



Cruising Club of America - San Francisco Station January 6th, 2011 Meeting Minutes Marin Yacht Club, San Rafael

Members Present:

Ahari, Alderson, Antrim, Bacigalupi, Barker, Baylis, Beek, Clendenin, Cooper, Carter, Cornelius, Cooper, Crowley, Edinger, Finley, Hall, Hanelt, Harris, Hunt, Hurst, Jennings, Knecht, Mason, Mehran, Messer, Munro, Parkman, Quanci, R. Robinson, Roe, Rolien, J. Sanford, Van Blaricom, and Warren.

Call to Order and Introduction of Guests:

R/C Robby Robinson called the meeting to order and began by thanking Zia Ahari for arranging the luncheon. Members and guests were welcomed. Then R/C offered a special welcome to Tony Carter and Roy Jennings, long time members of the club who were attending a meeting after a long absence. He reported that Bob Van Blaricom will receive the Nye Award at the award ceremonies to be held at the New York Yacht Club on March 4. A number of members are planning to travel to New York and participate in the ceremony when Bob receives this prestigious award.

Robby announced that Commodore Sheila McCurdy will visit our station, arriving on Tuesday the 8th of February and departing for the Ski Gam on the 11th. She will attend our next luncheon at the Corinthian YC on Thursday February 10 where our speaker will be Kimball Livingston. Members are encouraged to attend.

The 2011 updated luncheon schedule were placed on each table. The schedule contained some small changes to the one forwarded to you in Robby's Christmas letter. He mentioned that we would like to have entertainment again at the next Christmas dinner on the 7th of December and asked members to pass on suggestions in that regard to Jerry Eaton, our entertainment Chair.

Bruce Munro reported on San Francisco winning the chance to host the next America's Cup.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

Secretary/Treasurer Zia Ahari distributed the revenue and expense analysis for the year 2010, noting that the club's bank account was \$3174, an increase of \$945 in accumulated revenue. The Station has 85 members out of which 11 are Non Residents. The treasurer reported that the extra sum was needed for the probable increase in expenses due to the National Cruise and three station members traveling to CCA Spring and Fall meetings.

National Cruise Report:

Wyman Harris reported the progress on the National Cruise front. The Thailand cruise is planned 18 to 27 January 2013. Participation response is very encouraging. All members are encouraged to join in this fun cruise.

Membership Report:

Bob Van Blaricom reported on progress in the preliminary work on three new members.

Cruise Report:

The New Year's Eve cruise at Clipper Cove was attended by 5 boats: Cruise Chairman Doug Finley asked members to note the proposed 2011 cruises will be at the following places.

- May 13 - 15 Half Moon Bay in conjunction with SFYC
- June 24 - 26 Montezuma Slough & Solano YC
- September 16 - 18 Tomales Bay
- December 31 Clipper Cove New Years

Environment of the Sea: No report.

Gam/Historian/Newsletter:

John Sanford said the latest CCA News has changed its name to Voyages. The next GAM will appear in March.

John Sanford, a member of the Club Nominating Committee, also reported the committee's support for a continuation of offices for Commodore Sheila McCurdy and Vice Commodore Dan Dyer. He also reported nomination of Zia Ahari as a member of Board of Governors of CCA.

Speaker of the month.

Clark Beek, our station member, gave a fascinating report on sailing to Cape Horn, and on to Antarctica, part of his 10-year circumnavigation. With three crew members on board *Salar*, his 40' ketch, he left Cape Maxwell, an extremely well protected anchorage in the vicinity of the Horn, crossed the Drakes Passage in 10 hours and cruised Antarctica during February and March 2007. Clark showed many photos including a large number of icebergs the size of city blocks; bergy bits the size of a house, and growlers. During his visit he moored at solitary places sometimes being snared by the collection of ice on mooring lines and frozen water around the boat even in the summer season. He noted that if a boat is prepared for Cape Horn, it is reasonably outfitted to visit Antarctica. He sought shallow, sheltered coves (too shallow to allow entrance of icebergs) and used 2-4 shore mooring lines ¾ inch diameter. He said anchoring was usually not possible or advisable. Clark visited quite a number of scientific stations except for the US and British stations who required previous applications. The rest of the stations run by many countries large and small were all welcoming and hospitable. He was particularly impressed by a Ukrainian station that had been purchased from the Brits for a total sum of 1 Pound Sterling. The station even had a British style pub with all memorabilia one sees in English pubs. Reportedly there are over 30 scientific stations in Antarctica. The reason is that the treaty declaring Antarctica an International zone expires in 2037, and most countries with stations in Antarctica are establishing footholds for the future territorial and mineral rights.

During the visit he noticed a large number of debris and trash left behind by previous explorers and stations. This is due to the almost subzero temperatures all year round which literally *Freeze Dries* whatever is left behind. He also talked about the extreme vulnerability of living creatures in this hostile environment. He gave the example of the only type of moss that grows approximately 1 inch annually. Obviously, a wrongly placed footmark hinders the growth of the moss for many years. He also described an admirable tradition amongst the Antarctic sailors and explorers where they leave the remaining of their provisions in huts called Antarctic Cache for the use of those who might fall short of supplies and need them.

According to Clark, the modern electronic chart did not contain enough useful information, and the best guides were sketch charts, and recommendations from the sailors who had been there before. His most interesting remark was that contrary to the prevailing customs, the most experienced sailors were the most cautious. The weather is extremely unstable and unreliable. *Salar* got stuck, icebound in Paradise Bay for two weeks. Clark's presentation was greatly appreciated by the audience and he was repeatedly interrupted by his eager audience.

Finally Robby Robinson called Mr. Benjamin Yamanaca, the general manager of Marin Yacht Club and thanked him for the services and the food served. He said as a result of our good experience that CCA/SAF may well make use of the hospitality offered by Marin Yacht Club.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Zia Ahari
Secretary/Treasurer

Note: Please remit 2011 dues checks (\$50 for CA residents, \$25 for out-of-state members) to:

*Zia Ahari
41 Heritage Drive
San Rafael, CA 94901*

Checks should be made out to "CCA San Francisco Station" and marked as "Dues"

Thank you.

Visit The Station website by opening the link below to get updated with all that is happening in and around us.

<http://www.cruisingclub.com/mo/stations/sfnew/default.htm>