A Message from Our President

Holiday revelers arriving at the clubhouse for the Beacon Sloop Club Sing were greeted by a dazzling display of festive lights, courtesy of Aaron Verdile and Amanda Heckle, and the warm melodies of talented musicians, many of whom have shared their songs at club functions for decades.

Listening to these songs, we are reminded that music is woven into the fabric of our club. We begin our meetings with a song, and end with a song circle. Music from two stages provide the backdrop for our festivals, musicians are a staple of our Winter Lecture Series, and singing is an integral part of the MLK parades. We are the inheritors of a rich musical tradition that we are bound to pass along. As Steve Stanne eloquently inferred in his interpretation of John Sebastian’s, “Link in the Chain”, we are... “Just another link in the chain. I’ll pass the world on to my daughters and sons/Just another link in the chain.”

And as one venerable Beacon Sloop Club musical tradition continues, a new one has begun. At the Beacon train station on a recent cold December evening, Sloop Club carolers serenaded commuters as they disembarked from their trains. Thanks to Susan Berliner for organizing our holiday choir and to the club members who lifted their beautiful voices in song. To see the faces of travel-weary workers light up with delight as they heard the first rich strains, is to again realize the power of song. Betty Boomer beautifully reinforced this notion in her Holiday Sing interpretation of Pat Humphrey’s paean, “Sing, People, Sing”

Together we create a force
Beyond imagining
Oh, hear the banjo ring
Hear the people sing
Hope changes everything
Sing people sing.

And so, we begin a new year. It promises to be an exciting and fulfilling one. Alan Thomas and Steve van der Merwe have invited an outstanding lineup of speakers for our Winter Lecture Series, beginning with singer/songwriter Owen Walsh on Thursday, January 19th. Plans are afoot to revive our public sailing classes. Many thanks to our captains/instructors and to Mary Arnold for organizing and arranging the classes. The MLK parade will resume after a two-year hiatus thanks to the efforts of Bonnie Champion. We also thank Tom LaBarr, Antony Tseng, Alan Thomas and Tom Elliott for replenishing the firewood supply, so we can start the New Year with the assurance of a warm clubhouse.

Happy New Year
Rob

Inside this issue:
Celebrating the season and supporting our community, upcoming events, and much more.....

NEXT EXEC. COM. MEETING Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 p.m.
NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING Friday, February 3, 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**

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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](http://www.beaconsloopclub.org).

**BSC Officers 2023**

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Treasurer:  Aaron Verdile  (914)503-6227  EXTproductions@hotmail.com
Secretary:  Mary Arnold  845-891-4509  marykonizarnold@optonline.net

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Beacon Sloop Club General Meeting
Minutes, January 6, recorded by Mary Arnold

7:30 PM: Opening and Call to Order: President Rob May
“Down by Riverside” was led by Lydia Adams Davis, Bonnie Champion, Rob May, and Wayne Kocher.

President Rob May reminded those in attendance that the Beacon Sloop Club is a carry-in-carry-out facility and asked for volunteers for clean up at the end of the evening: Maryanne Loach will take the recyclables and Nancy Farren will take the garbage.

Rob welcomed all attending a meeting for the first time or first in a long time.

Rob touted the joys of being a Multrum Hero: Passed along the sign-up sheet to volunteer for cleaning mutlum on a monthly basis. It was noted that it is the top part that gets cleaned, and the job does not involve cleaning out the composting part at the bottom.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Aaron Verdile

See report below on total income and expenses, and activity restricted and board designated funds.

Budget Vote: Treasurer Aaron Verdile

Aaron reviewed line items and noted that there are no major changes, and that the executive committee had voted to add $5,000 to board designated fund for the Woody. The Bottom line, $60,450 in, $60,450 out.

There was a question and discussion on cost of mailing the Broadside. There are approximately 50 people who get the Broadside by mail, mostly to people who could not access it electronically.

It was noted that the Corn Festival does not generate the same level of income as the Strawberry and Pumpkin Festivals. Other members commented that the club’s Bylaws state festivals are part of Beacon Sloop Club’s mission of building community and bringing people down to the river. Bonnie pointed out The Corn Festival was Pete Seeger’s favorite festival.

Motion to approve the budget made by Alan Thomas, Second by Vince Farina. Voice vote on budget: Approved.

MLK Parade: Bonnie Champion

Bonnie reviewed history that Pete Seeger wanted to recognize Martin Luther King by having a singing parade, featuring civil-rights songs, which was first held in 2013. Bonnie stated that “He lived for the Parade,” even though he became ill and never made it to the first parade. He died one week after. She noted the parade brings a large, diverse group people together from schools, organizations, and churches. She requested participation, including a couple of people willing to drive cars for people who what to participate but can’t walk. This year’s parade will be held on Monday, January 16, opening ceremony at 9 a.m. in the Springfield Baptist Church, parade start at 9:30. There will be a program in the church at 11 a.m. This year’s program will not have an essay contest, but they hope to reinstate that next year.

Bonnie stated, “I’m going to be 75 years old, doing it for almost 10 years.” Bonnie asked for leaders to step up for planning and organization for next year’s parade. She noted a partner in the program is Southern Duchess Coalition.

Matt Bowen assisted passing out flyers and sign-up sheet and stated to Bonnie “I would like to acknowledge you for all the service you have given.”

Woody Report: Captain Steve Schwartz

Steve noted that the Woody at its winter home at the marina in Haverstraw. They are planning a Zoom sailor’s meeting for the winter maintenance program, as well as a “Block party,” at the clubhouse to rebuild the blocks. He discussed an initiative to wash and reuse mooring lines, instead of purchasing new ones, which are made of petroleum based synthetic fibers. He noted that the halyards are successfully washed and refreshed.

Harbor Report: Captain Steve Schwartz

The Harbor has been closed and secured for the winter. No new activities to report.

Sailing Classes: Mary Arnold

Mary announced that the Spring Sailing Class will resume, Wednesdays, April 12 through May 31. Cost is $50 and includes a textbook. The course will be taught primarily by Woody captains and topics include introduction to sailing, upwind and downwind sailing; right of way, navigation, charts; anchoring, mooring, docking; safety and emergencies. The class will provide education for small boat sailing and an introduction to sailing on the Woody.

Winter Lecture Series: Alan Thomas

The Winter Lecture Series will run January through May, Usually, but not always, on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the clubhouse. Alan announced the program will be January 19, Songs and Stories by Owen Walsh. Events are free, but Alan would like to put out a donation bucket to defer expenses for Walsh, who is traveling from Pennsylvania for the event. The next event will be February 23 featuring Stephen Mallon, Industrial Landscape Photographer, with “Sea Train: Subway Reef Photos.” March will feature John Cronin speaking of the 50th anniversary of clean water act.

Clearwater Report: Rosemary Thomas

The Clearwater is docked at the Hudson River Maritime Museum in Kingston and will be open for boat tours on Saturday, January 21. Rosemary noted that during the sailing season, the Clearwater is active with public and educational school sails, and “For many kids, it is their first experience on the river.”

General Announcements:

Vanessa Nisperos announced that she is continuing to work on the youth sailing initiatives she brought up at the December meeting, and to answer questions raised by the executive committee meeting discussion in December. She also indicated that she and some other individuals from the Harbor committee are willing/able to take people out on their boats to introduce people to small boat sailing.

Vickie Fox: Inquired about the building committee, and Eugene noted that “the Handrail on the stairs going up to the multrum is quite wobbly.” Vince Farina noted there is a list of things that need attention that are being prioritized, and the handrail is on that list.

Alice Vaughan: announced that Newburgh Free Library will present local historian and writer Anthony Musso speaking on the Mothball Fleet (also called Hudson River National Defense Reserve Fleet or the Ghost Fleet) on Sunday at 2 p.m.

Alan Thomas: Beacon Photography Group has a show opening at Saturday January 14 at the Howland Center 8:45 PM Motion to Adjourn: Vince Farina, Second Bill Haigney
The Woody Update

The Woody is safely tucked away in Haverstraw for the winter, but there is still work to be done. There will be the much-awaited Block party, to be announced soon. It will be the first time since 2019 that we have inspected and reconditioned the blocks. There will be a few other small tasks as well, so stay tuned for word from Max and Steve.

Mary Arnold is organizing the sailing class for April and May. If you are new to sailing, just want a refresher, or have burning unanswered questions like, “What is a jibe anyway?” or “Why is the captain yelling helms a lee, and what am I supposed to do?”, sign up. Details will be announced soon.

A Few Words on Membership

It’s that time of year again. The majority of our members are on a January renewal cycle, a legacy of the pre-electronic era. This also speaks volumes about the longevity of people’s commitment to our humble little organization. Anyone who joins in Nov/Dec is put on the January cycle as well.

Being all-volunteer, with no paid staff, and no office support, we rely 100% on our membership for everything we do. You are the Beacon Sloop Club!

So, please consider renewing your membership as soon as possible, if you have been away, please come back. If you believe in what we do, spread the word, recruit a friend (the younger the better). You would be surprised at how many of our neighbors don’t know about the organization, or think we are a yacht club.

While the membership fee helps to pay our expenses, a robust and vibrant membership serves us in so many other ways, providing diversity in ideas, fuel for grants, and leverage with local government.

Online Membership
Printable Form

When: Saturday, January 21st
Time: 2pm-5pm
Where: 50 Rondout Landing, Kingston, NY 12401

What: Join Clearwater at our first Open Boat session of the season and visit the historic sloop Clearwater as it undergoes maintenance in preparation for our 54th sailing season! This is a FREE EVENT so come down with the whole family to enjoy an afternoon of live music, boat tours, and children’s activities!

Music by: Morgan O’Kane!

Please also bring a potluck dish to share with everyone and your own plates and utensils to reduce waste. If you play an instrument, feel free to bring it along to join in on the fun and be sure to dress warmly.

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test from within 24 hours of the event is required for entry.
Your voices were heard!
Many of you attended hearings hosted by the Army Corps of Engineers, soliciting comments on proposals for storm surge management around the New York City area in the aftermath of hurricane Sandy. Many of those proposals called for major barriers, which would have restricted tidal flow and fish movement, impacting the entire estuary and its ecosystem. All this at great cost and with unproven effectiveness.

This fall the Army Corps of Engineers released a new NY & NJ Harbor and Tributaries Focus Area Feasibility Study (HATS), eliminating the previously proposed barriers, opting instead for shoreline walls and a dozen smaller storm gates across tributaries. While this is great news for the estuary, the new proposals require careful scrutiny for their impact.

Thank you to our members who raised their voices and their pens.

U.S. Senate Environment & Public Works Subcommittee
Held a Hearing on Plastics on December 15.

Judith Enck, president of Beyond Plastics, former EPA Regional Administrator, and former Clearwater board member gave testimony, along with representatives of the plastics industry.

While there was some agreement that a properly written national bottle bill would be helpful in curbing some plastic pollution, the devil is in the details.

There was wide disagreement as to the role and effectiveness of chemical recycling. Enck emphasized that current plastics recycling is a failure, and the focus needs to be on reducing single use plastic.

you can watch a recording of Judith Enck’s testimony [here](#).

In November President Biden announced a supplemental rule cracking down on emissions of methane.

The new rule requires all drilling sites, to find and plug methane leaks. Previously, small wells were only subject to an initial inspection.

The new rule also requires operators to respond to credible third-party reports of high-volume methane leaks.

You can learn more about methane by visiting the EPA at:

[Importance of Methane](#)
The Beacon Sloop Club’s 2023 Lecture Series Begins with “An Evening of Songs and Stories” w/ Owen Walsh. On Thursday Jan. 19th at 7:00 pm, Free

Owen Walsh has been telling stories and performing music his entire life. Born and raised on the banks of the Lackawaxen River in Honesdale, Pennsylvania—a small, historic coal-mining town that spawned the American railroad—Owen grew up surrounded by relics of 19th Century American life and imagery ripe for musical exploitation. More than his hometown’s history, however, Owen fell in love with the natural beauty of Northeast Pennsylvania. Kayaking the Delaware River, spying on raptors through binoculars, clambering up and down the native magnolia and oak trees, and spending endless hours out in the woods with his yellow lab mix, Allie.

Owen attended Ithaca College, studying journalism and music. He received instruction from classical guitar master Pablo Cohen, who helped broaden Owen’s own musical vocabulary and abilities. Owen performed frequently around campus, contributing electric guitar to the band South Hill Revival, whose music is available on streaming services.

Owen has just completed writing and recording his debut album, On My Way, an eclectic mix of 12 songs, including the rye-whiskey-infused fantasy “Kings & Pharaohs,” whose lyrics were inspired by Edward Hopper’s painting Nighthawks.

In his daylight hours, Owen also works as a freelance journalist, so whether it’s in print or on stage, he's always telling a story to somebody.
Remembering Those We Lost in 2022

Bob Hansen
Betty Harkins
Connie Hogarth
Flora Jones
Colin King
Anyone wishing to join a Woody crew can contact any captain or James Malchow to sign up. No experience is required. We will train you.

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)