



#### ALBANY YACHT CLUB

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## ALBANY YACHT CLUB CELEBRATING 150 YEARS ON THE HUDSON RIVER

BY MEMBERS OF THE AYC

This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the Albany Yacht Club. Founded in 1873 it is one of the oldest organized Yacht Clubs in America. At this special time in the club's history we celebrate the vision, dedication, commitment and love of boating of our original founders. The foundation they laid enabled all who followed in their footsteps to foster and sustain the club throughout these 150 years.

We are thankful to the majestic Hudson River for providing a home and sense of peace and tranquility to all who visit or call the AYC its home port. The river provides a beautiful conduit that forges a common bond amongst divergent communities who share in its splendor. Our ability to celebrate 150 years is a direct result of the support of all the boating clubs along the river. We are grateful to the stewards that have safeguarded the river and the guests who have partaken in our club's activities throughout the years. We thank you and hope you will enjoy all that the AYC has to offer in the years ahead.



ALBANY  
YACHT CLUB

## GATEWAY TO THE ERIE AND CHAMPLAIN CANALS

# ALBANY YACHT CLUB

The Albany Yacht Club is part of the rich history of New York's Capital District and the Hudson River. We enjoy a beautiful setting on the River overlooking the Rensselaer and Albany Riverfronts. The River is a freshwater tidal estuary all the way to the Troy Federal Dam.

We are located 1.5 miles North of Green Buoy 221 on the East Side of the Hudson River in Rensselaer New York. 146 miles north of New York City and 8 miles south of the entrance to the NYS Canal System on the east bank of the Hudson River. Overhead bridge clearances are 135' from NYC to the AYC. They then drop

to 60' immediately north of the club and to 21' nine miles further north. The Upper Hudson is a combination of communities, nature and grace that is well worth seeing. Transient guests can take their boat or uber to Historic Downtown Troy, 8 miles north, a city where the Industrial Revolution was born. Home of 3 colleges and the place where The Age of Innocence was filmed. During August the city is transformed to the late 1800's for the filming of The Gilded Age, the precursor of Downtown Abbey shown on HBO Max. Saratoga and The Saratoga Racetrack is within a 45 drive.



From the AYC you will have a grand view of the New York State Capital, the City of Albany, with its dashing array of old and contemporary architecture, and the Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza.

photo, information credit: [www.albanyyachtclub.com](http://www.albanyyachtclub.com)



CLUB MEMBERS IN OUR CLUB HOUSE



## ALBANY YACHT CLUB MISSION:



The Albany Yacht Club promotes safe and enjoyable boating while serving as a steward to New York's Inland waterways. The club promotes fellowship and inclusiveness among our members, their families and guests, the Mohawk- Hudson Council and other boating organizations. We maintain a high standard of excellence in our operations and facilities to safeguard the Club's legacy for future generations.



### MEMBERSHIP:

We believe that club members working together fosters a sense of shared responsibility, respect and friendship. That bond builds community amongst all members. With that in mind, we are a working club. We depend upon members to volunteer to perform the work that needs to be done to accomplish the Club's social activities, facility operations and administrative functions. Members can call the appropriate committee chairs for work assignments that meet the needs of the club and match the members abilities.

Presently the AYC has two types of Membership: Regular and Social.

Both regular and social members are entitled to full rights and privileges at club functions and access to facilities at all times. Regular members: may obtain boat dockage and storage based upon dockage availability; hold equity in the club; have the right to vote and have a work obligation of 35 hours per year.

Social members do not hold equity; cannot vote; they have a mandatory work obligation of 10 hours per year. Presently the AYC has both regular and social membership available. We welcome you to dock your boat, relax in our pool, enjoy the company of new friends at our bar and dinners on Wednesday and Friday evenings or just enjoy the sunsets on the deck.

If interested in becoming a member call is at 518-445-9587 or 518-465-9228.



### FACILITIES:

The clubhouse at the AYC overlooks the Rensselaer and Albany riverfronts. It features an air-conditioned and heated dining room/bar with a seating capacity of 75. Standing room at the bar will accommodate an additional 40 patrons. We have a full sized kitchen, a large patio, picnic tables and an outdoor barbeque area with Gazebo. A full sound system enhances the indoor and outdoor area with music for all occasions. The clubhouse may be reserved at any time during the year and food can be cooked onsite in our kitchen or brought in by a caterer. The club rents out its facilities for parties and other events. Rentals must be made by a member of the club.

The 20 by 40 ft pool at the club offers a refreshing way to spend an afternoon overlooking the river and spending time with friends. Relax outside the pool by the gazebo with your favorite beverage or snack while watching the boats go by. Showers are available in the dock house along with laundry facilities.

### SERVICES:

Albany Yacht Club offers mid range gasoline as well as diesel fuel. Services include bagged ice, pump out facilities, Wi-Fi, showers, maps etc. Within walking distance of the club is a grocery store, deli, diner, drug store, laundromat, post office, bank, and medical service. Whether you are looking for a long term transient stay or an overnight stay, be assured our friendly dockmasters will be ready to assist you.

Dockmaster can be reached  
at 518-465-9228.

### ACTIVITIES AT THE CLUB:

One of the regular events that foster a sense of community are our Friday Night Dinners. Friday night dinners are prepared by members and are not just about the food. These dinners are about sitting around a table with your friends and family and enjoying each other's company.

Cooking together, serving each other, kidding each other, working together for the benefit of each other. It is a dinner we count on to meet long time friends and older members, who no longer have boats. Transients are warmly welcomed as well as members from other clubs. It is around these tables where new friendships are made and cultivated.

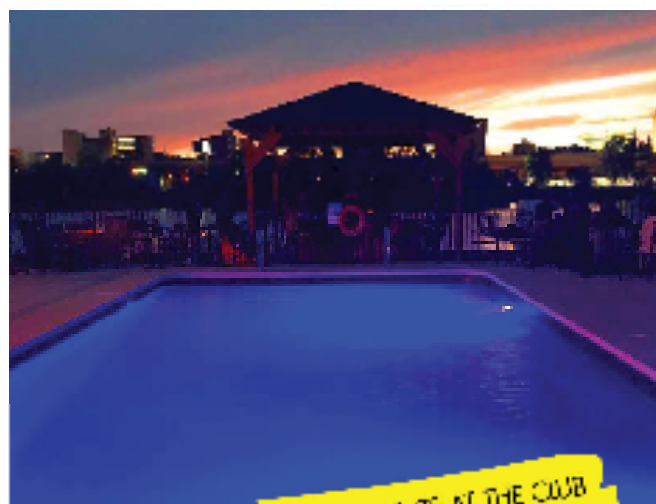
Wednesday Night happy hour with light fare is also another staple of the club where people know the bar is open and they can grab a bite to eat while spending time on the river with friends.

Throughout the season each of the docks may sponsor an informal dock party where members bring their favorite dishes and beverages. Informal gatherings at the Gazebo just happen. The gazebo is a place where one can usually catch people barbecuing, relaxing and sharing food and beverages with a view of the river



<b>Large Vessel Dockage</b> Up to 180'	<b>Transient Dockage</b> Specols	<b>Great Facilities</b> Pool, Bathrooms, Laundry	<b>Boating and Social Memberships</b>	<b>Fuel Services</b> Both gas and diesel	<b>Dock Shop</b> Snacks, Water, Boating Items





MANY EVENTS AT THE CLUB



Special Occasion parties occur throughout the year. Some examples are: a fabulous Halloween Party; Fundraisers, Yoga classes; sport event parties (The Kentucky Derby celebration, The Daytona 500 and the Super Bowl); Boating certification courses, & more.

### MEMORIAL DAY

Marks the beginning of the boating season. We open with a solemn ceremony at 11:30 to honor those who served as well as members who have passed during the last year. A special guest speaker remarks on the history of the River. The fleet is commissioned as we are set to begin a new boating season, and the members provide a feast that lasts the entire day.

### SPECIAL STRIPER SEASON DOCKAGE

During striper season, the AYC rents its docks to those who love to fish for Atlantic stripers. Club members usually put their boats in the water toward the end of May but can before that time upon request.

### BOATING ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

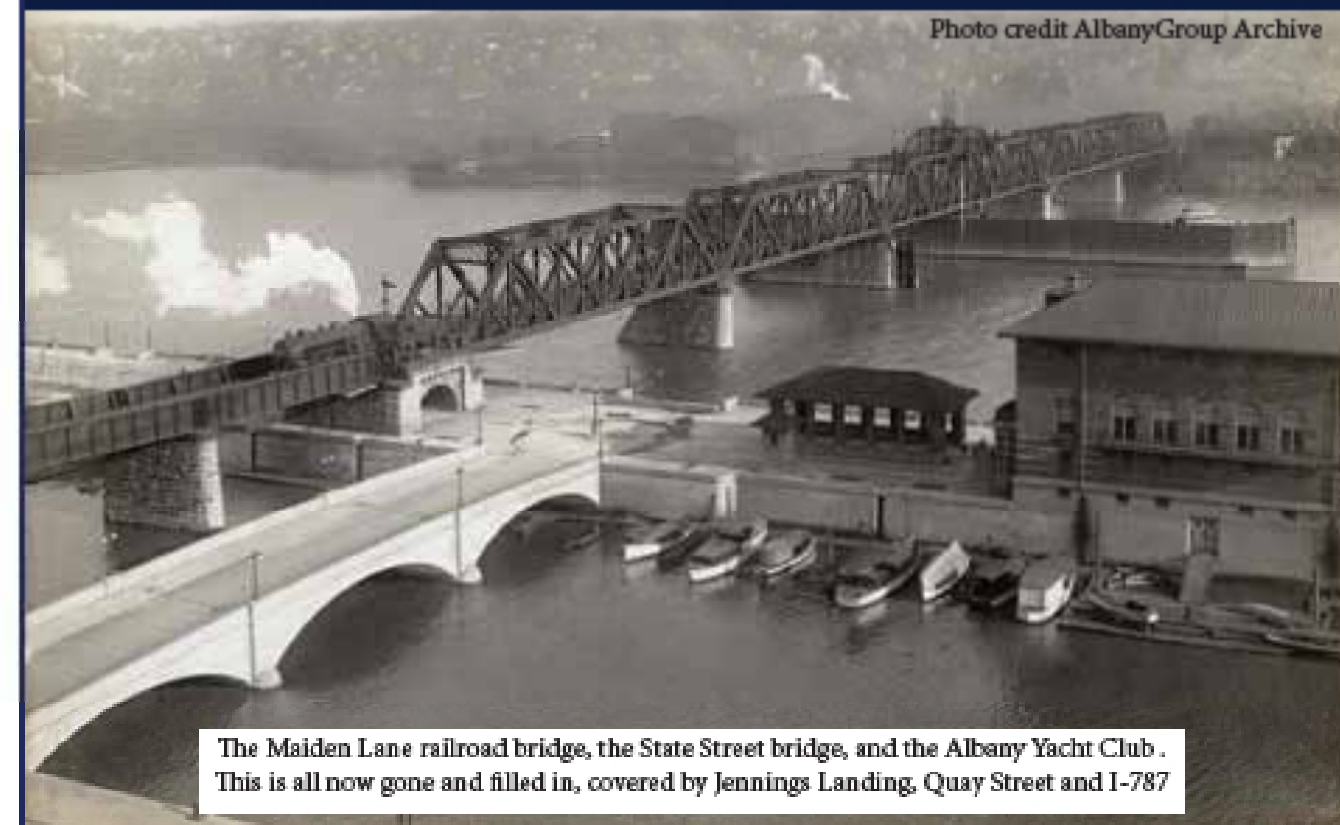
The AYC is proud to be a charter member of the Mohawk Hudson Council of Yacht Clubs founded in 1959. The Council is composed of 20 clubs from Schenectady to Poughkeepsie. The Council meets five times a year to discuss topics of interest to all members. Our members benefit with reciprocal agreements with clubs and marinas in the area along the Hudson Mohawk canal waterways. Each year clubs of the Hudson Mohawk Council sponsor a weekend festival. The AYC has sponsored a fall festival over the past couple of years. At these amazing celebrations boating clubs gather to celebrate. Each club organizes a weekend event filled with music, dancing, singing, eating, drinking, meeting new friends and enjoying the summer on the Hudson River.



# THE ALBANY YACHT CLUB

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The Maiden Lane railroad bridge, the State Street bridge, and the Albany Yacht Club. This is all now gone and filled in, covered by Jennings Landing, Quay Street and I-787

In writing about the rise and fall (or fill) of the Albany Basin, a major part of Albany's waterfront history that is now buried under a tangle of roads and the Corning Preserve, we were a bit stymied in figuring out the role and location of the Albany Yacht Club, the surviving buildings of which were the prominent features of the old pier for decades. In fact, some of those buildings survived until the construction of the "Hudson River Way" amphitheater in what is now called Jennings Landing.

The Albany Yacht Club was originally organized in 1873 in the paint shop of Ira Porter at 12 James Street, and took rooms in a five-story building at the State street bridge, but got pushed out

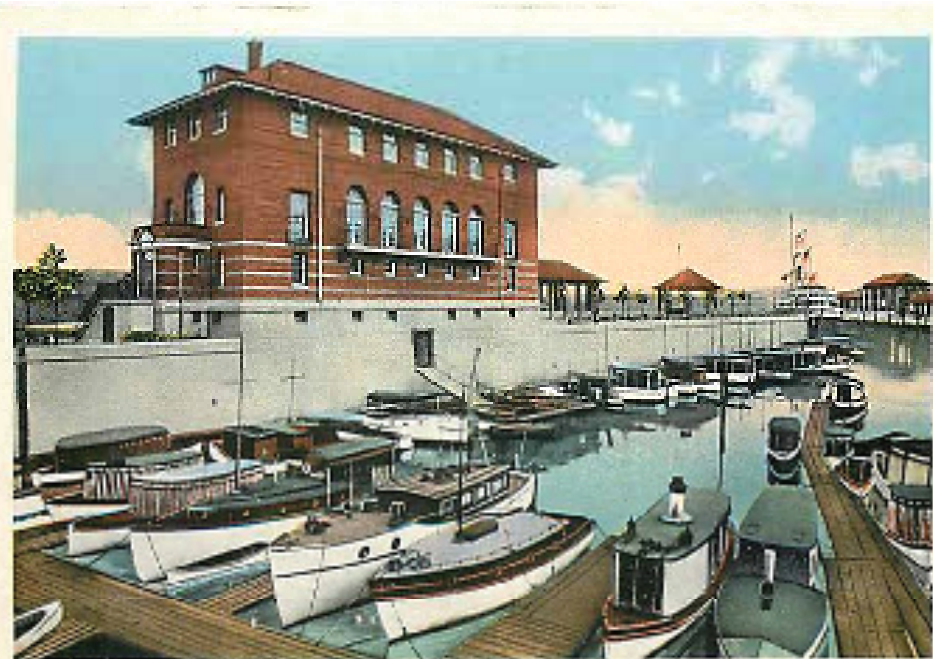
after a few years when "a big salt concern took possession." That drove them across the river, for what would not be the last time.

In December 1903, the Albany Yacht Club, already well-established for nearly 25 years but having met at various locations including canal boats, had moved from a location on the eastern shore and held its first meeting in its new home on the pier, in a building that had belonged to Cornell Towing (Cornell Steamboat Co.). "Improvements to the building are progressing and it is expected that a new maple floor will be laid before the next meeting." The Yacht Club, now 60 members strong, had used this building before. The Albany Evening Journal reported:



"That history repeats itself was never better exemplified than in the case of the Albany Yacht Club, that sterling organization which has helped to keep alive the interest in boating for the past decade and which at the end of nearly a quarter of a century finds itself ready to take possession of the building in which the first years of its infancy were passed ... A few days since a committee appointed for the purpose closed negotiations with the Cornell Towing Line and the five story building at the western terminus of the State street bridge, owned by the company, has been transferred to the Albany Yacht Club ...

The new home of the Yacht Club is directly opposite its old quarters, it being the intention of the club to retain its old house for storage purposes. The new building will be entirely renovated between now and spring, the members being enthusiastic and looking forward to the time when they can throw open their new home for public inspection. The five floors are large and roomy, but it has been decided that the second floor will be the reception room of the club. This will be fitted up in handsome style ... A gymnasium, a large card room for euchre parties and a hall for entertainments and smokers will be among the improvements and every inducement will be offered to swell the membership. The outside of the structure will not be touched until late in the spring, after the Hudson has learned to behave itself."



ALBANY YACHT CLUB, ALBANY, N. Y.

**The Albany  
Yacht Club  
built around  
1912.**

Photo credit  
AlbanyGroup  
Archive

In just under eight years, the old building would be inadequate. The September 12, 1911 Albany Evening Journal reported that the last meeting of the club in its present building was held the night before, "and the work of tearing down the building, which had been one of the old warehouses on the pier will begin at once. The club has arranged to secure temporary headquarters pending the completion of its new club house, at 415 Broadway. The new house will be located just south of the present building, and last night it was announced that the foundation has been completed and paid for and that a bond issue of \$20,000 to secure the balance of the fund of \$30,000 needed to pay for the new building had been floated as a mortgage bond issue with the Albany Trust company as trustee. Nearly all of this issue has been subscribed. John Dyer, jr. who has the contract for the State street pier improvement, will construct the new house."

Many years later, in 1947, the Albany Yacht Club held a mortgage burning ceremony to celebrate being free of debt, though it was then reported that the cost of the clubhouse had been \$35,000, with a mortgage of \$25,000. Their time at that location, though, was limited.

In March 1948, the Knickerbocker News reported that the Yacht Club had been proposed as a Naval Reserve training center. "If a training center is located here, [Lt.] Commander Doody said, it is hoped it would be opened this summer and that it would be equipped for training the approximately 600 members

of Battalion 313 and other Naval Reservists in the Capital District. This would include, he said, installation of gun mounts, radar and technical equipment and engineering equipment." At the time, the Navy was using an LST (landing ship - tank) anchored at the foot of Madison Avenue as its training locus. None of this seemed to discomfit the Yacht Club, as director John E. Scopes said they had for some time been considering moving to another site on the Albany waterfront. The sale of the club building (the land still belonged to the City of Albany) went through somewhere around 1949, and the club moved to a former warehouse on Quay Street. The exact location is not made clear, though it was listed in the street directory as between the Recreation Pier and the Naval Reserve Center. Those, a Thomas Dolan, and two vacant buildings were the only things listed on Quay Street in 1951.

In 1953, the club bought land on the Rensselaer side of the Hudson, south of the Dunn Memorial Bridge. "The area includes four plot of ground and is between Columbia St. and Second Ave., Rensselaer." At the time, the club also maintained anchorage in Coeymans, which they said would continue. They hoped to be able to move into a new home by the end of the 1953 boating season, but that didn't work out, as it was later reported they hoped the building would be complete by fall of 1954. While the newspaper focused on the building's second floor veranda and extensive use of picture windows, it was not quite as grand as once they had enjoyed.

Thanks to the Albany...The Way It Was Facebook group for its Flickr photo archives.

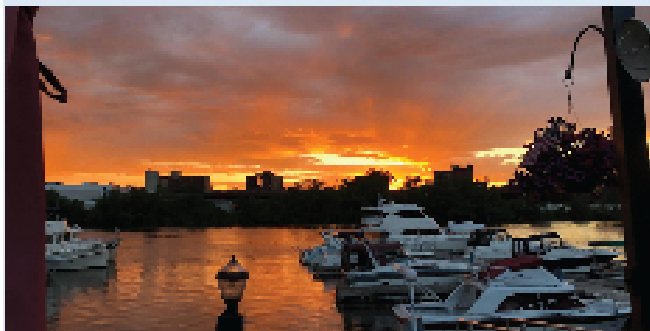
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## HISTORY CONTINUES....

### HERE IS AN INTIMATE ORAL HISTORY SPOKEN BY AN ELDER MEMBER OF THE ALBANY YACHT CLUB

When the club bought 73 Broadway in Rensselaer it used it as a clubhouse. The first floor was used as a kitchen and the second floor was used as the meeting room. In the 1960's the state took the clubhouse building in Albany and built a pump station for the Empire State Plaza. In the mid sixties, the club erected the present club house. The members finished the interior work while the frame and roof were done by contractors. 73 Broadway was then turned into apartments which the club still rents.



In 2004 the club purchased lands along the river from the state for additional parking. On June 29, 2006 after days of persistent heavy rain the river rose and our anchoring system failed. We lost all four sets of docks along with the boats attached to them. Luckily, we hired a couple of tugs from the port of Albany and they successfully pushed the boats and docks into the turning basin. No boats were lost but a couple were damaged. In that same year we hired a contractor to build new docks with an anchoring system designed to hold in difficult weather. We now have in place a floating dock system with a series of 28 trapezoid concrete anchors weighing 11,000 lbs each.

In 2010 the club purchased a five bay garage along with an office building next to the garage. We converted the office building to an apartment and the apartment as well as the garages are currently rented. In the same year the club changed its membership from individual to a partner membership or unit membership.

In 2012 Hurricane Irene came up the river unexpectedly. Again the north end anchors failed and the north

end docks broke off. In response we added three new anchors to shore up the four that were already placed.

In 2013 the club significantly increased its membership by adding a social membership category to the club which would include non-boating members. Previously, regular members could become social members when they no longer were boating but wanted to remain in the club.

In 2018 the club began work on the construction of the outdoor gazebo to expand its outdoor space for gatherings.

In 2020 construction began on a state of the art pool which was all member built. It has been a great addition to the club. Importantly, in the year 2020 the AYC elected its first female Commodore, Maryellen Torrisi.

The Covid Epidemic has taken a toll on our Albany Yacht Club. We have gone through some difficult times. During the epidemic our Friday Night dinners were canceled, the bar was closed and all functions were canceled. After months of isolation, dinners were restored as take out only, to preserve the health and safety of our members. As with most clubs Covid 19 put a tremendous financial strain on the club. We found some innovative ways to stay afloat during this crisis. During this period, we also lost some regular boating members. Sadly some of our beloved members died, some became too ill to boat and others decided to give up boating. Consequently, like a number of other clubs on the river, we are in the process of rebuilding, restoring and re-inventing ourselves to meet the needs of the present day boater. We are committed to keeping the traditions that we have valued. At the same time we are looking forward to expanding the untapped opportunities the club has to offer. If you are interested in being part of a working club that welcomes new ideas, fosters a sense of community and wants to be part of the future of boating on the mighty Hudson River, give us a call about possible membership. We'd love to welcome you. Come and visit us this summer and have a safe boating season! - Members of the AYC

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