



NEWSLETTER and MINUTES AUGUST 11, 2026 (via ZOOM)

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MEETINGS ARE ALL ON ZOOM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

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

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



BOATS REPAIR UPDATE:

Both Golden Bear and Aleta remain with rigging issues. The Board approved moving forward with the expensive but vital repairs to Golden Bear first, with Captain Andy in charge of arranging the new fittings needed on the mast and repairs as necessary to running and standing rigging. Aleta is put on hold until we see how much Bear costs.

The rigger Andy hoped to use is retiring but agreed to facilitate the repair and Andy intends to bring Bear to KKMI in Richmond for the actual repairs, probably within two weeks. He is

asking volunteers to meet him there and do the non expert work necessary to pull the mast, e.g. disconnecting shrouds and stays, etc. We will send a blast out when the time is set. KKMI is in Richmond. This will cost between 30-40,000 most likely. Stay tuned...

Thus, in summary:

1. GOLDEN BEAR: Mast repair and rerig as described above
2. ALETA: Rerig required, but being delayed until we see the funding available. Engine works fine but we cannot sail her. The mysterious seepage in the bilge is being examined by Roger's chemist friend.
3. BENJAMIN WALTERS: Rig is fine though we are replacing all rivets on the steps, etc. Rip in main repaired. All at owner expense.
4. DEVINE WIND: All ready to go...all at owner expense.

All this is going to strain our bank accounts, people! We have to keep the boats safe and will do this...but if you can help, remember any donations are tax deductible...thus the government actually pays a third of your donation.... We have two declared donations from volunteers amounting to fifteen thousand...but need much more. Treasurer Richard Pons is the man to contact for any and all donations.

Any amount helps! Richard Pon treasurer@bluewaterfoundation.org



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY-OCTOBER 3.... MARK YOUR CALENDERS

At the Berkeley Yacht Club, Saturday night 6-11, our annual thank you to all the volunteers. A few speeches, awarding of *VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, BOSUN OF THE YEAR AND PARTNER OF THE YEAR* Awards, great entertainment, dinner, and typical sailor conversation lying about adventures on the sea.

Entry fee is voluntary. Probation students will be brought by the Probation Officers and may have some words to share. MEET THE OTHER VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK THE OTHER PROGRAMS OF BLUE WATER.

Boats at the docks. A night watching the sunset and celebrating 36 years of history of this Foundation. Our first kids are in their fifties!!

If you want to help set it up and break it down, e mail Lee at lstimmel@stimmel-law.com.

SCHOOL DISTRICT SAILS:

These sails will start again in late September or early October and are on the calendar...meanwhile, Golden Bear's mast will be repaired so this thirty six year old program will be uninterrupted. Thursdays.

COMMUNITY SAILS:

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

1. WOMEN'S SAILING SEMINAR **September 12-13**, Blue Water again participates in the annual Women's Sailing Seminar on Benjamin, the class is in Alameda.
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. HOBBS ACADEMY SAIL This school serves students with children and if this sail goes well, may well become a series of classes similar to the probation departments. First sail **September 22, 930-300.**

PROBATION DEPARTMENT SAILS:

1. ALAMEDA COUNTY PROBATION They finished their course with a great graduation. Next series of classes will be scheduled in September to begin late October or early November. Great students, two in advanced course.
2. CONTRA COSTA PROBATION is now in the midst of their own program, just finished their first live overboard drill and their own maintenance class. Captain Andy will take them out on **August 29** to show them basic racing skills.

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 **September 19**, and we need full complement of captain and crew to sign up. Benjamin Walters. They come down all the way from Tahoe.
4. 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.
5. We are still exploring working with other probation departments, such as Marin.
6. **MENTOR GUIDELINES** are now on our website on the document page and attached to this newsletter. Next in line is a recommended curriculum for the sails, being crafted over the next month.

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 on **7/18**. was postponed due to repair work on her mast. Will reschedule once she is back in the water.
3. Benjamin Walters certification is set for **August 22** and will include live overboard practice.
4. ALETA is undergoing rigging repair for now...certification when complete.
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.

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.*

MONEY: \$52,440.00 in the bank. Most of that is going to go to boat repair and insurance soon so we need to raise some money.

Both Andy and Lee do not charge for any maintenance on their private boats...but it still adds up for Bear and Aleta. 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 rerig and a promise of ten thousand dollars from one of our volunteers who has helped us so much in the past...but need more if we are to accomplish needed repairs in time for the school year. .

INSURANCE OBTAINED BY CAPTAIN STEVE: With his usual determination, Captain Steve has obtained insurance for the boats at approximately the same cost as last year...note this is the single largest expense for Blue Water...critical but expensive. ABOUT \$13,000 a year...and we also have Directors' and Officers insurance, recall.



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

AND DONATIONS IN KIND ALWAYS WELCOME.

THE TWO KYAKS DONATED A FEW MONTHS AGO HAVE BEEN USED FOR PROBATION CLASSES. WE ALREADY HAD TWO AND THE FOUR WERE OUT THERE WITH DELIGHTED IF NERVOUS PROBATION STUDENTS...PLUS OUR CHASE INFLATABLE TO KEEP THEM SAFE. WE USE WHAT IS DONATED...

And remember, two courses each year have been donated by **MODERN SAILING**. These have been made available to students and volunteers, AND THE BOARD APPROVED INTRODUCTORY COURSES TO CAPTAIN ELENA AND MEGAN...WHO WILL BE COMPLETING THE COURSE OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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 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 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 ORGANIZATION

We have been relatively informal as to organizing the maintenance and repair work on the Foundation boats and it was agreed we need to formalize it to ensure appropriate work. After the Board meeting those interested in working in this area had a zoom meeting and the following was decided.

Each boat will have a Lead Bosun and three to five Assistant Bosuns. It is their job to inspect the boat on a regular basis, doing routine maintenance, arrange significant work with the experts as required, and report back to the board. They can bring in all volunteers for a work day for the boat.

The first step is to create a schedule of normal inspections and maintenance which will be created by each team and submitted to the board in early September. Those initially working on the checklist will be Andy, Bertrand, Colm and Jim Waterwash, with Richard and Howard looking it over when done.

The Lead Bosun will then assign inspection and maintenance tasks to the various bosuns or decide when an expert or all volunteers must be brought in. Lead Bosun has the duty to ensure that the schedule is adhered to.

BOSUNS COMMITTEES:

Golden Bear: Colm Lead Bosun. Andy, Bertrand, Spencer as assistant bosuns.

Aleta: Stacy Lead Bosun. Andy, Megan, Paul F and Howard assistant bosuns.

Note the bosuns inspect and organize inspections and maintenance but ALL OF US SHOULD BE READY TO SUPPORT AND PUT IN SOME TIME. They do not do it all...we do it all with them.

Benjamin Walters and **Devine Wind** are handled by Lee and Andy, respectively.

THE FUTURE OF ALETA:

We are repairing Golden Bear first and hope to have her ready to sail in time for the District Sails in late September. Aleta must wait until we raise sufficient funds for her repair...but we also have to determine if we want to replace her with another 40 foot plus vessel if we can find that donation.

CREW OVERBOARD WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS:

Captain Dennis has drafted the first draft of written procedure for overboard drill on **Benjamin Walters**. Once finalized, we will do the same for **Bear** and **Aleta**. It will be on the documents page of our website, along with **Mentorship Methods** and **Probation Department Classes Curriculum**.

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.

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.





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

AND REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR...

OCTOBER 3, 2026, ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

A Saturday night with food, drink, entertainment, minimal speeches, award for the **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**, **BOSUN OF THE YEAR** and **PARTNER OF THE YEAR** awards, probation kids attending and a good chance to meet the Blue Water people you work with. Voluntary contribution at the door, \$35.00 recommended...but if you cannot afford it, come anyway. 6-1100.



Prior Volunteer Parties at Berkeley Yacht Club

NEXT MEETING September 8, 2026, 600 PM BY ZOOM, ALWAYS OVER BY EIGHT OR BEFORE.

Think back to when you were ten years old. What do you remember? A few instances of experiences that forever changed your outlook. Maybe a vacation trip to Yosemite or Tahoe...getting that bike you always wanted. A new friend. Your memory is centered on events that were new and exciting. All of the memories together center on perhaps ten minutes of experience imprinted on your mind.

Like sailing. A teacher put it well to us...the students that go out talk about the experience for weeks, perhaps months. For many, going out on the Bay would be akin to you entering a rain forest or getting to the top of a mountain for the first time.

You are creating that memory for them. Forever. Remember the first time you went sailing? So will they...



MENTORSHIP MEMO FOR PROBATION SAILS:

Introduction:

Certain sailing programs utilized by Blue Water extend beyond the simple field trip that constitute the bulk of our sails with the San Francisco School District. Those programs usually involve the students returning for multiple sessions to learn aspects of sailing and nature over a three or four month period. Alternatively, some programs have the students returning for multiple days over a week or three.

Unlike a field trip, where the student may work the boat or steer the vessel for a short period of time, the extended programs have the students working the boat on a continuing basis and the method utilized by Blue Water to teach is the mentor system.

The mentor system assigns one or two volunteers to teach the same student over the period of the course and to work with that student mastering the skills needed for basic sailing.

But the most important aspect of mentoring is establishing a lasting relationship with the student, becoming a team that can work the boat and learn the skills and, usually, also sharing thoughts on past experiences, hopes, dreams, plans and issues confronted. It is the establishment of that relationship that is the key. *Sailing is the tool. Connection is the goal.*

Many of our incarcerated students have an extremely limited experience outside of the small neighborhood they come from. In gang areas, it is dangerous to leave the six to ten block area controlled by your gang. Some students from the East Bay have never been over the Bay Bridge.

For those students to work with our volunteers from all walks of life and often from other countries abroad is a remarkable event for them. They are drawn to it. They can learn about alternative lifestyles and opportunities and what types of jobs and training may be available once out of probation. Blue Water has scholarships that may assist. One important aspect is that the mentor returns to teach more than once. Most of the students do not have regular families and far fewer have a father living at home. They are used to being abandoned by adults. To demonstrate that you care enough to return and continue the teaching matters a great deal to them. A typical question they ask upon arriving at the boat is whether the mentor is here today. When they hear we are not paid to be with them, it surprises them. As one student commented, "No one wants to be with me that isn't paid. Except family."

We are all volunteers and have other commitments. For a six or ten session series of classes, we often cannot attend all of them. The solution is to explain that to the student and have two or more mentors assigned to the student. We ask the mentors to commit to at least three of the sails scheduled.

Failure to assign a mentor for these classes can often result in the sailing trip becoming a defacto field trip. That is not "bad," but does lose a key aspect of the program. It is up to the captain and the mentor assigned to make sure tasks are undertaken and mastered as much as possible. The students are proud of what they learn and at the graduation at the end of the class proudly demonstrate new skills to family and friends.

This article shall discuss the basics of our mentoring system for these repeat students.

BASIC MENTORING SYSTEM: STEPS AND GENERAL APPROACH; ROLE OF FIRST CAPTAIN

- 1.The first captain normally assigns mentors to students at the start of every sail immediately after the safety talk. The Probation Officers can assist in this assignment, and it is useful to ask the students if they see a past mentor present and assign them again to each other.
- 2.Once assigned, five minutes is allowed for the mentors and mentees to meet and get to know each other.
- 3.The captain then assigns the team of mentor (s) and mentee to specific tasks. Examples are one team casts off the bow lines, another team prepares to raise the main, etc. etc. They continue to act as a team throughout the sail as assigned by the first captain. There can be multiple mentors for each mentee. The captain rotates the teams to learn the various aspects of sailing on the agenda for that class.
- 4.It is up to the captain to ensure that there is rotation of tasks as the sail progresses and that the boat is put through its paces. Tacking, gybing, reefing, etc. should be repeatedly practiced with teams rotated...this is independent of the actual compass course set. We are teaching and must drill this.
- 5.Time should be allowed and mentors encouraged to simply sit and talk with the student. While personal details as to where one lives or works should not be given, nor questions about why incarcerated posed, general discussions of what one does for a living, where one has traveled, what the student hopes to do with his/her life, what interests them, etc. are encouraged. You work as a team but also get to know each other.
- 6.The basic rule for mentorship was created by our President Cory fifteen years ago. "If you are doing it the student is not. Show them once, then keep your hands off." She also said, "the person with their hands on the task is the one learning. Give your mentee an example/information and then support them in doing the task. Get to know what works for your mentee."
- 7.Criticism should be muted...instead of saying you are doing this wrong, say "try it this way...this way works better."
- 8.The mentor should do very little other than show once and guide after that. This can be difficult for our racer volunteers who want efficiency and perfection in sailing. This is a lesson, not a race and when asked to do something, whether it is cast off lines, reef or dropping the sails, the mentor must have the student do it as a team. Always.
- 9.Depth of teaching must be adjusted to the student. We are not a sailing school and many students just want to experience the water and learn the basics. Some students are far more interested and want to become excellent sailors. Learn how much they want to learn. Sailing terms should not be made a priority unless they want to learn the large vocabulary. Teach them the terms they need and spare them the precise definition of the linguistic basis of halyard...unless they ask.
- 10.Crew and captains must understand that every task will take longer and relax: we are teaching and teaching requires time.
- 11.If an emergency occurs, mentorship stops and the crew handles the emergency as the captain directs. An emergency, however, is not simply something that should be done quickly...it is a dangerous situation.
- 12.Confidence in the student is vital. They fully remember each accomplishment they achieve. We have little idea of the effect that praise and success can have on them. Most have never graduated from any school or program; few ever get praise at home or their neighborhood. They may be athletes but are kicked off of teams due to behavior. This is their chance to show what they can do.

a. One probation class achieved a live overboard recovery in three minutes and fifteen seconds...a Blue Water record...and relived that triumph for months. They referred to that success on every sail thereafter.

13. If the mentor does not let them perform, it shows lack of trust and respect and they will know that. Your goal is to have them achieve skills and be proud of it. It does not hurt to say you are proud of them. In their world, they seldom get praise.

14. Be patient. Most students have never been on a sailboat before, and it is as strange to them as you walking on the moon would be to you. In high winds, reefing, water spraying, be sure to make sure the student feels you are there to help and protect. If it is too much for him or her, tell the captain in private and the captain should reassign who is doing what. But if it is only nervousness and not real fear, give them the added time to finish the task...and praise them for their perseverance.

15. They love sea stories; they love to hear as to races or sailing to distant places or where you learned to sail. They love to hear how to handle emergencies and how you will depend on them. They want to feel part of the crew.

16. Do not take pictures without their permission. Most do not want their time on probation publicized or memorialized. Laws exist that prohibit pictures of incarcerated students. Do not include them in pictures absent their permission and permission of the PO.

17. Listen to them. Really listen.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES ENCOUNTERED:

1. One does not know what has happened that day or that week with the student. If you can, visit their facility to get a better idea. They can arrive upset or saddened by some encounter at the facility. They are not in control of their own lives for much of the time. A family member may have been injured or shot. A court appearance may have gone badly. We do not know.

a. It is important to try to see if they are bothered. If one has mentored them before, the difference can be noted. If not, the probation officer may be able to give some guidance.

b. If they are sullen or clearly do not want to learn, it does little good to push. We are not trained in confrontation with these students, and the issue should be presented to the PO.

c. It is often worthwhile to simply let the student calm down. Point out sights that can be seen, invite them to help with some sailing tasks, make sure the captain is aware that there is an issue with that student. It may be that just letting the student "chill" for the sail makes sense. A common comment made by the students during the round up after the sail is that the sail calms them, the sights make them relax. That may be all that matters that day. Be aware of this.

d. Laziness is another matter. Some students want to just doze or sleep...their prior night may have been without sleep. Again, talk to the PO...but it is perfectly fine to tell the student that YOU need their help, you are a team, and you need him to do X or Y. If he/she continues to resist, let the captain know as well as the PO.

e. Any significant tension between students should be reported to the PO.

f. Some mentors and mentees simply do not get along. That should not be surprising. Do you like everyone you meet? If that continues for more than one or two exchanges, let the captain know and we may switch mentees.

g. It is up to the captain to be alert as to problems and issues. Most of the time the captain does not have his or her own mentee and that is both to allow him or her to concentrate on the boat as a whole AND to allow him or her to make sure the mentorship is working.

2. Inappropriate language or behavior is unacceptable. Report it to the captain and PO. The captain should ask the PO what the appropriate remedy is. The PO normally assigns students based on their attitude and if that student is not right for the course, the PO will adjust.

3. Often the students do not return to the next class. This can be due to events at the facility, family issues, court issues, etc. Ask the PO if they can be expected back and if not, new assignments should be sought.

4. Learning together is an excellent way to bond. One of our best mentors was not a remarkably experienced sailor and she would ask the student if he would help her figure out how to do a particular task. He loved it and they worked it out.

5. Share experiences with other mentors. We are all learning this as we go. And we have several volunteers who are teachers, social workers, counselors, etc. and their expertise is available if you ask, especially during the Blue Water roundup after the sail.

6. At graduation it is a good idea, if their family and friends are there, to meet them and tell them how much you enjoyed working with them.

7. Be sure to let them know they are welcome back to volunteer once they are out of probation and that they would be excellent volunteers.

8. Give them space as well. One thing it took us years to learn was that on the way back to the dock the students like to sit and stare at the water and chat among themselves. Give them that space if they want it.

9. Certain things they particularly love:

a. Teach them knots

b. Get them on the wheel and let them feel the boat

c. Show them the electronics, especially the radar during the day and night vision during the night sails.

d. Overboard drills.

Conclusion:

The connection with a mentee can be life changing for you as well. Not always in a good way. One mentee was charming, intelligent, outgoing, claimed he had his whole life planned...and was actually guilty of murdering another gang member and was shot himself six months later. All of the crew that knew him were shocked and dismayed. But to counter that, several of our mentees had discovered the path out of their lifestyle, several receiving scholarships from Blue Water that helped them on that path.

All the successful ones stated that one person...a teacher, often...made the difference. They realized they had potential; they had the ability to change their lives. You can be part of that process...and you will never forget that.