



SEQUOIA SCOPE



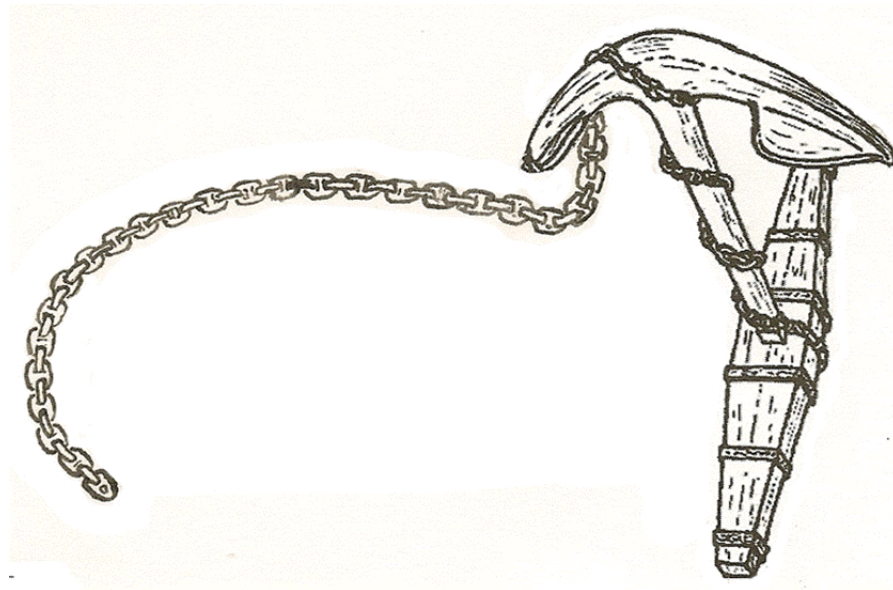
Sequoia Yacht Club

March 2012

Redwood City, CA



Doldrums in the Bay for one of the Winter Series. Photo by Fabian Pease



First Class Mail

Sequoia Yacht Club
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Sequoia Yacht Club 2012 Roster

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www.SequoiaYC.org

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Eric Anderson (650) 224-2488

This Month At A Glance

03/03 McIntyre Regatta

03/04 Regatta Breakfast

03/06 Board Meeting

03/07 Wednesday Lunch & Cards

03/09 Drop in Dinner & General Meeting

03/16 St. Patrick's Day Drop in Dinner

03/17 St. Patrick's Race Dinner

03/21 Wednesday Lunch & Cards

03/23 Drop in Dinner

03/24 Cruise Out: San Francisco YC

04/03 Board Meeting

04/04 Wednesday Lunch & Cards

04/11 Beer Can Kick-Off Dinner

04/13 Drop in Dinner & General Meeting

04/14 Cruise Out - TBD

04/18 Wednesday Lunch & Cards

04/21 Chili Cook-Off Party

04/27 Drop in Dinner & Speaker

Officer of the Day (OD)

03/03 Ron Howard
03/04 Alex Huang
03/10 Herb Huber
03/11 Dan Humphreys
03/17 Don Inouye
03/18 Byron Jacobs
03/24 Cheryl Jasper
03/25 Matthew Jaunich
03/31 Chris Johnson

04/01 Scott Johnson
04/07 Marge Johnstone
04/08 Easter/ No OD
04/14 Jerry Jones
04/15 Tom Keegan
04/21 Robert King
04/22 Sam Kirkes
04/28 Henry Kleinberg
04/29 Olivier Lauzeral

Send
articles to Deb at
deb@debblackmore.com
Send photos to Sheila
at sjustjones@gmail.com

Commodore's Report



Kate Humphreys

Bring on the winds of March and let them fill our sails!

We will kick off March with the **McIntyre Regatta** dinner and breakfast the weekend of March 3-4th. Stanford is hosting this college sailing regatta and we will enjoy the company of college sailors from all over the western region for dinner on the 3rd and breakfast on the 4th. Come on down and join in the fun. Check out Michele's column to read more about our annual **St. Patrick's Party** and Petra's column to read more about our annual cruise out to San Francisco Yacht Club. Word has it that this year the event will be extra special.

Our Board meeting this month is on March 6th followed with our General Meeting on Friday, March 9th. As an incentive to increase membership applications, the Board voted at their February meeting to propose a temporary \$150 reduction in initiation fees. The incentive is proposed to begin on the date of approval by the general membership until expiration on May 31, 2012. This was discussed during our February General Meeting as provided by our bylaws. We will hold a special meeting on March 9th concurrent with our General Meeting to vote on this proposal. The incentive is intended to help drive up membership during the kickoff of our Beer Can and Summer Series as well as provide an incentive to join for those invited guests who attend our Open House at the end of March.

We have two new committees, which are being led by Vice Commodore, Peter Blackmore: **Future of the Club** (following up on issues identified by the recent membership survey) and **America's Cup** (planning for ways Sequoia can participate in this monumental event). Peter is recruiting committee members who are willing to roll up their sleeves and do a bit of work (and have a bit of fun). Both are important endeavors for our future. Thank you, Peter, for taking up the lead. For more information about scheduled meetings, contact Peter directly.

Vice Commodore's Report



Peter Blackmore

The social scene at Sequoia goes from strength to strength. Thanks to all of you for your energy, enthusiasm and participation.

It's always sad to see the football season end. But we went out with style with a **Super Bowl Party** hosted by the Mayne's. – We missed our 49er's, but it was a nail-biter of a match. Thanks Larry and Robin for hosting another spectacular sports snackfest.

Our winter DID's have been really popular. Lina continues to cook up a storm, which is much appreciated. I can't tell you how much TGIF means to me these days! And to encourage folks to stay on and have an even better evening, we've been hosting a Speaker Series. We're grateful to Mr. Robin Weber for updating us on the America's Cup in February and looking forward to more speakers in months to come.

This year we'll have two chances to celebrate the Luck of the Irish. Kris Butler will host the **St. Patrick's Day Party on Friday the 16th March**. We'll have live music from **Banish the Dogs** (the same band who played last year. Al Montoya's famous Corned beef and cabbage is on the menu! Then, after the St Patrick's Day Race on Saturday, we'll offer more Irish hospitality for the racers at 17:30.

I also want to get you thinking about the San Francisco Cruise Out the weekend of **March 24th**. We shall have drinks at SFYC and then walk 200 yards to the **China Cabin** for our dinner catered by Alta Cuisine. This beautiful cabin from a steamship built in 1886 is an historical monument and the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmark Society will provide us a docent to share its storied past with us.

Sally & Brian Mickel will bring us our **Annual Chili Cook-Off Party on Saturday, April 21st**. So dust off your recipe cards and get ready to compete. There is no meat too unusual or amount of spices too great to fool the discerning palates of the Sequoia faithful. There'll be prizes and pride at stake, so come join in the fun.

As always, we're all ears when it comes to making Sequoia social events even better. Let us know your ideas for speakers, topics, bands, foods, just anything that might make this year at SYC even more special.

Rear Commodore's Report



Winston Bumpus

Welcome to winter sailing on the South Bay! Although we've needed rain, we had some very beautiful weather during February, so I hope you had a chance to enjoy it. This was another event-filled month with great racing and cruising. We had everything from big winds and big ebb to no wind at all. I almost bailed on one of the Winter Series races when the wind was howling and the ebb was huge, but, fortunately, I went anyway and am glad I did.

March will continue to bring us lots of activities on the water including the conclusion of the *Redwood Cup Series* and the last race of this year's winter series which will be on St Patrick's Day. Corned beef and cabbage dinners will immediately follow the race.

Cruising has gotten off to a great start and after hosting our Jack London Square Cruise-out this past month, we are off to San Francisco Yacht Club hosted once again by Deb and Peter Blackmore; always a favorite trip.

Also planning for **South Bay Opening Day**, which is scheduled for **May 19th**, is well underway. This year's theme is *"Rockin' & Rollin' on the South Bay"*. It is shaping up to be a terrific event with some new additions. Check out the latest information at: www.southbayopeningday.org



A final reminder: the 2012 Dockwalker training locations and dates have been announced so if you have not been trained and would like to 'help make our waters cleaner through education', please go to www.coastal.ca.gov for more information.

Junior Sailing



Peter McCormick

Spring Sailing got underway on February 25. Classes are almost full, but let us know if you or your family members would like to join. The program continues to build, fix, and grow. MAX, our favorite safety boat, is still in the shop and your "club cohorts" have been busily working away to get it back in the water. We also have one new "gently used" El Toro to prepare for the fleet. Yup, we get our hands dirty, but it's all good. So, come on over and we'll be glad to welcome you.

Thanks much to Fred Gillam, Paul Morgan-Witts, Chris and Michelle Hartman, Kris Butler, Dan Humphreys, Kirsten Gillam, David Butler, Dan Lockwood, Rick Dalton, Bruce Ladd, and others for putting in great efforts. Fred and Paul in particular have, well, words cannot do justice to their great work.

Our program continues to make progress, our boats are in the best shape in some years, but we still have work to do. We have more volunteers, and more involvement and I encourage each of you to come spend a day with the small boats, sail around, watch, rig, ride, what-ever "floats your boat". Come make yourself happy, we have a blast.

There is a new Junior Sailing Program (JSP) binder in with the flags and OD "Officer on Duty" binder. Have a gander at it and learn more about our program. This binder documents a variety of things volunteers should know about our program. We plan to keep this updated as a tutorial for those that follow. Your inputs are always appreciated. If you don't want to read, we're planning a Junior Sailing talk as part of the *Sequoia Speaker Series* after an upcoming DID. We want you to spread the word about what the Junior Program and our Small Boat boat programs have to offer.

Beginners: 9:00am

Adventure : 10:00am

Intermediate : 11:15am

Laser : 1:30pm

Have Fun, Sail Safe, Get Wet.

Social Events



Michele Hartman



**Friday,
March 16th
18:00 - 22:00
\$20 adult/\$10 child**



I know, I know. It seems weird to celebrate on a Friday when the "real" St. Patty's Day is Saturday. Well, guess what? We'll be eating corned beef, boiled potatoes and cabbage on **BOTH** Friday and Saturday.

On Friday night we'll be roaring to the music of *Banish the Dogs*. Then, on Saturday after the St. Patrick's Day Race (*Winter Series #5*) we'll feed up the racers with an early supper for \$15 when they come off the water.

Come join us for some Stout or Irish Whiskey and Al Montoya's holiday fare.

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Racing Fleet News



Tim Petersen

In the next couple of *Scope* issues I'd like to talk about how race results are calculated. In particular I'd like to discuss the differences between Time on Distance (ToD) and Time on Time (ToT) scoring. Both of these methods are used in our program, with Time on Distance scoring used for most of our [club races](#), and Time on Time scoring used for the [Moonlight Marathon](#), [Westpoint Marina Regatta](#) and [Barth Race](#).

ToD calculations depends on two important factors: a boat's handicap and the length of the race in nautical miles. The handicap itself is expressed in seconds per mile. It represents how much additional time it takes to sail one nautical mile when compared to a theoretical boat receiving no correction. The difference between any two handicaps thus becomes the difference in the time that it takes those two boats to sail one mile.

A quick scan of the current [2012 YRA NCPHRF document](#) shows handicap ratings ranging from -123 to 273 seconds per mile. The Sequoia racing fleet has handicaps ranging from 54 to 219. The proper assignment of a handicap is crucial to making the system work.

The logic of ToD scoring is straightforward. Multiply the PHRF of each boat by the length of the race in nautical miles to get the total correction in seconds. This correction is subtracted from the finish time to get the corrected finish time. The corrected finish times then can all be compared directly and the boat with the lowest corrected finish time is declared the winner of the race.

The advantage of this technique is that it is simple, easy to understand and is quite easy to use when judging one's place in relation to other boats in the race. If the difference between my handicap and that of my competitor is 30 seconds per mile, and if I know that one of the marks is two miles into the race, then if I round that mark one minute after my competitor, we are dead even and I had better pay more attention to my sail trim and race strategy.

This scoring technique also relies on the ability to accurately measure the length of the course. This isn't an issue for Sequoia Yacht Club, however, in that typically we use fixed racing marks for which we have accurate coordinates. It becomes more of an issue when a race course is defined by temporary marks that are set by the race committee on the day of the race. GPS makes this a lot more achievable, but

it still requires someone making accurate measurements and then using them to compute the correct distances.

The biggest disadvantage, however, is that anything that makes a race longer than the published length tends to favor the faster boats. A race that requires a lot of tacking to reach windward marks will lengthen a race. If a race is published as being 10 miles in length, and if by tacking most boats end up sailing closer to 12 miles over the entire race, then after sailing 10 miles all boats effectively have the same handicap for the last 2 miles of the race.

Luckily there is a lot more that goes into racing than just handicap adjustments, and it is the challenge and unexpected situations that come up that make racing exciting. Sequoia Yacht Club uses Excel spreadsheets that have been developed and perfected over many years of racing to do the actual Time on Distance calculations. The Redwood Cup and Beer Can series use ToD scoring in reverse to calculate a staggered start time in an attempt to have everyone converging on the finish line at the same time. Next month I will begin to discuss Time on Time (ToT) scoring and look at its advantages and disadvantages.

Although March brings an end to our Winter Racing program, it will be an exciting end. [Redwood Cup #5](#) takes place on **Sunday, March 11** and [Winter Series #5](#) takes place on **Saturday, March 17**. As in previous years Winter #5 is also the annual St. Patrick's Day race, followed by a St. Patrick's Day racer's dinner immediately after the race. A bottle of Irish Whiskey is up for grabs again this year, and to top it all off the race is actually on St. Patrick's Day, so come on out and go for the pot of gold.

Be sure to check the [Forums](#) tab before each race. If lack of a crew is keeping you from getting out and sailing, the [Skipper Looking for Crew](#) Forum topic can be used to post the races for which your are looking for more hands. Similarly, if you are looking to crew for one of the skippers sailing in a Sequoia race, the [Crew Looking for Boat](#) Forum topic can be used to let skippers know. Hopefully we will get all our boats fully staffed and ready to race.

On behalf of all the race fleet captains, we invite you to come out and participate in our racing program. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions. See you at the start line.

Cruising Fleet News



Petra Gilmore

Cruise Out to San Francisco Yacht Club March 24-25, 2012

SYC Cruisers are in for a treat in March. Our annual pilgrimage to the San Francisco Yacht Club will be a bit earlier than usual this year. And, we will have the opportunity to eat our Saturday evening meal in a special location due to the galley remodelling work at the SFYC.

The *First Class Social Cabin* on the *PS China*, now known locally as the "China Cabin", was saved when the mail steamer was decommissioned in 1879. It was used as a private residence for 90 years until 1978 when The Belvedere-Tiburon Landmark Society raised the \$600k needed to restore it to its former Victorian glory.



Join us for an elegant evening in the China Cabin with a pre-dinner talk by a docent from the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmark Society. Following our catered feast of roast pork and filet of salmon, the ladies *will not* withdraw, but instead will meet the challenge of "most amusing" after dinner storytellers.



Jerry Jones, Membership Chair

Our goal is to add 15 new members in 2012. With a new Beer Can season about to open in a month's time, it should be very possible to us to attract new people to join. But please remember that it can only be accomplished with the help of *all* Sequoia members. *Spread the word* about our club and welcome guests to our social events and on-the-water activities.

I'll be glad to take it from there and sit down with prospective members to explain all about the opportunities and facilities on offer at SYC.

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Nauti Girls and Buoys

Dear Nauti Girls,
I'm a wimp. Lately I've witnessed instances of club members being verbally abused in the clubhouse. When this happens, I stand there like tongue-tied seventh grader struggling with how to stop the school bully from berating my best friend. Can you give me some tips on how to handle these touchy situations?

Ain't Misbehavin'

Dear Ain't Misbehavin',

Bullies thrive in every social sphere...school, work, home... on the radio, online and face-to-face. So it's not surprising that they also appear in clubs. Bullies crave an audience and, sadly, their mean remarks and domineering ways do not always diminish with age.

We all have a right to feel safe and secure while spending our leisure time at SYC. Here's the best way to handle physical, emotional and verbal abuse if you should encounter it at the club.

1. **Assess the personal impact** – depression and stress, loss of sleep, and avoiding visiting the club are all likely effects of a bully's tormenting behavior
2. **Write it down** – keep a journal of incidents, document the situation for club leaders, but avoid inflammatory emails that live forever in cyberspace
3. **Find an ally** – get a friend's perspective and ask for their support if and when you confront your foe
4. **Assert yourself** – talk facts, not feelings in a neutral setting and ask for the behavior to stop
5. **Take a stand, don't just stand by** – silence is the bully's friend. You can change the climate by stepping into the situation.
6. **Exit ASAP** – remove yourself from a toxic scene if you can see it will only get worse.
7. **Remember it's not about you** – bullies pick on any easy target, don't feel embarrassed or ashamed by their bad behavior in the clubhouse, on the water or anywhere else. NG

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Good of the Order



Rick Gilmore, the GO TO Guy

Ahoy Sequoia!

Remember to send me any and all of your GoTo stories! I would be happy to highlight all of your celebrations, announcements and achievements in the monthly Scope GoTo report and at the monthly General Meeting.

Some guys are never content to win just once in a while. GOTO has it on good authority that devilish Dan Doud, has upped the stakes for the upcoming Beer Cans and Summer Series with **PoleCat**. Next we'll find out he's practicing with the cat rig to fend off all challengers with this feisty feline! A boat like this sailed by a great competitor like Dan is bound to shake things up out on the South Bay.



Remember to bring your conch shell to the General Meeting where we will all *honk our conchs* in celebration after I announce the months birthdays and membership anniversaries.

Contact me by email at sycgoto@sequoiayc.org

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Hot Shots by Fabian & Caroline Pease



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Hot Shots by Fabian & Caroline Pease & Robin Weber



Upcoming SYC Club Events

Race Events:



Sunday, March 11	Redwood Cup #5
Saturday, March 17	Winter #5 - St. Patrick's Race
Saturday, April 7	Summer #1
Wednesday, April 18	First Beer Can of 2012

For more up-to-the-minute details, check www.sequoiayc.org/racecalendar.

SOUTH BAY OPENING DAY SATURDAY, MAY 19

"Rocking 'n' Rolling on the South Bay"



We'll need a super supply of volunteers. Serving breakfast and lunch, plus open bar all day. Contact **Winston Bumpus** to sign-up and support your SYC.

Sequoia Speaker Series

Stop by on a Friday evening for a Drop in Dinner and an after dinner speaker.

March 23	Mystery speaker TBD.
April 27	Capt. Nancy Early on "Couples' Captaincy" ...learning to share sailing roles and responsibilities on board and on shore.

2012 Beer Can Season Kick Off Dinner and Meeting

Wednesday, April 11
18:00 - 20:00



Hosted by John Graves,
2012 Beer Can Captain.

Come down to size up the competition for the coming season, review the latest updates to the racing rules and handicaps, and discuss safety issues.

We'll eat real food and drink real beer like real racers!

McIntyre Regatta Breakfast Sunday, March 4

Host: Larry Mayne and Crew
Price: Very Cheap

