

Stay Out of Their Way

The Hudson is a working river. Ship traffic cannot see you in time to stop or avoid a collision.



Be Hudson River Paddling Smart

- Always wear your life jacket
- Keep a sharp lookout at all times for larger vessels
- Stay outside the shipping channels when paddling up and downstream
- Always cross the channel behind commercial vessels
- Cross at a right angle, move quickly
- Stay closely together as a group when crossing
- Watch for the ship's wake

WEAR IT!



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

parks.ny.gov

Hudson River Valley Greenway

Hudson River Safety, Navigation, & Operations Committee

hudsonrivergreenwaywatertrail.org/info-safety



SOMEWHERE

ACROSS

the HILLTOP...

Captain Chip O'Dingle driving the *Mary Ellen* at Athens, NY, Hudson River mid February 2021

by *John H. Vargo, Publisher*

It brings tears of joy to my eyes to see my ice yacht the "Maryellen" back on the Hudson River! What makes it perfect is the pure Irishman who has taken over the care of this old boat. The original backbone is as perfect today as it was in the early 1800's.

You see I married a real Irish girl from a strong Irish family in 1956. It was but a few years later that I discovered this old ice yacht up between the beams of a building along the Hudson River. The boat had been put up there for safe keeping and nobody, but nobody, could get it out of where it was. There was a thick coating of railroad dust on the wood that actually preserved it. I found out who owned the building, bought the boat for a dollar, and spent one entire day with blocks and tackle removing it from where it was.

The next 65 years the boat was in my care. In 1973 a movie was made of the boat and my Irish/Slovak family, and shown for over 20 years on various television stations. It was called American Adventure.

Very heavy, extremely slow, as compared to modern iceboats, but to anyone who understands what it is, pure joy!

An the joy was mine as Reid Beilenberg discovered the ice forming at Athens in early February!

The ice at Athens was only 6 inches thick at its best. However, because it is free of boat traffic the ice is relatively safe, at least to a "died in the wool" Hudson River Ice Yacht Club ice boater. (There is an island in the middle of the Hudson River here that protects the ice).

At one point there were over 150 people out admiring the old ice yachts and this ancient tradition of ice boating on the Hudson River.