

SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB

NAUTICAL NEWS

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The Nautical News is published on a monthly basis by, and serves as the newsletter of and for the San Francisco Model Yacht Club, a NON-PROFIT, TAX EXEMPT CORPORATION.



San Francisco Model Yacht Club



Spreckels Lake

Established 1898

Golden Gate Park

April 2024 Schedule (preview)

06	Saturday	1300	Star 45 Class
07	Sunday	1100-1500	Public Open House
		1300	DF95 (NC Challenge selection)
09	Tuesday	1300	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	1300	Wheeler Class
28	Sunday	1300	36R Class

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*

May 2024 Schedule (preview)

04	Saturday	1300	Star 45 Class
05	Sunday	1100-1500	Bottle Class Practice Nor Cal Interclub Championship Foster City Radio Sailing Club
11	Saturday	0930 1300	Board / General Meeting X Class Tofte Cup
12	Sunday		(Open) Mother's Day
14	Tuesday	1300	ODOM Class
15	Wednesday	1200	Victoria Class
16-19	Thurs- Sun		Pacific Sail & Power Boat Show
18	Saturday	1300	Freesail M Class
19	Sunday	1300	Wheeler class
25	Saturday		(Open) Memorial Day Weekend
26	Sunday		(Open) Memorial Day Weekend



Volume 126

Nautical News

SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB

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

Number 4

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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: sfmycnaulnews@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

In typical chaotic fashion we got through another Opening Day on March 9th. Thanks to Ken Shapiro and the Victoria fleet we were able to recruit enough members for six Rag Top/Stink Pot teams. Team 4 ended up avoiding the minor disasters suffered by the other teams on the course, and safely finished first overall.

Congratulations to Jerry Pugh, Gene Ericksen, Jim Harrold, Lee Duvall and Jeff Stobbe. We also unveiled the carved boulder commemorating our 125th anniversary with a time capsule buried underneath it. Thanks to the time capsule committee (Ken Shapiro, Carl Brosius and Mary Rose Cassa) for sifting through the many suggested items for inclusion in the capsule and fitting everything in the limited space they had to work with. Additional special thanks go to the members of Rec & Parks who assisted in placing and approving the boulder: Dave Iribarne, Keith Roberts, Joel Riddell and Eric Thompson. Take a look at the photo essay prepared by Mary Rose Cassa appearing later in the NN to see what a production it was to get our 350 lb. memorial stone placed in front of the club.

GOODBYE KEN SHAPIRO, HELLO KEN KNIPMEYER:

Our popular and hardworking Power Squadron Officer for the last 3 – 4 years, Ken Shapiro, has resigned his position and moved to Washington State. It was a good move for Ken, but was a huge loss to the club. Thanks for all the hard work cheerfully done during your term of office Ken. You will be missed. Luckily, Ken Knipmeyer was proposed by the power boaters at Opening Day to replace Ken Shapiro. Ken Knipmeyer subsequently agreed to accept the position, and by unanimous consent the Board approved him as Ken Shapiro's successor. Welcome to the Board Ken. Ken has hit the ground running and is already canvassing members as to how he can improve and serve the power boat squadron.

BOAT SHOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Ryan Schofield and Gene Ericksen are heading up the committee to organize our participation at the Pacific Sail and Power Boat Show at Westpoint Harbor in Redwood City on May 16 – 19:

[PacificSailandPowerBoatShow](#) They plan to have a static display at the event and have demonstrations on the water. In order for this to work they need volunteers for May 17 and 19. If you can, please volunteer by contacting Ryan and/or Gene as soon as possible. Ryan can be reached at rssailor@yahoo.com. Gene can be reached at ewe54@yahoo.com.

FLOORS AND BOAT STANDS: Everyone will remember the cost and ordeal of cleaning and waxing the floors a few years ago. What everyone forgets is that dragging stands across the floor damages the finish and will accelerate the date that the floor will have to be stripped again and rewaxed. Please pick up stands not on wheels when moving them. If you do not have felt pads on the feet of your stand, put some on. We should have some pads for your use in one of the drawers at the front of the club.

DONATED STEAMSHIP: On Opening Day we had a very well built steamship donated to the club. We are now making it available to a lucky club member. If you would like to accept ownership of the steamship please come to the next general meeting. If you would like to be considered as a potential recipient of the ship, but cannot make the meeting, contact me directly. In the event that more than one person wants the ship, I will pull a name from a hat or flip a coin at the next meeting to decide who gets it. Whoever gets the steamship also gets the spare parts and extra boilers that came with the donation. The builder has indicated that he is open to answering any questions about the ship that the new owner may have.

SANTA ROSA HOBBY SWAP MEET: On April 28th the 18th the annual Hobby Swap Meet will be held in the Main Hall of the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building. The flier, with all pertinent information appears later in the Nautical News.

COURTESY AND GOOD CONDUCT: We don't have a formal code of conduct at SFMYC, and shouldn't need one. As adults (and in many cases "seasoned adults") we all know how to behave in public. We do need to remember at all times that each and every one of us is an ambassador for the club, and being critically examined by members of the public. This means that cursing, yelling and arguing are to be avoided at all times. There is no reason to use inappropriate language or get into senseless arguments while at the lake or in the clubhouse. Some member forgot these very simple principals at Opening Day. Remember that your conduct reflects on the club itself and can deter potential new members from joining and can even lead to valuable members leaving because they will not tolerate bad conduct. If nothing else, unacceptable conduct reflects on you as a responsible adult and makes it hard for other members to respect you for your good and valuable contributions to the club.

NEW SEASON: The new season is moving fast and crowded with events. Although the RC Sailing Squadron is not hosting any regional or national championship events there will be enough regular sailing days to keep everyone busy. We will also participate in the third annual Northern California Challenge Championship to be held at Foster City on May 5th. Also, some members are already planning to participate in the IOM National Championship Regatta on June 1 and 2 at Foster City. New Power Squadron events will be proposed by Ken Knipmeyer throughout the year and the squadron will host the Model Boats on Parade on September 15. Of course, the Freesail Squadron will have a bevy of special races throughout the year – check your calendar. The Bottle Boat Squad has practice racing on May 5 and no doubt will host building seminars in April. On top of these regular and special events, the club will participate in the

Sausalito Boat Show on October 4, 5 and 6. If you can't find a club event that appeals to you, you are just not looking hard enough.

Membership Report, April 2024

by Mike Stobbe, Membership Secretary

We had one new member last month, Junior Member Xinhang "Simon" Li, a graduate of Kate Ettinger Bottle Boat program, in both RC and Freesail versions. Simon, who is 16, is ready to try out club racing in RC classes, as well as Power boats. Simon is also interested in construction. The club is always happy to receive builders, so everyone welcome Simon to the club.

The annual membership renewal drive will have ended by the time you read this, but as of March 25th, we've had 147 renewals and 18 members who hadn't responded yet. I expect a few more will renew by April 1st and about 15 or so will drop out. At the moment, before the April 1st purge, the club stands at 165 members, our annual maximum. Thank you to everyone who has renewed.

Commemorative Boulder and Time Capsule

by Mary Rose Cassa and Rob Weaver. Photos by Wilhelmsen, uno

As noted earlier by Commodore Rob Weaver, it took almost as long to get approvals and permits for the placement of the commemorative boulder in front of the Clubhouse as it took for the natural forces to create the stone in the first place. Thanks to Rob's enduring, patient efforts, we finally reached the end of that long journey. A 350 lb. boulder was located and carved by Bocci Designs in Colma and was placed over the time capsule just days before Opening Day. Ken Shapiro led the time-capsule effort, researching and acquiring the capsule and rounding up the contents. Carl Brosius and Mary Rose Cassa provided support and assistance. A binder with copies of the time capsule contents is available in the Club Building. City and Park staff were excited about this project and helpful. On March 4 and 5 they supplied the crane, dug the hole, participated in the event, and took photos.



Park staff prepared the site.



After digging the 3-foot-deep hole, Gardening Supervisor Keith Roberts and Golden Gate Park Superintendent David Iribarne posed with committee members Ken Shapiro and Mary Rose Cassa as an unnamed park employee looked on.

The boulder arrived on a pallet on the Bocci company truck.



The City's crane lifted the pallet off the flatbed and placed it for unwrapping.



The boulder was removed from the pallet and placed at the prepared site.

The wonky initial placement required careful leveling by Gardener Eric Thompson.



Commodore Rob Weaver savored the moment with Joel Riddel, RecPark Partnerships Division, and Pierre Jimenez, owner of Bocci Designs. Photo by Blackburn





Commodore Weaver unveiled the boulder on Opening Day as members looked on. Photo by Blackburn



The Commemorative Boulder in place.

SF Richmond Review newspaper captured Opening Day here:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/422235710461099>

Building the Club

by Mary Rose Cassa -- from the AMYA Facebook Group:

“I think we discovered something that needs to be shared to AMYA Nationally. Our Club (Greenville Model Yacht Club., South Carolina) was asked by the OLLIE program at Furman University to present a short course on RC Sailing/Racing. The lecture part was 3 hours in Classroom at the University. The On Water was to be another 3 hours at our Lake. They advertised the program for 6 months and almost immediately had a full class of 25 people. We thought that these would be beginners in sailing. When we polled the class we discovered that

everyone had sailing and big boat racing in their history. On the “fly” we upped the classroom lecture to cover tactics, trim, rule differences etc. ... From that class we got 3 new members and two more still considering buying boats. OLLIE is focused on continuing learning for Retired individuals. Their mailing list for our area is in the Thousands! Our club received a great deal of publicity and the people in the class were engaged and enthusiastic from the time they walked in. We had 7 of our club members spread throughout the class with DF95’s and SeaWinds on display. I used a DF65 to carry around as I presented. I strongly encourage every club to check with their local Universities, inquiring about the OLLIE contact. I would also be happy to correspond with any club considering this. We plan on making it an annual event.”

NOTE: “OLLIE” is actually “OLLI,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (<https://www.osherfoundation.org/olli.html>). There are several programs in the Bay Area, including San Francisco State University and UC Berkeley.

Events

All Hobby Swap Meet

by Blaine Russell

**April 28th
8am ~ 12pm**

2024 Hobby Swap Meet

**Presented by:
The Wine Country Flyers
and Jake's Performance Hobbies**

All Hobbies Invited April 28th, 8am to 12pm

<p>Swap open to ALL Hobbies: RC Airplanes, Heli's, Drones, Cars, Crawlers, Boats, Trains, Rockets, Warhammer, Plastic Models, Die-Cast and More!</p> <p>18th Annual. Bigger and better, 100+ tables!</p> <p>Swap Meet starts at 8AM, set-up at 7:30AM.</p> <p>Hobby Swap will be in the Main Hall of the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building. 1351 Maple Ave. Santa Rosa, CA 95404</p> <p>No early bird selling or parking lot deals. (both parties will be asked to leave)</p> <p>Come be part of the fun!</p>	<p>Tables are \$20 reserved, \$25 the day of the swap. Tables and Chairs are provided. Table reservations must be prepaid.</p> <p>Buyers Entry Fee: \$3 per person (12 & under Free)</p> <p>For questions, please contact: Adam at adamplement@gmail.com</p> <p>For questions, or to reserve tables, contact: Hunter at 707-586-3375</p> <p>Plenty of FREE parking again this year...</p> <p>Indoor Flying from 1 to 3pm! Bring out a UMX and have some fun!</p>
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Largest Indoor Hobby Swap in Northern California!

Wine Country Flyers has enjoyed having SFMYC at our swap meets for over 12 years of displaying models and talking about your projects.

It's my hope there are a few folks that might want to share their hobby by having them on display at the Swap meet. I have set aside display tables for SFMYC members to showcase them at the meet.

Please contact me for more Information. It's free to display any model, I just need to know how many folks are attending.

Contact me : Blaine Russell at: <mailto:brmaruss@sbcglobal.net>

It's always a fun event and you might even find a treasure or two. If you plan to sell, the information is posted on the flyer. Come be a part of the fun and Join us !

Power Squadron Report - April

by Ken Knipmeyer, PSO

I'm looking forward to serving all as our new PSO and have some thoughts and ideas below. Please let me know Your suggestions and ideas.

What--- another Ken?

I see that I already have a partial qualification for being our PSO, in the tradition of Ken Shapiro and Ken Valk; my name is Ken Knipmeyer. But other than that, who is this guy?

I joined the club four years ago after we moved here from the East Coast. I'm retired and live with my wife Laura in San Anselmo. I've had a pretty low profile with the club. With Ken Shapiro's leaving, I volunteered because I care about model boats of all types and am proud to be a member of the SFMYC.

I have a great love for building. Power boats, model boats, full size wooden boats, RC airplanes, and woodworking.



Here is my tug & train car float which got some recognition at Frostbite.

I also have built a Victoria steam launch and a plank on frame fishing trawler.

Here's a link to my YouTube channel which shows building the tug and car float as well as a half-finished 13-foot

sailing dingy (Catspaw Dinghy) I had to re-home after we relocated here.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNQSjU9T2QsprgiZQA1nb4Q>

Getting Oriented

I have been working hard to meet with club members around the Bay Area to better understand what the Power Squadron situation is and how we might move forward. I've gotten a lot of good input but recognize I have just started. So again, what follows are my initial thoughts, but I need to hear from more people.

Where are we?

We face the same challenges as many similar hobbies, where we are all getting older, and our numbers are dwindling. Realistically, there is a limit to our "horsepower" now, so we'll need to apply it in the best way.

We have a dedicated but small group of club members who run an amazing range of beautiful power boats. In parallel, there is a similar size group respectfully called the Irregulars who operate regularly at the lake but are not club members. So, our community is not large, but is very committed. I know we can continue to help each other have fun.

I know there have been many fantastic power boat events in the past, that have not happened in recent years due to attendance and “production” obstacles. And most of all, the Model Boats on Parade, a major event for the club, has gotten smaller and less grand than in earlier years.

What I’ve learned so far

I’ve heard similar thoughts along the lines of:

- We’d like to run boats together, but some operating events are sometimes difficult to set up and may not attract many people.
- Regular informal noncompetitive gatherings are easy to do and attendees like them a lot. Examples include Casual Steam Up, Sunday Irregular gatherings, and the Victoria Wednesday sail.
- Frostbite and Swap Meet are popular. Let’s schedule other ways to get together that might not always involve running boats.
- The monthly club meetings have less power boat appeal so attendance can be low.
- Model Boats on Parade is a gem but needs to be revitalized.

Straw Man Ideas

Here are some ideas that I think might work for us.

1. Organize **more regular fun floats for the whole power boat community** where we can just get together, run boats, maybe have some food. Easy to do, all are invited, regulars and Irregulars.
2. Have some additional events that aren’t necessarily running boats.

One idea would be to add a **noncompetitive building “Show and Tell”** six months after Frostbite. Not just power boaters, but anyone that wants to bring a finished or in progress project in and show it to others in a roundtable type format. Builders could talk about what’s working and what’s not working. This format is the basis for the Redwood Model Shipwright’s meetings and is very popular.

Or perhaps have an **in-clubhouse meeting for anyone interested in power boats to gather and talk about our hobby**. Open to the whole power community, club members and Irregulars. Have a donut and talk shop.

3. With respect to Events, place the highest emphasis on working together to **make Model Boats on Parade a Bigger event this year. Have the club work together in featuring Sail, Power, and Static**. The 125th celebration I understand was a good example of this so let’s build on this. To do this I think we need some **formal event organization across the club** to decide what needs to be done and who’s going to do it. The public is interested in boats of all stripes, and this is maybe one of our best recruiting opportunities. Make sure we have the Parade this year with a strong sound system.

Have a “Give it a Go” table where the public could try a boat, maybe for a modest charitable donation.

Club house tours, a special outside table about the SFMYC and our events and calendar would be great. Use the success story of the Bonnie Boat build, where we have a table featuring how a newcomer woman got going in the hobby.

4. If we are going to have other **“formal events”** like Fisherman’s Gambler (tentatively scheduled for April 21) , **we need a volunteer Captain who will take the lead** in organizing the

event. I can be their assistant but need experienced help. Let me know if you want to be the Captain, and I'll be your first mate.

What are Your Thoughts?

I really would like to hear what members think about the above, power and sail alike. I'm not done meeting with folks. Reach out to me and tell me what you think.

You can reach me at: knip@knipmeyer.net My phone is: 415.500.1371

Freesail Squadron Reports

by Bernard Price, FSO

April is here and all three of our Freesail classes have completed the first of their series of races for the season while the 36R fleet had the added bonus of participating in this year's Club season opening event, the Rag Top Stink Pot Regatta.

Unfortunately for me, I missed out on a record setting opening day and the first of the X and 36R races but thanks to our Fleet Reporters, we can enjoy reading fine summaries of the events below!

I did participate the first M Boat race of the season held Sunday, March 24th where we experienced bright sunshine and a brisk breeze despite the gloom and moderate rain showers we had in the morning before racing began. Over the course of the day, I got to know the new-to-me M Boat "Windsplay"- a former Club owned boat that was designed and built by Otto Thomsen of San Francisco during the 1960's. Seems Otto was our X Boat Class Champion in 1968 and again in 1970. It is apparent from that record, found in the Club's online archive, that he was a good sailor and based on the fun I had sailing Windsplay, Otto knew his way around boat design and building as well.

Upcoming Freesail races in April include the X Boat Moyes Cup Saturday, April 13th- M Boat Race 2, Sunday April 21st and 36R Race 2 on Sunday, April 28th. Looking forward to seeing you there!

"What happens if the wind dies, how do you get your boat back?"

...is a question frequently asked of us by visitors to the lake. Often, a friendly reply will lead to more questions about our boats, how they work - and our Club. The natural curiosity about our hobby shown by those observing is heartening and provides us with an opportunity to share our joy through conversation. Positive interactions with the public enhance their Golden Gate Park experience and who knows, you could be talking with a future Freesailor!

To borrow a phrase from a popular model railroading magazine, Freesailing is fun!

36R CLASS, RACE 1, MARCH 16, 2024

text & photos by Mike Stobbe, Fleet Reporter

Well, the 36R Class's season got off to a good start with seven boats sailing on a beautiful sunny March day. The winds were challenging, but fairly typical for Spreckels Lake: light at the west end and strong at the east end. Starting by twos and threes, the first challenge was Heartbreak

Harbor, which was totally unpredictable. Most often a drifter, sometimes one was lucky and sometimes one was not.



From left: Mary Rose Cassa, Stephen Ma and Jeff Stobbe start their run with no wind. Stephen won. Photo by Mike Stobbe.

Heartbreak Harbor fanned out the fleet, sending boats anywhere from the north shore to Turtle Bay. There were a few collisions, but the boats drifted apart and none became entangled. Thereafter, the winds became light to moderate, from the west to the south.

Jason nears the big cypress tree well ahead of Colleen. Nonetheless, Colleen closed the gap and came within 6" of winning the beat. Mike was ahead of both at this point, but came in last.

Further east, however, from Point Sayonara on, the winds became strong and west to southwesterly. Broaching was a distinct possibility. The boats were generally better at handling this wind on the beat than they had on the run. Some very close races ensued, which livened things up.



Mary Rose and Jason start their beat. Jason took both boards, but finished only one point ahead of Mary Rose.

Jason and Colleen had a near photo finish on their beat, with Jason taking it by inches. Mike and Jeff also had a close beat, but Mike's failure to complete the penultimate tack left the door open for Jeff to win.



Jeff leads Stephen on their beat. They split this round, and ultimately were tied at the end of the day. Jeff took the tiebreaker for first place.

He's sailing a new boat, *Mostly Feral*.

Jeff and Stephen tied for first place, but as Jeff had won the beat, he came in first and Stephen second. Dave Sands took third only one point behind. Thereafter there was a gap, then

the next four places were each one point apart. It was great to be back on the lake again, and the 36R sailors look forward to a great season.

- 1st Jeff Stobbe, 36R-71, *Mostly Feral*
- 2nd Stephen Ma, 36R-37, *White*
- 3rd Dave Sands, 36R-47, *Kami Kaze*
- 4th Jason Spiller, 36R-55, *Warp Speed*

- 5th Mary Rose Cassa, 36R-28, *Manzanita*
- 6th Colleen Stobbe, 36R-31, *Grace*
- 7th Mike Stobbe, 36R-48, *Judy*

M Class Freesail Report-Race #1

by David Sands, Fleet Captain

Photos by Mike Stobbe & David Sands

It was a sunny Sunday, March 25th, but blustery weather to say the least, when six M Class sailors ventured out to Spreckels Lake to battle the elements to win brass.



Jeff Stobbe holds back so as not to disturb mama with 12 cute babies. Photo by Mike Stobbe.

As you can see by the scores it was a lopsided race with the brass winners having high scores and the non-brass winners low scores!



Bernard Price poses with M-27, newly purchased from the Club. The boat seemed to relish stro`ng winds. Photo by Mike Stobbe.

Colleen Stobbe, Stephen Ma & Mike Stobbe go their separate ways on the beat. Stephen Ma took the win. Photo by Mike Stobbe.

The winds were high and changing directions all over the lake. The winning boats managed to have decent runs and beats, while the other boats suffered from 360's to Jeff Stobbe being dismasted when his boat hit the south shore. He put his boat back together and finished the races!



Jeff forfeited the first beat with a parted shroud, but made repairs to rejoin the race. Photo by Mike Stobbe.

Dave Sand's boat fighting the wind! Photo by David Sands.

Steve's-almost perfect score! Bernard's-great race on new/old boat! Colleen-beat the other Stobbes! Jeff, Dave, & Mike brought up the rear!

A great day no matter what the weather! Thanks all for being there! And I would like to conclude this report by thanking my fellow sailors for helping me launch and retrieve my boat!

Race results as follows:

- First Place-Steven Ma, 22 points
- Second Place-Bernard Price, 18 points
- Third Place-Colleen Stobbe, 15 points
- Fourth Place-Jeff Stobbe, 8 points
- Fifth Place, Dave Sands, 6 points
- Sixth Place-Mike Stobbe, 6 points



Dickie Cup, X Class race on March 10, 2024

text & photos by Jim Harvey, X Class Free sail Skipper

The race was attended by David Sands, Jeff and Mike Stobbe, Norman Tuck, Paul Staiger, Jason Spiller, and myself.



Norman Tuck & Jason Spiller at the starting line.

There was a storm with rain predicted for that evening, and the wind was somewhat steady from the South West, but still significantly variable and gusty with overcast skies.

Added to the weather were the following distractions: three speed boaters in our area at various times, three Odoms sailing on their course usual course, three or four young people with little toy-like boats, and finally there were three groups

of around ten people feeding large schools of violently squirming carp, resulting in impassible

blockages for both ourselves and our boats. All these activities described were centered on our side of the Lake.



Paul Staiger going to Starboard tack.

But we survived all these obstacles to have good and fair race. Jeff Stobbe had a perfect score going through the race until the last board when he faced me. I thought I was a contender so we both took this board very seriously.

Jim Harvey in the lead against Dave Sands. Photo by David Sands

In any case, I did win on the run, but Jeff took the beat for a total of twenty eight points, against my twenty one, and with Norman Tuck third at seventeen. You would have thought it would have been a good day for Mike Stobbe's Spearmint, with strong winds, but the winds were too variable, throwing Mike into his beloved Turtle Cove three times, with still winning three of those boards.



Jason Spiller ready to come about.



Two sailors got stuck together with Jason Spiller pushing Mike Stobbe across the finish line six inches ahead for a win.



Mike Stobbe Adjusting the Clubhouse Clock.

Back at the Clubhouse, after having had a few cups, Mike hopped onto the front counter to reach up and change the clock. I think he should take up rock climbing, or at least, going aloft up to the truck on a windjammer.

RC Sailing

Victoria Fleet – March 6th Recap

text & photos by Michael Fisher

There were times when the whole lake was covered with ripples--no dreaded Vortex in sight. And there were times when the whole lake was as smooth as a pane of glass--ALL Vortex.

There were times when the winds (if ya could call 'em that) were offshore. And there were times when the winds (again, if ya could call 'em that) abruptly shifted to onshore.

Milling around waiting for enough of a breeze to call a start.



Showing some promise.

Mike Kelly getting a good start-- and wait: Is that Dick lagging behind, hugging the starting mark?



It was great to see David Znidarsic back on the water again! Speaking of back then: Our group of 8 skippers included the last remaining three founding members of the Victoria fleet: Tony Dodson,

Bob Heacock and me. We'll have to get a photo the next time the three of us "plank owners" (the nautical term for the first crew of a ship) are together again.



New member Mac Lowry contemplating two former Commodores: David Sands and Bob Heacock.

Well, that's now. And back then, in the future? Bob says that John plans to bring home-baked chocolate chip cookies next week.

Sorry to miss this weekend's festivities-- someone, please, get a group photo of the six Victoria skippers who will lead off the Ragtop-Stinkpot Relay!

Victoria Fleet – March 20th, First Raceday

text & photos (uno) by Michael Fisher,



Dick Hunter assembled us for a "First Day" photo.

L to R standing: Jim Forbes, Dick Hunter (Race Director,) Mac Lowry, Dave Powell, Wally Wahlander, Dave Klinger, Jon Ely, Joe Minafo, Jerry Pugh. Relaxing on the grass were David Green and Mike Kelly. Photo by Richard Hunter

Hello, skippers. Well, there was a great measuring-in and measuring-up today--All competing boats were weighed in at 4.5# or (slightly) above, some with a larger battery, some with an odd collection of lead weights added. Tony was flummoxed by the difference between the Club's scale and his home scale: "Tony without" and "Tony with" at home showed a positive delta of 4.6#. OK, all is right with me, he thought. Oops: the club scale showed that he still owed it two ounces. A few other skippers found that added ballast was required, but a little added weight solved it all.

We reviewed the Sailing instructions, spoke briefly about the importance of good sportsmanship and protest procedures--and got 6 10-minute heats under way.

In the earlier email from Dick Hunter, you saw the scoresheet Thanks SO much for using your own most excellent scoring program! – see below. Kudos to “The Skipper Who Commutes Farthest” and the “Skipper Who Has Sailed on Spreckels Longest,” Former Commodore Jim Forbes.



Jim Forbes taciturn approach to racing..

Out the gate in Heat 1.

Jim stumbled out of the gate in Heat 1, raised it up to 3rd place in heat 2 and notched first or second place in the remaining five heats. Good sailing, sir.

Fast on Jim's heels was Jon Ely with two firsts, a second and a third, followed by two races below mid-fleet--but a good small total score, placing him second. Our favorite fireman, wearing



his "Urban Search and Rescue" tee shirt, Mike Kelly, was in the top half of the fleet in all but one heat and racked up a score only two points behind Jon, six points behind Jim. Jerry Pugh, storming out of the gate with a first place in the first heat, suffered a busted boat and withdrew from the day's racing. What happened, Jerry?

Our newest member, Joe Minafo, decided to stand down to critically watch the tactics being employed in a "real" race so he'd be better prepared to compete next month.

Joe Minafo, watching tactics.

There was great racing by every one of the boats today, a portent of an impressive season to come. Congratulations and appreciation to all.

As for last season, Dick and I were taking notes to use in our new tradition: a post-season "hotwash" seminar covering tips for each skipper to improve, or celebrating the improvement and excellent racing that we observed during the year.



Dick Hunter's careful observing.

We were visited at the start line by Yuba, the colorful parrot.

Yuba deigned to sit on Dave Sand's finger, but Dave got nipped when he became too forward with his petting.



The first windward leg of race #2.
Photo by Richard Hunter.



A mild onshore breeze with a fickle Vortex.

As you see, we had a good, mild onshore breeze with a fickle Vortex as the Rhododendron Breeze played touch-and-go with the Fulton Street Breeze. Reading that Vortex and seeking out the winds at its edges is the key to a winning strategy--a learned skill that I, frankly, am still learning.

Another look at Jon Ely's nicely-set-up boat.

Jon, you sure those telltales aren't painted on the jib? Nice going, skipper.



SFMYC 2024 VICTORIA RACING SERIES

Race Day #1

3/20/24



Position	Sail #	Skipper	Score	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6
1	8	Jim Forbes	8	3	2	1	1	2	2
2	189	Jon Ely	12	5	1	2	6	3	1
3	12	Mike Kelly	14	6	4	3	2	1	4
4	59	Wally Wahlander	18	4	3	4	4	6	3
5	75	David Green	20	2	5	5	3	5	11ret
6	505	David Klinger	28	7	6	7	5	4	6
7	50	Mac Lowry	35	9	8	8	7	7	5
8	0	David Powell	36	8	7	6	8	8	7
9	33	Jerry Pugh	45	1	11dnf	11dns	11dns	11dns	11dns
10	68	Joe Minafo	55	11dnf	11dns	11dns	11dns	11dns	11dns

Number of races held: 6
 Number of throw outs: 1
 Throw outs highlighted in grey

Technical Notes – A YouTube on LiPo Batteries

by Michael Fischer

Found this interesting YouTube on “10 RC LiPo Mistakes & How to Avoid Them” from ‘AMain’ hobbies’:

https://www.google.com/search?q=youtube%3A+AMAIN+10+things+to+charging+a+li+battery+lipo+battery&sca_esv=21cc0bb16a8a9ef4&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS974US975&cs=0&biw=1536&bih=695&sxsr=ACQVn0-ELLG8C6-9Ncy5C1qZFaKtPQH0yg%3A1709677891690&ei=Q53nZebfKemykvQPm56tqAs&ved=0ahUKEwimjai7lt6EAxVpmYQIHrtPC7UQ4dUDCBA&oq=youtube%3A+AMAIN+10+things+to+charging+a+li+battery+lipo+battery&gs_lp=Egxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcniAiPnlvdXR1YmU6IEFNQUlOIDEwIHRoaW5ncyB0byBjaGFyZ2luZyBhIGxpIGJhdHRlcnkgeGltwbyBiYXR0ZXJ5SIWFBAAWP7yA3AAeAGQAQCYAbMCoAHOMaoBCDQuNDUuMS4xuAEMyAEA-AEBmAlxoAKPMclCBhAAGAcYHsICCBAAGAUyBxgewglEAAyGAAQYigUYhgPCAgwQABglGAcYHhgPGARcAgcQABiABBgNwglGEAAyHhgNwglIEAAyBRgeGA3CAGgQABglGB4YDclCCBAhGKABGMMEWglIEAAyIQUYogTCAGgQABiABBiiBMICChAhGAoYoAEYwwTCAGwQIRgKKGKABGMMEGArCAGYQIRgKGAqYAWCSBwgxLjQ2LjEuMaAHpbcB&sc=1&client=gws-wiz-serp#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:91f7b9c4,vid:lQtKgiv70DQ,st:0

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. All ads are limited to 2 issues and 2 ads per member. 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



-- 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



-- 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



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

