

the rOnDayvous® report

An unofficial newsletter for O'Day sailboat owners in the Tristate area — and beyond

March 2008

Wake up, it's a Chelsea morning!

Make plans to head up the Hudson for the 2008 rOnDAYvous®

Officially, winter is winding down, with the ever-present possibility of more bad off-season weather yet to come. But sailors in the Northeast can take comfort in the warm thought that the 6th annual O'day owners' rOnDAYvous® is set for the weekend of July 11-13, at the Chelsea Yacht Club in Chelsea, N.Y.

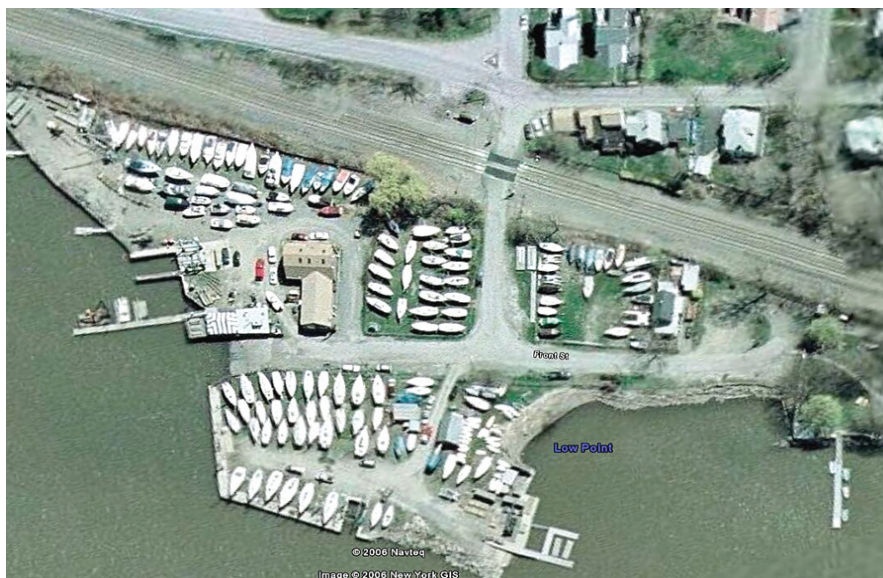
The rOnDAYvous®, which has become an annual don't-miss event for Northeastern O'Day owners, will be held this year at a Hudson River venue for the first time. The Chelsea YC is located roughly 60 miles north of the George Washington Bridge.

Mike Colucci, skipper of the O'day 28 Da Capo and an officer of the Chelsea YC, will be serving as proud host of the event. "This year will be something special," he said, "and if you're up to the challenge, it will be very rewarding for those who attend."

Mike added with a chuckle, "I certainly wouldn't want to host a crappy rOnDAYvous®."

The closest the annual rOnDAYvous® has come to being held at a Hudson River site was Liberty Landing Marina in 2004. The site, just to the northwest of Ellis Island in New York Harbor, drew attendees from as far away as Wisconsin and the Chesapeake, as well as the Tristate area.

Mike readily admits that hosting the best rOnDAYvous® yet will be a tall order, given the overwhelming success of the 2007 edition at Milford Landing Marina in Connecticut. "I had the BEST time in Milford," he commented shortly after returning home from the rOnDAYvous®. "I am so glad to have made so many new friends. To all that attended,



An aerial view of the Chelsea Yacht Club, site of the 2008 O'day rOnDAYvous®.

thanks for the memories that will be with me for a long, long time."

Milford Landing proved an appealing site for the 2007 rOnDAYvous®, with nearly 20 boats and 60 crew on hand for the festivities at the all-transient marina. Both veteran and first-time attendees agreed that the event was a smash.

"The gathering was super, the food was delicious, the entertainment was wonderful. We're looking forward to making the run up the Hudson this year," said Joe Lynch, who with his wife, Judy, sails the O-30 Dreamer out of Bridgeport, Conn.

"It was nice meeting everyone," said Dennis Slight, who keeps his O-302 Slight Breeze at Milford Landing. "I had a good time, and learned a lot about my boat, thanks to all who helped."

(While Dennis was attending his first rOnDAYvous®, his boat had been there

before. Under a different name and a different owner, the 302 had been to both the inaugural rOnDAYvous® at the Harlem Yacht Club on City Island and the 2005 edition at Captain's Cove Seaport in Black Rock Harbor, Conn.)

Peter and Jilda Brennan, of the O-37CC Yeraz 2, were back for a second helping of rOnDAYvous® after having enjoyed themselves thoroughly at the 2006 event at the Raritan Yacht Club in Perth Amboy, N.J. Peter said in a post-event e-mail: "It was great! Our only regret was that it was just too short a time and we did not get to meet and better know more of the attendees."

Details of the 2008 rOnDAYvous® are still being worked out, including Saturday night dinner arrangements and on-the-water events and land excursions during the weekend. Information will be circulated as it becomes available.

Chelsea Yacht Club, Chelsea, NY

July 11-13, 2008

Rookie reflections:

First-timers take a look back at the 2007 event

For South Shore sailor, the fourth time is the charm

By Bob DeSimone
O-32CC Free Spirit

In 2004 when I discovered oday-owners.com, I also saw that there was a group that had the same passion for O'Days as me.

On the forum was talk about a rOnDAYvous® at Liberty Landing Marina, and I pondered the thought of joining them. One nagging thought was traveling out in the ocean with an infant, as our daughter Elizabeth was just a year old. Although she's been on the boat in the Great South Bay since the age of 2 months, this was a thought that I didn't feel comfortable with. I never thought about traveling there by car or train.... Duhhhh! Nor did I even express an interest on the forums because I know now that the guys on the forum would

be coaxing you to come.

Then came rOnDAYvous® '05 at Bridgeport, and the same thoughts and behavior as the year before.

By 2006, the talk on the forums was about the rOnDAYvous® in Raritan Bay, and I'm getting excited because I've wanted to get out of the Great South Bay and go somewhere else other than the South Shore of Long Island. Summer came and, because of my wife's current employment, we could not take the time.

Moving forward to 2007, the talk on the forums is now about a Milford Landing rOnDAYvous®. On the forum, Pete says to "take a magic marker and go to the calendar and write rOnDAYvous®." That's what did the



Elizabeth DeSimone shows off her *Latitudes & Attitudes* tattoos.

trick, and what a terrific experience it was.

We planned our rOnDAYvous® with a trip around the city with our sailing club, so we took our first long cruise with experienced cruisers. After we parted company with them and headed for Milford Landing, it was so exciting to see other O'Days, to attach faces to names in the forums and to finally meet the

people responsible for organizing this event. What a lot of fun my family and I had meeting new friends.

Now it's 2008, and I'm trying to figure out how to get to Chelsea and back while I plan around my wife's work schedule. I do not intend to miss any more rOnDAYvous®.

A two-year, 18-mile journey to the rOnDAYvous®

By Rick Bartlett
O-26 Apple O'day

We bought our sailboat November 4, 2005. Since it was a project boat, and I had never had anything to do with rebuilding a sailboat, I was looking for any information I could find. That brought me to sailboatowners.com, and then to odayowners.com. During the winter I was monitoring the threads and spotted one about an "O'day rOnDAYvous®" happening in New Jersey. My wife and I thought that that sounded fun, and it would give us the opportunity to use the boat to travel with.

After we splashed the boat on Memorial Day Weekend, we enjoyed lots of day sails but never had time to string any together. As July approached and we looked into going to the rOnDAYvous®, it hit home that traveling by sailboat took planning and a lot more time.

Fast-forward to February 2007. The rOnDAYvous® thread came up again and this time it was in Milford, CT. Wow,



Elizabeth DeSimone and Elizabeth Bartlett, get boating tips from Eric Bartlett, skipper of the Javelin, seen at right rafted to the O-26 Apple O'day.

just 18 miles west of our home base in Guilford! Now we really had to take advantage and attend.

With all the boating we have done, we have never stayed at a marina or a public anchorage. We had always returned to the mooring in front of our family-owned cottage. Not only would this be our first time at a marina, but we would be spending it with a bunch of people who the only thing we knew about them was that they also owned O'days.

The day arrived to go and we had great weather to sail to Milford. We arrived at the marina and were greeted immediately by Pete. My son had arrived with his Javelin and he joined us, along with my other son and his girlfriend. We went around and met others who were there at that point, realizing very quickly that this would be a good weekend.

Our 8-year-old daughter Elizabeth made friends very quickly with Elizabeth DeSimone. Friday evening was very relaxing with pot luck food and drink on the docks. On Saturday, another commitment forced us to miss the race, BBQ and the SOS band. We arrived back on Sunday to make breakfast on board and then say our goodbyes. It was a great weekend, at a great marina.

We're looking ahead to the 2008 rOnDAYvous®, even though it will be a challenge to bring the boat the 130 miles from Guilford to Chelsea. It'll be nice to be there the whole weekend, and to get to know everyone better.