

Light Air

A stylized illustration of a sailboat with a red hull and white sails, sailing on blue waves. A yellow sun is positioned behind the sails.

Newsletter of Lake Yosemite Sailing Association

December 2011



**Lake Yosemite
Sailing Association**

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Submissions:

Deadline is the 22nd of each month.

Submit to Steve Eyberg: (seyberg505@sbcglobal.net)



Commodore

Craig Anderson



Ahoy Mates!

Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas to all our LYSA members. May this holiday season find you in good health and your family in good spirits. As we settle into the winter and find the lake without the liquid gold we need, it is time to reflect upon the last year and see what we have accomplished as a club. This past year we have hosted a successful regatta, open house, Special Olympics day, race season, and other various events. The winds held up and the docks and house have never looked better. We should be proud that we are members of such a fantastic organization.

Now, in late autumn and throughout the winter, is a great time to work on our boats, go trailer sailing, and plan for next spring's inflow of fresh water. 2012 will be my year to head up both the regatta and open house. I hope to enlist many of our members to participate in showing off LYSA to other sailing clubs and the public of Merced. Thank you for your support over the past 12 months and in anticipation for next year. Please be involved, you'll feel better for it!

Craig

LYSA Christmas Party

Saturday, December 10th - 5 p.m.

Prime Rib Dinner

\$5 per person (rsvp via e-vite)



A-N Bring Appetizer

P-Z Bring Dessert

Gift Exchange (\$20 gift)

See page 5 for more information





Past Commodore

Scott Foster



Eight Bells is a sailing term for when your watch is over, eternally.

Let them ring clear and far for Ed Green.

It is with a heavy heart that I write this. I am sure those who knew and loved Ed Green as I did are burdened with mutual sorrow as we are informed of his passing. But, knowing Ed as I did over the last ten years, I am sure he would rather have had us raise a glass in his honor and party till the sun came up, than sit around and feel sorry for him or ourselves. Alas, I am cutting back on my drinking lately, so instead I will simply reflect on the times that I and others remember spent with Ed while we did "party 'till the sun came up."

The first time I met Ed he was sitting in the garage at the club house. He was a large surly man. A sailors cap covering his balding head and a thin grey mustache shimmering with a few beads of liquid from the last libation he had consumed with gusto.

He was accompanied by a band of fellow cohorts who were talking about sailing and music and politics and a load of other stuff. I was a newbie to the group, but welcome none-the-less. After introductions, the first thing Ed did was hand me a glass of something orange and by the obvious odor emanating from it, very potent. I think it was Guy Near who warned me....be

carefull with that drink, Ed made it!

The evening went fast and by the end of it Ed and I were the only ones left in the garage. I was new to the club, but not new to slamming a few and drinking till the morning as the last man standing. Ed wouldn't let me leave. Although a gentle man in nature, Ed's physical strength was daunting. He almost broke my arm holding me there, so he could tell another story. The next day Ed informed the rest of the clan that I was to be inducted immediately as a "Wharf Rat". I didn't know what it meant, but it seemed to be accompanied by some level of sailing (or drinking) prestige, so I was honored that the salty sailor regarded me so highly in such a short period. Others already bestowed with the honor balked at first. But, Ed insisted he knew I was a "true wharf rat" and no one had the guts to argue with Ed.



Back to Ed's physical strength - I remember one night there where some hooligans down by the docks. Ed confronted them and they pulled out a knife threatening him. Bad move! Ed simply grabbed the kid wielding the blade by the arm, almost tore it off, and threw each of them in the water. They ran for the hills and never returned.

Ed was mentally strong too. His fight with the cancerous beast that tore his physicality to shreds never daunted his internal fortitude. Evident in the last Brass Waterpump weekend he held. Ed was determined to keep up the good fight and felt it imperatively important that others in the club realized through his tenacity that what was really important in life is to seek the best from every one and allow each person to acheive fulfillment through their own accomplishments.

Ed would have said at this point, " Enough Scott, it's beginning to sound like an obituary". So, let me relay a few stories from fellow wharf rats...

Jim Strealy – Ed is the only person I know that has two dogs named specifically after him.

For those of you who never had an "Ed Drink", the standard warning to new club members "Do not accept a drink from this man!"

Ed was a road manager for some rock bands in the late 60's that also toured with the Grateful Dead.

(Continued on page 4)

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(Continued from page 3)

Purportedly, Ed had spoken to the late Jerry Garcia who told him about his singing ability "You can't carry a tune in a bucket". Which may have been the impetus for the song the Dead later recorded with the lyrics "going to hell in a bucket babe...but at least I'll enjoy the ride". That sure was Ed's Philosophy alright! Ed and Jerry are probably discussing copyrights to that one up there (or down there) right now.

How to Mix an "Ed Drink"1) A large glass of ice, filled to within half an inch to the top with the cheapest vodka you can find. 2) A splash of Sunny Delight. 3) Do Not Stir! The first sip is to lul you into thinking this is a drink you can handle!



Chuck Rockholt remembers - The get togethers in Ed's Driveway at Huntington Lake. Half the club would show up with guitars around the campfire and a loud game of trivial pursuit, and the night ending with the caretaker riding his motorcycle up the hill to tell us to shut it down. And, sitting in his party boat until the wee hours of the night blasting The Doors and Pink Floyd, rehashing the sailboat races and arguing sailing tactics and rules.

Debbie Neves – Many lost their virginity on Ed's boat....uhum their sailing virginity that is. Debbie and her daughters first sailing lessons were aboard that Catalina 22 "Partnership". Many others learned to sail from Ed too.

We will all miss Ed. We will remember him and his antics for years. But, I think Ed would have us remember as a last farewell "At least I enjoyed the ride!"



Race Captain

Tom Cooke



As 2011 comes to a close, I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make our Racing Series and Regatta's go so smoothly. I know that next year, our new Racing Captain, Chrissy Wainwright, will continue to do a great job as she has for the last two years. I also appreciated working with all the board members who put so much time and effort into our club this year; and I look forward to helping out the new board in any way that I can next year. We are all very lucky to a part of such a wonderful enterprise. I hope that next year more of our members will step up and help out to make our club the best it can be.

On a somber note, I shall miss Ed Green, who passed away on 11/11/11. Ed was a good friend to all. I have fond memories of our times at the lake and racing on Partnership. Please take time to reflect on your times with Ed and raise a glass to a classy sailor.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. See you at the lake.



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Cruise/Social Capt.

Kathi Brown-Fournier



Hello Fellow Sailors!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Monterey trip. It turned out to be quite an event! We ended up with 6 boats sailing over on Friday, Katitude, Bake Sail, Rapture, Rum Runner, Prime Time, and our newest member, I'm a Pre Cursor. We had about 36 members show up at different days and times, and I've been told that's the largest participation ever. Our sail began in Moss Landing, with sunshine and good weather, which turned into larger than comfortable swells, coming from north and south, and some pretty hefty winds.. I heard maybe 20 knots or more. Our boat and crew were pretty drenched with waves. We did enjoy the wild ride, but the harbor was a welcome site



for me! Our evening began with dinner at The Monterey Yacht Club. Jerry, the manager was very accommodating, and prepared a custom menu for us with our LYSA name on it. Some of us stayed and celebrated at the bar. The next day a few of the boats braved the weather and went out cruising the bay. They spotted otters, seals, sea lions and whales. Others of us went shopping on the wharf. Dinner at the Crown and Anchor was a great treat Saturday night. The atmosphere of the British Pub was perfect. Very good food, with some great seafood specials (not on the menu). It was a wonderful walk back in the light rain. Sunday 5 of the 6 sailed/motored back to Moss Landing in the rain. (I had a few minor mishaps with my boat and drove back to Moss Landing.. kept very dry, thank you). The rain was pouring, as we buttoned up the boats and headed to Phil's. We finished up our great weekend with dinner at Phil's Fish market. This was a great time had by all. I hope to see many more next year do this trip. Please contact me if you have any other suggestions on cruising this winter.

Our Christmas party is scheduled for December 10th

at 5pm at the Fish and Game Club at the Lake. Appetizers and Gen Meeting at 5pm, with tri tip dinner to follow. Bring an appetizer or side dish if your last name is A-N or a dessert if your name is P-Z. Also bring your own beverage. If you wish to participate in the Gift Exchange, bring a "wrapped" gift with min. value of \$20 for each person participating. If you have children who are participating, please bring an "age appropriate" gift for each child. It's a lot of fun. You can choose from



under the tree, or take a gift already opened. Cost: \$5 per person. Children under 12 free. Please everyone reply using the E-vite reply. Choose yes or no or maybe. (You can always change your reply later if needed.) Call Kathi with any questions or requests. 209 -947-3722. If you aren't receiving e-vites, and wish to participate in club events, please email a request to Kathi at KathiFournier@yahoo.com. I will add your name the E-vite list.

Also coming up on January 1st, is the Annual Frostbite Regatta. So put on your mittens, and join us for a day of fun racing! We will be serving warm clam chowder in bread-bowls, hot chocolate and coffee. Bring a side, appetizer or dessert. Cost of the event is only \$5.00 per person. Once again, reply with e-vite.

Remember: Check the LYSA calendar frequently on the website to see upcoming club events. www.lakeyosemitesailing.org.

See you at the lake!



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The Great Pumpkin Regatta

by Steve Leonard

Rachel Hadley and Tom Duffy (one of my Summer crew) sailed with me in the Oct 29/30 Richmond Yacht Club Great Pumpkin Regatta on my Ultimate 20. Two hundred and twenty boats registered. Saturday, buoy racing was held at three venues, deep water North of Treasure Island, Berkeley Circle, and Southampton Shoal. Three races were scheduled for us at Southampton with fleets of Express 27s, Moore 24s, Open 5.70s, J24s, and, Ultimate20s. The first horn was at 1125. We had light wind and an ebb tide. The course was windward leeward. In the first race was once around and we did well, third out of seven boats. Then wind died and we floated around for 2 hrs in the sunshine having lunch and an occasional beer. Four of the U20s gave up on the wind and left. At 3 o'clock the wind kicked in at 10 knots and the race was on for the three remaining boats. This time it was twice around. Tom Burdon, boat name "Layla", won both races. He is an excellent sailor with lots of experience on the Bay, regularly wins most of our regattas, and sails as crew and tactician on big boats. He also writes the ads for West Marine. Phil Kingsberg, second both races, lives up in Carson City and races on Tahoe. When I started racing the U20 I was lucky if I could see Phil at the finish. Now, every once in a while, I can beat Phil. While not ahead, we're close to him at the finish. I was happy.

Sunday was the big pursuit race with 6 U20s and 214 other boats. The start was at Southampton Shoal and you have to go around Alcatraz and Angle Island either clockwise or counter clockwise. The finish was at the Richmond breakwater. Start times were based on your rating with the slowest boat starting first. If everyone sails a perfect race, all the boats finish at the same time (they don't). Earlier, Tom swore up and down he would never again sail counter clockwise going through Raccoon Straight first. He was going clockwise around Alcatraz first. We also planned to go clockwise. The first start was at 1200. The sight of 220 boats milling around the start line was impressive. We started at 1225 and Tom, remember... experience, wins, tactician, never again, headed right for Raccoon Straight with two other U20s! He must know something I don't! So, like a

fool, I followed him. Two U20s went clockwise and four counter. In Raccoon Straight the wind was light with significant current against us from the flood. Everyone was hugging the shore along Angel Island for current relief. A whirlpool turned a boat behind us 180 degrees. Then a Moore 24 tried to roll us and I would not let him. I probably would have lost control in the current and light wind. He was the only grumpy guy I meet during the weekend. Then we got to a really nasty current at the west end of Angel Island. It swept the boats towards the rocks. But, when you got close to the rocks and thought you were going to hit, the current let up enough to let you get away. Heading towards Alcatraz on a beam reach in 15 knots of wind we had about 15 degrees of leeway from the current. We were doing 6 to 7 knots in the chop with some spray going over the bow. We had to go around the buoy marking Little Alcatraz Rock and when we got close it looked like it was doing 5 knots in the current. We got around it, giped, and launched the spinnaker. That was the best spinnaker run I have had. We kept it up from Alcatraz all the way to Richmond for the finish. For two thirds of the way we were doing 10 knots or more. The breeze backed off as we got close to Richmond. The Two U20s that went clockwise beat us by 4 min for 49th and 1 min 33 sec for 64th. Tom was ahead of me by 1 min 26 sec for 67th. We were 78th of 220 boats after sailing for 2 hr 43 min.

Sailing on the Bay is NOT like sailing on Lake Yosemite. Between the big boats we were racing with (biggest TP52s), the wind, the current, and the rocks, my eyes opened pretty wide a couple of times. But it sure is fun! Clockwise next time though.



House Captain

Amy Davis



Hello everyone!..

Fall / Winter have arrived. If you wish to reserve the house please call me (209) 7699117. Please call me to ask for use of the chairs and tables. I know with the holidays we sometimes need an extra table or chair for company. If you use the house or are just out there on a regular basis, please keep it picked up.

Thanks to everyone that helped with the, last minute, getting boats out of summer dry storage.

Amy Davis

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Welcome New Members!

As with any organization, membership can and will fluctuate. Over the last several years LYSA has seen some members come and go. 2011 saw 9 new members and their families join us. We have been remiss in giving the proper welcome to our new members. Incoming Vice Commodore Mike Streatly would like to give a belated welcome to the following members who joined this year. He is also planning a new member greeting/orientation social that will be held after the first of the year (more on that later).

May:

**Bill Bradley and Nancy Czapinski
John and Noreen Hargis**

June:

**Ron and Connie Brons
Frank and Nicole Avery**

July:

**Tony and Cynthia Calvillo
Chris and Sierra Cooper
Neil and Patricia Piethe**

August:

Chris Tomford

October:

Bryan and Cindy Blagg

More photos from the LYSA Monterey Cruise . . .



Classifieds

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