

THE VERY FIRST

BOATING ON THE HUDSON MAGAZINE

MARCH 1992 - 30 YEARS AND COUNTING



by John H. Vargo, Publisher

When Jack Krasko, Mike Zydiak and Dottie Knot began *Boating on the Hudson* 30 years ago, I doubt they thought it would last this long. It is a testimony to their values that they held so dear that when they sold the magazine to me in 1999 it was a well established value to the Hudson River Valley and beyond.

Most important to the trio was being consistent. They never deviated each month in keeping the same pattern of delivery!

Mr. Zydiak senior, Mike's father, would load up the magazine in his car and deliver, over a three day period, to the same locations from both sides of the Hudson River, all the way up to Lake Champlain, and out the NY State Canals to Schenectady arriving back home Sunday night.

It was this kind of loyalty that created a demand for the magazine over time.

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Ossining for the Boater

Ossining, population 22,000, is a quiet, yet metropolitan type village located on the eastern shore of the Hudson River in Westchester County, New York. It is located about 6 miles above the Tappan Zee Bridge and a mile or so below Croton Point at approximate lat N41°09'32" long W73°52'15".

The Ossining area contains a number of
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Volume 1, Number 1 March 1992

The Stripers are Coming...

Times are getting a lot better for striped bass in the Hudson. With the banning of commercial striped fishing on the river, the fixed season, size limits, and the one fish per day rule, a lot more fish over the last few years have had a chance to spawn. Right now the river is so loaded with stripers that you can almost walk across them.

What's happening right now is what you call your "young buck run," but even if you were allowed to fish for them, you wouldn't really want to bother. You might catch a few two or three pounders on live minnows, but it's not time yet. You're legally not allowed to catch them until March 16th, and the stripers aren't really in the mood to deal with your bait and hook. They're just lounging around out there in the cold winter river water which they enjoy coming back to each year. The colder the weather, the more striped bass will make the run back into the river. They'll be feeding on river shiners, perch, and tommy cod, but it's usually still too cold in the middle of March for them to have really big appetites. With that in mind, you see why you don't have much to get excited about on opening day.

What's going to happen 'round the end of March and the beginning of April is that you'll start getting the warmer rains hitting the river and a lot more fresh water coming in from the tributaries. This new fresh and

warmer water in the river will turn the stripers completely around and start the spring run, just like that! The females will get active first and start moving up river and the bulls will be right behind them. They're all going to have really big appetites for the whole swim up and back. Things can really change from one day to the next and once they start biting they won't stop 'til maybe around the end of June. You'll be able to get the really big ones from about the middle of April through out the whole month of May and right into June unless it gets too warm, too quick. We take lots of photos each year of the 25, 30 and 35 pounders, and we date them. Most of the big ones are caught in May and June. When it gets really warm in July and August, the stripers head out of the river. (They'll be catching 30 and 40 pounders in Long Island Sound and along the coast for the rest of the summer.)

Everybody wants to get a big striped bass and it's really not that difficult to do. First off, you're going to get 'em easy by fishing from the shore. It seems that in the earlier part of the season, for every 1 or 2 that are caught further out in the river by boat, about 8 or 10 are caught right off the rocks from the shore. Later in the season the numbers seem to balance out between fishing from the shore or taking a boat out to the flats.

When you're fishing from shore
Continued on page 18

The same pattern followed within each issue. Mike Zydiak would write his fishing news stories (under the name of Fred Hensen) while working at the New York City Police Department, others such as Barbara Robinson, (not listed on the original masthead) Precision Propeller, who wrote a wonderful series on propellers and matching them to your boat and its load and many others.

In 1999 I bought the magazine and by 2001 had doubled its distribution. Most importantly in 2003 I was granted a Federal Trademark on the name *Boating On The Hudson* and have protected it ever since. (Interesting story there as a certain Hudson Valley Newspaper had decided to start their own *Boating On The Hudson* insert, by calling all my advertisers and undercutting my ad rates.

Welcome...

...to the premier issue of *Boating On The Hudson*. As the name implies, our target readership is the guy and gal who boats, or wants to boat, here on the Hudson. We will endeavor to bring that person articles and information to help increase their knowledge and love of this beautiful estuary. Maybe you will try boating in a new part of the river.

This will be done with bold, simple graphics in an easy to read format. We hope that it will be hard to put down or to throw away.

Each issue will have a major editorial thrust; this March issue is fishing. Future issues will feature spring commissioning, cruising, launch ramps, etc.

Each issue will also feature a geographic area in which we will detail facts about the local marine facilities, including marinas, yacht clubs, launch ramps, businesses, etc, and such things as restaurants, local transportation, local sights and things-to-do, houses of worship, etc.

We will report on events, happenings, historical places, swimming holes, anchorages, museums, etc. The easy-to-use Zydiak Tide Tables will be included in each issue.

But this is only the beginning. We plan to break much new ground in many untouched areas. Our staff is small but professional. We have three vessels, all very different, that cruise the Hudson all summer. "Early Spring" is a 44 foot Atlantic Motor Yacht, "Our Rainbow" is a 37 foot Morgan Sloop, and "Patricia A" is a 46 foot classic wood Wheeler yacht. All are equipped with inflatable dinghies to increase our range.

In addition, we will probably drive our cars over 100,000 miles this year in the effort to make this publication the best there is, and keep it that way.

Our combined marine experience of over 70 years includes electronics, boat and engine maintenance, carpentry, etc. What we can't handle, we will find experts in that field to write and advise us. We have one professional captain on staff and several others that contribute to our publication.

We have recently successfully published a cruising guide and information source, "Boating On The Hudson, The Guide" of which we are quite proud. We want this monthly to follow along with this same high quality.

Your views, as a reader, are very important to us. We hope that you will take the time to help steer the direction of this effort. Tell us what you like or dislike about our publication. What kind of articles do you want to read? Are our assessments accurate? What regions are important to you? Please let us know. We will make this promise to you - We will ALWAYS answer your phone call, letter or fax. Guaranteed!

Distribution at first will be to deliver copies to your favorite marina, yacht club, bar, restaurant, diner, etc. It will be FREE for you to pick-up. In the short future, we plan to offer FREE subscriptions that will be mailed directly to your home.

We all hope you will truly enjoy the fruit of our efforts.
...Jack Krasko, Editor



Your Where & When, Why, What and How Hudson River Information Source

Boating on the Hudson is published monthly by Beacon Publishing Corporation, Yonkers, New York.

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Subscriptions to *Boating On The Hudson* are available free of charge by filling out a subscription request form. You may get a copy of this form by calling us at 914/423-3329 or by visiting our booth at the Rockland Boat Show.

Multiple copies for free distribution are also available for your marina, club or business by simply requesting them. They will be delivered promptly and free.

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Colophon:

Boating On The Hudson is produced on an Apple Macintosh IIcx with 20 mb RAM, 325 mb Hard Disk and Daystar Accelerator Card. Peripherals include a CD Technology CD ROM drive, Syquest Cartridge Drive, Radius 24 bit 21 inch color monitor, Apple Laserwriter III, Abaton Scanner, and Zoom 9600 baud modem.

Software includes Word, QuarkXpress, Double Helix, Desktop, Omnipage, Typestyle, Excel, Illustrator, Photoshop plus many others.

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It was very fortuitous that only a month after the US Patent office granted me the *Boating On The Hudson* Trademark the above occurred. I simply called the publisher of the newspaper and explained my position. He immediately apologized and stopped what he was doing!



I must digress for a moment to let the readership be aware of how all this happened to me



RIVER HAPPENINGS

FISHING TOURNAMENTS

WILLOW COVE MARINA, Stony Point, NY announces their 2nd Annual Fishing Trip/Tournament on Sunday April 26th. They will serve coffee and doughnuts at 6am and all boats will depart at 6:30am. All boats should monitor VHF channel 12.

Boundries will be the Bear Mountain Bridge to the North and the Tappan Zee Bridge to the South. All boats should return to the marina 12 noon to measure their catch.

Fee is \$10.00 per person and includes coffee and doughnuts in the AM, Bait, and refreshments upon return to the marina.

Pool for the longest catch is \$10 per person and will be distributed as 1st prize - 50%, 2nd prize - 30% and 3rd prize - 20% of the pool.

Let Willow Cove Marina know by the end of March if you plan to participate. They are located at 2 Hudson Drive, Stony Point, NY, telephone 914-786-5270.

BLACK ROCK BASS BUSTERS, Cornwall, NY announces their "On the River" Striper Tournament for the weekend of May 2 and May 3, 1992. The entry fee is \$25.00 per entrant. Early Bird registrants (before April 15) will participate in an Early Bird Raffle.

Prizes will be awarded to both boat and shore fisherman with a top prize of \$400.00 for Best Combined Weight. A Ladies Rod and Reel will also be awarded. In addition, the largest fish will be mounted free of charge. Overall there will be \$1200+ in prizes.

Look for the announcement poster in your favorite bait and tackle store or call Bob Reichenberger for additional information and complete rules at 914-534-9126.

The Striped Bass Fishing Derby of the **DUTCHESS FEDERATION** will be held on Mother's Day weekend, May 9 and May 10. The entry fee is \$25.00 per person.

Prizes will be as follows:

Best Combined Weight.....	\$300
2nd Best Combined Weight.....	200
3rd Best Combined Weight.....	100
4th-8th Combined Weight each.....	50
Best Ladies Combined Weight.....	100
2nd Best Ladies Combined Weight.....	50
Best Combined Weight for Dutchess Cty.....	50
Lunker Award from boat.....	50
Lunker Award from shore.....	50
Mother's Day Lunker Award.....	50

There will be three weigh-in stations open on Saturday May 9 from 10am to 8pm and Sunday May 10 from 9am to 6pm at the following locations:

White's Hudson River Marina, New Hamburg
Hyde Park Marina, Poughkeepsie
Rhinecliff Park & Launch Ramp, Rhinecliff

Entry forms and rules can be obtained from your favorite bait & tackle shop or by calling **Bill Enslie** at the Dutchess Foundation, PO Box 3201, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, telephone 914-297-9308

PERFECT SPORTSMAN Striper Derby will be held on the weekend of May 16 and May 17, 1992. Entry fee is \$25.00 for each participant. This fee is non-refundable. Prizes will depend on the number of participants in the derby and will be awarded as follows:

Best Combined weight.....	40%
2nd Best Combined weight.....	25%
3rd Best Combined Weight.....	10%
Lunker Award.....	25%

Fish must be brought to Perfect Sportsman before 9pm each day by the participant for registration. Fish must be registered on the day that they were caught.

For a complete set of rules and entry form please call, write or better yet, drop in to:

Perfect Sportsman
16 Market Street
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
telephone 914-297-0202

FASHION SHOW

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Tarrytown Boat Club will hold a fashion show at Rudy's BeauRavage in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. on Sunday April 26 from 11am to 3pm. Admission is \$17.50

Fashions by Karen Charles from the White Plains Galleria will be shown. Lunch will be served.

For more information contact Barbara Robinson, president TBCLA at 914/961-3434

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Boating On The Hudson

In 1999 I was at the bottom of the barrel of life! I had spent most of the 80's chasing my dream, which was connected to my original patents. I contracted Pneumonia while at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania.

I called my lovely wife, who said, "Johnny come home!" I drove home, my clothes drenched in sweat.

gave me, plus meeting Mike Zydiak, and Jack Krasko in 1992 were the two people that eventually changed my life. Both of these gentlemen, encouraged me to write a book about Striped Bass, which they edited and guided me in producing over a number of years. It took until 1998 for it to be published, but it was well received, as I sold 4000 copies. That gave me creditability.

After recovering, and while doing anything an everything I could do to keep going, my daughter, Joanne gave me a book titled Self Publishing. This book changed my life! It was far more about how to survive in a changing world! Most importantly it said, "Do what you are good at and most knowledgeable! I yellowed certain sections of the book and kept it as a reference for years.

Thinking about it, all I was good at was duck hunting, fishing, sailing, and boating, all on the Hudson River. In fact I had spent doing all the above including flying up and down the Hudson River in a seaplane many, many Sunday mornings over 20 years.

Talk about being at the right place at the right time, this book, Joanne

I went from not being able to type, to being an expert typist, (thanks to the Ossining Reference library, and its IBM ball typewriters) which I spent an enormous amount of time on.)

As the trio continued to produce *Boating On The Hudson Magazine*, I was always somewhere in the background, working with them, (essentially for nothing) but loving every minute of the relationship.

Jack Krasko, Publisher, produced each month's issue while living full time on a 44 ft. Atlantic Motor Yacht moored in the Tarrytown Marina.

Each month there would be a crisis, as his Macintosh Computer would crash. This led to Jack taking the computer apart and rebuilding it!

Never the less Jack, Mike and Dottie, would always get the issue out and distributed.

It was all this background and help that led me to buying *Boating On The Hudson* In 1999.



Today, at age 87 I am still producing six issues per year and loving every moment of it.



Hudson River Maritime Museum

Visit the **Rondout II Lighthouse**, a charming early 20th century family lighthouse, accessible to the Museum visitors via an excursion boat.

The **Museum Store** stocks nautical theme gifts, including books, charts and river prints.

The **Museum is open** daily, May through September.



Dedicated to the preservation of the maritime heritage of the Hudson River

914-338-0071

A new Boating Membership category is available that both helps the Museum and includes these benefits:

- All the Family Benefits
 - 1 night free dockage per season. Discount on add'l nights. First come, first served. Reservations Only!
 - 50% discount on BOAT US membership
 - Member decal for your boat
- Annual Cost — \$40.00**

ONE RONDOUT LANDING • KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12401
Along the Strand in the Historic Rondout Waterfront District

Hudson River Maritime Museum - 1992 Calendar WM. O. BENSEN LECTURE SERIES Admission \$2.00, FREE for Museum Members

March 24 7:30 pm
THE RONDOUT'S GLORY DAYS. Slide lecture by Jack Matthews, noted local historian. Topics covered will include the effect of the Hudson River steamboats on the growth of 19th century Rondout, and a look at the varied architecture of Rondout during its heydays, using photographs from Mr. Matthews' renowned collection.

April 21 7:30 pm
HUDSON RIVER SLOOPS. Slide lecture by Paul Fontenay, maritime historian and author of a forthcoming book on Hudson River Sloops. Topics covered will include a discussion of the unique design aspects of these now extinct cargo and passenger transports. Mr. Fontenay will trace the history and development of the Sloops, from their first use on the Hudson through the present design and activities of the "Clearwater", a modern reconstruction.

EVENTS

May 3 12 noon to 5: pm
11th ANNUAL SHAD FESTIVAL. The largest Shad Festival on the Hudson River, featuring Shad Dinners, fresh Shad and Shad Roe, Hot Dogs & Hamburgers, Music, Entertainment, Exhibits, Craft Vendors, and lots of fun.

May 3-October 31 12 noon to 5 pm
THE EXHIBIT HALL RE-OPENS with a new exhibit: "A Peek in Our Attic: Items from the Collection"
BOAT TOURS BEGIN to RONDOUT II LIGHTHOUSE: tour this historic 1915 "family" lighthouse whose rooms have been refurbished. An exhibit traces the history of the Rondout lighthouses and the history of the lightkeepers.
Boat tickets: \$5.00 per person, includes admission to the Lighthouse.

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