A Message from Our President

As our Covid Summer comes to an end on the river, your Sloop Club has been surprisingly busy!

The Woody is now fully rigged on the charging dock and poised to sail. The Harbor Committee replaced stanchions on the dock that were recently damaged in the storm. The Building Committee fixed the hole in the roof over the Children’s Area, repaired the back wall, installed a new window in the multrum, replaced multrum stairs and even put new seats on the picnic table!

We had a wonderful musical socially distanced Corn Celebration, “Quarn Fest,” outside the Sloop Club, well attended and well distanced, complete with an all-day song circle and lots of corn and camaraderie! We had many enthusiastic volunteers from beginning to end, from set up through clean up and beyond. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to make this such a fun day, and special thanks to Bonnie for donating all the delicious corn! Also special thanks to Wayne who spent hours helping me transport the tents and cans and doing a major clean-up before the event. It was really great to see so many of you in person after all these months! The Sloop Club will always be an amazing place.

Clearwater is holding strong under the new leadership of Steve Stanne. We have been very fortunate to have had Manna Jo, Greg and Steve join us at our monthly virtual meetings to share news of Clearwater’s work and progress during these remote months. The Annual Meeting will be held virtually this Saturday at 9:30 and promises to be full of valuable news and information. Congratulations to Rosemary, who was appointed to the board in August!

In our absence, we have acquired a fine new member, a shy but sweet black rat snake who lives in the back of the Sloop Club and is on a special work exchange program, patrolling the clubhouse for wayward mice and chipmunks. If you do go into the Sloop Club, please be careful not to hurt him, as he has a proclivity for masquerading as an extension cord and can surprise you if you’re not expecting him. He is harmless to humans and is providing a valuable service. Remember, you are a guest in his restaurant. Feel free to stay for lunch!

See you at Annual Meeting—Susan

Inside this issue:
The virtual sloop club, socially distanced corn, a focus on maintenance, and much, much more.....

NEXT EXEC. COM. MEETING September 22, 6:00 p.m.
NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING Friday, October 2, 7:30 p.m., Potluck at 6:30 p.m.
If you haven’t yet; Please Renew.

BSC Membership Form

Name ____________________________ Street Address ____________________________

City ____________________________ State ___ ZIP ______ Phone ____ - ____ - ______ Email ____________________________

Household Membership donation $___________ Renewal ___ New Member ___

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.

Newsletter format (check one): Printed ☐ E-mail ☐ Please consider e-mail it saves money and paper.

Additional Members at this address________________________________________________________ Email ____________________________

________________________________________________________ Email ____________________________

Would you like information on Clearwater Membership? ☐ I would like to help with___________________________

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

Link to Online Renewal: http://beaconsloop.org/Join.html

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.

Woody Captains:
Jim Birmingham, Patrick Gallagher,
Tom LaBarr, Ben Mazer,
Steve Schwartz,

BSC Officers 2020

President: Susan Berliner  (845) 527-8671
Vice President: Vince Farina  (845) 656-9546 intraining_99@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Aaron Verdile  (914) 503-6227 EXTproductions@hotmail.com
Secretary: Tom Elliott  (518) 265-6676 tomeshellott789@gmail.com

BSC Committee Chairs and Contacts

Building: David Eberle  (845) 242-7822 davideb@aol.com
Community Relations: David Eberle  (845) 242-7822 davideb@aol.com
Environmental: Steve van der Merwe  (914) 897-1082 vandermerwede@yahoo.com
Sarah Elisabeth  (917) 682-4114 sarahannelisabeth@gmail.com
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Mark McNutt
Festival Music: Susan Berliner  (845) 527-8671 joycehanson@mac.com
Festival Publicity: Joyce Hanson  (914) 807-4928 achoma@yahoo.com
Finance: Alan Thomas  (845) 463-4660 jpmalchow@gmail.com
Grants & Dev: James Malchow  (908) 405-1433 jpmalchow@gmail.com
Harbor Membership: Jim Birmingham  (201) 259-9634 jrbirmingham@yahoo.com
Mooring Manager:
Membership: Alan Thomas  (845) 463-4660 achoma@yahoo.com
MLK Day: Bonnie Champion  (845) 255-6436 bonniechampion@gmail.com
Monthly Music: Ken Miller  (201) 376-1316 powwow187@aol.com
Musical Outreach: Ken Miller  (201) 376-1316 powwow187@aol.com
Newsletter: Alan Thomas  (845) 463-4660 achoma@yahoo.com
Town Liaison: Tom LaBarr  (845) 831-4267 labarrt@gmail.com
Vendor Coordinator: Rosemary Thomas  (845) 463-4660 rtmthomas99@yahoo.com
Web Site: Metal  (646) 481-6360 metal@stationbuilt.com
Woody Sailors: Jim Birmingham  (201) 259-9634 jrbirmingham@yahoo.com
Woody Maintenance: Steve Schwartz  (845) 462-7756 sloopect@aol.com
Woody Scheduling: Susan Berliner  (845) 527-8671

Printed on 100% Recycled Paper, All photos are by Alan Thomas unless otherwise noted.
Ken Miller opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with a song of his own, “My Hudson River.” Susan thanked Ken and welcomed all.

Treasury Report: Treasurer Aaron shared the Profit and Loss report for June 2020, which is in the newsletter, below. Susan thanked Aaron for his report.

Captain Jim gave the Harbor report. No new features have been installed since last report. The long dock still needs some repairs to stanchions. There is damage to one or two of the stanchions on the charging dock due to the Isaias storm. Jim will evaluate. There is no immediate problem.

James Malchow gave the Woody Report. On Monday captains Patrick and Steve and others doubled up the lines and checked the pumps to be ready for the storm. Work has been going on several nights a week and the boat is in good shape. No decision has been made to put the sails on yet, but some crews may decide to sail if they think they can do it safely. No thoughts of doing guest sails, though. President Susan thanked Jim and James for their reports.

Alan Thomas told us he has nothing to announce about Lectures now. It is still possible to do something this month if there is interest from members. Bonnie asked if he thought the movie idea brought to us by filmmaker Polly Wells seems a good idea. Alan said he thinks it is but needs to evaluate streaming services to be sure we would make a good presentation before going forward. Susan thanked Alan for his update.

Vice President Vince gave the Building Report: Tom S., John, Dave, Alan and Vince spent two day’s last week reworking the roof, replacing treads to the Multrum stairs, and began repair of a picnic table/bench. No leaks after the going through the storm! Susan thanked them all for their work.

Board President Steve Stanne updated us about Clearwater activities. Strategic planning is now in high gear at Clearwater with consulting help made possible by a grant and input from Brian Forest, a tourism specialist from Indiana University. A survey is being developed for members and supporters. Steve hopes Sloop Club members will respond to it when they have it in their in boxes. The Clearwater Annual Meeting will be virtual this year on Zoom. It will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm followed by the first meeting of the newly elected Board. Steve’s last update was about the Albany to NYC sail Clearwater made this summer. Footage made during the trip are being edited into ten long and short video stories, including interviews from various communities up and down the river. These will be streamed via Instagram and FaceBook, so please like, them, share them, and leave comments. The videos will be on a variety of topics, and the hope is they will increase audience and build membership, sort of the way direct mailings did in the past. Steve then showed an example on the topic of water pollution (PFOS) in the Newburgh area. Good work, Clearwater! Susan thanked Steve for a great presentation.

Clearwater’s Manna Jo Greene gave us an update on environmental activities. A project is now underway, and a timely one given the power outages since Isaias hit, to create a “mini grid back up storage” using green energy saved in storage facilities in a seven-county area. This stored electricity could provide emergency power while the main grid is under repair. Manna Jo has sent a copy of the plan to Susan to share with us.

Also, the recent Hiroshima- Nagasaki Remembrance Day reminds us there are places in the U.S. where weapons testing caused contamination. Manna Jo told us the Danskammer Plant will be tough to prevent given many unions are lobbying hard for its construction. One labor group, the Hudson Valley Labor Federation, is working with those who prefer green energy projects. They are working with the idea that new jobs can be created from green projects. Manna also told us the NYS PSC Decommissioning Oversight bill has been gaining momentum but has recently suffered a setback with strong opposition from Entergy, Holtec, and in a letter from the Mayor of Buchanan. She still thinks the bill will pass, though, and will keep us posted. Finally, Manna Jo told us she is planning a monthly educational series and is mentoring twenty people in the Al Gore Climate Reality Leadership training program. She will give Susan details. Susan thanked Manna Jo for the updates.

Corn Festival: Susan told us that the Board canceled the Drive-Through Corn Festival due to Pandemic concerns. However, the Board voted in favor of a members only Corn Celebration to be held outside the Clubhouse on August 16th from 2 to 6 pm. Freshly boiled corn will be provided, but if you come, please bring everything else you want to have. If you want to bring instruments to play, please do. Please call Susan or James Malchow if you plan to attend. We have to limit attendance to fifty, so it could be done in two shifts if that many people decide to come. Please let them know no later than Thursday.

Announcements: Bonnie Champion told us she would like to do the MLK Essay contest this year, even if there is no MLK Walk. Maybe we can have some students read essays on Zoom. She asked for input. Susan said she thinks it is a great idea. Joyce Hanson announced there will be a Movies that Mater, Beacon is a few days. The movie is “The Story of Plastic,” and it will be streamed. Look for the link on the organization’s website.

With no further announcements, Susan adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m., and the Circle of Song began.

Minutes recorded by Tom Elliott.
Ken Miller opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with a special Sloop Club version of "Will the Circle Be Unbroken." Susan thanked Ken and welcomed all.

Treasury Report: Treasurer Aaron shared the Profit and Loss report for July 2020, which is in the newsletter, below.

President Susan welcomed Manna Jo Greene for coming to update us on Clearwater environmental actions. Manna Jo told us that with Indian Point 2 now shut down, the decommissioning oversight bill in the legislature is a top priority. With recent slight modifications, the bill has a good chance. The oversight board would include all relevant NYS agencies and designated community members with specific expertise. It is still a powerful bill providing oversight of not only the decommissioning work, but also of any environmental impacts. She thanked BSC members for support and will let us know if more help is needed. Support for denying the Danskammer gas plant a licence now includes resolutions by 23 municipalities, with Woodstock about to be number 24. Also, the board recently questioned Danskammer’s ability to meet the NYS 2019 CLCPA goals. The Danskammer response to this relies on technologies not yet proven (hydrogen gas) to meet the 2030 goal, so turning this “peaker” plant into a 70% 24/7/365 plant using fracked Pennsylvania methane may not happen. Let’s hope it won’t. Manna Jo also spoke about the seven-county Renewable Energy Implementation planning that’s in process. Planners will try to bring the energy and water people together to come up with a plan that can address hydroelectric plants old and new, and healthy fisheries and water recreation. Lastly, Manna Jo told us that Clearwater is calling for a comprehensive environmental impact study of industrialization in Coeymans, NY where the expansion of a major port has caused pollution to local streams into the Hudson. Go to the website to see how you can help. Manna Jo then answered several questions from members attending, ranging from plastics, alternatives to Holtec corporation, and electric bicycles. Susan thanked Manna Jo for a great update.

Captain Jim gave us the Harbor Report, saying that two bent stanchion pipes at the charging dock were replaced. That was about it for the month. Alan Thomas noted that harbor boaters may now pay their annual mooring fee on the BSC website membership page. Captain Steve gave the Woody Report: Things are fine, with rigging just about complete save adding a new topsail sheet. Maintenance items worked on include waterproofing deck seams and improving ventilation below decks. We are in sailing shape and maintenance crews have taken the boat out for brief sails to test the work being completed. In October de-rigging and preparations for winter will begin.

Vice President Vince gave the Building Report. Tom Schmelk led a work team in restoring the Children’s area at the back of the clubhouse. Plasterboard was taken out and walls were insulated and re-covered. A waterproof beam replaced the sill, which had given way. Steve Schwartz noted that he found the multrum window slightly opened and unlocked and wondered if we might have a security issue. He suggested a cage could be added to the window to allow for better air circulation, but still secure. Susan added that a lot of clean up around the building was also done, and Alan Thomas reported that twenty new BSC baseball caps have been purchased, and that hats are available for $20.00. Please let him know if you would like one.

Alan continued with information on a late summer lecture to take place on Sept. 17th. Maggie Reno Hurchella is an environmental activist in Florida who has created a film about her experience in speaking out. With a working title of “The Cost of Speaking Out,” the film will be streamed on Zoom with a statement by the filmmaker and discussion to follow. Watch for the newsletter and a poster with updated details.

Susan told us that there was a great Corn Celebration for members at the clubhouse grounds on Aug. 16th. Never more than fifty were present; all wore masks and enjoyed the outdoor gathering. Susan offered thanks to all who helped, especially to Bonnie, Wayne Chernek, James Malchow, Steve Van, Alan and Rosemary, and Ken Miller. Susan went on to say that the Pumpkin Festival Committee will not put on a traditional Pumpkin Festival for the public this October, but there may be a member event like the Corn Celebration last month.

Rosemary Thomas updated us on the Spirit of Beacon Parade. This year it will be a parade of decorated cars. Those who sign up may drive one vehicle with no trailer, with up to four people riding. We have a vehicle decoration team but need a vehicle and driver. If you would like to help, contact Rosemary or Susan. The date is Sunday 9/27, the parade goes from 12 - 2 pm.

Captain Tom gave us the Environment Report, this time on plastics. He told us that now microplastics are so prevalent that they’re not only in meat and fish, but also in the vegetables we grow. Recycling plastics has failed to get the job done. The best solution is to reject anything disposable made of plastic. Ask your grocer for glass bottles and vegetables in paper sacks. Joyce Hanson asked, with the schools using single use plastics, what can we do? Tom advised us to use our voices -- tell school leaders and others making decisions why this isn’t acceptable. Alan Zollner noted a recent NY Times article (8/31/2020, “Big Oil is in Trouble. Its Plan: Flood Africa With Plastic,” by Michael Corkery, that throws some light on the issue.

Announcements: Susan opened the announcements asking for a moment of silence for Linda Beatty, a long-time club member and past treasurer, who passed away yesterday after a long illness.

The Clearwater Annual Meeting is on Sept. 12 at 9:30 am. Online. Online votes for board members can be cast until 11:00 am. On Monday evening there is a “meet the candidates” presentation on Zoom. Susan announced that Rosemary Thomas is now on the Board of Clearwater. Rosemary said her appointment is for 2 years. The Clearwater is doing another transit from Albany to NYC and will be in Beacon on Sept. 13th. Alan T. is working with another member to provide the crew with groceries when they arrive. Anyone who would like to help, please contact Alan.

With not further announcements, Betty motioned to adjourn, James seconded, and the motion was carried by all present. Susan adjourned the meeting at 8:43 pm.
People Continue the Good Fight for Our Safety

On August third, Governor Cuomo signed into law new regulations closing a loophole by classifying hydraulic fracking waste as a hazardous material. It had been dumped in New York landfills originating from Pennsylvania, even though fracking is banned in New York. It is called the “Achilles’ Heel” of the fracking industry by Food and Water Watch because this waste can’t be gotten rid of in a safe manner and for years New York allowed fracked waste from Pennsylvania to be dumped into New York landfills. Some of this waste has been used on our roads for the purpose of de-icing, and dust control.

One problem with this is that radium, a radioactive element, has been linked to emissions from fracked waste and its storages. Radium is linked to heart and respiratory problems, birth defects and bone cancers. And radium is found in higher amounts in certain areas including the Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale areas where their waste is being shipped into NY landfills.

Activists continue to protest the completed Dover Plains Cricket Valley fracked gas power plant. Last year activists scaled a 275-foot smokestack and temporarily shut its construction. The protestors were facing a 30-day jail sentence for the charge of criminal trespassing on Cricket land, but they just received a year’s probation. Creek Iversen, owner and director of Seed Song Farm and a past active member of the Beacon Sloop Club, was one of those activists who were granted probation.

There have been continued demonstrations against Danskammer, which has proposed to build a larger plant in the town of Newburgh. Various organizations are involved in the protests. On July 30th, a diverse group estimated at between 30-50 marched in the city of Newburgh to the offices of U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney’s office at 123 Grand Street Ave., and State Senator’s James Skoufis’ office at 47 Grand St., according to a Times Herald Record article (7/30). Senator Skoufis has not taken a stand in regard to the Danskammer expansion, and Maloney supports the expansion, as does Michelle Hooks, a Danskammer spokesperson, to improve “air quality due to a new plant.” Yet opponents warn that the plant will increase its output therefore increase pollution of such materials as methane, and again what is to be done with the fracked waste?

Those in the July 30th demonstration voiced their doubts. Omari Shakur, city councilman, warned that the increased particulates, CO2, and methane will only add to the high rates of respiratory illnesses already present in Newburgh. Other participants represented the Town of Newburgh Democratic Committee, Food and Water Watch, and Newburgh Clean Water groups.

What I found interesting was that one speaker spoke in Spanish to the diverse crowd, including women and one man pushing baby carriages, and a wide range of social-economic participants whose air, ground, and water could be affected as directly south of the plant lies Balmville, the Town of Newburgh, and the City of Newburgh.

Nora Gallardo, Beacon Sloop Club Member

While most of the Club Members are Away….

The building committee is taking advantage of the clubhouse being lightly used due to covid to do much needed repairs. The hole in the children’s area roof turned out to be a bit bigger than we thought…
The Virtual Sloop Club, Some notes and hints

We have chosen Google Hangout Meetings as our primary platform. Google has made their premium version available to us free, as a non-profit, during the current crisis.

You can join the meeting in many ways, as a full video conference, using your device’s camera and microphone, dialing in on any phone as an audio only participant, or any combination of the two. So, everyone should be able to connect in some way.

For video conferencing we found that it works best if you use a Chrome browser, although other browsers do work. The following extensions can be added to Chrome to enhance the viewing:

Link to Google Chrome Extensions for gallery view and nod (raise hand):
https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/google-meet-grid-view/bjkegbgpfgpikgkfzidchihiifljbgjc/related

If using a phone or tablet for video conferencing, you need to download the app for your device.
https://support.google.com/meet/answer/7291339?co=GENIE.Platform%3DiOS&hl=en&oco=1

Help for Google meeting is available at:
https://support.google.com/a/users/answer/9300131?hl=en

Please observe a few simple etiquette rules: Mute when not speaking. Don’t speak over people, wait your turn and raise your hand to be recognized. Use restraint in the chat window, too many threads can be a distraction.

The Cost of Speaking Out,
Maggie Reno Hurchalla

Thursday September 17
7:00 PM
@ The Virtual Beacon Sloop Club

Join Zoom Meeting
ID: 65793999119
Password: 148534
(US) +1 646-876-9923
Passcode: 148534

The Lake Point project to mine 2,200 acres of sugar cane fields near Lake Okeechobee in Martin County for construction materials and use the mining pits to store and clean water from the lake was approved in 2009 by the South Florida Water Management District and the Martin County Commission.

In 2011 when Lake Point proposed to sell the water, Maggie Hurchalla protested, sending emails to the county commissioners. When the deal fell apart Lake Point sued, obtaining a $5.4M judgement, leading to sheriff’s deputies seizing Maggie’s two kayaks and her 14-year-old car.

Maggy is a 77-year-old grandmother, a whitewater kayaker, and an environmental activist. She is the recipient of The Environmentalist of the Year Award from the Everglades Coalition, the Conservation Achievement Award from the National Wildlife Federation, National Wetlands Award sponsored by the Environmental Land Institute and the EPA and The Everglades Coalition Hall of Fame Award. She was born and grew up in Miami and was a County Commissioner in Martin County Florida for twenty years.

Please note that the lecture will be using Zoom!

CLEARWATER VIRTUAL REVIVAL 2020

The virtual revival will be rebroadcast on Oct. 4. One-hour segments are also available on their YouTube channel free. Please consider subscribing as it helps Clearwater to unlock additional features as the viewership increases.

https://www.youtube.com/user/HRSloopClearwater?sub_confirmation=1

If you like what you see you can still donate to show your support,

https://www.clearwaterfestival.org/donations/

or purchase a festival t-shirt or facemask,

https://www.clearwaterfestival.org/store/

In Memoriam
Linda Beatty
1946-2020

We mark the passing of our friend and long-time member Linda Beatty with remembrance of her many contributions to the Beacon Sloop Club and our community.

Linda served as our secretary, treasurer and was editor of the newsletter, as well as being a dedicated volunteer.

Donations may be made in her memory to:
MID Hudson Animal Aid/on Facebook or /54 Simmons Lane /Beacon,NY 12508.
Treasury Report - July

The Beacon Sloop Club, inc.
Profit and Loss
July 2020

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Opening Cash Balance 7/1/2020 $103,897.54
Closing Cash Balance 7/31/2020 $104,168.83

Unrestricted $80,644.30
Restricted (total) $23,524.53
B & S Rozinsky Fund 7/30/2020 $16,993.20

Spirit of Beacon Day
September 27th

The Beacon Sloop Club will be participating in this year’s event, which will be a neighborhood drive-thru this year 12-2, in lieu of the traditional parade.

The Sloop Club is allowed to enter one car (Rosemary’s). Anyone with ideas for decorating the vehicle, or who would like to help, please contact Rosemary or Susan.

Look for our video submission to the virtual concert. You may see a few familiar faces.
Anyone wishing to join a Woody crew can contact any captain or Jim Birmingham to sign up. No experience is required. We will train you.

### Pumpkin Festival: October 18
Due the current phase 4 guidelines we are unable to hold our traditional festival. The festival committee is exploring options for a safe and prudent event. Please stay tuned for updates. We will need a few volunteers for socially distanced set-up, etc.

Rebroadcast October 4.

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**The Cost of Speaking Out w/ Maggie Reno Hurchalla**

Thursday, September 17 ⋅ 7:00 – 8:30pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 85793991919  
Password: 148534  
(US) +1 646-876-9923  
Passcode: 148534

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**BSC Executive Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, September 22 ⋅ 6:00 – 8:30pm

Meeting ID

[https://meet.google.com/bcr-vgwe-pak](https://meet.google.com/bcr-vgwe-pak)

[Join by phone](#)  
(US) +1 662-502-2773 PIN: 481 767 331#

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**Beacon Sloop Club Membership Meeting**

Friday, October 2 ⋅ 6:30 – 10:00pm

[Join with Google Meet](#)  
meet.google.com/omn-gkfs-hrc  
[Join by phone](#)  
+1 803-587-8953 PIN: 802 049 943#

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