

## 2008 RENDEZVOUS!

Temperatures soared and so did our spirits at SFBANTA's 2008 Annual Nordic Tugs Rendezvous!



17 tugs, 32 tuggers, 4 tug dogs and 1 tug cat convened at Delta Marina in Rio Vista, a protected harbor just off the Sacramento River.



Wayne Farris, our Rendezvous "MC", kicked up the heat even more on Thursday evening by firing up the huge grill at Delta Marina where we enjoyed an outdoor picnic dinner as the evening cooled.



Bud Sheble got us off to a great start Friday with SFBANTA's traditional Bud's Boiled Bag Breakfast. Later, tuggers were assigned to various "host boats" (all air conditioned - whew!) for a pizza lunch – a great way to get better acquainted with fellow tuggers! Friday afternoon, Captain Peter Cameron taught the first of two "Close Quarter Maneuvering" classes aboard NT-32 "Luna Sea" with Kathy Smith, Phyllis Swanson, Nancy Jenks and Pat Borison taking turns at the helm. Meanwhile, Tom Thomas of Cummins West joined us to discuss developments in diesel engines and answer our questions.



First time SFBANTA Rendezvous'ers included Jim & Patti Womble ("Toot!"), Marty & Alice Bauman ("Snug Tug"), Shep & Nancy Jenks ("Hoot"), and Vince & Pam Meyer ("Tugzilla").

Despite the 100° + temperatures, we managed to find some shade and share that wonderful tugger conviviality!

Dan Hilsinger joined us for the entire event, and was immediately embraced as a wonderful friend. We are most grateful for all the time he spent with us answering questions, solving problems, and just having fun!



Members of the USCG Auxiliary performed vessel safety inspections Thursday and Friday afternoons and we are most appreciative of their time and efforts on our behalf!

The “pros” took over the grills as Ballena Bay Yacht Brokers generously treated us to a wonderful Barbeque Dinner on Friday evening. It was great to see Lenard and Victoria Lee, and Dave McGowan

Saturday was jam-packed with fascinating presentations: Steve Thomas of Thomas Marine Propeller on his prop. performance modification, Marilee Shaffer of Waypoints on the newest trends in navigational software, Joan Burleigh of Trident Funding on financing and re-financing our Nordic Tugs, and Bob Wilkerson and Gary Clausen of Twin Rivers Insurance on risk management.

SFBANTA President Irwin (“Scotty”) Scott chaired the Annual Meeting where members were updated on our financial status, membership, and future events. Election results for the three officer positions were “Scotty” Scott, President, Bud Sheble, Secretary and Cathy Robie, Treasurer.

A second session of close-quarter maneuvering was held aboard NT-37 “Buoy Toy.” Linda Farris, Jean Cuff, Cathy Robie and Carol Scott tried, but failed to make Captain Cameron “lose his cool!”



After a lovely buffet dinner provided by The Point Restaurant, the Saturday evening program featured Dan Hilsinger’s presentation on developments at the factory, including modifications being made to existing models and an update the new NT-49. Dan’s considerable knowledge and expertise were reflected by his thoughtful answers to our many questions!

Fabulous prizes for our raffle were provided by many generous sponsors whose names are listed on our website.

Perhaps the biggest surprise came when new members, Vince and Pam Meyer, won the “Tug Tweaks” contest without even having entered it! Their stunning NT-32 “Tugzilla” is “tweaked out” beyond belief!



Bob Lee and Pat Borison led a “post-rendezvous” cruise to overnight anchorage in Little Potato Slough, then on to Discovery Bay for two nights at the DBYC. Tugs returning to home ports on San Francisco Bay proved their mettle, battling near gale-force winds and heavy seas. Their crews were exhausted but grateful for the seaworthiness of Nordic Tugs!

Our profound thanks to Jim Moore and Wayne Farris for their incredible work in planning and organizing every aspect of the Rendezvous, to Bob Scura for giving us each a copy of his beautiful DVD “Reflections,” to Scotty Scott for making each of us a unique “red right returning” tool plus his work on the many Rendezvous details, and to our many sponsors who made our 2008 Rendezvous a great success!