



# *The No Sweat Gazette*

*Special Holiday Edition*

*January 7, 2022*



# *Sticks Do The Holidays, Again!*



*Photo: Barbara Haig*

*From Left: Barbara Nuss, Jolly St. Nick, Priscilla Fife*

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Newsletter  
John McLaughlin

# Thank You Sticks Members!

By Barbara Nuss

President, Sacramento Walking Sticks

The new year is here and we're looking ahead to some fun adventures. I just want to acknowledge those members who helped our holidays shine so brightly.

*Heidi Foster* – Great idea to host a Christmas dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory. The food was delicious, the ambiance great and we even got to sing our favorite Christmas carol.

*Sue O'Donnell* – Thank you for being Heidi's helper at the dinner.

*Greg and Gail Samcoff* – Thank you both for taking all those aluminum pull tabs from me. They have to sort thru all of them to weed out tabs that aren't aluminum and then take them over to the Ronald McDonald House at the UC Davis Hospital campus. *Sticks Members and their friends* – Thank you all for saving these tabs and bringing them to us!

## New Year's Day Event

We'd hosted this route many years ago for a Talk Like a Pirate Walk and thought we could make it work for this New Year's Day event. Everyone loved it and had a great time.

*Nancy Alex* – Nancy drove over to personally talk with the Auto Mu-

seum to see if we could rent their parking lot. She also called to secure the 4 porta potties we had for use.

Thank you, Nancy, for also doing such a fine job chalking the 5k route for everyone.

*Phyllis Wichelns* – Phyllis chalked the 5k loop to and from the State Capitol grounds. Thanks!

*Nancy Mitchell* – I asked Nancy to walk both routes and take pictures for me to use for the Walk Alert. She did the 5k just fine but had to put a halt to the 10k route because of all the homeless people she and her friend saw on Broadway and nearby streets. What to do? Come up with a different loop which Nancy did for all of us. She designed the State Capitol grounds walk that gave you a looksee at the tree, statues, trees and grounds. She also helped with editing the walk directions.

*John and Kaia McLaughlin* – Thank you for transporting the trailer to the event as well as helping with setup and teardown.

*Virginia Jelinek, Myrna Jackson and Barbara Haig* – Thank you ladies for helping with setup and teardown.

Registration Table Workers, *Paul and Marie Robb, Terry and Sharyn Holland, Warren and Nancy with son Dustin Tellefson, Carole Soenke, Kim Dagan, Cris Rangel, Heidi Foster, Cindy Ranzenberger, Barbara Nuss*—Thank you all for helping people sign in as well as check back in. You handled money as needed and sold patches, books and Sticks Bucks.

*Steve Hughart* – Our membership coordinator as well as treasurer had a lot of behind the scenes work to do, once our event was over with. He has to make sure that money is put in its proper place and that AVA gets a report of how many attended our event. I'm sure that we had a new member or two and he processed their paperwork, made them name buttons and sent them a New Member Packet. He's also in the process of collecting YEAR-ROUND EVENT materials from all the Point of Contacts—money they collected at their walks, ALL the registration log sheets they had, plus a year total of how many people walked their walk or biked their routes.

## Happy New Year!

*...and an enormous and grateful THANK YOU to those of you who took the time and energy to contribute your comments and photos to this Special Holiday Edition. —John McLaughlin, Editor, [sticksnewsletter@aol.com](mailto:sticksnewsletter@aol.com)*

## 'Twas Not Quite The Night Before Christmas

by Barbara Haig

On Friday, December 10 about 20 members of The Sacramento Walking Sticks set out from the Le Bou on Franklin in East Sac. We were heading for the Capitol Mall to view the Capitol Christmas Tree.

The evening was cool, but spirits were bright!

Soon we came to the Wells Fargo branch on the mall. The lobby was open and we all tramped inside. The Christmas display was dazzling, alive with all things Christmas and elves

hard at work. Their deadline was fast approaching.

As we continued on to view the Capitol Christmas tree, little did we know that our evening would be punctuated by a visit from another elf, a larger and better known fellow. While it was too early to start on his appointed rounds, he took the time to visit with several members of our group, wishing us happy Christmas and taking last minute wishes. *(See photo on page 1!)*

It was a magical evening. Just one of the many Christmas light walks conducted this year. What fun they all were. What's more, we can all look forward to next year when you can bet the Sticks will once again be enjoying the most beautiful Christmas displays in all of Sacramento.

Hoping you can join us!



## More On the December 10 Holiday Lights Walk

by Marie Robb

No Sweat Gazette Roving Reporter

On December 10, Paul, daughter Caitlin, grand-dog Olive, and I joined the Sticks for the first of the Christmas lights walks.

We started in West Sacramento, crossed the Tower Bridge and walked down the Capitol Mall. It's one of my favorite Christmas walks because of the yearly display in the Wells Fargo building.



This year the theme was sweet treats, and the display was a confederation of sugary goodies.

Then we continued to the Capitol to

see the tree, always an impressive spectacle of lights and ornaments.



It was a cold evening, perhaps too cold for puppy Olive's paws.



Toward the end of the walk, she stopped and just looked at us. She was done!

The three of us had to take turns carrying her back to our start location.

It was definitely a memorable evening!



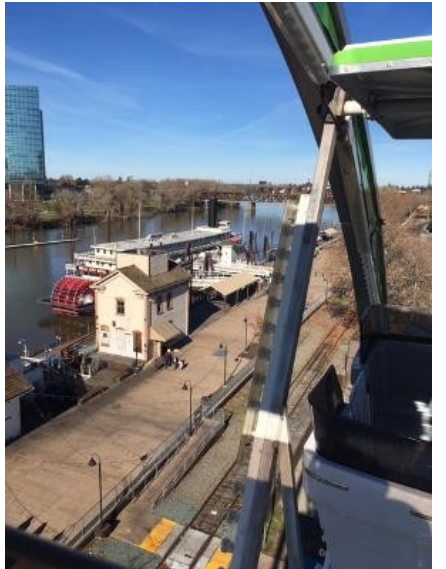


# Some Photos of the New Year's Day Event

By John McLaughlin



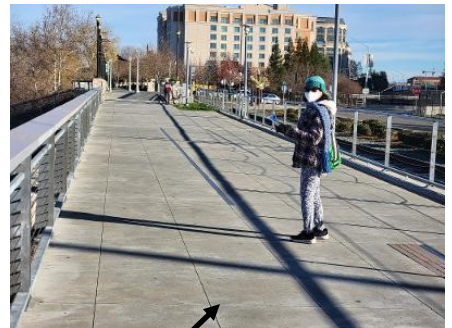




*Kaia and I elected to walk the 10K New Year's Day walk on our own, at our own pace, and in companionable silence so as to focus on the sights rather than on conversation. We thoroughly enjoyed the route and vigorously thank Nancy Mitchell for redesigning the walk, and Nancy Alex and Phyllis Wichelms for their excellent chalking jobs.*

*When we arrived in Old Sac, we elected to walk under the freeway and over to the ice skating rink before we returned to Old Sac for a rejuvenating cup of coffee which we sipped while sitting on some wooden sidewalk steps. Then we topped off the walk by riding the Ferris Wheel which was a private spin for us as we were the only riders on that turn.*

**Thank you, Anne Ofsink, for contributing these two photos of your 10K New Year's Day Walk.**



**Thank you, Theresa Ihara, for contributing this photo of your 5K New Year's Day Walk.**



## *Stroll by the Sea*

*By Jennifer Stanley*

*No Sweat Gazette Roving Reporter*

**W**ould you like to do a San Francisco walk without climbing hills! The San Francisco Bay Bandits provided us with such a walk along the Historic Great Highway on December 4<sup>th</sup>, right in the midst of the holiday season.

*History: During the 1850s and 1860s local San Francisco transit was by horse-drawn railcars. The arrival of cable cars and electric streetcars was the end of these railcars. By 1895 cars became the transportation for both housing and businesses in the "uninhabitable" sand dunes of the Outer Sunset known as the "OutsideLands."*

*(<https://www.outsidelands.org>)*

After enjoying an evening walk around downtown San Francisco where the Holiday lights lite up Union Square, Macy's, and numerous retail and office buildings the Saturday morning walk along the Pacific

Ocean was an added treat. Meeting up with other local walkers and Sacramento Sticks members at Harding Park we all headed out on this new adventure.

The fog lifted and we had a bright day to enjoy the beauty and sounds of the waves crashing on shore.

As always, the Bandits provided many historic sites to walk by including the Doggie Diner head, the Chickery (said to be haunted), numerous 1940's stucco homes once habited by local officials and celebrities.

On return from the beach area, we circled around Lake Merced and the gorgeous Harding Park golf course, played by professional PGA Golf tournaments.

If you were not there, I hope to see you next time!



*Priscilla Fife, right, and Jennifer Stanley Pausing in the cheery warmth of bright holiday lighting on the Sacramento Capitol Christmas Lights Walk*



# Just Some Thoughts on our Holiday Sticks Walks

By Josie and Dave Barnes

John: We don't have any pictures of our walks but can share a little bit about our walks.

We did the "Arches" on the T Street Holiday Lights Walk here in Sacramento and enjoyed seeing a different and quieter version of the Fab 40's. Its wonderful that the Sticks organize the walks so we get out to see the holiday lights. Walking through the Arches was fun and it was nice to see a different neighborhood's spin on decorating. Still: my favorite part was seeing the horse drawn wagon with the bridles lit up and the passengers all bundled up and having such a good time. My favorite house was the one near the beginning decorated with all the different dogs. Loved those dogs!!

**Sutter Creek:** we have been on a walk here before but Sutter Creek is



*File Photo*

so picturesque that we should all go there a couple of times a year. We did the 5K and got back downtown in time for lunch. We were lucky enough to snag a table at the deli so we could enjoy a hot cup of cocoa and a great little sandwich. Then did a little shopping and found a nice gift for the daughter-in-law. It was just starting to get busy as we left town as people were coming in to see the

light parade/show they had each night. My last bit of luck was stopping at the little free library. There was a cute 1000 piece puzzle that I brought home and spread out on our table. We have been having a fun time putting it together throughout this rainy couple of weeks. SO: great hike, great food, great shopping and a great free puzzle. Can hardly beat it.



***T Street "lighted arches" Holiday Lights Walk.***

*Photos: Anonymous*





## Something Extra

### *Taj Mahal in the Bay?*

*By Nancy Alex*

There is no end to the surprises we find on our walks. This surprise was on the Sausalito Bookwalk, led by Priscilla Fife. (See Priscilla with Santa on page 1!) As we walked along the shore of Richardson Bay on a spectacular November day, we passed many interesting boats along the docks, but this one took the cake. This is the Taj Mahal Houseboat.

The following is an article from a Sausalito sights website:

### The Taj Mahal Houseboat

**Insiders Tip:** The Taj Mahal houseboat is now a private residence. If you approach it on the dock or by boat please be considerate of its residents and their neighbors, some of whom may be nurses and others who work odd shifts and may be asleep during the day.

One of the two most famous of the Sausalito houseboats, the “Taj Majal”, gets its name because it’s a miniature version of the Taj Mahal in India. For most of the last four decades it’s been a private home, although it was used as a bed and breakfast inn for a few years.

The Taj Mahal houseboat was built by land developer turned winery and vineyard entrepreneur [Bill Harlan](#) in the mid-1970’s after [he visited India and was fascinated by its architecture](#). With travertine marble floors, a wine cellar (logically enough), a top-level solarium for meditation, a sauna and a secret elevator, the houseboat’s cost in 1970’s dollars was over \$2,000,000, which would be over \$10,000,000 today.

There are reports that the houseboat was sold by Harlan in 1995 for as little as \$850,000, although in a recent interview Harlan said he retained ownership until 2007.

**Insiders Tip:** Websites that list the Taj Mahal houseboat as an inn are (wildly) out of date. People also sometimes confuse the Taj Mahal with [Forbes Island](#).

