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Scuttlebutt is a digest of major yacht racing news, commentary, opinions, features and dock talk . . . with a North American focus.

RENAISSANCE MAN

On September 11, 2001, the world changed. And in the midst of the destruction, one block from where the World Trade Centers stood, was the North Cove - New York City's mega yacht marina. The yachts inside the marina scattered and with them went some of the hopes and dreams of this waterfront community known as Battery Park City.

Before 9/11, North Cove had been the crown jewel of the Manhattan waterfront. North Cove had been the glamorous marina where the J/Boats Endeavor and Shamrock docked when they visited the Big Apple together in 1989. North Cove was where mega yachts parked, where celebrities gathered and where deals got done. People who rode bikes or roller-bladed along the waterfront esplanade would stop when they reached North Cove. It was a favorite destination of people out for an evening stroll. At lunchtime, corporate workers would come to the marina and enjoy the view.

After 9/11, the future of North Cove was in turmoil. The company running the marina did not stabilize the facility. Docks fell into disrepair. Soon the managing company fell into financial difficulty and defaulted on their lease. In April 2003, the Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority ("BPCA"), the governmental agency which owns the marina, took over operation. BPCA kept the North Cove open and began work to restore the facility.

In June 2004, BPCA issued a "Request for Expressions of Interest" to find a new operator who could help North Cove regain its former glory. On January 11, 2005, the BPCA Board of Directors designated North Cove Marina Management, Inc., as the new operator of Battery Park City's North Cove Marina.

And who is the Renaissance Man behind the North Cove Marina Management? None other than Dennis Conner, America's most famous sailor. For the complete story on Dennis' latest adventure: <http://tinyurl.com/67d3x>