

2006 Nordic Tug Rendezvous



On San Francisco Bay, Nordic Tugs have formally organized and are growing in number.

Sixteen boats and 42 people gathered at Encinal Yacht Club on the Oakland Estuary for the 2006 Nordic Tug Rendezvous July 6-9. On Sunday, five boats headed south to Coyote Point, below San Francisco Airport in San Mateo, to continue the festivities.

Highpoint of this year's rendezvous were informative speakers, "Tug Tweaks" and unanimous approval of the formation of SFBANTA (San Francisco-Bay Area Nordic Tugs Association) and selection of its Founding Board of Directors.



Registered Nurse and EMT Mike Ciralo Jr. captivated the audience with a discussion of "On Board Medical Emergencies." All left with resolutions to learn or relearn CPR, inventory on-board first aid kits and consider taking more advanced first aid courses.

Using model boats as aids, Captain Peter Cameron, Senior Training Instructor of The Trawler School at Alameda, CA, discussed "Close Quarter Maneuvering by Single Screw Vessels." His talk produced many questions, particularly regarding man overboard piloting procedures.



Other speakers included a demonstration of new chart plotters and EPIRBs by Ian Wall, President of Star Marine Electronics in Alameda. West Marine provided a display of first aid kits and environmentally friendly boat maintenance products. Bob Shamek, Sales Manager of Nordic Tugs brought the group up to date on factory activities and made himself available to answer individual questions.

On Saturday afternoon everyone toured boats, ballots in hand, to inspect and vote on an amazing array of "Tug Tweaks," minor and major. Tweaks were as simple as a rock to keep napkins in place or a wine cork cut diagonally to prevent doors from sliding, to chart racks or a hose reel to hold 400-plus feet of stern line for mooring to buoys.



Friday and Saturday group lunches and dinners provided plenty of time to socialize, share stories and make new friends.



On Sunday morning, we went our various ways, but tuned our AM radios to KNEW to hear our own Jim Moore interviewed. He did a great job praising Nordic Tugs while piloting Riley and bouncing around in the chop and wind waves on the way to Coyote Point.

The five boats who continued on to Coyote Point on Sunday drew lots of attention rafted together at the CPYC guest dock in front of the clubhouse. Boats were open for inspection from 2-5 p.m. and generated much interest; dinner at the club offered more opportunity to answer questions and socialize. A minus tide allowed a leisurely breakfast, and then most departed.



The SFBANTA Founding Board of Directors will serve for one year. A vote of the membership will elect a new board next year at the 2007 Rendezvous. They are:

Irwin "Scotty" Scott, President
Cathy Robie, Vice-President and Treasurer
Bud Sheble, Secretary
Bob Lee, Director – Member Communications
Jim Moore, Director – Member Activities
Richard Smith, Advisor
Steve Weiser, Advisor