



An annual fixture at the Roundup has been this replica of the first-ever cargo ship built in New York State, the 1614 Onrust. This year, the vessel has spent more time downstate in collaborative efforts with the Hudson River Maritime Museum, the Connecticut River Museum, Marist College, and later this fall, the Bronx Museum/Greene County Historical Society, Crailo State Historic Site and Albany County Visitor Center.

Could this boat change history? Solar Sal made its historic journey in late 2015, and retired RPI professor David Borton (left) continues to work towards a new fleet of commercially-viable solar electric boats on area waterways. He is planning to show off his latest creations at the World Canals Conference in Syracuse from September 24-28.



# Reflections on the "Roundup"!

by Pete Bardunias,  
President/CEO, the Chamber  
of Southern Saratoga County

When I took over leadership of the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County over six years ago, I was told about this interesting event in Waterford that immediately captured my attention – the Waterford Tugboat Roundup. This annual celebration of maritime commercial history is a really unique and wonderful way to learn something about the waterways that have provided the lifeblood of energy generation, materials transportation and interstate commerce for two centuries. Plus, we're all boaters! So what's better than a maritime festival to give us all something to get excited about?

The Tugboat Roundup is inspirational because it not only shows us the vessels of the past, but also those of the present and future. Last year, moored behind the replica of the 17th Century Onrust were several boats of the New York State Marine Highway's fleet. These tugs move some 90 percent of the products shipped on the canal system each year and almost all of the freight which is transported on the Champlain Canal. These vessels are specifically designed to handle the unique demands of the canals – some even have telescoping pilothouses to duck under bridges in a 21st century version of "Low



Last year was the first annual Tugboat Chug 5k, a great event held right along the historic canals and downtown Waterford. There will be a kids fun run directly following the 5k, plus prizes for top finishers and all the kids!

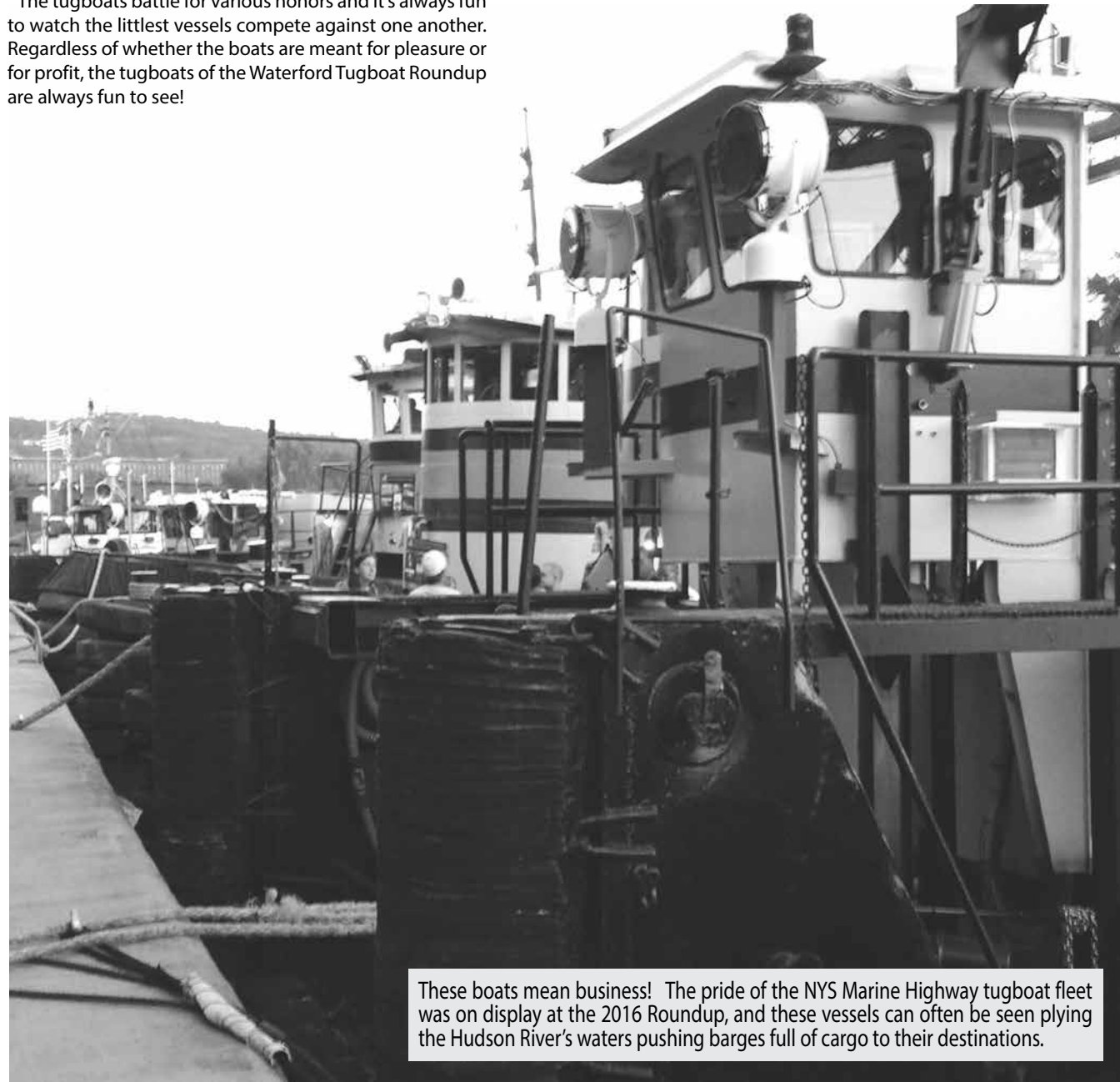


Bridge, Everybody Down!" It's important that we consider the role of commercial cargo transportation in the Hudson River's future, especially as questions remain as to the need for additional remedial action to address some of the challenges left behind by 20th Century manufacturing operations.

In 2015, a small vessel named Solar Sal made a trailblazing voyage across New York State, carrying some 8000lbs of recycled cardboard from Lockport to Mechanicville in the first-ever fossil fuel-free cargo delivery in Erie Canal history. A great example of Tech Valley ingenuity, Solar Sal is the first of a generation of new vessels of various sizes which eventually hope to be a mainstay of the tourism/ trawler/light duty cargo market on inland waterways.

The tugboats battle for various honors and it's always fun to watch the littlest vessels compete against one another. Regardless of whether the boats are meant for pleasure or for profit, the tugboats of the Waterford Tugboat Roundup are always fun to see!

There are a lot of other activities at the Roundup, including vendors, food, a boat show, boat rides, kayak rentals and other exhibits and nearby shops in downtown Waterford are open for business too. Saturday night will feature some of the best fireworks in the Capital Region (weather permitting). For more information visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.tugboatroundup.com"](http://www.tugboatroundup.com) , the CSSC website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.southernsarotoga.org"](http://www.southernsarotoga.org) or stop by the Southern Saratoga Information Center at the Clifton Park Rest Area, on the I-87 Northway at Exit 9.



These boats mean business! The pride of the NYS Marine Highway tugboat fleet was on display at the 2016 Roundup, and these vessels can often be seen plying the Hudson River's waters pushing barges full of cargo to their destinations.

# GRAY