



# NEWSLETTER and MINUTES MAY 12, 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:**

The School District sails were interrupted by the silting up of the SF Marina. Captain Les was interviewed on television as to the effect on our programs but now the sails begin again and we have three or four sails to make up. **SIGN UP FOR THE MAKEUP SAILS WHICH ARE COMING ALONG RIGHT NOW.**

## **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: was on **April 14**.
4. 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.
6. Captain Scott's presentation to the Harbor Master's Association of N. California has resulted in a thousand dollar donation from them!
7. 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. He is coming out again on a probation sail so expect another article.
8. BERKELEY YACHT CLUB SUMMER PROGRAM. Blue Water has taken the students signed up for the Berkeley Yacht Club's summer program (they kayak and raft, etc.) and we take them out twice, **JUNE 15 and June 22**.
9. SILVER SPRINGS HIGH is again coming down for their sail, traveling hours from the mountains to get on the Bay. **May 12 and May 28** on Golden Bear.

### PROBATION DEPARTMENT SAILS:

1. The next eight-week probation class for Alameda Juvenile Probation started on **May 1** and we just finished the live overboard drill. A night sail, live overboard drill, most sails on Fridays. On Calendar now. JOIN US.
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. We have new volunteers who indicate they have connections with various community groups with girls who might like this and will contact Stacy. El Dorado probation is coming down for a sail on **July 12** and Stacy and her crew may do that sail.
3. Contra Costa Juvenile Probation has decided to start their own probation classes, again eight classes and graduation, 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. Beginning **May 30**. Every other week until October. We took the probation officers out on their own sail so they could see how the experience could help their students. That sail was on **May 16** and was a complete success. We visited their facility on **MAY 22** to discuss the program with the students...they are enthusiastic as are the Pos. If interested, contact Lee at [lstimmel@stimmel-law.com](mailto:lstimmel@stimmel-law.com). ALL THE CONTRA COSTA SAILS ARE ONLINE NOW...SIGN UP AND BE THERE AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS NEW PROGRAM.
4. 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.
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.
7. Contra Costa Probation has invited Blue Water volunteers to tour their facility in Martinez and it is on our calendar for sign-ups. **JUNE 9 AT ELEVEN**. For those of you wishing to see what life is like for our probation students, sign up and see for yourself. Lee and Elena were there for a presentation for the students and found the experience valuable...and the students appreciate this type of interest from our volunteers.

### 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** to be scheduled soon. Check calendar.
3. **Benjamin Walters** certification was set for **May 23** and was great.... still need to do overboard practice with those students which should be scheduled in the next two months.
4. **ALETA** will be scheduling the next sails for certification once repaired.
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 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. A recent rig survey indicated we should plan on replacing much of the rig right now...and a zoom call with the bosuns is scheduled this coming week. This will likely cost 25,000 plus. An

anonymous donor has contributed 5000 to that project...we need to discuss either repairing or replacing and that is the purpose of the call on May 26. Stay tuned.

**BENJAMIN WALTERS:** The transmission leak appears in control. She will have 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 MORE 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 [lstimmel@stimmel-law.com](mailto:lstimmel@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:** \$53,669.09 In the bank. \$5000 more pledged for Aleta repair.

Putting a new mast on Bear would cost perhaps \$20,000-30,000 or more. Aleta rerig is about \$25,000. 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 JUST RECEIVED A LIKE NEW LIFE VEST.

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 [lstimmel@stimmel-law.com](mailto:lstimmel@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, has been selected to receive our help. Already accepted at UCLA, this remarkable student has just graduated from Laney, has been able to get PELL grants but we will be making up the gap in his funding. From Sweeney to UCLA.... think on that.

**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.

**LATITUDE 38 ALREADY HAD AN ARTICLE ON OUR OVERBOARD PRACTICE AND IS SENDING THE SAME REPORTER OUT TO CHECK OUT A PROBATION SAILING CLASS.**

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)

## **ANNUAL PARTY TO BE SET IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER**

**Join the committee?**

**Our annual volunteers' appreciation party will be this Fall and we should start planning now. Food, entertainment and award of volunteer, bosun and partner of the year. The probation students will again be attending this celebration. Mariette will take the lead in planning this but can use some help. Want to help? [lstimmel@stimmel-law.com](mailto:lstimmel@stimmel-law.com).**



**NEXT MEETING JUNE 9, 2026, 600 PM BY ZOOM, ALWAYS OVER BY EIGHT OR BEFORE.**



A common question from the older children we take out is to ask who is paying us to do this. When we say no one, we are doing this for free, we are all volunteers, they stare, often asking again. One probation student paused and said, “No one in my life sees me for free. Except family. They are all paid to be with me...” And stared a bit longer, then went back to working the boat.

Think back to when you were a teenager. With friends, family, clubs, sports, parties, walks, drives, vacations. Did you ever stop and think that everyone that interacted with you had to be paid to do so? How would that have made you feel?

Perhaps the best thing we do for these students...is be there...for free.