

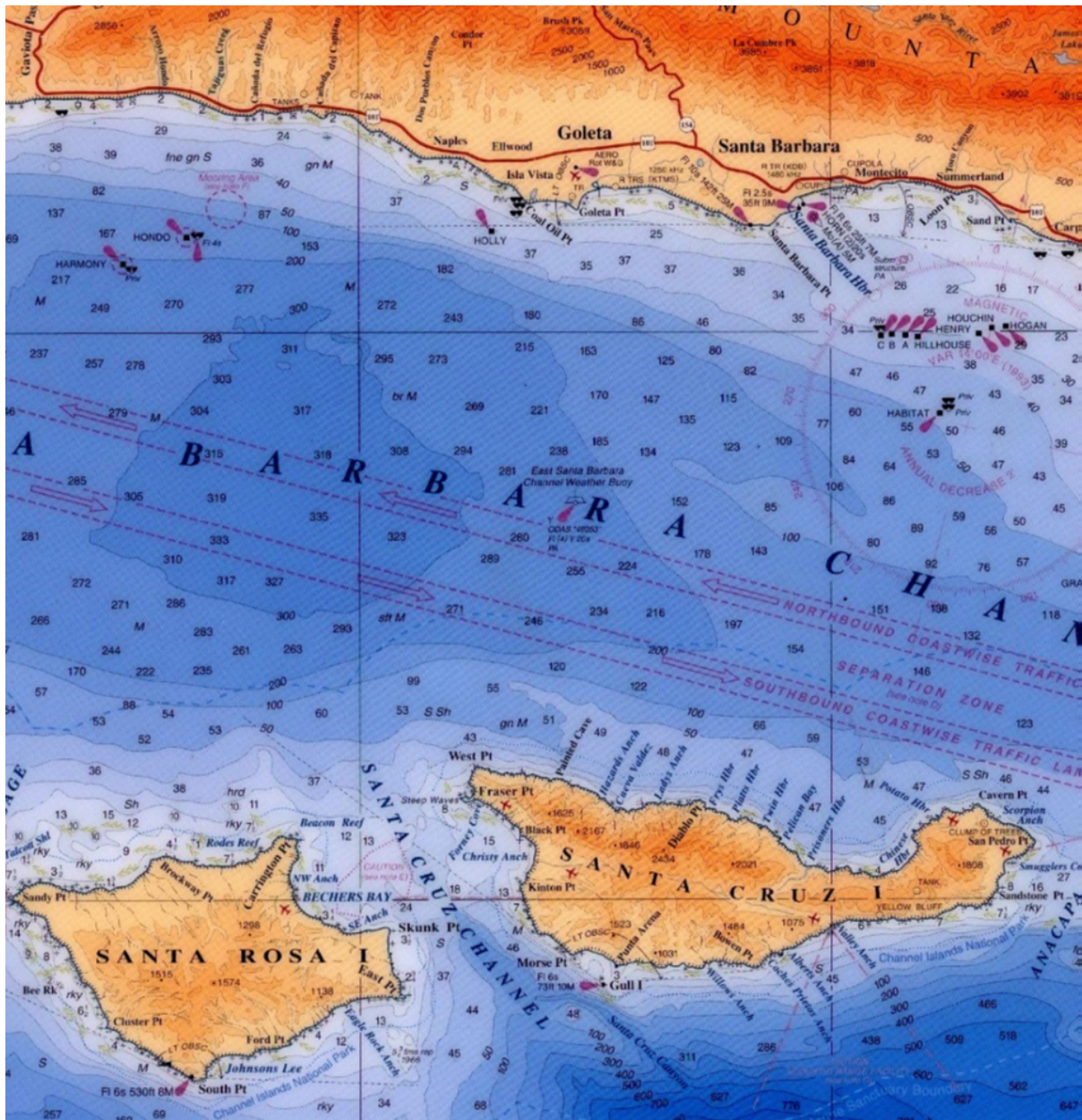


Signal Hoist

Santa Barbara Sail & Power Squadron

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

Monthly Newsletter October 2026





COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Cdr. Alec Hardy

Hello Squadron!

A Big thanks to all who came out to Rincon Beach park for our "BBQ" and white elephant lunch. Many interesting items came out and the day was actually fairly cool

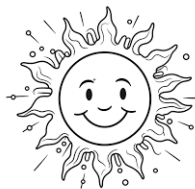
George Poe will be offering up the Noon Sight class again on October 1st and 3rd. If you can't make it, please share with someone who might be interested.

The next big boating event is the harbor seafood festival. October 17th at Santa Barbara Harbor.

I will be hosting a day trip on Island Packers for my Rotary Club on October 24th, if you would be interested the cost is \$67 per person for the Island Packers ticket and we do have about 8 spaces left. Let me tell you, Island Packers is a much easier way to see Santa Cruz, LOL!

If anyone is interested in lobstering, fishing or daysailing, please reach out to me. Either as crew or on your boat. I will be trying to get out a few more times on my boat this season and would be more than happy to coordinate.

See you out on the water!





SECRETARY'S MESSAGE & ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR MESSAGE

Virginia Johns

Squadron Activities

LAST MONTH September – Our annual picnic lunch and white elephant treasure swap was held at Rincon Beach Park in Carpinteria, a new venue for us. It was a beautiful location and nice weather. We may have seen a few re-gifted items from prior years and it is always a bit embarrassing when you decide to admit that you brought that gift and the reason you didn't keep it was...but you are sure that will not be a problem for the new owner – they will love it.

Lunch was sandwiches and salads from the local Jack's Bistro – so much easier on some of our chefs who have done the BBQing on site in the past. An assortment of delicious desserts were provided by some of the members.

We enjoyed visiting and swapping stories about our latest boat projects and upcoming sea and land adventures.



Vicki & Ron Slocum



Rich Ciolino, Andrew Stevens,
John Profant & Betty Koch



Tom Koch with Lucky



Peggy Ciolino



George Poe



John Profant



Virginia Johns, Betty Koch & Dennis Johns



Betty Koch



Andrew Stevens



View towards SB from Rincon Beach Park

October – The annual Santa Barbara Harbor & Seafood Festival is Saturday October 17. Alec mentions options for cruising to the islands in his message at the top of this newsletter. George Poe and Steve Hodges are teaching a Noonsite Seminar – see George’s SEO message for details.

District Conference

The District 13 Conference on Saturday October 10 will be a virtual conference. You should have received an email from District 13 notifying you of this which included the Google Meet link to use. There will be a Council Meeting on the agenda so that a vote can be taken on some budget items. If you are interested and did not get the link – let me know.



SEO MESSAGE

George Poe

We will conduct our first seminar on Oct1 and Oct 3. Steve Hodges will be in town to help give the lectures and assist students. Unfortunately, we only have one student signed up so far, but we have our fingers crossed.

Following the noon sight seminar we will start planning additional seminars. We have plans for a weather and Channel Islands cruising seminars as well as a ABC class after the first of the year.

More later...

Upcoming Activities

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
Nov 10 & 17	Tuesdays 6:00pm- 8:30pm	VHF-DSC Marine Radio (given by Ventura Sail & Power Squadron)	Ventura Yacht Club

Maintenance Opportunities

George Poe

Scott Burns and I left the Santa Barbara Harbor on Life is Short just after 7AM on Aug 28th. We had a pleasant crossing to Santa Cruz and arrived at Coches Prietos mid-afternoon. When we arrived at Coches there was only one other boat and he indicated he would be leaving at 6PM. We spent the night as the only boat in the anchorage.

Alec arrived the following morning and Scott took his Kayak out to greet him. I fired up the motor to charge up my batteries and noticed that I was not charging at all. Furthermore, the engine was starting to overheat. Scott confirmed that the raw water pump was discharging so I figured that we broke the serpentine belt connecting the fresh water, alternator and crank. Opening the engine compartment revealed that the alternator mount and

pivot bolt had broken. We managed to get it partially function with some super duty zip ties.

We departed Sunday for home at 1500 RPM out of consideration of our MacGyver fix for the alternator mount.

We rounded the eastern end of Santa Cruz and went from no wind to whitecaps. Probably should have reefed, but we did not. We were happy so shut the engine down and give the alternator mount hack a rest.

We dropped the sails outside of the harbor and I fired up the engine to return to the slip when I learned I had no propulsion. If fact, my rudder was jammed as well. Scott dropped the anchor I went to radio the harbor patrol only to learn the VHF (RAM and salon) were not working. I have trouble hearing the Harbor Patrol on the handheld but Scott wisely used his cellphone to coordinate with the Harbor Patrol.

The propellor shaft had backed out of the coupling and jammed into the rudder. Scott stuffed a rag into the opening in the stuffing box so we were out of danger.

So, at this point, I know I need to replace the motor mounts which I believe was the primary cause of the alternator mount failure. I think this is also the root cause of the coupling to propellor shaft failure.

Maintenance Opportunities indeed!





**Ventura Sail and Power Squadron
and
Ventura Yacht Club**



**VHF-DSC
Marine Radios**

**Tuesday, November 10 and 17
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

- Use of Digital Selective Calling (DSC) for emergency distress calls and hailing of individual vessels.
- Use of your boat's individual MMSI number for distress calls and contacting fellow boaters directly without using channel 16.
- Types and proper use of distress calls.
- Proper use of your VHF radio including use of the correct procedural words.
- Types of VHF radios and which type is best for your boating.
- The different VHF channels and their use for recreational boaters.
- Any other VHF radio topics of interest to participants

VENTURA YACHT CLUB, 1755 SPINNAKER DRIVE, VENTURA, CA




Alameda County, West Contra Costa County, Marin County, San Mateo County, Santa Cruz County, the Port of San Diego, Orange County and Ventura County, have partnered with CalRecycle, the California Product Stewardship Council, California State Parks and Coastal Commission's California Boating Clean and Green Program to collect expired marine flares and educate residents about marine flare management

safety, including the advantages of reusable distress signals, to protect California communities and the local environment.



Residents and boaters berthing their boats in Alameda County, West Contra Costa County, Marin County, San Mateo County, Santa Cruz County, Orange County, Ventura County, and San Diego County can take their expired marine flares to their county's designated marine flare collection events in the fall. **Only expired marine flares from residents and boaters berthing their boats in the covered areas will be accepted.** No marine flares from commercial craft or an organization nor other forms of household hazardous waste (HHW) will be accepted during the special events. Proof of residence or eligibility is required (i.e., license, registration, or slip fee).

Please check additional detailed information and requirements for each event below:

Southern California

Orange County

Saturday, October 24, 2026, from 7 AM to 1 PM

Sunset Aquatic Marina, 2901 Edinger Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92649

Port of San Diego

Saturday, October 24, 2026, from 8 AM to 12 PM

Shelter Island Boat Ramp, 2210 Shelter Island Dr, San Diego, CA
92106

Ventura County

Saturday, October 24, 2026, from 11 AM to 3 PM

Channel Islands Harbor Marina, 3850 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard, CA
93035

Check and share the [SoCal Regional Flier](#)

The United States Coast Guard (USGC) requires boaters to carry several unexpired visual distress signals on board, day and night. Pyrotechnic marine flares are a common type of distress signal, but they are explosive and contain toxic chemicals and must be managed as hazardous waste when expired or no longer needed. To assure safety and protect the environment, it is essential to manage single-use pyrotechnic marine flares carefully. Boaters should never throw expired or unneeded flares overboard or in the trash.

Single-use pyrotechnic marine flares expire and must be replaced every 36 to 42 months after their manufacture date and recreational vessels generate about 174,000 pyrotechnic expired marine flares every year, according to the California Expired Marine Flare Working Group estimate in 2011. However, California boaters do not currently have access to an ongoing state-wide disposal program for expired marine flares. To avoid the difficulties of safe disposal for pyrotechnic marine flares, the partners encourage boaters to consider an electronic visual distress signal device (eVDSD) as a reusable, safe and cost-effective alternative to buying the single-use pyrotechnic marine flares.

For more information about expired marine flares visit, dbw.parks.ca.gov/marineflares and to learn more [check our podcast about this topic](#)

[Hear from Marie Rogers, California Recreational Boater Certified](#)



[Sailing Instructor, Competitor in Major Regattas like the Transpac about these collection events](#)



Discovery & Education in the Wild at UCSB's Hidden Gem: The Natural Reserve System”

SANTA BARBARA, CA — The Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (SBMM) is pleased to welcome Conner Philson, PhD, Executive Director of UC Santa Barbara’s Natural Reserve System, for the October installment of its Maritime Distinguished Speaker Series.

Philson will present “Discovery & Education in the Wild at UCSB’s Hidden Gem: The Natural Reserve System” on Thursday, October 15, 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.

Tucked into the hills, coastlines, mountains, and Channel Islands of some of California's most distinctive ecosystems, UC Santa Barbara's Natural Reserve System is one of the university's best-kept secrets. The network of seven protected wildlands serves as a living laboratory where scientists, students, and conservation partners study the natural world and develop new approaches to understanding and protecting it.

During the presentation, Philson will offer an inside look at the Natural Reserve System —what it is, how it developed, and why its protected sites, research programs, and educational opportunities are increasingly important.

Drawing from a portfolio of more than 270 active research projects, Philson will highlight discoveries spanning ecology, evolution, climate science, marine biology, and related fields. Topics will include rare species recovery, long-term climate monitoring, and collaborative research that helps scientists better understand the ecosystems supporting clean air, water, food, wildlife, and human communities.

The program will also explore the reserves' vital role as classrooms without walls. Through field-based, experiential learning, students gain direct exposure to ecosystems and scientific methods in ways that cannot be replicated in a traditional lecture hall.



"Conner brings a leading perspective on what it means to conduct research and learn in California's wildest and most distinctive ecosystems," said Executive Director of SBMM Dean Noble. "His work directing the UCSB Natural Reserve System reflects the kind of partnership among science, education, and land stewardship that is essential to understanding and conserving the ecosystems on which we all depend."



Philson is driven by advancing discovery and connection in the natural world through protected wild places and field-based science and education. As Executive Director of the Natural Reserve System at UC Santa Barbara, he oversees a network of protected lands and field laboratories supporting research, teaching, and conservation across California's diverse ecosystems.

He earned his PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from UCLA, where he studied the social behavior of wild mammals at field sites around the world. Philson also

serves as President of the Organization of Biological Field Stations, a global network of field research laboratories.

Whether attendees are longtime Santa Barbara residents, students, educators, or simply curious about the natural world, the presentation will offer a deeper appreciation for the wild spaces and living laboratories advancing science, education, and conservation throughout the region.

Event Details

Date: October 15, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara

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.

Reservations: Visit sbmm.org, email reservations@sbmm.org, or call (805) 456-8750.



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:	P/C Richard Ciolino, JN
SBSPPS Website Manager:	Lt/C Steve York, P
Website address:	www.sbspps.net