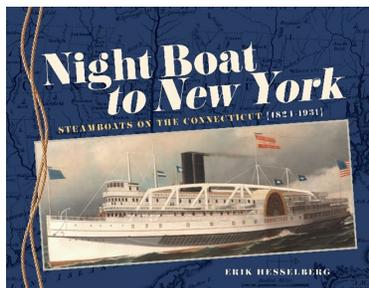


Darien Sail and Power Squadron and America's Boating Club of Greenwich invite you to this special, co-hosted event.



Wednesday January 18 at 7pm

at YWCA 259 E Putnam, Greenwich

Author Erik Hesselberg presents
**'Night Boat to New York:
 Steamboats on the Connecticut River
 1815-1931'**

Usual light refreshments will be served.

Night Boat to New York: Steamboats on the Connecticut, 1824-1931, is a portrait of the vanished steamboat days—when a procession of stately sidewheelers plied between Hartford and New York City, on the East River in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge. Altogether, some 35 large steamboats were in service on the Connecticut River in these years, largely on the Hartford to New York City route. These Long Island Sound steamers were long, sleek craft, with sharp prows cutting a neat wake as they cruised along. Departing each afternoon from Hartford, the “night boats” reached New York at daybreak, inaugurating a pattern of city commuting that continues to this day. Steamboating not only brought people and goods down river to New York for export to world markets, but also helped America’s transplant to the seashore, making steamboating not just convenient transportation but also a social phenomenon. No wonder crowds wept in the fall of 1931, when the last steamboats, made obsolete by the automobile, churned away from the dock and headed downriver—never to return.

Erik Hesselberg, has been writing about the Connecticut River for 20 years, first as an environmental reporter for the *Middletown Press*, and then as executive editor of Shore Line Newspapers in Guilford, CT. He was President of the Middlesex County Historical Society, where his research on 18th century Middletown and the West Indies trade, “A Vanished Port,” in *Wesleyan Magazine*, led to an award-winning exhibit. He was a regular contributor to the *Hartford Courant* and continues to write about the Connecticut River at his blog, voicesontheriver.com.

