



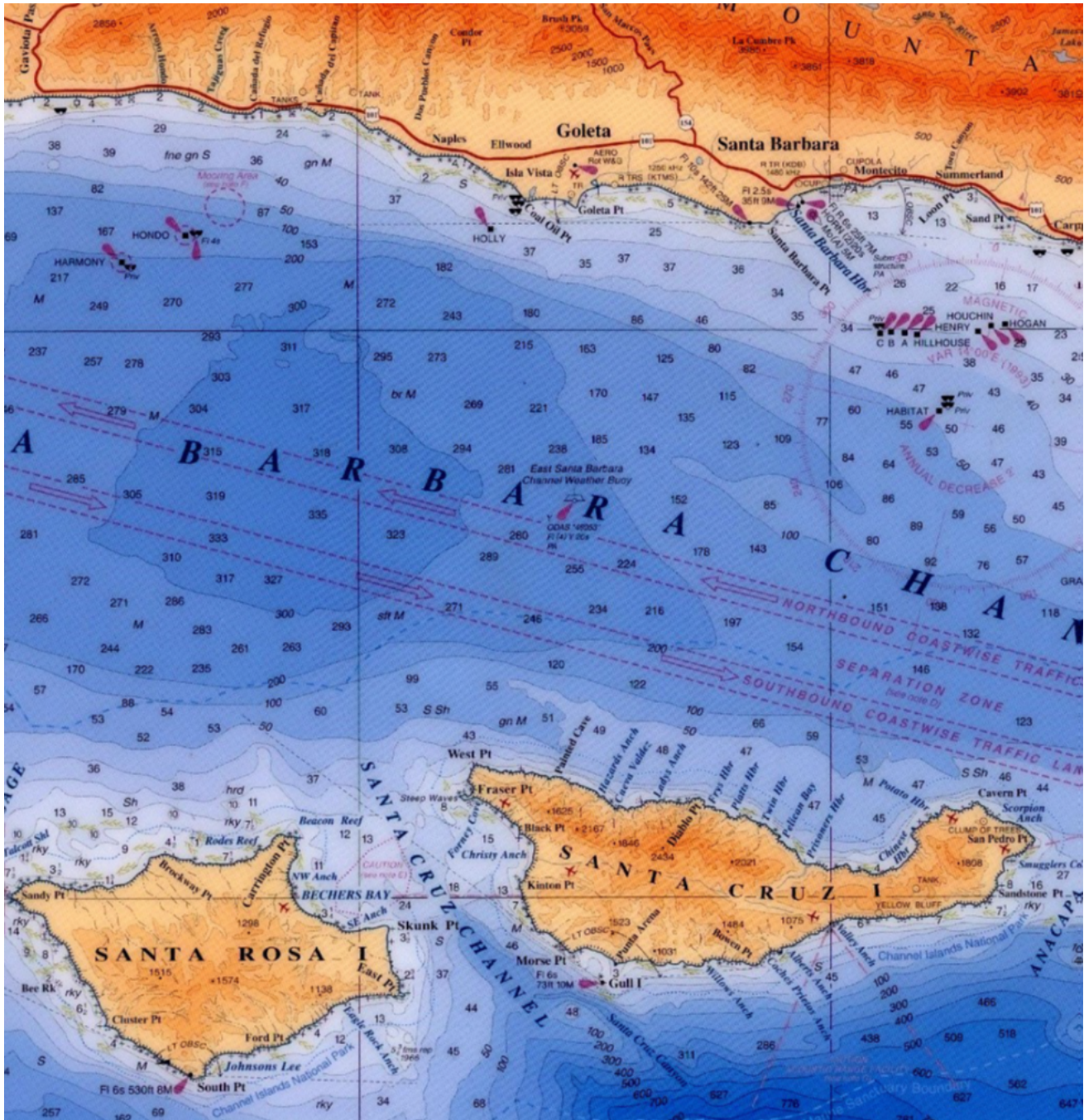
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# Signal Hoist

Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

Monthly Newsletter February 2024





## **COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

**Cdr. Virginia Johns, P**

I hope you all had a nice holiday season. We had several well-attended events since my last message to you. In November we had our ever-popular Member Mixer at the Maritime Museum which we offer in coordination with the Santa Barbara Sailing Club. In December our Holiday Party was a lunch at the recently reopened Timbers Roadhouse. Read more about these events further on in this newsletter. They were both fun celebrations.

At our January business meeting we planned our 2024 calendar. We put a lot of thought into balancing social, community service, boating, and meeting activities. You will see all your favorites on there. And our monthly meetings are back! Last year we had received some input from members that encouraged us to try less frequent meetings. But many missed that monthly connection. Mark your calendars for the first Thursday of every month, 7:30pm in the Waterfront Classroom. Quarterly we will devote the meeting to business. The other monthly meetings will be programmed with guest speakers and other fun activities suggested by you, the members.

The nominations committee is developing a slate of officers for 2024. We will send out an announcement of the slate in advance of our March Change of Watch/installation of officers. This event, which also includes our Annual Awards, will be a lunch on Saturday, March 23.

### **Coming up this month**

#### **Feb 1 Monthly member meeting 7:30pm in the Waterfront Classroom**

We will present our 2024 calendar of activities, announce upcoming education offerings, and give a short introduction to the online Information

Center that has valuable tools for all members. Join us and socialize over some refreshments.

**Sat Feb 17 Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center at Ventura Harbor**

We are taking a field trip! We will meet at the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center at 10:30am to view the exhibits, watch the park movie "A Treasure in the Sea," listen to the Ranger Tide Pool Talk, and then wander to a nearby restaurant for lunch.

*Looking forward to seeing you in February at our monthly meeting and the field trip!*

## Upcoming Activities

<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>Thurs 7:30pm</b>	<b>Meeting — New calendar of events, upcoming education offerings, intro Online Information Center, refreshments.</b>	<b>Waterfront Classroom</b>
<b>Feb 17</b>	<b>Sat 10:30am</b>	<b>Field Trip to Channel Islands National Park Visitors Center</b>	<b>Channel Islands Visitors Center</b>
<b>Mar 23</b>	<b>Sat noon - 2:00pm</b>	<b>Change of Watch (COW)</b>	<b>Cody's</b>



## **SEO'S MESSAGE**

### **Lt/C Rich Ciolino, JN**

Welcome back to all as we move into 2024! The Education Committee is revving up its planning for the new year and is looking forward to offering up a selection of courses that provide the kind of information our local boating community is looking for. Last year we were quite successful in attracting interested boaters with one 8-week technical course and eight 3-hour seminars that attracted 59 individuals in total. Of these 59 individuals only 12 were SBSPS members (including two new members) with 51 people that just attended the seminars. I expect we'll see a good number of these same people taking this year's offerings.

Based on last year's results I expect that we will have a similar lineup of courses this year. As outlined at our January 2024 business meeting the educational committee plans to start with a five-week **Cruise Planning and Cruising** course beginning on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Dennis and Virginia Johns will reprise their 2016 presentation of the course material with support from some of our other experienced cruising members. And given the success of our seminar presentations last year, we plan to offer up more of them this year as well. We also want to provide a couple of technical electives like Boat Electrical Systems and Diesel Engine Maintenance. More details to follow in next month's report.



# Vessel Safety Check

John Profant, SN

Well, Happy New Year! Virginia and I did it. We got recertified as Vessel Safety Examiners and maintained it for 2024. Also, I have already received new 2024 VSC Stickers.

A prudent thing to do is to go over the safety check list once a year and make sure every thing is working and your safety equipment is up to date.

So, for those of you who are interested in having a free Vessel Safety Check please let us know. We would be happy to schedule an appointment. It typically takes about 45 minutes. You can call me at (805) 455-9173 or Virginia at (805) 770-0611.





**Saturday February 17 10:30am**

**Field Trip**

**Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center**

1901 Spinnaker Drive - in Ventura Harbor

(located at the far end of Spinnaker Drive)

**Meet at the Visitor Center at 10:30am**

The visitor center has a bookstore, a display of marine aquatic life, and exhibits featuring the unique character of each park island. We will enjoy a Tidepool Talk by the Ranger at 11:00am and the 25-minute park movie, "A Treasure in the Sea".

We will wander to a nearby restaurant for lunch

Contact: Virginia [sbmesafirstmate@gmail.com](mailto:sbmesafirstmate@gmail.com)

805 770 0611 with any questions



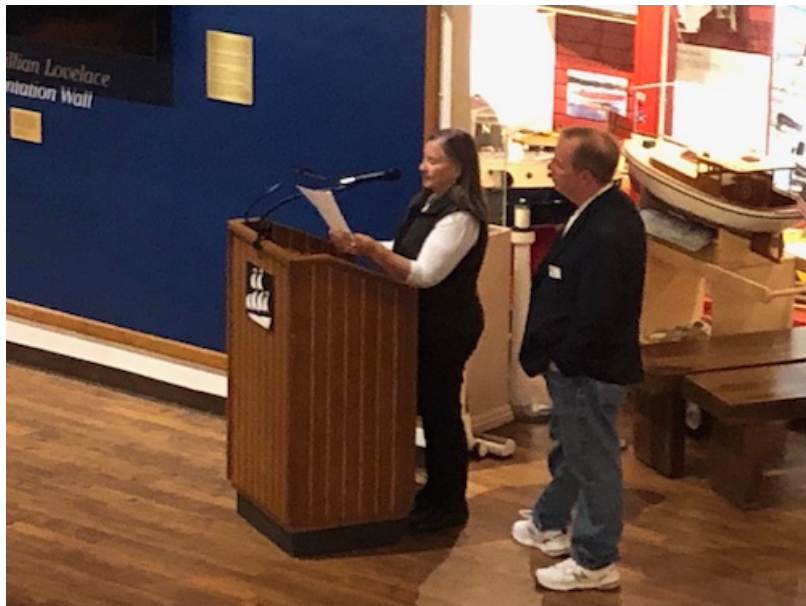
## Good Times at Annual Maritime Museum Mixer

We had our annual member mixer at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. We started this tradition in 2016; a few years later the Santa Barbara Sailing Club (SBSC) joined in the fun and we have

been jointly holding this event ever since. Suzette was our coordinator extraordinaire. We socialized over delicious appetizers that she had arranged, along with delightful wine provided by the SBSC. Some wandered through the museum, taking in the exhibits. Others took advantage of the trained docent, Dennis – one of our own. Michael Ghens, Commodore of the SBSC, started off the storytelling program with a tale of the day of the



microburst (a few years back here in Santa Barbara). Others quickly volunteered to tell their story. Virginia acknowledged the great work of the Museum in our community with youth marine education, an interesting evening speaker program, and robust docent training. Not surprisingly she was preaching to the choir as there were a number of museum members in the group that night. What a fun evening!



## Baja Ha-Ha 2023

George Poe, N

The inspiration to join the 2023 Ha-Ha started in November of 2022. I helped a friend sail his Catalina C445 from Nuevo Vallarta to Loreto. We only had one overnight passage and I had a blast.

So, upon returning home I set about getting Life is Short, cruise ready. I had no idea how much work I had in front of me. In short, I added Lithium batteries, an upgraded alternator and regulator, solar panels, a charger/inverter and had to rewire the boat for the larger current batteries. I also added a portable watermaker and finally, Starlink internet.





We got the boat ready just before our departure on 10/25. Mark, my brother-in-law, joined me for the voyage from Santa Barbara to San Diego. We enjoyed barbecued jalapeno burgers at Yellowbanks to end our first leg. Our next night was spent at Isthmus Harbor. We entered the Harbor at night and needed assistance finding our mooring. Our last night was spent at Oceanside harbor. We arrived in San Diego the following afternoon and took on fuel and hunkered down in our slip in South Bay.



*Mark left the boat and Mike Haden (L) and Alan Harper (R) joined me(C) on the boat the night before the start of the Ha Ha.*

The following morning, we started early as the trip from South Bay to Shelter Island is farther than one might expect. The parade of 100+ boats motored by Shelter Island and the first leg of the 2023 Baja Ha Ha was on. We had little wind, so the entire fleet was motoring for the first few hours. As the wind picked up a few of the larger boats started flying chutes and slowly the fleet was under sail alone. I don't have a spinnaker, so we used a whisker pole to pole out the jib and a preventer on the main. At 35 feet, we were one of the smallest boats in the fleet, so we focused on a safe, comfortable ride.

We had a bit of excitement on the second evening at sea. We were enjoying dinner under sail as the wind started dying. After dinner we tried to start the motor and it would not start! We knew it must be lack of fuel so I grabbed a multimeter and went below. It appeared that the lift pump was not getting power, so I created a quick harness to power the pump from a 12v source. That did the trick, and we all sighed a breath of relief as the motor came to life.



During a calm interlude, Mike and Alan went forward and noticed a broken cotter key on deck and that a pin holding the mast toggle to the boom was working its way free. For the remainder of the voyage, each watch would inspect the pin and pound it back in to position if required.

After 3 days at sea on 11/2, we arrived in Turtle Bay at about 11 AM. That afternoon we all gathered at the baseball stadium and enjoyed the annual baseball game.



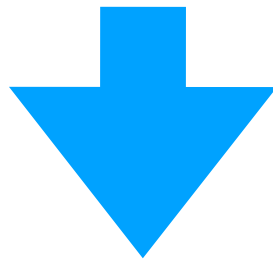


The following morning, we awoke to news that one of our boats in the fleet had sunk while entering Turtle Bay. All three aboard were rescued but we all had questions as to how this had happened. Speculation was rampant at the beach party the following day.

On 11/4 we started the second leg to Bahia Santa Maria (BSM). This leg is a bit shorter at 240nm. We enjoyed a bit of excitement on this leg as well. About 60nm from BSM we observed lightning in the distance. As I mentioned, we were one of the smallest boats in the fleet so nearly everyone was in front of us. We could tell from AIS that many vessels had slowed, stopped or turned around. We continued vowing to anchor next to the boat with the tallest mast in the anchorage. We didn't have to outrun the bear!

We arrived at BSM on 11/6 around 8 PM. By then all of the lightning and rain was gone so we suspended our search for the tallest mast and enjoyed a toast of Kraken rum. This year the check in procedure was done in Bahia Santa Maria instead of Cabo San Lucas. The Mexican officials arrived rather late and we were asked to bring our documents to Profligate, a 63 foot catamaran. A hundred or so dinghies rafted up to Profligate was quite a sight! The following day we had the Rock and Roll beach party, which happens on a deserted beach only once a year.

Since we were far behind the fleet on leg two, we decided to get an early start and leave at 3 AM on 11/8 for leg three. By the time we got our anchor up, the wind increased from 10 to 20+ kts. Once out of the anchorage, the wind increased to 25 kts with gusts above 30 kts. The rather large following sea was very uncomfortable. As we passed Isla Santa Margarita, we enjoyed warm rain for several hours. Gradually the wind and sea state calmed, and we passed Land's End early morning on 11/10.







*We anchored around 9AM and got ready for the Beach Party at the Mango Deck.*



On the morning net for 11/11, we learned that we needed to check out with the port captain. The trouble is, we didn't check in. Apparently, we were not alone. The port captain opened the office from 9AM to 1PM and we checked in and checked out. Whew!

The following morning, we departed from Cabo San Lucas at 6AM with Nuevo Vallarta as our ultimate destination. This was the first leg of the



journey where we were on our own. A highlight of this leg is when we hove to in the middle of the Sea of Cortez and went swimming. The current was pretty strong so we created a life line of dock lines tied to a fender.

We arrived at Paradise Village Marina on 11/14 around 11AM. Once we got checked in, we all enjoyed a warm shower and late lunch.

We had a great time, a real bucket list experience for me. The boat remains in Mexico where I am fixing items we managed to break on the voyage down. Until she is cruise ready again, we will use her as our floating condo. While at the Paradise Village Marina we are technically guests of the Paradise Marina Resort so we enjoy afternoons under their palapas on the beach. We plan to leave her in Mexico for two seasons before making the bash home.

## **We Need You!!**



It's that time of year when your Awards Committee asks for your input - we need to know who should be considered for our annual awards.

**Deadline for nominations is February 15th!**

**Please submit nominations to Pete and Suzette Seagoe - [jmseagoe@cox.net](mailto:jmseagoe@cox.net). 530 386-1212 (Pete cell)**

Feel free to nominate yourself, or any other member. Please provide a reason why the nominee qualifies for the award. Awards will be presented at the annual Change of Watch meeting.

- Al Lincoln Award (Contribution to education)
- Commander's Trophy
- Most Valuable Player (MVP)
- Marcia Rowland Award
- Power Boat Award
- Sailing Award
- Santa Maria Award (Most active new member)
- Boner Award

Summaries for your reference:

AL LINCOLN AWARD Continually offering to teach and raising the standard to an amazingly high level - New teaching aids via the computer, providing students with fascinating material to supplement the basic course material, etc.

COMMANDER'S TROPHY Given to a member in recognition of extraordinary efforts to the Squadron.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARD Awarded to a member who has provided a

valuable service that wouldn't have been done if they didn't do it.

**MARCIA ROWLAND WATERSPORTS AWARD** Given to members who have significantly participated in watersports during the past year.

**POWER BOAT AWARD** Made significant use of his/her power boat.

**SAILING AWARD** Made significant use of his/her sailboat.

**THE SANTA MARIA AWARD: ELIZABETH L. CARETTO TROPHY** Recipient deemed to be the most active NEW member – meaning a member for no more than two years.

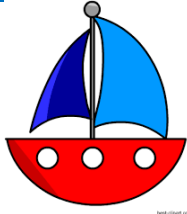
**THE BONER AWARD** We memorialize the biggest blunder of the year. Actually something to be proud of - if you haven't pulled a boner you haven't been boating enough.

Thank you.

**Suzette and Pete Seagoe** [jmseagoe@cox.net](mailto:jmseagoe@cox.net) **530 386-1212 (Pete cell)**







**2024 - 2025**

***Santa Barbara Sail and Power  
Squadron  
Change of Watch and Annual Awards  
Celebration***

***Saturday, March 23  
Noon-2pm  
\$27  
Cody's Café  
Turnpike Shopping Center***

***Menu  
Please select your choice when making your  
reservation!***

**Classic Eggs Benedict  
or  
Bacon Cheeseburger and fries  
or  
Club sandwich with salad and fries  
or  
Cobb Salad  
Non-alcoholic beverage included**

***Register and pay online with a credit card at:***

***[Click Here](#)***

***Or RSVP to Suzette Seagoe [-shseagoe@gmail.com](mailto:-shseagoe@gmail.com) BY MARCH 16  
and mail check to 4401 Nueces Dr., SB CA 93110***

# Cruise Ship Notes

Steve York, P



I volunteer weekly with the SB Visitor Center usually at the Garden Street location. However, during Cruise Ship season, I also volunteer at the pop up visitor center that serves arriving cruise ship visitors. It's an interesting activity.

Many of you are aware that we have cruise ships that come to our beautiful city. We get between 18 and 30 ships visiting SB each year. Most arrive during March to May and September to November. None are allowed during summer months as this is the height of tourist season.

Ships range in size from a few hundred passengers to the largest at around 3500 passengers. All of them anchor outside the breakwater and shuttle passengers ashore to the dock at Sea Landing. First passengers come

ashore about 8am for the pre booked tours and the rest start coming ashore between 8:30 and 9. The last tender for returning passengers is typically 4-4:30 except on Wednesdays when it is 3:30 so the ship can clear the Harbor for "Wet Wednesday" racing by the SB Yacht Club

There is a lot of behind the scene activity to prepare for each ship's arrival. Private security arrives an hour before anchoring - usually driving up from their base in the LA Harbor area. They erect ropes and stanchions to guide and organize passengers. There are at least 8-10 security staff stationed from the actual dock at Sea Landing all the way out the bike path close to Cabrillo Blvd. They stay until the ship leaves and then head back to LA. It's a long day for them with their shift starting at 3am in LA and ending when they return by 8-9pm. They like the OT though!



Homeland Security also has a presence when the ship arrives from a foreign port - Mexico or Canada - without stopping elsewhere on US soil.

The Harbor Department is responsible for the overall visit and collects \$15 for each passenger on board whether or not they come to shore with a minimum of \$7500. There are also fees for anchoring and cancelling a visit. This covers the cost of all of their activities described below.

The Harbor Department coordinates with the SBPD for traffic control - usually 2-3 officers to cone off Cabrillo Blvd for tour busses and shuttles for passengers coming ashore for both pickup and drop off throughout the day.

The Harbor Dept. arranges for local shuttle busses which take cruise passengers from Sea Landing on a loop through Downtown as far as the Courthouse. That is the usual drop off point for people who want to "go shopping" and see downtown locations.

The Harbor Dept. also arranges with Marborg for several upscale (think weddings) porta potties at Sea Landing for passengers either waiting for shuttles or waiting for tenders to rebound the ship.

The Harbor Dept. maintains a set of storage containers for all the SB Visitor Center activities. Harbor Dept. staff erect a temporary tent at the foot of Sea Landing for SB Visitor Center Staff, set up tables, hang banners and open storage lockers. They also put up temporary signs for all the tours and shuttles.



The temporary tent for the SB Visitor Center is used to welcome cruise passengers. This is considered a “pop up” visitor center. Depending on the size of the ship there are from 4 to 12 volunteers providing maps and information on activities and things to do. They have several key maps, brochures and information about activities and events. This is a fun assignment as we meet and interact with so many passengers from a variety of places in a short amount of time. Often they are lined up 2-3 deep waiting to get information.



A typical day starts with the prearranged tours for passengers that they purchase through the cruise line. Typical tours are the 90 minute SB Trolley Tour, all day tours to the wine country, 4 hour tours to Solvang, 2 hour tours



of Montecito, 2-3 hour walking tours of SB, etc. These start leaving between 830am and 10am.

A few passengers come ashore with specific things they want to see - the Mission, Moreton Fig Tree, Reagan Center, Harry and Meghan's or Oprah's. Sometimes crew members come ashore and want to know how to get to Marshalls or CVS. The volunteers have answers for all of these requests with suggestions on how best to get there. Some passengers are very happy to walk to the Mission 2.2 miles each way!

But the majority of passengers that come ashore have no idea of what there is to see and do here. That's where the bulk of the questions and interactions come with Visitor Center Staff. The shuttle that loops through downtown is the usual starting point with the Courthouse as the prime attraction - the observation tower, the Mural Room and the grounds. Depending on timing there are also daily docent tours of the Courthouse. The famous self-guided Red Tile Walking Tour is also popular. Restaurants and shopping along State St. are often the highlight before returning to the ship. Staff is also able to recommend walking distances and times, good wifi locations as lots of foreign passengers don't have cell coverage, and also places to eat - a surprising number want breakfast! Chad's gets a lot of business from us!

We also see some other interesting things that cruise passengers do. Often there are a handful of golfers from the ship who will Uber out to Sandpiper or other courses for 9 or even 18 holes. There are often a few folks who rent a car from the downtown Enterprise location to travel on their own. Once it was a couple who were visiting their fathers grave in Santa Maria. Another group wanted to do the Wine Country on their own. We've had crew members who were making a Target run to pick up electronics for passengers. CVS on State St. is also a popular destination for medicine and toiletries. World Market on State St is also popular with crew who pick up different kinds of foodstuff for their personal use on the ship. A few people want to rent bikes or surreys. We also have the "walkers" who want to stretch their legs on a long walk for exercise. We have a number of suggested routes for them. And then we have folks with actual walkers and wheelchairs - both manual and electric. We have suggestions for them as well. It's always a diverse and interesting group of people coming off the ship.

By noon early passengers are done and start back to the ship. The trickle of returning passengers gets much heavier as it gets closer to the time for the last tender to the ship. No one wants to miss the last tender as the ship



WILL leave without you. I've never seen this happen here in SB but search Youtube and you can see it does happen elsewhere!

Once the last tender has departed, Harbor Dept. staff comes back to take down the tent, tables, temporary signs and store them in the containers in the Harbor parking lot. SBPD removes the traffic cones.

Marborg comes to take away the porta potties. Security staff removes the ropes and stanchions. Within an hour, there is no sign of any cruise ship activity.

For some the cruise ships here are controversial but overall there is an economic benefit to the city. The city has been responsive to the concerns voiced at several public hearings during the past 12 months. Improved procedures for both air and water quality have been proposed as well as reducing the number of visits annually from around 30 to 18. Cruise ships will continue to arrive here.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for the SB Visitor Center, let me know and I'll put you in touch with the Volunteer Coordinator. It's an enjoyable activity and you meet lots of interesting folks.

Steve York  
[shyork@yahoo.com](mailto:shyork@yahoo.com)





## Stir-Ven 19 Launch

Mark Gallo

I launched my Francois Vivier designed Stir-Ven 19 daysailer in October. This is a smaller, lighter version of the Stir-Ven 22, a popular Raid boat in Europe. A key factor in choosing this design is the simple water ballast system that introduces up to 400 pounds (50 gallons) of ballast should conditions warrant.



The boat is of Okoume plywood/ epoxy construction with Eucalyptus trim. Chase Small Craft in Maine provided the cnc cut plywood and milled timber.









Eric Bridgford of Carpinteria Boat Works in California built the boat with Mark's assistance.



The boat is named "Finley Grey" after my grandkids. I keep it on a trailer at home in SB. I collaborated on the build with Eric Bridgford of Carpinteria Boat Works. We built it at his shop on Toro Canyon Road over the course of 11 months beginning in November 2022.



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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