



1871

January 2015

The



Blinker

of the North Shore Yacht Club

Web site: www.nsync.net

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From the Publisher and Editors

2015 has the trimmings of a "Good Year" for NSYC! We are basking in the glow of a very enjoyable 2014 Dinner Dance and Awards and our 2015 New Year's Day Party. Our Education program has already launched with "Cruising South" on January 14 and "Racing on the LI Sound" slated for February 5.

Our 2015 slate of officers, trustees, and committees are off and running. Our Social and Launch schedules for the year are completed and we have a new website, always evolving for the better, to be proud of. Most motivating of all...our Launch Schedule is set with launch service beginning: Saturday, Apr. 18!

With special note, we commemorate the last passage of Harold Hecht, our former Blinker publisher and editor; captain, shipmate, and Member of NSYC for 41 years. Harold epitomized the *Friendly Club* — he was a friend to all and we miss him.

As you click through the Blinker screens, take the opportunity to mark your calendars with upcoming events, heed updates and great input from our Club Steward, Fleet Captain, Rear Commodore, Vice Commodore, Cruising Chair and even our Webmaster, and read the article, "What counts for work hours." As usual, we have our regular collection of human interest articles, recognition and Club history. Remember, we are always looking for the interesting and exciting events in your life so we can share them with our Club.

So, please sit back, enjoy your Blinker and make ready for a, "Great Year at NSYC."

Bob Ebenau, Publisher
Bill Palafox, Editor in Chief
Marian Weissman, Editor

★ ★ ★ ★ From the Commodore

"Corinthianism in yachting is that attribute which represents participation in sport as distinct from gain and which also involves the acquirement of nautical experience through the love of the sport rather than through necessity or the hope of gain" 1932 Olympic Code.

Yachting, as practiced at North Shore Yacht Club and elsewhere, has often been stated to be Corinthian in spirit — we sail our boats for pleasure, the simple love of the sport, not for financial gain. Membership in NSYC has an additional twist - members come to the Club with a cooperative spirit, an expectation that they, with their peers, will provide assistance in running the Club, in maintaining the Club.

Since late fall, I have been thankful for the Club's cooperative spirit as members have agreed, when asked, to provide that all important assistance as committee chairs or hosts of Club functions. Have no worry, over the course of the season, there will be plenty of chances for all to step up and provide the Club the assistance that is needed to make it work. Don't be shy, if you have a hankering to help with any particular event, speak up, you can probably be accommodated. And if you want to avoid that extra bill next winter for not having met your work obligation, don't be shy . . . we want you to join fully in the cooperative spirit of the Club, kind of like voting in Chicago of old or as espoused by Tammany Hall, help out early and help out often.

Lloyd Herman

NSYC Commodore





Dates to Remember

- *Education-Racing on LI Sound*: Thu. Feb. 5, 1930 hrs
- *Officers' Cocktail party*: Sun. Feb. 8, 1500 hrs
- *St. Pat's party*: Sat. Mar. 14, 1800 hrs
- *Work Parties*: Sat. & Sun. Mar. 28, 29, 0900 hrs
Sat. & Sun. Apr. 11, 12, 0900 hrs
- *Spring Membership meeting*: Sat. Apr. 18, 0900 hrs
- *Launch service begins*: Sat. Apr. 18, 1600 hrs
- *NSYC 145th Commissioning*:
Sun. May 17, 1600 hrs
- *NSYC Day Race*: Sat. May. 30

B*L*I*N*K*S

NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER

- **Andrew & Joy Weingarten**
Inclination, Jeanneau 349
hammet@optonline.net
Hewlett Harbor, NY 11557



Welcome Aboard!

Chamber of Commerce Recognition

On Oct. 1, 2014, the Port Washington Chamber of Commerce honored four members of our club. **Mary Lu Dempsey Palafox, Arlene Kase, Bill Palafox and Marian Weissman** were given Certificates of Appreciation for their work on the Harbor Fest Model Boat Regatta. *Congratulations!*

Theatrical Producer



Paula Kaminsky Davis (*HER C GEM*) has been involved with theater for the past ten years. As an active board member of The Drama League, and a patron of The Roundabout Theater, The Actors Fund, Actors Equity Fights Aids and The Primary Stages, she stays abreast of theater happenings and supports theater arts, attending theater wherever her travels take her.

She is a lead producer of the recently shuttered hit musical *Rock of Ages* which ran for almost six years and closed having reached the 27th longest running Broadway show. She was part of the producing team of the Off-Broadway hit comedy *Tail! Spin!* which ran at the Lynn Redgrave Theatre from Oct. 1, 2014 to Jan. 4, 2015. Charles Isherwood of **The New York Times** chose *Tail! Spin!* as a Critics' Pick. Last year she co produced the hit off Broadway murder-mystery-musical *Murder for Two* which is now having a successful tour across the country.

Over the years she has invested in many successful and popular shows including *Vanya Sonia Masha and Spike*; *The Trip to Bountiful*; *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*; and *Cinderella*. She is currently on the producing team bringing the revival of *The Heidi Chronicles* to Broadway. Watch for its opening in March.

What will her next theatrical gem be?!

From the Steward—January 2015

First & foremost I would like on behalf of myself and your launch operators to wish all of you a Happy New Year, and to thank you for your generosity this season.

The 2015 season is upon us and we must turn our attention to preparing the club and your boats for an easy transition from winter to spring. I know it must seem early to be considering removing the moth balls in January, but this is the time to start thinking and planning our re-opening.

I've made a list of a few areas that would help greatly now and in season:

Mooring Lines— Please inspect your mooring lines that are stored in the basement. If you need assistance make an appointment with me so we can locate it and view it together. Call the club if you would like to do so.

Work Parties — P L E A S E sign up early as the dates should appear in this issue and would help the Rear Commodore and Fleet Captain in planning work assignments.

Parking — Club policy requests only one car per family be in the lot during daily operations and club functions. We are limited in that area.

Clubhouse — Kitchen - when using this area for your enjoyment please don't forget to clean-up after yourself and guests. Please wash & dry & put away all items you soil so the member who follows you will find a clean facility to use. We work with a limited staff in season and your help is greatly appreciated.

Main Room — Please pick-up and clean up all spilled food and drink at the time it happens.

Last One Out — When you're the last one to exit the clubhouse for the day, please turn off all lights and lock the doors. (You may leave the front door light on).

Restrooms — Please notify the Steward or launch person of any needs such as: no hand soap, hand towels, toilet tissue, etc. We try to police the areas of use on a regular basis throughout the day but as you know things happen.

These are a few things that come to mind that would make everyone's time spent enjoying the club a little more enjoyable.

See all of you very soon!Captain Vic





Vice-Commodore's Report – January 2015

This has been a busy winter at the Club. We have purchased an automatic emergency defibrillator (AED) which will be located in the shop. In the event of a cardiac emergency, the unit will be available for use. Capt. Vic and all launch operators will be trained in its use. Many of our members are also trained in its use as it is a part of CPR training. If you have current CPR/AED certification, please advise me so that we can maintain a list of those members who already have such training. Anyone interested in getting CPR/AED certification should contact me for information on how to accomplish that. If there is enough interest to hold a class at the Club, we will arrange it.

The unit is portable so it can be used anywhere - not just in the Clubhouse.

Please note that there is a green indicator light on the front of the unit which flashes approximately every 10 seconds and which indicates that the unit is functioning properly. Please do not touch the unit except in an emergency when it is needed. Do not turn it on or off or remove the battery/pad pack as that only reduces battery life. Also, the pad pack is 'single use' and if it is opened, it will need to be replaced.

We have purchased a new sign to be installed on the dock to replace the old sign. It is quite beautiful and is constructed of weatherproof materials. We expect that it will give us many years of service. You can see the sign which is in the Clubhouse. It will be hung prior to commissioning in the Spring.

We are always looking to get additional members involved in all levels of club activities. I try to invite people who have not previously volunteered to get involved. If I have not asked you yet, please volunteer as I will ultimately ask you. There is much to be gained from active participation. Please try it – you will like it.

Lastly, I have a new email address: Kensailski@outlook.com. I can also be reached on my cell phone at (516) 428-4577. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

KEN MAGIDA
NSYC Vice-Commodore





Fleet Captain & Rear Commodore's Report January 2015

The Fall work parties were held on November 15th and 16th. They were so well attended that the following weekend's work parties were cancelled. Due to nice turn out, members made short time of installing the bubbler system, stowing the deck furniture and removing the awning. The launch committee also turned out in force and winterized both launches and removed the life jackets and fenders which were stowed below the clubhouse. Additional members cleaned the kitchen and the club house including washing the hallway walls downstairs. Lastly, the trophies were polished and the plaques were dusted.

As we announced the cancellation of the second weekend of work parties, I requested that anyone still needing hours to contact me directly, and I would try to arrange work for them the following weekend through Captain Vic. It was surprising how many members contacted me still needing hours and wanting to work. We did our very best to accommodate all members, with a special thanks to Captain Vic for his supervision.

As I leave my post as Fleet Captain, I want to point out that members should try to do their work requirement as early in the season as possible, as we cannot guarantee enough work in the Fall. It is in the Spring as we ready the Club for the season that we really need your participation and I hope that you will come out in force this Spring to support the Club and your new Fleet

Captain Richard Ronzoni:

- **Important Tip:**

We suggest to club members that they attend the Spring work parties to satisfy their work requirement rather than wait till Fall when less work and time might be available for them.

- **Reminder:**

All members must submit a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming North Shore Yacht Club as certificate holder before they will be allowed to bring their boat to the club this season.

As I now assume the responsibilities as your Rear Commodore, I am responsible for maintenance of the House and the Bar. If anyone has any specific drink that they would like to see us offer during our events, please feel free to contact me directly and I will try to accommodate. Also I am presently forming the House Committee and am looking for volunteers that have an interest in serving. Please contact me directly at lskulla@optonline.net if you are interested.

All the best,
Linda Kulla
NSYC Rear Commodore





What Counts Towards the Club's Annual Work Requirement

In recent years there has been some confusion and misunderstanding about what counts towards a member's "work requirement" at the Club so the Board decided to take a fresh look at it during the past year. The work requirement is a long standing tradition at NSYC and is intended to:

- Help members to get to know one another .
- Build esprit de corps among the members.
- Save the Club money by having members do work that is within their capabilities.

Affiliate, Active and Social Associate members have a work requirement that is set by the Board, which is presently 8 hours per year. If a member does not perform the work and record the time worked in the "Hours Worked Log Book," generally kept in a drawer to the right of the stove in the Club kitchen, they are billed at the rate (for 2015) of \$56.25 per hour, plus tax, for the time not worked or a total of \$488.81 if none of the 8 hours of work are performed.

Before 2007, work credit was given for tasks performed (or that would normally be performed) at the spring and fall work parties, as well as for launch service. In 2007, the Board determined that "in addition to the Club's traditional Work Parties, we allow 4 hours credit for Race Committee service and, additionally, that credit be granted for organizing or working at Club functions on the basis of actual hours put in." This was changed to encourage members to volunteer to host and work at social functions as well as to give all an incentive to serve on race committee.

During the past year, a Board committee was formed to review the policy and present recommendations. After much debate, the Board determined that as of December 1, 2014 work that counts towards the annual work requirement of the Club shall include:

- Time actually worked at work parties including the continuation/completion of such work, which is done at the direction of the officer in charge of the work party.
- Four hours per person per race day of race committee duty.
- Time actually spent working at social or educational events.
- Time actually spent working as a designated Ambassador at Club Marketing Events.
- Time actually spent working on all committees as listed in the then current fiscal year's Directory.

In addition, the Board determined that members cannot transfer excess work hours to another member.

There is a great variety in the work that you can do, such as: painting and sanding the pier railings, assembling and disassembling of the winter bubbler system, moving furniture, cleaning the kitchen and dishes, polishing trophies, construction, cleaning the launches and servicing their engines, cleaning and sweeping and so on. And, if you are more comfortable planning or working at a party, serving on a race committee, auditing our books, planning or speaking at an educational event, studying our insurance policies or promoting the Club to potential members, speak up, for there is plenty to do. So put in some time, get to know your fellow members, have some fun and save yourself some money.

Richard Raskin

Website Report

NSYC is very excited to announce the official launch of its brand-new website, www.nsync.net. The renovated site offers an updated look and feel, and is modernized to provide increased functions.

The new site was created by member Ben Shapiro, who is president of Shapiro Consulting, a company providing many types of IT services including website development. Assisting in the development process were the members of the NSYC web development committee, including Dan Herron, Bill Palafox and Marylu Dempsey-Palafox. The new site is based on the Wordpress architecture, which allows the site to be rapidly and efficiently maintained and updated. Additionally, the site will autoadjust to display on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. The new site has imported much of the valuable content from our earlier website that was maintained by Bob Ebenau for many years – thanks Bob!

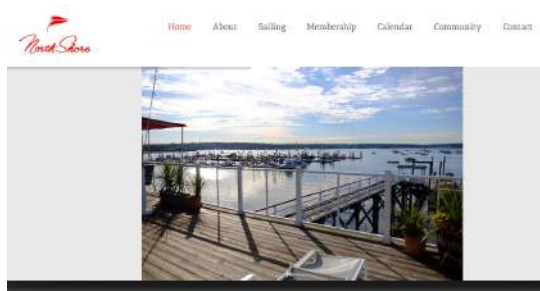
One of the exciting new features on the site is the online member directory. Accessible only to NSYC members who have registered on the site, the online directory will provide all the information which is currently contained in the printed directory. NSYC members will be able to immediately update their profile with any information such as new addresses, phone numbers and – if you switch boats – your new boat name and information. One important addition is that you will also be able to upload your picture, so that new members will be able to put a face to your name.

The website will soon be updated with the 2015 launch schedules, race dates, social calendars, and other important events. There are far too many features of the new website to describe them all in this article, but most should be evident as you browse the site and look at the menu items. One of the very powerful features that will be highlighted in an upcoming Blinker article is the Community Forums. These are essentially web-based "bulletin boards" that allow NSYC members to post comments or questions of interest to other members. This is a very powerful communication tool which can be used to post information about your current cruise, ask a question about boat maintenance, or communicate with the membership in any way you'd like.

Action Item: Please make sure that you log on to the site today and register. Simply go to www.nsync.net and click on the "Register" menu item under the "Community" menu. You will soon receive an email containing your temporary password that will allow you full access to the site. Once you have your password you can update your profile with your name, address and boat information.

Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you online

Dan Hernon, NSYC Webmaster



Welcome to North Shore Yacht Club!





NSYC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 19, 2014

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Pleasure before work - Socializing before the meeting and enjoying the buffet breakfast of bagels, muffins and Danish, and members settle down for the meeting, reading reports while waiting for the meeting to begin.



Commodore Paul Meilink calls the meeting to order and thanks all past commodores as well as all committee members and their chairs for their service, with special recognition to Marian Girardin and Captain Vic.



The subject of the New York State subpoena for sales tax information, "marina sweeps," is discussed and members give their opinions on the matter. The general consensus is that the club should provide the minimal amount to satisfy the State, starting with publicly available information.





NSYC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 19, 2014

(continued on next page)

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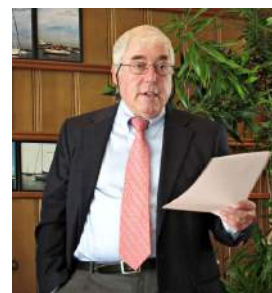
Vice Commodore Lloyd Herman is starting a review of the club's insurance program to see if we are sufficiently covered.



Rear Commodore Ken Magida declares that the clubhouse is in good shape. Also the Club will purchase a portable automatic emergency defibrillator or AED, which will be located downstairs. Captain Vic and some members have received training in its use.



Fleet Captain Linda Kulla thanks Captain Vic and others for the reliable and continuous launch service and comments that the launches are in good shape. She reminds members to sign up for the fall work parties.



Treasurer Jeffrey Koch reports that it has been a good financial year for the club, revenue is up and expenses are lower. Also, members are needed to serve on the Audit Committee and please contact Jeff if you are interested.



Nominating Committee Chair James Thompson puts forth the slate of offices and trustees for the coming season:

Commodore: Lloyd Herman
Vice Commodore: Ken Magida
Rear Commodore: Linda Kulla
Fleet Captain: Richard Ronzoni
Secretary: Leo Kamp
Treasurer: Jeffrey Koch

Trustees through 2017: Charles Cannam and Roy Israel

The slate is voted on and accepted.



Bill Palafox reports on the Marketing Committee and the Race Committee. The club ran 6 club races and 16 one-design races this season and the committee is looking for more members to help next year. The Marketing Committee continues working on the promotional programs and events that help bring in new members. He further notes that the new Social Associate Members are bringing their enthusiasm to the club as well as contributing to the committees.



Bob Ebenau points out that by sharing the responsibilities on some of the NSYC committees, once the burden of a sole chairman, member participation on these committees has increased and in the process, is building a stronger club.





NSYC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 19, 2014

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Education Committee Chair Alan Bernstein describes a high level of involvement in the Education Committee events by club members as well as others outside the club. Safety was a popular subject. The committee is considering discussions on topics like long-range sailing as far as the Chesapeake as well as how to interest more members in racing.



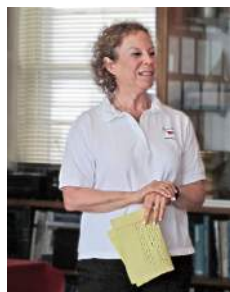
Membership Committee Chair Mary Lu Dempsey-Palafox reports that our one new 2014 Affiliate Members, Richard and Caroline Leone, were offered and accepted 2015 Active Membership and the three 2014 Social Associates (Bill Lee, Paul and Trish Schmitt, Andrea Watson) were offered continued NSYC membership.



Cruising Committee Chair Ron Gold asks club members to share their cruise information as the committee is looking into extended cruising. He is also looking for more members to join the Cruising Committee.



Finance Committee Chair Leo Kamp declares the club's investments are doing well with a growth of 5.45% over last year.



Mentoring Committee Chair Arlene Kase states that the mentoring programs is very effective and she is looking for additional volunteers to mentor new members.



Flags are lowered and the club pennant retired. The sailing season is over and sailors are left to work on their boats in dry dock and dream of next summer.





NSYC Education Seminar

Cruising South

January 17, 2014

At our education seminar the audience consisted of 23 members from NSYC and 13 from other clubs. The participation was very high during and after the seminar with exceptional camaraderie.

Our speakers were very qualified, with excellent reference materials and state of the art digital applications. We heard from Vicky Jo Neiner (Racing, Deliveries, Coaching) and Sailor Joel Robinson. Both have done extensive sailing up and down the Atlantic coast. They shared their experiences and recommendations for cruising from NSYC to the Chesapeake. The initial thought was to do a 10 day cruise. Both felt this was unrealistic as more time is needed and dangerous situations arise. It would take about 5 days each way without sailing at night.

When making the trip through New York Harbor to Sandy Hook NJ and the Atlantic Highlands, a good way is to go through Throgs Neck, 1 hour 40 minutes after high tide at the Battery. On the return trip it would be 1 hour and 40 minutes after low tide at the Battery. Give yourself a 2 hour window.

The Jersey coast is inviting, but all the harbors are difficult due to Hurricane Sandy. Inlet markers are no longer valid and paper charts are not valid in many NJ inlets. They are very dangerous. A good recommendation, before entering many Jersey coast harbors is to call Boat US Towing Service on channel #16 for recommendations on how to enter the harbor. Also, wind generators are being installed along the Jersey coast and are not on any charts.

Atlantic City has some anchorage areas. Farley State Mariner is a good recommendation. Great Egg Harbor has one of the only West Marine stores on Atlantic Coast to get parts.

Do Not go into harbor other than Atlantic City.

Cape May is very shallow. If entering the Canal hug bulkhead and be sure to catch the tides in the right direction. The Corinthian Yacht Club is a good place to stop and wait for the proper tides in the Delaware. One suggestion from Jersey Shore is to go down on the outside and return through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal also known as the C & D Canal. Between Ocean City, Md. and the entrance to Chesapeake Bay there are no places to stop.

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT and APPS

- AIS and NAVIONIX (all currents on site)
- WIND GURU. Gives hourly wind direction and speed.
- SAIL FLOW to predict the wind.
- WILSON ELECTRONICS. Has booster for phone to extend range for 10 to 12 miles
- Radar is essential and a Radar reflector necessary.
- Waterway Guides as break down each harbors you may be stopping at Eldridge for tides and currents
- Having a second GPS is a good idea. However, PAPER CHARTS are essential—do not rely solely on electronics
- BOAT US PREMIUM MEMBERSHIP essential for

emergency towing and, they will bring fuel to you if you run out during the trip.

- Monitoring commercial traffic on channel 13 is essential. It is wise to communicate with Commercial Ships on similar courses.
- Identify the ship by name through an AIS system and hail them with proper name and they will talk to and give helpful and appreciate advise. Watch out for barges with long, long tow lines.
- Always use steaming lights while steaming to protect from barges. Always double reef. Before it gets dark. Lower sails before dark.
- Huge thunderstorms out on Ocean and waves can get huge. Be prepared!

When Offshore it is essential to have:

- Inflatable Life Vests,
- Tether and Jack Lines,
- reflective warm clothing, clothing .
- Have 50 to 100 feet of emergency tow line available.

This is a wonderful trip to experience. However, care is needed in preparation, and caution while planning and sailing. It can be an exhilarating trip if one uses common sense. and proceeds with caution.

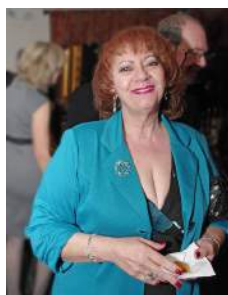
All left with motivation to “cruise” and let’s get going!

***Alan Bernstein
Barbara Greenhouse***





NSYC Dinner Dance in Photographs



Saturday, November 22,
2014

*Our NSYC members were ready
for a party and the
Sea Cliff Manor
provided the perfect venue. A
wonderful range of dancing and
listening music contributed
towards mingling, dancing and
enjoying an evening with friends
at the end of the season.*





NSYC Dinner Dance in Photographs



Our Table of Champions acknowledged our top racers and their crews:

Sounion – Paul Meilink	-For Service as Commodore...2013-2014
Ospey – Richard Raskin	-2013 Service Award
Old Flame – Bill Palafox	-2014 Service Award
Engarde – Charlie Cannam	-NSYC Day Race, Div II, Non-Spinnaker 1st -Rosenberg Trophy 1st -Commodore's Cup, Div 1 1st -Moonlight Regatta, Div I - Spinnaker 1st
Liquid Courage – Dan Herron	-NSYC Day Race, Div I – Spinnaker 1 -Borden Cup 1st -Rosenberg Trophy 2nd -Epstein Trophy, Div 1 – Spinnaker 1st
Osprey – Richard Raskin	-NSYC Day Race, Div II, Non-Spinnaker 2nd -Smith Cup 1st -Epstein Trophy, Div II – Non Spinnaker 2nd
Dybbuk – Roy Israel	-Commodore's Cup, Div 2 1st
EnPassant – Bob Ebenau	-Epstein Trophy, Div II, Non Spinnaker 1st -Borden Cup 2nd
Sundance – Joel Ziev	-Smith Cup 2nd
Vision – Marc Epstein	-Moonlight Regatta, Div II – Non Spinnaker 1st



For our "Go to Guys:"

For the year 2013 Richard Raskin Osprey

For the year 2014 Bill Palafox Old Flame





NSYC Dinner Dance in Photographs



Good friends, good food,
great service...all contrib-
uted to an exceptionally
enjoyable evening.



Dancing? Who needs lessons?
This gang was ready for a party.
What is energetic dancing
among friends?





NSYC Dinner Dance in Photographs

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The Commodores:

We extend Paul and Lili Meilink much thanks and best wishes for their great service as Commodore and

best wishes and congratulations to Lloyd and Julie Herman as they take the helm of NSYC.





New Year's Day at NSYC—2015

(Do you really have to ask when?)

Life is a succession of choices, isn't it? Those of us who are fortunate to be NSYC members confront the first day of the year with a decision: an afternoon of endless football or time with our sailing friends in the cozy confines of the Club. Forty-four fellow members chose the latter option on New Year's Day, to the delight of all who attended.

While my wife Nancy worked in the kitchen--ably assisted by Julie Lim and Arlene Kase--I tended bar, which gave me a strategic vantage point overlooking the gathering. Before the food was served and while everyone had drinks in hand, it was heartwarming to hear the buzz in the room increase as old friends and new acquaintances greeted one another. Smiles everywhere. Occasional loud laughter. Friendly banter and a joke or two. With a log on the fire and soft music in the background, this was the place to be the first afternoon of the year.

This day is a highlight of the year for us and we are privileged to be hosts. There is a perfect symmetry to the event: a festive, but relaxed party; a time of wondrous foods for so many that, by sharing the workload, no one must struggle to provide; the joy of catching up with dear friends and of making new ones. The day has a balance to it as we exit the hectic holidays we do not quite let go of, yet do so in the warm familiarity of our yachting home.

I cannot forget the food--ever various, thoughtfully prepared, a marvelous repast delighting the senses and bringing satiation. Thanks to everyone who contributed in making the menu so sumptuous.

Then, after socializing and the delights of the table, a champagne toast from our Commodore Lloyd Herman: fitting words reminding us of the joys of our being together and the prospect of a new season. And then dessert (actually desserts)--such a variety of sweet delights to culminate the meal.

Some members leave soon thereafter, others linger on in small groups as the room quiets, the fire burning down and volunteers helping with clean-up. Eventually we close up the Club, with a sense of satisfaction of a time well spent.

Special thanks to our kitchen crew, to Lloyd, and to Jim Thompson, Bruce Logan, Ken Magida, and Bill Palafox for their very kind help, and to Captain Vic, our Steward, whose preparation makes the day go so smoothly. And thanks to all whose very presence added to the festivities.

Bob and Nancy Kovach
"Challenge"



Cruising Corner

2015

So it's that time of year again. Mid-winter and the Blinker has arrived. To be different, this article won't start with the tradition icicle images and cold weather comments. I will start by reminding you that by the time you get this article, launch service will be a couple of months away. A target date to circle on the calendar in big red marker or in today's modern times terminology, with a reminder set up on your computer calendar. Not that we are obsessed with sailing (well actually some of us are and proud of it), but winter time and especially this time of year is made for planning for the sailing season. What do I need to do to get my boat in the water earlier than last year so as to get those few extra weeks in May to enjoy when sailing winds and weather make for terrific Spring sailing. What time do I have or do I want to take to really visit and explore various ports during the season, either ones that I want to return to or new ones that I have not been to.

As was discussed at the Fall membership meeting and in other forums and articles, the cruising committee wants your input as to what type of cruising you are interested in and we are happy to help plan a club cruise or to have programs to assist you in planning your own voyage. We have been working with the Education committee on seminars that give information to members that we hope is helpful and a recent meeting focused on planning a possible trip to the Chesapeake by way of the ocean along the Jersey shore and possibly other towns along the way. We are hoping to have a follow up meeting on a Sunday afternoon in mid-February to discuss possible plans for that trip and other cruising plans for LI Sound and out East for the summer. I hope you can make it to the next meeting.

In the meantime, it would be great to hear from you about what plans you have or are thinking about for the Summer. What would you like to see for our holiday weekend cruises for Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day? Are you interested in continuing the three day or so holiday cruise, or would you like to see those expanded by a few days? How far do you think is comfortable for these holiday cruises, both in days and how long is a good day's trip that would deter-

mine where we might go as a group? Do you prefer anchoring, moorings or possible arrangements for docks and slips at clubs or marinas? Would you be interested in a July or August extended cruise plan together? Many clubs organize these trips for two or three weeks with flexibility for members to come for all or any part of the schedule. Is this something you would participate in? In the alternative, would you prefer that we set up some mechanism for sharing cruising plans so that members would post their float plan and exchange the information with other members, who could then decide to keep in touch to meet if they were interested. We have sample trips from other clubs that we can provide for the discussion and your review to comment on.

Other issues that can be discussed along with sharing information are: What type of anchor do members prefer? Do I really need a windlass to cruise and assist in anchoring? To dinghy or not to dinghy? Hard body or rubber ducky? Sailing dink or rowing or purely for transporting family and supplies and with an engine? That cruising chute that has been in the bag since I got it or the boat, do people really use it when the wind is light, or just motor instead? Does cruising really need to be without any clock or schedule or can you cruise and still have a flexible schedule? Weather and chart apps and other fun iPad or phone programs to make life easier, necessary or just toys? Four, six or eight hour or more days. What is my and my crew's comfort level to avoid mutiny?

Please think about these questions and either come to the next cruising education meeting or contact me with any comments that you have. We need and look forward to your input, and more importantly, look forward to cruising with you and sharing wonderful experiences in lots of different places.

Ron Gold P/C
 NSYC Cruising Chair
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In Memoriam – Last Call

Sad News at NSYC



Harold Hecht

has left us in November

It saddens us to convey the news about the passing of NSYC member, Harold Hecht.

Harold passed away peacefully in his sleep, November 20,th on his 92nd birthday, with his beloved wife, Elyse, at his side.

Harold and Elyse were an intricate part of our Club's successes in the past couple of decades and are role models to endear and strive for. Whether cruising or racing, Club Directory, Blinker editors and many other Club contributions, the Hechts set the standard. Harold's gusto for life, manifesting itself in many other ways including boat refurbishing, stained glass art, model trains, and other interests surely is an inspiration for all. We, along with his wife, Elyse, and family, will surely miss him.

Elyse Hecht expresses her thanks to NSYC,

"I want to thank all the many members of NSYC who helped us get thru this very difficult time. All the visits, all the cards, and the fruit basket were wonderful! Since we hadn't been around these past few years, I thought we were forgotten. Boy, was I wrong! You were all exceptional with the eloquent words and actions expressed. "



Kid's Corner

Arlene Kase

Our beloved boats are in winter storage and all of us kids are busy doing schoolwork. We'll have more to say about sailing when the temperature rises. *Happy New Year* from the NSYC Kids!

Some of our Kids ...





Into The Wind!

Jane Murphy

Our sloop is like a weather vane because where'er it goes
No matter what the compass course, the wind is on our nose.
Up the Sound or down the Sound, it really is uncanny—
If it's not puffin' in our face it's blowin' up our fanny.

We're good at dodging lobster pots (and the Sound has really got 'em)
And most of the time we keep our keel from scraping on the bottom
But lay a course from A to B across the compass rose
If it's not dead slack, it's tack, tack, tack with the wind right on our nose.

We've come through fog in Cuttyhunk and managed with some pluck
A gale in Clinton channel and a squall at Mattituck
But chart a destination, through Plum Gut or the Race
Leave the harbor, turn on course—the wind is in our face.

In summer on Long Island Sound, any breezes are a treat
We dream of dancing whitecaps and a jolly close-hauled beat
But like as not when the season's hot, the wind that sometimes blows
Cat's paw, zephyr or force five, it WILL be on our nose!

—/—

