

Light Air

Newsletter of Lake Yosemite Sailing Association

March 2017

Sailing Outside LYSA

Oakland Yacht Club Sunday Brunch Series



From the Oakland Yacht Club Sunday Brunch Series race on Feb 19. As of the last race on Feb 26, Team Hard N Fast is tied for first place in the series with two more races to go.

Photos Courtesy Mike Streatly

Lake Yosemite Sailing Association

P.O. Box 3994
Merced, CA 95340

Club Officers

Commodore: Brigitte Bowers-Loeffler

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brigittematt@comcast.net

Vice Commodore: Tom Cooke

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Racing Captain: Debbie Harden

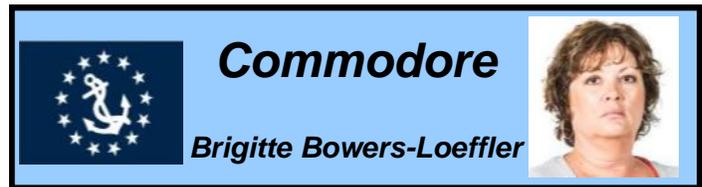
(209) 383-2631
debra-harden@comcast.net

Submissions:

Deadline is the 22nd of each month

Submit with LYSA in the Subject Line

to Chris Martin:
chrissybea@comcast.net



Our meetings will resume at the clubhouse on Tuesday, March 14. I look forward to seeing everyone there. Until then, you might want to keep some dates in mind.

This month is the St. Patrick's Day dinner, to be held on Saturday, March 18. Social hour begins at 5:00 with dinner around 6:00. Matt Loeffler and his minions will cook corned beef and cabbage and Irish coffee will be available with dessert (or as dessert, if you prefer).

A trip to Petaluma is planned for March 31 to April 2, which would be our first cruise of the year. The trip is still tentative at this time, so if you're interested you should let Ed Dietz know—the more who are interested, the more definite the plans will become. In April, we hope to revive our annual Don Pedro trip during the weekend of the 21st. This has been a really fun event in the past, and the sailing on Don Pedro during spring is usually terrific. For those of you who want to cruise but don't like hauling your boat over long distances, sailing at Don Pedro is a good option. Our club will participate in the Delta Doo Dah this year from June 16 to the 24th. For more details, contact Ed Dietz, who is reserving our slips at various marinas throughout the Delta. Another great trip is the High Sierra Regatta, to be held this year on July 7 through the 9th and July 14 through the 16th. Small boats will race on the first weekend, larger boats on the second. If you plan to reserve a cabin or camping spot, you should do so now.

Throughout the summer, we will have a regular Sunday brunch once a month beginning in June. Rachel Hadley has volunteered to cook for the first one, so she'll get to determine the menu. Cost will be \$5.00 per person to cover expenses. Afternoon sailing will follow. If you're interested in hosting the second brunch in July, please let me know (you can reach me at 209 617 0284). I'd love to have members who aren't on the board take over this event.

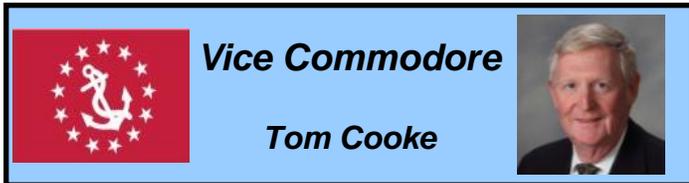
As you are all aware, this has been a very promising year in terms of water. So far, we're on track for 2016-17 to be the second-wettest year ever recorded in California, with the 1982-83 rain season the most drenched overall for the state. According to Fresh Plaza, a citrus growers' website, precipitation so far is 193% of normal across the state. While 17% of California still remains in drought, those areas are concentrated in the southern part of the state. Central California is doing well, and this of course means a

(Commodore, continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

full sailing season for our lake and others in our region. If you have any ideas for cruising or sailing events at the lake, please let social captain Matt Loeffler know.

Hope to see you on the 14th, and again on the 18th.



Another rain soaked month has gone by and we are starting out March with a storm. Our reservoirs are full and are releasing water in anticipation of further run off and the spring melt. Even lake Don Pedro has started releasing water for the first time in twenty (20) years. May is fast approaching and we should all be getting ready for Launching day and our summer racing series. Remember this is Beer Can Racing. I've included the short form of the Beer Can Ten Commandments below. For a longer explanation of each commandment please check out the latest issue of Latitude 38 on line at www.latitude38.com and go to the Wisdom section. The 10 Commandments:

- Thou shalt not worry, thou shalt not take anything other than safety too seriously.
- Thou shalt honor the racing rules if thou knowest them.
- Thou shalt not run out of beer.
- Thou shalt not covet thy competitor's boat, sails, equipment, crew or PHRF rating.
- Thou shalt not amp out.
- Thou shalt not protest thy neighbor.
- Thou shalt not mess up thy boat.
- Thou shalt always go to the yacht club afterwards.
- Thou shalt bring thy spouse, kids, friends and whoever else wants to go.
- Thou shalt not worry; thou shalt be happy.

Don't forget to make plans to come out for our St. Patrick's Day dinner on March 18th at 6PM at the club house and our 6th annual Chili Fest on April 6th also at 6PM. See you at the Lake.



Greetings all, spring is just around the corner and so is our annual LYSA Regatta.

Planning is well under way for this great event, which will be held on May 20th, and 21st. Sailors from all over northern and central California will descend on Lake Yosemite to partake in two days of racing, food and fun!

Mike Strealay and Deb Harden have been busy up-dating the registration forms, which should be up on our website very soon (I will send an E-mail out to club members and racers once they get on the website). One change that we have implemented for 2017 is raising the late registration fee by \$5.00 to \$50.00 with the hope of encouraging more racers to register early. This helps us plan for food and trophies plus makes Saturday morning a lot less hectic for the race committee.

We would love to see a huge LYSA membership turnout to race this year so get those boats ready to race and your registration forms in early!

We will also need lots of help during the regatta with registration, breakfast and lunch prep and the Saturday night dinner and cleanup. If you are able to help I am starting a list of volunteers so shoot me an E-mail at jay.sousa@sbcglobal.net.

I will be working with the County to secure all of the needed permits including the camping permit. It is the one time of the year that we can camp out at the lake. It is an awesome experience so if you have an RV or tent please join us Friday and Saturday night!

I will have a updated Regatta report at our March 14th club meeting so come on out and get up dated!

Membership Meeting

Join us... on Tuesday, March 14th

6:00 pm *Dinner / Social*

7:00 pm *Membership Meeting*

8:00 pm *Board Meeting*



Treasurer
Diane Sousa




House Captain
Peg Larson



Hi everyone! I hope 2017 is treating you well. Club dues and slip fee invoices have been sent out. If you haven't received your invoices for dues and slip fees you should be receiving them shortly. Please mail your payment to LYSA, P O Box 3994, Merced CA 95344. Make sure that you complete the contact info on the invoice if there has been any changes to your address, phone numbers and email. This will help us keep you aware of any upcoming events or water levels on the docks. If you are not renewing your membership or slip fee, please return the invoices with a note and your keys. See you at the lake.

Hard to believe we're moving right into March and Spring but here we are! Looks like all our prayers for rain along with the many rain dances has paid off, finally. We are certain to have a great sailing season we can all look forward to, I know we are all ready for that.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns about the house or if you need something or something done.

See you at the lake!



Race Captain
Debbie Harden



Okay, it is only my third newsletter and I am already wondering "What do I write about now?" First, I want to thank everyone who responded to my last article about helping on the race committee. I know some of you have already offered to help and don't worry your name is on my list!

Mike Streatly and I have been sending emails back and forth trying to get the racing part of the Regatta ready for publication. (Thank you, Mike. Racing at LYSA would be lost without you!) This took priority over the Thursday night races because we count on the out-of-town sailors for this event and want to give them plenty of time to sign up. The Regatta is scheduled for May 20 & 21st. There is a substantial discount for signing up before April 30th, so take advantage of it. The Regatta courses have been tweaked a little and we now have 8 courses. (Thanks, Rachel, for your input on this. I really gained an understanding of the courses.) Mike will have the information on the website soon. If you are not a racer, be sure to still come out and support the Club, meet the out-of-town sailors, enjoy a day by the water, and have a great dinner.

Thursday night races start the Thursday after LYSA's Opening Day (first weekend). Mike and I have been talking about some course changes again. We are look-

ing at having more courses to choose from and maybe even some nights of gate course sailing. We are moving the start/finish line back over by the docks. Last season's experiment with the start line went well. There were advantages and disadvantages to it. One advantage was that the race committee had a much better view of the start line and we could really be a part of the excitement at the start. On the other hand, there were struggles to get the line set correctly both in size and in regards to the wind direction. The starts could not be watched by club members, who came out to support the sailors. While sailboat racing is not really a spectator sport, those of us on shore enjoy the starts and finishes. The course map is still in draft form, so if you want input please email, text or call.

The plan is to continue to have two eight week halves to the series. There will be awards for places in each half based on the number of entries as well as the overall awards for the champions of each fleet. I am looking forward to Taco Thursdays and seeing all of you at the lake!

Update: The committee boat will be going in for some maintenance the first week of March. Hopefully, it will be fully charged and ready to get back to work setting & collecting the marks, hanging out with the Junior Sailors, and being on-call for any necessary rescues.

**Guest Columnist**
John Derby

THE FIRST BAHIA CONCEPTION BEER CAN RACE

The first rule of sailboat racing is never to trust the weather forecast. The second rule is to stick to your race plan, hell or high water.

In this case it was hell or high winds as The First Bahia Conception Beer Can Race had to be postponed due to too much wind.

The race was rescheduled for the following day and things did not get off to a good start. The committee boat, a Mexican fishing boat, was grounded on the hard and could not be moved. The back up inflatable was in not much better shape.

At the Captains meeting, there were several “no shows” and only three or four of the eight sailboats looked like they were ready to sail. We were one of those and we had been up early in the morning, rowing out to our sailboat the Flying Dutchman to make sure the outboard engine would start and there had been no damage to the boat since the last storm.

The race start was called for 1 p.m. and we would be carrying one extra crew who had never sailed before. The other members of the crew had been with us for three years and were well seasoned.

Traditionally we row out to our boat. It is a matter of health as much as anything and our dinghy makes a perfect row boat even with four people in it.

Normally this would not be a problem but winds had kicked up to 15 knots by the time we set out from shore and the row boat was riding low in the water. We aimed the row boat about a hundred yards upwind of where our sailboat was moored and even that was not far enough as the wind kept blowing us south of the Dutchman.

We were within 20 feet of the Dutchman and the ore lock snapped leaving up with only one workable ore. There

was no way we could row the rest of the way to our sailboat as we started drifting south further and further. Just by chance one of the other captains was rigging his boat and briefly was in shouting distance. We yelled we were in trouble holding up the broken ore lock to show him the problem. He was in the middle of putting on his jib.

He stopped what he was doing and with the help of his crew, came after us in his power boat. It took the power boat sometime to catch up to us and we were getting close to shore by the time it did. His motor was churning up sand from the bottom as he sidled up to us and we got turned around.

Not 50 feet from our boat, his outboard sputtered to a stop and he reached back with a limited amount of profanity and shook the gas can; almost empty. By tilting it on one edge he got his outboard running again but it died within minutes.

“No problem” he said and reached for a one gallon can of gas to pour it into the main tank. With this, we made it the rest of the way to our sailboat.

Once on board things went better. The veteran crew kicked into action setting up the jib and then the main sail. Our dinghy was roped off to the side of our sailboat and we were off the mooring buoy with only a little problem.

By this time the winds had increased and there were gusts of up to 20 knots, but the Flying Dutchman took them in stride. Actually the one extra crew was helpful as ballast (to balance the boat).

The actual Beer Can Race was called because of no race committee boat and not enough sailboats, however for those who sailed anyway it was a beautiful day on the bay and we may have made a sailing convert of our new crew member.

After the sailing and the traditional can of beer, we loaded into the dinghy and let the wind blow us to shore with one of the crew using her shirt as a sail. It doesn't get any better than this in Posada.



Another image from the Oakland Yacht Club Sunday Brunch Series race on Feb 19.

Photo courtesy Mike Streatly



Here are events for the next few months:

March 18 St. Patrick's Day. 6:00 at the Clubhouse. \$5.00 per person. RSVP to Matt at brigitematt@comcast.net so we can determine how much corned beef we'll need.

March 31 to April 2 Petaluma Trip. Contact Ed Dietz for more info. This is a new trip and promises to be a fun adventure.

April 1 6th Annual Chili Fest. 6:00 at the Clubhouse. Bring your best chili and win the pot!

April 6-9 Strictly Sail Boat Show in Richmond. If you're interested in going with a group, contact me.

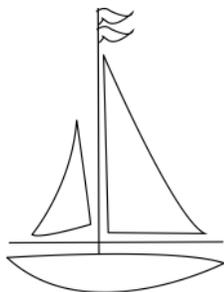
April 21-23 Don Pedro Trip. We're reviving this trip, which used to be a club favorite. Please let me know if you're interested.

Sailor's Calendar: March

Clean, inspect & repair the boat's hull and topside.

Check the condition of all blocks & fittings on the mast & deck. Order replacement parts if needed.

Update your calendar to include LYSA Regatta and Thursday night races.



Upcoming Events

March, 2017

- 14 General / Board Meeting
- 18 St. Patrick's Day at the Lake—Social 5/ Dinner at 6 pm
- 19 & 26 Oakland Yacht Club Sunday Brunch Series
- 31-Apr2 Petaluma trip, more info coming

April, 2017

- 1 6th Annual Chili Fest. Bring your best Chili - 6 pm
- 6-9 Strictly Sail Pacific, Richmond
- 9 Livingston Kite Festival—8:30 to 4:30
- 21-23 Don Pedro trip

May, 2017

- 6 LYSA Opening Day
- LYSA Thursday Night Summer Series Begins
- LYSA Spring Regatta
- Jack & Jill Race

June, 2017

- 3-4 Gold Country Regatta
- 11 Sunday Brunch at the Clubhouse - 9-11 am, \$5
- 16-21 Delta Doo Dah
- 24 Open House/Shrimp Feed

July, 2017

- 4 Independence Day Potluck Lunch BBQ & Fun Sail
- 7-9 High Sierra Regatta, small boat, Huntington Lake
- 14-16 High Sierra Regatta, large boat, Huntington Lake
- Special Needs Sailing Day

August, 2017

- 4-5 Pinecrest small boat trip

September, 2017

- Jack & Jill Race
- 2-4 Delta trip

October, 2017

- Fleet Week SF Bay
- 7-9 Monterey Trip, RSVP ASAP to Ed
- 21 End of Year Party / Election / Dinner / Awards

November, 2017

December, 2017

- 2 Christmas Party

January, 2018

- 1 Frostbite Regatta

February, 2018

- SF Bay
- Oakland Yacht Club Sunday Brunch Series

Dates are To Be Determined. Subject to change.



Guest Columnist
Richard Kleitman



Secretary
Chris Martin



Introducing Sea Scout Ship #99 LYSA

At the June 7th LYSA board meeting the LYSA board voted to sponsor a Sea Scout Ship. In December that ship filed its paperwork with the Greater Yosemite Council of the Boy Scouts of America and officially formed. In January 2017 the group held its first meeting and in February we have had two more meetings. Because Sea Scouts are a youth led organization I can finally give you an idea of what is to come. The members of the ship made the following decisions. The Ship will be named "Sea Scout Ship 99 LYSA" and will meet on the first and third Monday of each month at the LYSA clubhouse at 6pm. In addition to those meetings the ship plans to form a race team to compete in the LYSA Thursday night races. We have recruited Tim Harden as our Mate (adult volunteer) for racing and he will be assisted by Mike Straely. Lee's yacht Villain has already been donated to the Boy Scout Council and that is the yacht we will race on Thursdays with at least two youth members aboard for each race. In addition the ship has rented a berth at Lake Yosemite and will bring another boat out for the youth members to work on. We hope to work on sailing skills and nautical knowledge and participate in LYSA races. We also hope to do some serious maintenance work on our vessels and possibly on the youth sailing boats especially during the off season months. Our members are very interested in helping out at LYSA activities and would be willing to cook a meal or two as a fund raiser as well as help out at the annual LYSA open House, Regatta. Long Cruise (a week long activity with at least one overnight) will be planned for all of the youth members to attend a session of sail camp. Hoping that in 2018 our long cruise could be to Huntington lake for the week preceding the High Sierra Regatta. For now the only thing limiting us is our own imagination. We are looking forward to fair winds and following seas as we all enjoy our beautiful lake. If you are interested in helping out or know a youth who has graduated 8th grade or turned 14 and is under 21 who wants to join the ship please contact Rich Kleitman at 383-1861. If you are over 21 and want to be involved the ship needs a mate in charge of administration, a mate in charge of program as well as a treasurer and any others who would like to be on the committee. Sea Scouts can be whatever they choose to be adults are there to supervise, maintain safety and provide coaching to the youth as they develop a program and implement it. If that sounds like fun give me a call. See you on the water.

LYSA Membership Meeting Call to Order: A meeting of the LYSA Membership was held on February 7, 2017 at Matt & Brigitte Loeffler's home. The meeting convened at 6:68 pm, Commodore Brigitte Bowers-Loeffler presiding.

Secretary, Chris Martin: Approval of Minutes: Reading of Membership and Board Meeting Minutes waived. Due to a lack of quorum, the October Membership and Board Meeting was not held. The November Membership and Board Meetings were cancelled. A meeting was not held in December, nor in January. **No Action.**

Reports - Actions - Discussions: Commodore, Brigitte Bowers-Loeffler: Brigitte welcomed members to the meeting. **New Members Introduced:** Richard & Jane Carlson - Dr. "Doc" Bakhshay. Also, Tim & Genevieve Garcia, brought by Linda & Frank Ribka; and Dan & Lydia Silveira. Brigitte invited Board / Committee Members to report.

Vice Commodore, Tom Cooke: Tom welcomed current and new members.

Past Commodore / Junior Sailing, Jay Sousa: Both events are very important, profits go into the Club Improvement Fund (paying for things such as the kitchen and bathroom remodel projects, ice machine, chairs, etc.).

Regatta: The weekend after Mother's Day. May 20 and 21. Opportunity to host other sailors, showcasing what we have to offer to the sailing community. **Open House:** June 24. A showcase for our local community, the Open House is a chance to build membership on a local level.

Treasurer, Diana Sousa: Financial information reviewed. Current membership: 82. Invoices are ready to go out. Diane requested that when members send in dues, please update contact information.

Jr. Sailing Committee & Cruise / Social Committee, Matt Loeffler: Social: Tentative schedule handed out to Members. Calendar items discussed: The Junior Regatta, Special Needs Sailing, Christmas Party, Taco Thursdays. Ed Dietz: there are 8 cruises scheduled. We may pick a date and have members commit. Jay encouraged Matt to reach out to Club Members to help with events.

Racing Captain, Debbie Harden: Debbie asked about budget. Diane explained: Money is budgeted for boat repair, supplies and trophies, for example. Some races have been scheduled. Tom Cooke offered his assistance if Debbie needs anything.

House Captain, Peg Larson: Not in attendance.

Port Captain, John Larson: Not in attendance.

New Business: Repair: Estimate for repairs to Committee Boat from Modesto Power Boat – March 8

Kite Festival

Sunday Brunch: Call for volunteers to host one Sunday Brunch, June - August (The Club will reimburse the Host). Rachel Hadley volunteered to host the first Brunch at the Clubhouse, June 11, 9 to 11 am, cost: \$5 per person.

Donation: Make A Wish Dinner auction item, 4/29/17. Lee Anderson traditionally donated sailing and dinner. To be further discussed by the Board.

Old Business: None.

Good of the order: There is interest in this year's Sail Camp: an application was received from someone from Ireland to come and teach.

Adjournment: The next LYSA General Membership meeting will be held Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at the Clubhouse. Potluck at 6:00 pm, General Meeting at 7:00 pm. Board Meeting at 8:00.

Motion: Moved by Tom Cook, 2nd by Rachel Hadley. **Motion carried.** Membership meeting adjourned at 8:07.

LYSA Board Meeting Call to Order: A regular meeting of the LYSA Board was held on February 7, 2017 at Matt & Brigitte Loeffler's home. The meeting convened at 8:15 pm, Commodore Brigitte Bowers-Loeffler presiding.

Members in attendance: Members of the Board in attendance: Commodore: Brigitte Bowers-Loeffler, Vice-Commodore: Tom Cook, Past-Commodore: Jay Sousa, Secretary: Chris Martin, Treasurer: Diane Sousa, Cruise/Social Captain: Matt Loeffler, Racing Captain, Debbie Harden. Not in attendance: House Captain: Peg Larson, Port Captain: John Larson.

Chris: Old Business from previous meetings: Repairs to cement walkway to parking lot, Board previously voted on house upkeep items: paint/yes, windows/no. Recycling cans are full. The Boathouse has been torn down. Board: The House Captain should follow up on these items.

Matt: Calendar items discussed. Tom asked Matt to add items to the calendar on the LYSA website. Brigitte suggested Peg and Mike coordinate calendar. Mike asked for Regatta info so he could post it on the website. Revised Regatta documents will be sent to Mike.

Debbie: Racing items: Dick Gardner discussion. A One Design series scheduled and run by Darrell. Do we want to continue this series?

Motion: Moved by Tom Cook to table item, 2nd by Chris Martin. **Motion carried.**

Ensinall Yacht Club is hosting US Sailing Race Management Seminar on March 11. Board discussion: it's at Debbie's discretion who will attend. Brigitte asked that attendee report back in April meeting.

Adjournment: The next LYSA Board meeting will be held Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at the Clubhouse. Potluck 6:00 pm, General Meeting at 7:00 pm. Board Meeting at 8:00.

Motion: Moved by Jay Sousa to adjourn, and 2nd by Tom Cooke. **Motion carried.** Board meeting adjourned at 8:50.

The 6th Annual "Time to Fly" Kite Festival presented by the Knights of Columbus and City of Livingston kicks off The Week of the Young Child in Merced County. The Festival will be held on Sunday April 9, 2017 from 8:30am – 4:30pm at Livingston Middle School, 101 F Street Livingston. The Kite Festival will



have activities for everyone to enjoy including Kite Building Contests, Pie Eating Contests, Face Painting, Bounce Houses, Crafts, Kite, and informational Vendor booths, plus various cultural performances. We will also have safety demonstrations from PG&E, Livingston Police and Fire, CHP, and Merced County Sheriff and of course, "The Jim Strealy Memorial Kite Candy Drop." Attendees will have the opportunity

to enter kite flying and building competitions and win a variety of prizes. There will be plenty of space for free flying kite lovers or those who prefer to stroll around and just enjoy the magnificent view and entertainment. Food will be served by Central Valley Knights of Columbus.

Ways to support LYSA:



- **Visit** <https://www.savemart.com/shares> to enroll in Save Mart's paperless eScrip program.

- **Enroll** in the Raley's scrip program at www.raleys.com/somethingextra. Select LYSA

from the menu and designate the percentage to donate.

- **Bring a new member** to the Clubhouse.
- **Drain** and place recyclable glass bottles, plastic bottles and aluminum cans in the proper containers.
- **Use** the Suggestion Box to make a suggestion or to point out an issue that may need to be looked into.
- **Submit** an article to the Newsletter or share the Newsletter with a friend.

1987 Catalina Yacht – 22' - \$3,500



Great family cruiser! Very good condition. New Sails only used two seasons, custom boat cover, Bimini, Mainsail and jib covers. Suzuki 6HP engine also included, but it needs work since it has not been used for years.

Call (209) 723-3868 for additional information, view in person or request additional photos.



Seating



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