



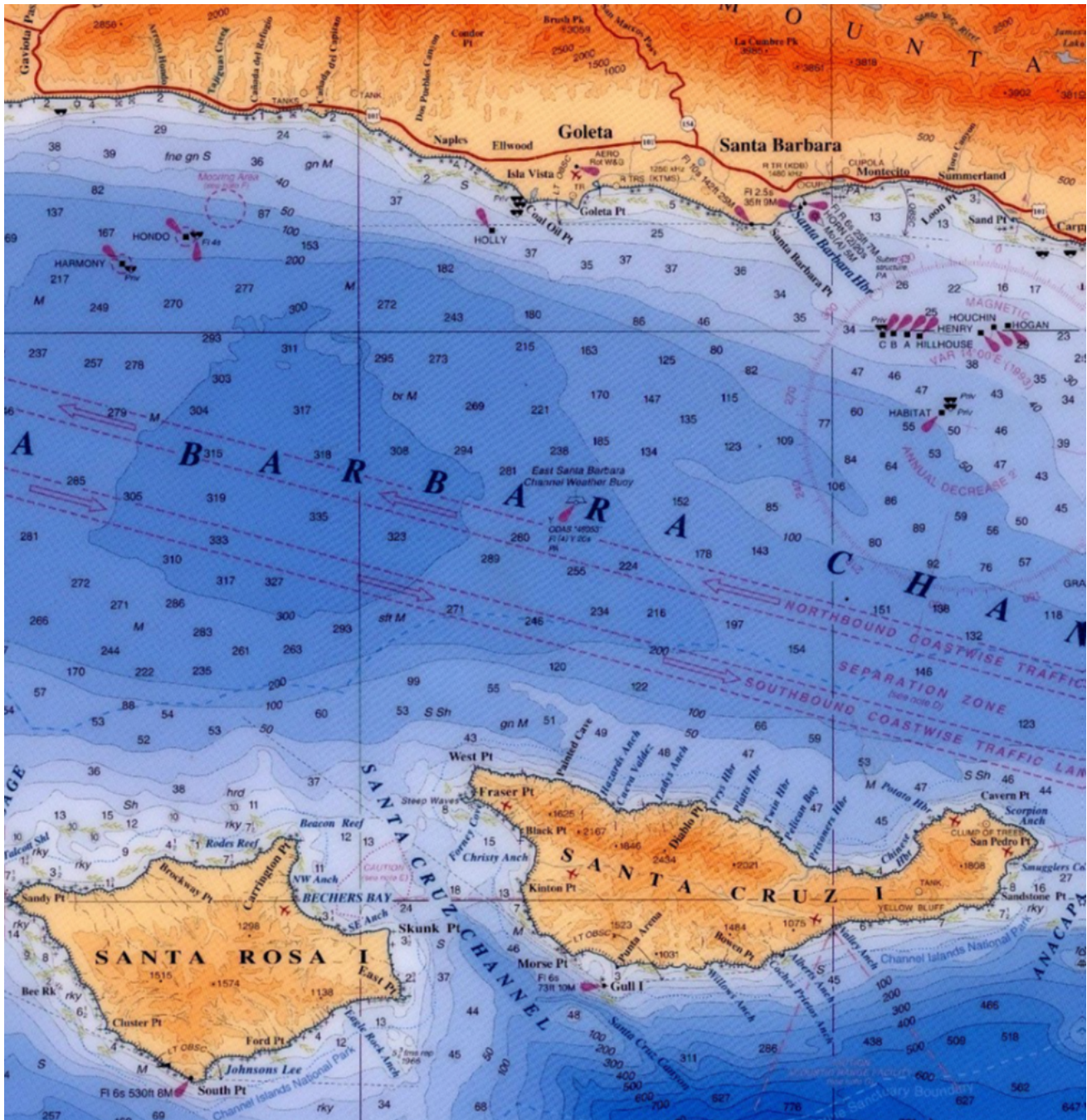
America's Boating Club® is a registered trademark of the United States Power Squadrons®

Signal Hoist



Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

Monthly Newsletter July 2020





COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr. Virginia Johns, P

The Squadron Bridge/Executive Committee had our June meeting remotely again via Zoom. We know it isn't safe yet to schedule our big social gatherings. We do however want to plan some productive and enjoyable activities for our members. We developed a plan:

Speakers and Classes

We would use Zoom to start up our monthly speaker meetings and classes. You will not have to come down to the Harbor classroom. We will bring these speakers and courses to you in the comfort of your own home where you will be able to see the presenter and all your squadron friends in attendance. We will be able to talk to the presenter and each other.

Zoom is an online chat tool. It does require you to use a computer, laptop, or tablet (like an ipad) that has a microphone and camera. But, it is easy to use without adding any software to your device. You would receive an email invitation to the event which includes a link. You simply click on the link and it will take you to the meeting. We will provide simple instructions and help for those of you not familiar with this tool.

On the Water Activities

Scott will continue to organize monthly weekend cruises out to our local islands.

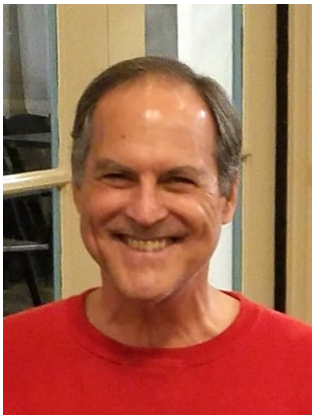
We have a day cruise on the calendar for August. We are considering adding a day trip out to Goleta Beach for anchor practice in July.

For these activities we will follow isolation routines. We would have to give up a few of our traditions such as inviting other members to join us on our boats and group meals. But we can keep each other company on the water, maintain radio contact even in the anchorage, and use our kayaks and dinghies (while keeping at a safe distance) for a group exploration of the area or assisting each other with anchor practice.

Feedback Please

We need your feedback on what you would find useful, enjoyable, and practical. I am preparing a short online survey to get your input on the above plans and your ideas for moving forward! I will send this to you via email.

I hope you are all well and that we will be learning and boating together again soon. Stay safe and stay connected



ADMIN OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Lt/C Dennis Johns, AP

Let's start with the good news. The June cruise to Pelican on Santa Cruz Island happened without a hitch. The bad news is that the squadron had only one boat (s/v Benchmark) participate. Scott reported that there were about ten boats in the anchorage so some boaters are venturing out of the harbor.

The bad news that PCYC will not be happening (the yacht club cannot yet accommodate large groups) may actually be good news for those of you who are ready to cruise. Good news because the July cruise to Santa Cruz is still on and now does not include the short bash back to Santa Barbara.

Your commander is proposing a day trip to Goleta Beach to practice anchoring and will be expecting input from you to put it on the calendar. There is also a suggestion to have an afternoon cruise to take a lap around an oil platform (if conditions allow). Let us know if you would be interested in participating in either of these activities.

Finally, the Santa Barbara Yacht Club has resumed their Monday Noon Forums. Not officially a squadron event, the forum is still a great activity that you can enjoy from the comfort of your home. Because the forum is

happening on Zoom, they are assembling very interesting speakers who are available from geographically distant locations which really widens the topics that they are able to present. Please reserve noon each Monday for the next few months to join us on this event provided by the yacht club.

If you are looking for more Zoom events, you might want to investigate the events that the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum are putting on (<https://sbmm.org/public-events/>).

Upcoming Activities

July 17-19

Fri-Sun

PCYC Cruise/Business Mtg: Channel Islands Harbor (point person Tom Koch)

The following event IS happening:

July 17-19

Fri-Sun

Island Cruise to Santa Cruz (point person Scott Burns)



Remember: 1st Lt Shelli Swaim will take orders for items at the Ship's Store — 895-6083, text or call.

Editor's Note: If you missed Shelli's article about her and her husband Jeff's experience contracting the covid-19, you can read her interesting article in this month's issue of National's publication, The Ensign.



SEO's MESSAGE

Lt/C John Profant, SN

Well, here we are. COVID-19 is still interrupting our activities. We checked with the Harbor Master regarding the classroom and it is still closed. Probably for a good reason. So, we are still entertaining various ideas of what we can do. I did do a sail trip to Little Scorpion on Santa Cruz Island with Neil Ablitt which gave me a real attitude adjustment. I'm ready to do more on the water.

I am getting more serious about doing a Boat Handling Course via ZOOM. This course is geared so that it can be done via ZOOM. The material is obtained by using a digital key to download from the America's Boating Club website eBook. The eBook cost is \$70. This course covers a practical approach to the Rules of the Road, knowledge on how to confidently handle your boat, how to anchor, and how to dock. It also covers some practical knots used in boating and what to do if you have an emergency on board.

I would like to find out who would be interested in taking this course via ZOOM. You can respond to me at johnprofant@cox.net. You need to be a member of the Squadron to take this course. If you are not a member it would cost \$97 or the whole family could join for \$145 for the membership.

That is all I have for now, hope to have more to report next month.

Father's Day Trip to Pelican Bay on Santa Cruz Island

by *S/V Benchmark* First Mate Lisa Burns

I overheard Scott talking on his cell as we motored out from the harbor on Friday. "Lisa's giving me what I wanted for Father's Day: a trip to the islands." He invited Zoe Burns, our niece from San Francisco, but being Covid cautious, I inquired about her health, and she allowed me to take her temperature. We kept social distance & wore masks in enclosed spaces like house & car, but in a cockpit with the wind & sea, we were free.

This was Zoe's first trip to the Channel Islands, which I describe as California's Galapagos. Leaving at 8AM, about a mile from the marina, four dolphins heading north performed synchronized leaps on our port side. A thick marine layer & glassy sea made for a smooth trip. The wind picked up mid-channel and we were able to cut the motor and sail for about 2 hours, averaging 5 knots. Another large pod of dolphins heading down the island's coastline greeted us as we arrived at Pelican's in time for lunch.





While we didn't see any other SBSPS boats, Pelican's had seven anchored as Scott threaded *S/V Benchmark* into the line up between a Pearson yawl from Ventura and the *Ottersea* from Santa Barbara. This number would ultimately swell to ten. Having a third person during anchoring chores is helpful, especially when putting out two anchors. I manned the helm, listening for instructions from the captain at the bow, and Zoe was at the stern anchor.



As we hoped, the skies above the island were clear and sunny. Scott prepared our new dingy. The previous shakedown cruise chronicled in last month's Signal Hoist paid off with a seamless experience this time. Zoe took off in the kayak, exploring both sides of the anchorage and landing at the cove to the east with its rocky beach. Scott & I took the dingy to my favorite scenic spot "Hole in the Wall." With the beautiful weather, we didn't want to waste a moment.

Upon both groups returning to *S/V Benchmark*, I took the dingy to explore the near shore sea life, seeing about a dozen Garibaldi, divided into two per rocky clump, defending their territories. The water was clear, like looking through a green glass soda pop bottle spotting moving sparks of bright orange amid the seagrass.



We've been to Santa Cruz many times, but taking a guest allowed us to see it with fresh eyes as we pointed out dolphins, sea lions, seabird varieties, fish, native plants, and historic features of past development, like the steps leading to a hotel used by movie studios when the island served as exotic



scenery for motion pictures. While taking a hike on overcast Saturday afternoon, we were happily surprised by a wild Island Fox scurrying up a cliff after checking out the rocky beach next to Pelican's for any treats left untended by kayakers. During the hike we saw numbered signposts keyed to interpretative trail guides with points of interest like the rare silver lotus plant. We woke up to a foggy Sunday, pulled anchor about 8AM, and had a

smooth motor sail home. We enjoyed a passing pod of dolphins as we approached Santa Barbara harbor. "Beginner's luck" I told Zoe; "You're welcome," she replied.



1 GOOD, 5 BETTER, 3 NEXT

Part 3

Neil Ablitt, P

When last we met we were in **Guerrero Negro** and if we were to continue on to **La Paz** on **MEX 1** we would traverse the peninsula three more times. First heading due east to **Santa Rosalia** on the **Sea of Cortez** and there turning south to Loreto where once again making a right and back across to the **Pacific** side at **Ciudad Constitution** (actually it's a few more miles on to **San Carlos** and **Magdalena Bay**). Then at **Constitution** south to **Santa Maria** making a left for the final crossing of the peninsula and arriving at the peaceful city of **La Paz** and her five marinas with world-class slips – not to mention million dollar condos, houses and golf course. But we're not going on **Mex 1**, we want to discover **Mex 5**.

We've been hearing about **5** for years, but the problem is all we hear are stories of bridges half built, many detours and sections still incomplete. It's supposed to be a faster route down the other (east) side of the peninsula. And whereas **1** has many twists and turns and goes through multiple communities **5** is straight with only one community of any size, **San Felipe**, about half way. On our last **Baja** trip in February we met a converted school bus with a number of young surfers from **Texas** saying they had come down on **5** and said it was open. That was the first time we had heard that. I was still not totally convinced, but in **Guerrero Negro** on the way back another couple from **Arizona** confirmed it.

Back on **1** about half way between **El Rosario** and **Guerrero Negro** is an intermittent lake. By that I mean **Lake Chapala** is only a lake when it rains, but when it is a lake, it's over a mile long and wide it can remain a lake for months. This, we discovered, is where **Mex 5** has finally connected with **Mex 1**. But in February we almost missed the turnoff as there was no road sign and in the misty rain the new asphalt looked like the desert. Apparently wind had blown the sign down and this final section had only been completed a few weeks earlier and there was as no stripping. But **Mex 5** was real and we would learn is a beautiful two and in places a four-lane highway straight through to **Mexicali** and the border. Whereas **1** along the **Pacific** has all the twists and turns and cities and towns, **5** is like driving on the **moon**. The landscape is flat and the most barren we've seen in all of **Mexico** and with few towns, but unlike the **moon** there are new signs offering ocean front lots for sale everywhere. With a new road, apparently come new opportunities, but for us the big question was which is the fastest route to **La Paz**? From **Santa Barbara** is it faster to go via **1** and **Tijuana**

or **5** and **Mexicali**? We planned to find out on a return trip in April, but unfortunately the **Corona** thing got in the way and we had to cancel the trip.



The great new better best MEX 5 — through moonlike terrain

In the meantime we'll ask google...

SB-Tijuana 3 hrs 40 minutes + **Tijuana-Laguna Chapala** 8 hrs. 20 min.
= total 12 hrs.

SB-Mexicali 5 hrs + **Mexicali-Laguna Chapala** 5 hrs. 50 min. = total 10
Hrs. 50 min.

Only a one hour ten minutes difference?

We doubt that and once **Corona** is out of the way we'll go back and determine for ourselves. Perhaps proving **Tech** can't always be right.

Oh yeah, driving on **5** we discovered **3**.

3 Next, next month.

To and From the Islands —Out and Back on Maude

Some trips are so perfect



Photos courtesy of Neil Ablitt, P



A Ship to Nowhere

From the *Daily Mail* Reporter, UK
Contributed by Mark Cooper, P

This ship was decommissioned in 1981 after nearly 50 years of service.



After being decommissioned, it was left to rust for four years before the front part of the ship was removed and perched on top of an 18-foot cliff above Lake Erie, to serve as a vacation home.





Looking across the bow, it seems that the boat is actually steaming - full speed ahead!



The ship still contains the beautiful wood-paneled state rooms, dining room and lounge designed by Henry Ford.



The ship was used by Henry Ford to travel across the Great Lakes. Thomas Edison was a frequent guest on this beautiful ship.

The present four-deck ship-house is 7,000 sq. ft., and includes walnut-paneled staterooms, a dining room with galley, and passenger lounge designed by Henry Ford for his personal use while on board.

The ship-house was then owned by Frank J. Sullivan, but after failing to turn it into a hotel in 1992, Sullivan auctioned the building to father and son Jerry and Bryan Kaspar, who still enjoy relaxing there while taking time off from work.

It has been modernized with a garage, a game room, a bar, a state-of-the-art kitchen, and four bathrooms.

The 90-year-old cargo ship is beautiful, as she sits overlooking her former waterways.



Visitors must be okay with heights if they take a tour onto the bow of the boat and see the water so far below.



This ship-home has maintained the historic and beautiful interior, which is updated with modern amenities.





Bryan Kaspar says: "Everyone who sees our home from the outside, wants to look inside. I think everyone who sees it is amazed at the gorgeous woodwork throughout our beautiful ship-home."

This impressive getaway includes five bedrooms, four bathrooms, a captain's office and living room with panoramic views across Lake Erie . "I love the deck on the fourth floor. It's a great place to enjoy a cocktail overlooking the lake and the nearby cliffs, and to watch the sunsets is amazing from there."





Videographer Nick James, who conducts tours of the home, says, "The most incredible part is standing at the helm with the way the boat hangs over the cliff. It actually feels like you're on the open water. I love the history that remains all around the Benson Ford."



"In the parlor, you can imagine Thomas Edison and Henry Ford sitting there puffing on their cigars. When you're there, it feels like you're stepping back in time, and that those two famed gentlemen could appear at any moment."

An incredible beauty of a long-ago ship, still available for water lovers to see.

>



2020 Fall Governing Board

Raleigh, North Carolina

The ABC Fall 2020 Governing Board Conference is scheduled for September 6—13, 2020 in Raleigh, North Carolina. The staff at ABC's national headquarters are of course closely monitoring the COVID situation and will adjust plans as necessary. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the Conference Newsletter.

Love a Good Mystery?



Call your friends and join us in Raleigh NC on September 10th for a fun, exciting, mysterious evening of dinner and fellowship at the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater. The dinner will be held at the National Fall Governing Board Meeting. We will be having lots of onsite and offsite activities in addition to meeting and communicating with other USPS/ABC members. Some of the other activities will include kayaking, touring our headquarters building, visiting the NC History and Science Museums, sampling the wonderful IPA beers in the area and afternoon tea. The Raleigh Hilton North Hills is



working with the National Meetings Committee to make this a very economical meeting for all attendees. The business of USPS/ABC is conducted by the various committees, but we encourage everyone to join in the fun and fellowship by attending the meals and tours (when available). Check out the meeting website for more details. https://www.usps.org/php/reservations_new/meetings.php?mtg_id=39 Everyone is invited to attend the meetings, meals and tours!

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 20th 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.

Editor:	Peggy Ciolino, P
Proofreader:	Lt/C Richard Ciolino, JN
Squadron Photographer:	Janis Johnson, S
SBSPS Website Manager:	Lt/C Steve York, P
	Lt/C Eric Peterson, AP
Website address:	<u>www.sbsps.net</u>