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RIVER DAY BRINGS PLEASURE BOATS AND TALL SHIPS TOGETHER

Hudson-- On River Day, June 11, the Hudson River at Hudson, NY will be filled with both pleasure boats and heritage flagships, reminiscent of the days when the City of Hudson rivaled New York City as a bustling port.

These watercraft will be part of a flotilla starting in New York Harbor on June 6 and proceeding north on the river, picking up more boats as it progresses, and terminating in Castleton and Rensselaer on June 13. With the cooperation of yacht clubs and marinas, the flotilla has scheduled stops at participating communities on the river, with special events and educational programs planned in each port.

River Day is part of the New York State Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial celebration, honoring the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery and exploration of the river that now bears his name, and drawing attention to the use of the river for both commerce and pleasure.

River Day in Hudson

The flotilla is expected to arrive in Hudson around 6 pm on June 11, will dock at various locations, and depart on June 12 around 12 noon.

The arrival of the ships in Hudson will be heralded by a cacophony of sirens, train whistles, cannon fire and boat whistles. A ribbon of flags, stretching from the historic Hudson-Athens Lighthouse to the eastern shore, will be cut by the first boat to enter the harbor. Mayor Richard Scalera and other dignitaries will be on hand to welcome the ships. The welcoming ceremony will take place at approximately 6 pm (or whenever the boats arrive) at Henry Hudson Riverfront Park. It is likely that the *John J. Harvey* fireboat will perform its water show for spectators.

The public is invited to join in the welcoming festivities as the flotilla approaches. Noisemakers of all kinds are welcome, including such instruments as bells, bike horns, and automobile horns. The 110-year-old Ghent Band, Columbia County's unofficial hometown band, will provide music while spectators are awaiting arrival of the flotilla. Riverkeeper, the environmental organization working to "protect the ecological integrity of the Hudson River..." will be on hand to explain its work. Food will be available for purchase at the Hudson Power Boat Association.

The main attraction in Hudson will be the Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater* under the command of Capt. Samantha Heyman. The *Clearwater* will dock overnight at the

Hudson Power Boat Association and be available to school groups on Friday morning, June 12.

Historic vessels and other participating boats and ships in the flotilla include: the *Onrust*, a replica of the first ship built entirely in the United States in 1614; the *Half Moon*, a replica of Henry Hudson's ship; the *John J. Harvey* fireboat; and the tugboat *Cleveland*. Other historic tall ships include the *Clearwater*, the *Mystic Whaler*, the *Woody Guthrie*, a wooden replica of an 18th-19th century Hudson River ferry sloop; the 1890's-style pilot schooner *Adirondack*; the *Manhattan*, an open boat originally built as a lifeboat to explore the canals of Amsterdam; and the *Shearwater*, a classic Maine schooner.

Other participating boats include those from The Circle Line, the New York City Water Taxi; the New York Naval Militia, the US Coast Guard, and more.

Historic bi-planes from the Rhinebeck Aerodrome will escort the flotilla at various points along the river and are expected to fly over the river at Hudson around 7 pm on Thursday.

On Friday, June 12 the flotilla will depart from the Hudson area around noon. It will move north and will be visible from various points in and near Hudson including Promenade Hill at the foot of Warren Street, North Bay (drive to the end of North Second Street to Hudson Fabrics and walk up the path to the high point of the former landfill), and the Greenport Conservation Area on Daisy Hill Road (off Joslen Boulevard near the Greenport Town Park) where the boats are expected to pass about 12:30 pm.

One view of the festivities on June 11 will be from the deck of the *Spirit of Hudson*, which will transport those who have purchased tickets for a Sunset Hudson Harbor Dinner Cruise to benefit the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society. Reservations may still be available at 828-5294.

The lighthouse will be lit for the occasion at 9 pm on June 11 and after dark on each night during the summer. The Lighthouse Preservation Society has a limited number of Quadricentennial stickers and burgees for boat owners to display on board their vessels. Interested boaters should contact Joe Kenneally at 828-0538.

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SIDE BARS

More To Come

River Day foreshadows more river activity to come this summer.

On July 25-26, the replica of Henry Hudson's ship *Half Moon*, will be at the City of Hudson dock and available for tours as part of the Namesake Celebration.

On September 15-17, Hudson will be visited by the tugboat *Pegasus* and a barge called *The Waterfront Museum*, offering tugboat rides, exhibitions, and educational programs.

On September 22, a canal motorship, the *Day Peckinpaugh*, will be in Hudson and available for visitation.

To learn more about these activities visit www.henryandhudson.org

City of Hudson River Day Calendar All activities are in Henry Hudson Riverfront Park. All times shown are approximate.

Thursday, June 11

5:30 pm – Ghent Band Concert

6 pm – Ships arrive at Henry Hudson Riverfront Park to a salute of sirens, cannon fire, and boat whistles. “Ribbon cutting” at point of Hudson-Athens Lighthouse. Welcome by Mayor Richard Scalera and others. Music. Food available at Hudson Power Boat Association.

6:30 pm – Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society cruise leaves the City dock

7 pm – Historic bi-planes from the Rhinebeck Aerodrome will fly over the river

9 pm – Hudson-Athens Lighthouse will be lit for the first time this summer

Friday, June 12

9 am to 12 noon – Clearwater available to schoolchildren

12 noon – Ships depart and proceed north on the Hudson River