

# ...a little dinghy

Newsletter Date

February 7, 2010

Volume 32, Issue 2

## Special Interest Articles:

- An E-ticket ride on *Daydreams*
- A seasoned salt joins the club
- A charter member takes a look back

## Individual Highlights:

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Gold Country Yacht Club 530-265-2070

## From Your Commodore

Ahoy Crew,

2010 has brought some wild weather with wind, snow, freezing temps in the teens and plenty of good old rain. I've always liked weather and this winter has not disappointed. Staying on the boat in the winter can be fun, all cozy in the nice warm cabin listening to the weather fronts move through. Weather can be soothing as well as exhilarating; listen to it. Sailors love to listen to the weather. I don't mean the VHF, I'm saying really listen and observe. When you're out there sailing on the ocean and Mother Nature reminds you that no weather forecaster can ever predict the conditions, you are one with nature and you better pay attention!

One weather memory: We left Still Water Cove just off the Pebble Beach Golf Course early one morning before dawn with a National Weather Service forecast for light winds (5-15kts) out of the northwest and seas 4-6 ft. They had the northwest part right but by 0800 we were surfing down 10 to 15 ft. following seas, flying a single reefed main and no jib in the 20-35 kts of gusty breezes. Seas following on the aft starboard quarter and the autopilot on cruise control as if on a nice brisk walk. We were in for one of the rides of a life time. When you get caught in wind and seas on certain parts of the coast all you can do is ride down wind until you're able to reach a protected anchorage. One of the drawbacks of being on one of these E-ticket rides is you can't get off and it can last for hours and hours.

Our 12-hour E-ticket ride would be an exhilarating day of down wind sailing for me and a prayer-filled Mr. Toads wild ride for the first mate, while the kids would hang out down below and watch movies without a worry. As each set of big rollers would come through I would announce our new record speeds as we surfed down wave after wave. We did reach an all time record for *Daydreams* at 11.9 kts and averaged 7.5-8.5 all day long. With the northwest winds and seas we would have to gybe four times during the day to keep off the lee shore and then not to get too far off shore. These maneuvers would be very exciting as well as dangerous and timing is everything. We planned every maneuver and executed them perfectly.

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## ...a little dinghy

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### From Your Commodore (cont.)

After four perfect gybes we could see Pt Piedras Blancas, but we were going to have a hard time making the point. We didn't want to gybe again, as it meant two gybes not just one. The autopilot steers a good course but a good helmsman can react better in rough following conditions, so I took the helm and piloted through wind and sea to make the point and slip into San Simeon just before dark. As we began to relax we started thinking about our friends that were behind us, somewhere. We weren't able to contact them throughout the day. We had a great rest that night in the tranquil waters. When we awakened the next day the fog slowly rose and our friends aboard Tiki Iti were just pulling in after doing the same E-ticket ride in the dark. We all relaxed and shared stories of the adventure for the next four days. Sailors form a special bond after riding through what can be spiritual conditions.



Tiki Iti and Daydreams peacefully anchored in San Simeon

This season, to make the newsletter more interesting, I'm going to include some stories from our adventures, and we all want to hear about your sailing adventures as well. Oh, and don't forget to take pictures. We'll keep you up to date on club events but let's share our adventures here in the newsletter as well as meet our new friends that are looking for some adventure too.



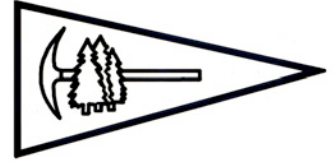
Our new special bond friends Sean and Adrian

All Aboard! Lets hear about some of your adventures. Send your adventures to [ken@wingandwing.net](mailto:ken@wingandwing.net) by the 4th of each month to make that month's news letter.



View of San Simeon anchorage from Hearst Castle

For all "Latitudes and Attitudes" magazine subscribers, check out the "Underway" section in the March 2010 issue. Thanks to Marilyn Webb, there is a great photo of Daydreams.



## Melinda's Membership Memos

I would like to welcome Greg Booth aboard the Gold Country Yacht Club. Greg is quite an experienced sailor and an on again, off again Nevada County resident. He started sailing at 6 years old on the Columbia River, and has never stopped. Just to name a few of his nautical accomplishments: he started the University of Hawaii sailing team in 1972, he has owned more than a couple dozen boats, he has competed in several Trans-Pacs and a single-handed Trans-Pac on a Cal 40, 10 or more Baja bashes, 4 canal transits, 1 Alantic crossing... the list goes on and on.

It would be great to have him share some of his adventures at a meeting, because he does have quite a colorful boating past. At the present he is working in the Bay Area and living aboard, but makes it up to the mountains often. His crew includes first mate Pauline Antionette, his daughter, and her family. Hopefully, you will be seeing him and his crew at a meeting or club event.

Welcome to the Gold Country Yacht Club Greg and Crew!

## A Note on Our Origins

*You may, or may not, be aware that our little mountain yacht club still has some charter members on its roster. Ed Guinaugh was present at the first meeting, and submits the following for posterity:*

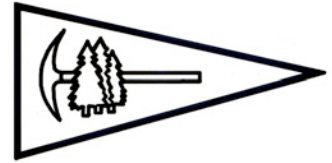
Greetings everyone.

I've been procrastinating for a long time about getting something into the Little Dinghy, and while going through some old file boxes, I came upon some great stuff. Most of you know by now that Ray Woods was the founder of our club. He had a Catalina 22 and really liked to race, but in 1982 there wasn't anything that remotely resembled any type of local organization that gave him that opportunity, so he went out and started one. He put a picture of a sailboat in the Union and an invitation to everyone that had something that floated with a mast and a sail stuck to it, to join him in a regatta on Scott's Flat Lake. In those days Don Samuelson and I were in the same office, and when I showed him Ray's piece and made the proposal that I had the beer and he had the boat, I never got to finish the sentence before Don was making plans to get to his Venture 22 ready for Scott's Flat and my first regatta. That Saturday morning, Ray combed the campground with great resolve and worked those campers like a pro.

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*"He had a Catalina 22 and really liked to race, but in 1982 there wasn't anything that remotely resembled any type of local organization that gave him that opportunity, so he went out and started one."*





## January General Meeting Minutes

Commodore called meeting called to order at 7:06.

**Commodore** (Joe Day): The Board got together in early January and put together a tentative calendar of events for the year. If any member has something they'd like added to the schedule, please contact a board member. It is time to renew your membership, so please submit a membership form and check as soon as you can. Planning for this year's Go For The Gold Regatta has begun.

**Vice-Commodore** (Chris Buti): Chris passed out this year's Notice of Regatta for members to fold in preparation of mailing. The NOR is now posted on GCYC's website. He met with Peggy of NID so that she could review and approve GCYC's proposed 2010 calendar. Some changes and items that were discussed included:

- Season pass will be going up to \$200 in 2011 (to match Rollins Lake's fees)
- Two mooring balls on the marina side of the lake will be allotted for boats over 25 feet in length.
- NID wants to extend "No Motor Day" to the entire weekend. Peggy was OK with combining the sailing/kayaking events into the marina area of the lake.
- GCYC can use NID's pontoon boat during the Regatta (and other events if it is available).
- NID has been happy with GCYC's presence at Scotts Flat Lake.

Lynn Buchanan has scheduled the Catalina 22 Open West Regionals to take place at the GFTG Regatta.

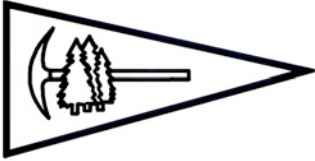
**Secretary** (Janis Johnson): Janis encouraged everyone to renew their memberships; forms are available on GCYC's website or at tonight's meeting.

**Treasurer** (Jean Cutshall): The 2009 Christmas party expenses were on the order of the 2008 Christmas party, including the donation to the Nevada County Food bank. Jean submits regular income/expense reports to the Board. The club does not put together an annual budget.

**Membership/Publicity** (Melinda Day): We have a couple of new members: Greg Booth (not present) and Don & Katie Wight (who joined in late 2009). The Wights just bought an Ericson 34 that they have slipped in the Bay. They've been enjoying their time down there.

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*Season pass will be going up to \$200 in 2011 (to match Rollins Lake's fees)*



## January General Meeting Minutes (cont.)

The club welcomed the following visitors:

- Jim Garrett, a former commodore with Inverness Yacht Club, who recently moved to the area. Jim just bought a JY15 and is thinking about a Catalina 22. He's looking forward to lake sailing this season.
- Seth Schmerzler and Leslie Deutsch, who recently moved to North San Juan from Southern California. Don started sailing when he was a lad. He got his captains license, and has recently retired from a career at sea. He still loves to sail.

Membership cards and badges will be issued after April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Race Chairman** (Jerry Lewis): The tentative calendar is up on the website. Ten races are scheduled for the year: five spring, five summer. Some of the out-of-town races still need to be confirmed.

**Port Captain** (David Niedziejko): David hasn't visited the clubhouse in a while, but he does know that the ant-infested Christmas tree took a trip to the landfill, not to return. A final resting place needs to be found for the old barge. David understood that Lynn was interested in it; Joe Day will contact her to find out.

**Cruise Director** (Doug Epperson) Although Doug was not present, Joe says that he will be putting together possible cruise dates and asking for input from the members about potential destinations and dates. We'd like to see more participation in out-of-town cruises.

**Educational Director** (Don Hare): Don was not present, but Joe Day reported that Don is excited to have some returning junior sailors this year who want to improve their sailing skills. He's hoping coordinate with Lynn Buchanan about a women's sailing clinic this year. Martha Turner requested a sunfish clinic.

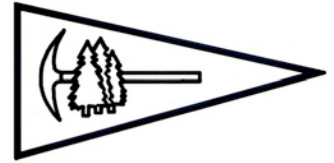
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*Jerry Lewis' niece was recently on a Caribbean cruise and at one of the port stops she noticed a "Grass Valley, California" boat in the harbor. She found the boat owner and it turned out to be Gary Miller, a past G C Y C commodore.*

**Old Business:** This may qualify more as new business about an old member: Jerry Lewis' niece was recently on a Caribbean cruise and at one of the port stops she noticed a "Grass Valley, California" boat in the harbor. She found the boat owner and it turned out to be Gary Miller, a past GCYC commodore.

[At this point in the meeting, we took a break as a candle-lit cake made its way into the room and we sang "Happy Birthday" to Marilyn Webb.]

**New Business:** Dave Cowell invited participants for the Three Bridge Fiasco in the Bay Area on January 30. The race starts near Golden Gate and sailors have to pass marks at the Golden Gate, SF-Oakland Bay and Richmond-SR Bridges...in whatever order you want.



### January General Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Jerry Lewis asked if anyone is interested in attending club race officer training that's being offered at Encinal YC the weekend of 1/16-17.

Bruce Cutshall proposed that the club make a donation to help the Haiti relief efforts. Jerry Lewis suggested Plant for Purpose, an organization his daughter has already been involved with in Haiti. Martha Turner suggested Doctors Without Borders, to aid in immediate medical needs. Tish Buti made a motion to donate \$250 to an organization approved by the Board. Howard seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the members present. At that point, a general consensus agreed that the donation should be sent to DWB.

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*Bruce Cutshall proposed that the club make a donation to help the Haiti relief efforts.*

Robert Walker sent a burgee from Panga Panga, where he is either working or passing through.

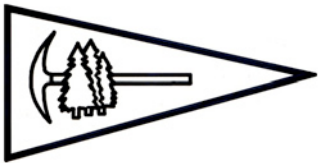
Joe mentioned that the Board is looking to update the website. Dudley Gaman has come up with a prototype for the site and Joe requested that Jerry Lewis and Dudley work together on an updated web presence.

Janis Johnson invited crew to join her and Ken Neely on Jan. 23 on their first 2010 Day on the Bay sail.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30



Kelly Pollock, Stewart Nielsen and Ken Neely aboard *True Love*



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On the Web

See us at:

**www.gcyc.net**

**Classifieds**

Crealock-designed 1970 Ericson 26 w/ trailer. Low hour 8 hp Yamaha outboard with cockpit remote control, depth sounder, compass. V-berth, vanity sink, portable head, galley sink, icebox, saloon table and quarter-berth (sleeps five). Asking \$6900, contact [ken@wingandwing.net](mailto:ken@wingandwing.net) or call 530-478-5865.



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