

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

Click: <https://www.sfmymc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/2025SFMYC-CALENDAR-Rev-2.0-1.pdf>

***to view the latest Calendar of events, races & meet-ups, & see the SFMYC Web Page.
For input to the Calendar, contact Ryan Schofield at rssailor@yahoo.com***

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



Nautical News

SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB

Spreckels Lake - Established 1898 - Golden Gate Park

Volume 128

January 2026

Number 1

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Peter Li

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(Open Position)

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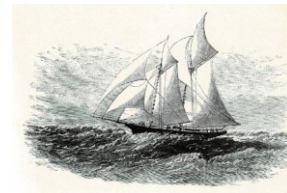
Rick Weiss

EdSFMYC@sonic.net

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

Commodore's Corner, by Colleen Stobbe

Welcome to 2026! I hope you all had good times with family and friends over the holidays and are looking forward to a great year with the SFMYC. Here's what's coming up...



January 7, Joe Minafo, Club Liaison with Rec & Parks, will be meeting Dave Iribarne, Superintendent of Golden Gate Park, to survey the back wall and the ongoing problem of seepage down the back wall. He'll also be asking for an update on the repair of the lake edge. Thanks, Joe!

January 10 will be a full and important day for the SFMYC.

—**Zoom meetings** for the Board (8:30am) and for the Membership (10:00am). I will send out a link before the meeting and offer help to anyone who is new to using Zoom.

—**Memorial for David Sands**, 1:00-3:00pm in the clubhouse. *This will be a special time for members, David's sons, and others close to David to remember and honor him with our stories and our presence.*

—**Winter Series DF 95** 1:00pm. Bring out your DF 95! Have a fun sail and friendly competition in this Winter Series race.

January 11

—**Bottle Yacht Builder Kickoff** 2:00pm in the clubhouse.

Calling all youth and their families interested in building bottle boats! Have a grandchild you want to do a building and sailing project with? Come meet the bottle fleet, get all of the important information, see our bottle boats, and decide what model to build to sail in this year's Bruce Ettinger Bottle Yacht Regatta on June 14 (save the date). For more details, see the Bottle Class Announcement in this issue.

—**Power Squadron Fun Float** 10:00am-2:00pm lakeside. All boats welcome! Everyone come out and join the fun!

January 18

—**Casual Santa Barbara Sailing** 1:30pm. Santa Barbara Sailors—Come on down for casual sailing and good times!

Also in January keep an eye out for an all member email that will have a link to the **Volunteer Survey**. Click on the link and click on the areas of volunteering in which you have interest. There is something for everyone. Once you identify your areas of interest for volunteering we'll take it from there to follow up. Thanks in advance for your active support to keep the SFMYC thriving!

And...Look out for your **Membership Renewals** coming from PayPal. See the article by Membership Secretary, Mike Stobbe, for additional information.

Onward to the beginning of another great year for the SFMYC!

Membership Report

by Mike Stobbe, Membership Secretary

We had no new members last month.



By the time you read this, you should already have received your annual membership renewal invoice in your email. There won't be any surprises: the fee schedule and PayPal invoice process will be exactly the same as last year.

Look for service@paypal.com in your in-box, (**not** from the SFMYC) on January 1st. If you can't find it, open your spam folder to see if it's in there. If you still can't find it, contact me. If you've done or plan to do anything that will affect your renewal amount, such as change your boat storage or add a locker rental, let me know and I will send an amended invoice. You cannot make the correction yourself, because PayPal only accepts the exact invoice amount. You do not have to have a PayPal account to pay your invoice. PayPal accepts credit cards, and if you do not want to pay online, you can download your invoice, print it out, and mail it to the Club's P.O. box with your check. There's no rush, as the Club's grace period is a long one: memberships expire on March 31st. Thank you everyone for your cooperation.

SFMYC Awards & Recognitions, December 13, 2025

article & photos by Jim Harvey,

Commodore's Awards

The Commodore has pleasure of awarding:



HARRY BIRCH CONGENIALITY

AWARD is given to the member who is notably friendly, helpful, respectful and as such sets a positive example. This year it is awarded to Jim Harrold.

Jim Harrold and Commodore Colleen Stobbe

BILL HYNES ENGINEERING AWARD is given to those who display a high level of skill in “engineering” that is to say figuring things out, reworking, rewiring, rearranging, adding, etc. to improve the boat and improve the hobby. The work of engineering is done by doing and seeing what works and then going back at it until it does. And, when it’s figured out sharing it with others. This year the award goes to Norman Tuck, posthumously.

Norman was a master at engineering.

Following are the Club Members to Thank for Their Work:

The Awards Luncheon ...

Rob Weaver and crew—Moved boats, set up tables, and prepared the Clubhouse for the Awards Luncheon.

Ed Shoenstein and Mary Rose Cassa—Brought centerpieces and decorated our tables.

Kathy Harvey—Provided the cookies.

Joe Steiner—Provided fruit and veggies

Volunteers who have done over and above...

The Commodore also has the opportunity to recognize other members who have gone over and above in volunteering their time and skills to the club. Special thanks go to:

Joe Minafo—Club Liaison with Rec & Parks and Open House Coordinator. Joe meets quarterly with Dave Iribarne, Superintendent of Golden Gate Park, to promote getting things done for the club, like the repair of the lake edge and more. Joe coordinated our Open Houses and getting the word out about the SFMYC.

Dave Gormly—Our web master and more! Dave interfaces with HyperGold to keep the website up and running. He posts the Nautical News every month and creates the link that you all eventually use to access the Nautical News. This year he spent countless hours working through setting up online application and payment for new members until it worked smoothly. He developed the online registration and payment for this Award Luncheon. Dave does this all from Tennessee.

Rick Weiss—Every month he quietly and graciously works in the background to produce the Nautical News so we all get to stay connected and find out what’s going on in the club. The production of the Nautical News is no small feat. It takes days and, sometimes, we don’t make it easy for him by sending articles in late, using the wrong font, etc.

Stephen Ma—Is our moderator. This means that when an all-member-email is sent to HyperGold by me or by Jim Harvey, Stephen needs to make sure it is authentic and approve it before it is sent out to you. Stephen also purchases items for the club to replace things like coffee, etc.



Jim Harvey—Wrote this report and processes the meeting minutes. In addition, he went above and beyond to help with a variety of tasks when Treasurer, David Sands, was not well enough to do so.

Mike Stobbe—Handles the Club Roster and membership renewals. This is a big job!

Ryan Scofield—Organizes the Club Calendar. This is another big job and is an evolving one over the year. This is on top of all his duties as RCSO.

Rob Weaver—Organized our Opening Day, repaired and bought buoys, was integral in the planning and carrying out of the ODOM Nationals, managed the catering for the Awards Luncheon and more.

Dick Hunter—Organized the ODOM Nationals which was a great success. This was a monumental task with many parts. Special thanks go to Dick and to all the many volunteers that supported the ODOM Nationals.

David Green—Worked at the beginning of the year when the alarm was put in and our keys wouldn't work. He organized and led the visit with K-1 students, along with the support of other members. David met and supported the repair person who recently fixed our heater.

Jim Harrold—Redesigned and upgraded the Club Workshop. It looks fantastic!

Colleen Stobbe—Does a super job as our Commodore, and organizing and orchestrating all Club activities.



A Few of the “Over and Above” Volunteers

Left to Right: Dick Hunter, Rob Weaver, Jim Harvey, Stephen Ma, Rick Weiss, David Green, Colleen Stobbe & Jim Harrold

Thanks to All!

Competitive Awards

Power Squadron Award

Power Squadron Officer Jeff Raymond announced Lee Duvall as Skipper of the Year.

Commodore Stobbe thanked Jeff Raymond for his service to the club as Power Squadron Officer.



Bottle Boat Awards

Kate Ettinger announces the Bottle Boat awards.

Bottle Boat Freesail:

- 1st Andromeda Diamant.
- 2nd Santino McCauley.
- 3rd, Nina Manzo.

Bottle Boat Advanced RC:

- 1st Xinhang “Simon” Li.
- 2nd, Daniel Crosby.
- 3rd, Russel Sui.

The Participants of the Bruce Ettinger Bottle Yacht Regatta, held on November 9th





Freesail Awards

Bernard Price presents the Freesail awards to, Mike Stobbe, Stephen Ma, & himself

36R: Season Champions:

1st, Mike Stobbe.
2nd, Stephen Ma.
3rd, Bernard Price.

M: Season Champions:

1st, Stephen Ma.
2nd, Mike Stobbe.
3rd, Jason Spiller.

X: Season Champions:

1st, Jason Spiller.
2nd, Mike Stobbe.
3rd, Jeff Stobbe.

Jeff Stobbe & Mike Stobbe





R/C Awards

Infinity 54: Season Champions:

- 1st, Jim Harrold.
- 2nd, Bob Gallagher.
- 3rd, Ryan Schofield.

Jim Harrold receives award from Ryan Schofield

ODOM: Season Champions:

- 1st, Dick Hunter.
- 2nd, Dave Misunas
- 3rd, Jim Wondolleck

Jim Wondolleck & Dick Hunter





Santa Barbara: Season Champions:

1st, Jim Forbes and Jim Harrold.

2nd, Rob Weaver.

3rd, Ryan Schofield

Jim Forbes, Jim Harrold & Ryan Schofield

Star 45: Season Champions

1st, Dick Hunter.

2nd, Jim Harrold.

3rd, Dave Misunas

Jim Harrold & Dick Hunter



10 Rater: Season Champions:

1st George Pedrick.

2nd, Chris Sullivan.

3rd, Jim Harrold.

Victoria: Season Champions:

1st, Jon Ely.

2nd, David Green.

3rd, Mike Kelly



Jon Ely & David Green with Ryan Schofield

Wheeler: Season Champions

1st, Dave Misunas.

2nd, Jim Forbes.

3rd, Rich Ludt

Congratulations to all!

Bottle Yacht Regatta

Bottle Yacht Builder Kickoff & Mentor Sessions

by Kate Ettinger and the Bottle Class

Interested in building a bottle boat? Come to the SFMYC Clubhouse on Sunday, January 11 at 2pm for the 2026 Bottle Yacht Builder Kickoff. Come by the SFMYC Boathouse - meet the bottle fleet, see our different boat designs, and decide if you want to build a bottle boat.



RSVP for the kickoff is greatly appreciated. If you are curious to learn more about the bottle boats, please email Kate: bottleyachtregatta@gmail.com

Bottle boats are homemade model yachts built from recycled, low cost materials. Bottle boats are a fun and affordable way for novices, especially youth, to experience the joy of model yacht sailing on Spreckels Lake. Bottle boats are designed to meet the race requirements to sail at the Bruce Ettinger Bottle Yacht Regatta on Sunday, June 14, 2026 (save the date).

Building a bottle boat is a DIY (Do-It-Yourself) project. Builders choose their own design or follow an existing bottle boat's design. New designs are welcome. Experimentation is encouraged. Failure is part of the learning process. General guidance is on the Builder's Blog of our website: www.bottleyachtregatta.org

During the winter months, we host mentor sessions for new builders to bring their in-progress bottle boats to the SFMYC Boathouse for tips and advice from our bottle mentors. We are a learning community. Mentors include anyone who has built a bottle boat previously. Mentors are learning as well. We work together to problem solve. New bottle boat builders should be available to attend each of the mentor sessions; each session focuses on a different part of the boat. We find that building a freesail bottle boat takes ~ 5 sessions (3+ hours each).

Building a bottle yacht is a great family project. No sailing experience needed. Some craft/maker experience can be helpful, but not required. Youth under 16 must be accompanied by an engaged adult at all activities. The younger the youth, the more adult participation is necessary. We have found this building is best suited for youth >10 years old.

Bottle Class Dates for 2026:

Jan 11 (Sunday) Builder Mentor Sessions Kickoff at 2pm - Register on our website

Mentor Sessions for new builders: dates/times tentative- to be confirmed at kickoff

- For beginner boats: Sundays Jan 25, Feb 1, Feb 8, Feb 15, Mar 1, Mar 8 from 1-4pm
- For advanced RC boats: Sundays Jan 25, Feb 1, Feb 8, Feb 15, Mar 1, Mar 8 from 11am-1pm

Jun 14 (Sunday) Bruce Ettinger Bottle Yacht Regatta at 1pm

Nov 8 (Sunday) Jerry Pugh Bottle Yacht Relay at 1pm

Power Squadron Report

by Dennis Hodges, PSO

Hello all,

Ahoy power squadron and any off-course sailors who have wandered over to this side.

Allow me to introduce myself as your new PSO. I am Dennis Hodges and as a relatively new member I am really only acquainted with a few members which I hope to remedy in short order. So please introduce yourself and I'll try and do the same around the clubhouse or at the lake. Anxious to hear all about your participation in model yachting.



For the coming year we have an event or casual get together lakeside every second Sunday of the month, aside from one in August, as we are working around park closures for GG park events. The schedule for the 2026 is set with a lot of events that will be familiar as well as a few new ones that I hope become favorites. If anyone has an event that they would like to see on the lake let's talk. Open to all ideas and after all it's all of our club and should reflect our collective interests in model boating and maritime modeling, so pull me aside or come to a members meeting and make your views known.

This is the on year for Model Boats on Parade and we have moved the date to best take advantage of San Francisco unique weather in October, so I'll definitely be looking for help in

making it a successful club event. With that in mind should you be able to help/volunteer for any of this years upcoming events please get in touch with me. Which leads me to the idea putting together a list of volunteers from the power squadron that are interested in participating in any way possible.... No contribution is too small or overlooked.

I would also like to create a contact list for the power squadron so that I can make sure you are up to date and don't miss out on an opportunity to come out and pilot your boat and catch up with what your fellow members are up to.

An additional feature of the upcoming year will be an Instagram page for the power squadron in an effort to share what we are about, share with a wider audience, and keep you informed about all things going on with SFMYC Power Squadron. If you haven't been exposed to Instagram... ask your kids, they'll get you up to speed – mine did. There's even a first post up.... So have a peek and give us a follow-up.

The Instagram address is: *SFMYC Power Squadron*

The last thing in this long winded introduction is the upcoming Frostbite modeling contest on Saturday February 14th following the members meeting. I know there are some outstanding modelers in the club and here is the opportunity to show off your hard work as well as help us less fortunate modelers with showing and sharing how you achieve these results.

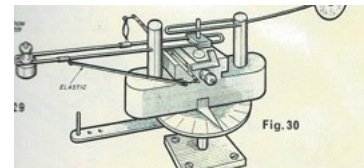
Frostbite classes are to be: Working, Pleasure, Military, Sail, and Best-in-Show. Judging will be by popular vote for first through third in each class. Each member will have three choices in each class other than best of class because, well, there can only be one best in class. So bring out your finished masterpiece, a project not quite finished or something just started. It's all about sharing your work and making each other better modelers. Looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Best, Dennis Hodges, proudly PSO

Freesail Squadron Report

by Bernard Price, FSO

Happy New Year! I'm honored to serve as your 2026 Freesail Squadron Officer. As previously reported, participation in Freesailing events during 2025 was healthy- it was a friendly, competitive season that I believe all enjoyed.



As we start 2026, I am reflecting on how we will continue to keep Freesailing activity in our Club strong and better, to grow it. I ask that each of you consider the same and share your ideas freely with me. Outside of what I'll call a "core group" of active Freesailors, those who attend a majority of the races on the calendar, there are a few of you whom we may see a couple of times in a season and many of you we see even less.

While not taking the core group for granted, I would like to understand what we can do to encourage the less active among us to come out more. I know very well the challenge of balancing competing personal interests in prioritizing the allocation of weekend afternoons.

For those of whom have been less active in recent years, what can we do to elevate Freesailing, to make it something not to be missed? All thoughts and ideas on this are welcomed.

In the past, I have invited anyone who may have any interest at all in trying Freesailing to speak up. That invitation remains open! We welcome anyone regardless of sailing experience to give it a try. All you have to do is show up at the clubhouse on any Freesail race day at around noon and we'll provide you with a loaner boat to sail and help with the rest to get you started. Do not feel the least bit intimidated.

One of our standard lakeside pitches about Freesailing when asked focuses on the lack of radio control – "...this is how we used to do it before radio control became practical in the late 1960's." Emphasis is also placed on how we are almost unique in the modern world, "maintaining a traditional way of sailing model yachts" that has faded as technology has advanced.

Yes, certainly, and something to be proud of. Our participation in Freesailing is more than that. Freesailing offers us the same challenges as always and the same rewards of learning and friendship. Timeless. Freesailing is as relevant today as ever.

I have two New Year's resolutions to share with you:

1. I will listen to your thoughts on encouraging more participation in Freesailing
2. I will bring a friend to the lake and introduce them to Freesailing*

I hope you adopt resolution two for yourself!

*Invite a friend, SFMYC member or not **to any Freesail event**. Season Championship scoring will be accounted for accordingly – non-members will be scored as a single race entry (SRE), not eligible to accrue season points, unless they join the Club!

Radio Sailing Ramblings

by Ryan Schofield, R/C Sailing Squadron Officer

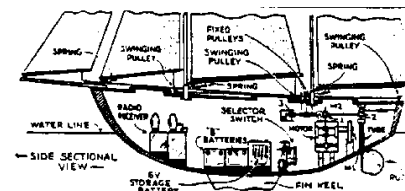
Hello All in the RC sail squadron. Happy New Year, let's make this a fantastic RC Sailing year!

2025 Is gone, we had a lot of good sailing. Our ODOM fleet is going strong with great participation on Tuesdays, way to go ODOM skippers. Victoria sailing is going strong with David Green at the helm. Michael Fisher tells me that participation was great for most of 2025. Our other fleets are going well, especially the Star 45 fleet. Our Santa Barbara, Infinity 54, and 10 rater fleets had a few challenges in 2025, but nothing that can't be overcome with more participation and some boat maintenance.

The Wheeler fleet is doing well with Dave Misunas's capable leadership.

Possibly Thursday or Friday might become a regular DF 95 sailing day at the club. The DF 95 group has great possibility to become a third week day fleet at the club. This will be up to members of the fleet to advance their wants and needs to me in 2026.

On another note, check your boats in the clubhouse and make sure everything is ok, boats were moved around for the club lunch. If you have not used your boat in 2025 and you know who I



am referring to, a letter may be coming to you asking you to take your boat home to make room for more actively sailing boats. Storage in the club is for boats that are actively sailed, so please use your boat in 2026.

Winter is a great time to change out that servo that might have acted funny last year or get a new battery. Keeping your boat maintained means you will have less issues during the racing season.

A racing rules seminar is in the works stand by as there will be a notice in the February newsletter with all the details. Once again John Christman will take us thru the rules and answer questions from skippers. I know that I will attend to get a refresh on the rules, always a good thing.

The club calendar will be posted on the website most likely by the 14th or 15th of the month. Keep an eye out for updates and announcements on the club website or a friendly email update from me or your fleet captain.

Santa Barbara informal winter sailing will take place on January 18. DF 95 winter sailing date is TBD, watch the Calendar or an announcement via email to SFMYC DF 95 sailors.

I hope to see all of our RC sailors on the water in 2026. - Ryan Schofield your Radio Sailing Officer

Victoria Fleet - Today's Light-Wind Winter Sailing – December 3, 2025

by Michael Fischer

Movie of the start: <https://tinyurl.com/Victoria-Start>



The Captains

Light winds.



A tight race.

A pro watches from the sidelines.



A beautiful day on the lake.

Letters to the Editor

Send your comments, opinions, innovative ideas & suggestions to the News. We reserve the right to choose and edit appropriate submissions based on space availability. Send your letters to the editor at: EdSFMYC@sonic.net. You might be famous – beware of Paparazzi on motor scooters!

Progress Photos of Spreckels Edge Subsidence

from Mary Rose Cassa



March 2017



April 2020



December 2025 - A



December 2025 – B



December 2025 - C

Wanted / For “Sail”

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 3 lines only, one photo that will get edited and sized down to fit, plus, include your email or contact info.

For Sale



- Club Apparel - 25% Reimbursement -

(See Commodores' Corner for more details)

The provider of embroidered club jackets, vests, hats, windbreakers, etc. is

Catto's Graphics, at cattosgraphics.com.

To place your order, choose your garment selection from the Catto's website, then email Debbie Diaz at debbie@cattosgraphics.com and tell her what you want. They are happy to do customized requests. Catto's will also embroider items you send to them for about \$25.00. They can embroider most anything.

Catto's has six logo choices on file. Four logos are the ones shown here and are appropriate for the front of jackets or on hats, etc. The other two logos are of the longitudinal upper logos shown here and are enlarged enough to fit on the back of a jacket. Many thanks to member Brian Munger who paid for Catto's set-up of the two enlarged logos. Depending on the color of the garment, the lettering will be either black or white. You can also have Catto's embroider your name, if you wish.

To get a 25% reimbursement paid to you by the SFMYC, first pay Catto's the full amount for the item and embroidery and keep your receipt. Then proudly don your new apparel and approach our club treasurer, receipt in hand. He will confirm it displays the logo, sign your receipt, and hand you a check.