



The Compass

April 2018

Newsletter of North River Friends of Clearwater

NEXT MEETING, APRIL 4

The next NRFC meeting will be held on April 4 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.

CANAL CLEAN SWEEP APRIL 21, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM

Once again, North River Friends of Clearwater will pick litter at Niskayuna Lock E-7. As part of a statewide canal cleanup organized by Parks and Trails NY, we will meet at the boat launch parking lot. From there we will fan out to picnic area, fishing area below the lock, and along the bike path. Remember to wear boots and gloves and bring plastic supermarket bags and grabbers. We will begin at 11:00 AM and stop at 2:00 PM on Saturday, April 21. (Rain date April 22.) Contact Nancy (518-355-9357). —np

IN MEMORY OF ALEX MARKHOFF MARCH 22, 1940 – JANUARY 4, 2018

See page 3 for obituary.

The Compass Deadline

The deadline for submitting material for the May 2018 edition of The Compass is April 16. E-mail items to nrfc_compass@yahoo.com, or mail to Sue Thrasher, 2 Aaron Dr. #5, Coxsackie, NY 12051.

CLEARWATER BENEFIT CONCERT SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 4:00-6:30 PM

The benefit concert to "Sustain the Legacy of Pete Seeger" will take place at The Linda, 339 Central Ave., Albany, NY. Proceeds will support NRFC's effort to provide educational sails aboard the **Clearwater**. See flyer on page 4 and post wherever appropriate.

Stephen has arranged for Wanda Fischer to host the concert. Featured performers include Annie and Hedonists, Bounce-back Reggae Band, and 3 Quarter North. A rare video of Pete Seeger performing with kids will be presented as well.

VOLUNTEER HELP IS NEEDED! Please bake and cut up goodies (cupcakes, cookies, brownies, lemon bars, etc.) for the paying public and deliver between 2:00-4:00 PM. If you intend to bake and box a whole cake, pie, or specialty item to be sold, please let Nancy know (518-355-9357). Nancy and Sylvia are working on food/refreshments for the performers. (This year we will not have a silent auction.) **We need help before, during and after the event.** NRFC will be tabling and selling NRFC merchandise, overseeing refreshments and, providing support for performers, etc. Renée Smitherman will be selling **Clearwater** merchandise in the lobby.

BUY TICKETS NOW! For tickets visit: www.BounceBackBand.com/shows. --st

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

NRFC CALENDAR

- 4/4 **NRFC** Monthly Meeting, 25 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY, Potluck 6:30, Meeting 7:00.
- 4/15 **NRFC/Clearwater** Fundraiser, The Linda, 339 Central Ave., Albany, NY. (See article page 1 & flyer page 4.)
- 4/21 Canal Clean Sweep, Canal Lock E-7, Niskayuna, NY, 11:00-2:00. (See article page 1.)
- 5/2 **NRFC** Monthly Meeting, Location TBD, Potluck 6:30, Meeting 7:00.
- 6/3 **NRFC** Garage Sale, Dunbrook's Mobil, Lark & Madison, Albany, NY.
- 6/6 **NRFC** Monthly Meeting, Location TBD, Potluck 6:30, Meeting 7:00.
- 6/9 **Clearwater**—March for the Ocean.
- 6/16-17 **Clearwater's** Great Hudson River Revival, Croton-on-Hudson, NY.

EARTH DAY SAIL, APRIL 22

Some **NRFC** members might be interested in taking **Clearwater's** Earth Day Public Sail from Kingston. Stephen announced at the March meeting that he will be performing on that sail. The sail schedule hasn't been posted yet, so stayed tuned for details. —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

MARCH FOR THE OCEAN

Once again, the sloop will gather messages from the people of the Hudson Valley and deliver their Cargo of Concern to our elected officials.

Aaron Mair, Clearwater Board Member and former Sierra Club President, will speak about water protection here, in the Hudson River Valley communities and globally.

Mair will be joined by scientists, citizens and policy-makers aboard the boat for a Clean Water Forum. Clearwater has become an official partner of The Blue Frontier Campaign's [March for the Ocean \(M4O\)](#) to demand ocean solutions for the problems that threaten our blue planet. We have joined a growing chorus of supporters of #MarchForTheOcean on June 9th, 2018, as the nation turns their attention to the environmental issues challenging the global oceans.

Leading up to the [M4O events](#), people around the world will bring attention to problems facing the ocean, such as global climate change.

[The Greenheart](#) is a folk-rock eco-justice band, inspired by the deep activism of Pete Seeger and the peaceful tactics of Gandhi and Buddha, which will be in Nepal working with the Vajra Foundation and the School of Creative Communication in Kathmandu. They will exchange messages of peace, environmental stewardship, and citizen action between children in the Hudson Valley and Nepal.

—Clearwater's [March E-Newsletter](#)

◀ 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 _____

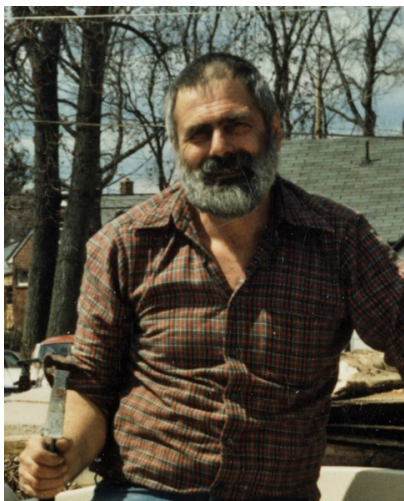
Telephone (optional) Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

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

IN MEMORY OF ALEX MARKHOFF MARCH 22, 1940 – JANUARY 4, 2018



It is with great sadness that NRFC has been informed that long-time North River Friends of Clearwater, and Clearwater member, Alex Markhoff died on January 4, 2018, after a courageous fight with cancer. He was most recently a resident of Calais, Maine, but lived for many years in the Chatham, NY area, supporting, educating, volunteering, and importantly having fun, with so many of the River folks along the Hudson. His exploits, adventures and experiences were legend.

Alex, born in war-time Germany, was always enamored of the sea – even sailing to the States on a leaky Danish sailing vessel, the *Frie*, - loaded with cargo that was ruined by the leaky boat's bilge water.

He was a fine-arts academic, an educator, a sculptor, and a skilled welder, having taught art at Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT; The State University of New York at Albany; and Union College, Schenectady. He excelled as a modern-art stainless steel sculptor, having mentored with the famed kinetic sculptor, George Rickey. Old timer Clearwater-ers and NRFCers may remember the shows, classes, and venues he had, both in the upstate area (Albany, Malden Bridge, etc.) as well as NYC galleries and museums. Before moving to Maine, he was dock master at Boston Waterboat Marina on Long Wharf where he became a mentor to sailors and others in the marine trade. He became infamous as the man who built the floating duck houses there, many of which still exist.

Alex's sailing adventures were always remarkable: of course the *Frei* on a wild ride in the Bay of Biscay, but also sailing, and serving, on a number of well-known vessels including [in no particular order], the "*Liberty Clipper*"; the "*Domino Effect*" (aka *Victory Chimes* – a unique, 3-masted schooner); the Scarano-built schooner *America*; the schooner *Spirit of Massachusetts*; the *HRS Clearwater*, of course, and many smaller others including the various Hudson River Ferry Sloops: *Sojourner Truth*, the *Woody Guthrie*; and R. Wilke's and Norman Bauman's ketch *Old Friend*; and his own: a 16' Rebel; a beat-up Grumman lee-boarded sailing canoe; his most recent Maine sailboat; and even a unique down-river raft he welded together, having an old Cadillac Seville as the pilot house on-board, using old silk parachute cloth as sails. Alex loved boats of all types, not just sail, and was also with the Historic New England Seaport at the Charlestown Naval Yard, being a dedicated caretaker of the retired Coast Guard Lightship the *Nantucket II*. What a trip it made once to the 1992 NYC Tall Ships rendezvous! When does a Lightship bounce off a Lighthouse? ... Alex knew. His many, many sailing trips took him into the Chesapeake, the Caribbean Sea, and throughout New England on the tall ships he served on. He can be seen on a documentary on the History Channel called "The Sailing Racers" while he was crew on Schooner *America* in Key West. In his last years he would spend summers and early fall sailing in some small sailboats he had. Solo trips took him out into Passamaquoddy Bay and Bay of Fundy near Grand Manan where he enjoyed encounters with whales.

You were a wild, brilliant, but lovely renaissance man, always searching for freedom and a following sea. So, good-bye, Alex, the Bay of Fundy, the Hudson River, and your family and friends will miss you. You won't be forgotten. Our most sincere condolences to his daughter Milena and his life-partner, Carole.

—lk

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.

Clearwater BENEFIT CONCERT

TO SUSTAIN THE LEGACY OF PETE SEEGER

Featuring Annie and the Hedonists

Sunday

April 15, 2018

AT THE LINDA

339 Central Ave
Albany New York

TICKETS

General Admission: \$25

Kids: by donation with Parent

4 to 6:30 PM



Annie and the Hedonists



Bounce-back Reggae Band



3 Quarter North

A family-friendly event with live music and rare video of Pete Seeger performing with kids. Proceeds to support North River Friends of Clearwater's effort to provide educational sails aboard The Sloop Clearwater to local school groups.

For tickets visit: www.BounceBackBand.com/shows