



Cruising Club of America - San Francisco Station February 6, 2008 Meeting Minutes San Francisco Yacht Club

Members Present: Allen, Antrim, Bernheim, Cooper, Cornelius, Darbee, Eaton, Edinger, Finley, Forsythe, Foss, Fullagar, Hanelt, Harris, Harter, Hawley, Hedin, Hogg, Stan Honey, Sally Honey, Hunt, Hurst, LeRoy, Noonan, Noyes, Parkman, Jim Robinson, Robbie Robinson, Roe, Rolien, Sanford, Sutter, Taylor, Van Blaricom and Vespa.

Call to Order and Introduction of Guests: R/C Steve Hunt called the meeting to order and welcomed the great turnout, especially those who had traveled long distances to attend (Christine Sutter from Germany, Stan & Sally Honey from the UK, and Jerry Eaton after his Atlantic crossing). Three new members were also welcomed: Chuck Hawley, Todd Hedin and Peter Noonan. Introduction of guests followed. John Sanford introduced his son Walter, Ben Roe introduced Eleanor Kitto as well as his son David*, Sally Honey introduced prospective member Liz Baylis, Stan Honey introduced his sister Tami Vrolyk, Bob Bernheim introduced Judy Crocker, Bill Edinger introduced Mark, Jean and Katie Lindlow, and Chet Noyes introduced Jack & Susan Heatherington.

*David Roe is a well known lawyer who has represented the Environmental Defense Fund in litigation with PG&E prior to Peter Darbee's tenure at the company. The irony of this was not lost on Peter, who made several references to David's contribution to environmental awareness during his presentation.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: David Fullagar reported that the club has approximately \$2640 in the bank and is in much better shape than in December, thanks to those members who have paid their dues. The 40% of the members who have not yet paid are urged to do so as soon as possible. Two members made contributions over and above their dues. Dick Leather sent \$75 to "buy member's drinks." The secretary/treasurer asked the Rear Commodore to dispense these funds to the appropriate (thirsty) individuals. John Edwards also sent additional funds, with a note to say he is studying for his unlimited tonnage second mate's license in Toledo, Ohio.

Entertainment/Events: Next luncheon meeting on Wednesday, March 5th will be the annual crab feed at the Pt. San Pablo Yacht Club.

Cruise Report: Bill Edinger noted that the May 17 to 18th cruise will be to Half Moon Bay, with dinner on Saturday night to accommodate those who only have two days available. The Tomales Bay cruise scheduled for September 12 to 14 should be considered tentative at this time since Tomales Bay State Park is threatened with closure for budget reasons.

Environment: Bill Foss reported that in January he met in Boston with Ned Cabot and David Rockefeller, Jr., both CCA members and directors of Sailors For The Sea (www.sailorsforthesea.org), and John Bullard, a CCA member and President of SEA Education Association (www.sea.edu), to explore ways in which the Environment of the Sea Committee and these organizations might work together to advance the cause of ocean stewardship. The meeting was very productive and a follow-up is scheduled for April.

As a follow-up to his suggestion at the January meeting that each member of the Station do at least one thing during 2008 for ocean stewardship, Bill distributed a list entitled "Ocean Stewardship - What Can I Do?", a copy of which is being sent out with these minutes. He also suggested that members' wives and significant others, many of whom were present, also commit to one or more such projects during the year.

Cruising We Do:

Stan Honey, Technical Director of TeamOrigin, the British America's Cup challenge, has spent the last 5 months living in Portsmouth, UK. Stan reported that the courts are still figuring out what to do regarding the legal wrangling between Alinghi and BMW Oracle over the definition of a "keel yacht." Meanwhile he is on a retainer working half-time, a frustrating situation for all concerned.

Jerry Eaton summarized his westward passages starting from Marmaris, Turkey to Malagar, Spain, then from Malagar to the Canaries with Jim Cornelius aboard, followed by the Atlantic crossing with Wyman Harris & Walter Sanford described in last month's meeting notes. Jerry noted the joys of the ARC – leaving with a brass band and arriving to a rum punch! Blue Heron is currently in Trinidad.

Peter Barbee described a Caribbean cruise aboard Mystic Pearl. After another couple dropped out at the last minute, he and Melinda sailed from St Martin to Anguilla. From there they beat to windward to St Barts, then on to Saba where they encountered 30 knot "Christmas" winds. Returning to St Martin they had 40 knot squalls, but the two of them had no difficulty handling the 56' Oyster with the help of electric winches and modern electronics.

There being no further business, the formal part of the meeting was adjourned.

Speaker: Rear Commodore Steve Hunt introduced Peter Darbee, Chairman & CEO of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and CCA San Francisco Station member.

The title of the presentation was "Climate Change – The Time Is Now." I think it's fair to say that everyone was *very* impressed by Peter's detailed knowledge of the issues and his commitment to taking a leadership role in getting governments, corporations, politicians, and individuals to take action. I have taken the liberty of summarizing some of the key points on the next page so those who weren't present at the meeting can get a sense of what is being done and how they might help.

The meeting concluded with a thank you by R/C Steve Hunt and a round of applause to Peter Darbee for a terrific presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fullagar
Secretary-Treasurer

“Climate Change – The Time Is Now” by Peter Darbee

Peter described how, when he took the CEO position at PG&E in 2005, he asked the question “do we have a point of view on climate change?” He was told that in the past the corporate stance had been “we cannot have a point of view.” He thought long and hard about that, and concluded it was wrong, both for him personally and for the corporation, not to take a position.

He decided on a different approach, creating a task force within PG&E and sitting down with 20 of the leading scientists in the field and asking the tough questions, as well as reviewing some 928 papers on the subject. The conclusions were three fold:

- 1) There was *unanimous* agreement that climate change is happening.
- 2) It looks as though mankind is almost certainly responsible.
- 3) The time for action is now.

Peter showed compelling photographic and scientific data illustrating the changes that have become all too obvious in recent years – shrinking polar ice caps, receding glaciers, rising sea levels and climate change. He then presented some of the scientific conclusions about what will happen if we don’t act now – loss of coastal land, massive population dislocation, more severe climate changes and widespread species extinction, for example.

Under Peter’s leadership, PG&E has taken a pro-active position in the fight against global warming, working both nationally and internationally with governments, politicians, scientists and other industry leaders. Some of the organizations PG&E is engaged with include:

The US Climate Change Partnership (www.us-cap.org)
The Clean Energy Group (www.thecleanenergygroup.com)
The Edison Electric Group (www.eei.org)
The Energy Task Force (www.westgov.org)

Peter stressed that there are lots of way to conserve energy at home. Energy redirected through conservation costs only 3-4 cents per kilowatt hour, compared with 8 cents for new plant construction.

Here are some of the things we can do:

- Switch to Compact Fluorescent light bulbs
- Replace old appliances with more efficient ones
- Unplug “power vampires” – all those little chargers that are hot to the touch and therefore wasting electricity
- Adjust the thermostat
- Install weather-stripping
- Insulate water heaters
- Keep tires inflated to the correct pressure

Another way we can help is by joining the ClimateSmart program. By adding a small amount to our utility bill, we can make our energy use "climate neutral." 100% of this payment goes directly to funding new greenhouse gas emission reduction projects in California. See www.pge.com/climatesmart.

For more information about PG&E’s position on climate change, see http://www.pgecorp.com/corp_responsibility/pdf/GlobalClimate_06.pdf