



## HUDSON RIVER HAPPENINGS & INTERCLUB INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Compiled by the HRBYCA      <https://www.hrbyca.org>

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### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this the second edition of our monthly communication from the HRBYCA

#### 1-President's Message:

On behalf of the B.O.D. we want to wish you all a Happy New Year. 2021 will be the year we all return to enjoying the river despite any hurdles thrown in the way. Many clubs reported their joy in gaining new members during the pandemic and I hope this trend continues.

The B.O.D. will be focusing on helping clubs gain new boaters this year and we welcome any ideas you want to share.

Those clubs who have a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan filed with the NYSDEC must remember to send in their Annual Certification Report by Jan. 28th or risk being fined.

All water sample testing results for the 2nd half of 2020 must be sent in before Feb. 28th.

Clubs not filing a SWPPP with the DEC risk hefty fines. If your club is not covered please contact me for help in preparing your SWPPP. [info@hrbyca.org](mailto:info@hrbyca.org)

Best regards,  
Jerry Silverman/ President HRBYCA

### 2 UPDATES FROM THE HRBYCA Board of Directors Meeting Dec 29 2020

#### Bob Boothe Secretary:

The Board discussed at length various ideas and suggestions which might lead to increasing the number of "new boaters" to the Hudson and help grow club membership rosters.

Topics discussed included 1- community sailing clubs which involve partnerships between local governments and boat clubs 2-Youth and adult sailing instruction programs 3 Clubs hosting

mandated and/or elective/optional boating courses 4 clubs hosting “non-boat” related courses (CPR and First Aid courses, etc.), hosting groups which provide low cost/free sailing experiences on the Hudson, 6 creating a membership category for kayaks/personal watercraft. The HRBYCA hopes to conduct an in depth survey of the clubs later this year.

Because of the uncertainties created by the Covid epidemic the Board decided to put “on hold” and plans/actions about a Commodore’s Brunch for spring 2021.

The Board also decided that the printed “Annual HRBYCA Journal” (which was usually distributed at the Commodore’s Brunch) would instead be created as an “online” version. Besides saving labor and printing costs this will allow expanded content of each club’s profile (the profile questionnaire will be requested from each in the near future)

“Boating on the Hudson” is accepting club histories for its Feb 2021 issue. Contact John Vargo, the publisher at [vargojhvargo@aol.com](mailto:vargojhvargo@aol.com) for more information.

### **Vice President-Gov Affairs and other river related topics-Scott Croft**

Here’s an update on some issues that may affect Hudson River boaters in the New Year. Full disclosure: most of these topics are also related to my day job at BoatUS, where much of this info comes from:

#### **NY State Sen. Maloney Bill on Hudson River Anchorages**

The provision is part of USCG Authorization within National Defense Authorization Act and would ban establishment of new anchorage for oil barges on the Lower Hudson from Kingston to Yonkers. At press time, the House had voted to override President’s veto and the bill went to the Senate.

For more: <https://seanmaloney.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/maloney-s-bill-to-permanently-ban-oil-barge-anchorages-on-the-lower>

#### **The Sport Fish Restoration Program**

Paid for by purchases of fishing equipment, boat fuels and import duties, the highly successful user-pay, user-benefit Sport Fish Restoration Program keeps recreational boating and fishing running like clockwork. U.S. Coast Guard funding for boating safety and education programs, fishing and conservation efforts, boating access such as launch ramps, and law enforcement are all kept alive by this U.S. Fish and Wildlife-managed fund. Securing its reauthorization prior to its September 2021 expiration will be a top goal in the new year.

## **Water Resources Development Act**

On Capitol Hill, recreational boating has long held a back seat when legislators debate funding for water resources such as harbor and waterway maintenance – but that’s changing. Greater awareness of recreational boating’s impact is helping frame the debate. BoatUS has advocated for “set-asides” to include funds targeting recreational boating needs such as improved access or navigation for smaller harbors. On the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW), an important snowbird route, BoatUS worked with the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association, Congress and the U.S. Army Corps Engineers to increase funds for shallow draft channels. Funding for AIWW in 2021 was increased more than 300% from the president’s original budget. It’s unclear if the Act will have any direct or immediate implications to our area of boating, but we will have to see. Our stretch of the river may not have a lot of what some define as ‘port’ infrastructure.

For more: <https://www.mraa.com/news/544078/Congress-Passes-Bipartisan-Water-Infrastructure-Package.htm>

## **GPS Integrity**

An April 22 decision by the Federal Communications Commission gave mobile satellite services Ligado Networks permission to operate a mobile telephone service that could interfere with the GPS signal. Along with the Keep GPS Working Coalition, BoatUS was actively engaged in lobbying Congress and the administration to attempt to reverse this decision and protect the integrity of GPS. BoatUS will continue to demand language requiring an additional review of this decision within the National Defense Authorization Act.

For more: <https://www.boatus.com/news-room/release/boatus-stakeholders-ask-fcc-to-reconsider-app>

## **Renewable Fuel Standard – Miss fueling Mitigation**

Reform of the Renewable Fuel Standard, which requires Americans to consume increasing amounts of higher-ethanol fuels such as E15 (prohibited for use in boats), remains deadlocked. BoatUS advocated at the Environmental Protection Agency for additional consumer protections from miss fueling of boats with E15

and has supported ethanol alternatives such as biobutanol, helping to ease its path to market. In 2021 new efforts to reform this broken policy are likely.

### 3-Environment/Natural History Happenings

Note from the Secretary HRBYCA Since things are fairly “light” at this time of the year I’m taking the liberty of “passing along” some really interesting information from the Hudson River Almanac courtesy of Tom Lake, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Estuary Naturalist

From HR Almanac Dec 4-11 In November, four years ago, a humpback whale came through the Narrows into the Upper Bay of New York Harbor and put on a show for a week “lunge-feeding” on Atlantic menhaden. That seemed like a once-in-a-long-while event. This week, it happened again. Our Banner this week shows the whale frolicking in the bay in front of the Statue of Liberty.

#### Highlight of the Week

12/8 – Upper Bay, New York Harbor: We spotted a humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) swimming in the Upper Bay of New York Harbor and tracked it from The Battery, along the western shoreline of Governors Island, through the Bay Ridge Flats, and then over to the Staten Island Ferry Terminal on Staten Island. After two hours of searching, we found the whale near Ellis Island. The whale slapped its tail twice as we watched it surface in front of the Statue of Liberty. We estimated it to be about 40-feet-long.



We spent the next four hours with the whale, partly to protect it from other boats in the bay, including the Staten Island Ferry. This definitely brought a bit of excitement to our day. Despite the theory that the whale may have been lured into the Upper Bay by the extensive Atlantic menhaden mortality, we observed it lunge-feeding on live menhaden and it seemed to be strong and healthy. Unlike the 2016 Upper Bay humpback whale that swam back and forth with the bay’s tidal movement, this one actively powered south while it was flooding. We were able to measure the whale’s speed in the water at about three miles-per-hour. (For more information, go to <http://www.nymediaboat.com>.) (Photo of humpback whale courtesy of Artie Raslich)

- Bjoern Kils

[Paul Sieswerda (<http://www.gothamwhale.org>) has seen this particular humpback whale before. He matched the unique markings on the underside of its tail flukes to previous photos of sightings in the Lower Bay of New York Harbor, as well as off Rockaway in November 2019.

The humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) is found world-wide in major seas favoring coastal continental shelf areas. They are a baleen whale, as opposed to a toothed whale like the Orca. Baleen are keratin plates that hang from their upper jaw forming a curtain at the opening of their mouth. As they scoop up (lunge-feeding) large quantities of small fish, the baleen allows them to filter the prey from the water. The humpback whale can reach 52-56 feet in length, weigh 90-thousand pounds, and live fifty years.

In late autumn 2016, a 30-foot-long sub-adult humpback whale cruised the Upper Bay of New York Harbor from the Verrazano Narrows to the George Washington Bridge for six days feasting on Atlantic menhaden before returning to the open ocean. Photos of the whale “lunge-feeding” had us

speculating on how many menhaden could fit in a humpback whale's mouth at one time. Hundreds? More? Tom Lake]



12/6 – Croton Bay, HRM 34: There was a large scattering of 29 bald eagles observed this morning along the east side of Croton Bay (Crawbuckie) just south of the Croton River train trestle. This was a day after a blow-out tide (strong, sustained northwest winds) had exposed extensive sandbars and mud flats. Wintering bald eagles ordinarily arrive here in early January making this large gathering atypical. This may have been a collateral effect of the Atlantic menhaden die-off, being that “fatbacks” are a preferred food staple for eagles.

- Larry Trachtenberg

[Crawbuckie and Inbuckie are colloquial names used to describe the mile of tide marsh and shoreline between the mouth of the Croton River and Ossining (river miles 33-34). The origin of the names is hazy, but they were commonly used by local Rivermen for well over a century. Crawbuckie is the low-tide beach on Croton Bay made equally famous in the 1960s and 70s by striped bass anglers, when catching one of any size was big news. Inbuckie is the adjacent tidemarsh inside and east of the railroad tracks. Prior to the early nineteenth century, when the railroad bisected them, they were one. Tom Lake]

12/8 - Hudson River Watershed: Following the Ice Age and the retreat of glacial ice from the Laurentide Ice Sheet about 15,000 years ago, marine mammals began visiting the Hudson River estuary. With lower sea levels, it took a while for the ocean waters to find the lower river. By the time the first of us arrived, about 12,000 years ago, marine mammals were likely quite common. (*Photo of harp seal courtesy of Tom Lake*)

-Tom Lake



The list of Hudson River estuary marine mammals documented in the *Hudson River Almanac* across the last 25 years includes:

- harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*)
- hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*)

- gray seal (*Halichoerus grypus*)
- harp seal (*Pagophilus groenlandicus*)
- common (harbor) porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)
- Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)
- bottlenose (common) dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)
- Florida manatee-2006 (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*)
- minke whale-2007 (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)
- humpback whale-2016 (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).

## 4 Upcoming Significant Happenings on the Hudson River

### INTERCLUB INFORMATION EXCHANGE-VIRTUAL BULLETIN BOARD

FROM: Croton Yacht Club 12-13-2020

I am hoping you can help out with our College Scholarship fundraising effort by circulating the attached list of fishing tackle available for auction in the new HRBYC "Hudson River Happenings". These items were donated from the estate of a friend of the Croton Yacht Club, Ed Mertz. Ed was a local naturalist and photographer who was a frequent attendee of many of our events and supporter of our Scholarship program. The mission of the scholarship is to cultivate future local environmental leaders, to develop future advocates and stewards of local marine resources and to enhance, promote and protect local river- related recreational resources. The scholarship is awarded to deserving Croton High School graduates who are pursuing undergraduate studies in the fields of marine, maritime, environmental engineering or environmental science.

Because of the pandemic, we are not planning to hold our annual dinner and auction fundraiser until assembly restrictions are normalized. As a result, we are offering a virtual auction option to anyone who may be interested in bidding on any of these items.

Attached is a spreadsheet of most of the higher end items from the Ed Mertz estate which may be of interest to HRBYC members. Many of these items are in new or very good condition.

Individuals can submit an offer on any item to me via email to [dennis@kooney.net](mailto:dennis@kooney.net) or I can be reached by phone at 914-907-3622. I can send photos or arrange to meet individuals who are interested in any item. There are also pages of terminal tackle and lower end items which are also available upon request. All reasonable offers will be considered.

Regards,

Dennis Kooney



Description	Condition	total units	Value Each
St Croix Avid Surf ASRS 90 M Med Power Mod Fast Action Graphite Surf Cast Rod (1 piece 9' spin)	VG	1	100
Harnell 540 45 Lb Surf Casting Rod 11' 2 piece bait cast	VG	1	150
Varmac RS-3 Surf Casting Rod 10' 2 piece spin	G	1	70
Varmac NF-3 Surf Casting Rod 11 1/2' 2 piece spin	VG	1	75
Mohawk Deluxe Grade 7 Ft Boat Rod 1 piece	F	1	40
Penn Spools No. 29 M-140 for 140 Reel (4)	VG	4	5
Garcia Fiberglass Boat Rod 2892B	G	1	15
Penn Spinfisher New 706 Manual Pickup Spinning Reel	G	1	50
Penn Peer No. 209 Bait Casting Reel	G	1	25
Ron Arra Surf Pro Lamiglas 11 ft XSRA 1322-2 Surf Cast Rod	N	1	125
Team Daiwa- S 3500 CU; SR w/ Spare Spool Model TD-S3500 CU (2)	N	2	150
Team Daiwa- S 2000 CU; SR w/ Spare Spool Model TD-S2000 CU (2)	N	2	130
Team Daiwa Advantage 3000A w/ Spare Spool Model TDA-3000A (2)	N	2	140
Daiwa Saltiga Surf Spinning Reel SA Surf 5500 (2) w/ Spare Spool	N	1	300
Penn 5500SS Skirted Spool Spinning Reel w/ Spare Spool	VG	1	100
Penn Squidder Model 140 Bait Casting Reel	VG	1	75
Mitchell 406 Spinning Reel	VG	1	35
Strikemaster 8" ice auger	G	1	25
Aviron Clement 60" canoe paddle	VG	1	50
Unnamed 50' canoe paddle	Fair	1	15

## DEC 16- UPDATED FORMAT INFORMATION :

Our initial issue was sent out Dec 13 as a “word” document attachment (to allow newsletter editors to “edit, condense, then cut and paste” information in club newsletter, etc.

Now we are able to give you the direct links which have just been setup to bring your members directly to the location of information from HRH-IIE. (We think this is a good option to have to look use with hand held devices.)

### Links for “Happenings”-the complete Newsletter

<https://www.hrbyca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-12-13-HUDSON-RIVER-HAPPENINGS.pdf>

The HRBYCA News page on the web site - with intro and summary

<https://www.hrbyca.org/hrbyca-news/>

Boats for sale – No new listings for this issue.

(The Ranger 24 listed in the last issue has been sold. The seller reports that the buyer is a member of one of our clubs and found his ad in the last issue of “Happenings”)

Events - the information from HRBYCA clubs submitted for distribution

Croton fundraiser <https://www.hrbyca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-12-Croton-fundraiser.pdf>

All are in the "PDF " format. Our thanks to Keira Burch Secretary at Minesceongo Yacht Club and our webmaster  
Bob Boothe, Secretary HRBYCA