

# The Mohawk Hudson Council of Yacht Clubs, Inc.

by Jeffrey L. Hill, Vice Commodore

Photos Courtesy of Gail Bullock



**Gunther Hoaner,  
creator of the  
CYC Arch.**

*From left to right: George Budesheim - Treasurer MHCYC, Larry Govel - Vice Commodore CYC, Peter Bullock - CYC, Michelle Beaumont - Secretary CYC, Jeff Hill - Vice Commodore MHCYC, Joyce Giordano - Treasurer CYC, Jason Jump - Commodore CYC, Creig Cullum - Commodore MHCYC, Eric Holsopple - CYC, Brian Lydon - CYC, Don Kern - CYC, Joe Reh - Secretary MHCYC, Michael Spinner - CYC,*

The Mohawk Hudson Council of Yacht Clubs, Inc. (MHCYC) was formed by a number of yacht and boat clubs on the northern portion of the Hudson River and the eastern portion of the Mohawk River. The geographical boundaries of the council are: on the South – the north side of the Mid-Hudson Bridge; the North – one mile north of Lock 7 on the Champlain Canal; the West – one mile west of Lock 9 on the Mohawk River and the East – the eastern border of New York State. There are 20 clubs within that area that make up the MHCYC membership.

As stated in the council by-laws, the MHCYC has three purposes. The first purpose is to act as a clearing house to prevent competing activities being sponsored by member clubs. The second objective is to promote courtesy and safety on the water and good will among member clubs. The third goal is to, act as a coordinator between the MHCYC and the state agencies represented before the legislature or its members. All of the activities of the council fall under one or more of the purposes listed. To help achieve these goals, the council maintains a website, Facebook and Twitter accounts to make communication among the clubs easier and to promote the activities of the clubs to those who are not from a member club.

While the maintenance of a calendar of member club events is among the most important functions of the council, equally important is promoting courtesy on the water and safe boating. To help achieve that goal, the MHCYC over the last year has been working with the New York State Sheriffs Association and the New York State Department of Parks and Recreation to establish a program that will provide the various sheriffs' marine patrols with an inventory of safety equipment that can be loaned to boaters that have been stopped and found not to have the necessary

required safety equipment. Among the items that the sheriffs' patrols will have available will be personal floatation devices, visual and audible signaling devices, fire extinguishers, flashlights and copies of the New York State Safe Boating Guidebooks. This program will be in full swing at the start of the 2019 boating season.

In the past, the MHCYC has sponsored "Flare Ups" designed to instruct boaters in the proper use of safety flares and guns before a boater might have to use one for the first time. This program has been run in conjunction with members of the United States Power Squadron, which also promotes safe boating, provides boat safety inspections and provides a number of boating courses that are open to the public.

The MHCYC also has a working relationship with its sister council, the Hudson River Boat and Yacht Club Association, which represents its member clubs from the Mid-Hudson Bridge near Poughkeepsie south along the Hudson River to the New York Harbor. This relationship provides a reciprocal docking program among the 53 clubs that make up the two councils' memberships.

Going forward, while some of the council's clubs have been successful in attracting younger families with younger children as members of their respective clubs, that is not the general trend at this time. As we approach the 2019 boating season, the MHCYC Bridge is planning on establishing a committee to investigate new ideas to develop a program aimed at generating the interest of younger families in the sport of boating. As members of boating clubs, we recognize the need to attract new boaters and hopefully add them to our membership ranks. It will be the goal of this new committee to develop an

educational program that the council can use to promote our sport.