

September 8, 1998

Dear Member,

Yesterday, Labor Day, a terrible thunderstorm passed through the harbor. Winds at Staten Island were recorded at 80 mph.

A club J/24, skippered by Bruce Hagan, was caught in this storm. This boat capsized and sank in the vicinity of the 28 buoy.

There were five people on his boat. After the boat sank, all of them were floating in the water. The waves were very large and the wind and rain made visibility limited. At some point, Bruce got separated from the group.

A passing barge saw people in lifejackets floating in the harbor. They radioed a tug which picked up four people. Bruce was not recovered and at this point is still missing.

The US Coast Guard launched a search and rescue operation which is still underway. Our prayers are with Bruce and his family.

Because this situation will require the full attention and concentration of our staff, we will suspend membership sailing for a period of one week.

As more information becomes available, I will communicate it to you.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Fortenbaugh  
Commodore