



1871

The



Blinker

of the North Shore Yacht Club

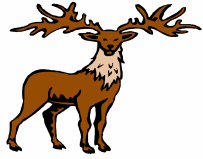
December 2009

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# Season's Greetings



## BALANCE—*Leaning Forward*

This is a great week for 'just considering,' when the rush and excitement of the holidays is over and the pace of the New Year has not yet started. I've considered that, for me, it's not just individual NSYC events that seem to stand out, but rather there's a sense of *balance* amongst them. They're the social events, racing activities, cruises, educational seminars and trips, and our cooperative efforts to lead and maintain NSYC.

All of these, taken together, have an impact that's greater than the sum the individual parts. Charles Murphy is expertly tracing the history of NSYC for us, but we are far from standing still. Rather we see the continued relevance of the club to our modern life. We are *leaning forward*.

Yes, we honor our history and continue the modest, *middle way* that is part of the establishment of NSYC, but we see advances in every area; our membership is expanding, our social events are well, and joyously, attended; our racing credentials continue to expand; cruises are varied and frequent; NSYC's educational program has grown; and the club is both physically improving and is being modestly and expertly led.

I find that the closing of 2008's editorial is as appropriate now as then: "*As we celebrate the New Year, we have much to appreciate in NSYC. Our success as a yacht club is due to you, our members; and our future is bright with promise for the same reason—you, our members. Have a happy and healthy new year.*"

*Three guns to all!!!*

## Dates to Remember:

- **Friday January 1, 2010 @ 1500 hours**  
New Year's Day Party at the Club
- **Thursday January 14, 2009 @ 1900 hours**  
Aaron Bleecker will conduct a seminar about Shipboard Electronics

## ★★★★ From the Commodore:

Brrrr... it sure is cold out there, but I trust that the holiday season has been warm and cozy for all. We welcomed it in with our annual dinner dance and awards ceremony at the Swan Club with almost a sellout crowd in attendance. Kudos must go to the Commodorable, as Chair of the Entertainment Committee, for her stupendous efforts in securing an elegant but affordable venue with magnificent décor, wonderful food and drink, and lively music. From the many positive comments, it appears that everyone had a great time.

The most prestigious award handed out at the party, the Matthews Trophy, is given to a person whom the Board feels has made significant contributions to the good of our Club. This year's winner, hands down, was Robert Ebenau. Although Bob is a relatively new member, he has enthusiastically tackled a multitude of roles in just a few years with considerable success:

- As** Chairperson of the Race Committee, he organized a popular racing program, increased the participation in Club races, honorably represented us with respect to one-design race committee obligations, and taught novices among us how to fulfill those duties along with him.
- As** Editor of our newsletter, he expanded "The Blinker" into a multi-page publication full of interesting and entertaining information eagerly read by most of us.
- As** a Club photographer, he memorializes our events, captures our moments, and brings them to life for those who cannot be present.

**Last** but not least, Bob is our website editor and web master who is constantly called upon to keep members abreast of Club happenings.

If we all strive to be as helpful and involved in the Club as Bob Ebenau, there will be no stopping us!

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The Long Distance & Cruising Over the Year Award, another important trophy, went to Shayna Blum and E.J. Hodes. This summer, together with their two adorable children, Gigi and Jason, they piled into their Catalina 36 *Precipice* and went on a long cruise up to Maine. The Hodes recently recounted their summer's family adventures and exploits at an Education Committee event on cruising put together by Alan Bernstein, the Chairperson of the Committee. Also on hand to provide sailing tips and stories of cruising in Turkey was Ken Magida. The audience, which consisted of both members and friends, thoroughly enjoyed the tales. We have been able to enjoy many educational events throughout the year thanks to the Education Chairperson's creativity and hard work.

As the year winds down, we look forward to the beginning of the next decade of the second millennium. Plans are being made for our 140<sup>th</sup> Commissioning, improvements to the Clubhouse, sailing season, and more good times. I hope to see you all at the New Year's Day get-together to be hosted by Entertainment Committee member Nancy and Club Secretary Bob Kovach. Meanwhile, I wish you and your families a happy and prosperous New Year filled with great sailing to come

.....*Commodore Yehuda Rosenstock*

## Cruising Roundtable December 10, 2009

Once again NSYC demonstrated its true commitment to sailing by offering up one of its best stories of the season. On a cold and blustery night we were all warmed by their tales. About about 25 members and friends turned out for this fun and informative event.

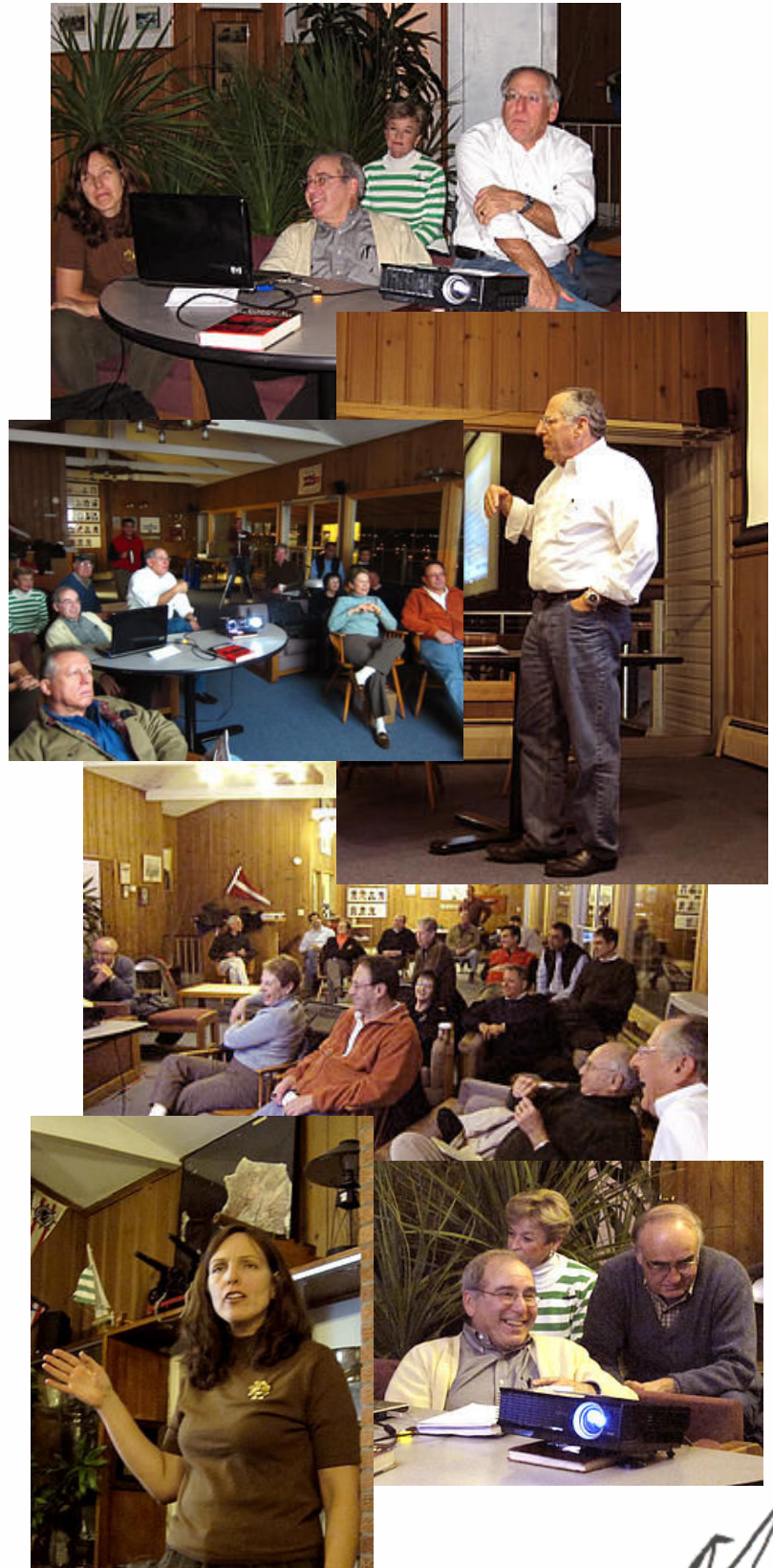
Ken Magida started the evening with a discussion of his methods for charting and logbook recording of his trips and a discussion of tides and how he factors them into his planning. Shayna Blum and EJ Hodes talked about their 90 days aboard ship with a 4 year old and a 6 year old. They were kind enough to offer their story of their past sailing season. Highlights included some of the special spots they stopped in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Of particular note were the harbors in Casco Bay, Mount Desert Island and Marththa's Vineyard.

Plans for the New Year include, but are not limited to:

- Aaron Bleecker - Shipboard Electronics, scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup>
- Oliver Downey - Marine Diesel Maintenance and Repair tentatively set for February 14<sup>th</sup>
- Butch Ulmer Racing Rules and Strategies scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>

Please send me you comments, questions or thoughts about what we are planning. Each of the speakers would like to know in advance what your questions are in order to focus their presentations. I look forward to hearing from you. Regards for a happy holiday season and a healthy, prosperous and peaceful New Year.

*Alan Bernstein, education Committee Chair*





## Looking Back

### What's On the Menu?

Our Club has no shortage of nominees for a pantheon of heroes, beginning with our esteemed Founding Father, William L. Alden and carrying on to the heroic steward Tom Moeller. Club history rightfully records their deeds (about which more anon). Yet overlooked in all official records is one name to whom we owe one of our most enduring traditions—Madame Maria Parloa

was the most prominent authority on cooking and home management in America in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. She wrote seven books on cooking and home management, contributed numerous articles to *Good Housekeeping* and *Ladies Home Journal*, educated Fanny Farmer (of fragrant memory), and established highly regarded cooking schools in Boston and New York. It was to the New York establishment that, late in 1884, Club members repaired to learn the complexities of haute cuisine and to create our Club's first member-prepared dinner. .

Such a dinner was not originally a Club practice. In fact for nearly a decade after our founding in 1871, members met in New York restaurants such as the Golden Hill on William Street and the Hungaria farther uptown. Moreover, when gathering for a formal dinner, members followed the English practice and "dressed" for dinner. Obviously formal attire would be incongruous in a kitchen. This was also a time when gender responsibilities were more sharply demarcated with the result that men, as a rule, had little experience in the culinary arts. As cruising sailors, members did have some experiences in cooking but these rarely transcended making coffee, cooking eggs and heating canned food.

The well-known writer Charles Ledyard Norton attended the affair and described the experience in a Christmas 1884 article entitled "A Corinthian Dinner." He chose "Corinthian" to emphasize the amateur status of all involved—save, of course, Madame Parloa.

Club members entered the School feeling both anticipation and anxiety. After all, they were going to consume the very meal they were to create. That meal was not to be some snack-and-snicker affair. It was to have a menu commensurate with the occasion. Madame Parloa would accept nothing less. So it was that some members trembled when they saw the list of courses: soup, salad, oysters, venison, grouse, bass, vegetables, various sauces and desserts. Still, members bent to their tasks with vigor. As Norton described it:

*It was a sufficiently lovely sight to see a score or more of gentlemen, ranging from twenty-five years to middle life, each with a white apron artistically tied around his neck... engaged in various culinary occupations usually performed without amateur aid.*

A doctor, putatively "familiar with surgical operations," was detailed to attend to the huge haunch of venison. "A publisher, two journalists, (and) a lawyer "among others, volunteered to see to the grouse. Another group took care of the fish. The more daring volunteered for the sauces. Everything, of course, was prepared following Madame's guidance and under her vigilant eyes. Given the constraints of time, desserts "were achieved in the establishment below stairs." After more than five hours of preparations, Madame declared the dinner ready to be served. *(I am happy to report that no member died or suffered serious injury in the preparation of this meal.)*

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Having doffed their aprons and donned their dinner jackets members sat down to a memorable meal. Each course was met with appreciative applause. As Norton observed, "Thanks to skilled supervision, everything had a taste of its own and was done to a turn." He then passed his final judgment: "The dinner, in short, was a success!"

That success, however, was measured by more than the expanded waistlines of the members. For some it was an early experience in "consciousness-raising." One would-be saucier, rubbing aching biceps after a long stint on the egg-beater, remarked, "Goodness, does it take all that work to make mayonnaise for thirty people!" Another, laying down his masher, said, "I now know why restaurants charge *twenty cents* for mashed potatoes!"

The practical value to cruising sailors was less clear, for as Norton put it, "Madame Parloa did not show her pupils how they might carry gas stoves and other kitchen paraphernalia in a fourteen-foot canoe." However, he did conclude on a positive note. The members, he thought, "had learned much that was valuable" and had "picked up many hints to make their camp cuisine more palatable."

One hundred twenty-five years after that dinner we continue the tradition of member-prepared meals. Were she to return today to one of our parties and survey the culinary creations of Club members, I am certain she would smile her approval.

*C.P.M.*

(Questions and comments: [cpjlmurphy@optonline.net](mailto:cpjlmurphy@optonline.net))





## Trip to Ft Schuyler on November 7

It was a glorious day with a cool fall wind and nary a cloud in the sky as we toured the old fort building that houses the Maritime Industry Museum located at the SUNY Maritime College at Fort Schuyler in the Bronx. The spot is really where the Sound meets the East River and it juts out to the south and offers a fabulous view to the east (behind the people in the photo).

However, the location and the walk around the ground was just the icing on the cake. The Museum itself is a treasure trove of artifacts, old models, paintings and historical objects from the maritime history of New York State. Our guide, Captain James McNamara, Museum Director was full of interesting tales and facts about the maritime industry, how it began and where it is now. All present were truly enthralled by the richness of the collection and what it represents to our state and the economy of the nation and the world. We owe the Captain a debt of gratitude. However, since it is a charitable enterprise, donations were happily accepted and the debt at least partially repaid.

Since no event with NSYC is really complete without a meal and drink, the trip concluded with what we all thought was a very good lunch at a local pub. Our group of about 30 sailors swarmed upon this quiet and unsuspecting tavern with hearty demands for food and grog. Fortunately, this being the Bronx, where people have amazing fortitude and tenacity, they had no problem rising to the occasion. I do not think it would be an overstatement to say that everyone left feeling satisfied with the day, the company, the experience and the food. Once again, kudos to Frank Gallo, a former merchant mariner himself, and Arlene Kase for helping get this together.

Please keep the cards and letters coming. Your thoughts on past and future programs are welcome and requested by presenters both as feedback and for planning purposes.

*Alan Bernstein, Education Committee Chair*





## NSYC 2009 Dinner Dance

Now, let's see:

Held at the elegant Swan Club—*check*

Open and well stocked bar —*check*

Plentiful hors d'oeuvres —*check*

Fine meal—*check*

Presentation of sailing and service awards—*check*

Music, our own D.J.'s and spirited dancing—*check*

Dear friends, fellow sailors and members—*check, check, check*

Thank you Carol Roberts and all of our members who made this a wonderful evening to remember.

*Three guns!!!*

## Pictures from our 2009 NSYC Dinner Dance, November 8, 2009:

see others at our Photo Gallery at [www.nsync.net](http://www.nsync.net)



