

SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB

NAUTICAL NEWS

Mailing Address:

S.F.M.Y.C.

1800 Taraval ST. PO Box 16762

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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***

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Nautical News

SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB

Spreckels Lake - Established 1898 - Golden Gate Park

Volume 128

April 2026

Number 4

2025 OFFICERS

Commodore

Colleen Stobbe

colleenstobbe@gmail.com

Vice-Commodore

Carl Brosius

cbfuture@aol.com

Secretary

Jim Harvey

ja_harvey@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Jon Ely

Membership Secretary

Mike Stobbe

mwstobbe@comcast.net

Power Squadron Officer

Dennis Hodeges

dkdesignsf@gmail.com

Freesail Squadron Officer

Bernard Price

R/C Sail Squadron Officer

Ryan Schofield

rssailor@yahoo.com

Directors at Large

Gerry Bowen, Wally

Wahlander, Sam Bryan &

Peter Li

Historian/Archivist

(Open Position)

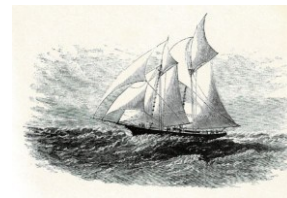
Nautical News Editor

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: 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, (photos by Colleen Stobbe, uno)



What spectacular spring weather we've been having! In addition to a full schedule of model boating, on Saturday, April 11 at 8:30am will have the Board meeting on Zoom, followed at 10:00am by the Membership meeting on Zoom. Details will be sent out a few days before the meetings. Mark April 11 on your calendar and be sure to join us online for the Membership meeting, 10:00am, on Zoom. Jeff and I will be traveling in April. I will keep up on club business via email and phone. Vice Commodore Carl Brosius will be leading the April 11 Zoom meeting. Thanks, Carl! As usual, I don't want anyone to miss a Zoom meeting because of the tech challenges. I'm happy to set up a practice Zoom for anyone who like it (up until April 6). Contact me at colleenstobbe@gmail.com. On April 12 from 10:00am-2:00pm there will be a special Opening Day for our Power Squadron. Come on out and enjoy another great day on Spreckels.

In early March we had a visit by some "Little Ducklings", preschoolers who happened by the clubhouse when Kate Ettinger was there. Thanks, Kate, for giving them and their teacher an impromptu tour of the club. Outreach to any and all who enter the clubhouse is so good for the club. All of us are ambassadors for the SFMYC, whether in the clubhouse or on Spreckels Lake. Thanks for engaging with the public and sharing our sport/hobby with enthusiasm.



On Tuesday, March 24, Sandor Schoichet, and his guest, John Shearman came out for a tour of the clubhouse, lunch, and time on Spreckels Lake to try their hand at sailing ODOMs.

Sandor Schoichet mentored by Jim Harrold & John Shearman mentored by David Green

At the November Gala for the Sailing Science Center, Sandor had bid on and received our offering of two memberships and a day with the SFMYC. Thanks to Jim Harrold and David Green who turned over their controllers to Sandor and John who had a great time giving it a go.



After a little practice Sandor was convinced to sail the course in one of the races. Such fun!

John Shearman getting direction from David Green

“And, for the first time, I took the controller kindly offered by Tom MacDonald. With Tom’s encouragement I did a little practice, and was convinced to sail the course. Of course, I was a distant last, got in the way of another boat rounding a

mark—Yikes!—and had a very fine time with the ODOM fleet members.”

Sandor Schoichet putting in some body English as he sails the course



Colleen Stobbe at the back of the pack of ODOM sailors.
Photo by Tom MacDonald.

Thanks to all for being so welcoming to Sandor and John.

Membership Report

by Mike Stobbe, Membership Secretary

By the time you read this, the membership renewal process will have ended. Unfortunately, the Nautical News submittal deadline was a week earlier, so I don't yet have the final membership numbers. After a bit of a dry spell, we have had quite a few new members recently, so overall membership is holding up well, on a year-to-year basis.



Five new members joined in the past month, probably a monthly record; two via the club's new online membership process, and three the old fashioned way.

Larry Hitchcock, from San Francisco, has grown up watching the boats on Spreckels Lake. He has a steamboat, and is also interested in model construction and possibly even freesailing.

Todd Pickens is from Plymouth, California (in the foothills), but also has a second home in San Francisco. He learned of the lake by walking by. Todd is an experienced sailor, in a number of different boats, and is interested in all aspects of the club; power, RC sail, and freesail. He currently has a Victoria, but stayed to watch a 36R freesail race in its entirety.

Alan Lew, also from San Francisco, attended our last meeting and observed the Rag Top/Stink Pot. He is also interested in all aspects of our club, and although he doesn't currently have a boat, he's eager to get started building one. Learning the process of model construction is his main focus.

Bill Craddock, another San Franciscan, says he has been to the lake with his boats many times. He's interested in RC sail, power including steam, and model construction. He's finally decide to join, so let's not disappoint him.

Finally, Henry Heinsohn, from Half Moon Bay, was introduced to the club by member Dan Gold. Henry is interested in steam power and construction. It seems the Power Squadron has really gotten a shot in the arm this month. Let's welcome all five of our newest!

Opening Day **The Tony Marshall Ragtop/Stinkpot**

by Ryan Schofield, photos by John Blackburn

Our March 14 Opening day was fantastic this year. There were lots of members attending and a good crowd of onlookers from the general public. This year the Santa Barbara fleet lead off the Tony Marshall Ragtop Stinkpot relay.



Many attended the meeting & lunch before the race



The lunch offered a colorful variety of sandwiches

Each relay team wore a different color – some as bow ties, others as arm bands



Jeff Stobbe & Bernard Price bring in the freesail boats



A Santa Barbara prepares for launch





36 Rs waiting to go

The teams gather on the North shore

Jim Harrold led a team of consistent and smart RC boaters and a Freesailor. He led yours truly around the course after the start and got his team out in front. Unfortunately, as I was coming in, Bob Heacock tried to move out of the way and got tangled up on the line joining the buoys on the other side of the exchange box. That was it for my team.



Rob Weaver and his team did very well with some good sailing and power boat driving by his team members that took his team to second place.

Power boats preparing their batteries while tiny crew makes repairs



Always good to have a fireboat ready

An RC sailor races off from the start

Rob Yohai, sailing the Club Santa Barbara, led his team smartly to third place. Rob Yohai did a great job as a first time team captain even when his Santa Barbara broke just before he was to sail.



Next up was my team who recovered nicely from the buoy mix-up to take fourth.

A power launch waits for the baton (clothes pin) at the start

Jason's team had a rough day and finished last, but had fun.

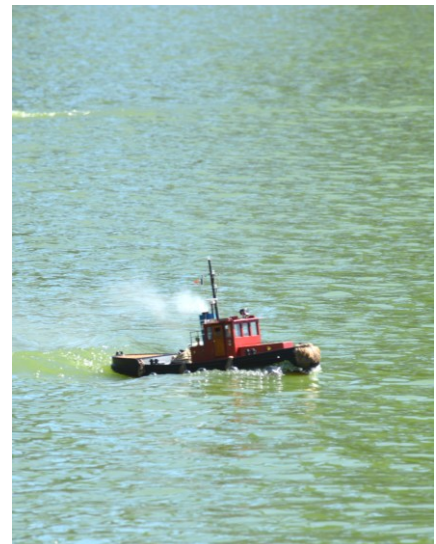
Thank you to everyone who helped or attended.

I thank everyone who came and watched or participated and enjoyed their day at the lake.



Awards handed out by Ryan to the team captains

More photos from Opening Day



Announcements


20th Annual Santa Rosa Swap Meet

by Blaine Russell

Please come and join us for our 20th annual Swap meet in Santa Rosa Sunday April 26th and celebrate this milestone of fun and displays.

Once again Wine Country Flyers has asked the SFMYC to bring boats to be on display for this annual event along with our local REMS shipwrights to show off some of our beautiful boats at this year's event.

Admission is free if you bring and display your boat! This is always a good time to display that new boat or your old favorite!



April 26th
8am-12pm

HOBBY SWAP MEET
2026

All Hobbies Invited
April 26th, 8am to 12PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Santa Rosa, California

20th Annual - Bigger and Better!
100+ tables

Swap open to all hobbies: RC airplanes, helis, drones, crawlers, cars, trains, boats, rockets, warhammer, plastic models, die-cast, and more!

Come join the fun:
Main Hall
Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building
1351 Maple Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Plenty of free parking!

Buyers: \$3 entry fee per person (12 & under free). Doors open at 8:00am

Sellers: Tables are \$20 reserved, \$25 the day of the swap. Tables and chairs provided. Table reservations must be prepaid. Table set-up starts at 7:30.

No early bird selling or parking lot deals (both parties will be asked to leave).

Questions or to reserve tables: contact Hunter at 707-586-3375
Questions: contact Adam at adamcpliment@gmail.com

THE LARGEST INDOOR HOBBY SWAP MEET IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
BROUGHT TO YOU BY WINE COUNTRY FLYERS AND JAKE'S PERFORMANCE HOBBIES

Set up starts at 7:30 AM. If selling, contact jphracing707@gmail.com or by calling 707-586-3375. More information on Facebook JPH page .

Table for sellers reserved are \$20.00 and at the door the day of the meet -- \$25.00 first come first served. (These do sell out!) Your contact for displaying a boat : Blaine at brmaruss@sbcglobal.net . Hope to see you there !

Sail Colors Now Available

from Jim Harrold



The club sail maker, Jim Harrold, is now making different colors of sails for our members.

Here are the colors I have. You can email me at: j32for4@yahoo.com .



19th Ave. Closures April & May

by Mary Rose Cassa

If you're going to the Park on these dates, watch out for road closures:

- 70-hour closure: Friday, April 24 from 7 a.m. until Monday, April 26 at 5 a.m. on Northbound 19th Avenue from Sloat Boulevard to Lincoln Avenue
- 70-hour closure: Friday, May 8 from 7 a.m. until Monday, May 10 at 5 a.m. on Southbound 19th Avenue from Lincoln Avenue to Sloat Boulevard
- 75-hour closure: Friday, May 22 from 7 p.m. until Monday, May 25 at 10 p.m. on Southbound/Northbound 19th Avenue from Sloat Boulevard to Hallway Avenue

Nifty Gear

from Mary Rose Cassa

An interesting source for thin elastic/shock cord and “guy line adjusters” that might serve well as bowsies. Shipping may cost more than the items.



<https://www.litesmith.com/line-lok-guyline-adjusters/>

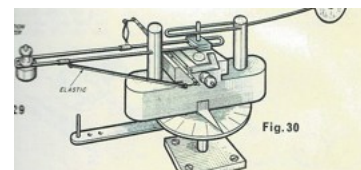
<https://www.litesmith.com/shock-cord/>

1/16 in. (1.6 mm), 5/64 in. (2 mm), 3/32 in. (2.4 mm)

Squadron Reports

Freesail Squadron Report

by Bernard Price, FSO



March gave us great weather to start the 2026 season! First, an informal race for the 36R fleet sailing in our Club's Opening Day Tony Marshall Ragtop-Stinkpot Regatta, details of which are covered elsewhere in the Nautical News. And the very next day, we sailed Race 1 of the 36R Season Championship Series. Both days featured sunshine, steady wind, and a fine turnout of skippers- a real pleasure!

I will admit to a low level of anxiety regarding the on-going lakeside repair happening along the south shore. A necessary coffer dam has been erected to exclude water where construction of a

retaining wall is taking place. From most angles, it seems that if you were to sail into this, almost certainly your boat would not be retrievable without use of the club dinghy.

I'm happy to report that during 36R Race 1, the coffer dam did not come into play. Skippers sailed conservatively by setting up their boats for a north shore bias – perhaps more so than is 'normal'. There may have been one boat that ventured within reach of the coffer dam but happily it was not stranded.

As we sail the 2026 season, be mindful of the lakeside repair site as you make decisions about your boat's settings. Think "north shore". We have a plan in case a boat gets stranded but it will make for a longer day for all of us if needed!

April Freesail races include the X Class Dickie Cup to be sailed on Saturday, April 11th. The M Class will sail their Race 2 on Sunday April 19th

36R Race One, March 15, 2026

text & photos by Mike Stobbe, Fleet Captain



From left: Jeff Stobbe (74), Colleen Stobbe (31) and Mike Stobbe (48) on the first-round beat.



Jim Harvey and Mary Rose Cassa show new member Todd Pickens the freesail run.

The season opener for the 36R-Class saw a good turnout of nine boats and a beautiful, warm, day.

The only potential disaster was the lake-edge repair taking place on the "Forbidden Coast", northeast of Annie's Hot dogs. A working cofferdam of huge sand-bags extended for about 100 feet in front of the southern portion of the worksite, with every possibility of capturing a

freesailor. If this happened, the dinghy would have to be employed to retrieve it. Past freesail races always included multiple instances of boats piling up on the Forbidden Coast. With this uppermost in everyone's minds, racing nonetheless got underway, in a light to very light breeze, mostly westerly to southwesterly. The new landscaping on the south shore is very nice.

Jason Spiller tries to figure out where the problem is.

Starting in groups of three, the action could best be described as leisurely. The winds were reasonably consistent in direction, not very shifty, but included calm patches which made it difficult for the boats to maintain their proper course, especially upwind. The racing was generally uneventful, with no collisions of real consequence. Amazingly, despite a few touches, no one got hung up on the cofferdam. New member Todd Pickens declined the offer of a boat, but watched the action from start to finish, traveling up and down the lake with keen interest. Hopefully, he can be persuaded to join the action next time.



Bernard Price, sailing *Batteries not Included*, sailed to victory, winning 8 of 8 beats in a most convincing manner. Stephen Ma, sailing the club's *Forever Sixty-Four*, took second with a good balance of runs and beats. Jeff Stobbe took third, sailing his *Dash*, and Kathy Harvey in only her second freesail race, took fourth, sailing the club's *Kame Kaze*, Yuri Sands donated, club-boat. It was an absolutely gorgeous day, and a great start to the freesail season. Everyone was glad to be sailing once again. The complete results are given below.



Jeff Stobbe, Bernard Price, and Stephen Ma start the last beat. Bernard won this board and the regatta overall. Stephen finished second this board and second overall. Jeff finished third this board and third overall.

Results:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 st Bernard Price, 36R-61, <i>batteries not Included</i> | 6 th Mike Stobbe, 36R-48, <i>Judy</i> |
| 2 nd Stephen Ma, 36R-64, <i>Forever Sixty-Four</i> | 7 th Mary Rose Cassa, 36R-28, <i>Manzanita</i> |
| 3 rd Jeff Stobbe, 36R-74, <i>Dash</i> | 8 th Colleen Stobbe, 36R-31, <i>Grace</i> |
| 4 th Kathy Harvey, 36R-48, <i>Kame Kaze</i> | 9 th Jason Spiller, 36R-55, <i>Warp Speed</i> |
| 5 th Jim Harvey, 36R-13, <i>Skylark</i> | |

Radio Sailing Squadron Reports

ODOM 2026 Season Opener

text & photos by Tom MacDonald

The first race of the 2026 SFMYC ODOM points series was held at Spreckels Lake under sunny skies on Tuesday March 10. Eighteen club members answered the call, making for a lively day of competition, with winds that varied from lulls to gusts.

Dick Hunter placed first overall on the day, winning four of the eight races held, demonstrating his continued domination of the ODOM fleet after clinching his fourth straight season championship in 2025. Rich Ludt challenged Dick's dominance by winning three of the first five races, but then suffered breakage while leading race #7 and slipped to sixth overall on the day. Rob Weaver was the eventual race 7 winner.

Jim Wondolleck was second overall on the day via a string of second and third place finishes, and Jason Spiller claimed third place on the day by running near the front of the pack all day.



The Podium for ODOM Season Race #1 -- 1st Place Dick Hunter (left); 2nd Place Jim Wondolleck (right); 3rd Place Jason Spiller (center) (Bob Pinotti, 10th Place, Photo-Bombing from the bench)

The second race of the 2026 SFMYC ODOM season is scheduled for Tuesday April 14, with the eight-race series continuing each 2nd Tuesday of the month through October. Meanwhile, ODOM practice racing will take place on all other Tuesdays weather permitting.



**SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB
2026 ODOM FLEET**



**Race Day # 1
3/10/26**

Position	Sail #	Skipper	Score	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8
1	705	Dick Hunter	11	2	1	4	1	3	1	2	1
2	799	Jim Wondolleck	25	8	2	2	3	2	11	6	2
3	42	Jason Spiller	33	3	5	13	2	4	9	3	7
4	798	Bob Gallagher	42	13	15	7	4	5	2	8	3
5	28	Jim Harrold	43	4	6	3	8	7	5	13	10
6	580	Richard Ludt	44	1	12	1	7	1	3	19dnf	19dns
7	782	Eric Saxon	49	5	3	5	14	12	6	12	6
8	21	Dave Misunas	51	6	4	10	6	13	7	9	9
9	122	Rob Weaver	53	15	9	9	9	6	19dns	1	4
10	650	Bob Pinotti	60	10	11	11	5	11	10	5	8
11	102	Nick Mulford	60	12	14	6	12	10	4	4	12
12	64	Tom MacDonald	69	14	8	8	13	14	8	7	11
13	564	Ed Gilbert	73	18	7	14	16	8	13	10	5
14	780	Jon Ely	74	7	13	12	10	9	12	11	13
15	1	Joe Steiner	104	16	16	19dnf	15	15	14	14	14
16	213	Dave Green	110	11	10	15	17	19dnf	19dns	19dns	19dns
17	99	John Martin	121	17	17	19dnf	11	19dnf	19dnf	19dnf	19dns
18	840	Ron Anderson	123	9	19dnf	19dnf	19dns	19dns	19dns	19dns	19dns

Number of races held: 8
Number of discards: 1
Discards highlighted in gray

Victoria Fleet – 1st Race of the Season Photos

by Michael Fischer with results from Dick Hunter



A beautiful light breeze



David Green's 75 takes the lead as Jim Harrold's 28 tests out the new colored sails.

Greetings Victoria Skippers,

Attached are the results for the 2025 Victoria Fleet Race Day #1. Congratulations to all for a spirited day of sailing!

- Dick

SFMYC 2026 VICTORIA RACING SERIES

Race Day #1
03/18/26



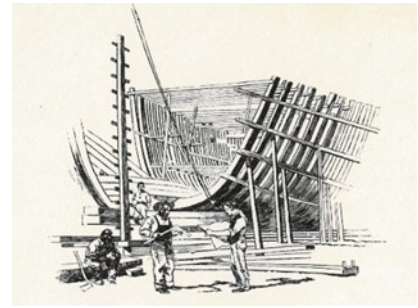
Position	Sail #	Skipper	Score	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6
1	28	Jim Harrold	8	3	1	2	1	1	3
2	75	David Green	10	1	3	4	2	2	2
3	189	Jon Ely	12	4	2	1	4	4	1
4	50	Mac Lowry	18	2	4	3	5	5	4
5	59	Wally Wahlander	23	7dns	5	7dnf	3	3	5
6	67	Todd Pickens	28	5	6	5	6	6	6

<p>Number of races held: 6 Number of throw outs: 1 Throw outs highlighted in grey</p>
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In the Workshop

Adding RC to an old Chris Craft Barrel Back

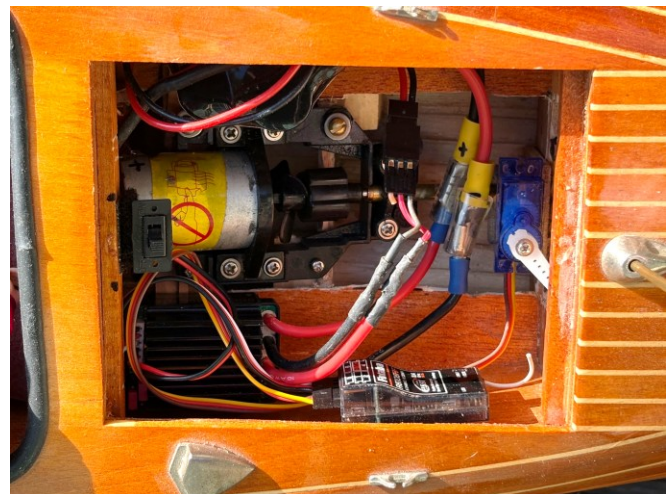
text & photos by Rick Weiss



I acquired a beautifully-finished, anonymously-built, display model, of a Chris Craft Barrel Back, at a past year's Swap Meet.

The small display model Barrel Back

It had a completely empty engine compartment itching for an RC upgrade. So, I found a tiny motor from a wrecked racing boat and squished it in along with a new motor controller, u-joint, propellor shaft, receiver, battery, switch, and rudder servo. Somehow it all fit in like an old pocket watch movement with one square inch to spare – for adjustments.



Former empty engine compartment upgraded with new RC components.



I installed some new dashboard instruments, throttle and a compass in the pilots seat along with the pilot and two intrepid passengers – another “Dr. Who” and a “Trecky.”

Some new navigation-upgrades, including the pilot

The project was completed with a modified, exterior-mounted rudder, mainly because it was impossible to fit it in the stern compartment without hiring a “ship-in-the-bottle” crafter with a 3D, robotic, laparoscopic, micro-surgery consol and probe. Having no Surgical license, it was necessary for me to mount it on the transom.

The new exterior rudder attached to the distinctive barrel back.

Testing on the lake found no leaks and it sailed great.



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

- **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



- T37 radio controlled sailboat. Free! Contact Dick Hunter rhunter4@gmail.com

- Club Apparel - 25% Reimbursement -



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.