

Bravo Zulu

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

Volume 1 Issue 2 Summer, 2012

Flotilla Commander's Message



*It's summertime,
summertime, sum
sum, summertime...
summertime,
summertime sum
sum, summertime...*

I figure that about half of you can't understand what I'm talking about, and the other half are singing to themselves a song from the golden age of doo-wop (1958) see:

<http://tinyurl.com/6qq7u4r>

Anyway, it is summertime, and I'm looking forward to some fun programs and events for Flotilla 17. It is probably fitting that on the first day of the summer season, some of us experienced a fun outing in the midst of a typical San Francisco summer (i.e. "the coldest winter I ever spent, was a summer in San Francisco". (BTW, according to Snopes.com, (<http://tinyurl.com/27cmgb>), Mark Twain never said this.).

I'm talking about the Bay Bridge Construction Tour. Several members and their guests were treated to a fascinating presentation on the construction project for the new bridge. The numbers involving the amount of material and labor involved

in the project were mind boggling. Afterwards, we boarded a boat and got to see first-hand some of the engineering feats that were described earlier. A great time was had by all and we will be planning a second tour as soon as is possible for those of you who did not get to go.

In July, we will be attending a baseball game at the Oakland Coliseum, where I will be rooting for the New York Yankees to defeat the A's.

We will have a dinner meeting in August at Pier 29 Restaurant in Alameda. Those dinner meetings are always fun and a good opportunity for some fellowship with our shipmates. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Ensign Mark Leahey from the Gold Side.

Rounding out the summer, we have a tour of the Pacific Strike Team operation in Novato planned for September.

I hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer, and I look forward to seeing more of you at Flotilla events in the future.

Joel Hammer
Flotilla Commander

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Member Spotlight . . .



Bart Rugo

Meet Bart Rugo – who joined our Auxiliary in 2007...

I worked for the IRS and retired after 30 years in 2007. For 22 of those years, I helped teach tax preparation classes to the US Coast Guard personnel at Coast Guard Island. When PO Majia of the legal office heard I was retiring, he asked me who was going to replace me. I told him I was going to continue to teach taxes at the base after my retirement as I really enjoyed teaching Coasties. He was happy to hear that, but thought that I might not have enough to do with my free time. "Why don't you join the CG Auxiliary and teach boating safety classes? I told him I certainly knew how to teach taxes, but I didn't know a darn thing about boats. "That's OK" he said, "we will teach you what you need to know and then you can instruct the classes."

I could not fight his logic and shortly thereafter joined the Auxiliary. Since then, I've learned a lot about boating, became qualified as crew, met some wonderful

people, had some great times out on the water and I still enjoy teaching tax and boating classes.

Bart Rugo



Ponderosa Elementary School visit



*above: Sonia Foster demonstrating curling up to stay warm in the water
below: students at full attention!*

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22 May, SSF. It was a lot of fun teaching 5 class levels of school children about boat safety. Julie, Sonia, Bart and I spent about one hour teaching or can we call it entertaining the school children who seemed quite attentive and participated with much enthusiasm. I look forward to working with this super team in the future.

- Cynthia Dragon

OPTEK, Berkeley Marina, 5 May

Man overboard! We practiced this drill several times and it was quite impressive as we weaved in and out of a sailboat race.

The captain turns about to get as close as he can to the man in the water (actually just a life ring) in less than 3 minutes and it was successful each time.



Navigation and Charting & Sounds and Lights classes were offered in the morning – I was lucky to have Steve Salmon as my instructor – he's so good at this.

- Cynthia Dragon

Tour of the new Bay Bridge Eastern Span with Caltrans, June 22

It took several months to schedule our tour by Caltrans to get a beautiful close up glimpse of the underside of the new Eastern span from Oakland to Treasure Island. 23 of our Flotilla members went out on the Bay for an hour.

Did you know: the main cable is one continuous and almost a one mile long, 30" thick cable made up of 17,399 individual steel wires; the 525' tower has 4 legs; made up of steel and concrete; there are 452 deck sections on the Skyway alone. The present bridge has approx. 280,000 cars crossing per day and approx 102 million/year? There were so many factoids you will have to visit their website and be astounded at the number of bolts; architects, engineers, welders, inspectors, iron workers, concrete workers, crane operators, foundation workers; several countries around the world

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that contributed parts.

There are cormorant bird boxes under the bridge. There is no jump proof rail or net as the height of the bridge does not warrant it. Did you know there is a troll on the North side of the old Eastern span?



If you have driven to our Flotilla meetings on YBI all these past months, you would marvel as you drove under the construction of this magnificent feat of engineering.



<http://baybridgeinfo.org/>



Flotilla 17 goes to the Oakland A's

On Saturday night, July 21st, several of us went to see the A's vs. the N.Y. Yankees and some of us defected and wore our NY tee shirts and paraphernalia. What a perfect evening!



**Thanks to VFC Julie Vincenzini
for organizing this event**

Did you know that when you take BART and get to the walkway there are wheelchairs with drivers? I had twisted my knee the day before and so they took me what seemed like a quarter mile to the stadium where a limo style stretch golf cart then carried me to the opposite side of the stadium. I heard this is the only stadium that has this service. My two hot dogs, one shared beer and bag of peanuts was \$32. Oh well, this was a first for me.

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**IPFC Diana Serchia with
husband Ron and her nephew**

I also noticed the A's logo, i.e. an elephant standing on a baseball with a bat in his grip. I was told this had something to do with the old time circus when animals walked down the street past the stadium or that the owner was said to have bought a "white elephant". The current mascot is Stomper - another elephant.



Well, the sun shone ever so brightly and we all awaited the shade to overcome us with baited breath which it finally did. Derek Jeter was out there looking fine but that didn't help NY's game. One of the A's beat out a rundown when he miscued while stealing a base. He just kind of ducked down and squirmed out of getting tagged

returning to his 2nd base. That was an omen of things to come for the Yankees.

The A's won 2 to 1 making 3 games in a row - kudos to them! Hey, 17er's - let's do this again!
... Cynthia Dragon -FSO-PB

Calendar of Events

July

7 Annual Easter Seal Cruise on the Bay, Tiburon

14 Flotilla meeting, YBI

21 Oakland A's vs. NY Yankees, 6PM

28-29 PCA Fair, CGI

August

8 Dinner meeting, Pier 29 Restaurant-Alameda 6:00 PM

September

15 Pacific Strike Team, Novato
www.uscg.mil/hq/nsfweb/

2012 Flotilla Leadership

Flotilla Commander (FC) Joel Hammer

Flotilla Vice 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) Paul Charlton



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Navigation Systems (NS) Paul Charlton
Operations (OP) Paul Charlton
Public Affairs (PA) Jim McDermott
Publications (PB) Cynthia Calhoun Dragon
Public Education (PE) vacant
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

Help keep our Flotilla "afloat".

**Annual Dues for 2013
are due now.**

Invoices went out this past week for 2013 annual dues. Our dues are \$50 per year, but the Flotilla offers a \$10 discount if paid by August 31st.

Send your check now to:

Arlene Huber FSO-FN
509 Pennsylvania Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94107

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