

Marin, just a little out there



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➔ FORWARD TO
A FRIEND

The Marin Convention & Visitors Bureau October Newsletter

The goal of the Marin Convention & Visitors Bureau is to keep you informed of local events, green businesses, travel trends and membership. Every issue of our newsletter is also posted on our website at www.visitMarin.org



Have fun in Marin County!
The MCVB staff: Mark, Christine, Deborah, Gina and Anuschka.



**MCVB Member of the Month
Empress Events**

Empress Cruises & Events provides more than just a boat rental on the San Francisco

Bay. It provides individuals and businesses in the San Francisco Bay Area with elegant bay cruises on yachts for any occasion.

Founded by Captain Gerry K. Robertson, (formerly Bay and Delta Charters), Empress Events has remained a family-owned and operated luxury yacht charter group. Captain Gerry noticed the strong demand for yacht charters in the famous San Francisco Bay and knew following his passion by starting this fleet would be a great way to spend time on the water with family, friends and friends-to-be. A native San Franciscan, Captain Robertson has been sailing the Bay and Pacific West Coast since the age of five and has over 20 years of yacht charter experience alone. He relishes the chance to explain all the bells and whistles up in the Wheelhouse.

Whether a yacht wedding cruise or rehearsal dinner, special birthday party or corporate event, relaxing sunset cruise or holiday party boat, a private affair aboard one of these classic luxury yachts will be a truly memorable way to explore the San Francisco Bay.

They provide Marin County docking in Sausalito as well as San Francisco's South Beach, the San Francisco Marina, and Berkeley.

Explore their site and see how Empress Events can offer you a spectacular San Francisco Bay Cruise.

310 Harbor Drive, Sausalito, CA 94965

(415) 332-3291

www.empressevents.com

Empress Events has been a member of the MCVB since August of 2007

Event Highlights for October

Saturday, October 10th: Biketoberfest Marin

Marin County Bicycle Coalition presents a celebration of the bicycle! Biketoberfest 2009 is for cyclists of all ages, combined with a brewfest of over a dozen handcrafted beers from premier Northern California brewers. Biketoberfest features a bike expo, vintage bike show, activities for kids and live music. Highlights include:

- Beer tasting featuring over 20 different beers from 15 different Northern California Brewers!
- Soda tasting for the kids.
- Live music featuring Honeydust, Sons of the Pacific and Philip Der Stein Quintet
- Handmade bikes from Steelman, Ingis/Retrotec, Sycip, Rivendell, Soulcraft, Calfee, Ahrens and more!
- Classic bike show featuring 40 vintage bikes!



The location is at the FairAnselm Plaza Parking lot from 11:00am to 6:00pm. 765 Center Blvd. (next to Iron Springs Pub and Java Hut), downtown Fairfax.

Saturday/Sunday, October 10th and 11th: Fleet Week

Fleet Week is a unique tribute to the U.S. military with a breathtaking showcase of military planes, ships and more. The world-renowned Navy Blue Angels will perform their airshow above San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge, along with the Air Force F-16 Demonstration Team. Look to the skies to watch the team illustrate the pinnacle of precision flying, performing maneuvers locked as a unit in the renowned six-jet Delta Formation.



Times are from 9:00am to 5:00pm on both days with the Blue Angels flying

from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. Join the Red & White Fleet on the bay for some of the best views of the air show.

Friday, October 16th through the 18th: Bioneers Conference 2009

The Bioneers Conference is a leading-edge forum where you can see tomorrow today: a future environment of hope. At this premiere environmental conference, social and scientific innovators focus on solutions inspired by nature and human ingenuity. Every year, the Bioneers Conference draws thousands of people together who are passionate about solutions. From how mushrooms can improve the world, to how Goggle Earth is protecting the rainforests, the practical solutions that come from the Bioneers Conference address many of our most pressing environmental problems. These visionaries are already creating the healthy, diverse, equitable and beautiful world we want to live in. The conference is held each year in San Rafael, at the Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags.

If you are a member/partner of the MCVB, please continue to send us any event you would like to have listed on our [Event Calendar](#) web page. We will highlight a few County events each month in this section.

Getting Ready for a Marin Halloween

Open Space Event: The Raptors of Hawk Hill

Wednesday, October 14th from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Every year, thousands of raptors move down the pacific coast as they search for wintering sites as far away as South America. We'll learn to identify these birds and discuss what has been learned about the lives of these amazing predators. Assistant Naturalist Shannon Burke, who has been a Hawkwatch volunteer for nine years will describe the migration and discuss identification of the species seen here. Meet at the observation area on Hawk Hill. Take the Golden Gate National Recreation Area/Sausalito exit off southbound Hwy 101, turn left at the stop sign, turn right on Conzelman Rd, and follow to the top of the hill (you will see a sign for Hawk Hill). Park alongside the road before it becomes one way and then walk up the west side of the hill past the locked gate.

Goblin Jamboree Fundraiser 2009

Saturday, October 17th and Sunday, October 18th from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Children and their families are invited to come in costume and explore the Bay Area Discovery Museum, transformed into a haunted wonderland complete with games, attractions and live entertainment. Ride a train and ponies, enroll in the witches' school, visit the petting zoo and enjoy a full brew of games, activities and live entertainment.



MALT Day at the Pumpkin Patch

Sunday, October 18th, from 10:00am to 6:00pm.

Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) will be providing games for all children, along with wood-fired pizza, Mexican food, and educational booths by Marin Organic and Marin County Farmers Markets. Ten percent of all pumpkin sales this day will be supporting MALT!

Where to meet: Nicasio Valley Farms, ¼ mile north of Nicasio Square.

Daily from October 3rd through the 31st, kids can enjoy pumpkin picking, hay rides and mazes, farm animals, and the bouncy house and slide. Frank's Bar-B-Que will be on hand during the weekends as well as some new educational exhibits and activities sponsored by MALT, Earl's Organics, Bank of Marin, and Clover-Stornetta Farms. No preregistration is required for any event and there is no admission fee.

All About Bats with Gary Fellers

Thursday, October 22nd from 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

Bats are the second largest group of mammals on earth but we seldom get to see them due to their nocturnal and somewhat secretive habits. During his 26 years of service as a research biologist stationed at Point Reyes, Gary has studied a diverse array of biological subjects. Tonight he'll focus upon the bats that are found in Marin, discussing their biology, roosting habits, and migration.

This event is through Marin County Parks & Open Space: Discover Your Outdoors.

Meet at the Marin Humane Society, 171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd, Novato.

An Evening of Eerie Fun

Saturday, October 31st from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

Open Space Rangers will host an evening of eerie fun! Learn about one of Marin's little-known, hidden cemeteries and enjoy a unique and spooky Halloween program. Bring warm clothes, a flashlight, and a candy sack.



Meet at the Parks & Open Space Field Office, 18 Jeannette Prandi Way, San Rafael.

Halloween Stomp with The Time Outs

Saturday, October 31st at 11:00am.

Put on a costume and join the Time Outs for a Halloween dance party at the Bay Area Discovery Museum. They will be performing a lively mix of kid-centric indie pop, 60s garage and good old-fashioned rock and roll. This

high energy show encourages kids and parents alike to sing along, learn some new dance moves, and walk like a monster. Check them out at www.thetimeouts.com

Trick or Treat Down Fourth Street in San Rafael

Saturday, October 31st from 1:00 to 2:30pm.

Every year, the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) hosts a safe Trick or Treating experience for kids on Fourth Street in Downtown San Rafael. Last year, over 900 families visited over 100 merchants handing out goodies and sweets to kids in costume! Starting at the Downtown City Plaza, kids and their parents can pick up a goodie bag with treats and a list of participating businesses. Then the walk down Fourth Street commences.



Marin Convention & Visitors Bureau Current Events

The MCVB recently completed translating the visitor brochure in four different

languages: French, German, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. We invite you to visit our home page and see how we are spreading "the word" about Marin County, *just a little out there...around the world.*

On the weekend of November 13-14, the MCVB will be hosting a "Marin County Weekend FAM Tour" for qualified corporate, association, and social event/ meeting planners. The Lodge at Tiburon - Tiburon, Embassy Suites - San Rafael, and the Inn Marin - Novato

will be hosting two nights of accommodations for our group of planners. We have a full weekend of activities planned for the FAM.

On Friday, September 25th, the Spirit of Marin celebrated two MCVB Board members: Bill Blackburn of the Corte Madera Inn Best Western, Business Citizen of the Year, Corte Madera Chamber of Commerce and Brigitte Moran of Marin Farmers Markets, Small Business of the Year, San Rafael Chamber of Commerce.



The Awards ceremony was instituted 16 years ago through the efforts of Bank of Marin management and the Chambers of Commerce, to recognize the volunteer spirit of the business community in Marin County. The Luncheon has become one of the largest and most prestigious events in the County, where business leaders congregate to honor those whose efforts are instrumental in the Marin business and charitable communities.

Congratulations to both Bill and Brigitte!

The Third Bi-Annual Sales and General Managers Reception: The Marin CVB and our host, the Corte Madera Inn - Best Western, are requesting all hotel sales teams and General Managers to attend our Third Bi-Annual Hotel Sales and General Manager's reception on Tuesday, October 27th at 4:30pm. We are looking forward to having another well attended reception.

The State of our California Parks

Governor Schwarzenegger just released a statement that no California state park will be closed in the 2009/2010 fiscal year (ending June 30, 2010). Through several budgeting maneuvers and temporary "reallocations" of funds, the line was held against closing any state park. For the past several months the Department of Parks and Recreation has struggled over which parks (100+) to close and how to close them.

The California Travel Industry Association (CalTIA) was a major player in mobilizing efforts to protect the parks realizing the impact such closures would have on the number of visitors to California and the effect on surrounding businesses. CalTIA became an influential voice during each hearing and meeting emphasizing the importance the state parks have on California's tourism industry, the fourth largest contributor to the state's economy. According to the California Travel and Tourism Commission (CTTC), more than 15 million visitors visited a California state or national park, generating approximately \$3.7 billion in local economic activity. Not surprisingly, 47% of international travelers visited a park during 2008. Travelers who also stayed in local hotels, frequented local restaurants and enjoyed the local entertainment.

While California continues to weather the economic downturn and a very troubled budget, it is imperative that we work together to identify alternative funding sources for our state parks. In the next several months, expect to see another push for a \$15.00 increase in the state's Vehicle License Fee that would be dedicated to the funding of state parks. The fee would also act as an "All Access Pass" allowing any automobile with a California license plate into any state park for free. The "All Access Pass" is most likely to be placed on the state-wide November 2nd General Election ballot. As a ballot measure it would only require 51% support for passage as opposed to the harder to obtain 2/3rds support it requires in the Legislature.

