

BOAT BASIN BULLetin

Issue 17

All the news that floats we'll print

December, 2015

Holidays 2015 Issue

Anyone with Basin pictures? Articles? News? E-mail them to allnycyachts@gmail.com and I'll publish them in a future issue.

The 16 past issues of this newsletter are on <http://www.iboatnyharbor.com/AOther%20Resources.htm> If you' don't want to receive these newsletters, please email me with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Ed Bacon
S/Y Prelude

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PAST

Learn from the past; never use it as an anchor.

– Brian Herbert and Kevin Anderson “Dune”

Pre – Basin



Riverside Drive, north from West 80th Street, showing the transitional aspects of this marginal thoroughfare. In the foreground is one of the last squatters shacks. The row of buildings at the right is at the S. E. corner of West 82nd Street. About 1895



Riverside Park: The crossing at 79th Street. At the completion of the West Side Improvement Project these tracks of the New York Central Railroad will disappear from view, being enclosed in an embankment, the roof of which will provide an automotive causeway. July 11, 1931.

- From NYPL <http://www.oldnyc.org/#722883f-c> – submitted by Bill Lewis

Life After the Boat Basin

Received the following from Dean Bragonier:

Apparently we met when I was in diapers. I was the baby born on Stormy Petrel. My mother is Penny Bragonier, who, incidentally sends her best.

I thought you'd get a kick out of this article ([LINK HERE](#)). Perhaps the Boat Basin community members will like the mention.

To raise awareness and resources to help kids with dyslexia, Dean completed the 60 miles Round the Vineyard Swim in 27 days. See <http://www.noticeability.org/> for a video blog of the swim. Dean founded NoticeAbility to unlock the potential of dyslexics. Contributions would be appreciated.

Deaths**Jim Marsten**

From Heather this summer:

I hope to keep receiving BB newsletters for it was such a happy time of my life to live there. I don't know if you are aware but Jim Marsten died December 31, 2014 - He had a major heart attack beginning of November and spent two months in ICU. We tried everything, but his heart was in too bad of shape and his systems shut down. The kids and I miss him mightily. What saddens me most is he would have been an awesome grandfather.

I am sending you a link to a file of photos that my daughter and I compiled for a slide show on Jim's life - some are from boat basin. My daughter created the account:

I created a Dropbox account and uploaded all the photographs from the slideshow into it. To access these photos:

1. Go to <https://www.dropbox.com/login>

2. Email: marsten95@gmail.com

Password: Bluefish95

3. The files are contained in the folder "James" but for easy viewing click on "Photos" which is the second item in the column on the far left of the page.



PRESENT

“It seems sometimes that we get so caught up in missing the past, or looking forward to the future, that we forget that this, right here and now, was once the days we longed for and will soon be the ones we miss.”

– [John A. Ashley](#)

Holidays Caroling Party

Once again, the Not-Ready-For-Prime-Time Carolers will be serenading the Basin. If you'd like to carol, please be at the Dock Office at 5:00pm, Sunday, December 20. Dress warm and bring a flashlight. Music will be provided. The post-caroling party will again be on Jan and Kazumi's "Alicia" on C Dock. Bring a potluck dish and beverage. If coming, please RSVP to Regina at 917-940-0777.

Winter 2015 – 2016

Dockmaster Chris Vallozzi said that he'll keep the summer fresh water system functioning until the daily temperatures require winterizing the system. Wood has been ordered for the ice barriers and the A Dock construction barges can be moved to provide better ice protection if required. The clothes washer is broken and the clothes dryer blower is down. We're hoping for repairs before we have to cart the laundry uptown through the slush and snow.

A Dock Replacement

Replacement of A Dock is underway. Pilings have been set in bedrock and will be filled with concrete next.



The dock will be a big hit with the public. Schools ships will finally have a better dock for their activities. Protection of the Basin from river ice should minimize our poling away ice floes in the wee hours of cold winter nights.

We asked to be part of the design effort but were presented with a fait accompli and our suggestions were ignored. The main shortcoming is that there is little additional protection from rising tide levels, nor'easters, storm surges and hurricanes. The new A Dock will flood shortly after the wave wall floods (4-5' deep during Superstorm Sandy).

Holding tank pumpout stations

In the 2012 quarterly meeting Parks Marinas said they would install a pumpout system on C Dock to replace the defunct Basin-wide pumpout system. We suggested that a honey wagon (a la Lincoln Yacht Harbor) or a honey boat (a la Liberty Landing) would be more practical. This summer a pumpout station was installed at the head of C Dock and another station was installed inside the wave wall.

Fire protection

At the same 2012 quarterly meeting, a request was made to replace missing fire extinguishers, publish a fire procedure and hold an occasional fire drill. New fire extinguishers have been installed on the crosswalks. A fire procedure should be published. A fire drill at the beginning of the summer season would enhance the safety of the Basin.

Bernie Karl rehab

Bernie of "Maybelle " on D Dock can be reached at <mailto:sck1940@aol.com>

Visit by former Argo resident Bret Gilliam :

Special treat: I got to go visit my old "home" Argo today while in New York City. The owner Chris Williamson had tracked me down on the internet and wanted me to meet him and fill him in on the history of the boat. It's the oldest Trumpy motor yacht still afloat... built originally in 1911....now 104 years old. Argo is now berthed at the 79th St. Boat Basin on the Hudson River in Manhattan since Chris bought her in 1989.

Gill (my dad) bought her in 1960 for \$7600 and we lived aboard until 1970. The experience changed my whole life and set my career path forever. As a senior naval officer, every time we were transferred to a new duty station we simply cruised the yacht. We ended up voyaging the entire east coast from Key West to Maine and back several times, the Bahamas, Cuba, went through three hurricanes, and Gill taught me everything I'd ever need to know about seamanship, navigation, diving... and life. I had not been aboard or seen Argo in 45 years. Very moving... he would have wanted to be here today. But I think he was looking down and pleased.

Over the years guests included President John Kennedy, writer Ernest Hemingway (who signed my copy of "The Old Man And The Sea" in 1961 on my 10th birthday), actor Cliff Robertson, famous Maine boatyard owner Frank Sample and son Tim Sample (famous comedian), Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, singer Harry Belafonte, singer Pete Seeger, astronaut Alan Shepherd (Gill's classmate at the Naval Academy), wreck salvager Art McKee, actor Lloyd Bridges (Sea Hunt), singers The Kingston Trio, football players Roger Staubach and Sonny Jurgensen, actor Sean Connery, and so many great folks that Gill fell into along the way. It was never dull...

Another Basin boat for sale

Ed and Regina's Prelude, a cutter-rigged ketch, is for sale.



See <http://www.iboatnyharbor.com/Ads.htm> for the For Sale brochure.

Basin visit by Hana



Hana aka Diane Tominaga - June visit to the Basin

PFUTURE

The future is called 'perhaps', which is the only possible thing to call the future.
- Tennessee Williams

From Dave Polakoff - (Crain's Business, September 21, 2015):

"I don't expect the administration to include the expansion of ferry service along the west side during this phase," Mr. Rodriguez admitted. "Still, it would be an important new form of transportation" for communities along the Hudson River, he said.

The councilman envisions a ferry route connecting Battery Park to 72nd Street and 125th Street, and perhaps extending to Inwood and Riverdale. If even a fraction of tourists chose to travel to those neighborhoods, the economic boom would be significant, he said.

... and you think the 31 daily wakes from the Edgewater ferry Moira Smith are bad?

Pfantasy Pfuture: Basin debris clean up

The only benefit of the Boat Basin not being dredged for over 57 years is that on the Lowest Observed Low Tides (LOLT) during the winter, the debris is exposed.



Logs, tires, compression tanks, shopping carts, dock boxes, limbs, trees, lines, fenders, canvases, buckets, hoses, cables and waterlogged driftwood become visible.



If you suspect there is something in your summer slip or in the adjacent “fairway”, come down to the Basin on an LOLT to check it out. It may prevent your dinging a propeller or wrapping a line, cable or tire around your shaft this summer.



An LOLT occurs when a very low astronomical low tide of -0.7 to -0.9 feet (See “This year’s tides at the Battery” on <http://www.iboatnyharbor.com/Currents%20and%20Tides.htm>) coincides with a strong northerly or northwesterly wind (See the “NOAA National Weather” forecasts on <http://www.iboatnyharbor.com/weather.htm>)



The Pfantasy Pfuture element? A joint effort by Parks Marina staff and volunteer boaters will remove the debris from the Basin's slips and "fairways" during some of the LOLTs this winter.



Anyone have a grappling hook?



Note: Images are from January, 2015. Haven't had an LOLT this winter yet. Debris may have moved, been removed or we may have an additional crop of debris.

Parting Proverb

Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.

[Henry James](#)

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