

Celebrating 60 Years With The Crescent Boat Club

by Pete Bardunias, President/CEO, the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County

1958 was a long time ago. Tail fins ruled the highways, steam powered locomotives were still regularly seen on the rails, and pleasure boating was fast becoming a sport for the growing American middle class. In November of that year, a new boat club was incorporated on 4 acres along the shores of the Mohawk River/Erie Canal above Lock E-6 in the Town of Halfmoon. The Crescent Boat Club (142 Canal Rd, Halfmoon, NY) was born, and never looked back.

There have been many changes over the years: a clubhouse building (1962), improved grounds and new facilities. But one thing has never changed. The Club is an all-volunteer organization managed by boaters for their fellow boaters. Since it is a "working club", members enjoy low cost dues, dockage, and other benefits in exchange for working a required minimum annual number of work hours. Members save money on gas, pump outs and many other amenities. The Club is private, although transients are welcome, and members and visitors alike will enjoy a beautiful setting with picnic tables and gas barbecue grills, electric, water, bathroom and shower facilities, WiFi, RV parking and transient dockage for vessels up to 100 feet. More information is available at www.crescentboatclub.com.

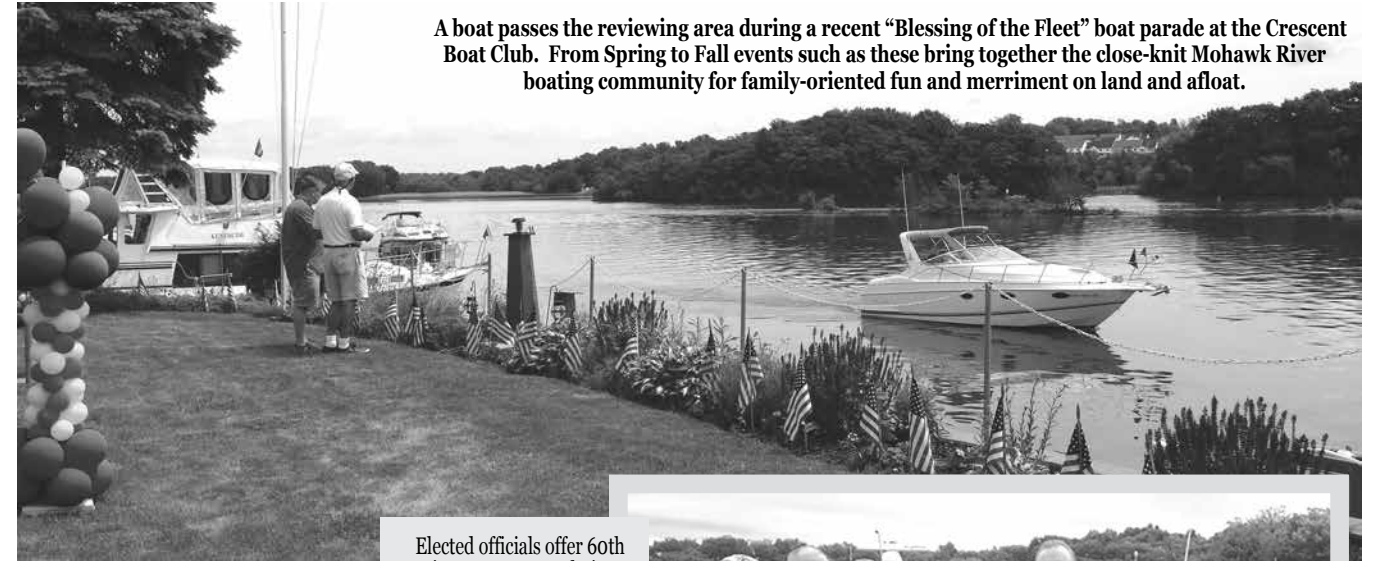
On September 1, members of the club held their official celebratory event which included a ribbon cutting by the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County and comments by area dignitaries. Since it was also the start of their annual Labor Day Weekend party, many guests were in attendance as well. Before the ceremonial ribbon was cut,

outgoing state Senator Kathy Marchione shared her sentiments to friends and constituents at the water's edge. "There's nothing like coming home and being with friends," said the Senator, "and being in your own neighborhood. Thank you all for putting so much into this club and for opening it up to the community."

The Halfmoon Town Board led by Supervisor Kevin Tollisen and Business and Economic Development Committee Chair Daphne Jordan was also on hand to congratulate Commodore Michelle Hernandez and fellow club members at this important milestone. The chamber's volunteer Ambassadors held the ribbon tight, and it was cut, kicking off three days of festivities, camaraderie and merriment. Boaters know how to throw a party, especially on a long weekend!!! Steam engines and tailfins may be confined to transportation history, but the Crescent Boat Club should be part of the Mohawk River landscape and culture for years to come!

For more information on Capital Region boating, call (518) 371-3763, visit www.southernsarotoga.org or stop by the Southern Saratoga Information Center (at the Exit 9 Rest Area on I-87 in Clifton Park).

A boat passes the reviewing area during a recent "Blessing of the Fleet" boat parade at the Crescent Boat Club. From Spring to Fall events such as these bring together the close-knit Mohawk River boating community for family-oriented fun and merriment on land and afloat.



Elected officials offer 60th Anniversary congratulations. *left to right:* Pete Bardunias, President/CEO, the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County, Paul Hotaling, Deputy Town Supervisor, the Town of Halfmoon, Jeremy Connors, Halfmoon Town Board member, Michelle Hernandez, Commodore, the Crescent Boat Club, Daphne Jordan, Halfmoon Town Board and Chair, Halfmoon Business and Economic Development Committee, Halfmoon Town Supervisor Kevin Tollisen, Halfmoon Town Clerk Lynda Bryan, and State Senator Kathy Marchione.



The moment the ribbon is cut, as Crescent Boat Club Commodore Michelle Hernandez (holding scissors) commemorates the past 60 years of history on the Mohawk River. The Club has a bright future ahead, so there will likely be many more celebratory milestones to come!

