



# Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

## FOR THE RECORD

Boston Bill's Cheesesteak and Chowder House plans to open in September at the old KFC store in Rockaway. Stay tuned for details. Owner William McGowan says, "We have struck a deal to sell exclusive Harris Ranch grass-fed beef, no frozen 'who knows what.' We even found a baker that will [partially bake] rolls, so fresh bread every day. In fact, fresh everything every day. Whoo hoo!" I am sorry for reporting here last week that McGowan had given up. When I noticed his sign missing, I just assumed he was gone. But now his sign is back up and things look promising. I told McGowan that I did the same "favor" for Luigi's long-delayed opening in Linda Mar several years ago, proving once again that there's no such thing as bad publicity.

## ACTIVIST TRAINING

Join a team of citizen activists helping to win key victories at the local level. On Sunday, August 7, Environment California, in conjunction with California Fair Share, CALPIRG, and The Public Interest Network (the family of organizations that includes Environment America, US PIRG, and a dozen other public interest groups), sponsors an activist workshop from 4 to 7 p.m. at Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco. Run by trainers affiliated with The Public Interest Network, the workshop covers best techniques for organizing your neighbors to take action and persuading your local media to cover an issue you care about. Suggested \$10 donation to defray cost of training materials, staff, and food. But you can attend for free. Info and registration: [environmentcalifornia.org](http://environmentcalifornia.org)

## iBUCKS

"Though it was founded 200 years after the United States, Apple has more cash in the bank than the world's largest economy. As the BBC pointed

out Friday, the latest figures from the Treasury Department reveal the nation has an operating cash balance of \$73.7 billion. Apple has \$76.4 billion of cash on hand, according to its latest financial results." (J. Boudreau, San Jose Mercury News, July 30)

## SHARP PARK SHARK

"A Bay Area fisherman has a good fish story to tell this week, and this one is more believable than most because it comes with a photo (top right). Andres Mendivil says he was fishing for striper around 8 p.m. July 20 when he snagged what he thinks was a great white shark. The catch happened about 100 yards south of the Pacifica Pier. Mendivil says a crowd gathered around to see the shark, which was about 4 feet long and between 40-50 pounds. He snapped off a few photos and then released the shark back into the ocean to the delight of the crowd who he says cheered seeing it frolic in the waves back out to sea. A spokeswoman for the California Department of Fish and Game confirmed that great white sharks do in fact live and swim along the coast and could make it to the shoreline looking for fish to eat. But that is where this fish tale gets a little fishy. We sent the photo of the shark to Carrie Wilson at Fish & Game who showed it around. People in her office determined the fish here is a salmon shark and not a great white because of the shape of the teeth and its size. Plus, they say great whites are already four feet long at birth. Wilson also cautioned that great white sharks are illegal to take or possess and anglers who do catch them, even accidentally, can be cited for holding the animal for even a short amount of time out of the water. If you catch one, you are supposed to leave it in the water and release it immediately. Wilson said one additional thing about the photo. She said it is dangerous to hold

a shark in your hands because a healthy shark is very strong and could easily bite as it defended itself. She added that this particular shark was probably close to death or it would have fought back more and not allowed itself to be held." (Lori Preuitt, NBC Bay Area, July 21)

## WORLD WIDE WEIRD

Outraged Chinese bloggers posted and tweeted horror stories, videos, and photos from the scene of the high-speed train wreck last week in eastern China. The democratic power of the Internet exposed corruption and incompetence in high places, including a government attempt to cover up evidence from the crash and silence critics. Chinese authorities now admit that major design flaws in the rail system's signals may have led to the accident, which killed several dozen passengers and injured many more.

## SWAMI SEZ

"Recycle your used batteries. Don't throw them in the trash. Secure them in a plastic bag and leave it on top of your blue Recology recycling bin." (The Energizer Bunny)

## BOOK OF THE WEEK

"At Home: A Short History of Private Life" by Bill Bryson (order from Florey's Book Co. on Palmetto in Sharp Park)

## SITeseer

- Help for freelancers and do-it-yourselfers: [diythemes.com](http://diythemes.com)
- Vital statistics worldwide: [timeanddate.com](http://timeanddate.com)
- How many words do you know? [testyourvocab.com](http://testyourvocab.com)

## NATURE BOY

Paul Donahue took this picture (right) of an unusual and brightly colored red and yellow wildflower on Rockaway Headlands. The flower is called Powdery Dudleya (*Dudleya farinosa*). See this and other Pacifica flora and fauna in full color on my Pacifica Riptide blog.

## MAYBURRITOVILLE

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Andres Mendivil caught this shark near the Pacifica Pier.



PHOTO BY PAUL DONAHUE

Powdery Dudleya (*Dudleya farinosa*), Rockaway Headlands