

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

January 2025 Schedule (TBD)

11	Saturday	0830 1330	Board/General Meeting (Zoom) Winter Series DF 95
12	Sunday	1300	2025 Bottle Yacht Builders Kickoff
19	Sunday	1330	Casual Santa Barbara -off season sailing

Red=RC sailing, Green=Freesailing, Blue=Powerboat sailing
Check the SFMYC webpage for the complete updated PDF 2025 calendar. www.SFMYC.org

Advise us of your new address when moving! sfmycnauticalnews@gmail.com
For input to the Calendar, contact Ryan Schofield at rssailor@yahoo.com

February 2025 Schedule TBD (preview)

08	Saturday	0930	Board/ General Meeting (at the Club) <i>Frostbite (all boats)</i>
16	Sunday	1300	Casual Santa Barbara – off season sailing
22	Saturday	1300	Winter Series I 54 Class



Nautical News

SAN FRANCISCO MODEL YACHT CLUB

Spreckels Lake - Established 1898 - Golden Gate Park

Volume 127

January, 2025

Number 1

2025 OFFICERS

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Freesail Squadron Officer

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Wahlander, Sam Bryan

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(Open Position)

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(The deadline for items for the Nautical News is the 25th of each month. Send 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, Commodore

Welcome to 2025! I hope you stayed safe and had wonderful times with family and friends over the holidays.

This year Board meetings and Membership meetings will follow a different schedule and formats. The Board will meet on Zoom in January, April, June, September, November. The Board will also be meeting in the clubhouse in February, March, May, July, October, December. All of the Membership meetings will be in the clubhouse in February, March, May, July, October, and December.

Members are welcome to watch and listen to Board meetings on Zoom and at clubhouse Board meetings. The first Board meeting on Zoom will be Saturday, January 11, 8:30 AM. A few days before January 11 an all-member email will go out explaining how members can watch and listen to the Zoom Board meeting, if you'd like.

In order to keep members informed about club business, Board minutes from every Board meeting whether on Zoom or in the clubhouse will be sent to members. If members have a question about the minutes from a Board Zoom meeting or member input is required, the minutes will include a designated email to which members can send their questions and input. In clubhouse Membership meetings will begin with brief discussions for questions, input, and votes on items, if required. Because less time will be used for club business at in-clubhouse Membership meetings, this will leave lots of time for more fun and interesting things, such as show and tell about boats, presentations, demonstrations, etc.

These changes are all new for us! Thanks for your patience as we all do our best to navigate these uncharted waters together. Plan to attend all our in-clubhouse Membership meetings and participate in our best efforts to improve our meetings by giving us feedback.

The first clubhouse Membership meeting will be February 8, followed by the Frostbite, an awesome display of the high quality craftsmanship and engineering capabilities of our members. See you at the February 8 Membership meeting, 11:00 AM and the Frostbite!

Membership Report

by Mike Stobbe, Membership Secretary

There were a record six new members last month! In the order received, first was Scott Raderstorf, a SF local who just saw our boats on the lake. Scott has a long experience with RC models, building both boats and planes. Scott is good friends with neighbor Scott Slotterback, whom he talked into joining as well. Scott #2 has the same interests, but doesn't currently have any boats. Next, Peter Li of San Francisco, joined the club as a senior member, to sponsor his young sons Ethan and Henry, who are veterans of Kate Ettinger's bottle boat program (one RC and one freesail). We'll see if they will transition to real model yachts. This will be much more likely if we can twist Peter's arm to give model yachting a try. Lastly, Ed Gilbert from Soquel has joined, after finding us on the web. Ed, who has past experience racing sailboats, is currently building an RC sailboat, but not a club-sanctioned class. We must lead him into enlightenment to try one of the club's many classes. Welcome to all new members!

The annual membership renewal season is fast approaching, but it's nothing to worry about, because all of you are used to the routine by now, and nothing has changed from the way it was done last year. The fee schedule remains unchanged, and the renewal invoices will be handled by PayPal as before. Last year there was a hiccup because while all of the renewal invoices were supposed to go out via email on January 1st, only about half did. The problem was a fault in PayPal's system, which took me a couple of weeks to work around. This year, I can't be sure that PayPal has fixed the problem, so if your inbox doesn't have your renewal invoice on January first, don't panic, you'll get it eventually. There's no rush, as the deadline to pay is March 31st. Remember, the email will come from PayPal, not the SFMYC. If you have a PayPal account, payment just takes a few clicks. If you don't have a PayPal account, you can still pay your dues to PayPal with a credit card. Or, if you'd rather, you can print out your invoice and mail it to the club's post office box with a check. Each invoice is customized for the membership status, boats stored or leased, locker rented, etc. of each member and cannot be altered. The PayPal system only accepts payment of the invoice amount. If you need to make a change, you will have to contact me at mwstobbe@comcast.net. I will correct the invoice and reissue it.

Trolling the Web

by Mary Rose Cassa

Tugboat Hercules

The 117-year-old *Hercules*, a museum ship at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, is being overhauled in Alameda.

It was built in New Jersey in 1907 for the Red Stack tugboat company in San Francisco and named for Hercules, the Greek god of strength. The tugboat was built to be strong and tough, a steel hull, 151 feet long powered by a 1,000-horsepower oil-burning steam engine. On its maiden voyage the *Hercules* towed the *Goliath*, another tug, from New Jersey around South America to San Francisco.

The *Hercules* worked on the Pacific Coast towing other vessels between ports on the open ocean. In 1924, a century ago, the tug was sold to the Western Pacific railroad and moved barges with

railroad cars between San Francisco, Oakland and Alameda. San Francisco has been the vessel's home port all its long life, and it was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1986.

Read more here: [Tugboat Hercules](#)

Breaking News

More Trees Fall in Park

Photos by Mary Rose Cassa



Near the Police Stables, across from the Club.

What an amazing day! And everything turned out great with a nice party at the Club!



The 2024 AWARDS LUNCHEON

by Rob Weaver, photos by Jim Hirsch

It was a dark and stormy night before the annual awards luncheon. Really. San Francisco had a tornado warning, of all things, that went out on an emergency broadcast picked up by cell phones throughout San Francisco. I suspect that most people were rudely awakened and didn't even look at their phones, concluding that it was another Amber Alert triggered by a divorced father who was late returning his child after a permitted outing. Not so. Although most of us turned over and went back to sleep in the early morning hours, when we awoke, it was to the sound of sirens and chainsaws. As Board Members headed to the club, they were met with downed trees and power lines, and park closures. No amount of persuasion would move the police and park rangers to allow entrance to the club. So, we parked outside the park, or at 30th Avenue and JFK and hiked into the club. Some walked the six blocks from 30th Avenue, others traversed over downed trees and blocked paths from the Senior Center on 37th Avenue. Others just gave up completely and went home. With his indomitable spirit, David Sands slowly walked, cane in hand, half way from 30th Avenue until a park ranger graciously picked him up for the remainder of the trip.

Despite a tragic start to the annual luncheon, board and club members did trickle in all morning. Enough people braved the elements to conduct abbreviated board and general meetings. We conducted the annual election and installed new officers. We even negotiated with the park rangers to escort our caterer to the front of the club to deliver food.

Ultimately, most of the members who made reservations were able to trudge over fallen trees and debris that littered the streets to the club. They were rewarded with a hearty barbeque lunch. The clubhouse was full with eager members and spouses.



Lunch is Served!

Following lunch, the official awards ceremony portion of the luncheon commenced. Before actual awards were given out, the membership was reminded that Tony Marshall and Gene Ericksen had passed away during the last year. It was also noted that Craig Carter, Til Mossi, Jeff Brooks and Joe Minafo were not able to join us due to health problems. We wished Craig, Til, Jeff and Joe all of the best and sent our best wishes that they will recover and join us next year.

The first award of the day was the Harry Birch Congeniality Award, given to the member who is notably friendly to others, helpful, respectful and who set a positive example for all the rest of us. At least that is the official description. As an award left wholly to the discretion of the Commodore, I simply chose the person I thought was the biggest asset to the club last year and the person who is our best ambassador to the public. Although I seriously considered naming Dick Hunter, Colleen Stobbe, Jim Harrold or Rick Weiss as the recipient of the award, I put each of them on the “honorable mention” list this year and chose someone that I have passed over the last two years. The award this year went to Kate Ettinger for her continued work in guiding the Bottle Boat program. Well deserved, and too long delayed.

Kate Ettinger with Bottle Boaters

Newly elected Commodore Colleen Stobbe accepted the award on behalf of Kate, and read a thoughtful poem written by Kate expressing her dedication to the Bottle Boat program and SFMYC.



The second award of the day was the Bill Hynes Engineering Award, which is given to the person who displayed a high level of skill in engineering, i.e.

figuring things out, reworking, rewiring, building and designing. A work of engineering is done by doing and seeing what works, and then sharing those insights and methods with others.

Normally the award is a joint decision by the Commodore and Power Squadron Officer, as well as other squadron officers. This year your Commodore ignored the normal decision protocols and made a unilateral decision, knowing that the Power Squadron Officer would disagree with him.

That disagreement would likely be because the Commodore chose the Power Squadron Officer himself to be the recipient of the award. This year the Engineering Award was given to Ken Knipmeyer who was not given a chance to argue against the choice.



Ken Knipmeyer receiving the Bill Hynes Engineering Award

Following the Engineering Award, the Power Squadron Officer announced his decision to name Gene Erickson as this year's Skipper of the Year. The Skipper of the Year award goes to the power squadron member who displays excellence in work and workmanship. It also requires a willingness to volunteer for club events and a commitment to regular participation in power squadron events – all of which Gene exhibited last year. Although Gene passed away before learning of the award, his name will join the other power squadron members honored in the past and all of us will be reminded of Gene whenever we consider the names on the honor roll under the ship's wheel.

With the discretionary awards announced, and the recipients honored, the program turned to the competitive awards for both the Freesail Sailing Fleet and the RC Sailing Fleet. Bernard Price Freesail Squadron Officer did the honors for the Freesail Fleet. As always it was a Stobbe Family orgy of excessive success. Of the nine awards up for grabs, the Stobbes won five. Fortunately, one sailor bested the venerable Stobbe Clan. Mary Rose Cassa was crowned the 36R Class Season Champion, followed by Steve Ma who finished second and Mike Stobbe who finished third. In the M Class, Mike Stobbe bested all comers for first place, followed by Colleen Stobbe in second and the venerable Jason Spiller in third. Jeff Stobbe managed to garner a first place in the X Class, closely followed by brother Mike Stobbe in second place and Jim Harvey in third.

36R Class, FSO Bernard Price hands out awards to Mike Stobbe (3rd), Mary Rose Cassa (1st) and Steve Ma (2nd)



M Class, FSO Bernard Price hands out awards to Jason Spiller (3rd), Mike Stobbe (1st) and Colleen Stobbe (2nd)



X Class, FSO Bernard hands out awards to Mike Stobbe (2nd), Jeff Stobbe (1st) and Jim Harvey (3rd)

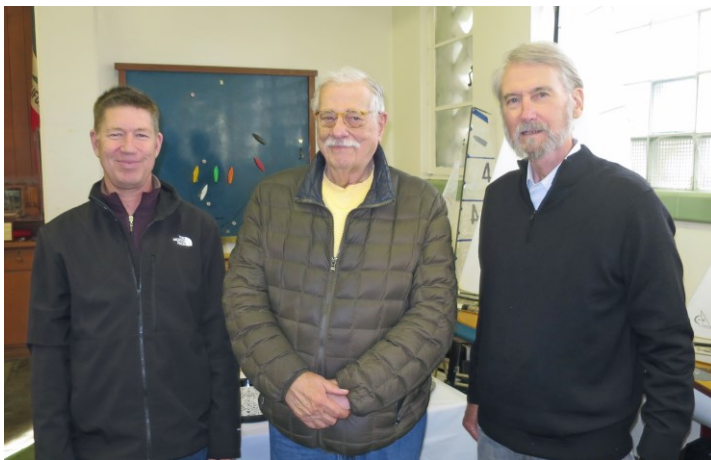
After the Stobbe Gang gathered their cumulative winnings and returned to their seats, Ryan Schofield made the awards to the successful sailors in the seven different RC Class sailors. Ryan Schofield was the Infinity 54 Season Champion followed by Jim Harrold in second place and Rob Weaver in third place.

Infinity 54 Class, Rob Weaver (3rd), Ryan Schofield (1st), not pictured, Jim Harrold (2nd)

The Santa Barbara Class was a near repeat of the I-54 results, except this time Rob Weaver was the Season Champion, Ryan Schofield finished in second place and Jim Forbes came in third place.



Santa Barbara Class, Ryan Schofield (2nd), Jim Forbes (3rd), Rob Weaver (1st)



Rob Weaver also managed to win the 10 Rater Class, followed by Dave Misunas in second and Jim Forbes in third place. Rob Weaver also took honors in the Wheeler Class followed by Dave Misunas in second with Bob Gallagher rounding out the podium in third place.



10 Rater Class, Jim Forbes (3rd), Rob Weaver (2nd), , Dave Misunas (not pictured) (2nd)

In the ODOM Class, Dick Hunter finished so far ahead of the fleet that he should have taken all three places, but he only won first place, followed by Jim Harrold in second and Dave Misunas in third.

ODOM Class, Dick Hunter (1st), Jim Harrold (not pictured) (2nd), Dave Misunas (not pictured) (3rd)

The Victoria fleet had a bit of a shake up in the final results this year, with Wally Wahlander notching his first RC Class victory, followed by last year's winner, David Green in second and the ever-improving John Ely finishing in third.

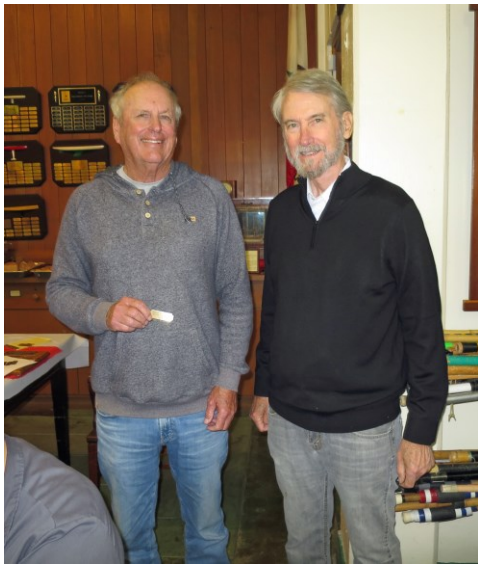


Victoria Class, John Ely (3rd), David Green (3rd), Wally Wahlander (not pictured) (1st)



Finally, the Star 45 Class was dominated by Dick Hunter, who won the season by a wide margin. But after 48 races there was a tie for second place in the Star 45 Class. Using the RRS tie breaker protocols, the tie was adjusted by “most first place finishes” which resulted in Dave Misunas finishing in second

place, Rob Weaver in third place, and Jim Harrold in fourth, waiting until 2025 for the podium despite having the same final score as Dave and Rob.



Star 45 Class, Dick Hunter (1st), Rob Weaver (3rd), Dave Misunas (not pictured) (2nd)

Bottle Boat Builder Kickoff & Mentor Sessions

text and photos by Kate Ettinger & the Bottle Class

Interested in building a bottle boat? Come to the SFMYC Clubhouse on Sunday, January 12 at 1pm for the 2025 Bottle Yacht Builders Kickoff.



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 5th Annual Bruce Ettinger Bottle Yacht Regatta on Sunday, Nov 9, 2025 (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. Some general guidance is available on the Builder's Blog of our website: www.bottleyachtregatta.org

During the winter months (Jan/Feb), we host mentor sessions for new builders to bring in-progress bottle boats to the Clubhouse for tips and advice from our bottle mentors. We are a learning community. Mentors are anyone who has built a bottle boat previously. Mentors are learning as well. We work together to problem solve. New bottle boat builders should plan to attend all mentor sessions and arrive at 11:00 AM; 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 adult at all activities. Building seems well suited for youth 12-16, but we have had builders range from 8-88. The younger the youth, the more adult participation is necessary.



Kickoff Builder Mentor Session Schedule:

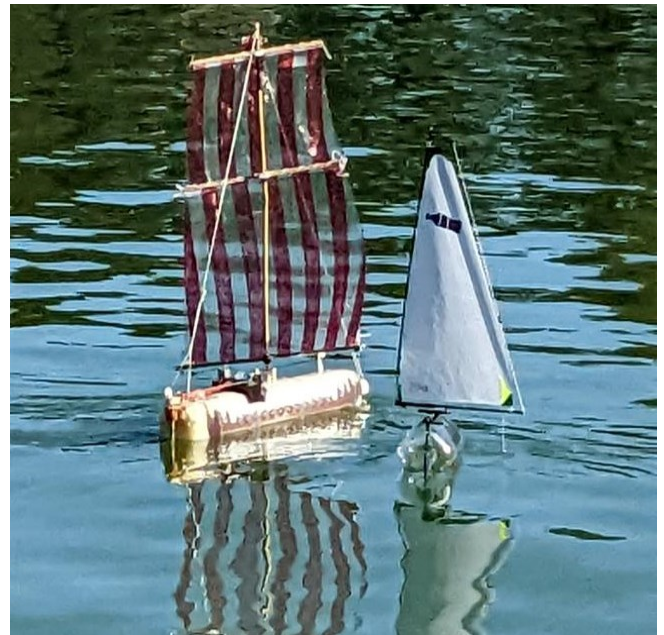
1pm Meet the Bottle Fleet:

Check out different bottle boats models. Based on feedback from past bottle builders, for a starter bottle boat, we suggest a Freesail model, a self-steering boat powered by the wind.

Freesail race 2022: Nina Manzo's Rask Flask & Jerry Pugh's 3D Footy

3pm Building:

Get started on your bottle boat in the workshop with our bottle class mentor's assistance. Pick up any donated starter parts available on a first come, first serve basis. If you are ready to start building, bring 3 empty/dry 1.5L Fiji Water Bottles.



**2024 BRUCE ETTINGER BOTTLE YACHT REGATTA
BOTTLE CLASS**

Regatta Bottle Class, photo by Paul Frankenstein

Bottle Class Dates for 2025:

Jan 12 (Sunday) Builder Mentor Sessions Kickoff 1-3pm –RSVP appreciated!

Mentor Sessions 11-3pm: Sunday Jan 26, Sunday Feb 2, Sunday Feb 9, Sunday Feb 23

May 4 (Sunday) Bottle Class Relay 11 - 3 - Relay Race begins at 1pm

Nov 9 (Sunday) Bruce Ettinger Bottle Yacht Regatta 1-4pm

RSVPs for the kickoff are greatly appreciated. If you are interested in stopping by or curious to learn more about the bottle boats, please email Kate with questions:

bottleyachtregatta@gmail.com

Bottle Class at the SFMYC Awards Luncheon – Award Acceptance Poem

In case you missed the Awards Luncheon, I was touched to have a chance to celebrate the collective effort of all who support our bottle class fun:

Thank you Commodore Weaver for this chance to raise a glass
And celebrate, on behalf of the bottle class,
All in the community who have helped us to grow
From a fledgling idea to what will be our fifth year in a row!

Bottle boats began with Bruce and interested club members
Who teamed up with PKS 6th graders one November,
Way back in 2019/Two-Zero-One-Nine,
Twas Dave Gormly, Dick Hunter, Bob Pinotti, Norman, Wally, and Ed Schoenstein.

Big thanks to our dedicated bottle class mentors
Who guide us to become sailors and junior inventors.
Ed Schoenstein builds us all kinds of new parts,
Norman Tuck's inventions turn our bottle boats into art,
Wally Wahlander repurposes everyday objects in innovative ways,
Building on Dick Hunter's Advanced RC boat design that never ceases to amaze.
Now-retired Jerry Pugh found a way to avoid a splinter
By designing bottle boats with a 3D Printer.

We build bottle boats in the Clubhouse during the off season,
Organized chaos can be messy so that's for a good reason.
Thanks to Club Members who donate spare supplies,
We appreciate sharing the workshop with you guys.
Thanks to the Board for pitching in with our bills,
And to all of our supporters who share knowledge, time, and good will.

Bottle class fun is a family affair,
With multiple generations showing up there,
Three of Ed's grandkids enjoyed freesail bottle yacht thrills,
While Wally's granddaughter and grandniece showed off their RC skills,
Whether it's parents who want to get kids off of screens,
Or families looking for something fun to do with their tweens.
Even though bottle boat building is much harder than baking a cake,
All relish the accomplishment when joining our bottle fun on Spreckels Lake.

The first regatta started when childhood friend Michelle Wong,
joined Nina and Adlai Manzo who brought Melissa and Trevor Choy along.
After completing a boat, one steps up to serve as a mentor,
And a few parents have built a boat of their own to enter,
Now, Nina mavericks boats with all of the beginners,
While Melissa leads the Advanced RC builders,
Trevor is our "go to" guy for everything RC,
And Adlai keeps building new model boats to satisfy his curiosity.

We've had over thirty five sailors race bottle boats with pride,
Including over a hundred who joined "learn to sail" lakeside,
Under the guidance of race directors Mike Stobbe and Jason Spiller,
Our regatta volunteers make sure that race day is a thriller!
Special thanks to Club members who support our bottle crew:
That's the Harveys, Rob Weaver, Dave Sands, Stephen, Ryan, Mary Rose, and Jim Harrold too.
It's a privilege to collaborate with Bruce's cherished pals-
Ed, Norman, and Wally- you animate our morale!

Whether it is watching a novice builder delight in an inaugural sail,
Witnessing a youth's determination to prevail,
Seeing a novice turn into a mentoring pro,
Or observing these kids as they continue to grow,
One of our greatest rewards is that folks return year after year to play at this sport,
It's the ultimate gratification for our collective ef-fort.
Next year's Bruce Ettinger Bottle Yacht Regatta will be on November 9,
We hope you'll come cheer at our 5th Annual day for bottle boats to shine!

Freesail Squadron Reports

FSO Report

by Bernard Price, FSO

Happy New Year! It is an honor to be your Freesail Squadron Officer for 2025. Thanks for your expressed vote of confidence at our Club election held during the December general meeting. I look forward to sailing with you in the 2025 season and I hope we can grow our numbers as well. I have some ideas about how we may accomplish this - mainly around removing any and all perceived barriers to simply giving Freesailing a try. If you have thoughts about how we might get more people involved in our great hobby, please share them!

Thanks also to our 2024 Fleet Captains/Reporters. Jim Harvey X-Boats, David Sands M-Boats, and Mike Stobbe 36R. You certainly lightened my workload and your coverage of our races here in the newsletter was excellent! I hope I can count on your continued support during the 2025 season.

Speaking of the 2025 season, the lake might have a slightly different character than we have grown used to. For those not aware, there was a significant wind event on the morning of December 14th in Golden Gate Park resulting in many, MANY downed trees throughout the park. Of particular interest to us as Freesailors, a large number of trees that stood between the clubhouse and the buffalo field fell, opening a large, clear path for breeze from the west/southwest. Several trees also fell on the north shore and on the east side.

Putting this together, I'm anticipating stronger wind conditions through Turtle Cove and a good possibility that the wind shadow that typically lies off of Punta Blanca may be no more. I wonder if the center and south side of the lake may be favored for breeze? The large window opened on the north shore might bring the northerly breeze that we've sometimes seen in the past into play, as well further to the east. We'll see! Spreckels Lake has always challenged us and there will almost certainly be new things for us to learn this year!

Freesail Challenge Quiz

by Mike Stobbe

Can you guess whose house this is?



RC Sailing

Casual Santa Barbara Sailing

Text & photos by Michael Fischer

Please put the third Sunday of the off-season months on your calendars -- Santa Barbaras on the water around 1pm or so.

Rob, Rob, Norman and I enjoyed a stately, elegant and (it being Spreckels) somewhat twitchy afternoon of sailing today. I learned something new: the "jackrabbit start." Huh. It served our purposes, and well...

Boy, was Golden Gate Park a mess. Tree limbs and the remaining slash from large-tree removal all over the roads and walkways. Fulton closed between 34th and 36th with the song of chainsaws in the air. The 36th Ave entrance was closed, but the 30th Ave option worked well. Yesterday's winds must've been pretty dramatic in The City.



A stately, twitchy afternoon

One of the victims was a large tree at Spreckels' west end--it fell on the Tai Chi peninsula. For sure it'll help when the winds are from the west. We noticed no effect today since the winds were (mostly, sometimes) offshore. Then, of course, they were from the north unless they were from the south. The dreaded vortex was very much in evidence, keeping us becalmed for parts of every course. "Winds," did I say? Hmmm, zephyrs is a more apt description. That's what I meant by stately and elegant--no rushing along today.

No rushing along today.



Altogether a very enjoyable afternoon even with the wintertime afternoon sun glaring off the water, hiding our boats from view. Our Commodore-emeritus looked pretty darn' spiffy in his new SFMYC jacket. See you next month,

Wanted / For "Sail"

Due to the overwhelming popularity of this section of the News, it is necessary to reduce the number of dedicated ads & pages. All ads are limited to 2 issues and 2 ads per member. 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 2 lines only, one photo that will get edited and sized down to fit, and include your email or contact info.

For Sale

-- More free Boats -- Two boats were found in front of the clubhouse, in various states. Any member is welcome to take them! Contact Vice Commodore Carl Brosius at cbfuture@aol.com



- DX 6 Spektrum Radio with rechargeable batteries, battery charger and AR400 Spektrum receiver \$50

- HiTec Multi channel X1 AC Plus battery charger \$10



Contact Jerry Pugh - jerry.pugh@sbcglobal.net (650) 282-5686