

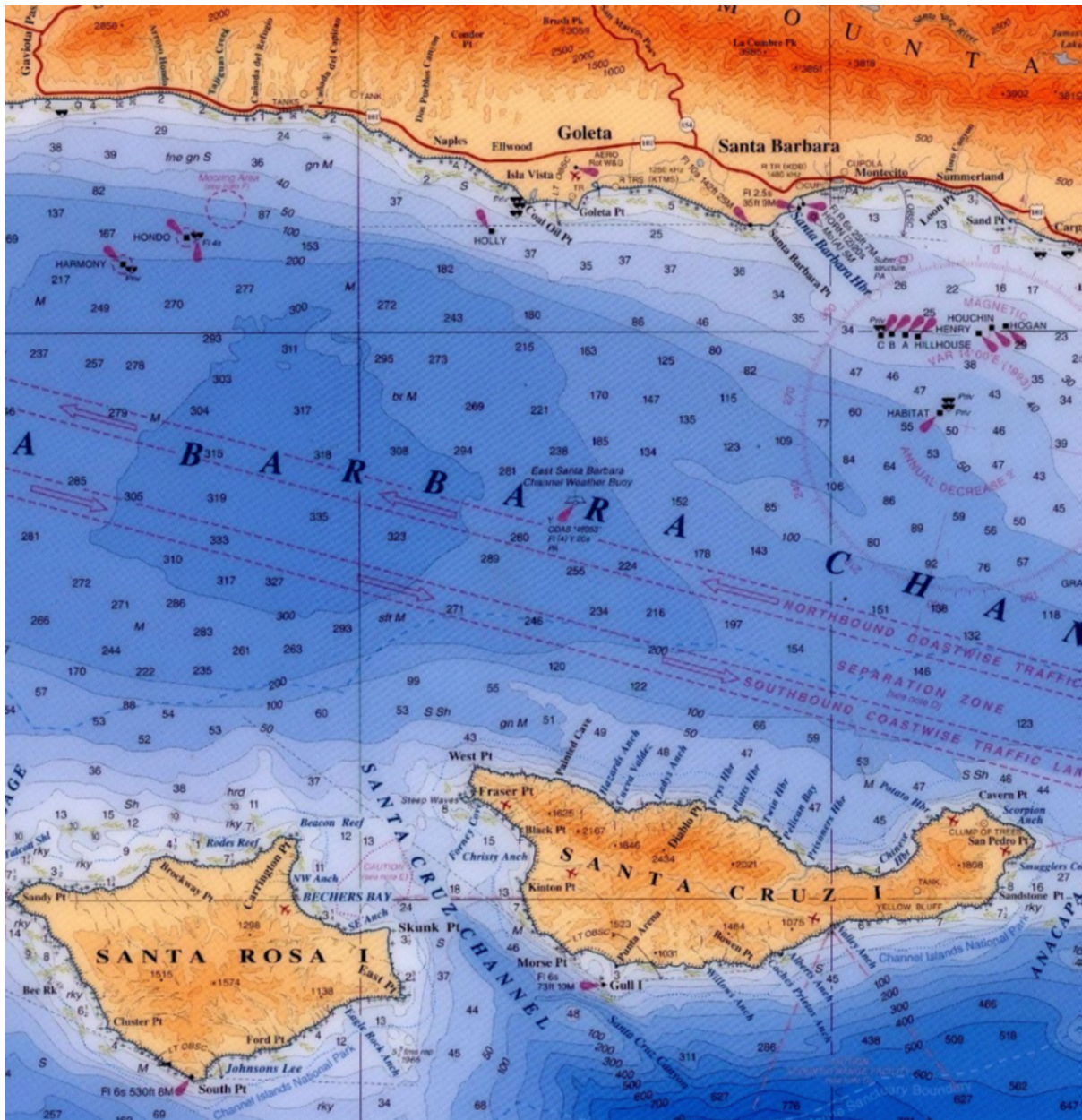


Signal Hoist

Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

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Monthly Newsletter August 2025





COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr. Alec Hardy

Ahoy, fellow members!

I hope you're all enjoying a great summer both on and off the water. July was full of sunshine and good company, and a big thank-you to everyone who joined us for our cruise to **Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club**. It was a great time to reconnect, enjoy a beautiful evening on the water, and share some laughter over dinner.

As we look ahead, we've got some exciting events coming up. We're currently planning a **Labor Day weekend cruise**, so stay tuned for details on that — we hope to see many of you there. And don't forget to mark your calendars for our **BBQ and White Elephant Gift Exchange on September 20th at Tucker's Grove Park**. It's always a fun, lighthearted evening that brings out the best (and quirkiest) of our squadron spirit!

Also, a **big thank-you to the Squadron Education Committee**. We're making great strides in strengthening our programs and getting more people involved in learning and boating safety.

Be sure to check out the photos and articles further down in this newsletter to relive some of our recent adventures.





SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Virginia Johns

There were no squadron business meetings to report on this past month.

We held our annual social event at Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club last month, July. A good time was had by all – see the story further on in this newsletter.

In late August we have a cruise to the islands, look for more details from Alec and Scott.

In September we have our next social event - our Annual BBQ and White Elephant Auction at Tucker's Grove. Hope you have saved an interesting item to wrap and bring to the auction! See the flyer in this newsletter for details.

Upcoming Activities

Aug 29 - Sept 1	Fri AM Mon	Labor Day Weekend Cruise	SB Harbor
Sept 20	Sat 10am - 5:00pm Lunch -noon	Annual BBQ & White Elephant Exchange	Tucker's Grove Space #4

Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron Annual BBQ

When: Saturday September 20
Lunch at noon
We have the park 10-5

Where: Tucker's Grove, Area #4

Bring:

- **A side dish**
Some suggestions are:
garlic bread
chips and dip/salsa
beans
salad
dessert
- **Your own beverage of choice**



BBQ'd meat, plates, cutlery, and napkins will be provided.

White Elephant Auction-after meal

- **Bring a wrapped item (new or lightly used)**
- **Buy raffle tickets for \$5 each** and place them in a collection bag next to the item(s) that interest you. Tickets will be drawn from the bags to determine the lucky winner of each item.

Please RSVP by Friday September 12, to Virginia at sbmesafirstmate@gmail.com
or 805-770-0611.

2025 Weekend Cruise to Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club

Tom and Betty Koch

It was announced and the people came, once again! For the authors, it is believed to be their 35th or 36th trip, either by boat or auto. Unfortunately, due to various problems, only Commander Alec and Amber were able to sail their boat to the PCYC Dock, while the rest came by automobile. All in all, one boat and nineteen Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron (SBSPS) members made the trek to the Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club (PCYC) for the weekend cruise of 18-20 July 2024.

The Cruisers

This year, only a 25' sailboat piloted by our Commander, Alec Hardy sailed from his berth down on Friday, 18 July, and met our PCYC host, Gwen Wilvert, General Manager PCYC, who directed them to the dock tie-up location.

The Auto Travelers

The remaining seventeen members joined the *Sailors* by driving to PCYC on Saturday afternoon. These included Neil and Sue Ablitt, Scott and Lisa Burns, Rich and Peggy Ciolino, Will Goodale and Son, John, Dennis Johns, Tom and Betty Koch, Peter and Suzette Seago, Ron and Vicki Slocum, and Steve and Eleanor York. We were very sad to hear our Past-Commander, Virginia Johns was under the weather and was unable to attend. Maybe next year??



Betty & Tom Koch

The Festivities

As is the custom for this annual event, Saturday afternoon provided an excellent opportunity for all to renew old friendships and engage in conversations and appetizers on the dock. Two tables were brought down by PCYC's Waiters, and all were, again, treated with Ron and Vicki Slocum's *Captain Ron's - Pusser's PainKillers* and various other Appetizers.

(If you are wondering, the *PainKillers*, alone, offer a very good reason to make the Trek.)



Suzette Seagoe & Vicki Slocum



Sue Ablitt & Ron Slocum



Peggy Ciolino & Dennis
Johns



Pete Seagoe & Scott
Burns



Alec & Amber Hardy

As evening fell, we all gathered in PCYC's Crow's Nest for evening drinks, followed by the evenings fare, of salad, vegetables and either Pistachio Encrusted Salmon or an 8-oz New York Steak, cooked in Mushroom Sauce.



After all were fully stuffed, the waiters brought each a Hot Fudge Sundae sprinkled all with miniature Sprinkles and M&Ms. Commander Hardy opened the Dinner by welcoming all and venturing that we make plans to continue



Lisa & Scott Burns



Scott Burns, Dennis Johns, Vicki
& Ron Slocum



Steve & Eleanor York & Betty
Koch



Neil Ablitt, Suzette & Pete
Seagoe

the event, even if many are unable to make the journey by boat. Afterward, most of the travelers bid adieu and motored their way back to their "Santa Barbara and Goleta" homes or stayed the night and sailed or motored back on Sunday morning.



John & Will Goodale



Attendees being served dinner



Peggy & Rich Ciolino



Sue & Neil Ablitt

Acknowledgements

The author offers a "Special Thank You" to our host, Gwen Wilvert, General Manager of PCYC for, once again, providing excellent service and care of our entourage. Her assistance in setting up this most enjoyable weekend, has us looking forward to enjoying another PCYC Cruise and Banquet Dinner in 2026.

If you, the reader, were unable to share this adventure, I hope you've enjoyed the photos of everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves, and make it a point to sign up for the 2026 PCYC Cruise and Banquet.

The following was submitted by Steve York, who often volunteers to help tourists who arrive in Santa Barbara via a cruise ship. There is much interesting information given which shows that having cruise ships anchor in the waters off of Santa Barbara is a complex operation that requires much thought and preparation.

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

July 22, 2025

Harbor Commission

Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director Annual Cruise Ship Program Review

RECOMMENDATION:

That Harbor Commission receive a presentation from staff reviewing the 2024/2025 cruise ship program including data on visiting vessels, revenues, and compliance with recently adopted cruise ship program improvements.

BACKGROUND:

The Waterfront Department established a Cruise Ship Program and welcomed its first visiting ships in 2002. Since that time, Santa Barbara has hosted numerous ships, with many years receiving between 15 to 30 cruise ship visits. In 2022, following the COVID- 19 pandemic, cruise ships resumed visiting Santa Barbara in slightly higher numbers, with 30 cruise ship visits in total. The increased number of visits after the pandemic was largely driven by demand from visits that were canceled during the pandemic. The increase in visits prompted the community and Harbor Commission's interest in reviewing the Cruise Ship

Program policy to make recommended improvements where needed.

In response to the community's interest, Harbor Commission formed the Cruise Ship Workgroup on April 22, 2022 to further review the program, its impacts, and benefits, as well as to better understand cruise ship operations. The Cruise Ship Workgroup held numerous well-attended public meetings over a two-year period covering a broad range of topics including:

- - Overview of the Cruise Ship Program
- - Main community concerns
- - Discussion on air emissions and ocean discharge with SB Channelkeeper and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
- - Discussion on regulatory practices
- - Discussion on economic benefits with Visit Santa Barbara and the Chamber of Commerce
- - Presentation from the Air Pollution Control District (APCD)
- - Presentation from Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA)
- - Presentation from the United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- - Discussion on proposed improvements to the Cruise Ship Program

The process was finalized on April 9, 2024 when the City Council adopted a list of recommended improvements to the cruise ship program which is included as an attachment to this report.

One notable recommendation was to conduct periodic reviews of the cruise ship program which is the intent of this report to Harbor Commission. A review of efforts to implement program improvements and last year's cruise ship data is outlined below.

DISCUSSION:

As a result of the Cruise Ship Workgroup process and the vote by Harbor Commission and City Council to adopt the recommended improvements to the Cruise Ship Program policy, Waterfront staff has worked to implement the following procedural changes to the program:

- - Limiting the number of scheduled cruise ship visits to no more than 20 visits per calendar year.
- - Confirming all ships calling on Santa Barbara are equipped with Advanced Wastewater Treatment Systems on board by Spring 2025.
- - Continuing the requirements of no discharge of any kind within 12 nautical miles of Santa Barbara.
- - Requiring vessels to reduce speeds to 10 knots or less while in the Santa Barbara Channel Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Zone.
- - Restricting all cruise ships from visiting Santa Barbara from Memorial Weekend to Labor Day and on weekends throughout the year.
- - Continuing to implement the increased passenger fees, minimum passenger fees, and cancellation fees.

- - Began providing the Letter of Understanding document to the cruise ship during scheduling process (2-3 years in advance) to confirm the ship meets the new requirements of the Cruise Ship Program.

Since the new Cruise Ship Program policy was adopted in spring 2024, Santa Barbara has hosted a total of 11 cruise ship visits: 7 in fall 2024, and 4 in spring 2025. The total number of passengers aboard the cruise ships throughout both seasons was just over 22,000. The total number of cruise ship visits scheduled for the upcoming fall 2025 and spring 2026 seasons is 12. The number of cruise ships currently scheduled in future years beyond 2026 is well below the limit of 20 scheduled cruise ship visits per year.

As a result of the reduced number of cruise ship visits to Santa Barbara, some of the recommendations to the Cruise Ship Program have been harder to attain, such as forming partnerships with the visiting cruise lines and local businesses, local seafood suppliers, and local educational institutions. With so few visits, cruise lines have indicated it is difficult to setup programs such as this without more consistency and reliability.

As we are currently well below the limit of 20 cruise ship visits per year, there has not yet been a need to prioritize certain ships based on various technologies as recommended. At this stage the Waterfront is tracking various ship technologies such as at-anchor

Harbor Commission Staff Report Annual Cruise Ship Program
Review July 22, 2025

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emissions control systems, scrubbers, shore power connectivity, and environmental compliance records, to use for future prioritization. This data is being included in a publicly available

database located on the Waterfront website and will be updated and reviewed regularly.

Overall, the Waterfront has been successful in implementing the majority of City Council's recommended improvements. Although, some recommended improvements will require more evaluation and interpretation such as evaluating the need for ship pilots, evaluating environmental compliance records, and reliably identifying some technologies on various ships.

It is the intent of Waterfront staff to continue to implement the program improvements and to conduct periodic reviews of the Santa Barbara Cruise Ship Program to assess compatibility with the City's goals and evolving industry sustainability best practices.

A list of the 20 Cruise Ship Program recommended improvements, along with the implementation status, is included for review.

Attachment: Recommended Improvements to the Cruise Ship Program

Prepared by: Angela Rodriguez, Administrative Analyst III

Recommended Improvements to the Cruise Ship Program			
		Recommendations	Implementation Status
1	Wastewater Treatment	Request cruise ships calling on Santa Barbara be equipped with Advanced Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS) by 2025	IMPLEMENTED: Every cruise ship that had visited Santa Barbara as of Spring 2025 is equipped with Advanced Wastewater Treatment System (AWTS)
2	Wastewater Discharge	Continue the local requirement of no discharges of any kind within 12 nautical miles of Santa Barbara	IMPLEMENTED: This was an existing requirement that is being continued by the Waterfront Department, and has been added to the Letter of Understanding in addition to the Captain's Declaration.
3	Vessel Speed	Request cruise ships calling on Santa Barbara to reduce speeds, when feasible, to 10 knots or less within the Santa Barbara Channel Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Zone between May 1 and December 15	IMPLEMENTED: This was an existing requirement that is being continued by the Waterfront Department, and has been added to the Letter of Understanding in addition to the Captain's Declaration.

4	Scheduling/ Limiting Visits	Continue to prohibit cruise ship visitation from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Prohibit cruise ship visits on weekends year round	IMPLEMENTED: This was an existing practice that is a being continued by the Waterfront Department.
5	Business/ Community	Encourage cruise lines to further involve local businesses during visits	IMPLEMENTED: Continued practice by Waterfront Department to work with local business who offer services and excursions to cruise ship passengers. However, with less visiting cruise ships, it is difficult to establish new connections between local businesses and cruise ships.
6	Business/ Community	Encourage cruise lines to explore the feasibility of supplying local seafood to visiting ships	BEING INVESTIGATED: With less visiting cruise ships, it is difficult to establish a partnership with local seafood suppliers and cruise ships.
7	Business/ Community	Encourage cruise lines to engage with educational institutions to enhance career development in the maritime sector	BEING INVESTIGATED: With less visiting cruise ships, it is difficult to establish a partnership between educational institutions and cruise ships.
8	Fees	Continue charging the increased per passenger fees from \$10 to \$15 for FY24 and FY25	IMPLEMENTED: Fee went into effect July 1, 2023
9	Fees	Continue charging the implemented 500 passenger minimum fee of \$7,500 for FY24 and FY25	IMPLEMENTED: Fee went into effect July 1, 2023
10	Fees	Continue charging the implemented cancellation fee of \$2,500 for ships that cancel 15-30 days prior to call, and \$6,500 for ships that cancel 14 days or less prior to call for FY24 and FY25	IMPLEMENTED: Fee went into effect July 1, 2023 and was recently revised with the FY2026 Budget to include a tiered fee based on the passenger capacity of the cruise ship.
11	Approval Process	Require visiting cruise ships to receive written approval from City Administrator or designated representative	IMPLEMENTED: This was an existing practice that is a being continued by the Waterfront Department.
12	Policy/ Documentation	Establish a publicly available cruise ship best practices informational resource for Santa Barbara which includes an annual report on cruise ship statistics, ship technologies, and incidents.	IN PROGRESS: Information for cruise ship database is being compiled for public review to be available on the cruise ship program website.
13	Program Review	Conduct periodic reviews of the Cruise Ship Program to ensure it continues to align with Council priorities and City's goals	IMPLEMENTED: Review of Cruise Ship Program presented to Harbor Commission, and City Council periodically.
14	Evaluate Need for Pilots	Evaluate the need for licensed ship pilots to assist with cruise ships in Santa Barbara	NOT YET IMPLEMENTED: Staff worked with USCG to evaluated the need for licensed pilots aboard ships and determined it was not necessary in the Santa Barbara Channel.
15	Technology - At Anchor	Request cruise ships calling on Santa Barbara to consider at-anchor emissions control systems when such technologies become commercially feasible	NOT YET IMPLEMENTED: Difficult to prioritize as it is not a measurable metric.
16	Scheduling Limit	Establish a limit of twenty (20) annual cruise ship visits	IMPLEMENTED: Less than 20 cruise ship visits scheduled for 2025, 2026, 2027, or 2028.
17	Technology - Scrubbers	Prioritize cruise ships without scrubber technology or with closed loop scrubber technology	NOT YET IMPLEMENTED: Currently below 20 cruise ship visit limit. However, would be difficult to prioritize. Defer to regulatory agencies that govern when various technologies can and cant be used.
18	Technology - Plug-In Electric	Prioritize cruise ships with shore power connectivity	NOT IMPLEMENTED: Currently below 20 cruise ship visit limit. However, would be difficult to prioritize. Defer to regulatory agencies that govern when various technologies can and cant be used.
19	Environmental Compliance	Prioritize cruise lines with exemplary environmental compliance records	NOT YET IMPLEMENTED: Difficult to prioritize as it is not a measurable metric.
20	Cruise Ship Working Group	Maintain the Cruise Ship Workgroup	NOT IMPLEMENTED: Now handling at Harbor Commission level.



Into the Blue: Exploring the Marine Abundance of the Santa Barbara Channel Through the Lens of Adam Ernster



The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (SBMM) is proud to welcome Adam Ernster, wildlife cameraman and naturalist, to its Maritime Distinguished Speaker Series on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. His talk, titled "Marine Diversity & Abundances throughout the Santa Barbara Channel," will showcase the extraordinary biodiversity just off the Santa Barbara coast and highlight the critical role the Channel plays in global ocean ecosystems.





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>