

# *The Signal Hoist*

Official Publication of the  
SANTA BARBARA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON  
A Unit of United States Power Squadrons Sail and Power Boating



**JANUARY 2016**

**Dedicated to Safe Boating Through Education**

Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron  
2810 Glendessary Lane  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2960

DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!!!



THE SIGNAL HOIST



# 2015 Calendar of Events



## January

7 Bridge and Member Meeting  
28 District 13 meeting

## February

13 (Sat) CHANGE OF  
WATCH DINNER  
High Sierra Restaurant.  
16-21 National Annual  
Meeting Cruise Orlando



## March

3 Bridge and Member meeting  
19 (Sat) SHIPS AND DIPS at the Harbor  
25 /26 ( Tentative) District 13 Spring Conference

*\*Cruise locations and dates are subject to weather conditions. Alternate locations and dates will be considered if weather interferes with a planned cruise.*

## Notice

“The Executive Committee and Member Monthly Business Meeting” Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron meets the first Thursday of the month at the **Waterfront Classroom** at 1930. District 13 Council Meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of each month, except during March, October and December, **at Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club, 211 W. 22nd Street, San Pedro, CA** Take the 110 Fwy. South to the Vincent Thomas Bridge/Terminal Island exit. Get in the right lane and take Harbor Blvd. Exit. Turn right on Harbor Blvd. And right on 22nd St. CBYC is the bldg. Past the 22nd St. Landing Restaurant. All Squadron Bridge officers are urged to attend. Squadron members are welcome to participate in District 13 activities. Ride sharing is available.

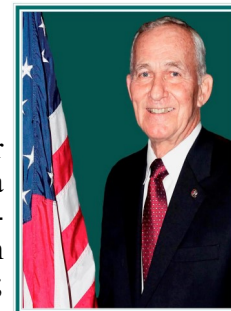
Contact, Cdr. Neil Ablitt, P. @ 805-682-4596

## JANUARY COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr. Neil Ablitt, P.

### Sorry about the parking.

Cafe Stella proved to be a great venue, but I never thought to check the parking and some of you had a long uphill walk. Again, I apologize, but that was nothing compared to what I did to Mike Pyzel. I told him the wrong date for the party. Sorry Mike and Pamela; we missed you both and you missed a good party. I'll try and make it up at the Change of Watch.



Cdr. Neil Ablitt, P.

Other than that, I cannot think of too many other disasters throughout the year. We've had a few good times on and off the water. Actually, come to think of it, the first cruise to Shark's Cove didn't exactly go as planned. The weather was the pits, but a number of our tougher members actually raced around the platforms, in spite of conditions! Conditions that forced Sue and I back to the slip and plan B - drinks and finger food on board Seagoe's m/v Sea Geor for warmth and nourishment to drown our sorrows in the harbor. Next year weather will rule supreme.

And, speaking of next year, the next Bridge meeting is January 7, 2016. Did you ever think that date would arrive so soon? Hope to see you there. We'll talk about more island trips, Ciolinos in Mexico, the Spring Conference which SBSPS will be hosting in Simi Valley and the Reagan museum. A bunch of fun stuff. And, oh yeah, Brent and Basha Millhollen were the winners of 5 nights in La Paz. Lucky them. And, they love La Paz. **A fitting end to a great year!**

## JANUARY 2016 SAFETY TIP BY P/C MARCIA ROWLAND, JN



Colliding with an object, boat, fixed dock or sandbar can stop the boat suddenly and throw people about, causing injuries ranging from contusions, abrasions and fractures to concussions and worse. Always know your boat's location and the water depth.



Watch for hazards, and prepare to avoid them. Use charts, maps, radar or sonar and previous knowledge. If you lack information about an area, slow down or stop, reassess the situation, and if necessary, radio for help. The U.S Guard, Tow Boat US, Sea Tow, Harbormasters and anglers have a wealth of local area information.



SEO January 2016 Newsletter  
P/C John Profant, SN. SEO

P/C John Profant, SN

We have a New Year coming upon us and it looks like we will be starting off with a class on Seamanship. There is a new manual for this course so I'll be looking to offer this course around the third week of January. It will take place at the Waterfront Classroom on Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. This nine-week course is applicable to both power and sail, covering such topics as the construction and functioning of a boat, the skipper's responsibilities, preparing the boat for use, handling and maneuvering a vessel under various conditions in close quarters and on the open water, rules of the road, anchoring, emergencies, and marlinspike/basic knots. The price of the course is \$75 and includes the text, a knot practice board and the "One Minute Guide to the Nautical Rules of The Road" by Charlie Wing.

It is a new year, which means it is time to get your Vessel Safety Check done. I should be getting new stickers shortly, so just let me know if you would like to have it done and I'll get it scheduled.

I am still looking for Instructors. When I get more I'll start scheduling more courses. So far, I have people who are willing to teach Marine Communications and Cruise Planning. I need someone to put on the America's Boating Course, so let me know if you are willing to do it.

My contact information is [johnprofant@cox.net](mailto:johnprofant@cox.net), or (805) 455-9173.

## THE 30TH PARADE OF LIGHTS

*Submitted by Peter J. Segoe, P*

The 30th annual Parade of lights was held on a beautiful, clear and pleasant 6 December 2015 with 25 to 30 entrants in 5 categories. The theme was a "Red, White and Blue Christmas".

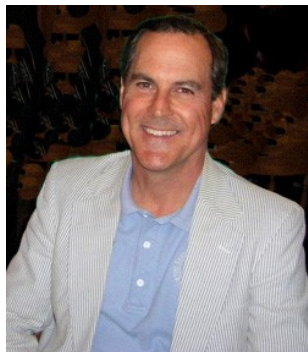


As a nod to our military service on the eve of the Bombing of Pearl Harbor anniversary and with the post parade awards dinner at the Veterans Hall, the Seagoes went with the theme of "It would be a Blue Christmas without your service". Sea Goer was decorated with a 12-foot tall red, white and blue Christmas tree, lots of candy canes, a flag waving Santa and a spot lit flag. We also had a karaoke style sing along to "A Blue Christmas" parade ground, (Elvis/Andy Williams). After a rather hectic 2 day decorating schedule the last touches went on while Pete attended the mandatory skippers meeting at 15:00. With the crew arriving just before the departure time of 17:00 and a smooth ride to the parade ground we were rewarded with a most spectacular sunset. Our parade and docking went off without a hitch and we were secure and shipshape in time for a colorful fireworks display. After a short walk to the Veterans Hall, (or Santa Barbara Veterans Memorial Building) we were serenaded by a lovely youth choir and enjoyed dinner supplied by the good folks at The Endless Summer. It turned out that all the work paid off and we were luck enough to take 2nd place in the power category. The boat that took first was also awarded "best in show". And a good time was had by all. Thank you to the Squadron for the encouragement and support.

**Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year  
to all  
from the Sea Goer**







## NEWS FROM OUR SAILORS

Submitted by Dennis Johns, AP

S.V. Libertad currently sits in a slip in Marina Lanzarote, Canary Islands. She's probably quite lonely now as the first wave of 50 Atlantic Odyssey rally boats (<http://cornellsailing.com/sail-the-odyssey/atlantic-odyssey/>) left on November 18; and most of the 20-boat second wave (of which we are a part) have left Lanzarote and are either exploring the rest of the islands or have arrived

at our departure point of Santa Cruz Marina on the island of Tenerife.

The first boat of the first wave (a catamaran) arrived in Martinique (the rally's landfall) after a fifteen-day passage. We don't hope to match that time, but the good news is the first wave had a rather uneventful journey with plenty of SE trade wind making the passage fast and comfortable -in contrast, last year the first wave had anything but a pleasant passage. So, as January is supposed to be even better than November, weather-wise, we are encouraged by the experience of this first group.

Having crossed the Pacific with just the two of us, Virginia and I decided that we would add another crew member to reduce the stress of a two-person watch schedule. Last October, a crew call went out to friends and family. We were pleased to receive four volunteers, however, now we had the daunting task of having to select only one of them. Dennis as-

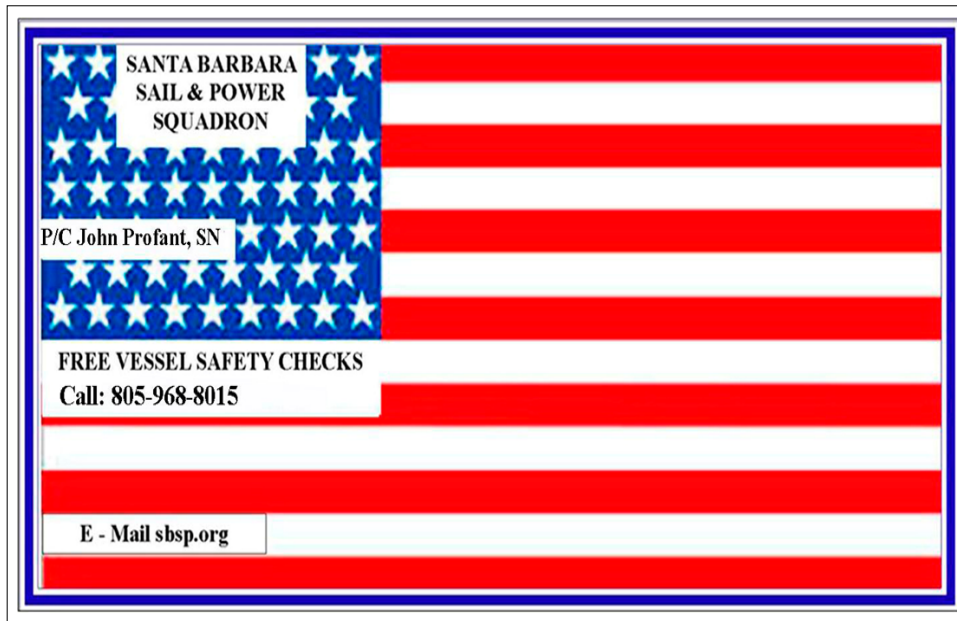
assembled a list of 'interview' questions which was meant to somehow rate the volunteers. After four interviews, Dennis was no closer to selecting one of them as the responses made them all welcome additions to the boat.

Fate came to his rescue -somewhat. Shortly after the interviews, two of the volunteers were faced with conflicts during the three weeks and had to decline. The remaining two were very enthusiastic about the opportunity and had no personal or work-related deterrents. After discussing the situation, Virginia and I decided that adding two crew members would be the best solution. So joining us across the Atlantic will be Steve Young, who has crewed on Libertad previously on a Baja Ha Ha and James Hirsch, a relatively new squadron member, who has sailed coastal waters and is seeking blue water experience.

We will be assigned a GPS tracker by the Atlantic Odyssey organization and anyone interested in our progress across the pond, you will be able to follow us online beginning on January 10 at the Atlantic Odyssey website:

<http://cornellsailing.com/sail-the-odyssey/atlantic-odyssey/rallies-2015-16/track-boats/>

(We have been advised by previous users of these GPS trackers that the tracking can be in error, so if you see an unusual course change, you can confirm our progress on our blogsite (<http://www.sailblogs.com/member/sb-johns/>) which has been accurate for the last five years.)





## ***'TIS THE SEASON!***

***Submitted by Janis Johnson  
& Eleanor York***



The Holiday Party at Le Cafe Stella was a resounding success with 50 members participating! The holiday spirit and cheer quickly grew as we shared boating stories and caught up with friends. We had several mem-

bers attending who were new to the Squadron this year and we enjoyed having them there.

The highpoint of the evening was our Commander's creative and very funny slide presentation honoring Don Crowder for earning 56 Merit Marks throughout his more than 60 years of USPS membership and support! Neil Ablitt cleverly highlighted Don's service during the administration of every President since Eisenhower. . .up to, and including, Obama. Laughter ensued, when Inge Crowder insisted that she had earned half the Marks (*and she received a Certificate for that, as well!*)! Others, including Pete and Suzette Seagoe and Ron Slocum, assisted with the roasting (*ahem. . .recognition*) of Don Crowder, before he was presented with the beautiful crystal Sailboat Trophy for "*Many Moments Meticulous Making Merit Marks Magically Materialize.*" With humble acceptance for this award Don said, "The Squadron has given to me much more than I have given to the Squadron."

Past Commanders Dick and Marcia Rowland were recognized for becoming Life Members this year, with 25 merit marks each; and for having performed *hours and hours of work for the Squadron*. Presenter Betty Koch said she knew the exact number of hours because Tom had relatives who worked for the National Security Agency (NSA), and she asked them to check discreetly on the last 25 years of Rowlands' phone conversations to see how many times they had mentioned the word "squadron" – which in turn went through a complex computer program that came up with the exact number of hours they were working on squadron stuff – *some 3,374 hours and 40 minutes to be exact!* On behalf of SBSPS, Betty (*who also became a Life Member with 25 Merit Marks this year*) presented the Rowlands with the most fitting CLOCK trophy. . .so that they can now "time their own hours, rather than be timed by the NSA!"

Also, the Squadron lauded Will and Doris Swalling for 15 years of dedicated effort in preparing and publishing the monthly *Signal Hoist*, and for being responsible for winning the prestigious Duncan Gleason Award for Excellence for the SBSPS.

The spirited holiday program at Café Stella was rounded out with a recap given by Dennis and Virginia Johns of their sailing adventures – with their boat now in the Canary Islands and heading next to the Mediterranean – in their year four of a planned three-year 'round-the-world cruise. Finally, the evening was wrapped up and tied with a bow when Basha and Brent Millhollen won the drawing for a five-day stay at Club El Moro in La Paz, Mexico. . .***Congratulations!!***

***Happy New Year to All SBSPS Members!!!***

***Eleanor York and Janis Johnson Activity Coordinators***



***Save the Date.*** Our next event will be the annual Change-of-Watch Dinner at 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 13, 2016. This year it will be held at a new restaurant that has just opened - High Sierra Grill in Goleta. High Sierra Grill is located in the building formerly housing the Elephant Bar Restaurant, which has been completely gutted and remodeled. This will be an excellent opportunity to

see this new restaurant, which also has plenty of parking!!

***More information to follow shortly.***







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## News from the *ECCO BELLA* Submitted by Lt. Peggy Ciolino, S

Here is an excerpt from the Ciolino Blog ([www.sailblogs/member/eccobella](http://www.sailblogs/member/eccobella)) describing our time in San Blas, Mexico. Peggy Ciolino

### Saturday, December 12

The general word about San Blas, from what I've gathered, is more negative than positive because of the bugs. And with my hundreds of mosquito bites — maybe a slight exaggeration, but all my itchy bites are pretty annoying and unsightly — I still am very glad we stopped here.



The current excitement is another sailboat docking at this marina.

The boat just ran aground, even though the tide is supposed to be pretty high right now. It somehow maneuvered off the bar that it was stuck on and just made it to the dock. So now, there are three boats from the Ha Ha here along with two other sailboats. I think that most of us are on the same track and will be leaving tomorrow morning for ports south. We are planning on stopping in Chacala, a nice anchorage with a small village, for several nights before going on to La Cruz.

Going back to where I left off last time, the barracuda was delicious!! We barbecued it and it was very light and flaky. The next day after having barracuda, we walked to "La Contaduría," the old counting house and fort. It isn't far, and overlooks the town and bay. From the moment we arrived, the mosquitos were everywhere and after me. "La Contaduría" consists of some beautiful old stone buildings, including an old church. We walked up a long driveway that is being redone, into the main building and began talking to a docent there. He only spoke Spanish! He told us that he had been to Miami and other cities in the U.S. playing his guitar in shows and on TV and then he went over and picked up his guitar, which had been on a stand, and started singing to us. We talked for a long time afterwards and it was wonderful, because he didn't speak any English and I got to practice for at least 20 minutes!! I really think he probably could speak English, but chose not to, I think, out of a sense of pride. Many people that I talk to here are very proud of the history of San Blas as a major Spanish port in the 18th century, where Father Serra stopped as he worked his way up into Alta California. They also are proud of their language and are appreciative of those who speak Spanish. The docent finished off our time together with a song about "Ricardo and Margarita" — about a sailor looking for his love — at least I think that is what it was about!!

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We finally left, and walked back down the hill and onto the street that we had come on. It was lunchtime, and on this street there are palapa after palapa where they are selling dorado, longista (small lobster), and various other grilled fish. Richard picked one he thought looked good and we had a longista lunch — very good!! We continued on our way until we got to a woman selling oysters. We had tried some on our way to “La Contaduría,” and wanted to get some more. We bought a half-dozen, but she didn’t have change. This seems to be a constant problem here. Many of the merchants where we’ve bought things, have had to go next door or down the block for change for a bill as small as 100 pesos (about \$6). The woman was going to send her daughter up the street to buy something to get some change, so I volunteered to do that instead and we were able to pay for our oysters. Unfortunately, we thought we could open them when we got to the boat, but these oysters have a different kind of shell than those that we get at home and they were nearly impossible to open and we only had 3 out of the 6. They were delicious though.

Yesterday, we went shopping for provisions for our trip to Chacala and then on to La Cruz. The grocery store is pretty big, but not too good. It has no produce, meats or fish. I wanted to buy some shrimp and I found someone on the street selling them, that were on ice and had no flies on them, so we bought some. I found a produce market and found many vegetables. The owner spoke with us for awhile and told us that he sells everything. He has other stores where he sells appliances at very cheap prices to people who can’t afford much. He also said he sells real estate. I imagine he’s not unlike many families here, who scrounge a living from as many sources as possible. While we were standing there, several people bought things and he wrote down what they bought and the cost on a pad of paper — running a tab!! From him, we found where to go to get some meat. At this tienda, the butcher was at the rear. When I asked for ground meat, he brought out a side of a cow, put it on the slicer, and sliced a piece of meat, which he said was top sirloin. Then he put it through his grinder for me.

Last night we went to dinner at the San Blas Social Club, or what I call Rick’s Place, because it reminds us of the movie Casablanca - and the owner is from Brooklyn and actually resembles Humphrey Bogart. An American meal of a pork chop with apples, mashed potatoes and spinach tasted good for a change. Richard had a nice plate of



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## SANTA BARBARA SAIL and POWER SQUADRON 28 December 2015

To Lt/C Betty Koch, P

Secretary Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

From: Nominating Committee

Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

Recommended for 2016 -2017 Bridge Officers

For Election at upcoming Change of Watch. Friday, February 13, 2016

<b>Commander</b>	P/Lt/C Neil Ablitt,	P	
<b>Executive Officer</b>	P/Lt/C Steve Young,	SN	
<b>Educational Officer</b>	P/C John Profant,	SN	
<b>Asst. SEO.</b>	Mike Pyzel		
<b>Administrative Officer</b>	Duane Felender,		
<b>Secretary</b>	Lt Ronald C. Slocum,	AP	
<b>Treasurer</b>	P/Lt/C Steve York,	S	1 Year
<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>	LT. Peter Segoe,	P	2 Years
<b>Members at Large</b>	Brent Milhollen,	S	1 Year
	Sue Ablitt,	S	2 Years
	Janis Johnson,	S	3 Years
<b>Auditing Committee</b>	P/C Susan Hodges,	P	1 Year
	P/C Pernilla Hallstrom,	SN	2 Years
	P/C Richard Stull,	JN	3 Years
<b>Rules Committee</b>	P/C Nils Lindman,	SN	1 Year
	P/C Merle Blasjo,	N	2 Years
	P/D/C Don Crowder,	SN	3 Years
<b>Nominating Committee</b>	D/Lt/C Llad Phillips,	SN	1 Year
<b>For 2016 – 2017</b>	P/C Richard Ciolino,	JN	2 Years
	P/C Marcia Rowland,	JN	3 Years

### Nominating Committee 2016 - 2017

D/Lt./C Llad Phillips, SN

P/C Rich Ciolino, JN

P/C Marcia Rowland, JN

*Llad Phillips*  
*Richard Ciolino*  
*Marcia Rowland*

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# The Fishing Corner

Adapting to changes is the key to good fishing in late December and into the new year. As December winds down, anglers have a chance to load up on quality reds (vermillion), copper rockfish (chucklehead) and other rockfish as well as big burly lingcod throughout SoCal. Head out armed with double dropper loop rigs, weights from 5 ounces to one pound and a variety of live and frozen baits including squid, anchovies, shrimp and the surprise bait... chicken skin (fish love it).

The best bet for great fishing is the Channel Islands. Santa Rosa and San Miguel islands are home to Jurassic fish which don't get fished regularly due to distance and prevailing winds. During December we enjoy some long periods of Santana winds from the east, which calm the waters and make it possible to target the biggest rockfish most anglers have ever seen. Plan a trip out of Santa Barbara Harbor, Ventura Harbor or Channel islands Harbor to make a long run to the west end of the Channel Islands chain.

As the new year begins, we have limited options for keeping fish. Permissible targets include calico bass, sand bass, spotted bay bass, white seabass, yellowtail, halibut, sole, sand dabs and all members of the tuna family (bonito and mackerel are sometimes caught locally during the winter months).

Local anglers sometimes have good success with calico bass during the early winter season. Water temps have not yet plummeted (especially in the El Nino year) and the fish still feed actively. December calico action was good overall and the good fortune should continue into early January. Just remember the golden rule of wintertime calico fishing; "fish low and slow". The bass are a bit more lethargic than they are during the warmer part of the year and it is necessary to tickle their noses with baits a little lower in the water column and a little longer before they decide to strike

*Monster reds like this one are favored features of wintertime fishing on the Santa Barbara Channel.*

By: Capt. David Bacon



## Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron 2014 - 2015 Executive Committee

<b>Commander</b>	Cdr. Neil Ablitt, P	682-4596
<b>Executive Officer</b>	P/D/C Don Crowder, SN	966-5775
<b>Educational Officer</b>	P/C John Profant, SN	968-8015
<b>Asst. SEO.</b>	P/DEO Thomas Koch, SN	968-5568
<b>Administrative Officer</b>	Lt/C Duane Felender, S	452-8868
<b>Secretary</b>	Lt/C Betty Koch, P	968-5568
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lt/C Steve York, S	569-5040
<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>	Lt. Peter Seagoe	967-4468

<b>Immediate Past Cdr.</b>	Marcia Rowland, JN	967-7190
<b>Members at Large</b>	P/Lt/C Ron Slocum, AP	
	P/Lt/C Steve Young, JN	
	Brent Milhollen, S	

The SIGNAL HOIST is the official publication of the SANTA BARBARA SAIL & POWER SQUADRON. Articles of interest to the membership should be forwarded in writing to the Editor by the 20th of the month in order to be published in the next issue. We solicit the submission of your articles on safety, cruising stories and member and boating photographs. We encourage articles by our members. Send us your true or tall tales. Articles, opinions and advertisements published herein do not necessarily reflect USPS policy nor endorsement unless so designated

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