



# NEWSLETTER and MINUTES MARCH 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 School District sails continue for their thirty sixth year, every Thursday, on Golden Bear from the City. Will continue until summer. The SF Marina has dredging issues with the sand bar pretty tough for Golden Bear's nine-foot draw, so first captains have to carefully navigate the entrance.

## **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, Our second sail on **April 4 on Bear.**

**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.

**PROJECT REBOUND:** who have worked with us in the past are likely to schedule some sails in the next few months and Captain Roger is working on setting that up.

**5. CDC CONSTRUCTION CLASS:** The students in these five weeklong construction classes put on by the Marin City Community Development Corporation are almost guaranteed a job in the construction field...a future none of them thought possible. There will be twenty coming out on this sail to celebrate their achievement, so we take two boats out, Benjamin and Aleta. Stay tuned for the date.

### **PROBATION DEPARTMENT SAILS:**

1. The graduation celebration for the Alameda County class was extremely moving, some of the top administrators showing up, some family, a kayak race, a short sail with the students, and a great speech by the former chief of El Dorado, Brian. Great day and our next class is being planned at this time. Both male and female, which requires at least one woman on the crew and one woman PO.
2. Captain Stacy has developed her woman's crew to the point where they can easily take over sails, and they will be working on the probation programs as well as other sails. The probation sails may be co-ed simply because not many inmates are female.
3. Contra Costa Probation has decided to renew their sailing program with Blue Water and Captain Stacy and Lee have met with them and have a few more meetings set up. Figure these sails will begin in a month or two.... thanks to Brian whose telephone calls (called nagging) made this possible.
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. We are still exploring working with other probation departments, such as Marin.



### **CERTIFICATION:**

**1. First Aid and CPR** –Our last class was on **February 21**, at Berkeley Yacht Club. We will be scheduling the next one soon. 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 will be on a weekday before the end of April. Check our calendar.**

**3. Benjamin Walters live overboard drill is set for March 28.**

4. **ALETA** has finished a certification on March 1 and will be scheduling the next sails for certification in April or May.
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 March 28. ...that should allow us to double the MOB drills.

## **BOSUN'S REPORT:**

**GOLDEN BEAR:** The baby stay is off for repair and for now we are using a turnbuckle to hold it. Bosun Colm is considering whether to repair or convert to a non-hydraulic method.

**ALETA:** Bosun Scott and Captain Paul have worked for hours bringing her up to snuff with the sail slides repaired and the leak in the V drive repaired. She is now ready to rock and roll.

**BENJAMIN WALTERS:** The transmission is leaking and Captain Lee is assuming the task of repair. Still usable but check the transmission fluid levels for now. Light on windvane being repaired.

**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 women's sailing program, would like to have a women's sailing team, perhaps with probation. Both Alameda Probation and Contra Costa Probation are interested in participating. If interested, e mail [andrewzim@yahoo.com](mailto:andrewzim@yahoo.com). Or [Istimmel@stimmel-law.com](mailto:Istimmel@stimmel-law.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. This will be discussed in detail at our next board meeting.

We also received from the Harbor Masters' Association a one thousand dollar grant to help us help the students. Thanks to Harbor Master Scott of SF Marina, a longtime supporter, who walked us through this.

Lee will be giving a presentation via zoom to the Juvenile Probation Chief's meeting in about two weeks, discussing our various probation programs. We now have Alameda County and Contra Costa County...but remember before Covid we also had San Francisco County, El Dorado County And some feelers from San Mateo County. Marin may also be interested.

**MONEY:** [\\$58,051.11](#) in the bank. Loretta, Rich and Marty are working on Federal and State filing.

Putting a new mast on Bear would cost perhaps \$20,000. 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. Both Andy and Lee do not charge for any maintenance on their private boats...but it still adds up. **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, two courses each year have been donated by **MODERN SAILING**. These have been made available to students and volunteers, and we still have two for this calendar year.

Have some gear you want to write off? Contact Lee at [Istimmel@stimmel-law.com](mailto:Istimmel@stimmel-law.com).

## **INTERNSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS: A PROGRAM YOU CAN JOIN AND HELP EVEN IF YOU STAY ON LAND:**

### INTERNSHIPS:

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 [Istimmel@stimmel-law.com](mailto:Istimmel@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. One student at the Alameda Probation Class looks promising and we will be exploring that...and one of the Board Members of Sategna, Taylor, has now joined Blue Water and will be helping us on this search.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:dmischel@gmail.com)

**NEXT MEETING APRIL 14, 2026, 600 PM BY ZOOM, ALWAYS OVER BY EIGHT OR BEFORE.**

**WE STARTED IN 1990. INCORPORATED AS A 501C3 IN 1992. WE WERE TOLD AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION COULD CERTAINLY NOT LAST, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE RECEIVED OUR FIRST BOAT OWNED BY THE FOUNDATION IN 1997.... GOLDEN BEAR...29 YEARS AGO! YET, HERE WE ARE, BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER.**

**CONSIDER...SOME OF OUR STUDENTS WHEN WE STARTED ARE GRANDPARENTS NOW!!**

**IT WORKS...BUT WILL ONLY WORK SO LONG AS WE KEEP NEW VOLUNTEERS COMING. WE NEED MORE THAN SAILORS...WE NEED MENTORS TO THE STUDENTS, PEOPLE WHO CAN HANDLE THE ADMINISTRATION, TECHNOLOGY AND OUTREACH. WHATEVER YOUR SKILLS...JOIN US AND MOVE UP THE CERTIFICATION LADDER.**

**POSSIBLE PROGRAMS IN THE FUTURE IF WE HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE? RACING TEAMS FOR JUVENILES IN DETENTION. BLIND SAILORS AS A REGULAR PART OF OUR VOLUNTEERS. MORE WORK WITH CDC AND PROBATION DEPARTMENTS.**

**IT GOES AS FAR AS YOU VOLUNTEERS ALLOW IT TO GO. THE WORLD IS A GRIM AND DARK PLACE NOW. LIGHT A CANDLE.**

