

SEARCHLIGHT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA YACHTING ASSOCIATION
5855 Naples Plaza, Suite 211, Long Beach, CA 90803-5080
Phone: (562) 433-7426



March 2020

This Just In: Due to a scheduling conflict, the March Board & General meetings have been changed to Sunday 3/8!

The location --Southwestern YC, has not changed.

If you registered, but cannot make this new date, please contact the SCYA office at (562) 433-7426



Salmon Slacks Season

*The Huntington Harbour YC crew enjoying the 148th Opening Day at SBYC
Is your club ready for the big day???*

Opening Days 2020



[Click Here for the 2020 Race Calendar!!](#)



Commodore's Corner *John Marshall*

SCYA's 91st annual Midwinter Regatta has been completed and from all indications was very successful. We still have the mountain lake yacht clubs to go later in the spring. Twenty-five yacht clubs hosted races for 2,500 sailors and 600 boats in nearly a hundred classes. The weather cooperated with good wind and we had only one postponement due to heavy rain.

The next round of activity is the Opening Days at all the Southern California Yacht Clubs. Opening Days are an East Coast tradition and ritual that we celebrate, even though Southern California Yacht Clubs never officially "close" for the season. Our year round beautiful and temperate climate permits us to get out on the water most any day of the year.

Los Angeles Yacht Club was the first Opening Day on January 26th. Commodore Garry Pawlitski of Santa Barbara Yacht Club held their 148th Opening Day last

Sunday with a brunch that was absolutely first class. I'm always amazed by the local talent that yacht clubs manage to showcase for their inspirational and uplifting renditions of the National Anthem and God Bless America.

One of the responsibilities of your Southern California Yachting Association is to coordinate the Opening Day calendar as we attempt to have a member of the SCYA bridge or Board of Directors in attendance at most every Opening Day Ceremony. It's a daunting task. The best part is meeting all the wonderful people involved in Southern California Yachting and making friendships that last a lifetime. Hope to see you there at your yacht club's Opening Day!

-- John



SCYA SEMINAR: Medical Emergencies at Sea

Shoreline Yacht Club

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Registration 8:30 am

Seminar 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Continental Breakfast & Lunch included

Salad: Garden Salad with Ranch and Balsamic Dressing
Entree: Chicken Marsala, with Mushroom and Shallot Demi Glace
Sides: Butter Penne Pasta and Vegetable Medley
Dessert: Peach Cobbler with Vanilla Ice Cream

Vegetarian Option: AVAILABLE ONLY BY PRE-ORDERING in the comments section of the Registration Website:

\$50 per person

[Register Here!](#)
Earn
Club-of-the-Year points!



AFFECT **BOATING** POLICY IN **CALIFORNIA**

SAVE THE DATE • MARCH 31, 2020 • HYATT REGENCY • SACRAMENTO



REGISTER **EARLY** @ CALBOATINGCONGRESS.COM

NEWPORT TO ENSENADA
INTERNATIONAL YACHT RACE



SAVE THE DATE

BE READY TO SAIL

APRIL 24 – 26, 2020



Baja-Haha No laughing Matter for this couple **GREEN DRAGON 2's ILL-FATED MEXICO VOYAGE**

Gary Green SCYA Staff Commodore

Green Dragon 2 in her hey-day

Mexico's Sea of Cortez is a treacherous place to cruise in the wintertime. The winter weather is dominated by winds known as "Northers". These are strong north to north-west winds. They flow down the hundreds of miles length of the Sea of Cortez, which lies between the western Mexican mainland and the eastern, "inside" side of the Baja peninsula. The Northers often reach 20 to 25 knots plus, with speeds at the higher end typically at the islands that dot the Sea. Occasionally, there is a day or two of lighter weather, but these "weather windows" are few and far between. What makes the Northers particularly dangerous are the large, short-period wind-driven waves that form from the long fetch of the Sea. Waves of 2 meters and more (6 feet plus) can form only 3 to 5 seconds apart. These short period waves can cause a boat to be violently slammed around. As a cruising guide puts it, "For larger boats this generally makes for a long and rough travel day, but for smaller boats, it can be a dangerous situation" (Breeding & Bansmer, "Sea of Cortez", 2nd Ed.). While we had a "larger" boat of 44 feet LOA, this situation proved not merely uncomfortable, but physically dangerous to our boat and life threatening for us.

"Green Dragon 2" was a Beneteau First 44.7 sailboat, commissioned in 2005. We were her second owners. We raced and cruised her extensively for ten years, including numerous Newportto Ensenada races and several Channel Islands cruises. We had both previously sailed to Cabo ascrew on another Baja Ha Ha boat and took our prior boat as far as Puerto Vallarta, all without incident. This time was to be very different. We had left on our voyage to Mexico in November, 2019, at the usual end of hurricane season. But tropical storms don't always follow the "usual" pattern, as we were soon to learn. From the start, bad weather and multiple, cascading equipment failures did not augur well for our voyage.

We had originally set out from San Diego as part of the Baja Ha Ha, an annual cruising rally. Two days into our trip down the Baja's Pacific coast our chart plotter broke, which was our only means of receiving AIS positions (of vessels so equipped). At the same time, our compass light went out, making following a course in the pitch-dark night a challenge. Not knowing if the chartplotter could be repaired in Mexico (it could not), I elected to return to San Diego for repairs. Our original, Ha Ha crew departed. The compass light was re-wired and the chart plotter was repaired and a re-mounted at the helm using a jury-rig (our original mount was destroyed). This was facilitated by the great hospitality shown us by Silver Gate Yacht Club.

We set out for Mexico again, this time with just Rosalie and me double-handing. No longer being a part of the Ha Ha, we were required to clear Mexican customs at Ensenada, which was done quite efficiently. We then had an uneventful two day and night sail to Turtle Bay, which is about half-way down the Pacific Baja coast. That was to be our last peaceful passage.

After leaving Turtle Bay, we headed directly to Cabo San Lucas. We were by then four days behind the Baja Ha Ha fleet. As such, we were told there would be plenty of slips at Cabo as the Ha Ha boats would have left Cabo by then. Wrong. We ran into the tail end of late season tropical storm Raymond, which came up to Cabo from the south. Due to the heavy rainfall and seas from that storm, our chart plotter failed a second time due to water intrusion. Right on cue, our auto pilot also failed. Having no auto pilot for a double handed crew means having to hand steer for 24 hours a day for hundreds of miles, a tiring proposition.

As a result of tropical storm Raymond, the harbor at Cabo was closed to all outbound traffic. As the *Ha Ha* fleet was still in harbor, all the slips were taken and anchoring was prohibited. We had arrived on a Monday which was a Mexican holiday, and even the gas dock was closed. However, they opened the pumps for us and allowed us to stay overnight on the gas dock if we agreed to leave by 6 am the next day. We then proceeded 20 miles up the coast to the marina at San Jose del Cabo, where they honored

our slip reservation even though we were a few days early. The helpful local boatyard repaired our auto pilot and our mainsail's broken lazy jacks.

Many cruising articles talk at length about the "Baja Bash" which is the return trip up the Pacific coast of Baja before the start of the next Hurricane season, in May-June. It is called a "bash" because you are sailing (usually motoring) upwind into strong winds and closely spaced large seas. What those articles don't usually talk about is this: virtually all passages in the Sea of Cortez in winter are a "bash". This was amply so on the passage from San Jose del Cabo to La Paz. Just like the conditions on the "outside" (Pacific) coast of Baja, the strong northerly winds and closely spaced large seas on the "inside" (Sea of Cortez) Baja coast made this a miserable trip.

This passage is made worse by having to traverse the channel between the Baja coast and Cerrvalo Island which creates a Venturi effect of higher wind speeds and bigger waves. We waited ten days in San Jose del Cabo for a weather window for the estimated three-day upwind passage to La Paz, via two overnight anchorages and a 3rd day for a daylight run down the gauntlet of the sometimes confusing La Paz channel. The 3-day weather window never arrived. We and another boat made the upwind "bash" to La Paz in two days, including an overnight sail and spending an unsettling night at the windy, bumpy anchorage aptly named Muertos ("dead" in Spanish).

We stayed for a month and a half at Marina de La Paz, in downtown La Paz. The marina has its own friendly clubhouse (Club Cruceros), wired internet and potable water dockside (a rarity in Mexican marinas). We initially had visions of doing what most cruisers dream of – using our marina as just a base, going out and anchoring at the nearby islands, landing our dinghy on white sandy beaches, and exploring. That quickly proved to be a fantasy. Daily weather reports in La Paz on the cruisers net were typically 10-15 knot northerly winds, but with the caveat that winds at the nearby islands were 5 kts. higher and gusts could be 5 kts. on top of that, plus the usual big, short period seas. That meant that the wind most of the time at the islands was in the 20-25 kts, range plus big seas. On several days during our stay in La Paz, the harbor was closed by the Port Captain to outbound traffic with big fines for violators. Once during our stay at the marina, we heard of a catamaran going up on the rocks when a change of wind direction to the west turned a nearby anchorage into a lee shore. We stayed the entire month and a half tied up at the marina. We originally planned to explore the Sea of Cortez in the winter. After facing the reality of the weather situation, and with the concurrence of experienced local cruisers, we decided to head south to the Mexican mainland and return to the Sea of Cortez in the Spring, when better weather was expected. However, the passage to the Mexican mainland required crossing the southern end of the Sea of Cortez. Our decision to do so proved to be our boat's undoing and nearly our own demise. ...

(To be continued)

[If You Have Your Own Boating Adventures to Share,
We'd Love to Hear from You! Please contact the editor here!](#)



Pacific Ocean

Isla San Esteban

Isla San Marcos

Loreto

Bahía Loreto

Isla San José

Isla Partida

BAJA CALIFORNIA

MEXICO

Sea of Cortez





73RD ANNUAL NEWPORT TO ENSENADA INTERNATIONAL YACHT RACE



Get Your Race Off to a GREAT Start! Attend a NOSA Seminar

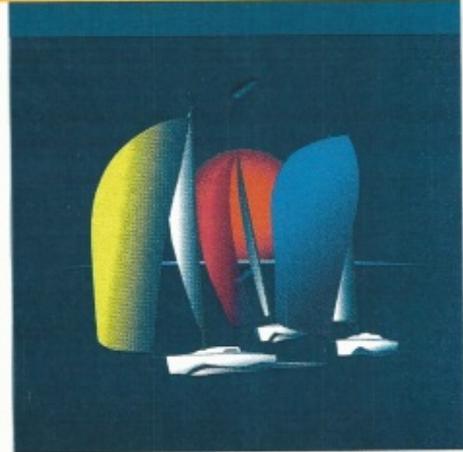
NOSA offers seminars at several regional clubs in Southern California to help educate new N2E racers and refresh the memories of race veterans on general subjects that prepare you for this race, such as:

- tips on soliciting and organizing your crew and boat preparation
- how to navigate the registration process, such as getting a sail number and a rating certificate
- ensuring your compliance with the Notice of Race and the relevant safety standards
- preparing for entering and leaving Mexico with permits and other formalities
- organizing hotels for your team and dockage for your boat

And race-related topics such as:

- organizing the crew and developing a coherent and successful race plan
- specific racing strategy and tactical tips for this race
- preparation and storage of equipment on the boat
- navigation tips
- sail trim guidelines
- sailing at night and watch system options
- weather forecast sources and analysis tips

The presenters, *Len Bose, Bruce Cooper and Bill Gibbs*, are experienced and have a wealth of knowledge to share, so we hope you take advantage of this by attending one of these seminars – what you learn will help not only improve your score but help to let you relax and enjoy participating in this great race.



NEWPORT TO ENSENADA INTERNATIONAL YACHT RACE

APRIL 24-26, 2020

Seminar Schedule

Date	Time	Location	City
January 23, 2020	7:00 PM	Pierpont Bay YC	Ventura CA
January 31, 2020	6:30 PM – Dinner	(Reservation Required)	(562) 594-6337
	7:30 PM – Seminar	Seal Beach YC	Long Beach CA
February 6, 2020	7:00 PM	Dana Point YC	Dana Point CA
February 13, 2020	7:00 PM	Bahia Corinthian YC	Corona Del Mar CA
February 20, 2020	7:00 PM	Long Beach YC	Long Beach CA
February 27, 2020	7:00 PM	Silver Gate YC	San Diego CA
March 26, 2020	7:00 PM	Del Rey YC	Marina Del Rey CA

With the exception of Seal Beach YC, all seminars start with a social hour at 6:00 PM with food and beverages for purchase.



Bringing up the Rear *Anne Eubanks*

We want to meet our member clubs SYCA Delegates and we want them to be active!

Opening Days are underway and our **Member Outreach chair, Kimberley Milligan**, has tasked the SCYA Officers and Directors attending Opening Day events to seek out delegates from the host clubs. If



you are an appointed Delegate or Alternate, please introduce yourself to SCYA Officers and Directors in attendance at your Opening Day. Success comes from communicating and sharing ideas, and making the good ideas happen.

The Club of the Year competition is under way and a question was posed by one club. What seminars qualify for points? To clarify, all SCYA seminars qualify, plus seminars sponsored by major associations like YRUSC, US Sailing, and ASA. If you have any questions, please forward them to our **Club of the Year co-chairs**, **Themis Glatman** (tladymanor1@aol.com) and **Doug Green** (dgreen92807@gmail.com). The **91st SCYA Midwinter Regatta** was a success and a lot of fun thanks to our chair, **Kathy St. Amant**, and her outstanding committee! I had a great time assisting with trophy presentations and meeting racers I didn't know. A big thank you to all who participated and I encourage you to continue to participate in your harbor association races, and in one of NOSA's three races; the Newport Sprint to Dana Point, Newport to San Diego, or Newport to Ensenada (N2E). Let's all encourage our youth sailors to participate in one of the three races, so these legendary events

continue for years to come.

Now that Kathy has the Midwinter Regatta behind her you will begin to see promotions for the **Women in Boating Clinic** on September 12th at Del Rey Yacht Club. Yes, **Kathy St. Amant** chairs this event as well. Put this date on your calendar now, Ladies, and plan to attend. It will sell out quickly.

See you at your Opening Day,

Anne



NEWPORT TO ENSENADA INTERNATIONAL YACHT RACE



INVITATION ONLY: BCYC MEMBERS, SKIPPERS AND GUESTS, CREW, SPONSORS, DIGNITARIES

SEND OFF PARTY

AT THE

BAHIA CORINTHIAN YACHT CLUB
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020



**DINE WITH YOUR TEAM OR OTHER SKIPPERS AND ENJOY OUR
FABULOUS MEXICAN BUFFET**



SERVED IN CLUB DINING ROOM

\$18 /PERSON (INCLUSIVE)

OPEN SEATING FROM 6 P.M. - 9 P.M.

OR ENJOY TACO BAR NEAR SWIMMING POOL AREA

FOR TEAM TABLE'S, RESEVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

TEAM RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE BETWEEN 6 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

YOUR BOAT NAME WILL BE DISPLAYED ON YOUR TEAM TABLE

BOAT NAME: _____

OWNER/SKIPPER NAME: _____

NUMBER OF CREW/GUESTS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

PLEASE PRINT & FILL OUT FORM AND:

Mail to:

Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club
1601 Bayside Drive
Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

Or Email:

debd@bcyc.org

Or Drop off:

At the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club
when you pick up your racing packet.

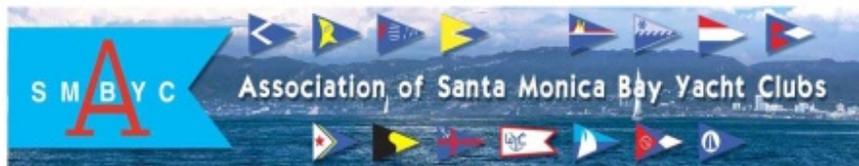
There will also be blank forms

**available to fill out at BCYC at the
racing packet pick-up point**

Questions?

Contact Rhonda Tolar
& Debbie Dunne at
debd@bcyc.org

INVITATION ONLY: BCYC MEMBERS, SKIPPERS AND GUESTS, CREW, SPONSORS, DIGNITARIES



2020 ASMBYC HIGH POINT RACES

#	Date	Day	Event	Yacht Club
1	January 4	Saturday	Malibu and Return	DRYC
2	January 25	Saturday	Palos Verdes BLT	RBYC
3	<u>March 7</u>	Saturday	Santa Monica Bay Race	DRYC
4	March 21	Saturday	Spinnaker 1 Stoney Special	KHYC
5	May 2	Saturday	Point Dume Race	DRYC
6	May 9	Saturday	Spinnaker 2 Transharbor	KHYC
7	May 17	Sunday	Pacific Cup Deepwater	CYC
8	June 20	Saturday	Chuck Stein Inverted Start	PMYC
9	June 28	Sunday	Pacific Cup Deepwater Series	CYC
10	July 11	Saturday	Tom Collier Regatta for Hope	KHYC
11	September 19	Saturday	Spinnaker 5 Matt Walsh	KHYC
12	October 3	Saturday	Castillon Classic Regatta	RBYC

2020 ASMBYC High Point Series



Early Front Runners

Place	Boat	Skipper	Yacht Club	Home Port	Overall Scores
1	Va Pensiero	Joseph Weber	CYC	MDR	230
2	Odyssey	Gary Schaffel	DRYC	MDR	154
3	El Encanto	Jeff Gentry	RBYC	KH	141
4	No Way!!	Don Souther	KHYC	KH	132
5	Vela	Steve Davis	KHYC	KH	130
6	Avet	Curt Johnson	CYC	MDR	128

* Overall scores are calculated from an entrant's best six scores with a 1.30 multiplier for each race outside of an entrant's home harbor.





Photo by Civicorn

FREE DOCKWALKER TRAINING

MORE INFO BoatingCleanAndGreen.com (Dockwalker Tab)

This workshop trains partners or collaborators like you to become Dockwalkers, who conduct face-to-face boater education about environmentally-sound boating practices.

Receive free educational materials to distribute to boaters at marinas, boat launch ramps, boat shows, and special events. Dockwalkers' efforts increase boater awareness about clean and safe boating, thus improving the recreation experience in California while helping to preserve its precious wildlife habitat and water quality.

Anyone from 15 to 100 years young interested in water quality and sharing clean boating information (regardless of your background) can become a Dockwalker!



2020 Southern California Trainings You Must Register To Attend

Saturday March 28	Newport Beach 10 am to 12:45 pm	Newport Sea Base (Foxtrot Room) 1931 West Coast HWY, Newport Beach, CA 92663
Saturday April 25	San Diego 10 am to 12:45 pm	Silver Gate Yacht Club (Banquet Room, 1st Floor) 2091 Shelter Island Dr, San Diego, CA 92106
Friday May 8	Oxnard 1 pm to 3:45 pm	USCG Recruiting Center Channel Island Harbor 4202 S. Victoria Oxnard, CA 93035
Saturday May 9	Marina del Rey 10 am to 12:45 pm	Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club 13589 Mindanao Way, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292
Saturday May 16	San Pedro 10 am to 12:45 pm	Long Beach Yacht Club 6201 E. Appian Way, Long Beach, CA 90803

Training presented by:



Funding or assistance in Dockwalkers training provided by these organizations



To register please complete the information below and mail it to CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways/ CA Coastal Commission 45 Fremont St., Ste 1900, San Francisco, CA 94105 or email to vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov Fax (415) 904-5216

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO BE A DOCKWALKER

Training Location _____ Date _____

Name of Participant _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

See You in April!

Join us Saturday, April 18 at Los Angeles Yacht Club in San Pedro!

1030 hours board-only meeting
1200 hours general meeting & luncheon

[Register Here!!](#)

FYI-- There is NO May meeting!!!



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Enjoy Your St. Patrick's Day Responsibly!