FISHERS ISLAND FOG HORN

SEPTEMBER 2014

FISHERS 400TH ANNIVERSARY: A BLOCK BUSTER!

It has been 400 years since Captain Adriaen Block discovered Fishers Island in 1614 as he sailed the East coast, coastal rivers and the New Netherlands. The Fishers Island community celebrated the anniversary on Saturday, August 9 with a Block Party at the Community Center. The event was attended by more than 200 Fishers Islanders who enjoyed pizza from the Rolling Pizza Truck, tunes by Rollin the DJ, the Children’s Art Exhibit, games for children on the tennis courts, finger food c/o our guests, visiting the Touch a Truck vehicles, the delicious cake, and talking with their FI neighbors and friends!

Special Thanks to…
All the children who entered a piece in the “What Does Fishers Island Mean to Me” Children’s Art Exhibit
Children’s Art Exhibit Judges: Susie Ferguson, Louise Gaumond, Nate Malinowski, Pierce Rafferty, and Beth Stern.


Touch a Truck Exhibitors: FI Waste Management Wayne Doucette and Annette Tourangeau with the backhoe and front loader.

FI Fire Department’s Ambulance with volunteer EMTs Tracy Brock and Tawyna Eastman

FI Fire Department’s Fire Truck with volunteer firemen Joe Brock, Bruce Hubert and Bob Rogers

Celebration Bartenders: Rob Goodwin, David Burnham, Jim Reid and Ace Ahrens

Parking Attendants: Gardner Crary and Garnett Reid

400th Anniversary Hosts: Island Community Center, FIDCO, Sanger Fund, Ferguson Museum, Fire District, FIWMD, FI School, IPP, Island Concerts, the Conant Family, Lighthouse Works, FI Library, and FI Community Members

And organizers Elizabeth Reid, Karen Goodwin, Heather Burnham, and Jane Ahrens
In a recent email from Tom French, Ph.D., Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, to Joseph Bopp, New York State Museum’s Collections Manager, Mammalogy and Ornithology, we received the promised update on our 18’ 8” Cuvier’s Beaked Whale found on Hungry Point in February 2014.

Subject: Ziphius (SYZc1402), Fishers Isl., NY

Attached is a photo showing most of the skeleton of the Cuvier’s Beaked Whale (Ziphius cavirostris) that we salvaged from Fishers Island, NY. This photo was taken shortly after the skeleton was taken out from under the tarp where it has been decomposing, and was then washed. I feel a lot better now that the skeleton can be stored indoors and is safe from the possibility of coyotes causing any damage to the skeleton. By the time you pick it up, the skeleton will be clean and dry, and can go right into the New York State Museum Collections.

This animal was an old adult male. It has some evidence of old and long-healed injuries, including fractured neural spines of the second and third thoracic vertebrae, a fracture on the seventh left rib, a broken but polished right tooth, and a fractured right mandible (proximal end). The healed mandible is particularly interesting.

I cannot tell if the fresh bone fractures were associated with this animal’s death or not. I did not see any evidence of hemorrhaging at any of these fracture sites when we salvaged the skeleton, but the fractures do show a pattern of damage which is different than I have usually seen on a carcass that was randomly rolled around on the shore and pushed up against rocks. The second photo shows that eight of the nine right ribs are fractured at about the same location, except for the ninth rib which is fractured in three places (the head is missing in the photo). Other fresh bone damage includes the proximal end of the left mandible and the adjacent stylohyoid, the neural arches of the sixth and seventh cervical vertebrae, cracks in both scapulas, and small fractures on the posterior sides of both orbits. This is still a very nice skeleton.
The 44th H.O.G. Tournament, played at the Fishers Island Club, was a rousing success this Labor Day Sunday. Net proceeds from the tournament support medical care for all Fishers Island residents and visitors through the Island Health Project (IHP).

The idea for the tournament on Labor Day weekend was hatched at The Harbor Bar in 1969 (hence the name Harbor Open Golf, better known as the H.O.G.). The game format has remained the same – 4 clubs and a putter per team – but it has grown exponentially over the ensuing 44 years!

The “summer season” wrapped up with the 44th Annual H.O.G. Tournament. A full field of twenty-four teams competed for the costume, parade and the golf events. As a band played on the 17th tee, Nick from the Grounds Staff drove ball after ball from the 14th tee to the 14th green - a mere 355 yards! Nick raised an additional $1,200 for the IHP.


Closest to the Pin: Nick Hedden (For hitting one on 14 to 6’); Low Gross: Andrew Burr, Nishan Vartanian, Chris Crain, Ethan Brown, Reis Alford, Todd Cavaluzzi; 1st Place Golf: Andrew Burr, Nishan Vartanian, Chris Crain, Ethan Brown, Reis Alford, Todd Cavaluzzi; 2nd Place Golf: Perry Bartol, Bill Harrington, Jeff Wheelan, Graham Michenen, Jim Hahn, Brooks Walker; 3rd Place Golf: Ted Ahrens, Brian Carroll, Drew Douthit, Matt Fox, Matt LoCasio, Whit Hayes.

IHP Board President Susie Parsons took a moment to thank the following individuals too. H.O.G. Co-chairs, Reyn and Elizabeth duPont with Becca and Chad Bartels; Dr. Chris Ingram and Di Shillo and staff in the office; Dan Colvin and his whole golf staff; Pat and Stefan Schiestl and the WHOLE club staff; all the girls who worked on holes #2, 8 and 12; The Original Swine Band of Freddy Jones, Dudley Nostrand, Tommy O’Neil and Freddy Bancroft for playing the music on #2; my friends and IHP board members for helping sell merchandise; Cecil and Linda Lyon of The Leatherman and Eliza B for their kind donation of merchandise to sell; and to all the H.O.G. players and all the tee sponsors! To see the photo gallery please visit www.fishersisland.net/h-o-g-2014/
IN MEMORIAM: GUNTHER FRITZE


The immediate family held a private burial on Saturday, August 30 on Fishers Island, NY. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, September 13 at 3:00 pm at the Church of the Redeemer, 379 Hammond Street, Chestnut Hill, MA.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

July 6, 2014
Huxley Beyer Hyotte to Catherine (Parker) and Matthew Hyotte

August 16, 2014
Avery Margaret Burke to Kelly (Doherty) and Ray Burke

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

August 15, 2014
New Castle, NH
Amanda Edwards McRight & Michael Sheffield Kernan

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT:

August 27, 2014
Race Point, FINY
Nancy Planitzer and Whit Hayes

EBB & FLOW ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If you would like to share an Ebb & Flow post, please send it and an accompanying photo to info@fishersisland.net. We are happy to add photos to existing posts as well.
To view all the Ebb & Flows please visit: www.fishersisland.net/about-fishers-island/ebb-flow/
A perfect day on and off the water on Saturday, August 30, 2014! The FIYC Race Committee assigned boats that entered to handicap racing and cruising classes using their PHRF rating, and one design boats to the International One Design, J70, Watch Hill 15, Ensign classes. There were 10 classes in all. 84 boats participated, including 16 from the FIYC. Skippers and crew also came to race from Groton, Stonington, New London, the Coast Guard Academy, Salem, and Watch Hill.

After positioning themselves near the starting line just outside West Harbor, each class started at five-minute intervals beginning at 10:00 Saturday morning. The first class off was the Ensign class, then came the Watch Hill Fifteens with the Fishers Island IOD class going third. Next was the non-spinnaker class called "cruising canvas", and then the various racing handicapped classes with the fastest boats starting last.

The 'Round Island Race Committee, noticed a lone Bullseye positioned behind the last of the big boats. It was Fishers Island sailor Paul Burnham who sailed the entire race solo in Querida in memory of his father David Burnham, Sr., a former FIYC Commodore.

The boats raced counter-clockwise around the Island going from West Harbor around North Hill then west to the nun off Race Point and then had a fairly straight leg up the south side of the island because of the prevailing wind – running 11 knots at times. The tide was flooding (coming in) which made getting around Race Point a real challenge for the smaller boats. The wind was a little unusual for this time of year, coming out of the Southeast at right angles to the normal Southwest summer breeze. That meant the spinnakers were not raised until they approached the buoy at Lords Passage for the turn back into Fishers Island Sound. The racing crafts could be seen from every shoreline vantage point – quite a sight!

The first boat to cross the finish line was a non-spinnaker boat, Fusion, a Tripp 37 sailed by Mark Salerno. The first Watch Hill 15 was Bahama Gal, sailed by Bruce Avery, and first IOD was Ginch skippered by Wes Maxwell. The fastest boat around the island this year was Wild Horses, a Melges 32 owned and skippered by Bill Canning from Masons Island. He took 2 hours, 5 minutes and 31 seconds to go around. The slowest boat took 3 hours, 46 minutes and 17 seconds. (Complete results are available on the FIYC website link below.)

The FIYC would like to thank Commodore Colin Cashel; the 'Round Island Race Committee’s Mudheads; Elby Burr, self professed 'boat equipment guy’; those that donated and drove the chase boats; FIYC’s Marina Manager John Evans, launch driver Mary Ellen Marcotte and Jackie Hewes. Thanks also goes to FIYC Assistant Secretary Laurie Finan; Events Chair Suzy McCance; caterer Sue Lusker; Grill Master Aaron Lusker; James Hall’s tent set-up; Trophy Awards Ceremony MC Bill Reed; Chris and Kathy Dollar, Doris Burrall and the FIYC member volunteers; and all the skippers and crew members for their participation in the 2014 'Round Island Race.

As Elby Burr reflected, “This year’s ’Round Island Race was one of the best races I have ever been a part of. Great sailing wind, interesting tide, and a wide range of competitors. This is the biggest sailing event the FIYC has every year – nothing compares. And this year we had a perfect day. Every boat finished – the race was complete!”

Trophy Presentation: The first three boats in each class won 'Round Island Race trophies. In addition, The "Donzo" Trophy, for fastest boat around the island, went to Bill Canning on Wild Horses, and the Commodore David F. Harris Trophy, for first Fishers Island boat, went to Geordie Loveday on Jolly Mon.

The final official results of the 2014 'Round Island Race are available on the FIYC website.  

Photo Credit: Art Walsh
FROM MÉLIE’S GARDEN

What a glorious July and August we have had on Fishers Island this year. One beautiful day following another, but our gardens are very thirsty! Thank Heavens for soaker hoses, if it weren’t for them my flowers and vegetables would have shriveled up long ago. Hopefully, in September, we will get some much-needed rain to revive the plants before the cold weather sets in.

If you are planting or transplanting this month, be sure to fill the hole up with water and let it soak in before putting in the plant. Once the plant is in the hole and covered with soil, water thoroughly again and every other day until the rain comes, so the roots can be happily established. September is also the time to prepare your houseplants for their return to the inside. Do any repotting that is necessary and hose them off well and spray with insecticidal soap before bringing them into the house.

We have been very lucky this summer to have Doug Tallamy speak twice on the Island. I hope many of you heard his very informative lectures on planting native plants that will bring back beneficial insects to Fishers Island. He is urging all of us to get rid of the invasive non-native plants and vines that are strangling our Island. I highly recommend you read his two very informative books “Bringing Nature Home” and “The Living Landscape” that he wrote with Rick Darke.

I also want to thank Island gardener, Dave Dennison for his wonderful interview last month. His gardens on Hay Harbor golf course are an inspiration to all on the Island. There are many talented gardeners here and I hope that they will also be willing to share their experience and knowledge with us as Dave so kindly did.

SALTWATER FISHING LAWS

The NY State Troopers have been informed of the following: Advised by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation that they are enforcing saltwater fishing laws, regarding marine registry cards for NY. There is no charge for this, but people are now required to carry proof of registry when saltwater fishing. If they have a Connecticut or Rhode Island license they will be exempt from the NY requirement. Please visit the DEC link on FishersIsland.net explaining further and the registration process.
It is just another testament to the power of our community and the far-reaching effects of the Internet.

This summer the Music Department at FI School identified the need for a baritone saxophone to be used by students in the instrumental music program. An online campaign was started to raise $4500 to buy a baritone saxophone - to help improve the balance of the instrumental ensembles and to give students a chance to experience performing on a new instrument.

Many in our great community began their support of the campaign by giving to the cause and by spreading the word. The call went out via individual emails, social media, and by posting, not once but twice, on FishersIsland.net and our island Facebook page FishersIsland.NY.

The music department was contacted by a gentleman named Alan Raph from New Fairfield, CT. Mr. Raph is a retired musician (Trombone and Bass Trombone) whose accomplishments as a music educator and performer are too numerous to mention here – but highlights include NYC studio recordings and performances with Quincy Jones, Phillip Glass, NBC Opera Company, Paul Whiteman, Bolshoi Ballet, American Opera Association, Diana Ross, Lena Horne and Mel Torme, just to name a few. He also has performed as part of Broadway shows, motion pictures, and television shows such as Sesame Street, Bill Cosby, Name That Tune, The Godfather, The Producers, Midnight Cowboy, Hamburger Hill, Bananas, Kundun, Fog of War, Secret Window, and Taking Lives. In addition to his performance accomplishments he is published by many of the leading music publication houses including Carl Fisher, Alfred Music, Theo Presser, and Kindor Music. Mr. Raph currently directs the Danbury Brass Band, which has been performing for over 30 years in the New York Tri-state area.

Mr. Raph and his wife Mary Ann, also a musician (Violin and Viola), were looking for a place to visit that they had never been to before. They decided that they wanted to find out more about Fishers Island and began to research the island in preparation for a visit. During their research on FishersIsland.net, they became aware of our campaign. Mr. and Mrs. Raph contacted us to let us know that they owned a baritone saxophone that they had purchased for their daughter, but was no longer being used. As musicians themselves and ardent supporters of the arts and arts education, they wanted this instrument to be actively used by student musicians. On Wednesday August 13, 2014, Mr. and Mrs. Raph made the journey from their home in New Fairfield, CT to Fishers Island to donate their baritone saxophone to the Fishers Island Music Department. Alan and Mary Ann spent the day on Fishers Island having a tour of the school, lunch at the News Café, and a tour of the Island, all the while taking advantage of the beauty and uniqueness of our community.

Another amazing instrument donation happened that same week. Ted and Ashley Harrington contacted Fishers Island School with the desire to donate a piano to the Music Department. This beautiful instrument, a Weser Bros. Upright Piano, was manufactured in New York City circa 1914. The instrument was moved out of the Harrington’s house, through some tight clearances and to the Fishers Island School by Tom Shillo and his team from Z&S Contracting.

The Fishers Island School Music Department is extremely grateful for these two instrument donations and they will be used to further the music education of our students here on Fishers Island.

The monies raised from the online fundraising will be used to outfit, restore, maintain, and keep these instruments in good playing condition. Thank you for their support of these efforts and your continued support for the performing arts education programs at Fishers Island School. If you have instruments that are not being used and you would like for them to be put in the hands of eager and passionate students of music, please feel free to contact Chris Dollar at School at (631) 788-7444 or c.dollar@fischool.com.
BEACH CLEAN UP
Turn the Tide on Trash
Saturday, September 20
7:30-2:00
Fl Waste Management
Compost will distribute gloves, bags and form – and collect trash dropped off before 2:00

FALL VISITING ARTISTS
September 12-October 24
Open House
Ferry Annex
October 18, 2014
5:00-7:00 pm
Reading at 6:00

UNION CHAPEL
Fall Fair
Saturday, October 11
10:00-1:00
Hand Crafts, Edible Goodies, and lunch will be served from 11:00-1:00

OUR LADY OF GRACE
Faith Formation: 1st Communion & Confirmation Classes Offered
Contact Gina for info: 788-7628
Our Lady of Grace Rectory

FI SCHOOL WELCOME:
Open House & Picnic
Thursday, September 18
4:30-6:30

FISHERS ISLAND FOG HORN
P.O. BOX 464, FISHERS ISLAND, NY 06390

If you have something you would like posted on FishersIsland.net or in the Fog Horn - a story idea, an event ‘save the date’, photos to share, suggestions or an interest in advertising, please contact Jane Ahrens at (631) 788-7487 or info@fishersisland.net.

Contact Sarah Porter to place an event on the Community Calendar at www.fishersisland.net/events/ at (631) 788-7683 or fishersislandevents@gmail.com.

FI SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION
Fishers Island School started the 2014-2015 school year on Thursday, September 4 – a beautiful day all around. Please drive carefully and keep an eye out for students biking and walking to School. More snapshots at FishersIsland.net!

FI FERRY COLLECTING EMAILS FOR FREIGHT
The Ferry District is collecting emails to assist with customer communications regarding freight delivery. Please send your preferred email address to: Debbie Doucette at ddoucette@fiferry.com at your earliest convenience.