



castro community on patrol

www.castropatrol.org

The Patroller

"Creating a Visible Safety Presence"

June 2009

Prop. 8 Patrols at City Hall and in the Castro

With relatively short notice, 12 Patrol volunteers stepped up to assist with various aspects of security concerning the California Supreme Court decision on Proposition 8 on 26-MAY-09.

Two teams were available to patrol the Castro on the Monday preceding the announcement. The day of the announcement, 6 Patrollers watched for trouble around the speakers at the Civic Center. Three patrols then kept watch as the protests moved into the Castro after the official program at Yueba Buena Gardens ended. The peaceful protests were finished by 10 PM, with no incidents of violence or vandalism noted in the neighborhood.



Helicopter shot from the channel 7 news shows the Patrollers watching for trouble around the speaker podium at City Hall.

Courtesy KGO TV

Patrol to Assist with Pink Saturday Party Security



The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and The City have come to agreement over sponsoring the Pink Saturday party. Castro Patrol will again provide security in the neighborhoods surrounding the party. The party is the Saturday evening before the San Francisco Pride celebration. This will be the third year that CCOP has worked with The Sisters for this event.

This year's plans include a much larger area than in the past, adding Market Street from Castro to Noe to the footprint. The amount of protected area is nearly double that of last year, allowing for a more structured security plan while expanding the entertainment. This year's main entrance will be on Market Street between Noe and Sanchez, providing better security than the old one at Castro and Market. All persons will be searched for cans, bottles and weapons. People who are obviously intoxicated will not be allowed to enter.

Armed security guards will be inside the secured area to reduce aggressive behavior by participants. They will also work



The expanded party footprint (pink) calls for five Patrol teams to cover the surrounding neighborhood (yellow).

with the local bars to prevent under-age drinking and other issues.

The Patrol will be working in the surrounding neighborhoods. This year will require 5 teams plus a communications person who will be working with the Sisters and SFPD. This calls for at least 17 volunteers to form 3-person teams. We can use as many as 21 people by increasing teams to 4 Patrollers.

The shift will be from 8:00 PM to 1:00 AM. The earlier part of the evening will involve frequent breaks, with continuous coverage from 10:00 to closing. We will have walkie talkies with a dedicated radio frequency. A radio repeater will be added to provide more reliable coverage than we experienced last year.

Please keep 27-JUNE open. The evening is fun, full of adventure, and a key fundraiser for The Patrol, as the Sisters provide a per-volunteer contribution. You can sign up on-line or by e-mailing.



Patroller Limelight



Bob Timlin

This is the first of a series of articles that feature Patrol volunteers. We hope to hear from each of you to better define the broad fabric that makes up our community.

Bob "interviewed himself" for this first column. He will be looking for input from others for future articles.

Are you a San Francisco native?

No, I was born and raised just north of New York City.

What brought you to California?

Funny actually, I was working in Australia on a one year internship through an international organization called AIESEC (aiesec.org). The company I was working for down under was expanding into the US. Its US head office was in Alameda, CA. They were having difficulty getting visas for their staff. I, not needing a visa, was invited to work for them in California at the end of my internship.

What is your profession?

I am a software engineer working for a health care company. I have both an undergraduate and graduate degree in the field. I am also an Adjunct College Professor at College of San Mateo.

Is your family still in New York?

My parents, brother and his family now live in Las Vegas, Nevada. I still have a lot of extended family in the New York/New Jersey area.

Any local family or significant other?

Well I am single at the moment and still not sure if that is a good thing or bad thing. I live in Daly City with my two good friends, Scot & Lee. We jointly own a nice four bedroom, two bath house with a yard, bbq, and two dogs (Elli & Haru). Yeah, I know oh so middle class!

Any hobbies?

I don't have a lot of time for hobbies, but the one I spend most of my time with is Martial Arts, which is also my main exercise time. I am also a Sci-fi nut and "Trekkie"; no Spock ears though. I also like to travel when I can. I already mentioned living in Australia, but have also been to Japan, Ireland (my father's birth place), England, Latin America, Caribbean and across the USA.

How did you find out about CCOP?

Through Triangle Martial Arts Association.

Why did you join?

As I have been getting older [over 40 now ;-(] I have been gaining a greater sense of community and purpose. I thought the patrol would be a good use of my time and experience to help my community.

AEF "County Fair"

Five Patrollers joined hundreds of other volunteers to help the AIDS Emergency Fund present their "County Fair" fund raising event in Golden Gate Park on Sunday, 31-MAY-09. The event included live entertainment, a silent auction, and the very popular "George Bush Shoe Toss," featuring a colorful selection of footwear, ranging from wingtips to pink pumps.



Patrollers Jack Bewley, Gregory Johnson, and Erik Leve. Not shown Mike Stoyka and Gregg Carey.

I've Been Thinking...

Gregory Carey, CCOP Chair

I had the great privilege of watching how The City worked with dozens of organizations to ensure a safe and sane response to the Prop 8 decision. A meeting was chaired by Supervisor Bevan Dufty in the Mayor's conference room the Friday preceding the event. There were representatives from several gay-friendly religious and social justice organizations, SFPD, Muni, City Hall, and the political groups that are fighting against Prop. 8. The Patrol's plans for Monday and Tuesday were well received. Up to that point, there was a loosely assembled group of volunteers in yellow vests who would assist with crowd management, but with no real training or experience. I met with their organizers on Sunday to give them some tips.

On Tuesday, our volunteers were welcomed by the demonstrators in the Civic Center. The police stayed on the edges of the crowd, while the Patrollers stationed themselves in the audience around the



Mark Your Calendar:

17-JUN-09 8:00 PM–9:30 PM Board Meeting, Bank of America Community Room

27-JUN-09 8:00 PM–1:00 AM Pink Saturday party, Castro Neighborhood

14-JUL-09 7:00 PM–9:00 PM Volunteer Training, Location TBD

15-JUL-09 8:00 PM–9:30 PM Board Meeting, Bank of America

Donating to CCOP

Castro Patrol is a program of SF-SAFE, the organization that advises neighborhood watch groups. Castro Patrol is the only walking patrol in The City. Part of our expenses have been funded by grants from The City. We also do fund raising.

You can make tax-deductible donations through SF-SAFE at:

<http://www.sfsafe.org/get-involved/donate/>

Click the "Donate" link and include "CCOP" in the "Designate my donation" field.



podium. At one point Patrollers pointed out a "Yes on 8" person causing issues near the stage. The SFPD turned their attention toward him. A cheer rose from the crowd when he was eventually escorted out when his actions turned aggressive toward those blocking his sign.

When the protesters returned to the Castro, the police again stayed on the edges. We alternated between watching the surrounding neighborhood and working in the crowd itself. Our bright orange jackets were free to move through the peaceful protesters, while the SFPD uniforms would likely have been met with resistance, even though most of the officers were GLBT. That was when I realized that the Patrol has this nice balance of respect from the local public, other non-profits, police, city officials and area merchants. The dedicated work of our people continues to maintain this credibility.