



1871

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The



Blinker

of the North Shore Yacht Club

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## Troubled Waters:

Washington Irving first used the pseudonym “Knickerbocker” when writing about the disappearance in Manhattan in 1809 of the imaginary 'Dietrich Knickerbocker,' who was supposed to be an eccentric Dutch-American scholar. Eventually the word Knickerbocker was used to describe any New Yorker; thus it was natural for a new yacht club founded in Manhattan on the Harlem river in 1874 to be called the *Knickerbocker Yacht Club*. Why recount this somewhat esoteric history of a name? Not imaginary this time—another Knickerbocker, the Knickerbocker Yacht Club, may disappear from New York’s Manhasset Bay.

Knickerbocker’s commodore, Brian Raskin, citing declining membership, increasing overhead and debt wrote the members that he and the board advised that Knickerbocker Yacht Club be closed and the assets of the club sold. There are half the number of boats on Manhasset bay than in the '80s and “Four yacht clubs on the bay is just too many.” But, some members of the club are working on a proposal to keep Knickerbocker open and a final decision has not yet been made.

We, the North Shore Yacht Club, were also formed in New York city at about the same time (1871.) But unlike the unfortunate circumstances of our sister club, Knickerbocker, we are thriving. Yes, there has been a decline in the number of boats in Manhasset bay but the spirit of yachting continues and is nurtured by NSYC’s close focus on those things that matter to boaters. We don’t have tennis courts, nor a swimming pool or a dining room—we’ve got the best sheltered and convenient moorings on Manhasset bay, excellent launches and launch service, helpful and knowledgeable staff, club cruises, races, seminars and member supported parties and events. We contain our expenses well through modest size and member participation. And keeping us afloat are our officers and board who have managed our club prudently.

Through economic stress we will maintain our club and continue to fly our burgee proudly. We hope that Knickerbocker can weather this storm and join us in our pastime and, possibly, passion of sailing. We are strong and confident. Three guns—for us!!!

## ★★★★ From the Commodore:

It is wintry cold, and your ice-encrusted boat stands forlorn and looking unnatural on land. The days have become depressingly short and dark. Yet, at the North Shore Yacht Club, high spirits abound.

The revelries of 2009 began with our annual New Year’s Day party, expertly hosted by Nancy and Bob Kovach with Rear Commodore Mario Rufino helping Bob man the bar. The party was exceptionally well attended, and the food contributions were generous and varied. What with the good drink, plentiful food, and warm camaraderie, it was a great party.

The following Saturday, Alan Bernstein, who has volunteered to replace me as the Chair of the Education Committee, arranged for Charles (“Butch”) Ulmer to give a wonderful talk about the new racing rules. Butch is a well known and highly respected member of the sailing community. An Annapolis graduate, he served with distinction in the United States Navy and then became involved with sailmaking. The company that he founded was the predecessor to UK-Halsey International, licensing many sailmaking firms around the world. Butch is also an avid racer whose sailing career spans nearly sixty years from small dinghies to large ocean racers. He has competed in every major race on the East coast, served on a multitude of protest committees, and was elected to the Intercollegiate Sailing Hall of Fame.

More than forty people attended Butch’s session at our Club, and it was an honor to have him. Carol Roberts (my “Commodorable”), who will be serving as Chair of the Entertainment Committee, provided a repast of bagels, cream cheese and coffee to the hungry crowd.

These well designed and executed events are an excellent beginning to the New Year and hopefully have established a trend for other events to come. I would like to thank those participating for their enthusiasm.

Next month the appointment of other committee chairpersons will be announced. Please let me know if you are interested in a committee since, as you are aware, the Club depends on member support of our activities in order to function.

Several of you have inquired about the status of the new railing. Unfortunately, the project has proceeded at a slower pace than anticipated due to weather and technical problems that are in the process of being solved. The installation should be complete well before commissioning, and I think that you will be very pleased with the results.

We also are continuing to participate in the Manhasset Bay Sailing Foundation. This non-profit organization focuses on introducing young people to the sport of sailing. The Foundation has been in contact with the Port Washington Sailing School for the purpose of exploring the possibility of offering about ten need-based scholarships to students at a discounted rate. If the program comes to fruition, the Foundation will be asking all yacht clubs on the bay to help raise the necessary funds. Currently, the thought is to organize a combined charity event. I will keep you informed as the program matures.

So while it looks like winter is here to stay, cheer up because there are lots of good things going on and only three more months before spring and sailing.

..... Commodore Yehuda Rosenstock





## New Racing Rules Seminar:

Despite the threat of snow on Saturday morning, January 10, skippers and crew totaling 45 strong turned out for the first in a series of educational programs planned to enhance one's sailing knowledge.

The first session covered the new racing rules that went into effect January 1, 2009. Butch Ulmer was the speaker, a well known sailmaker, helmsman, and racer from UK Sails, City Island and he had an excellent knowledge of the new rules (having helped to write them.) His power point presentation clearly illustrated his knowledge of the material that was presented. Additionally the questions that were raised as well as the scenarios that were given enlightened all those who were there and we left with a clearer understanding of the rules for 2009.

At the conclusion of the meeting all in attendance were given a questionnaire where we could indicate our preference for topics at future seminars Please check upcoming Blinkers for dates and times.

## Recipe for (*excellent!*) Vegetarian Chopped Liver:

- LARGE Vidalia Onion—thinly sliced
- 1 cup walnuts
- can peas (15oz.) well drained
- 2 tbs olive oil
- Saute onion in oil mixed with one tbs butter
- The onion should be sautéed and stirred until very brown almost caramelized
- Chop walnuts in food processor until fine but not too fine, small bits
- Add peas and then onions; process until smooth turning it on and off, and scraping down from the sides
- Add salt, Kosher if you have it, or fine sea salt and pepper to taste
- Refrigerate

It takes longer to type this than to make it

*Enjoy—Shirley Shulimson*

## Provisional Calendar of Club Events:

- New Year's Day Jan 1
- Officer's Cocktail Party Feb 22
- St. Patrick day party March 21
- Spring Membership Meeting April 18
- Commissioning May 17
- Open regatta May 30
- Theme party (Polynesian?) July 11
- Lobster and Clam Bake Aug 22
- Commodore Raft-Up Sep 6
- Fall Membership Meeting Oct 17
- Dinner Dance/Awards Nov 15

## Dates To Be Remembered:

- **Feb 7 — Sail Trim Seminar, 1500 hrs**
- **Feb 22 — Officers' Cocktail Party, 1500 hrs**
- **Mar 21 — St. Patrick's Day Party, 1800 hrs**
- **Apr 18— Spring Membership Meeting, 0900 hrs**



## New Year's Day at the Club:

As has been our pleasure the last couple of years, we had the privilege of acting as hosts of our Club's annual New Year's Day gathering as members and friends rang in 2009 together. To be sure, we did not enjoy the balmy weather of the previous weekend (and even of a few years ago) but that did not stop some 60 members and guests from taking part in the festivities. With whitecaps blowing out of the NW across the empty bay, and a log -- OK a Duraflame-- burning brightly in the hearth, spirits were warm and bright.

Early in the festivities past-Commodore Mark Epstein announced, "Only 89 days till boat launching," a declaration that set the tone for the meeting. As active members know, we have a wonderful group of members in this club; it is a real joy to catch up on the news with our friends.

Added to that, we can always count on a wide assortment of delicious foods to be supplied. This year's offerings did not disappoint. There were just far too many treats to mention here. Suffice it to say the table virtually groaned with satisfying delicacies.

Many, many thanks to all who attended and especially to those who took such obvious care in providing the wondrous foods we enjoyed. Many thanks as well to Capt. Vic for his many efforts in setting up the room and getting supplies in order so we could enjoy this fine afternoon together.

We send our thanks and best wishes to those who heeded Commodore Yehuda's call to take a more active part in our Club's events. For those who couldn't make it, we look forward to seeing you at our many Club events this new year.

*Bob & Nancy Kovach*

## Portraits from our New Year's Day at the Club by Marvin Covitz



Other pictures from New Year's Day are on our web Gallery

