



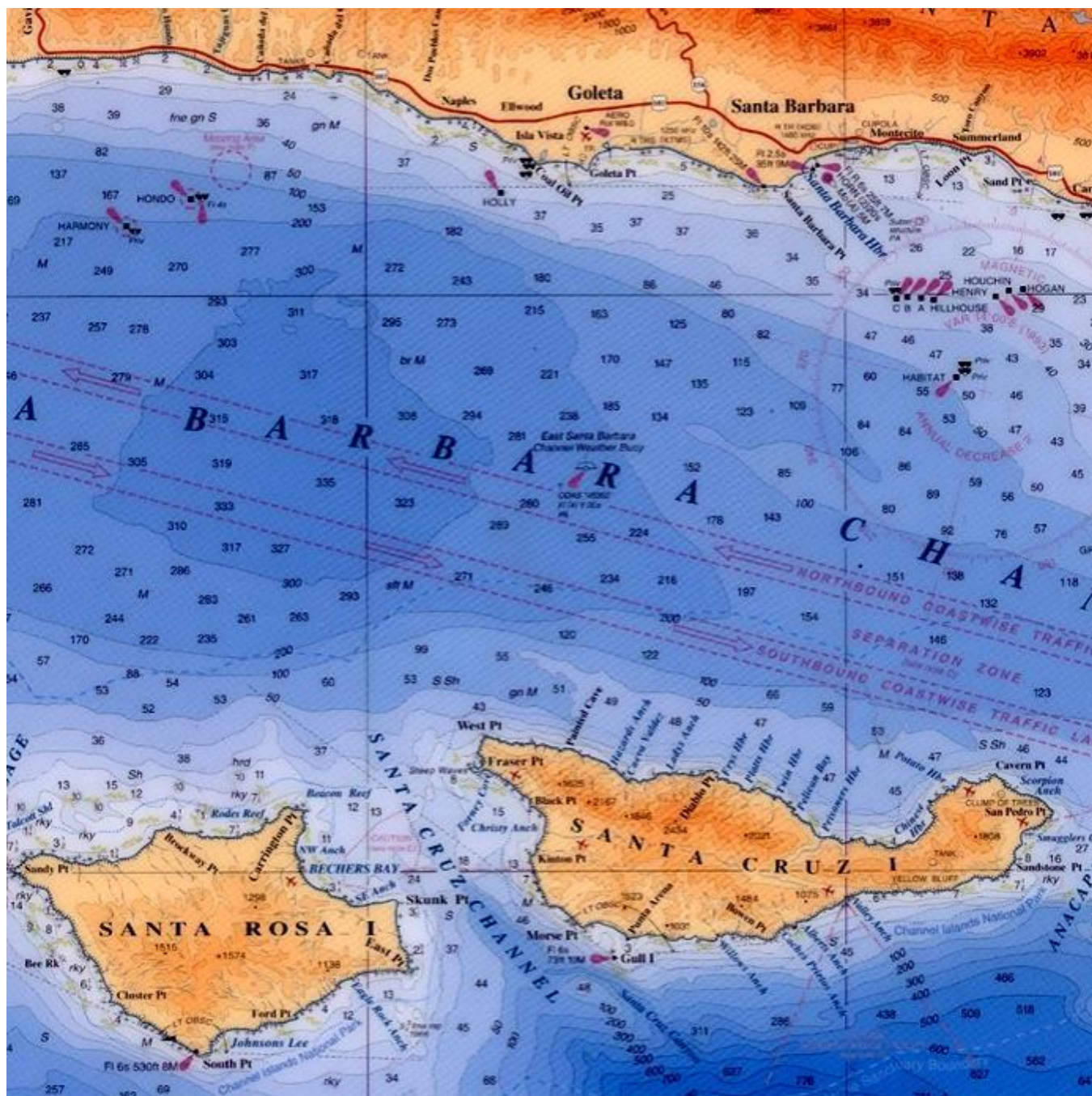
# Signal Hoist

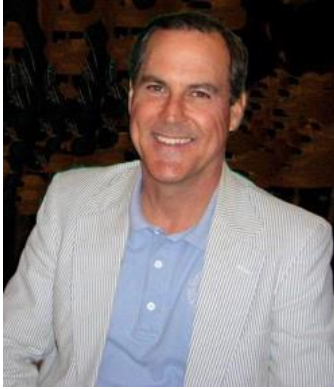


## Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

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United States Power Squadrons®

## Monthly Newsletter February 2020





## **COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

**Cdr. Dennis Johns, AP**

Our squadron used to have a tradition of retiring a past Commander to the status of a Tomcod, which is a type of catfish considered not good for much. Based on recent history, it's not hard to understand why that tradition is no longer practiced. Our past Commanders do not sink to the bottom of the river and stay out of the flow of the currents. As I review the bridge of the last two years and the various committees, I see seven past commanders who are still involved with the workings of the squadron. I plan to add myself to that group and will continue to be active in the squadron's activities (not a difficult decision with Virginia assuming the position of Commander...).

We are not the first couple to have both spouses take on the role of Commander, but we are the first to have a direct succession. Therefore, I feel it my duty to assure the squadron that there is no threat of a dynasty forming. My son has his hands full with his family and will happily abdicate any responsibility to the squadron.

Over the last two years, the United States Power Squadron has seen some significant changes. Many squadrons have experienced a drastic loss of membership –some to the extent of having to dissolve. There are a variety of reasons for this, so it's hard to know how to reverse the trend. USPS is trying to update its image to "America's Boating Club" and is following the lead of many other institutions of education by making instruction available online. These transitions will be a challenge for the individual squadrons to navigate and the task for our squadron will be to reinvent ourselves to adapt to this new environment. I'm of the opinion that there is still considerable value in classroom instruction and local experienced instructors that cannot be replaced by sitting in front of a computer screen.

Perhaps we also need to expand our social activities to events that will draw in a wider group of folks interested in what is happening to our coastline by partnering with local environmental organizations such as Heal the Ocean and Surfrider Foundation. We may be able to advance their interest into boating and taking advantage of our wonderful Channel Islands National Park.

Finally, the squadron may need to cast a wider net in terms of who we invite to engage participation. Our past events have for the most part been exclusive to squadron members. We know our events are fun, so why are we keeping it a secret? Opening

our dock parties to a wider audience may be the best way to deliver the message that we are a great group to associate with. Fortunately, I don't have to stick my neck out to try out any of these ideas as I'm history.

In conclusion, the last two years have really passed by very quickly and I am proud to say that the squadron has remained one of the most vibrant and active in our district through the efforts of my very supportive bridge. In passing the Commander's burgee, I wish the best for our incoming Commander and bridge and I will do whatever I can to keep this trend going.

### Upcoming Activities

<b>Feb 8</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	Change of Watch/Annual Awards (Betty Koch point person)	Mesa Café
<b>Mar 5</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	Monthly Meeting Speaker (to be announced)	SB Waterfront classroom
<b>Mar 14</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	Ships and Dips (Ron and Vicki Slocum point persons)	SB Harbor Marina
<b>Apr 18</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Spring Brunch and Business Mtg (Dennis Johns point person)	To be determined





## **ADMIN OFFICER'S MESSAGE**

**Lt/C Peggy Ciolino, P**

We've had several big events since the last Signal Hoist — the Mixer at the Museum and the Holiday Party at Mulligan's. Thank-you once again Virginia Johns for taking charge of the very popular Mixer. It was well-attended and it was great to get together with old as well as new members of the Squadron, along with members of the Santa Barbara Sailing Club. Betty Koch and I were point people for the Holiday Party — thank-you Betty — and I think you will see by the photos that Janis Johnson took, what a good time it was!! Thank you Janis! I look forward to seeing everyone at the Change of Watch, when new officers will be announced.

### **Change of Watch 2020-21 New Year Kick-off Celebration Installation of Officers and Awards Ceremony**



**Saturday 8 February 2020**

**7-9pm**

**Mesa Cafe  
1972 Cliff Drive**

**\$15**

**Dessert and Coffee**

**With No Host Bar**

**Send checks payable to SBSPS to:**

**Betty Koch**

**333 Old Mill Road, Space 278 , SB, CA 93110**

**Or call: 805-729-3386**

## SANTA BARBARA SAIL and POWER SQUADRON 9 January 2020

To: Lt/C Ronald Slocum, AP  
Secretary Santa Barbara Sail and Power Squadron

From: Nominating Committee  
Santa Barbara Sail and Power Squadron

Recommended for 2020-2021 Bridge Officers and Committees  
For Election at upcoming Change of Watch Saturday, February 8, 2020

<b>Commander</b>	Cdr. Virginia Johns	P	
<b>Executive Officer</b>	Lt/C Eric Peterson	AP	
<b>Educational Officer</b>	P/C John Profant	SN	
<b>Administrative Officer</b>	P/C Dennis Johns	AP	
<b>Secretary</b>	P/C Richard Ciolino	JN	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lt/C Steven York	P	
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Rachelle Swaim		
<b>Members at Large</b>	Janis Johnson	S	1 year
	P/Lt/C Betty Koch	P	2 years
	Peter Seago	P	3 years
<b>Auditing Committee</b>	P/C Tom Koch	SN	1 year
	P/Lt/C Steve Young	JN	2 years
	William Goodale	AP	3 years
<b>Rules Committee</b>	P/C Nils Lindman	SN	1 year
	P/C Richard Clolino	JN	2 years
	P/C Neil Ablitt	P	3 years
<b>Nominating Committee For 2020-2021</b>	P/C Susan Hodges	P	1 year
	P/C John Profant	SN	2 years
	P/C Dennis Johns	AP	3 years

### Nominating Committee 2019-2020

P/C Neil Ablitt, P \_\_\_\_\_

P/C Susan Hodges, P \_\_\_\_\_

P/C John Profant, SN \_\_\_\_\_



## **Treasurer's Message**

### **Lt/C Steve York, P**

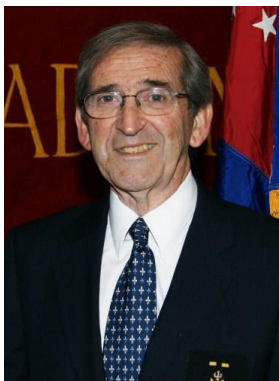
Now that we're into the new year, we have closed our financial records for 2019. The records and statements have been delivered to the Squadron Audit Committee members for detailed review and audit. The Audit Committee members are Bill Goodale, Tom Koch and Steve Young. Each of them has experience with our finances and has always had an eagle eye for any issues. Over the years they've also made suggestions to improve the handling of our financial records which has been much appreciated. I look forward to the results of the audit and their sign off by early February.

We started working with the Finance Committee in November on the budget for 2020 and finalized the draft budget late last month. The budget was presented to members at our Squadron meeting on January 9th and was approved at that time. Budget highlights include

- Education courses will continue to be priced to break even with our expenses
- Change of Watch, PCYC and Holiday events will be priced to break even
- Budget will include funds for decorations and favors at Holiday party
- Museum event will be funded again this year
- Ships Store will break even
- Dues for new members (1st year) will now include \$20 fee charged by National - total \$97 for single and \$145 for family

Steve York

310-408-7204



## **SEO's Message**

### **Lt/C Rich Ciolino, JN**

Welcome back from the holidays and a Happy New Year to all!

This is my final report as our Squadron Education Officer and I'd like to begin by saying it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve in this position for the last three years. For my final report I will try to summarize my 2019 reports by inserting key paragraphs from those reports [enclosed in brackets] and offering comments relative to that month's reporting. This past year was somewhat disappointing in terms of the number of courses offered and new members attracted when compared to the previous two years as we tried to navigate major changes in National's education approach. Given what we learned in 2019 about the new approach, and our educational team to be led by our new SEO John Profant, I believe we are poised to move ahead in 2020 as the primary educational resource for our boating community. What follows is my summary of our 2019 educational year:

#### **FEBRUARY 2019**

[The near-term plan for our class offerings is to offer another ABC class in February and then offer the new and revised Seamanship course, called Boat Handling, immediately after the ABC class. We will see if the low turnout of five in our last ABC offering (October to December 2018) was an anomaly or is it indicating a new normal, perhaps as boaters head to on-line sources or the California State course to qualify for their California Boater Card. The class will start on February 19.

The new Boat Handling course is an updated version of the old Seamanship course that covers anchoring, marlinspike, rules of the road, docking and undocking, emergencies on board, and handling your boat underway. Boat Handling is a good follow-on to the ABC class since some of the same topics covered in the ABC class are given much more attention and detail. Boat Handling is set up as a six-week class of six essentially independent seminars.]

Comment: The Boat Handling course was scheduled for early April based on National's release schedule, but alas, it was not available as they had planned. Of note is that it has finally been released as of January 2020, almost a year later than planned. National

also announced a complete revamping of the Advanced Courses and Seminars involving transitioning to a heavy dose of on-line teaching.

## MARCH 2019

[Our first ABC class of 2019 was set to begin on Tuesday February 26 but even though I had five phone call/email contacts from prospective students no-one showed up. Going into preparation for the class I was not too concerned because past experience showed that even more students show up than actually make contact, and about 15 contact tabs were taken from the advertising posters distributed throughout the harbor area indicating a good level of interest. So, the last two ABC classes have attracted only five students and we will look into how to address these results.

Our national education department is in the midst of implementing sweeping changes to curriculum and curriculum delivery methods in order to better serve today's boating public. Their plans (including the Boat Handling course) were discussed at the recently completed (February 23) National Meeting in Orlando, Florida, and made available to squadrons shortly afterwards.]

Comment: Before this lack of interest in our ABC classes was demonstrated, the classes had attracted many boaters that wanted to get their California Boater Card. But now, there are many other ways to obtain the card including our own USPS website and a free offering by the State of California that is available in the Harbor office – it includes a study booklet and a take-it-at-home test. These other options make it very easy for someone to obtain the card on their own timeline at minimal cost. It became evident that with the relative ease to obtain the card, and considering a better use of our teaching resources, we should forego offering the ABC class for the rest of the year. I have had a few calls asking if we have a class to get the card and I recommended they use either the Harbor office approach or go on-line.

## APRIL 2019

[I reported last month that our National education department is in the midst of implementing sweeping changes to curriculum and curriculum delivery methods. Here is a brief summary of what the plan is at this time: In order to better serve today's boating public (computer knowhow, busy schedules, convenience) National wants to create new avenues to access our educational content by offering on-line access to our courses, including advanced courses. It is going to take some time to implement this plan and it doesn't look like our traditional way of conducting classes will go away soon.

One of the first courses to be transitioned into this new technique is Seamanship. It has been renamed Boat Handling and National conducted a pilot run, without narrations, with several squadrons participating last fall. While Seamanship uses a traditional hard copy guide book the new Boat Handling course will only provide an e-book text for each student who will download the e-book using a special key. The plan for Boat Handling was to just update the pilot material and release it in the spring of this year, but that will be delayed since it's been decided to add the narration into the PowerPoint® as well



as incorporating comments from the pilot run. As a result of this, we have cancelled the Boat Handling course planned for an April 2 start, and replaced it with the traditional Seamanship course which will begin on May 7.]

Comment: With the cancellation of the Boat Handling class and its replacement with the traditional Seamanship course, we had to order new material and begin advertising the class resulting in some lost time. In order to fill in the schedule slippage we scheduled an Introduction to Navigation seminar for late April. The seminar was extended to two sessions instead of just one so that students could get a basic understanding of dead reckoning with some hands-on practice at chart plotting. Seamanship would begin on May 7.

#### MAY 2019

[Our two-session Introduction to Navigation seminar that covers chart usage and dead reckoning navigation with hands-on practice, and examples of electronic navigation techniques, got underway on April 23 with six students. The second session is on April 30. Cmdr Dennis Johns is supporting the class by helping students with chart plotting techniques and offering real-world commentary.]

#### JUNE 2019

[Our two-session Introduction to Navigation seminar that covers chart usage and dead reckoning navigation with hands-on practice, and examples of electronic navigation techniques, finished on April 30. We had six students participate and they all found their way home after the class. Seamanship class began on May 7 with six students, four of whom are new members. This course continues through June with a final exam on June 25.]

#### JULY 2019

[Our Seamanship class began on May 7 with six students, four of whom are new members. Another new member audited the last two sessions. Thanks to our instructors Tom Koch, John Profant, Dennis Johns, Ron Slocum, and Pete Seagoe for doing a great job.

In mid-May I received an inquiry from the leader of the local Boy Scouts of America Sea Scout program asking if we could do a short program for them on marine chart usage. After discussing it with our Commander Dennis Johns we decided to accept and use some of the material from our Introduction to Navigation seminar for a one-hour session. A meeting time was set up for Monday afternoon at 5:30 on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to be attended by about six youths, ages 13 – 17, and three adults. I made some changes to our presentation material and reduced it down to something that would fit into an approximately one-hour session including some time for some hands-on chart work. The kids seemed to enjoy the session and quickly picked up the technique for determining the Latitude and Longitude of a location on a nautical chart using a divider tool.

We'll be taking an educational hiatus for the summer but will resume classes in the fall. Enjoy your summer and go sailing.]

#### AUGUST 2019

[Continuing our educational hiatus for the summer with classes resuming in the Fall, so nothing else to report. Enjoy your summer and go boating.]

#### SEPTEMBER 2019

[Continuing our educational hiatus for the summer with classes resuming in the Fall, so nothing else to report. Enjoy the remaining summer time and go boating.]

#### OCTOBER 2019

[Our summer hiatus is officially over, although it's pretty much summer all year round here in Santa Barbara, and we have some new classes planned to fill out the rest of 2019. We're offering a series of seminars scheduled to begin about two weeks after the annual Harbor Seafood Festival where we have a booth and hopefully pick up a few more boaters that are interested in these particular classes.

The first seminar is an expanded version of the Partner in Command seminar that emphasizes the boating essentials of Boat Handling, Anchoring, Rules of the Road, Safety Equipment, Marine Radio Operation, and Handling Emergencies. It will be presented as three independent seminars over three 2-hour sessions from October 22 to November 5. The fourth seminar is a reprise of the Introduction to Navigation seminar given earlier this year and it will run for two 2-hour sessions, starting on November 12 and ending on November 19.]

#### NOVEMBER 2019

[Our Seminar Series that includes Partner in Command and Introduction to Navigation opened on October 22<sup>nd</sup> with 17 members and non-members registered. As mentioned in last month's report the Partner in Command seminar was expanded to three sessions finishing on Tuesday November 5. Introduction to Navigation begins on November 12 and runs for two weeks.]

FINAL COMMENTS: We had 19 students (split pretty evenly between members and non-members) take the three seminar Partner in Command seminar series, with each student taking all three seminars. Ten of these same students followed up with the Introduction to Navigation seminar with three members and seven non-members.

I was encouraged by the number of students we had for these seminars. Recall that one of National's approaches to develop better methods of reaching students in today's lifestyle environment is the use of the seminar format, and I think our experience with these enhanced and expanded seminars tends to bear this out. I believe, however, that there are some courses that don't lend themselves to a seminar style of teaching because there is a lot of material to cover and that material is difficult to make into independent seminars. Examples of such courses are Piloting, Marine Electrical

Systems, and Navigation. These will likely remain in our planned offerings quiver for some time to come in their current format. Furthermore, I think it is fair to say that National's rollout of new course material is moving slowly and our near-term planning need not vary greatly from our traditional offerings.

In closing, I'd like to thank our excellent teaching team of Tom Koch, John Profant, Dennis Johns, Ron Slocum, Neil Ablitt, Steve Young, Pete Seagoe. Steve Hodges, and Steve York for all of their teaching support and willingness to share their boating knowledge with our students over the last three years. Best wishes to them and our new SEO as we go forward.

Go boating and do it safely,

Rich

## Maritime Museum Mixer

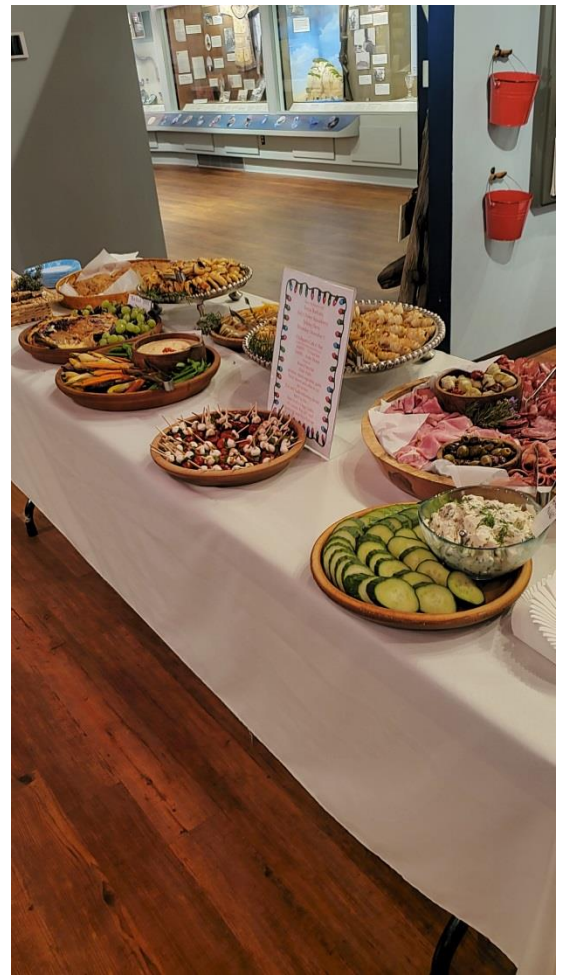
by Lt/C Virginia Johns, P



Our 4th annual Member Mixer at the Maritime Museum was well attended. For the second year, we were joined by the Santa Barbara Sailing Club and had seventy attendees.

We are so lucky to have this great museum in our harbor playground and are very grateful to the director Greg Gorga for allowing us to host our event there. We sipped on Pinot Noir (donated by Santa Barbara Winery) and a variety of white wines (donated by the Santa Barbara Sailing Club) and savored delicious appetizers provided by Kay Bowman's Distinctive Catering. We had a storytelling session during the evening. Mike Pyzel started us out with some of his true tales and we had no lack of volunteers to follow him.

My thanks to the event Committee which had representatives of both attending clubs (Andrea Bowdle, Cmdr Dennis Johns, Ken Fish, and Porter Spenser) and to all the folks that volunteered to take a turn at the reception desk or bar, set-up, or cleanup.















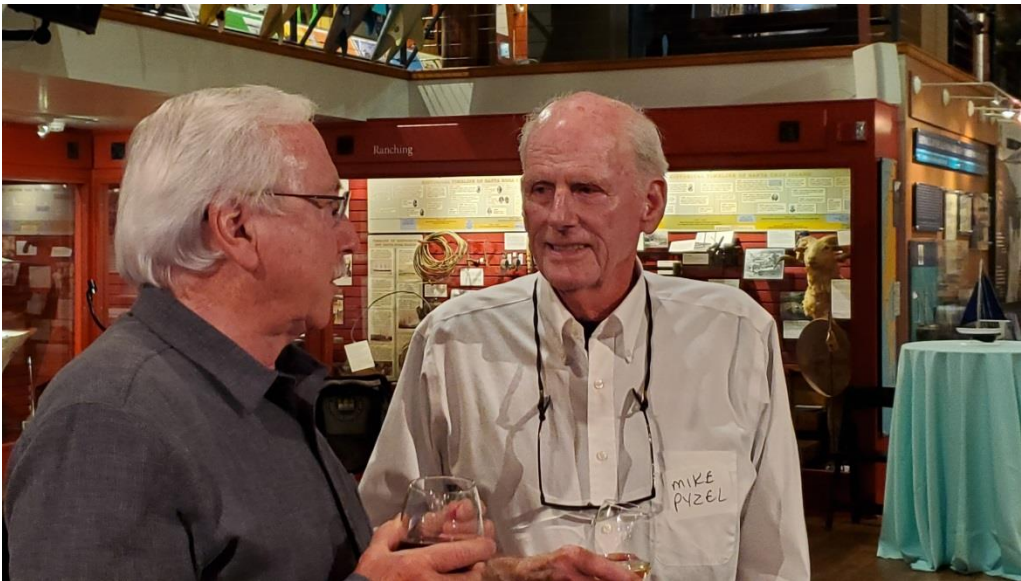








































## Holiday Party

by Peggy Ciolino, P

I was a bit anxious about switching our date of the Holiday Party from the night of the Parade of Lights to a weeknight and the venue from Moby Dick to Mulligans, but it all worked out well with a fun group of revelers and a delicious buffet provided by Mulligans. It was just great to start the season off with a chance to sit down and visit and play a few holiday games before the hectic events of the month began. Thank-you Betty Koch for helping with coordination of the venue and prizes.

































## DAN INSURANCE



Yet another update from USPS National about Dan insurance was sent to all members via email on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Here is an excerpt.

America's Boating Club has partnered with DAN Boater to offer safety and travel benefits to our members. Your new benefits include an emergency hotline, a nonemergency medical information line, worldwide medical evacuation, medical repatriation, search and rescue expenses, and much more. Visit [danboater.org/abc](http://danboater.org/abc) to get complete details on this valuable benefit program.

You can find details about all DAN Boater benefits, including coverage amounts, in the **DAN Boater Benefits Handbook**. If you have questions not answered in the handbook, call the DAN Boater Member Support Team at 919-490-2011.

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 via email to the Editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month in order to be included in the next issue. We solicit the submission of your articles on safety, boating, cruising, racing, and squadron activities. Accompanying relevant photos are appreciated. We encourage articles by our members. Send us your true or tall tales. Articles, opinions, and advertisements published herein do not necessarily reflect squadron policy or endorsement unless so designated.

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