



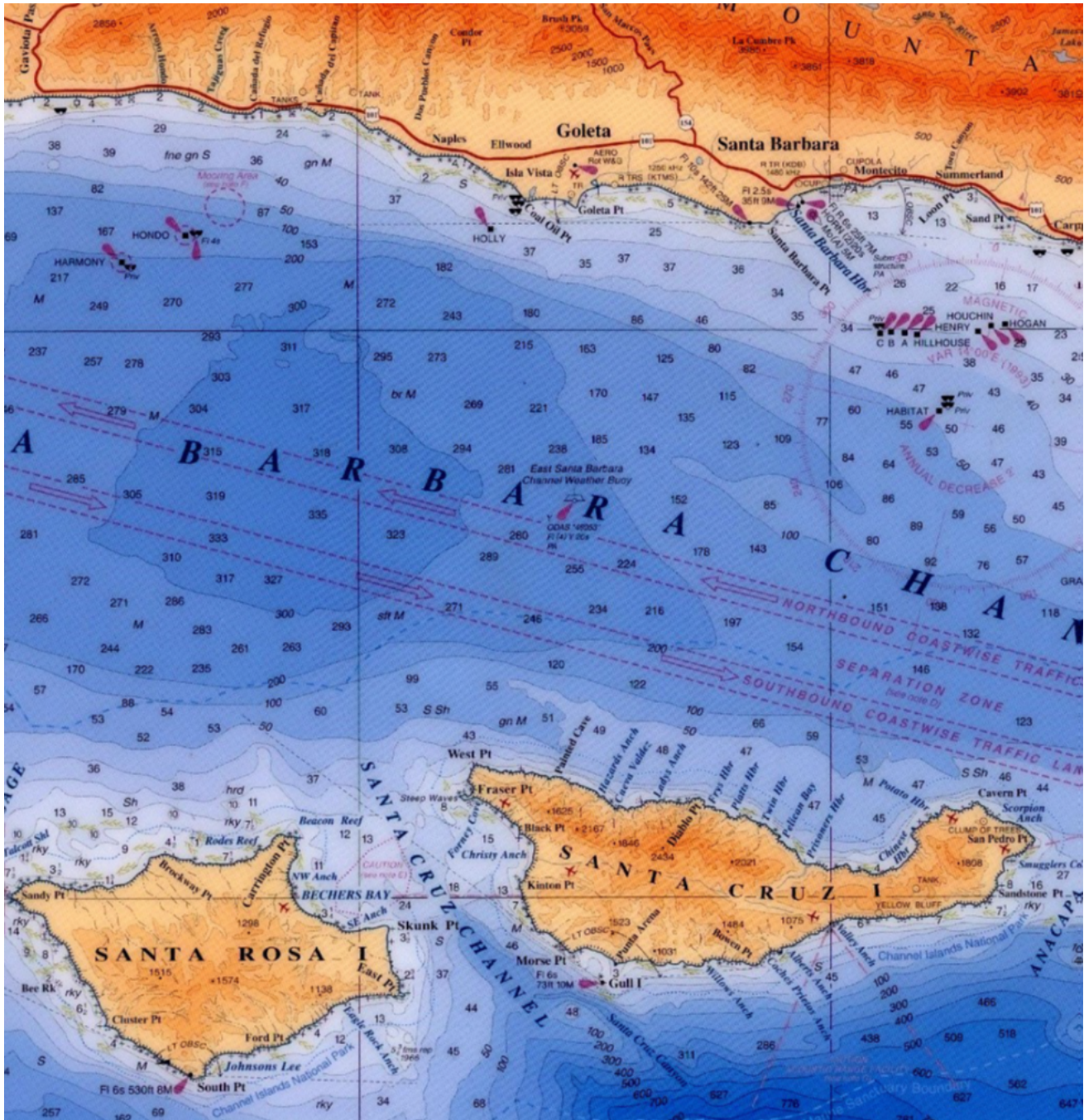
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Signal Hoist

Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

Monthly Newsletter March 2024





COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr. Virginia Johns, P

Last month

At our February monthly member meeting we previewed our 2024 calendar of activities. If you missed the meeting [CLICK HERE for the 2024 Calendar](#). We also learned how to use a few of the features of the Information Center: to update our personal information, view our training history, access our squadron's roster, and find the contact information for any member in any squadron. If you need help with this, let me know.

Mid-February we had a very enjoyable day visiting the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center in the Ventura Harbor. See the article further on in this newsletter for the details.

The nominations committee published our slate of officers and committees for 2024-2025. You should have received the notice in your email. We will vote on the slate at our March Change of Watch/installation of officers.

This month **MARK these dates on your CALENDAR**

Tuesday March 5 at 7:00pm in the Waterfront Classroom is the start of our cruise planning course. We will be using the recently released new version of the course: Cruising under Power and Sail. You can register for this course on our website [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE COURSE](#).

Thursday March 7 at 7:30pm is our monthly members' meeting in the Waterfront Classroom. Lydia Rao from the SB Maritime Museum will present 170 years of SB Harbor History. I had a preview at a Yacht Club Monday Forum. I really enjoyed her presentation and she agreed to repeat it for us.

Saturday March 23 at noon we will gather at Cody's Café for our Change of Watch (installation of officers) and Annual Awards Celebration. It is always fun to hear about the adventures and accomplishments that are

being recognized. See details further on in this newsletter or [CLICK HERE to RSVP.](#)



We are off to a great start - another year of supporting safe boating through our classes and seminars, speaker programs, community service, group cruises, and comeradery at our social events. Hope to see you at our March activities!



SEO'S MESSAGE

Lt/C Rich Ciolino, JN

Our first course offering is about to begin with a slight change in plans. Just as we got our advertising underway at the beginning of February for a March 5 start, National's Education Committee announced the release of the new Cruise Planning course titled **Cruising Under Power and Sail**. Our Education Committee wasn't expecting this new version to come out in time for us to use it but we were able to incorporate the new version into our plans. While the updated version contains more information than the 2016 version we will retain our original schedule of five weeks. As with all of National's course upgrades the course comes with an electronic student

manual (ebook) instead of the traditional hard bound material. It's not too late to sign up for the class....

Cruising Under Power and Sail



Catalina Island



Santa Cruz Island



Ensenada, Mexico



Sea of Cortez, Mexico



Moorea, French Polynesia



British Virgin Islands

A 5-week course covering: Preparation, Boat Selection, Provisioning and Meals, Chartering, Communications, Security, Safety Equipment, Anchoring, Weather, Foreign Travel, Boat Systems, and Handling Emergencies.

Schedule: Five sessions; March 5 – April 2, 2024; Tuesdays, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Price: \$75 per person; \$25 partner sharing material

Location: SB Harbor Marine Center Classroom above the Post Office

Registration: Register and pay on-line at sbsps.net and click the Boating Courses tab on the banner or contact Rich Ciolino at rdciolino@cox.net or 805-682-4543

Upcoming Activities

Mar 5	Tues 7:00pm	Cruise Planning Course — First Session	Waterfront Classroom
Mar 7	Thurs 7:30pm	“170 Years of Harbor History” Speaker — Lydia Rao — SBMM	Waterfront Classroom
Mar 23	Sat noon - 2:00pm	Change of Watch (COW)	Cody’s



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***

Happy Holiday Party

Cdr Virginia Johns, P



Our holiday party was a luncheon at the recently re-opened Timbers Roadhouse. They had decorated our private room with holiday décor to help with the festive mood. We had several out-of-town guests. Dave Smith (Commander of our District) and Keith Nunnery (Executive Officer of our District) and his wife Chandra travelled from Las Vegas to join us. They

distributed small table flags of our squadron burgee to all in attendance. Dave called up our newest squadron member and quizzed him on the design of our burgee, Mark Gallo was a good sport. Brian Krasnoff from The Valley squadron made the trip up to join us as well. We had a full house with 34 in attendance. The lunch was delicious and the service excellent. Peggy continued the tradition of reading us the poem 'Twas the Night before Christmas as we played a game that passed a box of candy around those seated at each table until it ended up at the lucky recipient. But the rest of the time we just visited! It was wonderful to have that time to catch up with so many of our members and the visiting dignitaries!







The Adventure of a Lifetime

Cdr Virginia Johns, P

As Dennis and I prepare for teaching our part of the upcoming cruise planning course, I got hooked on reliving our ultimate adventure by reading some of our blog posts from that time. Here is our very first post, before we had departed Santa Barbara.

It reminded me of how we had done a lot of cruising in our local waters the ten years before we left on that journey. The skills learned in those years from our squadron courses and buddy boating cruises to the islands prepared us for comfortably exploring further in our Channel Islands, Baja Haha rallies to Mexico, and crossing oceans. We continue to enjoy our local cruising grounds since returning home. Whether you want to cruise the Channel Islands, cross the border to Mexico, or go beyond...

I highly recommend taking the squadron Cruise Planning under Power and Sail course

Starting Tues March 5th

Cruise planning: up close and personal

30 September 2010 | still home in Santa Barbara

Virginia Johns

We bought s/v Libertad nearly a decade ago and the lofty goal (inconceivable dream?) then was to cruise when we retired, perhaps circumnavigate. Thus our intention was to purchase a boat that would be up to the task and with our mostly local cruising during these 10 years, we are satisfied we made the right selection. Even so, at that time it was overwhelming to think about planning such an extensive cruise and now that our departure is rapidly nearing, I've been thinking back on how it all happened.

We spent the first couple years learning about our boat by cruising in the Channel Islands. We enhanced our sailing knowledge by joining the Santa Barbara Sail and Power Squadron (SBSPS), taking every squadron course that was offered and by participating in as many of the planned cruises as our busy work schedules would allow. We also read voraciously about the

topic - 4 monthly magazines (Latitude 38, Sail, Cruising World, Practical Sailor) and many personal-story and reference books. Through all this we were dog-eared the pages in the reading material and noting in the margin items that needed to be on our "list": things to buy, things to research, things to learn. Visiting the boats of other squadron members also gave us good ideas. Together we picked away at this list over the years but it soon became clear that our approach to this task would be best served if we patterned it after our married life "partnership". So we divided the tasks to match our specific skill sets. This allowed each of us to focus on our individual tasks and make more progress. However, it did result in some unshared expertise which we plan to remedy with cross-training once we are under way and sharing tasks onboard.

Dennis is responsible for items related to the operation of the boat and navigation. This includes not only having working systems, but also secondary systems and spare parts for all of these. He approached the task with the philosophy that if you have it, you won't need it (thank goodness *Libertad* has lots of storage space!). For instance, for battery charging power we will have the Perkins engine, solar panels, a wind generator, a propeller shaft-driven alternator, and a portable gasoline powered generator. Squadron members who crewed aboard *Libertad* on the 2008 Baja Ha-Ha can appreciate these additions, having gotten lots of practice with hand steering and navigating with paper charts as we were unable to recharge the batteries when all we had was the Perkins and we lost the starter motor forcing us to turn off most electronics!! For steering we have an autopilot as well as a wind vane. We've also added a watermaker, freezer, sea anchor, a main staysail, various new running rigging, and a new set of sails.

I am responsible for items related to safety and communication. Some obvious items in these areas are boat and medical insurance (including emergency evacuation), flares, life raft, satellite phone, SSB radio with pactor modem for email, website for our pictures and blog, and of course webcams for us, our parents, and son so that we can call and "visit" them using Skype. As a part of this, I am developing our reference library. I've really enjoyed that part of my job - the new Jimmy Cornell book that was released this month just arrived.

And then there is our house for which we had numerous "deferred" maintenance issues as well as preparations to rent it -we split that list too.

Dennis is in charge of the remodel projects and I'm in charge of downsizing so that we don't have to store so much while we are gone. Craigslist is my new friend.

We share the rest - such as entertainment, the galley, and creature comforts. I like to sew, so I'm busy making sail covers, winch covers, sail bags, bedding; I bought a new Sailrite machine and I love it although it will require a special (read LARGE) storage space. Dennis loves his music so he is working on installing speakers "in every room". We also plan on having "movie nights", so he will be installing a flat screen that can run DVD's off the laptop. I'm loading up my Kindle with reading material so we don't have to take as many paper books and can use that space for my sewing machine -see, it all works out. Dennis is deciding which musical instrument he'll learn how to play and doesn't take up too much room -fortunately drums are out of the question.

Here are some lessons we have learned along the way.

1. *You can't start too early.* While we wanted to purchase some of the equipment closer to our departure date so that we had the latest technology, it helped to know which items we needed in advance so that we could keep an eye on the market and focus our visits to the boat shows.
2. *The internet is indispensable.* We have spent hundreds of hours on our computers researching equipment, insurance plans, country visa and entry requirements, and the like. The majority of our purchases have been over the net as well.
3. *Plans change.* We invested a lot of time preparing for our two sweet dogs to make the trip with us. But we eventually had to make the hard, emotional, decision to leave them behind. They are not comfortable with boating life and it's just not fair to them to drag them along. Anyone interested in the companionship of two weimaraners for the next couple years? Anyone need some ramps, dog life vests, boat booties, books on 'pets aboard', and doggie tranquilizers?
4. *Some things are never off the list.* After we purchased an item we would feel good about taking something off the list, only to see a related item reappear later. For instance, the life raft we purchased in 2008 needed

to be repacked, the EPIRB battery had to be checked and its hydrostatic release replaced, PDFs had to be rearmed. And of course, as we learned in the Cruise Planning course, this routine will never stop - we will need to have monthly and annual maintenance lists to stay on top of things.

We are still very busy with the preparations, but our target departure date is approaching and we are getting excited for this adventure to start. Joining SBSPS was one of the smartest decisions we made early on in our planning. We have learned so much from the courses and the other members. And we will certainly be glad to share our 'lists' with any of you planning a similar adventure!

Field Trip to Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center

Cdr Virginia Johns, P



Ten of us met at the Channel Island National Park Visitor Center in Ventura Harbor on Saturday morning, February 17. It is a beautiful facility with a comfortable movie theater, book store/gift shop, exhibits on each of the islands, an indoor tide pool, and ranger presentations.



We first viewed the 25-minute park movie, "A Treasure in the Sea," narrated by Kevin Costner, which highlighted the unique splendors of each of the islands in one of the most diverse biospheres in the world. Since it was a weekend day, the ranger talk was on Tide Pools. There were some young children there that were very eager to answer all the Ranger's questions. We all stood back and enjoyed their enthusiasm.



Coincidentally, the ranger on duty was Bonnie Smith – who spoke to our squadron during our COVID zoom meeting days. She was the entertainment for our March 2021 virtual Change of Watch! She and her husband are liveaboards in Ventura with two young children. After her talk, we had questions for her and she for us!



We spent some time with the other exhibits and shopped in the bookstore. It was a cool and cloudy day, but no rain - yet. We walked down to Brophy's for a delicious lunch.



Some Notes on the Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol

Peggy Ciolino, P

When I'm at the Santa Barbara Harbor, I often see the harbor boat patrolling on the water up and down the many fingers in the four marinas. I know that they also host the flare shoot every year on the beach between the Yacht Club and Leadbetter beach, but I don't know much more about them. Steve York recently submitted several reports from the Waterfront Department on this topic and I am summarizing these reports in the following paragraphs.

The Harbor Patrol's mission is to enforce laws on land and water to facilitate the safe and orderly use of the Waterfront area. This includes inspecting boats to determine their operability and terminating slip permits for those that are non-operable. The Harbor Patrol is on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and employs 10 peace officers and a supervisor. The supervisor holds the rank of captain. Patrol officers carry multi-agency radios, a collapsible baton, TASER, pepper spray, handcuffs and a firearm. They patrol the harbor on foot and by car, but also in a 24' fiberglass Radon (Patrol Boat #1), a 32' fiberglass Radon (Patrol Boat #2), a 33' aluminum Norsco (Patrol Boat #3), and a 13' rigid-hull inflatable (Patrol Boat #4), used for surf rescues, search and recovery and special duty operations such as the 2011 tsunami response. Patrol boats #1,2, and 3 are designated fire boats and can pump 950 gallons of water per minute.

Officers respond to calls inside the Harbor and up to one mile out at sea, from the Bird Refuge to Arroyo Burro Beach. They occasionally go out further when lives are in danger. For more information on the Santa Barbara Harbor and its duties, check out santabarbaraca.gov/harbor-commission/harbor-commission-agendas-documents.



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
SBSPS Website Manager:	Lt/C Steve York, P
Website address:	<u>www.sbsps.net</u>