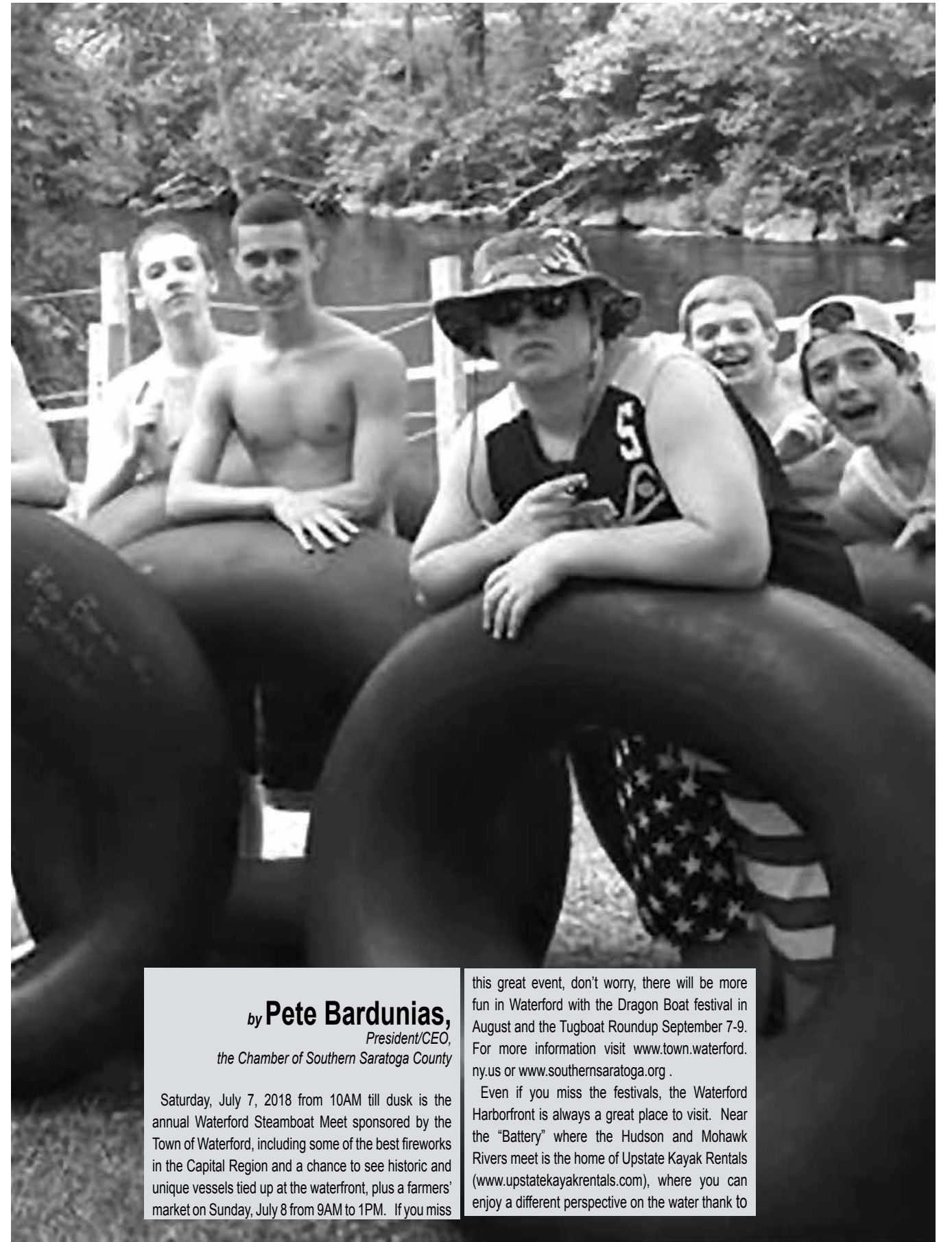




Summer On Upstate Waterways Reveals History, Brings Fun and Excitement



by **Pete Bardunias,**
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Saturday, July 7, 2018 from 10AM till dusk is the annual Waterford Steamboat Meet sponsored by the Town of Waterford, including some of the best fireworks in the Capital Region and a chance to see historic and unique vessels tied up at the waterfront, plus a farmers' market on Sunday, July 8 from 9AM to 1PM. If you miss

this great event, don't worry, there will be more fun in Waterford with the Dragon Boat festival in August and the Tugboat Roundup September 7-9. For more information visit www.town.waterford.ny.us or www.southernaratoga.org.

Even if you miss the festivals, the Waterford Harborfront is always a great place to visit. Near the "Battery" where the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers meet is the home of Upstate Kayak Rentals (www.upstatekayakrentals.com), where you can enjoy a different perspective on the water thank to



Groups of eager tubers visit Big Big on the Battenkill in southwestern Vermont, accessible via arranging transportation from southern Saratoga County ports of call. The owners of this fun attraction also operate South Shore Marina on Saratoga Lake for trailer boaters, adjacent to Nostalgia Wine Bar and Ale House, in Malta, NY.

The work of Thaddeus Kosciuszko is evident throughout the region from Waterford to Ticonderoga. The Polish Colonel tried to convince leaders to fortify Ft. Ticonderoga, when he was rebuffed he concentrated on Waterford and Saratoga instead, leading to a victory which impacted the entire world.



Steamboats warming their engines at the dock in Waterford. The annual Steamboat Meet is but one of many great maritime events which take place in this historic site, which is also home to America's oldest continuously incorporated village.

Donna Larkin and her professional staff. Right across the way, on Peebles Island, you might notice some earthen mounds sticking up from the grassy knoll. They were part of the fortifications erected by Col. Thaddeus Kosciuszko in 1777 as part of the defenses should the colonists have lost the epic Battle of Saratoga that fall. A very interesting case of what-might-have-been. There is also a remnant of an old factory on Peebles Island as well as other working factories nearby, a reminder that America's industrial heritage is still alive here in upstate New York, and many are working hard to make it thrive once again.

The village of Stillwater at Lock C-4 and Schuylerville just below Lock C-5 are becoming more and more popular with cruising boaters (many articles in recent issues of this magazine have discussed Schuylerville's resurgence), and for those interested in getting away from the water, consider the Saratoga Battlefield, the Saratoga Race Course (mid-July thru Labor Day), area farms and other attractions which are easily reached via uber, taxi service or in some cases by bicycle or even on foot. Or call Kirsten Dahlgren at Big Big on the Battenkill (www.bigbigonthebattenkill.com) to arrange a tubing or kayaking trip on the Battenkill River in nearby Vermont.

Just upriver past Lock C-2, the Mechanicville Library hosts a farmers' market every Monday, rain or shine, from 4PM-7PM at 190 N Main St., Mechanicville. More information is available at meclib.sals.edu. It's another great opportunity to easily provision as vessels make their way north to Lake Champlain.

For more information on these and other local attractions, call (518) 371-3763, visit www.southernsaratoga.org or stop by the Southern Saratoga Information Center (at the Exit 9 Rest Area on I-87)..