



NYACK BOAT CLUB

59 Gedney Street
Nyack, New York 10960

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

October 2013 – Moorings: Forward to the Past

Starting this Fall, moorings at Nyack experience their own version of *Back to the Future*, or maybe we should say: *Forward to the Past*. I am referring, of course to the decision to leave our moorings to leave our moorings in the River rather than dragging them ashore at the end of each sailing season. The intent of this Historian's Report is to document a proven method to drop moorings in the Fall and to recover them in the Spring. This has been the practice followed by neighbors to mooring C13 for over thirty years.

The object is to create a target, on the river bottom, which will be easy to find with a grapple in the Spring. Let me say right off that I do not recommend the use of winter sticks. They cost hundreds of dollars in damaged propellers and have been made completely obsolete by any hand held GPS. You may recall that, thanks to the 2013 Mooring Committee, we now have the precise coordinates for each mooring.

Here is the drill. Tie three-to-five moorings together with lines that float just a few feet off the bottom. Use ¼ to 3/8-inch yellow polypropylene. The stuff floats and is easy to see. It can also be a challenge to knot – so use a double bowlines with two added half-hitches.

In addition to the normal mooring toolkit of pliers, a crescent wrench a large screwdriver, wire cutters, a knife, etc. go out with a bunch of poly line a line, weights consisting of old shackles or 8-inch lengths of old chain. You should also take at least a half-dozen Chlorox bottles in case you need a temporary marker or float.

Pull up the first mooring, tie on the poly line THEN remove the pennants. Proceed to the next mooring, placing chain weights at approximately 25-ft intervals. Remember that, when you are done, there should not be any poly line anywhere near the surface. Proceed in like manner mooring-to-mooring. I must emphasize that the poly lines must not be allowed near the surface or we will be re-inventing WWII anti-marine nets.

Needless to say, this is a continuing learning process. For example, one of my tie-off neighbors this year is Paul Kisala who suggest a star-shaped tie-off rather than a simple square. Paul's idea should use less poly line and be just as easy to recover in the Spring.

Finally, when you recover moorings in the Spring, remove and save the chain weights. I have found that leaving them attached creates a hopeless rat's nest.

Respectfully submitted,
P/C Curtis Koster, Club Historian