

BOAT BASIN BULLETIN

Issue 5

All the news that floats we'll print

June 2008

10 days until the Boat Basin Alumni Re-union!

Volunteers needed

Ed Bacon
S/Y Prelude

Thanks to Jeannie Preece and John Doswell, Nat Lichtwar, Linda Reilly and Leslie Day for their contributions to this issue. Thanks to Daria Fane, Mary Henry and Kelly for e-mail addresses for the re-union's missing.

-ED-

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PAST

History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are.

- David C. McCullough

Life after the Boat Basin – Jeannie Preece and John Doswell

Preece/Doswells at the Boat Basin

The two of us (John Doswell & Jean Preece) lived at the 79th Street Boat Basin from around 1972 to 1978. Prior to coming to the boat basin, we both had apartments up around 94th and Riverside Drive. It was on freezing cold night in February of 1972 that a 4 alarm fire broke out in 214 Riverside Drive. Our apartments were not badly damaged but the entire building was condemned and we had to move out.

So we eventually ended up at the Boat Basin. Nancy (my wife at the time) & I had found an apartment at 96th Street & Columbus – but Jean and her husband, Bernie Karl, discovered a houseboat for sale at the basin called *Maybelle* (on E Dock I believe). They purchased it with help from a NYC relocation grant, which was normally given to people forced to move when the City condemned a building. At first the City was reluctant to give them the money, claiming it was for a boat, not a house. But Jean argued with them, saying “hey, it has a bathroom, it has a kitchen, it has a bedroom, etc...” - and won. Some years later we used this fact in court as evidence that the City recognized (and even supported monetarily) the Boat Basin as a place to live.

Some time after the fire Jean introduced me to Nat Haft, who was selling his cabin cruiser to move up to a new one. I ended up buying her, renaming her *Unicorn* – she was a 46’ wood hulled Wheeler. Sometime shortly after that Jean moved from E-dock to C-dock, where *Unicorn* was berthed. Nat and his wife, Sandy, meanwhile, had moved to a slip on B-dock on a larger cabin cruiser.

The now Preece/Doswells repowered *Unicorn* with a pair of Lehman Ford engines and made several upgrades to the boat. We made several trips to Davis Park in Fire Island and to various spots on LI Sound. For awhile we were involved in some sort of lawsuit that the residents of the basin brought against the city for something or the other having to do with how the basin was maintained. One of the leaders of the suit was a guy named John Bolt – a bartender at Teachers who also lived at the basin. He eventually went on to build 2 steel-hulled “tall ships” on City Island, one of which he kept for himself, and ran the Dyckman Street Marina for awhile. Jean remembers him as a guy with go-fast boats and a black dog.

Jean also reminded me of several other Boat Basin regulars: a former proctologist with 2 or 3 adopted dogs (can’t recall his name), Vinny & Helen Mignon on their impressive 57’ cabin cruiser, a former tap dancer, Joan (from the Zigfield era, Jean recalls). Jean says that she and her husband Al had squelched her fears of winters and living on a boat (“Like living in a cabin in Maine” Joan had said). We also met Ed, at the time a busy IBMer with a houseboat, with a vision to retire and operate a charter sailboat.

The Preece/Doswells eventually sold *Unicorn* and a couple of years later purchased *Laissez Faire*, a 50’ Taiwanese ketch which we kept in City Island and New Rochelle. Around then we helped Nat develop his invention - the

Automatic Fender Adjuster - and helped to market it at a big Chicago boat show. At the show we rigged our 1 year old daughter, Jhoneen, on a stroller seat suspended from a fender adjuster. Later Sandy took over the Fender Adjuster business as she moved to Ft. Lauderdale. She has since retired with an award as Business Woman of the Year.

In the mid 90's John got involved with the quest to build Hudson River Park, and was part of a group that passed the Hudson River Park Act. While still producing industrial shows and computer software, I started a new not-for-profit called Friends of Hudson River Park and remain on its board of directors. It now has 6 staff and a permanent role in advocating for and raising money for this new park which is about 60% done. One of the Piers we advocated for years ago – Pier 84 – is now done and is beautiful. Some of Jean's design ideas are included in the final design, including a surface-level pop-up water fountain that kids love to play in, an educational playground and a dog run.

I have since retired from shows and software and I'm currently the executive director of the Working Harbor Committee, which provides Hidden Harbor Tours®, produces the Great North River Tugboat Race and Competition and introduces high-school students to the benefits of a career in the maritime industry. In addition, I'm a waterfront development consultant. Jean started a not-for-profit called New York Windstar which involves young people in environmental goals and education, but is also still the VP/Treasurer of Doswell Productions.



We lived aboard *Laissez Faire* on and off for many years, most recently at Pier 63 Maritime but now have the boat up for sale. We are also part owners of the retired fireboat *John J. Harvey*



which is often seen spraying water on the river. We now live on a nice street in Hell's Kitchen. We are both actively involved in community and waterfront affairs in such organizations as Save Our Ships New York, The North River Historic Ship Society, and Manhattan Community Board 4, where I co-chair the Waterfront & Parks Committee and the Environmental Task Force. But we have great memories from the basin - good times, tough living at times, but wonderful experiences and, especially, the people.

We are looking forward to the reunion – and thanks to Ed for pulling it together, as well as this newsletter.

Capt. John Doswell and Jean Preece

[Jean was a Broadway dancer and danced in the historic revival of "42nd Street". On opening night the producer David Merrick announced at the curtain calls that the play's choreographer/director Gower Champion had died that day. – Ed]

Alumna marriage

Mariah Carey (both of her) married actor Nick Cannon in a small ceremony on Eleuthera in April.



Before she made it (and them) big, Mariah sunbathed in her bikini on her stepfather Joe Vian's "Peddler" on C Dock and sang at Joe and Pat's Basin wedding. Since Mariah left the Basin, she has earned five Grammy Awards and was the most successful solo singer of the 90's.

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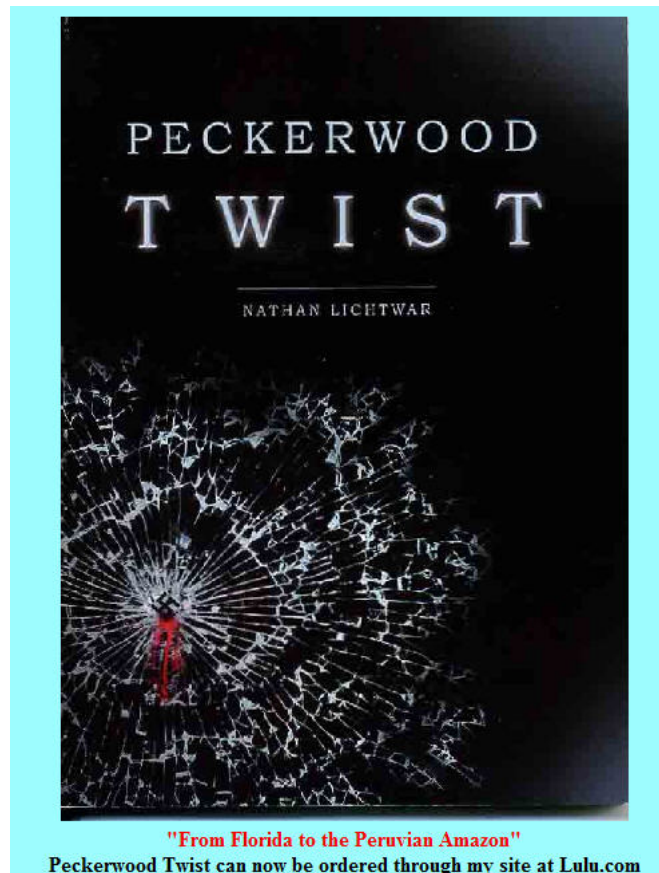
PRESENT

A happy man is too satisfied with the present to dwell too much on the future.

- Albert Einstein

That's my neighbor?

Nat Lichtwar's ("Cielo e Mar" of D Dock) recent novel has been published:



From his website <http://peckerwoodtwist.com/> :

Captain Nathan Lichtwar began his over 45-year life on the sea as a young sailor for the U.S. Coast Guard then moved to tug boats, including a stint as a New York Harbor ferryboat operator. Lichtwar is the owner-operator of Cielo e Mar Charter Service and New York Boat Charter, and is publisher-owner of Cross Up, Long Islands Motorcycle scene. Called the Old Man "of" the Sea, he has traveled extensively throughout the world, on and off the beaten tract. He's been a guest on OPRAH twice. His travels and adventures inspired the writing of Peckerwood Twist, and is, as Nat likes to say, "...either 90% true and 10% false, or just the opposite."

Basin staff

Sheldon, the Basin's 11-7 guard, and Magda are the proud parents of Msarah Ameilyah Jameson, who weighed 7 pounds at birth:

**Pampered pets: Henry the Duck**

Sorry to report, no Henry the Duck stories were contributed.

Basin Boats for sale

Celia Konig's boat and Meg and Vince Paul's boat are both for sale. Their e-mails are on the distribution list.

Richard Hudson (with Al Wolfson crewing) is sailing his new schooner across the Atlantic. He no longer wishes to be a two-schooner admiral. E-mail from Richard:

Things have just been crazy busy getting the boat ready in France, and then learning her tricks. We are pushing to make it across the Atlantic on a southern route before the hurricanes start up....with luck, we are still on schedule.

If you could please put something like the below into your next issue, I'd appreciate it:

Rosemary Ruth, the pretty, green, steel schooner in the north mooring field, is for sale. She is a sturdy, seaworthy cruiser, in excellent condition, ready to either go cruising, or to be lived aboard. More details at <http://www.issuma.com/rhudson/RR/RRForSale.htm>.

Delivery crew needed

e-mail from Bruno:

I plan to sail my Cape Dory 25 from Sag Harbor into the Sound and up to our marina on June 7..to catch the ~ approx 2PM slack tide on the low at Orient Point.. about 110 nm..should take TWO nights out...probably at Mattituck and City Island..

I am looking for a mate who would enjoy coming along for the ride; Ideally he/she should know at least the basics of handling a small boat so we can share tiller duty...The boat has a furling jib, a near new Yamaha 8 HP, 4 ST very silent..and we will tow an inflatable dinghy .

I commit to cook (we start with spaghetti!)....and trolling a line surely will provide a fish or two. for sushy!

Needless to say, I will pay all expenses dock to dock ..for boat and mate,,

[Bruno stays in shape by paddling one of the A Dock floating docks on any nice day year round. If there's no wind on the delivery, he can paddle the boat to the Basin - ED]

Riverside Park hawks

See [Riverside Park hawks](#) for New York Times article.

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PFUTURE

Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday.

- *John Wayne*

Boat Basin Alumni Reunion

The reunion will be on Thursday, June 12 at 6:00 pm on C Dock and will end by 10:00 pm. It will be a simple Sip, Snack and Schmooze party open to all alumni, current Basinites, friends of the Basin and Basin staff.

White and red wine, beer, soda and bottled water will be provided. Potluck appetizers or hors d'oeuvres will be provided by those that can provide them easily. An OPTIONAL suggested contribution of \$20 will be collected at the door to cover expenses and contributions to the Basin and Riverside Park Fund.

All artists and photographers are invited to display their art.

The Boat Basin Café has been alerted to expect some of the attendees for dinner and/or bellying up to the bar toward the end of the party. If it rains, we'll all belly up to the bar instead of getting soaked on C Dock.

Many of you have asked what you can do to help. Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Entry table – a half hour of your time during the party to collect contributions, sign in the attendees and assist in filling out the name tags.
- Beer – someone with transportation to pick up a keg of beer and tub and ice it down. The beer drinking Basinites are encouraged to stock an extra case on board so that the party could buy them if needed.
- Wine – Regina has volunteered for this.
- Soda and bottled water – someone to pick up cases and ice them down in a tub.
- Snack tables – Buy plastic plates and cutlery and obtain a couple tables to augment the picnic table at the head of C Dock.
- Clean-up – someone to clean up during and after the party. When you leave the party, please take any full garbage bags to the dumpster.

6/2/2008

Basin Alumni Re-union Enumeration & Attendees Sip Selections

Intending to attend (NP)	147
White wine (WW)	24
Red wine (RW)	25
Beer (B)	28
Soda (S)	19
Water (W)	3

Name	NP	W W	R W	B	S	W	Remarks
Lew and Monique Wood	4	2	1				Dan and Janet
Gabriele Barthlen and Dave Coombs	1						
Dean and Sue Ferris	2						
Robin Raskin and Carey (sp?)	2						
Naama Manahan	4				3		Ben, Ori and Ron
Fay Simpson	1		1				
Susan Argus	1						
Kip and Tiffany Colligan	3						Elsa
Josh Goldberg	2						Chantal
Frances Gaffney and Hubert Gee	2		2				
Delta Willis	1	1					
Kendra Hegewald	3					3	Cassandra,Heathe r
Jim and Heather Marsten	5		1	1	3		Christopher,Edward,Kathrine
Frank Marshall	1		1				
Carol and Jeffrey Judd	2	2					
Nat Lichtwar and Linda Mays	2	1			1		
Marilyn and Gary Oppenheimer	2						
Michael Fischer	1			1			
Simone DiBagno	1						
Josh Mandel	1			2			Drinks half his beers
Mike and Heidi O'Rourke	2						
Mel Snyder	1						
Regina Jordan and Ed Bacon	2	1		1			
Neil Robbins	1		1				

Penny Bragonier	2		2		Frank	
Ed Tiffany	2	1		1	Joan	
Benno van Noort	3	1			Harumi and Mom	
Julia Jordan	2		1	1	Doug	
Werner and Raquel Buhner	2		2			
Kathy Plotkin	1			1		
Linda Reilly	2	1	1		Tony	
Anina Gerchick	4				Stephen, Eli,Michael	
Dick DeBartolo	2			2	Dennis	
Nathan Chess	1			1		
Bill and Jane Lewis	6	2	1	1	Kirin, Tanner	
Tom Rolston	1					
John and Jeannie Doswell	2	1	1			
Meredith Gardner	1			1		
Cindy Kane and Doron Katzman	2					
Peggy and George Sauerwein	2	1		1	Catherine?	
Ed James	1			1		
Bill Reardin	1					
Hurish Pajeski	2				Tori	
Kelly and Saro	2			2		
Pauline Sklar	1			1		
Leslie Day and Jim Nishiura	2	1		1		
Phil Sherman	1			1		
Joel Willis	1					
John Comatas	1					
Gloria Weiss, Abdel and kids	4					
Andy Sferra	1					
Fred Armbruster	1			1		
Carol Benedict	2		2		Eddie	
Mary Henry	4	1		1	2	Raj, Alex,Katie Reuven,Alexi,Benz
Daria Fane	4		1	1	2	i
Kazumi and Jan	5	1	1		3	Big D,Naomi,Ken
Josh and Chantal Goldberg	2		1	1		
Miles Pincus	2			2		
Lillian (Torgersen) Kenney	1	1				
Clive and Clodagh Green	2		1	1		
Nice	1					
Todd Bacon	2			2		
Meg and Vince Paul	4					Chas, Anthony
Roger Hegewald	1					

Bill Reardin	1		1	
Jane Clegg	3	2	1	
Renee Mintz	1	1		
George Rosen	1			1
Glen Gari	1			1
Harry Magerian	2	1	1	Susie
Chris williamson	1			1
Philip Argiroff	1		1	
Jasmine Rios	2			1
Troy	1			
Aurora Caruso	3	2		Aleta, Tom

If you're on the list above and your drinks are not listed, please e-mail me your drink preferences.

If you are not on the list above, please click on ebacon@nyc.rr.com NOW and tell me how many persons and whether they'll drink red wine, white wine, beer, soda or water.

If someone you'd like to see is not on the list above, you need to track down and invite the person.

Here are some of those still Missing in Action:

Leslie Strauss	Emily and Gambol Lee	Mark the playwright
Henry Cohen & Toni Kline	Helen Mignon	Mike the diver
? Patterson (stage mgr)	Paul Minkoff	Rick, Eric and Thor Field
Pat Pulley	Peter Addis	Lonnie Day
Jerry Schindlinger	Claudia and Ted Howard	Jack Lechner
Greg Smith	Bonnie Munchen and kids	Jay Pellicane
Jim Gallagher	Howard and Gloria Chavell	Guessing Julian
Burns Patterson	Ruthie Hammerman	The Cat Lady
Jonathan Asche	Susan and Tanya Octaviano	Bobby Held
Jerry Berton	Paola and Roland Stern	Barry Crawford
Julie and Miles	Beth McCarthy	Orlando Rodriguez
Josh Bloomgarden	Mel Appelbaum	Pat Halvorsen
Leslie Smoke	Tanya and Susan Octaviano	Jill Baker
Nat Haft	Hanny Ruddy	Cliff May
Paul Druley	Eivind Avrum	Cecil Kramer
Ed and Nancy Enright		Jane White
Judy Williams	Bruce Bartel	Ida Smyer

Ione Haskell

Moshe Davidovitz

Phyllis and Dave

Pat, Mariah and Morgan Carey

Lou Gonzalez

Neil Sendar

Dave – ex-dockworker

Tom Glennon

Laura Zito

Dr. Bob

Tony Germani

Joan and Ed Wood

Hugh Downs

Jerry Fouche

Mike Samuels

John Edelman

Mike Portis

Harry Wilkins

Thanks to Bobby and Jo Anne Erikson, who can't be at the re-union, for allowing Hana to stay on board their houseboat.

For those alumni that need a reasonable hotel room, see <http://www.riversidetowerhotel.com/> for rooms \$114 and up. Riverside Tower is at 80th and Riverside Drive – within crawling distance of the alumni re-union.

Linda Reilly's photo selected

Linda Reilly's photograph "Autumn Kiss"



was selected by the Salmagundi Club for inclusion in its upcoming Annual Juried Photography and Graphics Exhibition for non-Members. The exhibit is scheduled to run June 16th through June 27th at the Center for American Art at 47 Fifth Avenue.

Pfantasy Pfuture

That no one will boycott the re-union because of another person's attending.

That the weather is perfect for the re-union.

That the re-union will generate renewed and new relationships.

That the re-union party will be the first of many community parties.

Parting proverb

... You are neither here or there,

A hurry through which known and strange things pass

As big soft buffetings come at the boat sideways

And catch the heart off guard and blow it open.

- *Paraphrased from "Postscript" with apologies to Seamus Heaney*

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