



The Compass

November 2018

Newsletter of North River Friends of Clearwater

NEXT MEETING, NOVEMBER 7

The next NRFC meeting will be held on November 7th at Stephen Smith's office, LaBella PC (previously Novus Engineering), 25 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY. Potluck will be at 6:30 PM followed by the meeting at 7:00 PM.

CONGRATULATIONS, STEVE!

After taking the required year off of **Clearwater's** Board of Directors, Stephen Smith, NRFC's Vice President, has been chosen by the Board to fill a vacant position on the Board, with his first term ending September 2021. Steve's work on behalf of **Clearwater** and NRFC have contributed greatly to the success of both organizations. —st

NRFC OFFICERS

President	Dan Kelsey	518-479-9113
V.President	Stephen Smith	518-225-5499
Treasurer	Lydia Kosinski	518-527-2200
Secretary	Vicki Kelsey	518-872-0663
Membership	Jas Yolles	518-462-6873
Merchandise	Barbara Kuban	518-852-1716
Newsletter	Sue Thrasher	518-731-7320

nrfc_compass@yahoo.com

TUSSINGS

VETERAN'S DAY WEEKEND

NOV. 9-12, 2018

To all participants who have signed up: don't forget that we should arrive Friday afternoon and depart Monday. Bring sheets and towels, raccoon-proof side-dishes, and ORANGE outer gear for safe hiking (re hunting).

Communal dishes for dinner to be discussed at the November 7th NRFC meeting. We may have 2 slots still available. Depends on bedroom configurations. Call me !----- Lydia 518-527-2200

NRFC CALENDAR

- 11/7 NRFC Monthly Meeting and Nomination of Officers, 25 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY, 6:30 potluck, 7:00 meeting.
- 11/9-12 Veterans' Day Camp & Paddle, Tussings, Fourth Lake. (See article on page 1.)
- 12/5 NRFC Solstice Dinner, Election of Officers and Brief Monthly Meeting, Normanside Country Club, Delmar, NY.
- 12/31 New Year's Eve Open House at Lydia and Jas' Home, 2 Leonard Pl., Delmar, NY.

The Compass Deadline

The deadline for submitting material for the December 2018 edition of The Compass is November 19th. E-mail items to nrfc_compass@yahoo.com, or mail to Sue Thrasher, 1 Aaron Dr. #4, Coxsackie, NY 12051.

North River Friends of Clearwater
P.O. Box 3842
Albany, NY 12203

**NRFC COLUMBUS-INDIGENOUS
PEOPLE'S WEEKEND PADDLE &
CAMP
OCTOBER 5 – 8th 2018**

Despite last minute planning, NRFC once again pulled off a quick Camp & Paddle & Row weekend on Raquette Lake. Saranac Lake folks Pat and Dave already committed to refurbishing one of the lean-tos in need of repair on Big Island, a great camping location in the southern half of Raquette Lake. So, not to be dismissed, Albany area (kinda) NRFCers rose to the challenge and assisted in the staining/painting of the selected and most gorgeous south-facing lean-to on Big Island to support the Adirondack Mountain Club's goal to keep these wonderful structures intact. It was like enrobing the wood in thick, rich, chocolate colored goo! So sweet what Cabot stain can do. Not to say that the entire weekend was spent filling cracks with okum or painting, it included lovely sunsets, delicious potluck-y meals, a SUPER eggy breakfast (thanks Steve!) sweet paddles from Raquette Lake Village, a great lunch at the local pub, loon calls, and a blaze of autumnal red-streaked tree-glory. Topped off, no less by a paddle on/in the Raquette Lake South Inlet. A LOVELY weekend one and all, and goodbye, alas, to a fabulous season of water sport in a beautiful venue!---- Cheers to Dave, Pat, Dan, Steve, Jas and Lydia



Continued

Photos by Lydia Kosinski:

◀ Membership Application ▶

Enclosed is my check/money order/cash for membership in North River Friends of Clearwater for the category checked:

Individual (\$15.00/yr.) Family (\$20.00/yr.) Additional Contribution \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

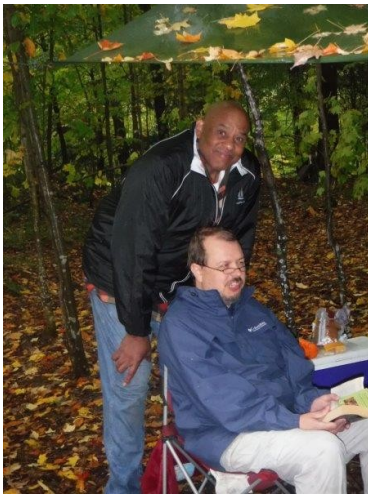
City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (optional) Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address (optional): _____

Please mail to: North River Friends of Clearwater, P. O. Box 3842, Albany NY 12203

I would like to know more about Hudson River Sloop Clearwater



ANNUAL MEETING NOTES AND SLOOP CLUB CONGRESS

Noel Kropf provided an excellent summary of the Annual Meeting. It is attached. My own summary of the Sloop Club Congress meeting appears afterward, along with some photos. —ss

The Board recently held a day-long retreat. Greg shared some intentions for the organization, I believe he said they are shared by him and the board.

- Self-reflection, what can “we” do better.
- More committee responsibilities & work, board meetings geared to reporting and dissemination of info.
- Be more transparent
- Bylaws and policies to be public on the web-

site (bylaws already up)

Provide mechanisms for members to participate in committee discussions and influence decision making. Members can ask to join board committees. Members can email board@clearwater.org to communicate with the board. Discussion of adding a blog to the website to allow for quicker and more interactive communication. The website uses Wordpress.

Environmental issues update:

- GE PCB cleanup status – EPA has declined to certify that the cleanup is complete, so there is still opportunity to evaluate and get additional remediation done.

- Indian Point decommissioning – reactors scheduled to close in 2020 and 2021. There will be community forums and this will feed into nationwide discussion & efforts.

- Anchorages – instead of long-term oil storage in barges on the river (postponed indefinitely), the Army Corps is overseeing a committee for safe maritime navigation.

Manna Jo Greene gave a slide show talk about many of our environmental and educational activities.

Paul Gallay of Riverkeeper gave a keynote talk noting how important Clearwater has been in catalyzing change and understanding, and inspiring Riverkeeper and others in their own efforts. He strongly recommended reading a book “Embattled River” by David Schuyler <http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140104006420> .

2019 Festival planning:

- The Board intends to hold a festival in 2019
 - Due to financial risk and other concerns, the festival planning process will be different this year from the past
- Continued on page 4

ANNUAL MEETING CONT.

- Board has created a Festival Planning Committee, to solicit and investigate multiple proposals for how to operate the festival this year, and articulate the strategy.
- Many board members are on the committee, subcommittees may be spun off to investigate specific proposals.
- Board invites the Revival Planning Committee (RPC) to make a proposal and hopes the RPC will help execute the chosen strategy.

Several people mentioned that time is limited since major acts must be booked well in advance

The Treasurer was absent and no financial report was given (!). At the tail end of the meeting, in response to questions from members, Annie Osborne gave a brief verbal summary, and others chimed in with additional details (please correct me if I got any of this wrong).

The 2018 Gala met its goal and raised \$70,000.

Although this accounting is still incomplete, the Revival Festival basically broke even.

We are relying on the upcoming Chefs event to give us a boost.

For the fiscal year ending in November, the operating budget will most likely show a loss of between \$150,000-\$300,000.

Additional notes:

Several board members have chartered the Sloop for private parties, each one benefits the organization by \$1,500-\$3,000.

This year's Gala will be held Sunday February 10, 2019.

The board plans to meet mostly on 4th Thursdays: Oct. 25, Nov. 20 (Tues.), Jan. 24, Mar 28, May 23.

Sincerely,
Noel Kropf, Clearwater Member

SLOOP CLUB CONGRESS MEETING

The Sloop Club Congress meeting was hosted by Beacon Sloop Club and was held aboard The Woody. We took about a 2 ½ hour sail on the Hudson and mostly played music and chatted. On the way back we discussed Revival. The weather was perfect and The Woody is amazing. I asked the Captain how far north the Woody has been and it turns out she has been to Albany before. I floated the idea of having her return for an event and the idea generated a lot of interest. This will be "New Business" at the next meeting. —ss

Many of us crewed on the Woody for Pumpkin sail back in the day (late 80s) as well as the Sojourner Truth. Bob Hansen's old boat went along at one time. —ru



WATER BELT*

During the Iroquois Indian Museum Festival over Labor Day Weekend in Howes Cave (NY), something unusual caught my eye. It was a newly created wampum belt by Cayuga artist Daniel Hill. The field is rows of purple wampum representing the pollution threatening our water; two bands of white wampum run length-wise down the center of the belt representing clean, pure water which we must protect. This belt is a warning: CLEAN AND PROTECT OUR WATER NOW. Sound familiar?

*This is NOT the Two Row Wampum belt with which you may be familiar. —np



Newsletter by e-mail

 Want to save our \$\$\$? Save a tree? De-clutter your house? Have the newsletter sooner? **Receive interim updates & important info when available?** — Get **The Compass** on-line by sending your e-mail address to Sue Thrasher at nrfc_compass@yahoo.com.



Aboard Pete Seeger's Clearwater, Words to Fight Bias and Hate

10/31/2018 by [Thom Duffy](#)



Pete Seeger performs during the 2009 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize special outdoor tribute at Hunts Point Riverside Park on Sept. 3, 2009 in New York City.

An autumn morning sail on the Hudson River might seem an unlikely place to hear a message to counter the news of violence and division that has commanded the nation's attention.

But for high school students aboard the Hudson River sloop Clearwater Tuesday, sailing some 90 miles north of New York City, that message was part of their trip aboard the 106-foot-long wooden boat which was launched five decades ago by the late folk music pioneer Pete Seeger.



Aboard the Clearwater: Five Decades of Environmental Activism Rooted In Music

Seeger conceived of the Clearwater to inspire people to clean up the Hudson and the students from Hudson Valley Pathways Academy in Ulster Park, N.Y. spent much of their morning learning about the river's vitality from the Clearwater's crew on this, the final sail of the sloop's season.

But reflecting Seeger's lifelong mission and music, the sloop also is the centerpiece of an organization devoted to inclusion and social justice. The Clearwater marks its 50th anniversary next year.

Clearwater Captain Aleythea Dolstad did not speak of the killing of 11 members of the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh three days earlier. They did not have to. The day's news carried reports of those sitting shiva for the dead and the first services for those murdered by a gunman in an act of hate and bias.

"I want you to imagine a banjo," said Dolstad, standing with the students as their trip began. "Not just any banjo. I want you to imagine Pete Seeger's banjo. On the banjo were written the words: 'This machine surrounds hate and forces it to surrender.'"



Pete Seeger playing the banjo in New York City on Oct. 7, 1987.

"And that's really the idea that this organization was started with," said Dolstad, "and something we really want to carry with us into the future.

"There are demonstrations of hate in this world that are pretty obvious and clear," Dolstad said. "But there are things that each one of us carry within ourselves without even knowing about it, some prejudice or bias.

"So what I would like everybody to do is try to find those things, surround them and dissolve them. I hope we can carry that out into the world, and spread that, and work towards a world that's a better place for everybody."

Continued



Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Captain Aleythea Dolstad

Throughout his life and career, Seeger had strong affinity for Jewish culture. When he belonged to the Weavers in the 1950s, that quartet recorded an English-language version of the celebratory Hebrew song "Tzena, Tzena, Tzena" which went to No. 2 on *Billboard's* Best-Selling Pop Singles chart in 1950. In the 1960s, on the television show *Rainbow Quest*, Seeger sang the hymn "Hinei Ma Tov" with Jewish actor, singer and activist Theodore Bikel and Palestinian poet Rashid Hussein.

And for one of his best-loved songs, Seeger drew inspiration from the Tanakh, or the Hebrew Bible, and Chapter 3 of the Book of Ecclesiastes. The lyrics of "Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)," were written by Seeger in the late 1950s but, in an era of turmoil, they remain timeless.

*To everything (Turn, Turn, Turn)
There is a season (Turn, Turn, Turn)
And a time for every purpose, under heaven
A time to gain, a time to lose
A time to rend, a time to sew
A time to love, a time to hate
A time for peace, I swear it's not too late*

BILLBOARD, 10/31/18

For additional information and links, go to <https://www.billboard.com/articles/news/8482637/aboard-pete-seegers-clearwater-words-to-fight-bias-and-hate>

[Thanks to Steve for forwarding this article to me.]