

Light Air



Newsletter of Lake Yosemite Sailing Association

May 2022



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Our Lake Yosemite

Photo courtesy: Merced County Courthouse Museum Collection

Lake Yosemite Sailing Association

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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



Commodore

Jay Sousa



By now many of you have heard that we have had to cancel our annual LYSA spring Regatta which was scheduled for May 14th & 15th. And our sailing season has been delayed until the end of May or June because of low water levels at the lake.

Certainly the very dry winter is one reason but I think that there are also political reasons that I don't pretend to understand at play. Indeed, water rights in California are very complicated to say the least!

I just read in the news that the manager of a local irrigation district here in California is accused of stealing 25 million dollars of water. Here is a small portion of the news story that appeared in the Las Angeles Times on April 14th of this year.

The former general manager of a Central Valley water district has been charged with stealing more than \$25 million worth of water over 23 years, the latest development in a years-long saga of corruption and theft, federal authorities said Thursday.

A federal grand jury returned a five-count indictment against 75-year-old Aptos resident Dennis Falaschi, according to the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of California.

He faces one count each of conspiracy and theft of government property, and three counts of filing false tax returns, according to the indictment.

Falaschi was the general manager for the Panoche Water District, which serves portions of Fresno and Merced counties near Dos Palos, Firebaugh and Los Banos, according to court documents.

\$25 million dollars worth of water, now that has to be a lot of water! We probably just need a few thousand dollars worth to get the lake up to a reasonable level!

Even though we won't be sailing for a few more weeks doesn't mean that LYSA is going into hibernation. Our clubhouse at the lake is still a great place to hang out, Club events will continue and there is more than enough water to break out some kayaks.

Our May potluck and general membership meeting will be held on Tuesday May 10th at the clubhouse. Potluck at 6 pm, Membership meeting at 7 pm followed by the Board meeting. We had a great turnout for the April meeting, let's keep that going for this month!



Happy April, fellow club members and thank you for your dedication and coming out in force for the workdays.

In the last *Light Air* issue, I reported on the first workday. After that we had two more sets of workdays.

Friday, March 4th Thom Grimaldi, Craig Anderson, and I went out and set three new poles on three fingers in the middle row. We also, reinforced a sagging timber on the main walkway in that same area. This was with the water starting to rise as MID had notified me that water would be filling the lake beginning Thursday and through the weekend; which added urgency to get under dock repairs completed. Thanks to United Rentals, Merced (Kevin Taylor, General Manager) for donating a skid steer loader so we could do a little dirt work around the docks. If you need to rent give them your business as they did us a huge favor. This was especially important for that middle row where a few boats tend to drag their keels when the water is on the low side of normal. Hopefully, this will be a little less of an issue now. I would still recommend using caution.

Saturday, March 5th saw a good turn out that rivaled the first workday. When I sent the email about “all hands-on deck” you responded by getting on deck. Way to go mates! We worked on getting the last three poles replaced. This included wrangling in the finger that floated away late last season and became a floating swim platform in the “no swimming” area. The leaking pipe close to Matt’s slip is finally fixed. We accomplished a lot of work and extended the life



of the docks for another season.

There was another workday, but the weather wasn’t good and y’all were probably tucked inside somewhere. I worked on my own to do several simple repairs from the top side and evaluated what else needs to be completed. I was under the watchful eye of two Eagles who were circling about tree-top level over the docks. We do need one more workday to finish up. There is a finger that needs repair, deck

boards to replace, and cleats that need some work. We’ll discuss this at our April club meeting.

The water level has come up, but not sufficient for the launching of sailboats. Great for kayaking though! Kara and I went for a wonderful paddle on a near windless evening and were awed by another beautiful sunset and the lake’s resident Bald Eagle perched on the northern side of the lake. Every time I paddle or sail, I’m inspired by the wildlife and beautiful

views. Sail time is coming soon!

Membership Meeting

Join us in May!

At the

LYSA Clubhouse

Tuesday, May 10th

6 pm Potluck, 7 pm Membership Meeting

Board Meeting to follow

Observing COVID-19 safety guidelines



House Captain
Debbie Harden



Sailing season is coming right up, but until then we can continue to enjoy the springlike weather and the comradery of our fellow sailors aka Club members at the Club House.

Reminders:

We recycle cans and plastic only. NO GLASS. Please make sure you put your EMPTY cans & plastic in the correct blue bin.

The supplies in the closet (plates, cups, etc.) are for Club events. Please bring your own for any personal events you may hold.

When using the Clubhouse, please make sure to clean up after yourself, empty the trash and lock up the facilities. There are trash bags for the kitchen can and for the outside cans in the office. Please be sure to lock the dumpster.



As usual many club members have stepped up to help with maintaining our Club House and I wish to thank each one of them. If I forget to mention you and how you helped, just know I appreciated it, even if I don't remember it right now.

Lee McDonough for servicing our ice machine.

When that hot summer comes, and it will, we will all appreciate that we have clean ice for our cocktails.

Michael Davidson for helping Craig to hang our new outside lights.

Thom Grimaldi for checking on the broken kitchen faucet and thank you to whoever fixed it before Thom got there!

Christine McGregor (our housekeeper) for doing the dishes when they were left (broken faucet). And just a general thank you, Christine for keeping our Club House spic and span

ALWAYS a huge thank you to Craig Anderson for all he does for the Club House and me!

On a personal note, thank you for the prayers & thoughts during my short hospital stay. I am doing fine!



Race Captain
Rachel Hadley




Ahoy Racers!

Although we launched the racing marks in time for Opening Day on April 30th, unfortunately, we won't have enough water in the lake to start our Thursday Night Races on May 12th, and we've had to cancel the Regatta scheduled for May 14th.


I've heard some suggestions of kayaking around the lake on April 30th, so bring some clothes you won't mind getting wet if you want to borrow a kayak.

We'll send out a general email if/ when there's enough water to launch our boats and race.

Be Safe on the Water!



Guest Columnist
John Derby



Interested in Sailing at Lake Yosemite?

A founding member of LYSA is interested in teaching one or more people to sail, at no cost other than time and energy.

Having sailed Lake Yosemite for most of my life and raced on it for over 30 years, now is the time to teach others the joy of sailing.

While membership to LYSA is not mandatory, it would be beneficial giving the potential sailor(s) the use of the clubhouse and all the other activities which are included at a very low price. P

lease contact captjohn32@gmail.com for anyone interested. The sailing season starts at Lake Yosemite in May when most sailboats are launched. This is the time to learn the ropes at very little or no cost.



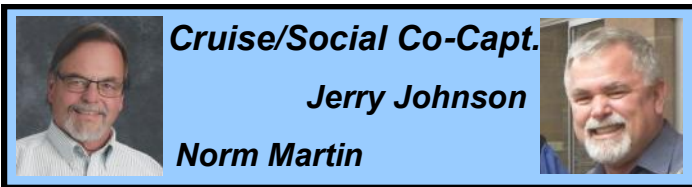
Photo courtesy: Tami Davidson



Photos courtesy: Tami Davidson



Photos courtesy: Chris Martin



Summer plans

Here it comes! Sailing season should get under way in a matter of weeks. As you have heard, we will be starting a bit late this year. The lake water level should accommodate sailors by early June or, if luck is on our side, late May.

We have a few things on our calendar this summer. Breakfast is on the menu, as are dinners on Thursday race nights. The breakfast gatherings are tentatively planned for July and August. More information will be provided as dates and menus are set.

A tentative date for the Open House Shrimp Feed has been set for September.

Low Country Boil

The crowd was large, the weather pleasant and the Ladder Ball tournament was competitive. We served more than 63 meals Saturday. A crowd of some 70 people attended the event. We thank those who helped with setting up, serving and cleanup. Your help and the many kind words we heard from Club members and guests during the day made it all worth the effort. When you see “master chef” Jerry give him a big thank you. He worked hard on preparing the menu and buying the ingredients.

Jay and helpers Diane and Kendall hosted the Ladder Ball competition. Judging from the laughter and cheers coming from that corner of the yard, competitors and fans seemed to be having a great time. Congratulations to Brent DeShazer, who took first place, and to Shawna Grosbeier who finished second.

Thanks, Jay for your energy and effort toward making this a successful event.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the 40 club members who took the time to respond to our RSVP form. It makes planning our events and menus much easier and our guest count more precise.

We want these events to be cost-effective and enjoyable for our members and guests.

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, 7 pm Meeting, Board Meeting follows

May, 2022

- 10 LYSA Member/Board Meeting
- 12 LYSA Thursday Night Summer Racing begins, Dinner to follow
 LYSA Spring Regatta—CANCELLED

June, 2022

- 14 LYSA Member/Board Meeting
 LYSA Thursday Night Summer Racing Series, Dinner to follow
 GCYC—Go for the Gold
 SSC Delta Ditch Run

July, 2022

- LYSA Member/Board Meeting
 LYSA Thursday Night Summer Racing Series, Dinner to follow
 Junior Sailing
 Special Needs Sailing Day

August, 2022

- Junior Sailing
- 25 LYSA Summer Series, Final Race / Awards TBD
 Junior Regatta

September, 2022

- Labor Day: Take a worker sailing
 Sea Scouts Appreciation
 LYSA Dick Gardner Memorial, 1st Day of Summer
 Open House/Shrimp Feed

October, 2022

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

November, 2022

- LYSA Member/Board Budget Meeting

December, 2022

- Christmas Party

January, 2023

- Merced Running Club's Fog Jog / Annual Meeting

February, 2023

- Super Bowl
 Slip Fees due

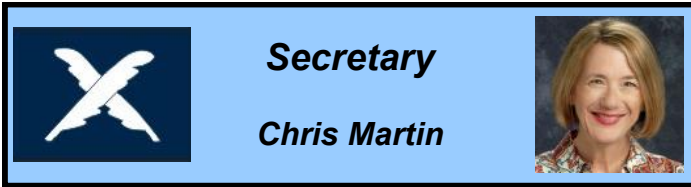
March, 2023

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

April, 2023

- 12 LYSA Member/Board Meeting
- 30 LYSA Opening Day—Seafood Boil
 55th FLYC Camellia Cup Regatta
 Make A Wish Event
 Livingston Kite Festival—8:30 to 4
 Strictly Sail Pacific, Richmond

Dates are To Be Determined. Subject to change.



Secretary

Chris Martin



LYSA Membership Meeting Call to Order: A meeting of the LYSA Membership was held on April 12, 2022 at the LYSA Clubhouse. The meeting convened at 7:00 pm.

Reports - Actions - Discussions: Commodore, Jay Sousa: Jay welcomed members to the meeting. Invited Board Members and visitors to introduce themselves. Invited Board Members to report.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes read by Chris Martin. Discussion: Corrections were noted. Rachel asked to add instead of "Discussed recorded Zoom session" that several Members convened at Steve's house last month to review the "Rules as Tactical Tools" Seminar presented by Dave Perry through US Sailing. The boater card is specifically for operating power boats. Thom Grimaldi attended the meeting. The Board meeting was held in March, not February.

Motion: Moved by Rachel Hadley to approve minutes with corrections, **Second** by Thom Grimaldi. **Motion carried.**

Commodore, Jay Sousa: Jay discussed member cards, asked new members to stay to review House rules and expectations.

Vice Commodore, Thom Grimaldi: We have 1 pre-registered. Does not have the list of past sailors. If Thom sends the information, Jay will email the past sailors. 2013 logo was shared, will update to 2022. Short sleeved, white. Regatta May 14-15.

Treasurer, Diane Sousa: The Treasurer's report was shared. Prior year membership 77, this year 77, 60 paid. 43 paid slips. Kendall will start through the move list for those interested in a slip. She has one Regatta entry form. Looking into the minimum balance to avoid bank fees is on Diane's to-do list.

Dock Captain, Kendall Nightengale: Still need to make a repair on finger 76/77 before boats can go on it. Asked for help next Saturday. Tommy Soto volunteered; Mike Bloed also volunteered to pressure wash the dock. Would like to wrap this up by Opening Day. MID predicted end of April, but the water level is not up yet. We'll have water by the Regatta. Rachel asked if MID can keep more control of the lake level.

Discussed fluctuation of water levels, percentage of storage in snowpack and higher reservoirs. Has not given up on the weather station project, this will help with monitoring the water level.

House Captain, Deb Harden: Not present. Craig reported: Thanks to Thom Grimaldi / Elite Plumbing for fixing the water. Cost was \$585. Thanks to Davidson, new rope lights hung.

Cruise / Social Committee, Jerry Johnson / Norm Martin: Opening Day April 30, 4 pm, \$10 – Norm will send an email, please complete the form. Low Country Boil. Rachel asked if Cruise / Social will do Thursday night dinners. Yes

Race Captain, Rachel Hadley: Opening Day April 30, first race is the first Thursday after Opening Day. Announced May 12th. Buoys launched on Opening Day. 55 lbs plus a 60 and 10 lb weight. Jay asked about a Fun Race on Sunday, May 1st. Suzann brought up that Deb will be gone for several weeks during Race Season. Mentioned that we should recruit and train others on how to use the program. Deb said she would get together with Mike and Rachel to work on plan.

Jay said to email Membership to solicit volunteers. Tommy Soto and Lee McDonough volunteered to be on the Race Committee. Need to learn scoring program, need to have an adult on the Committee Boat.

Rachel strongly encourages anyone who wants to use the Committee Boat to have a Boater Card.

Junior Sailing, Matt Loeffler: Not present.

Sea Scouts: Not present.

Idioms Whose Origins Are Nautical

Clean bill of health: This idiom is based on the 17th century practice of a ship's crew being examined by a health official and the ship being given a clean bill of health if no infectious disease was found. A ship had to present this 'bill' before landing at a port.

Taken aback: In sailing, the term *aback* refers to a situation in which the wind acts on the forward surface of the sail. Hence, the sails can be laid back or

thrown aback by hauling in the weather-braces or putting the helm down, and the sails can be *caught aback* or *taken aback* by a sudden reversal of wind direction, or by an error in steering. When this happens the sail is pushed against the mast and yards, halting its forward progress. Depending on the circumstances and angle of the wind, this can break yard-arms or even cause vessels to turn over, so to be suddenly taken aback can be quite a shock, just as the figurative use of the expression is meant.

Old Business:

Propose Fire pit / Deck plan. Estimate \$3500 from the Club Improvement fund. Discussion.

Motion: Moved by Tim O'Neill to approve Fire pit / Deck construction, second by Tommy Soto. **Motion carried.**

New Business:

Lee cleaned and sanitized ice machine. It's good to go.

Unlike the old website, you generate your own username, email and password. Reach out to Kendall if there are issues.

Good of the order: Sympathy cards were sent to Mike Streatly and Dan Farmer. Deb is in the hospital but expected to be fine.

Adjournment:

Motion: Moved by Mike Allen to adjourn, second by Gary Hogston. **Motion carried.** Membership meeting was adjourned at 8:30. After a brief break to meet with new and prospective Members, the Board Meeting was convened.

LYSA Board Meeting Call to Order: A regular meeting of the LYSA Board was held on April 12, 2022. The meeting convened at 8:19 pm, Commodore Jay Sousa presiding.

Members in attendance: Members of the Board in attendance: Commodore: Jay Sousa, Vice-Commodore: Thom Grimaldi; Secretary: Chris Martin, Treasurer: Diane

Sousa, Dock Captain: Kendall Nightengale, Cruise/Social Captain: Jerry Johnson / Norm Martin, Racing Captain, Rachel Hadley. Not present: House Captain, Deb Harden.

New Members: Eric & Shannon Picciano. Eric is a retired City of Turlock Engineer. Sponsor: Jay & Diane Sousa.

Motion: Moved by Rachel Hadley to approve membership, and **Second** by Jerry Johnson. **Motion carried.**

New Members: Clara Tresos & Kevin Woosley. Sponsor: Tony Grosbeier.

Motion: Moved by Rachel Hadley to approve membership, and **Second** by Thom Grimaldi. **Motion carried.**

New Members: Meredith & Harley Hermsillo. Husband works for MID, kids were in Sail Camp. Sponsor: Peg & John Larson.

Motion: Moved by Rachel Hadley to approve membership, and **Second** by Thom Grimaldi. **Motion carried.**

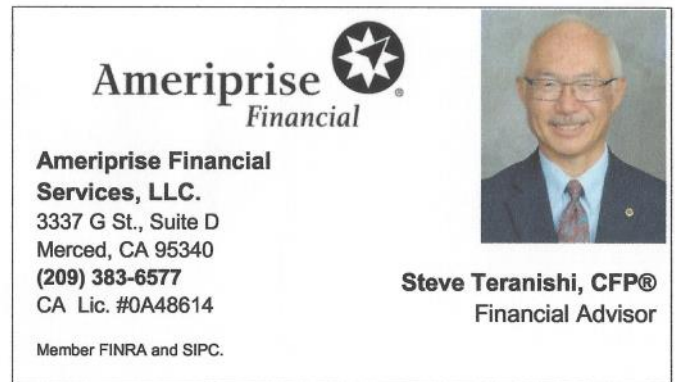
Old Business

Regatta (May 14-15) discussion / planning: Jay will get email addresses and forward them to Kendall. Email list for past racers to Thom. Needs: Swag Bags donations for Swag Bags: Beer coozies, key chains, a case of Power Bars, lip balm, etc. Jay will poll membership.



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Lunch: hot dog bbq. Rachel – sandwiches are easier. Condiments, rolls, baggies of meat with their name on it. Make their sandwich and grab their chips, potato salad and water. Meet at the Clubhouse to organize and assign roles during Opening Day on April 30. Dinner: Cruise / Social will make chicken & tri-tip. Thom has the permit from the County. It should be posted during the event. Tom Cooke has the Regatta Binder.

Brunch / Breakfast in early July, August and September.

New Business –

Jay will be absent for the May Meeting, May 10. Thom will run the meeting.

Leonard Rich has given up slip 67. Jay proposes not renting it, using it for the Committee Boat, and building our platform out from that slip. It's an awkward angle. Board agreed with this. Slip 67 is LYSA's slip.

Good of the Order – None

Adjournment: The next LYSA Board meeting will be held following the Membership meeting, Tuesday, May 10, at the LYSA Clubhouse. 6:00 Social, General Meeting at 7:00 pm. Board Meeting to follow.

Motion: Moved by Deb Harden to adjourn, second by Suzanne Johnson. **Motion carried.** Board meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

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