

# ...a little dinghy

Newsletter Date

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## **Special Interest Articles:**

- 36% of our membership attending
- Kept a close eye on the radar
- Getting our sailing fix

Gold Country Yacht Club 530-478-1667

## **From Your Commodore**

Ahoy Crew,

Well everyone fall is in the air, the water levels at the lakes are low, the Ha Ha is headed south and now my clock's an hour off. Sounds like time to get the newsletter out. Is it just me or is our trip around the sun going faster each year? While time has been flying for everyone lets catch up. Just before our last general meeting we received our award from the Strictly Sail Expo boat show. Wow that was back in April so I'm not alone here!

If you can remember back that far we participated in the Yacht Club Challenge. Strictly Sail challenged all the yacht clubs for their attendance at the boat show. To my surprise we were first place with 36% of our membership attending. Not bad for a little yacht club in the foothills. The prize for winning the yacht club challenge was a nice model of the 1851 sailing vessel America. Chris and I presented the award to the membership at our Oct. general meeting. I want to thank everyone who attended and invite you back next year to help defend our title.



## **At Our Helm**

### Commodore

*Joe Day*  
JOSEPH DAY  
[joe.day@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joe.day@sbcglobal.net)

### vice Commodore

*Chris Buti*

### Secretary

*Tish Buti*  
273-7819  
[tbuti@yahoo.com](mailto:tbuti@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

*Jean Cutshall*  
477-1709  
[jean.cutshall@thomson.net](mailto:jean.cutshall@thomson.net)

### Cruise Chairman

*DougEpperson*

### Publicity/Membership

*Nicki Talman*

### Port Captain

*David Niedziejko*  
265-0264  
[manzanitaman@yahoo.com](mailto:manzanitaman@yahoo.com)

### Race Chairman

*Don Hare*

### Newsletter Editors

*Larry Earl Graham*  
478-9998  
[radar07@sbbmail.com](mailto:radar07@sbbmail.com)

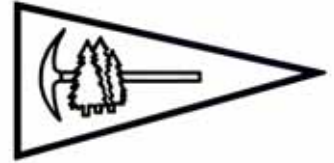
### Sailing Education

*Don Hare*

### **Bay sailing has been fantastic**

With the lake sailing over for the season the bay sailing has been fantastic with warm temperatures and lighter winds although the fog has been hanging around. The fog has been moving in and out rapidly this past month so you really have to watch whats happening. We have had to use our radar or at least have it on stand by even in the bay these past few weeks. Two weeks ago while sailing with our friend Kotsu our foreign exchange student from Japan. We were out under the Golden Gate around noon. The fog that was slow to leave the bay did an about face and blew in so fast we were in zero visibility within minutes. It was eerie knowing we were mid span under the bridge and could only see just beyond the bow. We kept a close eye on the radar and listened for any fog horns. Moments later the fog retreated as fast as it had appeared and just in time for several ships coming and going. I was sure glad we weren't a half hour later or we'd have been right in the middle of all the shipping traffic and blinded by fog. The rest of the day was beautiful with a side trip up to Paradise Cove and reaching back to Emeryville to complete our tour.





### Getting our sailing fix!

While getting our sailing fix here on the SF Bay my mind has been wandering south and thinking of all the Ha Ha'ers preparing for the migration to Mexico. The Baja Ha Ha Sweet Sixteen started this week with 170 boats making the start. Latitude 38's sailing rally to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico had a great send off this year with fleet parading past Shelter Island on their way to the Baja. Following the Ha Ha updates on lectronic latitude keeps the memories alive from our own Ha Ha trip as well as dreaming about the next one. This years Ha Ha has already made lots of news from adding a stop in San Quintin to the sinking of the J/World boat by whales and their just reaching Turtle Bay. We wish the fleet well and hope to see everyone in Cabo safely. You can get the latest at [latitude38.com](http://latitude38.com) .

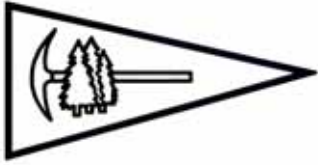
Big news for those of you mooring your boats at Scott's Flat Lake during the summer. This year no waiting in line at 4 in the morning. You can renew your mooring automatically by just filling out the forms and purchasing your pass by Dec. 1st. Those of you looking to moore your boats have a pretty good chance as there's usually a couple moorings left at the beginning off the season.

It's that time of year to prepare for the Christmas Party which means we need everyone to chip in and help out. This year it's on Dec. 12th at the Board of Realtors building in Whispering Pines. Teresa and Susan are co-chairing the party and it sounds like things are already coming together. We'll have the final details and sign-ups at our next general meeting on November 11th at Larry and Lena's Pizza in Alta Sierra.

Fair Winds Amigos  
Joe Day  
Commodore Gold Country Yacht Club  
S/v Daydreams  
S/v Mental Floss

**For SALE!**  
**By *Bismarck***





**The expenses of the trial in Clear Lake and being out of work is forcing me to sell assets. My loss can be your gain. I am selling my 27ft. Soling, an Olympic Class Sailboat. Boat is in overall good shape, ready to sail. Custom trailer. Asking \$2500 / OBO. Call 916-482-9001 and leave message. Boat calls only please. Here are the specs:**

1969 Soling  
Hull # 115  
3 sets of sails and a Spinnaker  
Customer Built Trailer

**NICKI'S NEWS**

**~Publicity and Membership~**

Things are a little slow on the membership front. Since I don't have any new members to introduce, I decided to bring you some news on an "old" (sorry Robert, guess I should say current) member, Robert Walker.

Many of you already know Robert, but for those of you who don't, Robert has been involved with the club for the past 7 or 8 years, off and on Robert is an architect and, in fact, designed our clubhouse. He has a boat in Berkeley, but right now he's in American Samoa working for his new employer, FEMA. Robert recently sent out an email which some of you may already have read. It's very interesting and gives some insight into the person that he is, so I thought I would include it in this article. Enjoy.

No  
New Members

Happy sails to you,  
Nicki



Hi One Hi All

The Lighter Side of American Samoa

Well it's 4:22 am and the roosters are starting.. oh yeah, there goes the dogs.

I got to meet the Governor of AS. About 50-60 of us were invited to a dinner at the Governor's house. Had a one on one talk with the First Lady. A very nice person. Both she and the Governor are musicians. He plays piano and she the violin.

Tried to get in a high school football game but they had played the night before on a Thursday instead of Friday, but tonight there is a playoff game and scouts from the pros and colleges will be there. From what I understand the JVs are as big as college players and the Varsity as big as pros. By the way Go Yankees.

Wednesday night Jon and I went to a karaoke bar. We were the only two there for about an hour and a half. Then a few people showed up but only one other person sang. Jon was right about one thing he can't sing. But said he sounded better after a few beers. He was right but only sounded better to him.

Went to mass at the main church in Tafuno. The choir about 35 strong and I do mean strong sounded fantastic. I bought a 49.95 dollar guitar (no tax here) and Jon and I are going to do some music.

I did get in the water here but it was not the 80+ degrees I was told. . .more like 79. The few beaches that are here are beautiful. Typical travel brochure stuff.



**NICKI'S NEWS CONT'D**

The speed limit on the Island is 25 – average speed is about 18. Grass Valley could learn a lesson about traffic control. Everyone lets everyone in at intersections. No traffic lights and no one stops for the stop signs, you just roll on thru. When I first got here I had a Toyota Varis, leaky, no interior light (it gets dark here at 6:30 all year round), the middle box lid kept popping up etc. Since I'm not the newest on the Island now I got to trade up. Brand new Toyota jeep type, 20 miles on it. What a change. A few people dribble in every few days. It's hard to get people to come out here to work; either no passport or they just don't want to come this far. Well my luck seems to be holding. The apt that Hal and I share has two bedrooms and just the two of us. Richard – sits across from me at work shares a bedroom in an apt with one other and there are two others in the other bedroom. Our landlady is really nice. Asked Hal if we wanted Internet – Hal says Internet? Robert will never move. She brought in a computer and table then brought in a TV and hooked up cable. I don't have much time to use either but it's good to have. She also changes all the linen every other day and makes my bed each day. We told her she didn't need to, shakes her head OK then does it again. Nice people.

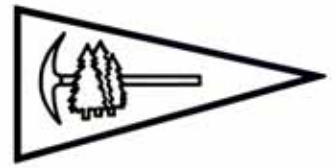
The people are the friendliest. My left arm is getting tired of waving at everyone – they only have to wave once – I got them all. Last Sunday I went to play golf – they have one golf course here. It was late and all the rented clubs were gone as were the few carts they have. A Samoan named Nick gave me his to use after he found out I worked for FEMA. He lives in Leone and his village was destroyed. His bag had about 8 extra clubs in it and since there were no carts I walked without a pull cart either. I walked over to the starters shack and asked how much. He said since I worked for FEMA just to go ahead. Word travels real fast here. I let a group play thru on the third hole and one of the fellows came over and gave me a bottle of water – just cause. Then met Tom – played like a pro – and shared his cart to finish up 8 and 9. Pared the last hole and walked away tired really tired but happy.

Things are settling down here a little as I get use to writing the Project Worksheets. I have about 9 schools to write up, two health clinics, The Bank of Samoa, and it appears whatever else they throw at me. Got a call from the Rancho Cordova PD (no they weren't looking to incarcerate me) wanted me to do an addition to their facility. It figures, oh well best I should be helping here.

About enough for now. I'm sure you've read enough. Enclosed a few pics of the better side of AS. Take care, love you all, stay well.

Lv

R



Twenty Five Miles an Hour?







**Gold Country Yacht  
Club**

PO Box 813  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

PHONE:  
530-478-1667

E-MAIL  
*joe.day@sbcglobal.net*

On the Web  
See us at:  
**[www.gcyc.net](http://www.gcyc.net)**