



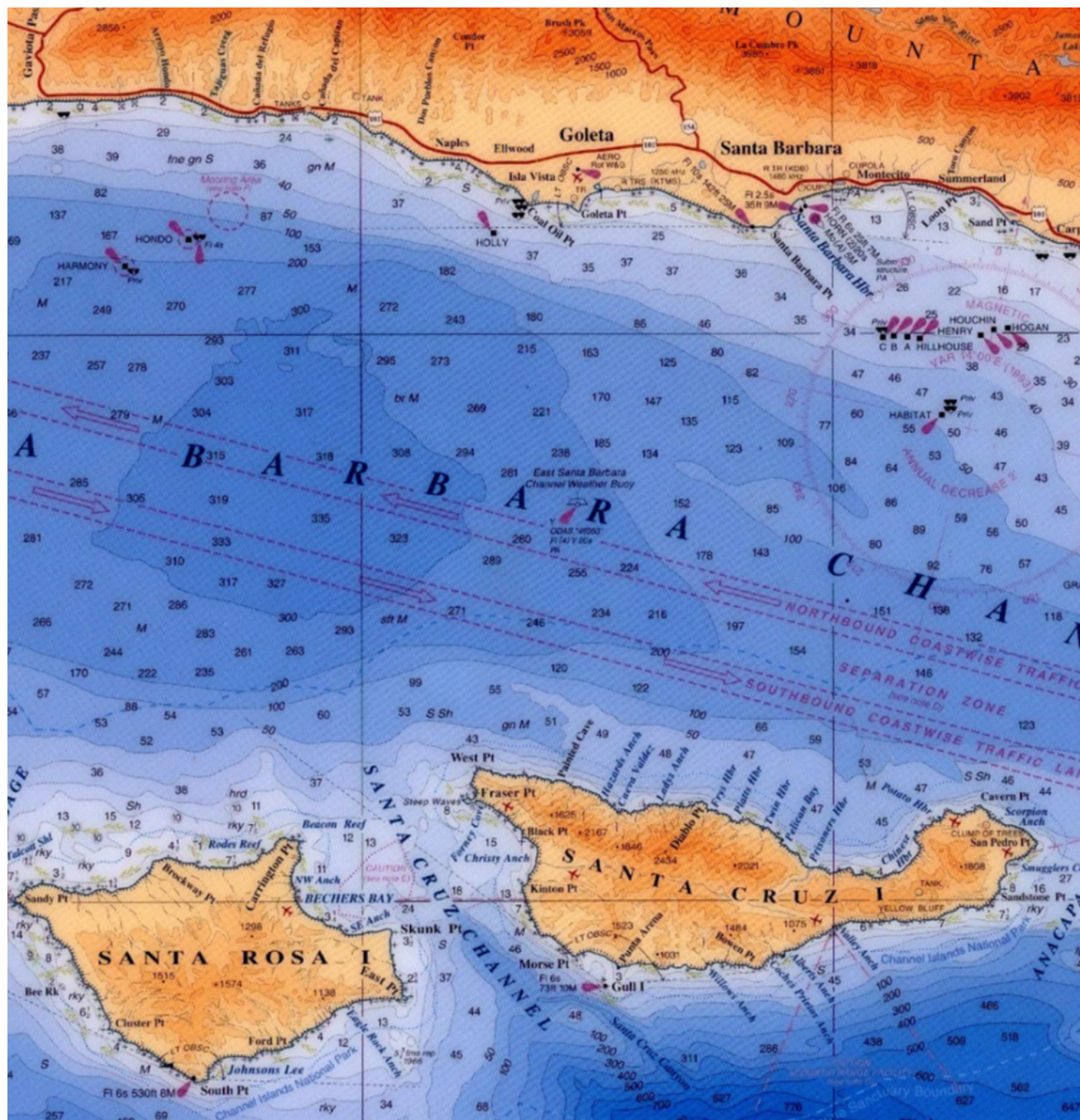
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# Signal Hoist



## Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

### Monthly Newsletter October 2021





## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

**Cdr. Virginia Johns, P**

We are cautiously bringing back in-person events, while adhering to the latest Covid procedures. It feels so good to get together again! Be sure to read other articles and bridge messages in this newsletter for news on the upcoming squadron classes and social events. Have your calendar nearby so you can reserve the dates.

I want to keep you informed about October's squadron monthly meeting plans and District activities.

We had a Business meeting in September so this month's meeting is a Fun and Entertainment gathering:

**Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm** Santa Barbara Waterfront Classroom

- **Dr. Mary Louise Scully** (a Santa Barbara squadron member) is the Director of the Travel & Tropical Medicine Center of Samsom Clinic in Santa Barbara, CA. She enjoys boating and has a boat in the Santa Barbara Harbor. Her talk will start with some geographic risk overview for things like malaria, dengue, and yellow fever, and include some fun boating stories from her time as expedition team physician for Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society during their 2007 filming of "Return to the Amazon."



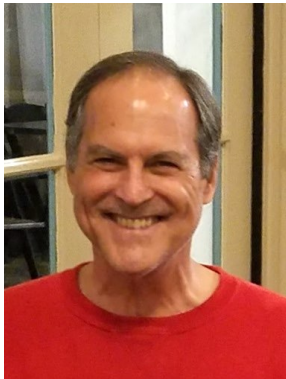
**District 13 Fall BBQ:** enjoy time with comrades from other squadrons in our district.

**Saturday, October 23 noon** Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club, in San Pedro



- Only \$22 for a BBQ tri-tip and chicken lunch
- Covid masks will be required until your food is served and there will be **a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for the best decorated masks** - bring your own or decorate one there!
- See the flyer included further on in this newsletter for more details
- (no pressure....but as the District 13 Admin Officer, I am organizing this event and would love to have some representatives from Santa Barbara there to liven up the party. Since it is midday on a Saturday, we shouldn't experience big traffic issues. Or we can sail down!)

Hoping to see you at some events in October !



## **ADMIN OFFICER'S MESSAGE**

**Lt/C Dennis Johns, AP**

October represents the nearing of winter and even though the season for boating in Santa Barbara is never over, opportunities for nice weather become fewer and further apart. Based on the weather we've had in September, I'd have to say fall has fallen early and we can only hope for an "Indian Summer" (is that too politically incorrect?).

Thanks to Tom and Betty Koch for organizing the annual BBQ at their Community Center. The venue was perfect and I hope they are ready to repeat it in the future. We had a good turnout (over 20) and it was so nice



to catch up with everyone face-to-face after so many months of isolation. Of course there was more food than could ever be consumed and the auction of the leftover tri-tip and chicken brought the total for the day up to \$385. Thanks to everyone who participated in the lively activity.

Not on our calendar for September was the Coastal Cleanup Day, September 18. As the condition of our coastline is a great concern to all boaters, a call went out to the squadron to participate. According to reports from the organizers the day was a great success with several tons of trash removed from our coastline and creeks. Thank you to any members who participated.

The last formal cruise of the season ended up at Pelican. As I mentioned above, the weather on Friday morning looked less than what would be expected for a late September cruise. We should hear from Scott about the adventure later in the newsletter. *Libertad* was unable to participate in this cruise as I decided to tackle a leak in our fresh water system. The hot water heater appeared to be the main culprit and to remove it, I had to first remove the holding tank –ughhhh. The boat is still torn apart and no light at the end of the tunnel yet.

In October we have only two events on the squadron calendar as the Harbor & Seafood Festival has been cancelled. We have a Fun & Entertainment monthly meeting on October 7, with a speaker that will educate and enlighten you –see the Commander’s message for details. The second event has always been a popular one, the Dockside Brunch. With the weather turning cooler, it will be nice to have a warm meal to socialize around. It’s nearing the end of the year and time to exchange all your experiences of the year with other squadron members. Please see the Dockside Brunch Flyer later in this newsletter (**NOTE** the date has changed to **October 16**) and let Ed know that you plan to attend and what you plan to bring.

One November event bears mentioning in this newsletter, namely the Mixer at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department has not rescinded the requirement of masks at indoor events. This is not compatible with the nature of the Mixer we envision. At this time, we have to consider this event to be cancelled until the Public Health Department has confidence in future indoor events.





## ***Dockside Potluck Brunch***

**Saturday, October 16**

**10:00 am**

**Hosts: Ed and Martha Kaufman**

**Aisling, Marina 1 S8**

Ed and Martha will provide pancakes, syrup, and toppings.

Please RSVP to Ed [kaufmaned@aol.com](mailto:kaufmaned@aol.com) ASAP, deadline Thu, Oct 13

Let him know if you are coming and what brunch item you can bring!

(suggestions: OJ, coffee, fruit, pastries, eggs, potatoes, bacon/sausage)

Plates, drink cups, napkins, and utensils provided.

## Upcoming Activities

**Thurs, Oct 7  
7:30PM**

**Fun & Entertainment  
Gathering**

**Waterfront  
Classroom**

**Sat, Oct 16  
10AM**

**Dockside Brunch**

**Dock by  
Kaufman boat  
"Aisling"  
Marina 1, S8**



### **SEO's MESSAGE**

**Lt/C John Profant, SN**

I like Fall. It is the best time to go out boating. I still have not done much about promoting boating classes, but we are going to start talking about it next week. If we mask up, we may be able to get back into the Waterfront Classroom. Otherwise, there is still the option of offering a Weather seminar virtually. Steve Hodges, Cdr. Virginia Johns and I will be talking about that.

We did not do any Vessel Safety Checks this month. We are happy to check over your boat to make sure it complies with Coast Guard requirements for safety. If it complies you will receive the 2021 VSC sticker. Just give me call if you want to schedule a VSC.

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

# Friends, BBQ, Auction, Life Saving Demonstration, OH MY!

By Tom and Betty Koch

It was a beautiful day in Santa Barbara as over twenty members of the Santa Barbara Sail and Power Squadron, aka, America's Boating Club, gathered at the Rancho Santa Barbara Mobile Home Park's Clubhouse for the squadron's 2021 annual BBQ, meeting and White Elephant Auction. The venue proved to be an ideal location, which was easy to get to; with plenty of room to park and safely gather.







The squadron provided an abundance of chicken and Tri-Tip, which was perfectly BBQ'd by Chef's Richard Ciolino and Tom Koch (here shown flanking attendee Duane Felender).



The squadron members brought an abundance of side dishes and desserts.





Although, the hungry attendees did their best, there was plenty of left overs to either take back home for another day or auctioned off to use as a base for additional family meals.

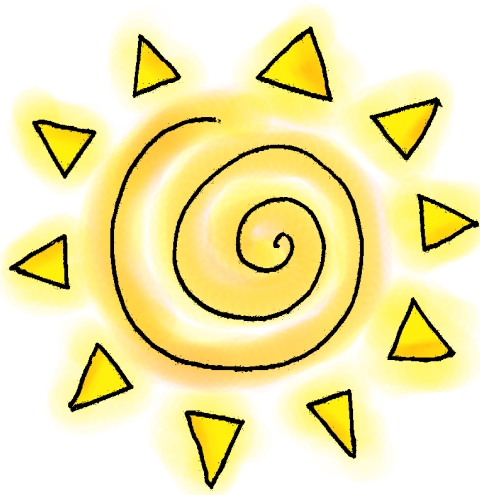




The afternoon's highlight was the White Elephant Auction, which raise a few \$\$\$ for the squadron to pay for some of these types of outings. Auctioneer for the day was our own Administrative Officer, Dennis Johns. Dennis engaged members into bidding wars on the treasures that were creatively wrapped, and provided by squadron members.



One of the treasures was a life saving device for a person overboard. This was ably demonstrated by Steve Young as he "rescued" Art Aldritt from the deep green lawn area.







**Relax Reconnect Enjoy !**

**Fall District 13 BBQ**

**Saturday – October 23 at Noon**

**Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club**

**211 W 22nd St, San Pedro, CA 90731**

**Tri-tip, chicken, sides, dessert**

**Only \$22 (no host beer and wine)**

**RSVP deadline Monday October 18**

**1. [Click here to send your RSVP and pay via credit card](#)**

**2.Or send your RSVP and check to:**

**Virginia Johns 353 Cooper Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93109**



# **A Whale Tail (the picture that got away)**

Lisa & Scott Burns

Friday morning September 24<sup>th</sup> crossing to Pelican's will be remembered for humpback whale sightings about six miles from Santa Cruz Island. After a foggy motor sail, some blue sky was peaking through, while the autopilot allowed captain Scott Burns and our first-time to the Channel Islands guest, Matina, to doze. Lisa, keeping watch from the captain's chair, spotted a whale off the bow about 200 yards. Quickly calling attention, all eyes were searching the horizon for it. Scott said, "Let me get my camera." We were looking around, wondering where the whale would emerge again. Just about that time we heard a 'flushing' noise and the sailboat rocked, then the giant whale shot up at about 100 feet off the Benchmark's beam. The size was magnificent and astonishing as it slightly turned in the air to show its light grey underbelly, then a giant splash! Scott didn't get the photo, but we agreed that it reminded us of the insurance commercial logo. It seemed very big and was very close to our boat.



We anchored at Pelican's Harbor, timed nicely with Ecco Bella's arrival. There were eight boats by that evening. Lisa & Matina kayaked to Lisa's favorite spot of "Hole in the Wall," where the high tide created a blow hole spraying out water like a blast furnace.

The next morning Peggy, Scott, Lisa & Matina hiked from Pelican's to Prisoner's Harbor where we saw some of the old ranch buildings. A shared ride for Lisa with owners of cruiser Whale Rider from PCYC & Ventura Power Squadron, allowed another 1 ½ hour hike back for the other three. Saturday

night, Ecco Bella hosted an epic 12 game Mexican Train. Even with the weekend's low clouds, it was a calm and relaxing trip with dolphins escorting us most of the way home.



## Pelican Bay Cruise, Part 2

Lt/C Rich Ciolino, JN, Peggy Ciolino, P

Here are some additional photos and comments about the cruise to Pelican Bay over the weekend of September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

We begin with a photo of our leaving Santa Barbara Harbor at about 08:30 on Friday morning in a heavily overcast sky and flat calm wind conditions. That's *S/V Benchmark* up ahead with Stearns Wharf to the left. This weather condition stayed with us for the entire trip to Pelican and for most of the weekend resulting in most of our pictures not being very bright and colorful.



Earlier this summer we twice traveled to Catalina Island and came across large pods of dolphins but not one whale sighting. In fact, whale sightings for us have been zero for several years in the Santa Barbara Channel – call it bad luck I guess as I'm sure they were out there. Well, our luck changed this time! We saw a few large pods of dolphins, I mean hundreds at a time, and three or more whales. As is their nature some dolphins came in and played near our boat – here are a few pictures as they swam in the calm waters.





As for whale sightings, most were off in the distance and the one that was very close to us came as a surprise and we missed the chance to photograph

it. Here then are the best we could muster from our photos and videos of the whale sightings.



We can't recall when there were so few boats anchored in Pelican Bay. Upon our arrival on Friday at about noon there were four boats and we made it six until two more boats joined us – that was it. By the time we left on Sunday morning only two boats remained. This gave us all plenty of room and most of us used the traditional bow and stern anchoring technique, I think mostly because of the expectation that more boats would show up on Saturday.

This picture shows us approaching Pelican Bay with a fog covering the hilltops. *S/V Benchmark* is already in the bay scoping out an anchoring site so five boats are seen.



The *S/V Benchmark* crew and Peggy took a hike over to Prisoners Cove on Saturday morning. It's about a four mile round trip trek with several short but noticeable climbs and dips along the way.



Prisoners in sight through an overcast sky.



Lisa and Scott discussing which way to go.



Among the native plants the manzanita brush was quite colorful.





The view as the hikers return to Pelican Bay. What's left is a climb down to the beach at Tinkers Harbor where the dinghy had been pulled ashore, and the ride back to the boats just around the corner.

After the hike the crews did some kayaking and dinghy exploring before getting together for a relaxing evening. The *S/V Benchmark* crew joined us on *S/V Ecco Bella* for a 17:00 cocktail and snack time. We started out in the cockpit but it wasn't too long before the sun dipped behind the west wall of the bay dropping the temperature several degrees and sending us down below to continue. The plan was to have dinner aboard *S/V Ecco Bella* after cocktail hour so we slid right into that. Lisa had prepared a chili dinner for her crew, so she brought the pot over and warmed it up on our stove. Meanwhile I barbecued hamburgers for us. I also barbecued zucchini and Peggy had made a potato salad, and we shared both with the *Benchmark* crew, they shared Lisa's chicken and beanless chilli, which was delicious.

After dinner we started a game of Mexican Train Dominoes that lasted until midnight! It was loads of fun and we made it all the way from "double 12's" to "double 1's" (This means something to those that have played before, and for those that have not, it's a very long game to play to completion.) before calling it quits as eyes were closing and mouths were yawning. Here's a picture as the game ended. The winner? First-time player and guest Matina on the right!



*S/V Benchmark* was first to get underway to Santa Barbara at about 08:30 the following morning. Here's a picture of them heading home under, yes, overcast sky and no wind to sail by. We had no pressing time to be home so didn't get underway until 13:00.



The following is perhaps a bit of an aside but it is actually connected to this story. Several months ago I was gifted a drone that's capable of taking photos and videos from aloft. It's very small, about the size of a cell phone with little arms sticking out where the motors/propellers are. It's quite a good little drone and has amazing flight characteristics and takes very good images. I've played with it on shore but have been reluctant to fly it from our boat although I would love to get some images while sailing. My main

fear is losing control of it at sea. In particular is the retrieval process that requires either landing it on a flat surface, preferably one that is not moving about very much, and catching it by hand. I'm ok with the catching method on solid ground where the only thing moving is the drone but not so confident hand catching it on a bobbing and bouncing boat. So, this Sunday morning seemed like a good time to try flying it from our boat. I determined that I have a pretty perfect launch and landing pad in the form of a solar panel, and was willing to try it. The sea state at this time was ideal in that it was quite flat and what wind there was was less than five knots. Launch went well and I flew for about 11 minutes before landing back at the solar panel next to me as seen in the following pictures.



After the successful drone flight Peggy suggested we take a dinghy ride out of Pelican around the west corner and go up the coast a bit to see the "arch"



that Lisa told us about earlier this weekend. We had vague recollections about this from past visits to Pelican but really couldn't remember much about it. Well, we were very pleasantly surprised because it is beautiful! In fact for a half mile or so up the coast from Pelican there are some beautiful sights to see. Here's a picture of the arch from the front.

While the seas were small there was still enough wave action in the arch to keep us from trying to enter it. Going further west (beyond the hole seen to



the right) of the arch it becomes evident that there is an inlet that goes around the back of the hillside to merge with the entrance to the arch. On a really calm and flat sea state day one might be able to dinghy or kayak around and through the arch.

Just to the left of the arch a blowhole was belching water after swallowing a swell.



The arch is actually part of a tiny peninsula sticking out from the main island and the other, or back, side of it forms an inlet as seen in this next picture. The back side of the arch is to the far left.



There are some caves and interesting rocks a bit further west from the arch. The swell's interaction with the caves and rocks creates some beautiful images such as the following picture that tries to capture the backflow of a swell falling off the rocks.



The arch and other interesting sights are less than a mile from our anchorage in Pelican Bay so it is quite assessable. We returned to our boat to begin preparing to leave for Santa Barbara.

With the weather conditions we motored all the way home but it was nice despite the lack of any wind to sail by as we saw some more dolphin pods and a couple of whales.

# The Boating Safety Seven



1. Wear your life jacket
2. Take a boating safety class
3. Carry all required safety gear
4. Use your engine cut-off device
5. File a float plan
6. Be aware of weather and water conditions
7. Boat sober, and be considerate of others



*Submitted by Cdr Virginia Johns*





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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