On August 16, 2009 the San Francisco Model Yacht Club (SFMYC) hosted its first All Steam Power Model Boat Regatta. This unique event was the club’s tribute to steam, our first power boat models.

**History:** Sail boats were our first models, but by the end of the 1800’s power boats began to appear on our lakes and ponds. They were powered by steam, long before gasoline and electric. The earliest models featured hand crafted engines and boilers fired by dry fuel tablets, kerosene, or coal. Commercially made engines and accessories were not available. By the mid 1920’s model steam engines were offered as “raw castings”, and the art of steam boating required extensive skill in machining, woodworking, and model engineering. It was not until the 1940’s that pre-built engines and boilers came on the market. The 90’s began the development of the smaller more powerful and reliable units fired by propane and butane.

From the show we learned that today’s steam technology is still advancing. Using higher quality materials and modern manufacturing design and techniques, companies like Monahan Steam Models have made great strides in the development of highly detailed scale engines and boilers with increased performance, run-time, reliability and ease of operation.

**The Show:** The Event showcased both vintage and modern day boats such as tugs, working boats, launches, and was open to all steam powered vessels.
The Kelsey - Lynore by Dave Gallagher

The Luisa C. by Don Ciucci
The Anna

Victoria by Dave Gallagher
Works in progress and all forms of steam plants and boilers were encouraged to display;

Nick Monahan’s Work In Progress
John Garis’ Vintage Stuart Double 10s and Custom Boiler

Kay Tilman’s 1920’s Era Vintage Steam Hulls, Engines, and Boilers
Many of us had forgotten the sheer power of the vintage steam boats.

Don Ciuccis’ Luisa C’s Bow Wake at Full Power

The Luisa C. Pulls SFMYC Member Bob Trickey around Spreckels Lake
The many spectators were in awe of the variety of boats, craftsmanship, engineering, and intricate detail of these exquisite models.
Some of the boats
More of the boats
Spectators and participants all agreed that “Steam on the Water” was a sight to behold.

Stay tuned to this website for the date of next year’s show. The SFMYC sends a special thanks to John Brock, Dave Gallagher, Nick Monahan, and Kay Tillman for their assistance and participation in making this an annual event.