



castro community on patrol

www.castropatrol.org

The Patroller

“Creating a Visible Safety Presence”

May 2009

Upcoming Patrol Projects

The Patrol will be involved in a number of special project in May and June. We encourage all trained volunteers to set these dates aside so that we can put together the extra teams. Also please sign up for your monthly walking patrol so we can continue to keep the community safe.

AEF County Fair 31-MAY

The AIDS Emergency Fund has asked the Patrol to help with their “County Fair” event to be held from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM on May 31 in Golden Gate Park. Details are at: <http://www.aef-sf.org/countyfair/>. The event will be held in a large tent with an entrance and exit, and they are looking for help at both. We would like to have between 4 and 6 volunteers available, so please sign up on-line or by sending an e-mail to Damian.

The Patrol assisted with AEF’s holiday banquet. Providing assistance for security of this type is outside the normal patrol actions for which we were trained. Unlike hired “security guards” we will maintain a hands-off approach, but will provide directions and basic crowd management. The board will prepare guidelines shortly for expected involvement for these types of activities.

Supreme Court Prop 8 Decision

The board has voted to offer assistance with crowd management around the upcoming California Supreme Court announcement about their decision on Proposition 8. Whether the court rules for or against the proposition, we can expect gatherings and speeches with a sizable crowd. The work falls into both the existing policies around work with “Civil Disobedience” as well as the forthcoming policies around assisting with activities outside the normal walking patrols.

The trickiest part is that the exact date of the announcement will be known only a day or so before the event. We hope to be able to provide some visible safety presence around the stage and the speakers.

Ideally we will have 6 or more volunteers available with short notice. Our current thinking is to have a team available for demonstrations in the civic center the evening before and the day of the announcement.

If you want to be part of this project please provide Damian with the days of the week that you either are or are not available so that we can assemble a team as soon as we know the schedule. The announcement is likely to occur in early June.

Pink Saturday

As of the publication of this issue of *The Patroller*, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have not yet announced whether they will be sponsoring the Pink Party on the Saturday before Pride. If they do hold the event, the Patrol has volunteered to assist with security, as we have for the past 2 years. This normally requires 12 volunteers who work in 4 teams of 3. Please hold this date open until such time as we receive official word from the Sisters.

“Blow for Safety!” Whistle Campaign

We have published a brand new safety flyer to promote the whistles that have been delivered from our new vendor. The theme “Blow For Safety” gives a conversation starter to help get the whistle and some safety training literature into the hands of the public.

The back of the flyer includes practical safety information along with key phone numbers that the public should have if

faced with a crime, either as a witness or a victim. Please refer to these numbers if asked for information from the public about responding to crime.

Each walking patrol is asked to get whistles and flyers into the hands of the public when possible. Several merchants in the Castro have also agreed to distribute the flyers and/or whistles.



Call for New Board Members

June of each year is used to confirm the makeup of the Castro Patrol board of directors. We currently have openings on the board because one member has moved out of the area and another has made adjustments in the availability of his time. Please consider stepping up to a leadership role.

Besides making important decisions about policy and procedures, the board fills a number of roles beyond the walking patrol level. Each board member either heads or participates in a variety of work, such as fund raising, new member recruitment, public relations, training design, newsletter, metrics, etc. If you have skills in any of these areas, or if you just want to have a closer involvement in the Patrol work, please contact Gregory.

Donating to CCOP

You can make tax-deductible donations through our parent organization at: http://www.sfsafe.org/4ych_donate.htm Click the "Donate" link and include "CCOP" in the description field.

I've Been Thinking...

Gregory Carey, CCOP Chair

First, of course, I must apologize for how long it's been since the last issue of the newsletter. Of course you know the excuses (busy with work, life, blah, blah, blah) but that applies to everyone. If you have any experience in writing for or publishing a newsletter, your help would be greatly appreciated. This would be an appropriate task for a new board member (see separate article about board openings).

Several of you need to be thanked for being willing to patrol but were unlucky enough to have your patrol cancelled because of inclement weather or because one of the 3 members had to cancel for one reason or another. We can't do much about the weather, but we would like to reduce the cancellations for the second reason. Whenever possible, we would like to have 4 volunteers instead of 3 scheduled for each team. Either 3 or 4 person teams work well, allowing fewer team cancellations by having a "spare". The online scheduling tool has space for 4 volunteers, so please fill in the 4th spot if you are available on a date that already has 3 volunteers.

Chaps II Fund Raiser

Our main expenses (uniforms, whistles, and safety flyers) have been funded through a grant from The City. We also do outside fund raising to cover expenses that are not covered by city money. Board member Erik Leve has arranged for us to be part of the beer bust at the Chaps II bar on Sunday 10-MAY. This happens to also be Mother's Day, so draw whatever conclusions you wish about that date. We will be inviting as many volunteers as possible to show up to help with selling raffle tickets, collecting fees, distributing flyers, and answering questions. Let us know if you can help by sending an e-mail to: patrol@castropatrol.org.

Training 28-MAY

The next training for new volunteers will be held 28-MAY-09. Please remind your friends or coworkers to sign up.

We can always use help. By assisting Ken with a training re-qualifies you for 2 more years. If it has been awhile since you were trained, this is a great chance to get your certification current. If you can help, drop an email to the "patrol" email.



It has also been suggested that we identify members that are willing to be called to a patrol on very short notice. Besides covering for someone that suddenly cancels, this can also allow us to quickly assemble a team for an unassigned patrol if something unexpected comes up. While this could become a burden for those volunteers if there is a need for last-minute calls on a frequent basis, it can provide some relief when an unexpected schedule conflict occurs. Please let Damian know if you are interested in being on this list.

"Tranny Love" 23-MAY

We have been invited to be part of the "House of Garza" drag show at Café Flore on Saturday, 23-MAY. I will be there to pitch for membership in The Patrol, and you are invited to help as well. We will have a chance to distribute whistles and flyers.

I am not sure how we might fit into one of the numbers, but Garza is a great Patrol supporter and her shows are always interesting. E-mail if you would like to be part of the fun: greggy@castropatrol.org



Mark Your Calendar:

- 10-MAY-09 4:00 PM–8:00 PM Fund Raiser, Chaps II, 1225 Folsom Street
- 20-MAY-09 8:00 PM–9:30 PM Board Meeting, Bank of America Community Room
- 23-MAY-09 10:00 PM–11:00 PM House of Garza "Tranny Love", Café Flore
- 28-MAY-09 7:00 PM–9:00 PM Volunteer Training, Bank of America Community Room
- 31-MAY-09 4:00 PM–7:00 PM AEF County Fair, Golden Gate Park

Please Share Your Story

We want to feature volunteers in the newsletter. We would like to hear about why you joined, why you continue to volunteer, your most memorable patrol experience, etc. This gives us a chance to get to know each other in ways other than walking with them on a patrol.

If you would like to be featured, just jot down a short story about yourself. We may need to edit the article for space considerations, but will keep as much of it in your own words as possible so we can "hear many voices" through the printed page.

