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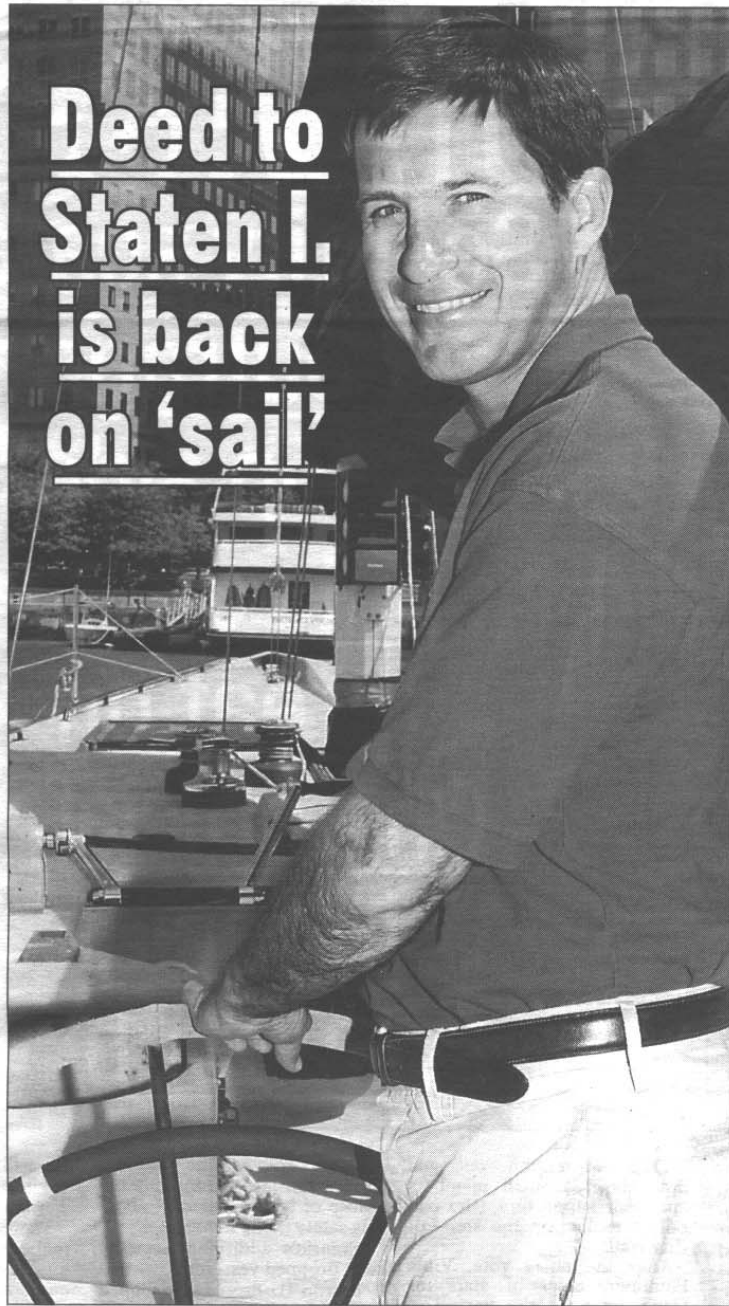


METRO EDITION

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2007 / Partly sunny, more humid; a p.m. t-storm, 88 / Weather: Page 20

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## Deed to Staten I. is back on 'sail'

**KEEL DEAL:** Michael Fortenbaugh holds the "Staten Island Decision Race" tomorrow. Whichever skipper wins gets to claim ownership of the borough for his state.

Staten Island is up for grabs.

A legend holds that in colonial times, a sailboat race decided that the borough would become a part of New York and not New Jersey.

Now, Commodore Michael Fortenbaugh, skipper of the Manhattan Sailing Club, is holding the "Staten Island Decision Race" to-

morrow — a contest for the "rights" to Richmond County.

"I first heard about [the myth] many years ago as a sailor," said Fortenbaugh. "We do know for certain that there's a legitimate historical controversy — and rather than try to dig through history, which we'll never be able to do accurately, let's just race it again."

The race tomorrow around the island will include eight vessels — four from each state.

The winner gets a symbolic box of dirt from Staten Island that they "may present to their state's governor," according to the official rules. "It is the responsibility of the winning team to collect the rest of the island."

*Hasani Gittens*

Katie Orlinsky