

# **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

### **March 2024 Schedule (preview)**

02	Saturday		(Open)
03	Sunday	1300	<b>Wheeler Class</b>
05	Tuesday	1000	Memorial Stone/Time Capsule
09	Saturday	0930	Board / General Meeting / Stone Unveiling
		1200	Opening Day on the Lake
		1300	<b>Rag Top / Stink Pot, <u>RSVP</u> – “free lunch”!</b>
10	Sunday	1300	<b>X class, Dickie Cup</b>
		0900	<b>Casual Steam Up</b>
12	Tuesday	1200	<b>ODOM</b>
16	Saturday	1300	<b>36R Class</b>
17	Sunday	1300	<b>Infinity 54 class</b>
20	Wednesday	1300	<b>Victoria class</b>
23	Saturday	1300	<b>Santa Barbara class</b>
24	Sunday	1300	<b>Freesail M class</b>
30	Saturday	1300	<b>10 Rater Class</b>
31	Sunday		(Open)

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

*Check the SFMYC webpage for the complete updated PDF 2023 calendar. [www.SFMYC.org](http://www.SFMYC.org)  
 Advise us of your new address when moving! [sfmycnauticalnews@gmail.com](mailto:sfmycnauticalnews@gmail.com)  
 For input to the 2023 Calendar, contact Ryan Schofield at [rssailor@yahoo.com](mailto:rssailor@yahoo.com)*

#### April 2024 Schedule (preview)

06	Saturday	1300	Star 45 Class
07	Sunday	1100-1500	Public Open House
09	Tuesday		ODOM Class
13	Saturday	0930	Board / General Meeting
		1300	X Class Moyes Cup
14	Sunday	1300	Santa Barbera Class
		0900	Day of Grey
17	Wednesday	1200	Victoria Class
20	Saturday	1300	Infinity 54 class
21	Sunday	1300	Freesail M Class
		0900	Fisherman's Gambler
27	Saturday		(Open)
28	Sunday	1300	36R Class



Volume 126

# Nautical News

**SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB**

Spreckels Lake - Established 1898 - Golden Gate Park

March, 2024

Number 3

## 2024 OFFICERS

### *Commodore*

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### *Vice-Commodore*

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### *Secretary*

Colleen Stobbe

[cjstobbe@live.com](mailto:cjstobbe@live.com)

### *Treasurer*

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[sandsdavid1935@gmail.com](mailto:sandsdavid1935@gmail.com)

### *Membership Secretary*

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### *Power Squadron Officer*

Ken Shapiro

[gogiantks@aol.com](mailto:gogiantks@aol.com)

### *Freesail Squadron Officer*

Bernard Price

### *R/C Sail Squadron Officer*

Ryan Schofield

[rssailor@yahoo.com](mailto:rssailor@yahoo.com)

### *Directors at Large*

Gerry Bowen, Jeff Raymond,

Gene Erickson, Wally

Wahlander

### *Historian/Archivist*

(Open Position)

### *Nautical News Editor*

Rick Weiss

[EdSFMYC@sonic.net](mailto:EdSFMYC@sonic.net)

(The deadline for items for the Nautical News is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Send copy to our editor

[EdSFMYC@sonic.net](mailto:EdSFMYC@sonic.net) & CC:

[sfmycnauticalnews@gmail.com](mailto: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

A new boating season officially starts in a few days with the first RC race of the year. Wheelers will line up for racing on Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Opening Day will officially be celebrated a week later, Saturday, on March 9<sup>th</sup>. It is not too late to get your new boats ready for the lake or to repair old boats in need of some last-minute work. This year we can look forward to Model Boats on Parade in September, the Sausalito Boat Show in October and The Northern California Challenge in May. Of course, all the regular sailing and power competitions and events will keep everyone busy throughout the year, check the schedule on our website.

**OPENING DAY:** Opening Day is scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup>, with boating on Spreckels immediately after the General Member Meeting. The day should prove to be exciting. If everything goes as planned, we should be able to unveil the 125<sup>th</sup> Year Memorial Boulder in front of the Clubhouse at the meeting. We will also have the chaos of the annual Rag Top/Stink Pot Relay race on the north shore of Spreckels Lake. Ken Shapiro is providing lunches for the Rag Top/Stink Pot participants. After the relay race, everyone is invited to race, sail or power in an informal gathering. Pray for sun – or at least no rain.

**RAG TOP/STINK POT RELAY:** Thanks to the efforts of Ken Shapiro it looks like we will have six teams for the relay race. Each team will have 2 RC Sailboats, 2 Power boats and 1 Freesail boat. Victorias will start the race with a one minute countdown at the normal RC starting line. After that, successive legs will be sailed from the north shore as soon as the previous team member makes a full loop of the course. The final leg will be sailed in total chaos by the Freesail fleet with the finish line at the east end of Spreckels. We have filled all slots for the six teams. A list of the members of each of the six teams appears below. If you haven't signed up, bring a boat anyway – we always seem to have one or more breakdowns or "no shows" that create the need for substitute team members. Plus we will have a fun sail and power boat run day after the relay race so you will have an opportunity to get on the lake. See the current list of contenders under "Events."

**MEMORIAL STONE/TIME CAPSULE:** It has taken almost as long to get approvals and permits for the placement of the memorial stone in front of the Clubhouse as it took for the natural forces to create the stone in the first place, but we are finally at the end of that long journey. A 350 lb. boulder was located and was recently carved by Bocci Designs in Colma. We have coordinated with Rec & Parks to accept delivery of the boulder and place it at 10:00 am on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to bury the time capsule on that date. The time capsule project (organized by Ken Shapiro, Carl Brosius and Mary Rose Cassa) will officially be over when it is sealed this week and made ready for the lucky viewers a hundred years from now. I'm sure the club members in 2123 will only be sailing virtual reality vessels and get a kick out of craftsmanship that uses real materials instead of pixels. Everyone is invited to the delivery and placement on March 5<sup>th</sup>, but we will all have to keep our distance from the workers until the boulder comes to rest in its permanent home.

**OPEN HOUSE:** Joe Minafo is moving forward with the monthly open house program. He has already signed up a group of volunteers to be docents on one weekend day each month, but needs more volunteers. At this date, the exact weekends for the open house days are uncertain, but that should be finalized by Joe by the next General Membership Meeting. If you are interested in participating, contact Joe directly at [joeminafo@gmail.com](mailto:joeminafo@gmail.com).

**MISCELLANEOUS:** If you have not renewed your membership, do so now. If you didn't get a PayPal link from Mike Stobbe to renew, contact him at [mwstobbe@comcast.net](mailto:mwstobbe@comcast.net). If you have a friend or relative who is thinking of joining the club, but needs some incentive we have a working Nirvana RC Sailboat that the club will give to one lucky new member who joins in 2024.

## ***Membership Report, January 2024***

by Mike Stobbe, Membership Secretary

We had one new member last month, Don Savage, of Fremont, California. Don became aware of the SFMYC way back in the '70s. He was flying model planes, back then, but never forgot the SFMYC, and has finally decided to try his hand at model boating; powerboating to be more precise. Don has acquired several kits: a micro tug, a Krick Anna, a Sea Scout by Aerokits, and a 41" USCG boat by Dumas. He's working on the micro tug first, but doesn't have a completed boat yet. We are always happy to acquire a builder. Welcome aboard Don!

As of February 25th, we had 119 renewals and 46 procrastinators. By the time you read this, reminders will have been sent out by PayPal to all the holdouts. Remember, the renewal invoice doesn't come from SFMYC. Your email will be from "service @PayPal.com". We're in the final stretch of the membership renewal process, which ends on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Anyone who hasn't renewed by then will be struck off the list on April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you change your mind after this date, you will have to reapply as a **new member**, repay the initiation fee, and lose whatever seniority you have accrued. If you have a boat in the clubhouse, you will have to remove it. Don't let this happen! Renew now. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed.

## ***Golden Gate Park - Rec & Parks Liaison***

by Coleen Stobbe, Secretary/Liaison with Rec & Parks

1. Lake Edge—No updates to report. However, we got assurance that the repair will be comprehensive, not just the south shore and may involve reconfiguration of the lake and use of a temporary wall during repair.
2. Pavement Repair: Dave Iribarne, Superintendent of Golden Gate Park, has submitted a work order to DPW for cold patch repair on the northeast walkway.
3. Aerators: Commodore Weaver will meet with Eli, leader of the water quality study, on February 20 regarding placement of aerators on Spreckels Lake.
4. Goose Poop: Dave Iribarne would like to find a laser that is acceptable to the City.
5. Interpretive Sign: Installation on the turf near Annie's Hot Dog stand is expected soon.
6. Glass Block Repair: Dave Iribarne has submitted a new work order based on the recent leaking over the desk. When DPW comes they will be expected to repair both the front and back wall glass blocks.
7. Alarm System: Dave Iribarne reported that we will be allowed a 2 minute delay between opening the door and inputting the code on the key pad in the workshop. Unfortunately, we were informed that the key pad will not be moved to the door. We requested a site visit to fully understand the procedures so we can inform members appropriately.
8. Completing power washing and painting window trim: Dave Iribarne encouraged the SFMYC to develop a Friends Group. He feels that it would allow us to do projects without being questioned and can provide additional support, if requested by us. Secretary Stobbe and Vice Commodore Brosius will follow up on developing a Friends Group.
9. Renewing Shuttle Service to west end of Park: Thanks to Mary Rose Cassa for asking about this. Dave Iribarne will look into resuming this service.
10. A nearby dead tree will be reported to Dave Iribarne for removal.

The next Meeting with Dave Iribarne is May 1, 2024

## ***Trolling the Web***

By Mary Rose Cassa

### **What Holds the Mast Up?**

Keeping a sailboat mast upright and intact can be a challenge. The Sailing Science Center Exhibits Team has completed a new exhibit and video on just this topic. The exhibit illustrates common rigging solutions, comparing their success in preventing mast bend and failure. Use of an overly flexible mast exaggerates mast deflections. The new exhibit will debut at an upcoming SSC event this spring. You can see the four-minute video [here](#).

## ***Events***

### **Don't Miss the Memorial Stone Placement/Time Capsule Burial**

Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> (see the Commodore's corner above for details)

### **Opening Day Rag Top / Stink Pot Teams**

Saturday March 9, 2024

#### **Team 1**

David Green	-	Victoria
Joe Minafo	-	Small Power
Eric Sklar	-	Infinity 54
Carl Brosius	-	Power
Mike Stobbe	-	36 R Freesail

#### **Team 4**

Norman Tuck	-	Victoria
Gene Ericson	-	Med Speed Power
Jim Harrod	-	10 Rater
Lee Duvall	-	PT Boat/Fishing
Jeff Stobb	-	36 R Freesail

#### **Team 2**

Jim Forbes	-	Victoria
Wally Wahlander	-	Springer
Rob Weaver	-	IOM
Rick Weiss	-	Tug
Jason Spiller	-	36 R Freesail

#### **Team 5**

Jerry Pugh	-	Victoria
Bob Pinotti	-	PT Boat
David Sands	-	Soling 50
Kevin Kentner	-	Power
Mary Rose Cassa	-	36 R Freesail

#### **Team 3**

Mike Kelly	-	Victoria
Ken Shapiro	-	Runabout
Ed Schoenstein	-	10 Rater
Gerry Bowen	-	Fishing/Tug
Colleen Stobbe	-	36 R Freesail

#### **Team 6**

Bob Heacock	-	Victoria
Randy Smith	-	Dreadnaught
Ryan Schofield	-	Santa Barbara
Blaine Russell	-	Power
Steve Ma	-	36 R Freesail

## ***SFMYC Public Open House***

### **Dates & Times**

by Joe Manifo

The decision has been made and dates have been set. The SFMYC Clubhouse will be open to the public on the first Sunday of the month, 11:00 to 3:00, April through September. The dates for 2024 are as follows:

April 7th

May 5th

June 2nd

July 7th

August 4th

September 1st



Opening to the public will help promote our club and our hobby along with sharing our rich history. Our club, our members, Speckels Lake and our Club House are all a long-standing San Francisco tradition. Let's show visitors what we do here and invite them to be part of the fun.

Each open house will be overseen by two people: at least one member and a partner. I will send out a group email next week to all those who signed up to be docents and put together a schedule. If you haven't yet signed up to be a part of the SFYMC Docent squad, it's not too late! Send me your name, email and phone number to: Joe Minafo [joeminafo@gmail.com](mailto:joeminafo@gmail.com)

## ***Power Squadron Report***

### **Get ready for Opening Day March 9<sup>th</sup> & the Ragtop Stinkpot Relay Race**

Text & photos by Ken Shapiro, PSO

I want to drum up support from the Power Squadron for the Ragtop Stinkpot teams race coming up soon. You still have time to get 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.

Teams are made up in advance to even out the competition. See the teams list in "Events" above. We can always use "last minute" alternates -- email me at [gogiantks@aol.com](mailto:gogiantks@aol.com).



## **Frostbite Regatta 2024**

Text & photos by Ken Shapiro, PSO



A moderate size crowd participated. We had a lot of fun showing and voting for the 2024 Frostbite Regatta.

I want to congratulate Ken Knipmeyer, "Best in Show" for his fantastic Tug and railroad barge. He also got first place in "Commercial."



Best in Show - Ken Knipmeyer & his Tugboat Barge

Entries in pleasure & military.



In-progress, "Pleasure", & "Military" boats.



First place winners: "Pleasure", Ron Weyhrauch; "Military", Ken Shapiro; "Fishing", Bill Van Asdlan; "Sail", Carl Brosius; "Pleasure", Ron Weyhrauch.

We have a "Casual Steam Up" on March 10<sup>th</sup>. We do welcome any vessel if the full sized boat on which the model is based was originally powered by steam -- along with the model boats actually powered by model steam engines.



## ***Freesail Squadron Reports***

by Bernard Price, FSO

March marks the official arrival of the start of our Club's sailing season! Freesailing begins with our participation in the Rag Top / Stink Pot (RT/SP) regatta on Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> which is a fun relay race with teams made up of boats from all three of our squadrons. For this year's RT/SP, we will be sailing 36Rs. As of this writing there are an anticipated 6 teams competing but we need one more 36R sailor to round out Team 6. Thanks to the five sailors who have signed up and if you would like to be the sixth, please get in touch with Ken Shapiro and he will assign you to a team and give you a choice of sandwiches for lunch (FREE FOOD!). If you don't have a 36R but are interested in sailing, we can probably find one for you to use!

On Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> we will be sailing X Boats; Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup>, 36R boats; and Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>, M Boats.

During February, the Club held the annual Frostbite Regatta, a display of model projects completed and in progress and I was delighted by all of the talent for building and restoration that is evident among our membership. Of note were a restoration of what appears to be a vintage A Class yacht, modified to include scale details and converted to RC and a new build of a Bearospace "Irene" Schooner -- both of which took to the water after the show and looked great sailing in the gentle afternoon breeze! Building and restoring is fun!

Jeff Stobbe was issued 2 new sail numbers for two M Boats he recently completed, one of which he tested on the water during the Frostbite- With a beautiful double ended hull made of cedar, Jeff reported that the sea-trial of this M was a success! I look forward to seeing what else emerges from Jeff's shop this season!

I've been going through "Windsplay", M SF 27, that I recently purchased from the Club, preparing it for the 2024 season. I'm planning a "rolling refresh" over the course of the next year or so- starting with the rig, eventually refinishing the hull and deck. I'm looking forward to bending on the new sails coming to me from Rod Carr.

## ***RC Sailing***

### **Victoria Fleet**

**February 7<sup>th</sup> -- Whatta day!! A beautiful Hyacinth Boat & the Day That a B-rig Ruled**

Text & photos by Michael Fischer

Hello, Victoria colleagues--

First things first: Joe Minafo brought in his almost-finished, hyacinth-blue boat named "Miyo." It's a family name with a delightful story behind it--you'll have to ask Joe. But, delightful: so is Joe's carefully, mindfully, skillfully crafted beautiful new boat. Just wait 'til you see it gliding gracefully....



The newest boat in the fleet, Joe Minafo's *Miyo*

Now, out on the water. It was indeed raining. Not at first, but shortly thereafter. But not for long; we actually had patches of blue sky and sun after getting drenched. While it was raining, as usual, there was very little wind. Dick was bemoaning the fact that he had come with only his smaller "B rig." Ah, but then as the rain faded away, the eucalyptus trees started singing in the rising wind. The forecast was for 15-18 mph wind and by golly: they were right!

Wind-bomb hitting the water -- foreground

But before I get to Dick's Hunter's B-rig: Let's remember "The Vortex." One might think that as the wind pipes up The Vortex might be swept away, right? Wrong, oh so WRONG! When the song of the eucalyptus rose in pitch heralding a blast of wind, The Vortex splintered and spawned a whole squadron of mini-vortices. So it was roar and stop. Roar and stop. Unless you were Dick whose uncanny ability to ride the edges of those mini-holes found us almost becalmed at marks 3 & 4 while he was rounding the gate down at the bottom! That smaller suit of sails permitted him to glide through the roaring while the rest of us were pirouetting and swamping in the gales. A wind-bomb hit the water in the foreground while the boats not too far away seem unaffected. Just wait.



Some summertime sailing hazards





Dick Hunter's B-rig

For a look at Dick's B-rig, see the photos. The Victoria class rules specify maximum dimensions (like mast height and sail area) but not minimums. Dick's exploration of less-than-specs sail size and design had us honoring him once again...

We were a small group on the water: Dick Hunter, Norman Tuck, Mike Kelly, Jim Forbes and myself. Jim had brought along a long-time friend and former big-boat sailor, Jack. Indeed, Jim was the math and science teacher for Jack's kids and grandkids--I think I got that story right, Jim? Or was it grandkids and not children?

Dick's B-rig #77 & my  
(*Flaming Pearl*) standard  
rig



Jim Forbes & his friend Jack

Anyway, as you see in photo, Jim was proud to give Jack the Spreckels sailing experience--and Jack's sailing acumen shone through.

Mike Kelly's wife Mary Jo and their granddaughter

As you see, Mike Kelly was joined by family (Mary Jo and their granddaughter Ms. Ella Kelly) under bright umbrellas.

OK, NOW THE REQUEST: Who among you be able to attend the Opening Day festivities on March 9th? As you know, Commodore Rob has asked the Victoria fleet to be up front for the Ragtop-Stinkpot Relay. So far we have Jim, Norman and Mike as "yes." Dick and I are "maybe." Can we please have at least two or more firm "yes" members? Please let David and/or me know.



Ella

will

three

See a lot more of you next Wednesday when the weather will be grand. According to Weather Underground: partly cloudy, 60 degrees, 7-8mph winds from the NE. That'll probably have us sailing reverse courses...

Hey, John and Bob--you promised photos!

Jonathan the polite and patient seagull was there, keeping his distance from his rowdy cousins. But those gangsters took the plastic bag off of the Oreos and spit it out in the lake--and then attacked the closed blue wrapper. They only got one or two cookies until they were chased away and I put it back in the car. Jonathan got nothing.

### **February 21<sup>st</sup> Recap: a gorgeous Victoria sailing day!**

by Michael Fischer, Photos by Dick Hunter

"Goofy." That's how Dick described today's winds. Turns out that's a technical nautical term. At least for Spreckels, eh?



West of the start-line

Because of the missing buoy #5 and since the breezes didn't reach very well down there, our races were all to the West of the start-line. Well, what a challenge THAT was: the Rhododendron Breeze was lively most of the time, so if you stood out south of the course you might be clipping right along for most of the way. Or is you stayed close to the North shore, there were more dependable (that's a relative, not an absolute term) gentle



breezes that would get you ALMOST to Marks 3 & 4. But if you stayed in the middle, and as soon as you got near those marks, The Vortex would gobble you up and you'd sit there bobbin' along.

There was one finish where a solid clump of a half-dozen boats all drifted (slowly, oh so slowly) together across the line. We all entered The Vortex in a string, but The Vortex jammed us together, like it or not.



A stunningly beautiful day, following the rain.

The weather: it don't get more dramatic. When most of us showed up, it was a Great Flood downpour, with dark skies, no wind and so much rain that all but two hardy skippers sat in their cars waiting for it to let up. THEN, lo and behold, see Dick's photo above--it turned into a gorgeous day, sunlight glistening off the water, birds singing, the sound of the breeze rustling the trees, the music of the waves lapping along the shore. Idyllic!

Rare photo of Michael Fischer still wearing rain pants

And, hey what a crowd we were: a solid dozen of us. Mack Lowry, Jon Ely, Joe Minafo, Mike & Mary Jo Kelly, Jerry Pugh, David Green and Daves Klinger & Powell, Wally Wahlander, Dick Hunter, Norman Tuck, and myself. Yes, Dick was out front in every race. But closely nipping at his heels were most of the fleet at one time or another. In the relatively short time I was there, David Green, Mike Kelly and Jon Ely were close behind Dick. Great sailing, great wind-reading, good times.



Today was Joe's maiden voyage of *Miyo*, his hyacinth-blue new boat. Congratulations, Joe!.

Joe Minafo's *Miyo*, first day in the water.

Speaking of photos, I left my darn' phone behind, so these were taken by Dick. Thanks, Dick.

Also a bonus from Raphael Brandsma. Raphael is a frequent freelance photographer at Golden Gate Park and has helped document a number of our regattas. Hey, LOOK at the fine muscle-control on the Ruddy Duck Drake's wings! Beautiful, a must-see for aeronautical engineering students...: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbexQQnfYUg>

## *Victoria fleet's early days* **A Trip Down Memory Lane...**

**The day our early Victoria fleet raced in Petaluma: 2014.**

Text & images from Michael Fischer

The 2014 team: Ed Schoenstein, Michael Fischer and Joe Spronz. Kneeling with the Racing Rules of Sailing, John Super.



Victoria fleet in Petaluma, 2014



## 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

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



-- Victoria kit still in the box. \$100 or best  
offer. Jerry Pugh, (650) 282 5686  
[jerry.pugh@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto:rnweaver@pacbell.net) or David Sands at [sandsdavid1935@gmail.com](mailto:sandsdavid1935@gmail.com)



-- More free Boats.

Two boats were found in front of the clubhouse, in various states. Any member is welcome to take them!

Contact Vice Commodore Carl Brosius at [cbfuture@aol.com](mailto:cbfuture@aol.com)



-- ODOM - Complete Ready To Sail, w/ 2 sets of sails & Flysky radio/receiver. \$600 Tom MacDonald (916) 529-6582

