

# Light Air

Newsletter of Lake Yosemite Sailing Association

August 2021

## Sailing Outside of LYSA



Huntington Lake cove near dusk



Merit 22 sailing with Mercury's racing on Huntington Lake

*Photos Courtesy: Kendall Nightengale*

**Lake Yosemite  
Sailing Association**

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**Treasurer: Diane Sousa**

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**House Captain: Debbie Harden**

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**Cruise/Social Captain: Vacant**

-  
-

**Racing Captain: Rachel Hadley**

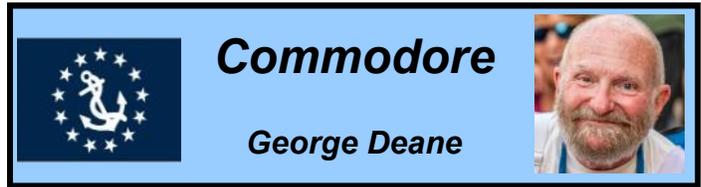
(209) 384-2465  
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**Submissions:**

**Deadline is the 22nd of each month**

**Submit with LYSA in the Subject Line**

to Chris Martin:  
chrissybea@comcast.net



Chris Cooper and I recently had the privilege of being skippered around the lake by Owen Cooper upon his graduation (for the third time!) from sail camp.

A special shout out to Matt, Brigitte, Jerry and all of the counselors who make the camp possible. It is the future of Merced sailing and LYSA.

The days are hot and the lake is the place to be in the central valley. JoAnne and I are heading over to the Eastern Sierra for a little car camping, kayaking and hiking. I look forward to seeing you all when we get back. In the meantime go out and root for the fleet on Thursday night, bring something to eat and drink and take the opportunity to hang out with your fellow sailors.

See you at the lake!



Ahoy, fellow sailors!

Summer is quickly sailing by whether you are on the water to enjoy it or not.

I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time cruising the lake this year and look forward to many more sunset sails to come this season. The wildfires bring devastation, and I would much rather not see so many, but the one thing they do give us are beautiful sunsets.

Mid-July, Kara and I went camping with family and friends on the shores of Huntington Lake. We towed our Merit 22 to this phenomenal alpine reservoir sitting at a 7,000-foot elevation. The lake is well-known for its

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

steady, clock-like wind that blows from 9:30 to 5:00 every day providing ideal sailing conditions for a 4 mile beat up the lake. After beating to the West end, it is a relaxing downwind run. Too relaxing in fact. My crew fell asleep on deck.

Early morning and late evening are ideal for kayaking effortlessly on glass smooth water. One morning after exploring some of the rocky islands, we were treated to a flyby from a majestic Bald Eagle. In the quietness of the morning mountain air, as our kayaks glided silently across the flat water and the morning sun glistened over the mountain ridge, we could hear the wind through eagles' wings as he gracefully flew by. It was as if he came low and close, just to show us his splendor.

The following evening, we witnessed a full Buck Moon as it rose above the eastern mountain ridge and we floated silently on flat water near tiny rock island. The full moon illuminated the lake, and the moonlit beauty of the surrounding mountains were reflected on the water as clear as a mirror. I did not want to paddle back to camp but sit and enjoy the moonlit landscape in the stillness of my kayak. The lights of mountain cabins on the hillside reminded me of a Thomas Kinkade painting, the painter of light.

The beauty of Huntington Lake was marred by the Creek Fire last Summer. Firefighters did a phenomenal job at saving many cabins, campsites, and the small township of Lakeshore. There are still many green trees, but some areas by the lake are brown and black from the fire. A stark reminder of the fragility of our forest ecosystem.

No determination was made if the nearly 380,000 acre Creek fire was natural or man-made. But at least most of this Sierra gem is still a blessing to explore.

Now to shift gears back to LYSA and our docks. The damage from wakes this year to boats and docks is higher than the past two years.

I do not know how much we can do about the wake, but what each of us can do is ensure our boats are properly tied. What does properly tied mean? You should have at minimum a bow and stern line and one or more spring lines.

Most boats that are tied in a decent manner have two bow lines, a stern line, and a forward spring line. They also have two or more properly adjusted fenders amidships and if close to another boat, have a fender or two on the side closest to their neighboring boat.

To reduce loading on boat and dock cleats use lines with some stretch and combine that with snubbers for bow and stern lines. Do your part to prevent damage to your boat and the dock, please.



## Membership Meeting

Join us in August!

LYSA Clubhouse

**Tuesday, August 1th**

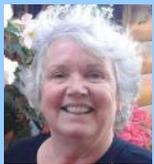
6:00 pm *Social*, 6:30 *Membership Meeting*

*Observing COVID-19 safety guidelines*



**House Captain**

**Debbie Harden**



It seems impossible that we are already on the countdown to the end of the season. We are heading into the “dog days of summer.” It has been great seeing all the activities at the lake with Junior Sail Camps and Race nights.

As always, a reminder to clean up after yourself and to dump the trash at the end of the night.

Thom Grimaldi has reported that he has found no mice in his traps, which means we must be doing something right.

Craig Anderson continues to keep the yard looking good, even through these 100+ degrees we have been experiencing.

Please let me know if there is something that I am overlooking in the house. Call or text Debbie at 209.777.4655.

As the season is winding down, I want to put some facts out there about the position of House Captain. This is my second year (or is it the third year) serving as House Captain. I would love to see someone else step up to take over for the 2021-2022 year.

**House Captain** - Clubhouse coordinator overseeing the operation and maintenance of club facilities (house, garages, yard, and equipment).

- Manages dry storage rentals, summer & winter.
- Responsible for procuring and storing supplies.
- Attends General/Board meetings, giving reports about the House activities for that month.
- Submits a news article to the Secretary for publication monthly.
- Oversees the gardener, housekeeper & pest control.
- Assists the Board with any events scheduled for the Club

Please consider stepping up and taking a role in serving the Club. Elections held later this year.

Thank you!

### What are the Dog Days of Summer?

The period from July 3<sup>rd</sup> to August 11<sup>th</sup> is referred to as the Dog Days of Summer. Where did the term come from? And what does it have to do with dogs?

Some people say it signifies hot sultry days “not fit for a dog,” others suggest its the weather in which dogs go mad. The Dog Days of Summer describes the most oppressive period of summer.

During this time, the sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any part of Earth and part of the constellation Canis Major, the Great-Dog. Sirius is sometimes called the Dog Star.

In the summer, Sirius rises and sets with the Sun. On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, specifically, it is in conjunction with the Sun, and because the star is so bright, the ancient Romans believed it actually gave off heat and added to the Sun’s warmth, accounting for the long stretch of sultry weather. They referred to this time as *diēs caniculārēs*, or “dog days.”

Thus, the term Dog Days of Summer came to mean the 20 days before and 20 days after this alignment of Sirius with the Sun—July 3 to August 11 each year.

While this period usually *is* the hottest stretch of summer, the heat is not due to any added radiation from Sirius, regardless of its brightness. The heat of summer is simply a direct result of the Earth’s tilt.



During summer in the Northern Hemisphere, the tilt of the Earth causes the Sun’s rays to hit at a more direct angle, and for a longer period of time throughout the day. This means longer, hotter days.

Reference: [The Farmers Almanac](#)

LYSA t-shirts, hats and burgees are available for purchase.




# SSS LYSA Ship 99

Ship 99 LYSA is a sea scout unit chartered by the Lake Yosemite Sailing Association through the Greater Yosemite Council of the Boy Scouts of America. We are pleased to report that with the steadfast support of our club and the hearty five youth members and seven adult volunteers our unit has weathered the pandemic and are sailing regularly on our beautiful lake.

First and foremost thanks need to be given to two club members, Gary Hogston and Lee Andersen for their generous donations. Second we are pleased to report that our two boats (Villain the Merit 25 and Dr. Bone Head the O'day 22) have transferred ownership from the boy scout council to LYSA's youth sailing program and are registered as youth boats (yeah no biannual registration fees). Third, we are pleased to let you know that two of our current members and one of our past members will be attending the California Maritime Academy starting this fall. We hope their experience with the sea scouts inspired them to pursue their education towards enjoyable careers in the future whatever they may be.

Our group continues to meet on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 at the Clubhouse. We race every Thursday we can and so far have won each of the races we have competed in this year.

Our Boatswain (Youth Leader) has been very active this year attending the National Youth Leader Training course as well as training with the sail camp staff to become a sail camp counselor. We host other scouting groups to visit and sail with us and are hoping to host a sea scout sailing regatta at the lake some time in the future. I think that is all the news that is fit to print.

We wish you fair winds and following seas and lots of fun sailing at Lake Yosemite.

Richard Kleitman



**Secretary**  
**Chris Martin**



**LYSA Membership Meeting Call to Order:** A combined meeting of the LYSA Membership and Board was held on July 13, 2021 at the Lake Yosemite Sailing Association Clubhouse. The meeting convened at 6:40 pm, Commodore George Deane presiding.

**Reports - Actions - Discussions: Commodore, George Deane:** George welcomed members to the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Minutes:** *George asked for a motion to approve.* **Motion:** Moved by John Derby to approve minutes as published, **Second** by Thom Grimaldi. **Motion carried.**

**Commodore, George Deane:** Member news: George's boat sank. Marvin is back in Kansas and won't be returning to the Club. George is working with MID regarding applying Clubhouse improvements to the rent. We added an \$1800 slab and a \$900 water heater.

George also has a new lease for the Dock. They have specified insurance forms they require, George will work with Diane to ensure we have the proper forms, also discussed was a "use tax." Diane pointed out that we pay property taxes on the property.

**Treasurer, Diane Sousa:** Diane shared the Treasurer's report. 73 Members, 8 new, 8 non-renewing. All slips are paid for. Current year certificate of membership in US Sailing was received and will be posted in the House. We fall under the umbrella of PICYA, yacht clubs with reciprocal agreements.

**New Members:** Tommy Soto, also Brent DeShazer / Kori Smith. Sponsored by Peg Larson. Scott and Mary Camper. Sponsored by Ryan Heller. Candidates and Sponsors not present.

**Motion:** Moved by Deb Hardin to approve Members voted on at last Thursday's races, **Second** by Diane Sousa.



**Upcoming Events**  
**(Proposed—Subject to change due to Covid restrictions.)**

For information on events, check Latitude 38's racing guide.  
Monthly LYSA Member/Board Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month  
6 pm Social, 6:30 pm Meeting

**August, 2021**

- 2-6 Junior Sailing Week 4  
LYSA Summer Series, Thursdays—Aug 5, 12, 19, 26
- 10 LYSA Member/Board Meeting—6 Social, 6:30 Meeting  
Junior Regatta—Pending, no plans as of yet

**September, 2021**

- 6 Labor Day: Take a worker sailing
- 9 LYSA Summer Series Awards Dinner
- 14 LYSA Member/Board Meeting—6 Social, 6:30 Meeting  
Sea Scouts Appreciation  
**Open House/Shrimp Feed—Pending**

**October, 2021**

- 3-11 Fleet Week SF Bay
- 16 OYC Oktoberfest Regatta  
End of Year Party - Awards / Election
- 30-31 RYC Great Pumpkin Regatta

**November, 2021**

- 9 LYSA Member/Board Meeting—6 Social, 6:30 Budget Meeting

**December, 2021**

- Christmas Party—Pending

**January, 2022**

- Merced Running Club's Fog Jog / Annual Meeting

**February, 2022**

- Super Bowl Party

**March, 2022**

- RYC Big Daddy Regatta
- St. Patrick's Day at the Lake
- OYC Rites of Spring Regatta

**April, 2022**

- 54th FLYC Camellia Cup Regatta
- Make A Wish Event
- Livingston Kite Festival—8:30 to 4
- Strictly Sail Pacific, Richmond

**May, 2022**

- LYSA Opening Day**
- LYSA Thursday Night Summer Racing Series Begins
- LYSA Spring Regatta**

**June, 2022**

- LYSA Summer Series, Thursdays
- GCYC—Go for the Gold
- LYSA Member/Board Meeting
- SSC Delta Ditch Run
- LYSA Dick Gardner Memorial, 1st Day of Summer

**July, 2022**

- LYSA Summer Series, Thursdays—July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- 12-16 Junior Sailing Week 1
- 13 LYSA Member/Board Meeting—6 Social, 6:30 Meeting
- 19-23 Junior Sailing Week 2
- 26-30 Junior Sailing Week 3  
Special Needs Sailing Day—CANCELLED

**Dates are To Be Determined. Subject to change.**

Discussion: past practice is that the Sponsor accompanies the prospective Member. Also, concern regarding Members who join just to use the Clubhouse one time only. Vetting process.

To hold business as a Board, we need to have separate meetings. Lee discussed quorum and deciding on items – if Members wanted to call a special meeting – all members needed to be notified of the meeting, then that item would be discussed at a general meeting. Action was taken in the absence of notification of membership.

**Motion withdrawn:** After discussion, motion withdrawn.

John Derby suggested that the prospective members be invited to attend the next meeting along with their sponsors.

Tom Cooke – they could be guests and could come to the lake. Tom Cooke is willing to contact the prospective members and invite them. Diane – we need someone to write an introduction – that they get a welcome packet. Tom Cooke will continue to be a liaison between the Club and new Members.

Voting on these members is tabled to August meeting.

**New Member:** Tim O’Neill, Sponsor Gary Hogston. Gary introduced Tim to the Membership.

**Motion:** Moved by Chris Martin to approve membership, and **Second** by Kendall Nightengale. **Motion carried.**

**New Member:** Brigitte brought a potential candidate’s name to the Club last month. She has not met him but directed our questions to him. He replied via email to the questions and Brigitte shared the response with the Board. His son turned 18, his relatives in Turlock may visit and may sail, but that wouldn’t happen often. His son may be interested in starting a UC Merced sailing team again and would like to be familiar with the property and the Club. The most common activity he would participate in would be racing. He has participated in junior sailing.

Rachel suggested he meet us and come to use the property without membership (which would come with a key to the Clubhouse). Rachel/Chris - Perhaps we could in the future codify provisional memberships for UC Merced students to encourage participation in a way that makes sense for our club. George proposed we table this item, wait until he gets here and meet him. John suggested a probation period. Deb suggested an honorary membership extended to UC sail club members, enabling them to participate.

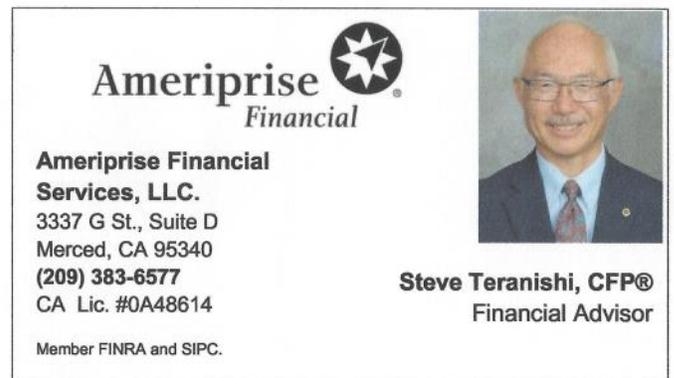
**Vice Commodore, Dennis Pellissier:** Not present.

**Dock Captain, Kendall Nightengale:** Discussion regarding the cost of slips. Slips are similarly priced, but some slips are smaller. Is there any consideration for smaller slips in the back row? Diane: The whole right side costs less; all slips went up an equal amount. Tom Cooke – couple of hundred dollars a month at Don Pedro. Thom pointed out a couple of slips are damaged, a finger is broken. Kendall



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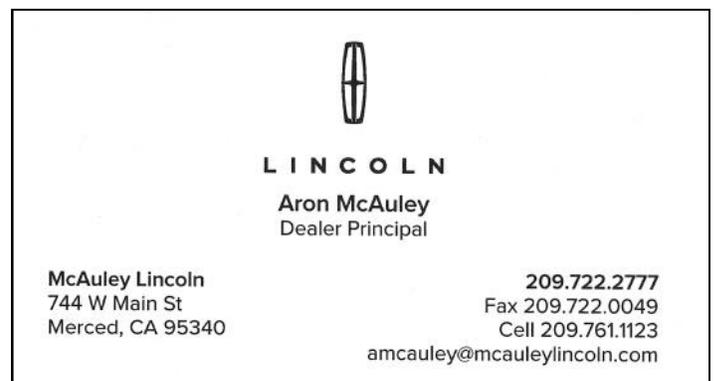
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asked for help to pull the finger out. Gary Hogston asked about a water leak.

Discussion: Kendall brought up merch. Tim requested that Kendall work with Melissa at Image Masters to facilitate ordering club shirts and items for members.

**House Captain, Deb Harden:** Deb thanked Lee for fixing the ice machine, Thom Grimaldi for mouse trapping and Craig for everything he does for the Club.

**Cruise / Social Committee, Vacant**

**Race Captain: Rachel Hadley:** No report.

**Junior Sailing, Brigitte Bowers-Loeffler:** No report.

**Sea Scouts:** Not present.

**Old Business:** Jay will ask Diane a spreadsheet of Members and will work on Membership cards for the Club.

**New Business:** None

**Good of the order:** Jay – boat broken into at the lake two to three weeks ago. Reminded members to be aware.

The next LYSA Membership / Board meeting will be held August 10, 2021, 6 to 6:30 social hour, can bring your own food / beverage. No potluck. 6:30 meeting.

**Motion:** Moved by Brigitte to adjourn, **Second** by Chris.

**Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

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