



# The Yardarm

Newsletter for The Hudson Cove Yacht Club  
*Spring 2011*

## Commodore's Message

Happy Spring! It was a long, long winter, but the skiing was great.

The boating season is finally here. The boats are in the water we're ready to sail, cruise and race...now we just need some sun! Drop the hook at George's Island or Croton... kayak a little; have cocktails and it seems like we are a world away from the busy work week.

John and I look forward to our weekends at the boat and the impromptu parties on silver dock. The potluck dinners are great too...just bring some food to share with everyone.

One of my favorite cruises is traveling to Raritan Bay over July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. It's a great shake down cruise to

make sure everything works, or not (that's why we travel together), before the cruise to Long Island Sound and points east; Mystic, Shelter Island, Newport, Block Island...all great sailing destinations.

The Board of Governors has a lot of activities planned for the season. Watch for e-mail announcements and check out the calendar of events on our website.  
[www.hudsoncove.com](http://www.hudsoncove.com).

I wish everyone a great sailing season...see you on the docks!

Brenda Edwards  
HCYC Commodore



## *27th Annual HCYC Regatta 2011*

The first HRYRA Regatta of 2011

Two races on Saturday, June 4;

One race on Sunday, June 5

Trophies for all fleets

Breakfast for all racers served poolside; drinks and/or dinner available Saturday evening.

Information @ [www.hudsoncove.com](http://www.hudsoncove.com)



## *Memorial Day Weekend*

Meets on the water or at the docks!

Saturday, May 28—5pm

Cruise and overnight on the hook at Croton

Sunday, May 29—5pm

Potluck Supper in front of Samalot's

## Oh Captain! My Captain!\*

We would like to welcome four members of our club as Master Mariners. Amy Nelson, John Edwards and John Beck and Rob Eldridge took and passed courses that lead not only to the Captains License but went further to receive their Master Mariners License with Sailing and Towing Endorsements. The OUPV, or 6 pack license allows the captain to operate a vessel of up to 65 ft or 100 gross tons with up to 6 passengers such as what a char-

ter captain might do. The course was given by The Captain School and taught by Captain Rob Alport. It involved three full weekends, 56 hours, beginning Friday night and all day Saturday and Sunday. The Master Mariners License required 24 additional hours of classes which involved a Friday night, all day Saturday and Sunday and a Monday night. This license allows the holder to operate vessels such as the NY Waterway Ferries! It doesn't stop here. The Sailing and

Towing Endorsements each took an additional 4 hours of coursework. So, who knows who may be operating The Commander or Captaining a Sea Tow vessel. Again, I would like to commend these members of our yacht club for their dedication and hard work to achieve this goal as Master Mariners!

Marc Goldzweig  
Vice Commodore

\* *"Oh Captain! My Captain!"* is the title of a poem by Walt Whitman.



*HCYC Regatta*

*June 4 -5*

*Check the  
HCYC website  
for details!*

### Spring Boat Preparation:

#### ***Putting Your Boat Back in Commission for the New Season***



Bobbi Breslow presented a program for HCYC at the April 16 general membership meeting. Every aspect of spring commissioning was covered; from the visual inspection of the hull to the inside of the interior of the bilge. Seasoned sailors in the audience had helpful comments to augment Bobbi's presentation.

Spring maintenance includes examination of hull condition, vessel interior and exterior, sails and rigging, emergency equipment, electrical systems, in-board/outboard engines, galley, head and waste treatment systems, and water systems. Careful attention to all details will lead to a full sailing season without extra time taken for repairs.

## A HCYC Cruise to the Raritan Bay and Beyond

*Submitted by Chuck Manley of Cloudspin*

Awakening on a cool summer's morning to the smell of coffee and the early light of the rising sun is a special part of a cruise. But we cannot linger long on July 1 (or 2), for it is said "time and tide waits for no one" and the HCYC flotilla will start our voyage to the Raritan Bay (July 1 or 2 to July 5).

It makes no difference if you have traveled this way before or are wishing to do it for the first time. You will be traveling with others in search of the joys of cruising.

The Hudson Cove Yacht Club members are looking forward to you joining them for safe and fun filled days on the water. And a special HCYC workshop on June 18 will also provide you with help in preparing for the cruise!

The first thing that you need for the cruise is a boat or friends to take you aboard. Power boats are swifter, but sailboats will get you to our destinations as long as it has some type of propulsion other than sails. Although our sailing group would like to "sail" down the Hudson the chances of that is slight to almost not at all. So for all of our fleet a motor in working condition with sufficient fuel is your first goal in starting the cruise.

Our second most important focus is the provisioning of the boat. Refrigerators onboard are useful and, for some of us, the ice box is the way to preserve our food. The challenge is the power used (batteries!) or, for the icebox group, how to get a ton of ice in that tiny box and still have room for food!

By the way, it is best to have canned goods aboard in case the refrigerated food appears to have a peculiar smell

or color! We have a can of Spam aboard for that purpose. It has been on board for eight years and still has two years left on it's shelf -life. We wish our mandatory flares had such a shelf-life.

I now hear engines running from other boats in the Flotilla calling us to enter the river and start of our day's journey. Down past (correction- under!) the Tappan Zee Bridge where seamanship requires that you know how to pass under a bridge. This is particularly important for a sailing for obvious reasons (at least we hope it is). A good chart or marine's guide can be helpful to indicate the height of each span or center span of a bridge and, of course, knowledge of the height of your mast above the water is a plus. Having this information will save you significant embarrassment.

Although the Hudson is fairly deep, the edges can be shallow and contain rocks (after all they it Rockland County!) So knowing the draft of your boat and some good charts can be a great help...but a general rule is stay off the edges unless you have local knowledge!

Next we will come to the George Washington Bridge and by now the traffic is backed up on it and you should be very happy to be on your boat under the bridge and not in your car on it! But do not get too complacent as your big traffic challenge is ahead as we get closer to New York Harbor! Did you see the little light house at the Manhattan side of the bridge? The Little Red Lighthouse, officially Jeffrey's Hook Light, was built in 1889 and deactivated from 1947 to 2002.

The lower end of the Hudson requires intense vigil for all that moves; watching for ferries (big, small and swift), kayaks to super ocean liners and freighters, to

to the occasional landing of aircraft as we bob about in the confused currents of the Upper Harbor. Awareness of all activities is the critical charge for everyone aboard!

The sights, sounds and smells that a cruise through the harbor offers are experiences that few get to have. Remembrance of towers that existed, people who were lost and, passing Lady Liberty, the freedom we have is always a moving experience.

Now, we approach the Verrazano's Bridge with its typical flow of freighter traffic moving in and out. It is best to stay clear of them, as they are fast and may not see a small boat (sorry but a 30-40 footer is no match to a 400 foot ocean freighter).

Now at the northeast side of Staten Island we turn to head to the Raritan. (You can download the directions to follow at the HCYC website). Keep centered between the Staten Island and the two small islands to the east 9Hoffman and Swinburne). These two manmade islands have interesting histories as immigrant quarantine stations in the early 1900's, as anchorage for anti-sub nets and training centers during WWII and now as refuge for arctic seals coming to warmer climates in the winter.

There is good sailing ahead as we approach the Raritan from lower New York Harbor. Our cruise may take us to the Great Kill and to our friends at the Keyport Yacht Club. We can rendezvous with our power boaters as they have been waiting for our arrival (continued next page)

*Just a few notes....*

*...Our club's website is a wealth of information on everything from calendar of club events; latest weather at Haverstraw Bay; what to know about winterizing your boat; club history; and the Hudson River Boat & Yacht Club Association.*

*...This editor is always looking for ideas for our newsletter.*

*...The Board of Governors is looking for ideas for educational offerings at coming meetings. Do you have any talents or interests that you are willing to share?*

*...Volunteers are needed to host club events. See the website for details.*

[www.hudsoncove.com](http://www.hudsoncove.com)

**HCYC Cruise...**(continued from page 3)

and cocktail time—another provision to have aboard!

After our good times in the Raritan and the fireworks of the 4th, we will start our Long Island cruise on July 5 for those who wish to join. More on that in our next log!

**Join HCYC and Cruise the Raritan Bay  
and Long Island Sound!**

**(July 1—14)**

## **General Membership Meeting**

Saturday, June 18, 2011

Cruising Seminar @ 5:30 pm

Six Foot Subs @ 6:30 pm

Meeting Starts @ 7:00 pm

All at the Marina Conference Center

## **Winter Brunch**

*Submitted by Bobbi Potacki*

The HCYC Winter Brunch was held at the Thayer Hotel on the campus of West Point. Twenty members and guests joined us on February 13 for the , as usual, bountiful meal. The champagne, mimosas and especially the food just kept on coming. The next Winter Brunch will be in 2013 as we alternate years with the Commodore 's Ball.

See you then.



*Memorial Day Raft-Up 2010*