PRICELESS BAY CROSSSINGS June 2006 Volume 7, Number 5

FAIR SEASON Summer fairs & festivals

NEW FERRY & the solar ferry

AMERICAN SAKE Traditional taste straight out of Berkeley

BIKE AROUND From urban terrain to backyard on the Bay Trail

BLUE GREENWAY The City gets active and creative all along the waterfront

BIRD'S EYE VIEW Fly over Sonoma County

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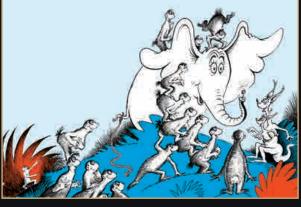
FAIR WEATHER Lighting up the Bay

Complete Ferry Schedules for all SF Lines

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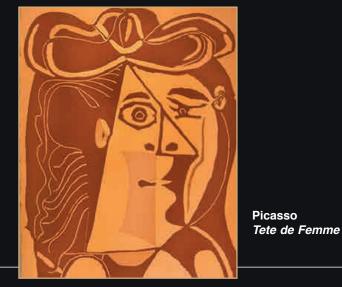
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Personal trainer Claudia Berman (claudia@physicalbliss.com) rides a bike in San Francisco's Bernal Park -- just one of the places in the Bay Area where people ride, hike & enjoy urban and bay views. Photo by Loren Earle-Cruickshanks. See his photography at **www.lecphoto.com**

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Editor's note: Here comes summer... We find ourselves outdoors in the parks, biking, watching a ballgame or on the water during the day. We find just as many ways to spend the warm nights. Summer reminds us to play, to feel energized, to eat well, to remember to relax. Summer is a nostalgic season, which reminds me -- fairs and festivals are lighting up summer days and nights in a city near you.



WATERFRONT VIEWS



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Corrections & Letters

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Shop the **Bay Crossings** Ferry Building store!

Located at the Center of the **Ferry Building Marketplace**

Ferry Building Line Debuts 90-minute narrated cruises available from Ferry Building

ecreational ferry service is now available from the Ferry Building. The newly minted Ferry Building Line, an offshoot of waterfront stalwart the Red & White Fleet, has scheduled three 90-minute cruises weekdays with four on weekends for the summer season. The Ferry Building Line is the first to offer such service from the Ferry Building.

The new service also stands out for its length and route. The Ferry Building Line cruises run 90 minutes, as compared to 60 minutes for cruises departing from Fishermen's Wharf. The new route consists of a lazy loop southward from the Ferry Building, past AT&T Park, east around Treasure Island and a slide by Alcatraz Island on the return leg. Bay cruises from Fishermen's Wharf, by contrast, draw a bead on the Golden Gate Bridge and then it's a run home to the stable.

The Ferry Building Line boasts audio narrations featuring state-of-the-art equipment and slickly produced programming. Passengers may choose from three titles focused on architecture, Native-American history and natural history. The programs are timed to coincide with the boat's position.

The move indicates that the Ferry Building, three years after re-opening, remains white-hot.

Recreational ferry service, including bay cruises and trips to Alcatraz, are a bulwark of San Francisco's largest business -- tourism. Industry leaders, already roiled by the unexpected loss of the gargantuan Alcatraz contract by the Blue and Gold Fleet, will no doubt be watching Ferry Building Lines closely.

Tickets for the Ferry Building Line are also available at the Bay Crossings Ferry Building retail outlet. For more information visit www.ferrybuildingline.com or call (415) 901.5253.

Ferry Building Line **Departs from Gate E**

Wed., Thu., Sun. 11AM - 12:30PM 1PM - 2:30PM 3PM - 4:30PM

Fri. & Sat. 11AM -12:30PM 1PM - 2:30PM 3PM - 4:30PM 5PM - 6:30PM

Mon., Tue. no scheduled cruises

Additional Sunday cruises:

May 28, July 2, Sept. 3, 5 - 6:30PM

The Ferry Building Line departure gate (E) is located on the water, along the Embarcadero at the east end of Market St.

Tickets are \$39 for adults (12 years and over), \$26 for children (5-11), free for children 4 and under. There is a snack bar aboard offering gourmet light foods, wine, beer and sodas.

Greatest Hits of the Bay: The new Ferry Building Line offers three

excellent audio tours, using state-of-the-art equipment that is timed to the progress of the boat.

Architecture Tour

– Audio in English, German, Spanish and Japanese

San Francisco's architectural experience and how natural disasters, politics and the people of the Bay Area have changed their incredible landscape. Picaresque insights into the construction of the new eastern span of the Bay Bridge, renovation of San Francisco's Ferry Building, the building of San Francisco Giants Ball Park, Coit Tower, the Transamerica Building and more.

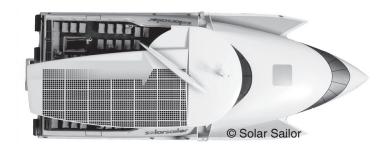
Native American Tour Audio in English

Relives history of local Native American tribes like the Ohlone and the Miwok, who first sailed these majestic waters in Tule Canoes, honoring the beauty of the region. An overview of the culture, history, and sounds of San Francisco Bay, following the story of a Native American family along with news on efforts being made by Native American descendants and their supporters to preserve the languages, cultures and history of their people.

Natural History Tour - Audio in English

The natural history of San Francisco Bay, from the marine creatures to compelling human stories of conservation pioneers, such as Ansel Adams and John Muir. Assays how Bay Area's unusual geologic and weather conditions have produced a unique ecosystem, discussions about the Sea Lions, the Bay Porpoise, Sevengill Cowsharks, Brown Pelicans and how native and non-native plants & animals (like the Parrots of Telegraph Hill) co-exist with people.

Solar Ferry Contract Sets Sail



BY KRISTEN BOLE

solar ferry is one step closer to landing in San Francisco Bay, although its path continues to be the source of rumors and muttered questions.

The National Park Service and Hornblower Yachts signed the 10-year, \$16 million contract for the Alcatraz Island ferry concession on May 9.

Hornblower has promised to introduce a revolutionary, environmentally friendly ferry for that route, and possibly more than one. Those boats have not yet been bid, much less built.

Hornblower will assume the service on Sept. 25 under the name Alcatraz Cruises, using current ferries, which Chairman Terry MacRae said will be technologically updated to improve their emissions and fuel usage.

MacRae could not be reached for comment for this article, but said earlier that the Hornblower proposal was to create leading-edge ferries that would be the "pride of the green movement."

As we reported last month, the contract had been under dispute by both environmentalists, who questioned Hornblower's financial commitment to a green fleet, and to two waterfront unions – the Inlandboatman's Union of the Pacific (IBU) and the International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots – that had worked the route under former concessionaires Blue & Gold Fleet.

Hornblower is the first non-union shop to run the concession since it was begun in 1973.

A federal court injunction on April 28 ordered Hornblower to pay prevailing wages and benefits, which reportedly cooled the issue a bit, according to the San Francisco Chronicle. But a May 9 internal memo from Marina V. Secchitano, regional director of the IBU, didn't make it sound over. The memo said IBU attorneys would be following up to ensure that Hornblower meets the letter of the law.

But, Secchitano's memo noted that the IBU still had received no commitment from Hornblower that it would hire IBU workers currently working on the Alcatraz Ferry, nor that Hornblower would sit down with them to bargain an agreement.

"And without that," Secchitano said in the memo, "there will be no peace on the waterfront."



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www.SausalitoTours.com

BLUE GREENWAY

BY BILL PICTURE

an Francisco city agencies, along with business and residents in The City's southeast sector, have exciting plans for the 13 miles of waterfront stretching from AT&T Park, adjacent McCovey Cove to Monster Park. Their shared vision, which has been dubbed the Blue Greenway, calls for a shared-use (pedestrian and bicyclist) pathway, dotted with open, green spaces, improved bay access points and public art displays.

The Blue Greenway will close the gap in San Francisco's segment of the Bay Trail, a continuous 400-mile recreation corridor that, when finished in 2020, will connect the various communities that encircle the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays.

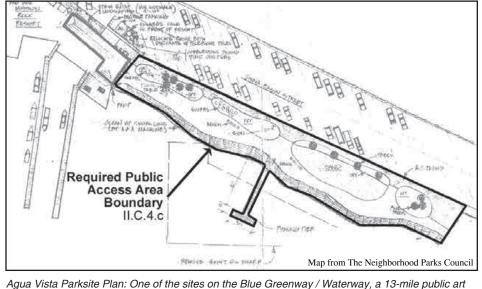
Short-term improvements along this intended stretch of the Bay Trail are already underway, including the striping of temporary bike lanes, the installation of temporary signage and the creation of a public art trail.

Temporary art installations will be displayed at 8-10 permanent sites along the Blue Greenway path. Three sites have already been selected: Agua Vista Park, India Basin Shoreline Park and Third and Cargo streets.

Mayor Gavin Newsom's Blue Greenway Task Force, which includes representatives from the San Francisco Art Commission and the Black Rock Art Foundation, put a call for submissions out to Bay Area artists in March. From the first round of submissions, they selected three winning designs, which were announced at a Blue Greenway fundraiser at the 111 Minna Gallery in San Francisco on May 8.

The winners were: Burning Man artist Pepe Ozan, William Wareham, a metal sculptor and SF Recycling & Disposal's first artist-in-residence, and Topher Delaney, a renowned landscape designer and founder of Seam Studios.

Organizers of the Blue Greenway project (including Mayor Newsom's Office, the Port of San Francisco, the San



Agua Vista Parksite Plan: One of the sites on the Blue Greenway / Waterway, a 13-mile public art and recreation trail being built along San Francisco's southeast waterfront.

The southern waterfront is more about the interplay between industry and waterfront access for the public." - Marshall Foster

Francisco Neighborhood Parks Council, which spearheaded the effort, and the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department) expect the art installations to be in place by the Blue Greenway's June 24 launch at India Basin Shoreline Park. Most of the other short-term improvements should be completed by that date as well.

The June 24 event will help officially kick off the public planning process. During that process, the Blue Greenway Task Force, whose 75 members represent primarily local businesses and residents, will attempt to formulate a plan and an implementation strategy that is beneficial for all interested parties.

One might suspect that having so many hands in the pot, including those of conservationists and neighborhood associations, would slow the decisionmaking process. "But you'd be surprised how much consensus there is already," says Marshall Foster, San Francisco's director of City Greening and chair of the Blue Greenway Task Force. "I think the bones of the plan will be in place by summer." When the Task Force convenes again to begin the planning process, one of the first items on its agenda will be the construction of a permanent Bay Trail path. Barring any problems securing funding for the path and the project's other components (each county along the trail is expected to pay for its own portion), Jeff Condit of the San Francisco Neighborhood Parks Council expects the permanent Bay Trail to be completed within two years. The other components of the project, he estimates, will be completed by 2012. "And, in city time, that's the blink of an eye," he jokes.

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing the Blue Greenway Task Force is a logistical one.

The project's intended route traverses a veritable checkerboard of public and private land. And, naturally, businesses located along that route, many of which are tenants of the Port of San Francisco, are concerned that having a public path in such close proximity to them may impact their operations. "But everyone recognizes the importance of preserving those operations," explains David Beaupre of the San Francisco Port, who also sits on the Blue Greenway Task Force. "So we're going to make sure those tenants aren't impacted."

"We definitely don't want to push out industry," adds Foster. "That's what makes this area so unique. The Crissy Field approach, with access right down to the water's edge, won't work here because water access isn't feasible at certain points along the trail. The southern waterfront is more about the interplay between industry and waterfront access for the public. Plus, maritime industry is such an important part of the area's history."

That history will eventually be referenced in signage along the trail, and in a published guide. Artists wishing to participate in the Art Trail are also encouraged to incorporate the region's history into their designs.

What many San Franciscans may not realize is that the foundation for the Blue Greenway already exists, and has for some time.

Agua Vista Park and India Basin Shoreline Park, for instance, were created a decade ago but have sat relatively unused, even by locals.

"I think most people don't even know that these [parks] exist," says Beaupre. "Hopefully, by improving linkages, we'll get more folks down there."

"The mandate [for the project] came from the neighborhood groups," explains Condit. "They felt, and the Mayor agreed, that an opportunity was being missed. This could be a real treasure for The City."

"[This area] is a cultural resource that hasn't been tapped into," adds Foster. "Some day you'll be able to have a picnic with your family in a park overlooking a working dry dock. I think that's pretty exciting."

For more information about the Blue Greenway and the June 24 "Imagine the Way" event, visit *www.bluegreenway.org.*

A Proper Inauguration

BY KIMMIE HAWORTH

ardening and boating don't usually go handin-hand. However, on the 90th annual Opening Day on the Bay celebration, it was gardening that got me an invitation on board the Pacific Inter Club Yacht Association committee boat.

I produce a local garden show for KRON TV called Henry's Garden. My boating friends know that I have a television connection, so they put the squeeze on me to bring along a camera and take some footage of the Decorated Boat Parade.

Doug McConnell, host of another KRON 4 production called Bay Area Backroads, was Grand Marshall for Opening Day on the Bay this year. He and I worked out an arrangement to borrow one of the station's expensive video cameras. Neither Doug nor I knew anything about videography. He usually stands in front of the camera, and I stand behind it. Together we figured out the basics, but not until after we had boarded the boat.

The weather was spectacular. After months of rain, the weather gods finally smiled.

Opening Day on the Bay marks the official beginning of the new yachting season and is a big deal in the boating community. The tradition began in 1906 to bless the local fishing fleet.

Yacht clubs from as far away as Tahoe gather for the annual blessing of the fleet in Raccoon Straight, then parade in formation across the Golden Gate and up the City Front.

This year the string of boats was continuous -- from the blessing ship anchored in front of Tiburon all the way to the committee boat.



I don't know the total number of participants, but it must have been in the hundreds.

The committee boat left Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda at 9AM. After a leisurely cruise down the Estuary and under the Bay Bridge, we anchored in front of St. Francis Yacht Club. It took me at least that long to figure out the go buttons on that darned camera.

The parade began at Noon. Every boat in the formation passed our starboard side for consideration by a panel of judges.

In addition to prizes for the most imaginatively decorated vessels, there is a prize for the yacht club with the most participants and another for the club that travels the farthest.

As always, a fireboat leads the fanfare with all pumps gushing water 50 feet into the air. It's an impressive sight, and one you don't want to be too close to.

The classic yachts are next, making you feel as if you have stepped back in time. Immediately following the classics are boats decorated for the annual theme, which this year was Mardi Gras.

e Following the colorful, decorated yachts are boats with flags and

f streamers looking gay in the wind.
Finally, all the participating yacht clubs file past, each with their club
l burgee flying proudly.

Being invited on board the committee boat is like being invited to the Inauguration at the White House. Ray Tsuneyoshi, the director of the Department of Boating and Waterways, was on board, as was Richard Schwartz and his wife Beth, founder of Boat US.

During the parade, Doug and I stayed on the bow, me with the camera pressed to my eyeball and Doug schmoozing with the judges.

I confess only now to finding the zoom feature by a lucky mistake. As I was shooting and trying to hold my balance on the rolling deck, I heard, 'Kimmie, Kimmie!' It was my friend, Intrepid Ina, on board a Sea Ray that was parading past. She had the skipper stop, then back up, right in the middle of the line up of boats, so that she could say a proper hello. And that, my dears, is why I love boating.

Opening Day is held every year on the last Sunday in April. Please join us next year, if you aren't busy in the garden. Until next month, keep your propellers spinning.

June Boating Events

Tall Ship Education Academy *www.tallshipacademy.org* (415) 405-3703

June 14 – 17

Tall Ship 3-day Women's Challenge begins -- an adventure trip for women that explores ocean sailing in and beyond the San Francisco Bay. Limited to 12 participants. Register by June 13. \$75 nonrefundable registration fee. Participants are required to fundraise at least \$950.

Master Mariners Benevolent Association *www.mastermariners.org* (415) 364-1656

June 24, 5PM MMBA Annual Meeting & Party Corinthian YC, Tiburon

June 25, 10AM - 4PM

Wooden Boat Show Corinthian YC, Tiburon \$10 (children under 12, free)

Summer Sailstice *www.summersailstice.com* (415) 412-6961

June 17

Club & Class Cruise-in: Yacht clubs and fleets will cruise-in Saturday, sail and stay overnight in Clipper Cove at the Treasure Island Sailing Center.

TISC One-design Regatta: J-24s and onedesign fleets will be sailing in the regatta for fleet trophies.

BAYS Regatta: Bay Area Youth Sailing group will host a regatta for juniors out of Clipper Cove. http://www.bayarea-youthsailing.com/

YRA Race on Berkeley Circle: The Summer Sailstice regatta, run by South Beach YC, will be awarding the new OCSC Sailing perpetual trophy to the fastest PHRF time round course. Post-race party. Sign up for the race online as a YRA member or as a single event.

http://summersailstice-com.c.topica.com/ maaeH0oabpQj9aaaaaae/>http://www.yra.org

VIEW FROM THE HELM: FAMILY PORTRAIT

BY ED & PAM MCGRATH

Il of us were aware of the unusual weather. In a month when we normally begin enjoying the blossoming of the trees and the warmth of the spring sun, about the time we are packing up our winter clothes and pulling out our summer clothes, we were still pulling our coats snugly around us and walking with our heads down to avoid the sting of the rain and the cold wind.

After one of these very unusually cold, wintry nights, we awoke the morning to find snow pack on the aft deck of our boat. We had to step very carefully to make our way up the ice covered dock. The sound of sirens the night before had been barely noticed and regarded as nothing out of the ordinary, but the morning news brought awareness to the astonishing events of the night before.

On March 10, as we slept peacefully, warm and cozy,

some not-so-peaceful things had happened in the form of ice and fire.

There had been a horrible 28-car pile up on highway 101 above Sausalito. Temperatures had dropped and caused the road surface to freeze, and drivers unsuspecting of these conditions, and inexperienced in driving in them, were seriously caught off guard. The same night, there was a fire on the tugboat Liberty. Flames danced all over the water that snowy night, but thankfully, the couple who lived aboard along with their dog, were rescued by firefighters. Unfortunately the boat was uninsured and is no longer live-able.

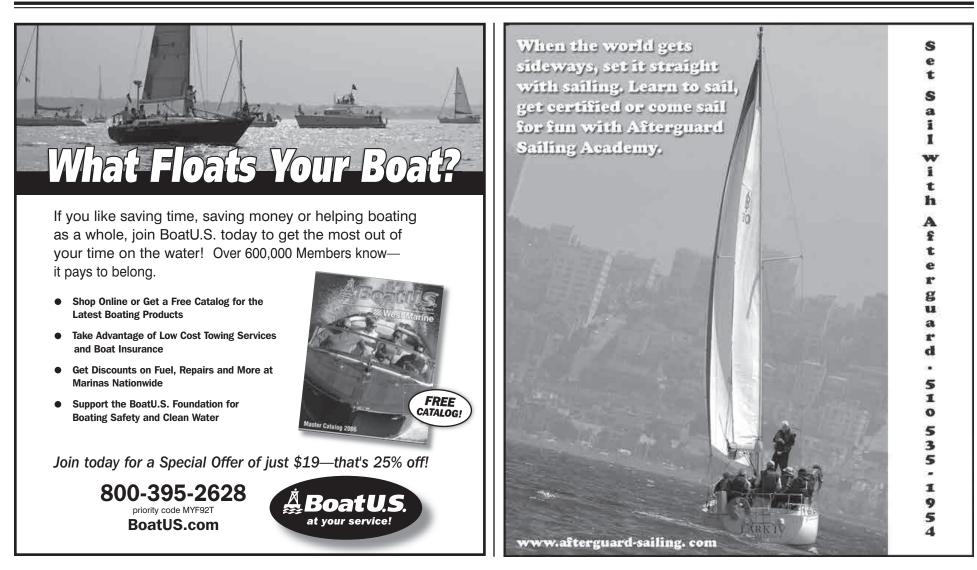
So, after a night of tragically unfortunate incidents, we witnessed the waterfront community rally to help those in need. A "family" of friends and neighbors joined forces with other folks around Marin to organize a fundraising event to help the Liberty couple purchase a new boat where they will live. No surprise here.

Throughout our years of helping people acquire

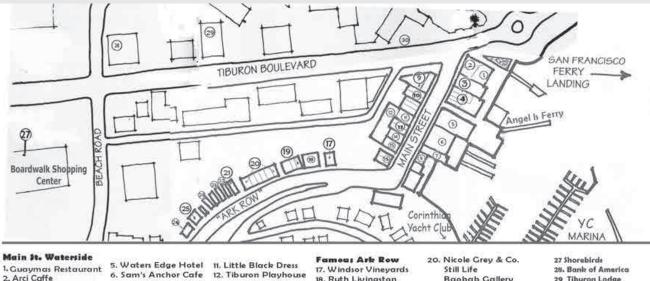
boats, we have been impressed by the caliber of people who love this way of life. Whether they are behind the helm of a luxury yacht or on a weathered watercraft, boaters are family. Just as our ferry boats are at the ready to launch a rescue, or give aid along with the Coast Guard when needed, when a member of the boating family is in need, there is a response that makes one realize they are members of a unique community.

We've experienced firsthand the willingness to lend a hand. Toss a line and someone will help you dock. Mention that you're thinking about installing a new, well, anything, and you'll get all kinds of offers of help.

Seriously though, there is a strong tradition of responsibility and obligation for any available vessel to render aid when another vessel is in distress. Boaters customarily demonstrate a willingness to step up and assist in any way they can wherever and whenever there is a need. Yeah, it makes us feel pretty proud to be a member of the family.



Ν В IRE R) \square



1. Guaymas Restaurant 2. Arci Caffe The Candy Store 3. Servino Restaurant

4. Citrus Waypoint Pizza Old Gold Jewelry Main Treat

7. Paparazzi 8. Sweden House Main St West Side 9. CAKE 10. Ko'ze Hat Generation

Bahama 4 All 14. Tails of Tiburon 15. Rooney's Cafe 16. For Her Nicole Grey & Co.

13. R.J. Sax - Tommy

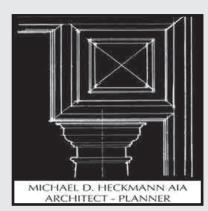
18. Ruth Livingston 19. Giftique Christine Foley St. Germain 20. Gallery 108 Tiburon Gallery Yogo 1 on 1

Baobab Gallery 21. Schoenberg Guitars 22. Matilda Bros. Design 23. Poncho's Casa 24. Thai Restaurant 25. Michael Heckmann Architect

26. Cutting Room









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Treat yourself to the latest trends in women's fashion without the exorbitant price. Ten Main Street, Tiburon (415)435-CAKE





CAKE, 10 Main St. Phone: (415) 435- CAKE (2253)

CAKE, a new shop on Tiburon's Main Street, offers the latest trends in women's clothing, handbags and sunglasses, without the exorbitant price. Select from Dolce & Gabbana, Versace, Tod's, Fendi, Gucci, Prada, plus and extensive collection of Premium Denim. Located just across the street from the Ferry Landing.

Shorebirds, Home Accents, Gifts, Gallery, www.shorebirdstiburon.com Phone: (415) 435-0888

Located on the Boardwalk, just 3 blocks from the Ferry dock on Tiburon Blvd., Shorebirds has many little things that bring elegance to your home. Enjoy browsing among distinctive accent furnishings and decorations. Stunning hand made museum quality platters, pottery, vases plus a fine selection of pieces by Annie Glass, Nambe, Arthur Court, Casafina.

GIFTIQUE, 80 Main St. Phone: (415) 435-6630

Giftique is known for it's fantastic selection of greeting cards from the largest collection of card companies in Marin. Giftique is also a boutique with fun gifts, large and small, to delight Shoppers of all ages. Located on the famous and historic Ark Row portion of Tiburon's Main Street, just 2 blocks from the Ferry Landing. Open daily, 10:30-5PM.

Wine & Vintage Racing

June 3-4, 5:30-8PM

Classic cars like Lotus, Ferrari and Jaguar, some vehicles date to pre-World War I, will be racing on the world-famous road course at the Infineon Raceway. Off the track, overlooking the Sonoma Valley, a festival with wine, gourmet foods & cooking demonstrations from local chefs. Tickets \$35 at event, \$30 advance at (800) 870-RACE. *www.infineonraceway.com*

Boys of Summer

So you missed Bonds' historic homer? See the next one then with other posh Giants' fans at a home game: June 5-11, 19-21, 23-25, 27-29. Or, see the A's in Oakland. Enjoy the weather, ignore the celebrity. June 1-4, 13-18, 30. *www.mlb.com*

In the Dogpatch

June 4, 12:30-1:30PM

Dogpatch-Potrero Point, a colorful neighborhood with important ties to The City's historic working class & industrial past, also thrives in the present with its current proliferation of ultra-modern lofts. Explore the eclectic neighborhood-in-transition on a 2 hour walking tour. \$5 donation suggested, but optional. Meet at 18th & Tennessee.

Call (415) 557-4266, www.sfcityguides.org

Escape From Alcatraz

Sun., June 4, 8AM

Inmates at Alcatraz hadn't much of a chance of escaping the maximum security prison. Today, tougher-than-you athletes of all ages & skill levels willingly swim1.5 miles through chilling Bay tides, bike 18 miles, then run 8 miles through trails in a rigorous test of determined strength, The Accenture Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon.

www.escapefromalcatraztriathlon.com

Dive & Shoot

Sat., June 10, 7:30AM

Divers with cameras will converge on the beach in Monterey to compete for top prizes in an underwater photo competition. The Annual California Beach Dive Photo Competition is open to underwater photographers of all experience levels. Film and digital. \$75.

www.ncups.org/beach.html

Fiber/Dimensions in the Presidio

June 11-July 6, 11AM-5PM

"Intersections III" exhibit features artists who create with found and re-cycled objects, natural and organic materials, paper, fabric, yarn and wire. Herbst International Exhibition Hall, Presidio, 385 Moraga Street, San Francisco. Free. Get a glimpse of the art by visiting *www.fiberdimensions.com*.



Tall Ship Recycles

The Tall Ship Education Academy wants your used cell phones, ink jet or laser printer cartridges. They recycle them! *www.tallshipacademy.org*

Oakland's Giant Cranes

Thu., June 16, 10:30AM & 1PM

Experience a bird's eye view of the Port of Oakland's giant cranes and maritime operations at a free narrated harbor tour. A 90-minutes tour aboard a Blue and Gold Fleet vessel will take you alongside port operation in the Oakland Estuary, showcasing the Port's history, development and operations.

www.portofoakland.com/communit/serv_tour.asp

Lavender Days in Sonoma

June 17-18, 10AM-4PM

See a five acre lavender farm in full bloom, cut your own lavender, get a lavender massage, eat lavender cuisine, enjoy lavender aromatherapy and shop the lavender marketplace, where you'll find lavender spa products, pillows, sachets, bouquets... Kenwood at Sonoma Lavender Barn. *www.sonomalavender.com/festival.htm*

Sail in to Summer Solstice

June 17-18

Sail with thousands of sailors as the annual Summer Sailstice sailing event celebrates of the longest sailing day of the year with regattas, races and excursions. Yacht clubs and fleets will cruise-in Saturday, to Clipper Cove at the Treasure Island Sailing Center. *www.summersailstice.com*

Your Dog is so Ugly...

Fri., June 23

Contenders are pulling at the leash, ready to lift their legs and stake their claim on the \$1,000 prize purse and the instant fame that comes with winning the World's Ugliest Dog Contest Championship being held at the at the Sonoma-Marin Fair. Stop your grooming and vote now for a winner.

www.sonoma-marinfair.org/uglydogcontest.shtml

Imagine a Blue Greenway

Sat., June 24, 11AM-4PM Join Mayor Gavin Newsom, the Livable City Initiative, and the Neighborhood Parks Council for "Imagine the Way" Day, a community event to celebrate the launch of the Blue Greenway Waterfront Trail. India Basin Shoreline Park. Free. For more information **visit** *www.sfnpc.org*

King of the Bay 6

June 23-25, Noon

In case you missed the first five, or even if you didn't, come watch as over 100 kiteboarding and windsurfing professionals kick it up a notch on in a competition of skill and showmanship in a freestyle competition. Foster City "3rd Avenue" just north of the San Mateo Bridge adjacent to Mariners Island Golf Course. (650) 344-2711, *www.kingofthebay.com*

To have your event or announcement considered for the Bay Crossings Around the Bay listings, please send information or a press release to: editor@baycrossings.com.

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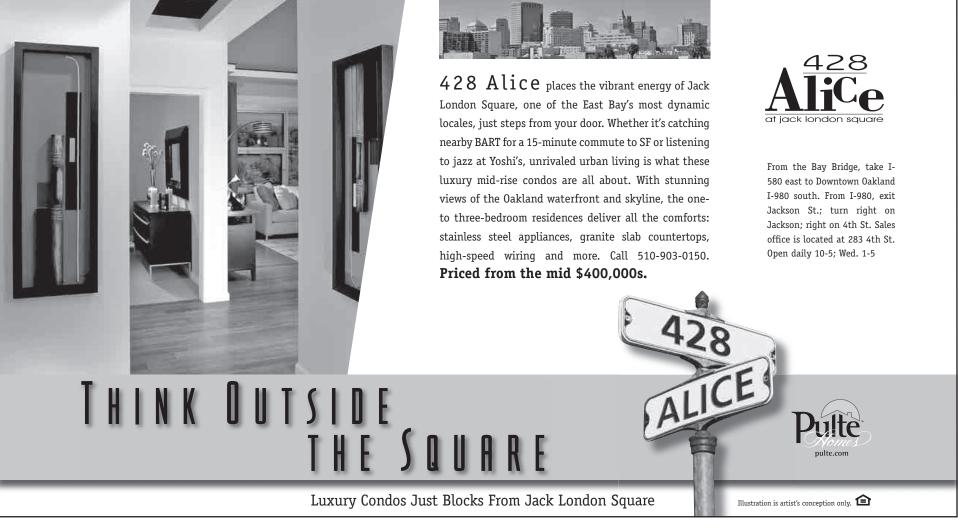
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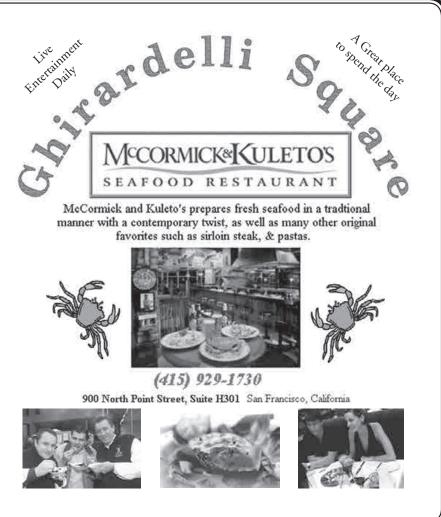
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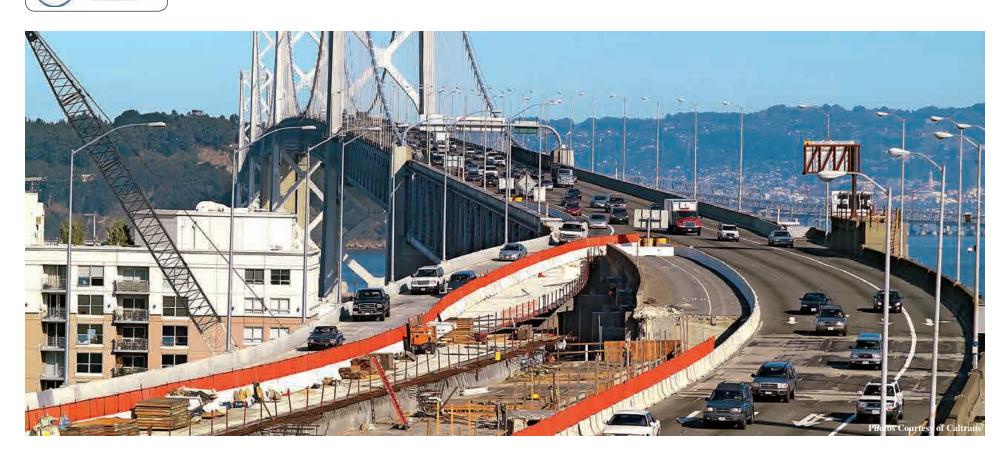
Get FREE gas or Safeway gift cards worth \$10 for every five days you carpool, up to \$100. Enter to win \$1,000 in gift cards in a grand prize drawing.

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West Approach to Bay Bridge Enters Critical Phase

BY JOHN GOODWIN

METROPOLITAS **RANSPORTATION** COMMISSION

riving across the Bay Bridge into San Francisco? Then get ready for another twist in the road — and more prolonged ramp and lane closures - as Caltrans embarks on the next major stage in its delicate retrofit-by-replacement of the Bay Bridge West Approach.

runs a marathon, works crews are removing and replacing the entire West Approach even as more than 260,000 vehicles each day traverse the milelong structure through downtown San Francisco. By periodically reconfiguring the lanes, Caltrans is able to maintain traffic flows while moving ahead with the intricate process of swapping the cramped, seismically vulnerable and 70-year-old existing structure for a modern, earthquake-safe freeway.

Beginning June 3, westbound motorists will face a brand new lane alignment as they come off the upper deck of the bridge, with the fourth lane from the left offering an especially tricky departure from the ordinary. Known to traffic engineers as the #4 lane, this and the neighboring #5 lane will both veer right and away from the mainline freeway toward the Fremont Street/Folsom Street offramp. And while the #5 lane will offer a straightforward exit-only route, the #4 lane will give drivers the unusual choice of either exiting at Fremont Street, or continuing west and rejoining the freeway several hundred yards downstream.

And, motorists should brace for a new round of major closures during the weekends of June 2-5 and June 9-12.

Demolition of a key segment will require the Bay Like performing transplant surgery while the patient Bridge to be shut to eastbound traffic — and westbound

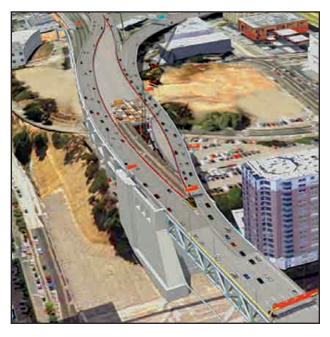
> traffic to be detoured off at Fremont Street and back on at Fourth Street - during the late night and early morning hours of both weekends.

In addition, the First Street and Essex Street on-ramps in San Francisco will be closed throughout these weekends. Motorists also will have to adjust to a new Fifth Street off-ramp, which has been relocated a half-mile down the road.

To help offset the inconvenience

to transbay travelers, Caltrans has arranged to pay for 24-hour BART service the first two weekends in June, and will maintain transit service to Treasure Island by establishing a bus shuttle to and from the MacArthur BART station in Oakland.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Bay Area Toll Authority is playing a central role in



financing and overseeing the \$429 million project, which is now in its fourth year and scheduled for completion in mid-2009.

In addition to the ongoing West Approach work, another project to resurface the pavement on both the upper and lower decks of the West Span of the bridge proper will require various lanes to be closed intermittently between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. through late 2006.

For updates on traffic conditions and traffic alternatives, visit 511.org, or call 511.



511 Rideshare to Reward Commuters Who Share the Ride Safeway Gift Card and Gas Card Incentive Arrives as Pump Prices Surge

ith retail gasoline prices hitting \$3 a gallon statewide, the 511 Regional Rideshare Program is joining forces with Safeway to kick off an incentive campaign for commuters who share the ride to work. The "Rideshare Rewards" program awards up to \$100 in gas or Safeway gift cards to solo drivers who join carpools over the next two months.

"We're delighted to have Safeway, one of the largest grocery store retailers in North America, as a corporate sponsor for our new Rideshare Rewards program," said Tad Widby, project manager for 511 Rideshare. "We share the same goal of pursuing a cleaner, less-congested environment."

Widby said the timing of the new incentive program couldn't be more promising as retail gas prices continue to surge throughout the state. "Gasoline prices are hovering at \$3 a gallon, with experts predicting little relief later this summer. Rideshare Rewards gives new carpoolers a way to fight pain at the pump and ease the impact on the pocketbook."

"As a major business in the region, we want to make sure we offer a significant percentage of our resources to help support the communities we serve," said Jennifer Webber, Public Affairs director for Safeway's Northern California Division. "Safeway is committed to making life a bit easier for busy families and individuals. A faster, lessstressful commute goes a long way toward that goal."

Pleasanton-based Safeway is contributing retail value cards good at any Safeway store. New carpoolers can earn \$10 in gas or grocery gift cards for every five days they carpool, up to \$100 within a three-month period. At the end of the year, 511 Rideshare will hold a drawing to award \$1,000 to a lucky commuter who has carpooled at least 40 days during the program.

511 Rideshare has earmarked \$50,000 to fund the rewards campaign, which officially got under way May 1. Commuters have until July 31, 2006, to sign up.

Once they sign up, they have three months to participate (in other words, a commuter signing up on July 31 would have until Oct. 31 to log carpool rides). The amount budgeted will cover at least the first 500 drivers who participate. The reward cards will be distributed first come, first served until funds run out.

Shelia Young, the mayor of San Leandro who also represents Alameda County on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), said easing congestion would benefit the region's economy. "We must reduce rush hour traffic to help the region attract new businesses and retain existing ones," said Young, who participated in the press conference announcing the promotion. "In addition, drawn-out, stressful commutes can lower job satisfaction and worker productivity."

MTC sponsors the 511 Rideshare program, which has caught the public's attention. Just two weeks after the program launch, 127 commuters had already registered for it.

The special promotion was just the extra push that Elaine Chang needed to form a carpool. The Fremont resident has teamed up with a coworker to commute across the Bay to their jobs at a law firm in Palo Alto.

"Even before [we heard of the program] we were thinking about riding together. We always talked about it, but didn't act on it. The rewards program sped things up," she said, noting that she and her carpool mate take turns driving.

The biggest impact has been on her pocketbook. Not only is Chang reducing her gasoline bills, she's also avoiding the \$3 toll on the Dumbarton Bridge, since carpools of two or more pass free on that span. She calculates that by carpooling twice a week, she will save about \$43 a month on gas and tolls, and she expects to earn another \$10 a month through Rideshare Rewards, for a total of \$53 a month in savings and bonuses during the promotion.

Michael Cunningham, the Bay Area Council's vice president for transportation, said the Rideshare Rewards program is modest but essential. He noted that 35 percent of the 600 residents surveyed for the 2006 Bay Area Council Poll said traffic congestion is the most important hurdle facing the nine-county region.

"Transportation has been the No. 1 concern for most of the 20 years we've published the poll," said Cunningham. "We need to tackle the region's transportation woes to create a robust business climate."

Widby said 511 Rideshare's efforts to convince commuters to carpool are picking up speed. Registration at the Web site during the first quarter of 2006 was up nearly 20 percent compared to a year ago. In April alone, 1,548 new applicants signed up for ridesharing, a 43 percent jump from March.

To learn more about 511 Rideshare Rewards, go to 511.org and click Rideshare, or call 511 and say "Rideshare."

511 Rideshare, like all the travel information on MTC's popular 511 phone and Web system, is a free service.

511 Rideshare also runs an ongoing vanpool incentive program that rewards commuters with \$300 to \$900 for starting and operating vanpools.

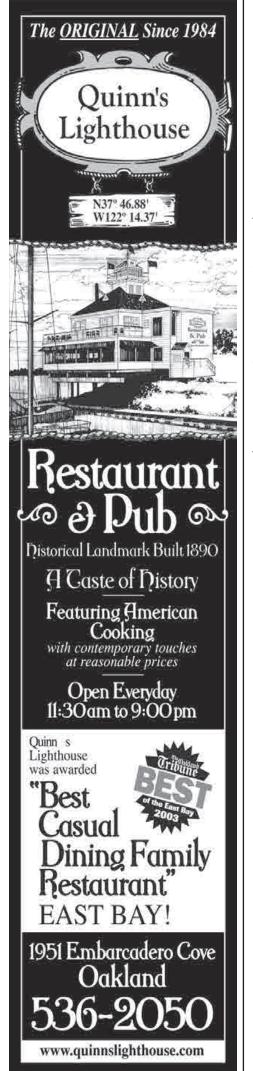


511 Rideshare is funded by grants from the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, MTC, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and county congestion management agencies. It helps commuters find other drivers to carpool or vanpool together to work. Qualifying carpools can cross Bay Area toll bridges free of charge during commute hours, and those new to ridesharing may qualify for financial incentives or subsidies beyond the Rideshare Rewards bonuses.



METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AROUND THE BAY



LIGHTING UP THE BAY JUNE FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR

June 23 - July 9 Pleasanton

Come play a game and win a prize for your sweetie, then watch the opening night fireworks. Carnival open Noon until midnight during June. Looking ahead to July 3 ... disco king "Boogie Man," KC and the Sunshine Band will perform.

ACCORDION FESTIVAL

June 4, Noon-6PM San Francisco

It's National Accordion Awareness Month and you know you love the accordion. Get your fix at San Francisco's 16th Annual Accordion Festival in Del Monte Square at the Cannery in Fisherman's Wharf. This free event features a wide variety of accordion-based bands and the Main Squeeze Pageant. (415) 440-0800 *www.ladyofspain.com*



SONOMA - MARIN FAIR June 21 - 25 Sonoma

Come eat BBQ, cotton candy, corn on the cob, caramel popcorn and then ride some rides. If that doesn't make you nauseous (in a good way) then attend the "World's Ugliest Dog Contest" at the fair on June 23rd. Carnival open from Noon to Midnight. Gates close at 10PM. *www.sonoma-marinfair.org*

HEALDSBURG JAZZ FESTIVAL

June 1 - 11 Sonoma

A week-long festival of public performances in diverse settings, including the historic Raven Theater, the new Hotel Healdsburg and several area wineries. Call (707) 431-8371 *www.healdsburgjazzfestival.com*

HEALTH & HARMONY FESTIVAL

June 9 - 11 Santa Rosa

A community festival promoting music, arts, ecology and healthy living. Five music stages, on-site camping, a green living expo, beer and wine gardens, free workshops and a kids' zone. Concerts feature Spearhead, Ozomatli, War, Hamsa Lila and more. Saturday night, a techno tribal dance with circus troupes and firedancers. Sonoma County Fairgrounds. *www.harmonyfestival.com*

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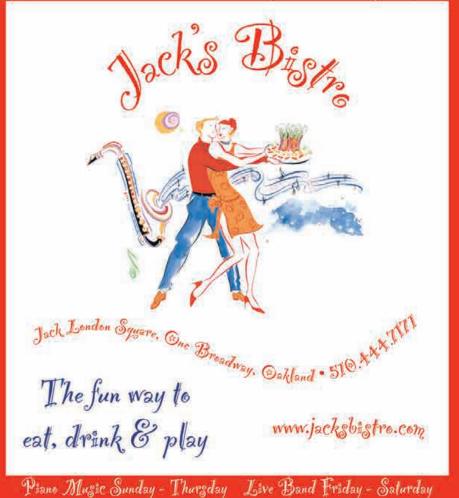
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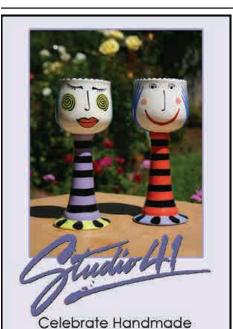


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FLIGHT INTO AN ERA

BY JOEL WILLIAMS

hen I arrived at the quiet Sonoma Valley Airport, an old military jeep pushing out the SNJ-4 WWII era war bird, one that I would be flying in that day, greeted me. The aircraft had been beautifully restored and looked like it was plucked right out of the Pearl Harbor movie set. I was set and ready to climb in the co-pilot seat to get the flight experience of a lifetime over Sonoma County.

After being outfitted with a parachute, I climbed into history and was strapped into the hard metal seat. Even though Chris Prevost, the pilot and founder of Vintage Aircraft, was only a couple feet away from me, I was fitted with a headset and shown how to communicate with him. When the engine roared to life I immediately knew why the headset was needed. The plane vibrated vigorously, while the engine was repeatedly revved up in preparation for take off.

Suddenly, we spun around in place and headed for the runway.

My first thought as we took off was how smooth the ride was. It was a calm and clear day, and we soon leveled off at a few hundred feet for a low-level tour of the surrounding area. As we flew through the valleys of the rolling hills I could look straight out at the hillsides on the side of the plane. We began making some very tight slow turns that put the plane on its side, with one wing pointed right at the ground. Again, I was amazed at how gracefully the plane performed; we seemed to stand still in the air with the ground below me swirling around.

When I was graciously offered the opportunity to fly with Prevost, I immediately knew I wanted to go up in the SNJ-4, also known as the Texan. This advance trainer plane was designed to give cadets a taste for the higher speeds and experience with more complex systems of fighters and bombers that they would soon be flying.

I was told that flying low over the surrounding hills gives the passenger a feel for the speed and excitement of WWII military flying, and that I could request aerobatics if I wanted to "kick it up a notch." I was not disappointed.

We ascended to 3,500 feet.

Prevost took the plane into a barrel roll, a sideways roll that put us upside down, several times. He negotiated a full loop that took us straight up until we were inverted and back over





until we were headed straight at the ground, before we pulled the nose up to its upright, level position.

Exhilarating is an understatement when describing the feeling you get during these maneuvers. It feels like a super roller coaster without any tracks.

Many times my mind drifted back to childhood, when I had fantasies of flying in the model war planes I used to make, holding them in my hand over my head doing the same maneuvers I was actually experiencing in the SNJ-4.

After heading north and giving me a bird's eye view of the vineyards and Sonoma countryside we headed back to the airport. As we landed, I lamented the fact that my short trip into history was almost over. After our flight, I sat down with Prevost for a casual conversation next to the tarmac. He popped the top off a couple of 8-oz, bottled Cokes, and we sat down on some old wooden patio furniture outside the office at the end of the hangers. The atmosphere reminded me of an era long past as we talked about our flight and Vintage Aircraft Company.

"It's not just a business, it's a means to keep these things flying." Prevost said. He has flown more than 75 different aircraft over his 30-year flying history, and has logged over 12,000 hours of flight time. "It's a lifestyle that requires total dedication to the point of personal sacrifice. Our goal is to allow people to be able to observe history firsthand."

VINTAGE AIRCRAFT COMPANY

Since 1975 Vintage Aircraft Company has been giving tours in their meticulously maintained fleet of vintage aircrafts. They currently fly 3 PT-17 Stearman biplanes and the SNJ-4 "Texan."

Most people choose to go up in the biplanes, because they have been modified to seat two passengers in the front cockpit. Plus, with an open-air cockpit, you have an unobstructed amazing view. It's a great way to share the experience with a loved one and, on many occasions, it has proved to be the perfect place to "pop the question."

Vintage Aircraft Company is located about an hour north of San Francisco at Sonoma Valley Airport on Highway 121. They offer several different tours from a 20-minute local scenic flight to 40-minute explorer flights through wine country, south towards San Francisco or west to the Pacific Coast. Aerobatics are available upon request!

> Vintage Aircraft Company 23982 Arnold Dr. Sonoma, CA 95476 (707) 938-2444 www.vintageaircraft.com

My personal experience felt like just that. From the moment I arrived at the airport to the time I reluctantly left, I felt like I had taken a trip up to Sonoma and back in time.

Photos (Above and opposite): Views from the SNJ-4. (Below): The 3 PT-17 Stearman biplane (left) and the SNJ-4 "Texan" (right). Photos by Joel Williams.





www.baycrossings.com | BAYCROSSINGS | June 2006 | 23

NOBU the sake



Nobu Matsuhisa, chef and owner of Nobu and Matsuhisa restaurants, invites you to enjoy the dry, smooth taste of chilled Nobu Sake brewed only for Nobu by Hokusetsu on Sado, Japan's renowned "Sake Island."



JFC INTERNATIONAL INC (800) 633-1004

Brew Review Featuring Napa's Downtown Joe's

BY JOEL WILLIAMS

LIBATIONS

owntown Joe's is located in the heart of Napa on Main Street along side the Napa River. Their philosophy is to be unpretentious, friendly and fun, which I experienced firsthand, when I dropped by on a Friday afternoon during happy hour.

The crowd was gathered around the bar, all in good spirits, and I met several new people who were happy to start up a conversation with a stranger. The bartender, "Big John" Herkins was dazzling spectators with his charismatic wizardry that included magic and card tricks.

Brewmaster, Colin Kaminski and I sat down to sample a flight of the whopping nine craft beers that were currently on tap. For those whose tastes favor the lighter beer styles, the Lazy Summer American Wheat beer might be the best bet. It's Downtown Joe's best selling beer, and has a light, clean finish with little hops to offend anyone not used to the taste of craft beers. experienced craft beer enthusiasts, I highly recommend the Tantric India Pale Ale. True to style, it's a bold beer that is heavily hopped (with no less than seven different varieties of hops) and high in alcohol.

In the tradition of most brewpubs, Colin had a couple of seasonal beers that are not available year round. I found the Sweet Dreams Cream Ale to be very light and refreshing, and reminded me of Boddingtons Pub Ale. By far the most unique beer was the Double IPA, it's more like a barley wine with its extremely high alcohol level (approaching 10 percent). This beer has been aged for 4-months, definitely worth the wait.

Downtown Joe's offers a full menu featuring traditional American dishes. Patrons can enjoy them on the spacious patio during a warm summer day with one of Colin's fine creations.

Joel Williams was a professional craft brewer for over 7 years at several different breweries. He earned a Diploma in Brewing Sciences in 1996 from the world renown Siebel Institute of Technology in Chicago.

For those more adventurous or 🔪

The 15th Annual Beerfest Sat., June 3, 1-5PM Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, 50 Mark West Springs Rd., Santa Rosa Microbreweries, an extraordinary food tasting, live music by Free Peoples. 21+ with ID. Tickets \$30 in advance at (707) 546-3600, or tickets.com; \$35 day of event. Face to Face / Sonoma County AIDS Network will receive proceeds from

The Beerfest. More info at (707) 887-7031 or *www.monitor.net/beerfest.*



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<u>Old-Fashioned American Sake</u>

Fresh off the line at the Takara Sake Tasting Room in Berkeley

BY CAMPER ENGLISH

he Bay Area offers several opportunities to sample adult beverages right at the source -- beer at the Anchor Brewery in Potrero Hill and the Speakeasy Brewery near Hunter's Point, and vodka and other spirits at the Hangar One and St. George Spirits distilleries in Alameda. Though the Takara Sake USA brewery doesn't produce the small-batch artisan beverages as do those others, a visit to its tasting room is an even rarer treat.

Takara is one of only five remaining sake breweries in the United States, down from seven just a few years ago. All of them are located in the West, and most of them in California. The location is no accident-- the warm weather allows yearround production of sake, and the air coming off the bay in Berkeley helps to cool the tanks. Additionally, sake's only two ingredients come from California sources-- rice from the Sacramento Valley and water from the Sierra Nevada Mountain snowmelt. So, that exotic drink you associate with Japan may use techniques developed there centuries ago, but everything in the bottle is made right here.

It's these homegrown ingredients you're likely drinking when you order the warm house sake at a Japanese restaurant. Takara is the America's largest sake producer, and the classic Sho Chiku Bai brand of sake produced in the Berkeley brewery is one of the most common sakes found for sale in U.S. restaurants and liquor and grocery stores.

Other sakes produced at this brewery are the extra dry Cho Kara, lighter Takara Sierra Cold, premium Ginjo, unpasteurized Nama and Organic Nama, and unfiltered Nigori. Takara also produces cooking sake (Mirin) and several plum wines at this location.

Most other popular brands of sake

served in the U.S. are brewed in the U.S. as well, due largely to prohibitively expensive import taxes. For that same reason, Europe tends to import more sake from the U.S. rather than from Japan.

American sakes have a reputation of being inferior to those made in Japan. This is true of the very high-end sakes, but there are many fine sakes produced here. Sakes labeled "ginjo" and "daiginjo" use highly polished rice to achieve superior sake. Takara sells locally-made ginjo at its in-house store, alongside several premium sakes imported from their Japanese distillery.

Inside Takara's Berkeley sake museum, oversized vats, a steamer, wooden stirrers, rakes, and other remnants of traditional sake brewing are on display, along with pictures illustrating the modern brewing process equivalents that happen onsite. Visitors may watch a short video expanding on the old-to-new production methods, or skip right to the samples.

In the tasting room adjacent to the sake museum, visitors have a chance to sample the full range of sakes produced, right off the line. Though sake is aged for several months before bottling, it is best consumed as soon as possible after that to avoid deterioration. This is especially true for the unpasteurized nama sakes. So, the sake you taste at the brewery is the best that sake is going to ever taste.

Takara's tasting room is bright and airy with indoor structures made from reclaimed wood and granite floors inlayed with recycled glass from sake and other bottles. At the tasting counter, the friendly and knowledgeable (and patient) staff helps visitors navigate sampling the various products. They try to both educate the consumer to the proper ways to store and serve sake, and also assist them in finding the right bottle to match their palettes.

Sake can be dry or sweet, earthy or creamy, simple or complex, and pairs differently with various foods, much like wine. For example, the sweet, rich, creaminess of nigori sake pairs well with and soothes the bite of strongly seasoned foods, whereas the flowery aromas in dry ginjos benefit when they don't have to compete with strong spices.

After tasting, visitors can purchase bottles of their favorite sakes onsite to pair with dinners at home. There they can feel confident they're drinking the most food-appropriate and freshest American sake available.

TAKARA SAKE USA BREWERY

Open to the public 12-6PM daily. Admission and tasting is free. 708 Addison St., Berkeley (510) 540-8250 www.takarasake.com

Gordon B

Gordon Biersch



NAMA: Unpasteurized; often has an earthy taste NIGORI: Unfiltered; often sweet & creamy HONJOZO: Small amount of distilled alcohol added JUNMAI: Made with rice polished to at least 70% of its original size. GINJO: Made with rice polished to at least 60% of its original size. DAIGINJO: Made with rice polished to at least 50% of its original size. "Every Guest, Every Time." 415 243 8246 complimentary GARLIC 4 hour validated parking after 5 pm daily (acod after 5pm, with coupon, expires at end of itaseball seasor

SUITING UP TO SURF

BY ALEX KOLOVYANSKY

ummer is the best time to learn how to surf in San Francisco because the waves tend to be smaller and more manageable, and the weather is generally nicer. To stay warm while out in the water it is recommended that you get a wetsuit. Why you ask? It's simple; the water temperature ranges from 52-58 degrees. Now, it is true you will see a couple of "members of the arctic club" out there, but for the rest us a neoprene wetsuit is appropriate.

A wetsuit works by allowing a small layer of water in between you and the suit. Your body heat warms that water and the neoprene keeps it warm.

Many surf shops rent wetsuits, but buying your own will pay for itself in roughly 10-20 uses, depending what kind you get. There are many brands to choose from but what is important is a good fit.

A suit must fit snugly all around. If there are folds or too much space between you and the material, water will collect in those spots. For a wetsuit to work properly, the layer of water inside must be thin. If the suit is loose, baggy or ill-fitting, when you dive under a wave your suit will fill with cold water and, consequently, each time that happens, your body will lose heat as it uses it to keep heating new water. So, make sure to try on different brands and styles of suits, and compare. The suit should fit

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"Since I saw you I have not had any cigarettes, & it was much easier than I anticipated-- absolutely no anxiety and no withdrawal. It's been pretty amazing." L.V.

> "I have no desire for chocolate anymore, & I've been forgetting about eating." S.B.

"I'm very impressed. Not only have I been able to change my eating habits but I've become more focused and it's opened up new areas of awareness." L.M.

"I was able to get a project completed that had been hanging over my head for months, & I've been experiencing a pronounced sense of well-being." P.P.



snugly, but not too tight. You should definitely be able to move well, as you will be swimming and bending in moving water.

Movement-warmth-durability

There are several other considerations when choosing a wetsuit. First, consider the thickness of the suit material. In Bay Area waters, a 4/3 millimeter full suit is most common. What that means is 4mm of neoprene in the core (chest, etc.) and 3mm for the extremities. This thickness is generally accepted to be about right for the water temperature, and allows for a nice combination of warmth and mobility.

Second, make sure the seams are sealed - either taped or glued - so you don't have fresh, cold water coming in constantly.

Third, make sure your suit is suited for surfing, particularly if you are buying a pre-owned suit. And take note that triathlon and dive suits look similar to wetsuits -- triathlon suits tend to be less durable and dive suits often have a zipper down the front, which would be uncomfortable when paddling out on your board. Surfing wetsuits are made to endure the rigors of surfing and have reinforced areas (knees, elbows) and allow ease of movement (shoulders, chest).

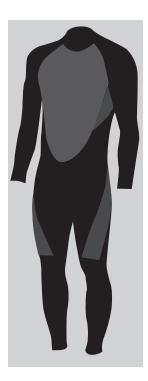
Each manufacturer offers its own take on the wetsuit offering a multitude of options from for all levels of use. A new entry model suit costs from \$100 and up to \$500 plus. When buying one, consider not only the cost but the durability and fit. Also, keep an eye out for last year's models, which tend to offer nicer features at a lower price.

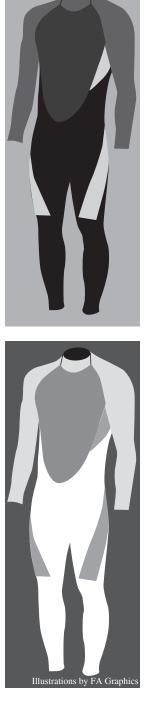
Feet-hands-head

There are a couple of helpful accessories to the wetsuit. These include booties, a hood and gloves. Many people use booties year-round, and on cooler days, because the body looses a large portion of its heat through the head, a hood adds extra warmth. One other accessory, really more of a necessity, is waterproof sun block. It is recommended even on overcast or foggy summer days. Check the local UV Index at: *http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/whereyoulive.html*.

Water-quality-check

Lastly, it should be noted that, although generally safe, you should check the water quality before heading out, particularly after heavy rains when storm drain and urban run-off is most prevalent. One should also be aware of sewer spills and bacteria levels above State standards. According to Earth 911, all three may impact your health. As stated earlier, a wetsuit allows a thin layer of water to be against the body and inevitably we gulp some down during wipeouts so there is no real protection from microscopic bacteria that may not be visible in the water. To learn about the water quality and beach safety at your favorite surf spot, visit: *www.earth911.org/waterquality*





WINDSPEED ON WATER

Windsurfers, kiteboarders, sailors competing for speed in the fastest wind water competition ever to grace the waves of the San Francisco Bay

BY WHIT POOR

or centuries, people have been obsessed with speed and getting beyond the boundaries to which we are confined. With this in mind, the stage

is set for one of the fastest competitions on the Bay — the San Francisco Speed Sailing Event.

This event, the first of its kind to be held on mainland USA, will feature the likes of windsurfers, sailboats, kiteboarders, you name it. There is just one simple rule... You must be powered by the wind.

In this race, sailors must navigate a 500 meter course, just off the shoreline of Crissy Field. The weather will factor into the results and in doing so makes this anyone's game. The event will be held June 15-18

and will take results from all three days. Expect to see the windsurfers in high contention for a win as the world record is currently held on a windsurf board.

San Francisco Speed Sailing June 15 - 18

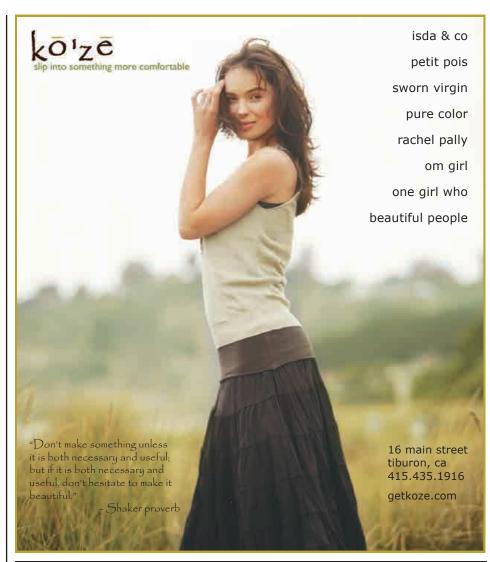
Golden Gate YC, Alcatraz to Crissy Field Practice June 15, Competition June 16-17 Exhibitions & demos June 18 Entry fee as follows: \$95 (windsurfers, kitesurfers, single-handed) \$150 (two-handed skiffs) \$250 (all other vessels) Register at: www.sanfranciscospeed.com

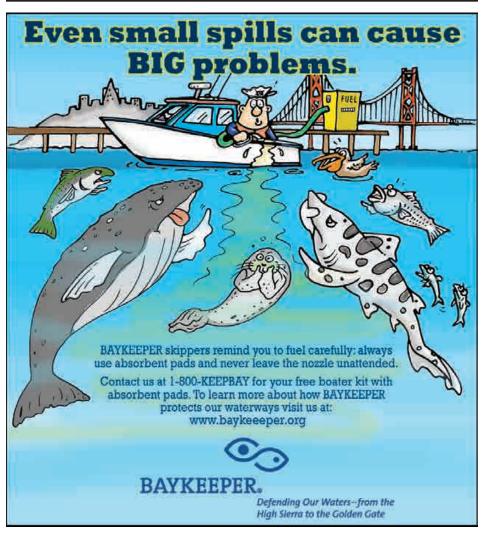
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Cruise Departure Schedule from May 24 - September 3, 2006

> Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday 11:00AM 1:00PM 3:00PM

Friday & Saturday 11:00AM 1:00PM 3:00PM 5:00PM

Monday & Tuesday: no scheduled cruises, but available for group charters.

ARCHITECTURE tour available in English, Español, Deutsch, 日本語

June Waterfront Activities

- Every 9:30AM 3PM Paddle and Hike: Tomales Bay, Blue Waters Kayaking, 415-669-2600, www.BWKayak.com
- Sat & Sun We paddle along the Pt. Reyes shoreline, enjoying the wildlife and beautiful scenery and share a leisurely potluck lunch at one of the many beautiful Tomales Bay beaches. Then we put on our hiking shoes and explore the trails of Tomales Bay State Park. A guide will interpret the plant and animal life and the geology of this fascinating area. After hiking we'll re-launch our kayaks and paddle back to base. \$88. Includes equipment and guides.

June 3 & 18 9AM – 3PM - Tule Elk Tour: Tomales Bay, Blue Waters Kayaking, 415-669-2600, www.BWKayak.com

We launch at Nick's Cove and paddle through the tide channels amid the majestic scenery and remote beaches of the northern part of the Bay. Discover the diversity of life which inhabits the Bay and its shores: tule elk, harbor seals, bat-rays, hawks, waterfowl, sea stars and other intertidal life. Cost: \$98- includes equipment and guides.

June 3 9AM – 3PM -12th Annual Pillar Point Open Ocean Race and Boat Demo Day, California Canoe & Kayak, 800-366-9804, www.calkayak.com Come and try out a selection of boats during our Boat Demo, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can test drive sea, touring, recreational, or sit-on-top kayaks; Hobie pedal kayaks, and canoes, too! \$20 – Race; \$10 – Boat Demo; kids under 12 participate in demo free!

June 3 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 alike. \$85 including Equipment.

June 4 10:00AM – 12:00PM - Ocean Beach Cleanup, Surfrider Association (SF Chapter), Ocean Beach at Taraval St , *www.sfsurfrider.org* Help keep our local beaches clean! Just show up at Ocean Beach at the end of Taraval Street and we'll provide gloves, bags and instructions.

June 8 & 22 5:30PM – 7:00PM - Thursday Night Kite Board Racing at the St. Francis Yacht Club, on the Marina www.stfyc.com

30 riders on tiny surfboards flying huge kites race each other around a course in front of the St. Francis Yacht Club next to the Marina Green volley balls courts. Riders use sailing techniques and strategy to power their way around a course with out crashing in to other riders or tangling kites. This is the first race of its kind anywhere in the world, with the Golden Gate Bridge in the background. Every other Thursday night

June 10 11AM – 4PM - 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 including equipment.

- June 10 6:30PM 9:30PM Full Moon Paddle, Sea Trek Ocean Kayaking Center, Sausalito, 415-488-1000, www.seatrekkayak.com Explore the Sausalito waterfront with its houseboats and harbor seals. From our sleek, comfortable double kayaks we'll be watching the sun set behind Mt. Tamalpais and the colors of the sky and water change. We'll paddle back as we watch the moon rising over Angel Island. No previous paddling experience neccesary. \$75 including all kayaking gear and guides.
- June 11 7:00PM 10:00PM 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 including equipment.

June 11 & 24 8:45AM - 3:30PM - Basic Sea Kayaking Skills 1 Class, Blue Waters Kayaking, 415-669-2600, www.BWKayak.com

This course gives you a foundation to start kayaking safely. We teach paddling strokes, bracing techniques, and ultimately learning wet-exits and re-entry techniques. Our day concludes with an introduction to reading tide logs, charts and weather. Successful completion of this class enables a kayaker to rent closed deck kayaks from most outfitters. Cost \$99 Special: Upon completion, receive 50% off your next rental of a closed deck boat (up to \$45 max.)

June 15-18 San Francisco Speed Sailing Event on San Francisco Bay, Golden Gate Yacht Club, *www.sanfranciscospeed.com*

Taking place on special 500-meter courses marked off Alcatraz Shoals and the Golden Gate Yacht Club/Crissy Field, this first-time speed sailing event is open to windsurfers, kitesurfers, skiffs, monohulls, catamarans, trimarans and experimental craft. Speed runs will take place during the most optimum conditions of high wind and flattest water (usually early afternoon). Practice is June 15, competition June 16-17, exhibitions and demos June 18. Entry: \$95 (windsurfers, kitesurfers, single-handed); \$150 (two-handed skiffs); \$250 (all other vessels). Register online at sanfranciscospeed.com. Contact: info@sanfranciscospeed.com

June 17 9:30AM – 3:30PM - Angel Island Crossing, Sea Trek Ocean Kayaking Center, Sausalito, 415-488-1000, www.seatrekkayak.com

We'll paddle across the rugged Raccoon Straits out to Angel Island enjoying spectacular views. We'll land on a remote beach for lunch and have time for more paddling or hiking before returning to Sea Trek. No previous paddling experience necessary. \$85 includes all kayaking gear and guides. Bring lunch, snack and water.

June 23-25 6th Annual King of the Bay Kiteboarding Competition, Helm of Sun Valley, Foster City, 650-344-2711, www.kingofthebay.com

See over 100 kiteboarding and windsurfing professionals reveal the cutting edge of a sport that combines the best of all the board sports. Event takes place in Foster City "3rd Avenue" just north of the San Mateo Bridge adjacent to Mariners Island Golf Course. Starts a noon each day. For registration and up to the minute information on the event visit www.kingofthebay.com

June 24 10AM - Bair Island/Corkscrew Slough Wildlife Viewing Trip, California Canoe & Kayak, 800-366-9804, www.calkayak.com Join us for an exploration by sea kayak of Bair Island and Corkscrew Slough! Launching from the public boat ramp on Redwood Creek in Redwood City, we cruise through a paddler's paradise of intimate waterways and tidal marshes within a national wildlife refuge. This is a fun day of easy cruising in a spectacular, calm-water wonderland right in our own backyard! \$49

June 25 10AM – 1PM - Tomales Bay: Take The Kids, Sea Trek Ocean Kayaking Center, Sausalito, 415-488-1000, www.seatrekkayak.com

Start your day with a meandering drive through redwood-lined country roads and then join us for a sea kayak exploration of Tomales Bay. Afterwards, enjoy one of the area's best-loved hideaways - Heart's Desire Beach at Tomales Bay State Park. Picnic facilities, shady trails, and a swimming beach make for a great day with the kids. Adults \$75, kids 12 and under \$45 includes all kayaking gear and guides.

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.

Calidivers - 510-417-0025, www.calidivers.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.

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.sfsurfrider.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.)

Water Sport Shops, Facilities, Training & Resources

Advanced Diving Technologies 625 California Ave. Suite F Pittsburg CA 94565 925-432-2111 www.adtscuba.com Full service scuba center with sales, service, rentals and dive instruction plus dive travel.

All About Scuba 925 Texas St. Fairfield CA 94533 707-425-1932 www.itsallaboutscuba.com

Anderson's Swim & Scuba 541 Oceana Blvd. Pacifica CA 94044 650-355-3050 www.andersonscuba.com Full scuba certification courses, snorkeling & swimming lessons in an indoor heated pool plus sales, service, rental equipment and air fills. Aqua Surf Shop 2830 Sloat Blvd. San Francisco CA 94116 415-242-9283 www.aquasurfshop.com Surfboards, skateboards, art & clothing.

Aqua Surf Shop 1742 Haight St. San Francisco CA 94117 415-876-2782 www.aquasurfshop.com Surfboards, skateboards, art & clothing.

Bamboo Reef Enterprises, Inc. 584 4th St. San Francisco CA 94107 415-362-6694 www.bambooreef.com Scuba training, sales and service plus dive trips. Blue Waters Kayaking 19238 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Inverness CA 94937 415-669-2600 www.bwkayak.com Wilderness kayaking on Tomales Bay including naturalist-led tours, classes, rentals, overnight camping and youth camps. Please see our ad *below*.

Bodega Bay Kayak 1580 East Shore Dr.@ Blue Whale Shopping Center Bodega Bay CA 94923 707-875-8899 www.bodegabaykayak.com Kayak sales, rentals, tours & classes.

Bodega Bay Surf Shack 1400 Hwy 1 Bodega Bay CA 94923 707-875-3944 www.bodegabaysurf.com Full service surf shop in Bodega Bay with sales, rentals and lessons. Cal School of Diving 1750 6th St. Berkeley CA 94710 510-524-3248 www.caldive.net Scuba instruction and dive trips.

California Canoe & Kayak 409 Water St., Jack London Square Oakland CA 94607 510-893-7833 www.calkayak.com Year round canoe and kayak sales, rentals, class & trips.

California Dive Center 715 El Camino Real San Bruno CA 94066 650-588-4998 www.cadive.com Full service PADI five star dive center.



Outback Adventures 12 E. Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Larkspur, CA 94939 www.outbackadventures.com Phone (415) 461-2222

We are a comprehensive outdoor guide service, rental shop, and specialty outdoor retailer. In Marin we offer kayak sales, demos, rentals and instructional classes for kayaking and rock climbing. Custom trips and private classes are also available. Check out our Kayak Demo Day taking place on June 17th at our Larkspur location! Call for details.



Blue Waters Kayaking 12938 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Inverness, CA 94937 www.BWKayak.com Phone (415) 669-2600

Just an hour north of San Francisco in the Point Reyes National Seashore, wilderness kayaking and hiking experiences await you. Two locations on Tomales Bay offer naturalist-led tours, camping, youth camps, custom trips and all levels of classes. We also do Baja, Yucatan tours in the winter/spring.

Water Sport Shops, Facilities, Training & Resources

California Surf Shop

899 Gravenstein Hwy Sabastopol CA 95472 707-824-4360 www.californiasurfshop.com Home of the Cold Water Surf Club. Family owned and operated full service surf, skate and swim shop supporting the community and the environment.

California Windsurfing

650 Shell Blvd. Foster City CA 94070 650-594-0335 www.californiawindsurfing.com Windsurfing lessons - kayak and sailboard rentals.

Captain Aqua's Scuba Diving Center

250 E. Jackson St. Hayward CA 94544 510-728-0225 www.captainaqua.com Full service dive center - training, travel, equipment & repair.

City Kayak

Pier 38, The Embarcadero San Francisco CA 94107 415-357-1010 www.citykayak.com Kayak rentals and trips.

Clavey River Equipment

409 Petaluma Blvd. South Petaluma CA 94952 800-832-4226 www.clavey.com Kayak and whitewater raft rentals and sales.

Delta Windsurf Company

3729 Sherman Island Rd Rio Vista CA 94571 916-777-2299 www.deltawindsurf.com Windsurfing and kiteboarding sales, lessons and rentals.

Demo Sport

1101 Francisco Blvd. San Rafael CA 94901 415-454-3500 www.demosport.com Wakeboarding, wakesurfing, water skiing and kiteboard equipment sales, rentals & lessons.

Diver Dan's

2245 El Camino Real Santa Clara CA 95050 408-984-5819 www.diverdans.com Full service dive center - training, equipment sales & service, dive travel, on site pool available.

Dublin Dive Center

6715 Dublin Blvd. Dublin CA 94568 925-829-3843 www.captainaqua.com Full service dive center - training, travel, equipment & repair.

Harbor Dive & Kayak Center

200 Harbor Dr. Sausalito CA 94965 415-331-0904 www.harbordive.com Full service dive center and hobie kayak sales.

Helm of Sun Valley

333 N. Amphlett Blvd. San Mateo CA 94401 650-344-2711 www.helmsports.com Kitesurfing lessons, wakeboard, windsurfing, kitesurfing and water skiing equipment sales.

High Tide Surf Shop

9 Fourth St. Petaluma CA 94952 707-763-3860 www.waveslave.com Family owned full service surf shop on the crossroads to the North Coast Beaches. Longboard, short board and paddleboards plus wetsuits and surf accessories. Open 12-7 Mon-Fri. 10-5 Sat & 12-4 Sun.

Institute of Diving Technology 8646 Davona Dr. Dublin CA 94568 925-551-8478

925-551-8478 www.divewithidt.com Certified diving school for all levels plus local trips & travel.

Kite Wind Surf 430 Westline Dr. Alameda CA 94501 510-522-9463 www.kitewindsurf.com Kiteboarding, windsurfing and surfing equipment, lessons and rentals.

Mako Marine Outfitters

536 Soscol Ave., Suite 2 Napa CA 94559 707-251-5600 www.makodiveandkayak.net Full service dive center, kayak sales & rental.

Napa Dive & Sport 162 S. Coombs St. Napa CA 94559 707-257-2822 www.napadive.com Friendly full-service dive center with training, equipment sales & service and tropical dive travel.

Napa River Adventures P.O. Box 10881

Napa CA 94581 707-224-9080 www.napariveradventures.com Regularly scheduled cruises on luxury electric riverboats plus canoe and kayak rentals.

Nautilus Aquatics

1220 Diamond Way, Suite 110 Concord CA 94520 925-827-2822 www.bayareadiving.com Full service dive center including sales, rental, repair, training, recreation & travel.

O'Neill Surfshop

247 Shoreline Hwy. Mill Valley CA 94941 415-383-2058 www.oneill.com Family owned, full service surf shop with everything you need to ride the waves.

Open Water Rowing Center

85 Liberty Ship Way Sausalito CA 94965 415-332-1091 www.owrc.com Open water sculling instruction, club memberships and boat sales.

Outback Adventures

12 E. Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Larkspur CA 94939 415-461-2222 www.outbackadventures.com Kayak sales, rentals, trips & classes. Please see our *ad on page 30*.

Outback Adventures

1158 Saratoga Ave. San Jose CA 95129 408-551-0588 www.outbackadventures.com Kayak sales, rentals, trips & classes.

Pacific River Supply

3675 San Pablo Dam Rd. El Sobrante CA 94803 510-223-3675 www.pacificriversupply.com Inflatable whitewater raft & kayak sales, rental and repairs.

Pinnacles Dive Center

875 Grant Ave. Novato CA 94945 415-897-9962 www.pinnaclesdive.com Fully accredited scuba training with onsiteheated pool. Diving equipment sales, rental, repair and local/tropical trips.

Proof Lab

254 Shoreline Hwy. Mill Valley CA 94941 415-380-8900 www.prooflab.com Surfing & skateboarding equipment & rentals and local art.

River's Edge 13840 Healdsburg

Healdsburg CA 95448 707-433-7247 Canoe & kayak trips & rentals on the scenic Russian River. Retail sales and concessions.

Scuba San Francisco

650-873-7321 www.scubasanfrancisco.com Scuba instruction and information on 41 dive sites within a 2 hour drive from SF.

Sea Trek Ocean Kayaking Center

Schoonmaker Point Marina Sausalito CA 94965 415-332-8494 www.seatrekkayak.com Sea kayaking classes, trips & rentals.

SF Surf Shop

3809 Noriega San Francisco CA 94122 415-661-7873 www.sfsurf.com Custom made surfboards by John Schultze plus surfboard/wetsuit rentals and board repairs.

Stan's Skin & Scuba Diving

554 S. Bascom Ave. San Jose, CA 95128 408-998-0767 www.stansdiving.com Full service scuba center since 1957. Training, equipment sales service & rentals, on site heated pool and dive trips.

Stinson Beach Surf & Kayak

3605 State Rt. 1 North Stinson Beach CA 94970 415-868-2739 www.stinsonbeachsurfandkayak.com Sales and rentals of surfboards, boogie boards and kayaks plus wetsuit rentals. Located 100 yards north of park entrance.

Wallin's Dive Center

1119 Industrial Rd., Suite 7 San Carlos CA 94070 650-591-5641 www.wallins.com Scuba, snorkel & swim center including instruction, sales, rentals, repairs and dive travel.

Wet Dawg Water Sports Incorporated

4290 Knoxville Rd. Napa CA 94558 707-966-5701 www.wetdawgwatersports.com Located on Lake Berryessa. Kayak, canoe, paddleboat and ski boat rentals. Retail sales of wakeboard, water skis and clothing.

Wise Surfboards

800 Great Hwy San Francisco CA 94121 415-750-9473 www.wisesurfboards.com Surfboards, wetsuits and accessories. Northern California's largest surf shop.

For advertising inquiries or to submit a listing to Waterfront Adventures, contact Joel Williams at (707) 556-3323 or joel@baycrossings.com

Embarcadera's Easy Riders

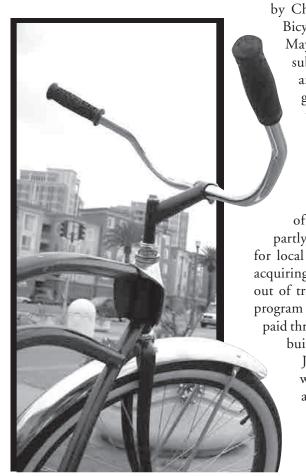
Bike Hut converting youths and adults to the way of the bike

BY DAN SANKEY

he Bike Hut is not a bike shop -- it's a hut. This seemingly obvious distinction goes well beyond the name. It is a feeling and a spirit that runs through all who come to the non-profit to buy, build, and repair bikes there. It's the aim and idea that things, well, everything is better when people ride bikes.

It's located on the Embarcadero at Pier 40, next to AT&T Park where the Giants play. The little shack is no more than 12 by 14 feet with an inverted roof prone to draining rain into the interior.

A white bike with metal wings is ready for flight at the edge of the roof.



"We are such a disposable society, a lot of kids don't realize they can clean up and fix their old bikes."

Flower pots with roses line the perimeter of bikes in racks, a repair stand and a couple of welcoming patio chairs sit outside the Hut's door. Within the hut itself is a balance of necessary clutter: tools, bikes and a menagerie of bike parts of the ages.

Ted Thomas and Victor Veysey are the executive director and program director, respectively, of the non-profit. They repair and rent bikes, as well as selling used ones. But the true nature of the Hut, is the ideal of educating and converting people to the way of the bike.

The Bike Hut was founded in 1996 by Charles Higgins as part of the

Bicycle Community Project. As of May 2005 it is independent and subsists on funds from its sales and repairs, with the occasional grant. Past grants were from the Rainbow Grocery co-op and the Department of Waste Conversion, with aims to keep used bicycles from becoming landfill.

One of the main facets of the non-profit is education, partly for the average biker but also for local teens that need a step up in acquiring skills to get a job and to stay out of trouble. "The youth mentoring program allows the kids to work and get paid through parts and keep a bike they build," Thomas says.

Justin Cooper, 18, has been working at the hut a few days a week for over a year. He's built himself three bikes and commutes from Daly City on them. "I love (working at the Hut)," Cooper says. A life long biker, he came to the program to build a job resume. "They're really nice people and I've established a good relationship with Victor."

"The at-risk kids we work with are so far away from the mainstream work society. We act as a transition for them to understanding basic job skills," Veysey says. "Here it's a little bit of fun and bit of work. It's preparation for the real job, which isn't always so fun."

The fun of the hut is evident in the stream of visitors stopping by in their daily commutes or leisurely bike rides to chat, tell a joke or get some advice.

Veysey greets bikers as friends from afar. "Aaaaarh pirate," he calls to a rider passing on a custom bike, built with two frames stacked vertically. He test rides another custom bike he has just finished for a customer; it has three-foot high chopper style handlebars.

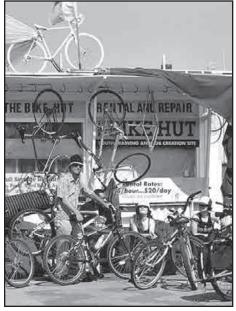
With the collection of bikes and parts donated to them from bike shops, individuals and charities such as Goodwill Industries, they have a great resource for creativity. "It's easy to indulge people in projects," Thomas says. "You want to chop up a couple of bikes, go ahead."

Munroe Baughman volunteers at the Hut and recently completed the co-joining of two kids bikes to form a stretched, baby-blue low-rider. He was convinced to put down his motorcycle for a bicycle after "I saw these guys beat me down [to the Embarcadero] from the Lower Haight by five minutes," he says.

The group refurbishes the donated bikes, re-sells them or donates them to local schools, the Hayes Valley Youth Center and to San Quentin for prisoners







Photos: (left) Schwinn Cruiser; (top to bottom) Victor Veysey, program director, in front of The Bike Hut, which, incidentally, was just named "Best of The Bay"

to fix them up.

Their used bike prices are better than used bike shops and even Craigslist. Bike prices range from "as is" bikes for \$50, bikes guaranteed for 30 days at \$150-\$180, to upper-end bikes at \$350.

Laurie Wright bought a bike after a ball game, and Veysey patiently gave her lessons in how to lock up her new bike. "Victor was so nice and helpful. It was kind of spur of the moment after a couple of beers at the game," Wright says. "This is going to make my life so much easier. It will make my commute two minutes." After some words of advice Veysey gave her a hug and sent her on her first ride home.

George Durgerian stopped by with a friend and their three kids on a bike ride around the city for a quick fix and a little bike repair lesson from Veysey for the kids. "The Embarcadero is so nice for riding," Durgerian said. "My dad used to own a bike shop and I first came by (the Hut) to donate a bunch of bikes." His son Aram was learning to clean his bike's drivetrain.

"A lot of parents want to teach their kids to fix their bikes and we provide a nice platform," Veysey said. "We are such a disposable society, a lot of kids don't realize they can clean up and fix their old bikes."

The Hut's rental fleet encourages an easy bike ride on the Embarcadero's flat pavement running parallel to the bay. "A romantic day is to rent a bike, ride over the bridge to Sausalito and catch a ferry back," Baughman says. For this, again, prices are well below market rate at \$5 an hour and \$20 a day for a bike rental.

There are plans to rebuild the Hut this summer. The new building will improve things, but not too much. "We still need to keep a certain level of 'hutness," Thomas says.

Overall though, the Hut isn't a form, but a feeling. "Ideally, this is a nice social place for people to hang out," Veysey says.

The Bike Hut is open every day 10AM-6PM (unless it's raining). Located on Pier 40 in South Beach. www.bikehut.com

Bay Trail Leading Shoreline Renaissance



hile sitting at a restaurant on the City of San Leandro shoreline 20 years ago, then State

Senator Bill Lockyer mused on the topic of public access and the San Francisco Bay. What if there existed a pathway around the entire San Francisco Bay, linking neighborhoods, schools, transit, job centers and recreation facilities to the shoreline?

Within the prior decade, the steady decline of the San Francisco Bay shoreline had been halted by the "Save the Bay" movement, and Bay Area residents were slowly awakening to a shoreline renaissance. This reawakening combined with Senator Lockyer's musings lead to the introduction of Senate Bill 100, which called for the planning and implementation of a continuous recreational corridor around the entire San Francisco Bay — the Bay Trail.

Today, that "back of the envelope" idea has been formally adopted by each of

the nine Bay Area counties and 47 cities the Bay Trail passes through, and regional coordination efforts are staffed by four full-time employees.

When fully built-out, this visionary trail corridor will be approximately 500-miles long.

The trail will pass through myriad terrains ranging from extremely remote wetland areas where shorebirds outnumber hikers and bikers in the North Bay, to the Embarcadero promenade in San Francisco with several thousand users per day.

The alignment will cross seven toll bridges, offer access to commercial areas, ferry terminals, train stations, points of historic, natural and cultural interest and over 130 parks and wildlife preserves.

The ultimate goal is for the entire alignment to be a fully separated pathway that is accessible to pedestrians, cyclists, rollerbladers and wheelchairs.

Currently more than 50 percent complete, the Trail passes through incredibly diverse landscapes on its trek from wine country in Sonoma and Napa Counties to the heart of Silicon Valley in the southern Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

Two of the most challenging aspects of trail development in the San Francisco Bay region are wetland and habitat issues and existing industrial and port/airport related uses.

Among the shoreline uses that essentially preclude public access are two international airports, four active seaports, one NASA research center and seven military installations in various stages of conversion.

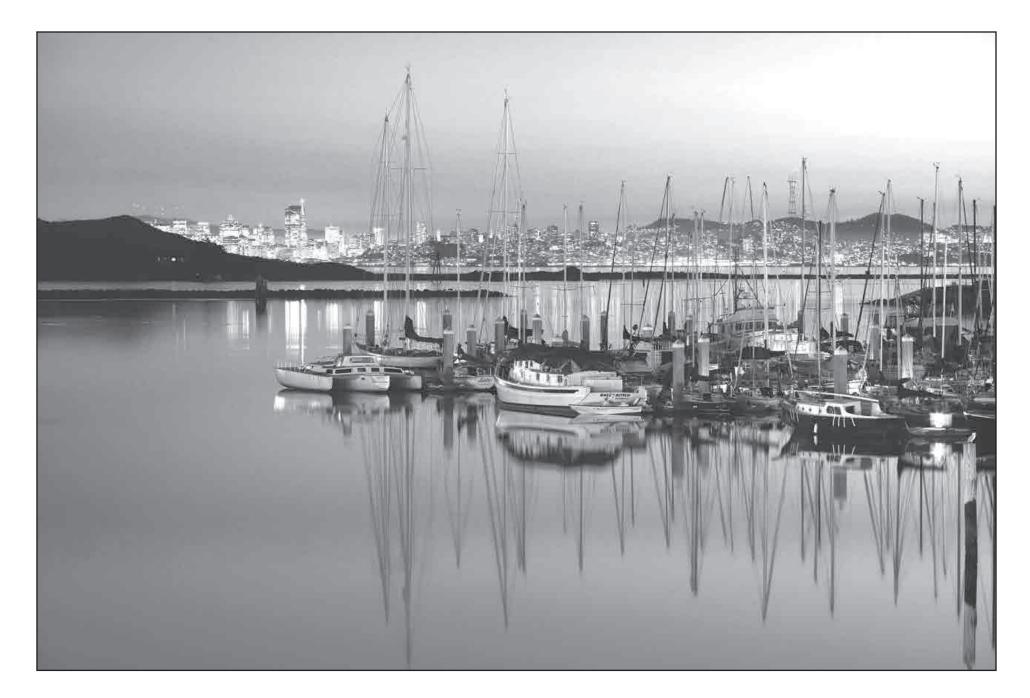
While Bay Trail planners continue to actively pursue an alignment as close as possible to the water, in areas such as these, the trail may move to inland routes and provide point access ('spur trails') to the waterfront where possible.

As the Bay Trail slowly encircles the Bay, momentum toward what the San Francisco Chronicle has dubbed "an unofficial national park — right in the midst of the nation's fifth-biggest urban area" (San Francisco Chronicle Special Edition—"The Bay Trail Adventure," Aug. 2003) continues to gather, and the benefits of the trail only seem to multiply.

Whether riding in a pack of proficient road cyclists, or "Birding the Bay Trail" with the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory guide, the Bay Trail offers something for all 7 plus million Bay Area residents.

Find Bay Trail maps http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov/map.html

office awardindustrial winning retail technology countries investment and systems land Build on the power of our network.™ For more information, call Catherine Howard **N**/I Global[™] VP Corporate Services 415 677 0469 www.naiglobal.com Commercial Real Estate Services, Worldwide.



First-time Homebuyer from San Francisco Chooses Waterfront Living at Marina Bay in Richmond

pectacularly situated on the shores of San Francisco Bay in Richmond, Marina Bay, The Shores at Marina Bay and The Cove at Marina Bay are three gated condominium home communities that are all attracting firsttime homebuyers with a rare combination of quality, value, and convenience. One of these buyers, Mara Gourvitz, is a

construction project manager who had been a renter in San Francisco for the past 10 years. She recently moved into a one-bedroom condominium home at Marina Bay, where prices start in the low \$300,000s.

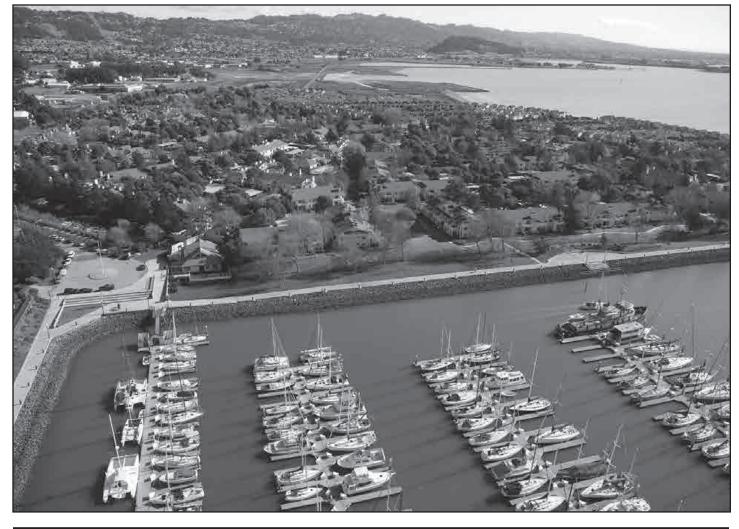
Mara says she looked actively for a city condominium for more than four months but became discouraged by the high prices and finally gave up. "When I was looking for a condominium in San Francisco, every time I could afford to make an offer, I ended up being outbid. It was extremely discouraging," recalls Mara. Then her assistant at work suggested that she take a look at the Marina Bay website. She was immediately attracted to the shinglesided architecture and white trim, so she decided to drive to the East Bay to

take a look. "I found Marina Bay and I just loved it from the moment I arrived. It was very different from the city but so beautiful and so peaceful. And I was just shocked by the affordable prices. I knew this was where I wanted to live and I ended up buying my home that very same day."

Marina Bay has been the bestselling residential community in the Bay Area during the last year. Now that condominium homes are also selling at The Cove and The Shores, there is an even wider selection of quality homes to choose from. Marina Bay, The Shores and The Cove all offer the same winning combination of attractive prices and outstanding features that are normally found in far more expensive homes. Prices at The Cove start in the high \$200,000s and prices at The Shores start in the mid-\$300,000s. Collectively, these three gated, controlled-access communities total 1,180 homes, all by the shores of the Bay and all just minutes from I-580.

One-bedroom and two-bedroom residences at Marina Bay offer spacious floor plans that feature a private patio or balcony, granite countertops, new GE kitchen appliances, connections for a washer and dryer, and ample closet and storage space. Most plans also have a wood-burning fireplace. Community amenities available to all residents include three lighted tennis courts, two swimming pools, two spas, a fully equipped fitness center and a clubhouse for parties or other social gatherings.

Homes at The Shores are situated around meandering lagoons and feature a private patio or balcony and a gourmet kitchen with slab granite countertops and new GE appliances. Five of the six floor plans available include a wood-burning fireplace. There is ample closet and storage space, as well as hook-ups for a



washer and dryer. Community amenities include a private, on-site fitness center, two swimming pools, spas and a spacious clubhouse. Similar fine finishes are found in homes at The Cove, including slab



granite countertops, new GE appliances, washer/dryer hook-ups, and ample closet and storage space. Every home at The Cove has a wood-burning fireplace and a private patio or deck. Common areas include a gym, pool and spa. All homes at all three communities at Marina Bay come with deeded parking.

Homeowners at all three communities have immediate access to the Bay Trail, which links all of Richmond's southern shoreline parks – Marina Bay, Point Isabel, Shimada, Barbara & Jay Vincent, Lucretia Edwards and Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline. This area has become a major recreational destination for hikers, joggers and bicyclists. Richmond boasts more shoreline than any other city on San Francisco Bay, and has almost 23 miles of the scenic Bay Trail.

The sales information centers at Marina Bay, The Shores and The Cove are open daily from 10AM to 6PM.

For more information, call (888) 631-3324 or visit *HomesAtMarinaBay.com*.

Directions:

From I-80, take I-580 west toward Point Richmond/San Rafael to Marina Bay Parkway/ South 23rd Street exit; turn left on Marina Bay Parkway and follow signs to Marina Bay, The Shores and The Cove.



WATER TRANSIT AUTHORITY GET THERE BY 112

Leave

Harbor Bay

Island

6:30am

5:05pm

7:30

8:30

6:05

7:05

Harbor Bay Ferry

Leave

S.F. Ferry

Bldg.

7:00am

4:35pm

8:00

5:35

6:35

7:35

No service on weekends

Arrive

Harbor Bay

Island

7:25am

5:00pm

8:25

6:00

7:00

8:00

Arrive

S.F. Ferry

Bldg.

6:55am

4:30pm

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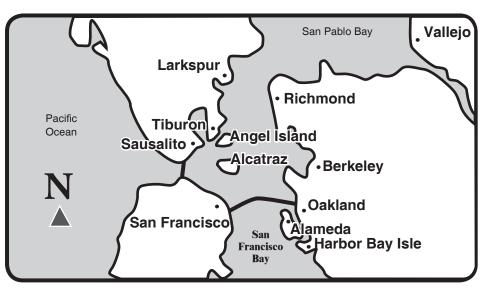
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Tiburon to Angel Island	Angel Island to Tiburon	Weekday 10:00am	Weekends 10:00am	2-Hour California Sunset Cruise Departures at 7:00PM every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Fare: Adult (18+) \$48, Child				
10am, 11, 1pm, 3pm	10:20am, 11:20, 1:20pm, 3:30	10:45 11:15	10:45 11:15					
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Tiburon to Angel Island	Angel Island to Tiburon	1:15	1:15	one drink ticket (good for beer, wine or soda) and				
10am - 4pm hourly	10:20am- 4:20pm hourly	1:45 2:30	1:45 2:30	appetizers.				
*Monday Thru Tuesda Flexible Schedule. Call (415) 435-2131 www.angelislandferry.c	change w/o notice	3:00 3:45 4:15 5:00 5:30	3:00 3:45 4:15 5:00 5:30	Fare: Adult \$21 Senior (62+) \$17 Youth (12-17) \$17 Child (5-11) \$13				

Call (415) 435-2131 www.angelislandferry.com Bicycles \$1.00 Child \$8.00				5:00 5:30 6:15	5:00 5:30 6:15	Youth (12-17 Child (5-11) Under 4	\$13			
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Fun on Ferries, Shoreline Snacking and Shopping, Take the Kids, Bikes on Boats, Fun on Ferries...

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Angel Isl		meda Oakland		amed Monte					F	ISHERMAN'S V	VHARF, PIER	41	Reservations	: Advance ticket sa comended for Alcat	ales are available	for all services
3:10pm 3:45pm 3:55pm Effective May 21 through Ocober 30, 2005			breathtaking journey along the rugged California coastline to Monterey and Carmel for a day you won't forget. Tour departs from Pier 43-1/2 at 9:15am. Call (877) 855-5506 to reserve.					Leave Pier 41			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			ticket for all		
Angel Island	d Round-trip F	Fares		43-1/2 at 9: aily except 7				rve.		Daily 9:15am* /				vcles load first and		0
Round trip			Departs 9:15am at Pier 41 Fares: Round Trip					2:15pm* / 2:00pm**			instructed. On board, secure bike in bike rack provided. Bicycles are allowed on a first come, first served basis. Twenty-five					
Senior (32+) \$14.50 Disabled \$14.50			Adult					* - Effective through May 31, 2006 ** - Effective starting June 1, 2006			 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, 					
Child (6-12) \$8.50			SONOMA-NAPA WINE TOUR					The Muir Woods tour does not operate during inclement weather.				or skateboards on Angel Island.				
All times are es Purchase ticke	stimates. ets onboard the	ferry.	FISHERMAN'S WHARF, PIER 41					Please check with the ticket booth on day of sailing for schedule. FARES: Round Trip				Groups: Special fares may be available for groups of 15 or more. Call (415) 705-8214.			5 UI 15 OF	
		es on Saturdays and		ave PIER 9:15am			ES: Roun	•	Adult	\$50.00			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.			
Memorial Day,	Monday, May 2	ne following holidays: 29th; Tuesday, July 4th; combor 4th	*Starting Ju	ine 1st		Under	21			\$27.00	und the f	Line in the				
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www.bayo	crossings.c	om/ferry_schedules.htm								mel & 17-mile Drive	,		Alcatraz is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.			
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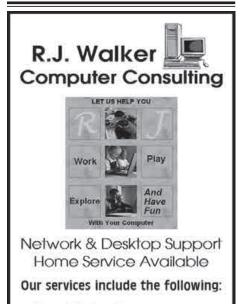
MP3 Players

available anywhere you go

BY MARY E. SHACKLETT

here is no grocery store, sidewalk, shopping mall, freeway, airport or park without MP3 players. People have incorporated MP3s into their lives, and when the packing starts for those trips away from home, complete music catalogues allow MP3 users to take a little piece of home – and themselves – with them.

MP3 players can be personalized — not only with your music, notes and other stuff, but with outside branding on



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the player itself (like your favorite pop culture figure); and that says something to the world about you. If you're a jogger or a walker, your portable MP3 lets people know that you are in your own space.

Of course, road travel presents its inherent challenges, but today's MP3 player users have a broad array of choices for travel accessories that help to ensure the safety and longevity of MP3 players.

MP3 player travel accessories include:

- Ruggedized cases that protect MP3 players from the rigors of travel;
- Styling with secure grips to prevent slipping;
- Screen and play-though click wheel protectors;
- Removable microphones with flexible necks;
- Instant playback with built-in speaker;
- One-touch recording in Play mode; and
- Portable battery packs.

These accessories do not address issues of risk--such as theft, or the need to stay aware of your surroundings in an unfamiliar environment while you use your player. However, they do make it easier to take your player with you while you travel.

Additionally, some industries related to travel are adapting their service and products to the popularity of the portable entertainment device.

In the car

Auto manufacturers have begun to outfit new vehicles with MP3 player docks that continually recharge your MP3s as you are traveling. You can also purchase accessories from your MP3 supplier that allow you to hook your player into a car stereo with a cassette connection; or buy an attachment that converts your player into a transmitter to your FM radio.

At the hotel

It is likely the travel industry (hotels in particular) will come forward with portable docking and recharging facilities for MP3 players, the same way that they are providing local WIFI services to guests for their notebooks today.

Keeping it charged

Unfortunately, even with the convenience that rental car agencies and hotels are beginning to offer, battery life and device longevity on the road are still persistent challenges.

Until recently, MP3 players had a battery life of only eight hours. This battery life was recently extended to 12 hours by Apple for its iPods, and several competing MP3 units from Dell, Creative Vision and Sandisk offer battery life that exceeds 12 hours.

Some of these units can be obtained at price points under \$50, and it is a dramatic improvement — but road travelers would still like to see battery and recharging technology keep pace with processing and storage advances.

Then, there is the lifetime of the battery itself, which deteriorates significantly after a certain number of recharges. (According to Apple, recharging becomes less effective after approximately 500 recharges).

At your service

A final key "road issue" for MP3 users is service.

Apple iPod started the MP3 player craze; but other companies (like Hewlett Packard) and box stores (like Best Buy), as well as a growing number of retail and service centers in most major U.S. cities, are carrying multiple brands and offering MP3 consumers choice and solutions.

If you are a frequent traveler and a devoted MP3 player user, you might seriously consider purchasing a service and warranty plan with your portable MP3 appliance. The plan will pay for



itself if you heavily rely on your MP3 and experience a technical problem. Many of these warranties offer free repairs and even device replacements. Box stores and individual manufacturers also offer "on the road" support.

At the end of the day, a wide variety of MP3 player options, with varying feature sets and price points, give consumers enormous flexibility when it comes to customizing an MP3 player that works best with their lifestyles. The end result is a strong accessory and support base that will keep your MP3 player going both at home and away.

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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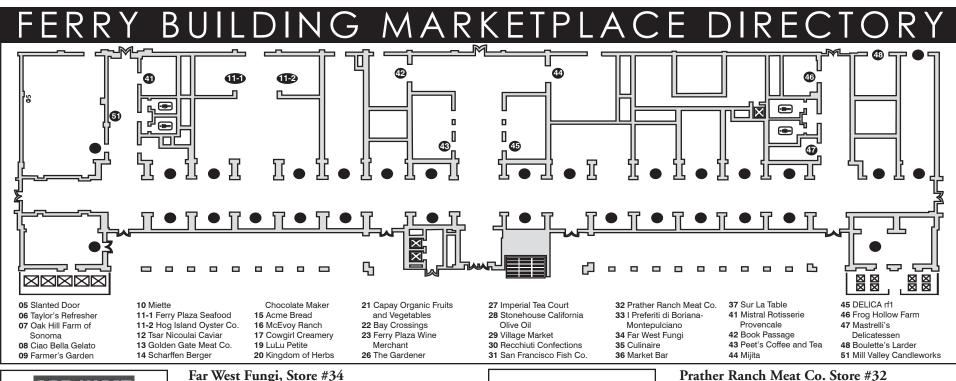
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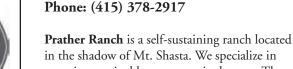
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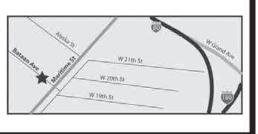
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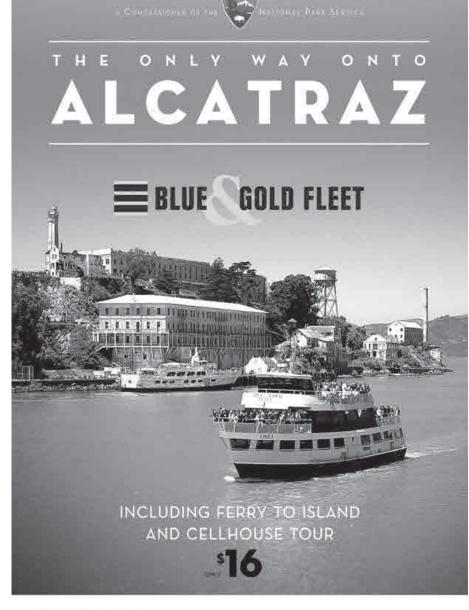




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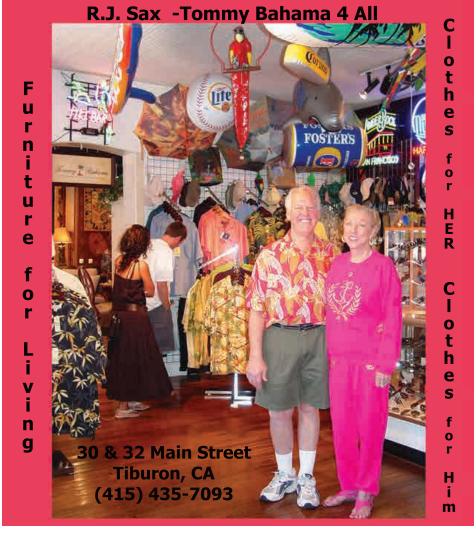
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