

SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB

NAUTICAL NEWS

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Spreckels Lake

San Francisco Model Yacht Club

Established 1898



Golden Gate Park

Click: <https://www.sfmyc.org/sfmyc-calendar-of-events/>

***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! sfmycnauticalnews@gmail.com



Nautical News

SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB

Spreckels Lake - Established 1898 - Golden Gate Park

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The deadline for items for the Nautical News is the 25th of each month. Send photos & 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, by Colleen Stobbe

Shipmates,

March brings Spring and, most importantly,

Opening Day on March 14 and the Tony

Marshall RagTop/StinkPot Relay and a free

lunch! Our meetings on Saturday, March 14 will be in the

clubhouse. The Board meeting will start at 9:30am and the

Membership meeting will start at 11:00am. Please join us, and

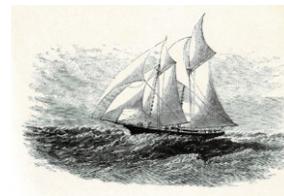
share in the stewardship of the club, stay for lunch, and the Tony

Marshall RagTop/StinkPot Relay. It is so much fun with a little

chaos thrown in to keep us on our toes and bring us together in

celebration. There is still time to sign up to be on a relay team!

Please contact Rob Weaver at robertnewlweaver@gmail.net.



The beginning of the season is a good time to talk about demonstrating good sportsmanship at races and events on Spreckels Lake. Keen competition can sometimes excite intense reactions and mistakes and miscommunications can occur. I thank you in advance for your good sportsmanship, for being courteous, and for following racing rules. These qualities contribute to ensuring fun times and camaraderie on Spreckels Lake. If you'd like a deeper dive into club policy around this topic look to Policy 3 *Use of Spreckles Lake by Club Members* and Policy 4 *Mutual Courtesy and Respect* on our website—SFMYC.org, Home Page, click on Member Info, click on Member Resources, click on SFMYC Policies.

Thanks to all members who have filled out the online or hardcopy Volunteer Survey! Your help keeps the SFMYC thriving. If you haven't yet filled out the Volunteer Survey, here is the link. <https://form.jotform.com/252266807159060>. Thanks!

FYI: Good News—*Ships in Scale* is being republished in hardcopy and online. \$40 for both. If you have any questions, ask Lee Duvall at tugboatdrv428619@gmail.com.

See you March 14th, Opening Day!

Membership Report

by Mike Stobbe, Membership Secretary



After a delay which PayPal could not explain, the membership renewal invoices have finally gone out via email, and the response to date has been trouble-free and excellent. About two thirds of the membership has renewed so far. I will send reminders out to the procrastinators soon.

Remember, the email **DOES NOT** come from the SFMYC, it comes from "service at paypal.com". If you haven't received it, check your spam folder. If its not there, contact me. The deadline for renewal is March 31st. Non-renewals will be struck off on April 1st.

We had two new members in the past month. Mark English grew up near Spreckels Lake and has known of the model yacht club all his life. He currently lives in Fairfax, California, and is interested in RC sailboat racing.

John Kohler also lived in the neighborhood most of his life, visiting Spreckels Lake often, but now lives in Oakland. John has always been a modeler of all types, but never of boats, until he picked up a vintage powerboat in an antique shop. He's been getting it into working condition, and would like some advice from the club's experts. Welcome Mark and John!

Rec & Parks Liaison Report

by Joseph Minafo, Liaison

On February 3, 2026, Colleen and I met with Dave Iribarne, Superintendent of Golden Gate Park, for our quarterly meeting to discuss ongoing issues. Below are the updates from that meeting.

Lake edge repair: Treaty Construction has completed the first trial of a sandbag dam which failed. They have been investigating alternative bladder dams, which meant drilling in the lake floor which is not feasible. Treaty believes they have a new sandbag method and will begin testing that soon. SFRP still has faith in Treaty Construction as they have completed other projects and currently on other repairs around the park.

Colleen Stobbe and Joe Minafo sent a letter to Dave Iribarne emphasizing SFMYC concerns and frustration for lack of progress and timing with the upcoming season. Also sent information and video link for coffer dam which England used to repair a canal. Dave has forwarded the letter to SFRP Capital Team and Treaty Construction.

Sign on pole: Dave will resend a reminder to Raul Ayala Rivera that signs need to be replaced.

Interpretive sign: SFMYC will supply details of what they would like to see on two interpretive signs along with historical information and pictures. Joe will re-engage with Chrisopher Pollack on the next steps and copy Dave on emails.

Glass block repair on back wall.: Vincent McEvoy, Ryan Sedgwick, and Keith Roberts inspected the clubhouse backwall on Monday, January 5th in the rain. Everyone during that meeting agreed

there was no evidence of leaks or water intrusion. What they saw was efflorescence which is natural and harmless. SFMYC would like to have sealant applied to exterior and interior on glass block wall.

Banner mount broken: Completed, new mounts received and banner hung.

Bicycle hoop: No further update on bicycle lock-up stands. Dave will follow up with DPW.

S F Rec and Park website: Our posting under “Activities” is now correct. Thanks to Elon and team! Joe will contact Elon for other areas that an update would be appropriate, Spreckels lake and Points of Interest.

Clubhouse heater: Dave will reach out to structural maintenance engineers to address the club’s heater issue, including replacement and coordinating repair/replacement as appropriate. This is not a SFMYC expense.

General Signage: Walking path signage for “No Bikes on Path” and other signage stenciled around the lake may have to wait until lake edge repair is complete.

Topics tabled until more information becomes available:

Aeration and water management plan

Goose poop

Friends of SFMYC

Future Meetings:

May 5, 2026 - September 8, 2026 - November 24, 2026

Announcements -- Notice of Races



2026 Season Club Championship

San Francisco Model Yacht Club

Spreckels Lake, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the *rules* as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, including Appendix E.

- 1.2. Rule 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows:
(2) if it alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in, and did not see, the incident, or
- 1.3. The US Sailing prescription to RRS 63.1(b) is deleted.
- 1.4. RRS E3.8(c) is deleted. Courses may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.2 with the following changes:
 - 1.4.1. The race committee shall verbally announce that the course will be shortened. Flag S and sound signals are not required.
 - 1.4.2. RRS 32.2(a) is changed to:
'at a *rounding* mark, a line segment extending from the *mark* to the required side of the *mark* and perpendicular to the direction from the previous *mark*. If the previous *mark* is a gate, the position of the previous *mark* is the mid-point of the gate;'

2. RACING DATES

- 2.1. The season schedule will be posted on the ONB and on the SFMYC website.
- 2.2. The schedule on the ONB shall take precedence over any other published schedule including that on the SFMYC website.

3. ENTRY

- 3.1. The event is open to all boats of the Santa Barbara, Infinity 54, Star 45, ODOM, Wheeler, Ten-Rater, and Victoria one-design classes.
- 3.2. Eligible boats may enter by completing an entry form and submitting it to the fleet captain and/or putting it in the front of the 2026 Club Race binder located on the computer table in the clubhouse. Forms will be available in the bin next to the clubhouse entry door.

4. SCHEDULE

- 4.1. (a) The Santa Barbara, Infinity 54, Star 45, Wheeler, and Ten-Rater class competitors meetings will be held in the control area at 1255 before each day's racing. The scheduled time for the warning signal for the first race of the day will be 1300.
(b) The Victoria Class and the ODOM class competitors meetings will be held in the control area at 1150 before each day's racing. The scheduled time for the warning signal for the first race of the day will be at noon.
- 4.2. No warning signal will be made after 1600.
- 4.3. Changes to the scheduled time of the first warning signal will be posted on the ONB by 1100 on the day it will take effect.

5. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 5.1. The sailing instructions will be available by March 2nd on the SFMYC website and displayed on the ONB.

6. COMMUNICATION

- 6.1. The official notice board (ONB) is located inside and to the right of the Clubhouse entry doorway below a "Lima" flag.
- 6.2. If the ONB inside the clubhouse is not accessible, the ONB will be temporarily located on the bench nearest to mark 1 until such time as the ONB in the clubhouse is accessible.

7. VENUE

- 7.1. Racing will be held on Spreckels Lake located in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

8. SCORING

- 8.1. RRS A5.3 shall apply.
- 8.2. At least six races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 8.3. Daily race results: There shall be one excluded worst score per six races completed each day.
- 8.4. Season series results: There shall be one excluded worst score per six races completed in the

series.

9. **BOAT SUBSTITUTION**

- 9.1. A boat may be substituted for at any time. If a substitute boat is used it shall be used in all races until the original boat is repaired, after which time the original boat shall be used. The sail number of the original boat shall be used for scoring.
- 9.2. Competitors sailing a Ten-Rater during the Ten-Rater designated race days may change boats once during each race day. The skipper shall be scored and not the boat. This changes A2.

10. **TEAM BOATS**

The fleet captain may designate one or more of the Club owned boats as a team boat, to be sailed by different skippers during the season. Those skippers will constitute a team, and the team will earn the points scored by that boat.

11. **SEASON AWARDS**

Plaques and AMYA black chevrons will be awarded to the top three season finishers in each class. To be eligible for AMYA Chevrons, a competitor shall be a member of AMYA. The first-place finisher will have their name inscribed on the appropriate perpetual trophy displayed in the SFMYC Boathouse.

12. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Contact your fleet captain or the Radio Sailing Officer with questions.

Entry Form

Please submit the following entry form to participate in the 2026 Season Club Championship:

San Francisco Model Yacht Club

2026 Season Radio-Controlled Sailboat One-Design Class Regattas

Spreckels Lake, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

ENTRY FORM

Competitor Name: _____ Phone No: _____

Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____ AMYA No.: _____

Boats being entered – check all that you are entering. **One form is sufficient.**

- Santa Barbara Sail # _____
- ODOM Sail # _____
- Wheeler Sail # _____
- Star 45 Sail # _____
- Infinity 54 Sail # _____
- Victoria Sail # _____
- Ten-Rater Sail # _____

The sail number above is the sail number you will use throughout the season. If you sail a different boat with a different sail number, make certain that the race score sheet "translates" that number back to the original number listed above. Only one sail number per competitor, please. The computer's scoring system catalogues sail numbers, not the competitor's name, since under the RRS it is the boat, not the competitor, which is entered in the race series.

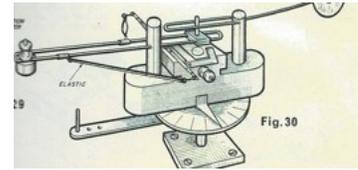
If you are racing a team boat designated by the fleet captain, write "team" after the sail number.

In consideration of accepting this entry, I hereby , waive and release any and all rights to claim damages that I may have or acquire against the San Francisco Model Yacht Club, or its members, the City and County of San Francisco, its employees, agents, representatives, or assigns, and the American Model Yachting Association, and/or its members, from any claim for injury or other damages to me during this regatta's events.

I agree to be bound by *The Racing Rules of Sailing* and by all other *rules* that govern this event.

Competitor's signature: _____ Date: _____

Squadron Reports



Freesail Squadron Report

by Bernard Price, FSO

The Freesailing season gets underway this month, unofficially with participation in our Club's Opening Day Tony Marshall Ragtop-Stinkpot Regatta on Saturday, March 14th where 36Rs will sail the decisive laps for their respective teams in this popular relay race. At the time of this writing, teams have been established but if you would like to sail a 36R, several of us who have signed up will happily offer our berth to anyone interested. Come out to sail a boat or cheer your favorite team on, Opening Day at the Club is always fun!

Officially, the 2026 Freesailing Season Championship series will begin Sunday March 15 with the 36Rs sailing for their Race 1. M Boats will follow with their Race 1 on Sunday March 29th. The X Class Will begin their season with the Dickie Cup to be sailed in April.

SFMYC 2026 Freesail Season Championship Series Scoring:

The Freesail Season Championship series will consist of six scheduled race days per fleet. Season Championship points available for each race are based on the number of skippers who participate on race day with points awarded in descending order from first place down. For example, if there are seven participants on a particular race day, first place will be awarded 7 points, second will be awarded 6 points and so on.

There is one throw-out for each series with a minimum of six races completed. In the event that there are less than six races due to cancellation of a race, there will be no throw-outs for that series

Season Championship tie breakers will be decided by who wins the beat when tied skippers are matched during the last race day of the series.

The skipper accruing the highest number of points in a particular fleet series after the throw out (if applicable) is Season Champion.

Eligibility: You must be a member of the SFMYC in order to accrue points toward the Season Championship. During 2025, to encourage non-members of our Club to give Freesailing a try with a hoped-for result that they would become members, the concept of a "Single Race Entry" (SRE) was introduced. SRE's are by invitation (just ask!). While SRE results are recognized on the day of participation, they do not count toward the Season. We will continue this option for 2026.

Victoria Fleet – Vic Racing Wednesday January, 28th

by David Green

Jon Ely, Jim Harold, Dick Hunter, Mike Kelly, Dave Klinger, Dave Powell, and I enjoyed another beautiful day racing in light to moderate breezes from the NE, flat water and sun. John Blackburn donated a batch of cookies and sailed his boat as well.

We have become accustomed to starting to the east close to buoy 1, rounding 5&6 to starboard, 2 to starboard and finish between 5 and 6. Most races were twice around. We have learned that although the water around buoys 3 and 4 seem to show there is wind (residual wavelets) there is a massive wind shadow from the large trees to the NE of that area. We did not venture west.

Next Wednesday is forecast to be a light breeze from the west! Is spring close at hand? It is time to shake out the cobwebs

Video of one race: (Please ignore the commentary!).

[Click to Download](#)

IMG_1070.mov
118.6 MB

Photos from January, 28th (photographer anon) :



Please Join AMYA

by Michael Fischer

Hello, skippers—Please, I hope that every one of you is a member of AMYA.

It's the outfit that represents our interests in the quadrennial revisions to Appendix E of the Racing Rules of Sailing. It's the outfit that regulates any changes to the specifications of our Victoria class—and all other one-design model yachts on its list. It's the outfit that promotes our hobby. It's the outfit that oversees all of the regional and national championship regattas for its classes—and all of the classes that SFMYC sails are included.

In other words, AMYA is central to all of what we do and enjoy. It's in all of our interests that AMYA has the dues revenue and the volunteer leadership it needs to keep on supporting us. It might be behind the scenes and invisible to us as we sail Spreckels, but it's vital to our enjoyment.

AMYA directly supports us—we should support it. If you're not already a member, please join! Here's the link: <https://www.theamya.org/Membership.asp>

Club Featured in Latitude 38 “Sailagram”

from Michael Fischer

Just another great day of sailing on Spreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park. This is a Wednesday Victoria Class race day. All are welcome to join, we even have boats for charter or just a days loan to see how you can enjoy sailing/racing RC yachts.



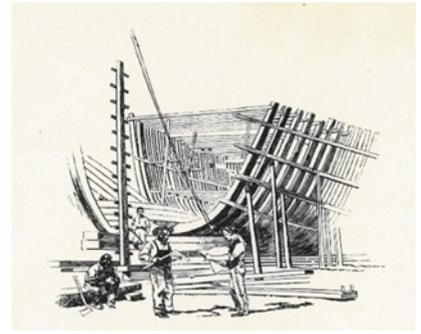
Photo submitted to Latitude 38 “Sailagram” of Victorias on Spreckels Lake

In the Workshop

Finishing Construction of an Ancient Star 30

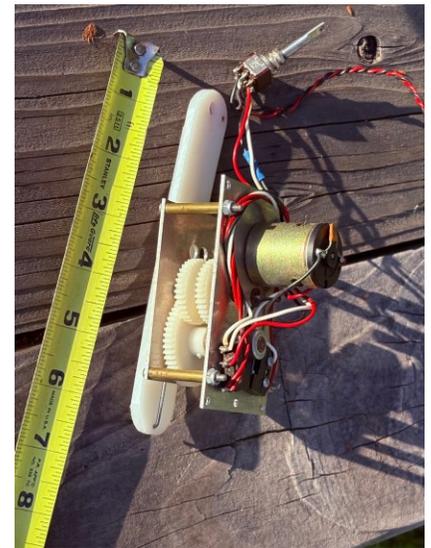
text & photos by Rick Weiss

I acquired a partially finished Star 30 kit, from the late 20th century, at the club swap/sale. It came with all of the remaining components in its original box. The hull was finished complete with ballasted deep keel and an ancient servo.



The kit was complete with the original box & most all parts.

The original antique servo was about the “size of a grandfather clock works” squished inside the hull.



The old servo came with two relays and an auxiliary switch (top) controlled by an additional servo, for moving the sails from a port to a starboard tack.

I decided to scrap the idea of keeping the boat faithfully original and provided it with a new updated servo and receiver. The original rudder control servo was in good working condition, so only had to be hooked up to the rudder.

The new sails servo, control lines, battery and receiver in place.

The sails were complete, cut and sewn with a cord at the luff for the wooden mast pocket.

It only remained to rig the mast and sails with new stays, halyards, sheets, boom vang and spreaders. This took some time to measure carefully and to carve a bunch of tiny adjusters and cleats.





The completed Star 30, ready to sail 25 years later.

Without knowing if it would float, we hastily launched it in a light breeze on the lake and it sailed beautifully. Although we were too busy to take a photo, luckily, it didn't take on a drop of water in the hull.

It only remains to find the old sailing community of Star 30 ancient mariners in the club and re-start the class...

The Frostbite Show & Power Squadron Report

by Dennis Hodges, PSO, photos by Bob Heacock, & Rick Weiss

First off, I'd like to thank all who were in attendance at the Frostbite show, especially those who helped set up and tear down the clubhouse for a display of our club's builders and their latest projects. The tables were filled with stunning works of imagination and craftsmanship for all to see firsthand. Every class was well represented along with a new class on display. Works in progress.



18 boats were entered in this year's Frostbite.

I hope to see those back completed at next year's Frostbite for all to enjoy, so get busy -- a year goes by pretty quickly. Apologies for the awkward balloting; we have a resolution for next year that will clear that up. I'd hoped to talk to everyone about their entries and how you went about your build, but registration and vote tabulation kept that to a minimum, oh well.



The winners of this year's event.

Results for the Frostbite were as follows:

Sail: 1st Bob Heacock. 2nd Jeff Stobbe. 3rd Dave Misunas
Pleasure : 1st Ken Knipmeyer. 2nd Bernard Price. 3rd Carl Brosius
Commercial : 1st Blaine Russell. 2nd Lee Duvall
Military : 1st Vince Hoffmann. 2nd Bob Pinotti
Fishing : 1st Spencer Zoots. 2nd Lee Duvall
Best of Show went to Blaine Russells outstanding build.



Blaine Russell's Panama Tug

Well done by all who entered and appreciated all who attended. If you missed it hope to see you next year with even more crowded entry tables.

More Frostbite entries:

Lake Union Dreamboat by Ken Knipmeyer



Wheeler hull by Dave Misunas

Chriscraft barrel back, motorized with new RC by Rick Weiss



New freesail boat by Jeff Stobbe.

Future Events

Sunday March 8th from 10 till 2 is The Titanic Navigation Challenge. Not intending this to be a contest but more of a fun run through a course of Styrofoam iceberg obstacles for bragging rights and to see if there is interest in a more formal navigation event later in the year. Power boats of all sizes and types can have a go at avoiding an icy fate. Hope to see you at the lake.

Saturday March 14th following the members meeting is SFMYC opening day and that means The Tony Marshall Ragtop Stinkpot relay. Thank you for all that have signed up and gotten in touch with the organizers. If you haven't already done so and would like to participate lets us know and we will try and find a team for you.

Also in March on Sunday the 29th at 9:30 we are co-hosting an event with Friends of Model Yachting in memory of Don Ciucci, whose work I have admired for some time and would love to hear your stories about the man. Please RSVP with Bob Heacock at scooter281@sbcglobal.net for a lunch reservation.

Looking forward to this one and meeting you all at the lake. Please bring any remembrance you have of Don to share with others who shared his passion for fellow club members and model building.

In going through the club's collection of dioramas and event pieces most all of them need some kind of attention in getting them back in ship shape and again available for our events. I've done some work in getting them watertight and floating level again, but most require more attention to return them to their former glory for all to enjoy. If you have any interest in helping restore some of these treasures please get in touch and we can't bring them back to life. See you at the lake, Dennis Hodges PSO



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



- Victoria Kit. \$250 or best offer. Still in box.
Bought by Norman Tuck and looking for a good home.
Contact Colleen Stobbe. colleenstobbe@gmail.com

- DF 95 with controls, \$400 or best offer.
Looking for a good home. Was Norman Tuck's.
Contact Colleen Stobbe. colleenstobbe@gmail.com



- Gold Victoria with controls \$300 or best offer.
Looking for a good home. Was Norman Tuck's.
Contact Colleen Stobbe. colleenstobbe@gmail.com

- **Santa Barbara:** Bought from Jim Harrold a year ago, sailed only a few times. In good shape & fast. \$700.00. Contact Sam Bryan, sambryan63@gmail.com



- **ODOM 1159:** Mylar sails, new sail servo, some repair at deck, \$450. Spot in club ODOM row. Contact Rick Weiss, richardweiss@sonic.net

- **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.