

Beacon Sloop Club Broadside



Volume 47 Issue 10

October 2020

Serving the Hudson River with Pride for 47 Years

A Message from Our President

Throughout this challenging season, the Sloop Club has held strong in its mission and activities.

In a few weeks, the harbor will be put to bed, the Woody will be derigged and heading to Haverstraw. Both ran throughout the summer as visible reminders of our enduring stewardship. As always, we participated in September's Spirit of Beacon Day Parade. Last Saturday, we were RiverSweeping Pete & Toshi Park. The Building Committee has taken this time to do important repairs and upgrades, we've had virtual lectures, meetings and song circles. We celebrated corn and pumpkins. Thank you to everyone who has shared in keeping the Sloop Club the vibrant organization that we count on it to be.

During the summer, every time I went down to do something at the Sloop Club, our people appeared. Not one or two, but a steady stream - on bicycles, on foot, out of cars, kayaks and rowboats. I realized that the Sloop Club, like the river, continues to draw us, regardless of what is happening in the world. It's our place on the Hudson. It holds our work, our history, our future. It's where we go to celebrate the river.

In the uncertain weeks ahead, it's good to know the Sloop Club is there as we left it, standing solid by our river, where we will again come together to restore, protect, preserve, and celebrate.

See you there!

Susan

Inside this issue:

Sailing through Beacon, celebrating the pumpkin, a prepping for winter, and much, much more.....



Photo by Susan Berliner



NEXT EXEC. COM. MEETING October 27, 6:00 p.m.
NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING Friday, November 6, 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: <http://beaconsloop.org/Join.html>

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, Ben Mazer,
Steve Schwartz,

BSC Officers 2020

President:	Susan Berliner	(845)527-8671	
Vice President:	Vince Farina	(845)656 9546	intraining_99@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Aaron Verdile	(914)503-6227	EXTproductions@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Tom Elliott	(518) 265-6676	tomelliott789@gmail.com

BSC Committee Chairs and Contacts

Building:	David Eberle	(845)242-7822	davideb@aol.com
Community Relations:	David Eberle	(845)242-7822	davideb@aol.com
Environmental:	Steve van der Merwe	(914)879-1082	vandermerwede@yahoo.com
	Sarah Elisabeth	(917)682-4114	sarahannelisabeth@gmail.com
Environmental Tent:	Betty Harkins	(845)831-8606	BetHarkins@aol.com
	Mark McNutt		
Festival Music:	Susan Berliner	(845)527-8671	
Festival Publicity:	Joyce Hanson	(914)907-4928	joycehanson@mac.com
Finance:	Alan Thomas	(845)463-4660	acthoma@yahoo.com
Grants & Dev.	James Malchow	908)405-1433	jpmalchow@gmail.com
Harbor Membership	Jim Birmingham	(201)259-9634	jbirmingham@hvc.rr.com
Mooring Manager:			
Membership:	Alan Thomas	(845)463-4660	acthoma@yahoo.com
MLK Day	Bonnie Champion	(845)255-6436	bonniejchampion@gmail.com
Monthly Music:	Susan Bozso	(203)438-4044	bozso.susan@gmail.com
Musical Outreach:	Ken Miller	(201)376-1316	powwow187@aol.com
Newsletter:	Alan Thomas	(845)463-4660	acthoma@yahoo.com
Small Boats:			
Town Liaison	Tom LaBarr	(845)831-4267	labarrt@gmail.com
Vendor Coordinator:	Rosemary Thomas	(845)463-4660	rmthomas99@yahoo.com
Web Site:	Metal	(646) 481-6360	metal@stationbuilt.com
Woody Sailors:	Jim Birmingham	(201)259-9634	jbirmingham@hvc.rr.com
Woody Maintenance:	Steve Schwartz	(845)462-7756	sloopcapt@aol.com
Woody Scheduling:	Susan Berliner	(845)527-8671	

Beacon Sloop Club General Meeting

Minutes, October 2, 2020, recorded by Tom Elliott

Susan called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, welcoming everyone.

Treasury Report: Treasurer Aaron shared the Profit and Loss report for August 2020, which is in the newsletter, below.

The **Harbor Report** was given, setting the date by which all boats need to be out of the water as Friday, Oct. 23rd. Crews will begin removing docks and moorings the next day.

Captain Steve Schwartz gave the **Woody Report:** The boat is in excellent shape and some maintenance sails have been taken. The next step now is to de-rig and move to winter storage. Steve looks to the future when once again we welcome guests onboard for a complete sailing season.

Susan welcomed **Steve Stanne** of Clearwater, who gave us an update. He has been busy revising "**The Hudson: An Illustrated Guide to the Living River,**" available in January with color illustrations! The summer crew season is over with the boat in Kingston for winter maintenance. Clearwater's "**Our River Connects Us**" project filmed this summer, is now available online. Interviews and footage made in communities up and down the river range on topics from Black Lives Matter to scuba diving with river otters. Watch them and share to help increase our community. This Sunday a remastered **2020 Virtual Revival** will stream in its entirety. Steve told us that education director, Erik Fyfe has left Clearwater to become the executive director of a nearby environmental organization. A consulting group working on CW's new strategic plan makes an interim report this week, and CW's fiscal situation is still a major concern, now affecting staff hours. Susan thanked Steve for the update.

Manna Jo Greene reviewed environmental actions. The **Indian Point Decommission Oversight Board** legislation is on hold due to upcoming elections and industry pressure, but still very much alive, with Clearwater working to move it forward to passage. The legal proceedings surrounding the **transfer of Indian Point from Entergy to Holtec** is continuing, with early responses from the DEC making the transfer look doubtful. The site board reviewing the **Danskammer Gas Plant** application is finding the current submission for a permit lacking in its attempt to meet the requirements of the **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act**. Meanwhile, more communities express opposition to the plan -- currently 27 oppose it. Beacon is already one of those, but other Dutchess communities could still help. Clearwater is also exploring ways to improve or expand low impact hydroelectric production. While controversial, this could be a viable renewable if flooding and fisheries problems can be avoided. Clearwater is forming a group to work on building consensus around this concept. A member asked Manna Jo if New Paltz was one of the communities opposing the Danskammer plant, and she replied, yes. Susan thanked Manna Jo for her report.

Alan Thomas reported that the Children's Area of the Club House is now fully repaired. The work included roof, sill, and wall repairs. Only a few cosmetic details remain. Alan thanked Tom Schmeelk for his leadership on this work. Ralph suggested flashing or a gasket around the tree growing through the roof. Susan thanked the whole committee for the tremendous work done this season.

Alan then updated the **Lecture Series**. **Maggie Hurchella** spoke about the dangers environmental activists face. She sent letters to Florida officials opposing a mining company's plan for development at Lake Okeechobee. When the commissioners denied their project, the mining company sued *her*, winning a 4.4 million settlement, a cautionary tale about speaking out as an individual. She plans to take the issue all the way to the Supreme Court. Alan told us there may be more talks this Fall, so stay tuned.

Rosemary Thomas reported on the **Spirit of Beacon Car Parade** and showed a photo of her car that featured teal blue banners and a tanbark sail poking out the top. She said Spirit of Beacon Day started in response to race riots many years ago, helping bring the community together. Thank you, Rosemary and Susan for representing BSC!

Joyce reported that **Riversweep** will be on Oct. 17th, and all volunteers needed for the harbor are signed up. Anyone wishing to help can go to Riverkeeper's website and sign up to help at Denning's Point (8:00 am).

Susan told the group there will be a **Pumpkin Celebration** (like the Corn Celebration in August) on Oct. 18th from 1-5. RSVP by the Thursday before. It would be wonderful if people bring vegetarian chili to add to the pot, cider, or pumpkin pies (since we can't bake them as a group this year). Tom LaBarr will bring several large pumpkins to raffle or auction off. This member/friends event is not for the public or a fundraiser.

Captain Tom LaBarr gave us his **Environment Report**, this time on composting. The Governor and DEC have featured it as a goal recently, so let's all compost. Members asked, what can you put in your compost bins? Kitchen veggie scraps, bread, and other organics, but no meats or bleached paper. Also, Fishkill seeks to reactivate its environmental review committee and is looking for seven resident members, something Sloop Clubber's living there should consider. **Quarantine Outreach** was then discussed. A friend with a used trailer needs a working hot water heater, heat vent work, and a few other items. If you have those skill and want to help, contact Tom. Those trying to reach Nora Kiley, know that Matt is with her and she is OK, but just out of touch by email and phone. Susan thanked Tom for the reports.

Announcements:

November is nominations month for BSC officers of the board.

Mutual Aid Beacon needs volunteers for food deliveries. www.beaconmutualaid.com. **The Rock Tavern Unitarian Universalist Congregation** needs pick up volunteers for the Food Security project. 845-288-3488 or email UUCOVID19TF@gmail.com.

Jewish Family Services needs shoppers for their food delivery program (845) 562-8372). **San Francisco Jazz** broadcasts jazz concerts on Friday nights. **Mary Arnold and Karen F.** are doing an outdoor recital Oct. 17 repeating the following weekend. Contact Mary at marykonizarnold@optimum.net or call 845-891-4509.

Susan adjourned the meeting at 8:56 pm. The **Circle of Song** began, moderated by Rob May.

Prepping the Woody for Winter

Constrained by social distancing the mostly-Tuesday crew has begun the process of derigging and winterizing the boat for her trip to Haverstraw.



Andy aloft

Whipping the topsail

The crew takes a break for pumpkin chili.

Photos by:

- Alan Thomas
- Ralph Szur
- Jean Noack



Keeping the Spirit of Beacon Alive

The sloop club has been a part of Spirit of Beacon Day since its inception. This year it took some creative thought by Susan and Rosemary to come up with a very-sloop-club hybrid vehicle as our entry into the drive-by parade.



With a tanbark mainsail and a mast and boom fashioned out of old hammock parts, they sailed through beacon.



Judith Tulloch provided our entry into the virtual concert. What could be a better way to show our spirit?



Scenic Hudson Purchased Land Adjacent to the Black Creek River & other News

“If I here to name the three most precious resources of life, I should say books, friends, and nature; and the most constant and always at hand, is nature.”

John Burroughs (1837-1921)

In early October we hiked on the two-hundred-acre naturalist and writer John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary located in Highland finding, like a surprisingly colorful sunset, the Black Creek River. We luckily joined other folks who had downloaded a map of the sanctuary and followed three of the designated trails. Scenic Hudson acquired 303 acres in Lloyd, near the rail trail, including over a mile of Black Creek River frontage which wanders into Highland.

One positive outcome of this will be to enhance the John Burroughs recreational use and help protect the water quality of Black Creek the resting place of birds, and home to the American eels and herrings. This area is near both the NY State Thruway and the Mid-Hudson Bridge so will be protected from potential developers. This news was submitted by Riley Johdonnell on the Scenic Hudson “News” section website. On the same Scenic Hudson website was another bit of information that potentially assists in preventing the pollution of our air and water by the Danskammer proposed Plant.

In an article written in 9/20 by Hayley Carlock of Scenic Hudson and Cliff Weathers of River Keeper, the State Board, in charge of approving the new Danskammer plant expansion application, found the application to have deficiencies because of the questions raised by joint groups including Riverkeeper, Scenic Hudson, Earth Justice and Clearwater who questioned allegations of Danskammer. Their application had claimed that Danskammer would meet the mandates of New York’s Climate and Community Protection Act (2019) because the plant could be modified to run on hydrogen or biomass (FGA/Hydrogen) before 2040. This is the date in which the 2019 act proposes that the state would use 70% Renewable Energy by 2030, and 100% Carbon-free Electricity by 2040.

The state board turned down the Danskammer application because it lacked information on how the proposed modifications would occur. The board requested information such as specific infrastructure changes to accommodate FGA/Hydrogen use, the timetable for its implementation, the costs involved, how it would be a renewable energy resource, etc.

So happy to have found the “News” section on the Scenic Hudson website as we were to have found the John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary.

Nora Gallardo, Member Beacon Sloop Club

Celebrating the Pumpkin

I lieu of a public festival, club members got together for a socially distanced celebration of the Hudson-Valley pumpkin and to maintain a sloop club tradition of more than 40 years.



Photos by Jean Noack and Alan Thomas



A big thank you to Maggie Hurchalla for sharing her story with us as part of our virtual lecture series. Her experience defending against a SLAPP suit is a chilling and cautionary tale for us all.

She offered the following advice for folks involved in activism:

So, how do you keep from being sued? Quite honestly you can't.

Vengeful billionaires and corporations with deep pockets can and will keep SLAPPING activists as long as the strategy works. There are a disparate bunch of things you can do, or not do, that can lessen the threat:

-Make your complaints to government officials. Some courts have held that the "right to petition government" is stronger than the right of "free speech."

-Simply adding "in my opinion" will not save you. The 4th DCA ruling in the Lake Point case held that: *"Even if we viewed the statements as "mixed opinions," the statements would not be privileged under the First Amendment. Statements are not privileged opinion "where the speaker or writer neglects to provide the audience with an adequate factual foundation prior to engaging in the offending discourse")."*

-Using hyperbole can save you. If you feel the need to insult the opposition do it in an outlandish way. Pat Roberson sued a magazine for running a cartoon showing him losing his virginity to his mother in an outhouse. The court threw out the case saying it was "hyperbole" rather than an accusation assumed to be based on actual facts.

- You are NOT legally required to preserve communications with officials before a lawsuit filed. Do be careful not to delete any emails or discard any communications on the subject once a lawsuit is threatened or filed. That will not protect you with a bad judge. In the Lake Point case the circuit judge opined that IF you criticized a wealthy corporate entity you should expect to be sued and therefore have a legal duty to preserve all evidence. On that basis, and the fact that I had regularly deleted emails before the lawsuit, he instructed the jury that they could make an "adverse inference" that I must have destroyed earlier emails and those imagined earlier emails could be considered as evidence.

-Be aware that your email may be hacked, and your phone may be tapped. All of us try to get over our paranoia, but SLAPPERS are not nice people and they have very deep pockets.

-It is probably not wise to be irreverent. I think that's sad. I like to take my causes seriously, but I try not to take myself too seriously. We should have fun saving the world.

-Do your homework and keep a record of it. Back up those records so hackers can't destroy them. Always try to be accurate.

-If you get a threatening letter from the attorney for the opposition that sounds ridiculous, take the time to answer it in

detail. It won't change the SLAPPER's mind, but it can be used as evidence at trial, especially if they accuse you of saying something you did not say.

-Get together with your allies. Make sure everyone involved understands the issue you are "petitioning" about. Go to meetings en masse. Public officials will ask you to appoint a representative to speak for the group. Don't. Let everyone speak in their own way on the important issues at stake. Repetition is okay. It's called "WE, the people."

-Work with state and national organizations to get backup research for your concerns.

-Lobby your legislators for a strong SLAPP suit law. Florida has a strong constitutional guarantee, but a very weak SLAPP law.

-Pay attention to local judicial races. Because no one pays attention, incumbents are usually re-elected. Publicize your bar association's judicial ratings. FIND GOOD CANDIDATES and help them run for office.

-Help others being slapped. I have a wonderfully long list of concerned citizens and groups that have petitioned to file friend of the court briefs and donated to my Slapp Back Fund. I couldn't do this without them.

-Join the "Protect the Protesters" movement. It includes ACLU, Greenpeace, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Freedom of the Press Foundation and lots of others. Send their website link to all your friends.

-Have parties to watch John Oliver make fun of SLAPP suits.

-Read Canan and Pring's book on SLAPP suits. It is well written, and you will learn a lot.

-If you are going to be a troublemaker in the eyes of the rich and powerful, it is time to do some estate planning with a very good lawyer. Your will and living will, and all that stuff is probably out of date anyway. Be aware that if you are married your bank will instruct you to hold your account as "tenants in common with rights of survivorship. That way, if the bank has a lien against you, they can collect half of the account. If you hold the account as "tenants in the entirety" it is owned as a single entity by you and your spouse and cannot be garnished.

-Before you get to trial, demand summary judgement on constitutional grounds. Emphasize our constitutional protections throughout the trial.

It is shocking that Maggie, who only expressed her opposition to the Lake Point project in emails to her county commissioners, could have a \$4.4M judgement against her upheld by the highest court in Florida. It underscores that no one is safe when big money is involved.

Thank you again and Good Luck!

Treasury Report - August

The Beacon Sloop Club, inc.		
August 2020		
	Total	
Income		
Contribution, Gifts, Grants		50.00
Amazonsmile Foundation		9.66
IBM Matching Grants		1,426.00
Network for Good		445.00
Woody Nickles		50.00
Total Contribution, Gifts, Grants	\$	1,980.66
Corn Festival		
Corn		160.00
Total Corn Festival	\$	160.00
Investment Income		740.53
Membership		
Paypal		50.00
Snailmail		100.00
Total Membership	\$	150.00
Other Revenue		
Harbor Mooring Fee		1,992.83
Total Other Revenue	\$	1,992.83
Total Income	\$	5,024.02
Gross Profit	\$	5,024.02
Expenses		
Bank Expense		
Paypal		1.70
Total Bank Expense	\$	1.70
Corn Expense		57.20
Facilities		
Building		448.14
Utilities		37.42
Total Facilities	\$	485.56
Other Expenses		
Website		19.37
Total Other Expenses	\$	19.37
Printing, etc.		
Postage, Mailing Service		179.85
Total Printing, etc.	\$	179.85
Total Expenses	\$	743.68
Net Operating Income	\$	4,280.34
Net Income	\$	4,280.34
Opening Cash Balance 8/1/2020		
	\$	104,168.83
Closing Cash Balance 8/31/2020		
	\$	108,449.17
Unrestricted		
	\$	84,144.61
Restricted (total)		
	\$	24,304.56
B & S Rozinsky Fund 8/31/2020		
	\$	17,723.23



On Thursday, October 29, 7:30 PM, Clearwater will recreate Pumpkin Sail’s magic in an online concert featuring [Reggie Harris](#), [Magpie](#), [Dean Stevens](#), and [Thomasina Winslow](#), streaming to [Facebook Live](#) and [YouTube](#).

There is no admission fee, but we hope that attendees will generously donate to Clearwater during the concert.

WOODY NICKELS

Go to the Fishkill Redemption Center and tell them to put your deposit proceeds in the Beacon Sloop Club envelope. Ask for a receipt.

A&A Redemption Centers
794 Rt. 52 Fishkill
 (across from Fishkill recreational center)

Open 7 Days:
 Monday-Saturday: 9:30-5:30
 Sunday: 10:00-4:00

www.bottlecanreturns.com

Containers Accepted:
 They accept all soda and beer bottles and cans, water bottles, and other beverage cans, and all store brands of New York State returnable bottles and cans. They do not accept Gatorade, Snapple, vitamin water, iced teas, Powerade, or juice bottles. (Please make certain all your containers are NY State returnable.)

Count Them Before You Come In:
 You can save time by counting your cans and bottle before you go to the center. Put them in a clear bag labeled with the quantity.

Please rinse all your containers!

Current Calendar



Anyone wishing to join a Woody crew can contact any captain or Jim Birmingham to sign up. No experience is required. We will train you.



BSC Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 27 ·6:00 – 8:30pm

Meeting ID

<https://meet.google.com/bcr-vgwc-pak>

[Join by phone](#)

(US) +1 662-502-2773 PIN: 481 767 331#

On Thursday, October 29, 7:30 PM, Clearwater will recreate Pumpkin Sail's magic in an online concert featuring [Reggie Harris](#), [Magpie](#), [Dean Stevens](#), and [Thomasina Winslow](#), streaming to [Facebook Live](#) and [YouTube](#).

Beacon Sloop Club Membership Meeting
Friday, November 6 ·6:30 – 10:00pm

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/onm-gkfs-hrc

[Join by phone](#)

+1 803-587-8953 PIN: 802 049 943#

We will be taking nominations for 2021 officers at the November meeting. Voting will be at the December meeting. You must be a current member in order to vote.

Traditionally many people renew at the December meeting prior to voting. Due to covid, please try and get your renewals in early this year.

The Virtual Sloop Club, Some notes and hints

We have chosen Google Hangout Meetings as our primary platform. Google has made their premium version available to us free, as a non-profit, during the current crisis.

You can join the meeting in many ways, as a full video conference, using your device's camera and microphone, dialing in on any phone as an audio only participant, or any combination of the two. So, everyone should be able to connect in some way.

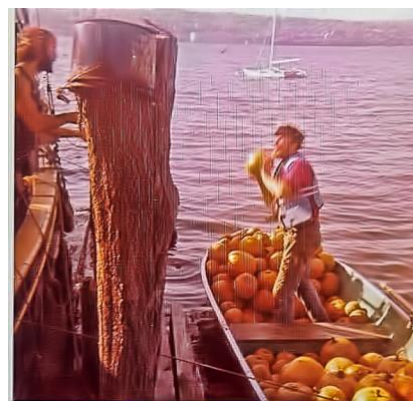
For video conferencing we found that it works best if you use a Chrome browser, although other browsers do work.

If using a phone or tablet for video conferencing, you need to download the app for your device.

<https://support.google.com/meet/answer/7291339?co=GENIE.Platform%3DiOS&hl=en&oco=1>

Help for Google meeting is available at:

<https://support.google.com/a/users/answer/9300131?hl=en>



Pumpkin Sail / Fest 1975
Photo by Faith Ward

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

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