

MEGA Yachts on the Hudson River

Following is an edited version of a story that originally appeared in the May 2012 issue of *The Triton*, a monthly newspaper for megayacht captains and crew. To read the entire article, visit www.the-triton.com.

by Capt. Len Beck

When the *Battered Bull* summered in New York, we always made time to venture up into the Hudson River Valley, which is dotted along the river with small towns, museums, antique shops, local and state parks, and beautiful scenery.



Battered Bull

We were often the only large yacht up the river. Many people don't think there's much to see beyond West Point, the historic destination about 40 miles north of Manhattan, but that's where the good part starts. A lot of the little towns along the river date back to the American Revolution.

The Hudson Valley holds special meaning for me. I started my career in 1986 running a 350-person excursion boat on the Hudson River in Kingston, 100 miles north of New York City. The M/V Rip Van Winkle is Catskill Mountain folklore and can be found at www.hudsonrivercruises.com.

Burgers, Browards and Hatterases all take the Hudson to the Erie Canal en route to the Great Lakes. But megayachts don't venture up this way much. They should. It's a great way

From the Publisher, John H. Vargo:

This story from the perspective of a captain of a 171 foot private motor yacht gives the reader an idea of what he is thinking as he traerses the maganifcant Hudson River. Every water craft from a Waverunner to this yacht to commercial shipping all have different views of their adventures on the Hudson River.

Enjoy!

to spend three to five days enjoying the scenery and letting guests have a different experience.

With the *Battered Bull*, the 171-foot Feadship that I was fortunate enough to find myself on for many years, we went up river every time we were in New York. I've made this trip dozens of times, the most recent time last summer aboard the 202-foot Feadship M/Y Majestic.

It's a perfect three-day trip, unless your guests enjoy antique shopping or hiking. We usually spend five days, but Phil and Bev Walsh of the old Turmoil spent six days on one anchorage because their boss loved being in a pristine river environment surrounded by mountains and forests.

There are only a few docks that can handle a yacht of 50m or larger, so we anchored out mostly. In a few places, there are tributary creeks that get you off the main river where you can find a small dock.

Let's get under way.

Heading north from Manhattan, you'll pass under the Tappan Zee Bridge and then sail into the town of Sleepy Hollow. This is where many of New York's wealthiest men have homes, and one not to miss is the Rockefeller estate, Kykuit. We anchor there and take guests to the yacht club in Tarrytown.

A couple places you pass as we continue north is Sing Sing prison in Ossining and the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant in Buchanan, which has been the subject of controversy since the late 1970s.

By the time you are 45 miles from Manhattan, you are in the Hudson Highlands and the topography changes. It's hilly and historic.