



SAF Station Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2024

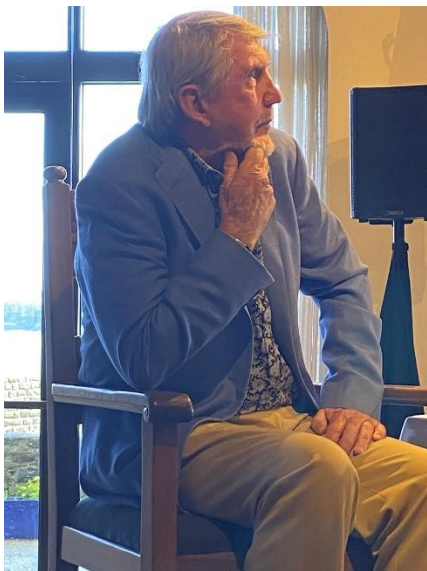
By Richard Schaper, Secretary

The second meeting of the new year was held in conjunction with the Yachtsmen Lunch at the St. Francis Yacht Club, hosted by Ron Young.

The following people registered in advance through the station's website: Don Benkins, John Brinkerhoff, Lynnea Callahan, Rowena Carlson, Jim Coggan, Tom Condy. Doug Finley, Bob Hanelt, Harris Wyman, Todd Hedin, Stafford Keegin, Steve Mason, Michael Moradzadeh, Michael and Susan Proudfoot, Robby and Dolores Robinson, Richard Schaper, and Sylvia Seaberg. Also attending were approximately a dozen CCA members who are also members of StFYC and whose names are lost to history.



Because this was a joint meeting with the Yachtsmen Lunch, no CCA business was conducted. After a delicious buffet hot and cold lunch, Ron Young called the gathering to order and welcomed the members of the Cruising Club, San Francisco Station. He then introduced several distinguished guests—including a young woman headed to the 2024 olympics in Marseille.



Ron then introduced **Joe Farrel, Jr.**, the founder and CEO of ResolveMarine, the largest global marine salvage and management company in the world. Joe's descriptions of his extraordinary work was illustrated with a host of stunning and colorful photographs, many of which may be viewed at [ResolveMarine.com](https://www.ResolveMarine.com). Resolve Marine Academy in Fort Lauderdale, for example, trains fire fighters in battling shipboard blazes. ResolveMarine leads in recovering commercial and naval wrecks—including oil platforms—in all the oceans and dozens of nations around the world. His company is the number one first responder for cruise ship disasters.

Joe first met Mary Crowley in Hawaii a number of years ago after becoming aware of her work through the Ocean Voyages Institute in recovering ghost nets and debris from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Joe spoke of his special concern for the rapidly diminishing numbers of right whales who are endangered by being entrapped in fishing and lobster pot lines. He is able to augment Mary's pioneering work with her ship the *Kaisei* using some of his vessels designed for marine recovery.



Mary Crowley then spoke of the success of her pioneering work in the design and provision to trans-Pacific yachts of satellite trackers which can be placed on floating ghost nets so that their whereabouts can be tracked until they can be recovered by a vessel such as the *Kaisei*. Her nonprofit organization Ocean Voyages Institute has received support from such companies as Matson Lines. Mary welcomes a new era of collaboration with Joe and ResolveMarine in expanding her efforts.



Ron Young joined Joe and Mary on stage for a period of questions and responses. Mary was asked when it was that she first learned about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. She replied that a primary function

of her first expedition in 2009 was to document the existence of this Texas-size patch of plastic debris which until then seemed to some to be merely mythic. Questions from the floor pointed to the fact that a great majority of the debris flows into the ocean from 10 known rivers—would it not be effective to intercept debris at its sources? Also: can a means be established so that the source of abandoned nets can be identified.

In response to Ron's asking Joe about his most extreme and frightening experiences Joe recounted a hair-raising tale of being on an ocean going salvage tug in a mighty storm on a recovery mission when the tug went down....

The next Yachtsmen's Lunch will be on March 27 with the renowned Sylvia Earle—the Cruising Club is again invited!

The next Cruising Club lunch will be at Pt. San Pablo Yacht Club at 11:30 a.m. on March 6. Watch for a registration link soon! This will be the annual CRAB FEED and you will not want to miss it!