

# Light Air

Newsletter of Lake Yosemite Sailing Association

December 2020

# Happy Holidays!



Photo Courtesy George Deane

**Lake Yosemite  
Sailing Association**  
P.O. Box 3994  
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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](mailto:chrissybea@comcast.net)



**Commodore**

**George Deane**



The holidays are upon us and the chill in the air certainly reflects the season. I'm lucky enough to be sharing a family compound with the Coopers so I continue to have a social life with JoAnne, Alice, Emily, Owen, Sierra and Chris. I hope that each of you can enjoy the Holidays with family in a safe and meaningful way.

We have canceled all LYSA events through the end of the year. I don't anticipate any future events until about March because of the pandemic situation which, based on current trends, should still be raging. I have serious doubts as to whether we will be able to pull off the Open House and Regatta again next year but, we'll see.

At the November Board meeting we reviewed the budget and discussed the upcoming year. We implemented a budget that assumes that we will have a "normal" year including the Regatta and a Shrimp Feed. Our dues cover regular club operation so we are OK in that regard with or without the Shrimp Feed which raises funds for improvements. The docks are a separate issue.

Last year, major repairs to the docks were necessary that resulted in the club having to loan the docks \$3,000.00 to cover costs of repair because the dock funds were exhausted. Under our lease with the County to manage the docks, the funds are required to be segregated and self funding based on slip fees. There were about 50 slips rented last year. Accordingly the board elected to raise slip fees by \$20.00 across the board. This will raise an additional \$1,000.00 a year for the docks. Kendall will cover this year's dock projects in his column, but they will be less than last year which should allow the "Docks" to reimburse the "Club".

As most of you know we have renovated the garage including adding a slab and removing a wall to accommodate kayak storage. The club has a few kayaks that were donated and marked as "LYSA" and are available for use by members. If you want to store your personal kayak the storage fee will be \$10.00 per month.

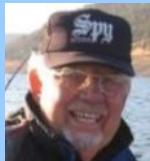
We continue to get more new and returning members which reflects well on the ongoing health of the club even in these somewhat unusual and trying circumstances.

Happy Holidays and a joyous New Year.



## Guest Columnist

John Derby



I don't know how the tradition started, however long ago, when we were young and foolish, my wife and I decided we had had it with New Year Eve parties. Instead of going out and getting blasted, we would stay at home and celebrate. Our celebration included some strange things. Spam and Beans for dinner and Champaign to wash it down.

It was crazy, however those were the days when we were allowed to get crazy with something that was totally unheard of. No one cared as long as it did not hurt anyone else. Besides it beat being on the roadway with all the other drunks.

Today, if you were to mention you had a wonderful New Year's Eve feasting on Spam and Beans, they would say, "You are nuts".

Years went by and we started spending our winters in Baja, Mexico. The New Year's Eve parties which were held at the number beach restaurants, had gotten less and less exciting. The days when we actually stayed up to see the New Year in, were gone. We watched the ball drop on Times Square and that was it.

This one year, while we were at our home in Posada Conception, we nixed the entire New Year's Eve celebration and Kathy said, "Let's bring in the New Year on the sailboat, with our old favorite SPAM AND BEANS and a bottle of Champagne.

"Great idea," I replied and we packed up some things and rowed out to the Flying Dutchman, a 24 foot sloop we had moored to three motor blocks in Conception Bay off the coast of Mexico. It was one of those evenings sailors wish for. A gentle breeze of about 10 knots kissed the sails as the Dutchman's bow headed out to sea. Then to our surprise, a chorus line of dolphins paraded alongside the boat. The long line of dolphins were joined by sea birds, which dove from amazing heights to reappear with anchovies in their mouths. It was a side show the likes of which we had never seen before. We sailed for over an hour and then the wind started to die. We looked for shelter in a deserted bay to have our dinner and bed down for the night. No New Year's Eve celebration had ever been better, as we chowed down on our SPAM AND BEANS washed down with a little bubbly.

Our tradition of SPAM AND BEANS had made such a hit at last New Year's, we decided to see if we could have a repeat performance. Everything was almost the same. However the dolphins did not parade like they had done the previous year. There were a few and they came along side the Flying Dutchman when we slapped the side to get their attention. The sea birds were also there, but fewer in number. That may have been because 22 Mexican fishing trawlers came across the sea from Guymas and netted boatloads of anchovies and took them home with them. Yes, this was illegal, and yes the boats were all fined. Only \$200 per boat or a slap on the hand.

The wind was 10 knots when we left our mooring buoy, and by the time we crossed Bahia Conception it was dying fast. We

came about and found the same shelter in the same bay as the previous year. Just as we dropped anchor, we noticed the winds had switched and were now coming from a different direction. We sat back and enjoyed the fine bottle of Champaign before starting started to cook the SPAM AND BEANS. The wind, by this time, had grown much stronger, and was blowing the Dutchman toward the rocky shore.

Suddenly we felt the bottom of the boat kiss the rocks. We put the SPAM AND BEAMS on hold rushed to the cockpit to start the outboard and get out of there. Just then, we heard the bilge pump kick on, which meant the rocks had broken through the hull and the sailboat was taking on water.

I told Kathy to get up to the bow with the whisker pole and see if she could move us off the rocks. Meanwhile I cranked on the old Mercury to get it started. It did and went for about two or three minutes before it died. One more try and the motor kicked to life and dragging the anchor, we headed out into deeper water.

It was dark by now and almost impossible to see. We headed north on Conception Bay and our anchorage. We knew the bay pretty well, after sailing it for years, but at night, in the pitch black, outlines of the islands were vague. We hoped the bilge would keep up with the incoming water. Just when I thought I was headed back home, Kathy, my wife yelled "Do you see the reef ahead?"

I had not seen the reef and we were headed straight for it. It was a low lying reef and barely visible when the tide was up. Luckily we turned west and headed for our mooring buoy. We didn't know what else to do but leave the Dutchman to sink. Surely the battery would not run the bilge all night. Rowing ashore was not the Year Year's Celebration we had anticipated.

After a sleepless night, we woke up the next morning expecting to see only the mast sticking out of the water, however to our surprise the Flying Dutchman made it through the night. It had been made with a double hull and was almost unsinkable. We felt we just couldn't handle that much excitement. That was the last time we had our SPAM AND BEANS for New Year's Eve.

## Membership Meeting

**Join us in March!**

Watch your email for location

**Tuesday, March 9th**

*6:00 pm Membership Meeting*

*Board Meeting to follow*

*Observing COVID-19 safety guidelines*



2020 sure has been interesting. I hope everyone in LYSA is doing well. Short of our little bout with Covid-19 earlier in the summer, my family has been great. I have also been fortunate enough to not be too affected work-wise and have been staying busy. My thoughts are with anyone who has been sick, or otherwise impacted by all of this. I'm hopeful that in the coming months we will see some improvements and things will get back to a little more normalcy.

As you may know, this years' Board has decided to return next year in the same positions that they held this year, however I will not be returning to my position as Social Captain. So, we will be in need of a new person eager to fulfill those duties. Cruise/Social Captain is responsible for overseeing organized LYSA get-togethers, excursions, parties, etc., as well as helping plan and put on our Shrimp Feed and Regatta. I would really like to see a new face do the job next year. Contact George Deane (or any board member) if you are interested.

Sherry and I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe holiday season, and we will see you all when things fire back up next year.



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



## Upcoming Events

### December, 2020

Christmas Party CANCELLED

### January, 2021

Merced Running Club's Fog Jog / Annual Meeting

### February, 2021

Super Bowl Party CANCELLED

### March, 2021

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

### April, 2021

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

### May, 2021

**Friday Social / Saturday - LYSA Opening Day**  
LYSA Thursday Night Summer Racing Series Begins  
**LYSA Spring Regatta**

### June, 2021

GCYC—Go for the Gold  
LYSA Dick Gardner Memorial, 1st Day of Summer, Race  
SSC Delta Ditch Run  
**Open House/Shrimp Feed**

### July, 2021

LYSA Summer Series, Thursday nights  
Raft-Up / Fun Sail  
Special Needs Sailing Day 3—7 pm

### August, 2021

LYSA Summer Series, Thursday nights  
LYSA Fun Race—Tentative  
Junior Regatta

### September, 2021

LYSA Summer Series Awards Dinner  
Sea Scouts Appreciation

### October, 2021

Fleet Week SF Bay  
OYC Oktoberfest Regatta—Tentative  
End of Year Party - Awards / Election  
RYC Great Pumpkin Regatta

### November, 2021

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



## **Secretary**

**Chris Martin**



**LYSA Membership Meeting Call to Order:** A combined meeting of the LYSA Membership and Board was held on November 10, 2020 at the home of George Deane. The meeting convened at 7 pm, Commodore George Deane presiding.

**Reports - Actions - Discussions: Commodore, George Deane:** George welcomed members to the meeting. The 2021 proposed Budget will be discussed.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The September and October minutes were approved by acclamation.

### **Commodore, George Deane:**

George continues to work with Brian Behn on the lease. Also, we want to look forward to, and be prepared for, when we can complete the application with the County for the Shrimp Feed. All meetings cancelled until March.

**Treasurer, Diane Sousa:** Diane shared the Treasurer's report. Each area of the 2021 Budget was discussed.

**Motion:** Moved by George Deane to accept the 2021 Budget. **Second** by Dennis Pellissier. **Motion carried.**

**Vice Commodore, Dennis Pellissier:** The fence is not finished. The gates and some sections were replaced, but work still needs to be done. An annual analysis should be performed. Current cost would be \$800 to \$1k, the majority of the cost would be paint. Craig discussed trees and windows.

**Dock Captain, Kendall Nightengale:** Dock repairs discussed. 3 of 18 items remain to be repaired. To hire it out would cost around \$3k. Account balance and projected income and costs were discussed. Dennis asked Kendall to let him know, he'd like to be there when they do a walk-through.

Discussion: raising dock fees \$20 across the board. Floating (both sides): 130, Large: 125, Small (back row) \$110. Kendall will write about the increase in his December Newsletter article.

Kayaks discussed. Annual storage fee: \$120. Bob Hayden wants to store kayaks. He should be a member to use storage.

**House Captain, Deb Harden:** Not present.

**Cruise / Social Committee, Mike Strealy:** Not present.

**Race Captain: Rachel Hadley:** The Race Committee is ready for next year. Rachel is having some difficulty getting in touch with Brian Behn regarding setting buoys / markers.

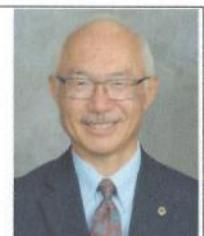
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**Junior Sailing, Brigitte Bowers-Loeffler:** Not present.

**Sea Scouts:** Rich noted that the Sea Scouts are available for any non-skilled labor needs.

**Old Business:** Dennis asked about Membership Cards.

**New Business:** Diane received applications from new Members:

New Members: Ajinder Singh and Maria Fernandez Renado, doctors. Craig – sponsor.

**Motion:** Moved by George Deane. **Second** by Craig Anderson. **Motion carried.**

Darrell sold one El Toro, he has the sail and will sell it. Two additional boats remain to be sold (under 8', no DMV registration).

Craig stripped the Committee Boat, requested \$400 for supplies.

George asked Diane to order Club burgees, 25 burgees cost around \$400

Discussed Regatta t-shirts. Generic? Most are sold at Open House and Regatta. Diane: Each event should cover the cost of t-shirts, this should not be a loss for the Club.

House cleaning – raise to \$15/hour.

Discussion: lock the dumpster, the public overfills it and we are billed. WM unlocks it and doesn't lock it after they empty the bin. Diane will call them.

Discussion of election / Board Members for next year. Due to the unique circumstances surrounding the Pandemic, all Board Members are willing to continue to serve next year, except Mike Strealy.

**Good of the order:** None.

The next LYSA Membership / Board meeting will be held March 9, 2021.

**Motion:** Moved by George Deane to adjourn, and **Second** by Chris Martin. **Motion carried.** Board meeting was ad-

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