

SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB

NAUTICAL NEWS

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San Francisco Model Yacht Club,
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San Francisco Model Yacht Club



Spreckels Lake

Established 1898

Golden Gate Park

February 2024 Schedule (preview)

03	Saturday		(Open)
04	Sunday		(Open)
10	Saturday	0930	Board / General Meeting
		1200	Frostbite Regatta
		1300	Winter Series Infinity 54
11	Sunday		(Open)
17	Saturday		(Open)
18	Sunday	1300	Wheeler
24	Saturday		(Open)
25	Sunday		(Open)

Red=RC sailing, Green=Freesailing, Blue=Powerboat sailing

Check the SFMYC webpage for the complete updated PDF 2023 calendar. www.SFMYC.org

Advise us of your new address when moving! sfmycnauticalnews@gmail.com

For input to the 2023 Calendar, contact Ryan Schofield at rssailor@yahoo.com

March 2024 Schedule (preview)

02	Saturday	0100	Wheeler class
03	Sunday		(Open)
09	Saturday	0930	Board / General Meeting
		1200	Opening Day on the Lake
		1300	Rag Top / Stink Pot, <u>RSVP</u> – “free lunch”!
10	Sunday	1300	X class, Dickie Cup
		0900	Casual Steam Up
12	Tuesday	1200	ODOM
16	Saturday	1300	36R Class
17	Sunday	1300	Infinity 54 class
20	Wednesday	0100	Victoria class
23	Saturday	0100	Santa Barbara class
24	Sunday	0100	Freesail M class
30	Saturday	0100	10 Rater Class
31	Sunday		(Open)



Volume 126

Nautical News

SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB

Spreckels Lake - Established 1898 - Golden Gate Park
February, 2024

Number 2

2024 OFFICERS

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Gene Erickson, Wally
Wahlander

Historian/Archivist
(Open Position)

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(The deadline for items for the Nautical News is the 25th of each month. Send copy to our editor EdSFMYC@sonic.net & CC: sfmycnauticalnews@gmail.com We reserve the right to edit submissions, based on space available. See new Ad posting requirements in "For Sail"

Commodore's Corner
Rob Weaver, Commodore

PLANNING AHEAD: The Board discussed whether to hold the Holiday/Awards Luncheon at the clubhouse in 2024. The consensus was that we will host it again at our facility, but didn't decide whether to use the same vendor or shift to another caterer. We are open to change vendors, try a different food, or to use Memphis Minnie's again. It is a long time away, but we agreed to entertain any reasonable suggestions from the membership. If you have a suggestion, please provide details to either Vice Commodore Carl Brosius or me. We will only consider alternatives if you provide details concerning an actual vendor, type of food and a general idea of cost. We left open whether we'd host a Luncheon at the club in 2025, but noted that if we want to return to a restaurant, we'll have to make that decision before the end of the year in order to reserve space. If you want a change to a restaurant, speak up and give us a suggestion so that we can present it to the membership later in the year and get reservations.

JOHN CHRISTMAN: If you missed the John Christman Zoom seminar on January 23rd, you missed a rare opportunity to hear a presentation from a respected national sailing judge. The seminar originated from an amicable dispute that led all parties to simply stare blankly at one another like two dogs confronted with a calculus problem. Confronted with a problem of rules interpretation, the matter clearly needed an interpretation by an expert. John took the appeal and after it was resolved by agreement, John took the additional step of suggesting a presentation to walk everyone through the protest and appeals process. To some that sounds like watching paint dry, but with John's vast knowledge and experience it was anything but boring. We all learned quite a bit and all who participated are looking forward to John's next presentation. Thanks John. For those who ignored the invitations to participate, I just have to say that you made a big mistake.

FROSTBITE REGATTA: The annual Frostbite Regatta will occur immediately after the General Member Meeting on February 10th. If you built it and it floats (or was intended to float) bring it to the show and impress all your friends and club members with your workmanship. If you made, designed or improved a vessel, show it off so that all the rest of us have a chance to steal your clever workmanship ideas and claim them as our own next year. Voting for various categories will occur at the regatta, and you could even win an award! Festivities will be hosted by our esteemed Power Squadron Officer, Ken Shapiro, just recovered from injuries suffered on the dangerous streets of Albany.

OPEN HOUSE: Joe Minafo has generously offered to coordinate volunteers to open the clubhouse one weekend day a month. He needs volunteers to spend a leisurely afternoon at the club each month as docents to open it to the public, explain the history of the club, show visitors the power boats and sailboats, and explain why we are all involved in this hobby. Joe will soon be circulating a request for members to step up and participate. We are still working with Rec & Parks to determine the most advantageous date to keep the club open and coordinate that date with other events at the park.

RC RACING IN FEBRUARY: Two racing days in the Winter Series are scheduled in February. Infinity 54s will race on February 10th after the General Member Meeting. The fleet will make time to vote in the Frostbite Regatta, but then will hit the lake to go around the buoys for the first time this year. Wheelers will sail on February 18th in a rescheduled race day.

Get your boats ready. The actual season starts with Opening Day on March 9th. We'll start signing up participants for the highly competitive, albeit arbitrary, Rag Top/Stink Pot relay after the February meeting. Get ready for the new year: check sheets, test radios and receivers, put on that new set of sails you ordered last year, start your power boat to see that it still works, power up your steam engine, examine your vane to make sure it makes necessary course changes, consult with last year's champions on settings and strategy and generally plan on another successful year at San Francisco Model Yacht Club.

Membership Report, January 2024

by Mike Stobbe, Membership Secretary

There were no new members last month. The annual membership renewal process is continuing apace. As of January 26th, 70 members had renewed and 92 members had not. Reminders were sent out on February 1st. Thank you for your cooperation.

Trolling the Web

By Mary Rose Cassa

Check out the AMYA Facebook Public Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/theamya.org>

Recent topics include:

- What would it take to get US cities to build some modern sailing ponds?
- How many clubs are actively trying to grow their fleets by inviting new people to try Radio Sailing and/or hold more relaxed sailing events letting new people learn?
- Traveling with an R/C model boat

- Rigging line (Dyneema)
- Regatta schedules and photos

Events

The Frostbite Regatta is On

by Ken Shapiro, PSO

This is a fun low-key event. It will be directly after the February meeting. We will not be serving lunch, so, have a hearty breakfast or bring a sandwich to eat after the meeting. Bring any watercraft in any stage of construction or completed. You do not have to be the builder of the boat. There are six classes of awards. With first, second and third for Sail, Pleasure, Fishing, Commercial and Military and of course the coveted Best of Show.

Any boat that has won a previous award can only be shown again if it has undergone a major refit on the superstructure or deck furniture and a complete repaint with a change of color. Please bring a before photo to qualify. The voting is open to all, whether you have a boat on display or not.

To vote just grab a packet of color-coded ballots. Boats will be numbered and color coded, so after noting the boats number, deposit your ballots in the color coded boxes. Ballots will be counted, and awards given after the tally. Masks are suggested, but at your own discretion.

Get ready for Opening Day March 9th & the Ragtop Stinkpot Relay Race

By Ken Sapiro, PSO

I know this is a way advance notice, but I wanted to drum up some support from the Power Squadron for the Ragtop Stinkpot teams race. There has been a definite lack of participation from the squadron in this fun event. So, you have plenty of time to be ready. It takes place right after the meeting and a **free lunch is served**. It's a simple run out and around a buoy.

The teams include power and sail and it's an exciting relay race against the other teams. In case you haven't participated in the past, here's a photo of the fun. Lunch is your choice of sandwich, cold cuts, tuna or vegetarian with chips, drink and a cupcake. All sandwiches include lettuce, tomato and condiments.



Please email me to let us know what boat you will be running and your choice of sandwich. Teams will be made up in advance to even out the competition. So, it's not too early to register. Email me gogiantks@aol.com.

Nautical Notes

Stard & Lard

by Ivy Mike

I was recently reading excerpts from William Clark's journal of 1805. As he and Meriwether Lewis mapped a course westward across the nation to the Pacific, Clark recorded his daily observations.

I was perplexed by some of the archaic directional references written in his descriptions (specifically Stard. & Lard.) Apparently Clark's survey terms found their roots in the maritime industry. It took a bit of research, but here is an historical record of the origin and development of those terms:

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/port-starboard.html#:~:text=Sailors%20began%20calling%20the%20right,the%20side%20opposite%20the%20oar.>

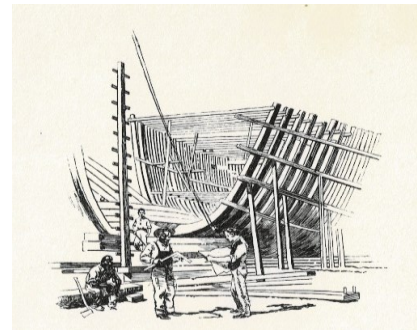
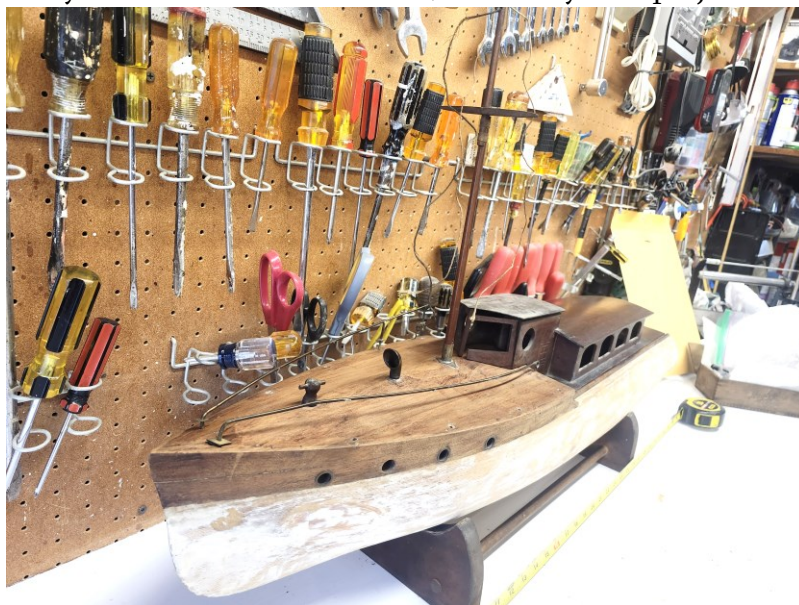
I suspect that some of these terms may have still been in use when your organization was founded.

The Workshop

The Old Boat

Text & image by Bob Pearsall

The old boat showed up last night. The adventure starts today. This will be lots of work, but a very cool project.



I have been in contact with Dave Klinger and the original owners, thanking them for the opportunity to do the rebuild. Take care. Some plans for the boat were found from 1923.

From the 1930' or 40's, friend's attic in Minnesota

Every Tale Tells a Story! -- a Seminar by Dick Hunter

Text & photos by Michael Fischer & as noted



9 skippers attended

Nine skippers gathered in the Boathouse at 1100 today for Dick Hunter's latest erudite lecture on how to maximize your boat's Velocity Made Good.

See Wikipedia article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Velocity_made_good

Basically, Dick deconstructed the elements of how the telltales tell the story of angle of attack and seeking to sail "in the groove."



Telltale analysis. Photo from Mike Kelly.

Dick had a lot more to say about each boat which was very helpful. Dick, so many thanks from all of us for sharing your knowledge in a way that we can put it to use on the water.

Photo Quiz:

Ok, after reviewing the "telltale telling a story" lecture, here's a photo-quiz for the attendees. Analyze the pix for which you can see the jib telltales and tell us what you see.



A mirror-like pond

The photo shows you what we found out there: we were outnumbered by the cranky coots and it was mighty calm on a mirror-like pond. But there was enough wind to see us around a "little box-big box" course, for sure.



Boats 59 & 89

It was a treat to see Tony Dodson for the lecture-- maybe next week come out for the Oreos, Tone?

It was also a treat to see both Dave Klinger and Dave Powell sailing well and together--and to hear Dave Klinger's story about how he helped to resurrect a REALLY old half-built power boat from a friend's attic in Minnesota. His

friend's long-gone father got the hull built (back in the 30s or 40s?), but the finishing touches still need a lot of work. Bob Pearsall, one of the master builders in our club, has volunteered to finish the boat and to detail the construction in an article + photo in our newsletter – see above.

But speaking of Davids, we are all hoping to see David Znidarsic back on the lake. Jon, your boat is looking fine; Norman, your new sails, paint job and rig are mighty classy. Mac, to see you cycling up to the lake on your e-bike with your boat abaft, what a sight!

The competition was keen, the winds were slight but good enough, the sailing was grand. We're looking forward to see Jerry Turney on the Lake soon--he stopped by to fetch his boat from the Boathouse (where is has waited disconsolately since Covid struck.) After he brings it back up to par, he promises to join us.

Power Squadron Report

Text & photos by Ken Shapiro, PSO

Looks like I finally got out to the lake this weekend. My ankle is still stiff, swollen and a little painful, but I'm able to drive to the lake.

Here's a photo of Rick Weiss, our Nautical News editor, last Sunday, testing out his "under-construction" and rebuilt steam boats. The Topaz hull, underway, did not sink! And although the commercial steamer almost caught fire, it was rescued just-in-time with no permanent damage but needing an adjustment to the boiler fuel-flow.



Nautical News editor Rick Weiss tests out his steam boats

A flyer for a model boat parade. The background is a photograph of several model boats on a body of water. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says "Model Boats on Parade" in large yellow letters. Below that, it says "Spreckels Lake, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA" and "Sunday, September 15th, 2024". In the center, it says "FREE to the Public" and "Setup at 8:00 AM". Below that, it says "For More Information Visit WWW.SFMYC.ORG". At the bottom, it says "Celebrating 126 Years of Model Boating" and "The Oldest Model Yacht Club in the Americas". There are two logos: one for the San Francisco Model Yacht Club (SFMYC) and one for Golden Gate Park.

I have started planning for our bi-annual event "MODEL BOATS ON PARADE". It will take place on Sunday September 15, 2024. Elias Lignos has volunteered to update the flyer. I'll start advertising early in the year.

Bottle Boat Sessions 2024

Text & image by Kate Ettinger & the Bottle Class Mentors

Bottle Class Dates for 2024:

- Bottle Class Practice 11 - 2ish -- May 5 (Sun)
- Bruce Ettinger Bottle Yacht Regatta 1-4pm -- June 9 (Sat)
- Bottle Class Practice 11 - 2ish -- Aug 8 (Thu)
- Bottle Class Relay with Learn to Sail -- Nov 10 (Sun)



RSVPs for the kickoff are greatly appreciated. If you are interested in stopping by or curious about the bottle boats, please email Kate with questions: bottleyachtregatta@gmail.com

Freesail Squadron Reports

by Bernard Price, FSO

Happy New Year to all members. I'm looking forward to the 2024 season and Opening Day, March 9th. And I encourage members to work on your boats to be sure they are ready for racing.

RC Sailing

February Ramblings

by Ryan Schofield, RCSO

Michael Fischer will complete the RC-NOR by the beginning or mid-February. I am working on finding an appropriate scoring program for the 2024 season. I'm also on a list to receive notification when DF 95s will again be available. There is only one dealer for DF 95 located in Texas, and the distributor is waiting on a shipment from China. When I receive notification I will order a DF 95 for the club. If an individual member would like to order a DF 95, just go to the website and get on the notification list. The Board has agreed to purchase a radio to get the club Day-Use ODOM in working order.

January 3rd Victoria sailing--a boat on a BIKE??!!

Text & images by Michael Fischer

Well, I got there too late and didn't catch Mac to take a photo before he left--but you gotta trust Dick Hunter and David Green and Jim Forbes: Mac Lowry rode his eBike all the way from Pilot's Row near the Bridge, above Crissy Field, to Spreckels with his Victoria strapped to the back! OK, I bet he'll do it again and you'll see a picture. Unless you come to the Lake to see for yourselves. Please do!

Today we experienced a malevolent Vortex that was ALIVE. It moved. It was a shape-shifter. It never went away, but it certainly swelled and shrank. It had typhoon winds on its margin, then it didn't. It lifted up the humble and laid low the proud. All in all, it made for a lively day--except for those periods when the shape-shifter put us all together, becalmed.



A calmer phase at the East end of the Lake

In another race at the East End, Several of the skippers were nudging me and whispering, "take a picture! Take a picture!" So, somewhat puzzled, I did.

Three boats in front of Dick!

It wasn't until afterward that one of them came up to me saying, "That picture will memorialize the unthinkable--three boats out in front of Dick!"



A minute later ...



Dick back in the lead.

I've got a good puff, Bob and David G. decided to take a break and raft up, and Dick is heading straight for the hapless coot!



Joe Minafo, our newest member who is building a fine blue boat, stopped by with his wife Annette and his sister-in-law Naomi

Joe Minafo, wife Annette & sister-in-law Naomi

There's Joe, wearing his snazzy SFMYC fleece pullover--say, it looks great! I think I'll get one. He borrowed my boat to run a practice race and did quite well

for a fella who's never asked his thumbs to do the dance together on the radio-controls. For a first time out, I'd say high-fives, Joe!

On the water were Jim F., Dick H., David G., Dave P., Norman T., Bob H., Mike K., Mac L. and myself: Nine of us. John Blackburn joined us to kibbitz and to bring a seagull-proof container of his home-baked chocolate chop & cornflake cookies. Thank you, John--you're a champ.



John Blackburn joined us to kibbitz

We were missing some important members of our fleet, most notably Tony Dodson who has seemingly taken the Holiday Season off (Tone, 12th Night is this weekend, the end

of the Christmas season. New Year's is behind us, so it's safe to return to the Lake!) Also missing was David Znidarsic, whose hatchback window was smashed and his boat was stolen. David, come back to sail with us, please: Dick, Jim and I have offered to loan you our second boats. Our feelings will be hurt if you don't take up at least one of our offers! And of course we'll all pitch in with spare parts and plenty of advice as you build your replacement....

Another missing skipper was Dave Klinger who returned from a visit back in the Midwest with a kind offer from his friend, whose late father was building a power boat. Jennifer, Dave's friend, offered to ship the half-finished boat to any builder who might be interested in finishing it. Bob Pearsall, boat-builder extraordinaire and gracious gentleman, accepted the challenge and will finish the boat--the plans for which, he recognized, were published in a 1923 book. Another example of the Victoria fleet providing service to the larger field of model yachting. (See 'The Workshop' this issue.)

Speaking of coots, a photo shows that we were visited by quite a flock of coots (other collective nouns for coots are cover, raft and team, who knew?) Our other avian buddy has been Jonathan,

the Patient Seagull. Well, darn it, Jonathan brought along a bunch of cousins who were NOT patient. They attacked and mauled my fully-wrapped sandwich before we chased them away. The collective noun for a flock of seagulls is a squabble, how appropriate!



Coots

You can see Jonathan, being ignored by David, Mike and Jim. Dave Powell told me that he rewarded Jonathan's patience with a tidbit--he was the last gull remaining at the end of our racing.

Jonathan the patient seagull

OK, back to the beginning: Mac Lowry, brought along his family to see what spending time on Spreckels' shores is all about. Mac, dressed in a snazzy captain-like outfit, is on the left (of course.) His wife Kelly is posing proudly on the right. Between them, L to R: Chelsea, Nina and Brynn.



Mac Lowry, brought along his family

Dave Powell giving advice

Ah, and finally: Dave Powell giving advice (after our racing had ended) to a bystander-family who were taken with the beauty of our little boats--he gave them a website to check out Victorias.



See grandmother holding her grandson's speedboat--when grandson saw the Victorias sailing along, he dropped his interest in the power boat. Sounds like an intelligent kid, eh? Another great example of the spirit of the Victoria fleet--we're proud to have you in our company, Dave.

Victoria fleet's early days

A Trip Down Memory Lane...

text & images by Michael Fischer

Starting eleven years ago, Rich Styles, Ed Schoenstein, Peter McElmury and I traveled down to the Monterey Peninsula (big boat) Yacht Club to sail with their Victoria fleet in their annual Mad Duck regatta.



Michael Fischer at the MPYC

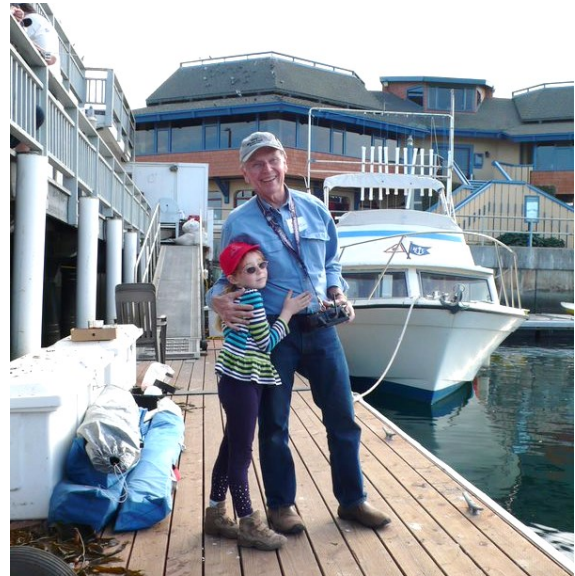


We did that for three or four years until their Victoria fleet skipper, Thomas Hoover, moved to Saudi Arabia. In return, we hosted for five years our Golden Gate Challenge regatta and the MPRC guys traveled up here to compete.

Victorias at the MPRC

In the last photo you'll see our granddaughter, Cassie—she's now in her freshman year at Lewis and Clark College in Portland. She became a junior member of the MPYC through high school, sailing Optis.

Michael & granddaughter Cassie at the MPRC



Wanted / For "Sail"

Due to the overwhelming popularity of this section of the News, it is necessary to reduce the number of dedicated ads & pages. Starting with the July News, all ads are limited to 2 issues and 2 ads. For more long term advertising, we suggest that you move your ads to one of the online free forums or the SFMYC web site 'For Sale' page. If your ad hasn't been posted for three consecutive issues of the News, it can be posted again for 2 more issues.

Please do send your 'wanted' or 'for sale' ad(s) with 2 lines only, one photo that will get edited and sized down to fit, and include your email or contact info.

For Sale

-- Mantua RMS Titanic, RC-capable 1/200, partially built, hull, kit intact. Originally \$1100. Price \$200. Contact Ken Lum, (South Bay Model Shipwrights): lum40@comcast.net



- IOM-No sail winch, transmitter, receiver. \$400.00
- Bristol Bay RC boat w/ radio. \$300.00
- American Beauty Towboat kit-new in box. \$150.00
- River Patrol RC boat-complete, w/extra parts \$250.00, Contact: David Sands, sandsdavid1935@gmail.com



-- Season champion Santa Barbara "Cabin Cruiser."
Hi torque, sail winch, jib twitcher & linear back stay servo. Deluxe boat carrier. \$1,300 invested, asking \$1,075, Jim Harrold: J32for4@yahoo.com



-- Good winter project! "Hard to find"
ODOM KIT. W/ servos! \$550. Jim
Harrold, email: jrracesails@gmail.com



Victoria kit still in the box. \$100 or best offer.
Jerry Pugh, (650) 282 5686
jerry.pugh@sbcglobal.net



Free Boat to New Club Member!, The Club is
offering a used Nirvana II RC Sailboat to any new
member who joined the Club after January 1,
2024. First come first served. Boat is operational,
just add AA batteries and tune it up. Contact
Commodore Robert Weaver
at rnweaver@pacbell.net or David Sands
at sandsdavid1935@gmail.com

