

A Happy New Year to all our members. Although not directly an S & S Association news item I can start the year with one piece of good news. The Stephens brothers and particularly Rod had a close association and friendship with the legendary New York boatbuilder Henry Nevins. The latter built a boat for his own personal use around the same time that Stormy Weather was launched. She had 20' overhangs and was 56' overall just like her S & S contemporaries. Although not a well known yacht designer Nevins knew what he was about and his attention to detail was renowned. He built a racing yacht called Polly for his own use and in his last years liked to be taken on her to sample 'the feel of the water'. About 20 years ago Polly was in a yard in NE Maine for sale with two other S & S classics, a Loki and Mah Jong. Whereas these two found buyers eventually Polly remained out of the water deteriorating for 30 years eventually parked in a field awaiting a chain saw. She is said to feel as if 'she was carved from a single block of wood' such was the attention to detail in her construction, Nevins being renowned for the best at the time.

I am glad to report Polly has been saved and her reconstruction is under way. This can be followed on a blog <http://savingpolly.wordpress.com/>