

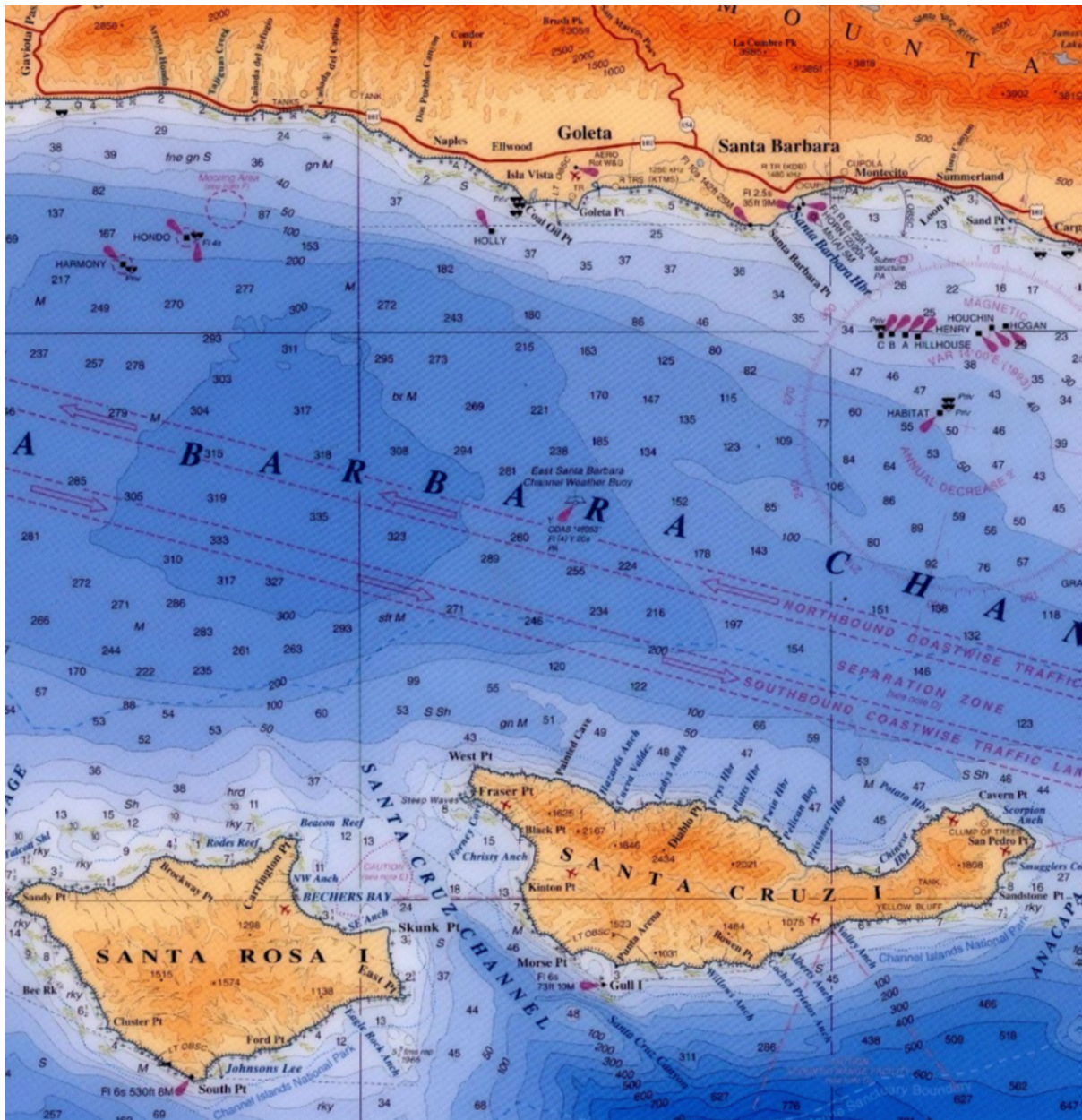


Signal Hoist

Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

America's Boating Club® is a registered trademark of the United States Power Squadrons®

Monthly Newsletter September 2025





COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr. Alec Hardy

Ahoy Squadron!

I hope everyone's been enjoying time on the water as summer winds down. We've got a few great events and classes coming up, so mark your calendars and join in the fun:

- **White Elephant BBQ – September 20th, 12–3pm**
Join us for good food and laughs! Don't forget to bring a wrapped gift if you'd like to take part in the White Elephant exchange.
- **ABC Course – October 14th, 7pm (SB Harbor Classroom)**
This is a perfect opportunity for anyone who still needs their **California Boater Card**. Invite a friend or family member who might want to get certified too. This is a multi-week class, ending November 11th.
- **Noon Sight Celestial Navigation Course – Dates TBD**
Stay tuned to your email for details on this upcoming class. It's a great chance to sharpen your navigation skills and learn something new.

Looking forward to seeing you at these events.

Fair Winds,

Upcoming Activities

Sept 18	Thurs 7:00pm	"Silents on the Islands"	SB Maritime Museum
Sept 20	Sat 10am - 5:00pm Lunch -noon	Annual BBQ & White Elephant Exchange	Tucker's Grove Space #4
Oct 14	Tues 7:00pm- 9:00	ABC Course — first class	Harbor Classroom
Oct 18	Sat 10:00am- 4:00pm	Seafood Festival	SB Harbor
Fall — Dates TBD	Noon	Noon Sight Celestial Navigation Course	Harbor Classroom

America's Boating Course

John Profant, SN

California has required that all recreational boaters take and pass a boating course approved by **National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)**. With a certificate of completion, you can send the Department of Boating and Waterways \$10, and they will send you a California Boater Card. You can go on-line and take the class/exam; however, the Santa Barbara Sail and Power Squadron will be offering the America's Boating Course in the Santa Barbara Harbor from October 14 through November 11.

The course is being taught by P/C John Profant, SN. The cost is \$50 and the class sessions are on Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00pm. You can sign up on our website, <https://www.sbsps.net/>. Course material includes the

manual and the ABCs of California Boating. For more information contact John at (805) 455-9173.

Below is the course curriculum.

CHAPTER 1: Oct. 14

- Welcome – Class Materials
- Section 1 – Getting Started
- Section 2 – Required Safety Equipment
- Section 3 – Going Boating

CHAPTER 2: Oct. 21

- Section 4 – Navigation Rules
- Section 5 – Navigation Aids
- Section 6 – Lights and Sound Signals
- Section 7 – Government Regulations
- Section 8 – State and Local Regulations

CHAPTER 3: Oct. 28

- Section 9 – Finding Your Way
- Section 10 – Anchoring
- Section 11 – Adverse Conditions and Emergencies
- Section 12 – Communications Afloat

CHAPTER 4: Nov. 4

- Section 13 – Water Sports Safety
- Section 14 – Trailering
- Section 15 – PWC Operation
- Section 16 – Knots and Lines

FINAL: Nov. 11

- CA ABC's of Boating
- Exam – 50 question NASBLA approved examination; plus
10 state-specific questions



Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

Annual BBQ and

White Elephant Silent Auction

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

Where: Tucker's Grove, Area #4

***BBQ'd chicken and tri-tip, plates, cutlery,
and napkins will be provided.***

Please Bring:

- **A side dish**
Some suggestions are:
garlic bread
chips and dip/salsa
beans
salad
dessert
- **Your own beverage of choice**
- **A wrapped item (new or lightly used) for the auction**
- **Cash for silent auction tickets** to win your treasure!



Buy 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. Proceeds support our social events.

Please RSVP by Friday September 12, to John Profant
johnprofant@cox.net or (805) 455-9173

Stargazing by Boat

Keith Nunnery, Las Vegas Sail & Power Squadron

Ever tried stargazing from a boat? Honestly, it makes the whole experience more special. With less city lights washing out the view, the stars shine brighter, and the waves give you a gentle rhythm to relax into. It's peaceful, it's breathtaking, and it's something you can only experience once you leave the shore behind. Before you head out at night, here's what to keep in mind.

Why It's Better on the Water

Staring at stars from your backyard can't compare to being out on the water. No streetlights, no neon signs, no glowing buildings—just clear, dark skies. Being offshore gives you front-row seats to the universe's best show.



Safety First—No Excuses

Night boating is not the same as a sunny afternoon cruise. You can't see as far, and mistakes happen quicker. Here's what to do before you even think about lying back to watch the stars:

- 1. Wear a Life Jacket**
Everyone onboard needs one. No exceptions.
- 2. Check Your Navigation Lights**
Red, green, white—make sure every light works. Other boats need to see you, and these lights are your way of saying, "Hey, I'm here."
- 3. Share Your Float Plan**
Tell someone on shore where you're going and when you'll be back. If things go sideways, they'll know where to look.
- 4. Bring Communication Gear**
Charged phones and a VHF radio. If one fails, you've got backup.
- 5. Go Slow**
Visibility is limited at night, so ease up on the throttle.

6. **Assign a Lookout**

While some of you stargaze, one person should keep watch for other boats and obstacles.

7. **Use Red Lights**

Bring red-light flashlights or headlamps. They let you see without ruining your night vision.

8. **Give Your Eyes Time**

It takes about 20 minutes for your eyes to fully adjust to the dark. The longer you wait, the more stars you'll see.

Planning the Perfect Trip

Check the lunar calendar—new moons are best. Watch the weather, too. Clear skies and calm waters make for the best viewing. Head a few miles offshore, cut the engines, drop anchor or gently drift, and keep your white anchor light on. Then kick back and let the stars take over.

Want to make it even better? Dust off the **Weems 2102-D Star Finder** and use it to know where to look—no phone apps, no screens, just classic star charts that sailors have used for decades. If you're feeling adventurous, grab a **sextant** and practice taking sights on the stars and planets. It's a fun way to connect with the old-school navigation skills that guided sailors long before GPS.



What to Pack

Bring the basics:

- Charts, compass, GPS (but challenge yourself to use traditional tools, too)
- Warm clothes and blankets
- Binoculars (easier than telescopes on a moving boat). Celestron and Orion are great!
- Star chart or stargazing app in night mode
- Snacks and hot drinks
- **Weems 2102-D Star Finder** for hands-on star navigation

- **Sextant** to practice moon, planet, and star sights like a true navigator
- **Friends—because a floating Star Party is better when shared**

The Best Way to End the Day

We all know boats are fun in the sun, but at night? That's when the real magic happens. Look up, it's free! Floating under a blanket of stars makes everyday stress feel tiny. So next time you're out on the water, don't pack it in at sunset. Stay out, stay safe, break out the star finder, maybe take a few sextant sights, and let the night sky put on a show that does not disappoint!

Looking for Volunteers to Help Out at the Santa Barbara Harbor and Seafood Festival

Each year we set up a booth whose purpose is to familiarize festival attendees with our various activities and benefits for the boating community. We describe what we offer regarding boating educational and safety programs, boating activities, and social gatherings with like-minded people.



We will have various aids and things of interest to show and hand out including squadron flyers, signup sheets upcoming classes/ vessel safety checks/ general information, educational interest items, activity/coloring books for children, and clean water boating information kits. Also, it's a good time to talk with other boaters.



The Festival is on October 18 this year and we need coverage at the booth from 10:00AM to approximately 4:00PM in 2-hour shifts with two squadron members per shift. We'll set up the booth at about 7:30AM and tear down at about 4:30PM.

If you are interested in participating in being at the booth or helping with setup/tear down please let me know and we'll put a schedule together.

Thank you,

Virginia Johns

sbmesafirstmate@gmail.com

805 770 0611



Mermaids, Mayhem & Million-Dollar Movies: The Silent Film Era of the Channel Islands

Santa Barbara, CA — The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (SBMM) is pleased to welcome local historian and author Betsy J. Green for a special presentation titled “*Silents on the Islands*” on **Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** as part of its Maritime Distinguished Speaker Series. The event includes a pre-lecture reception for SBMM members only from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. Free for Navigators Circle members, \$10 for SBMM members, \$20 for the general public, and just \$5 for students and educators with a valid school ID or email address. [Purchase tickets here](#) or call (805) 456-8750.



The Channel Islands, with their natural beauty and dramatic shorelines, once served as the backdrop for more than 250 silent films. These early cinematic adventures featured legendary stars like Gloria Swanson, Rudolph Valentino, Douglas Fairbanks, Buster Keaton, and Laurel & Hardy. From five-minute beachside reels to million-dollar epics with casts of thousands, the islands offered the perfect setting for tales of pirates, shipwrecks, mermaids, and high-seas adventure.

“Watching silent movies is a form of time travel,” says Green. “You see the people, the buildings, the transportation—and our coastline—just as it was 100 years ago.”

Betsy J. Green has been a professional writer for more than 25 years. She is the author of *The Way Back When* series and currently pens *The Great House Detective* column for *The Santa Barbara Independent*, uncovering stories of local homes and the people who lived in them. A former editor for *Reader's Digest* and *World Book Encyclopedia*, she has also researched the

histories of more than 85 homes and nominated five to the National Register of Historic Places.

"Betsy's research brings a vivid new perspective to Santa Barbara's connection to early Hollywood," said Director of Education Lis Perry. "Her storytelling shows how our coastal environment played a starring role in shaping film history."



Green has given engaging presentations throughout the community at the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Genealogy Society, Santa Barbara Yacht Club, Rotary clubs, and more. SBMM is honored to welcome her back for this fascinating exploration of film, history, and our island shore.

SBMM's Maritime Distinguished Speaker Series brings leading authors, historians, scientists, and adventurers to the museum to share compelling stories connected to our region and the sea.

Event Details

What: *Maritime Distinguished Speaker Series – "Silents on the Island" with Betsy J. Green*

When: Thursday, September 18, 2025 | 7:00 p.m. (Reception for SBMM members only at 6:15 p.m.)

Where: Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor Way, Suite 190, Santa Barbara, CA

Tickets: \$20 general | \$5 for students and educators with a valid school ID or email address | \$10 SBMM Members | Free for Navigators Circle members. [Purchase tickets](#) or call (805) 456-8750

.Photos:

1. Betsy J Green – headshot. Photo Courtesy.
2. SILENTS ON THE ISLANDS - COVER 5-2025 website. Photo Courtesy.



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>