



NEWSLETTER and MINUTES **FEBRUARY 10, 2026 (via ZOOM)**

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MEETINGS ARE ALL ON ZOOM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

ALL VOLUNTEER ALL THE TIME... NO ONE ON PAYROLL, EVERY DIME GOES TO THE PROGRAMS AND BOAT UPKEEP.

USE OUR WEBSITE EVENTS LINK ("Get Involved" button) TO SIGN UP FOR SAILS OR CONTACT THE SAIL ORGANIZER.



SCHOOL DISTRICT SAILS:

SF:

The teacher's strike has caused the cancellation of one sail which is already scheduled for a makeup sail in March. Now that the strike is over, these will continue weekly...every public Middle and High School in San Francisco...our oldest program, now over thirty-five years old.

COMMUNITY SAILS:

Community sails are continuing, and we have many new exciting programs:

1. PORT AUTHORITY SUMMER PROGRAM. These sails concluded with very happy participants, and they wish us to set up sails for next year. Now calendared.
2. MAKANI BOATING CLUB. Makani is a coed junior boating club for ages 11-13 affiliated with SF Sea Scouts. Golden Bear, two outings, 11-1300 and 1330 to 1530. **February 21.** And a second sail on **April 4.**
3. CDC Sails: The Community Development Corporation of Marin City will be setting up sails with some of their program participants in the next several months. Stay tuned.
4. TAM HIGH BOST ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM: **April 14.** The Boost Achievement program at Tam High.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT SAILS:

1. Our newest program combines juvenile hall students with Camp Sweeney students, both male and female.
2. The sails for girls have women only crews and Captain Stacy has set up several sails already for the girls. Due to low population of girls on probation, the sails will be combined with the boys' program with the requirement that one woman PO and one-woman crew (at least) is on board at the same time. The current class comes to conclusion as described below.
3. Meanwhile, the boys' program is progressing with the **graduation on 2/22 combined with the girls' graduation.** Mentor mentee method. The graduation will be a major effort with potluck, families and friends attending...kayak races and probation chiefs attending...and you?
4. Our goal is to use *Aleta* more with these students and we need to certify more crew and captains. There are certification sails on *Aleta* being scheduled and we urge all volunteers to get up to speed on *Aleta*...about half the sails will use *Aleta* if we have sufficient certified people for it.
5. We wish to have the probation officers become certified crew and that is progressing as well with the POS forming mentor teams with the students on the sails. They are already practicing actively on board with the students and are enjoying it greatly.
6. The night sail with the students was put over to March...see the calendar on our website.

We are still exploring working with other probation departments, such as Marin.



CERTIFICATION:

1. First Aid and CPR –Next class on **February 21, 10-12 at Berkeley Yacht Club.** Most of it is done online before the class. *REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION AS CREW AND CAPTAINS. YOU MUST COMPLETE THE ON LINE PORTION BEFORE ATTENDING THE CLASS WHICH HAS THE "HANDS ON" PRACTICE. FREE FOR VOLUNTEERS.* We have two new instructors now, Travis, who has done it for a year and Paige, both volunteering their time to make this work. Travis is also planning to offer a wilderness medicine program for those interested.

2. Certification sail on Bear with live overboard was on 2/15...next one...check our calendar.
3. Benjamin Walters live overboard drill is set for **February 28** and general certification on **March 8**.
4. ALETA had a certification sail set for **March 1**.
5. RECALL THAT CALIFORNIA LAW NOW REQUIRES ALL PERSONS TAKING OTHERS SAILING TO HAVE THE **CALIFORNIA BOATER'S CARD** AND THAT IS REQUIRED FOR OUR 6.CERTIFICATION...IT'S ALL ONLINE, EASY TO GET, CHEAP, AND DOES REVIEW FOR YOU MUCH USEFUL INFORMATION. GET IT! REQUIRED FOR ALL FIRST AND SECOND CAPTAINS.
7. And note that if you come on a sail as a guest or crew, make sure the captain checks out your skills and you can move along the certification list. You do not necessarily have to do the certification sails to get certified...but they move things more quickly.
8. Recall that the certification process is a checklist of accomplishments signed off by a first or second captain and one progresses to certified crew, second captain and, at times, first captain. Every sail with students requires a first captain, a second captain, and three certified crew. *It is thus vital that all volunteers seek to move up the certification ladder.*
9. A new volunteer has agreed to be the swimmer on overboard drills and will have training on the Benjamin certification on February 28. ..that should allow us to double the MOB drills.

BOSUN'S REPORT:

GOLDEN BEAR: The baby stay hydraulics is leaking again and Bosun Colm is considering whether to repair or convert to a non-hydraulic method. The new sail covers are now installed.

ALETA: To our disappointment, the Berkeley Marine Center lost all the ball bearings on the slides which resulted in a tear in the Main. Scot and Paul, at considerable expense in time and money, have now repaired and are working on the leak in the V drive apparently caused by a corroded fill hole. Hopefully repaired by the probation graduation.

BENJAMIN WALTERS: Oil change, new filters for oil and fuel, much cosmetic work, repaired anchor platform. All at owner expense.

DEVINE WIND: Ready to race.

REMEMBER TO WASH DOWN THE BOATS AFTER EACH SAIL...FIRST CAPTAINS, YOUR JOB IS TO KEEP CREW THERE TO DO THIS...WILL PROLONG THE LIFE OF ALL BOATS AND EQUIPMENT.



RACING PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR ITS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Captain Andy is putting together a racing team, and we are at the planning stages. Captain Stacy, with the woman's sailing program, would like to have a woman's sailing team, perhaps with probation. Lee is to arrange a planning meeting with Juvenile Hall to discuss how to get this going this summer. If interested, e mail andrewzim@yahoo.com.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Our President, Shannon, has landed a \$17,000 grant from the State Coastal Conservancy Fund, paid out over two years. Several other volunteers worked with her to bring this home...This will require us to take at least five hundred students sailing a year...easily done...and report regularly to the Committee which Shannon will do.

MONEY: \$58,651.00 in the bank. Loretta, Rich and Marty are working on Federal and State filing.

Putting a new mast on Bear would cost perhaps \$30,000. Regular maintenance on the boats is perhaps a thousand each month, despite the fact that the berths are donated by SF and Berkeley and our bosuns donate their time. **If you can...donate...**we are tax deductible as a 501C3 thus the government pays a third of the donation...

AND DONATIONS IN KIND ALWAYS WELCOME. We now have foul weather jackets and inflatable life vests that were donated. We will make those available to students and volunteers who otherwise cannot afford them. And remember, courses have been donated by **MODERN SAILING**. Have some gear you want to write off? Contact Lee at lstimmel@stimmel-law.com.

INTERSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS: A PROGRAM YOU CAN JOIN AND HELP EVEN IF YOU STAY ON LAND:

INTERSHIPS:

Internships give these students both experience and the beginning of a resume' that can open worlds for them. Jobs are how kids in trouble get to an alternative lifestyle...and they know it. **Know a business that would like an intern? Get onto the committee. Contact Lee at lstimmel@stimmel-law.com.**



SCHOLARSHIPS:

Recall that **Sategna Foundation**, our longtime partner, has allocated up to ten thousand dollars for a scholarship for a student we will select for trade school, college, etc. Time to look for more scholarship recipients. Know someone that this might make a big change in a life? Let us know.

Sailing opens doors...scholarships help students walk through the doors.



MORE DEMOGRAPHIC DATA is needed for our grant writing and Captain David has created the software to let first captains easily provide the information which shall be kept confidential. We are seeing how much of this type of documentation, and perhaps releases and waivers, can be done online. Stay tuned.

Remember our new policy for First Captains that they are to go over the safety features on each before each sail to refresh recollections of the crew since many crews go on more than one boat. First and Second captains must also have the California Boaters Card.

And we are now implementing a new requirement for First Captain nominees that they sail as acting first captain two times with a first captain on board to mentor before assuming that sole role.

MEDIA COMMITTEE, which is to put Blue Water more prominently on various social media and create videos to make that work needs more volunteers to get this going. Contact Lee at lstimmel@stimmel-law.com if this appeals to you.



Captain Louie, who has been doing our website forever, would like to step down so we need some volunteers willing to handle that. Captain David is also doing this but would like some backup and is making a list of what systems we work with. Interested? Let him know.

ZOOM...if you are not already on the registered list, go to our Get Involved link on our website and register to receive the Zoom invitation. Contact Captain David if necessary and he will give you a link... David Mischel
dmischel@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING March 10, 2026, 600 PM BY ZOOM, ALWAYS OVER BY EIGHT OR BEFORE.

A CHALLENGING TIME NOW...FOR YOU, FOR THOSE YOU CARE ABOUT, FOR OUR NATION...AND FOR THE STUDENTS AND CHILDREN WE SEEK TO SERVE. YOU CAN GNASH YOUR TEETH...OR YOU CAN GET OUT THERE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE. SHOW THE CHILDREN THE SEA AND THE WONDER...SHOW THEM THAT YOU CARE AND WANT TO SHARE THAT WITH THEM. YOU. NOW...JOIN US.

