

THE CAT'S PAW



JANUARY 2011

From the Commodore ☆☆☆

2010 has come to an end. It has been a great year for the Los Gatos Yacht Club.

We started the year with a great dinner event at the California Café where we celebrated all the hard work the folks did in 2009 and introduced the crew for this year. In February our speaker was Don Falkenburg, a retired Professor of Engineering at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and a amateur genealogist/history buff. His great talk was 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. In March, Gary Koker from West Marine, discussed weather forecasting in the Bay Area.

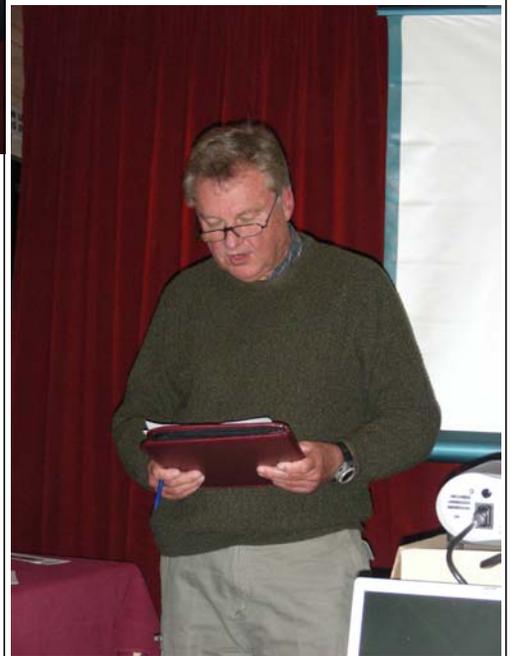
For April, Lina Reynolds from Linaji Photography shared with us on how to make better photos with any kind of camera you own and how to see your subject matter, namely the sea and the sailing experience. May 8th brought on the annual Gromeecko race. Stan Phillips won the race with his "pro" racing crew. Bunni Gromeecko and Caro Elsworthy put on a great party to celebrate the occasion. We had five boats entered this year.

Our June speaker was Dr. David J. Shuman, who discussed his trips to Antarctica, the Galapagos Islands, and Uruguay in

support of research teams studying sea lions. Our July speaker was our own Staff Commodore Stan Phillips who spoke about leading a team to fourth place in class in the 2010 Heineken Regatta. August was the finale to the club's Challenge races with Sequoia winning three races. September brought the annual picnic at Vasona Park complete with some great Italian sausages from Aldo's and great company enjoying an almost perfect late summer day.

At the October meeting our member Bob Brainard presented an overview of his

campaign of *Brainwaves* in the 2010 Pacific Cup, achieving a 4th place finish in class. Also, in October the club cruised to South Beach Yacht Club. Eighteen of us made it to a great dinner on a very rainy weekend - so much for planning ahead.



LOS GATOS YACHT CLUB

The entertainment was watching the Giants win the National League Pennant. George Hansell out did himself organizing the event. In November our speakers were Daniel Margulies and Pam Prentice from the Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors (BAADS). They are great folks and showed videos of BAADS activities. Thanks to the members and our club for the donations that were made. December was a get together to share the adventures and "sea stories" from the past year.

We are all very fortunate that we live in such a great country and we should all be very thankful. I thank all the members' guests and the board of Los Gatos Yacht Club for their support and volunteer efforts during the past year.

2011 brings a new year and another great year for LGYC. January 22 brings a new board aboard a new staff. Two new directors, John Harold and Mike Satterlund, Staff Commodore: Stan Phillips, Rear Commodore: Ralph Manies, Vice Commodore: Beverley Bryant, and Commodore Ray Kaleda. Ann Rice is our *Cat's Paw* editor. We also have several folks that have signed up as committee volunteers, John Curtis, George Hansell, Bill Hiland, Laurel Kaleda, and Cheryl Jasper. There was also the tremendous good news that the America's Cup will be defended in the San Francisco Bay! Ralph has lined up some great speakers for 2011. Cheryl Jasper is heading up the Challenge Cup race set for mid year. This spring there will be the Gromeekeo Race open to all members. In addition there will be several cruise outs.

South Beach Yacht Club Cruise

Winter is here, but as we're in California, the boating season continues on. Saturday, October 23rd last year was the date of a cruise in to South Beach Yacht Club. Because of a rainy weekend only one boat sailed in. *Brainwaves* braved the weather and sailed/motored over from Alameda. The rest of us did the land-cruise to the Yacht Club. Eighteen of us gathered for an excellent dinner prepared by South Bay's excellent chef. Dinner



entertainment was provided by watching the Giants win the National League Pennant on a huge wide screen TV with rest of South Beach Yacht Club. Many of us stayed on boats at South Beach Harbor and met for breakfast the next morning. At the diner we were surprise to meet Dawn Reilly who had just arrived to coach Stan Phillips' team for the Heineken regatta. Hats off to George



Hansell who put this event together!

Los Gatos Invitational Challenge 2010

The seventh annual LGYC Challenge Race was held this year in conjunction with the Wednesday beer can races at Redwood City. The race format was a series of five races in Merit 25 yachts, racing in a one-design start of up to eight boats, with two throw-outs. The Ames Sailing Club and the Sequoia Yacht Club

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were the invited clubs.

Brett Herr of Sequoia Yacht club, the defending 2009 winner, won the first race sailing on *M8*. As the newest boat in the fleet, *M8* is suspected to be faster than the other boats. Winds were relatively light and westerly, the tide was slack to flooding, and waves were moderate. Course #1 was selected. The relative positions of the three contestants did not change during the race. The Los Gatos boat, *M2*, skippered by Ron Mori, with Stan Phillips and Norbert Keisel as crew, finished fifth. The Ames Sailing Club sailing on *M3* finished sixth.

The second race was also won by Sequoia YC/Brett Herr. The Los Gatos Yacht Club was unable to charter a boat for the race due to series of communication errors. Mike Satterlund, Ray Kaleda, and Laurel Kaleda all showed up in time to race, but Spinnaker Sailing refused to let them charter the boat.

The third race was held on course #6 in flood tide and 10 to 15 knots of wind -- ideal conditions for Merit 25's. Bruce Herr led Sequoia to their third victory. Los Gatos managed to hold on to second place without the help of the traveler on *M6*, which unexpectedly failed on the way out of the channel. There was a lively discussion at the dock about the racing rules and the timing of penalty turns, but no protest was filed.

Los Gatos Yacht Club and the Ames Sailing Club (NASA) conceded the series after three races and the race committee cancelled the remaining races. Sequoia Yacht Club team was undefeated, finishing first in each of the May, June and July races and with two throw-outs allowed, able to throw out the last two races and still win. Sequoia's yachts were crewed by Chris Owczarek, Jon McCarty, Rick Gilmore, John Zolck, and Victor Obreza, with Brett Herr as captain.

The event is a challenge offered by the Los Gatos Yacht Club to test the sailing skill of the best team that each invited club brings to the event. The challenge will continue in 2011. Cheryl Jasper will be organizing the event, and has already placed it on the YRA 2011 sailing calendar on May 15. Mark your

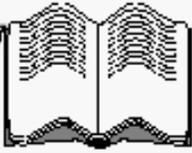


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LOS GATOS YACHT CLUB

Ship's Log



General Membership Meeting, Tuesday, February 8, 7:30 PM, Aldo's Ristorante, Vice Commodore **Beverley Bryant** will share her experiences sailing on several coastal schooners off the New England coast. Rear Commodore **Ralph Manies** will share his experience upgrading Brainwaves to LED lighting. A representative from **RBOC** give us an update on RBOC activities for 2011

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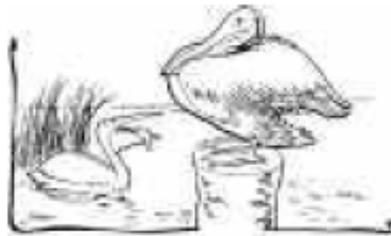
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