

LETTERS & STORIES

DBW Grants East Bay Boat

We took possession of our new Department of Boating and Waterways granted boat on Friday, September 19. On behalf of the East Bay Regional Park District Police Department, I want to thank DBW (Corrina Dugger) for this incredible grant. This boat will be a valuable tool and asset for years to come.



Martinelli and France with East Bay Parks PD's new boat granted by DBW.

It was a long, sometimes stressful, sometimes bureaucratic, but mostly jovial process. The awarded grant went to North River Boats in Roseburg Oregon. I want to also thank Jordan Allen from North River Boats for putting up with my seemingly endless phone calls and questions.

So, after a year, it finally arrived: a new North River SeaHawk. Here are just some of the details of the new North River Sea Hawk:

- 24' long; 8'6" wide
- 100 gallon tank
- Twin Yamaha 150 hp engines with guard rail
- Fully sealed front and rear self bailing decks with rhino liner
- Fully enclosed cabin; Lots of light
- Yamaha 3000 generator
- Coleman air conditioner and heater
- Tow bit front and rear (with reel)
- Heavy duty beaching plate
- Heavy duty "D" rubber bumper
- Dive door with ladder
- Raymarine C70 package

We thank the CBSOA, DBW, Alameda County Sheriff, and North River Boats for all of their help!

We look forward to seeing you on the water!

Dustin Martinelli, Carroll France
East Bay Regional Parks Police

CBSOA Welcomes New Members

Robert Goley
US Coast Guard
Joseph Pinder
Solano Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Bud Wasson
Placer Co. Sheriff's Dept.

Joseph Berger
Berger & Berger Investigations
Wade Bailey
SFPD Marine Unit
Nick Bettencourt
SFPD Marine Unit

Safety Not Just for Those We Rescue

On August 30, Deputy John Harrison and I responded to the area of Light 9 in the Carquinez Straights in San Pablo Bay for a report of a capsized sailboat with one person hanging off the side. The reporting party was a committee boat for the regatta that was being held. They reported they were unable to get to the victim due to the four to six-foot wind blown chop, and their inexperience in rescue maneuvering in those types of seas (which showed excellent judgment.) Their boat remained on scene and continued to update responding units with invaluable on-scene real time information that secured the rescue of the victim by incoming units. Those units included Marin County Sheriff's Rescue 2 which is a 22-foot rigid hull inflatable, San Rafael Police Boat Mission City coxswained by veteran CBSOA member Off. Mark Hadeem and a USCG 25 foot Homeland security boat crewed by the men and women of USCG Station Vallejo.

We arrived on scene (soaking wet with no knee caps or spinal columns intact) to find the victim hanging off the bow of the capsized catamaran, whose stern was partially submerged due to a hull breach. Upon seeing me approach to attempt a "dangling pick-up" from under the bow, the victim let go and into the drink he went. I punched the engine, throttled back hard, and drifted onto the victim whom I pulled on board successfully without tangling the crews in the tangle of lines and ropes in the water (thus avoiding Off. Jim Gordon's fate in receiving a certain unnamed award involving a broken propeller...)

That's not the end of the story. In true former detective form (translated to mean paranoid and suspicious) I said to John, "Give him a quick medical check out, and get his info and check him for warrants." John looked at me as if I were some sort of insensitive barbarian. After betting him a six-pack of my favorite beer that the victim was somehow in some way 'dirty', John checked him for warrants. The victim was a 290 Registrant (convicted sex offender) out of Alameda with a suspended driver's license with a small warrant for Failure to Appear in court, who was sailing a boat that was out of registration for the past five years. A dangerous criminal mastermind? Not necessarily. A possible threat to officer safety? Definitely.

The story had a good ending and we all went home intact, but there is a moral here: Even though we in the boating community are in the business of saving lives, Officer Safety and Operational Awareness doesn't end when we get them safely on board. The 'poor little lamb' we just rescued from a terrible fate may, at any time, turn on us for any number of reasons which include but are not limited to the following: Post traumatic stress from the incident, the influence of alcohol or narcotics, mental health issues, and criminal histories just to name a few. I write this not to make you paranoid and suspicious, but as a reminder to be aware and alert for danger signs so rescuers don't become victims themselves.

Take good care and be safe out there!

Respectfully,

Deputy Mike Blasi, Marin County Sheriff's Marine Patrol

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and Marine Safety Agencies
- And to Our Hundreds of Members

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