

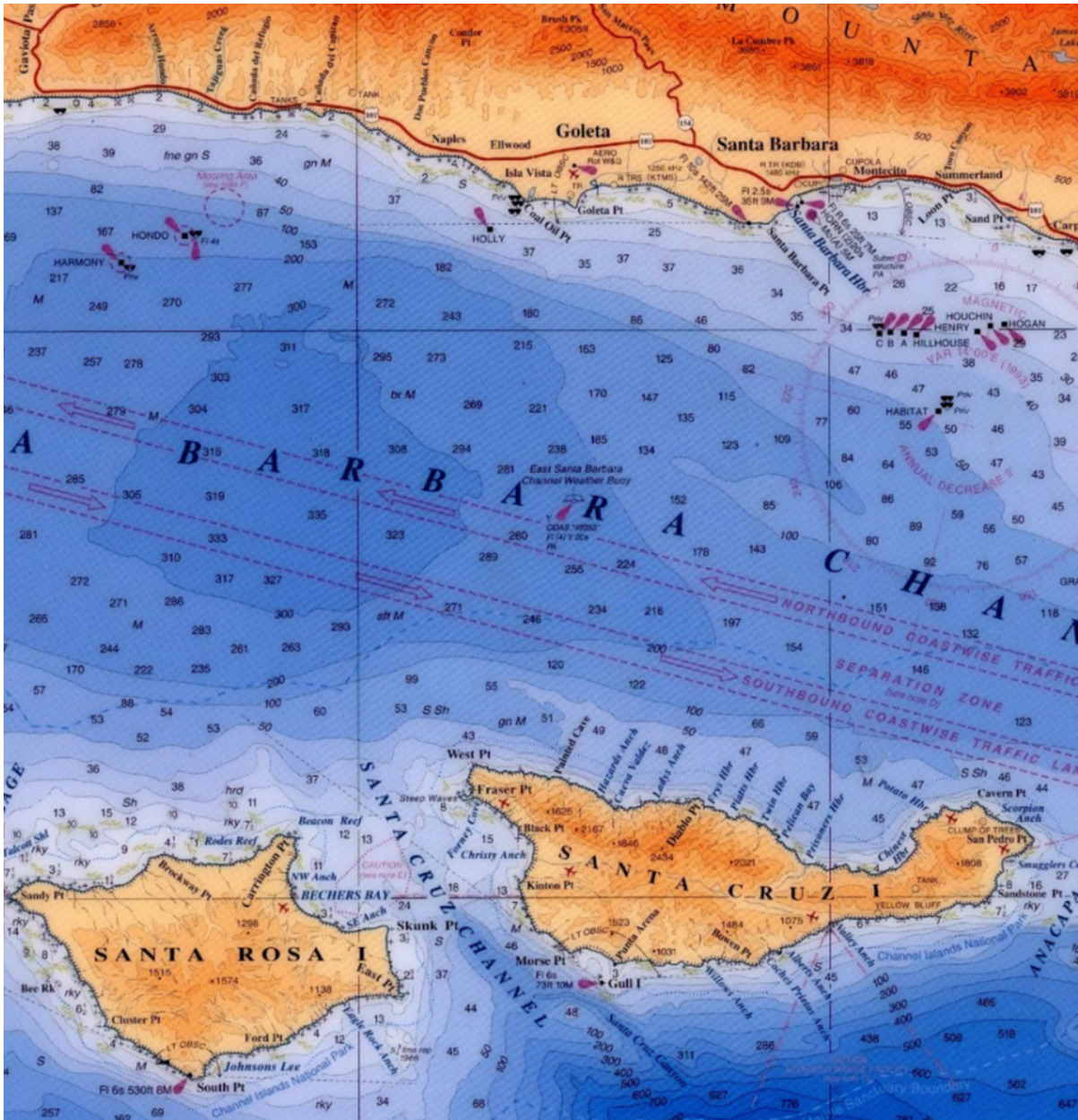


# Signal Hoist

## Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

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### Monthly Newsletter April 2026





## **COMMANDER'S MESSAGE**

**Cdr. Alec Hardy**

Hello All,

Exciting news is coming and I'm going to keep this short and sweet.

Our new cruising season is coming, but first, PLEASE join us at our next business meeting, April 23rd in the evening. Look for a notice from us soon!

I'm excited about our next year and cruising, we're expecting a great year. Let's hope the weather holds for us, but right now it's looking great.

Our calendar is subject to change, but please check out the website for upcoming events ---> <https://www.sbsps.net/boating-events/category/boating-social-events/>

Thanks, hope to see you soon.





**SECRETARY'S MESSAGE  
&  
ACTIVITIES  
COORDINATOR  
MESSAGE**

We have a Squadron meeting this month:

***Thursday April 23 at 7:30pm in the Waterfront  
Classroom***

The first part will be a business meeting where Cdr Alec Hardy and other officers will give an update on squadron affairs. The nominations committee expects to have a slate to announce for our upcoming squadron year.

We will be entertained by a speaker for the second part of the meeting. We have asked Alec, our Commander, to give a brief presentation about himself and his boating experiences.

***Please SAVE THE DATE!***

**Activities Coordinator Message**

**This month we have a social event and a business meeting with a special speaker.**

Sat April 18 1:30-4:00pm Ships and Dips a progressive appetizers and desserts social (see flyer further on in this newsletter for details)

Thu April 23 7:30-9:00pm Meeting reports from squadron officers and a speaker (see the Secretary message further on in this newsletter for details)

**Looking forward to May - we have a community service activity, social event with ceremony and awards, and the first cruise of the season to the islands.**

Sat May 2 Operation Clean Sweep organized by the Harbor – we provide volunteers for the work crew – they provide us with donuts and lunch!

TBA Change of Watch /Installation of Officers and Annual Awards

Fri-Sun May 29-31 Cruise to Fry’s Harbor on Santa Cruz Island

## Upcoming Activities

<b>Apr 18</b>	<b>Sat 1:30pm - 4:00pm</b>	<b>Ships &amp; Dips Social</b>	<b>Santa Barbara Harbor</b>
<b>Apr 23</b>	<b>Thurs 7:30pm- 9:00pm</b>	<b>Squadron Meeting</b>	<b>Waterfront Classroom</b>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>Sat 8:00am- 12:00pm</b>	<b>Operation Clean Sweep</b>	<b>Santa Barbara Harbor</b>
<b>May 29- May 31</b>	<b>Fri - Sun</b>	<b>Cruise to Frys Harbor</b>	<b>Leave from Harbor</b>
<b>TBA</b>		<b>Change of Watch</b>	



**Ships and Dips**  
***Saturday April 18th, 2026***  
**1:30pm — 4:00pm**

**Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron  
Dockside Progressive Appetizer/Desserts Party  
Santa Barbara Harbor**

**Bring:** An appetizer or dessert to share and whatever you fancy to drink  
(The Squadron will provide plates and cutlery.)

**Appetizers:** 1:30 – 2:45 pm    Bobcat   Marina 1   H-5

**Desserts:**    2:45 – 4:00 pm    TBA

**ENJOY GOOD FOOD, GOOD STORIES, GOOD VIEWS**

RSVP to: Virginia by Saturday, April 11

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

805 770 0611

## Harbor Commission Report: Provides Adaptation Possibilities

As climate change, other naturally occurring changes, and aging infrastructure affect the harbor, the harbor commission is planning for adaptations and improvements that will need to be made. If you would like to learn what the Harbor Commission foresees as challenges and possible fixes, please click on this link <https://sustainability.santabarbaraca.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/Waterfront%20Adaptation%20Plan%20Handout%20and%20Options.pdf>.

*Above Submitted by Steve York*



## SBMM Hosts Artists Talk for *Aquean* with David Ellis and Larry Vigon

*Aquean* is an evocative exhibition exploring time, tides, and transformation through multimedia works that invite viewers to consider the sea as both subject and metaphor. Featuring photographs, paintings, prints, video, and mixed media, the show reflects the delicate balance between permanence and loss along California's coastlines and the rhythms that bind what endures and what vanishes.

During the April 16 program, Ellis will present "**Lobospheres: The Lost Souls of Point Lobos**," an overview of his 20-year photographic project documenting wave-carved rock forms at Point Lobos. Describing the work as "a celebration, an elegy, and a cautionary tale," Ellis considers the series an expressionistic archive shaped by climate realities and the passage of time, giving voice to the landscape and reminding viewers of what is often overlooked.

Vigon's talk will offer a brief history of his more than 55-year career, highlighting both his commercial and personal work. An award-winning art director, designer, and fine artist, Vigon created more than 200 album covers for artists including Fleetwood Mac, Eric Clapton, and Bonnie Raitt, earning induction into the Album Cover Hall of Fame in 2020.

"We are excited to bring David Ellis and Larry Vigon together through both the exhibition and this special program," said Executive Director of SBMM Dean Noble. "Their work reflects the emotional and environmental realities of the sea while reinforcing SBMM's mission to connect our community to the ocean through art, education, and storytelling."

SBMM Curator and Director of Collections & Exhibits Emily Falke added, "Their work captures the power and fragility of the ever-changing California coastline. In *Aquean*, the sea becomes a lens for time and change, reminding us that what endures and what vanishes are forever intertwined by the rhythms of the ocean."

Together, Ellis and Vigon will share insights into their creative processes and the ways art deepens our understanding of the sea.

The lecture will take place at SBMM, 113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara. For tickets and details, visit [sbmm.org](http://sbmm.org).

The Maritime Distinguished Speaker Series is sponsored by Marie L Morrisroe.

**Tickets:** Free for Navigators Circle members, \$10 for SBMM members, \$20 for the general public, and \$5 for students and educators with a valid school ID or email. Purchase tickets here, by emailing [reservations@sbmm.org](mailto:reservations@sbmm.org) or calling (805) 456-8750





## **Dick Rowland**

### **In Memorium**

Virginia Johns

We lost another of our longtime treasured members.

Dick Rowland passed peacefully at home on February 25, 2026. His daughter Sharon notified me and asked me to spread the word to the squadron.

Dick joined our squadron in 1989 and remained a member for the next 38 years. He took at least 20 courses and earned the grade of Senior Navigator. He was very active: earned 27 merit marks, became a life member in 2015, was a certified instructor, held a variety of positions on the bridge, including Commander in 1993. He and wife Marcia sailed their Islander 34 West Wind out to the Channel Islands with the squadron fleet many times and down to Baja.

He was well respected and loved by his fellow squadron members as the stories below will demonstrate. We miss you Dick. Thank you for all your contributions.

*Some tributes to Dick from friends:*

## **Susan and Steve Hodges**

When we joined the SBSPS in the early '90s, Dick and Marcia were among our first instructors. We enjoyed their calm and humorous stories and learned a lot--Marcia's suggestion to make a thermos of soup before embarking, ready for any queasy guests; Dick's thorough explanation of proper anchor rode ratios; and their unbelievable free diving accomplishments. And we buddy boated with them on Squadron cruises to Santa Cruz. We wish them a fair West Wind during their final voyage.



## **John Profant**

When Dick was Commander in 1993, he created a new trophy called the Dive Day Trophy. He took several trophies he had won from Spearfishing tournaments and created the Dive Day Trophy. This particular photo was taken in 1994. There is a reef about a mile offshore from Tajiguas that comes up to about 15 feet of the surface. A few of us took our boats out to the reef and went diving. I got the biggest fish plus a lobster which is why

the Dive Day Trophy was awarded to me. We were on Doug McGuire's trawler. We decided to cook up some fish stew and threw the lobster in with it.



I am guessing around the summer of 1998.

### **Dennis and Virginia Johns**

We joined the squadron in 2003 having purchased Libertad 3 years earlier and wanting to take every course the squadron offered as we had a dream to sail around the world later in life when we retired. We had seven years to get prepared. After taking a lot of the basic technical courses for navigation, sailing, marine electronics, weather, etc. We took a fun course from Marsha and Dick - Cruise Planning. It was one of our favorites because it helped us envision ourselves 'out there' some day. We also decided we needed some overnight sailing practice and signed up for a Baja Haha rally. Dick and Marcia volunteered to be crew, along with Al Rice. Dick presented us with his homemade snubber for our anchor before we departed - it is still in use on Libertad today!

We are so grateful to Dick for his mentorship and friendship, supporting us during our training, preparation, and actual adventure phases.

Feb 2018 COW Installing Dennis as Squadron Cdr at the SB Yacht Club. We had lost Marcia; Dick was often accompanied to our events by one of his daughters.



The Dive Day award had been renamed as the Marcia Rowland award and this year it was given to us.



## Betty and Tom Koch

Very sorry to hear of Dick Rowland passing away! He and Marcia were very good friends for many years.

We have searched our present records and found the following photos. Of course many are of both of them, but there are some very important ones of Dick's achievements.





## **Neil Ablitt**

Trip SB to SD 1993

One of 13 incidents along the way:

The deal was West Wind provides breakfast/lunch and Shearwater dinner. We are in Dana Point Marina and forecast is a storm. We are asleep when Dick knocks on our deck at 5:00 AM with a box of cereal etc. saying time for breakfast we leave at 0600. Surprised they want to leave given the forecast, off we go leaving the marina while still dark. As we are about to exit the breakwater we see Dick returning. He yells coming back to reef.

So we do likewise and 12 hours later arrive in San Diego. I couldn't believe we were leaving. Winds exceeded 54 knots mostly behind us - a very wet trip and more weather than we would experience that entire season. Those were 29 ft boats so we must have set some sort of record.

In the end West Wind accompanies us to the border where they toss flowers and vow to join us down there next year. Which as it turns out will be the first Baja Haha.

Thanks, Dick; being there at the start really helped build our confidence.

### Keys n Navigation

Dick's up north in the Sea of Cortez and we are in the south. He needs keys to the pickup in order to go for propane. We plan to meet at agreed coordinates to pass the keys. Three times we pass the coordinates only to turn around and try again. Neither within sight till the third attempt. We successfully pass the keys and both agree to retake piloting

They left their mark.

They had fun.

God Bless.





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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