

CAPT'N KEVO'S

Boating Tips

A Day On The Bay

It was a bright sunny day in June. My mission for today was to show the Rossi's all I could about San Francisco Bay in one day. The challenge in accomplishing this



From left, Arieth Barredo, Steve Rossi, Richard Rossi and Linda Rossi.

goal lies in the fact that they berth their 3888 Bayliner at Bair Island Marina in Redwood City. Added to the challenge was the fact that the tide would be flooding when we left and ebbing upon our return.

I left my home in Pleasant Hill at 8 a.m. on a Friday for the 50-mile ride to Redwood City. Traffic was light and I got a bird's eye view of the sea conditions from the San Mateo Bridge. It was 9 a.m. and the seas were calm. (What are the chances?) I didn't put too much stock in this observation having seen what the Bay is capable of during the afternoon hours too many times.

I arrived right on schedule and was greeted by Ian, the harbor master, who let me in the gate



BY KEVIN O'LEARY

and wished us all a safe and fun journey. As usual, the Rossi's were there and ready to go. They had coffee and pastries for everyone. The crew consisted of Richard Rossi (Skipper), Steve Rossi (1st Mate), Linda Rossi (Admiral) and Steve's girlfriend, Arieth Barredo.

After going through his pre-startup checklist, Richard fired up both motors without a hitch. (I love diesels.) Steve took the boat out of the slip and we were on our way. Linda was particularly excited to be spending the entire day on the Bay and getting to know her way around.

After clearing the 5 mph zone around the harbor, we motored up the main shipping channel all the way to Hunter's Point. It was good to see Richard and Steve working together as a team to identify upcoming day marks and make course corrections accordingly.

At this juncture, we headed northeast toward the Oakland/Alameda estuary. I wanted to show them the guest docks at Jack London Square. It is a very small space and there is a 4-hour limit on docking. We docked the boat in the only space available and proceeded to have lunch on the boat. There is



The guest docks at Jack London Square.

a huge Farmer's Market all along the waterfront on Saturdays during the summer. It's a great place to shop and stroll on a Saturday morning.

The next stop along our way was Clipper Cove at Treasure Island. Technically, Clipper Cove is at the juncture of Treasure and Yerba Buena islands. As you come into the cove you want to navigate near the rock levee on the shore of Treasure Island and wind your way around the marina to your starboard. To me, the best spot to anchor is about 100 yards off the beach. This gives you the best wind block from the Bay.

Beware of the Yerba Buena side of the cove. If you look closely you'll see about a dozen "hazard" markers along that side of the cove. Be mindful there is a very active sailing club for youths in the cove. Stay



Arieth Barredo, left, and (Admiral) Linda Rossi.

clear of the orange balls they use as waypoints and don't throw a wake at the dock.

Next on our list of destinations was Ayala Cove on Angel Island. I had purposely chosen this route around the Bay in order to protect us from rough seas. But at some point you've got to face "The Slot." The Slot is a direct line from

west to east starting at the Golden Gate Bridge. It runs all the way to Berkeley and can be very unforgiving, especially to powerboats.

As soon as we passed on the lee of Treasure Island, it started getting rough in a hurry. I assured all onboard that the boat could handle these conditions and that conditions would calm down once we got

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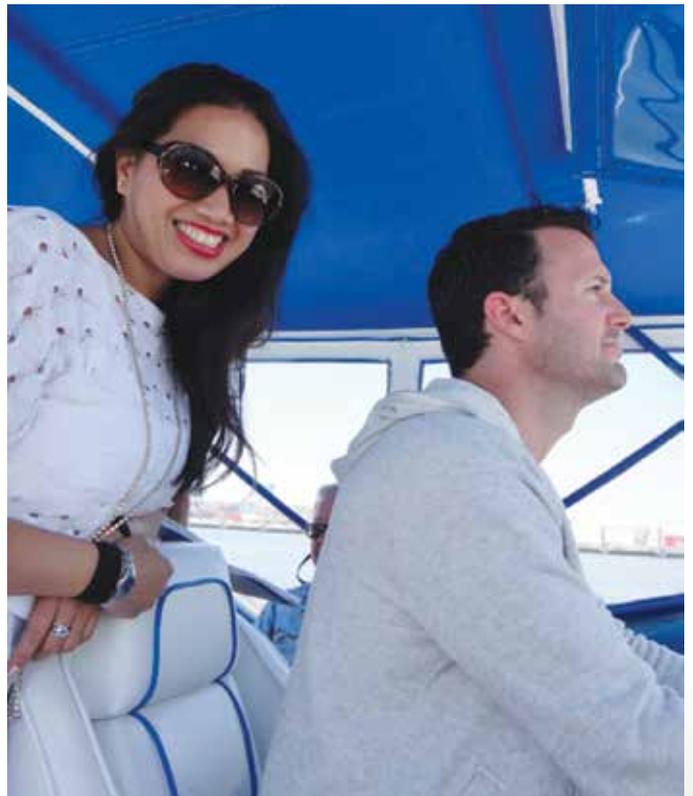

CAPT'N KEVO'S *Boating Tips*

into the lee of Angel Island. But the damage was done before we made it through The Slot. Mrs. Rossi started feeling the effects of seasickness. This can ruin your whole day.

Sure enough, as soon as we were under cover from the Island the conditions calmed down dramatically. We motored around the Island about 100 yards off shore. As usual, my clients were in awe of the beauty of the cove and surroundings upon our arrival.

I explained to them how to best snag a buoy for their bow and another one for their stern. The buoys are color coded so you get the right pair. Red goes with red, yellow goes with yellow. Some of the boats had taken one of each color buoys and you could see the results: These boats were not facing (directly) into the seas that lash the entrance to the cove. Another boater chose to have his stern facing the waves. Never seen that before at the cove.

After a good tour of Ayala Cove, we headed for Sam's in Tiburon. Linda Rossi was still not feeling well and really looking forward to getting off the boat and taking a stroll around town, but alas it was not to be.



Arieth Barredo with Steve Rossi at the helm.

There was no room at the guest dock even on a Friday at 3 p.m.

The deck at Sam's was packed, the weather perfect and this one guy with a Ranger Tug was blocking access to one side of the whole dock by docking his boat near the front of the finger. (You know who you are!) Dock hog.

If you ever face this situation, don't even think about dropping people off at the Corinthian Yacht Club guest docks nearby. They are very strict about this and won't allow it. I was very disappointed my clients didn't get to enjoy the ambi-

ance of downtown Tiburon, but I'm sure they will return another day.

Next on the agenda was to "sneak" out the Gate without getting clobbered by the waves. As soon as I got near Belvedere Point, I abandoned this plan as the seas were too rough. We decided it was time to start heading back, so we headed across The Slot again toward the cityfront. At this point Linda decided to take some Dramamine®, but it was too late. She was already in the throes of seasickness.

The conditions calmed down

once we reached the cityfront. It soon became "Grand Central Station" for ferryboats. They were everywhere, coming at us from all directions it seemed. We all managed to stay clear of each other, but I can say I've never seen so many ferries so close together than I did this day.

The Giants were out of town, so McCovey Cove was deserted. We headed for the main shipping channel and again it was good to see father and son working together to identify day marks and set course accordingly.

The seas got a little rough right around San Francisco International Airport, but for the most part it was a following sea, which did not affect our ride too much. The seas calmed down after we made it past the San Mateo Bridge and Linda was starting to feel better.

By now it was early evening and the kayakers were out in force in the harbor. I like kayakers. (I have a kayak myself.) They always seem to be motivated to get out of the way of big boats coming at them in close quarters. We had enough water to make it back into the marina without any problems. Steve docked the boat perfectly and we all made it home safely.

Kevo's Tip:

If you are prone to seasickness, take Dramamine before you get on the boat or it may be too late to help with the symptoms. Also, try to stay above deck. Going down below and losing your orientation of the horizon can affect your equilibrium and exacerbate the effects of seasickness. (I sound like a doctor.) HA!

Be safe & happy boating!

As always, feedback is appreciated. I can be reached at 925/890-8428 or kevo@yachtsmanmagazine.com. ✉



From left, Richard Rossi at the helm, yours truly and Linda Rossi.