

EVENTS

Petaluma River Cruises Return

Story and Photos by Terry Smith

Dolphin Charters will bring the Dephinus back from its southernmost reaches to resume its popular cruises on the Petaluma River this Spring. Captain Ronn and Barbara Patterson will offer three-hour narrated history and natural history cruises on selected weekends, April 10 and 11 and May 8 and 9.

Passengers will learn about the commercial and industrial aspects of the waterway as they depart from the Turning Basin in Petaluma's Historic Downtown and pass under the D Street drawbridge on their way downriver. Soon,

they'll enter a different world as the boat winds its way through the meadows and oxbows of the wetlands between Petaluma and the mouth of the river at San Pablo Bay. The fascinating narration includes information about the history of the area, characters and curiosities, the importance of the river to Sonoma County's growth, and the birds and wildlife that frequent the hills and wetlands.

On each of the cruise days, the Delphinus leaves from the Petaluma River Turning Basin at 9 AM and 1 PM. The cost is \$35 per person, with a portion of the proceeds going to The Friends of the Petaluma

River.

These trips are offered only in the Spring and Fall. The remainder of the year, the Dephinus provides small-group wilderness cruises -- including a naturalist and a professional chef -- along the coasts of Alaska and Baja California, as well as on the Amazon River and in the Galapagos Islands.

The Delphinus holds only 30 passengers, so reservations are requested. Children must be at least 8 years old. To reserve space or for details of the trip, call 510.527.9622. Dolphin Charters can also be found on the web at dolphincharters.com.



Onboard painting showing Alaska cruise



Captain Ronn Patterson driving and describing

Sonoma County Farm Trails Announces New Spring Event

On Sunday, April 18, from 11 AM to 5 PM, Sonoma County Farm Trails new spring event "Blossoms, Bees and Barnyard Babies" offers a unique tasting and on-the-farm experience of Spring's bounty. Local farms from Healdsburg to Petaluma will open their gates and barnyard doors for a behind-the-scenes peek at

Sonoma County's finest food and agriculture.

Visit your neighborhood farmers to sample award-winning artisanal foods and enjoy the simple pleasures of farm life. See newly-born barnyard babies. Taste the county's finest artisanal foods. Walk through orchards and fields in bloom. Sample local honeys and learn the art of beekeeping. Meet the farmers who

grow your food. Experience the beauty of Spring on the farm and more.

Tickets are \$25 per vehicle or \$10 per person with advance online purchase. Proceeds support local farmers. Visit Sonoma County Farm Trails at farmtrails.org to purchase tickets or call 707.837.8896 for more information. Sonoma County Farm Trails is a non-profit organization formed in 1973 to promote buying fresh food directly from farms. Over 100 local farms and agricultural businesses are members.



ONE PICTURE IS WORTH 1,000 WORDS



Spring is the season for outdoor parties and events. For all your large or small catering needs, delight yourself and your guests by trying Angelo's catering crew.

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