

# History of the Cornwall Yacht Club



**T**he Cornwall Yacht Club, CYC, has been a part of the Cornwall community for 74 years. It has a rich, patriotic history and has inspired fellowship in its members since it was founded. The CYC would not exist without the collaboration of this beautiful community.

The year was 1946. Factories were converting from wartime to peacetime operations. Americans felt top-of-the-world as their personal heroes, the men and women who served to protect them, finally came home. They rightfully deserved all the luxuries their communities could offer them and, by God, they were going to live their lives to the fullest.

Boats were becoming less expensive as plywood technologies were becoming more advanced. Two men, Edmund Schrang and R. Cameron May, wanted to take advantage of this and provide their community with a club where membership would focus on camaraderie, friendship, service to the community, and recreation on the riverfront.

They decided on the former David Ralph property at Cornwall Landing in the southernmost portion of Newburgh Bay. It features a slight indentation of land which protects against strong winds and waves and a breathtaking view of Breakneck Mountain and Bannerman's Island—where a beautiful castle still stands, reminding us of the brave men and women who fought in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

Schrang and May would not have been able to achieve their dream without Dr. E. G. Stillman, whose family was the financial rock of Cornwall, NY, at the time. In addition to the newly founded CYC, Stillman was dedicated to maintaining St. Luke's Hospital and Black Rock Forest, a preserve which boasts 3000 acres of land. By the time Stillman passed away in 1949, the CYC had 100 members.

In 1948, there was a major building boom in the country and the old scuttled barge in the shallow waters of the inlet was renovated and converted

into a clubhouse. The pier was extended 20 feet out into the river and 80 feet along the shore. A clam shell bucket crane was then hired to dredge out the 160 foot area for the ever-growing fleet of boats.

It is now 2020. The CYC is as much part of the fabric of the Village of Cornwall as any other establishment and has stayed true to its original dedication to camaraderie and openness. The CYC is a member-owned and operated club and people from all walks of life are welcome.

The CYC has 105 boat slips and 120 active and social members. Transient slips are available (space permitting) throughout the boating season. The marina features shore power and water, a pumpout facility, wireless internet, restrooms/showers, and a restaurant/kitchen open for breakfast and lunch on the weekends. The Cornwall Yacht Club has taken a truly beautiful spot on our river and evolved it to be a place for friendship and mutual love for maritime recreation..

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