



The San Francisco Boardsailing Association is excited to provide you with important updates on your favorite boardsailing sites and safety reminders for the 2015 Windsurfing and Kiteboarding Season.

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Protect Your Passion: Contribute!

IMPORTANT DATES

May 23rd 2015

Crissy Field Slalom Races

See details below under Slalom Races

[Learn More](#)

May 23rd-24th

Coyote Point Low-Low Tidal Zone Beach Cleanup Event

We need as many volunteers as possible to complete our April efforts.

[Meeting Place - Boardsports Shop, San Mateo](#)

July 10th 2015

Back to the Future with SFBA

SFBA Turns 30 Birthday Party Bash!

435 Broadway Studios, SF, CA

President's Airtime! - Safety and Access Protection is Everyone's Responsibility

As the 2015 Season took-off with a bang in March, an inexperienced kiter was seriously injured at 3rd Avenue. Although the exact circumstances and details remain a bit vague, it seems this individual attempted to launch a large (twelve meter?) kite while those with experience and local knowledge were heading out on much smaller (seven-meter?) kites. Yes, it was windy, and yes, someone refused to help him launch. However, someone else finally did agree to assist, and shortly after his kite became airborne he was greeted with a severe head injury, and sometime thereafter he was airlifted to a hospital.... I'm told that his fellow boardsailors still do not know who he is, where he was taken for treatment, nor his condition.

Windsurfing and kiteboarding in themselves are not inherently dangerous, but to an even greater degree than most other sailing activities, they are terribly unforgiving of any carelessness, incapacity or neglect. We owe it to each other to be responsible 'to' each other (not for each other) by acting considerately, safely and with respect for one-another.

We're asking kites and windsurfers alike to take a stand for your launch site and for each other... if you see someone new at your favorite site, and they are not following site-safety or site-courtesy protocol, or they're about to do something dangerous like launch a 12 meter kite when the experienced kites are on 5s and 7s, we have an obligation to them (and to everyone else who wants to continue to sail there) to ensure they are competent and have knowledge of local conditions and protocols. While many people will welcome an offer of local knowledge and experience, there will always be a few who 'know best' and 'don't need someone telling them what to do'. It can take courage to walk up to a complete stranger and ask them how it's going; yet if you can spend hours safely in the middle of the Bay, you certainly can generate enough courage to talk to (not tweet!) a newcomer face-to-face!

If you would like to share your own stories or suggestions, it would be great to

hear from you at billrobberson@sfba.org or president@sfba.org

Safety Focus - SFBA Site-Steward Program

In other parts of the United States and the world, boardsailing access has been denied because of liability concerns and/or risks to the general public and the natural environment. Protecting access and promoting safety go hand-in-hand, as does courtesy and respect for our sailing environment and 'Mother Nature!'

If you are interested in protecting your local launch by helping to manage protocol and site safety, please consider participating in SFBA's Site Steward Program. The context of this program is fairly low-key; it includes support in the art and science of reaching out to your boardsailing peers on safety, local beach and on-water protocols and rules, access issues and sailing conditions. You will have a direct relationship with like-minded boardheads within SFBA, and with Site-Stewards at other locations. You will also help SFBA leadership volunteers and your peers maintain awareness of local incidents and rescues, safety and access issues, and general access items that need attention or support.

For more information please contact billrobberson@sfba.org.

Safety Focus - Proposed Safety Day at 3rd Ave

As this SFBA eNews goes to print, SFBA is working with "Wind Over Water" (WOW) proprietors Shani Dahl and Jeff Kafka on the creation of a significant Safety Day at 3rd Avenue and Foster City. While the date and event agenda remain TBD, the intention is to bring a serious safety summit to the site for both new and highly experienced kiteboarders and windsurfers. It is anticipated that event participants would include the US Coast Guard and other first-responders, and demonstrations of the latest equipment improvements and safety features and practices. Stay tuned!

For more information, please contact billrobberson@sfba.org or shani@wowkite.com

Safety Focus - SFBA works closely with US Coast Guard Sector San Francisco

As reported previously, SFBA maintains a close relationship with the US Coast Guard, and in the interest of safety coordination and collaboration we usually meet formally with the Sector San Francisco Commanding Officer and their Response Staff a couple times each year.

Additionally, our most recent SFBA Board Meeting on March 23rd included US Coast Guard Officer Ltjg Sean Kelly, also an avid windsurfing competitor. Ltjg Kelly has made a commitment to attend our SFBA Board meetings as often as he can until he transfers to the East Coast this summer, and he will be participating with other SFBA volunteers in the annual SFBA/USCG rescue training session at USCG Station Golden Gate in early May.

This annual training event, conducted by SFBA members for USCG responders and USCG Auxiliary personnel, provides hands-on training in 1) the safe and successful retrieval of windsurfers and kiteboarders and 2) the complexities, constraints and fragility of our equipment, with the intention of saving both lives and equipment simultaneously.

Ltjg Kelly also reported that the Sector San Francisco MSIB (Marine Safety Information Bulletin) to be issued in 2015 will likely focus on Rule 9 and their new policy that rescued boardsailors will not be returned to the beach, and instead returned to a safe harbor... such as the St. Francis YC dock or Station Golden Gate at Fort Baker for example. Ltjg Kelly also reported that kiteboarding rescues are 'down' compared to the same timeframe last year... probably a coincidence!

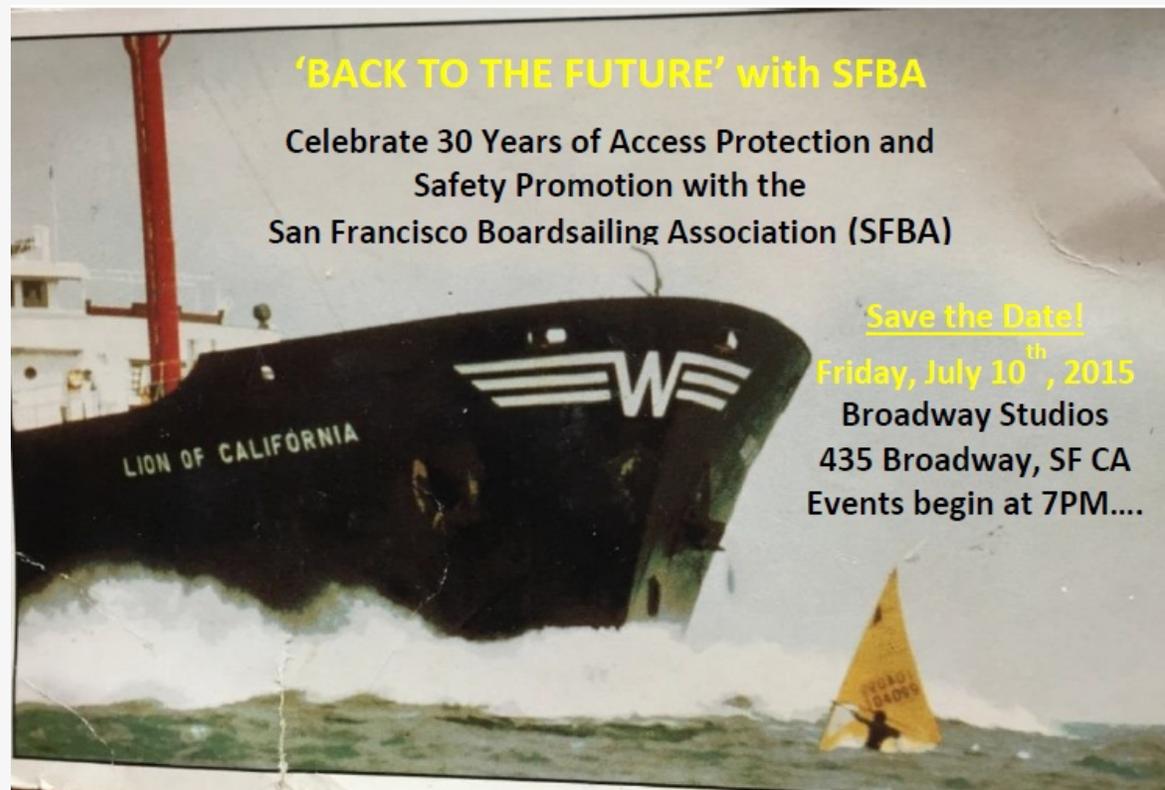
In our previous SFBA eNews of October, 2014, we reported about a renewed focus on providing basic 'Mariner Skills' to new boardsailors, and SFBA is looking forward to the 101 Surf Sports recently drafted curriculum; stay tuned for more to come!

For more information or to contribute to SFBA's Safety Focus, please contact billrobberson@sfba.org or Macmcgrath@comcast.net

SFBA Turns 30 Birthday Party Bash - Save the Date - Friday, July 10th - "Back to the Future" Celebration

The San Francisco Boardsailing Association turns thirty years young this year... 1985 - 2015... and it's time to acknowledge and honor all the Agencies and individuals who have supported and assisted our boardsailing sports of windsurfing and kiteboarding all these years. If not for the selfless contributions

of many, the Bay Area Boardsailing scene would look pretty grim.



"Back to the Future" Birthday Party Highlights include:

- Live Entertainment
- "Back to the Future" Time-Machine
- Presentations and awards to Boardsailing Enablers
- Best (Go-Pro < 3mins) Boardsailing Video Contest! Selected by the Audience!
- Hands-on Displays of the latest gear
- Swag Raffels!
- Boardsailing Icon Special Appearances
- And More.....

Thankfully one of our more generous SFBA members and Crissy Field icon is co-hosting this event. Larry Russo, who is turning 70 in July, also hosted some of the best boardsailing parties in the 1980's and brought more women into the sport of windsurfing than anyone we know, and he taught them all to sail at Crissy. Come "Back to the Future" with SFBA, Larry and his students and celebrate the fabulous boardsailing environment we have in the San Francisco Bay Area!

For more information contact billrobberson@sfba.org

Central Bay - Crissy Field - CA Drought Water

Reductions hit Crissy hard in 2015

Most are aware that California is experiencing its most severe drought in modern times, and few fresh-water users are spared from the impacts. From 2012 to 2014 the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) reduced its water use at Crissy by approximately 50%, as evidenced by the grass-less areas throughout

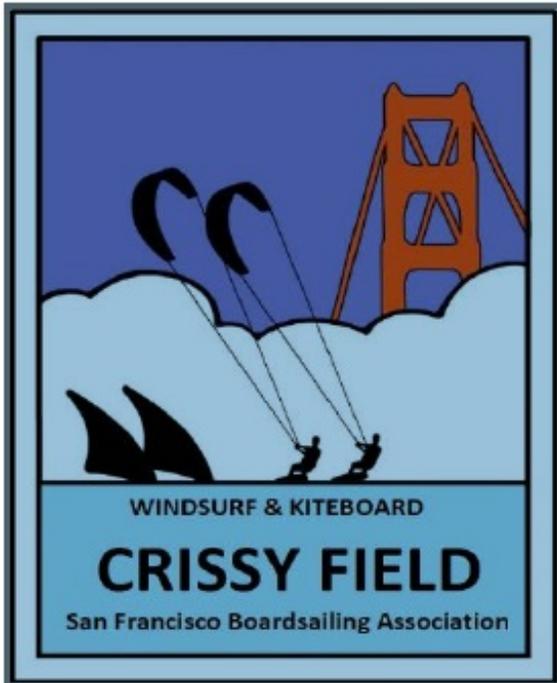
With the onset of the Governor's recent mandate of a 25% water use reduction in 2015, it is SFBA's position that because GGNRA reduced its water usage significantly more than necessary early-on, that it should not be penalized for its previously proactive conservation measures. SFBA continues to work closely with the GGNRA to do what it can to keep the people and dog showers running, including options such as weekends only. As this eNews goes to press we've just been informed that the showers at Crissy will also be impacted by Park Drought Water Reduction Policy, regardless of the previous proactive reductions the last few years.

For more information, contact billrobberson@sfba.org

Central Bay - Field Interim Maintenance Plans for 2015 Season

SFBA has worked closely with the GGNRA and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservatory (GGNPC) in Crissy Field East Beach planning, design and construction partnership since the 1980s. Three years ago SFBA proposed construction of the Dog Wash area, and led the vision to completion. Two years ago SFBA proposed a viable "volunteer" project to replace the grass immediately west of the restrooms, and even though all parties were in

approval, the inability to provide irrigation water to the area stopped the proposal in its tracks.



Since 2012, GGNRA and GGNPC have been planning a major upgrade ("Crissy Refresh") to Crissy infrastructure following the completion of the 34th America's Cup in the fall of 2013. Last year (2014) saw little progress short of more Crissy Refresh planning and necessary maintenance actions, and this year (2015), the only improvements presently scheduled will again include mostly necessary maintenance actions. SFBA is looking

forward to the arrival of the new GGNRA Superintendent, Ms. Christine Lehnertz, and progress with the Crissy Refresh Program.

About a year and a half ago, Crissy outreach events were held to gather ideas and concerns from the public regarding refresh needs. SFBA is told that the Crissy Refresh Idea Workbook was completed and provided to GGNRA and GGNPC staff and management at the end of Calendar 2014. This internal planning document workbook will be used to establish an approach and strategy for Crissy Refresh, and these concepts, which are to be shared with the public after the first of this year (2015), have yet to see the public eye. As soon as the workbook is released, SFBA will be working closely with all parties to address our interests and concerns

For more information, contact billrobberson@sfba.org

Treasure Island - U.S. Navy and City of SF TIDA Slog-

Along

Former Naval Station Treasure Island (Treasure Island) still remains under federal ownership and is currently being remediated by the United States Navy, other than areas that have been transferred to Caltrans in connection with the Bay Bridge eastern span project. The Navy is legally required to complete all of its environmental remediation obligations, including radiological cleanup, prior to transferring any property to the Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA).

The Navy's environmental remediation program is separate from TIDA's Treasure Island Development Project, which has experienced significant delays due to CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) EIR lawsuits and appeals. SFBA has been working with TIDA's Development Project personnel from the beginning of base closure to ensure continued usage and improvements of the Northeast corner for boardsailing access.



To date, SFBA has worked closely with TIDA to keep access open, though it is anticipated that additional remediation work in the launch area will result in temporary access limitations. At the

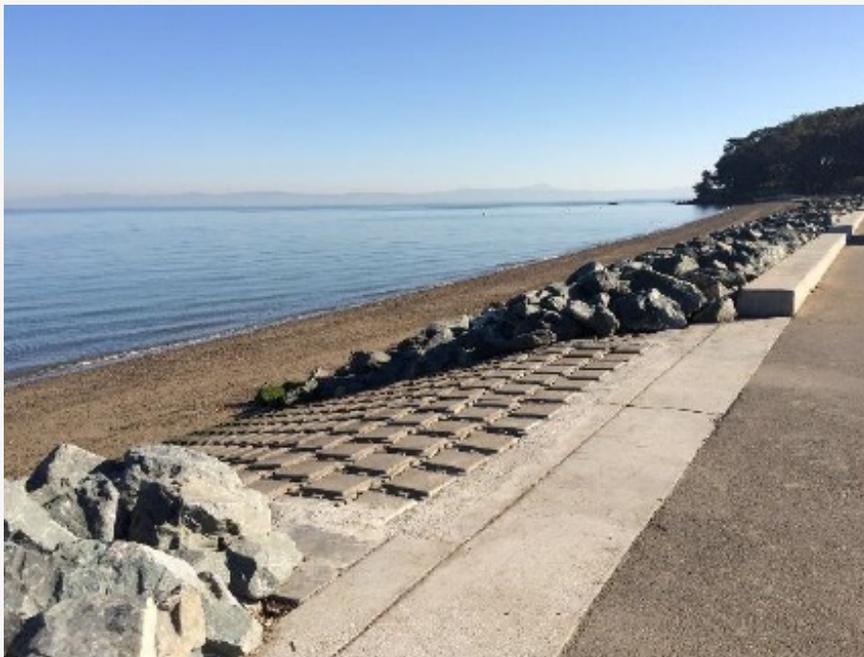
time of this writing, most of the apartment buildings adjacent the NE launch area have been removed and boardsailors continue to enjoy full access to the water through the 'fence'. Future plans include improved boardsailing access, and

SFBA funded launch ramp feasibility and design studies in 2012, in anticipation of potential funding opportunities.

The Navy provides the general public with information on its environmental remediation program through a variety of means. Since 1994, the Navy has been holding Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings on Treasure Island that are open to the public, and SFBA regularly participates in these meetings

For more information, contact tomgandesbery2@gmail.com

Peninsula - SFBA and Boardsports School contribute to Coyote Point Improvements



Last fall we reported that on October 1st, 2014, a check for \$300,000 was deposited into the escrow account managed by SFBA and Boardsports School (Sailing Group) for the purpose of

mitigating wind impacts to parts of Coyote Point due to development immediately upwind. The Sailing Group have since contributed \$147,500 to San Mateo County Parks for SFBA-driven modifications to the design and construction of the promenade and the new access ramps outside of the forecast wind impacts. SFBA also led removal of the former near-shore pilings, from obtaining approvals to contracting for the divers to working with the US Corps of Engineers (US COE) to pick-up and dispose of the old pilings. The remaining

escrow funds are for improvements and replacement of those boardsailing attributes lost to the impacts of the upwind development, including new teaching areas.

For more information, contact billrobberson@sfba.org

Peninsula - New Coyote Ramps Targeted for Rubber-like Mat Installation

SFBA is working with Boardsports School associates to present San Mateo County Parks with a fully engineered proposal to cover the new access ramps (one pictured above) with a UV-protected, lifetime rubber-like mat material which will improve foot grip and enable safer water entry and egress during high-tide access conditions. Stay tuned for more information as the project progresses. Funding will likely come from the Sailing Group escrow funds described above.

For more information, contact billrobberson@sfba.org

Peninsula - Coyote Point Low-Low Tidal Zone Beach Cleanup Event - Volunteers Needed

- Date:** Sat/Sun May 23-24
- Time:** 9am start (low tide is from 9:00 - 1:00!)
- Where:** Meet at Boardsports Shop, 1603 Coyote Pt Drive, San Mateo, CA 94401
- Parking:** FREE PARKING - Volunteers gain free access to Coyote Pt Park for the beach clean-up both days
- BBQ:** Boardsports will host a BBQ at the shop following the clean-up

The Coyote Pt Shoreline has had a significant facelift over the last two years - Shoreline erosion has been halted by reinforcement with rock armor, a new pedestrian/bike path has been completed, three large water access ramps have been installed and the old pilings immediately offshore have been removed.. opening up the Bay to boardsailors launching from most any beach location. At the time of this writing, the parking lot is in process of being repaved.

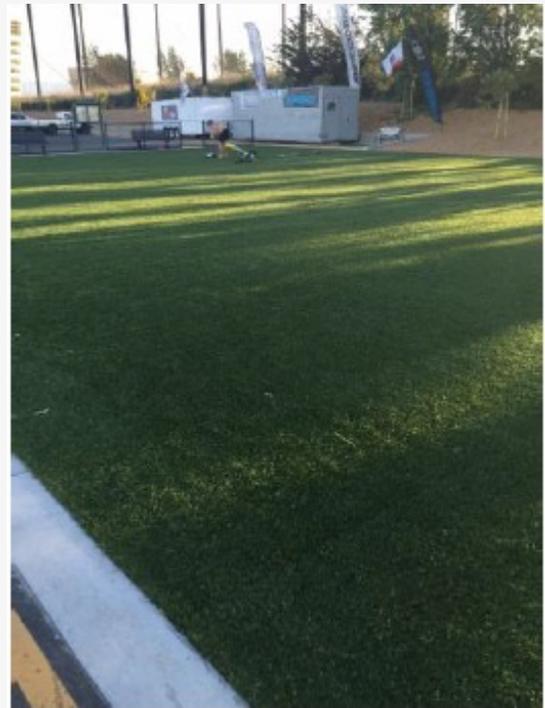
This is now a world class windsurfing, kiteboarding and stand up paddleboard (SUP) site!

During the weekend of April 18/19, volunteers removed a significant number of small rocks from the low-low tidal zone, mainly those that interfere with smooth footing. We need as many volunteers as possible to complete our April efforts. Please come out and join us if you are able! Remember free parking all weekend for all volunteers, and a fun bbq hosted by Boardsports Shop following the clean-up.

For more information contact info@boardsportsschool.com

Peninsula - Third Avenue Gets a Facelift Thanks to Foster City

Third Ave improvements include the gear wash area, north of the parking lot:





and the Lower Launch at Third Avenue now has green turf near the launch beach, south of the parking lot:



This is a great improvement over the mud, gravel and old mats that were there before. Also, brand new large bathrooms have been completed to replace the small porter potty that was there before. The parking area has also been redone and expanded!



Peninsula - Candlestick: EIR Being Prepared for Recology Expansion Project!

SFBA has worked closely with local Candlestick boardsailors in addressing potential impacts to "The Stick" due to the City of Brisbane Baylands proposed development directly upwind. Back in 2011, SFBA provided comments to the Revised Notice of Preparation for the Brisbane Baylands Specific Plan - Draft Environmental Impact Report and the need to fully address potential Impacts to the Recreational Use of Windsurfing. To-date, we continue to await the City's response to comments.

More recently SFBA received notice of from the City of Brisbane that it will also be the lead agency in preparation of an EIR for the Recology Modernization and Expansion Project to the immediate north of the Brisbane Baylands proposed project.

A Scoping Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30th beginning at 7:00 pm at the Community Room, City Hall, 50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA. The purpose of the meeting is for the City to solicit input from interested parties regarding the scope and content of the EIR. The City of Brisbane point of contact is Mr. John Swiecki,

who can be reached at recologynop@ci.brisbane.ca.us or (415) 508-2120

For more information from SFBA contact billrobberson@sfba.org

Peninsula - Haskins/Flying Tigers - Gearing up for Hazards Removal

SFBA is working with local Haskins/Flying Tigers sailors Kevin Kan, Olivier Corvez and Dan Eustaquio in the initial planning for removal of objects at the Haskins/Flying Tigers site. If you would like to be involved, for more information and to contribute to the effort, please contact Kevin at info@sunsetsailboards.com or billrobberson@sfba.org

East Bay - Good News for Berkeley Sailors

There's good news for Berkeley sailors. Plans to put a ferry terminal in the middle of the sailing area between the Berkeley Pier and H's Lordships have quietly disappeared. Very little money is available for new terminals and operating subsidies. WETA, more formally known as the Water Emergency Transit Authority, has moved the Richmond Ferry Terminal to the top of their list because it is much cheaper to build.

<http://sanfranciscobayferry.com/node/331> While WETA has not officially abandoned the Berkeley site, the staff working on it has retired and there has been no further work on environmental studies for years.

Changes are in store for the South Basin, the most heavily used of Berkeley's windsurfing sites.

Funding has been secured to rebuild the parking lot on the eastern portion of the site. That project will include a substantial new rigging area, planned with input from local windsurfers, as well as a bathroom and



eventually new piers. Plans for the proposed project are attached. The City has begun the permitting process, and hopes to start construction, perhaps as early as July.

The City has agreed to relocate some of the carpet and gravel to behind the Cal Adventures fence so that there still be a way to sail-if you can find a parking space. Locals who might benefit, but want to keep at least some options open for continued sailing during the construction can express their support, and concern that access be maintained, to the permit staff at BCDC, Jaime Michaels. (415-352-3613 jaime.michaels@bcdc.ca.gov)

For more information from SFBA, contact tom.gandesbery@scc.ca.gov

Sherman Island Rio Vista Windsurfing Association (RVWA)- RVWA Liaison to SFBA Board of Directors

To better enable more complete Bay Area boardsailing coordination, communication and collaboration, RVWA has established a Boardmember liaison to SFBA; we are pleased to include RVWA as a regular participant in our Board of Directors meetings.

Crissy Field 2015 Season Kiting Guide

The new 2015 Season Kiting Guide for Crissy Field can be found at www.sfba.org and [this link!](#)

Slalom Races - Attention racers and non-racers alike!

In addition to the slalom series to be held at the St. Francis Yacht Club on Friday nights (May 29, June 26, July 24 & August 21) this season, the CalCup is also organizing a second slalom series on Saturdays to be held at Crissy Field, the day after the Friday night races.

We need your support to ensure slalom racing will happen this season in San Francisco.



Four race dates are planned for the 2015 Crissy Field Slalom Series on Saturday afternoons:

May 30

June 27

July 25

August 22

A four to five mark downwind slalom course will be set with a start at Anita Rock and a finish off the St Francis Yacht Club (StFYC) race deck, with an A fleet start for experienced racers and a B fleet start for less experienced racers.

If you've never raced, this is your chance. It's fun and easy to get around the course that takes less than 2-3 minutes to complete. Several races will be run for each fleet and awards will be held afterwards at the picnic tables at Crissy near the windsock.

<https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/8yK3b/ab/d4gTQ1>

By donating to the crowdfunding site identified above, up to one week before the first event, you can ensure the series will happen + get a reduced entry fee. A \$100 donation (before May 23) will serve as your pre-registration for the series (vs \$120 if you pay for the series after May 23.) Individual drop-in races are \$30 each night. A \$250 donation allows you to become a sponsor of the event with your name and company's logo on the series marketing material, press releases and official web page + a spot on the starting line!

The first two events are scheduled for May 30 and June 27, but we need to crowdfund the remaining funds to ensure the last two events on July 25 & August 22 will happen. We consider your donation to be an essential part of making the series happen. Even if you are not racing, we would love your support in making this happen. In addition to the funding we will also need several volunteers to help with scoring and act as a beach master. Without it, the organizers (Steve B, Jean R and Soheil Z) are left holding the weight of the event on their shoulders.

Registration & more info for the Crissy Field slalom series can be found at:

<http://www.calcupevents.com/CFSS.shtml>

Protect Your Passion - Contribute at www.sfba.org

Help your SFBA volunteers help you protect and enhance access, and promote safety at your favorite site.

Your membership contributions are used mindfully for everything from water hazard buoy markers to Safety Day Events and safety handouts to launch ramp engineering feasibility studies (e.g., Treasure Island) to Access improvements (e.g., Crissy dog wash) and outreach events, mailbox fees, website hosting... and the list goes on.... The SFBA Board of Directors authorizes every expenditure and not a cent is ever wasted.

Contribute now at www.sfba.org!

For more information or to volunteer, contact billrobberson@sfba.org or president@sfba.org or info@sfba.org

