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Petaluma Small Craft Center Coalition  
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## Human-Powered Watercraft Users Making News

### PSC<sup>3</sup> Ongoing Activities

- PSC<sup>3</sup> promotes rowing, canoeing, kayaking, and the use of other human-powered or small craft on the Petaluma River
- We welcome all human-powered boaters to join our on-water activities, and periodically invite the non-boating public to experience the river from our watercraft
- We advocate for the interests of the many people using the Petaluma River for recreation, fitness, competition, and nature and historical appreciation
- PSC<sup>3</sup> supports our river-dependent commercial and industrial neighbors
- We collaborate with other river-advocacy groups
- We advocate establishment of a water trail, pocket parks, and other public access sites via the community planning and land use policy process

### COMING UP:

April 25, Butter and Eggs Day Parade: watch for PSC3's Boat Float!

May 2 (tentative): [Petaluma River Cleanup](#)

May 30, [Day on The River](#), when PSC3 members open their boats to the public, free, at Foundry Wharf. Times TBA

June and July: PSC3 hosts week-long canoe/kayak/rowing camps for young people. Contact Greg Sabourin at [gjsabourin@aol.com](mailto:gjsabourin@aol.com)

June 13: He'e Nalu Outrigger Canoe Club hosts the 2009 Sprint Season Opener at Lake Natoma, Sacramento.

August 8, the Petaluma Marathon rowing, canoe, and kayak race will draw rowers, canoeists, and kayakers from throughout Northern California, thanks to a

partnership between PSC3 and Ohana Wa'a, a Northern California Outrigger Canoe Association affiliate.

**Adult "boating boot camp"** intensive kayak, canoe, and rowing training. Fall 2009 date TBA.

September 12: **Mayor's Boat Ride** will happen during the River Festival.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES:

### *FALL & WINTER 2008*

**North Bay Rowing** (<http://northbayrowing.org/>) opened doors to new members and new rowers through its adult Learn-to-Row and Juniors' programs, and Juniors' program alumni went on to make names for themselves at OSU, Cal, and US Rowing's U23 National Team. Meanwhile, its women's 8 debuted at their first race. The club improved its docks at Van Beber.

The National Park Service Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program got underway with its technical assistance grant for preparing a **Petaluma River Access Implementation and Funding Strategy**. PSC3 members Greg Sabourin and Susan Starbird are both appointees to the leadership committee that meets monthly. For information click <http://susanstarbird.com/PSC3/rtca.htm>

**Lake Natoma Boathouse Tour:** Several PSC3 members participated in a daylong outing to tour and study the Cal State Sacramento Boathouse in Rancho Cordova. Clavey Equipment provided the van.

The **Petaluma River Festival Association** directors approved a \$1000 grant to PSC3 to assist with community relations over the next 18 months.

**North Bay Rowing's** Annual Wine Country Regatta attracted rowers from all over the West to the Marina on October 5.

The City of Petaluma was awarded a **technical assistance grant** from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program to prepare an implementation and funding strategy for river trail improvements between the Turning Basin and the Petaluma Marina, including a public boathouse. PSC3 has loaned volunteer Susan Starbird to help coordinate this effort; she also helped draft the grant application. For more information, go to <http://susanstarbird.com/PSC3/RTCAGrantAnnouncement.pdf>

After a stellar summer of intercollegiate wins, Sonoma State University Crew is going strong at **North Bay Rowing**, <http://www.students.sonoma.edu/clubs/crew/>.

The **Petaluma Paddlers** newsgroup hit 425 members, making it one of the largest and most active kayaking groups in northern California. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Petaluma\\_Paddlers/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Petaluma_Paddlers/)

Kayak racers from throughout the Bay Area descended on Petaluma for “Spring Training” marathon kayak racing training camp starting in November (<http://susanstarbird.com/kayaking/SpringTraining.htm>).

*SUMMER and SPRING 2008*

He’e Nalu hosted its 12<sup>th</sup> annual “Round the Rock” outrigger race around Alcatraz in August (<http://www.alcatrazchallenge.com/>). Because the race date coincided with an international outrigger race in northern California, teams from throughout the Pacific participated.

PSC3 hosted three week-long **Watersport Camps for young people** 12 and older. Volunteers from North Bay Rowing, He’e Nalu, Ohana Wa’a, Lokahi, Clavey River Equipment, Petaluma Paddlers, and the Bay Institute introduced 31 young people to canoeing, kayaking, rowing, and river lore.

About 60 kayaks, rowing shells, and outrigger canoes participated in PSC3’s and Friends of the Petaluma River’s **Second Annual Mayor’s Boat Ride** during the Sesquicentennial River Celebration.

Paddlers from **He’e Nalu O’ Marin-Sonoma Outrigger Canoe Club** were on the road a lot this summer. He’e Nalu Junior paddlers (keikis) dominated their divisions during the Northern California Outrigger Canoe Association’s sprint season, with nearly weekly races all over the region. The club also qualified and sent two crews, a keiki crew and a men’s crew, to the prestigious biennial World Sprint Outrigger Canoe Races, which drew an international field of paddlers to Rancho Cordova for a week in August. The club also hosted its annual ‘Round the Rock Alcatraz Challenge, Northern California’s largest long distance outrigger canoe race. This year 84 crews raced, consisting of local and international teams. New Zealand, Canada, American Samoa, and Italy were a few of the countries represented. (<http://www.heenaluocc.org>).

**Petaluma Paddler** Lori Parmelee kayaked 51 days in a row, many of these days on the Petaluma River. She was often accompanied by fellow PPer, including other doughty souls who arose before sunrise to experience dawn over the river.

Members of **Petaluma Paddlers** newsgroup initiated 59 trips in the first six months of the year, two group campouts, and participated in May’s river cleanup and the Friday night Nautical Masses.

Summer opened with PSC3’s **second annual Day on the River** May 31<sup>st</sup>, in which members offered free rides in rowing shells, kayaks, and outrigger canoes, and other human-powered watercraft. About 200 people attended. Click on [www.PSC3.org](http://www.PSC3.org) for a report.

The **Healthy Community Consortium (HC2)** of Petaluma agreed to become PSC3’s fiduciary agent.

**He’e Nalu O’ Marin-Sonoma Outrigger Canoe Club** launched its new canoe, named for Petaluman John Gieser, in a marathon 25-mile paddle from Petaluma to Larkspur.

**Petaluma Butter and Eggs Day Parade.** PSC3/North Bay Rowing Club floated its “boat float.” Friends of the Petaluma River and Lokahi Outrigger Canoe Club also paraded.

PSC3 members from several clubs and groups participated in the Annual Petaluma River Cleanup staging at the Petaluma Marina.

Susan presented a colorful PSC3 powerpoint show to the Petaluma Lions Club.

The Traditional Small Craft Association held its annual Marina-to-Turning Basin River Row and picnic in April. See photos at [http://www.pressdemocrat.com/Gallery/template.cfm?sitecode=photogallery&s\\_code=petaluma&GalleryID=679&StartRow=1](http://www.pressdemocrat.com/Gallery/template.cfm?sitecode=photogallery&s_code=petaluma&GalleryID=679&StartRow=1).

*2007*

Susan and Greg presented the PSC3 powerpoint show at Petaluma Rotary.

Lighted boat parade in December from the Marina to the Turning Basin.

Nine kayak racers coached by Susan Starbird "graduated" in April and earned a number of trophies over the summer and fall. A new cohort started training in October, commuting to the Petaluma Marina from Morgan Hill, San Francisco, Livermore, and Sacramento. (<http://www.susanstarbird.com/idiosyncrasies/boating/SpringTraining.htm>)

The August 5 Mayor's Boat Ride, co-hosted by PSC<sup>3</sup> and Friends of the Petaluma River, attracted more than 100 boaters in outrigger canoes, kayaks, canoes, rowing shells, rowboats, and even a cycle-catamaran and a surfboard! It also attracted politicians galore: in addition to Petaluma Mayor Pamela Torliatt and Vice Mayor Karen Nau, Rohnert Park City Councilman Tim Smith, Assemblyman Mark Leno, and representatives of Lynn Woolsey's, Carol Migden's, and Jared Huffman's offices attended. Paddler Robin Herrick posted a slide show at <http://www.robinherrick.smugmug.com/gallery/3268039#181089863>

PSC<sup>3</sup>'s June 2 free Day On The Water at Foundry Wharf attracted between 75-100 individuals ready to be introduced to rowing, canoeing, and kayaking. Throughout the day members of the public enjoyed the view from the water, via North Bay Rowing Club's eight-person shell, He'e Nalu's six-person outrigger canoe, or a one- or two-person kayak from Clavey Equipment. Exhibitors and contributors included the Petaluma Sea Scouts, Lokahi Outrigger Canoe Club, He'e Nalu Outrigger Canoe Club, Friends of the Petaluma River, the Petaluma Paddlers, the North Bay Rowing Club, Clavey Equipment, the Aquas Café, and PSC<sup>3</sup>. [www.PSC3.org](http://www.PSC3.org)

Teen Rowing Summer Camps for 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders met over four weeks in July and August at North Bay Rowing ([www.northbayrowing.org](http://www.northbayrowing.org)).

North Bay Rowing Club began its second five-week Introductory Rowing Class for adults on June 23. <http://northbayrowing.org/>

Annual Petaluma River Cleanup took place May 9 at the Petaluma Marina. <http://www.petalumarivercleanup.org/>

North Bay Rowing Club offered the first of two five-week Introductory Rowing Classes for adults.

Petaluma Yacht Club hosted **Opening Day on The River**.  
<http://www.petalumayachtclub.com/>

PSC<sup>3</sup> took its "boat float" to the annual **Butter and Eggs Day Parade**.

**Lokahi Outrigger Canoe Club** ([www.lokahiocc.org](http://www.lokahiocc.org)) started restoring a vintage 22 1/2 foot koa outrigger canoe, one of the few remaining in existence. Hewn out of a single koa tree trunk on the Big Island of Hawaii, the canoe was originally built in the 1920's and was used for fishing and surfing. When completed, the canoe will be used to raise Pacific Islander cultural awareness and education.

**Lokahi Outrigger Canoe Club** sent a crew to Arizona again this year at the end of April to compete in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Tempe Town Lake outrigger Regatta.

Nine kayak racers coached by Susan Starbird "graduated" in April. (<http://www.susanstarbird.com/idiosyncrasies/boating/SpringTraining.htm>). This group commuted for nine sessions from Morgan Hill, Livermore, Sacramento, and Sebastopol to paddle from the Petaluma Marina.

The **Traditional Small Craft Association Row** launched at the Petaluma Marina March 31, rowed up to the Turning Basin for a rest stop, then down to Papa's Taverna at Lakeville.

**He'e Nalu Marin-Sonoma Outrigger Canoe Club** formally kicked off its paddling season with the blessing of the canoes at their Sonoma County site on March 24. While the paddlers have been on the water training since January, the event gives the entire club, family and friends an opportunity to come together and express thanks and aloha. The Van Bebber family of Van Bebber Foundry were honored for their generous support in providing a practice and launch site along the shores of the Petaluma River for He'e Nalu's red and black outrigger canoes. The club is currently accepting new members. Adults and children 12-years old and older may contact club president, Monica Jones at (415) 246-4035.  
(<http://www.heenaluocc.org>)

**Lokahi Outrigger Canoe Club** had its annual Blessing of the Canoes On March 3 at its practice site at the Petaluma Marina. Along with food, music and renewing friendships again, Lokahi was honored to have the Mayor of Petaluma, Pamela Torliatt and Councilwoman Theresa Barrett attended. The club is accepting new members from age 8 and up. For more information, please visit [www.lokahiocc.org](http://www.lokahiocc.org)

*2006:*

**North Bay Rowing Club** (<http://northbayrowing.org/>) reported its Head Race on October 8<sup>th</sup> was a huge success, with 86 rowers and perfect, flat, and fast conditions.

Six men and six women paddlers represented **He'e Nalu Outrigger Canoe Club** in the 35-mile Napali Challenge Race off Kauai. One competitor said it was the most fun he'd ever had in his long career in paddlesport. This group trains Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings from Van Bebber.

Twelve kayak racers from throughout northern California commuted nine times to Petaluma for "Spring Training" marathon kayak racing training camp (<http://susanstarbird.com/kayaking/SpringTraining.htm>).

**Sonoma State University** varsity rowing commenced practice, with novice crews starting two weeks after.

**North Bay Rowing Club** sponsored its annual Labor Day Marathon.

**North Bay Rowing Club** completed its Juniors rowing camp.

**He'e Nalu Outrigger Canoe Club** sent 20 keiki (juniors) from Petaluma to the NCOCA's (North California Outrigger Canoe Association's) first regatta at Quarry Lakes in Fremont on 6/3/06. All entries placed (first, second or third) in every event entered and scored enough overall points to win first place in the small club category for that regatta.

On June 7<sup>th</sup> the **Petaluma Paddlers** went from the Petaluma Marina past Schollenberger Park and up Schultz Slough into the marsh looking for baby birds. We found a tree full of nesting Egrets and another full of Blue Heron nests, lots of baby Canada geese, ducks, coots and grebes.

*June 23:* North Bay Rowing Club began the second five-week Introductory Rowing Class for adults. Meet at NBRC Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.  
\$125.00 per person <http://northbayrowing.org/>

**Sonoma State University's** women's 8 took first place at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships held on Rancho Cordova's Lake Natoma. This group rows out of the North Bay Rowing Club near Foundry Wharf. Details at <http://www.sonomastatestar.com/media/storage/paper846/news/2006/05/17/Sports/Womens.Varsity.Crew.Team.Brings.Home.The.Gold-2012165.shtml?norewrite200606131448&sourcedomain=www.sonomastatestar.com>

The Annual Petaluma River Cleanup launched from the Petaluma Marina in May.  
<http://www.petalumarivercleanup.org/>