

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Arts & Crafts Fair Returns

Save the dates for the 2023 Marin County Employee Arts & Crafts Fair: Wednesday and Thursday, November 29 and 30, at the Marin Civic Center Cafeteria, Room 237.

Current MarinShares volunteers and Marinerns students are eligible to apply to participate as crafters, artists, and musicians. For information, contact Coordinator of Volunteers [Anne Starr](#).

The event is open to the public. Come and shop—or simply enjoy the fruits of everyone’s artistic efforts. (Employees participate on their own time.)

Help Marin 4-H Grow

Marin 4-H welcomes adult volunteers to guide the next generation of youth leaders by coordinating projects, chaperoning activities, and organizing events.

For more than 100 years, the 4-H Club has helped youth leaders reach their potential. Marin 4-H operates under the auspices of the UC Cooperative Extension Marin office, which is part of the county organization. The four H’s stand for head, heart, hands, and health.

Contact the Marin 4-H Office at 415-473-4207 or visit the [4-H website](#) for more information.



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Volunteer Pilot Earns Special Recognition

By Marjorie Grannan

Ray Peterson—the current Marin Sheriff’s Air Patrol Volunteer of the Year—was drawn to flying at a young age.

“I took flying lessons when I was 16 but ran out of money pretty quickly,” he said. “Service in the U.S. Air Force brought more flight hours. Most of my 7,600 flying hours have been as a flight instructor for the USAF AUX (U.S. Air Force Auxiliary) Civil Air Patrol and law enforcement. I taught mountain flying, search, and law enforcement skills.”

In 1988, Ray retired from his career in the finance department at Pacific Bell. He volunteered with the Civil Air Patrol and in 1994 joined the Sheriff’s Air Patrol. For his significant contributions over the years, Ray is the Sheriff’s Air Patrol Volunteer of the Year.



PHOTO BY DOUG KAYE

Sheriff’s Air Patrol Volunteer of the Year Ray Peterson with the Cessna 182Q.

He is among the 20-plus volunteer pilots who fly the Marin County Sheriff’s Office Air Patrol Unit’s plane, a Cessna 182Q, and annually donate approximately 1,800 hours in missions, aerial patrols, aircraft maintenance, and more. Air Patrol members focus on

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Teen Connects through County Internships

By Clariss Ajanel

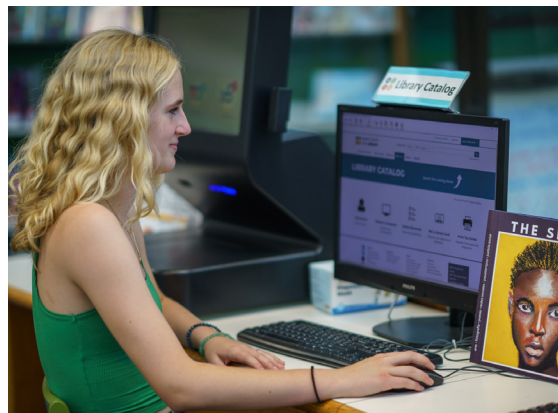


PHOTO BY DOUG KAYE

Kate Lane

Amid Covid-19’s shelter-in-place protocols, many people needed a break from their homes. Marinern **Kate Lane**, a Marin Academy senior, was no exception.

Kate grew up visiting her local library. Inspired by that experience, she began volunteering as a Marin County Free Library intern in June 2022 as a Teen Leadership Crew member. Later she added a second internship with the Board of Supervisors.

“I was feeling stir-crazy and isolated,” Kate said. “The Teen Leadership Crew gave me a space to connect with other teens while doing something meaningful.” Meetings were virtual, providing interaction when in-person activities were extremely limited.

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Teen Connects through County Internships

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“A major goal of mine is to help as many people as possible receive similar opportunities that I did growing up,” Kate added. “This is why I chose to begin volunteering at the library. While I realize the work of the leadership crew is not world altering, if we can make one person’s day one percent better, that is a success to me.”

Learning as she interned, Kate created and co-edited a literary e-magazine, *The Spire*, for teens and created an Instagram account. She also created STEM and art activity kits with video tutorials, presented weekly virtual activities, and helped host monthly queer teen support group meetings.

Kate’s first staff supervisor was Senior Librarian **Rashida Skaar**. “Kate is often the first to volunteer for a project, and she

really looks for ways to help things run smoothly,” Rashida said. “Kate is a wonderful example of teen volunteerism and I know that she is going to make an enormous positive impact on the world as she graduates.” Current library support staff for the teen crew are **Nicole Hight, Emily Strempek, and Annemarie Russo**.

Kate also is active with Crossroads, a program that pairs Marin Academy students with students at Davidson and Venetia Valley middle schools for weekly tutoring. She is on the Marin Academy Leadership Council for the Community Action Club and vice chair for its annual Conference on Democracy.

“One issue I care a lot about is educational equity,” Kate said. That interest

led her to add a summer internship with the Marin County Board of Supervisors’ Restrictive Covenant Project. “The goal is to integrate content on the history and lasting legacies of racially restrictive housing policies and practices into high school curriculum countywide,” she said.

When not volunteering or studying, Kate plays volleyball on Marin Academy’s varsity team and the Absolute volleyball team, maintains a Spotify playlist, and plays guitar.

“At the moment, I’m not totally sure what I intend to do in the future,” Kate said. “I’m very interested in public policy and would love to connect my passions for public policy and social justice in whatever I do.” ■

Happy Anniversary

We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries this month and thank them for their ongoing involvement.

34 YEARS

Marilyn Bagshaw (San Rafael), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service Volunteer, Marin County Fire

23 YEARS

Jon Pittman (Novato), Patrol Volunteer, Marin County Parks

16 YEARS

Rich Riechel (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO)

11 YEARS

Linda Witong (San Rafael), Cold Case Investigator, MCSO

10 YEARS

Joan Brown (Kentfield), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

6 YEARS

Martin Bogetz (Kentfield), Marin Medical Reserve Corps, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Carlene McCart (San Rafael), **Kim Ruchamkin** (San Rafael), **Alison Steiger** (Novato), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

William Timpson (Greenbrae), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

5 YEARS

Maureen Carlin (San Rafael), **Mary Lou Dibbern** (Mill Valley), **Stan Green** (Greenbrae), **Barbara**

Parkman (Novato), **Patricia Prorok** (Novato), **Everil Robertson** (San Rafael), **Robert ‘Bob’ Robertson** (San Rafael), Marin Center Ushers, Cultural Services

Mark Spongberg (Santa Rosa), Air Patrol Volunteer, MCSO

Luca Cuffe (San Rafael), **Sal Munoz** (San Rafael), **John Van Hooser** (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

4 YEARS

Jill Knowlton (Novato), **Walter Lemmermann** (Sausalito), Patrol Volunteers, Marin County Parks

Amanda Nagle (San Rafael), **Bonnie Tomkiewicz** (Fairfax), Marin Medical Reserve Corps, HHS

3 YEARS

Anthony Fedanzo (Corte Madera), **Milton Hyams** (San Rafael), **Robert Ireson** (Greenbrae), **Tom Jordan** (Corte Madera), **Adriana Rabkin** (Corte Madera), Radio Communications Volunteers Planning Team, Department of Public Works (Public Works)

2 YEARS

Michael Cann (Mill Valley), **Ciara Cox** (Point Reyes), **Daniel Felling** (San Rafael), **David Grover** (Petaluma), **Dennis Hughes** (San Francisco), **Nicole McConneloug** (Fairfax), **Rahul Narang** (Mill Valley), **Gregory Olson** (Novato), **Nick Slanec** (San Rafael), **Fred Stemmler** (Mill Valley), **Frank Wang**

(San Francisco), **Kelly Weidner** (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, MCSO

Declan Ericksen (Kentfield), **Emerson Erving** (Mill Valley), **Zadie Foskett** (Mill Valley), **Oliver Goldman** (Mill Valley), **Jackson Harrison** (San Rafael), **Mac Kayser** (Mill Valley), **Andromeda Kelly** (Mill Valley), **Desmond Kim** (Mill Valley), **John McConneloug** (Fairfax), **Amanda Mueller** (Larkspur), **Shea Sorcher** (Mill Valley), **Zoe Stephens** (San Anselmo), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, MCSO

Miranda Kolbe (San Rafael), Volunteer Attorney, Public Defender’s Office

1 YEAR

Brianna Barnett (San Luis Obispo), **Isabella DeRuvo** (Novato), **John Dooley** (Petaluma), **Kimberly Mitchell** (Hacienda Heights), **Alexander Nunez** (San Francisco), **Gustavo Rea** (Santa Rosa), **Berlynn Vargas** (Vallejo), Fire Foundry Interns, Marin County Fire

Daniel Greely (Novato), **Andrew Musselman** (Corte Madera), Radio Communications Volunteers, Public Works

Gerrie Kunin (Mill Valley), Event Décor Volunteer, Human Resources

Drake Miller (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, MCSO

Shannon Scutt (Mill Valley), **Leslie Weber** (Novato), Friends of the Family Volunteers, HHS

Enthusiastic Volunteer Patrols Trails—at 97

By Tiyona Pariani

A passion for outdoor exercise led MarinShares volunteer **Robert ‘Bob’ Neuhaus** to patrol Marin County Parks redwood preserves along Ridgewood Fire Road and Crestwood Drive in San Rafael.

Since September 2021, Bob has patrolled trails one or two times a day, at least five times a week, ensuring the open space preserves remain respected. He explains rules to hikers and deters people from smoking or illicit behaviors.

“I wear a hat that says volunteer, and it has a brim fixture on it, so sometimes people stop and ask questions about the trails and Marin County,” said Bob. “I love the walk, and it’s good exercise. I am 97 years old, so getting out there and doing that is very healthy, and I like doing it—I would be walking there if I weren’t volunteering.”

As a Marin County Parks volunteer, Bob received training about open space roads, trails conditions, first aid practices, and how to approach aggressive hikers.

“I have had multiple people out at that preserve stop me while I’m patrolling to tell me they’ve had contact with



PHOTO BY BRIAN WILK

Robert Neuhaus

Bob and that he’s always friendly and informative,” said Open Space Park Ranger **Erica Frazier**, his staff supervisor. “His enthusiasm and charm out there on the open spaces are just what we need to connect with other hikers and make it a safe place for all.”

Bob is a World War II Navy veteran. Born and raised in San Francisco, he graduated from Lowell High School and San Francisco State, where he earned a secondary degree in education in 1949.

He landed a career in sales and marketing. (Bob showed early aptitude for connecting with customers, having started door-to-door sales at age 10.)

He moved to Marin after completing his education. He and his wife Diane reside in San Rafael on top of a mountain in a home Bob helped design. They have traveled a fair amount, visiting 50 countries to date. Unfortunately, he is down to one friend he grew up with—all the rest have passed away.

He was on the National Ski Patrol at Sugar Bowl and Squaw Valley (now Palisades Tahoe) for over three decades.

In addition to walking daily with Diane, Bob volunteers as a teacher at Bahia Vista Elementary School in San Rafael, where the kids call him Mr. Robert. He works primarily with third graders, helping them with spelling, reading, and math. He also has helped with rehabilitating veterans for the Department of Veteran Affairs health care system in San Francisco.

“I just enjoy helping people and helping others, and I think it is a privilege to be able to do that,” he said. ■

Volunteer Pilot Earns Special Recognition

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support for law enforcement and public safety, and for search and rescue (SAR) operations.

“We get involved as an aerial platform with the SAR teams, looking for people in Tomales Bay, looking for people stranded on the coast,” Ray said.

With many hours as a flight instructor under his belt, Ray trains those who will continue his work in the decades to come.

Among the many roles Air Patrol pilots fill are those of aircraft management and safety.

Ray owns a Cessna 205. “I enjoy the ability to fly into the Idaho wilderness

areas where no improvements and airstrips were before the wilderness designation,” he says. This type of roughing it proves useful when Ray attends the annual AirVenture Oshkosh in Wisconsin. “It’s the biggest air show in the world, kind of like a pilot’s Disneyland. With 40,000 aircraft on display, there aren’t enough rooms for rent so we camp with our aircraft. We pitch tents under the wing to get shade; no trees here!”

At the end of an Air Patrol day, Ray has the satisfaction of a job well done. “When you go flying and complete a mission, you know that you’ve reduced some suffering and provided a needed service to the community.”

Ray’s staff supervisor, Sheriff’s Lt. **Sean McKrell**, goes further. “Ray is a true leader,” he said. “When he speaks in a room full of people, the room gets quiet because they want to hear what he has to say. His experience as a pilot and instructor are invaluable to the Air Patrol team. It’s my pleasure to have been put in this role so I got to know Ray.” ■

Interested in sharing your skills with a County of Marin department or project? Contact MarinShares Coordinator of Volunteers [Anne Starr](#) or visit the MarinShares: Marin County Volunteers [webpage](#).

Who's New & Welcome!

Deborah Alan (San Anselmo), Nursing Student in Communicable Disease, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Aeriell Armas (Rancho Cordova), Latino Family Health Intern, HHS

Dana Bagis (San Jose), Nursing Student with Communicable Disease Immunization Project, HHS

Caitlyn Barresi (San Francisco), Certified Law Clerk Intern, Public Defender's Office

Lauren Beheler-Romero (Oakland), Adult Case Management Team Intern, HHS

Alexandra Bolt (San Francisco), Nursing Student in Communicable Disease, HHS

Lennon Brandt (San Rafael), High School Intern, Marin County Parks

Molly Brown (Santa Rosa), Social Work Forensics Intern, HHS

Marion Campbell (San Francisco), Council of State & Territorial Epidemiologists Fellow, HHS

Marilyn Cervantes-Munoz (Pennygrove), Dental Health Educator Intern, HHS

Alexandra Chretien (Alameda), Nursing Student, HHS

Julia Crowley (San Francisco), Post-Bar Intern, Public Defender's Office

Robert 'Bob' Dell (Tiburon), Volunteer Photographer for Public Information Office, County Administrator's Office

Bradly deMoll (San Francisco), Certified Law Clerk, Public Defender's Office

Danielle Gonzalez (San Francisco), Latino Family Health Intern, HHS

Wendy Gramajo (Novato), Intern, Probation Department

Christina Grijalva (El Cerrito), Social Work Intern at Carmelita's Women's Home, HHS

Camille Grogan (Berkeley), Children & Family Services Intern, HHS

Meredith Hagler (Novato), Intern, Probation Department

Le' Kreeya Hairston (Alameda), Children & Family Services Intern, HHS

Gabriel Hartka (Kentfield), Pathways Program Intern, Parks

Eva Hellmold (Novato), High School Intern, District Attorney's Office

Sindy Hernandez (San Rafael), Behavioral Health Practitioner Intern, HHS

Tommy Horan (Novato), California Room Student Service Youth Volunteer, Civic Center Library

Meily Jimenez (San Rafael), Fire Foundry Intern, Marin County Fire

Doug Kaye (Kentfield), Volunteer Photographer for Public Information Office, County Administrator's Office

Jamie Kerby (San Jose), Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Pre-Doctoral Intern, HHS

Zoë Kruk (Bolinas), Student Service Youth Volunteer, Bolinas Library

Lauren Liddel (Vallejo), Dental Health Educator, HHS

Joanne Nguyen (San Jose), Nursing Student, HHS

Laurie Ozone (Novato), Restrictive Covenant Assistant, Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk's Office

Jackson Scollan (San Rafael), High School Intern, Marin County Parks

Mallorie Stiner (Livermore), Nursing Student, HHS

