



# wind & currents

Newsletter of the San Francisco Boardsailing Association

Summer, 2001

## Is Your Sailing Site Endangered?

### SFBA Continues Efforts for Access

The next two years will be a critical time for access. There are more opportunities and more threats than ever. While many threats stem from development, there are also serious threats from environmental interest groups who feel that vehicles and the recreational users who rely on them (windsurfers, kayakers, kites, fishermen) should not be allowed near the shoreline. Recreational access to the San Francisco Bay is protected under law, but we will only enjoy that protection if we step up and demand that access be protected and even enhanced where new opportunities present themselves.

SFBA is non-profit and has no paid staff. SFBA succeeds only because members step up and get involved. For the past year diehard members

have been active on issues all around the Bay. Unfortunately, with so much going on, even this dedicated group cannot attend every meeting that we should. In some cases, we will lose our rights if we don't make our case in a timely fashion.

On the global level, we will need everyone's help in educating the public about the SFO runway plans. On a local level, there are important access issues affecting every corner of the Bay. I know it is difficult to stay on top of all the issues just as it is difficult for us to keep the information flowing when we are working hard just to keep pace with developments. I hope that many of you will consider adopting at least one sailing site and dedicating yourself to its protection or improvement. If you have ques-

tions about the latest developments, feel free to contact me or one of the other board members. We'll do our best to point you in the right direction. We'll also do our best to post alerts on our website that will keep you up to speed. Please check the website for updates and consider joining the eNews so that we can call for your help when we really need it.

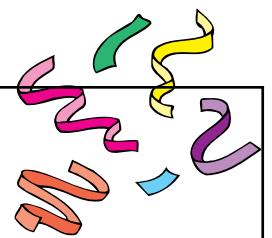
Save The Bay has been a great partner for SFBA in recent years. SFBA, Save The Bay, and Sierra Club are circulating a petition calling for smart solutions at SFO: we've included a copy for your use. Consider joining Save The Bay and putting one of their bumper stickers on your car. Let's make the phrase "Save the Bay" just as well known as "Keep Tahoe Blue."

*Peter Thorner works on access issues and serves as SFBA president.*

**PARTY TIME!**

*Don't miss this!*

**Saturday Night**  
**June 16, 2001, 7 PM to midnight**  
**Coyote Point Yacht Club**



**See page 3**

# Access Update



## *Fort Baker*

The National Park Service (NPS) plans to redevelop Fort Baker. Their plans allow for reducing parking near the Bay while adding a restaurant and convenience store. The NPS will be developing the waterfront plan during the next two years. NPS has also proposed a conference center at Fort Baker. NPS and the developer of the conference center will also be developing transportation plans that could affect access. The City of Sausalito and many Sausalito residents have expressed concern about the traffic such a project may generate. Some opponents of a conference center have called for the establishment of a car free zone at Fort Baker. A car free zone could eliminate access for the windsurfers, kayakers, and canoers that launch from Fort Baker. It will be important for windsurfers to participate in public meetings to push to retain access and parking.

## *Coyote Point*

San Mateo County Parks (SMCP) is drawing up a new master plan for Coyote Point Park. The final plan could call for changes and improvements for windsurfing. There was poor turnout for the last public meeting on the master plan. SMCP will compile some of the ideas that came out of earlier public meetings and send out a new survey to everyone who submitted a survey the first time around. There will be one more public meeting late in the summer. SMCP has \$50,000 specifically earmarked for windsurfing improvements. These funds were contributed by the developer of the drive-in property thanks to the efforts of the BCDC and SFBA. If you'd like to be added to the SMCP mailing list, contact Sam Herzberg at (650)363-1823.

## *Treasure Island*

Update to come in next issue.

## *Tomales Bay*

When the 'for sale' signs went up, many surprised windsurfers learned that the two best windsurfing spots on Tomales Bay are located on private property. SFBA has been in contact with the National Park Service (NPS) and California State Parks to encourage the acquisition of these properties. NPS is actively engaged in talks with the owner of the Grassy Point launch and SFBA is currently looking into the possible acquisition of the Marconi launch by the State.

## *Larkspur/San Quentin*

Planners and politicians are talking about closing down the prison at San Quentin and replacing it with a transit village or other development. If the prison closes, it is likely that the ferry terminal would be moved out to the point. Redevelopment of the prison would provide the opportunity for an excellent launching area on an eastward facing beach that now lies within the prison grounds. The area offshore from the current launch seems to be building up with sediment and is now unusable at lower tides. It will be important for windsurfers to let the planners and the developers know how important access to the shoreline will be. The earlier they hear from us, the more likely we are to see plans that take windsurfing into account.

## *Berkeley/Albany*

The planning process has started for a new shoreline park in the East Bay: East shore State Park. The law establishing the park calls for, "a recreational facility harmonious with its natural setting." There is a great opportunity for a windsurfing launch near the Golden Gate Fields horse-racing track. Public participation in the planning process will increase the chances that we get a great new site in the East Bay. The next public meeting will be held in September but the specific date has not been set. For more info: [www.eastshorestatepark.org](http://www.eastshorestatepark.org)

*by Peter Thorner*

## **Alert:**

San Francisco Supervisors Aaron Peskin and Tom Ammiano introduced a Charter amendment that would require San Francisco voters to approve bay fill projects sponsored by the city. The charter amendment would be on the November, 2001 ballot if approved by at least six, out of 11, supervisors. If the amendment is approved by San Francisco voters, any project requiring 100 acres or more of fill would need to be approved by the voters. A vote on bay fill could not take place until an Environmental Impact Report is certified. This amendment would put the decision for SFO's proposed runways in the hands of the voters instead of appointed officials such as the Airport Commission. SFBA's Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the charter amendment along with ten other groups. If you live in San Francisco, please contact your supervisor and indicate your support for the amendment. Check our web site, Save The Bay, and ProtectOurBay for more information.



The windsurfing season is well under way, so it must be time for another SFBA party! Proceeds support the campaign to stop SFO run(a)way bay fill.

## **Saturday night, June 16, 2001, 7 p.m. to midnight Coyote Point Yacht Club**

Socialize with your sailing buddies, make new friends

**Admission:** \$10 includes  
1 drink ticket  
1 door prize ticket  
Hors d'oeuvres, munchies  
Live band/dancing  
Additional door prize and  
drink tickets available on-site.

**Door Prizes!**  
wireless service subscriptions to  
iWindsurf.com — American  
Windsurfer subscriptions —  
windsurfing videos courtesy of  
American Windsurfer — sails by  
Tushingham and YES courtesy of  
WindMALL.com — See  
[www.sfba.org](http://www.sfba.org) for more prizes!

Volunteers Needed! Please call Suzanne Suwanda if you would like to help! (415) 454-1448

# Access SFO plans



## What's The Story at SFO???

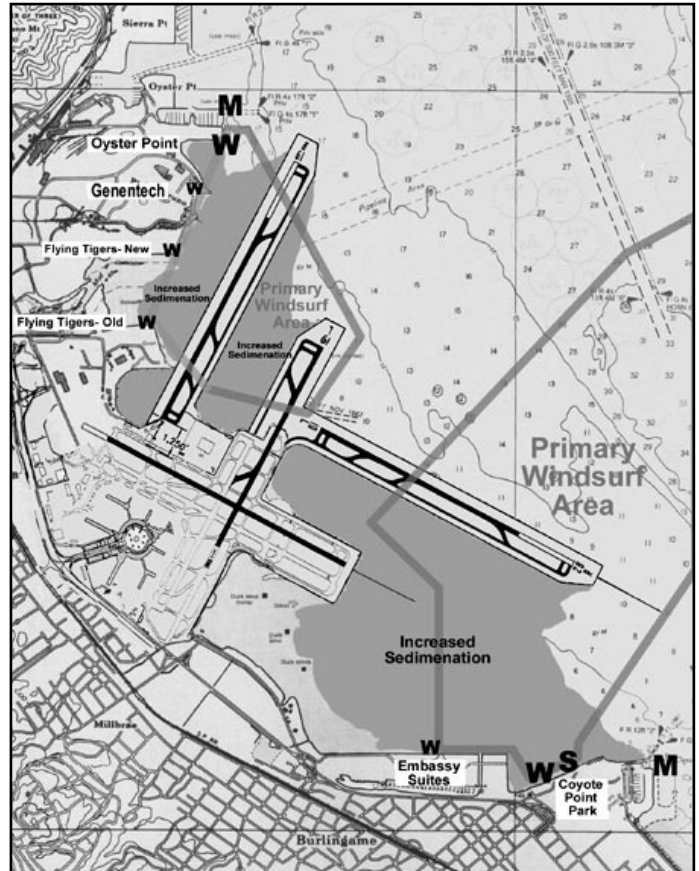
By Peter Thorne

SFO has been hard-selling their “runway reconfiguration” for over a year now. If you haven’t done your homework, you may even think it makes good sense.

George Orwell would be proud of the way that SFO has made the largest bay fill project in a generation sound like a minor remodel. Over the last 35 years the Bay has been filled at a rate of 15 acres per year. SFO’s “reconfiguration” calls for filling as much as 1,400 acres of the Bay. This would be a significant loss if the impacts were only felt near SFO, but the fact is that the runways extend far out into the Bay where they impede the tides that bring nutrients into the Bay and flush the sediment and contaminants away. Windsurfing at Coyote Point, Oyster Point, Third Avenue, and Palo Alto could all be lost as sediment builds, but it’s not just windsurfing at stake this time; it’s also chinook salmon, steelhead trout, eelgrass, and maybe even those nomadic whales that were dazzling commuters on the Dumbarton Bridge earlier this year.

“...Changes in the tidal and sedimentation supply regimes could severely affect the form and ecological function of intertidal habitats throughout the subregion.”<sup>1</sup>

San Francisco Airport Science Panel (October 1999 report)



Proposed runways and possible build-up of sediment

### SFO runway “reconfiguration” by the numbers:

|                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Estimated completion date      | 2010                              |
| Cost                           | up to \$10,000,000,000            |
| Dredging                       | up to 107 million cubic yards     |
| Fill volume                    | up to 58 million cubic yards      |
| Fill area                      | up to 1,400 acres                 |
| Commuter planes                | 18% of all flights                |
| Commuter passengers            | 3% of all passengers              |
| Highway 101 cars               | +70,000 trips by 2020             |
| Air cargo on trucks            | +200% by 2020                     |
| SFO strategic consultant       | \$200-300/hour per S.F. Chronicle |
| New airport fee for “planning” | \$4.50 on every airline ticket    |

# What Else Could Be Affected?

But what about those nasty delays? The truth is that the delays have more to do with the way that airlines operate than they do with the weather. One reason the delays during bad weather are so long is because they are stacked up on top of operational delays that occur at SFO every day of the year. SFO told the press that a recently released FAA capacity report proved that they need more runways. They failed to mention that the new runways would do little or nothing to increase SFO's overall capacity. The report documented numerous bottlenecks in SFO's flight schedule. During peak periods the airlines have scheduled more arrivals and more departures that the airport can handle under the most ideal conditions.

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**United's approach is to "schedule more flights than SFO can accommodate on many days and then cancel the ones you can't operate."**

*Charles River Assoc./John F. Brown Co., Reducing Weather-Related Delays and Cancellations at SFO (April 2000.) Find out more about SFO's proposal inside*

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While smaller airlines like Alaska Airlines are buying larger aircraft that will let them transport more people on fewer flights, United Airlines continues to operate scores of commuter flights that are carrying an average of 16 passengers each. (Please don't blame the employees at United. They hate the delays as much as we do and have been pushing management for reforms.) The ultimate question is this: Do we abuse our environment for the sake of the airlines or do we ask them to adapt to our environment even if it doesn't maximize their profits. If more flights ultimately shift to Oakland or San Jose, it may not be good for SFO's or United's bottom lines but it might actually mean fewer delays in the air and on the freeways and bridges that lead to SFO.

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**"We found that air carriers schedule departures at some airports above their capacity under ideal conditions (e.g. clear weather and all runways available)."**

*U.S. Department of Transportation, Report No. CR-2000-112 (July 25, 2000)*

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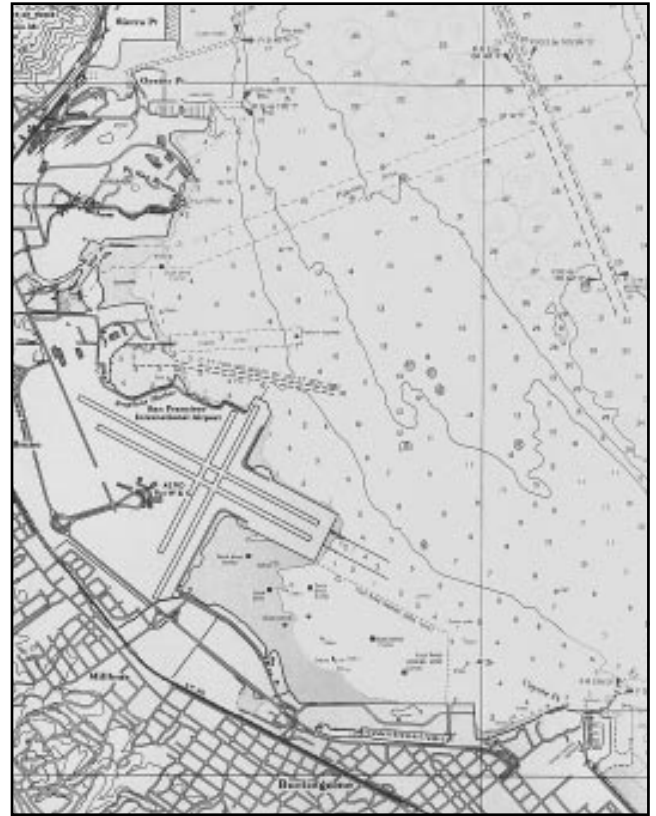
There are a number of great approaches to solving delays that don't involve filling the Bay. When used in combination, these approaches can reduce the majority of delays and still leave room for SFO grow.

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**"Almost 90 percent of delays are caused by airlines. That can be everything from a sick pilot to no ice on board, from a late crew to people standing up to put their luggage away."**

*George Williams, G&C Aviation - from San Francisco Magazine, May 2001*

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Existing runways at SFO

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**"And I say to the mayor, 'You've got to quit saying that.' And he goes, 'Well there is nothing natural about the Bay. It's all man-made.'"**

*Kandace Bender, SFO communications director - San Francisco Magazine, May 2001*

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To learn the straight scoop, check out our report at [www.sfba.org](http://www.sfba.org). It is a long report, but this is a complex issue (which unfortunately works in SFO's favor). Public education is the only way to stop the runways project. The majority of the people that choose to live in this beautiful place would not stand for the destruction if they knew the facts. You can be part of the solution by educating yourself and your friends and by helping in our petition drive.

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**"We don't think SFO is so much to be congratulated as to be mistrusted. We concluded a long time ago that SFO is only interested in new runways. Any alternative would mean a lessening of the airport's future political and economic position."**

*San Mateo Times, A New Study for SFO Runway Realignment (1/13/01)*

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## Kite Safety

With the coming summer we will see a lot more kites on the water. Whether you windsurf, kite, or both, be aware of the dangers and rules of the road.

### Beach Etiquette for Kiteers

- 1) Most launches in the Bay Area are small. Do not leave your lines laid out unless you are immediately launching.
- 2) Keep your kite secure. Make sure that your kite will not take off by weighting it with sand.
- 3) Don't leave unattended kites. If you are finished, deflate/pack up your kite.

### Kite Launching/Landing

- 1) Ask for assistance from another kiter. If a windsurfer offers to help, take the time to instruct him/her on the proper way to handle the kite, launch, or land (and secure).
- 2) Be aware of your surroundings -realize that your kite can hurt someone, and most people are not aware of the power. If you feel that someone is in the way, ask NICELY for them to move and/or help.
- 3) If you are unsure of where to launch or set-up, ask the local riders.

Everyone is doing this for fun. The last thing we need is for someone to get hurt!

### On the Water

- 1) Keep a safe distance \_ Stay downwind or away from other water users. Windsurfers are generally more maneuverable so avoid a collision at all costs.
- 2) Don't go out farther than you want to swim. Swimming in with a kite, bar and lines is not very easy.
- 3) Carry a safety kit that includes a knife and a strobe.
- 4) Always ride with a functional safety release.  
This is just a quick list of do's and don't's.

The most important thing to keep in mind, whether you're a kiter or a windsurfer, is that everyone is out there to have fun. As kiting gains popularity let's all make safety a priority.

*by Ian Ponting*

## Improving SFBA

Want more out of SFBA? More frequent newsletters and parties? Better windtalker service? More effective lobbying for access? Porta-potties, launch maintenance, races...anything else? Then volunteer! If you want to make something happen for the sport, come join the party. Your participation will truly make a difference. Call or e-mail one of the board members listed below and plan to attend the next meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

Peter Thorner, President  
[Eyes4hire@aol.com](mailto:Eyes4hire@aol.com)  
(415) 454-3522 x 104 w  
(510) 547-4422 h

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Benita Zimmerman  
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(650) 259-7797 hm office

Richard Zimmerman  
[windrider@ProtectOurBay.com](mailto:windrider@ProtectOurBay.com)  
(415) 397-2769

## June is Safety Month

Actually, every month is safety month. Keep these basics in mind (this is not an exhaustive list, but no one reads exhaustive lists anyway): (1) wear a full wetsuit at all times in the Bay; (2) carry a safety pack with 20 feet of line, a strobe, a whistle, and a streamer (a VHF radio is a good idea, too); (3) replace your universal joint at least every season; (4) don't sail farther away from shore than you can swim without your gear!

*George Haye*

# Bay Area Shops and Rentals



This is SFBA's current list of shops and rental locations in the Bay Area. If you have a location that needs to be added to this list, please email [membership@sfba.org](mailto:membership@sfba.org).

## Berkeley

Cal Sailing Club  
Berkeley Marina  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
(510) 287-5905

Berkeley Boardsports  
843 Gilman Street  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
(510) 527-7873  
[www.boardsports.com](http://www.boardsports.com)

Cal Adventures-UC Aquatic Club  
Berkeley Marina (Rentals)  
5 Haas Club House 1 Centennial Dr.  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
(510) 642-4000

## South Bay

Advanced Surf Design  
302 Lang Rd.  
(650) 348-8485  
[www.asdwindsurfing.com](http://www.asdwindsurfing.com)

## Marin

Boardsports Marin  
2233 Larkspur Landing Cir.  
Larkspur, CA 94939  
(415) 925-8585  
[www.boardsports.com](http://www.boardsports.com)

ABK School of Windsurfing  
101 Casa Buena Dr., Suite F  
Corte Madera, CA 94925  
(415) 927-8835  
[www.abksports.com](http://www.abksports.com)

## East Bay

Windcraft Sailboard Center  
17124 Sherman Island Rd.  
Rio Vista, CA 94571  
(916) 777-7067  
[www.windcraft.com/](http://www.windcraft.com/)

California Windsurfing  
Foster City, CA  
(650) 594-0335

Helm Ski and Windsurf  
333 N. Amphlett Blvd.  
San Mateo, CA 94401  
(650) 344-2711

## San Francisco

Cityfront Boardsports  
2936 Lyon Street  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
(415) 929-7873  
[www.boardsports.com](http://www.boardsports.com)

S.F.School of Windsurfing  
#1 Harding Rd.  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
(415) 753-3235  
[www.sfwindsurf.com](http://www.sfwindsurf.com)

Windsurf Del Valle  
391 Livermore Ave.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
(925) 455-4008  
[www.windsurfdelvalle.com](http://www.windsurfdelvalle.com)

Spinnaker Sailing  
3160 N. Shoreline Blvd.  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
(650) 965-7474  
[www.spinnsail.com](http://www.spinnsail.com)

Delta Windsurf Company  
3729 Sherman Island Rd.  
Rio Vista, CA 94571  
(916) 777-2299  
[www.deltawindsurf.com](http://www.deltawindsurf.com)

Windsurf Diablo  
401 Sunset Drive  
Antioch, CA 94509  
(925) 778-6350



## Membership Renewal

please print

Company (for Corporate Membership only) \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name/Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your SFBA Chapter Affiliation (choose only one):

\_\_\_\_ North Bay \_\_\_\_ San Francisco \_\_\_\_ East Bay \_\_\_\_ Peninsula

SFBA Membership includes receiving the periodic SFBA Newsletter "Wind & Currents" (2-3 times per season) and occasional news mailings for your local chapter. All new members will receive the SFBA Welcome Letter (with WindTalker phone numbers) and the *SFBA Windsurfing Safety Guide to Bay Area Sailing Sites*. **Please make check payable to SFBA. Send check to San Francisco Boardsailing Association, 1592 Union Street, Box 301, San Francisco, CA 94123**

Annual Calendar-year membership contribution:

Individual - \$20 or more \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Family (2 or more) - \$30 or more \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sustaining - \$50 or more \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Corporate - \$100 or more \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Check if address or info. Change   Check if renewal  
(print old address below)  Please remove me from your mailing list

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

## Fall Party Recap

For those of you who didn't attend, let's just say the end of the season bash last October was so killer that it would almost make you wish it was the end of the season again right now so we could have another one just like it! Hosted by UltraNectar at their warehouse, the party featured large throngs of people, great food & beverages and one of the ultimate surf party bands around — the Mermen! Excessive thanks due to Chip and the UltraNectar crew, and all of the SFBA volunteers who made the party a blast.

*George Hays*

## SFBA Joins Reprint Mailing Effort

SFBA has teamed up with Save the Bay, Golden Gate Audobon Society and Sierra Club to reprint more than 3,000 copies of Kevin Berger's San Francisco magazine article (May issue) detailing the SFO runway plans and their impacts on the Bay. We'll be sending the article with a cover letter to civic leaders, government officials and others to help them gain a better understanding of the issues and why the plans should be opposed. Be sure to get a copy of the magazine for yourself – or go to:

<http://www.sanfran.com/features/SF0105bay1.htm>.

*Suzanne Suwanda*

## Events Calendar

### JUNE 1-3

WINDFEST 2001. At Coyote Point. Hosted by ASD (650) 348-8485. Come to demo all the new gear, participate in the Techno races, meet industry reps, take a free lesson, and have fun!

### JUNE 8, JUNE 22, JULY 6, JULY 20, AUG 3, AUG 17, AUG 31, SEP 7

St. Francis Yacht Club Twilight Race Series. SF (415)820-3713.

### JUNE 15-16-17

KING OF THE BAY FREESTYLE Windsurfing and Kiting Competition. At Third Avenue, Foster City. To Register: Helm Sports: (650) 344-2711. See [www.kingofthebay.com](http://www.kingofthebay.com) for details.

### JUNE 16

SFBA PARTY at Coyote Point Yacht Club. See the article in this newsletter. Great fun, fabulous prizes — don't miss it!

### JULY 7-8

BAY CHALLENGE WINDSURFING RACE  
St. Francis Yacht Club, SF, (415) 820-3713.

Party June 16th! Details Inside



San Francisco Boardsailing Association  
1592 Union Street, Box 301  
San Francisco, CA 94123

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Concord, CA  
Permit no. 346