



BLACK CAT NEWS

UP, UP, AND AWAY!



WOW!

What a great time was had by all at the 9th Black Cat Reunion held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 6 - 11, during the 2013 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta.





BLACK CAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Black Cats Mike Brown, Foster Sexton, and Terry Sanderlin at the 2013 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

Night Glow at the Fiesta



Contact one of the 213th Alumni Officers to register for the reunion. There will be a \$25 reunion fee.

Foster Sexton	(361) 225-4612
Thomas Hoopes	(440) 636-5309
George Haley	(508) 737-6827

★ St. Augustine, Florida ★

10th Black Cat Alumni Reunion April 19-24, 2015

Dates may change when the hotel and activities are determined.



Reign of the Cats

by

Terry K. Sanderlin, Ed.D.

It was a blustery but sunny day in San Francisco as we sat on the bleacher seats of the Deck in America's Cup Village. We came to the "city by the bay" to watch the 34th America's Cup final races, where team Emirates of New Zealand would take on team Oracle, the American defending cup champs. The boat of the day was no longer the monohulls of the past but giant catamarans, with displacements of 13,000 pounds, spread over a 72-foot length and near 46-foot beam. The mast towered over the giant cats at 131-feet, holding a massive 2,798-square feet of main sail, with 861- square feet of jib. These creatures of the sea were designed to sail near to three times the speed of the apparent wind, while crewed by 11 champion sailors, who would face physical demands to the very limit of their abilities, as the giant cats would rise above the sea to sail on foils, extended from each of the two hulls.

Having sailed on San Francisco Bay in years past, we had more than a passing interest in seeing how the big cats would negotiate the tricky currents, high winds, and white-capped-laden swells. Sailing out of Berkeley Marina some years back, I can clearly recall that the simple maneuvers of tacking and jibing could be a challenge in the big bay, with consistent winds of 20-25 knots, and wave swells exceeding six feet. Unfortunately, the big cats would have a tragic day even before the racing began when the Swedish AC 72 Artemis capsized in San Francisco Harbor during a pre-race training run. British gold medal winner Andrew Simpson died in the capsize accident, in wind conditions of 20 knots, far below the proposed 33-knot threshold for the America's Cup challenge. As a result of the tragic death of Simpson, the wind threshold was reduced to 21.4 knots.

The Louis Vuitton Cup, the last race before the cup finals, was won by the New Zealand team (against Sweden and Italy), giving New Zealand the opportunity to face the defending cup champions in the America's Cup races. However, the U.S. team, the defending champions, was sanctioned by the race committee just before the beginning of the cup challenge against New Zealand. It seems that over a year ago, during the world trials in the AC 45 one design class, the American team violated weight rules by being five pounds overweight. As a result the committee sanctioned the American team with the harshest penalty in the history of the race, fining them \$250,000, suspending three team members (one a critical crew member), and giving out a two-point penalty against the American team, requiring them to win 11 races to New Zealand's 9 races.

At the start of the 34th America's Cup finals, it seemed a foregone conclusion that the American team would fall to that of New Zealand, given the harsh penalty and crew substitution, requiring time for the new crew member to gel with his new crew mates. By race 8 New Zealand held a six-point advantage over Oracle, even after splitting race 8 one each. In race 9 Oracle beat New Zealand off the start and controlled her from the leeward position. On the upwind leg Oracle sailed away from New Zealand with a 33-second lead at the windward gate beginning her run home, and a 47-second win over New Zealand. In race 10 New Zealand won by a 16-second margin, giving them 8 wins in all, and one away from the championship. But, Oracle was not to be denied, and rallied to be the first team in the Cup's 162-year history to win seven races in a row, leaving the New Zealand team and its fans stunned by



EASY TO BECOME A MEMBER

The 213th Assault Support Helicopter Company Alumni Association was formed to bring together Black Cats from all years served, to rekindle old friendships, and to develop new ones. Membership dues are \$15 per year. Contact Tom Hoopes at (440) 636-5309 for more information.



BLACK CAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

the astonishing comeback of Oracle. During the 19th and final race, Oracle raised up on her sailing foils, groaning under the riggings strain, and sped past New Zealand on the windward fourth leg to gain a 1,000-yard advantage over the Kiwis and winning the America's Cup by 54 seconds.

I'll not forget my time at the 34th America's Cup races and the amazing sailing cats reaching speeds of 54 knots during the race. The precision and performance of the sailors moving these creatures of the sea toward ever-greater feats will stick in my mind forever and bring a smile to my face. I don't know if the big cats will be back for the 35th America's Cup, but I know I will.





BLACK CAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Minutes from the 2013 Black Cats Reunion #9

The 213th Assault Support Helicopter Company Alumni Association met at the Albuquerque Marriott in Albuquerque, NM for Reunion #9. The Association meeting was held on October 10, 2013, with the following Officers present: Terry Sanderlin, President; George Haley, Treasurer; Michael Brown, Historian; Thomas Hoopes, Membership Coordinator; and Foster Sexton Jr., Secretary.

Other Association Members present were: John Ballenski, Donnie Noel, Jerome Kuenzel, David Kealey, Larry Brockman, Ward Posey, Earl Latsha, Ron Kosciuch, and Tom MacDonald. The meeting was called to order by the President, Terry Sanderlin, and opened to the floor for business.

Old Business:

Awards: Our annual dinner was held this year at Santiago's Restaurant. After dinner John Ballenski presented our president, Terry Sanderlin, a framed picture of a Chinook helicopter from the Black Cat members with gratitude for a job well done. The Black Cat Service Award was sent to Ed Faught, the Web Networking Officer, for his support of the Black Cats Web site.

PX Report:

1. Stock on hand:

- a. Shirts: 6 ea. L at a cost of \$16.75, sell at cost
- b. Shirts: 9ea. XL at a cost of \$16.75, sell at cost
- c. Shirts; 6 ea. 2XL at a cost of \$19, sell at cost
- d. Caps; 25 ea. at a cost of \$13.25, sell at \$16
- e. Iron patches 22ea. at a cost of \$5.50, sell at \$6.50
- f. Window stickers 10 ea. Free. *Shipping costs will added to all items sold.

Terry Sanderlin made a recommendation, with the agreement of the body, that all shirts with "Williamsburg" printed on them should be sold at cost.

2. Future orders:

Based upon the desires of the membership, the word "Alumni" and "reunion location" will not be put on future orders of shirts, and "Phu Loi" will be placed on all new Black Cat patches.



BLACK CAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

3. Merchandise ordering process:

When a member desires to purchase an item from the PX, he will send the money to the Treasurer, stating the item/s to be purchased. At this time, the Treasurer will notify the PX Officer of the receipt of revenue for the item/s. The PX Officer will then place the item/s in the mail.

Non-Profit Status: No Change- \$5,000.00

Registrar's Report: (Not Present)

New Business/Issues:

Minutes: Posted on Black Cats Web site

PX Report:

Mike Brown suggested that new members be given a Black Cat patch or decal when they join the club and that the PX keep a supply of Black Cat coffee mugs in stock for sale.

Black Cat Activities:

Black Cat members and their wives toured Albuquerque, NM, and visited Balloon Fiesta Park for the annual Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. We all enjoyed the activities centered on the crews inflating their balloons and taking off in their balloons at daylight. It can be stated with certainty that the entire Black Cat group had a very enjoyable time at the Fiesta. We enjoyed our stay at the Albuquerque Marriott, where we spent many hours in the Hospitality Room, enjoying one another's company and the great refreshments, including the cookies that Sharon Hoopes baked. The president will extend a hardy thanks to Sharon from the group.

In addition to the Balloon Fiesta, the Black Cats convoyed to Santa Fe, NM, where the ladies went shopping, the men sat around, shot the breeze in the Square, and took in some of the local sights. Santa Fe offered a lot of sights for all to enjoy as well as good food in their local restaurants. The return trip through the mountains was very scenic. However, due to the high winds, we were not able to take the Tram Ride up to the top of Sandia Mountain. Instead we enjoyed dinner at Santiago's Restaurant. Terry Sanderlin and his wife Maggie did a wonderful job setting up this reunion, and we all thank them.

Membership Coordinator:

Tom Hoopes' continued efforts to contact each member and encourage them to attend the reunion were acknowledged and appreciation was extended by the body. Plus, he continues to seek new members by phone and online throughout the year.



BLACK CAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Treasurer:

The Black Cat checking account balance after the reunion is \$2,519.65.

Newsletter:

The Newsletter Publisher (George Haley) has continued to do a great job publishing the Black Cat newsletter. Fellow Black Cats are encouraged to send in articles about their travels, Black Cat-related items, or personal accomplishments that fit in with our past activities. [Nothing political or religious in nature, please].

Web Networking Officer: No Report.

Reunion 2015:

St. Augustine, Florida, was voted the location for the next Black Cat Reunion. April 2015 is the proposed month, and the dates (19-24) will be set based upon research of the activities scheduled or planned by the city during that month. Member Mike Brown made a motion that a Hospitality Room be added to the list of requirements when selecting a hotel for each future reunion. Further, if the hotel will not furnish the hospitality room for free, that our organization foot the bill. It was seconded by Tom Hoopes; the vote was carried by the body. In the future, Black Cat members who live in the proposed reunion state should be contacted to assist in the planning stages of reunion activities at the chosen site. The Marriott and Hampton Inn should be at the top of the contact list for possible hotel sites.

At the end of the meeting, the Following Officers were elected:

1. President - Foster Sexton Jr.
2. Alumni Registrar - Thomas Hoopes
3. Assistant PX Officer - Jerome Kuenzel

And the following previously elected officers remain in their positions:

1. Treasurer - George Haley
2. Historian - Michael Brown
3. Membership Coordinator - Thomas Hoopes
4. PX Officer - Sam Parrish



President Emeritus

Terry Sanderlin served as the alumni secretary 2001-2003 and as alumni president from 2003 until 2013. He was responsible for developing and implementing the Black Cat Service Award presented to alumni members for outstanding accomplishments for the alumni association. He also oversaw the development of lifetime memberships for the alumni and developed emeritus recognition for retired board members. Dr. Sanderlin wrote all officer job descriptions for the board of directors, was instrumental in developing and overseeing the alumni online newsletter, and in coordinating the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2013 reunions.

Dr. Sanderlin also submitted the paperwork for federal nonprofit status, gaining status as a nonprofit of \$5,000 or less. This status was active until the IRS changed its policies and regulations, eliminating the \$5,000 or less status. He increased the size and diversity of the board of directors, and coordinated the "Freedom Team Salute" program with the Department of the Army to award these certificates to all 213th ASHC alumni members that could be located.

We thank Terry for his years of service on the Black Cats Board.