

New Name for “Sailing Club”

New York Harbor’s leading sailing organization and one of the largest community sailing facilities in the country has changed its name. The new name is “Manhattan Sailing Club.” The old name was “Manhattan Yacht Club.”

“We are excited about the future,” says Michael Fortenbaugh, Commodore of the Manhattan Sailing Club. “The new name more accurately reflects who we are and what we do. We are a sailing club. Our club owns a fleet of sailboats. We use these boats to teach sailing to the public and to organize cruising and racing programs for members.

“In the past,” continues Fortenbaugh, “When people heard the word ‘yacht,’ they thought of large boats and exclusivity. That’s not us. We are a group of regular New Yorkers who use the harbor for good, clean, environmentally-friendly recreation. We like to sail.”

The name change was announced to members at the Annual Dinner and was met with loud applause.

“All members agree this makes sense,” says Fortenbaugh. “Many years ago, US Sailing, the National Governing Body of the sport, dropped the word ‘yachting’ in favor of ‘sailing’. Today is the right time for us to follow that lead.

“We are headquartered at North Cove in Battery Park City,” explains Fortenbaugh. “This is an important part of Lower Manhattan. We are one block from where the World Trade Center stood. Our club and sailing school were significantly impacted by 9/11. But we returned to rebuild. And we are more committed and determined than ever to make a positive impact on this community and city.



The fleet of boats at North Cove.



The new logo.

“We represent a significant form of recreation. We are part of the maritime history of this city. New York used to be the sailing capital of the country in the 1800s. We are working to make this happen again.

“Our sailing club plays an important role in Lower Manhattan. We increase the quality of life. Where else in Manhattan can you walk to the waterfront and hop on a fleet of sailboats?”

“We also promote the area. Our sailboats bring people from all over the city and country to Battery Park City. They step on a boat, sail in the harbor and return to dock



with a new perspective. They say, ‘This is the most beautiful urban environment in the world!’

“And it’s not just sailors who enjoy our fleet. All New Yorkers, even those who have never set foot on the water, like our boats. The fleet creates visual beauty. During the summer, the railings above our docks are filled with people.

The Manhattan Sailing Club is one of the largest community sailing organizations in the country. The club makes it possible for New Yorkers to have the incredible experience of sailing under the skyline of Manhattan.

Workers, residents, families and children stop to watch the activity. Commuters rushing by dream about what they would rather be doing. Almost every person who passes North Cove looks down at the boats and smiles.

Workers, residents, families and

“I grew up sailing. This sport has given me great pleasure. I want to share that with other people. We hope that changing our name sends a clear message to all New Yorkers that we are a community sailing organization and we are open to the public. This is a place where you are welcomed. We want you to join us and experience the great feeling of sailing under the skyline of Manhattan.”

The name change will not affect any of the club’s programs. The club will continue to offer sailing lessons to the public through the Manhattan Sailing School. Details are at www.sailmanhattan.com. The club will continue to offer cruising and racing programs to members. Details are at www.myc.org. Corporations will still be able to charter boats for company events.

Manhattan Sailing Club was founded in 1987 under the name “Manhattan Yacht Club.” The club was the first organization to reintroduce recreational sailing to New York Harbor. Today, the club is one of the largest community sailing organizations in the country. The club owns 28 J/24 sailboats and has more than 400 members. Each summer, more than 500 New Yorkers take the Basic Sailing course at the club’s school.

For more information, please contact Michael Fortenbaugh, Commodore of Manhattan Sailing Club at 212-945-6363 or mike@myc.org.

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