

Bravo Zulu

Flotilla 17, Point Bonita District 11NR-Division 1
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

Volume 2 Issue 1 Spring, 2013

Flotilla Commander's Message



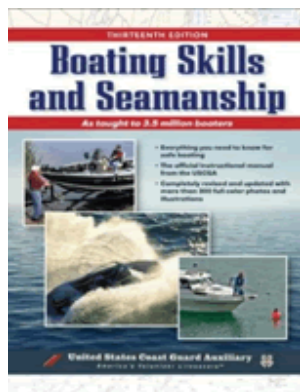
This has been another successful quarter for Flotilla 17. As we move into the warm months of spring and summer, we have just finished offering a Boating Skills & Seamanship class to the public put together by Jim McDermott our PE Officer

We received great feedback from all who attended which included experienced boaters and novices as well. Special thanks to all those instructors who participated in this class i.e. Simone Adair, Bill Burns, Holland Ja (pictured below), Jim McDermott, Bart Rugo, Steve Salmon, Diana Serchia, Dave Talton and Chuck Warren.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming Flotilla events.

Joel Hammer
Flotilla Commander

Boating Skills & Seamanship Class



The Flotilla held a Boating Skills and Seamanship class at YBI over a 4 week period from February 26th to March 21st. Many thanks to Jim McDermott for putting this great class together! This could have been a college course for the 12 weeks that were well invested and all the knowledge that was gained.

Several of our members took the class and had an opportunity to meet new boaters from around the Bay Area – perhaps new Flotilla 17 members? Many thanks to all of the instructors for their hard work and dedication.

Pt. Reyes and the Sea Lions, March 9

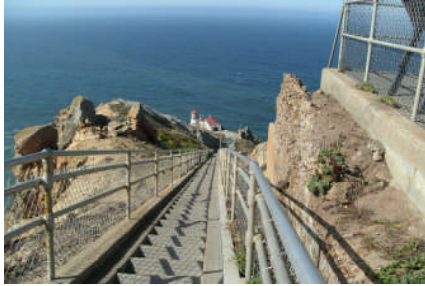
Jim McDermott put together a field trip to the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse and the sea lions. These guys looked like they might have been bigger than a Volkswagen. Did you know there are many privately owned milk farms (still in operation) out there that are over 100 years old? We even spotted calf yurts - though this was not Siberia, it felt like it might have been...



see the sea lions?

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300+ steps down to the lighthouse

Member of the month . . .

Meet Jim Dragon – who officially became a member of Flotilla 17 this month, after a long wait for his letter from DIRAUX.



Though, he may be new to our Flotilla, he is a seasoned salty dog who worked hard as a youth on his dad's commercial fishing boats in SF Bay. Jim is a

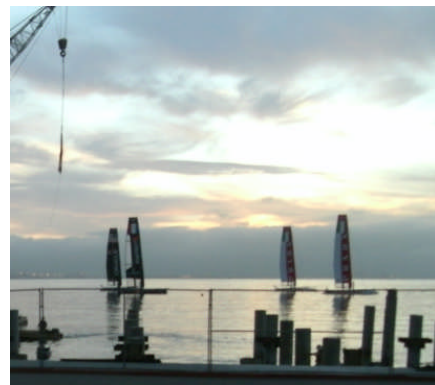
San Francisco native who attended Mission High School and then Building Contractors School. He has worked for the SF Unified School District as a carpenter since 1987. Jim is dad to 5 (sort of) - 2 adopted, 2 biological, 1 niece and fostered over 100 newborns. His passions are family, reading sci-fi, golf, fresh water fishing, scouting, camping & comedy.

Welcome back to the fun of boating, Jim!

By Cynthia Dragon

Are you ready for the 34th America's Cup?

Here she comes! This is the summer... The oldest trophy in international sport returns to the US for the first time in 18 years. This will be the first time this event will be visible from shore. The America's World Cup Series: Aug 21-26 and Oct 4-7 and the Louis Vuitton Cup Challenger Series, Red Bull Youth America's Cup and America's Cup Match Finals July 4- Sept 22 – all on our beautiful San Francisco Bay!



For more info on how to be a clean, responsible and informed boater go to:

<http://www.americascup.com/>
www.sfgov.org/americascup
www.dbw.ca.gov

By Cynthia Dragon

D-Train 2013, Monterey, 9 March

Despite challenges brought on by the National Sequestration, D-Train was well attended and very successful. Members had a wide variety of classes to pick from with 34 courses offered in every area.

Saturday morning started with a few words from the Mayor of Monterey Chuck Della Sala, quickly followed by the District Board



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and Staff meeting. Auxiliarists came in from all four corners of the District to receive the latest training in their respective Operations, Support or Prevention areas.

Saturday was capped with a dinner and award ceremony. It was great treat to meet our new U.S. Coast Guard District Commander Rear Admiral Karl I. Schultz. Admiral Schultz spoke for almost an hour on the present and future of the Coast Guard with a keen eye to the Auxiliary's contributions.

Sunday morning started with a working breakfast combined with the Past Commander's Association meeting. The TCT and OPS workshops followed. These classes were taped while offered real-time via webinar, and are now available on the District website.

D-Train ended with a Station Monterey familiarization tour where Station personnel were able to interact with Auxiliarists and answer all questions.

The weekend was packed from beginning to end with important operational training sessions. District Auxiliarists were not only able to get the latest important information but were also able to meet face-to-face with their Chain of Leadership and Management.

Compiled by Simone Adair

National Safe Boating Week:

The USCG Auxiliary holds its annual National Safe Boating week festivities in the month of May. The 3rd weekend of

the month consists of PA events which include PA booths giving out safe boating materials to the public, making everyone aware of the importance of being a safe boater on the water. Courtesy vessel safety checks are also done on this weekend.

Each flotilla in the division will be holding a PA booth, talking to the public, handing out safe boating literature and talking about how to use proper safety vests. Other activities in the past have included a tour of a life motor boat, & a visit of officer snook for the kids. This weekend is considered the Auxiliary's super bowl as a lot of effort is put into this weekend discussing boat safety to the public.

By Diana Serchia

Tour of the new Bay Bridge Eastern Span with Caltrans, May 3....again!

After last year's successful tour of the Bay Bridge Construction project, many members who could not attend asked if we could offer it again. We are pleased to report that we have done just that and the next tour will be given on May 3rd. As before, it will start with a presentation by Caltrans on the design and construction plan for the bridge, followed by a boat ride around the project site.

Have you noticed the beautiful light show on the Northern side of the Bay Bridge span from YBI to SF? It's worth getting to the Embarcadero for a night view.

The opening day for traffic and pedestrians will be Labor Day this September

For more info visit <http://baybridgeinfo.org/>



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By Cynthia Dragon and Joel Hammer

**Strictly Sail Pacific, Jack London Square,
April 11-14**

New sailboats, seminars. Free sailboat rides, America's Cub Pavilion, climb aboard America's Cup Challenger USA 76 – just some of the activities this year. Auxiliary volunteers needed – contact: Richard Celia, DCDR Division 1 at 415 713 5727 if you can help.

Calendar of Events

April

13 Flotilla meeting, YBI

May

2 Bay Bridge Tour with Caltrans

4 OPTREX Berkeley Marina

11 Flotilla meeting, YBI

June

08 Flotilla meeting

22-23 OPTREX CGI

July

13 Flotilla meeting, YBI

21 Oakland A's, 6PM

2012 Flotilla Leadership

Flotilla Commander (FC) Joel Hammer
Vice Flotilla Commander (VFC)
Julie Vincenzini
Immediate Past Flotilla Commander (IPFC)
Diana Serchia
Communications (CM) A J Thorsson
Communication Services (CS) A J Thorsson
Diversity Advisor (DV) Sonia Foster
Finance (FN) Arlene Huber
Human Resources (HR) Joel Hammer
Information Services (IS) Joel Hammer
Materials (MA) Ron White
Marine Safety (MS) William W Burns
Member Training (MT) Andrew Bichlmeier
Navigation Systems (NS) Simone Adair
Operations (OP) Steve Salmon
Public Affairs (PA) Diana Serchia
Publications (PB) Cynthia Calhoun Dragon
Public Education (PE) Jim McDermott
Program Visitor (PV) Gerald K Norton
Secretary of Records (SR) Robin Stewart
Vessel Examinations (VE) Julie Vincenzini

Looking for DeeBee Tailors? Frank and his crew are in their main store:

2064 Lincoln Ave, Alameda, 510.522.1531.

His email has changed to: dtailors@att.net

*Please submit your photos and stories to
Cynthia Dragon / e: sergequeen@aol.com*