

One Hundred Boat Rentals For Edgewater Marine!



by Jim Watson

The Topalian Family of Burbank was the 100th Boat Rental for Edgewater Marine's electric boat rental program on the local lagoons. The company crossed the Century Mark on Labor Day weekend, and are off to a strong start after only 9 months into the program. Jack Topalian's family was the third rental on Saturday. The other two that day were from San Francisco, and Michigan.

Owner Michael Terner reports he has rentals going out almost every day of the week now, with more business on the weekends. There have been several days where they have been fully booked (3 or 4 rentals), including the 4th of July, Father's Day, and several week-end days in the summer.

A memorable rental was for a wedding party. One of the groomsmen volunteered to take guests on romantic 15 minute tours of the Lake. The relaxing experience has proven ideal for a number of picnics and a retirement party. Lately there have been several corporate team building events - usually week-days.

The vast majority of rentals are tri-generational; including parents, children, and the grandparents, who may be visiting from out of town. With six to eight people on the boat, the per person cost is very affordable. Historically they have more rentals with six or more people, but lately they have had more couples. No one has rented yet for a solo tour.

Said Mr. Terner: "A lot of renters are from Foster City, but we also draw regularly from San Mateo, Belmont, Redwood City, San Francisco, San Jose, Hayward, plus out of state business travelers and

tourists." We have also had out-of the country folks, without local family connections including Chinese tourists!"

Foster City renters include people who live on the water as well as off. One renter pointed out that having lived in Foster City for more than 20 years, he had no idea the lagoon was so beautiful. Another Foster City renter has lived on the water for many years without an electric boat, and just ordered

a new Duffy after getting a taste of the unique Foster City boating life style.

Jack and Diana Topalian got married in 1994 and moved to Foster City to start a life together. They lived here until 2010. Their 3 children, Stephan, Shant & Elizabeth, were born in Foster City and attended Foster City schools and participated in many activities. According to Jack, "We have very fond and happy memories of our time there and still have friends who are part of the community.

Since 2010, we have moved to Los Angeles. My career is in the entertainment business and everything is based there." Jack and his family occasionally come back to visit his parents and other family members and friends. "When we do, we always visit Foster City, to enjoy the activities, restaurants and the scenery," adds Jack. "This last time, we rented a boat from Michael Terner at the Edgewater Marina and had a very fun experience. I would recommend it to all who visit there or live there.

Ninety percent of boat rental customers have reserved ahead of time. However, Edgewater marine has been able to handle drop-ins - usually within 10-15 minutes. Many customers bring a cooler with food and drinks (alcohol is allowed.) One party used the large rear deck of the boat to put out a big spread of food. Some folks stop at Edgewater Place for refreshments. Many people like to plug their iPhone into the onboard stereo to enjoy their own music while cruising.

There have been a few barn owl sightings under the Foster City Blvd bridge - and not just the rubber owls perched on the outside! Depending on the time of year

many interesting bird species can be pointed out on the lagoon including Great Blue & Night Herons, Great & Snowy Egrets, Pelicans, Kites, Grebes, various Hawks, Kites, Terns, Cormorants, a recent Osprey; and of course Ducks and Geese.

Edgewater Marine has had many customers with no prior boating experience. According to Terner, "The electric Duffy boat is so easy to drive, and it only goes 5 mph, so it's been a breeze to train them."

"The customers always come back happy, and invigorated, and we have had a number of repeat customers."

There are nearly 300 private electric

boats in Foster City and about 800 homes that could keep a boat at their homes, according to Terner. With over 100 rentals averaging about six people per rental, Edgewater Marine has provided an opportunity to 600 people who would not have had the opportunity to enjoy boating on the Foster City Lagoon.

Edgewater Marine has been able to handle most of the demand with one boat, but plans to acquire more boats as more people have been asking to go out and enjoy cruising on the Foster City Lagoon.

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Sunrise on the Lagoon

by Herb Perez

I am no stranger to sunrises. The sun usually rises well after my day has started. As an Olympic Taekwondo athlete, I started my day at 4:30am on a running track. Now, my days start slightly later, but still well before the sun rising over our beautiful lagoon. Some days I view it over the levee after I bike and enjoy our fantastic levee-pedway and on others I view it over Foster City's best and least utilized recreational amenity; our lagoon.

Once I moved to our water-laden paradise, I called an old friend who rowed for the USA Olympic Team. She provided me with some advice and guidance and I purchased a recreational single scull. She suggested I take lessons, so I took one lesson with a coach who reminded me of Bill Murray in Caddy Shack. Suffice it to say, I had enough training and it was off to our lagoon to enjoy a new challenge.

I carried my scull to my cousin's house on the water. I set it in the water and the rest is famous on Youtube. After falling into the water several times, just trying to enter the scull, I was finally able to sit and set about rowing into sunrise. Once again I was thwarted by the water's edge and dock which seemed to have the gravitational pull of a black hole. I was unable to get away from the edge of the lagoon and spent most of my time pushing away and trying to get enough clearance to use both oars. So much for self-instruction and self confidence. Well I has also been blessed with perseverance and an equal amount of naivety.

So I continued to row and was able to get into my scull without falling in upon launch and am proud to say I have never fallen into the middle of the lagoon during my sessions.

Sculling for me has reinvigorated a passion for learning a new solitary and quiet art that requires diligence and patience. You simply don't get anywhere quickly without some effort and even the greatest effort still move the scull only so fast.

The rowing motion requires balance and patience and symmetry in movement between all four limbs and your core. It is mindless and zen-like in simplicity. It requires a release to the motion and an unconscious purposeful execution.

It is the perfect release from the rigors of my seven day week of City Council, business, and family responsibility.

Foster City prides itself on a stellar Parks and Recreation structure which is the envy of the Peninsula. In my humble opinion, the Lagoon is the quiet diamond in the constellation of parks. It shines quietly and is often overlooked and seldom utilized.

Our families love sport and our children compete in virtually every sport possible. Foster City has two rowing activity clubs (Dragon Boats and Canoe.) I look forward to the day when the lagoon beckons and families answer the call to scull. It is simple and exquisitely mindless in its execution. However perhaps more importantly, it is the perfect way to enjoy our best amenity from the best seat in the house. On the water not in it!

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