

# Affirmation!

by **John H. Vargo, Publisher**

**My life is complete!**

Thanks to the many members of each of these very old ice yacht clubs- the North Shrewsbury Ice Yacht Club and the Hudson River Ice Yacht Club the word "Affirmation" is the only way to describe the wonderful camaraderie, good will, and pure joy that these two ice yacht clubs provide me.



Visiting Red Bank ice boat in a hike, Reid Belinbergs, "Vixen" passing them.







**Rick Lawrence, host and past Commodore, HRIYC.**

**Jeff Morton, Past Commodore, NSIYC.**

As a grand gesture, the NSIBYC not only brought all the food but John Gannon, their chef did the cooking in Rick Lawrence's front yard.

Many of these ice yachts go back before the turn of the century! They were the hero's of the media, promoted as the fastest man made object in the world and usually compared to railroad trains with much debate as to who was the fastest.

The major iconic family's in the Hudson River Valley such as the Astor's, Vanderbilt's, and many others all had ice yachts which their summer time yacht captains drove in the winter time when there was ice on the Hudson River or some good size lake.

The same can be said for the Shrewsbury River, near Red Bank, N J. The families on the banks of the Shrewsbury River did the same thing. Thus competitive ice yacht racing groups were formed into clubs.

The competition became so intense that the ice yachts were moved by Railroad flat car from the Hudson River Valley to Red Bank, NJ to await the right "conditions" so the competition could begin.

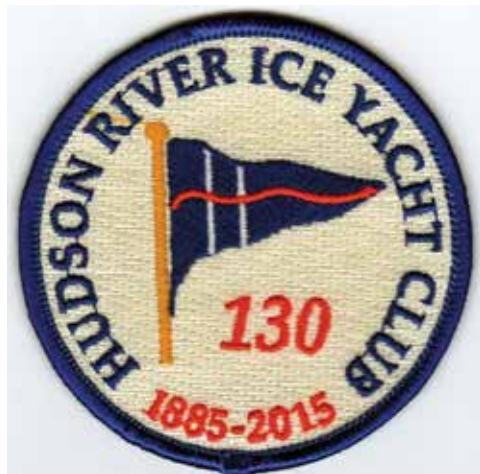
Over the years the rivalry between the two clubs became so intense that much of the time it ensured it outright shouting.

Fast-forward to the 80's and the two groups began to work hard at enjoying each other's company, helping one and another to be very competitive, yet still sailing hard on the finish line for first place.

Quite a few of the men who are driving these ice yachts are third, or even fourth generation family members, know the tradition well, and today are carrying the story forward in a magnificent, friendly atmosphere, that assure it will continue this way for years to come.

I have been fortunate to be "in the game" for the last 60 years.

What a great sport that has everything, and has stood the test of time.



**Many of these ice yachts date back to the 19th century.**



**Clams and burgers and sausage on the barbecue, courtesy of the NSIBYC. John Gannon, Chef,**

## North Shrewsbury Ice Boat & Yacht Club