

Light Air

Monthly Newsletter of Lake Yosemite Sailing Association

March 2009

Berkeley Yacht Club Midwinters

By Steve Leonard

The Berkeley Yacht Club Midwinters Sailing Instructions said, "Our policy is to cancel a race when a gale warning is posted for San Francisco Bay at 07:30 the day of the race." And you thought Bill Goldfoos was a die hard racer! But, my sweetheart, Rachel Hadley, wanted to race on the Berkeley Circle to practice for the Catalina 22 Nationals to be held there in May. The circle is two miles in diameter. The center is two miles NW of Berkeley. There are eight marks symmetrically placed around the circumference. You start in the middle and the courses are usually windward leeward, up to the windward mark, down past the start to the leeward mark, and back to the finish at the center. You may go around twice and or have an offset mark on the side half way between the windward and leeward marks. You have wind shifts and current to deal with. You frequently can not see the next mark until you are within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of it. I used my GPS to navigate. This is not like Lake Yosemite! There were four races scheduled: Nov 9, Dec 14, Jan 11, and Feb 15.

So there we were in the Berkeley Marina setting up for the first race. The weather was perfect. All five Catalina's in the fleet were there: Terry Cobb, a previous national champion; Don Hare, the regional champion; Dave Torrisi, who regularly races on the circle; and Paul McLaughlin, who was learning the circle like us. We were all getting ready for the Nationals. We had our own fleet and start for the series. We were the fifth start and the course was straight windward leeward, no offset mark, twice around. Terry got a great start and pulled

away. Terry made it around the windward mark then our clot of four boats got there as the wind got fluky. We got ahead of the pack, then the wind picked up and it started white capping. The waves built quickly. At times we had the boat surfing on a wave face. We were second behind Terry around the leeward mark and then it was "Victory at Sea" going back upwind for the second lap with lots of spray over the boat. It was the same for the second lap. We held our position and took second. It was great sailing.

We were cruising the starting line for the second race and the wind would build and drop. Big jib or little jib, what to do? Of course we had the genoa up for the start and it was white capping. The others had their blades (a non overlapping jib) up. The course was twice around windward leeward with an offset mark half way down. We were third at the windward mark. Dave was ahead and we saw him go around the wrong way. He was too far away to hear us yelling "the other way". He realized it about

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Waypoints

Chrissy Wainwright, Cruising & Social Captain

The LYSA Regatta date is rapidly approaching, mark your calendar for May 16th and 17th. The committee is already hard at work putting together the event. Each committee member will need help with various duties. We need volunteers for the following: getting the house ready for our guests; race committee; registration; setup and cleanup; dinner service (help in the kitchen); and etc. etc. etc.

The meal has been planned, a few of our members have already committed to help with the cooking. We will be serving tri-tip, barbecued chicken, pasta and green salad. Mike has checked into hiring a band to play after dinner. The clubmembers will receive either a letter or a phone call asking to please

help us with this event. Its success depends on the help we get from members. If you are not available to help with one of the committees, how about just coming out and enjoying the festivities. Come and watch the race from the docks, enjoy the dinner and the band.

It's great to see more activity on the forum, we will be using it throughout the season to notify members of up coming events as well as schedule changes and so on. It is also a great place to find out what other members are up to, as well as ask questions and get feedback. It is easy to log on, even I managed to do it.

The calendar is filling up quickly, so if you need to reserve the clubhouse for a function please notify Dennis or myself and we will try to accommodate you. 8

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Submissions

Submission deadline is the 18th of each month. Submit to Debora Dietz-Neves via:

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From the Helm

Debora Dietz-Neves, Commodore

I'm pleased to report that February was a productive month for the club, with the Boat Motor Committee making an acceptable proposal to the general membership and we will (finally) be getting a new boat motor for the Boston Whaler. I want to thank the Boat Motor Committee members who really put a lot of work into searching out an acceptable boat motor, and working so hard to find one that was going to be the best deal for our money. Thank you Scott and Jay! And I am so glad I don't have to say boat motor committee anymore (try saying it six times, real fast), and we don't have to spend the monthly meetings talking about boat motors.

I also want to thank our members for coming out to the monthly meetings and remind all members that your participation at meetings is important

because this is YOUR club. General membership meetings are always held the second Tuesday of the month and they are always potluck dinners. The meetings are a great opportunity for us to meet and get to know our new members and for our new members to get to know us — but you have to show up! This is the time of year that we will be planning and organizing the year's events — from club fundraisers like the open house to fun sails and movie nights for the membership to enjoy. Your input is needed to help plan these events and your participation and volunteerism is needed to not only make the events happen, but for you to be a part of the fun as well. We've got an exciting year ahead of us with many club events scheduled so keep an eye on the website calendar for upcoming events. I'm looking forward to seeing you there. 8



Crow's Nest

Mike Streatly, Past Commodore

As I write this, we are in the middle of a great big winter storm. It couldn't have come at a better time. The drought conditions have had a direct impact on our water at Lake Yosemite. Last year, we lost the water earlier than I've seen since I've been in the club. Hopefully we can get some more of the white stuff up in the mountains this year so we can have nice long sailing season.

On a different subject, I cancelled the organizing meeting for the Regatta last month. We were able to take care of some preliminary details at the last board meeting. It looks like we are again going to have good participation from out-of-towners. The Daysailer fleet is coming again and it even looks like they are expanding their portion of the Regatta to Friday as part of their Pacific Coast Championships. I'll have more information on that soon. We also are

actively pursuing some other fleets. What I am also hoping for this year is much better club participation. On any given Thursday, we have 15 to 20 boats on the line for our club racing. I would be ecstatic if we could have that kind of participation for our regatta. Let's make it happen!

Cruising & Social captain Chrissy and I were talking recently about the fact that it seems like the same people work our events and club projects year after year. We would really like to see more of you that don't normally get involved come out and lend a hand. What better way to get to know your fellow LYSA members.

On a final note, I will be getting more information to the membership regarding the Regatta and the Open House Shrimp Feed in the coming weeks. Watch for updates in your email, on the website, and forum.

See you at the lake. 8

Short Tacks

Scott Foster, Vice Commodore

Congratulations LYSA members! It has been a long struggle, but

with your support we have finally approved purchase of an outboard motor for the race committee. The motor we approved will give us many years of dependable, hopefully trouble free use. Our plans are to have it delivered and installed for use by the first race of the season.

The motor is being purchased through the nations largest online dealer of outboard motors. They have a great reputation, a long list of testimonials, and have been wonderful helping to make sure we get the motor and controls that will work perfectly for our Boston Whaler.

I want to thank each member who provided input and discussion at club meetings. I hope your concerns have been addressed satisfactorily. They include issues such as having enough engine horsepower for the boat size, new or used, age and condition, two stroke verses four stroke, fresh water verses salt water, warranty and confidence of long term usage, ability to have it serviced locally, resale value if we decide to upgrade the boat in the future, and new controls or old controls. The choice of buying a motor or replacing the entire boat was also a consideration. The big-

gest factor of course was price and having available club funds that would fully cover the cost.

I think all of these concerns have been met. By purchasing a used motor through the internet we saved over \$3,000 over that of buying a new one. The motor will be shipped when we choose, allowing us to carefully plan installation and test it in the water within the warranty period. The motor is a 2008 Yamaha, 50hp four stroke with a 20" shaft. It was used by a Canadian fishing camp where they buy brand new motors every year. After the break in period they are used for the short Canadian fishing season on pristine lakes. The camps return the motors to the dealer where they are serviced and detailed for resale.

Jay Sousa has also offered to subsidize the purchase with a \$1500 influx from the Junior Sailing program. They will certainly benefit from this purchase. After all is said and done the total club outlay will be less than \$4000.

I would also like to thank the boat motor committee (Jay Sousa and Jerry Johnson) for their diligent work and valued input, as well as the members who have offered their services to get the job done — especially Tom Collins, Dennis Wainwright, and Steve Leonard. I will keep you all posted on our progress. 8

Dock Talk

Chris Betts, Port Captain

Hello all. Just a few notes on the dock work and slips for the upcoming season. We have done a fair bit of surveying and planning for this upcoming season. The dock repair plan is to replace the top boards of the main section of the dock from the gate to the expanded platform. We will also be reinforcing the structural components of this section at the same time.

In addition, we'll be cleaning up various slips and fingers that have outdated hardware attached. Materials such as old bumpers, carpeting, broken hardware, etc. will be removed in the interest of safety and appearance. We will also be making various repairs to certain fingers as needed, in addition to installing extra water shutoff valves so the whole water system needn't go down should some repairs be needed.

I'd like to thank Mike Streatly for getting the slip diagram and wait and move lists onto the website. This should make it much easier for folks to know where things are at, and I'll do my best to have it updated as needed.

We'll need plenty of help in doing the dock repairs, as usual. We are posting the dates on the website calendar, and trying to update the main webpage with any relevant information. If we can get most of the usual suspects to help, projects for this season should go smoothly and quickly. Any of you that haven't been involved in the dock construction and repairs, we'd love to see you out there pitching in.

We have a really good core of people who consistently donate a good number of hours, and they have my sincere thanks and appreciation... but there is plenty to do, and there is something to be said for seeing just what has to be done on a regular basis to keep things in good shape... these folks work hard to keep it that way.

Thanks for your support and I hope to see you all out at the lake. 8

Remember to use your Grocery Rebate Cards when you shop at Save Mart and Raley's!

Dollars & Cents

Diane Sousa, Treasurer

Hi everyone. I have heard from several members that they have never

received a membership card when they joined the club. Anyone that needs a membership card can email me at dsousa@smithandstappcpas.com and I

will get your card ordered. You can also email if you need Shares Cards, Raley's Cards, or if you would like to have your newsletter emailed.

Just a reminder that club dues are due by March 1st and slip fees must be paid by March 31, 2009 "NO EXCEPTIONS" or you will lose your slip. 8

For the Record

Tim Packwood, Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order on February 03, 2009 at 6:35 PM by commodore Debora Dietz-Neves. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

Officer Reports

Treasurer Diane Sousa reported the current account balances for General, Docks, and Junior Sailing. Currently there are 52 member dues paid. Slip fees are due by March 31st. Currently 46 slips have been paid for and 42 slip fees are outstanding.

House Captain Dennis Wainwright observed that the globe over the back porch of the house broke, and would be replaced.

A subcommittee has been formed to work on the junior sailing boats and make them beautiful so that LYSA can sell them. Thank you Dennis, Steve, Craig, and everyone else. They have acquired new rub rails, and Mitch Perkins has offered to provide stickers to clean up the appearance. Dates are to be announced.

Past Commodore Mike Streatly discussed the annual regatta scheduled for May 16-17. There will be further committees and meetings. The Daysailor fleet (which has been one of the most active and enthusiastic groups from outside of LYSA who come to Lake Yosemite) initially indicated that they might be able to have a field of 28 boats, but at last count it was 10. They are interested in having our regatta included as points for their national championship series. They also are interested in having races on Friday May 15th. Mike is also talking to other clubs representing Lidos, San Juan 21s, etc. Bands for the regatta were discussed, with three main candidates: Joe Dollar Band, Yard Dogs, and Pacific Drift. All have performed here before at our functions, with great acceptance. Negotiations to be continued based upon availability and, of course, cost.

Cruising & Social Chair Chrissy Wainwright thanked everyone for making the Super Bowl gathering a success.

Call her or email her for ANY event you would like to reserve. Most weekends are already spoken for. Chrissy hopes to reinstate Movie Night at LYSA this year on Friday nights. Maybe beginning in April. It was a lot of fun in the past, families with kids on blankets, staring at a sheet against the wall of the clubhouse. Can it get better than this?

Old Business

Richard Kleitman has reserved the club for the Special Olympics. Check the calendar. It's a great thing. Help, you will feel uplifted.

Regatta/Open House – Chrissy discussed the need to set up phone trees to try to contact all members, including spouses and all families, to get involved.

Past Commodore Mike Streatly discussed the annual regatta and open house. He is pursuing the concept of offering more LYSA merchandise (T-shirts, burgees, trips to Hawaii, etc.).

Treasurer Diane Sousa reminded everyone that she has Save Mart and Raley's grocery cards, so please see her if you aren't using them. Everything that you spend in these stores gives back to our club.

Junior Sailing – Jay Sousa reported that Ed Dietz will take on a bunch of the duties. And once again, Jerry Rokes. Dennis Wainwright will spearhead refurbishing and maintenance, with the help of Steve Leonard. Thank you all! Ryan, the instructor of Junior Sailing last year, asked on the LYSA Forum if he would be rehired this year. He was advised that his services would not be required this year.

Race committee boat motor – after months of research and many months of debate in board sessions and general membership meetings, a motion was proposed to present to the general membership an authorization for Scott Foster to spend up to \$4,000 for the purchase of an outboard motor for our committee boat. Motion to bring to the general membership – Ayes 5, Nays 2.

New Business

Treasurer Diane Sousa reported that she had received an email from a student at UC Merced, who has a 505 sail-

boat, and asked if we had student discounts. The immediate answer, of course, is that we do not. Scott Foster suggested that the concept of variable memberships should be tabled to allow contemplation and an opportunity to discuss in committee.

Past Commodore Mike Streatly suggested that it would be a good idea that, when we get the new boat motor, it would be required that anyone who wants to use the boat first be trained in the proper use, and then be authorized to use it, and that such use be limited. No arguments were expressed to the contrary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Oh, by the way, USE THE WEB. That is the mantra of every board member. And I agree. It's a great way to know what is going on in YOUR club.

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order on February 10, 2009 at 7:00 PM by commodore Debora Dietz-Neves. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

House Captain Dennis Wainwright reported that the garage had been broken into. Craig Anderson made temporary repairs and the lock has since been repaired.

Past Commodore Mike Streatly (speaking for Port Captain Chris Betts) announced dock work scheduled for February 21st at 9:00 AM. Bring tools.

Proposal was made to the board to present to the general membership a motion to approve an authorization for Scott Foster to spend no more than \$4,000 of club funds to purchase a 2008 50hp Yamaha motor. Discussion followed. Motion made and seconded. Motion carried — Ayes 10 Nays 3.

Discussed the new sailing practices and rule changes for 2009. Proposed seminars tentatively set for May 30. Dave Mosher has agreed to help. Jay Sousa also offered to conduct a four hour clinic on man-overboard drills.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

(This is a summary of the minutes. For the complete minutes see the Minutes Book) 8

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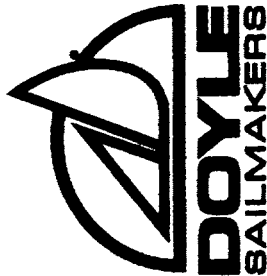
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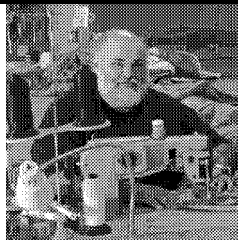
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lakeyosemitesailing.org

Upcoming Events

March 03

Board Meeting

March 10

Membership Meeting

April 07

Board Meeting

April 14

Membership Meeting

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Berkeley Yacht Club Midwinters

100 yards away from the mark and went back. He never caught up. Then Terry had something happen on his boat and he spun out at the offset mark. We were in the lead but struggling with that big head sail. We beat Terry by 3 seconds at the finish for first. Oh, did I mention the pounding to windward and spray across the boat.

While we were setting up for the third race, we found out the Berkeley club backed out of the Catalina nationals. Not enough club support. The nationals will now be held in Florida this year. Rachel was very sad. All five Catalina's were there but quite a few others were not as rain was forecast. Out on the bay there was just enough wind

to make white caps. The course was different, course four NoAH, 8.6 miles. Picture a clock face with the start/finish in the middle. We went from the center to 12 o'clock (windward) to 9:00 (offset) to 4:30 to 1:30 to 4:30 to the finish. We would have been lost without the GPS. Two hours and forty five minutes after the start we got a very wet and cold third. It rained while we were setting up the boat, for over half the race, and while we took the boat down. But, again, the sailing was great.

For the fourth race the weather was predicted to be heavy rain and 25 to 35 mph winds. Then, the day of the race at 6:00 AM, a gale warning was posted for the bay. Race canceled. Sad not to race but glad not having to endure that weather.

We got second place for the series. The points were: Terry 4, Rachel 6, Dave 9, Don 11, and Paul 15. Would we do it again? Definitely! 8