



Wind & Currents

Newsletter of the San Francisco Boardsailing Association

SPRING 2005

From the President

-by Peter Thorner

If you sail at Crissy Field on a regular basis, you're bound to see a cruise ship headed out to sea with a Coast Guard escort. Often a small cutter leads the way and an orange-sided SAFE boat runs behind or alongside. Cruise ships are just one class of vessel for which security zones have been established in the post 9/11 era. Violating these zones is a civil and criminal offense. On occasion, escort vessels have had to operate sirens and change course in order to steer windsurfers or kitesurfers away. While windsurfers or kitesurfers aren't as likely to be perceived as a serious threat, they can create a dis-



Photo courtesy of the Coast Guard

High-speed patrol

traction that makes it more difficult for Coast Guard crews to stay alert to real threats. While the security zone around most protected vessels is 100 yards, it is best to stay even further away so that it is clear that you are not likely to stray into the security zone.

Auxiliary Practices Rescues

SFBA has been meeting with the Coast Guard every season to give crews the opportunity to familiarize themselves with windsurf and kitesurf equipment. In October, Jonathon Buys, Evan McKay,

and I met with members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary in order to better familiarize them with the safe handling of windsurf and kitesurf equipment and to practice on the water rescues. The crew of Shandy's Place (Sharon Zannasi, Andy Johnson, Margaret Keyes & Stephen Straw) volunteer their time to regularly operate safety patrols in the Crissy Field

Key Security Zones

- 25 yards around abutments and piers of the Golden Gate Bridge & Bay Bridge
- 100 yards around Cruise Ships, Tankers, and Naval Vessels.
- 200 yards around San Francisco Airport & Oakland Airport.

For more detailed information, go to: www.uscg.mil/d11/msosf.

area. Sharon owns Shandy's Place and offers the boat up for patrol purposes. While Sharon is reimbursed by the Coast Guard for fuel costs, she pays for maintenance and other operating costs out of pocket.

Coast Guard Appreciation

At an event honoring the heroes of the Coast Guard, dozens of windsurfers and kitesurfers contributed nearly \$1,500 to SFBA's Coast Guard Appreciation effort. With the addition of \$500 in SFBA matching funds, a contribution of almost \$2,000 will be made to the Coast Guard Morale Fund. The funds will be used to purchase an elliptical training machine that crews can use when they are on station awaiting emergency calls. Coast Guard crews were honored at the July 15th



Shandy's Place

party held in conjunction with the USWA National Championships and many racers contributed as well. SFBA presented framed award certificates to the Coast Guard crewman on hand. The awards featured a picture that Erik Simonson took of windsurfers sharing the water with a 47' Coast Guard rescue boat. Jeff Price of the Coast Guard Auxiliary accepted the award on behalf of the men and women of Station San Francisco and Station Golden Gate. Price, who is also a paramedic, was on hand at the King of the Bay competition in 2003 when a kitesurfer was critically

(continued on page 2)

Don't forget . . .

Spring Kick-off!

Swap - BBQ - Safety Presentation

Crissy Field - April 23

See article on page 5

From the President (from page 1)

injured and stopped breathing. Price quickly responded and was able to save the life of the kitesurfer by resuscitating him.



(c) 2004 Erik Simonson (www.h2oshots.com)

Coast Guard patrol on San Francisco Bay

Third Avenue Golf Balls

During the past year, the Marina Point Golf Course (MPGC) and Foster City have been trying to negotiate a solution to the stray golf ball problems at the Third Avenue launch. SFBA has met with MPGC and the City in an effort to speed a solution. Last year, it looked like the golf course was likely to move forward with a plan to raise a significant portion of the existing safety nets up to 140' high.

Unfortunately, the plan to raise the nets has been stalled because of the high price - in excess of \$500,000. During the 2004 season, MPGC did widen the net that protects the rigging area from balls hit on the course (as opposed to the range) and they added additional netting between the driving range and the existing course netting near the rigging area in order to close a gap where some balls have passed between the nets.

MPGC has now has implemented an alternative solution for the driving range. They have introduced reduced flight golf balls. If these balls work as advertised, they should prevent golf balls from overflying the safety nets at the driving range. These are the balls that typically land in the parking lot, especially near the entry corner. Chris Aliaga, the manager of MPGC, has indicated that his staff are working to remove any remaining regular flight balls from play and are actively enforcing a rule against

the use of regular flight balls at the driving range. All of the new reduced flight balls will have green stripes. The old red stripe range balls will be removed as they are collected from the range.

If the reduced flight balls prove effective, the remaining problem will be the golf balls that are hit toward the rigging area from the 5th hole of the golf course. The widening of the nets conducted in 2004 should address this problem in part, but some balls will likely overfly the course safety nets. MPGC has agreed to post additional safety signs at the 5th tee.

SFBA is preparing signs that will include a map style graphic that clearly shows golfers that a heavily used area lies just beyond the 5th green and the rise just behind it. While some golfers may act irresponsibly, most are likely to show more care if they know that stray balls will land

The manager of Marina Point Golf Course has offered the parking lot to kitesurfers so they can launch from the west side of the golf course. Kitesurfers may go through a locked gate to get to the launch area. To gain access, contact Rick at rickcavallaro@sportvision.com

in an area where people could easily be hit. SFBA will also prepare additional signs to be posted at the driving range stairways and ball machine.

SFBA has avoided demanding one specific solution in favor of arguing that any solution should be evaluated based on effectiveness. If the use of reduced flight balls is

Third Avenue Improvements

SFBA has provided funds for a rinse station installed by Third Avenue Kitesurfers. The project was completed just in time for the King of the Bay 2004 competition (see Web site at (<http://www.kingofthebay.com>)). Rick Cavallaro and other kitesurfers volunteered long hours to make the project a reality. The Mariner's Point Golf Course allowed the enterprising kitesurfers to connect their rinse station to the golf course's water system. A meter has been installed to measure the water flow and SFBA will contribute to the cost of water as well.

New kiting safety signs funded



Rinse station

by SFBA should be installed at Third Avenue in the coming month. ■

truly effective, then there is no reason to raise the nets for the range. So that we can evaluate the results, please continue to report any stray balls to me by email at: thorner@sfba.org. ■

Access Report

East Bay Access Points

-by Jim McGrath

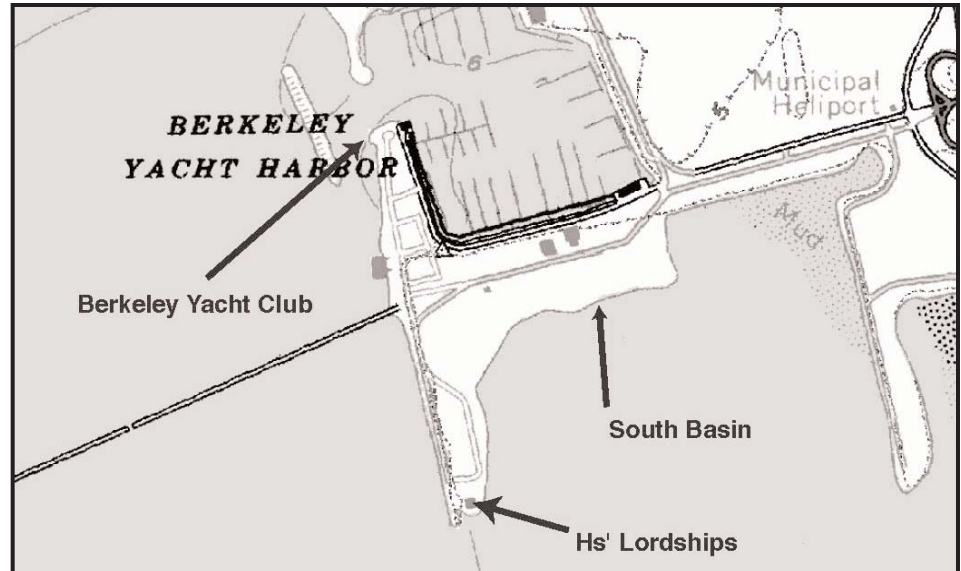
EMERYVILLE

The City of Emeryville is doing some repair work on the breakwater just east of the existing launch ramp. Maurice Kaufman of the City Engineering staff plans to use the opportunity to repair the launch ramp, flattening the slope through the intertidal zone and installing a concrete mat, sand, or gravel at the launch point. I sent a support letter on behalf of SFBA.

BERKELEY

The good news is at the launch near Hs' Lordships, where the City of Berkeley is preparing engineering drawings for the segment of the Bay Trail, and improvements to the launch. The Coastal Conservancy (Brenda Buxton) hopes to be able to fund the trail and launch improvements once design is completed if the project comes in under budget.

There is also good news about eventually being able to use the guest dock at the Berkeley Yacht Club. After a concerted effort over the last three years to build alliances with other boating interests, the local racing community convinced the Waterfront Commission to recommend changes to the Marina Ordinance that would allow windsurfers to use the marina channel to reach the Bay. The racers have used this site for years to train during the winter when tides are too low in the South Basin. We have not yet worked out a cooperative arrangement with the BYC to use the dock, and the City has not yet modified the ordinance, so access is not yet available. Further, access will be limited to those sailboards with enough flotation to allow the sailor to maneuver in light wind without impeding other craft in the channel. SFBA has committed to help in education of our members so that no one uses the site without the right equipment. Don't try to use this site unless you have a board that will float you in no wind and you can tack and maneuver well enough to



be able to avoid all other craft in the entrance channel!

News in the South Basin is mixed. Although progress has been made with City staff and BCDC on replacing the public access areas lost when Cal Adventures expanded their operations without the proper permits last winter, the actual replacement of facilities has not occurred. The City has moved the dry boat storage area, which should allow reconfiguration of the parking area to recover both the lost parking spaces and rigging areas. However, as of March 1, 2005, the rigging areas have all been torn up for construction and no replacement areas have been provided. There appears to be issues with funding, and SFBA members are seeking conditions in the BCDC permits that require the City to complete the replacement facilities by April 1.

A new group is seeking to install a labyrinth in the marina in an area that has been used by windsurfers for parking and rigging on the lawn in the South Basin. In order to try to evaluate proposals like this, we have worked with the City Planning staff to try to develop a consensus vision for the South Basin that would coordinate

the plans of the various users. An informal design charette was scheduled for March 21 to allow users to develop a plan for the South Basin. Contact me at: <jmcgrath@portoakland.com> or contact Senior Planner Deborah Chernin at: <dchernin@ci.berkeley.ca.us> to learn more.

At the present, the Coastal Conservancy does not have funds for other segments of the Bay Trail through the Marina. It is our hope that developing a common vision among users would allow us to seek funding in future State recreational bonds.

POINT ISABEL

Improvements to the Point Isabel launch that would make the launch area larger and more user-friendly are part of the adopted East Shore State Park. No funds for access improvements either at Point Isabel, or along the shoreline between Berkeley and Albany, are currently available. Again, it is our hope that access improvements can be part of the next State bond. There is a draft bond Act being considered by the legislature, AB 1269, Pavely. We will work to make sure that windsurfing access is part of that bond measure. ■

Board Elections 2005

The Board of Directors is up for reelection. There are nine Board members: all have indicated they will serve again but others are encouraged to run for the Board.

Serving on the Board is a great way to have an impact on the organization. Have a pet issue? Run for the Board and make waves. There are many opportunities to contribute.

The ballots will be in our Fall newsletter. Send nominations to the Board Secretary, Rick Paillon, rpaillon@cwnet.com. To be nominated for the board, you must be a current member of SFBA, paid 2005 dues, and confirm that you are willing to serve.

Current Board Members

Peter Thorner, President	David Nelson, Membership
Jim McGrath, Vice President	George Hays, eNews
Rick Paillon, Secretary	Jane Cormier, Party Chair
Nancy Peck, Treasurer	Richard Zimmerman, Newsletter
Benita Zimmerman, Accounting	

NUMBERS YOU MAY NEED

Keep with your sailing gear:

U.S. Coast Guard Emergency
(415) 399-3475

U.S. Coast Guard Station
Golden Gate
(415) 331-8247

Report Water Pollution/
Heath Impacts
BayKeeper
(800) KeepBay

Report Whale Sightings
Oceanic Society
(415) 409-4729

Report Injured Marine Mammals
Marine Mammal Center
(415) 289-7325



Join or renew your membership . . .

On line at www.sfba.org

HOW

SFBA now offers convenient and easy-to-use web-based payment for your membership dues. Visit our website at www.sfba.org and click on the MEMBERSHIP link. From there you can click on the payment button and use your credit card to pay your dues. Payment is secure via PayPal.

It is not necessary to join PayPal. Simply use their form to enter your credit card payment information. As always, please include: Last Name, First Name Mailing Address City, State, Zip Evening Phone, Day Phone, Date, E-mail Address, SFBA Chapter Affiliation: North Bay, SF, East Bay or Peninsula.

If you prefer to send a check, just use the form in this newsletter.

HOW MUCH

Annual Calendar Year Contribution:
Individual - \$20 or more
Sustaining - \$50 or more

Family (2 or more) - \$30 or more
Corporate - \$100 or more

WHY JOIN SFBA

We need your funds to support our organization's efforts. We are working hard to provide the windsurfing and kitesurfing community with the following benefits:

- We lobby for access rights to protect and secure your favorite sailing sites around the bay.
- We pay for amenities at sailing sites such as the new (2004) rinse station at 3rd ave, the porto-potties at Treasure Island and Larkspur, the safety sign at Crissy
- We organize and sponsor events such as free learn-to-windsurf/learn-to-kitesurf days, swaps, safety info days, and parties.

Last year, our expenses exceeded our income by almost \$5000. Please support us: Join up or renew your membership today. Thank you in advance for your support! ■

Join us at the SFBA

Spring Kick-Off

Swap * Safety Presentation * BBQ

Saturday, April 23rd * Crissy Field

The SFBA is hosting a swap meet, safety day, and BBQ at Crissy Field on Saturday, April 23rd. The day's activities are designed to bring everyone together and kick off our 2005 Bay Area windsurfing and kitesurfing season. Come join the fun. All events are open to both SFBA members and non-members and are FREE.

SCHEDULE

9 AM - 11 PM

SWAP at Little Marina Green, adjacent to St. Francis Yacht Club
Windsurfing and Kitesurfing Swap meet

11 AM - 1 PM

Presentation on Safety for Windsurfing & Kitesurfing,
St. Francis Yacht Club

*Come here for safety tips that could save your life! All attendees entered in a safety day raffle.
Snacks will be served to tide you over until the BBQ.*

(Raffle prizes courtesy of Boardsports, Helm of Sun Valley Ski and Windsurf,
Kite Wind Surf, Surface2Air, Ultranectar, and BayAreaKiteboarding.com)

2 PM - 4 PM

Season Opening SFBA BBQ, Crissy Field
All events are FREE!

Come and renew your dues or join the SFBA to support our continuing efforts!

* * *



Bay Area

Shops and Rentals

SFBA's current list of shops and rental locations in the Bay Area. If you have a location to be added, or a correction, please email memberships@sfba.org

BERKELEY

Berkeley Boardsports

1601 University Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94710
www.boardsports.com

Cal Sailing Club

Berkeley Marina
Berkeley, CA 94710
www.cal-sailing.org

Cal Adventures -UC Aquatic Club

Berkeley Marina (Rentals)
5 Haas Club House
1 Centennial Dr.
Berkeley, CA 94704
www.oksi.org

EAST BAY

Kite Wind Surf

430 Westline Drive
Alameda, CA
(510) 522-WIND (9463)
www.kitewindsurf.com

Windcraft Sailboard Center

17124 Sherman Island Rd.
Rio Vista, CA 94571
(916) 777-7067
www.windcraft.com

Windsurf Del Valle

7000 Del Valle Road (rentals)
Livermore, CA (925) 455-4008
www.windsurfdelvalle.com

Windsurf Diablo

401 Sunset Drive (Sales)
Suite L
Antioch, CA 94509
www.windsurfdelvalle.com

Delta Windsurf Company

3729 Sherman Island Rd.
Rio Vista, CA 94571
(916) 777-2299
www.deltawindsurf.com

Boardsports School Alameda

Crown Beach
Alameda, CA
(415) 385-1224

SOUTH BAY

California Windsurfing

650 Shell Blvd.
Foster City, CA 94404
(650) 594-0335
www.ememberaccess.com/calwind/homepage.html

Surface2Air Sports

1603 Coyote Point Dr. (in the Park)
(650) 348-8485
www.asdwindsurfing.com

Helm

333 N. Amphlett Blvd.
San Mateo, CA 94401
(650) 344-2711
www.helmsports.com/waterIndex.html

Shoreline Aquatic Center

3160 N. Shoreline Blvd.
Mountain View, CA 94043
(650) 965-7474
www.shorelinelake.com

SAN FRANCISCO

Airwave

137 9th Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 346-3806
www.airwavesf.com

City Front Boardsports

2936 Lyon Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 929-7873
www.boardsports.com

Women On Water

San Francisco, CA
(415) 385-1224
womenonwatersf@yahoo.com

SAN MATEO COAST

Davenport SurfSail

P.O. Box 354
Davenport, CA 95017
(831)429-6051
www.davenportsurfsail.com

The children are the future

Bay Area Kids' Gear Creates Surge in "Little Rippers"

-by Rebecca Geffert

Last August, I stood in the waters of Alameda teaching two sisters to windsurf. One was eight years old. The other was six. It was our second day working together, and both girls were doing great. I was working with the six year old and tried a new tactic for getting her in the right stance. Suddenly, she took off! She was transformed into a "little ripper," and I was left in a trail of white water. About 10 yards out, she finally heard me shouting (above her giggles), "turn around, turn around!" Without hesitation, all 65 pounds of her were cruising right back to me. Unbelievable.

It's not that I was shocked with the fact that children learn so easily. I was more in awe of the new gear. Over the past few years, windsurfing gear has gotten so small and so light, children as young as two years old are learning quickly and easily. Yes, two years old! If you can't believe it, check out windsurfingkids.com. Under the Portraits section of the site, you will see pictures of Jugen Saragoza from BonAire. Jugen jibes, duck jibes, helicopter tacks, stands on the nose of his board, and body drags ... all at the age of five! He's been windsurfing since he was two.

In terms of gear, Hot Sails Maui has the smallest size and largest variety of kid's sails. They offer both the MicroSO

(monofilm with reinforcement) and the MicroFreak (dacron) down to 0.8 meters in size. Both sails are high-performance sails. They are built for high-wind and their quality will match that of full adult sails. The sails are sold complete with aluminum rigs in a carry case for \$385-\$585 depending on the size of the sail. Other companies that offer kids sails are: Aerotech, Ezzy, Gaastra, HiFly, Neil Pride, Sailworks, and World Sails.

Mistral & Starboard both offer kid's specific boards. However, Starboard offers the widest array of kid's beginner and high performance boards. Their ProKid's Acid board is a 48-liter kid's wave board that is a miniaturized version of their Adult Acid wave board. Starboard offers high performance wave, slalom/freeride and formula boards for children. They also offer kid's specific wide-style beginner boards.

This new gear has prompted a whole evolution in kids windsurfing classes and camps. Hawaii has been on the forefront of teaching the smaller kids to windsurf. Each summer Maui Sports Unlimited

teaches approximately 250 kids between the ages of 6-12 how to windsurf. This trend of teaching smaller kids is also



Sawyer Cairns, a "little ripper" at Crown Beach, Alameda, takes off.

growing in the Bay Area. All schools that teach children have reported increases in demand for kid's camps.

So if you've ever wanted to get your children or your friend's children into windsurfing, now is the time. Plenty of children's classes and rentals are available. And if your kiddo gets hooked, you'll find it easy to purchase gear that accommodates their size, skill and style. ■

Bay Area Schools Offering Kids' Board Sports	Boardsports Alameda Crown Beach, Alameda	5 years old and up	www.boardsports.com/school/home.htm (415) 385-1224
	Cal Adventures Berkeley Marina	10 years old and up Child must be over 100 pounds	www.oski.org (510) 642-4000
	Shoreline Aquatic Center Shoreline Lake, Mountain View	6 years old and up	www.shorelinelake.com (650) 965-7474
	Windsurf Del Valle Livermore	Child must be 40 pounds or over	www.windsurfdelvalle.com (925) 455-4008

