

THE CAT'S PAW



JANUARY-
MARCH 2010

From the Commodore ☆☆☆

Spring is here! As your new Commodore, I say it is time to get the yachting year going.

We congratulate our friends at Golden Gate Yacht Club for bringing back the "Old Mug" and support having the 34th Race on San Francisco Bay.

This year our Rear Commodore has lined up several great speakers. We started the year with Don Falkenburg, a retired Professor of Engineering at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and a amateur genealogist/history buff. His talk was titled: Voyage to California: The Story of Captain Charles Falkinburg, who at twenty-three captained the *General Morgan*, a 137 ton, 84 foot centerboard coasting schooner from the East Coast to California. Don concluded with a description of how Charles used this voyage to launch his career as a captain in merchant trade in the Asia-Pacific region, and Charles' untimely death, at the age of thirty-one, on the docks of San Francisco. Don's research was based on material found on the Internet, a rare diary at the California Historical Society, and documents from the genealogical collection of the Santa Clara Library. We are looking forward to Don's publishing this venture in the near future.

Our March Speaker was a presentation on weather forecasting for boaters and our April speaker was a Bay Area marine photographer.

Other major events for this year include the annual Gromeeke Regatta on Saturday, May 8th, the South Bay

Challenge Race, our annual picnic, and one or two cruise outs.

Our change of watch dinner in January was well attended and included some great door prizes, 7 x 50 binoculars and inflatable vest from West Marine, a signed book *Islands in the Bay* from LGYC, and a \$50 gift certificate won by our club at last year's opening parade.

This year's club challenge race will be run during the Wednesday night series at Sequoia Yacht Club. Stan Phillips, staff

commodore, has stepped up to again lead this event.

George Hansell will be heading up the committee that will again put on a great Gromeeke Regatta.

Your team for 2010 includes Beverley Bryant (Director), Bill Hiland (Director), Ann Rice (Editor), Sarah Model (Secretary), Klaus Model (Treasurer), Stan Phillips (Staff Commodore), Ralph Manies (Rear Commodore), Laurel Kaleda (Vice Commodore), and Ray Kaleda (Commodore).



Wishing you fair winds and following seas, and we hope to see you at the next meeting. Please bring a guest..

Your Help Needed

by Doug Hipsley

I again will be your liaison to RBOC in 2010. First in order is a great big thank you for your financial support as well as your responses to previous Call-to-Arms. RBOC does not take call lightly. We only make it on extremely important issues. The need is now! We must oppose the Coastal Marina Permit as proposed by the SWRCB!

During the past few months I have been writing about a potential financial impact to California boaters. The California State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) is proposing a statewide requirement that marinas and clubs with 10 or more slips and moorings must obtain a permit from the SWRCB, and comply with their reporting requirements.

The Directors of RBOC has determined that it is time to initiate a CALL-TO-ARMS to solicit support from all California boaters to contact the Governor, SWRCB, and your local state legislators expressing your opposition to this unnecessary proposal. Currently there are numerous safeguards, both regulatory and voluntarily, that protect the quality of water in marinas.

A sample letter is provided below. Please follow instructions and express your opposition. Send a copy to RBOC at the address shown. Your letter will be part "of the stack" when RBOC expresses opposition at open hearings. Please go to www.rbo.org and click on Special Call-To-Arms and you can read the entire proposal.

Please pass this sample to all your boating friends and ask them to oppose this unnecessary financial burden to California boaters. Please Help! You can contact the Governor, your local legislator, and the Executive Office of the State Water Resources Control Board to express your opposition to this proposed permit. Send a copy to RBOC via fax 916-441-3520, or via mail to RBOC, 925



L Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Contact information can be found at these websites: www.gov.ca.gov; www.senate.ca.gov; www.assembly.ca.gov; and www.swrcb.ca.gov or see page two of this letter for contact information for the Governor and the State Water Resources Control Board. You must search the legislative websites for contact information for your particular legislator.

Here is the sample letter:

Dear _____:

Please contact the State Water Resources Control Board and request that it not move forward with a proposed permit that would make marina operators responsible for the quality of the water that flows into their marinas!

The Water Board is proposing a permit for ALL coastal marinas (including many inland marinas that are in "bays" and "estuaries") that would FORCE them to

spend hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to conduct expensive water quality testing and monitoring and to report that information to the State. It also gives the Water Board the authority to MANDATE "management practices" on the marina as the board sees fit. Such mandates could include testing the bottom paint of the boats to see if they contain copper and even DEMAND the elimination of slips to reduce the amount of copper in the water! While copper seems to be a focus, the permit calls for testing and monitoring for many other constituents in the water, even trash! In short, it forces a wide range of testing and monitoring and gives extremely broad authority to the Water Board to mandate changes at the marina based on the testing and monitoring that the marina has to pay for!

Forcing Marina operators to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to try and improve water quality will not improve water quality. The water in a coastal marina cannot be controlled by the marina so forcing them to spend this

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money will not be effective.

There is no evidence that the boats in marinas are causing a water quality problem. Forcing such a major expenditure without real evidence of a problem caused by the boats is unethical and extremely harmful in these tough economic times.

The authority given to the Water Board to demand changes to how the marina is operated is far too broad and could lead to abuses. This permit would allow a staff level individual to force changes at a marina, even to the point of reducing slips based on their own assessment and not based on clear criteria. This permit could put someone out of business based solely on a low-level decision-maker's "opinion".

The \$200,000 cost per marina of this program will put many small marinas out of business.

The "Clean Marina Program" run by the marina industry is the best approach to improving water quality in marinas. This is an excellent program that is working to enhance the marine environment through voluntary participation and should be seen as the venue to address the State's water quality goals for marinas.

Please contact the Water Board and request that it not move forward with the marina permit proposal.

Sincerely,

Name

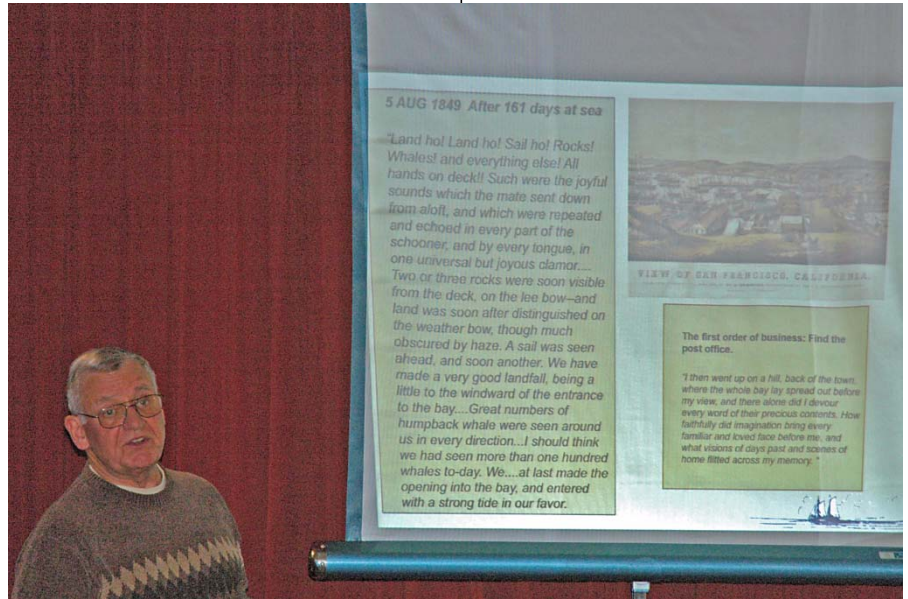
Street, City, State and Zip

Contact Information:

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Dorothy Rice, Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Recreational Boaters of California
925 L Street, Suite 220
Sacramento, CA 95814



Avast and Ahoy Mateys! June Cruisers Reunion

All Sea Scouts and Mariners of the SF Bay Area (from 1950 through 1964) from ships which went on the annual "June Cruise" to Steamboat Slough on the Sacramento River are invited to contact the Reunion committee : Dennis Guinaw at guinaw@aol.com; Sharon O'2019Hara and Mike Gorman at 530.559.5263.

A reunion will be held on Sat., June 26, 2010 at the Sequoia Yacht Club in Redwood City.

Former Scouts and Mariners from the *Albatross*, *Belmonster*, *Northland*, and *Thunderbird* are the planning committee organizers. Help us to add more ships and crew mates!

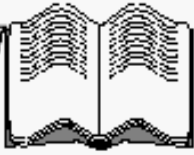
We welcome your correspondence as soon as possible; and hope that you will plan to attend.

New Member Reward

Laurel Kaleda, vice commodore, and membership chair person has announced that any member that brings in a new member will receive a \$25 dollar gift certificate good at Aldo's, so lets get some new members."

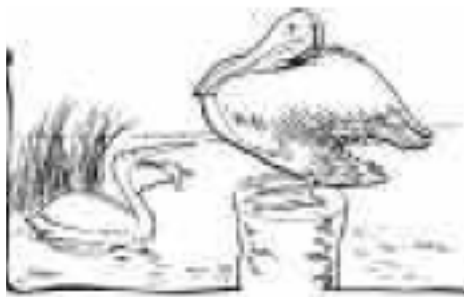
LOS GATOS YACHT CLUB

Ship's Log



**Annual George Gromeeko Memorial
Around the Islands Race**, Saturday, May
8.

General Membership Meeting, Tuesday,
May 11, 7:30 PM, Aldo's Ristorante.



THE CAT'S PAW

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