

## **The Hudson River Ramblers 2010 Wrap -up**

[The Great Recession](#) hit schools to historic sites especially hard this year, bringing down bookings for the [Hudson River Ramblers](#). Still, people wanting songs and stories on the river brought us new venues and rewards.

“We really can’t to compare this year to last.” Rich notes. “In 2009, New York celebrated the [Quadricentennial](#) of the Hudson River’s exploration. This brought the Ramblers on for many one time events.”

We worked in 2010 with organizations to make performances possible. We gave tailored shows to fit tight budgets, broadened our offerings, and donated our talents. The Ramblers, like the river, roll with the times.

We did find new interest for our programs in Connecticut and New Jersey. The venerable Norwalk Oyster Festival, an annual event drawing tens of thousands, wanted to get back to the region’s roots on the Long Island Sound. So, they brought in the Hudson Ramblers for rousing performance of authentic pirate tales and sea shanties.



Rich & Jonathan regaled with a sea shanty at the [Norwalk Oyster Festival](#) Sept 11, 2010.

**Here’s the *Hudson River Ramblers* top five highlights for 2010.**

5 - We began performing for school groups on trips to the [Ashokan Field Center](#) in the Catskills.

4- Started a tricorn hat trend among seniors at the [Bergenfield Library](#), Bergenfield NJ

3- Performed for [National Arts in the School Day](#) in Port Chester NY

2 - Won the Parents Choice Recommendation Award for our [CD Once Upon the Hudson](#).

And our #1 highlight, is twofold. We developed two new programs!

### - ***Revolutionary Character***

This workshop rose from a brainstorming session we held at the annual Teaching the Hudson Conference at the F.D.R. Homestead, Hyde Park. Educators suggested we address the need for character education using our knowledge of the American Revolution here along the river. The story of the song Yankee Doodle for example provides an ideal way for dealing with bullies. A man who lost more battles than he won, yet still leads the way to victory, George Washington, truly shows character. Sybil Ludington's story dramatize how young people can answer the call for service, and perhaps end up acting heroically. Click here for more information on this innovative program.



### - ***Pirates on the Hudson*** -



What's our most F.A.Q. ? Are you guys pirates? Now, we arrgh! Performing songs and stories of the buccaneers who once marauded the Hudson and beyond. We reveal the secret of Captain Kidd's lost treasure. We'll get everyone singing shanties.

*Captain William Kidd privateer?*

We look forward to tailoring our stories and songs of America's First River, the Hudson in 2011. Please [click here](#) for ideas and information on the Hudson River Ramblers.

**Happy New Year!**

**Jonathan Kruk, Rich Bala**