

Barry Clark is all smiles as he recounts his upstate New York journey after a safe return home.



Christmas Came In August For This Intrepid Traveler!



by **Pete Bardunias**
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Barry Clark, 81, made an epic journey this past August, in honor of his late wife, Dolores. The couple had planned one last great adventure together, cruising in a tiny aluminum outboard skiff the entire length of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain, but sadly she passed away before their dream could be realized. With a plot reminiscent of the Disney/Pixar movie, "Up", Mr. Clark, a retired Marine, set out aboard his vessel, Dolores, to complete the mission. He made it, successfully, to the Canadian border with a little help from some newfound friends along the way.

Members of the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County, most significantly Schuyler Yacht Basin's Jason Young and Mohawk Valley Marine's Bob Esperti, rose to the occasion in helping give Mr. Clark's vessel a much needed tune up and repair before exiting the Champlain Canal for the big waters of Lake Champlain. Jason patched a few weak spots, Bob donated a new prop, the Chamber donated fresh oil, outdrive lube and a new masthead light, and the Schuyler Yacht Basin crew cleaned up the boat and gave Mr. Clark some time to rest and recoup in a local residence before continuing his journey.

A local resident even made the trip up to trailer the boat home to New Jersey when the voyage was done!

Dolores herself surely was watching from above. When the crew began to put the lube oil in the lower unit, the fitting for the pump was the wrong size and thread. Nobody had the correct one handy, but suddenly someone noticed an extra fitting lying in the bottom of the toolbox that hadn't been accounted for, one which had never been used. Sure enough it fit! Seems that no matter what time of year it is, there is a little bit of Holiday spirit in the air! God Bless you, Barry Clark, for reminding us all of what the meaning of life truly is all about.

above: A military veteran himself and owner of three downtown Schuylerville businesses, Jason Young (third from right) made sure that Dolores was ship shape before bidding Mr. Clark bon voyage on the rest of his journey.

right: Bob Esperti of Mohawk Valley Marine (right) donated a new propeller to make sure the Mercury 9.9 hp outboard could safely get Dolores to her final destination.

