



## **Cruising Club of America - San Francisco Station November 2, 2011 Meeting Minutes St. Francis Yacht Club**

### **Members Present:**

Ahari, Barker, Baylis, Bekins, Bernheim, Cooper, Cornelius, Crowley, Eaton, Finley, Forsythe, Hall, Hanelt, Hedin, Hogg, Sally Honey, Hunt, Hurst, Keegan, Klaus, LeRoy, Mason, Messer, Munro, Noonan, Olson, Robby Robinson, Scarborough, Straus, and Van Blaricom.

### **Call to Order and Introduction of Guests:**

R/C Robby Robinson welcomed all members, their spouses and guests. R/C then offered his special thanks to Terry Klaus for efforts in arranging the meeting and Sally Honey for inviting Professor John McCosker, the speaker of the day. He then informed the members of the passing away of long time CCA member Jon Clendenin, and asked Maggie Clendenin who had graciously accepted our invitation to attend the lunch at such a difficult moment, to say a few words remembering Jon.

R/C then welcomed Henry (Hank) Straus a distinguished long-time member of New York Station, who has decided to move and reside in Mill Valley, and has transferred to our station.

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report:** The secretary reported on the finances of the Station with a balance of \$1690.60. He then proceeded to report on the CCA/Seattle fall meeting. He especially thanked Wyman Harris for his efforts to recruit more participants for the National Siam Cruise, 2013.

**Membership Report:** Bob Van Blaricom reported approval of membership of Cree Partridge, and Michael Moradzadeh. He reported that Posting Letter had been sent and predicted that they will be welcomed to the Station during the Christmas Dinner.

**Entertainment/Events:** Annual Christmas Dinner will be held at the San Francisco Yacht Club on Wednesday, December 7.

**Cruise Report:** Doug Finley reported on the New Year's Eve Station cruise to Treasure Island. The R/C invited participation of a larger boat to act as the main gathering point at the anchorage.

**Environment of the Sea:** Bill Foss was away and still in Turkey.

**GAM/Historian/Newsletter:** John Sanford was away in Hawaii. New edition of the GAM is under preparation.

**National Cruise, Siam 2013:** Mary Crowley reported that Wyman Harris had succeeded to recruit a number of participants especially for the Mothership. Mary also announced the addition of a number of multi-hull and mono-hull boats, bareboat and crewed to the charter fleet.

It was announced that confirmation letters will be sent out in mid December requesting payment of a nominal fee from the participants.

**Cruisings we do:** Bill LeRoy reported on the 2011 Fall Cruise - Chesapeake he had participated in on his boat in October. Bruce Munro was able to join him in this very pleasant cruise with participation of 120 boats including some from Royal Thames YC.

Bob Van Blaricom reported on the continued sailing of the good ship “Misty” skippered by Peter Forest, who planned to start from Reunion Island with final destination Cape Town.

Steve Mason reported on the completion of delivery of his boat “Seajay” to be winterized in Vancouver Island. He described the rather arduous sailing with calm days and blustery nights and rain, being chased until the last moment by following high winds, finally arriving in Victoria harbor in the protective lee of a cruise ship. Although he mentioned the untoward conditions, rain and high winds quite repeatedly in the report, when asked whether the journey was fun, his answer was an enthusiastic “yes”.

**New Business:** Elections of officers of the Station were held. The R/C introduced Zia Ahari for the post of Rear Commodore and Bill Edinger as the Secretary/Treasurer. The two had been nominated by the Nominating Committee during the October meeting. R/C asked for any nominations from the floor. There being no nomination the aforementioned were elected as the officers of the station for the coming year.

**Speaker of the Month:** Sally Honey introduced Professor John McCosker who was to hold his talk under the rubric “*Sharks: why we hate them and need them*”.

John McCosker is a Senior Scientist and the first Chair of Aquatic Research at the California Academy of Sciences. From 1973 through 1994 he was Director of the Steinhart Aquarium. He received his PhD in Marine Biology from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1973 and is an Adjunct Professor in Marine Biology at San Francisco State University. Trained as an evolutionary biologist, his research activities have subsequently broadened to include field and laboratory studies ranging from microscopic bioluminescent bacteria to macroscopic man-eating elasmobranchs. He has also studied the marine life of the Galápagos, the biology of salmonid fishes, dispersed and renewable energy sources as alternatives to national vulnerability and war, public safety issues and white shark attack behavior, and the public understanding of sustainable seafood. He is the author of more than 260 popular and scientific articles and books and has appeared in numerous BBC, NOVA, and Discovery channel documentaries. He and his wife dove and fished in all of the world’s oceans and he serves on the boards of several non-profit educational and research organizations.

His presentation on Sharks, their life style, evolution, migrations, sizes, habits and geographical distribution were expertly and delightfully described. The most interesting parts of his talk were the following facts:

- Sharks rank highest amongst the so called *apex predators* and play a major role in keeping the balance of the food chain making them vital for maintenance of the oceanic environment.
- Sharks have existed for over 240 million years.
- There are almost 500 known varieties of sharks and more are being discovered.
- Their sizes vary from over 40 feet Whale Sharks to the several inch long Cigar Sharks.
- Megalodones are the largest known species and are ancestors of Great Whites.
- Sharks, together with Blue Fin Tuna, are capable of increasing the temperature of their digestive system, heart and brain to increase efficiency.
- Heating of the digestive system occurs by circulation of blood heated from working muscles through a radiator like system of arteries and veins surrounding the organs.
- Sharks consume large portions of food at one time and store the supply in their livers.
- The stored food helps them to stay alive and go without feeding for many months.
- Sharks grow slowly and produce few young, which makes them sensitive to overfishing and vulnerable to extinction.
- Most common unprovoked attacks are committed by Tiger Sharks and Great Whites
- Unprovoked attacks are rare, occur mainly between 6AM to 6 PM, between August and September in shallow waters, especially when the combination of man and equipment appear like seals from below
- The prevalence of unprovoked attacks in California occur in the triangle between Monterey Bay, Bodega Bay and the Farallon Islands
- There are 114 known fatalities as a result of shark attack recorded between 1950 and 2011 in the Eastern Pacific
- Majority of attacks occur on Abalone divers, surfers and snorkelers, however, deep sea divers are safe until they return to the surface
- Sharks can see color, but they see their victims from below and as silhouettes
- Victims are thought to be attacked, wounded and spat out allowing them to bleed to weakness before being consumed.
- Almost 75 million sharks are killed every year, especially for use in Shark Fin Soup

- By signing AB376 into law on September 25, Governor Brown made any handling of shark fins illegal in California
- 85% of the Asian population of California supported passage of AB376.

For further and more in-depth study of Sharks please see the attached file and refer to the following websites;

- <http://research.calacademy.org/aquatic/shark>
- Cal Academy of Science:
- <http://www.calacademy.org/webcams/sharks/>
- Sea Stewards:
- <http://seastewards.org/>
- Oceana:
- <http://na.oceana.org/>  
<http://act.oceana.org/sign/p-iccat-sharks/>

There being no new business the meeting was adjourned at 14:10.

The next monthly meeting, the Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup> at the San Francisco Yacht Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Zia Ahari  
Secretary/Treasurer

Please visit the CCA, SFA Station website for most recent news, *Siam Cruise*, archived minutes of the previous meetings and the latest changes in the membership roster; <http://www.cruisingclub.org/mo/stations/sfnew/default.htm>