

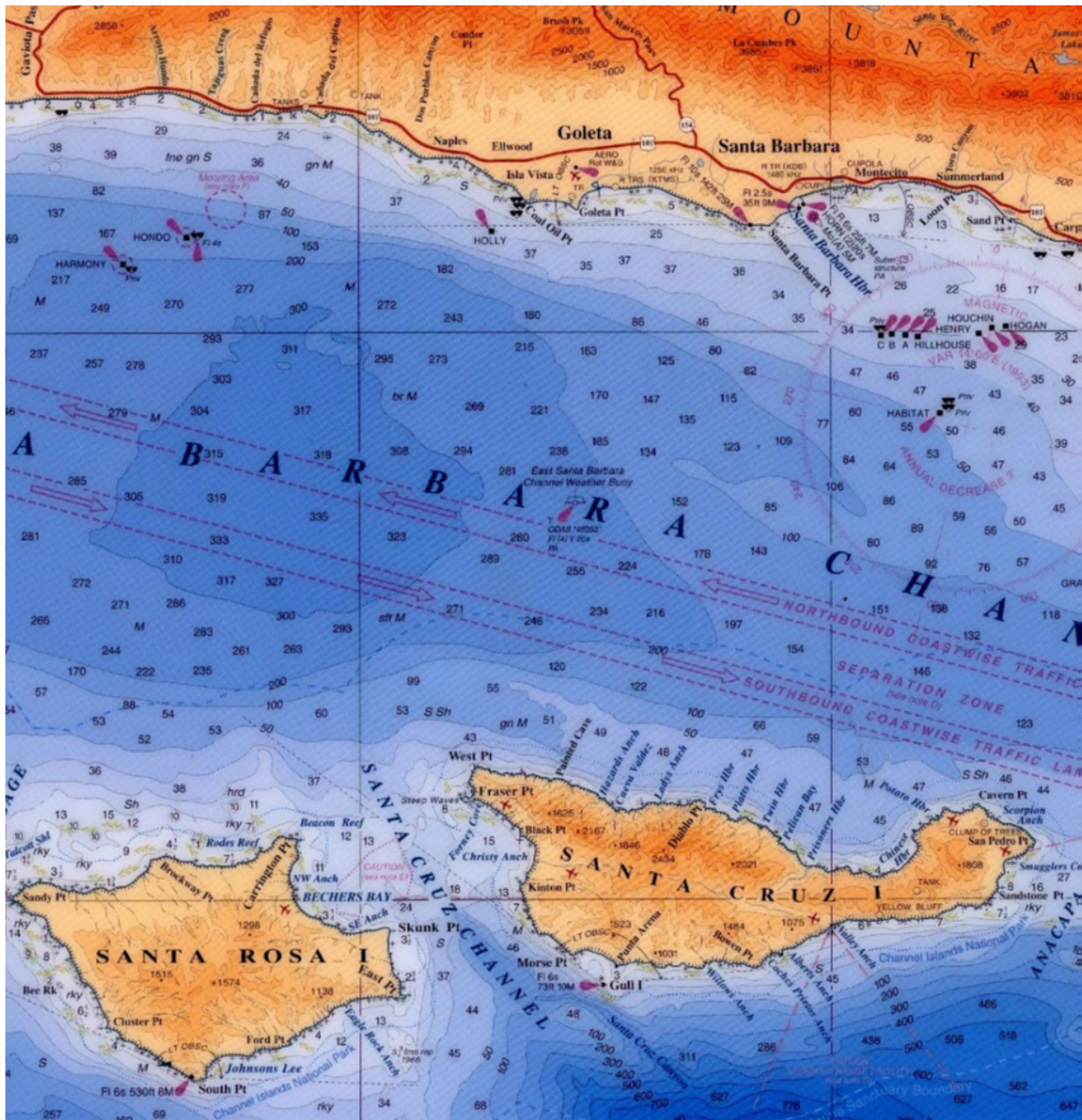


Signal Hoist

Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

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Monthly Newsletter September 2026





COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr. Alec Hardy

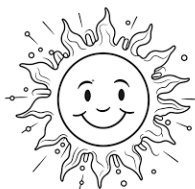
Hello All,

I trust you are having a wonderful summer and enjoying the heat! LOL! I myself just got back from a 3 day cruise to Coches Prietos, which was nice. Please look for my full report in this issue.

Our next big get together will be our annual White Elephant and Luncheon on September 20th, noonish. Look for more details in this issue. This year we'll be at Rincon Beach park in Carpinteria at the top of the bluffs. I've had numerous Rotary events here and I think you'll like the venue. Great water view and lots of seating with bathrooms close by.

Please join us if you have a boat, or would like to join a crew. This will be a great opportunity to meet other boaters and we can plan the next few outings.

If I don't see you soon, have a great time on the water and enjoy these last few hot days!





SECRETARY'S MESSAGE & ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR MESSAGE

Virginia Johns

Squadron Activities

LAST MONTH August – Because Santa Barbara's annual Fiesta was this month, we did not plan a social activity.

A cruise is scheduled for the last weekend of the month; at this time 2 boats plan to participate and sail out to Santa Cruz Island where they will spend 2 nights.

September – ***Our annual picnic lunch and White Elephant Raffle will be held mid-month on Sunday September 20 at Rincon Beach County Park in Carpinteria.*** See the flyer in this newsletter with more details.

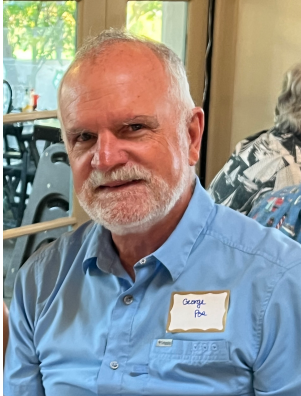
An end of the month cruise is on the calendar.

October – The annual Santa Barbara Harbor & Seafood Festival is Saturday October 17. 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 have brochures and other handouts for you to use in engaging the public. Look for a call for volunteers to help at our booth.

District Conference

We explored holding the District 13 Conference on Saturday October 10 in our area. The hotel prices and cost of gasoline made it financially prohibitive.

It is now proposed to be a virtual conference. The Commanders and delegates of the D13 squadrons will vote on this at the Council meeting in a few weeks.



SEO MESSAGE

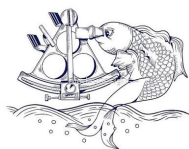
George Poe

Hello all,

We have secured the waterfront classroom for Oct 1 and Oct 3 for our noon sight seminar. The Oct 1 class will be from 7:00 to 9:00 PM where we will cover the basics of the noon sight, introduce the sextant and go over a noon sight example.

The Oct class will be from 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM or so. This is a more hands on class where we will show how to properly handle a sextant and determine the index error. After a quick lunch we will head to the breakwater to take our noon sights. Lastly, we will return to the classroom and reduce our sights and see how we did.

Generally the participants are from the general public but it would be nice to get some squadron members as well.



Upcoming Activities

Sept 20	Sun 12 noon	Annual Picnic & White Elephant Raffle	Rincon Beach County Park, Carpinteria
Oct 1	Thurs 7:00pm- 9:00pm	Noon Sight Seminar (Part I)	Harbor Classroom
Oct 3	Sat 10:30am- 3:00pm	Noon Sight Seminar (Part II)	Harbor Classroom
Oct 10	Sat TBD	District 13 Conference	TBD
Oct 17	Sat 10:00am	Santa Barbara Harbor Seafood Festival	Santa Barbara Harbor



Cuyler's Anchorage, San Miguel Island
Memorial Day, 1993
submitted by Neil Ablitt

**Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron
Annual Picnic
and White Elephant Treasure Exchange**



When: Sunday September 20 at noon

Where: Rincon Beach County Park, Carpinteria

Meal: We are giving our chefs a break from BBQing this year

Provided:

- Sandwiches and salads
- Plates, cutlery, and napkins

Please Bring:

- Your own beverage of choice
- A dessert (just need a few volunteers)
- A wrapped item (new or lightly used) for the treasure exchange
- Cash to purchase exchange tickets to win your treasure!

Buy tickets for \$5 each (10 for \$20) 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 to Virginia **by Tuesday Sept 15**

sbmesafirstmate@gmail.com

805 770 0611

Report from Coches

Cdr Alec Hardy



I recently spent 3 nights at Coches Prietos on the back side of Santa Cruz. We left Ventura about 7:30am, by about 9am we were under full sail with the motor off. "Windy Lane" gave us excellent wind and we spent almost 2 hours sailing at 6 knots. By the time we were even with Smugglers the wind had died and we began motoring. We caught a bonita along the way... when we arrived at Coches, there was only one other boat, *Life is Short* with George Poe and Scott Burns aboard. We spent the evening eating homemade chili and discussing the finer points of serpentine belts.

Early the next morning, *Life is Short* left to return to SB. The weather was fairly hot until the 3rd night. The south swell was quite large but still ok to anchor in. The swells did stir up the visibility but we still got in some snorkeling. Hanging out on the beach was the order of the day and we lounged in easy chairs under an umbrella.



The only mishap was caused by a small fishing boat that arrived late on Monday night. They half heartedly anchored and then all went ashore, (to camp/sleep in the sand, I guess?) leaving the boat unlit and drifting wildly on its single hook. At 12:20am I just happened to get up to check things only to find out its tilted outboard was almost

about to smash into my bow. I was able to push it away with the boat hook. After 2 hours of adjusting my stern, it appeared to only get within 20 feet so I was able to go to sleep for a few minutes. I was amazed this boat didn't end up on the beach or rocks, but apparently these were the kind of boaters who depend more on luck than monitoring the anchor!

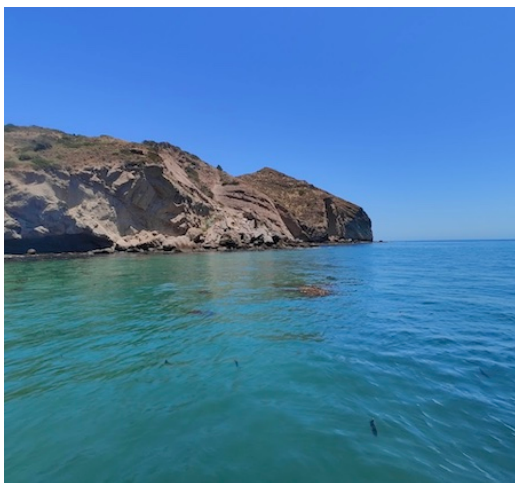
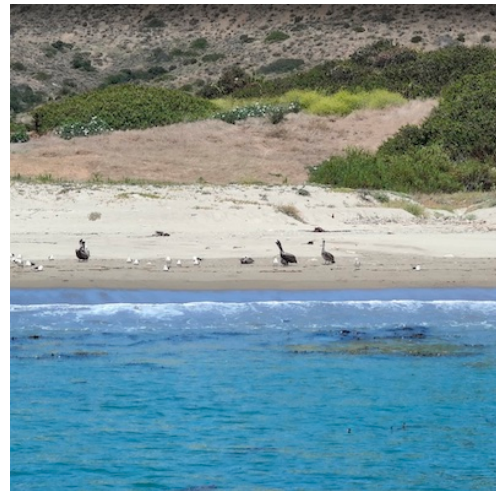


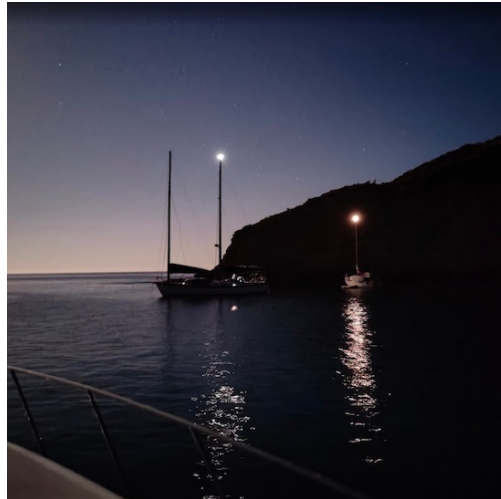
All in all a good trip. Please let us know if you are ready to get out this season, we still have weather enough for a couple more outings.



Reminiscences of Anchoring at Santa Cruz

I recently received an email from Squadron member Mark Breen, who we haven't seen too much of lately, since he took a new job in Texas last year. His boat, Joy Ride, is still in the Harbor and I know he misses it and the opportunities for going out to Santa Cruz Island and anchoring at anchorages like Smuggler's, Yellowbanks, Scorpion, Little Scorpion, Pelican, and Coches Prietos. Below are some of the photos that he sent, taken in July 2024 of Coches Prietos.





Thanks for the photos Mark, and hope to see you soon!



Santa Barbara Maritime Museum Welcomes Chris Ragland for Maritime Distinguished Speaker Series

**“The Blue Blind Spot: The Most Important
Infrastructure Project That No One Is Funding”
explores ocean access, stewardship, and the future
of coastal resilience**

Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the museum. SBMM members are invited to a pre-lecture reception from 6:15–6:45 p.m. Tickets: Free for Navigators Circle members, \$10 for SBMM members, \$20 for the general public, and \$5 for students and educators with valid school ID or email. For reservations, visit sbmm.org, email reservations@sbmm.org, or call (805) 456-8750.



In his presentation, Ragland will explore the idea that nature connection should be treated not simply as a charitable cause, but as essential public infrastructure. Drawing on Sea League's work creating immersive ocean experiences that cross economic lines and bridge neighborhoods, he will examine how direct connection to the sea can cultivate future stewards, scientists, entrepreneurs, and the workforce needed for a thriving blue economy.

The talk will focus on the Santa Barbara Channel as one of the most ecologically significant marine environments on the planet, while also highlighting the reality that many people living along the surrounding coastline have never meaningfully experienced it. Ragland will discuss what is possible when ocean fluency is built at scale and how that vision could strengthen marine conservation, workforce development, community resilience, and the long-term health of the coastlines on which society depends.

"There is no institutional infrastructure that normalizes ocean immersion for coastal communities," said Ragland. "This fragmented familiarity produces fragmented stewardship. You can't build a coalition broad enough to protect something that most of your community has never had the chance to experience."

Chris Ragland is the founder and executive director of Sea League, a Santa Barbara organization innovating how youth connect to the ocean. A waterman-turned-social entrepreneur, he brings together a decade of experience as a surf coach, lifeguard, and kayak guide in Channel Islands National Park with leadership in environmental advocacy and public





engagement. As Creative Director at FinalStraw, he helped advance efforts that eliminated 300 million single-use straws. He has also collaborated with NOAA and California's Ocean Protection Council on public engagement and served on the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.

"Chris Ragland brings an inspiring and necessary perspective to the conversation about the future of our coast," said SBMM Executive Director Dean Noble. "His work challenges us to think differently about who has access to the ocean, why that matters, and how those connections shape the next generation of marine stewards."

Through the Maritime Distinguished Speaker Series, SBMM continues to bring leading voices in ocean science, maritime history, conservation, and coastal culture to the Santa Barbara community, reinforcing the museum's mission to illuminate our rich connections with the sea through education and storytelling.



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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