



Nordic Tug Northeast

Owners' Association

Volume 2, No. 1

July 2002

Second Annual Northeast Rendezvous



Photo by Connie Connor

Spirits were riding high as Nordic Tuggers gathered in Essex, CT, for the second annual rendezvous. Excellent workshops, great company, gourmet meals, and lots of conversation capped the fun-filled four days.

Winds were blowing 15-20 knots and three-foot seas were on the nose for those coming east; nonetheless eight Nordic Tugs joined Ben Wilde's 42' host boat at Essex Island Marina six nautical miles up the Connecticut River.

Three other Nordic Tugs are moored within walking distance, and four crews

arrived by land. Altogether there were 12 Nordic Tugs and 16 crews in Essex harbor for the celebration. Including owners, speakers, guests, and those who came to learn more about our boats, there were more than 60 people in attendance at our rendezvous.

Our ranks are growing rapidly—and we're all enjoying the attention our boats are getting throughout New England.

The rendezvous was a fun-packed social event enjoyed with like-minded boaters. We shared many cruising ground suggestions and boat-improvement ideas. In addition, we came away with a lot of helpful information taken



Photo by Bette Connor

Essex Island Marina is 6 nm north of the Old Saybrook Breakwater.



Photo by Bette Connor

Here a tug, there a tug, everywhere a . . .

from the excellent workshop speakers.

The time flew. Before we knew it, the three days were over—and we still had so much more to talk about!

It was a great rendezvous.

Rendezvous at a glance—July 24-27, 2002

Day 1, Wednesday—Welcome and registration as each new crew arrived. Afternoon of getting to know each other. BYO cocktails on the wide dock & potluck supper on the upper deck

Day 2, Thursday—Morning workshops; afternoon boat-hopping; cocktail party and steak/lobsterfest at the Essex Yacht Club

Day 3, Friday—Buffet breakfast; captains' parade meeting; noon parade; raft-up and mooring in Hamburg Cove

Day 4, Saturday—The formal rendezvous is over; nine boats leave Essex for Three Mile Harbor anchorage on the south fork of Long Island, 26 miles away, to continue the festivities

Day 1

Crews were busy renewing acquaintances made at last year's rendezvous and meeting newcomers to the festivities. After the sun passed over the yardarm, folks gathered on the wide expanse of dock overlooking the fleet with munchies in one hand and a glass in the other. The Northeast Nordic Tuggers sure know how to have a good time.

Photos by Ruth Jansson unless otherwise noted.



Photo by Bette Conner



While Don, Bill, & Ben grilled hamburgers and sausages at left, boaters emerged from their galleys with all sorts of delicious foods at the potluck supper.



Photo by Bette Conner



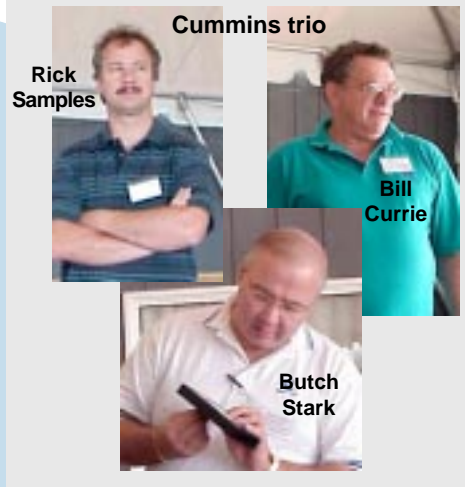
Photo by Bette Conner



Breakfast at the Ditty Box on the island

Day 2

Morning



Cummins trio

Rick Samples

Bill Currie

Butch Stark



Bob Lacouture

Informative workshops were conducted by reps from Nordic Tug, Cummins, Beacon Marine Credit, Fitzpatrick Insurance Agency, and Mariner Systems, a marine electronics company.

Skippers of three Nordic Tugs shared their adventures.



Paul Fitzpatrick



Bob Shamek



Jim Desnoyers



Ed Mackey

Bette & Ruth presented the Erie Canal . . .

Ed entertained us with tales of the ICW . . .



Bette Conner

Ruth Jansson

and Jim told about cold-weather boating.



Jim McCrea

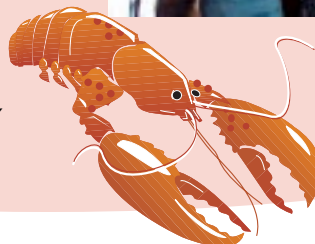
Afternoon/Evening



BBQ lunch

After a delightful BBQ lunch, tugs were opened to visits from other owners and to the many fans who hopefully will attend next year's rendezvous on their own Nordic Tugs.

That evening, everyone enjoyed an elegant cocktail party and steak/lobsterfest at the Essex Yacht Club.



Day 3 am

Tug Parade

After a delicious hot buffet breakfast, our Nordic Tug Northeast Owners' Association president Jim McCrea held a Captains' Meeting to review the parade route and outline the raft-up procedures.



Ben's 42' Host Boat



North Star



Susie Q



Eritad

At high noon, the Nordic Tugs paraded through Essex Harbor and up the Connecticut River to Gilette Castle.



A-Moe-Ray



SuReSa



Sundance



Bliss



West Wind



Annie B

Photo by Connie Connor



Day 3 pm

Hamburg Cove



Photo by Connie Connor

The parade ended in Hamburg Cove where tugs rafted briefly for a photo-op before moving to other moorings.



Ms Pie



We spent the afternoon relaxing, swimming, visiting other boats and talking with tug enthusiasts who had come aboard for the parade. In late afternoon, guests departed via launch back to the docks at Essex.



At the appointed hour we once again all gathered with cocktails and snacks to share on Ben's 42' host boat.



Day 4

Three Mile Harbor



Crossing the Sound

We continued the rendezvous by cruising across the Sound Saturday morning. Eight Nordic Tugs departed Hamburg Cove. Destination: Three Mile Harbor on the south fork of Long Island.

The tugs were joined by Connie & Don Connor on their Matthews Togetherness, renamed Togetherness for the occasion.



We chose our spots to anchor and spent the afternoon exploring or visiting the upscale and crowded East Hampton, three miles away by hoof or taxi. Many of the rich and famous spend their summers in this ritzy village.



First Annual Les Petits Bateaux Raft-up

At the usual cocktail hour, despite threatening skies and a chill to the air, the inflatable stakeboat clutched at a private mooring line for an 87' vessel. Within minutes tenders from the other boats rafted. We sampled hot hors d'oeuvres, fine cheeses, and layered dips.



As the skies darkened even more and mist began to fall, we each silently wondered what we were doing there.

Shortly the skies brightened a little and the jokes started—and we knew we were having a good time. The raft-up of tiny boats broke up after a couple of hours and we returned to our vessels for dinner.





Boats & Crews

Connecticut

A-Moe-Ray—Ray & Moe Hunt.
muddyh20@hotmail.com

Annie B—Ruth Jansson & Bette
Conner. JansCon@aol.com

North Star—Jim & Mim McCrea.
mcc272@aol.com

Owl—John & Dorothy Renehan.
dorothyrenehan@yahoo.com

Riverdance—John & Kathy
Scarborough. fairsouth@aol.com

Sage II—Newell & Marilyn Sly.

Sundance—Paul & Barbara Page.
pgpage@msn.com

SuReSa—FrankWhite & Susan
Mansfield. fwp@webquill.com

Susie Q II—Stan & Sue Klein.
sjklein@ix.netcom.com

West Wind—Geoffrey Balshaw.
gbalshaw@snet.net

Massachusetts

Eritad—Ed & Rita Mackey (and
Zekie & Beau). eds@gsinet.net

Bliss—Elaine Sacco.
elsacco@aol.com

New York

Charlie Noble—Terry & Anne
Gargon. tn010833@psinet.com

Sea Mischief—Dick & Mabel
Seymour.
reelmagic@worldnet.att.net

Rhode Island

Annie—Richard & Jane Goulston.
seascuba1@cox.net

Tug enthusiasts

Bill & Judy Anderson.
williamander9@aol.com

Bing Higgins.

John & Carla Klein.

Don & Mary Lou Shulz.

Patrick & Carol Smullens.
psmullens@yahoo.com

Alfred & Bonnie Towle.

bstowle@yahoo.com

Charlie & Linda Young.
mspie21@msn.com

... and guests.

First hand . . .

From Marblehead to Florida on the ICW

Ed & Rita Mackey took their 32' *Eritad* and the night spent off the beaten path with from Marblehead, MA, to the a hovering helicopter with spotlights glaring on their decks west coast of Florida last winter, and Ed gave a were beaten only by the lively account of their six-month wonderful story of how they left their journey down the Intra Coastal Waterway and around the Keys. Marblehead with one cat and returned with two—and having to rent a car to backtrack through half of Florida to capture the lonely stray and give him more captivating. Recollections of a good home. Thank you for sharing your wonderful trip with us. His relaxed and wonderful sense of humor made his stories even



Winter Boating on Long Island Sound

Jim & Mim McCrea boat year-round ing cold-weather boating and Jim emphasized the importance of being out of Norwalk, CT, on their 32' dressed appropriately and taking all necessary precautions while on deck *North Star*. Jim talked the seals in the harbor, sharing the waters with virtually no other pleasure craft, and being able to spend four seasons on Long Island Sound. Safety issues are primary concerns dur- tion that Jim displayed. sized the importance of being dressed appropriately and taking all necessary precautions while on deck underway or on the slippery docks at the marina. Several people were very interested in the Mustang suits and jackets with built-in flotation



Cruising the Erie Canal

Bette Conner & Ruth Jansson spent Those who had already traveled the canals five weeks last June on the enjoyed the chance to revisit some of their favorite places along the tow-path. The flavor of the area came through from hearing about the many free tie-ups, the friendly people, beautifully landscaped grounds at each of the locks, good food at reasonable prices, and an adventure that begs to be repeated and extended to other sections of the canal system. Bette Conner & Ruth Jansson spent five weeks last June on the Erie Canal aboard their 32' *Annie B*. They gave a 20-minute presentation with many pictures accompanied by an informative narration. People who hadn't as yet been to the canals were treated to an explanation of "locking through" and saw various places of interest along the NY waterways from a boater's perspective.



Thank you

- to our Generous Supporters
Beacon Marine Credit—for our BBQ luncheon
The Fitzpatrick Agency & Beacon Marine Credit—for the cocktail party
Nordic Tugs & Cummins—for the buffet breakfast
- to our Workshop Speakers
Bob Shamek of Nordic Tugs
Bob Lacouture of Mariner Systems
Butch Stark, Bill Currie, & Rick Samples of Cummins
Jim Desnoyers of Beacon Marine Credit
Paul Fitzpatrick of The Fitzpatrick Agency

The sharing of experiences is what a rendezvous is all about. Keep an account of your boating adventures between now and next July and plan to spend a few minutes at the 2003 rendezvous sharing your story with your fellow tuggers.

A Special Message

Thank you, Ben Wilde and Wilde Yacht Sales, for hosting the 2nd annual rendezvous and to Connie Connor, Don Connor, Bill Boyer, and George Beuschold for all your support and assistance during the three days.

Thank you, Jim McCrea, president of the Nordic Tug Northeast Owners' Association, for your careful organization and planning for the parade, the raft-up, and the notes for cruising to Three Mile Harbor.

Thank you, Dorothy & John Renehan, for your thoughtfulness, giving tug cocktail napkins to each boat crew.

And a special thank you, Connie, for orchestrating the rendezvous once again: contacting the speakers, setting up the food arrangements, creating and distributing the materials, collecting the funds, etc. We couldn't do it without you—and we appreciate everything you do.

NEWSWORTHY NOTES

At the Captains' Meeting, it was unanimously decided to have next year's rendezvous at Essex Island Marina during the same time slot —Wednesday-Saturday, July 23, 24, 25, & 26, 2003.

Names were collected during the Cummins workshop of those owners who expressed an interest in attending a one-day diesel maintenance class at the Cummins Rocky Hill facility just south of Hartford. If you didn't sign up and would like to attend, please send Ruth Jansson an email at JansCon@aol.com. We're hoping to set up a class for this fall.

The Nordic Tug Northeast Owners' Association is a fledgling organization whose ranks are growing quickly. There are no dues; the only requirement for membership is that one either a) own a Nordic Tug, or b) plan to own a Nordic Tug some day.

*There are two Nordic Tug newslines you should be aware of:
 — Nordic Tug News • Bill Owel, Editor • 6844 Main Sail Lane, Gig Harbor, WA 98335-5102 • (253) 858-6164 • Idybump@juno.com • Cost: \$10
 — Cybertugging • Povl Lasbo, List Manager • To subscribe, send email to duckwalk@rockisland.com*

In addition to the boat shows this fall, you might want to check out TrawlerFest in Solomons, MD, this September 25-28. Exclusively trawlers with lots of workshops and people who love our kind of boat and boating. Go by land or sea. For more information, visit www.trawlerworld.com

Nordic Tug Northeast Owners' Association

Ruth Jansson & Bette Conner, Editors
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 Norwalk, CT 06851



July 2003 Rendezvous

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Mark your calendar!

Your input is invaluable. Please email Jim at mcc272@aol.com with any rendezvous suggestions. Send all newsletter contributions to Ruth & Bette at JansCon@aol.com.