

From the Quarterdeck

I don't travel very much in my job as a machinist, but this past week has been the exception. My work has brought me to the San Francisco Bay area. On my day off, I took a trip downtown to Pier 39, Fisherman's Wharf. It turned out to be a tourist trap with very few fishing boats. One part of the marina had been taken over by seals or sea lions. (I wonder if they are charged for the slips that they occupy.) While I took in the beautiful sights shrouded in fog -- such as the surrounding hills, Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge -- I noticed there was a sailboat race in progress. There were about 30 boats working their way upwind past Alcatraz and heading toward the Golden Gate Bridge. The weather was cloudy and chilly, with the temperature in the low 50's. Despite the strong wind coming in off the Pacific, there were crewmates up on the high side enjoying a fast paced, chilly Sunday race. It was a very awesome sight!

Now, a word about the Clubhouse: When you leave the clubhouse, please make sure that the door locks firmly behind you. We have installed another striker plate on the lock to make it more secure, so please make sure the door catches securely when you leave the club. Also, we now have a few ash trays on the deck for our members who smoke. Please make use of them and keep your butts out of a crack (on the deck that is). Please remember to pick up and clean up after yourselves. If you are the last one to leave the clubhouse at night or on the weekend, please check to see if the trash cans are overflowing and need to be emptied. Take the time to wash up any dirty dishes or utensils that you have used. And remember to take your belongings with you, making certain not to leave personal items in the club. If everyone does their part, the clubhouse will be fit for use by members at any time.

Now that the warm weather is here, jump in and enjoy the water. It's time to go out to the mooring balls or raft-up with friends. I once heard someone refer to people coming from the coast as "Water People." Well, I think that "Water People" are universal. They have a love of the sea, nature and a common bond. Whether we swim, go boating, fish or sun ourselves at the lake, we are all connected in some way by our love of the water. The camaraderie that we share is very special. We share ideas, food, drink and especially FUN! In a way, fellow HCYC club members are like extended family and I couldn't find a better bunch of "Water People".

*See You at the Lake,
John Ruiz*