

New rowing race in Schuylerville Sunday

By **LEIGH HORNBECK**
Staff writer

SCHUYLERVILLE — “The Schuylerskiff,” a new rowing race for single shells, will send eight winners to Italy to compete in the World Singles Championships along the River Po in Turin, Italy.

Chris Chase, a coach with the Saratoga Rowing Association, organized the race with sponsors Adirondack Trust, the Fort Miller Co., Alden Rowing Shells and Mariner Insurance. The companies are paying the winners’ plane fare to Italy.

Rowing is popular in the region, Chase said, 250 students in grades seven through nine are learning to row this fall in Saratoga. But at races, the most common competition is among sweep rowing teams of nine competitors — eight rowers, each pulling an oar; and a coxswain seated in the stern of the boat. Sculling is a good activity for young rowers, Chase said, because the rower uses both sides of his or her body to move the boat.

There are 100 rowers registered to compete across four categories for each gender, Chase said. Rowers as young as 13 and as old as 70 could make appearances Sunday.

The Schuylerskiff will also make use of the Hudson River. Other regattas in the Saratoga area are held on Fish Creek and Saratoga Lake. Sunday the start and finish lines will be at the

Schuylers Yacht Basin where the race will start with a musket volley at 8 a.m. fired by American Revolution re-enactors. Junior racers (13 to 18 years old) compete over 4 kilometers; all others will row 8 kilometers. Spectators may park at Fort Hardy Park in Schuylerville.

The race is also a way to draw people to Schuylerville and showcase the village, Chase said.

“In Boston (where the Head of the Charles will be held Oct. 17 and 18) they have Bunker Hill,

here we have the (Saratoga National Historic Park) battlefield,” Chase said.

The battlefield, the Saratoga Monument in Victory and the Schuyler House will all be open Sunday. A reggae concert is scheduled at Saratoga Apple (Route 29, just west of Schuylerville) in the afternoon and the Schuyler Farms Corn Maze (also Route 29 west) will be open. For more information go to <http://www.saratoga-rowing.com>.