

Swim Commissioner's Report

Continued from page 10

beef dinner. Master Chef Grant Springer will need to be brought back for an encore. Dozens of door prizes were distributed between awards and an impromptu auction benefiting the women's locker construction was held. Amidst the hoots and cheers of the crowd, Todd Oppenheimer's winning bid of \$150 clams won him the honor of placing a dolphin-embossed toilet seat cover on his personal throne. The question remains, however, what generous Dolphin donated such an elegant item for the auction?

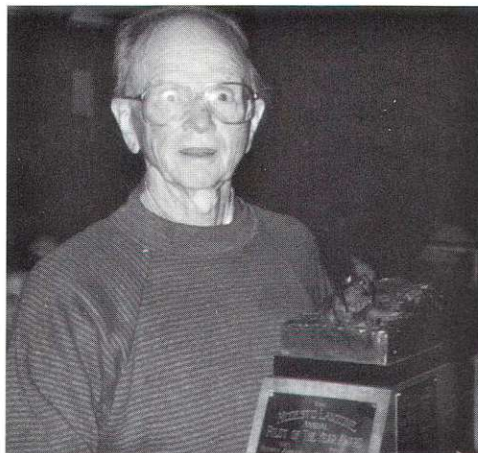
The highlight of the evening, however, were the Swim Commissioner awards. New member Ray Artigues (with 17 pilots) was the Pilot of the Year. The Helper of the Year went to Sue Garfield for her kitchen organizational skills. The Most Improved Swimmer was John Pelka, whose daily 7:00 am race with George Kebbe paid off. Peter Drino and Mary Cantini-Norkin shared The Most



John Selmer accepting one of his many trophies

Inspirational Swimmer Award: Peter for motivating winter swimmers with his Drino Challenge, and Mary for overcoming her back surgery and continuing to compete in swims and triathlons.

The 2000 Season Begins: Volunteers Needed



Pilot of the Year Ray Artigues accepting his trophy

The year began with 40 Dolphins and 35 South Enders stroking their way from Alcatraz to Aquatic Park. Becky Fenson grabbed the laurel and the Sunday Examiner headlines with a time of 27:21. Just as significantly, 35 other Dolphins rose early to pilot the swimmers safely across the Bay. With this many pilots, the swim program for 2000 cannot be anything but a smashing success. See you on and in the water, and in the kitchen.



Editor's Note:

Dolphins are encouraged to send us stories, pictures and locations of rowing clubs from around the world

History of Aquatic Park

Continued from page 11

The swimming and rowing clubs at Aquatic Park are an integral part of San Francisco. These days, the Dolphin Club is in the renewal phase of its lease. This option will terminate in the year 2028. Many people have said, "I don't care, I'll be gone by then." But we should all care. Not just for members who are 25 years old now who will be 53 in 28 years, or for members with young children. What if Charles Farrell or Ed Scully had said in 1909 that they didn't care if Black Point Cove was turned over for development? What we now know as Aquatic Park might be nothing but a string of Fontana Apartment complexes, with an unbroken string of T-shirt shops along the water. Unable to swim or row in the Bay, with their view of the beauty of the Bay and the Marin headlands cut off by monolithic structures, the lives of all San Franciscans would be sharply diminished.

The Lands Division of the California Lands Commission ruled that the land under the Dolphin and South End could be leased to these clubs for a total of 49 years, no more. But this ruling is directly in conflict with the original 1923 legislation, which transferred the tidelands of Black Point Cove from the state to the City of San Francisco. The transfer was in perpetuity *only* if the land were used for active recreational purposes. State law is clear on this point. (See Assembly Bill No.1376, Chapter 359, Approved June 14, 1923). The Dolphin and South End rowing clubs should be able to enjoy hassle-free use of their current sites in perpetuity. That is a fight for another day: but its not too early to start thinking about it.



Dolphins Horseplay with the Headless Horseman, circa 1909