



Volume 53 Issues 8/9

August/September 2025

Serving the Hudson River with Pride for 56 Years

A Message from the President

Our Festival 2025 season is winding down. The BSC hosted the Strawberry Festival in June and the Corn Festival in August. We welcomed thousands of guests with opportunities to engage in children's activities, listening to music, enjoying beautiful views of the river, good food, and drinks. The BSC home-made strawberry smoothies and lemonade are the talk of the town.

Our festivals have been successful because of the dozens of volunteers who have given up their free time to set up, serve our guests, and break down to haul equipment back to home base. We can't thank you enough a thousand times over! Without each and every one of you the festivals can't happen. A special shout out to our BSC captains and crew who graciously volunteer their time to take our guests for a tour of the Beacon Harbor on our beloved Woody Guthrie! A huge thank you to all the fabulous musicians who volunteer their talents and keep us tapping our feet to their beat!

The Pumpkin Festival is our final festival and will be held on Sunday, Oct 19, 2025 at the Pete and Toshi Seeger waterfront park from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Come join us! Bring a chair and or blanket, pick your spot, set up your mini-camp and soak in the fun! Throughout the day you and your family can enjoy free children's events including music, face painting, bubbles, and art projects just waiting to be created and more!

Each of you are cordially invited on Friday, Oct 3, 2025 to our monthly pot luck gathering the first Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Beacon Sloop Club followed by a circle of song at 8:30. Bring your instrument of choice and your voice to sing along!

Happy Fall! Patricia

Inside this issue:

Corn Festival, Passing of Alan Thomas



NEXT EXEC. COM. MEETING Tuesday, September 30, 7:00 p.m.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING Friday, October 3, 7:30 p.m., Potluck at 6:30 p.m.

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](#)

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, James Malchow,
Ben Mazer, Steve Schwartz,

Printed on 100% Recycled Paper,
all photos are by Alan Thomas
unless otherwise noted.

BSC Officers 2025

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Visit Us Online

Website:	www.beaconsloopclub.org		
Facebook Group:	BSC Facebook		
Instagram:	beaconsloopclub		

Beacon Sloop Club General Meeting

Minutes, September 5, recorded by Trish Murphy

Opening Music

At 7:30 p.m. on September 5, 2025, Ben Mazer opened the meeting by performing the classic song "Down By the Riverside" while playing the banjolele. The banjolele is a unique instrument that has a neck like a ukulele and a body of a banjo.

Opening Announcements

President Patricia Finnerty opened with the heart-wrenching news that long time beloved and dedicated Sloop Club member Alan Thomas had passed away. She held a moment of silence in memory of Alan.

Treasurer's Report

Aaron Verdile gave a detailed treasury report for the month of July (see treasurer's report for full details).

Clearwater Sail

Joyce Hanson explained to listeners that the Sloop Club supports the Clearwater organization by purchasing an annual sail at the cost of \$2,500.00. club members are welcome to join the sail. The sail is complementary for members. Joyce passed around a sign up of sheet for those wishing to participate in the sail on September 14, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Fever Pitch Pilgrimage

The Beacon Sloop Club will host the Fever Pitch Pilgrimage on Saturday September 20, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. a potluck dinner and sing we'll take place. The pilgrimage is being done by singer and activist Taina Asilin the club will be part of the two-week, 150 mi journey from Albany to New York city.

Clearwater Folk Picnic

Joyce sported a stylish folk shirt. She explained that the Sloop Club will have a booth in which food will be served. The proceeds earned from the sales will benefit Fairgrounds fair grounds is a wonderful organization that provides food assistance to the community.

Pumpkin Festival

President Patricia Finnerty invited all to volunteer and attend the pumpkin Festival on October 19. She suggested the use of "sign up genius" to those wishing to volunteer.

Woody Maintenance Report

Captain Tom's stated that the Woody is sailing every night of the week. He said that crew training is taking place on the first and third Saturday of the month. The top mast is not on yet. Work is to be done in the future on the centerboard trunk.

Beacon Sloop Club Commitments

President Patricia Finnerty asked all members to please not commit the club to events, activities, or any happenings without first reviewing such before the board committee.

Environmental Report

Captain Tom opened with the alarming news that the federal government plans to cease funding to wind power projects. The government will then shift their focus to increase use of coal and oil. Captain Tom urged listeners to reach out to Congress and object to this environmentally destructive change. He then shared the hopeful news that other countries, such as China, have increased the production and efficiency of electric vehicles. President Finnerty said that the cutoff date in New York for solar rebates is December 31. Aaron added that they must be installed by this date. Captain Tom encouraged all listeners to be environmentally active and conscious.

Building Committee

Captain Tom revealed plans in place to replace the roof over the children's area. He offered to donate metal roofing at his house to assist with the project. He offered volunteer opportunities to anyone willing to help remove the roofing from his property.

Final Announcements

President Patricia Finnerty reminded all that the beacon Sloop Club is a carry-in and carry-out facility. She encouraged all to attend the celebration of life ceremony for Alan Thomas in Poughkeepsie from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Sergei Krasikov stated that the shoreline cleanup will take place on October 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Pete and Toshi Seeger park, Madam Brett park, and Dennings Point. A member spoke of a fundraiser to reunite migrant families being held at the Happy Valley Arcade Bar on September 7, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Mary Arnold offered homegrown collards, such as the ones her husband Glen prepared in the potluck dish, to anyone who would like some. Wayne stated that there are certain religious groups which don't drive one day a week. He provided the helpful suggestion of carpooling to help the environment. He added that doing the latter may have other benefits, such as forming friendships. Tore provided a detailed waste report. He noted that during his last analysis he observed, for the first time, that the bag weighed more than the garbage inside of it. He remarked that this was a positive sign that members are being mindful of what they dispose of and carry out. He suggested a way to help in one's own home with waste is by using a Brita water filter, which also filters harmful contaminants. President Patricia Finnerty announced that a thorough cleaning of the club will be done and asked all to remove any personal items that they may have in the clubhouse. And email blast will be sent out in regards to such.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 806 p.m.

Beacon Sloop Club General Meeting

Minutes, August 1, recorded by Trish Murphy

On Friday August 1, 2025, a membership meeting of the Beacon Sloop Club took place at the clubhouse. The meeting kicked off with opening music and began at 7:30 p.m.

Opening Announcements

President Patricia Finnerty opened the meeting with the upsetting news that treasured member, Bonnie Champion, had been injured while completing the river swim. Alan passed around a lovely card for participants to sign, if desired.

Treasurer's Report

Aaron gave a complete and detailed treasury report for the month of June (See treasurer's report for full details). Many members clapped in applause for the exceptionally positive financial month. Patricia inquired as to whether Aaron had anyone volunteer to replace him as treasurer yet. He replied that nobody has come forward as of current.

Corn Festival

The Corn Festival is set to take place on Sunday June 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. volunteers are given the option to sign up this year via a QR code. Joyce displayed the lovely new organic cotton Corn Festival shirts and tank tops. They will be available for purchase at the cost of \$10.00 for volunteers and \$20.00 for the public. The artist, Don Winter, was credited with the beautiful design. Allison Walker was mentioned for her work on Instagram. Volunteers are needed for both setup and breakdown.

Woody Maintenance

Metal stated that irregularity of the motor on the Woody had been detected. This issue will be discussed among the maintenance coordinator and crew. The top mast is now ready to be raised. A work party will commence on a future date to complete this task. Volunteers will receive notification of this date via WhatsApp or email. It was revealed that Captain Tom has been hosting Saturday learning sessions. During the Cross River Swim, the Woody sailed to guide swimmers across the Hudson. The Woody has been sailing well and will continue to take guests on board. Captain Tom elaborated on his Saturday educational program by explaining that it is intended for novice sailors with minor experience who may or may not have completed the sailing class. The educational program is 4 hours long. Participants will have the opportunity to learn to sail against the tide, optimally using the natural flow of the water without the need for an engine. A maximum of 18 people can be accommodated. Metal said that the overall quality of the motor on the Woody was good. A member inquired as to the accuracy of sail dates. Captain Tom reply that they were accurate. He suggested that those enjoying public sails should bring with them sunscreen and a non-alcoholic drink.

Harbor Report

Metal stated that the harbor was in good overall condition. He explained how rain effects the harbor. The boat "turtled" on the dock was pointed out. The harbor generated \$500.00 in revenue for the club in recent.

Environmental Report

Captain Tom began his reporting by bringing to light the ongoing controversy between grass and artificial turf. Some negative aspects to artificial turf are that it deteriorates over time, it is composed of plastic, and people (including vulnerable children) are often burned when the heat is excessive. The latter occurs

due to the reason that turf averages approximately 50 degrees hotter than natural grass. Captain Tom urged listeners to actively protest if they discover their local community plans to implement this harmful product. Captain Tom went on to describe a study where volunteers were put through procedures to detect how microplastics and non-plastics affect the brain. This introduction of plastic in the body will likely be more prevalent in the general public due to the loosening or end to crucial EPA laws. He urged members to write Congress to protest the altering or ending of EPA laws. A member expressed that they recently discovered that dental floss was made from plastic. Captain Tom responded by explaining that there is a dental floss that is made of cotton and wax with no plastic components.

Building Committee

John Greener stated that the mulch room stairs and see are being looked at for possible updates. The ceiling in the storage room is currently being looked at as well. Alan offered to arrange painting of the interior after Festival season. The entryway was discussed. The possibility of leveling the floor is being explored.

River Swim

Alan Zollner opened by thanking volunteers and giving thanks to the club. He mentioned all the various law enforcement and volunteers that came together to make the swim a success. Though the news of Bonnie's injury is devastating, recognition was given to the immediate emergency aid provided by volunteers. Joyce marveled over the vast distances that some swimmers traveled to participate in the swim. Alan Zollner explained that the proceeds from the swim benefit the innovative River Pool. It was revealed that Governor Hochul is "pro swim" and plans on expanding the swim initiative. The River Pool was a dream of the iconic Pete Seeger himself and the organization is proud to support his amazing vision.

Waste Report

Tore spoke about his recent trip to Norway and revealed positive aspects of the culture. He urged all members to take home any items that they came in with. In May, 2 lb and 13 oz of garbage was discarded at the clubhouse. Tore offered to accept Pizza boxes, which are non recyclable, as kindling. Metal inquired as to watermelon rinds. Tore explained that they go into compost. He highlighted the improved environmental policies of Norway compared to the United states.

Closing Announcements

President Patricia Finnerty spoke about the need for volunteers at the Corn Festival. She reminded all that the club is a carry in and Carry out facility. J.C. Calderon thanks all those who supported him in the river swim. He spoke about the development of the north parking lot by the MTA. He stated that his report in relation to Fishkill Avenue is nearly finalized. He offered to show the report to anyone who wished to review it. Wayne shared the lugubrious news that the dog of his friend had tragically died after drinking contaminated runoff water. He urged all present to be vigilant and protecting their animals. He also shared the surprising and useful fact that certain varieties of vegetation, such as mountain laurel, are highly flammable. He strongly suggested that such varieties should not be planted in close proximity to houses or other structures in order to reduce risk and/or severity of a fire.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 8:20 p.m.

The Passing of Alan Thomas

Alan Charles Thomas, 69, passed away on August 23, 2025. He grew up in Burnt Hills, New York, alongside his sister Sue and their late parents, Charles and Shirley Thomas. During his years there, he formed lifelong friendships.

Since his passing, The Beacon Sloop Club is finding out just how much work he did for the Club. He was the editor of The Broadside, writing it, managing its distribution, and providing most of the photography for the newsletter, especially for the issues that included the reporting of its festivals. Alan managed the membership lists, including sending announcements to our contacts and email subscribers.

Grant Writing

Maybe the most important work he did for the Club was to seek out and write grants for the maintenance the repair of the Sloop Woody Guthrie and the Clubhouse.

It is impossible to find any part of the Club's work that Alan did not involve himself in. From the sailing on the Woody, to providing festival equipment, cooking and serving chili, setting up digital connections for the selling of tickets and merchandise, building maintenance, and community outreach. These are only part of what he did during the sailing and festival seasons.

Winter Lecture Series and More

In the winter months, Alan managed a Winter Lecture Series that brought speakers from many fields, focusing on history, sailing, environmental issues, and life around



the Hudson River Valley. Alan filed our taxes and managed our financial operations that even a small club like ours cannot function without..

It will take us some time to find out how much he did for the Club. We cannot overstate the amount of knowledge he accumulated in his many years as a member. This experience and knowledge cannot be easily replaced.

If you wish to find out more about Alan's life, you can click on this link:

www.doylefuneralhome.com/obituaries/Alan-Thomas?obId=44757077

The Beacon Sloop Club Needs Volunteers for the Pumpkin Festival

Come volunteer to help The Beacon Sloop Club and other nonprofits set up the field, and enjoy a meal together at the park. Please RSVP the number in your group so we can cook accordingly. This is an opportunity for the non-profit community of Beacon to to gather and help shape what's ahead, while enjoying what will hopefully be another beautiful sunset at the park. Early access will clear away some of the chaos that the morning tends to bring and free up volunteers to run a great festival.

Please use the link below to sign up:

<https://evite.me/1RyE9kPD6W>

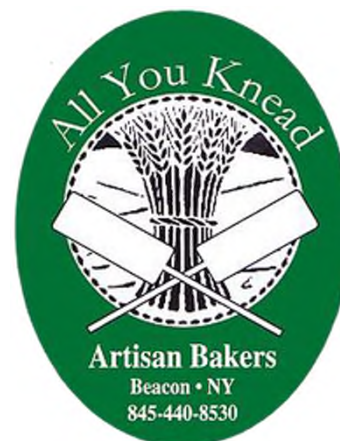
We also need volunteers to finish set up in the morning, to help us during the festival, and to take down our festival equipment. An hour or two or five of your time will be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

Corn Festival 2025



The Beacon Sloop Club, inc.
Jul-25

Distribution account	Total
Income	
Contribution, Gifts, Grants	0.00
Woody maintainance fund	90.00
Total for Contribution, Gifts, Grants	\$90.00
Corn Festival	0.00
Vendor	503.75
Total for Corn Festival	\$503.75
Gross Sales of Inventory	75.00
Investment Income	323.40
Total for Investment Income	\$323.40
Membership	0.00
Paypal	185.00
Snailmail	125.00
Total for Membership	\$310.00
Other Revenue	0.00
Harbor Mooring Fee	-254.83
Total for Other Revenue	-\$254.83
Pumpkin Festival	0.00
Vendor	453.75
Total for Pumpkin Festival	\$453.75
Total for Income	\$1,501.07
Cost of Goods Sold	
Gross Profit	\$1,501.07
Expenses	
Bank Expense	0.00
Paypal	31.90
Total for Bank Expense	\$31.90
Cost of Inventory	1,049.00
Facilities	0.00
Building	15.54
Harbor	684.31
Utilities	47.88
Woody Maintenance	600.00
Total for Facilities	\$1,347.73
Other Expenses	0.00
Advertising & Promotion	50.00
Website	45.14
Total for Other Expenses	\$95.14
Printing, etc.	0.00
Broadside	162.56
Total for Printing, etc.	\$162.56
Strawberry Expense	1,256.76
Cream	-587.16
Sanitation	650.00
smoothie expense - banana, ice	294.55
Supplies & Materials	248.71
Total for Strawberry Expense	\$1,862.86
Total for Expenses	\$4,549.19
Net Operating Income	-\$3,048.12
Net Income	-\$3,048.12
Opening Cash Balance 7/1/2025	\$ 166,847.10
Closing Cash Balance 7/31/2025	\$ 163,798.98
Change in Investment Value	394.43
Total Balance 7/31/2025	\$ 164,193.41
Unrestricted & soft	\$ 132,119.59
Hard Restricted (total)*	\$ 32,073.82
B & S Rozinsky Fund (hard)	\$ 28,564.34
Board designated funds (soft)	\$ 17,100.21



A Word on Transitions

The Club has gone through many changes this year. We have lost several valuable members. New people are coordinating the festivals and vendors. Other people have already stepped up to fill tasks left empty and more people will soon be added to the tasks yet to be filled.

A personal note: this will be the only time I will refer to myself in this newsletter. Alan's is a hard act to follow. He wrote and edited the Broadside with elegance and grace. It is a daunting task to take over from him.

I am going to make mistakes. It will take a few months for me to get my newsletter sea legs.

If you want to email me (see page 2) about Broadside—any goofs I make or suggestions you may have — please use the following subject line:

Broadside submissions/corrections/errata

I get a lot of email and I don't want to lose or misplace any of your messages due to careless organizing errors.

Thanks.

Konstantin

Current Calendar

BSC Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 30, 7:00
p.m. At the Clubhouse

Beacon Sloop Club Membership Meeting

Friday, October 3, 6:30 –
10:00 p.m. At the Clubhouse



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.

Beacon Sloop Club
PUMPKIN FESTIVAL
★ SUNDAY OCT. 19- NOON-5 P.M.
★ PETE & TOSHI SEEGER PARK
BEACON, NEW YORK
★ PUMPKINS & PIE *For Sale*
★ *Sailing* ON THE WOODY
★ *Live* MUSIC *Free* ADMISSION
★ www.beaconsloopclub.org

AUCTION + SOCIAL
COMMUNITY GATHERING
SUPPORT COMMON GROUND FARM'S FOOD + EDUCATION ACCESS INITIATIVES
Silent auction featuring unique Hudson Valley experiences + the work of local artists
Hudson Valley Brewery refreshments + small bites sourced from the Beacon Farmers' Market
OCTOBER 17, 2025 5:30-8:30PM
HUDSON VALLEY BREWERY
7 EAST MAIN STREET BEACON
COMMON GROUND FARM

[Clearwater's Public Sail Schedule is Now Online](#)



NOURISH OUR NEIGHBORS SHINDIG
SILENT AUCTION | DANCE PARTY
Saturday, October 4, 2025, 7pm
37 Lamplight Street, Beacon, NY
TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE NOW
SILENT AUCTION
FARM FRESH BITES
LOCAL LIBATIONS
DANCING

Details of calendar events may be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

For more info about the BSC: www.beaconsloop.org, or www.beaconsloopclub.org