



Volume 50 Issue 5

May 2023

Serving the Hudson River with Pride for 54 Years

A Message from Our President

This is the time of year when we witness the miracle of spring. Rebirth and rejuvenation are everywhere. A flurry of Club activities also signals the arrival of the new season. Steve Schwartz and Max Smith and the indefatigable maintenance crew are preparing the Woody Guthrie for the upcoming sailing season. The complex process of rigging and fine-tuning our river craft is almost complete, including the securing of brand-new ratlines, expertly fashioned by Captain James Malchow. The sloop now assumes its rightful place in the harbor, a promise of an exciting sailing season to come. Complementing the preparation of the Woody is the installation of all the floating docks. Thanks to Ben Fiege and the steadfast members of the Harbor Committee for their labors.

Meanwhile, Mary Arnold has assiduously resurrected the Beacon Sloop Club sailing classes. After several years of dormancy, the classes have sprung to life. More than 40 students, by far the most in recent memory, are learning from our master captains—some of the finest sailors on the entire Hudson River. We are deeply appreciative of Captains James Malchow, Ben Mazer, Steve Schwartz, Tom LaBarr and Betsy Garthwaite for sharing their vast store of wisdom. And we thank Mary. All her hard work and organizational prowess made this year's sailing classes a reality.

As the last vestiges of winter slip away, the final presentation of the Winter Lecture series provided a fitting conclusion to a singularly successful program. On April 20th Scott Ramsey, Executive Director of the New York State Cider Association, and pioneering cider-master Elizabeth Ryan, delighted an attentive audience with many facets of the cider-making industry, accenting their comments with generous samplings of cider. We thank Alan Thomas and Steve van der Merwe for their unflinching efforts in assembling a memorable Winter Lecture series.

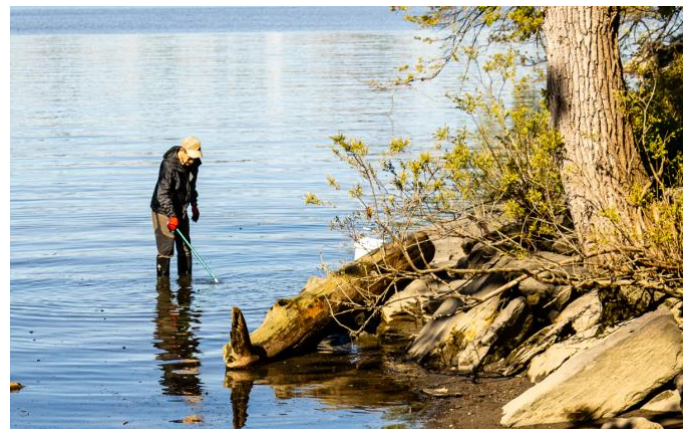
The annual Strawberry Festival is our homage to spring. This year's coordinator Patricia Finnerty and her coterie of volunteers are busy planning another highly anticipated festival. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work. The Riversweep, Beacon Sloop Club's version of spring cleaning, came together on the first Saturday in May, when scores of enthusiastic volunteers, led by Joyce Hanson and Metal, cheerfully converged at the clubhouse and scoured the riverbank, collecting hundreds of pounds of refuse.

We acknowledge a debt of gratitude to Ken Miller and Susan Berliner for organizing the Pete Seeger Birthday Celebration song circle and to all the fine musicians and music lovers who gathered near the river after the Riversweep, to celebrate our founder's birthday in song. It was a fitting way to welcome spring.

Rob

Inside this issue:

Cleaning up the waterfront, ongoing threats, minting new sailors, it's strawberry time, and much, more...



NEXT EXEC. COM. MEETING Tuesday, May 23, 7:00 p.m.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING Friday, June 2, 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](#)

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, James Malchow,
Ben Mazer, Steve Schwartz,

BSC Officers 2023

President:	Robert May	(845)661-5123	robertmay2394@gmail.com
Vice President:	Vince Farina	(845)656 9546	intraining_99@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Aaron Verdile	(914)503-6227	EXTproductions@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Mary Arnold	845-891-4509	marykonizarnold@optonline.net

BSC Committee Chairs and Contacts

Building:	Tom Schmeelk	((845)298-2867	
	Vince Farina	(845)656 9546	intraining_99@yahoo.com
Community Sailing:	Vanessa Nisperos		vanessa.nisperos@gmail.com
Environment:	Tom LaBarr	(845)831-4267	labarrt@gmail.com
Environmental Tent:	Tom Elliott	(518) 265-6676	tomelliott789@gmail.com
	Mark McNutt		
Festival Coordinator:	Patricia Finnerty	(267)908 0716	patriciafinnerty267@gmail.com
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			
Mooring Manager:	Ben Fiege	(845)764-5884	fiege.benjamin@gmail.com
Harbor Communications	Jeremy Baum	(914)213-5353	jeremybaum@jeremybaum.com
Lecture Series	Steve van der Merwe	(914)879-1082	vandermerwede@yahoo.com
	Alan Thomas	(845)463-4660	acthoma@yahoo.com
Membership:	Alan Thomas	(845)463-4660	acthoma@yahoo.com
MLK Day	Bonnie Champion	(845)264-5663	bonniechampion@gmail.com
Monthly Music:	Ken Miller	(201)376-1316	powwow187@aol.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:	Joyce Hanson	(914)907-4928	joycehanson@mac.com
Web Site:	Metal	(646) 481-6360	metal@stationbuilt.com
	James Brown		empulsetech@gmail.com
Woody Sailors	James Malchow	(908)405-1433	jpmalchow@gmail.com
Woody Maintenance:	Steve Schwartz	(845)462-7756	sloopcapt@aol.com
	Max Smith	(484)336-6569	
Woody Scheduling:	Susan Berliner	(845)527-8671	

Beacon Sloop Club General Meeting

Minutes, May 5, recorded by Mary Arnold

Opening Music: **Ken Miller, Ben Mazer, Max Smith, Bonnie Champion, Rob May, and Mary Poppins:** *My Dirty Stream*, highlighting current environmental issues.

Call to Order at 7:30 by Rob May who wished everyone happy Cinco De Mayo. Volunteers are needed to take home trash and recyclables. Thank you to Multrum Heroes Dean Bredhauer, Vanessa Nisperos, and Vickie Fox. Thank you, Tom and John, for stocking firewood. Welcome **Lynn Porter, Merrick and Michelle, and Fran**, attending for the first time.

Guest Speaker Dr. Courtney Williams presented an update and call to action on Holtec International's Indian Point decommissioning. Courtney, from Peekskill, has a PhD in Molecular Biology. She outlined the status of the decommissioning and the issues surrounding holding tanks full of tritium-contaminated water. "Holtec wants to dump 1 million gallons into the river." She argued it is important for NYS to set a precedent at Indian Point as a model for other nuclear plants in other communities. "Some legal scholars say we don't have say over what happens with the water. But we have been in discussion with DEC to take responsibility and we have been working on legislative, administrative, and legal options for stopping it. In the lab, I have used Tritium in experiments. There is a whole process to make sure there is no tritium left." Tritium's radiation levels are lower than other nuclear waste products, "But its half-life is 12 years. If you ingest it, inhale it, it is in your body and it is a concern." She noted that "River towns are historically dumping grounds. Upstream, there is a burn plant, downstream a gypsum site. The Hudson River is a superfund site. There may be little risk, but all these little risks cumulatively add up to danger for our community. The only reason to dump this water is money. Holtec got a decommissioning trust fund of over a billion dollars. They are incentivized to do it as fast as possible, then they keep the money." Other decommissioned plants have found safe solutions. "I have never heard 'dump it all'."

Tom LaBarr raised questions on impact on not just human health but aquatic life, including microscopic life. Per Courtney, "We do know how the water flows out of the pipe and into Haverstraw Bay. This is where we get cumulative impact. They say, 'We've been dumping it for years,' but they have never emptied the unit 2 and 3 units where the spent fuel rods have been kept." She questioned Holtec's testing and monitoring, which is not independently verified.

Courtney and club members outlined advocacy initiatives, including a rally on Saturday, May 6 at Cortland Waterfront Park; letter/post card writing and bringing pressure on Governor Kathy Hochul. To Contact Governor Hochul, call 866-696-8249

Treasurer's Report: Aaron Verdile presented the Profit and Loss statement for April. See report page 7.

Taxes: Alan Thomas reported that the BSC's state and federal taxes have been filed and answered questions.

Pete Seeger Birthday Celebration and Song Circle will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 6 outside the club House. **Ken Miller** invited people to come with instruments and voices.

Riversweep: Saturday, May 6, 8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the clubhouse. **Joyce Hanson** will have registration forms/waivers available if you have not pre-registered.

Woody Report: The Woody is in the harbor with the mast. **Max Smith** announced a work party on Saturday to bring the boom from the clubhouse to the boat. Weeknight crews will be getting the boat ready for Festivals in June.

Harbor Report: Vanessa Nisperos reported that initial mooring work had been completed and that an additional weekend work party will occur later to drop moorings for new members. The painting of the club house exterior trim was part of the Harbor work. Sloop Club Membership and mooring fees can be paid online. For information on mooring, contact **Jeremy Baum** and **Ben Fiege**.

Community Sailing Report: Vanessa Nisperos thanked executive committee members for their efforts to launch this pilot program to bring new and under-served communities to the water with collaborations with Riverpool and Newburgh Rowing Club. Upcoming events include a Riverwalk at Pete and Toshi Park on May 27.

Festival Report: Patricia Finnerty reported that the Strawberry Festival will be Sunday June 11, with the Strawberry party at the Yard in Beacon on Saturday June 10 to prep part of the strawberries and make the biscuit mix. We also need volunteers raise the tent and for site set up on Saturday at Pete and Toshi Park. On Sunday, biscuits will be baked off site and brought to the park, where volunteers will be needed all day for set up, strawberry prep, and clean up.

Sailing Class: Mary Arnold reported the class is underway with 43 people registered. She thanked Captains/Instructors **James Malchow, Steve Schwartz, Tom Labarr, Ben Mazer, and Betsy Garthwaite;** plus **Alan Thomas** for managing online registration and Facebook promotions, **Joyce Hanson** for effective community publicity, and everyone who promoted the class to club membership, Woody Sailors, and Harbor crew.

Winter Lecture Series: Alan Thomas reported this is now completed with several very successful events.

Clearwater Report: Rosemary Thomas announced that Clearwater will do the Kingston Earth Fair May 13.

General Announcements:

Alan Zollner announced that the Riverpool has been renovated with new seats and flotation. There is a work party for pre-installation prep will be Saturday, June 13. They are hiring lifeguards at competitive rates: visit <https://www.riverpool.org/employment/>.

Jamie Cupolo thanked the club for support in establishing the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla. Meetings are monthly in Newburgh.

Vickie Fox is seeking volunteer drivers for Beacon Prison Rides to help people arriving at the Beacon Train Station visit loved ones incarcerated at local correctional facilities: visit prisonridesproject.com.

Joyce Hanson continues to fundraise for T-Shirts for festival volunteers.

The Woody Update

Rigging, wiring and other boat prep work is continuing, as we get ready for our publics first sails of the season at the Cornwall River Fest and the Strawberry Festival. We need our nightly crews to rally round the captains as we put the final bits together.

Thank you to everyone who came out and help with the spars.

We need valiant crews for Cornwall and Strawberry Festivals. Please contact your captains and let them know your availability.



More Than Book Learning



The sailing class is poised to graduate a record number of students at the end of the month. Mary Arnold and our captains (and special guest Betsy Garthwaite) have done a superb job organizing the class and course materials.

We hope to see some new faces on the Woody and a few new boats in the harbor. Please make them welcome.



Photos by Steve Porter

Harbor News

The harbor has come along very well. We got all the docks secured and the moorings floated and dropped. Harbor members Jack and Paul completed the painting of the clubhouse exterior trim. The inner harbor is mostly full, and we are planning to drop one more round of moorings by the end of the month for new members.

The cutoff date for harbor dues is June 1st. Anyone looking for a mooring must contact our mooring manager, Ben Fiege to request a spot and review your boat and equipment. Request must be in by the end of the month. All boat owners must be members to the Beacon Sloop Club, pay the \$250 mooring fee, and commit to attend harbor work parties.

Mooring fees may be paid online by following the [membership link](#).



Hudson Valley Environmental News



Manna Jo Greene is set to retire as Clearwater's Environmental Action Director after 22 years. We are dedicating this month's column to her.

Manna joined Clearwater's board and then joined the staff at a critical time. She was instrumental in the fight to hold GE responsible for the cleanup of PCBs, spending years focusing attention on the issues, providing the public with, guidance and

oversight of both GE's actions and the agencies responsible for ensuring the job was done right (there are still many issues as Manna would tell you).

Manna has also been a key player in the decommissioning of the Indian Point nuclear power plants, both in the decision to close the aging facilities and all the complexities of the process of dismantling. She recognized early on the need for both state and federal oversight, sponsoring forums to educate congressmen and local officials on the issues and dangers involved.

Her dedication to the health of the Hudson River and our communities, from Albany to Manhattan, was widely recognized and respected by her peers in the environmental community and civic leaders. Whether the new issue was industrialization in Coeymans, storm barriers in NY harbor, or fracked gas plants in Milton, Manna was on the case, rounding up the experts and building coalitions.

Manna has always been a great friend and resource for the Sloop Club. We wish her well in her retirement. Manna, you are always welcome.

Indian Point: Holtec announces a "voluntary pause" in release of tritiated water into the Hudson River.

It is fair to say that this was anything but a voluntary move after the outcries from citizens, government entities and politicians after Holtec's announcement that they were moving up plans to release radioactive wastewater into the estuary. This does not mean that they have given up and they have threatened layoffs and delays to pressure local officials.

Holtec's plan of record still calls for the discharge of more than 1 million gallons of filtered wastewater into the Hudson, so this may have been a short-term victory, but it was only a skirmish in the 15-year decommissioning process. Constant vigilance and the latest in scientific understanding will be required to ensure the safety of the ecosystem and the public. So, stay informed, stay active, and stay vocal.

Hudson PCB update: US EPA is now actively studying the Lower Hudson by developing and implementing a sampling plan in coordination with the NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH).

STRAWBERRY VOLUNTEERS of the WORLD UNITE

Saturday June 10 Prep Day!

Strawberry and Biscuit prep Saturday:

Please plan on helping us prepare for the festival. The Local Strawberries will be delivered about **10:00 am**. We need to wash, hull, slice and freeze about 1/3 of the berries. Then we will mix all the dry ingredients for the biscuits.

The Strawberry prep for this year's **Strawberry Festival** will be on **Saturday, June 10th, 10:00 am** at **The Yard, 4 Hanna Lane, Beacon**. We need a few people at **9:00 am** for set-up.

Site Prep Saturday:

We need strong backs and willing hands **Saturday June 11th, 9:00 am** at **Pete and Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park**, for site setup.

We will be setting up the strawberry tent, and moving tables chairs, tents, and the other infrastructure needed for Sunday's festival.



**All Hands On Deck for the
Strawberry Festival!!
Sunday, June 11. Noon-5pm
Pete and Toshi Seeger Riverfont Park
Set-up begins at 9:00 am**

Volunteers of all kinds are needed. You can volunteer for 20 minutes or the full day. Bringing friends encouraged, especially for hulling.

9:00 AM – 11AM Setup the 10x10 tents, tables, chairs, 10x20 tents, signs, tablecloths, serving stations, and so on.

10:30 AM-4:30 PM – many people needed; serving, slicing, whipping, Earth Care, hull berries (this is a very social activity) and more!!!

4:30-6:00 PM Cleanup (take the tents down, move tables/chairs back to clubhouse, and so on). Volunteers at the end of the festival are especially appreciated.

It's Getting Cleaner Every Day....



A Beacon Sloop Club Earth Day tradition for more than 40 years, we again partnered with Riverkeeper's Riversweep to remove trash and debris from our beautiful waterfront.

Thank you to Metal Winter and Joyce Hanson for organizing this year's event, to Jodianne Lindhj, owner of the REFILL RESTORE at 480 Main Street, in Beacon, NY, and of course to all of our members and other community



More Than Cider

Our Winter Lecture Series wrapped up with Scott Ramsey, executive director of the NY Cider Association and pomologist and cider maker Elizabeth Ryan.

Great cider starts with great apples and Elizabeth took us through the rich history of Hudson Valley apple growing and the farmers who contributed to our culture.

All of that and the samples of her Hudson Valley Farmhouse Cider offerings were pretty good too.



BEACON SLOOP CLUB COMMUNITY SAILING

The Beacon Sloop Club Community Sailing Program

Free and Open to Families & Community members in Newburgh & Beacon!

**Saturday, May 27 (rain date 5/28):
River Walk, 10 am – Noon,
Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park**

Learn the tides and currents of the Hudson River, and where to find information on water and weather conditions.

Practice tying knots for boating and household uses.

Bring a packed lunch and picnic together In Pete and Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park following the River Walk

www.beaconsloopclub.org

We need a few club members to help with this community sailing event. Meet at 9 am at the clubhouse.

Contact Vanessa Nisperos if you would like to help: vanessa.nisperos@gmail.com

The Beacon Sloop Club, inc.
Profit and Loss
 March 2023

	<u>Total</u>
Income	
Contribution, Gifts, Grants	1,000.00
Investment Income	42.91
Interest-Money Market	65.36
Total Investment Income	\$ 108.27
Membership	
Paypal	125.00
Snailmail	180.00
Total Membership	\$ 305.00
Other Revenue	
Harbor Mooring Fee	500.00
Sailing Class	500.00
Total Other Revenue	\$ 1,000.00
Special Event	
T-shirts and merch	171.00
Total Special Event	\$ 171.00
Total Income	\$ 2,584.27
Gross Profit	\$ 2,584.27
Expenses	
Bank Expense	
Paypal	29.79
Total Bank Expense	\$ 29.79
Facilities	
Building	158.98
Festival	65.03
Harbor	1,249.66
Utilities	178.15
Total Facilities	\$ 1,651.82
Other Expenses	
Donation	250.00
Food Pantry	295.00
Total Donation	\$ 545.00
Website	19.46
Total Other Expenses	\$ 564.46
Strawberry Expense	
Ads / flyers	40.86
Supplies & Materials	105.97
Total Strawberry Expense	\$ 146.83
Total Expenses	\$ 2,392.90
Net Operating Income	\$ 191.37
Net Income	\$ 191.37
Opening Cash Balance 3/1/2023	\$ 106,420.93
Closing Cash Balance 3/31/2023	\$ 106,612.30
Change in Investment Value	\$ 500.66
Total Balance 3/31/2023	\$ 107,112.96
Unrestricted & soft	\$ 83,184.12
Hard Restricted (total)*	\$ 23,928.84
B & S Rozinsky Fund (hard)	\$ 20,281.39
Board designated funds (soft)	\$ 15,177.06



In Memoria: Don Raskopf



Don Raskopf, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday April 15, 2023, age 64.

A skilled carpenter, I'm writing this on a desk that he built for me, Don brought his many talents to the Sloop Club at a time

when they were sorely needed. He was instrumental in the early days of the *Woody* restoration, including the building of the shed under which the boat would live for two years. His expertise was invaluable as our volunteers learned the trade.

Don was a passionate environmentalist, a boat lover, and advocate for social justice. This is how we will remember him, with a tool in his hand inside a wooden boat.



Current Calendar

BSC Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 23
At the Clubhouse

Beacon Sloop Club Membership Meeting
Friday, June 2 6:30 – 10:00pm
At the clubhouse

The Beacon Sloop Club Sailing Class

When: April 12 – May 31
(8 classes meeting on Wednesday night)
Where: The Beacon Sloop Club
Time: 7pm – 9pm

Town of Cortland Rally and Flotilla

Saturday May 6, 2- 6 pm
Town of Cortland Waterfront Park
77 Riverview Ave., Verplank

Community Sailing Program River Walk

Sat., May 27 10 am – Noon
Pete and Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park

Riverfest 2023

Sunday, June 4, 11 am - 6 pm.
Donobue Park, Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York



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

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Set-up begins at 9:00 am**

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

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