

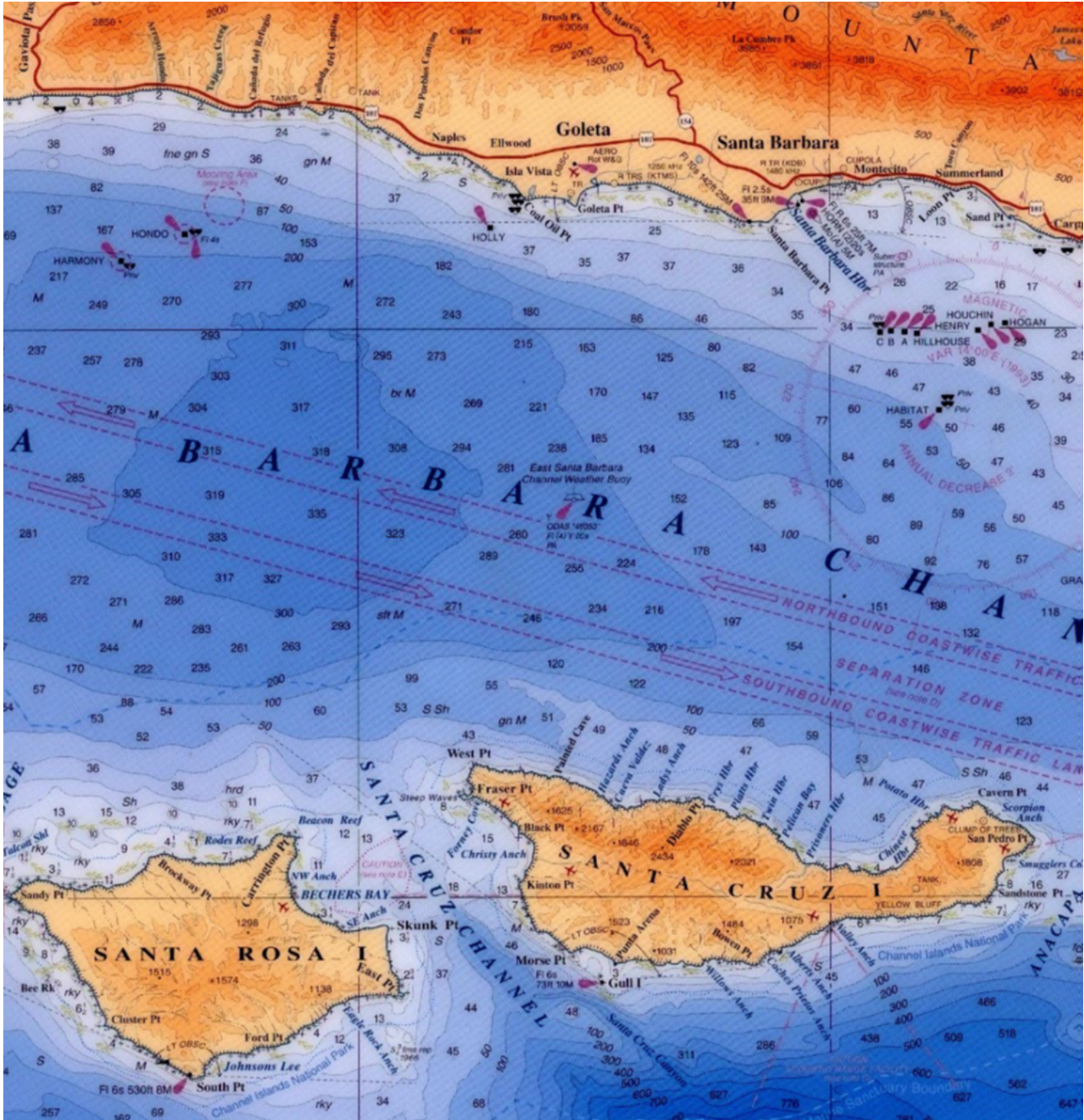


Signal Hoist

Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

Monthly Newsletter April 2023

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr. Virginia Johns, P

This past month we held our Change of Watch ceremony where we installed our officers for 2023. I am so grateful to those that served in 2022 and to those who came forward for this year. My thanks also goes to members who have already agreed to serve as a point-person for one of our activities; I only have a few open spots. I'll be reaching out to some of you, but if you are interested in helping, don't hesitate to reach out to me! There are jobs of all sizes and I'd be happy to find something that suits your interests and time available.

Make sure you take note of the calendar for the next few months included in this newsletter. In early **April** we have a business meeting (all members welcome) and a few weeks later is our Spring Brunch, where the Past Commanders provide the meal – always delicious. **May** is Safe Boating Month with opportunities for community service, safety demonstrations/practices, and the start of our cruising season.

And if you haven't read our **Selected Book** yet, ***Diary of a Sea Captain's Wife: Tales of Santa Cruz Island*** by Margaret Holden Eaton – you best get busy as we may be having our discussion in just a couple months – possibly **June**. It is available for purchase in the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum store. I personally enjoyed it, recognizing anchorages that we have visited on Santa Cruz.

If you are interested in taking classes, our Education Committee, with Rich as the Chair, is currently planning the next offerings. So read on in this newsletter for updates on our educational offerings.

I'm looking forward to another busy and fun year on and near the water with all of you!

Upcoming Activities

April 6	Thurs 7:30pm	Business Meeting (all welcome)	Harbor classroom
April 15	Sat	Spring Brunch	Harbor – slip TBA
May 6	Sat 8:00am-noon	Harbor Clean Sweep	Harbor (meet by fishing dock)
May 19 - May 21	Fri am Sun	Weekend Cruise to Santa Cruz – Fry’s	Meet in Harbor
May 20	Sat 8:00am - 5:00pm	Nautical Swap Meet	Harbor parking lot
May 25	Thurs early evening	Flare Shoot	Leadbetter Beach

APRIL EVENT: Past Commanders Spring Brunch

This annual event will be on Sat, April 15 from 10am –noon. As point person, I would normally advise that the site will be our slip at Marina 1 Q4, but that is a deterrent to many members as the long walk out to Q dock can be a challenge. Therefore, I have contacted the Harbor Dept. to ascertain if I can move *Libertad* to a slip closer to the Marina 1 Gate (like F dock). The person that can answer this question was not going to be in the office until after the publishing of this newsletter. So that is why the location is currently TBA. Please go ahead and contact me if you are interested in attending if the site is closer to the Marina 1 Gate, so that will further encourage me in securing a closer slip. See the event flyer in this newsletter.

Dennis Johns



SEO'S MESSAGE
Lt/C Rich Ciolino, JN

Well, I'm back as chairman of our Educational Committee and SEO and I'm looking forward to seeing if we can make some headway in attracting students and new members as we emerge from COVID restrictions and the general lack of interest noted a few years ago. The education landscape has been pretty sparse since we canceled a Piloting class in March of 2020 with the onslaught of COVID. Our classroom was shutdown during much of the following 3 years so our education department chairmen over those years, John Profant and Dennis Johns, resorted to mostly internet based ZOOM on-line teaching consisting of a Boat Handling series of seminars, two America's Boating Course classes, and an in-person classroom Weather Seminar – pretty good considering the restrictions imposed on teachers, students, and classroom availability over this time. I believe that forcing us into dabbling with on-line teaching could actually be a help in reaching today's tech savvy and busy potential students.

As we move into 2023, the committee decided to get things going by choosing a new course as our first offering while we plan the rest of the year's activities. The new course is an updated version of our classic Piloting course titled Marine Navigation. The major updates involve including more material on modern GPS-based electronic navigation methods while still including the traditional navigation techniques involving dead reckoning and charts. The class will begin on May 2, and run for eight weeks, followed by a one-week open book take-home exam. We'll be using the harbor classroom for all the sessions but make on-line internet participation available via ZOOM for any students that do not live in the Santa Barbara area, or can't attend a session(s) in the classroom. More details are given in a copy of the advertising poster to be sent out separately.

Over the next month as we run up to the start of the Marine Navigation course, we'll be making plans for the rest of the year. Some of the courses we have in mind at this time are the Boat Handling Seminar series, Marine Electrical Systems, and Modern Weather Forecasting. We're open to suggestions about topics you'd like to see offered at this time so please feel free to contact me with any thoughts you might have.



Come and be feted
by Past Squadron Commanders
at
Santa Barbara Sail & Power
Squadron's
Annual Spring Brunch



When: Sat., April 15, at 10:00AM

Where: Marina 1 (Slip TBA)

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



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

Please RSVP to Dennis Johns at your earliest convenience so a closer slip can be secured.

sbmesasailor@gmail.com or 805 770-0614.



Change of Watch Rundown

Cdr Virginia Johns, P and Lt/C Pete and Suzette Seagoe, P

Last month we had our kick-off event for 2023. On March 4 we met for lunch at The Anchor Rose in the Santa Barbara Harbor for our Installation of the 2023 Officers and confirmation of the members of this year's Executive, Rules, Nomination, and Audit committees. We had nice weather, delicious food, and 24 in attendance – including our District 13 Commander Dave Smith and his wife Linda. P/C Tom Koch did a very professional and thoughtful job as our installing officer. D/C Dave brought a big set of table flags from out of his magic bag and decorated our tables with some official ABC celebratory décor.

Your duly elected leaders for 2023 are:

Commander	Virginia Johns, P
Chair Educ Comm, SEO	Richard Ciolino, JN
Secretary	Suzette Seagoe
Treasurer	Steve York, P
Members-at-Large:	Betty Koch, P Edward Kaufman, AP Peter Seagoe, P
Auditing Committee:	William Goodall, AP John Profant, SN Ronald Slocum, AP
Rules Committee:	Dennis Johns, AP Richard Ciolino, JN
Nominating Committee:	Virginia Johns, P John Profant, SN Dennis Johns, AP

Greetings Squadron members. If you were unable to attend the Change of Watch and annual awards luncheon you missed a fun event.

This was Suzette's and my first effort at organizing and presenting the awards after wresting the job away from the Slocum's (thank you Ron and Vicki for the years of service) so the event was approached with some trepidation but with much support from the bridge and members we accomplished our goal.

And the winners are,

The Commanders Award to,

Dennis Johns, for the numerous jobs he has taken on for the squadron and " endless support of the Commander ".

The Most Valuable Player(s) to,

* Peggy and Rich Ciolino *, for heading up the Signal Hoist, supporting education, and always saying" we want to help, what can we do?"

The Al Lincoln for Education to,

Pete Seagoe, for preparing and presenting a new seminar on " knots, lines and rope".

The Sailing Award to,

*Judith Muller *, for routinely gathering members and nonmembers to crew for her on her boat, the *Seanote*.

The Marcia Rowland Award to,

Janis Johnson, for keeping up her water activities like Friday swims and SUP adventures.

The Power Boat Award to,

John Bridgewater, for consistent use of his power boat (Sea & Ski) and promoting the goals of America's Boating Club.

The SBSPS " Boner " Award to,

Steve Young , for an incident involving lowering his jammed mainsail only to find the ballbearings from the upper swivel bouncing around on the deck and the headaches encountered to remedy the issue.

The Santa Maria Award for the most active new member wasn't awarded this year.

Thank you all for your input and nominations and wishing you all the best of luck for next years' awards.

Pete & Suzette.









Winter Island Frolicing

Steve Hodges, N

Frolic visited Santa Cruz Island in January and February. Both trips were cut short by the threat of Santa Ana winds, but we still had a lot of fun!

On a clear sunny day in January, I sailed with my daughter, her husband and their eldest son (5 years old) to Coches Prietos. We had light winds and anchored in the calm afternoon. I was happy that Frolic's diesel had whirred without a hitch - this was the first time I had relied on it since having the motor mounts and transmission seals replaced. Once Frolic was secured, we rowed to shore and hiked up the hill above the anchorage, east toward Albert's.



Frolic's crew

After our shore excursion, we enjoyed a lovely sunset pizza meal, and a good night's sleep. It was nice to see my grandson sleeping in the same bunk his mother had slept in when she was a young girl (26 years ago, good grief!). In the morning, we were greeted by an offshore breeze that increased in intensity as we breakfasted. We were planning to go ashore again, but the wind was too strong to row, so we waited, and I considered setting up the outboard. But as I hesitated, Katherine, a lobster boat, pulled alongside and let us know that strong NE winds were predicted for the evening, and expected to last for more than a day. This was much sooner than the forecast when I checked the day before we left. There is no VHF reception in Coches so this was a kind and welcome gesture. Frolic is now berthed in Ventura, and making our return there in strong NE winds was not

something I wanted to do. We considered waiting it out, but my daughter had plans for the weekend, so we made the decision to head back before the blow began. We motored to San Pedro where we picked up a steady Westerly breeze and had a fast and fun afternoon sail back to the harbor.

About a month later, in mid-February, P/C Susan and I did it again. It is so easy to get to Santa Cruz's backside from Ventura! We had a pleasant motor-sail across, and anchored in Coches in the early afternoon. We kayaked to the beach and admired the flowers and shells there. We enjoyed a lovely sunset evening, and were awed by the night sky. Jupiter overhead, then Mars, and setting Venus. Orion marched across our meridian, and the dog star Sirius made the ocean sparkle.



Frolic in Coches Prietos



Sunrise

The morning dawned calm, and the sunrise was magnificent! After breakfast, we kayaked ashore ready to hike. We walked north then west on the old road out of the anchorage for several hours, and made it back to Coches in early afternoon. Susan wanted to swim, so I towed her kayak back to Frolic and she swam. Even with the abundant sunshine, the water was too cold for me! While Susan enjoyed a warm sun shower, I kayaked west toward Willows. There was one power boat anchored there and her crew was sunbathing on the foredeck. No farmer's tans on that boat!

As I paddled back to Frolic I decided to listen to the channel 3 weather on my handheld VHF and, while happy to have reception, I was disappointed to hear (another) dire forecast for very strong NE winds. Back on Frolic, Susan and I discussed the situation and decided to head back. Discretion is the better part of valor! We'd enjoyed many night crossings, and hadn't done one in a while, so why not? We departed just after sunset, and enjoyed another beautiful night sky as we motored east along Santa Cruz's south side, and then, giving Sandstone Pt and its extensive kelp patch a wide berth, turned NE for Ventura. Except for the very busy shipping lanes, the trip across the channel was uneventful. Platform Gail makes navigating from San Pedro Point to Ventura easy: just aim head for the platform, keeping it to starboard. Our new radar (Furuno 1815), interfaced with our AIS and OpenCPN chart plotter, worked really well, and made threading through the numerous east- and west-bound ships on a dark night less stressful. We tied off in our slip in the wee hours and slept well. We were happy to be in our slip when the NE winds started the next morning!



Hiking and swimming



Jupiter and Venus

Speaking of Paradise Cove

By Neil Ablitt, P

A while back I wrote about anchoring at Paradise Cove surrounded by seaweed and watching a zoo of humanity and multiple golf carts running up and down the beach. Well, Sue points out that the March 2011 issue of **Vanity Fair** has an article, "**LA's Hippest Neighborhood**," on its 3-page-fold-out risque cover. It's an eye-opening article with great photos telling you all about it. Well, "all about it" except they fail to mention who owns the property. You see it's a trailer park and those golf carts belong to the folks who live in those trailers who just happened to be the LA/Hollywood elite. Names like Otis Chandler, James Garner, Christopher Nolan, Pamela Anderson and many other actors and directors have lived there, but I didn't recognize many of the other names now living there because I don't follow the movies. But a trailer in this park just sold for \$2.5 million – and you don't own the land! But you do own Italian-granite counter tops and Sub-Zero appliances. And, while Paradise Cove has been around for some time – the Beach Boys' **Surfin' Safari** album cover art was shot there as was the TV series the **Rockford Files**, it apparently is only recent that, "**Paradise Cove has become one of the grooviest places to live in Malibu**," at least according to the article. But I believe it after anchoring there last summer. But at least now I have a better idea of what is going on in Paradise Cove – at least on the beach. But now I'm wondering about the trailer park. The article said, "If you need privacy, this is not the place, and if you don't like gossip, this is not the place." Very interesting, but I think next time we go to Catalina we'll anchor at Santa Barbara Island on the way. I know there's a museum there now, but still no trailer park. At least I don't think so.



The Advent of Starlink in Mexico

Karen Osgood

With the advent of Starlink to the cruising community is anyone using the VHF or SSB radio anymore? This year was our third season cruising in Mexico and we were surprised that so many cruisers had Starlink this year. In Mexico the Starlink hardware costs about \$450 and the monthly fee is \$60 per month. Compare that to the states where the equipment is \$500-700, depending on house or RV, and the monthly fees \$110-150 respectively. No wonder so many cruisers were signing up daily and the marinas were overflowing with Starlink boxes!

In Baja it is difficult to get internet service, as only major towns like Santa Rosalia, Loreto, La Paz and Cabo have consistent service. In Agua Verde you can go ashore and pay 30 pesos (about 1.50USD) for one hour of slow internet service. However in mainland Mexico cell service is more easily found even in smaller towns. Passages between Baja and mainland have no cell service, so to get updated weather, one must listen to the SSB, have Iridium Go, Pactor Modem or Starlink.

I have a ham license, thanks to a USPS class that many of us took 15+ years ago, and our boat is equipped with an Icom 802 SSB so I am very active on the radio nets in the morning. With all the Starlink users I was afraid that cruisers would no longer be participating in the daily nets that abound in Mexico. Happy to say that the beloved ham, SSB and VHF nets are still alive with strong participation so far. The local VHF nets that provide weather, cruiser assistance, swaps and trades, check-ins, social announcements and answer questions, are still very strong in local harbors such as Puerto Escondido, La Paz, Puerto Vallarta, Tenacatita and Barra de Navidad. For those cruising with a SSB there is the "Amigo" net and a ham "Sonrisa" net seven mornings a week with weather, emergency traffic and check-ins provided. It is a great way to meet people on the radio first and keep track of the weather and your friends.

While in Puerto Vallarta in February I attended meetings for boats cruising to the South Pacific this year. On such a long passage it is good to keep in contact with others going the same way, just as Dennis & Virginia did on Libertad on their circumnavigation. A large group of Pacific Voyagers elected

to have daily check-ins and morning nets to provide weather, keep track of one another and provide assistance if needed. Check-ins are being done by SSB, Iridium Go or Starlink.

Where originally Starlink was reported to only work 12 miles off shore, cruisers have reported that it is working all the way across the Pacific! What a miracle to have satellite communication with family, friends and loved ones all across the oceans. Today we have options in how we receive weather, news and communicate as we sail to foreign ports. We can choose to pay for internet but the SSB radio will still be there broadcasting the weather and connecting cruisers around the globe.



Editor's Note: Thank-you to all of the Santa Barbara Chapter of America's Boating Club members and friends who continue to supply us with interesting stories and informative articles that help us all learn about boating and are the main factor for the Signal Hoist receiving the Distinctive Communicator Award for 2022 once again.



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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