



**Cruising Club of America - San Francisco Station  
66th Annual Christmas Dinner Dec 7th, 2011  
Change of Watch  
San Francisco Yacht Club  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Ahari, Antrim, Bacigalupi, Barker, Beek, Bekins, Bernheim, Cooper, Cornelius, Darbee, Easom, Edinger, Enersen, Finley, Foss, Hanelt, Harris, Hedin, Sally Honey, Stan Honey, Hunt, Keegin, Knecht, Le Roy, Mason, Moradzadeh, Munro, Noonan, Olsen, Parkmen, Partidge, Robby Robinson, J. Sanford, W. Sanford, Straus, Van Blaricom and Vespa.

**Call to order:** R.C. noted the significance of the date, December 7. He asked the audience for a moment of silence to honor all veterans, current and past who have served our country. The San Francisco Station has four WWII veterans, Charlie Bacigalupi, Ben Roe, Hank Strauss and Gene Harter.

He then welcomed the members, their spouses and guests. He especially welcomed Steve Taylor, the Club Secretary, who was participating in the Station's Christmas Dinner for the second time. He then thanked Jim Cornelius, San Francisco Yacht Club Catering Department and the manager for making these gatherings repeating successes.

Then R/C asked proposers, Jim Antrim and Bob Hanelt to introduce our new members, Mike Moradzadeh and Cree Partridge. The Secretary/Treasurer presented Mike and Cree with the customary membership packet. The R/C asked John Sanford to introduce our recent transfer from New York Hank Strauss. Hank has been a member of the CCA since 1967 and is a WWII Navy Veteran who is a shipwreck survivor off Newfoundland. His story can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/hankstrauss>,

Then R/C reported to the members a State of the Station at present. Eight bells for our departed member and friend Jon Clendenin. We have 89 members of which 12 are non-residents. We had seven new members who joined our station this year: Steve Chamberlin, Stafford Keegin, John Scarborough, John McCartney, Alex Mehran, Cree Partridge and Michael Moradzadeh. He then announced a new addition to CCA family, the arrival of Alexander Mehran III, weight 7 lbs 13 oz, and height 20.5 inches, a son born to Alec and Maggie Mehran just this week.



Then the R/C reported that earlier this year Vice Commodore Dan Dyer, instructed the club Awards Chair and past Commodore Bob Drew to design a lapel pin for past Rear Commodores. Bob asked his wife, Mindy, who is the current R/C of the Essex Station, to design it. R/C asked the past R/Cs of the station: Don Bekins, Jim Cooper, Jim Cornelius, Steve Hunt, Jerry Knecht, John Sanford and Bob VanBlaricom to stand and receive their lapel pins of distinction. After applause, he noted that all living past R/C of

San Francisco were in attendance.

The R/C went on to say that he wished to recognize and thank members who have made this station function these past two year. He went on ask the following members to stand and remain standing.

**Jim and his wife Mimi Cornelius**, our liaison for many years to SFYC and for hosting Commodore Shelia McCurdy during her visit at their home.

**Wyman Harris, Jerry Eaton, & Sally Honey** members of the Program Committee for their fine work in choosing the venues and inviting a group of most interesting speakers. Again **Wyman Harris and Jerry Eaton** for being the co-chairs of the 2013 Thailand Cruise which the station is hosting - that is a big, big job

**Doug Finley** the Chair of the Cruise committee, not only for arranging the cruises, but also ordering great weather at each occasion.

**Bill Foss** Chair of Environment of the Sea committee, both at the station and for the Club for guiding the Station to participate in the California Coastal Cleanup effort. Bill was assisted by **Todd Hedin**, who volunteered as beach captain and organized the effort.

**Steve Hunt** Chaired the Nominating Committee and acted as back-up at the luncheons the R/C could not attend.

**John Sanford & Walter Sanford:** John, Historian and writer of the station GAM reports, is a member of the Club nominating committee and has just been appointed for second 5 year term. Walter is our Webmaster. John and Walter hosted a wonderful cocktail party for Commodore McCurdy at Walter & Ellen's home.

**Bob Hanelt** created and maintains members yacht photos and sends Walter updates for the website.

**Dick Enersen** became the "official" photographer after Commodore McCurdy's visit when John Sanford realized how good he was and was the first to volunteer for the Siam 2013 committee.

**Bob VanBlaricom** has been membership chair. Bob previously has been R/C twice, cruise chair, and Chair of the Clubs award committee, and is the senior member of San Francisco Station. At almost every decision point during the past two years, regardless of the subject, we'd often ask "**what would Bob do?**"

After applause, and when all were seated, the R/C recognized **Zia Ahari**, who has served the station for the past two years as the Secretary/Treasurer, for his meeting announcements and minutes each month, the report of station finances, and his presentations of the new member packets. "He also volunteered to be a Club Governor and a Director of the Bonnell Cove Foundation. I can tell you, Zia works very, very hard at these jobs. I can't imagine how difficult it would have been for me without Zia at my right hand".

"And finally I'd like to recognize my wife, **Dolores**."

Everything I've ever written in the past six years both as membership chair and R/C, she has read and gently offered suggestions which made them better. She has almost always accompanied me to each luncheon and to Club meetings. She is a source of strength"!



## Presentation of the Cruiser of the Year Award.



Almost every year the Cruiser of the Year award is presented to a member who has achieved the longest or the most arduous cruising during the years past. The trophy's home is at the San Francisco Yacht Club. It is a real pleasure to award the station

Cruiser of the Year Trophy for 2011 to Bill & Karen Foss.

Bill has been a member of our station since 2002. He has cruised and raced both aboard his Wylie 34, *Cheyenne* and his Farr 44, *Detente*. A number of our station members, Jerry Knecht, Wink Smith, Don Bekins, Bob & Jane VanBlaricom have sailed with him. Bill sailed *Detente* to the Farallon Islands for 10 years as part of the Farallon Patrol. He motivated the R/C to do that for a couple of years.

Bill took delivery of his newest *Detente*, a Hylas 54 in Chicago in 2005. That June, John Sanford and Bill Forsyth accompanied Bill from Michigan to Kingston Ontario. He subsequently sailed down the St Lawrence Seaway to Nova Scotia and Newport, Rhode Island. In 2006, he sailed across the Atlantic to the Med where Bill and Karen have been cruising for the past 5 years. The boat is currently in Turkey where they will return next year.

Bill and Karen duly received the Trophy and a plaque. They thanked the Station for awarding them the trophy.

## Change of Watch.

Finally, the R/C thanked everyone for their help and support for the past two years and introduced the next Rear Commodore, **Zia Ahari** and the next Secretary/Treasurer **Bill Edinger**.

Zia Ahari was presented with the Evan Pugh Cannon Trophy, the Gavel, the Lapel Pin and the Commodore Flag.

Robby Robinson replied to a prolonged applaud and returns to his table.

Zia Ahari took to the podium and made the following comments:

“It is common wisdom that after a certain age--code word for the old--finding friends and establishing a new social network is next to impossible. When Farideh and I decided to move from Sweden to the US, Fari my wife

being a sane person took a plane. I being what I am decided to do it the *Pilgrims' way*.in sailboat alone. At the time, facing the inevitable expected hazards was not my biggest of worries; it was the loss of an established circle of friends and losing our well nurtured social network that worried me. Now, today, when I look at the faces of the present company I realize the absurdity of those worries. I can not find enough words to express my sense of privilege that I feel by being elected to be a member of this august society and be chosen to sit at the helm of the station. I pray that I will be able to stand up to the challenge. Thank you.

As my wife Farideh and our two children, both here, will testify, I am a person that cannot survive without worries and now my latest one is whether I shall be able to fill the shoes of Robby, who is vacating this position.



During the past two years I have come to appreciate Robby's mild demeanor and keen sense of judgment. To put it in a nutshell, I have found Robby a remarkable man, a good friend, a source of inspiration and very cool under stress. Robby is a remarkable sailor who has tried it all from sailing in Scottish waters, to singlehanded racing in the Pacific and in their last escapade while crewing aboard *Defiance*, Bill Edinger's trimarin, back from Hawaii, one of the amas had caved in, they had decided to have a cup of tea before doing anything else. Robby believes that with the termination of his term of office he is off the hook and he may spend more time on the *Dolores E.*, the Canadian wooden fishing trawler that he spends most of his waking hours working on. Robby is wrong. He is going to be closely involved, not in the daily running of the show, but where a sound judgment and good advice is needed. On behalf of all who have had the privilege of working with Robby and all other members of the station:

Robby thank you.

A number of members have volunteered to help run the Station;

**Robby Robinson**, Nominating and Awards Committee

**Bob Van Baricom**, Membership Committee

**Bill LeRoy and Sally Honey**, jointly the Program Committee

**Clark Beek**, Cruise Committee

**Wyman Harris** the all important National Cruise Committee

**Bill Foss**, both the Club and the station Environment of the Sea

**John Sanford**, Station historian and archives committee. John has also been re-elected to remain as a member of the Club Nominating Committee.

**Jim Cornelius**, Fleet Surgeon responsible for our health and last but not the least,

**Dick Enersen** remains as the station's official photographer.

To view all photos taken by Dick at this event please go to the following link;

<http://dickenersen.smugmug.com/Events/CCA-SAF-XMAS>

Being no further business meeting is adjourned

**Next Meeting:** Will be at Saint Francis Yacht Club, San Francisco, Chart Room on Wednesday January 4.

### **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Zia E. Ahari

Secretary/Treasurer

Please visit the CCA, San Francisco Station and the National website:

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

You may find the latest information on members and the Siam Cruise 2013