



CCA-SAF Lunch Meeting, Wed., Jan. 8, 2014, St. Francis Yacht Club.

MINUTES

Call to Order. Rear Commodore Terry Klaus called the meeting to order at 12:00 sharp. R/C Klaus thanked St. Francis Yacht Club and staff for their hospitality and called for guests to be introduced. Five guests were introduced: Tom Hutton by his host Bruce Munro; Mike and Sue Proudfoot by their host, Robby Robinson, and Bob Hanelt introduced his guests, Rod Lambert and his wife Elisabeth Lehmberg, who later spoke briefly about their current cruising experiences in the Pacific. Following the introduction of guests, R/C Klaus called for treasurer and committee reports.

Treasurer's Report. Before giving his financial report Bob Hanelt extended New Year greetings to the members of the station on behalf of Roy and Tee Jennings who were not able to attend the meeting. Bob thanked predecessor station leadership, specifically former R/C Zia Ahari, former secretary/treasurer Stafford Keegin, and National CCA Thailand Cruise Director Wyman Harris, for leaving the San Francisco Station in the best financial condition it has ever been. Following payment to StFYC for this lunch, as well as paying other various invoices, the CCA-SAF Station has over \$5,700 in our BofA bank account or yet to be transferred from our PayPal account to the bank account.

Cruise Committee. Robby Robinson reported that six CCA-SAF yachts were anchored at Treasure Island's Clipper Cove to celebrate New Year's Eve, 12/31/13: 1) *Kulu* (Mark & Jean Lindlow); 2) *Defiance* (Bill & Sandy Edinger); 3) *Tuckaroo* (Doug & Anne Finley); 4) *Popeye* (Jim & Mimi Cornelius); 5) *Dolores E* (Robby & Dolores Robinson); and 6) *Flyer* (Jim & Martha Robinson). In addition, yacht-harbor neighbors of Bill Edinger brought their powerboat and hosted the CCA cruisers aboard for New Year's Eve cheer.

Membership Committee. Chairman Zia Ahari advised that he has submitted one candidate's membership documents to the Club Membership Committee and the CCA-SAF Station Membership Committee is processing a second candidate. Zia also advised that two CCA members: Fred Huffman, from Southern California (SOC) Station; and Gary Schwartzman, from Boston (BOS) Station, have transferred to our SAF station. (Secretary/Treasurer note: these additions raise the number of CCA-SAF Station members to 91.) Chairman Ahari also advised station members that the Club Membership Committee Chairman, William E. "Bill" Cook (BOS/BUZ) has simplified the CCA Membership Application Process. The revised process (January 2014) is now available online and the application process will be strictly followed. (See *Members Only Home/Favorite Links* on the CCA website.)

Environment of the Seas Committee. Chairman Bill Foss reported that the Bonnell Cove Foundation, the CCA's research and education arm, is seeking worthy charitable

organizations, with emphases on safety at sea or environmental protection, to grant funding. Bill is requesting CCA-SAF members who know of qualifying charitable organizations to forward Bonnell Cove grant recommendations to him. Bill advised members to mark their calendars for the 11th Annual San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival to be held March 5-9, 2014, and Bill also noted that *Greenline* hybrid powerboats have been introduced to SF Bay and will be shown at the San Francisco Boat Show, January 23-26, 2014, at AT&T Park and McCovey Cove, should members wish to check them out.

Safety at Sea Committee. Chairwoman Sally Honey introduced her husband, Stan Honey, who spoke about the recent 2013 Rolex Sydney-to-Hobart Yacht Race, which started on December 26th, and in which Stan was the navigator aboard the 100-foot *Perpetual LOYAL*. Stan explained that the race conditions, which had relatively light winds early but were followed by gear-busting, stormy conditions, did not favor the larger yachts that sailed and finished before the stronger winds arose. *LOYAL* came in second to *Wild Oats XI*, another 100-footer, which finished 628 nautical mile race in 54 hours and 7 minutes, beating *LOYAL* by 3 hours and 12 minutes. Stan, after briefing members about his experiences in the race, presented a comprehensive overview of the safety considerations that skippers and crew take into account in preparing for and sailing the Sydney-Hobart Race. It's remarkable that yachts intentionally enter the Sydney-Hobart Race fully expecting winds of 40-50 knots and seas exceeding 15 feet! Think about that: skippers know that their boats and their crews will be tested by the Tasman Sea and the Bass Strait and yet they enter the race willingly. The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA) not only requires all entrants to have storm trysails and storm jibs, the yachts must set these sails when registering for the race. The CYCA also requires mandatory weather and safety briefings and specifically tells the entrants that, if they get into trouble, they must be able to recover by themselves. Stan pointed out that, in this regard, sailors in North America are blessed to have the U.S.C.G who can provide night-time helicopters, rescue divers and are able to rescue sailors who are in danger. Quite the opposite, Sydney-Hobart race entrants are constantly reminded that they are on their own. For example, in this year's race, the Queensland sloop *Wedgetail*, a Reichel/Pugh 55, lost her rig in heavy southwest winds off of Tasman Island but finished the race under jury rig and without requesting assistance.

Program Committee. Chairwoman Mary Crowley, prior to introducing today's speaker, Dr. Boehm, advised that the next lunch meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 5th, at the San Francisco Yacht Club and the guest speaker will be David Olson, who will bring and speak about his 1930-built, 136-foot motor yacht *Acania*. (<http://www.acania.net>) Due to room size constraints at the SFYC, guests are not invited to this lunch meeting.

SPEAKER

Beyond the Bark

Listening to seals and sea lions: what they tell us about the health of our bay and ocean.

Dr. Jeff Boehm, Executive Director of the Marine Mammal Center, spoke about the mission of the Marine Mammal Center in terms of three objectives to: 1) rescue, rehabilitate and release sick and injured marine mammals, primarily pinnipeds, along 600 miles of California coastline; 2) conduct scientific research, which allows the Marine Mammal Center to make extraordinary, human-health related discoveries; and 3) educate thousands of students, annually, as well as the public about marine



Dr. Jeff Boehm

mammals and the urgent need for ocean stewardship. The Marine Mammal Center has an annual budget of \$6 million, with 85 percent raised from private sources, and more than 1,100 volunteers from Anchor Bay, in the north, to Morro Bay in the south. Depending on the conditions of the coastal waters in terms of food sources, toxicities and numerous other factors, the Marine

Mammal Center will rescue, hopefully heal and release hundreds of animals per year. In the highest-volume year of 2009, the Marine Mammal Center treated over 1,700 animals, mostly young sea lions suffering from malnutrition.



The Marine Mammal Center

Dr. Boehm stated that about 20 percent of the sea lions that come into the care of the Marine Mammal Center suffer from cancer. There is a cancer "cluster" among California sea lions where the animals, from their fish diet, ingest legacy chemicals that become resident in their fat tissue (blubber) leading to cancer. A number of cancer-research hospitals are joining the Marine Mammal Center to evaluate if there is a possible connection to human cancer where the sea lions might be the equivalent of "canaries in a coal mine." On a more positive note, the Marine Mammal Center has constructed a research and medical center at Kona, on the Big

Island, to treat and rehab Hawaiian monk seals, which are endangered. There are only about 1,100 monk seals in the wild and they are declining about four percent per year. Paradoxically, the monk seals are doing well in the populated main islands of Hawaii but are threatened in the uninhabited islands. The Kona center will focus on monk seals throughout the Hawaiian Archipelago.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE: GENE HARTER

Following the meeting, many of us drove to San Francisco Yacht Club to attend a Celebration of Life for our departed friend and shipmate Eugene C. Harter. Gene was an active member of the San Francisco Yacht Club as well as the Cruising Club of America and the St. Francis Yacht Club, where Gene was a staff commodore. Our station provided a wreath for the ceremony and it was placed on the table where family and friends of Gene signed in to attend his celebration of life. Our member, Hank Easom, spoke to the gathering of Gene's friends and family about, among other of his friend's experiences, Gene's service and bravery during World War II when he was a young U.S. Navy officer aboard LST 224.



CCA-SAF Wreath for Gene Harter