

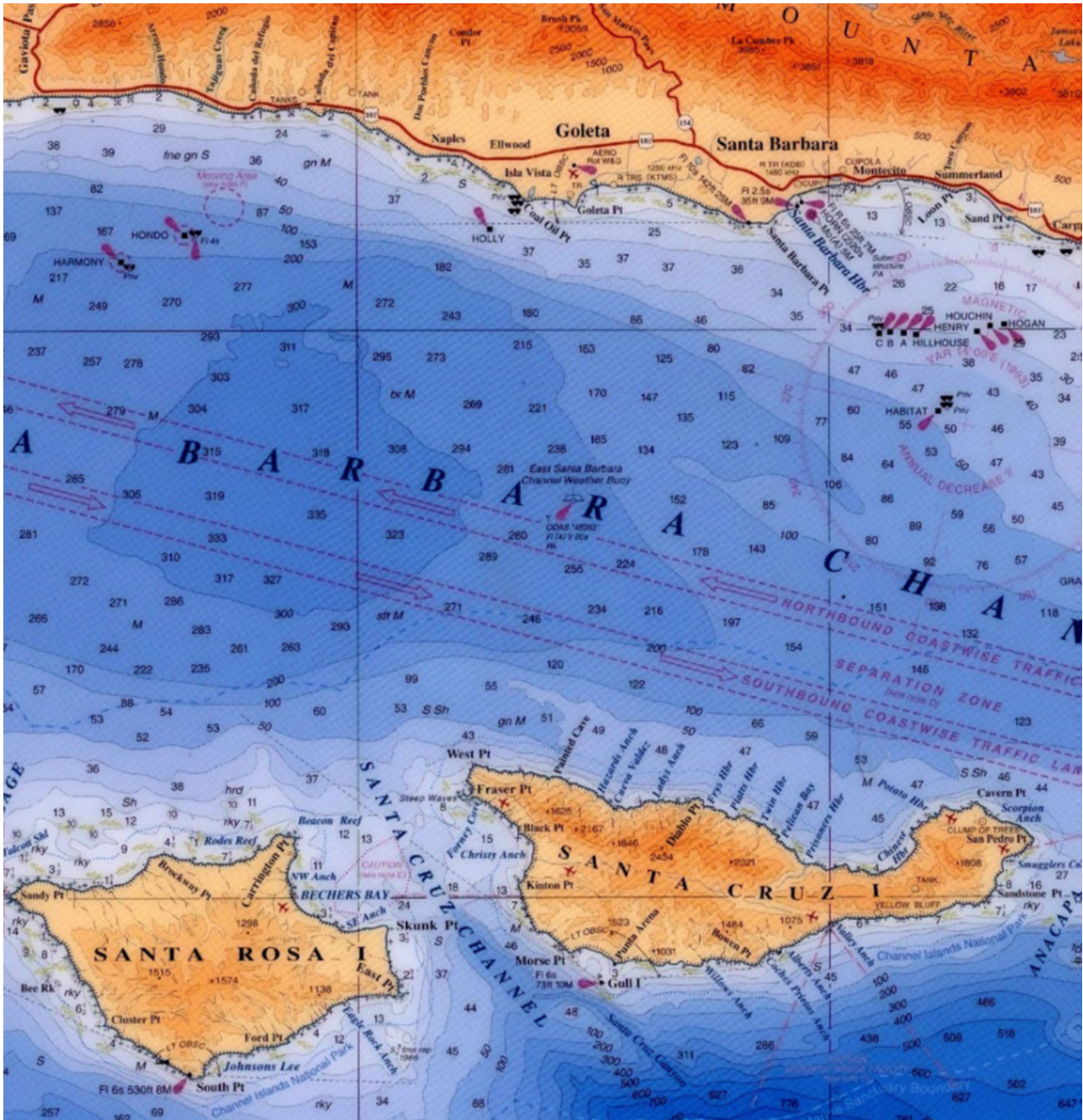


Signal Hoist

Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

Monthly Newsletter May 2023

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr. Virginia Johns, P

We have a lot of events coming up in the next couple months and I hope some of our new members and friends will be able to join us so we can get to know them better and talk about how we can help them tap into the rich boating resources of our club.

Newest members: Deborah and Larry Rehr and family joined in December 2022 and have attended a number of our events and meetings. Alec and Amber Hardy and family joined in February 2023; as friends of Scott Burns – they joined us on several of our past cruises to the islands. Scott Taylor just joined in April when he signed up for the new Marine Navigation course. Welcome all!

This past month of **April** we enjoyed our Spring Brunch, where the Past Commanders continued their annual tradition of treating us to brunch. Dennis coordinated the food contributions with his buddy P/Cs and found a willing and gracious member to host on their boat and nearby dock area. We had a nice crowd, great conversation, delicious food, and the weather was perfect! See more details and pics in an article further on in this newsletter.

Our calendar is very full this month. **May** is Safe Boating Month with opportunities for community service, safety demonstrations/practices, and the start of our cruising season. The Education Committee is also going to be teaching the new Marine Navigation course starting May 2.

- **Tues May 2 *Marine Navigation class***
- **Sat May 6 *Operation Clean Sweep*** – Bruce Wagner is organizing our participation. It is work, but lots of fun with like-minded boating groups. Please read his description further on in this newsletter and

RSVP to let him know if you can join our crew. We had a dozen of us last year – let's beat that!

- **Tues May 16 Flare and Fire Extinguisher Practice – NOTE DATE CHANGE.** See details further on in this newsletter.
- **May 19-21 Cruise to Fry's Harbor** – This is our traditional anchorage for our first cruise of the season, let our cruise director, Scott Burns know if you can attend.
- **Sat May 20 Nautical Swap Meet** – unfortunately this competes with our cruise, Dennis Johns is motivated to clean out his garage of items from last year's swap meet (donated by us and some of you) so he will be reserving a spot for our club. Let him know if you have items to contribute and/or can help with the sales that day.

We are going to start out the month of **June** with a new type of program for our Fun and Entertainment member meeting on **Thursday June 1**. 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 Ed Kaufman will lead us in a discussion. I am sure many of you will recognize anchorages that you have visited on Santa Cruz Island. It is available for purchase at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum store. I enjoyed it and all the memories it incited.

I am hoping to see you this month....so many options!





SEO'S MESSAGE
Lt/C Rich Ciolino, JN

Where'd April go? It seems like yesterday that I gave my report for April. In that report the Education Committee announced it would be conducting the new Marine Navigation course as its first offering for the new year. The course is actually a "beta" offering since it has just been released, and we will be providing feedback to National after the course is finished. The classroom sessions begin on Tuesday May 2, and runs for eight sessions followed by a one week open-book take home exam.

Plans have been made to conduct the classroom sessions as we have for many years and also broadcast the classes via ZOOM to accommodate distant students or local students that cannot make it to a classroom session. At the time of this writing we don't have any distant students signed up but that could change, so we'll probably begin the first session as classroom only.

We have six students signed up thus far including one new member, two current members, and three non-members. All students used our on-line registration and payment platform on our website – so kudos to our website gurus Eric Petersen and Steve York for setting up that capability.

The "beta" release of Marine Navigation is basically our heritage Piloting course with two major updates. One change is the basic format of the PowerPoint presentations. National's Education Department has prepared two sets of the presentations, one as before where the instructor presents all of the material, and another that is narrated. As long as we have talented teachers we will use the "not narrated" version. The other change is the addition of a modern and widely used electronic software navigation program to learn how to plan and navigate a cruise. Each student will download OpenCPN, a free open source software package, onto their

computer and execute the exercises being taught. Students will still do the exercises using traditional paper charting techniques as well. OpenCPN has been around for some time. I first became aware of it in 2016 while cruising in Mexico as several other cruisers were using it as their primary navigation software. It's very popular, worldwide. Of interest also is that our Commander submitted an article that appears in this issue of our Signal Hoist about an application of OpenCPN by another world-cruising couple. Check it out.

Plans are still in the works for the rest of the year's educational offerings and 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.

Upcoming Activities

May 2	Tues 7:00pm	Marine Navigation Class	Harbor classroom
May 6	Sat 8:00am- noon	Harbor Clean Sweep	Harbor (meet by Travel Lift Pier)
May 16	Tues	Flare & Fire Extinguisher Practice	On the beach west of Yacht Club
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
June 1	Thurs 7:30pm	Discussion of <i>Diary of a Sea Captain's Wife: Tales of Santa Cruz Island</i>	Harbor classroom

June 10	Sat 4:00pm - dark	Progressive Dinner	Various members' boats in the Harbor
June 23 - June 25	Fri am - Sun pm	Weekend Cruise to Santa Cruz Destination TBD	Meet in Harbor



Marine Flares and Fire Extinguisher Practice

Cdr Virginia Johns, P

Tuesday, May 16, the Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol and US Coast Guard will be educating us about the types and uses of marine flares and fire extinguishers and supervising practice for us in both of these very important boating safety tools. It will all take place out on the beach to the west of the Yacht Club. Usually they start around 6pm, but we will send out their flyer to you via email when we get that detail. You can never get enough practice!

If you have any questions, contact Virginia sbmesafirstmate@gmail.com.



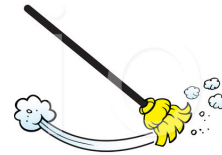
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Operation Clean Sweep

Saturday, May 6th, 8am to Noon

8am briefing on the Travel Lift Pier

**RSVP to:
Bruce Wagner**



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brucewagner1@gmail.com

805-837-4489

Santa Barbara Harbor's Operation Clean Sweep, a sea floor debris cleanup program will hold its 16th annual event on Saturday, May 6th. There will be a team of volunteer divers, and a team of about 40 or so volunteer dock workers, who will remove junk from the marina seabed. The divers will locate the debris and the dock volunteers will cart it to the dumpster for removal. It was a lot of fun last time (even though it may not sound like it!). We will meet at the Travel Lift Pier by the harbormaster's office, where we will get a briefing and some free coffee and doughnuts to get our strength up, and at the conclusion we will have a tasty box lunch at around 11:30.

Here is a link to the website, where you can see Squadron members hard at work making a difference in our beautiful Harbor!

<https://santabarbaraca.gov/events/operation-clean-sweep>

Our squadron has successfully participated in this event for a number of years and we really do make a big difference at the Harbor!

We work hard, have a great time, and the group is treated and fed well! We hope to see all of you that can participate there for this very worthwhile and valuable Community Service Activity!

Please let me know if you can attend this great event so I can submit a roster of those participating, thank you!!

Bruce Wagner

Spring Brunch

P/C Dennis Johns, AP



Last month we enjoyed our Spring Brunch, where the Past Commanders continued their annual tradition of serving up a delicious brunch. Dennis



coordinated the food contributions with his fellow Past Commanders. He was serving up pancakes hot off the grill. They were accompanied by potatoes/

sausage/peppers (Rich Ciolino), fruit and pastries (Tom Koch), sausage and egg strata (Virginia), orange juice and optional champagne for mimosas (John Profant) and coffee.

Will Goodale hosted at his boat, Jewel, in Marina 1 slip G – a short walk from that marina entrance



gate. We had a nice size gathering with 23 attending with just a few who RSVP'd but couldn't figure out that a brunch starts in the MORNING!



There were a few members that we hadn't seen in awhile and we enjoyed catching up. You can see from Peggy's great pictures that we had a nice crowd, a sunny day, plenty of food, and lots of fun.









Surprise Visit

Cdr Virginia Johns, P

Dennis and I have made so many good friends with a mutual love of boating – both locally and abroad. We had some surprise visitors this past week who fit both the local and abroad categories – Tony and Shannon Morelli. Some of you probably know Tony as he is a sailmaker, who was located in Ventura for many years. Even though Dennis and I had *Libertad* in the Ventura Harbor for 10 years before departing for a retirement sailing adventure, we did not meet this couple until we got to El Salvador in 2011.

We spent time with them in El Salvador, headed south from there at the same time, and connected up in Costa Rica –enjoying Christmas there together. After the “green season” (lots of rain and lightning) we both moved on to Panama with several other boats. But then... we went west, and they went east.



**2011 Sweetie
Hunter Legend**

**2012 Lunch with
Morelli's
Boca Chica, Western**



Fast forward a few years to 2017, we have just arrived from Jamaica to Cayman Brac and are the only boat anchored in the bay. A few hours later, we hear a call from the vessel Sweetie telling the Port Authority that they were approaching and wanted to check in. Tony and Shannon anchor Sweetie near us, we enjoy several days in the Caymans, and then sail north to Cuba together. We offload many pounds of hardbound Mediterranean cruising guides from our boat to theirs. They have plenty of room as they have a new Sweetie – a catamaran. Again, we go west and they go east.



**2017 Cayman Brac
to Cuba
Sweetie has 2
hulls !**

Fast forward to 2023 and they are texting that they are in town with family. We went out that night for cocktails and had a wonderful time catching up. Next week they head back to Sweetie which is awaiting them in Turkey.

Of course we spent some time talking about new tools available to them now such as Starlink. They mentioned a popular app they are using which was new to me: Navily. Anybody using it?

Harbor Commission Agenda Available Online

Lt/C Steve York, P and Scott Burns

The next meeting of the Harbor Commission will be Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 6:30PM. Meetings are held in Council Chambers at Santa Barbara City Hall. Slip fee and parking fee increases along with a reduction in transfer fees were discussed at the last meeting on April 20. The budget for the Waterfront is set to be proposed to the Santa Barbara City Council at their meeting on Friday, May 5, 2023, at 1:00PM. Harbor Commission Agendas are available online at <https://santabarbaraca.gov/harbor-commission/harbor-commission-agendas-documents>.

Nautical Swap Meet

P/C Dennis Johns, AP



On **Saturday, May 20th**, the 15th Annual Harbor Nautical Swap Meet will attract hundreds of treasure hunters to the Main Harbor Parking Lot from 8 a.m. to noon. Dozens of vendors will display and sell boat rigging, surfboards, fishing gear, inflatable boats, pumps, winches, boat motors, and other marine/nautical items. Spend the morning looking for new gear while enjoying complimentary coffee and other refreshments.

Have some nautical gear you'd like to sell? Dennis Johns is motivated to clean out his garage of items from last year's swap meet (donated by our members); he will be reserving a spot for our club. Let him know if you have items to contribute and if you can help with the sales that day. We historically make about \$100 for the squadron and you get the benefit of not having to ever move that treasure out of the way to get whatever you stashed behind it. If you are inclined to come to the swap meet to hang out a while, bring a lawn chair and enjoy a few hours of nautical yarn spinning. If you have items to contribute, give me a call or email me and we'll coordinate a day & time for me to pick them up or for you to drop them off: 805-770-0614; sbmesasailor@gmail.com

All Types of Boaters Make Up Our Boating Club



Though not much boating going on for Duane Felender and Janis Johnson, Janis manages to get out of the Harbor some Monday mornings with a great group of gals who paddle outrigger canoes!



Using OpenCPN with Satellite Imagery

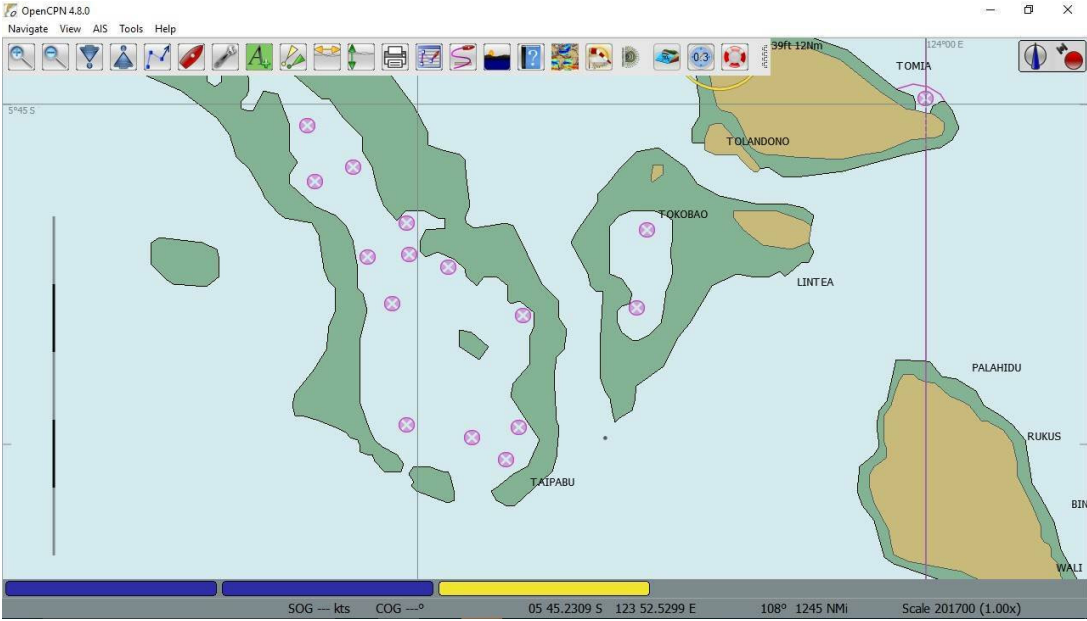
A note from Cdr. Virginia Johns and the Editor: This article was edited for brevity and summarizes one that originally appeared in the Seven Seas Cruising Association (SSCA) Cruiser's March 2023 Bulletin. We are very grateful to Sherry and Dave McCampbell for permission to include this article in the Signal Hoist. The complete article is available at the SSCA website for members only so contact Virginia if you'd like a copy. They are long time cruisers who started out on a monohull and have now converted to a catamaran. They are well known in the cruising community for providing help of all kinds to cruisers. Check out their website at: <http://svsoggypaws.com/>

For those of you that have plans to go cruising overseas (including the Caribbean) in your future, this is a **very important** subject. Based on our 20 years' experience cruising overseas in the Caribbean, across the Pacific and all over SE Asia, we know that commercial charting accuracy away from the US, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand is not nearly as accurate and detailed as it is in the US. Use of a chart plotter with commercial charts that you pay lots of money for, is fraught with danger if like many cruisers you use it exclusively to cruise in relatively remote areas. The main problem is that commercial charts such as Navionics, Garmin, Raymarine, CMap, etc, though loaded with navigation information, are sometimes reasonably accurate and sometimes not. The problem is that you NEVER KNOW. And the shoreline detail and nearshore depth indications often leave a lot to be desired. Cruisers are still running aground out here, some losing their boats, using commercial charting.

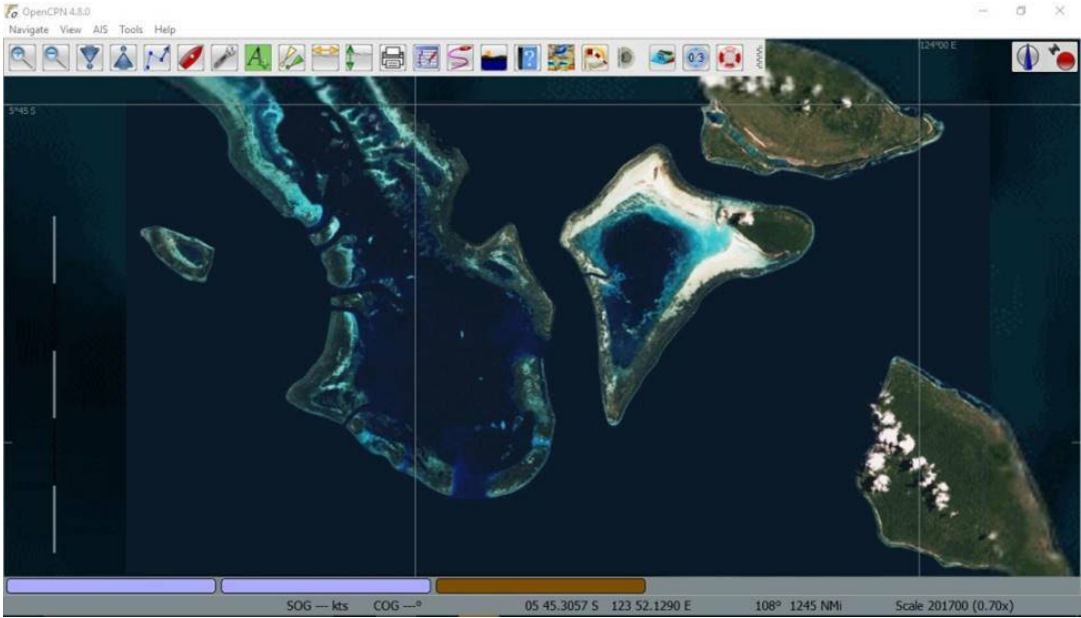


Cruising boat aground from exclusively using commercial charting in French Polynesia

Recognizing this, much work has already been done by the overseas cruising community, at least in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The major players we are aware of are all SSCA members. Many of us out here have been using satellite imagery for our close in navigation charting with OpenCPN for at least 10 years. The advantages of doing this over using even up-to-date commercial charting are many, including little expense, greatly improved accuracy and shoreline detail, and the ability to trade imagery, waypoints and tracks with other OpenCPN users.



Choose which 1- commercial chart



Choose which 2- satellite chart

We do have a small chart plotter aboard. We like its user friendliness and also the ability to see the bottom profile and type with its included depth sonar. But because of the accuracy and shoreline detail problems with commercial charts in lesser-traveled areas, we rely on it mainly offshore. Typically we lay our track using OpenCPN on the navigation station computer. This computer is populated with anchorage waypoints and other cruisers' tracks, as well as both conventional and satellite charts. Once we are happy with the planned route, we then export the planned route as a gpx file to our Garmin 526s chart plotter at the helm station. This gives us an accurate and safe route to follow, including an accurate depth profile, right at the helm with our weather-proof chart plotter. And we don't have to worry about the accuracy of its charts. Also, in tight nearshore situations, we make sure that we have the satellite imagery with others' tracks, our planned route, and possible alternative anchor spots on OpenCPN running on our Asus tablet. This is also mounted at the helm station, so that we don't need to leave the helm to see the accurate satellite chart on the computer. This tablet also has an up-to-date copy of Navionics charts for additional reference as well.



Soggy Paws helm station with Garmin 526S chart plotter on right and Asus tablet on the left

Satellite imagery chart pictures are in general VERY accurate. They are **much more accurate and reliable than even the latest available commercial charts** we have in the Western Pacific island countries and much of SE Asia. They contain substantially more detail, especially once you learn how to read the depth colors on a satellite chart.

Working with Multiple Chart Sources in OpenCPN

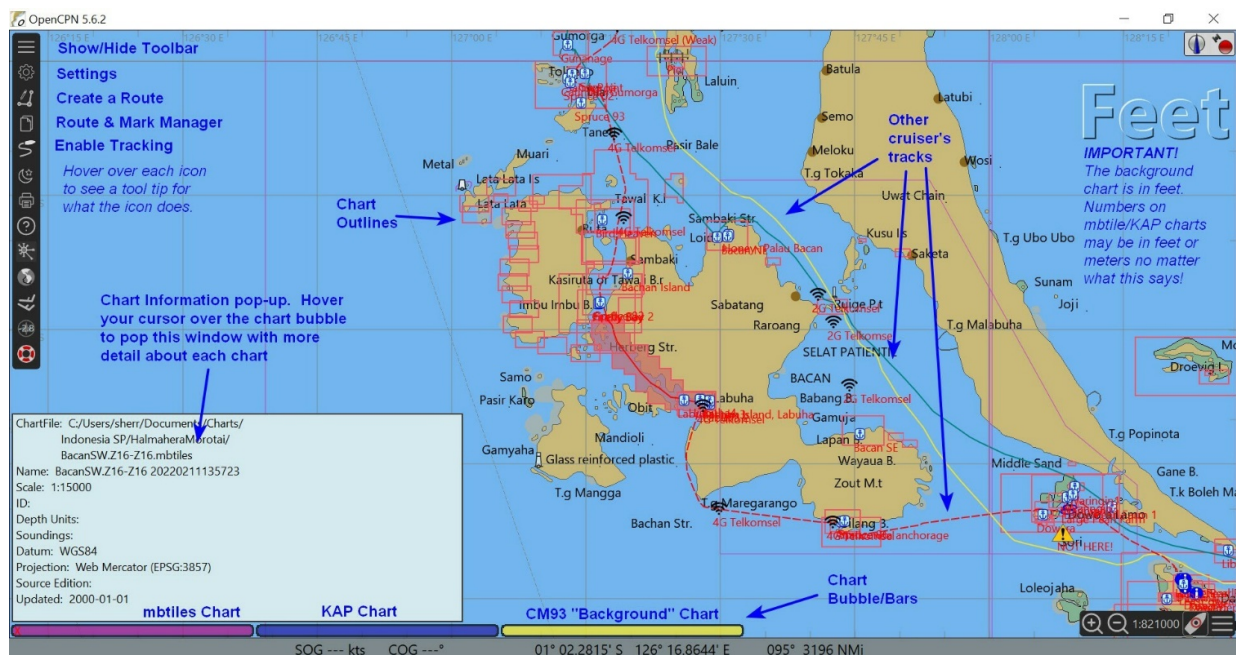
Once you have installed the charts for use by OpenCPN, make sure you have "show chart outlines" display option turned on. (Shortcut: type "o" on the keyboard toggles to show and hide chart outlines). You should then see red chart outlines for the areas of charts you have added.

You should also see Blue, Pink, and Yellow/Brown bubble/bars at the bottom of the Chart area. These will change as you move the chart around and zoom in and out. These designate the available charts. The left-most bubble represents the most detailed chart available, scale-wise. The right-most bubble is usually the CM93 world-wide chart.

If you have 'chart quilting' turned on in OpenCPN, play with the light blue bars (KAP files) and pink bars (mbtiles) at the bottom of the screen to see which level of chart you can choose. The left-most bars on the bottom of the chart table are the most detailed charts, and the right-most are the least detailed.

The easiest way to zoom in and out is with the + and - keys on your keyboard, or your mouse wheel.

See the sample OpenCPN CM93 chart below for a display example of some of the information above.



OpenCPN has excellent help files, and there is an OpenCPN User group on Facebook, as well as a support forum on CruisersForum.com.

Added benefits of OpenCPN include the following very useful Plugin applications:

- **Climatology** consisting of wind rose or wind barb display Pilot Charts with wind, current and tropical storm tracks averaged since the 1980s and overlaid on your chart.
- **Radar Overlay** for Garmin & Navico digital radars
- **Weather Routing** looks at historical weather and current data to help you plan a future voyage
- **Polar file** creates one for your boat from known boat polars or your own custom polar
- **Voyage Data Recorder** records and displays boat data from onboard sensors
- **Stowage Manager** allows a cruiser to create an onboard stowage file by location
- **Logbook** function lets you digitize your official daily logbook
- **NMEA Instrument** displays your course, speed, wind, depth, etc. on your computer, pad or cell.



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>