



San Francisco Bay Area Nordic Tug Association

MTM

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEMO

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IN THIS ISSUE: SAVE THE DATES -- 2012 PLANS

SOUTH BEACH CRUISE IN/DRIVE IN WILL BE ON MARCH 10

Reserve your dock space now at South Beach Marina for our annual Cruise In/Drive In. Enjoy great food at South Beach Yacht Club and charming company with your fellow tuggers! Swap tales and maintenance tips, and find out about spring and summer cruising plans. Look for a flyer with details soon.

WE RANG IN THE NEW YEAR IN PETALUMA

In spite of zero-visibility fog on the Bay when starting out, eleven boats -- nine tugs and two guest boats -- made it to Petaluma to welcome the new year. Tied to the dock and handy for hors d'oeuvres, a BBBB and socializing were Buoy Toy, Coda, Eternity, Jeanne Marie III, Nimbus, Orion, Three Jeans, Tugzilla and Water Dog. Dropping in by land were Alice and Marty from Snug Tug, Pat and Bob from Apollo, Cal Robie from Emiko, and Jim and Paige Dietz, potential new members whose new to them boat is in Anacortes.

As usual, everyone enjoyed socializing and champagne on the dock and Dinners at Cucino Paradiso and at Graffiti's were delicious - notwithstanding a pirate invasion. One complaint about the cruise (other than the fog) -- "We ate too much."



WAY TO GO, CODA

Speaking of holiday cheer, congratulations to new members Lee and Joan on Coda who collected four trophies in four different Holiday Lighted Boat parades -- including TWO (!) Grand Winner awards, in Sausalito and in Westpoint Harbor. Coda also placed first for power boats in the Oakland/Alameda Parade and second for power boats in the St. Francis Parade. Now that's the holiday spirit.

SFBANTA RENDEZVOUS MAY 17-20

Plans are shaping up for our annual rendezvous, to take place this year at Pittsburg Marina. The new municipal marina, halfway between San Francisco and the Delta, has beautiful new docks just a block or so from the historic downtown's shops and restaurants. Listen for more details at the Cruise In/Drive In.

LATEST NEWS FROM BALLENA BAY YACHT BROKERS

Lenard Lee reports that the Nordic Tug factory is building a new NT 26, to be seen at the Seattle Boat Show. Closer to home, Ballena Bay Yachts has a new office with an impressive view looking out onto SF Bay; it's just across the parking lot from the old office. Their Trawler School is taking off, offering a two-day class on operating single screw boats. Check it out at www.Trawlers.com

BACK TO THE MEADOWS – JULY 22

Everyone had so much fun last summer at The Meadows, near Walnut Grove, that we've planned an encore. Save these dates: We'll meet at Pittsburg on July 22, cruise to The Meadows July 23-25, then meander to a marina and perhaps another scenic anchorage.

ELIMINATE CAL BOATING?

It has been reported that tucked into Gov. Brown's budget is a plan to eliminate Cal Boating – the California Boating and Waterways Commission – which is funded by boating fees. Keep up with the developments and alerts at the RBOC.org (Recreational Boat Owners of California) website. Here's the latest, as of Jan. 11:

Recreational Boaters of California [RBOC] is urging boaters to speak up in opposition to Governor Brown's proposal to eliminate the state Department of Boating and Waterways [Cal Boating] and re-constitute the department as a division within the Department of Parks and Recreation.

RBOC will continue to stress that Cal Boating provides accountability, transparency and leadership regarding the collection and use of boater-derived taxes and fees, and the best use of these funds for programs that benefit boating.

The tenacity of the boating community has intensified each time the proposal to eliminate the independent Cal Boating has been considered. Visits, calls, and emails from the entire boating community will be needed again to produce an acknowledgement of the value and importance of Cal Boating in the State Capitol.

RBOC will work to achieve an understanding by state policy makers that that this department creates jobs and receives no state General Fund dollars, and that its elimination would not help with the current budget crisis.

Boaters are urged to sign and submit the attached letter of opposition [see website]. Letters can be faxed to 916.441.3520, emailed to rboc@rboc.org, or mailed to: RBOC, 925 L Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814.

DELTA ISSUES

Best resources for the latest on Delta issues are Save the California Delta Alliance (STCDA) at www.nodeltagates.org, and Restore the Delta at <http://restorethedelta.org>. Both sites contain background information and links to other resources. Water flow and navigation issues remain.

KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS & DATES

Go to www.sfbanta.org. It's informative and entertaining, and includes safety tips, maintenance experiences, cruising stories and, of course, the latest calendar.

BOARD MEETINGS

The next SFBANTA Board meetings will take place on February 7 and March 6. Contact any SFBANTA Board member if you have questions or items for discussion.

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