

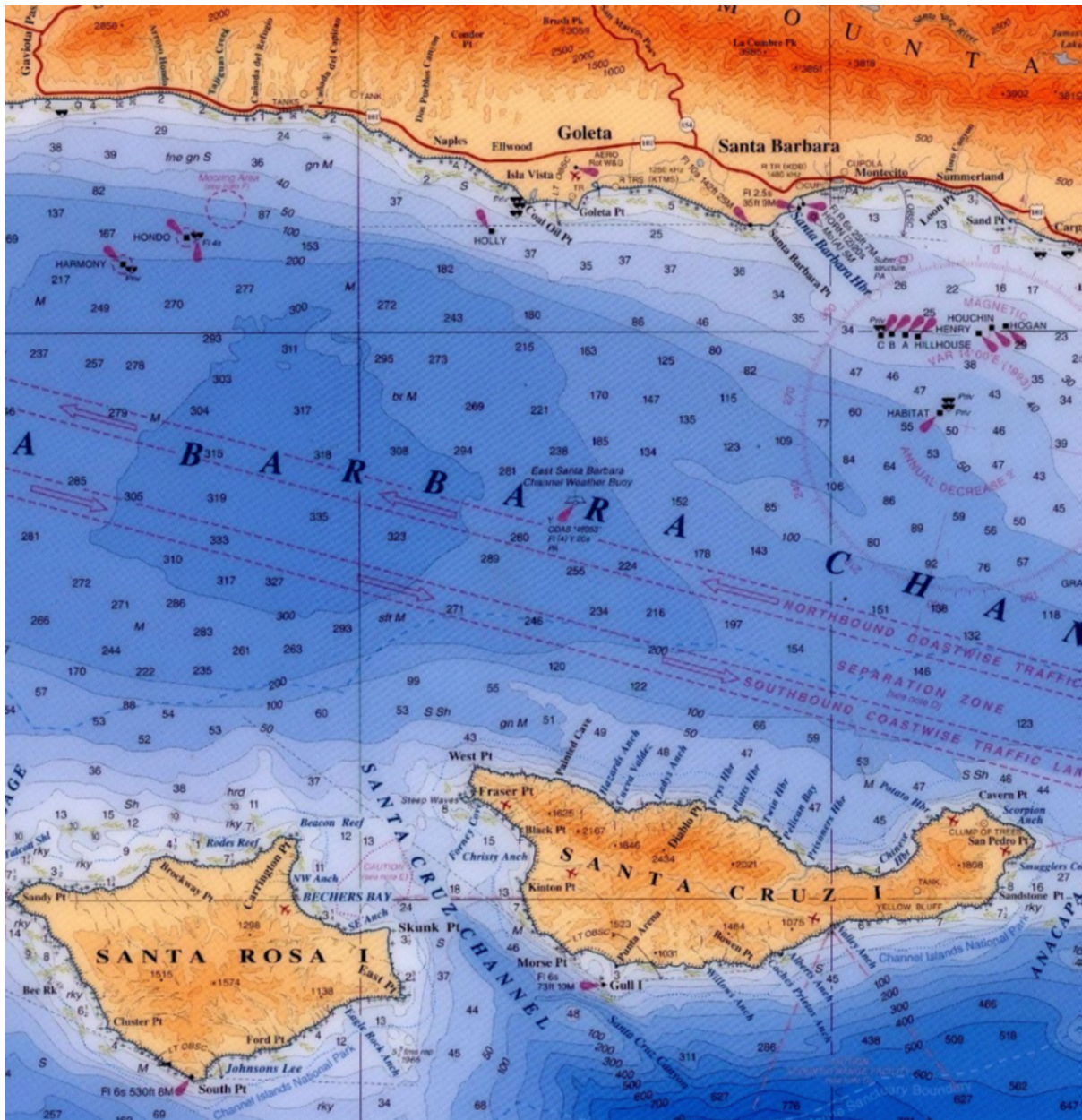


# Signal Hoist

## Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

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## Monthly Newsletter March 2025





## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

**Cdr. Virginia Johns, P**

### Learning

We had a very enjoyable field trip to the Chrisman California Islands Center in Carpinteria this past month. As with the field trip last year to Ventura for the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center, we followed up the educational visit with lunch at a nearby restaurant. Read more about our Chrisman trip further on in this newsletter.

### Celebrating

We have one event scheduled for March, our **Change of Watch and Annual Awards Luncheon on March 22<sup>nd</sup>**. It's always a lot of fun to recognize fellow members for boating accomplishments and teasing each other about our mishaps. Call for award nominations coming soon – start thinking!

### Helping

But before we can celebrate, we need to have a slate of officers to install! Please review the email sent to our squadron members last month which describes the leadership positions open for the upcoming year. Take on one of the positions OR volunteer to handle some of the supporting tasks outlined in the job descriptions. The current members that have been holding these positions for several years are committed to mentoring you. And by sharing the load among more of us, we will get new perspectives working together to keep the squadron relevant and fun.

John Profant (Chair, Nominations Committee) and I are happy to talk/meet with any of you that have questions about stepping into a new role. Don't hesitate to contact us. Let's meet for lunch!

## Boating

It's that time of year when we need to get our boats ready for the cruising season. Our first **monthly cruise to the islands is in May**. Dennis and I were pleased to finally uncover the issue with our new engine not starting. Turns out the 'brain' had a recall notice and Volvo is sending us a replacement. What a relief! Anyone want a **Vessel Safety Check**? Contact John Profant johnprofant@cox.net. He has received the 2025 US Coast Guard stickers. We also have free kits for you which contain oil absorbent pads, 2025 tide charts and discount coupons for safety equipment. As of January 1, 2025 ALL motorized vessel operators regardless of age are required to carry a **California Boater Card**. I was one of the procrastinators, but I took the test and am legal now!



### SEO'S MESSAGE

**Lt/C Rich Ciolino, JN**

## California Boater Card

As our commander mentioned earlier in this issue of our newsletter..THE CALIFORNIA BOATER CARD, indicating you have successfully taken a qualified boater safety class, is required by all boaters operating a motor boat, including sailboats with auxiliary motors, as of January 1, 2025. Our America's Boating Course (ABC) is qualified and several of us have gotten our cards using USPS's on-line course. Here's how to do it:

The course is open to the public so you don't have to log-in. Go to the USPS website using "americasboatingclub.org"; click on America's Boating Course; select Take this Course Online and enroll. There is a charge of \$34.95 for the course. There are two parts to the course. The main part is the ABC course that covers general boating safety and operational information. The second part is California specific information. The final exam covers both parts.

As you complete the course you'll be directed to register at the state of California website and pay \$10.00 for the California Boater Card. USPS will send you a certificate of completion for the course and notify the California Division of Boating and Waterways who will send you a temporary card right away and follow up pretty quickly with the plastic card.

Get the Card!

## Upcoming Activities

**March 22 Sat  
TBD**

**Change of Watch**

**TBD**



## The Chrisman California Islands Center

Virginia Johns

On Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup>, we took a field trip to Carpinteria to visit the Chrisman California Islands Center. Dave, the volunteer docent on duty that day, was a former Park Ranger for the Channel Islands and was thus





very informed. He gave us a nice overview of the various features in the museum and the outdoor courtyard and stood by to answer any questions.

We perused the various exhibits with the accompanying interpretive materials, checked out the live island cams, and viewed the aerial videos of each island. Before heading out to lunch we even sat in the theater section to

watch a few segments of the public television program West of the West.



They had brochures there about the Islapedia project, a Wikipedia style database for the California Channel Islands. Check it out at : [CLICK HERE](#)

We walked to the Rincon Brewery for a delicious lunch which was very close to the museum.

A very fun day of learning and camaraderie among 18 of our boating friends!



Octopus's Garden sponsored by Ringo Starr



Rich Ciolino & Scott Burns



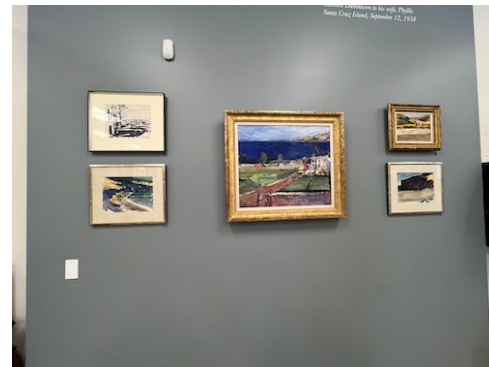
Cdr Virginia Johns



John & Michelle Profant & Tom Koch



Pottery made on Catalina Island



Artwork by famed artist Richard Diebenkorn



Rich Ciolino & Peter Ford



Mary Ford, Betty Koch, Tom Koch, Alec & Amber Hardy



**United States Coast Guard**  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

We're excited to announce the launch of the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center's new Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Application! This enhanced platform is designed to improve your access to critical navigation safety information, including Local Notices to Mariners (LNM) and Light Lists.

Key Features of the New MSI Application:

- Near-Real-Time Updates: Stay informed with the latest changes and updates.
- GIS Display: Visualize navigation information directly on an interactive map.
- Customizable Searches: Narrow your searches to focus on specific waterways or regions of interest.

The application is available now and ready to support safer, more efficient maritime operations.

Access the New MSI Application:

Click [HERE](#) to explore the platform and take advantage of its features.

User Guide can be found [HERE](#)



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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