



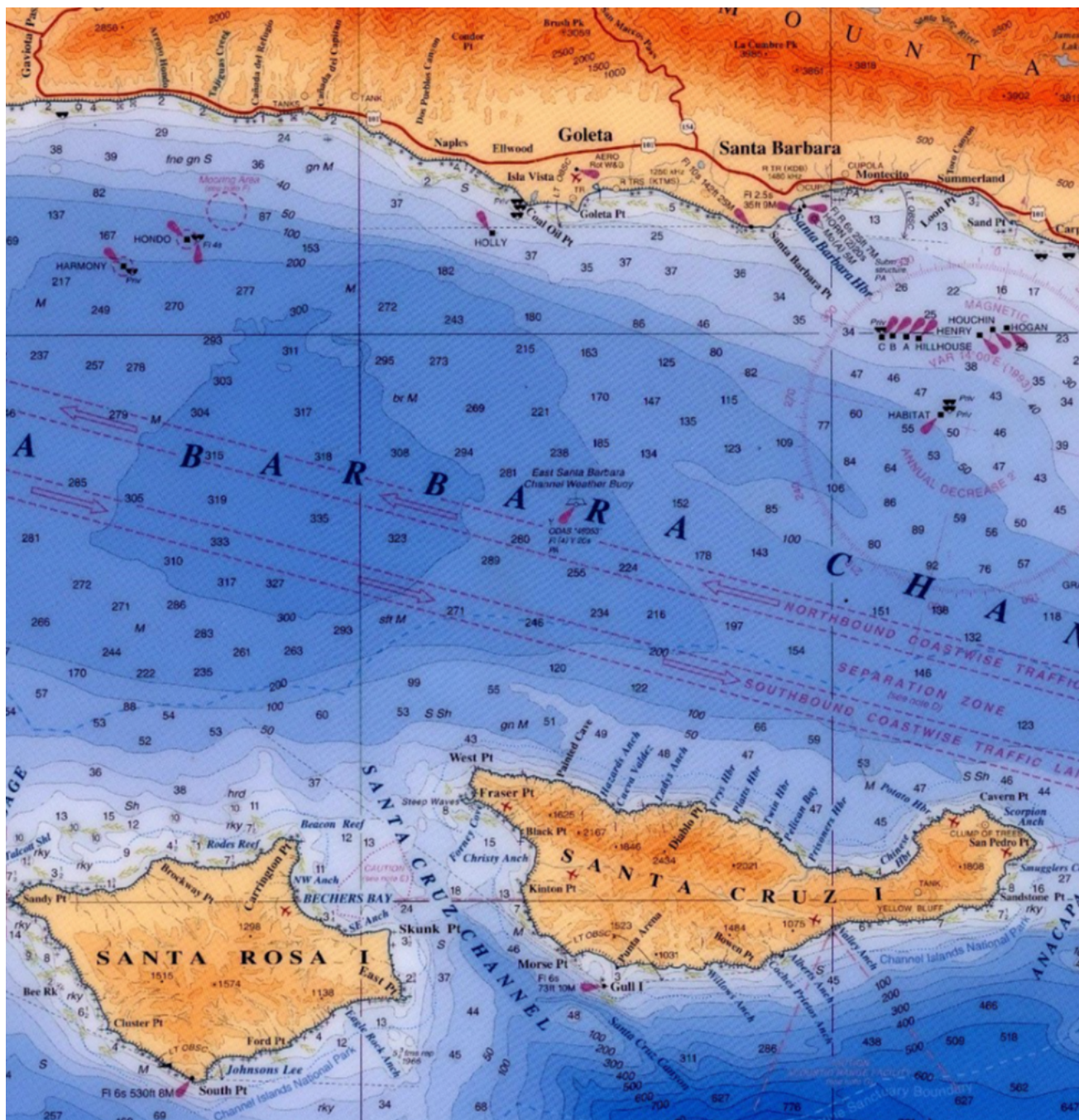
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Signal Hoist



Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

Monthly Newsletter April 2022





COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr. Virginia Johns, P

We started out **March with a business meeting on March 3**. The Executive Committee met via zoom, with a few other interested members in attendance. **Ships and Dips on Saturday, March 12**, was our first dockside social activity of this year. We had four host boats for this progressive event. Our first stop was at *Life is Short* (Sylvia and George Poe) for appetizers. A second set of appetizers was served at *Verona* (Sandy and Jim Hirsch). The final stop for desserts was hosted by *Bobcat* (Vicki and Ron Slocum) and *Sea Note* (Judith Muller). All the goodies were provided by the attendees. We had beautifully warm and clear weather that day. It was so much fun to be together and tour the host boats! Janis took photos which tell the story – be sure to check these out further on in this newsletter.

Our SEO, Dennis, and team of instructors have developed a course plan for the year with the first one starting the **end of March**. Our Safety Officer, John, has received enough requests for Vessel Safety Checks that he was able to supervise me for the required 5 checks and is about to set me free. Let John know if you want to join the team.

On the National level, discussions of reorganization are still very much alive. An 18 page report from the Adhoc Reorganization Committee is now available. All members should have received a copy via email. It was presented at the recent Annual Meeting (attended by our District Commander) and there was a virtual Town Hall on March 29, that some of you may have attended. I will continue to keep you posted as things progress.

Our **April 7, 7:30pm monthly meeting is a Fun and Entertainment event in the waterfront classroom. Our speaker is John Ummel.**

John, a long-time SB resident, started out as a high school social studies teacher but currently offers historical walking tours along the Waterfront, Funk Zone, and will be debuting a new tour this summer, Old Town. These presentations have received wide acclaim. John will entertain us with a presentation about some of his favorite "stops" in and around the Santa Barbara Waterfront. I have attended one of his presentations – I think you will all enjoy his talk.

Our social activity **for April is our Spring Brunch on the 16th.** Details are in the announcement further on in this newsletter.

May is a very busy month for us, given the national focus on Safe Boating in May. We also start our cruises to the islands in May. So take note of the activities and dates in the calendar section so you can get them all on your calendar!

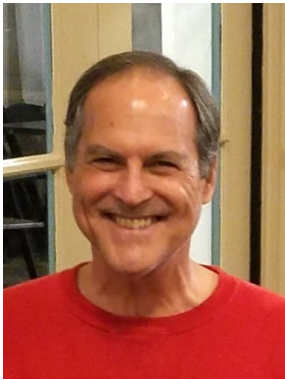
We are coming out of COVID with a lot of enthusiasm and getting active across Education, Social, and Service areas – my thanks to all of you for your participation.

Hope to see you on April 7, at 7:30pm in the Waterfront classroom for our entertaining speaker on the Santa Barbara Waterfront.

Upcoming Activities

April 7	Thurs 7:30pm	Fun & Entertainment Speaker - John Ummel	Waterfront Classroom
April 16	Sat 10:00am	Spring Brunch Point Person - Dennis Johns	Hilda McIntyre Ray City Park 1421 Kenwood Rd.
May 7	Sat 8:00am - noon	Harbor Clean Sweep Point Person - Duane Felender	At the Harbor

May 17	Tues	Flare/Fire Ext Shoot	On the beach
	Late	Point Person - John Profant	West of Yacht Club
	afternoon		
May 21	Sat	Nautical Swap Meet	Harbor Parking Lot
	8:00am -		
	noon		



SEO's MESSAGE

Lt/C Dennis Johns, AP

Our ABC Class will probably have started by the time you are reading this *Signal Hoist*. At this writing, we had four students but this last weekend I placed an announcement in CraigsList, Edhat, NoozHawk, and Next Door Neighbor. I also sent a reminder email to squadron members and friends. If you are reading this and meant to sign up, don't worry about missing the first meeting on Tuesday, March 29. You can still sign up and passing the course is "guaranteed"! If you are averse to virtual meetings (Zoom), not to worry as it appears that the lessening of restrictions relative to the pandemic is allowing us to meet in the Waterfront Classroom. The only time we may have to resort to virtual meetings is if the classroom is not available to us on Thursday nights (which we have to check week to week).

Our next course will be Boat Handling which is scheduled to start on Tuesday, May 10. We will stick to the plan of two classes a week and so this course will run 3-1/2 weeks with the final exam. If you ever had an issue arriving or leaving a dock in an adverse wind condition, you need to take this course. If you ever had questions about anchoring, especially in the Channel Islands, you need to take this course. The instructors have decades of local

knowledge and will give you the confidence to head for the islands this boating season. If we have a squadron member who has a serviceable motorboat in May, we will conduct a field trip for hands-on experience of some of the concepts presented.

Photos from Ships and Dips Social

March 12

*My apologies to Janis Johnson, our photographer extraordinaire,
for not getting a picture of **her** in these photos!*









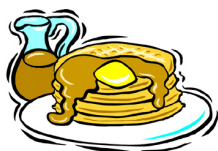




Come and be feted
by Past Squadron Commanders
at



Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron's
Annual Spring Brunch



When: Sat., April 16, at 10:00AM

**Where: Hilda McIntyre Ray City Park
1421 Kenwood Rd. (on the Mesa)**



**Bring: A good appetite — Brunch is
provided and prepared for
you by former Squadron
Commanders**



The venue is outdoors above Santa Barbara, so you
might want to bring a hat for sun protection or a
sweater, depending on the weather.



The following article is submitted by Karen and Garrett Osgood, who have been spending the last several years dividing their time between cruising in Mexico in their sailboat and land cruising in North America in their land cruiser RV.

Mexico News Daily

Mexico Life



Boaters visiting Mexico display their artwork for judging outside the clubhouse of Club Cruceros de La Paz near Marina de La Paz. PAT RAINS

A quick guide to Mexico's expat 'boat people' subculture
From Baja and beyond, a network of expat boaters is traveling, socializing and generally thriving here



By Leigh Thelmadatter

Published on Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Much has been written about the many people who live in Mexico part- or full-time, but relatively little has been written about Mexico's different expat subcultures.

One group I have found nothing about is that of folks whose Mexico experience revolves around their use of their own personal boats. A Google search gives only a bunch of ads for rentals. But it's not hard to understand why boaters would be drawn to Mexico's coasts.

The vast majority of these boaters come from the United States and Canada. They may spend all or part of the year here and go through immigration and tax procedures similar to us landlubbers. But there is diversity here. Boaters can range greatly in age — from those in their twenties with their tiny, stripped-down first boat to the retirees who have the financial means to live on floating mansions.

Most boaters, no matter what the vessel, seem to prefer the same regions of Mexico. The strongest expat boating culture is on the northwest Mexican coast, including Baja. One reason is that this region — stretching from Puerto Vallarta northward — is closest to the west coasts of the U.S. and Canada but also because it boasts bold landscapes and seascapes, not to mention the Gulf of California, which Jacques Cousteau dubbed "the world's aquarium."

If you're interested in getting involved in the boating community here, some of Mexico's most popular marinas are in Ensenada, Baja California; Los Cabos and La Paz in Baja California Sur; Mazatlán, Sinaloa; and Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco. There are also increasing facilities in the upper Gulf. The yacht and sailing clubs that provide camaraderie and logistical support to foreign boaters are mainly in the northwest, including [Club Cruceros in La Paz](#) and the [Acapulco Yacht Club](#). However, be careful when approaching organizations with "club" in their name; many are really boat rental businesses.



Two young sport fishermen fishing for bait in Cabo San Lucas harbor in Dad's inflatable dinghy with the family's 65-foot sportfishing yacht behind them. PAT RAINS

The southern Pacific coast is not unknown to boaters, with its facilities in Acapulco; Barra de Navidad, Jalisco; Manzanillo, Colima; Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo, Guerrero; Huatulco, Oaxaca; and Puerto Chiapas (in the Tapachula municipality of Chiapas). However, many are side trips for those hanging up north or stopping points for those heading ever further south. But recreational boaters all but ignore Mexico's east coast. Marinas are absent on this coast with the exception of the Yucatan, mostly in the Cancun area with a couple in Progreso and Campeche.

According to [Pat Rains](#) author of [Mexican Boating Guide](#), the main reason for this is that many Canadian and U.S.-East Coast boaters are more attracted to places like the Chesapeake Bay and the Florida Keys, not to mention all those wonderful Caribbean islands.

Ocean-based expat culture in Mexico is naturally quite strongly tied to season and weather, especially hurricane season, which extends from June to November on both coasts. Those who remain in Mexican waters during these months are either in or near large protected marinas and other “hurricane holes” — natural areas that afford protection in storms. Any movement in open water means keeping a wary eye on weather reports, especially for those with smaller vessels.

The other half of the year is nearly storm-free, so this allows boaters to more easily enjoy what Mexico has to offer, whether that is leisurely cruising the coast or parking their vessel somewhere to tour inland to places like the Copper Canyon, the monarch butterfly sanctuaries and Chiapas coffee plantations.

February and March seem to be the sweet spot of the boating season. Many settle in an area where they want to be for a while and where weather conditions favor organized events such as regattas. The largest of these include Sailfest in Zihuatanejo in February and the [San Diego Yacht Club](#)’s annual race from Ensenada to Puerto Vallarta.

There’s also the [Mexorc](#) and the [Banderas Bay](#) regattas, both in Puerto Vallarta in March. These events attract thousands of participants and spectators and often raise money for Mexico-based charities.

For many, their Mexican boating season kicks off in October and November with flotillas or rally vessels traveling together from the California coast down to southern Baja and beyond. Going in groups makes the trip more fun and in some ways easier as there are few places for boats to stop between Ensenada and Los Cabos.



International flag etiquette: the Mexican flag must be flown on the boat's starboard side, and the vessel's country's flag flies on the port side. PAT RAINS

One such annual rally is the [Cruise Underway to Baja](#) (CUBA), from San Diego to La Paz, and the [Baja Ha Ha](#), which runs from San Diego to Los Cabos.

Ocean-based recreational boating in Mexico has always been popular and continues to grow significantly. One important reason is the efforts of the [Association of Mexican Marinas](#), which lobbied the Mexican government to

overhaul the bureaucracy foreign boaters had to face. Previously, there were hours- and even days-long procedures not only to enter and leave Mexican territorial waters but also to dock in each port.

Today, Rains estimates that at least 2,000 boats enter Mexico on the Pacific side each season, with a respectable 1,500 for the Gulf. Although more facilities have been built and many coastal businesses cater to this demographic, there is a serious shortage of recreational marina space, a problem that Rains says will continue into the foreseeable future until there is some significant investment in port infrastructure.

Leigh Thelmadatter arrived in Mexico 18 years ago and fell in love with the land and the culture in particular its handcrafts and art. She is the author of [Mexican Cartonería: Paper, Paste and Fiesta](#) (Schiffer 2019). Her culture column appears regularly on Mexico News Daily.



P/C John Profant, SN

We have done a couple of Vessel Safety Checks so far this year. Virginia needs to do one more VSC under supervision and she will be certified as a Vessel Safety Examiner. The requirement is to do five vessel safety checks per year to maintain your certification. It is something that every boater should do once a year to minimize any problems on the water. If you happen to encounter a safety issue on the water, you don't want to find out then that your safety gear is not up to snuff.

The US Coast Guard has issued new fire extinguisher regulations that go into effect April 20, 2022. The Coast Guard has been using the Underwriters Laboratory performance-based classification for portable fire extinguishers. All approved extinguishers installed before August 22, 2016, can remain onboard recreational vessels as long as they are serviceable. New classification system requires portable and semi-portable fire extinguishers to be marked with a combined number and letter designation.

- Extinguishers **UL Classified 5-B:C/10-B:C** (or greater) meet carriage requirements for all recreational vessels regardless of vessel age.
- Extinguishers rated as **Marine Type USCG Type B:C, size I or size II** are only acceptable on vessels built in model year 2017 or earlier.
- Ratings that include higher numbers or more letters are acceptable.
- One 20-B extinguisher may be carried to replace two required 5-B extinguishers.
- The regulations include special rules for vessels built prior to 1952.

Disposable fire extinguishers cannot be older than 12 years from the date stamp on the bottle. Expired disposable extinguishers must be removed from service and taken off the boat on December 31 of their 12th year.

Extinguishers must be in good, serviceable working condition, meaning

- Pressure gauges or indicators, if present, must be in the operable range or position.
- Lock pins must be firmly in place.
- Discharge nozzles should be clean and free of obstruction; and
- Extinguishers should show no visible signs of significant corrosion or damage.

We have new vessel safety stickers so if you would like your vessel to be examined let me know so we can schedule an appointment.

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



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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