

# the rOnDAYvous® report

An unofficial newsletter for O'day sailboat owners in the tristate area — and beyond

May-June 2011

## Eat, drink & be merry

*No one should go hungry at the rOnDAYvous®*

If the past eight years of O'day rOnDAYvous® have proven anything, it's that O'day owners love a good party – the eating, drinking and socializing that make for the best of times.

This year's gathering will offer everything an O'dayer could want in the way of a party, almost from the moment you step off your boat on Friday the 15th. That evening, a big dockside welcome party is planned, and it will be as good as you choose to make it.

This BYOE (for everything) event, a rOnDAYvous® tradition, is about the closest thing to a sure-fire way of bringing together old friends and new alike. Make the rounds from one boat to another on the South Dock (rOnDAYvous® HQ), stopping to say "hello" and meet your neighbors for the weekend. Along the way, you'll find snack foods galore, covered dishes to make the mouth water, and beverages that can slake even the toughest thirst.

Of course, your dockside neighbors will likely be doing exactly the same, so be sure to put out food and drinks for others. It's one big, happy progressive dinner party!

If you can bring a folding table and a few chairs to set up dockside as well, so much the better. Then you won't have to eat standing up.

At one memorable rOnDAYvous® – the 2004 event at Liberty Landing Marina – attendees whipped up a sumptuous dockside party that lasted well into the first night. A tradition was born, too, as



*The first-night welcome party gets underway at the 2007 rOnDAYvous® in Milford.*

a bottle of Chianti was shared in a toast to absent owners and friends.

Saturday night will once again be set aside for the festive O'day owners' dinner – a fancy affair that has yet to disappoint. Details are still being worked out, along with the nominal cost-per-person that will be based on total attendance.

After dinner, or after you've

walked off the meal, don't forget to pull up a seat for a free performance by the O'day Strung-Out String Band. If you're musically inclined, don't forget to pack your instrument when you're loading the boat to come to Jersey City. The SOS Band is open to all willing participants. (See Page 2 for more information.)

### *Field trip, anyone?*

There is no shortage of things to do in the Big Apple and its environs. Organizers are considering a number of possible day trips during rOnDAYvous® weekend, including the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum, among other opportunities. Please be sure to register your preference (or suggest others), either by reply e-mail or at the rOnDAYvous® itself.



**Newport Yacht Club & Marina, Jersey City, NJ**

**July 15-17, 2011**

# The coolest dock sounds around

## *Pickin' & grinnin' with the O'day SOS Band*

Some rOnDAYvous® attendees are more than just loyal O'day-owning sailors. Some of them — the motley crew known as the O'day Strung-Out String (SOS) Band — are as musical as they are nautical.

The annual rOnDAYvous® is a festival of good friends, good food and drink and all things O'day, but it also features the once-a-year performance (more like an annual rehearsal) by SOS, a group that can be heard nowhere else.

The SOS Band first came together spontaneously at the inaugural rOnDAYvous® in 2003 at the Harlem Yacht Club. A handful of O'day skippers who usually travel with musical instruments on board settled down in the HYC clubhouse on Saturday night, broke out their guitars (and a mandolin) and songs began pouring out. From rock and pop standards to folk chestnuts, from country favorites to Bob Marley and Jimmy Buffett, the music came together easily, and the reactions of fellow O'dayers were overwhelmingly positive.

Since then, the SOS Band has managed to show up at each of the rOnDAYvous®. At Liberty Landing Marina in 2004, the band regaled friends and passersby alike with a free-wheeling set of merry melodies. When an enormous party boat docked near the O'days and the guests from a wedding reception began to disembark, the SOS musicians were ready at the foot of the gangway, belting out a nonstop medley of familiar tunes that prompted one member of the wedding party to toss a \$20 bill in an open guitar case.

At the Raritan Yacht Club in 2006, the band, along with the entire company of rOnDAYvous® attendees, took the launch out to the mooring where Bill and Patty Coxé's O-40 *Kukulcan II* was waiting, then scrambled aboard to sing (and drink) the night away.

The SOS Band is built around a



*When traveling to the rOnDAYvous®, be sure to bring your instrument if you're musically inclined.*

core membership of sorts, with an unpredictable cast of supporting players showing up as need, whim and opportunity dictate. Mike C, skipper of the O-28 *Da Capo*, is the only member of the SOS Band with formal musical training, a fact that gives him no special status whatsoever within the group. Other regulars include Bill Coxé, Pete Dodenhoff of the O-322 *EmmieLou*, and back once again, original SOS member Rich Breeden of the O-30 *Jill E*.

If you come to the rOnDAYvous® and you happen to be a musical sailor, bring your instrument and/or voice, and sit in with the group. Even if you're non-musical, you can help out the band by yelling out song suggestions, applauding at the appropriate times, and making sure the band's drinks don't run dry.

This year's performance at Newport Yacht Club & Marina will likely be dockside. Showtime is, well, whenever. Don't be late.



**Rummage through your garage...  
Clean out your basement...  
Empty your lazarette...**

**It's time for the annual  
rOnDAYvous® swap meet!**

**Have some boat-related items that you've given up on ever using? Bring them with you to Newport Marina. Maybe a fellow O'day owner can use what you're trying to unload. And you might find an item you've been searching for. Deck plates or hardware, navigation tools or plumbing supplies, koozies or teak items — all this and more, and all free for the taking!**



# Don't leave the rOnDAYvous® empty-handed

As any veteran rOnDAYvous® attendee knows, event organizers know how to take care of their people, and one of the most popular takeaways from the get-together are the annual achievement awards handed out at the annual Saturday night owners' dinner.

Although categories may vary slightly from one year to the next, some of the typically-awarded certificates include:

- **Size Doesn't Matter** (the smallest boat in attendance);
- **Long-Distance Voyager** (greatest distance traveled to the rOnDAYvous®);
- **Early Bird Special** (the first boat to arrive);
- **Lifetime Underachievement Award** (most years on the event mailing list before finally showing up);
- **Blender-Tender** (cocktail-making champ);
- **Oldie But Goodie** (the oldest boat at the rOnDAYvous®);

- The coveted **Rookie of the Year Award** is presented to the first-time attendee who simply has the flat-out best time at the rOnDAYvous®.

Don't think these awards are just pieces of paper, either. Scott Maat, skipper of the O-23 *On Eagles' Wings*, said after the 2008 rOnDAYvous®: "I framed our 'Size Doesn't Matter' certificate for having the smallest boat in the fleet, and it now sits on my desk at work, prompting me to smile every time I see it."

## Be prepared

### What you should bring to Newport to maximize your rOnDAYvous® enjoyment

Want to get the most out of your rOnDAYvous® experience? Here's what you should bring with you.

#### **EXTRA FENDERS AND DOCKLINES (along with snubbers or Shockles).**

The marina is protected by a wave-attenuating wall to cut down on turbulence from river traffic. That, and the fact that commuter ferry traffic is greatly reduced on the weekend, should make for a lot less boat-rocking. Still, the security of extra lines and fenders shouldn't be overlooked.

**CASH:** There are no registration fees associated with the O'day rOnDAYvous® — never have been, and hopefully never will be. However, there are costs to be shared or pass along in staging

this wonderful social event, and coming prepared with cash can help the organizers. As usual, there is the big Saturday night owners' dinner (normally around \$25 a head). In addition, we hope to have commemorative rOnDAYvous® t-shirts once again, and cash payment would be helpful. (FYI, there are a number of bank ATM machines within a short walk of the marina.)

**HORS D'OEUVRES and other food for Friday night's "pot-luck" dockside feast:** Wander from table to table, or boat to boat, and sample the culinary delights your fellow O'day owners have come up with. (See Page 1 for details.)

**CHAIRS AND/OR FOLDING TABLE:** You might as well be comfortable, right?

**OLD UNWANTED BOAT STUFF:** We will once again have our O'day owners' swap meet, so if you have boat parts or supplies you no longer need, bring 'em to the rOnDAYvous® and perhaps a fellow owner can find a new use for them. Think of it as a floating yard sale where everything is free.



**GOODIES:** You, your business or other organization you're connected with can add to the rOnDAYvous® fun by donating items to be raffled off or given away as prizes. Bring them with you, and see Capt. Pete or Capt. Mike when you get there.

**AN OPEN MIND AND UNBRIDLED ENTHUSIASM:** The O'day rOnDAYvous® has been described as the best blind date you'll ever go on. Come prepared to enjoy yourself, and chances are you will. You'll meet new people, experience a new sailing venue (for some, anyway) and have the time of your life. What else could you want?

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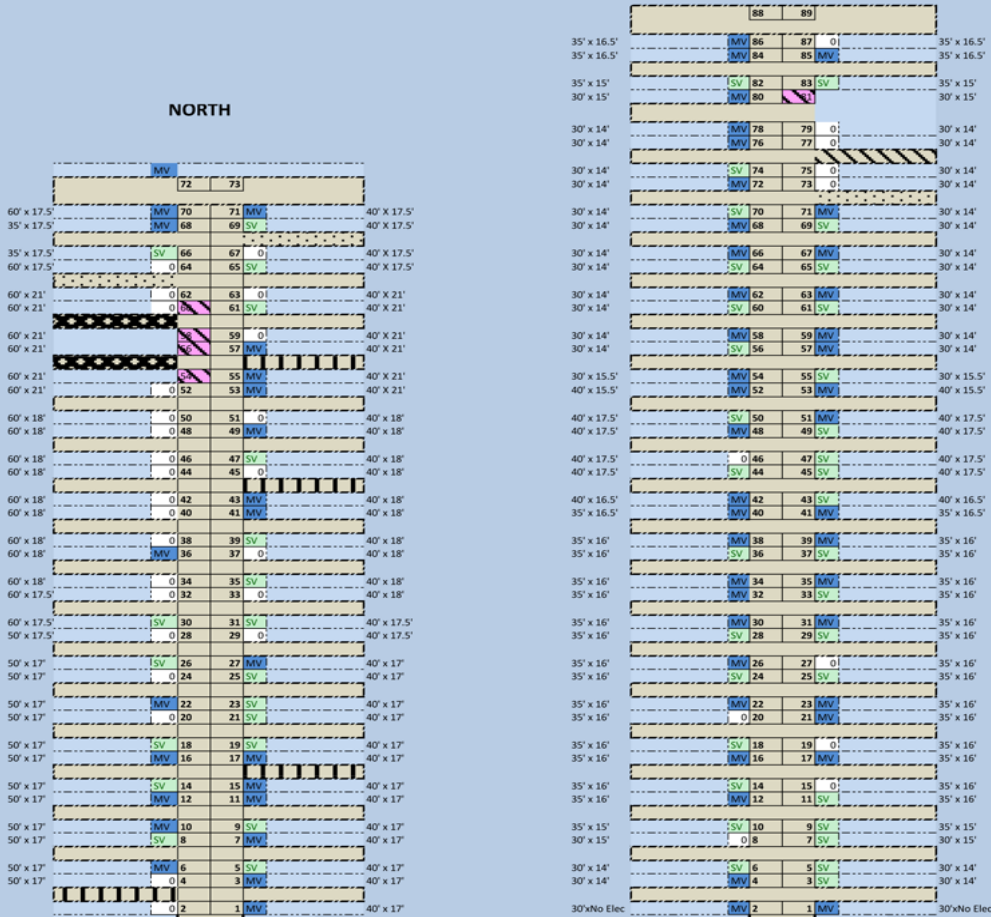
# HUDSON RIVER

NORTH ENTRANCE

SOUTH ENTRANCE

SOUTH

NORTH



DOCK  
HOUSE

Trash

Trash

MICHAEL ANTHONY'S  
RESTAURANT

MARINA  
OFFICE

LADIES HEAD  
AND  
SHOWERS

MEN'S HEAD  
AND  
SHOWERS

MARINA  
CLUBROOM

100

100

200

200

300

300