

May 26, 1998

Dear Member,

With sailing just underway, it is busy at the club docks. The fleet is in great condition, our new facility at Pier 25 is being finished, and we have a whole season of sailing in front of us. This will be a fun year and I hope all members will be able to make the most of it.

On Saturday, June 6, at 11 a.m. there will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for our new sailing facility at Pier 25. All members are encouraged and invited to attend. To add festivity and color, we need our entire fleet from North Cove to motor up to Pier 25 for the ceremony. If you can volunteer to skipper or crew on one of our club J/24s as it sails up to Pier 25, please call me in the office at (212) 786-3323.

After the ribbon is cut, we will be offering short free sailing trips to the public from Pier 25. This will help create community support for sailing and is very important to our future at Pier 25. We need volunteers. A skipper and crew member will be on each club J/24. Then a few people from the Tribeca community will hop on for a 30-minute to 1 hour sail. Nothing fancy is needed. The idea is just to get people onto the water and allow them to look back at Manhattan. We don't know how many people will take advantage of these free trips, but it is an important public relations exercise for our club. We need maximum participation from members. If you can volunteer, we need your support.

That evening, there will also be a private party on the pier. Members who volunteer during the day will be invited to attend.

The Fleet Captain Program is underway for the season. Every Thursday evening and Saturday morning and afternoon, any member can call the club to make a reservation to sail on a boat. Then we match up skippers and crews and everyone goes out in the harbor and has a great time. This has been a popular program at the club and each year, participation has increased. But this spring, more crew than skippers have signed up. If you are a skipper, we need your help. If you can volunteer as a Fleet Captain, please call the club. As an added incentive, Fleet Captains will get a free cocktail at the club bar after sailing.

Also, if you are a regular member who wishes to participate in the Fleet Captain Program, be sure to call several days in advance. When members call to sign up only one day before, it is almost impossible to line up more skippers. To make this program work efficiently, we will take reservations in the order received. If not enough skippers volunteer will have to limit the number of crew. I believe that once the season gets into full swing, enough skippers will come forward. But until then, we also need to limit this program to members only and no guests. Thank you very much for your understanding as we continue to fine tune this program and adjust to its growing popularity.

This is a good time to talk about Skipper privileges. If you wish to upgrade to Skipper status, please call me at (212) 786-3323. I will fax you a sheet outlining what you need to do.

This year, Manhattan Yacht Club will host the New York City qualifying series for the Empire State Games' laser racing competition. The Empire States Games is an annual multi-sport event and each year brings together top competitors from across New York State. On Monday evening, June 8, we will run the qualifying races from our new facility at Pier 25. This qualifier is open to all NYC residents. For information, call Jason Walsh at (212) 675-1531 or email at [jwalsh@pilotmail.net](mailto:jwalsh@pilotmail.net)

John LaGrassa is organizing his annual Pioneer Sail on Monday, July 6 at 6 p.m. Members are invited to join John for an evening sail on the historic vessel Pioneer based at the South Street Seaport. The cost is \$35 per person. Ice will be provided, but you should bring your own refreshments. Space is limited to 40 people and spots go fast so I encourage you to contact John ASAP at (212) 875-8315h or (212) 441-1525w.

On May 1 & 2, our club hosted the first Lady Liberty Regatta. This event brought together some of the top women teams from around the country. It was organized by the New York Harbor Sailing Foundation and sponsored by the Downtown Lower Manhattan Association. The regatta began with a Symposium: Sponsorship and Women's Sailing. The moderator was Suzanne Grimes, publisher of Conde Nast Sports for Women, and panelists were Dee Slattery, marketing director of Nautica, Scott MacLeod, president of Sail Sports and Linda Lyndquist, publisher of Yachting Magazine.

The racing in the harbor was very good, with a variety of conditions from light to medium. Our club was represented by Katie Morgan and her crew of Linda Kaiser, Jennifer Ross, Mercedes Tech, Melissa Hitchcock and Heather Johnson. They finished fourth overall, only one place out of the trophies. Congratulations team!

The regatta was capped by the Third Sailors Ball, a black tie party which also celebrated the start of the sailing season. The ball was held at the India House and over 650 people attended. It was a smashing success.

During all of the excitement of the past few weeks, an interesting thing happened. One of our members, Estelle des Georges, flew to Paris for a trophy presentation. Many years ago, our club established the Clipper Challenge Cup, a trophy for the New York to San Francisco sailing record. This past winter, French sailor Yves Parlier broke the record while sailing in the Gold Race. Estelle flew to France to award our trophy to Yves at a prestigious ceremony.

Laser racing has begun for the season. We now have 7 boats and a full 7 skippers racing on Thursday evenings. We had also planned a Saturday series but only 2 skippers signed up for the spring. More have signed up for the summer, but until participation increases in the spring, this series will be on hold.

The Lady Liberty Regatta got me thinking that we should to keep improving our women sailors for the year 2000 when the event will be held again. What about an all women's laser night as a way of improving skills? If anyone is interested, please let me know.

Looking forward, there are a number of events to put on your calendar. Sunday, June 7 at 3 p.m. is the Fourth New York Restaurant Regatta. If you wish to participate, please call me in

the office. June 22 is a Skipper and Crew Mixer at the clubhouse from 6 to 8 p.m. And the MYC Ladies Championship has been pushed back to Monday, July 13.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Fortenbaugh  
Commodore

Mark these dates on your calendar!

June 6 – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for MYC Pier 25 facility

June 7 – Fourth New York Restaurant Regatta

June 8 – Laser Race For Empire State Games

June 22 - Skipper & Crew Mixer at clubhouse, 6-8 p.m.

July 6 – John LaGrassa Annual Pioneer Sails

July 13 – MYC Ladies Championship