



Captain Kevin Forgacs pilots the General Schuyler into the dock.

Friends, family and wellwishers joined representatives of the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County in celebrating the christening of the General Schuyler along with Captain Hal and his crew. Here he chats with Carol Mackay, descendant of the owners of the last large tour vessel on Saratoga Lake some 85 years ago.



Sing Sonthivongnorath and son Daniel stand aboard the new Mohawk River Cruise boat, being fitted out at the Mohawk Valley Marine in Alplaus, a hamlet in the Town of Glenville, located just minutes from Mohawk Harbor and the new Rivers Casino in Schenectady.



# Tech Valley Boats – Explore The Mohawk, or Step Back In Time on Saratoga Lake

This year some great new tour boats are being commissioned on the waterways north of Albany, offering opportunities for Hudson Valley residents to get a taste of new cruising waters without the expense of taking the boat north.

A first generation American whose family escaped the Vietnam War four decades ago, Sing Sonthivongnorath has become a successful businessman several times over, running a moving business and an “extreme fitness and jungle gym” called the 518 Physical Fit Challenge. Now, Sing has invested in a unique vessel to ply the Mohawk River, and plans to start carrying passengers later this summer.

The boat has a glass bottom, more commonly seen on the crystal clear waters of south Florida than on the murky Mohawk. Sing believes that the boat will offer a unique way to see what’s under the surface as it glides through shallow coves and backwaters on environmental tours or other sightseeing trips. Also, because the boat is essentially a pontoon boat, the glass panels can be removed, for a rare treat – imagine going on a fishing trip where one can fish right through the bottom of the boat!

Sing was busy working on his jungle gym when the opportunity to own a tour boat came up: “I have made some inroads and connections with the extreme fitness community,” says Sing. The device is a trainer for people wanting to improve their skills to get on shows like “The American Ninja Warrior”. As I was looking for additional expertise and financial investment to bring that to market, the Rivers Casino created an immediate opportunity for a new local tour company I decided I could not pass up, and which will open coincidentally with the Mohawk Harbor opening during July and August 2017.”

Just a few miles north, Captain Hal Raven of the Adirondack Cruise & Charter Co ( [HYPERLINK “http://www.adkcruise.com”](http://www.adkcruise.com) www.adkcruise.com, (518) 956-2626) has had similar ideas about opening a beautiful stretch of water to tourists once more. It’s been 85 years since the 72’ launch Alice, owned by the Luther Family, plied the waters of picturesque Saratoga Lake carrying Saratoga Springs tourists for some extra excitement during their stay. Now, the newly-Christened General Schuyler, a 50 foot replica of a 1900s fantail launch, will handle sunset cruises plus private charters with a capacity of 30 people.

Captain Hal and his crew christened the new boat in early June, with a very special event. The champagne bottle was broken by Carol Mackay, a descendant of the owners of the Alice, and a link to the heritage of cruise vessels on the Lake. “This boat brings back the history and image of the Saratoga Springs tradition, something that the Lake was missing,” says Captain Hal. Named for a famous Revolutionary War leader, the General Schuyler joins the Kaydeross, a 22’ pontoon boat, in bringing hundreds of visitors each year onto this often-overlooked lake just minutes from Saratoga Springs and about a half hour north of Albany.

For more information on both of these exciting cruise companies please visit [HYPERLINK “http://www.southernSaratoga.org”](http://www.southernSaratoga.org) www.southernSaratoga.org, stop at the Southern Saratoga Information Center on the I-87 Northway at Exit 9 or call (518) 371-3763.