



Nautical News

SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB

APRIL, 2011

Spreckels Lake - Established 1898 - Golden Gate Park

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The deadline for items for the Nautical News is the 20th of each month. Send to Jim Harvey (ja_harvey@yahoo.com). The editor reserves the right to edit submissions, based on space available.

COMMODORE'S CORNER

It was a warm, early Spring afternoon as a fleet of powerboats and sailboats set out on the sun-dappled waters of Spreckels Lake. A steady Westerly breeze billowed the sails of the sailboats and created ripples on the water that made the models look just like their full-size counterparts. Spectators and team members cheered their favorites to victory. P.S.O. Bernard Price will fill you in on the team standings in his article. Opening Day of the 2011 boating season was a grand success.

As I mentioned last month, we'll have noted maritime historian Ed Von Der Porten as our guest speaker at the April meeting. Mr. Von Der Porten is the Organizer and Director of several archeological projects in California and Mexico, and is the former Director of the Treasure Island Museum. His subject will be the adventures of Sir Francis Drake on the West Coast of North America.

There are many versions of where and when Drake stopped on his voyage around the world. Based on his interpretation of the log of the Golden Hinde, descriptions and drawings of landmarks on the Pacific Coast made by members of the crew, and archeological evidence, Mr. Von Der Porten will present the definitive history of Francis Drake in California. This will be an exciting and educational presentation. We hope you can make it.

If there's any one "theme" that might characterize my efforts as your Commodore, it would be to promote our club. As I said last month, we have so much to offer. Our collection of ship models and boats rivals that in any maritime museum. And, they're all functional, too. The AMYA also recently modernized their website and printed new brochures. Part of that effort is to show our club and its boats at hobby shows and other venues.

There are two events coming up in which we'll be participating. The first is the Derek Ward Memorial Car Show, on April 17th at the Sierra Point Marina. Don Ciucci, John Garis and I will be there. A lot of other hobby clubs will also have exhibits. Don will have more details at the April meeting.

The second is the Maker Faire, at the San Mateo Expo Center, on May 21st and 22nd. For those unfamiliar with Maker Faire, it's an event that

celebrates the “Do It Yourself” spirit, and was attended by over 80,000 people last year. The SFMYC will be partners with the Western Warship Combat Club, who build a 40 ft by 70 ft pond on site. We’ll be doing a kids activity called “Race ‘n Shoot, in which our members teach young people the fundamentals of operating radio control boats. We’ll also be teaching R/C sailing with our fleet of Footy sailboats.

This is a great opportunity to get kids, and more importantly, their parents interested in model boating. If you’d like to volunteer as a teacher or staff our booth, you’ll get free admission to the Faire. Also, if you have a boat with a draft of less than 1 foot, bring it and you can sail it in “distant waters”. If you’d like to help out, send me an e-mail at ‘scooter281@sbcglobal.net’.

I also have three samples of our club burgee made by BECC Model Flags of the UK. I remember we had some of these in 2007, and our members bought what we had almost immediately. The sizes go from 3/8” to six inches. They’re all cotton and will look great on your boats. Prices for the ones I have are: One and a half inch, \$6.29, three inch, \$7.86, and four inch, \$9.48. They’re not exactly cheap, but there’s only one source for them. I’ll have a complete price list at the April meeting. I’m thinking that if we place a club order, we might get a discount, or at least save on shipping.

If you’d like to order your own, go to: www.ModelFlags.com. and look in their online catalog. The code number for our burgee is SF01.

The season is off to a good start. It’s going to be a great year. See you on the lake!

Bob Heacock, Commodore

Power Squadron Report

Rain, rain, go away... A rainy March has provided us with *more than* ample opportunity to spend time in our shops preparing our boats for the new season or perhaps putting finish touches on new boats built over the course of the winter- a good thing to be sure but enough is enough!

March 2011 was not without its fine days for model boating though. Saturday March 12, our official Opening Day on the lake was an outstanding example of why many of us call Northern California home- picture perfect weather! Opening day saw many boats out on the lake before and after the club’s featured event, the “**Ragtop-Stinkpot Regatta**”. This year’s regatta had 15 participants- eight sailboats and seven powerboats. This number allowed for three teams of five members each to compete for bragging rights which are valid until next year’s regatta! After a nice lunch in the clubhouse, the Ragtop-Stinkpot Regatta got under way shortly after 1:00 and all boats made it around the course without incident- After running a single heat, the event was in the record books shortly after 2:00. Judging from the shore side vibe, I believe all of the participants and spectators had a good time. Many stayed after the event to continue using their boats and enjoy good conversation.

2011 Ragtop-Stinkpot Regatta Results:

1st Place

“Team 3”

Rob Wood	Lobster Boat
Jim Hensel	Infinity 54
John Garis	CC Corvette
Rich Styles	Santa Barbara
Lee Duvall	Monterey

2nd Place

“Team 1”

Bob Heacock	Tugboat
George Desouza	Santa Barbara
David Sands	Star 45
Gary Kettwig	CC Runabout
Carl Brosius	Cutter

3rd Place

“Team 2”

Vince Hoffmann	Newport 12
John Strebel	Tugboat
Til Mossi	USCG 47
Tony Dodson	Victor Catamaran
Mary Rose Cassa	ODOM

Last minute reminder! Our first in-the-water Power Squadron event will be the “**Boat Handling Challenge**” on **Sunday, April 3rd, starting at 9:30 AM**. The “Boat Handling Challenge” will be made up of a single course with a series of obstacles designed to put your boat handling skills to the test. Awards will be given in big boat (>30”) and small boat (<30”) divisions.

Looking further ahead, on **Saturday, May 7th**, we will be having our second event of the season, “**Team Slalom**” which will begin at **0930**. As the name implies, this is a team event where teams of two people each run two boats simultaneously through a slalom course while keeping the boats abeam one another the entire time. Success in this event will depend on good communication between skippers ensuring that turns are coordinated, speed is properly adjusted and of course, making sure to stay ahead of the boats so that adequate room is left for mark roundings! Should be **a lot of fun** and I hope to see you there!

Bernard Price, PSO

Sail Squadron Report

Opening Day, March 12

Opening Day was Saturday, March 12. It turned out to be a very nice day, partly sunny, light to moderate breezes generally west to south. The main event, of course, was the Rag Top-Stink Pot Regatta, which is reported by Bernard Price. There was a good crowd, and everyone had fun. The luncheon provided by the club was excellent. The turnout of recreational sailors wasn't as great as I had hoped for, but those of us who sailed enjoyed a very pleasant day on the lake. I'm looking forward to a great season. Many thanks to everyone who participated and to those who worked to make Opening Day a success. I must add that the clubhouse was gleaming spotless, with a nod to Drew Marshall for exemplary service.

X-Class, Race 1, The Dickie Cup

Regular season racing got underway on Sunday, May 13, starting with the X-Class Dickie Cup. Unlike Opening Day, the previous day, the forecast for Sunday was not so bright. This probably kept some people away, as we only had five sailors, whereas the Dickie Cup usually draws eight to ten. It was cloudy and cool, not cold, but threatening showers. We didn't let that stop us, however, and forged ahead

regardless. It wasn't easy, though. The wind was generally southerly, but when it hit the trees on the north side, it split, sending easterly gusts into Heartbreak Harbor that were intermittently strong enough to overcome what little Street Breeze there was. Sailors starting the run were turned back repeatedly. Once past the big cypress tree, running boats were often pinned against the north shore, whereas beating boats were often lifted unwillingly across the lake into Motorboat Cove. Then it rained. Showers came and went, never hard enough to soak us, but about five or six times; enough to keep things moist around the edges. Despite all this, the racing was brisk, and sometimes very close. Dennis O'Connor, sailing *Mad Bob*, took first place by a wide margin. While the highly variable conditions probably favored braine control over vane, there is no denying that Dennis did a great job with a legendary boat. Mike Stobbe took second place. Dave Sands, not a regular X-boat sailor, was pleased with third place, having borrowed Paul Staiger's boat. Paul Staiger sailed the club's *Anna II* to fourth place, proving once again that no good deed goes unpunished. And Jeff Stobbe came in last, trying out a new boat, *Emily*. He reports that it points very well, having ended up in Motorboat Cove on every beat! The complete results are:

1st Dennis O'Connor, X-5, *Mad Bob* 4th Paul Staiger, X-27, *Anna II*
2nd Mike Stobbe, X-34, *'Spearment* 5th Jeff Stobbe, X-43, *Emily*
3rd Dave Sands, X-90, *Mary II*

Classic X, Race 1, March 20

The weather looked pretty doubtful on Sunday, March 20, which dawned rainy, but a stalwart few came out to the lake with an eye to the sky. Promptly at 1:00 PM, there was a fortuitous break in the weather, so Rod Tosetti, Jim Harvey, and Dennis O'Connor brought out their boats, congratulating themselves on their luck. It was cloudy, cool, with a brisk variable west wind. Their luck didn't last. The first board went off fighting wild winds. Then the rain started again. The winds became very blustery. Halfway down the lake on the second board, they were battered by a heavy hailstorm. Then, everything went still: no wind, sunny clear sky, and the lake became a mirror. Rod reports that it is amazing how well braine boats can handle unpredictable weather and still keep their course. The racing was limited to one round because the wind had quit. All three sailors survived, and there were no breakages. Dennis O'Connor won again, with *Mad Bob*. Jim Harvey came in second, and Rod Tosetti third. Dennis appears to be off to a great season; two starts, two wins, a testimonial to George Ferrari's talents as a teacher and boat builder. The complete results are:

1st Dennis O'Connor, X-5, *Mad Bob*
2nd Jim Harvey, X-19, *Kathy II*
3rd Rod Tosetti, X-1, *Primo*

Mike Stobbe, SSO

In My Opinion

Thought I would do a few columns on items that seem to come up during Lakeside discussions among the Boaters. And figure I should start off with the 2.4ghz radios that are becoming more popular.

First I think that the pros and cons of this new technology should be addressed. This new frequency does not require a clip like the 75mhz does. this because these radios do a "Hand Shake" electronically before they come on. If there is no clear frequency to use they will not power up. Also due to the receiver being based on a computer they take a longer time to boot up, so you must ensure that it has a robust power

supply. And finally the Radio Waves will only penetrate 1/4" of anything, wood, water, fiberglass, plastic so you must install the receiver where it has a clear view for the antenna. And the Submarine and other boats that require the receiver installed in tight quarters or below the waterline will need to stay with the 75mhz radios.

But for those of us who use multiple receivers with a single transmitter, we need to keep in mind that each manufacturer uses a different system and you are locked into the receiver that matches your transmitter.

But you can use the servo's you presently have installed in your boat. I have an Futaba S-22 working on 2.4ghz and also the new HiTec's and everything in between. So you do not need to use the company supplied ones exclusively, have heard some folks have gotten this information. Some of the really early ESC's will have a bit of a problem, but it comes down to a case by case situation.

Now we are to the nitty-gritty of selection of new radio set. The range of prices is from \$40 to over \$200. I tend to the lower end and have had good luck with the Hobby King brand and also the Tactic brand. These are not a computer radio so they only have servo reverse switches. For a bit more money there are some that need to connect to a computer to set or change parameters and then the more expensive ones are full blown computer radios with lots of bells and whistles. It comes down to how much your budget is as to where you end up on this range of prices. But be aware that there are some of the lower priced ones have a restricted range, but it will be in the spec's of the radio and usually find them on the cheaper RTR toy types. Also for multiple receivers you need to price them out so you can factor those into the cost of switching over.

Also if you are really happy with your 75mhz set there exists a market of change over modules. So if you have a black box on the back you can switch it out with a complete kit and your favorite radio has become a 2.4ghz radio. Also there are some DIY kits to replace those radios that do not have a box. but you will need a real electronics nerd on hand to give you a hand on the changeover. Two wire electricians like me are just aware of it can be done, not the changeover artist that can do it.

Hope this helps you decide on whether to change over, but those who already done so are raving about it.

Lee Duvall

Trolling the Web

New Hampshire Boat Museum and Model Yacht Group

<http://www.nhbm.org/modelsailboat.html>

The model yacht group was established in 2008, with the assistance of the New Hampshire Boat Museum (NHBM) and the Laconia Model Yacht Club, to promote radio controlled sailing in the Wolfeboro, NH area. Their mission was to build and sail a fleet of sailboats, while providing participants and spectators an avenue to enjoy this hobby. Over the last three winters the club has hosted a Soling 1-Meter building school that has produced 39 boats. Starting from zero, the skippers list is up to 45 active members and growing. The club runs Tuesday afternoon regattas that attract a great crowd of spectators, including being on the tour bus route.

Model Guild of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

http://www.cbmm.org/1_model.htm

The Museum's Volunteer Model Guild supports the curatorial needs of the Museum with exhibit models and building kits for the Museum Store. In addition, the Guild offers classes for building scratch models, and the annual Maritime Model Boat Expo featuring "live" steamboat models, skipjacks with working sails, speedboats, tugs, and other radio-controlled miniatures. In addition to the Model Guild, the Museum has a Model Sailing Club, which builds and races 48-inch radio-controlled sailing model skipjacks on the Museum grounds monthly throughout the summer.

Tabletop Waterways

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owQa9apoe3g&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL

Video showing a number of model solar-powered boats developed for various solar boat challenges in the UK. Based loosely of various types of boats ... cheap to make and fun! See also other solar boat clips and a portable "tabletop waterway."

Manned Model Shiphandling Centre, Hampshire, UK

<http://www.mobilemarinemodels.com>

Manned models are fully scaled model ships used in the professional training and development of mariners in the art of handling a ship. The models are in fact a form of simulation, and have the correct power to weight ratio as its full sized counterpart. Manned model training complements bridge simulator training, but emphasizes the final phase of berthing a ship rather than bridge teamwork training, which is best carried out on a computerized bridge simulator. Because of the scaling factors of the models, five times as many maneuvers can be carried out on a model as opposed to a bridge simulator or a real ship.

The Manned Model Shiphandling Centre has seven models of differing scales, namely 1:15, 1:25, 1:30 and 1:40: Five tankers from 40,000 to 300,000 dwt; one Panamax vessel, which can be converted to a car carrier with conventional or high lift schilling rudder; one twin screw Ro-Ro vessel. These can represent 15 different vessels. The centre also has three radio-controlled tugs: One azimuth stern drive (ASD), one Voith Schneider Water Tractor and one steerable kort nozzle.

Mary Rose Cassa

Pictures from Opening Day



Sea Fox



Wind Song



Ed Shoenstein



Mary Rose Cassa

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