

Calling all kilters! Do you use the 3rd Avenue Upper Launch? We need your support!... help us to help you!

Over the past 15 years the 3rd Avenue Upper Launch has lost more than 90% of its original size due to various forms of erosion. Less than a decade ago this site could host 50+ kilters safely, but ongoing erosion has left the beach with space for only about a dozen kilters and only then because kilters are setting up right next to the rocky shoreline. Further erosion of the area will continue to limit space for launching and could eventually force kilters to the more hazardous lower launch or to other sites entirely. At the present rate, if nothing is done, it appears there will be no safe, dry upper launch by 2020.

SFBA is working to ensure that the 3rd Avenue Upper Launch continues to serve as a world-class kiteboarding destination. We have been in discussions with the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail, regulatory agencies, and coastal engineering experts to develop a project to address the rapidly eroding beach and improve access, while protecting kiter safety and nearby sensitive habitats.

Since it is the Bay Area, there is an extensive (and expensive) study, design, and permitting process that will need to occur prior to constructing this project and protecting the beach. We are now at a point where we need seed money for the preliminary studies that will allow us to design the best project to protect and enhance access at the 3rd Avenue Upper Launch. We will be seeking grants and other sources of funding, but support from the kiting community is critical in showing grantors and local officials that continued access at this site is a priority to kilters.

We are seeking to raise \$\$\$ for the preliminary studies. we are going to set up a funding site for this with exact goal and target date. **Please email us at info@sfba.org if you are interested in contributing to the fund and how much your contribution would be. Title your email "3rd Avenue Upper Launch Erosion Mitigation Fund Contribution"**. In the meantime Thank you for your support!

If you are interested in learning more about the issues at 3rd Avenue Upper Launch, Jack Hodges has developed an excellent video describing the situation. Click the button below to see the video

[See the Video](#)

PROTECTING AND ENHANCING ACCESS

The San Francisco Boardsailing Association is excited to provide you with important updates on your favorite boardsailing sites and safety highlights for the second-half of the 2017 Windsurfing and Kiteboarding Season.

Protecting boardsailing access and creating improvements are a major focus of SFBA members and our partners in local fleets. We've provided short summaries below of various sites updates and accomplishments, along with links and volunteers who are making it happen. We always welcome those who want to join us as stewards or activists for each site. To learn more, please contact billrobberson@sfba.org.

Kiteboarding Safety Focus

With the recent tragic loss of a safety-minded kiteboarder at Crown Beach in Alameda this May, it has reinforced the potential risks of our sport to both ourselves and to others nearby. Kiteboarding in itself is not inherently dangerous, but to an even greater degree than the sea, it is terribly unforgiving of any carelessness, incapacity or neglect. SFBA is committed to understanding how this tragedy occurred, and to passing on these lessons-learned to the community. Watch for an announcement regarding safety-consciousness event(s) and the establishment of a kiteboarding awareness campaign in honor of our lost friend, father, husband, brother and overall great guy.

Bay Wide Water Trail

This year saw a major increase in activities by staff of the Water Trail. Their new staff member, Ben Botkin has put together an overall plan for improving access, and a number of our sailing sites have been designated as Water Trail sites, making them eligible for funding. <http://sfbaywatertrail.org/map/designated-water-trail-sites/>

EAST BAY

Berkeley marina: was designated as a water trail site this year, and construction is scheduled to begin on improvements in the South Basin in August.

Construction will have to work around the US Windsurfing Nationals, sponsored by the Berkeley Yacht Club, set for August 25.

[See the nationals calendar Here](#)

The local racers have been active in working with marina staff to make sure that some access is open even while the parking lot is under construction, and to make sure the improvements meet our needs. Funding has been obtained for adding an accessible ramp at the middle dock, which might make it possible to revitalize the project to improve access next to H's Lordships restaurant. The restaurant lease expires, and the City will be considering alternative lessees, and perhaps alternative configurations for leases within the marina. Finally, Team Berkeley Windsurfing, under the leadership of Weyman Lundquist continues to train new junior windsurfers, and Weyman's sons Charlie and Jack continue to race well in the national scene. Local stewards are -

Jim McGrath: macmcgrath@comcast.net and Weyman: WLundquist@wcmagnetics.com

Point Isabel: has been the site of efforts by local sailors to clear and maintain a path into the water and improve the rigging area. Those efforts have been spearheaded by Dave Fielder. Both the East Bay Regional Park District and the Water Trail are involved and supporting Dave's efforts, and the District has allocated up to \$5 million for planning and implementing improvements. The Park District held a second workshop onsite on May 18, which was well attended by dog walkers and windsurfers. You can follow the progress, or provide input, [at this web site](#).

Albany Beach: Kiteboarders have discovered this site at the foot of Buchanan Street in Albany. However, the East Bay Regional Park District has proposed a project to extend the Bay Trail and expand and fence the dune area which will make kiteboarding difficult if not impossible. SFBA is working with local kiteboarders and petitioning BCDC to make sure that the project to extend the Bay Trail protects the kiteboarding use that have been going on for over a decade.

Royce Beach: also known as Radio Beach, has become a significant launch and teaching spot for kiteboarders, pioneered by KGB Kiteboarding of Emeryville. This site, formerly a part of the Port of Oakland and now under the jurisdiction of the East Bay Regional Park District, is part of a larger area slated to become part of the East Shore State Park. However, most of the site is currently tied up in construction activities for removal of the old Bay Bridge. The Park District developed a concept plan in 2012, before use as a kiteboarding destination had really developed, and did not include recognition of that use, or parking in [that plan](#). Although demolition of the old Bay Bridge will continue for at least 18 more months, it is time to dust off the 2012 plan and update it to include kiteboarding and a way to reach the beach. Board members Jim McGrath and Tomer Petel have started discussions with the Water Trail staff and KGB Kiteboarding to assure that the value of the site for kiting and instruction is recognized in the master plan.

RaceTrack - Golden Gate Fields: The East Bay Regional Park District had proposed a design for Albany Beach that would have made it difficult or impossible for kiteboarders to continue to use the site, eliminated the parking area on Golden Gate Fields property and constraining the rigging area. However, a strong presence by local kiteboarders at a workshop in Albany on May 16th and at the Bay Water Trail meeting on June 2 convinced the District to make some adjustments to the design that would enlarge the rigging area and eliminate barriers. Those modifications were endorsed by the Design Review Board for BCDC on June 5th. Kudos to the strong but reasonable presence of Albany kiteboarders, and particularly Andrew Sullivan, who may never have to pay for a beer again!

CENTRAL BAY

Crissy Field: Recent rework/repaving of the promenade is mostly complete, to the relief of boardsailors and park managers alike! Construction activities took a heavy toll on boardsailing access the last few months, the newly-installed sharp aggregate surface is not barefoot-friendly, the National Park Service remains underfunded and understaffed, and the Presidio Trust continues to deny water for landscape irrigation - forcing the demise of our precious grass rigging/parking /recreation surfaces which survived and thrived for years when they were properly maintained.

Otherwise, the Crissy on-water sessions have been plentiful, and SFBA remains dedicated to stewardship of proper beach safety protocol and rehabilitation of the grass surfaces to the previous glory of their first ten years. SFBA has proposed an all-volunteer effort to bring in and install new top-soil and seed or sod for the western grass areas, on condition that the NPS provide proper irrigation water; the proposal has been supported by NPS maintenance representatives, yet are continually rejected by leadership for reasons related to long-term planning that remain unclear and blatantly ignore their "Crissy Refresh" pre-America's Cup commitments of 2012.

For more information contact
BillRobberson@sfba.org

Treasure Island: Remediation has continued in earnest, making it very difficult to reach the shoreline to launch at Treasure Island. There is a single road open that gets near the northern cove, and a path between the fence and the rip rap that allows intrepid sailors to launch on weekends when remediation construction is not underway. However, it is difficult to find a place to rig and the shoreline path is closed along most of the northern edge of the island. The most recent newsletter from the Navy can be found [here](#)

According to official sources and the newsletter, construction will continue through 2018.

Construction has begun on redevelopment of the island. The City received approval of its plans from BCDP and work has begun on demolitions and site preparations. The plan for redevelopment can be found [here](#)

The plan provides for renewed access to the launch ramp, and a new access point to the west. However, details about the design and construction schedule are not yet available. Specific designs for the new access point will be developed by the City and the developer in consultation with the Water Trail, which will give windsurfers an opportunity to weigh-in once again on the design.

PENINSULA

3rd Ave Upper Launch: SFBA is working to ensure that the 3rd Avenue Upper Launch continues to serve as a world class kiteboarding destination. We have been in discussions with the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail, regulatory agencies, and coastal engineering experts to develop a project to address the rapidly eroding beach and improve access, while protecting kiter safety and nearby sensitive habitats. See the lead article above.

Windsurf - FOILING

With the first foiling regatta just held in Florida, and with professionals like Antoine Albeau adopting the mode, I thought it would be fun to give members an article on the development of foiling by Steve Sylvester, one of the pioneers of the new technology. High quality foils adaptable to windsurfing are now being made in the Bay area by F4 and Mike Zajicek.

There have been tremendous innovations to boardsailing equipment bringing a level of ease and performance that was not clear would ever exist when I started sailing Drake and Schweitzer's Windsurfer over 40 years ago. Things like the harness and footstraps

immediately raised the level of control and usability of the rig and board. A slower evolution of boards, fins and sails with occasional breakthroughs brought us to the current level of the sport. Now there has been an unexpected leap, raising boardsailing to yet another level - the hydrofoil.

Over the past 20 years there have been several attempts to introduce the hydrofoil to sailboarding. Most of them involved two foils mounted on the hull in separate places allowing only roll control when up on the foils. Not until recently did the refinement of the hydrofoil for kiteboards allow the development of an efficient hydrofoil for a sailboard that incorporated both pitch and roll control with a single point of attachment to the hull. This gives a feeling of flying over the top of the water that is quite unique.

Since most of my sailing is done on San Francisco Bay, when I first saw one of these kiteboard derived hydrofoils plugged into the finbox of a sailboard I was skeptical that it would never be more than a fair weather experience - lighter winds and smoother water. Even after my first foiling experiences I wasn't optimistic about the foil's suitability for anything more. But slowly we found that wider boards provided increased control over the foil and when combined with the stability of the fully cambered race sails it allowed us to venture out in the summer conditions the Bay has to offer. To our surprise the 'windfoil' (a sailboard with a hydrofoil) is doable on SF Bay. The sails we use are relatively small, 4.7 to 7.8, because once up on the foil there is much less drag. You need just enough wind to get the board on a plane and once the foil begins to lift, the drag from the hull on the water vanishes and speed increases powering up both the sail and the foil. So far 10 to 13 mph seems to be the bottom end of the wind range and somewhere around 30 mph the top. The fastest speed recorded by windfoils so far is around 35 mph though more usual upwind and downwind speeds tend to be around 19 mph and 24 mph respectively.

We've only been at this for a little over 2 years and already we're competitive with the top Bay FW sailors. We often use sails 3 sizes smaller for the same wind conditions and run a deeper downwind angle. The reason I mention this benchmark is to point out that windfoiling is in a rapid development stage with improvements constantly being made. Though the PWA is now hosting demonstration windfoil races at their slalom events, I don't believe that racing is the real attraction to foiling, at least not for me. It's the feeling of flying over the water that is addictive - much like the thrill experienced the first time planning on a sailboard. Anyway, it's wonderful to see yet another level of boardsailing being explored and get to be a part of it!

A video of Steve foiling can be found by pressing the button below

Watch Video

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