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December 2006 Vol.7, No.11



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This stunning photograph appears in chapter 7, Skaggs & Mare Island, in "The Islands of San Francisco Bay," a book co-created by James A. Martin and Michael T. Lee. It's a one of a kind reference book, as it features images, history and ecology for all of the islands in the Bay. Photo by James A. Martin. www.islandsofsfbay.com

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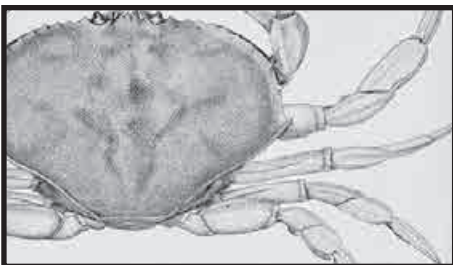
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Aquatic Park Lagoon Reopens for Swimming

AQUATIC PARK, SAN FRANCISCO
-- San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park's Aquatic Park Lagoon re-opened for swimming on Nov. 20, after five days of being closed due to multiple swimmers receiving bites from a seal or sea lion.

The park has been monitoring the area from shore and by boat and, so far, no additional aggressive marine mammal behavior has been observed, and the swim clubs in Aquatic Park have not reported any new incidents.

Although the lagoon has re-opened to swimmers, the park's recreational



users should be aware that marine mammals in the San Francisco Bay are wild animals, in their natural habitat, and that their behavior can be unpredictable. Swimmers are advised to keep a safe distance from any sea lion or harbor seal they may observe in the lagoon, and to avoid any interaction with the animal.

According to National Park Service

Senior Science Advisor Sarah G. Allen, Ph.D., Aquatic Park Lagoon swimmers might encounter more sea lions than usual this year. Allen, stationed at Point Reyes National Seashore, advises that if sea lion food supplies are low along the southern California coast, more animals might be migrating northward and visiting San Francisco Bay.

Using 511 Services for Travel Assistance During Holiday Season

OAKLAND -- The Bay Area's 511 service is a resource for travelers that can be especially helpful during the holiday season. Travelers and commuters can find out how long it will take to drive to Grandma's house, how many parking spots are left at the airport or when to catch the next train for some holiday shopping. The 511 information is toll-free and available 24/7. The same information is also available on the Web at 511.org.

Among the most popular 511 features for holiday travelers is Driving TimesSM, which delivers on-demand information about point-to-point travel times on the Bay Area freeway network.

The 511 Airport option is also popular, and contains information about traffic conditions, parking rates and ground transportation at the San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose and Sacramento airports — plus updated data on parking availability at Oakland

International Airport. Callers to the 511 phone service need only say "Driving Times" or "Airports" at the main menu, and then follow the prompts on a state-of-the-art voice response system.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) introduced the 511 phone service and a companion Web portal at 511.org to provide timely, on-demand information for drivers, transit riders, carpoolers, vanpoolers and bicyclists throughout the Bay Area in Dec. 2002.



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Rolls-Royce of Marine Lifts Raises Yacht Servicing Bar

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ALAMEDA -- Bay Ship & Yacht, Co., which serves the superyacht market, has announced the completion of their Rolls-Royce Marine Syncrolift® installation. The company currently operates 1,200 feet of shore side berths and one floating dry dock with a capacity of 2800-tons. With the addition of the Syncrolift®, Bay Ship & Yacht will have an additional hoisting capacity of 1200-tons, and will enable flexible scheduling for major refits, hull and propulsion system maintenance and extended-stay repairs to superyachts. This installation positions Bay Ship & Yacht as the only shipyard on the California coast to offer this type of lift and transfer system.

“Working with Rolls-Royce Marine has really helped us to improve our tonnage capacity and maximize the use of

our land-based production area,” said Bill Elliott, the general manager and president of Bay Ship & Yacht. “In addition, we are looking forward to dramatically increasing our ability to better accommodate our customer’s needs with more flexible scheduling and additional “out-of water” services.”

Bay Ship & Yacht’s Syncrolift® is equipped with four full-length railway tracks which transit from sea onto dry land. Modular cradles support the vessel’s hull and are equipped with four-wheel rail dollies to facilitate transfer. Once lifted out of the water, the vessel is rolled ashore on transfer rails to its pre-assigned berth. Several outside berths have a capacity for a 62 meter (200 ft.) vessel, and each berth is equipped with its own “Dedicated

Service Center” (DSC). The DSC provides each berth with its own host of services including compressed air, cooling water, full electric distribution, telephone and high-speed internet access and waste water disposal facilities.

“By adding the additional shore berths, we are able to offer our customers a complete line of services including year round hull and top-side painting, major refits and more flexible and timely scheduling,” said Alan Cameron, shipyard manager of Bay Ship & Yacht. “With our location on beautiful San Francisco Bay, we are the perfect destination for superyacht owners and crews to dock for extended repairs and upgrades while enjoying the sights and local attractions of Northern California.”



Photo by Eric Balderston

Syncrolift greatly increases hoisting capacity.

A Syncrolift is simply a large elevator that raises and lowers ships in and out of the water for dry-docking ashore. The patented articulated platform mechanically supports a ship in a manner similar to that provided by buoyancy when it is afloat.

Happy Holidays from Golden Gate Transit!

Holiday Calendar

	Ferry	Bus
<i>Christmas Day</i> Monday, December 25, 2006	No Service	Holiday
<i>New Year's Day</i> Monday, January 1, 2007	No Service	Holiday
<i>Martin Luther King Day</i> Monday, January 15, 2007	Holiday	Regular

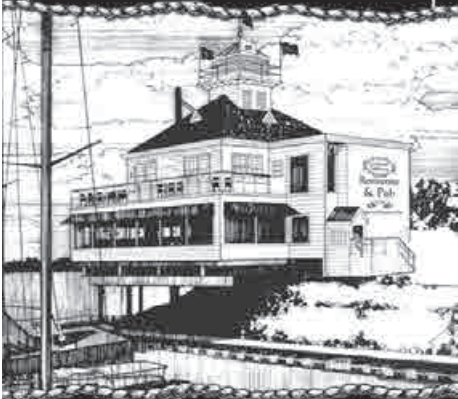
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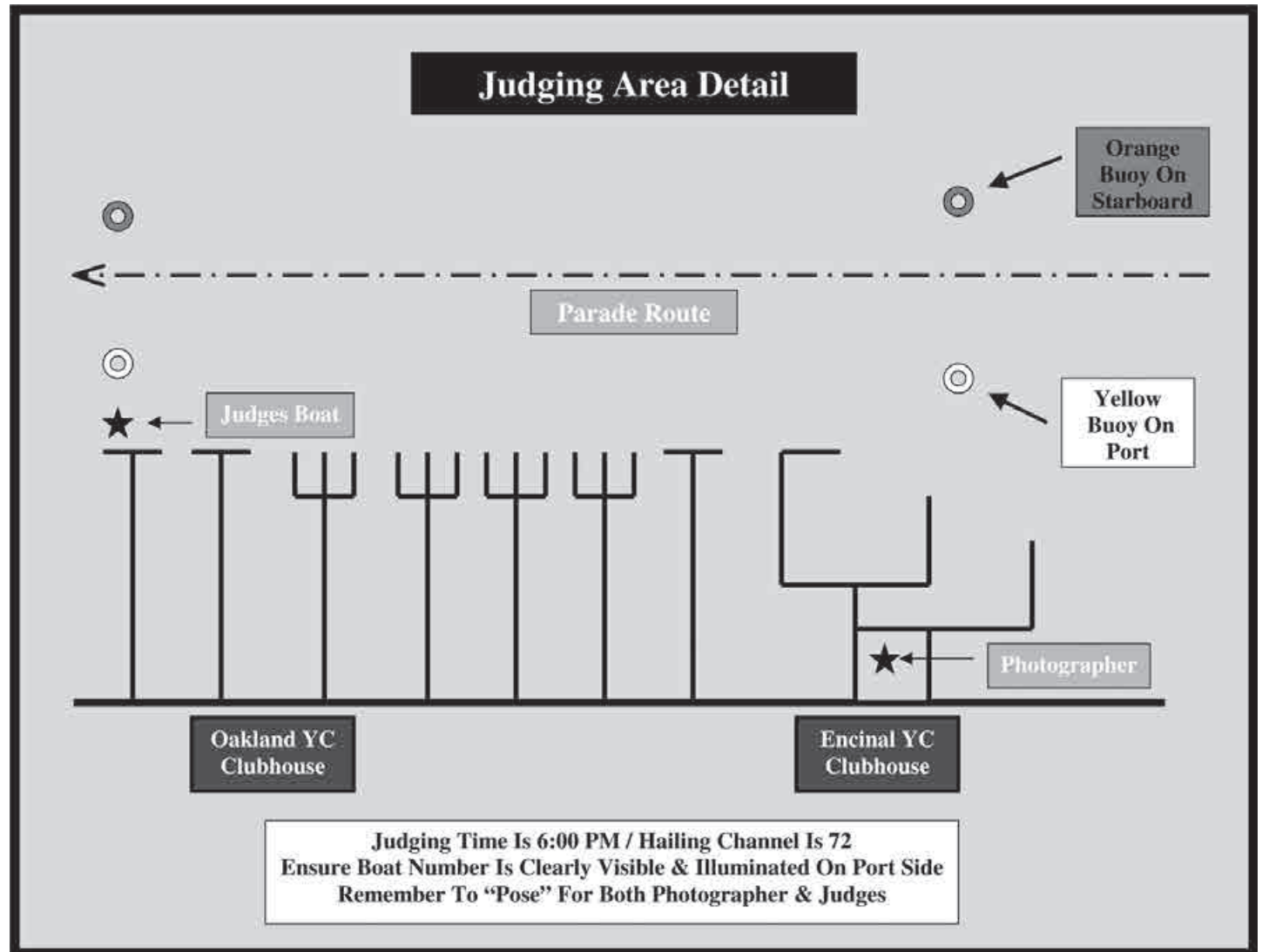
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WATERFRONT VIEWS



The 30th Annual Lighted Yacht Parade Route Saturday, December 2

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Photo courtesy of Oakland Yacht Club

The 30th Annual Lighted Yacht Parade

Each year on the first Saturday in December, the Lighted Yacht Parade kicks off the holiday season. Bay Area boat owners decorate their boats for a parade, while hundreds of spectators gather along the waterfront at specified viewing areas or at restaurants that afford them a view of the Oakland/Alameda Estuary.

“Winter Wonderland” is this year’s theme for parade. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for “Best Decorated Power Boat” and “Best Decorated Sail Boat.” A grand prize will be awarded for “Best Overall Decorated Boat.” Judges will evaluate boats based on: representation of this year’s theme, the number of lights, creativity with decorations, costumes and music. This year’s grand prize winner will receive dinner for four at the Oakland Fire House, Station #12. Dinner will be prepared by the Oakland Firefighters and will include a ride on their restored antique fire truck.

Similar to past years, the parade partners with The Oakland Firefighters Random Acts of Kindness and the Alameda Food Bank. Participants and spectators are encouraged to donate food, new unwrapped toys, or money at the designated drop sites located at each organizer’s facility. These donations provide food and toys to deserving kids and families during the holiday season. For more information, www.alamedafoodbank.org / www.ofrandomacts.org.



The 30th Annual Lighted Yacht Parade

Sat., December 2

Parade begins at sunset (around 5PM)

View the parade from the Oakland/Alameda Estuary Waterfront, Wind River Park in Alameda and Jack London Square in Oakland.

Take the Oakland-Alameda Ferry (see ferry schedules, page 30.)

More Bay Area Lighted Boat Parades

Stockton’s “Delta Reflections” parade is Dec. 2 at 5PM, beginning at Light 39 in Buckley Cove-to Weber Point. McLeod Lake and returning to Light 39.

Benicia’s Rio Vista parade is Dec. 2. It starts at the foot of Main St. at 6PM. Boats travel from Delta Marina to the Rio Vista Bridge. Take the VallejoFerry.

Enterprise Zone Enhances Richmond's Economic/Community Development Opportunities



Photo by Susan Brand

This commercial property on Marina Bay is one of many that are located in the Richmond Enterprise Zone.

The City of Richmond's employers and employees scored a big victory last month when they were notified that Richmond had been granted a new conditional State Enterprise Zone Designation.

The California Enterprise Zone Program strives to create and sustain economic expansion in certain California communities by encouraging entrepreneurship and employment growth. The program targets economically distressed areas by using special state and local tax incentives that are designed to encourage business investment and promote the creation of new jobs in these areas, as well as retain and expand existing business operations.

Richmond is one of only 23 such Enterprise Zones recently established in the State of California. This designation means Richmond's current Enterprise Zone status will not be interrupted and, providing the City meets its requirements, it will continue for 15 more years.

"Enterprise Zones provide an efficient mechanism to target state and local resources and enhance the City's ability to help Richmond residents attain work in the City," says Community and Economic Developer Director, Steve Duran.

This classification also gives Richmond the opportunity to build on 15 years of successes within the Enterprise Zone. Approximately 8,000 disadvantaged individuals have received employment in Richmond as

the result of the credit vouchers that have been issued since the program's inception, with over 3,500 being issued in the past three years.

According to Richmond Mayor, Irma L. Anderson, "The Richmond Enterprise Zone has been vital to the recruitment and retention of industry and businesses in Richmond. It is one of the very few incentives we can offer that make Richmond a competitive choice against overseas labor markets. The new designation will enable us to go to the next level — creating many more quality jobs for local residents; expanding private

"It's the real thing. ATS has received significant tax benefits because of the Enterprise Zone."

— Jeff Shea, ATS Products

investment in the downtown as well as key commercial corridors and add to the incentives we can offer to the green, sustainable businesses that are our priority for recruitment."

Paul Levitan of Galaxy Desserts, who moved to Richmond last April, said they are looking forward to participating in the program in the near future. "The

[Enterprise Zone] credits are there on our balance sheet," Levitan says. "As we grow our business, we will be able to take advantage of it more and more."

Jeff Shea with ATS Products (long-time Richmond residents that manufacture corrosion resistant, fire retardant duct and pipe systems) says, "It's the real thing. ATS has received significant tax benefits because of the Enterprise Zone."

Among the benefits available to businesses within Enterprise Zones is \$31,234 or more in tax credits for each qualified employee hired and sales tax credits on purchases of \$20 million per year of qualified machinery and machinery parts. Unused tax credits can be applied to future tax years extending the benefits of initial investments. Enterprise Zone companies can also earn preference points on state contracts. Lenders to businesses within the Zone may receive a net interest deduction.

In August, Governor Schwarzenegger released a report evaluating the success of the program from 1990 to 2000. On average, poverty and unemployment rates declined while household incomes, wages and salaries increased more than the rest of the state. Schwarzenegger states, "By using incentives like hiring credits or sales tax credits, these Enterprise Zones can harness the entrepreneurial spirit of our state and help draw business investment to economically depressed areas. Enterprise Zones lead to more jobs, less poverty and long-term economic stability."

In conjunction with the announcement of the Enterprise Zone extension, the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency's Office of Economic Development launched its new "Choose Your Richmond" marketing campaign. Along with a revamped marketing brochure, a new business Web site was unveiled to rave reviews from the commercial brokerage community.

The new Web site, *RichmondCA4business.com*, is designed to assist companies interested in learning more about doing business in Richmond. Information is available on planning and building services, licensing issues, area and industry profiles as well as a city overview, business opportunity listings and details for incentives and programs available to Richmond businesses.

Richmond's Office of Economic Development can help business owners who are interested in relocating their business to Richmond. The office works with entrepreneurs and investors to track down businesses for sale and to find available properties that particularly suit specific industries. Some for-sale or lease properties are already tailor made for industries like manufacturing, biotech or retail. Assistance is available to facilitate business-to-business transactions such as equipment purchases.

One type of redevelopment that the City of Richmond is especially interested in is mixed-use projects that combine residential, commercial and retail uses in the same area. Decades-old zoning ordinances that separated land uses by distinct areas resulted in several unintended negative effects including long commutes, overcrowded highways and an eroding urban tax base. Richmond, and cities like it all over the country, now realizes that by creating pedestrian-friendly, community-

Richmond's new business Web site provides a wealth of information for companies interested in doing business in Richmond.

Richmond 's Office of Economic Development can help business owners who are interested in relocating their business to Richmond.

centered locations that combine residential and business uses, it can offer residents and business owners unique opportunities not available in the suburbs. Mixed-use projects in Richmond will offer access to major transportation hubs and an

extensive and diverse labor pool. Mixed-use development also helps municipalities manage growth more cost effectively.

Today, Richmond is targeting key areas for redevelopment, many of which are perfect for

revitalization efforts emphasizing a mixed-use approach. The City's mission is to guide the process by clearing away unnecessary hurdles to development while protecting the best interests of the community.

Richmond Community
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December Events



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21st Annual Community Messiah Sing-A-Long

First Presbyterian Church
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 For more info call 707.649.2787



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Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum
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www.vallejoarts.org

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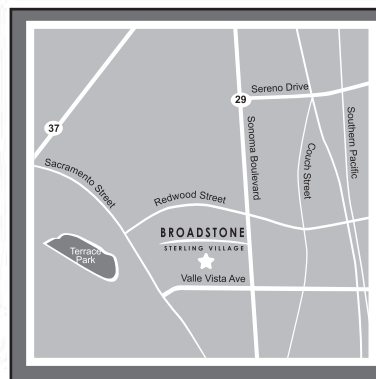


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Photo by Denise Dohogne

The "Hey, Diddle Diddle" dressed for the 2005 Benicia Parade of Boats.

Dockside Dwelling Spotlight on the Lighted Boat Parades

BY DENISE DOHOGNE

If you've ever witnessed, first-hand, a lighted boat parade during the Holiday Season, then you know just how magical and spirit-filled these traditional yacht club events can be. For those of you who've missed all the fun and excitement, you're definitely in for a treat.

The evening begins just after nightfall. Revelers gather around a staging area, usually the fuel dock or guest dock near the yacht club, or any place where all the vessels in the parade will float by in a somewhat orderly fashion. All of the boats are proudly dressed, bow to stern, in colorful lights and fantastic ornaments. It's an awesome spectacle of sailboats with masts strung with lights stretching unfettered, high into the dark sky, and stately motor yachts that command attention with the sheer volume of whimsical creativity their massive hulls deserve.

There is usually a decorating theme, but if there is one rule for December's lighted boat parade décor it's "the more the merrier." If done right, however, even simple elegance takes the prize. I've seen some remarkably beautiful sailboats made into lighted Christmas trees, and graceful

renditions of snow-covered yachts draped with icicles, fanciful snowflakes suspended in their riggings, and the power boats, with their expansive decks and fly bridges garlanded in lights, become elegant, glistening objects.

Oh yes, there are prizes and coveted awards for winners in various categories, so it comes as no surprise that some boat parades around the Bay Area have become quite competitive. Those incentives are just enough to cause boaters to go "overboard" with their light displays, though bragging rights are really what it's all about.

It's important to mention what goes on behind the scenes in the days leading up to the actual parade. There's a special camaraderie at the marina as the boaters begin the sometimes difficult process of hanging lights to create their special effects. Case in point: Last year my crew and I were determined to win the grand prize, which included a free month's slip fee. We began our lofty endeavor by stringing the usual lights on the railing and stabilizing mast. It quickly became obvious that more ingenuity was required if we were to win. With that in mind, our theme became "The Good Ship Lollipop," and we fastened an oversized crown of lighted lollipops around the bow and stern, adding other candy accents

along the way. As if this weren't enough, our special effects first mate created a giant transparent red lollipop lit by the anchor light (the mast being the lollipop stick) and an eye-popping, spot-lit smoke stack that bellowed a stream of bubbles. Musical accompaniment included the legendary "Good ship Lollipop," as sung by Shirley Temple, blaring from the ship's hailer. We were a venerable candy store in motion.

Although creativity is king in terms of display, all would be lost without electricity. And no one wants anything to go wrong while en route. The biggest challenges are securing enough generator power and extension cords to simultaneously fuel the lights and boat's systems, and safely maneuvering about a boat strewn with duck-taped decorations and filled with party-going passengers. Motoring out in the Bay at night and adhering to parade formation and safety rules requires a constant heads up on the part of the captain.

Being a part of a lighted boat parade from either the ship or the shore makes for an incredibly memorable experience, one that will be talked about for months. It's a fantastic way to get with the holiday spirit, and everyone loves a parade.

Denise Dohogne is a Waterfront Real Estate Specialist serving the SF Bay & Delta regions of Solano, Napa and Contra Costa Counties. She is broker/owner of Denise Dohogne Real Estate in Benicia, Captain of a 1977 CHB Trawler, the *Hey Diddle Diddle*, and a member of the Vallejo Yacht Club. For more information, call (888) DD4-WATER or visit www.DeniseDohogne.com



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Sausalito & Tiburon A comfortable ride across the San Francisco Bay to the two Marin seaside villages of Sausalito and Tiburon to enjoy shopping, dining or an easy stroll around town.

Angel Island A California State park and wildlife reserve. Angel Island is both a great picnic destination with hiking, kayak tours, an hour-long fully-narrated TramTour, as well as a historical site dating back to the U.S. Civil War.

Vallejo Sail to Vallejo, a waterfront community that includes the city's Heritage District, Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum and family-friendly Marine World amusement park.

Alameda & Oakland There's dining in Jack London Square, the Farmer's market on Sundays and jazz nightly.

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Thaddeus' Ruminations

What makes it organic?

For 30 years my family has been farming the same land in a manner different from conventional farming methods. In the beginning there was not a term that represented our style of agriculture. Growing crops in a manner that eliminated the need for chemicals while maximizing sustainable use of the land was not “normal.” Selecting varieties based on their taste and culinary traits opposed to their yield and shelf life was unheard of.

My parent’s generation toiled to get the public to realize the value of this alternative way of producing food. This movement encompasses much more than simply not using chemicals. It reduces the intensive use of land, promotes natural biodiversity and reduces soil erosion. It creates an environment where the farm workers work with the farm owners. It creates a marketing network that connects small farms directly to consumers. One word was being used to represent the movement and these changes — organic.

Today, the detail of not using chemicals in the long process of farming is the only thing that the term organic represents. The certification that defines organic does not verify or even encourage a complete, sustainable farming system. It means nothing of the size, farming procedures, management goals and marketing techniques of a farm. When the organic movement began these details were more important than limiting the amendments a farmer used when cultivating crops.

While my family and many other families still farm in a method consistent with the original movement, we are put in the same category as factory farms that have slightly altered their conventional farming process to meet the legal definition of organic. These farms can be huge corporations whose management practice is to harvest three to four different crops on the same piece of land in one year to maximize revenue from that land for the year’s profit. In contrast, our farm’s practice is to grow one crop per year then leave that land fallow for a season, or grow a cover crop that is incorporated back into the ground — maximizing the sustainable use of the land for the next generation.

Today the organic certification our farm completes every year does not do our sustainable farming practices justice. It has one-dimension standards that extend no further than the list of materials that have been used in our fields. The challenge of my generation is to make consumers realize that the farming method is what is important, and to build a produce distribution system that allows consumers to support individual farms and those farms’ practices. Unfortunately, today the word organic has shifted to a marketing term that loosely enforces a set of amendments that are considered “organic” in order to earn a premium price for a farm’s product.

Winter Kale

One bunch kale – cut the stems out. I prefer the lacinato (dino) kale.

One shallot – finely cut

Four cloves garlic – finely cut

Olive oil - enough to put a thin layer on the pan

Soy Sauce – 1/8 cup

Heat olive oil in pan on medium heat.

Sautee chopped garlic and shallots in the oil for a couple of minutes.

Add kale and soy sauce.

Cook until kale is completely wilted and tender (about five minutes).

Thaddeus Barsotti is a second generation organic farmer, and an owner of Capay Organic, a 240 organic farm in the Capay Valley, which was started in 1976. Farm Fresh to You is his organic produce delivery service that serves

2,000 customers in the Bay Area. Capay Organic and Farm Fresh to You retail stores can be found in San Francisco’s Ferry Building. Thaddeus welcomes your comments. Thaddeus17@gmail.com . www.farmfresh toyou.com



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Dungeness Crab: Pull and Crack 'em Yourself

BY GEORGE CARVALHO

How's fresh crab for dinner sound? Just make a beeline for your favorite fish counter and load up, right? Well, maybe. Or why not go crabbing?

Kevin and Bryan Gorman prefer to personally pluck their crabs from the sea. They love taking their boat just outside the Golden Gate Bridge for crabbing. And after five years of doing so, they've honed their technique to perfection.

What do these DIY crabbers say is the secret to their success? First off, use the right bait, and they insist frozen squid is the ticket — the crabs just can't keep their claws off it. But don't just hang that squid inside a circular crab pot. Instead, put it in a plastic bait jar with a perforated lid. The holes allow the squid scent to circulate, but the jar prevents the bait from being eaten. Toss a fish carcass into the crab trap if you want the live crabs to have something to munch on — a good idea, because the goal is to keep the crustaceans busy until the trap is retrieved. Otherwise, they might slip out and shuffle off sideways en route to a better buffet.

Some crabbers place their traps then go fishing near the Farallon Islands for a few hours before returning to pull up

the traps. But the Gorman brothers' strategy calls for letting the pots sit for extended day soaks. This means making two trips, but they don't mind. Part of the fun is motoring across San Francisco Bay in their 22-foot Boston Whaler Revenge. And besides, as the proprietor of the Outboard Motor Shop, Bryan, 42, needs to spend quality time with his merchandise.

The first two weeks of the crabbing season in November — before the commercial guys get going — are the best, the brothers say. So that's when they headed out in 2005, borrowing a bigger boat to take seven friends about nine miles north of the Golden Gate. Everyone aboard had the required sport fishing license — \$34.90 for the season or \$11.30 for a single day. When the crew pulled up 120 Dungeness crabs in seven traps, each permit holder went home with the full 10-crab quota and big smiles.

Recovering the traps is hard work. They're placed in 80 to 150 feet of water at the end of 200 feet of line, and a full trap can easily weigh 60 pounds. Hauling traps up would be a cakewalk with a power winch, but the Gormans rely on good old-fashioned hand pulling.

Back at the dock, the crew hoses down the boat, and then it's time to cook the crabs. Kevin, 41, mans a steam cooker outside. Purists say the best way



to eat Dungeness crab is to crack it open and swab it in a little lemon juice and melted butter. Some crab-lovers insist on making crab cakes, salad or bisque, but how the crab is prepared really doesn't matter. Add some sourdough French bread and wash it down with generous amounts of beer or white wine for a meal worthy of any gourmand.

Crab season this year runs Nov. 11 through June 30, though the pickings are slim late in the season. Check out the

Coastside Fishing Club's crabbing tutorial at www.coastsidefishingclub.com and the California Department of Fish and Game's Web site at www.dfg.ca.gov for more information. Those without a boat can join a charter vessel. For details, check out www.emeryvillesportfishing.com.

Article originally appeared in the Nov. 2006 issue of Alameda Magazine; published in Bay Crossings with permission.

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Speakeasy Ales & Lagers: The Eyes Have It

BY JOEL WILLIAMS

Speakeasy Ales & Lagers, a microbrewery located in an industrial area of Bayview/Hunters Point, has two large eyes that peer out from a black background, which are painted on the side of the building to guide visitors to the entrance on their loading dock. These shifty and shadowy eyes are a mysterious part of the Speakeasy logo, which is also used on their labels and merchandise.

Speakeasy was started in 1997 by Steve Bruce and Forest Gray. Since my brewing background encompasses more microbreweries than brewpubs, I was looking forward to checking out their operation.

Survival is difficult when starting a

microbrewery because the profit margins are low when selling the beer wholesale, as apposed to “over the bar,” like brewpubs do. A brewpub can easily make five times what micro can by selling beer, one pint at a time, directly to the customer. For this reason, it is admirable that Speakeasy is still around after 10 years, let alone available in approximately 200 bars and restaurants and 1,000 stores in the Bay Area, and is shipped to 11 other U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

Speakeasy has a reputation for its “big” beers, meaning they are very full-flavored and have a relatively high alcohol by volume (ABV) content. Since their inception, their flagship beer has been Prohibition Ale (6.1% ABV), an award-winning, boldly hopped amber. In 1998 they introduced Big Daddy IPA (6.5%

ABV), a fine example of a west coast IPA with huge hop flavor and a dry, clean finish.

Untouchable Pale Ale (5.4% ABV) is the lightest offering, and is pleasantly mild and crisp. It is an easy drinking session beer that has some characteristics of a German Pilsner, which is unique for ale. The Bootlegger Black Lager (5.2% ABV) is a German Style Schwarzbier, and although dark in color, it is extremely clean and soft on the palate. It has a beautiful smoky chocolate nose and is distinctively low in bitterness.

And then there’s Double Daddy weighing in at a whopping 9.5% ABV. Due to the high alcohol level, it is only sold in 4-packs, which still provides a bigger punch than a 6-pack of almost any other beer. I am amazed at how deceptive

this well balanced high-octane ale is. It has an incredibly dry and clean finish for such a big beer. The Imperial IPA is so dangerously tasty that one should drink it with care.

If the Double Daddy isn’t enough for you, Speakeasy pushes even further with their barley wine, Old Godfather (10.5%). Barley wine, though brewed with alcohol levels as strong as wine, is made with grain instead of fruit; therefore, they are still defined as beer. Old Godfather is heavy with a full body and copious amounts of hops added to balance the residual sweetness from the large amounts of malted barley used. Although you can certainly taste the higher alcohol level, it’s actually much

continued on p.20

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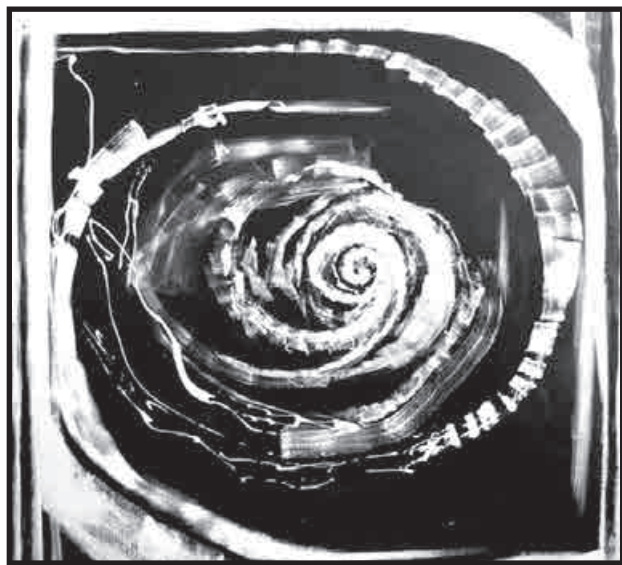


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AROUND THE BAY IN DECEMBER



Painting by Albert Hwang at FLOAT, one of the galleries participating in the "Jingletown" Art Walk.

Nature of Winter

Point Reyes Bed & Breakfast

Get out and see the animals. Take advantage of the Whales and Wildlife seasonal promotion being offered the Point Reyes B&Bs - a mid-week, stay 2 nights - get the 3rd night free (no holidays). Reservations required. Don't forget your spotting scope or binoculars to see wildlife: Gray Whales, Elephant Seals, Tule Elk... For more information call 1-800-539-1872 or visit www.ptreyes.com.

Point of a Hike

Join an easy, but long 3-mile hike to Point Reyes' Tomales Point (one of the best migrating whale-spotting places in the area). Sun., Dec. 17. Carpools from Fairfax at 9:30AM; return 4:30PM. Share fuel cost. Rain cancels. Call Richard Watson (415) 461-9255.

Snow, Not so Natural

The Snow Village display at the Hyatt Regency, featuring more than 3,000 handcrafted ceramic collectible pieces, including musical carousels, ski slopes, gondolas, chalets, trains and limited edition pieces, is one of the largest in the country. Find it near the eclipse geodesic sphere and reflecting pool. Then, perhaps you'll go ice skating afterward. Sun.-Sat., 12AM-11:59PM. (415) 788-1234. Embarcadero Center 5, SF. www.sanfranciscohyattregency.com

Step Back in Time

Musée Mécanique

While you're enjoying crab season at the wharf, stop to play the games at the historical mechanical arcade. Look for Laughing Sal, the somewhat creepy, pink-cheeked, big doll who used to welcomed visitors to the Cliff House location, before the move to Pier 45 Fisherman's Wharf. Free, but bring coins for the games & displays. Open Sun.-Sat., 10AM-8PM. Call: (415) 775-1111. www.sfbhistory.org

1901 Maritime Christmas

Who knew Santa would arrive by boat? See it for yourself at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park's "Christmas At Sea!" aboard the historic ship Balclutha. Sat., Dec. 9. Music begins at 3PM. Santa arrives at 4:20PM. The Living History Players bring back Christmas 1901 at 6PM; reservations required for the 6PM show; cost: \$5 Adult, free for 15yrs and under. Reservations: (415) 447-5000. www.nps.gov/safr



Balclutha, San Francisco Maritime National Park

Oh, Christmas Trees

Ferry Building Farmers' Market

Double K Christmas Tree Farm. Ferry Building. Saturdays through Dec. 9. There will be a pick up and loading area on the north side of the Market. Orders can be arranged by calling: (707) 773-4702.

Guardsmen Have a Lot

Christmas trees for sale at the Fort Mason Pavilion Dec. 1-17. All proceeds benefit Bay Area programs for at-risk youth. (415) 856-0939, www.guardsmen.org

Cruising

Two Nights, Before Christmas

Pack a basket and wrap yourself up in something warm to enjoy the views from the deck of one of the ferries or boats offering a holiday cruise this year. Holiday Lights offers cruises on the Bay on Fri. & Sat., Dec. 22-23. Board 6:15PM; depart 6:30PM, return 8PM. Cost: \$20 Adult, \$10 Children. Food & beverage for purchase on board. Tickets: (415) 435-2131. www.sfbayexcursions.com.

Champagne Brunch

Imagine an elaborate buffet featuring a wide selection of weekend brunch favorites and free-flowing champagne — then take it out on the water. The atmosphere, the views, the salt-water breeze, and Santa making an appearance makes this brunch on Hornblower an unforgettable holiday event. Sat. & Sun. 10:30AM-1PM. Tickets: \$35.91-\$65. Hornblower Cruises, Pier 3 SF. Call 1-888-467-6256. www.hornblower.com

NYE Fireworks Kayak Trip

Paddle under the Bay Bridge, by Cupid's Arrow and the Ferry Building and watch the waterfront fireworks. City Kayak, Pier 39. \$68/per person. Sun., 10PM-1AM. Reservations and information (415) 357-1010. www.citykayak.com.

Hornet Swings & Rocks

Celebrate a new year on the decks of a historic aircraft carrier, USS Hornet. The floating museum's party, "From Swing to Rock, Do Your Thing," goes from 8PM-1AM. Tickets: \$48 general admission, \$65 reserved seating, \$95 premium reserved seating. All tickets include party favors. Food and beverages for purchase on board. Call for reservations: (510) 521-8448 x-282. www.hornetevents.com

Belle of the Ball NYE

Enjoy the buffet dinner, open standard cocktail bar, including after dinner liquors and house champagne, party favors, pre-boarding photograph, dancing. Tickets: \$113.40-\$189. Sun. Dec. 31, 8PM-1AM. 1-888-467-6256. www.hornblower.com

AROUND THE BAY IN DECEMBER



"Leading Ladies of Tango" at the Herbst Theatre, SF

Art & Spectacle

Ladies Lead

See the World Premiere "Leading Ladies of Tango," the first all-women tango program. Dec. 13-16. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., SF. Tickets: \$28-\$45 Reserved Seating (Sat. matinee). Group discounts available. Call (415) 392-4400 or go to www.cityboxoffice.com. www.leadingladiesoftango.com

Tango on the Field

The Emerald Bowl is the only match between the ACC and Pac-10. This year it's UCLA & Florida State. Wed., Dec. 27, 5PM. AT&T Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza, SF. Tickets: \$40-75. Call (415) 947-2695. www.emeraldbowl.org

Beach Blanket Babylon

The nation's longest running musical revue in theatre history, and an acclaimed San Francisco institution, features a seasonal chorus line of tap dancing Christmas trees, a gigantic Yuletide hat, Snow White and an ever-changing line-up of pop culture characters. Tickets: \$25-\$77. Matinees (under-21 OK) and evening shows (no minors). Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon Blvd. (Green St.).

www.beachblanketbabylon.com

Leave a Trace

Montreal-based circus troupe "7Fingers" brings their show, TRACES, an ethereal, surreal and unreal multimedia contemporary circus experience to The City. Five actor-acrobats fresh out of Montreal's École Nationale de Cirque, most of whom received their early circus training from Master Lu Yi at SF's Circus Center, perform stunning acrobatics with an urban hip-hop flavor, all imbued with a poetic reflection on memory and survival. Palace of Fine Arts Theater, 3301 Lyon St., SF. Dec. 13-Jan. 1. Ticket prices vary. Group discounts available. Call (415) 392-4400 or go to www.cityboxoffice.com. More information at circuscenter.org and www.7fingers.com.

Jingletown Studios Art Walk

Over 25 artists, who live and/or work in the area known as "Jingletown" in Oakland will open their studios, in the historic Cotton Mill, to the public for the first Holiday Art Walk on Sat. & Sun. Dec. 2-3, 11AM- 5PM. Portuguese and Azorean cannery worker's used to walk home through the area and "jingle" their pockets to express pride in their earnings; hence, the nickname. For artists, map and information, call (510) 532-9636 or visit www.jingletown.org.



Metal sculpture by Victoria Skirpa at FLOAT gallery, "Jingletown" Art Walk



"Laughing Sal at Musée Mécanique at Fisherman's Wharf.

Giftin'g

A Gift for San Rafael Youth

Contribute directly to education, development, childcare, English classes, job training and leadership programs. San Rafael's Canal Alliance seeks contributions toward \$50 gift certificates for the Canal neighborhood's low-income, immigrant students in the Youth Education and Development Program. Each year, 100% of high school seniors in this program graduate and go to college. Call (415) 306-0437 or send an email to tracy@canalalliance.org.

Donate to Food Banks

ALAMEDA: 7900 Edgewater Dr., Oakland (510) 635-3663, www.accfb.org
MARIN: 75 Digital Dr., Novato (415) 883-1302, www.marinfoodbank.org
CONTRA COSTA: 4010 Nelson Ave., Concord (925) 676-7543 www.foodbankccs.org
SF: 900 Pennsylvania Ave. (415) 282-1900, www.sffoodbank.org
SOLANO: 1891 Woolner Ave, Ste I, Fairfield (707) 421-9777, www.foodbankccs.org
NAPA: 1755 Industrial Way #24, Napa (707) 253-6128

Speakeasy, from p.17

more drinkable than most barley wines, which can sometimes be too cloying on the palate.

Although Speakeasy is not normally open to the public, it is open on Friday's from 4-8PM for their open house, which is more like a house party. There is always live music, and sometimes the brewery provides free hot dogs and snacks, or other times, a local restaurant sets up and sells food. The open house is an opportunity for people to check out the microbrew operation, taste the beers and enjoy live entertainment. It's kind of like a night club that sprouts out of a production facility for four hours a week.

Pints are \$2.50, and they offer a special with a souvenir pint glass and three beers for \$10.

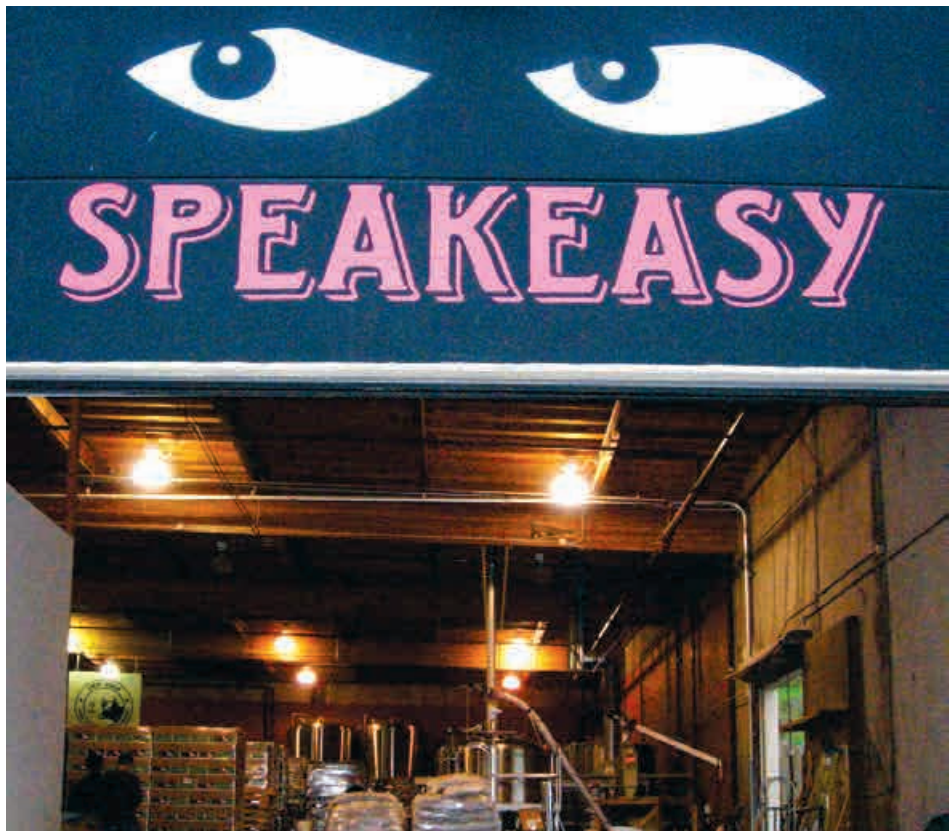


Joel Williams was a professional craft brewer for over seven years at several breweries. He earned a Diploma in Brewing Sciences in 1996 from the world-renowned Siebel Institute of Technology in Chicago.

Speakeasy Ales & Lagers

1195-A Evans Ave., (415) 642-3371 www.goodbeer.com

Speakeasy Ales & Lagers hosts Meet the Brewers Night, an event sponsored by the San Francisco Brewers Guild. Enjoy a pint in a casual atmosphere, and meet some of the local brewers in San Francisco. Dec 21, 6-9PM



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Wine Wise Buys

BY DIANNE BOATE & ROBERT MEYER

Especially at holiday time we shop for celebratory goods, traveling through aisles of shelves laden with attractive merchandise, our eyes sharp for familiar labels and price tags. It is like an inner bottom line that will determine whether we buy or not. If there is a special occasion afoot, this might be overridden, but we do look for the best bargain, and we should.

Second Labels

When it comes to wine bottles, some we will recognize; some will be a little familiar, and some will be absolutely new to us. Some really good bargains are in bottles that have what are called “second labels.” Many second labels are from wineries that have established a main label, but wish to add another to get into a cheaper price range. They use surplus wine from fruit that is not of the quality they wish for their main label, or buy bulk wine to blend. Some surplus wine can be of high quality and offers a good bargain to the consumer.

Look for the producer and the location on the wine label. Location can tell you a lot about the quality and give reassurance if you know appellations (designated growing areas for certain grapes) like Carneros in Napa County, Dry Creek and Alexander Valley in Sonoma County.

Some of the better known wineries offering second labels are Stags Leap Cellars with Hawk Crest; Beaulieu with Coastal and Signet Collection; and in France, Chateau Mouton Rothschild with Mouton-Cadet, and Trefethen with Eschol.

Jim Allen, who created Sequoia Grove winery, and knows the wine business inside and out, told us that second labels are relatively new in America as compared to Europe. Understand that many vineyards in France (for example) are very small and the owners cannot afford to lose one ounce of grape juice. Therefore, when the crop does not mature properly, or the sugar content is not right, or certain weather conditions

give a yield that is not top quality, they must do something, and that something is to sell the grapes for blending. The same thing can happen to larger estates with sterling reputations. Their premium labels must not be compromised, so the less-than-great grapes are blended with the good stuff and a second label is born.

Discount Wine Store Shopping Tips

Many discount stores and grocery outlets offer great deals on second labels, but there are some things to be wary of:

- White wine that is too yellow and red wine that is brown signals oxidation.
- Leaking or seepage around the cork and evaporation.
- Sunlight hitting the shelves, and high temperature is never good for wine.

Robert Meyer is a consultant to the wine and spirits industry. He also manages wine and spirits hospitality for film festivals around the country. Dianne Boate is a freelance writer, photographer, botanical illustrator. They both have many second labels. Robert is also known as “Stirred Not Shaken,” “Spirits Wrangler,” “Silver hair, Silver tongue.” Dianne’s are “Mrs. Much,” “the Cake Lady,” “The Hat Lady,” and the ever present “She Who Must Be Obeyed.”



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Our very own Joel Williams captured this gorgeous sunset from his balcony on a hillside in Vallejo between the Carquinez Strait and Mare Island on Nov. 18 at 5:45PM with a Nikon Coolpix 5200 digital.

Stunned as we are by the beautiful sights we see everyday around the Bay? What makes you grab your camera? Send your photo (jpg or tiff) to: Baycrossingsphoto@gmail.com to have it considered for *Bay Crossings* photo of the month. Include your First/Last name, City, date, time and location of photo along with camera information. Image should be 200 dpi at 5" wide and compressed (zipped) before sending.

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WATERFRONT ACTIVITIES

- Every Sat. 10AM - 1PM or 2PM - 5PM – Intro to Sailing, OCSC Sailing, Berkeley, 800-223-2984 www.ocsc.com**
This three-hour skippered charter is designed to provide folks who are considering getting into sailing with a real glimpse of the sport, our club and our people. Three hours on beautiful San Francisco Bay will help you to determine if you want to make sailing a bigger part of your life. For just \$45, you can join one of OCSC's instructors and be part of a six-person crew aboard one of our larger boats. Reservations required.
- December 2 12PM - 4PM – Tide Rips Clinic: Yellow Bluff Point, California Canoe & Kayak, 800-366-9804 www.calkayak.com**
Kayaking in a tide rip is fun, wild, and a great way to improve your rough water paddling skills. This half-day clinic is designed as a practice session for paddlers who want to learn how to handle their boats in the amazing tide rip off Yellow Bluff Point in San Francisco Bay. At Yellow Bluff, we can safely practice eddy turns, ferry gliding, and surfing in the rip. Dates and start times are chosen to take advantage of optimal tidal conditions. \$99 including equipment and instructors.
- December 3 10AM - 12PM – Ocean Beach Cleanup, Surfrider Association (SF Chapter), Ocean Beach at Sloat Blvd. www.sfsurfrider.org**
Help keep our local beaches clean! Just show up at Ocean Beach at the end of Sloat Blvd and we'll provide gloves, bags and instructions. Rain cancels this event.
- December 3 4PM - 7PM – Moonlight Paddle, Outback Adventures, Larkspur, 415-461-2222 www.outbackadventures.com**
Navigating your kayak by moonlight is a mystical experience you won't soon forget. We will paddle leisurely while admiring the moon's silvery light reflecting off the water's surface. Bring your friends and family to this warm welcoming event. \$65 per person.
- December 3 4:30PM - 8:30PM – Moonlight Kayaking: Jack London Square, California Canoe & Kayak, 800-366-9804 www.calkayak.com**
Moonlight paddling is enchanting! The water is calm and glassy on the Oakland Estuary and the city lights add to the ambiance. We enjoy a leisurely pace as the sun sets and the moon rises, illuminating a delightful evening. \$49 including equipment and guides.
- December 6 6PM - 8PM – Moonlight Sailing, OCSC Sailing, Berkeley, 800-223-2984 www.ocsc.com**
Set sail aboard one of our larger yachts skippered by a professional OCSC skipper and enjoy a relaxing night out on the Bay. You can soak in the beauty of the twinkling city lights while not lifting a finger, or pitch in and take the helm. Following the sail we will serve chili, chips, salsa, snacks and beverages. A great time to get to know other like-minded sailors. \$40 per person, reservations required.
- December 9 10AM - 2PM – Kayak Basics: Oakland Estuary, California Canoe & Kayak, 800-366-9804 www.calkayak.com**
Are you ready to try kayaking? Maximize your fun on the water! This half-day class (4 hours) allows you to paddle a few different types of kayaks, including Touring Kayaks (for open water), Recreational Kayaks, and Sit-on-Tops. Learn the basic strokes and the difference between boat types. This class emphasizes basic water safety, but saves capsizing recovery practice for our Beginning Sea Kayaking class. Includes coupon for future rental, good for 2 hours. \$59 including equipment and instructors.
- December 9 10AM - 3PM – Corte Madera Salt Marsh Kayak Tour, Outback Adventures, Larkspur, 415-461-2222 www.outbackadventures.com**
Explore the wetlands along Corte Madera Marsh while taking in the views of Mount Tamalpais and the San Francisco Bay. We paddle out in stable double sea kayaks while keeping our eyes open for the curious harbor seals that gather nearby. \$70 per person.
- December 9 4PM - 7PM – Starlight Paddle, Sea Trek Kayaking Center, Sausalito, 415-488-1000 www.seatrekkayak.com**
A short introductory session prepares you for a leisurely paddle into the sunset while watching harbor seals at play as we explore Sausalito's eclectic floating homes community with the silhouette of Mt. Tamalpais in the distance. As the stars pop up we'll enjoy the sparkling San Francisco skyline and the dark quiet waters. \$65 including equipment.
- December 10 8:30AM - 12:30PM – Monterey Dive, Advanced Diving Technologies 925-432-2111 www.adtscuba.com**
Join us aboard the DV Escapade for diving in Carmel and Monterey. This is the premier time of year to swim with the jellies. We have found a Giant Pacific Octopus recently. Pay him a visit! Keep a sharp look out for the whales. Enjoy the majestic kelp forest and the diverse marine life. Two-tank dives, refreshments provided and Nitrox available upon request.
- December 10 9AM - 3PM – 2-for-1 Kayak Tour, Blue Waters Kayaking, Tomales Bay, 415-669-2600 www.bwkayak.com**
Baja promotional paddle: Bring a friend to a 2-for-1 kayak tour. We will have coffee and complimentary pastries with a slide show of Baja before going out on the water. Chris Starbird, one of our Baja leaders and Aluxa Lalicker, our Baja program manager, will be there to answer questions and provide insights both at the slide show and on the water. After paddling we will return to the Inverness site for BBQ oysters at Mollie's Oyster Bar and lunch at Barnaby's. \$68 for two.
- December 10 9:30AM - 12:30PM – Paddle the Gate, Sea Trek Kayaking Center, Sausalito, 415-488-1000 www.seatrekkayak.com**
This trip is in the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge. Beginners with a physically active lifestyle are welcome. We'll launch our boats from the Coast Guard Station at Horseshoe Cove under the north tower of the Bridge. On this trip we paddle two-person fiberglass boats and everyone will receive a thorough and confidence-building orientation. The first of many thrills is passing beneath the mammoth bridge as we paddle along the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Marin Headlands. \$75 includes equipment.
- December 10 10AM - 3PM – Angel Island Kayak Tour, Outback Adventures, Larkspur, 415-461-2222 www.outbackadventures.com**
Let's pack our kayaks and take a real kayaking adventure to Angel Island in the San Francisco Bay. Specifically timed for optimal and safe paddling conditions, this trip is appropriate for beginner and intermediate paddlers in good physical condition. \$85 per person.
- December 16 4PM - 7PM – Starlight Paddle, Sea Trek Kayaking Center, Sausalito, 415-488-1000 www.seatrekkayak.com**
A short introductory session prepares you for a leisurely paddle into the sunset while watching harbor seals at play as we explore Sausalito's eclectic floating homes community with the silhouette of Mt. Tamalpais in the distance. As the stars pop up we'll enjoy the sparkling San Francisco skyline and the dark quiet waters. \$65 including equipment.
- December 17 9AM - 3PM – Winter Birds of Point Reyes, Blue Waters Kayaking, Tomales Bay, 415-669-2600 www.bwkayak.com**
Winter Birds of Point Reyes: Join Blue Waters Kayaking and Naturalist Christ Starbird as we seek out waders and waterbirds, woodpeckers & warblers, hawks and herons in forests, meadows, ponds, bays and the ocean. This is a three part series aimed at investigating three different types of habitat and observing different birds in each. \$49 per outing.



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Organizations, Associations & Clubs

Bay Access - San Rafael, 415-457-6094, www.bayaccess.org

- Non-profit organization to create a water trail in San Francisco Bay for human-powered boats and beachable sail craft.

Bay Area Sea Kayakers (BASK) - 415-457-6094, www.bask.org

- Cooperative recreational club dedicated to the safe enjoyment of the sport of sea kayaking. Meetings generally on the last Wednesday of the month and are open to the public.

Cal Adventures / UC Aquatic Center - Berkeley, 510-642-4000, www.oski.org

- Windsurfing, sailing & kayaking lessons for UC students and locals.

Cal Sailing Club - Berkeley, www.cal-sailing.org

- Sailing cooperative, membership is open to the public.

Cal Divers - 510-417-0025, www.caldivers.org

- Recreational, networking & social club for certified divers of all levels.

Cold Water Surf Club - Sebastopol, 707-824-4360, www.coldwatersurfclub.com

- Non-profit organization that is working to help build our community

Dolphin Club - San Francisco, 415-441-9392, www.dolphinclub.org

- Non-profit, public access athletic organization with a diverse membership of about 900 women and men.

Kelptomaniacs - San Carlos, 650-591-5641, www.wallins.com

- Scuba diving and adventure club.

Marin Scuba Club - San Rafael, 415-453-9556, www.marinclub.org

- Organization for divers of all skill levels. Meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:30 PM at The Seafood Peddler Restaurant in San Rafael for a featured presentation. Stay active in your scuba/freediving community!

NorCal Divers - San Bruno, 650-588-4998, www.cadive.com

- Active dive and adventure club.

Rio Vista Windsurfing Association - Rio Vista, www.rvwa.com

- Non-profit Windsurfing and Kiteboarding Association.

Rock 'n' Reef Divers - Fairfield, 707-425-1932, www.itsallaboutscuba.com

- Scuba diving club that meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM at All About Scuba in Fairfield.

San Francisco Boardsailing Association (SFBA) - San Francisco, www.sfba.org - Non-profit organization to promote safety, provide education, ensure access and improve facilities.

Surfrider Foundation (Marin Chapter) - Larkspur, www.surfrider.org/marin

Surfrider Foundation (SF Chapter) - San Francisco, www.surfrider.org

Surfrider Foundation (Sonoma Chapter) - Penngrove, www.surfrider.org/sonomacoast

- Non-profit, environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of our local waves, water and beaches through conservation, activism, research and education.

Western Sea Kayakers - www.westernseakayakers.org

- Club dedicated to the safe enjoyment of the sport of sea kayaking.

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www.bodegabaykayak.com
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Bodega Bay Surf Shack

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707-875-3944
www.bodegabaysurf.com
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www.caldive.net
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409 Water St., Jack London Square
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2007 Cruise Schedule

February 4 Queen Mary 2 "Welcome the Queen Cruise"

April 14 San Francisco to Sacramento River Cruise

April 15 Sacramento to San Francisco River Cruise

May 19 Bridge to Bridge Memorial Cruise

June 16 Father's Day Cruise *** 2 Jazz Bands

July 4 Alongside Pier 45 Fireworks

August 18 Fortress San Francisco Cruise

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KEEPING WARM ONBOARD

BY KIMMIE HAWORTH

“It was a dark and stormy night,” so the old story by George Bulwer-Lytton begins. Dark and stormy isn’t nearly as bad as freezing cold. During the short days of winter many boaters suffer from the cold.

Although we are blessed with a 365 boating season here on the bay, keeping warm is something that must be dealt with realistically, if you want to spend the night on your boat. Heck, even in July, it can feel really cold around here, especially after the sun goes down.

Being tenderfoots at heart, Captain Sweetie and I installed a forced air heater onboard our trawler, *Dancing Dragon*. Diesel forced-air heaters are used commonly in city busses and motor homes. The diesel heater is an ideal solution because we like to anchor

out, away from the dock and modern conveniences – such as AC electric power. We just flip a switch and the heater fills the cabin with a rush of warm air. It sounds a lot like an airplane taking off, but that’s a fair trade for our warm feet. Several forced air furnaces are on the market by Espar and Wallace; ours is a Webasto. Prices range from \$2,500 to over \$5,000, which doesn’t include installation. Luckily, Captain Sweetie was able to install ours, saving us several thousand dollars. The installation was not an easy task and was done in stages over many weekends. It included running insulated ducting through cramped cabinets, drilling big holes through the hull, not to mention all the wiring and fuel lines that needed to be plumbed.

If you are not willing to spring for a permanent forced air unit, there several kinds of portable heaters available to

keep you warm while spending time afloat. Propane, kerosene, white gas and alcohol heaters, which are sold at camping stores, also work well to heat a boat. Though no installation is required and the cost is less, there are tradeoffs regarding health and safety risks.

Propane heaters put out a huge amount of heat and can be used in the cockpit on chilly afternoons. The downside is that propane is heavier than air and a leak could cause your boat to be blown to smithereens. Also, there is a danger of the unit falling over in a rough anchorage. Make sure to find one that has an automatic shut off switch.

Kerosene, alcohol and white gas heaters work well, but the secondary byproduct after heat is water, which you don’t want inside the cabin. We had a kerosene heater on our sail boat for many years and although it was beautiful – brass and very nautical looking – it

made the overhead of the cabin sweat like a race horse.

The more intrepid sailor can use an upturned terra cotta flower pot on the galley stove. Terra cotta radiates heat. We used this method on our first boat, and found it better than huddling in sleeping bags as soon as the sun went down. An oil lamp will also add warmth on a cold winter night.

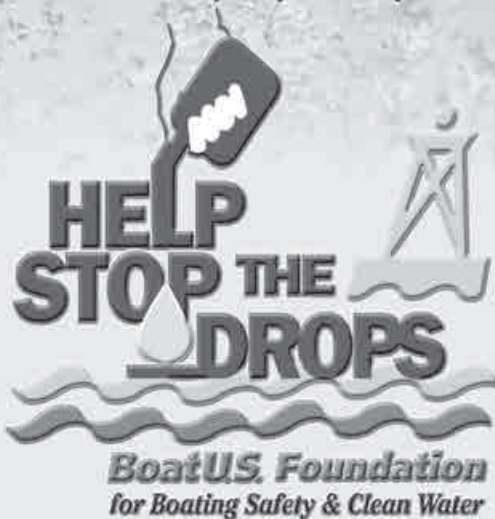
When it gets really cold and that icy north wind is blowing through every crack and crevice, closing off all but the main saloon is the only thing that works. So, please remember that all heaters, portable or otherwise, should be vented overboard to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

The next time you drive by Sausalito, give a thought to the people anchored out on their boats and wish them a mild winter.

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The BoatU.S. Foundation is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting safe and environmentally-sensitive boating. Our goal is to be the leader in boating safety and environmental education and outreach, with the the purpose of reducing accidents and fatalities, increasing stewardship of our waterways, and keeping boating a safe, accessible, and enjoyable pastime.

United States Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard patrols our coastlines, bays, ocean and estuaries, helping to keep our waters safe. Here are a few incidents the USCG responded to in November.

- Nov. 2, SAN FRANCISCO -- A USCG HH-65 Dolphin helicopter air-lifted a man with third-degree burns from the Maltese freight vessel *Alona*, 60 miles SW of San Francisco. The crew-member sustained third-degree burns when he fell onto the inside wall of a boiler in the ship’s engine room during his work. The man was delivered to Monterey Peninsula Hospital and then taken to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center by Gilroy Air Ambulance.
- Nov. 9, SAN FRANCISCO -- USCG recovered a woman and a good samaritan from the Bay just off of Pier One at approximately 8:45AM. A 25-foot response boat was launched to the scene, where the crew quickly located the 21 year old woman, and the 51 year old man, who had leapt into the water from the pier after seeing the woman floating face-down. Both were checked for injuries and hypothermia and transferred to EMS in stable condition.
- Nov. 24, MONTEREY -- Two USCG members responded to a beach pedestrian’s report of an unconscious man needing help at San Carlos Beach in Monterey. The unconscious man had been diving with his son off of the beach earlier that day. He was given CPR by the Coast Guard for approximately 25 minutes until paramedics were able to transport him to a hospital. The man did not survive and the exact cause of death had not been determined at time of press. The incident is under investigation.

VIEW FROM THE HELM

TOYS, BOATS, TOYS, BOATS, TOYS, BOATS

BY ED & PAM MCGRATH

*Dear Santa,
Please bring us a compass. We're longing for a brand spankin' new one -- the kind with the magnetized needle inside a capsule of fluid, which keeps the needle from pivoting wildly.*

We know a modern compass is a necessity. That is, unless you're really good at celestial navigation and you sail or cruise only under clear skies. In the years before electronic instruments, skippers had to have a watch or clock that was accurate to within 2 seconds of Greenwich Mean Time, and a sextant, used to measure the angle of elevation of a celestial object above the horizon at exactly noon. Sextants were first introduced in 1759. A mariner planning to sail out of land sight would simply "take a sight" with his sextant to measure the altitude of Polaris, the North Star, as he

left port, and determine the latitude to which he would be returning. When ready to return, he would sail north or south, as appropriate, and find the latitude he originally measured. He would then "sail down the latitude," keeping Polaris at a constant angle.

When vessels encountered each other at sea, the skippers would compare their time pieces to see how accurate theirs were. Even with modern technology, it is still a good idea to know how to use a sextant as a backup navigation tool, especially

for those mariners headed offshore.

All captains have to have a compass to know the direction to guide the vessel, a depth sounder to measure the depth of the water, a simple GPS to measure latitude and longitude, a paper chart to plot the course, a VHF radio to communicate with other boats and emergency services, and, lastly, safety equipment such as personal flotation devices and flares. Then, it's anchors aweigh!

But, whoa! Have you been in a marine electronics store or seen a catalog lately? There are some really good "toys" if that's what floats your boat.

We love the new high performance multifunction navigation equipment. The most advanced of them will offer a GPS Chartplotter with electronic charts and autopilot, fishfinder, radar and video display in a user-friendly networkable navigation system.

Add custom interfaces, ultra-bright screens that are easy to read outdoors and super fast data transmission and you have a state-of-the-art navigational dream machine.

Installation, which is complex as it includes antennae, radar unit and extensive wiring, should be done by the experts. Then, most

of these functions can be updated as necessary by purchasing or downloading software updates. Satellite communication with a weather receiver and a subscription to a radio marine weather service is a useful, worthwhile, modern safety feature that you might consider. So is a wireless man-overboard system. This system uses radio frequency signaling technology (RF) to keep watch of up to 16 crew members. It will sound an alarm when any of the crew moves out of range. The systems links to your video

display and provides data critical to the rescue and continued safety of your crew.

There really is a lot more we could suggest: How about a rudder angle indicator – an instrument that indicates when the steering wheel is in the correct position to go straight ahead? We have a large hydraulic steering wheel that after a turn doesn't always return to the same position. So we can't use the knot at the top of the wheel to indicate a straight rudder. Also, our wind indicator needs to be replaced. It accurately indicates the direction of the wind, but not the speed. It would be nice to know exactly what we're up against when close-quarter maneuvering in windy conditions.

After the holiday season is over, we each have a birthday wish list as well as a Mother's Day and Father's Day wish list. Hmm . . . how long before we can get a big plasma flat screen TV aboard?

Ed has been selling boats in the Bay Area for over 12 years. He and his wife, Pam, opened McGrath Pacific Yacht



Sales three years ago. Being at the helm of their 36' trawler is one of Pam's favorite activities.

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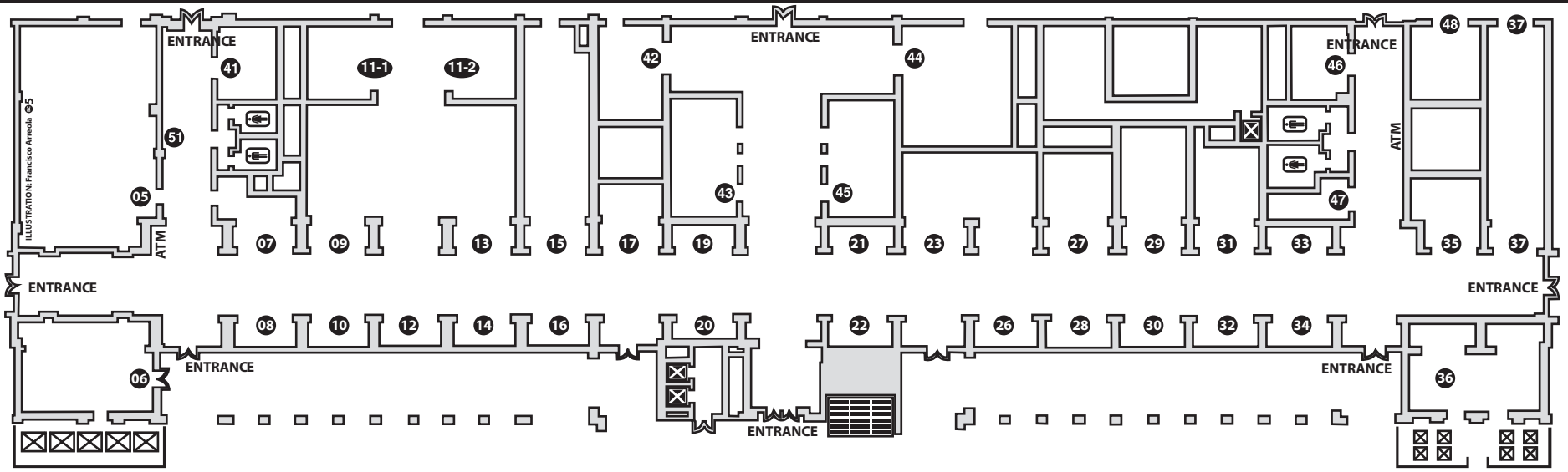


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Fifteen Minutes of Stop and Shop: Convenient parking option for the Ferry Building customer

One of the best incentives for locals to shop at the Ferry Building is the 15-minute white zone parking in front of the Marketplace. Customers can run in for pre-orders or last minute groceries and not have to park in the lot. To accommodate our visitors, we ask that the tenants and employees refrain from parking in the white zone. **How the 15-minute stop-and-shop zone works:** Drive to the white zone, leave keys with valet, get a parking stub (valid for 15 minutes). If customers stay over 15 minutes, then their vehicle will be driven to the parking lot. Valet rates apply. *Please note: On Farmers' Market days, white zone parking is available only after 3:30PM.*

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Do Online Training on the Boat – or Anywhere Else

BY MARY E. SHACKLETT

Looking for something new to do on the boat for either pure enjoyment or professional enhancement? Internet-based training options are available in virtually every field — from computer technical certifications to law and other professional degree programs. Many of these programs are either certified or accredited — and an online course-taking option ideally fits those who are constantly on the move.

Online course work originally started in the defense industry as “computer-based training” in the 1970’s. Since then, online training has soared. As long as you have wireless Internet access and you can tie

into a wireless hub (available in most port areas), you can take classes at any time.

If you want to pursue online education to build your professional credentials, your employer may offer a training reimbursement plan to help defer costs. Even if your employer doesn’t have such a program, you will find online training to be a viable and a highly affordable alternative that will assist you in honing your technical and management skills. It will also make you more marketable to employers.

Online training – on the boat and elsewhere – delivers great benefits. However, there are several guidelines that students should consider, because the online training environment is unique and decidedly different from traditional classroom learning.

For instance, in many cases you are your own “proctor” in the online environment. There is no physical instructor or classroom to motivate your learning or help you keep up with the class. If you are a person who needs that extra “push” to accomplish your studies, take stock of yourself before you enroll to make sure that you have the necessary self-discipline and perseverance to succeed in online learning. You will often have to set a pace for yourself in your studies, although the training school will define the exams and exam schedules.

Before enrolling in an online training course, communicate with the school and/or the course instructor. Making these



As long as you have wireless Internet access and you can tie into a wireless hub (available in most port areas), you can take classes at any time.

initial contacts before enrolling is very important. It ensures that you are taking the best course of action for the skills that you wish to acquire, and it allows you to see what kind of rapport you will be able to establish with those administering or giving the course. You also want to know that someone will “be there” when course questions come up.

Know upfront what your end training objective is. The more you can pin-point what it is you want to get out of the course, the more successful you will be.

Establish a private work area where you can concentrate on your studies without interruption, whether it is on your boat or elsewhere. Children, television, etc., can all interfere with concentration.

Gain family commitment before you start. If everyone in your immediate home environment knows about the course and the study requirements, they are better able to help you achieve the in-home (or in-boat) learning environment that fosters success in online courses.

Now more than ever, people are looking for flexible education options that they can take with them “on the road” and on the water. Wireless laptops and Internet courses help to make it happen.

Mary E. Shacklett is President of Transworld Data, a marketing and technology practice specializing in marketing, public relations and product management for technology companies and organizations. Mary is listed in “Who’s Who Worldwide” and “Who’s Who in the Computer Industry.” She may be reached at (360) 956-9536 or TWD_Transworld@msn.com.

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GET THERE BY FERRY



Harbor Bay Ferry			
Leave Harbor Bay Island	Arrive S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Leave S.F. Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Harbor Bay Island
6:30am	6:55am	7:00am	7:25am
7:30	7:55	8:00	8:25
8:30	8:55	4:35pm	5:00pm
-----	4:30pm	5:35	6:00
5:05pm	5:30	6:35	7:00
6:05	6:30	7:35	8:00

No service on weekends

Angel Island - Tiburon Ferry	
Weekends	
Tiburon to Angel Island	Angel Island to Tiburon
10am, 11, 1pm, 3pm	10:20am, 11:20, 1:20pm, 3:30
Weekdays	
Tiburon to Angel Island	Angel Island to Tiburon
10am, 1:00pm	10:20am, 1:20pm

*Monday Thru Tuesday Flexible Schedule. Call (415) 435-2131 www.angelislandferry.com Bicycles \$1.00

Schedule Subject to change w/o notice
Adults \$10.00
Child \$8.00

Red & White BAY CRUISE SCHEDULE		
PIER 43 1/2		California Sunset Cruise Schedules 2-Hour California Sunset Cruise Departures at 7:00PM every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Fare: Adult (18+) \$48, Child (5-17) \$33, Children under four ride Free! Includes one drink ticket (good for beer, wine or soda) and appetizers. Fare: Adult \$21 Senior (62+)\$17 Youth (12-17)\$17 Child (5-11)\$13 Under 4.....\$Free
Weekday	Weekends	
10:00am	10:00am	
10:45	10:45	
11:15	11:15	
12:00pm	12:00pm	
12:30	12:30	
1:15	1:15	
1:45	1:45	
2:30	2:30	
3:00	3:00	
3:45	3:45	
4:15	4:15	
5:00	5:00	
5:30	5:30	
6:15	6:15	

Golden Gate Ferry							
LARKSPUR *				SAUSALITO			
Weekdays (excluding Holidays)				Weekends and Holidays			
Leave Larkspur	Arrive S F	Leave S F	Arrive Larkspur	Leave Larkspur	Arrive S F	Leave S F	Arrive Larkspur
5:50am	6:20am	6:25am	6:55am	9:40am	10:30am	-----	-----
6:35	7:05	7:10	7:40	11:00	11:50	12:30pm	1:20pm
7:10	7:40	7:45	8:15	1:30pm	2:20pm	2:30	3:20
7:50	8:20	8:30	9:05	3:30	4:20	4:30	5:20
8:20	8:50	9:10	9:45	5:30	6:20	7:00	7:50
9:15	9:50	10:10	10:45	One-Way Ferry Fares			
10:10	10:45	10:55	11:30	LARKSPUR SAUSALITO			
11:10	11:45	11:55	12:30pm	Daily Daily			
11:40	12:15pm	12:25pm	1:00	Adult Cash Fare \$6.75 \$6.75			
12:40pm	1:15	1:25	2:00	Frequent Rider Ticket (Book of 20 Tickets) \$4.25 \$3.60			
2:15	2:50	3:00	3:30	Seniors (age 65+) with Medicare or approved I.D. \$3.35 \$3.35			
2:50	3:25	3:35	4:05	Youth (ages 6-18) \$3.35 \$3.35			
3:40	4:15	4:25	4:55	Children (age 5 & under) FREE FREE			
4:15	4:45	4:55	5:25				
-----	-----	*5:20	6:05				
5:10	5:45	5:55	6:25				
5:35	6:10	6:20	6:50				
6:35	7:10	7:20	7:50				
7:20	7:55	8:10	8:40				
8:10	8:45	8:50	9:20				
8:50	9:25	9:35	10:05				

*All weekdays trips except on (5:20pm SF departure) are operated by high-speed catamarans. Weekend service is provided by high capacity Spaulding vessels.

SAUSALITO							
Weekdays (excluding Holidays)				Weekends and Holidays			
Leave Sausalito	Arrive SF	Leave SF	Arrive Sausalito	Leave Sausalito	Arrive SF	Leave SF	Arrive Sausalito
7:10am	7:35am	7:40am	8:10am	-----	-----	10:40am	11:10am
8:20	8:45	10:15	10:45	11:20am	11:50am	12:00pm	12:30pm
10:55	11:25	11:35	12:05pm	12:45pm	1:15pm	1:25	1:55
12:15pm	12:45pm	12:55pm	1:25	2:10	2:40	2:50	3:20
1:55	2:25	2:35	3:05	3:35	4:05	4:15	4:45
3:20	3:50	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:25	5:35	6:05
4:45	5:15	5:30	6:00	6:20	6:45	6:30	7:00
6:10	6:35	6:45	7:10				
7:20	7:50	7:55	8:20				

INFORMATION CONTACTS: 511 (toll-free) or 711 (TDD)
E-mail/Comments to ferrycomments.goldengate.org
For Larkspur and Sausalito website:www.goldengate.org

HOLIDAY SERVICE: Larkspur & Sausalito
In effect on Martin Luther King, Presidents', Memorial, 4th of July, Labor Day, modified Holiday service is operated on the Day after Thanksgiving.

NO SERVICE: Larkspur & Sausalito
No ferry service on New Year's, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Blue & Gold Ferry							
ALAMEDA/OAKLAND				ALAMEDA/OAKLAND			
Weekdays to San Francisco				Weekends and Holidays to San Francisco			
Leave Oakland	Leave Alameda	Arrive Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Pier 41	Leave Oakland	Leave Alameda	Arrive Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Pier 41
6:00am	6:10am	6:30am	-----	9:00am	9:10am	-----	9:35am
7:05	7:15	7:35	-----	10:40	10:25	11:10	11:25
8:10	8:20	8:40	-----	12:20pm	12:10pm	12:50pm	1:05pm
9:15	9:25	9:45	10:00	1:55	1:45	2:25	2:40
11:00	10:50	11:30	11:45	4:00	3:45	4:30	4:45
12:45pm	12:35pm	1:15pm	1:30pm	5:45	5:30	-----	6:20
2:30	2:20	3:00	3:10	7:20	7:05	7:50	8:05
4:40	4:30	5:10	-----	8:55	8:45	8:25	9:30
5:50	5:40	6:15	-----	10:30	10:20	-----	11:00
6:20	6:10	-----	7:00	Weekends and Holidays from San Francisco			
6:55	6:45	7:20	-----	Leave Pier 41	Leave Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Alameda	Arrive Oakland
7:55	7:45	8:20	-----	9:15am	9:25	10:10	9:55
8:55	8:45	-----	9:25	10:50	-----	11:20	11:30
Weekdays from San Francisco				1:00	1:10	1:30	1:45
Leave Pier 41	Arrive Ferry Bldg.	Leave Alameda	Arrive Oakland	3:30	3:45	4:05	-----
-----	6:30am	7:15am	7:05am	5:00	5:15	5:35	5:45
-----	7:35	8:20	8:10	6:30	6:40	7:00	7:10
-----	8:40	9:25	9:15	ALAMEDA/OAKLAND FARES:			
10:15	10:30	10:50	11:00	One Round 10Ticket 20Ticket Monthly Way Trip Book* Book* Pass			
12:00pm	12:15pm	12:35pm	12:45pm	Adult (13+)	\$5.50	\$11.00	\$45.00 \$80.00 \$150.00
1:45	2:00	2:20	2:30	Child (5-12)	\$2.75	\$5.50	
3:45	4:10	4:30	4:40	Child under 5**	FREE	FREE	
-----	5:20	5:40	5:50	Senior (65+)	\$3.25	\$6.50	
5:20	5:45	6:10	6:20	Disabled Persons*	\$3.25	\$6.50	
-----	6:25	6:45	6:55	Active Military	\$4.25	\$8.50	
-----	7:25	7:45	7:55	PURCHASE TICKETS ONBOARD THE FERRY or at the Regional Transit Connection (RTC) at participating Bay Area businesses. Please call the 24-hour Ferry Fone at (510) 522-3300 to confirm times.			
-----	8:25	8:45	8:55	Seniors must show valid I.D., Regional Transit Connection, or Medicare Card. Military personnel must show military I.D.			

Schedule information harvested online. Schedules are subject to change. December, 2006

Fun on Ferries, Shoreline Snacking and Shopping, Take the Kids, Bikes on Boats, Fun on Ferries...

Blue & Gold Ferry

BAY CRUISE		VALLEJO/SAN FRANCISCO					SAN FRANCISCO CITY TOUR				SAUSALITO																																									
Leave PIER 39		FERRY BLDG./ FISHERMAN'S WHARF					FISHERMAN'S WHARF, PIER 41				FISHERMAN'S WHARF, PIER 41																																									
Weekdays	Weekends and Holidays	Weekdays					Leave Pier 41				Weekdays																																									
10:45am 12:00pm 1:15 2:30 4:00	10:00am 10:45 11:30 12:00pm 12:45 1:15 2:00 2:30 3:15 4:00 4:30	Leave Vallejo	Leave Ferry Bldg.	Leave Vallejo	Leave Pier 41	Leave Pier 41	Daily	City Tour does not operate during inclement weather. Check with ticket booth on day of departure.			Leave Pier 41	Arrive Sausalito	Leave Sausalito	Arrive Pier 41																																						
Bay Cruise does not operate during inclement weather. Additional cruises may be added on demand. Check with ticket booth on day of sailing for schedule. No reserved seating available.		5:30am 6:30 7:00 7:45 8:45 10:00 11:30 1:00pm 2:00 3:20 4:05 4:45 5:35	6:35am 7:35 8:10 8:55 9:55 11:10 12:40pm 2:10 3:30 4:30 5:15 6:00 7:05	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- 11:20 11:30 ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----	9:15am** 11:15** 2:15pm**	** - Effective starting June 1			11:00am 12:15pm 1:35 2:45*	11:40 12:55pm 2:10 3:35*	11:50 1:05pm 2:20 3:40*	12:10pm 1:25 2:35* 4:00*																																						
FARES: All prices include audio tour.		Schedule effective December 11th. Missed the last ferry from San Francisco? Take the bus to Vallejo, weekdays and weekends at 10:30pm from in front of the Pier 1 Deli.					FARES: <table border="1"> <tr> <th>City Tour Only</th> <th colspan="3">City Tour w/ Bay Cruise</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult</td> <td>\$44.00</td> <td>\$51.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Senior (62+)</td> <td></td> <td>\$49.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Junior (12-18)</td> <td></td> <td>\$49.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child (5-11)</td> <td>\$22.00</td> <td>\$27.00</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				City Tour Only	City Tour w/ Bay Cruise			Adult	\$44.00	\$51.00		Senior (62+)		\$49.00		Junior (12-18)		\$49.00		Child (5-11)	\$22.00	\$27.00		EFFECTIVE THROUGH MARCH 31, 2007																					
City Tour Only	City Tour w/ Bay Cruise																																																			
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Junior (12-18)		\$49.00																																																		
Child (5-11)	\$22.00	\$27.00																																																		
ANGEL ISLAND Weekdays <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Leave Pier 41</th> <th>Arrive Angel Island</th> <th>Depart Angel Island</th> <th>Arrive Pier 41</th> </tr> <tr> <td>10:00am</td> <td>10:20am</td> <td>3:20pm</td> <td>4:00pm</td> </tr> </table> Weekends <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Leave Pier 41</th> <th>Arrive Angel Island</th> <th>Depart Angel Island</th> <th>Arrive Pier 41</th> </tr> <tr> <td>10:35am</td> <td>11:00</td> <td>11:05 3:50pm</td> <td>12:20pm 4:55</td> </tr> </table> Angel Island Round Round Trip via SF* Adult \$14.50 Child (6 - 12) \$8.50 Child (5 - under) FREE *All prices include State Parks Fees		Leave Pier 41	Arrive Angel Island	Depart Angel Island	Arrive Pier 41	10:00am	10:20am	3:20pm	4:00pm	Leave Pier 41	Arrive Angel Island	Depart Angel Island	Arrive Pier 41	10:35am	11:00	11:05 3:50pm	12:20pm 4:55	Weekends and Holidays <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Leave Vallejo</th> <th>Leave SF FB</th> <th>Leave Vallejo</th> <th>Arrive Pier 41</th> <th>Leave Pier 41</th> </tr> <tr> <td>10:00am 11:30 1:00 3:00 6:00</td> <td>11:10 12:40pm 2:10 4:30 7:30</td> <td>10:00 ----- 3:00 ----- 6:00</td> <td>11:20 ----- 4:00 ----- 7:00</td> <td>11:30 ----- 4:10 ----- 7:10</td> </tr> </table>					Leave Vallejo	Leave SF FB	Leave Vallejo	Arrive Pier 41	Leave Pier 41	10:00am 11:30 1:00 3:00 6:00	11:10 12:40pm 2:10 4:30 7:30	10:00 ----- 3:00 ----- 6:00	11:20 ----- 4:00 ----- 7:00	11:30 ----- 4:10 ----- 7:10	TIBURON DOWNTOWN S.F., FERRY BLDG. Weekdays <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Leave Tiburon</th> <th>Arrive Ferry Bldg.</th> <th>Leave Ferry Bldg.</th> <th>Arrive Tiburon</th> </tr> <tr> <td>6:00am 6:50 7:50 8:45 ----- 5:00pm 5:50 6:40</td> <td>6:20am 7:10 8:10 9:05 ----- 5:20pm 6:10 7:00</td> <td>----- 7:15am 8:15 ----- 5:25 6:15 7:15</td> <td>----- 7:35am 8:35 ----- 5:45 6:35 7:35</td> </tr> </table> FARES: <table border="1"> <tr> <th>One-Way</th> <th>Round Trip</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult \$8.50</td> <td>..... \$17.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child (5-11) \$4.50</td> <td>..... \$ 9.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">20 Ticket Commute Book \$100.00</td> </tr> </table> No service Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day (Dec. 25), New Year's Day (Jan. 1), or Presidents' Day.				Leave Tiburon	Arrive Ferry Bldg.	Leave Ferry Bldg.	Arrive Tiburon	6:00am 6:50 7:50 8:45 ----- 5:00pm 5:50 6:40	6:20am 7:10 8:10 9:05 ----- 5:20pm 6:10 7:00	----- 7:15am 8:15 ----- 5:25 6:15 7:15	----- 7:35am 8:35 ----- 5:45 6:35 7:35	One-Way	Round Trip	Adult \$8.50 \$17.00	Child (5-11) \$4.50 \$ 9.00	20 Ticket Commute Book \$100.00	
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YOSEMITE DEPART PIER 39 (TUE, THUR, SAT, AND SUNDAYS) 7:00 AM FARES (ROUND-TRIP) ADULT \$126 CHILD (5-11) \$80 NO SERVICE ON XMAS AND NEW YEARS.		VALLEJO/SAN FRANCISCO FARES: Adult One-Way \$11.50 Senior/Disabled/Medicare One-Way (65+/disabled)* \$5.75 Youth One-Way (6-12 years) \$5.75 Baylink DayPass \$19.25 Monthly Pass \$247.25 Call (707) 64-FERRY or visit www.baylinkferry.com for updated information.					TIBURON WEEKEND AND HOLIDAYS <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Leave Pier 41</th> <th>Arrive Sausalito</th> <th>Leave Sausalito</th> <th>Arrive Pier 41</th> </tr> <tr> <td>10:35am 12:30pm 2:00 3:20</td> <td>11:50 1:20 2:45 4:25</td> <td>11:55 1:25 2:50 4:30</td> <td>12:20pm 1:50 3:15 4:55</td> </tr> </table> FARES: <table border="1"> <tr> <th>One-Way</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult \$8.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child (5-11) \$4.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">20 Ticket Commute Book \$100.00</td> </tr> </table>				Leave Pier 41	Arrive Sausalito	Leave Sausalito	Arrive Pier 41	10:35am 12:30pm 2:00 3:20	11:50 1:20 2:45 4:25	11:55 1:25 2:50 4:30	12:20pm 1:50 3:15 4:55	One-Way	Adult \$8.50	Child (5-11) \$4.50	20 Ticket Commute Book \$100.00																														
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MONTEREY/CARMEL & 17-MILE DRIVE Visit the famed Monterey Peninsula by deluxe motor coach. A breathtaking journey along the rugged California coastline to Monterey and Carmel for a day you won't forget. Tour departs from Pier 41 at 9am. Call (415) 705-5555 to reserve. Offered daily except Tuesday and Thursday. Departs 9:15am at Pier 41 Fares: <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Round Trip</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult \$65.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child (3-11) \$40.00</td> </tr> </table>		Round Trip	Adult \$65.00	Child (3-11) \$40.00	MUIR WOODS TOUR FISHERMAN'S WHARF, PIER 41 Leave Pier 41 Daily 9:15am 2:15pm The Muir Woods tour does not operate during inclement weather. Please check with the ticket booth on day of sailing for schedule. FARES: Round Trip Adult \$50.00 Child (5-11) \$27.00 Muir Woods Package includes round trip ferry and bus shuttle. No service Christmas Day or New Year's Day (Jan. 1). San Francisco City Tour, Muir Woods Tour, Monterey/Carmel & 17-mile Drive, Sonoma/Napa Wine Tour, and Yosemite Tours all DEPART FROM PIER 41.					* Effective through May 26, 2006. These departures will resume operating starting September 5, 2006 ** Effective May 30, 2006 through September 1, 2006 *** Fridays Only																																										
Round Trip																																																				
Adult \$65.00																																																				
Child (3-11) \$40.00																																																				
http://www.baycrossings.com/ferry_schedules.asp		SONOMA-NAPA WINE TOUR FISHERMAN'S WHARF, PIER 41 Leave PIER 41 Daily 9:15am *Starting June 1st FARES: Round Trip Adult \$63.00 Under 21 \$40.00 Includes round trip, motor coach, and winery tours. No service Christmas Day or New Year's Day.					GENERAL INFORMATION Reservations: Advance ticket sales are available for all services and highly recommended for Alcatraz. Please call (415) 705-5555 to charge tickets by phone or online at www.telesails.com. There is an additional service charge of \$2.25 per ticket for all individual phone and web orders. No reserved seating available. Bicycles: Bicycles load first and leave last unless otherwise instructed. On board, secure bike in bike rack provided. Bicycles are allowed on a first come, first served basis. Twenty-five bicycles are allowed on the ferries; space permitting at the discretion of the Captain. No bicycles or scooters allowed on Alcatraz, Muir Woods, or Wine Tour. No scooters, rollerblades, or skateboards on Angel Island. Groups: Special fares may be available for groups of 15 or more. Call (415) 705-8214. Disabled: All ferries are accessible by gangways and ramps for disabled persons. Ferries are accessible on the first deck only. (Boats are glass enclosed for sightseeing and snack bar service is available.) Restrooms are accessible on all boats. If you need help, please ask for assistance. ATM located at Pier 39 & Pier 41. Schedules, Services, and Prices Subject to Change. Alcatraz is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Blue & Gold Fleet is a concessionaire of the National Park Service.																																													

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As Tolls Rise, So Do the Benefits of Getting FasTrak®

A very necessary \$1 toll increase will go into effect on the Bay Area's seven state toll bridges in January, bringing the toll to \$4 for autos and other two-axle vehicles. Now here's the good news: You can put off the pain of the toll hike for a month by signing up for FasTrak® electronic toll collection.

The toll hike, which does not affect the Golden Gate Bridge, was authorized by the state Legislature in July 2005 with the passage of Assembly Bill 144, which established a financing plan to complete the state Toll Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program — including construction of the new East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. The Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) runs the FasTrak program and approved the toll increase in January 2006. BATA is an offshoot of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and is governed by the same board.

Auto tolls on the affected spans — the

Antioch, Benicia-Martinez, Carquinez, Dumbarton, Richmond-San Rafael, San Francisco-Oakland Bay and San Mateo-Hayward bridges — will rise to \$4 from the current \$3 level on January 1, 2007. However, drivers of cars and other two-axle vehicles who pay their tolls electronically with a FasTrak toll tag will continue to pay the old \$3 toll throughout the month of January. The month-long promotional \$1 discount is being offered as a way to encourage motorists to enroll in the FasTrak program, which in addition to short-term cash savings can offer motorists long-term benefits in convenience and reduced congestion.

“More than a half-million Bay Area drivers already have FasTrak accounts,” said Marin County Supervisor and MTC/

BATA Commissioner Steve Kinsey, who chairs the BATA Oversight Committee. “We want to thank those customers by offering a discount, and to encourage others to sign up. The electronic toll tags allow drivers to take advantage of the FasTrak-only lanes on Bay Area bridges and make their crossings faster, easier and — during January — cheaper. FasTrak could save a daily commuter more than \$20 for the month.”

To make it easier for drivers to get their toll tags, BATA is establishing a retail distribution network. Instead of waiting for their toll tag to arrive in the mail, drivers will be able to obtain their toll tags at a participating retail store, where they also can get a free toll bonus (likely in the range of \$5). And, customers who use their American

Express® Card to replenish their new FasTrak account can get up to another \$5 in free tolls.

BATA also has reduced the opening prepaid toll balance required for new customers to \$25 from the previous \$40, and cut to \$20 from the previous \$30 the refundable toll tag deposit required for FasTrak customers who open their accounts with cash or a check instead of a credit card. No deposit is required for customers who link their accounts to a credit card and request no more than three toll tags.

FasTrak can be used in all lanes at all Bay Area toll plazas, including at the Golden Gate Bridge. Tolls on the Golden Gate Bridge remain as currently set: \$4 for FasTrak users, and \$5 for motorists who pay in cash.

Toll revenues from the Golden Gate Bridge are administered by the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District, which joined with BATA to operate a single regional FasTrak Customer Service Center in San Francisco.



To sign up for FasTrak®, visit the Bay Area travel information site at 511.org. And if you're in a hurry to get a toll tag in time for the January toll discount promotion, check 511.org in early December for a list of participating retail locations.

Now AC Transit and Golden Gate Riders Can Pay Their Fares the Smart Way, With TransLink®

The Bay Area's TransLink® transit-fare smart card began the first stage of a regionwide expansion in late November with the activation of TransLink equipment on all AC Transit and Dumbarton Express buses as well as on all Golden Gate Transit buses and in Golden Gate Ferry terminals.

AC Transit along with Golden Gate Transit and Golden Gate Ferry have begun recruiting several hundred riders to troubleshoot the new high-tech fare payment system. This "pre-launch" initiative will help ensure trouble-free operation when AC Transit, Golden Gate Transit and Golden Gate Ferry begin full-scale promotion of the TransLink system in 2007.

"AC Transit is proud to help initiate this regional, multiagency transit experience," said Rick Fernandez, the agency's general manager. "It's an opportunity to do real-time evaluations of some highly technical TransLink equipment, while giving operators and riders a chance to get comfortable with the system."

"We're pleased to join AC Transit in leading the way for the Bay Area," said Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District General Manager Celia Kupersmith. "The pre-launch is a strategic step to increase the number of riders who are using TransLink in live situations over the next few weeks so we can move

faster toward full rollout to all our customers."

TransLink lets riders pay fares with a single, reloadable smart card, eliminating the need for exact change, paper passes, tickets or ride books. Passengers simply "tag" their cards by touching them to the TransLink logo on the card reader as they board a bus or enter a transit station. The TransLink card automatically deducts the correct fare and applies any discounts — including transfers — for each trip.

Riders can order a TransLink card online at www.translink.org or by phone at 1-877-878-8883 (or TDD/TTY at 711 or 1-800-735-2929). TransLink cards also are available at the AC and Golden Gate ticket offices, at any of 75 participating retail locations (see www.translink.org for a list) or through various employee transit benefit programs.

An "Autoload" feature allows TransLink customers to add electronic cash (e-cash) or transit passes to their cards automatically from a bank account or credit card. TransLink cards normally cost \$5 but will be issued free

of charge to customers who sign up for Autoload when they request a card. Customers also can add value to their cards at the transit agency ticket offices, online at the TransLink site, by phone or at any of the participating retail locations. They also have the option of using one of the self-service "Add-Value" machines located in major transit hubs.

TransLink offers card replacement and balance restoration for customers who register their cards. Registration is free and can be completed easily online, over the phone or by mail.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission is spearheading the TransLink initiative in conjunction with the Bay Area's transit agencies. The TransLink system will expand in phases over the next few years to include all other Bay Area transit agencies. BART, Muni and Caltrain are scheduled to activate TransLink throughout their route and stations network in 2007, with SamTrans and the Santa Clara VTA coming aboard in 2008, and 19 other Bay Area transit systems joining in 2009-10.



Golden Gate Transit is one of two transit systems introducing TransLink, which eventually will be available regionwide.



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Destination of the Month: Angel Island State Park

Angel Island State Park will run a trial weekday ferry service from the town of Tiburon during the month of December. In years past, there has been no weekday ferry service from Tiburon to Angel Island except for special charters. The Angel Island-Tiburon Ferry Company pilot program will provide more access to Angel Island State Park. Bikes can be brought on the ferry and used on the main roads. Pets are not allowed on the island, with the exception of service animals.

Angel Island has a unique history and many incarnations. It has been a prime fishing and hunting site for the Miwok, a cattle ranch, an army post and an immigration station, a missile base and a deterrent camp during WWII. It became a state park in 1958. To learn more about Angel Island, visit the Web site: www.parks.ca.gov

The Angel Island-Tiburon Ferry departs Tiburon at 10AM and leaves Angel Island at 1:20PM, Monday through Friday. Contact the Angel Island-Tiburon Company at (415) 435-2131 or www.angelislandferry.com for scheduling details.

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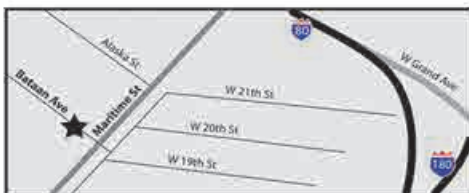
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