



# NEWSLETTER and MINUTES APRIL 14, 2026 (via ZOOM)

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[www.facebook.com/BlueWaterFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/BlueWaterFoundation)

**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:

The School District sails continue for their thirty sixth year, every Thursday, on Golden Bear from the City. Will continue until summer. The dredging issues with the SF Marina continue to cause some issues and Golden Bear is now moved temporarily to allow dredging. GO TO GATE 7 (SLIP 403) for the timing being instead of Gate 1. Meanwhile, sails scheduled for 4/23;4/30; and 5.7.

## 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. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Captain Scott is making a presentation to the Harbor Master's Association of N. California this coming week...they want to know more about Blue Water Foundation.
6. LATITUDE 38 sent a reporter to our MOB drill on Benjamin Walters and to one of our Golden Bear sails and he has written some great articles about Blue Water urging more people to volunteer...and was most impressed with our certification program.
7. JUVENILE PROBATION CHIEFS invited Captain Lee to make a zoom presentation to them and were interested in exploring possible new programs. Chief Esa of Contra Costa County told the chiefs how much she loved the program and how good it was to work with us...more on that below.
8. SILVER SPRINGS HIGH is again coming down for their sail, traveling hours from the mountains to get on the Bay. **May 12** on Golden Bear.

#### **PROBATION DEPARTMENT SAILS:**

1. The next eight-week probation class for Alameda Juvenile Probation starts on **May 1** and will continue every other week for over two months, followed by the now famous graduation party. New students, same POs as before and same goal of changing lives by showing what the ocean can teach. Mentor Mentee method, try to sign up for at least three of the sails to establish the connection. A night sail, live overboard drill, most sails on Fridays. On Calendar now.
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 Juvenile Probation has decided to start their own probation classes, again eight classes, mentor mentee method, night sail, overboard drill and graduation. **AND THESE SAILS ARE NORMALLY ON SATURDAYS**, for those of you who wanted to join but couldn't take a weekday off. Begins **May 30**. Every other week until October.
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. And we are beginning our racing effort with the probation departments, first practice race captained by Captain Andy, on JUNE 12. Aleta, Bear and ?. Both Alameda and Contra Costa want to have teams and after ten years, this is becoming real.
6. 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.
7. We are still exploring working with other probation departments, such as Marin.



## **CERTIFICATION:**

1. **First Aid and CPR** –Our next class will be on **JUNE 6**, Berkeley Yacht Club most likely. 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.**
2. Certification sail on **Bear** with live overboard is on **4/22**.
3. **Benjamin Walters** certification is set for **May 23**
4. **ALETA** will be scheduling the next sails for certification in 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. Some new volunteers have agreed to be the swimmer on overboard drills ...that should allow us to increase 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. The depth gauge, sadly inaccurate, may be replaced by a used one no longer in use by Captain Andy. Her mast will also be checked by a rigger long used by Captain Andy.

**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 leak appears in control. Both she and Aleta are having a rigging inspection in the next few months.

**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 scheduling the first practice in June...and need more racers to make this work. 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. The Board passed the various resolutions necessary to make this happen.

**MONEY:** \$55,510.79 in the bank.

Putting a new mast on Bear would cost perhaps \$20,000 or more. 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 JUST RECEIVED TWO KAYAKS DONATED WHICH WILL BE ADDED TO THE TWO WE ALREADY HAVE TO ENLARGE THE KAYAK RACES DURING PROBATION GRADUATION...AND ONE OF THE CLASSES FOR OUR PROBATION DEPARTMENTS WILL BE WORKING THE SMALL BOATS.... INFLATABLES, ROW BOATS, AND KAYAKS.

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. TJ, now in Sweeney, appears one of the more promising contenders and will be interviewed in the next months...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.**



**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. 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 MAY 12, 2026, 600 PM BY ZOOM, ALWAYS OVER BY EIGHT OR BEFORE.**

**IT'S NOT JUST SAILING FOR A FEW HOURS, OF COURSE. ANY MORE THAN THE DOZEN CHILDHOOD MEMORIES YOU HAVE RIGHT NOW ABOUT THE MOST VITAL AND REMEMBERED PARTS OF YOUR OWN CHILDHOOD ARE JUST A FEW MINUTES OR HOURS. THOUGH THEY ACTUALLY ONLY LASTED THAT LONG. THEY ARE NOT TO BE MEASURED IN TIME.**

**WHAT STAYS IN YOUR MIND FOREVER, WHAT ALTERS YOUR PERSPECTIVE FOREVER ARE EVENTS, OFTEN MINUTES LONG, SOMETIMES HOURS OR DAYS, WHICH SHATTER YOUR PRIOR VIEWS OF YOUR WORLD. TAKING THESE CHILDREN TO SEA, ESPECIALLY THE INCARCERATED CHILDREN, CAN DO THAT. AND DOES DO THAT.**

**AT OUR LAST GRADUATION, ONE OF THE STUDENTS BROUGHT US A PRESENT HE HAD MADE AT JUVENILE HALL. IT WAS A MODEL SAILBOAT. ON THE SAILS HE HAD PUT THE FOLLOWING WORDS: "SET SAIL. STAY FREE."**

**THINK THE COURSE MADE A DIFFERENCE TO HIM?**



