

SFBANTA Rendezvous 09 - Petaluma

WOW - What a party! The 2009 SFBANTA Rendezvous was a fabulous event, and we were privileged to participate in it.

The party started early for us with a mini rendezvous off of the Pt Richmond channel on Wednesday morning with ourselves (Carmen), Riley, Emiko and Buoy Toy. This elegant procession made it's way across San Pablo bay in near calm conditions and found the entrance to the Petaluma River without difficulty. Of course the task had been made easier by the coordinating committee choosing a low low tide for the run so that we could actually see the banks of the channels! Norma Jean joined us in flight up the river and we had a grand time upon entry into the Petaluma Turning Basin deciding who was going to face which way as we side tied to "reserve" the requisite amount of dock for the whole group.

Thursday morning saw a lot of debate surrounding when the remainder of the fleet would arrive and what we would do if any alien boats came through the bridge before the last Nordic. I will spare the reader the sordid details of that plan and merely report that we had a great time in getting everyone in and stern tied in a row. Your correspondent lost his hat in the excitement and more factually the wind. Mother Nature provided the wind to assist with stacking the boats, and it worked out very well, aside from the hat. The group elected not to pursue yet more fun by untying everyone and then sorting the fleet by size and alphabet - Our superb dock master Bob Scura just wasn't keen on doing it all again. Thursday evening the group settled in and the partying began in earnest.

Friday saw about 30 folks squeezing bags on the dock at 0845. This is an integral part of the Bud's Boiled Bag Breakfast which was again a great success. This was planned to be R&BBBB however Richard and Kathy were unfortunately unable to be at the Rendezvous due to last minute family events. It was a feast to remember.

The presentations that morning in the Petaluma Yacht Club were well attended and very interesting. Marilee of Waypoint enlightened the group with a very timely talk on electronic navigation and the related cartography. Your correspondent can testify to the fantastic service provided by Waypoint and would encourage anyone who has questions about electronic navigation including the computer versions to contact Marilee. Following Waypoint was Trident Funding.

The "Pair's Pizza lunch" was great fun when the pizzas arrived. Good pizza and the delay to allow us all to work up a good appetite was a nice touch.

The afternoon was taken up with US Coast Guard Auxiliary Safety Checks and tours of the new Nordic 42 that Len and Steve of Ballena Bay Yacht brokers had kindly brought for inspection (oh and it is for sale in case you were wondering).

More fun was to be had in the PYC bar including a very lucid and I am told (by those who claimed to understand it) uplifting speech by the prime candidate for SFBANTA president (Bud Sheble) was followed by a really wonderful dinner at Graffiti.

Saturday saw the group with Mike Mirata of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary for a discussion of the major safety equipment and procedures to be aware of in their deployment. Mike was an entertaining and very informative source. Then the business of the day was conducted- this consisted of the general membership meeting and the election of the new officers. The pre inauguration concerns as to citizenship etc. having been satisfactorily resolved Bud Sheble was elected President; there being no physical ballots a recount call was not heeded. Scotty Irwin was elected Treasurer as we figured that if the ex pres didn't know where all the cash was then nobody would. Richard Smith was elected in absentia as Secretary and the meeting duly adjourned.

Following the business meeting Christmas came again in the form of the raffle prizes so very generously provided by our sponsors. These businesses have seen fit to sponsor this event in these trying fiscal times and they truly deserve our support. What makes this even easier is that they all provide excellent products and services. Not to belabor the point but they are in alphabetical order;

Alameda Canvas and Coverings
Ballena Bay Yacht Brokers
The Boatyard at Grand Marina
Cummins West
Outboard Motor Shop
Pier 29
Star Marine Electronics
Thomas marine Propeller
Trident Funding Corporation
Twin Rivers Marine Insurance Agency
Waypoint
West Marine
Special mention to Nordic Tugs Inc our founding sponsor.

The cocktail party and BBQ Dinner hosted by the Petaluma Yacht Club were superb and the event ended on a high note with Del Shannon singing Runaway on the juke box at the club.

On a final note I think I speak for everybody when I say a big THANKS to the retiring board members and also to everyone who put in all the effort to make this event the great success that it was. THANKS GUYS.

Accolades to retiring board members:

Cathy Robie

Jim Moore

Wayne Farris

I am sure that they each thank their parents, first girl/boyfriend, significant pet, significant other etc. etc.

Accolades also to Mother Nature for the clement conditions and to the City of Petaluma for the great American Graffiti weekend event.

Submitted by your humble correspondent, Anthony Thorne from Carmen.