest passion is finding alternatives to stormwater. "My basement has been flooding regularly, so I am learning about how to stop that via water gardens, rain gardens, green roofs and walls. If communities focus on using these methods, we can reduce the water run off in fact we can put it to good use-as well as avoid overloading the municipal water treatment plants.

Steve works for Swiss Re in Armonk. He lives in Nelsonville with his wife, Carla Goldberg, and their two young daughters, Lucy and Jenna. Carla is a gifted and generous artist who has donated the proceeds of one of her books to the Woody Guthrie. Steve has also been a crew member for the Half Moon, and promises to be throwing a chantey party, complete with bagpipes, very soon.
Russell Cusick of Reflections on the Hudson donated a spectacular panorama of the Quadricentennial sail to the club. Prior to this month’s general meeting it was installed in a place of honor next to the fireplace.

Thank You again to Russ for his thoughtful gift.

Winter Maintenance – Woody Update

Ice in the Bilges:
We foolishly did not cover the boat frame with a tarp in November as we thought it may dry the boat out. Instead, an early snow went straight below and froze into an ice skating rink. Apparently the sea salt dusting the planks was not salty enough. Various methods have been attempted to break the ice up-to no avail. Fortunately, the ice level is below the motor shaft, which could have been easily destroyed had there been more of a build up.

Estimates have come in for repairs from Jimmy Kricker and are very high; the cabin top and cockpit replacement costs were way up there. Instead, I propose we take the topmast, rudder and toe rail off the Woody and up to Rondout Woodworks to repair, then they can replace those pieces in the shop and the BSC won’t have to pay for the removal or transport costs.

As the Kricker shipwrights are tied up replacing the Clearwater stem until March, they can have somebody working in their shop on Woody Parts. By Mid March the Clearwater will be launched and they can come down and replace our rotted portside plank.

In the meantime, we will just proceed with maintenance as planned. Two additional tarps were added to the Woody, as the large one turned out to be a bit flimsy. I will start brainstorming for additional funding for the cockpit and perhaps even shopping for other bids on the job.

I sent the Whites a thank you Holiday basket from all of us.

Gigi

Engineered glowing tadpoles detect pollution
African clawed frog tadpoles modified with jellyfish genes show promise as a faster and less expensive way to detect pollution than traditional methods, say a University of Wyoming professor and researchers in France.

What’s more, the green-glowing tadpoles indicate whether pollution exists in a form that can be absorbed by an organism and therefore might be dangerous to people. That's more difficult with conventional methods.

"We're tracking dosages that would show up in terms of development in either a person or a tadpole," said Paul Johnson, a physics and astronomy professor at the University of Wyoming.

Some tadpoles have been engineered to light up in response to metals. Others fluoresce when exposed to pollution from plastic that might cause health problems by mimicking the hormone estrogen.

Some of the latest research involved tadpoles modified to detect pollution from metals such as copper. The methods were published recently in the American Chemical Society journal Environmental Science and Technology.

From R&D magazine:
Every Sunday Farmers Market
at the Beacon Waterfront 10-4pm

Simply Valley
All Local Hudson Valley Products
Sprout Creek Farm Cheeses
(Toussaint and Ouray Cheese)
Fresh made Lamb, Mushroom Spring Rolls
Fresh Made Pasta
Mario’s Brick Oven Bread
Mary Finger Organic Free Range Eggs
Special Large Quantity orders call 845-562-0192

Walk, Don’t Ride! A Celebration of the Fight for Equality
a play by Peter Manos,
chronicles in words and song the civil rights movement
of the 1950s and 1960s. It begins with the
Montgomery bus boycott when, after the arrest of
Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat to a white
man on a crowded bus, African-Americans and some
whites stopped using the buses crying out "Walk,
Don't Ride!" They walked, used car pools and taxis,
whatever it took to send the message that buses must
not be segregated with blacks sitting in the back,
whites in the front. Even in the face of harassment by
police and racists, the boycott finally succeeded and
led to the rise of a young Martin Luther King Jr. as
leader of the movement. In Nashville a group of
college students of both races staged the Nashville
lunch counter sit-ins at the downtown Nashville lunch
counters, which refused to serve African-Americans.
They sat—whites and blacks together—and peacefully
ordered lunch and remained peaceful even as people
poured hot coffee and food over them and the police
came to arrest them. The play ends with the
Greyhound/Trailways freedom rides in which activists
of both races and all ages tried to peacefully integrate
the bus lines that went through the south.

Beacon High School, 7pm, January 23. Tickets at
the door, $10. Contact Vane Lashua, 845-228-8894
or Barbara Baker-Baylor, 845-891-0071

Ebenezer update
The former bathroom outside the club
was cleaned out and will now be used
for storage. If you are looking for
extra life preservers, christmas
decorations, or extra plates, cutlery,
etc. you’ll find it in there. We are
trying to keep the clubhouse neat and
streamlined this year.

Every day from 10am to 6pm
Now on 106.5 in Beacon!
Executive Committee meeting, Tues. January 26th, 7:00 p.m.

Beacon Sloop Club meeting every 1st Friday of the month: next meeting February 5th– potluck 6:30 p.m., general meeting 7:30 p.m.

Farmers Market every Sunday, 10-4 p.m., In the BSC Club House, Beacon, NY


Environmental Lecture Series, Shane "Whitefeather" Hobel speaking on primitive survival skills, Fri. Jan 8th, 7:00pm at the BSC Clubhouse,

Wood stacking, Sat. January 9th, at the BSC clubhouse, check the Woody Sailor’s site for time.

Walkabout Clearwater Coffee House, Jay Ungar and Molly Mason Sat. January 9th, 7:30 PM, 250 Bryant Ave., White Plains, NY

Walk, Don’t Ride! A Celebration of the Fight for Equality, Sat. January 23rd, 7:00 at Beacon High School. Tickets at the door, $10. Contact Vane Lashua, 845-228-8894 or Barbara Baker-Baylor, 845-891-0071

Woody Work Parties: On the boat. At White’s Marina. Please contact a captain or Gigi Fris to volunteer.

THE CLEARWATER MOMENT daily at 11:11 am on WAMC, or affiliate; Saturdays, 9 AM - 2 PM.

Something to Say Café, Sat. Jan 30th, 7:00 PM, at the BSC club house. Kacie Baker followed by an open mic.

Environmental Lecture Series, Brian Reed "Ice Sailing on the Hudson", Fri. Feb. 12th, 7:00pm at the BSC Clubhouse,

Walkabout Clearwater Coffee House, Garnet Rogers, Sat. February 13th, 7:30 PM, 250 Bryant Ave., White Plains, NY

Vigil for Peace every Saturday from 12-2 p.m. at the intersection of Rts. 9 and 9D opposite Staples and at the corner of the South Hills Mall.

Details of calendar events may be found elsewhere in the newsletter.
For more info about the BSC: www.beaconsloop.org, or www.beaconsloopclub.org