



NEWSLETTER and MINUTES JUNE 9, 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 which is still not fully clear on low tides for a large draft boat such as Golden Bear. We had to cancel more than five sails and now the school year is over. We have never had to cancel so many school sails...and we are promised by the Marina that this will not be a problem shortly.

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 for **July 1** during that week.

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. LATITUDE 38 again sent a reporter to a probation class, teaching MOB drill on Benjamin Walters as well as to one of our Golden Bear sails and expect some more articles in the near future.
4. 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.**

PROBATION DEPARTMENT SAILS:

1. ALAMEDA COUNTY PROBATION continues their classes, including the night sail which they loved. Most sails on Fridays. On Calendar now. JOIN US.
2. CONTRA COSTA PROBATION is now in the midst of their own program, just finishing their first live overboard drill. The PO mentioned that they talk about each class all during the week and love it. Captain Stacy has developed her woman's crew to the point where they can easily take over sails, and the next Contra Costa sail is on Bear with her full woman's crew. **NOTE THESE SAILS ARE ON SATURDAYS. ALAMEDA PROBATION IS ON FRIDAYS.**
3. EL DORADO PROBATION El Dorado probation is coming down for a sail on **July 12, and** we need full complement of captain and crew to sign up. Benjamin Walters. They come down all the way from Tahoe.
4. And we are beginning our racing effort with the probation departments, Captain Andy, has given them a taste of it on Bear and reported there was much enthusiasm. Both Alameda and Contra Costa want to have teams and after ten years, this is becoming real. Contact us if you want to participate.
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 next class will be on **AUGUST 29, 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 **7/18.**
3. Benjamin Walters certification is set for **August 22** and will include live overboard practice.
4. ALETA is undergoing rigging repair for now...as discussed below.
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.*



BOSUN'S REPORT:

GOLDEN BEAR: No particular issues but time to have her rigging checked and in the next few weeks her mast will be checked by a rigger long used by Captain Andy.

ALETA: Major rigging work is likely needed, and Captain Andy will be taking the boat to Hansons to do the work. More on this later but assume no Aleta for the next few months with the other boats taking up her duties. NEED NEW BOSUN FOR ALETA, DISCUSSED BELOW.

BENJAMIN WALTERS: The shore power plugs somehow were dunked, and the boat side had to be replaced at owner expense. The new plugs have caps to put on them when removed and please use them. 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 VOLUNTEERS FOR ITS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Captain Andy is putting together a racing team, and we need more racers to make this work. If interested, e mail andrewzim@yahoo.com. or 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: \$49,900 in the bank. Most of that is going to go to Aleta repair.

Putting a new mast on Bear would cost perhaps \$20,000 or more. Aleta rrig 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...

We did receive a pledge of five thousand dollars from an anonymous donor to help with Aleta's rrig.

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 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 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. TJ, now in Sweeney, has been accepted at UCLA and we will donate about ten thousand dollars to help pay with the costs of that venture. From the hood to UCLA...quite a story.

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



BOSUN FOR ALETA...THE SEARCH BEGINS.

We need to find a new bosun for Aleta. Recall that the bosun is not necessarily the ‘hands on’ repair person. Working with a committee of three to five others, the Bosun essentially monitors the condition of the boat and either directs repairs or hires professionals to do that, plus supervises regular maintenance. The committee for Aleta is already pretty well formed...with particular expertise based on years of experience Paul F, Richard P, Lee S, Stacy F. Aaron and Scott will be there to advise and work as needed. **BUT WE NEED THE ‘PROJECT SUPERVISOR’** who will generally direct the upkeep on the boat. As any project coordinator knows, you don’t have to know the details of the task so much as the general needs and how to supervise the completion.

There is an upside...the bosun can use the boat for him or herself personal or family sails if boat not scheduled for kid sails...think...for simply supervising the boat and checking her over every week or so one gets access to a famous open ocean racer...not bad.

CONTACT LEE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THIS. ALETA IS OUT OF COMMISSION FOR THE NEXT MONTH DUE TO RIG REPAIR...SO THE TASKS WOULD START IN ABOUT A MONTH, PROBABLY THE FIRST STEP A ZOOM MEETING WITH THE ALETA BOSUN’S COMMITTEE.

lstimmel@stimmel-law.com.

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. 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

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER'S PARTY ON OCTOBER 3 AT BERKELEY YACHT CLUB. Want to help? Let us know. Saturday night, boats at the dock, probation students joining us and awarding Volunteer of the Year, Bosun of the Year and Partner of the Year. Food, entertainment. Mark down the date.

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

One comment repeatedly made by the probation students we take out is how calm it makes them feel to sail. How it makes them settle down and feel peace. At the same time, when they go out on Bear, heading for the Gate, they are entranced.

It's easy to forget how powerful the experience is when you have sailed and/or raced for decades. But if you sit in a cell or common room 15 hours a day, the sea, wind and sky are more than just a pastime. We are truly showing them a world that they want...and need.



