



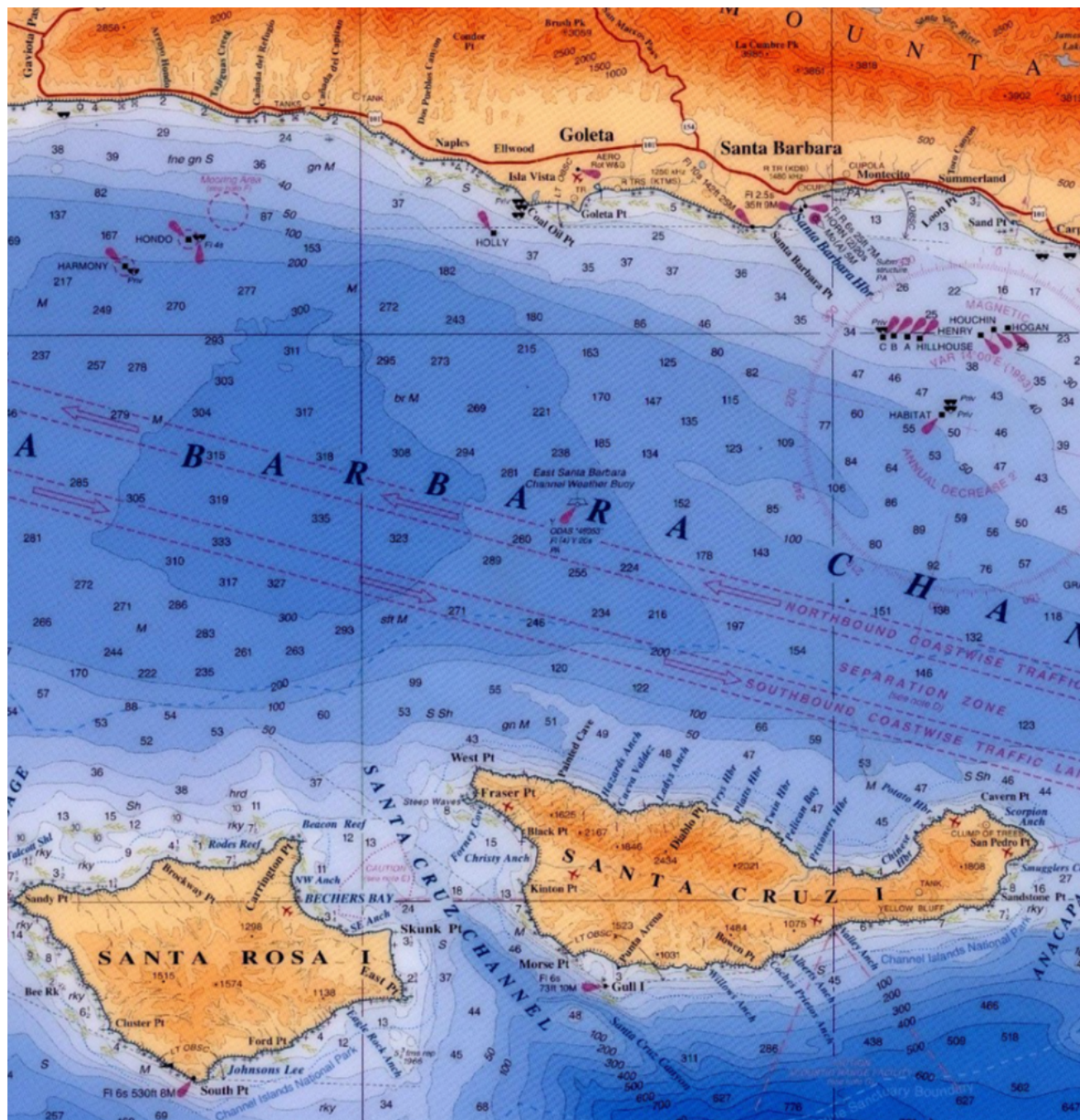
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Signal Hoist



Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

Monthly Newsletter April 2021





COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr. Virginia Johns, P

This past month we had a squadron business meeting on Thursday, March 5th (via zoom). We hold a business meeting once a quarter. **All members are welcome** to attend these. Each of the squadron officers present plans for the upcoming months for discussion. For instance, our main discussion items at the March meeting were moving forward with more zoom classes, adding online registration and payment features to our website for classes and other squadron events, and holding social events even while we are still stuck with virtual through zoom. Let me know if you want to attend and I will send you the zoom link. Remember, these are just once a quarter – the other monthly meetings are for Fun and Entertainment so you will definitely want to put those on your calendar!

March 25 was our District's Spring 2021 Virtual conference and Change of Watch. Three of our squadron members played a role or got special mention. Virginia Johns was installed as District Administrative Officer. Dennis Johns was asked to end the event with a home scavenger hunt - District Commander Ronnie Mann had served as the installing officer at our change of watch in February and enjoyed the scavenger hunt Dennis conducted there. And District Commander Ronnie Mann made the award of D13 Member of the Year to John Profant stating "John joined USPS Sept 1, 1989. He is a Life Member, a Vessel Safety Examiner and the Squadron Educational Officer. Due to Covid 19 restrictions in 2020, face to face classes were put on hold. John promoted safe boating by offering the Boat Handling course via Zoom. Attendees included members from Las Vegas and Ventura. Congratulations for a job well done."

Congratulations!

***John Profant received the District 13 Member
of the Year award.***

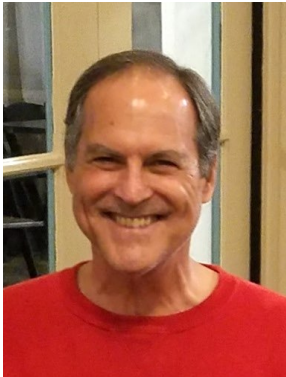
Normally in mid-April we would be gathering for our Spring Brunch, where our past squadron commanders serve us a delicious meal. We may not let them off the hook – hopefully we can have that event later in the year when we can gather in-person. Instead our mid-April event will be a virtual social called “Why I Love My Boat” on **Saturday, April 17 at 4pm**. Please send 5-10 pictures ASAP to Dennis that depict aspects of your boat that you love. He will put these together in a powerpoint presentation and then we will all gather on zoom to enjoy listening to the owners narrate the presentation. I am really looking forward to these virtual boat tours!

I want to acknowledge members who have joined us since March 2020. I am hoping they can attend the April 17 virtual Boat Tours event so we can all introduce ourselves and get to know them -

Melba is a Past Commander and active member of the Peralta Sail and Power Squadron (Alameda County, California). She has been living in Goleta for the past seven months and anticipates doing so for about another year.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--|
| • Nicholas | Sebastian | |
| • Ray J. | Benenate | |
| • Eleanor B. | Smith | |
| • Benson J. | Schade | |
| • Diana K. | O’Connell | Former member who reinstated after moving back to the area |
| • Bruce | Wagner | Former member who reinstated after moving back to the area |
| • Janine | Bordeaux | Formerly of Costa de Oro squadron |
| • Clark | Smith | Formerly of Costa de Oro squadron |
| • Melba | Hale | Melba will be joining us as a visiting member this year |

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ADMIN OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Lt/C Dennis Johns, AP

Please take a second look at the Activities Calendar for 2021 as there were a couple of important revisions noted last month –i.e. 1) The squadron Business Meetings now include an invitation to all members and 2) The Dockside Brunch date is Saturday, Oct 9 (NOT Sunday, Oct 10).

The Santa Barbara Yacht Club is possibly replacing the Harbor Department's event and is holding a parking lot Mariners' Swap Meet on April 10 from 8am to 11am. The list of vendors is limited to the members of the club but I presume anyone can walk into the parking lot to view or purchase items. Fortunately we have a squadron member who is also a member of the Yacht Club, John Profant, who has signed up as a vendor. He has agreed to list me as a guest and I have a big white van that can carry a ton of stuff to the swap meet if you want to make some space in your garage or boat. Keep in mind that all items are donations to the squadron if they are sold and they will be returned to you if they don't sell. If you have a specific price that you just can't part with an item without getting, you will need to mark that item as such. It will be easiest if you can contact me with a list of the items you will contribute, but I will have a notepad on hand to designate the contributor as I pick the items up.

Other than the swap meet and the April 17, Fun & Entertainment meeting, we don't have anything else going on in April. Therefore, I wish to use the rest of this article to relate a recent story with a moral for everyone. Having finally launched *Libertad*, I returned to the SB Boatyard office to collect the key to the companionway lock (they request they have a copy for security reasons). Ironically, their security is less than admirable as they reported it

missing. After two weeks, they had to report it lost. Knowing that a key to my boat was out there circulating with the name of the boat on a floating keychain, likely in someone's pocket, I made the decision to have the lock re-keyed. Removing the lock required little effort and a half an hour later I was at SB Locksmith's telling them my story and asking them to re-key it. Unfortunately, I found myself talking to a "keymaker" rather than an actual locksmith and upon hearing my story and realizing it was off a boat and not a "residential or commercial" lock, I was told that they couldn't deal with it and directed me to West Marine. Now in his defense, I must admit that the mechanism was probably pretty foreign-looking to him, but seriously, it's a cylinder lock that activates a sliding flat bolt and a cylinder lock is a cylinder lock. I held back laughing in his face, but just left shaking my head. After searching on the Internet for a replacement, I found several that would work but certainly not an exact match for my 40 year old boat. The closest one would cost about \$70 and have to ship from England. So with that as a last resort, I decided to try my hand at locksmithing. Having removed the lock from the bolt mechanism, I started disassembling the lock. To my dismay, parts flew in several directions and I could only find a few of them. But I had obtained the knowledge that the lock was basically just a lock and maybe could be reassembled and re-keyed. So off I went to Tri-County Locksmiths in Goleta with the miscellaneous pieces of my lock in a plastic bag. Relating my entire story to the guy at the counter, which at this point was rather long, he told me he'd take my lock to the "locksmith", Hector, in the next room and ask him what could be done. Hector came out and told me he'd have it ready for me in thirty minutes. I could wait or I could do an errand and come back. Thirty minutes later I was back in the shop and the counter-guy had my lock ready to go. Except, the original key was in it and he proudly announced that they had made me an extra key! Maybe my story was too long for him but I know I stated **RE-KEYED** several times. His facial expression revealed that he then remembered, and advised that they would re-key it but I'd have to come back tomorrow. The next day, I picked up my re-keyed lock, assembled it back onto the bolt mechanism and am ready to reinstall it the next time I'm down at the Ventura boatyard (if you want to know why *Libertad* is at the Ventura boatyard send me an email or call me). The moral of the story is never accept the information of the "counter-guy". Speak to the professional and even then a second opinion is always valuable.

Upcoming Activities

Sat, Apr 10
8:00 - 11:00AM

Mariners' Swap Meet
(Sponsored by Yacht Club)

Yacht Club
Lot

Sat, Apr 17
4:00 - 7:00PM

"Why I Love My Boat"

Zoom



SEO's MESSAGE

Lt/C John Profant, SN

As April approaches we are getting ready to offer the America's Boating Course starting at the end of April. As it is right now, it will be a four-week course via ZOOM on Tuesdays from 7 – 9pm, starting April 27th. The exam will need to be given in person, socially distanced with all the COVID safety precautions.

The exam would be tentatively on May 25th at a place to be determined. This is so we can meet the requirement of NASBLA for the state of California. Once you receive your certificate of completion you can mail a copy of it along with \$10 to the California Boating and Waterways and receive your Boater Card. As it is right now, anyone 40 years or younger needs a Boater Card to operate a recreational boat in California.

The course is being offered at a special rate of \$35. The first chapter is more of an introduction covering required safety equipment and the concept of boating. The second chapter gets into Navigation Rules and Aids, Lights and

Sound signals, and various regulations. The third chapter covers how to find your way, anchoring, Emergencies and Communication. The fourth chapter touches on Water Sports Safety, Trailing, PWC Operation and Knots. If you are interested in taking this course you should contact me as soon as possible. Right now, I have 20 student kits that can be delivered.

I am also ready to do Vessel Safety Checks. If you want to do that contact me so we can schedule an appointment.

Contact information is johnprofant@cox.net or (805) 455-9173.

USPS Educational Fund and Squadron Dues

Lt/C Steve York, P

We want to recognize Tom Koch SN for his significant personal donation this month to the USPS Educational Fund. The purpose of the United States Power Squadrons (USPS) Educational Fund is to promote the development and the furtherance of educational programs and techniques in boating, seamanship, navigation, engine maintenance, marine electronic equipment, sailing, weather, boating safety and other marine activities by issuing grants. Creating and updating courses we teach is one of their many activities. Our Squadron benefits from these by attracting new members and funding our activities. Tom's contribution is very much appreciated.

The Educational Fund accepts additional donations at any time. For more information about the fund and their activities, check out their website at <https://www.usps.org/national/edfund/>

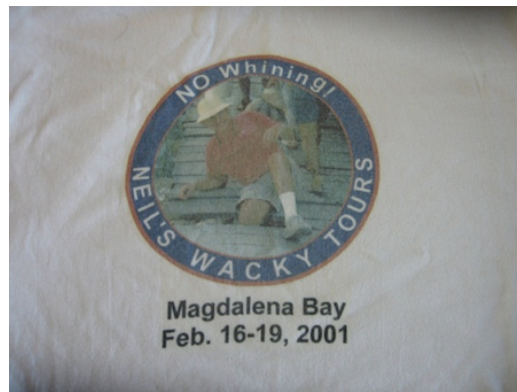
Through the end of May, members are contributing \$1 per year to the Educational Fund when they pay their membership dues to National USPS. Starting June 1st, this money will no longer be collected by National. Instead it will now be sent to the Fund by each Squadron. Your dues renewal will show the Squadron portion of the dues increasing by \$1 to \$12 for single members. The Squadron portion of family dues will increase from \$21 to \$22. In all cases the total amount of your dues invoice will be the same as before.

Memories while sheltering in place (continued)

R. Neil Ablitt, P

Mag Bay Whale Watching

In 2001 Sue and I thought it'd be fun to take a group of mostly SBSPS members back to Magdalena Bay to see the whales in February. Since we first sailed there in the early 90s we had been back many times and made a lot of friends. We wanted to make it special and we did. Vicki and Ron called it, "Neil's Wacky Tours" and made T shirts. And wacky (and fun) it was.



We arranged for accommodation on the island in palapas – nice ones – we even had sheets along with the bedding supplied for us. Not to mention a real porcelain outdoor toilet with a dedicated bucket of water for flushing. And, oh yes, we arranged perfect weather too.



Our hosts on the island were the Port Captain Gregorio Vidal and his wife Trini. Both had been our guests in Santa Barbara where they met many Squadron members at a welcoming party at the Ablitt House. So they were more than happy to see so many of their Santa Barbara friends on their own island. And Trini was a great cook and made sure no one went hungry.



You can't go whale watching without boats so we rounded up some of the more reliable looking pangas for our group, of which the locals were happy to share.



And then there was whale watching . . .



As well as a little touching . . .



We salute the whales . . .



And then hurry off for a snack . . .



And a bite to eat and some time to relax . . .



While reminiscing on a whale of a good time . . .



And thanking our lovely host family for their hospitality. . . .



Before

The evenings activities begin



Culminating in the traditional Squadron du-step two-step thanks to extra advance piloting



And a finally,

hasta la proxima vez Isla Magdalena





Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) recently posted this BoatUS notice about a new boat engine cutoff switch law that goes into effect April 1. It applies to boats less than 26 feet operating on plane or above displacement speed.

<https://www.rboc.org/national-issues/2021/3/15/boat-us-update-new-boat-engine-cutoff-switch-law-goes-into-effect-april-1>

Going aground is a situation we boater's try to avoid – but it happens. Many of you have probably been tracking the grounding of the freighter a week ago in the Suez Canal. It became lodged sideways across the canal, blocking all other traffic for the past week. As I write this, they have dredged under the freighter and are optimistic that tomorrow's spring tides will rise it to a level where it will float free again. Current status of m/v Ever Given can be seen here: <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/03/28/world/suez-canal-stuck-ship>

submitted by Cdr. Virginia Johns, P

Jargon: Educational Fund

Cdr. Virginia Johns, P

Our squadron has a tradition of donating \$1 per member to the USPS Educational Fund each year. You may be wondering how the Educational Fund uses these donations.

The purpose of the United States Power Squadron's (USPS) Educational Fund is to promote the development and the furtherance of educational programs and techniques **by issuing grants**.

Most grants are awarded for development of new boating-related educational programs. A few grants have been awarded to purchase specialized equipment for USPS Headquarters that is to be used to greatly improve the operations of educational programs (e.g., a high-speed CD duplicator). Grants are not awarded to support on-going programs or to purchase equipment for squadrons or districts. For a complete list of all grants that have been awarded since the USPS Educational Fund was established in the early 1970's, click on [Approved Grants](#).

The new America's Boating Club free Mobile App, which provides nautical reference information, a float plan tool, tide and current information, and other boating aids was supported by a grant from the Education Fund. Click on ABC Mobil app: <https://www.sbsps.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Mobile-App-flyer.pdf> Most recently, in response to the difficulties the squadrons faced in 2020 to offer in-person classes due to Covid restrictions, the Education Fund paid the costs of 20 text books for the ABC basic boating class for each squadron. This subsidized the costs of teaching the class, allowing the squadrons to recuperate lost revenues.

Educating boaters in skills that lead to safe boating is our main mission. We educate through our classes, speakers at our meetings, group on-the-water activities such as anchor practice and cruises to the islands, and social activities that encourage conversation among the members to share boating knowledge.





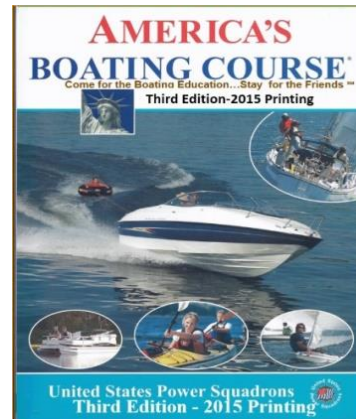
Get Your **California Boating Card** and Important Basic Boating Skills

The Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron (Your local chapter of the United States Power Squadrons - USPS) provides quality boating education courses, vessel safety checks, and social events. We are offering a virtual class on basic boating that will teach boating basics and safety for recreational boaters (sail, power, PWC, paddle etc.) to you and your crew. This course is accepted by states requiring NASBLA certification to operate a boat.

When fully implemented, California's Boating Card law will require all motor vessel operators to have a California Boating Card (CBC). As of January 1, 2021 the law applies to motor vessel operators 40 years old and younger. To obtain a CBC one must successfully complete a qualified boating course – our America's Boating Course is qualified by the State of California.

Course Covers:

- Safety Equipment
- Boating Operations
- Navigation Rules and Aids
- Lights and Sound Signals
- Anchoring
- Adverse Conditions
- Water Sports Safety
- Trailering
- Knots and Lines
- Federal and State Regulations
- Final Exam (5th week)



Schedule and Pricing:

The five session class will be held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday nights April 27 – May 25, 2021; 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Fee: \$35/person – Price includes "America's Boating Course" Study Guide. To register or more information contact – **John Profant (805) 455-9173 or johnprofant@cox.net**



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.

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