



## Working Harbor Committee

For the heritage and future of the harbor of New York and New Jersey

### Working Harbor News

Mid July 2010

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Please visit our website - [www.WorkingHarbor.Org](http://www.WorkingHarbor.Org)

#### Hidden Harbor Tours®

##### Circumnavigation of Staten Island

19 September 2010 10am to 1:30pm



Kill Van Kull in the hazy morning  
Photo (c) Bernie Ente

On *American Princess* - Departs from Pier 17 South Street Seaport at 10am Sharp.

10am Boarding  
1:30pm Return

Tickets \$75

The tour will go over to Kill Van Kull (between Staten Island & Bayonne) passing by oil docks, tug yards and drydocks, then will pass by Shooter's Island (former shipyard, now a bird sanctuary), the New York Container Terminal, south through Arthur Kill past the graveyard of ships at Witte's and Fresh Kills landfill (former giant garbage site, now being developed as parkland), more ship terminals, Tottenville at the southern tip, then north up the east side of SI and Stapleton, the former US Navy Home Port, the home of FDNY fireboat Firefighter, Miller's Launch and on back to Pier 17, passing by Robbin's Reef lighthouse, the back channel by Military Ocean Terminal and Global Container terminal, Greenville RR Yards and, finally, the Statue of Liberty.

[For Tickets Click Here](#)

#### New Tug Boat Rides!

July tug rides sold out!!!

Here are 4 new rides in August at 6:30pm:

Friday 6 August : [For tickets click here](#)

Friday 13 August : [For tickets click here](#)

Friday 20 August : [For tickets click here](#)

Friday 27 August : [For tickets click here](#)

Narrated by WHC Executive Director Capt. John Doswell

Reserve a ride on the **Seaport Museum's** 1930 Tugboat *W.O. Decker*

To reserve your seat go to [www.WorkingHarbor.Org](http://www.WorkingHarbor.Org)

For tugboat charters on *W. O. Decker* or the working tug *Cornell*, email [John@WorkingHarbor.Org](mailto:John@WorkingHarbor.Org)



#### A little history about *W.O. Decker*:

**Net Tonnage:** 18 **Length:** 52 ft. (overall) **Breadth:** 15 ft. **Depth:** 5.6 ft. **Horsepower:** 175 **Draft:** 6 The wooden tugboat *W.O. Decker* was built in Long Island City, Queens in 1930 for the Newtown Creek Towing Company, a firm specializing in berthing ships and barges in the creek that separates Brooklyn and Queens. Originally called the *Russell I* for the towing company's owners, she was renamed the *W.O. Decker* in 1946 after being sold to the Decker family's Staten Island tugboat firm. One of the last steam-powered tugs built in this harbor, she was later refitted with a diesel engine. In 1986, the *W.O. Decker* was donated to the Seaport Museum, where she works at diverse tasks, from daily waterfront maintenance to private charters. </div>

### Profile: Capt. Jerry Roberts - Member of the Working Harbor Committee



Jerry calls the race  
Photo (c) Jean Preece

Capt. Jerry Roberts, WHC Steering Committee member, was, for many years, curator of the Intrepid Sea\*Air\*Space Museum. While there, 18 years ago, he started the Great North River Tugboat Race & Competition. He was also the captain of the museum's tug Hackensack. He left the museum about 6 years ago to become the Executive Director of the Lighthouse Museum on Staten Island and became a member of the WHC. At that time he brought the tugboat race to WHC, which has produced it ever since, but with Jerry still at the helm. Today Jerry heads the Connecticut River Museum, but returns to NYC every year to announce and

judge the annual race he started. This year's event will be on 5 September. With fair tides, the event that he started 18 years ago will continue for many years.

**Working Harbor Committee Presents...**  
**Our Popular Newtown Creek Tour**

Newtown Creek Tour  
Sunday, October 24, 2010  
Boat departs from Skyport Marina, 23rd Street  
at East River, Manhattan NYC

10:30am Boarding  
2:30pm Return

Tickets \$60

Newtown Creek, which was known as the "busiest waterway of its size in the world," is a tidal arm of the East River, dividing the Boroughs of Queens and Brooklyn for a distance of four miles. It empties into the East River directly opposite 34th Street, Manhattan.



Photo (c) Bernie Ente

Come aboard for an intense Newtown Creek exploration! Our comfortable charter boat will travel the length of Newtown Creek. We will also cover English Kills. The tour will pause at interesting locations for discussion. Guest narrators will cover historical, environmental, and conservation issues. The Greenpoint Avenue Bridge and Metropolitan Avenue Bridge will open on our signal so we can view the furthest reaches of English Kills.

Ticket price includes brochure of vintage maps and complimentary soft drinks. Fully narrated tour.

For ticket order form or more information contact Tour Chairman Bernard Ente :

[bernard@workingharbor.org](mailto:bernard@workingharbor.org)

Cruise runs rain or shine.

Suggested links to check out for more detailed information and photos:

<http://www.newtowncreekalliance.org/>

<http://newtownpentacle.com/2009/08/20/the-newtown-creek-cruise-a-3-hour-tour/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mitchwaxman/tags/newtowncreekcruise/>

<http://www.greenpt.com/upthecreek/>

## The 2010 Great North River Tugboat Race & Competition



Photo (c) Don Sutherland

**Sunday 5 September, 2010 - Pier 84, North River - Hudson River Park, NYC, NY**

As always a spectator boat will be offered

**10am** - Parade of tugs from Pier 84 to the start line near 79th Street Boat Basin.

**10:30am** - Race starts - From 79th Street Boat Basin to Pier 84 - one nautical mile.

**11am** - Nose to nose pushing contests and line toss competition.

**Noon** - Tugs tie up to Pier 84 for lunch (for tug crews) and awards ceremony, to which all are invited

**1pm** - Awards ceremony. Tugs depart at about 2 PM.

**ALL DAY** - Exhibits on the pier from maritime organizations, the towing industry, maritime museums, USCG, PANYNJ and other maritime government organizations. Plus activities for kids, maritime skill demos, music and more.

*Sponsored by the towing industry (Bren Transportation, Harley Marine, Henry Marine, Kosnac Floating Derrick (Ktugs), K-SEA Transportation Corp, McAllister Towing and Transportation Co., Inc., Metropolitan Marine Transportation, Miller's Launch, NYC Economic Development Corporation, Reinauer Transportation, Sea Wolf Marine Transportation) and NYC EDC*

This year's race will be dedicated to the memory of maritime writer/photographer Don Sutherland

## 3rd Annual City of Water Day Festival: FREE Boat Tours

Saturday, July 24, 2010, 10am to 4pm  
Sponsored by the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

Governors Island, NYC  
Liberty State Park, NJ  
Brooklyn Bridge Park, NYC  
Atlantic Basin, NYC

City of Water Day is a FREE day of entertainment, education & adventure for the whole family celebrating the potential of our waterfront! Working Harbor Committee has two Hidden Harbor Tours on City of Water Day but one is already sold out as of this mailing. However there are many other free boats rides available.



Photo (c) Bernie Ente

[For tickets and more information click here](#)

Also come check out the Working Harbor Committee booth at the Info fair on Governor's Island. We will be raffling free tugboat rides as well as signed copies of *Harbor Voices* by Terry Walton.

## Upcoming Events

- **2 more Hidden Harbor Tours coming in the fall including a special Tug Watch tour.**
- **Sizzlin' Summer Party plans in the works stay tuned for details and ticket sales**
- **Another winter evening of film also in the works**



Container cranes at sunset  
Only on a WHC Hidden Harbor Tour...  
Photo (c) Bernard Ente

Meetings of the Working Harbor Committee's Steering Committee are open to anyone. We meet at the WHC office the third Thursday of each month at 18:00 (aka 6 pm)

455 West 43rd Street - Ground Floor  
New York, NY 10036

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**Our Geology Tour has sold out. We'll let you know about future events and tours via this newsletter. To forward to a friend, see the link at the bottom.**

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**The Working Harbor Committee is helping to plan the future of NYC's waterfront by participating in the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan now underway, by NYC Dept of City Planning. You can too!**

[Click Here for Details](#)

**Visit us on Facebook or Twitter**

We are now on [facebook](#) ([become a fan](#)) & [twitter](#) ([follow us](#))

[www.WorkingHarbor.Org](http://www.WorkingHarbor.Org)

**We are now using PatronMail to manage our email list and communications.**

**If you wish to be removed or change your email preferences, click below (at the bottom). On the other hand, if you wish to forward this to others, feel free to add new recipients (also at the bottom)**

**Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on a Hidden Harbor Tour® soon!**

**Capt. John Doswell - Executive Director - Working Harbor Committee -**  
[John@WorkingHarbor.Org](mailto:John@WorkingHarbor.Org)

