



Volume Two

Volunteer Voice

News from the San Rafael
Volunteer Program

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January 2010

Welcome to the latest edition of the *Volunteer Voice* updating you on the accomplishments, news, events and special people that keep the City of San Rafael Volunteer Program playing such a vital role in our community.

Volunteer Spotlight – Ranger Mark Hedeem’s Mission City Crew

Always ready for an SOS on San Francisco Bay, the San Rafael police boat has seven volunteers who assist Mark Hedeem of the SRPD every weekend and holiday, often putting in sixteen hours a month, since the first boat arrived in 1974. Operating under Mark’s orders, the boat patrols three areas within the City limits of San Rafael, including one mile south of the Richmond Bridge and one mile north of China Camp. Mark, whose official title is Park Ranger for Police Department Open Space, has been with the PD since April 1969. He was a cadet for two years, then a dispatcher and on street patrol until 1976. Since then, as captain of the “Mission City”, he has had jurisdiction over laws broken on the water.



Although most volunteers usually stay five to seven years, there are some, like John McGinnis and Tim Van Raam who have served for many more. John, a twenty-year volunteer has received the SRFD’s highest award - the Gold Medal of Valor - and Tim, who came from the Coast Guard Auxiliary, has served under Mark for ten years. The patrols, with shifts of two to eight hours, look to fishing and sailing areas for potential problems. But if the nature of the trouble is outside the City limits and the boat has the time and ability to render assistance, they are

able to go beyond. Various seasons of the year each present their own set of problems: heat and an increase of boats in summer, and in winter, severe cases of low visibility due to the Bay’s infamous fog. According to J.J. Nunez, Personnel and Training Manager for the SRPD, “Mark knows the open space and waterways like the back of his hand. Combine this knowledge with his vast number of skills as a boat captain and park ranger and you have a remarkable individual who is a priceless resource.”

Featured Volunteer Opportunities

- Emergency Planning Assistant needed to help with scheduling and organizing trainings and keeping track of CERT volunteers and programs.
- Historic Preservation Researcher/Fund Developer needed for researching historic preservation resources, including grants, in-kind contributions, and marketing.

Log on to our web site or call the office to learn more about these and other opportunities.

Special People

In tough financial times, it helps to have a guardian angel like the Cultural Affairs Service League (CASL), the volunteer auxiliary for Falkirk Cultural Center. Formed in 1979, its members make things happen at Falkirk from planning special events to interior renovations, such as the purchase of new carpeting and window coverings, to docent tours and fundraising. CASL is the heart and soul of Falkirk, hosting and planning many of its social events. Members meet monthly to assess Falkirk's needs, including its future plans for remodeling and updating the kitchen. During these critical economic times, there is no doubt that the most important contribution CASL makes to Falkirk is ensuring its future with the organization's ongoing fundraising.



San Rafael Clean

Led by Stuart Moody, a volunteer with San Rafael Clean and a coordinator with Green Sangha, San Rafael's newest project involves Davidson Middle School, which is working toward being a litter-free and comprehensive recycling school. Its aim is to become a model Clean and Green School and is being spearheaded by Davidson faculty, its PTA, Davidson's Dads, Next Generation, Girl Scouts, Marin Sanitary Service, Conservation Corps North Bay and others working with San Rafael Clean to achieve this goal. The Cesar Chavez Day cleanup on Saturday, March 27, will be part of the Davidson School effort.

Remember: There are always many opportunities to help with the Clean Campaign!

Upcoming Volunteer Projects

Saturday, January 23 - Join Supervisor Susan Adams & Safe Passage Along Lucas Valley Road coalition for a creek cleanup: <http://safepassagealonglucasvalleyroad.blogspot.com/>



Saturday, March 27 - Come join in Cesar Chavez Day Cleanup, which will feature music, food, garden work and cleanup of the school, Bret Harte and Gerstle Park neighborhoods.

Saturday, April 24 - On this 40th anniversary of Earth Day, the City of San Rafael will focus its activities on Pickleweed Park and Shoreline Path in the Canal neighborhood with the Harbor Rotary Club joining in the cleanup and serving food to volunteers. Partners coordinating several volunteer projects around the county will be the County Parks and Open Space, San Rafael Clean, Marin County Storm Water Pollution Program (MCSTOPP), CVNL, and the Marin Municipal Water District. Then join the 40th Anniversary Celebration at a site to be determined. More info and signup coming online soon at our web site.

Did You Know?

Thanks to volunteers, the San Rafael Public Library teaches people how to use the internet and basic computer applications for free, as well as helping patrons do job searches on various web sites. In addition, they have a bilingual Spanish and English tutor supporting the community. Learn more at

<http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/Government/Library.htm>



The San Rafael Volunteer Program is now on [Facebook](#). Become a fan!