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JANUARY 2025

In This Issue

FROM THE HELM: [Commodore's Report](#)

BRIDGE REPORTS: [Vice Commodore](#) and [Rear Commodore](#)

SCYA BOARD REPORTS

–[Port Captain Report](#)

SCYA COMMITTEE REPORTS

–[SCYA 2025 Race Calendar](#)

–[SCYA's Midwinter Regatta February 11-12 & 18-19](#)

–[SCYA Award Recipients](#)

–[Make your club the SCYA 2025 Club of the Year](#)

–[Amateur Radio: How to obtain a License](#)



- [News from California Yacht Club](#)
- [Making History in the Sydney to Hobart Race](#)
- [Yosh Han: Sail Sport Talk](#)

SCYA LIAISON UPDATES

- [US Sailing Regulations](#)
- [Call for Donations \(RBOC\)](#)

SCYA COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

- [Sailing Leadership Forum 2025](#)
- [US Sailing Sanctioned Safety at Sea Course \(LBYC\)](#)
- [CA Boaters Card](#)

SCYA SPONSORS

- [Proud Partners](#)

SCYA ONLINE SHOP

- [Yachting Protocol Guidelines Book](#)

SEARCHLIGHT NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

- [Submission Guidelines](#)

From the Helm

Commodore's Report

Lee Coller

2025 SCYA Commodore
commodore@scya.org



We had the SCYA Installation and Awards banquet on January 11th. Congratulations to all the award winners. Holding it during the devastating wildfires was a tough decision, I sought input not only from our board, but from people I new lived in the area. What I heard was that it would be a good diversion. We did have a great turnout (85 attendees).

I do note that many of our member clubs have members that lost homes. While sad, it also demonstrates the "family" atmosphere of our clubs as they have stepped forward to take care of their members.

On February 8th we will have our general meeting of the year at Shoreline Yacht Club. In addition to normal business, we will be presenting The Maritime Order of the Golden Key Award, Sportsmanship Trophy, and the one design trophies. The program will be the same as we did last year, we will have round tables to discuss various issues that show up at clubs as well as SCYA issues and seek input from our members. Please plan on having your delegates attend. I note one popular item we started last year are the monthly zoom meetings for commodores. This came out of the round table held last year. Hopefully we will get some other good idea.

At the November Board Meeting the SCYA board approved some changes to the SCYA bylaws regarding membership applications. The changes are

1. Change the approval requirement from a 2/3rds vote to a simple majority
2. Remove the requirement for 3 sponsorship letters
3. Require notice to the association members of the application (thus members will receive notice in advance and have an opportunity to object).

These will be presented at the February General meeting for delegates to take back to their clubs for discussion and will be voted on in the March General meeting, which we have changed to March 15th to not conflict with the Marina Del Rey opening days. Additionally, your clubs will be notified in

writing as required by our bylaws.

This year I'm trying to make some changes to the way we run meetings. We will publish the agenda in advance so you know what will be discussed. Some regular things you will see at the meetings include updates from RBOC (see <https://rboc.org>). For programs/speakers, these will be geared towards issues that impact our clubs and boating in general. If you have suggestions please let us know.

The last two weeks February the SCYA Midwinter Regatta is being held (with a few events outside that time period). More information can be found at <https://scyamidwinterregatta.org/>. Please participate and encourage your fellow racers to participate.

I and my fellow flag officers plan on attending as many opening days as we can. A reminder if you would like us to participate in your opening day (such as acknowledging awards/trophies) please let us know in advance.

I mentioned this in the previous Searchlight but received no response, but there are still a few positions to be filled. Specifically, we are looking for a webmaster. If you are interested or know someone who would be please let us know. We are also looking for a Trophy Chair as well as people interested in putting together seminars.

Lee Coller

2025 SCYA Commodore

commodore@scya.org



From the Bridge

V/C Report

Jodi Masters-Gonzales
2025 SCYA Vice Commodore
vicecommodore@scya.org



As part of the leadership transitional season within the SCYA community, it's been a delight to attend a couple of installation ceremonies this month.

Congratulations to all who've decided to step up into elected and appointed leadership roles, especially those who are doing so for the first time. Our clubs wouldn't be what they are without brave folks like you. The year ahead will be rewarding and challenging, but most of all, it's an opportunity to bring value to your members and community.

As we head into 2025, remember: the key is not to "know everything," but to know where to find help and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) when necessary. SCYA is here to help when doing this research. Just reach out.

As the 2025 SCYA Vice Commodore, I am very lucky to be working alongside SMEs, SCYA S/Cs Bill McNamara (SCYA Fleet Captain) and John Marshall (SCYA Midwinters Chairperson) to continue building out all things related to racing events held under the auspices of SCYA. This will include re-introducing several trophies and awards that have been in our vault for some time. Very exciting! A forward looking agenda is forthcoming.

As suggested to me by LAYC S/C and sailing leadership SME, SCYA Director Marie Rogers, I will be attending the US Sailing Leadership Forum (SLF) from February 6-8, 2025 in Coronado, CA. SLF is the premier event for leaders in the sport of sailing in the United States. If you are also planning on attending, please let me know so we can meet up! I've pulled together more details below for those interested. Registration ends on January 31st!

2025 Leadership Opportunities (Under My Report)

If you are curious about what it might be like to lead at the regional level, there are several ways to explore your curiosity—such as working with my team in 2025 on a trial or "observer" basis. It is not expected that you arrive "well-seasoned;" all that is required is a willingness to stretch a little beyond your comfort zone, roll-up your sleeves and be coachable. Our SMEs and I will mentor you, as necessary. Please reach out to me directly to get more information.

Listed below are a few committees who could use a little help:

Adaptive Boating

Angling

Awards

Community Outreach

Cruising

Model Yachting

Women's Boating Event

Inclusive Boating

Marketing Communications (MarCom)

—Chairperson In-Training (to assume role in 2026)

—SCYA Yearbook

- SCYA Searchlight Newsletter
- SCYA Website (content curation)
- SCYA Social Media
- SCYA Press Releases

2025 SCYA Yearbook

Thank you everyone who returned their 2025 SCYA Yearbook Data Collection forms on time! Proofs are going out soon. Our target delivery date is March SCYA General Meeting on 3/15/2025. Our yearbook reaches all SCYA member organizations—and their members!

There is space available in 2025 SCYA Yearbook to promote and memorialize club events/activities. This opportunity is open to all clubs who might also be interested in highlighting their club's facilities, special activities or races. Companies who'd like broader reach into our community for their products and services are also invited to place ads. If you are interested in placing an ad (we have very reasonable rates), reach out to me at vicecommore@scya.org **Deadline is February 1, 2025.**

2025 Race Calendar

The 2025 SCYA Race Calendar for "Area J" has been published to the [SCYA website](#). Many thanks to our Race Management Committee Chair, Judi Glover, who pulled it together! This is her first year in this role at SCYA and she's doing a fantastic job learning the ropes.

First Mondays for SCYA Commodore Cohort, 2026

Our next First Mondays for current V/Cs (or equivalent roles), will be on Monday, February 3, 2025 from 6-7pm via Zoom. **Our guest speaker is Jeff Berkus, Commodore of Santa Barbara Yacht Club, who will be speaking on the topic**

of Attracting, Growing and Retain Membership. SBYC currently has a list of prospective members eager to join. Attend to learn more about SBYC's "secret sauce" and to engage with your 2025 cohort. It's a fantastic opportunity to see how other clubs are overcoming common challenges. Encourage your V/Cs to participate. **Registration is required (go do that now!)** An article on the topic will be published in the coming months so this information can be shared more broadly.

SCYA Corinthian Leadership Seminar (New!)

This event has been postponed due to the challenges posed by the wild fires. Updated event information:

Sunday, March 16, 2025 (Save the Date!)

9am to 2pm @ Seal Beach Yacht Club

SoCal Wild Fires Support

On my heart constantly, are the devastating SoCal wild fires that have and continue to effect our community. Watching as homes, belongings, and neighborhoods disappear is physically and emotionally unimaginable. Much gratitude goes out to the tireless and brave first responders who continue to work to protect us.

While the air is clearing of smoke, our community has a long road ahead and I have been thinking of ways to help. So far, I've seen great examples of solidarity within our community—such as SMWYC partnering with Rotary Marina del Rey to support the L.A. Fire Relief Effort. Together, we are RESILIENT.

Reach out with ideas or if interest in partnering to coordinate

recovery efforts. I'd like to bring back suggestions to the SCYA BoD for consideration.

Much aloha and mahalo 🌺

Jodi Masters-Gonzales

2025 SCYA Vice Commodore
vicecommodore@scya.org

From the Bridge

R/C Report

Elena Yuasa

2025 SCYA Rear Commodore
rearcommodore@scya.org



As we embark on the new year, I am excited and ready to serve our wonderful yachting community. I aim to provide every member with valuable resources, education, and support our members. On behalf of SCYA, I encourage YOU to help shape the future of SCYA!

Your Input Matters

At SCYA, we value your voice and perspective. We are actively seeking members of our yachting community to provide input and bring fresh ideas. Whether it's suggesting topics for future seminars, participating in committee work, or sharing your expertise, your involvement is key to ensuring SCYA continues to meet the needs of our members.

Our Committee Chairs will be busy with their assignments in the coming weeks. If you are interested in contributing, please contact me, and I will be delighted to connect you based on your interest. Together, we can continue to provide valuable resources and education for the yachting community.

Upcoming Seminars and Events

I am thrilled to announce that we are in the planning stages for several seminars and are looking to restart several workshops on diverse topics. Let us know if there are specific areas you'd like us to address. We aim to commit time and resources to educating and benefiting our community.

Also, let us know if your club is hosting an event, such as a Race Management seminar, Safety at Sea, or any other event you feel we should collaborate on. SCYA is here to assist with publicizing them, including opening days, providing speakers, and offering support to ensure a broad outreach.

Club of the Year Program

We have already hit the ground running this year with the Club of the Year seminar, conducted on January 18th via Zoom. The Club of the Year Committee encourages SCYA member clubs to participate in this program, which promotes the Corinthian spirit, civic engagement, and friendly interactions among clubs and boaters. At SCYA, we look forward to seeing many clubs rise to the occasion and enhance their involvement with us.

Race Management Committee

I am delighted to share that our Race Management Committee Chair is actively recruiting members to support race officers within US Sailing Area J. This is a vital initiative,

and we are eager to develop resources and programs that enhance the quality of race management in our region. If you are interested in being a committee member, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

I eagerly anticipate discussing new initiatives and our commitment to serving the yachting community effectively. I am excited to connect with many of you at opening days, SCYA general meetings, and various events throughout 2025.

Elena Yuasa

2025 SCYA Rear Commodore
rearcommodore@scya.org

SCYA BOARD REPORT

Port Captain Report



By Port Captain RJ Green, thegreenteamre1@gmail.com



SCYA Rear Commodore Seminar

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 9:30am to 3pm

@ Seal Beach Yacht Club

Register [HERE](#)

FCC Radio Technician Amateur License Class (New!)

Monday, February 3, 2025, 9am to 3pm via Zoom

(To register, contact Charlie Pascal, SCYA Radio

Communications Chair at radiopascal@earthlink.net or (310) 714-0524.)

SCYA BoD & General Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 2025

10:30am: SCYA Board Meeting

12:00pm: General Membership Meeting and Lunch

@ Shoreline Yacht Club

Register [HERE](#)

SCYA BoD & General Meeting

Saturday, March 8, 2025 (location TBD)

SCYA Corinthian Leadership Seminar (New!)

Sunday, March 16, 2025, 9am to 2pm

Seal Beach Yacht Club

(Save the Date! Contact Jodi Masters-Gonzales, SCYA Vice Commodore, with any questions at vicecommodore@scya.org.)

SCYA BoD Only

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 via Zoom

May 2025 - No Meetings**SCYA BoD & General Meeting**

Saturday, June 7, 2025 (location TBD)

SCYA BoD Only

Saturday, July 12, 2025 (location TBD)

August 2025 - No Meetings**SCYA BoD & General Meeting**

Old Timers Awards

Saturday, September 13, 2025 (location TBD)

SCYA Commodore's Cruise

(Date and location TBD)

SCYA General Meeting

SCYA 2026 Nomination Announcement Only

Wednesday, October 23, 2025 via Zoom

SCYA BoD & General Meeting

Elections

Saturday, November 8, 2025 (location TBD)

SCYA BoD Only

Transition Meeting

Saturday, December 13, 2025 (location TBD)



SCYA COMMITTEE REPORTS

SCYA 2025 Race Calendar



By Dir. Judi Glover, SCYA Race Management Chair
hey805jude@gmail.com

DATE	DAY	CLUB	EVENT	CLASSES	REGION
DATE: 1/1/2025					
1/1/2025	Wed	Mission Bay Yacht Club (MBYC)	Hangover Regatta	Single Handed	San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs (SDAYC)
1/1/2025	Wed	Morro Bay Yacht Club (MorBYC)	Bay Winter I (Founders Cup)		
1/1/2025	Wed	San Diego Yacht Club (SDYC)	New Years Day Race	Open	San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs (SDAYC)
DATE: 1/3/2025					
1/3/2025	Sat	Del Rey Yacht Club (DRYC)	Malibu Race, Berger/Stein #1	PHRF (Performance & Cruiser)	Association of Santa Monica Bay Yacht Clubs (ASMBYC)
DATE: 1/4/2025					
1/4/2025	Sat	California Yacht Club (CYC)	Bornsen New Years Day Race	Open	Association of Santa Monica Bay Yacht Clubs (ASMBYC)
1/4/2025	Sat	Del Rey Yacht Club (DRYC)	Berger/Stein #1, Malibu Race	PHRF (Performance & Cruiser)	Association of Santa Monica Bay Yacht Clubs (ASMBYC)
1/4/2025	Sat	Morro Bay Yacht Club (MorBYC)	Bay MRYC Hangover Race		
1/4/2025	Sat	San Diego Yacht Club (SDYC)	Women's Winter Invitational Preview	One Design	San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs (SDAYC)
DATE: 1/5/2025					
1/5/2025	Sun	Alamitos Bay Yacht Club (ABYC)	Sr Sabor Sunday	(Bay Only)	Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs (ASPBYC)
1/5/2025	Sun	Coronado Cay Yacht Club (CCYC)	Winter Classic Series	Open	San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs (SDAYC)
1/5/2025	Sun	Long Beach Yacht Club (LBYC)	Two Gates Pursuit Race	(PHRF, PHRF Cruising, O-D)	Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs (ASPBYC)
1/5/2025	Sun	Morro Bay Yacht Club (MorBYC)	Ron May Memorial (Ocean Winter I)		
1/5/2025	Sun	Southwestern Yacht Club (SWYC)	Sullivan Winter Series	SWRF	San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs (SDAYC)
DATE: 1/11/2025					
1/11/2025	Sat	Alamitos Bay Yacht Club (ABYC)	Tempest/Viper/Multi-Hull/Etche Its Fleet Race	(Harbor)	Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs (ASPBYC)
1/11/2025	Sat	Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club (CBYC)	Rapid Starts	(PHRF, PHRF N/S, O-D)	Association of San Pedro Bay Yacht Clubs (ASPBYC)
1/11/2025	Sat	Mission Bay Yacht Club (MBYC)	Snipe Las Vegas	Snipe	San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs (SDAYC)
1/11/2025	Sat	Pacific Singlehanded Sailing Association (PSSA)	Dan Byrne Series 1: Ship Rock	SGL/DBL	

2025 Race Calendar Improvements

This year, we hyperlinked the club name and harbor association to racing portions of their respective websites to

increase value to end-users, enabling easier access to more information, registration, etc.

We also added hyperlinks to SCYA and SCYA Midwinters race events to likewise provide easier access to direct SCYA-related information, including trophy and award recognition opportunities. Additional links to race-related trophies and awards will be updated as that information is added to the SCYA website.

Race Calendar Additions & Corrections

All SCYA member organizations and affiliated associations are invited to add race event information and hyperlinks to non-SCYA race trophy and award information on listed race events.

Updates will be made as they are received and will be reflected in real time on the published calendar on the [SCYA website](#)—this can take several days, depending on capacity and your patience is greatly appreciated. **For additions, corrections, or questions, please reach out to Judi at hey805jude@gmail.com.**

Not a member of SCYA?

If your club is not a member of SCYA, but would like to have your race events added to the combined "Area J" SCYA Race Calendar, please reach out to our Membership Committee Chair, S/C Anne Eubanks, at anneeubanks@gmail.com.



SCYA COMMITTEE REPORTS

SCYA's Midwinter Regatta-February 11-12 & 18-19



By S/C John Marshall, SCYA Midwinters Co-Chair
jmarshall@expeditor.com

The 95th Edition of the Southern California Yachting Association's Midwinter Regatta is scheduled for February 11-12 and 18-19. The Midwinter Regatta is the largest regatta on the West Coast featuring 25 host venues, over 100 classes, 600 boats and 2500 sailors".



The SCYA Midwinter Regatta's history is packed with legendary sailors and their boats from the early days to the present. In 1928, SCYA and the LA Junior Chamber of Commerce teamed up to sponsor the first Midwinter Regatta which was promoted as an example of the sports "paradise" that Southern California offered in the winter. As hoped, the event attracted boats from the Great Lakes, Atlantic Coast and the rest of the Pacific Coast, and some of the best known yachtsmen in America, including Clifford Mallory, John Alden and Herbert Stone, the editor of Yachting magazine.



Southern California weather in February does not always live up to the LA Chamber of Commerce expectations. Racing conditions have ranged from a near hurricane in 1935 to other years of dead calm; impenetrable fog or driving rain; but, of course, also many days sailed in glorious sunshine and warm breezes. That's exactly the weather they had in 1947 when Ed Witte won, nosing out actor Humphrey Bogart in *Santana*. In good weather or bad, one of the most dominant sailors at the Midwinters during the fifties was George Fleitz. In one stretch he won every race he sailed in this regatta for three years straight. Midwinters then typically drew 200 to 300 entries. SCYA celebrated its 25th jubilee Midwinters with mild weather in 1954 and actress Mitzi Gaynor was chosen as queen of the regatta.



Los Angeles harbor was the only venue for many years. The first expansion added Alamitos Bay. 1973 saw the addition of racing at Marina Del Rey and King Harbor. In 1977 entries reached a record 1,200. New venues continued to be added through the years until races were being held from Santa Barbara to San Diego and as far east as Arizona and Nevada.



The history of Midwinter entries clearly shows the gain in popularity of sailboat racing. From 1930 to 1960 an approximate total of 17,000 skippers and crew took part in the Midwinter Regatta. During the next thirty years, the total number of skipper and crew participants grew to an estimated 75,000 or more. Regattas don't just happen, so through the years many people have staffed the Midwinter Regatta committee to handle planning, coordination, publicity, trophies, etc. and host clubs have provided race committees, protest committees and hospitality, which adds a significant number of people to the total participants. The tradition is clear, the SCYA Midwinter Regatta has done a bang up job in opening the racing season. Let's keep that tradition alive.



SCYA COMMITTEE REPORTS

SCYA Award Recipients



By Dir. Herbert Brown, SCYA Award Committee Chair
hjb2oycstaffcommodore@gmail.com

As tradition holds, each year in January at the SCYA Installation Ceremony, several awards are distributed to members of the SCYA community in recognition of distinguished accomplishments or contributions. It is also SCYA custom to distribute awards and trophies at the SCYA General Meeting in February and at various clubs in connection with SCYA Midwinters.

Over the next couple of months, we will continue celebrating these achievements by sharing them here, in the Searchlight. The following are only a few of many more to come:

SCYA Rescue Award

This trophy shall be awarded in recognition of an outstanding display of heroism and compassion within the sport of yachting. The award may be given for heroism on or off the water and is not limited to skippers and crew, but could include race management and other such individuals.

The 2024 SCYA Rescue awardees are Jana Davis & Megan Marsh, Women's Sailing Association Santa Monica Bay (WSASMB).

On Wednesday, June 19, as boats were coming past the breakwater for the last leg of that night's Sunset Series race in Santa Monica Bay, Sails Coll was racing in the Martin 242 fleet, with Megan Marsh at the helm, Jana Davis at trim, and Katie Priest on foredeck. Katie was new to the position of foredeck, and she fell overboard as Sails Coll was taking down her kite. It was an incredibly dangerous setting where Katie could have been hit by another boat or swept up onto the breakwater rocks. Megan expertly maneuvered the boat, avoiding other racers, and got in a position to pick up Katie. MOB is always a dangerous situation, and in this case, it was compounded by the many race boats turning around the breakwater, most of whom were not even aware that a crew had gone overboard.

We congratulate Megan and Jana for sailing skills and quick-thinking, and we are so thankful that Katie was retrieved unharmed.



(Pictured left to right: SCYA Commodore, Lee Coller, Jana Davis and Megan Marsh. Photo credit: Xuong (Song), [Happy Photos.](#))

George L. and Kay B. Fisher Memorial Trophy

This trophy shall be awarded to a couple who has rendered distinguished service to yachting in Southern California over a long period of time.

The 2024 George L. and Kay B. Fisher Memorial Trophy awardees are Beth and Joe Yates, Seal Beach Yacht Club (SIBYC).

Joe and Beth Yates were already racing/cruising sailors when they joined Seal Beach Yacht Club in April 2000. Joe had been crew for several years on an active race boat out of King Harbor, and Beth had worked aboard a charter sailboat in the Caribbean. They kept their own sailboat in Alamitos Bay.

SIBYC welcomed the new members aboard and celebrated

the couple's wedding in the year 2000 on the Club's patio overlooking the marina.

Joe and Beth quickly took on volunteer roles they likened to 'grabbing hold of a moving train'. They both served as Club Membership Chairpersons for several years. Joe went on to be elected to the Board of Directors and Beth became Club Secretary, then Calendar Coordinator, then Club Rental Coordinator, and most importantly for any Yacht Club, Bar Captain.

While enjoying the Club's cruises each season, both Joe and Beth were both becoming more involved with the Club's very active sailboat racing program (approximately 30 events each year). They still enjoyed racing as crew in the Ocean Series weekend races to Catalina that LBYC put on, but the duo learned the ropes of how a proper Race Committee is run on the water from SIBYC Staff Commodore George Wilson in the late 2000's. Joe and Beth became regulars on the various Race Committee boats skippered by volunteer club members throughout the year.

Joe completed the US Sailing training required to become a Principal Race Officer (PRO), and Beth took on the exacting task of being the on-board Timer for each race start (and finish as well for many of the weekend races). The Race Committee details of selecting courses, monitoring mark positions, coordinating flags and gunners and properly recording start and finish details while bobbing up and down on an anchored Start Line boat became second nature.

In the early 'teens, the pair were contacted by NOSA official Susan Heinz and asked to help with the start of the Newport to Ensenada race. Joe and Beth have now participated for

over a decade as Crew Chief and Scorer on one of the three Start Line Committee Boats that are used each year in the large N2E event.

Now in their 25th year of SIBYC membership, Joe and Beth still look forward to each racing season. They've moved on from their sailboat to a powerboat (going over to the 'Dark Side', also the name of the powerboat) that has seen Race Committee duty more than a few times. "We get worn down by the end of the season, but after a few weeks with no racing, we miss the excitement and start really looking forward to next year's events."

Congratulations to our 2024 winning couple Joe & Beth Yates!



(Pictured left to right: SCYA Vice Commodore, Jodi Masters-Gonzales, Joe and Beth Yates. Photo credit: Xuong (Song), [Happy Photos.](#))

Mort Bloom Perpetual Trophy

This Trophy "recognizes excellence, commitment and

duration of service by Judges, Umpires and Race Officers plying their skills in competitive sailing events”.

The 2024 Mort Bloom Perpetual Trophy awardee is Colleen Cooke, Cortez Racing Association (CRA)

As a US Sailing National Judge, nobody works harder in the San Diego area and across the country! Colleen's dedicated service as the Race Committee chair and PRO at the Cortez Racing Association (CRA) includes not just their busy program of year-round racing, she has also served as the Principal Race Officer at many other races at different area yacht clubs. In particular, CRA's beer can racing summer series attracts hundreds of yachts in a variety of classes! A respected National Judge, Colleen actively participates in US Sailing judges training sessions. Colleen serves as an effective mentor for up-and-coming race officials, including Ensenada-based CNB Treasurer Mark Tuniewicz, who is now a club-level Race Official and Judge-in-training thanks to her guidance, patience and expertise.

Colleen is a role model for what a judge and PRO can be, and has sustained this performance for many years. She more than meets the criteria for this award, and we recommend her wholeheartedly.

Congratulations to our 2024 winner Colleen Cooke!



SCYA COMMITTEE REPORTS

Make your club
the 2025 Club of
the Year



Sylvia & Tommy Wheeler, SCYA CoY Chairpersons,
ForSylviaW@aol.com

It's that time of year again; time to start gathering your yacht club information on programs, cruises, races, etc., for the Club of the Year Trophies. I hope by this time, you have chosen your Club of the Year coordinator and notified Kim at service@scya.org, paid your 2025 SCYA dues, and submitted your 2025 board information for our annual yearbook.

The new criteria has been approved by the SCYA Board and posted on the SCYA.org website (<https://scya.org/club-of-the-year/>). We held our Club of the Year Seminar via Zoom on January 18th and we had a large turnout. We hope that every club that participated will continue to participate in the Club of the Year program. If you'd like a copy of the Power Point presentation, please contact me at ForSylviaW@aol.com.

Remember, SCYA meeting participation and seminars all earn points for your club, as well as Opening Day participation. Racing, Cruising, Model Yacht Program, Angling, Predicted Log, Clean Boating Program are just a few of the activities that help you earn points. See the complete list at the website.

The final notebook submissions will be due at the November 2025 SCYA General Membership meeting.



AMATEUR RADIO COMMITTEE



Amateur Radio: How to Obtain Your License

By Charles Pascal, SCYA Radio Communications Chair
radiopascal@earthlink.net



Unlock the World of Amateur Radio: How to Obtain Your License in the U.S.

Communication is key for yacht club members—whether at sea, anchor, or onshore. Have you ever considered the incredible possibilities Amateur Radio (often called "Ham Radio") could offer? From emergency communication to worldwide connections, obtaining your Amateur Radio license opens doors to a fascinating hobby and invaluable skills. Here's how you can get started!

Why an Amateur Radio License?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requires Amateur Radio operators to be licensed in the United States. This ensures that anyone transmitting on Amateur bands has

the knowledge and skills to do so responsibly. Licensed operators, known as control operators, can use transmitters that emit radio frequency (RF) energy into the ionosphere, enabling communication across vast distances. Whether sailing the seas or preparing for emergencies, this license can be your ticket to reliable, global communication.

Three License Classes: Technician, General, and Amateur Extra

The FCC offers three classes of Amateur Radio licenses, each with its privileges and requirements:

1. **Technician License** (Entry-Level)
2. **General License** (Intermediate)
3. **Amateur Extra License** (Advanced)

Let's dive into what each entails and how you can achieve them.

Technician License: Your Entry Point

The Technician License is the first step into the world of Amateur Radio. It's perfect for beginners and provides access to VHF, UHF, and EHF bands—ideal for local communication and emergency networks. Here's what you need to know:

Exam Overview:

- 35 multiple-choice questions
- It was drawn from 350 questions curated by organizations like the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).
- Topics include rules, radio-wave propagation, basic theory, antennas, and RF safety.

- You'll need to answer at least 26 questions correctly to pass.

Study Resources:

- The ARRL (www.arrl.org) offers study guides and practice exams.
- Websites like EHAM.NET and QRZ.com provide additional practice tools.

Taking the Exam:

- Exams are available online through organizations like GLAARG (www.glaarg.org) or in person through local Amateur Radio clubs.
- Experienced volunteer examiners often proctor in-person exams.

Benefits:

- Connect locally and globally using digital communication tools like hotspots, Echolink, and repeaters.
- Perfect for emergency communication enthusiasts.

General License: Expanding Your Horizons

The General License is the next step, offering access to high-frequency (HF) bands for long-distance communication—a game-changer for sailors and globetrotters.

Exam Overview:

- Similar to the Technician exam, with 35 multiple-choice questions from a pool 350.
- Covers advanced topics like AC circuits, transmitter theory, solar activity's impact on propagation, and FCC regulations.

- A passing score requires 26 correct answers.

Privileges:

- Access to about 70% of Amateur HF bands, including worldwide communication frequencies.
- Full privileges on certain HF bands (e.g., 10, 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters).

Why Upgrade?

- Enjoy global connectivity via shortwave radio, enabling reliable communication remotely without the Internet or satellites.

Amateur Extra License: The Pinnacle of Amateur Radio

For those who want it all, the Amateur Extra License provides complete access to every Amateur Radio frequency. It's the ultimate achievement for any operator.

Exam Overview:

- A rigorous 50-question test drawn from a pool of 603 questions.
- Requires a score of 38 correct answers to pass.
- It covers advanced topics like antenna design using Smith charts, digital modes (e.g., FT8, PSK31), propagation theory, and more.

Benefits:

- Access exclusive frequency ranges for long-distance communication, including the lower edges of key HF bands.
- Become eligible to administer Amateur exams, giving back to the community.

Career Opportunities:

- The knowledge gained can be a stepping stone to telecommunications, electronics, or aviation careers.
- Licensing overlaps with certifications like the General Radio Telephone Operator License (GROL), which is required for roles in RF communications and public safety systems.

Why Should Yacht Club Members Care?

Amateur Radio is more than a hobby; it's a lifeline and a gateway to global camaraderie. Imagine:

- **Emergency Preparedness:** Seamless communication during unforeseen circumstances, even without cellular or satellite service.
- **Worldwide Connections:** Chat with fellow mariners and radio enthusiasts across the globe.
- **Learning Opportunities:** Dive into the fascinating electronics, radio theory, and digital communication world.

Ready to Get Started?



- Visit ARRL.org or GLAARG.org to find study materials and exam schedules.
- Start with the Technician license, then advance to unlock even more opportunities.

Amateur Radio offers a blend of technical challenges, practical skills, and global connections that are hard to match. Whether for personal enrichment or practical application, it's a rewarding journey. I hope to hear from you about the amateur bands soon!

FCC Radio Technician Amateur License Class (New!)

Monday, February 3, 2025, 9am to 3pm via Zoom

(To register, contact Charlie Pascal, SCYA Radio Communications Chair at radiopascal@earthlink.net or (310) 714-0524.)

INCLUSIVE BOATING COMMITTEE

News from California Yacht Club



By Dir. Marie Rogers, SCYA Inclusive Boating Chair
marieelizabethrogers@gmail.com

California Yacht Club (CYC) has been working diligently with Los Angeles County to finalize a long-term lease agreement. Owner Jeff Weiss plans for the future by showcasing the club as a pilot program of All Marina Del Rey for All, MDR4 All. According to Weiss, "Negotiations have been very fruitful." While management and leadership build back the club after the 2023 fire, they are certain that this new version of the old club will be even better by fitting into the County's plans. By

encouraging SCYA Inclusive Boating Events (IBE) events such as Juneteenth, Boaters of Color Meetup, and others, CYC management and Commodore Michelle Ondrey plan to offer sailing activities and club membership by reaching out to a wider community.

Maintaining a private club while considering the County's policy agenda is not without hurdles; however, Weiss is dedicated to the goals of MDR4 All and maintains, "CYC is an essential piece of that."

In the meantime, CYC has continued its on the water programs and every regatta on the calendar since before the fire. The club is still open and operating its food and beverage service along with Junior Sailing, rowing, swim lessons, adult keelboat school, powerboat fleet, pickleball, clubs with the club, meetings and ceremonies. This is all despite the many members and staff who have been tragically affected by the recent Palisades fire.

INCLUSIVE BOATING COMMITTEE

Making History in the Sydney to Hobart Race



By Dir. Marie Rogers, SCYA Inclusive Boating Chair
marieelizabethrogers@gmail.com

The Rolex Sydney to Hobart Race is one of the toughest and most respected ocean races in the world. The 79th running of the race, hosted by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, began on Sydney Harbor on December 26, 2024 (Boxing Day). The course heads south for 628 nautical miles through the Bass Strait and ends in Hobart, Tasmania. Competing in the race is a fleet in excess of 100 yachts, ranging from 36' to 100' in length. Weather was particularly rough, with gusts up to 45 knots, forcing several boats to retire and contributing to two boom related deaths.



(Photo credit: ABC News: Marnie Vinall.)

Despite the grueling history of this Category 1 offshore race, several women have crewed and skippered in races over the years and in this latest running. Friend of the SCYA Inclusive Boating Committee, Melissa Warren, has the distinction of being the first black woman to finish this race. Melissa and I had an opportunity to talk about her experience in the race and what it's like for women wanting to race competitively in Australia.

I asked how she feels about being a trailblazer in the sport, being one of the first women of color to compete in the race? "I kind of feel like I'm just doing what I love, and I would love other people to try it out as well, you know."

Melissa, originally from London, moved to Australia looking for a change of routine and for adventure. She had sailed casually as a guest at work and got really interested in the sport after this initial experience. Upon her move to Melbourne, she got involved in the sailing scene there and joined the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria. She also sails out of the Royal Geelong Yacht Club, The Royal Brighton Yacht Club, and the Sandringham Yacht Club.

We talked about the race and how tough it was. She worked foredeck on *Dark and Stormy*, a Murray-Burns-Dovell Custom 37. There were 10 crew all together, four of them women. "I'm ready for the next challenge. I'm feeling like there's much more for me to do, and much more for me to help others do as well." She continues enthusiastically, "Like when I was up in Sydney, this black lady came up to me, and she gave me this big hug, and she was like, "Oh, my God! I'm so excited! You're doing the race! Oh, my God!" Melissa learned that the woman's partner is a local dinghy sailor, and encouraged her to also, "Get out on the water!"

Melissa owes much of her success to her [Magenta Program Mentor](#), Annika Thompson. Annika is the owner/skipper of TP 52 *J-Bird* one of the three female owned boats in the 2024 race. She is also the third time in a row, First to Finish Female in the Sydney to Hobart Race.



(Photo credit: supplied by Melissa Warren.)

Melissa aims to continue offshore racing while working to share the sport with others who have not had the opportunity to do so. In the UK and in Australia she had never seen another black sailor. Her family is of Jamaican heritage and always saw themselves as citizens of the world. Melissa's mom always encouraged her to pursue interests without fear, one reason why she wasn't shy about embracing sailing. We have talked about this before, when Melissa has participated in SCYA IBC Zoom discussions.

We realize that not all minorities are as brave in spaces where they don't see others like us. It is important to make it easy for people to have access to sailing. "Of course, I felt uncomfortable doing it in some cases, but I've never felt like I didn't have the audacity, or maybe the bravery, to do so. So, I suppose, for me I just feel like I'm *someone*." She went on to explain that sailing was something she never thought of until someone introduced it to her. "And then, I was like, oh, I really love it and everyone else should love it too! The fact

that I am black, being out on the water, I kind of wish that I could have my fellow community experiencing it with me because they're missing out!"

INCLUSIVE BOATING COMMITTEE

Yosh Han: Sail Sport Talk



By Sail Sports Talk

Yosh is an active SCYA Inclusive Boating Committee member.



With 28,000+ nautical miles under her PFD Yosh has sailed all over the world. Catching a doublehander to Hawaii,

crewing in the Transpac to Hawaii race, cruising from Tahiti to Tonga, Grenada to South Carolina, and most recently in the Marquesas. Don't forget a couple of BajaHa-Ha's!

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST



She is a great example on how one can go from an interest in sailing to a life's passion while earning certifications along the way. Yosh has acquired her USCG 25T captain status. 25 tons – no easy feat.

Listen in on our conversation – we enjoyed it so much – we did not want it to end. We hope to learn more about her aura readings and her career as an international perfumer in the next installment.

Curious? Learn more about this powerful, inspirational woman by perusing articles and videos below.

Yosh has collaborated with our good friend LAYC Staff Commodore [and SCYA Director] [Marie Rogers](#) in Los Angeles on [ocean racing outreach](#).

Sailing website, <https://www.captainyosh.com>

[National Women's Sailing Association video interview](#) about her first Transpac > from LA to Hawaii and many more sailing adventures and accomplishments

READ MORE about Yosh, [HERE](#).

RBOC LIAISON UPDATE

Call for Donations



By Dir. Themis Z. Glatman, tladymanor1@aol.com

Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) Director & Liaison

As we begin the year, usually one takes notice of the good and the difficult things we encountered in the past year. Thus has been the case for RBOC.

In ending the year, with our many victories such as alcohol allowed on boats, reduced registration fees, better usage of our fuel tax money, and so many other issues, we assessed our FINANCIAL situation. Although MANY of our readers may not be aware, RBOC funding, which employs a very successful lobbying firm in Sacramento, is completely paid by donations from the public. We do not receive any money from the government.

As many of you know everyone's costs have gone up, and although myself and other board members pay for our related costs ourselves, we are indebted to "Desmond &

Desmond LLC" for their ability to continue to represent us in Sacramento on a daily basis.

So in reviewing our finances, with our new Treasurer, Ronald S. Orr, we all realized we are in the red for about \$30,000 for the past year.

At this time I need to commend Del Rey Yacht Club (DRYC) as they are by far the biggest contributor to our organization for the entire state of California (thank you DRYC), but SO MANY other yacht clubs that benefit from our advocacy, have not paid anything and for many years, thus resulting in our shortfall in 2024.

The fight to defend boater's rights in Sacramento will never end, and we need to improve our contributions, or critical issues such as the new "15% Ethanol Mandate" in our diesel will go into effect.

So you need to ask yourself, should I send \$50.00 to RBOC, or should I get a brand new engine after the ethanol content in the new diesel destroys my existing engine?

Myself and our dedicated board will be asking heavily for your contributions this year as we need to make up this shortfall in our budget so we can continue to represent ALL CALIFORNIA boaters in the government, and secure the access to our navigable waters.

You can do that right now by [clicking on our link](#) and sending your contribution, you will be helping us defend your rights. Join Friends of RBOC today!



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US SAILING RSAC LIAISON UPDATE

US Sailing Regulations



By RSAC Board of Directors Liaison, SCYA Dir. Marie Rogers
marieelizabethrogers@gmail.com

US Sailing Regulations

January 20, 2025

4.07 SAILING VENUES DIVISION

D. Regional Sailing Associations Committee – shall represent their constituent yacht clubs, sailing clubs, and local sailing organizations and shall be one of the main communications conduits both from the constituent organizations and members to US Sailing, as well as from US Sailing to their constituent organizations and members. The RSA Committee derives its authority from the BOD of US SAILING.

The main roles of US Sailing, our national governing body, are to lead and oversee the sport, including setting standards, promoting participation, managing competitions,

ensuring safety, and providing education and certification for sailors at all levels. At the same time, the association's aim is also to grow the sport and achieve excellence in sailing competitions, domestically and internationally, as well as train and support our Olympic Sailing Team.

To fulfill its responsibilities and serve members, we must employ staff and rely on the assistance of volunteer boots-on-the-ground committees who serve as regional experts. Such is the purpose of the RSAC and the many Area Representatives that report to the committee. Peggy Lidster, RSAC Chair, and Stephanie Webb, RSA Secretary, have been working diligently to conduct an audit on many aspects of this committee. Representatives have changed over time, US Sailing support staff have come and gone, and not everyone has stayed in contact with the Committee which reports to the USSA Board of Directors.

Starting in November 2024, efforts came together to sort out RSAC business and how it reports to the BoD. Since 2023, the RSAC meeting time has conflicted with the USSA board meeting. I, as liaison would run from one room to the other to take notes and deliver back to the other meeting. In hearing from Area J Representative, Mark Hansen and others, we have been able to focus better on ways to remediate this conflict. At the coming US Sailing Leadership Forum in Coronado, we have solved the scheduling problem.

It is because of comments from Mark and other RSA Reps that we now have redefined the processes by which the RSAC operates. I urge all RSA volunteers in SCYA member clubs to review the documents below. If you have any questions, please contact your Area Rep or RSAC Peggy Lidster at palidster@gmail.com.

- [RSAC Committee Notes, December 2024](#)
- [RSAC Action Planning Nov-Dec 2024](#)
- [RSAC Onboarding Process Action Planning](#)
- [Attendance 2024-25 REVISED](#)
- [RSAC Directory 2024](#)
- [Onboarding - Meeting Dates, ZOOM Meeting ID, Disclaimer, Etiquette](#)

SCYA COMMUNITY REPORT

Sailing Leadership Forum 2025



Sailing Leadership Forum will offer keynote speaker presentations and focused group sessions on a wide range of topics such as Business Development, Trends, Participation and Growth, Innovation, Sustainability & Technology, Safety, Regattas & Racing, Advancements in Race Management - and more. The Sailing Leadership Forum will feature lively and fun

social events, hands-on activities, exhibitor displays and demonstrations, pre- and post- forum clinics and seminars for instructor certification, race management seminars, Safety at Sea Seminars, and much more.

SCYA Highlight

SCYA Director and Inclusive Boating Committee Chair, Marie Rogers, will be moderating a panel on *Fostering Diversity and Inclusion Through Intentional Community Building* with panelists Rocking the Boat and Seafarers Yacht Club on Day 1: Thursday, February 6, 2025.

An All-Star Cast of Sailing Leaders

Representing every aspect of the sport will be assembled with these top initiatives:

- **Connect** – Have meaningful discussions with sailors representing other interests in the sport, types of sailing, and industries. Attendees observe and reflect on the common issues they share, and how they can work together to achieve better results.
- **Discover** – Innovations in technology, new program opportunities, collaboration amongst communities.
- **Grow** – Your program, your regatta series, your membership, your bottom line, your rolodex, new friendships.

The 2025 Sailing Leadership Forum Draft Agenda is now available for a first look! While this is a draft and subject to updates, it offers a fantastic preview of the exciting event we have planned for February 2025. Breakout sessions and speakers will be featured below as they become available - stay tuned for more!

To register, click [HERE](#) (by January 31, 2025)

To plan travel, click [HERE](#)



SCYA COMMUNITY REPORT

Safety at Sea Course



By Debbie Huntsman, huntsmand@me.com

US Safety at Sea Program Moderator



**Long Beach Yacht Club
February 17-18, 2025 • 8am-5pm**

**US SAILING SANCTIONED
INTERNATIONAL OFFSHORE**

SAFETY at SEA



Two day certification course includes: video and in-person seminars, hands-on-training, lunches.

\$400 registration fee

Single day options for \$300 registration fee

Space is limited.

**Moderation by Debbie Huntsman
Scan code to register at bit.ly/Safety-at-Sea-LBYC**



SCYA COMMUNITY REPORT

CA Boater's Card



This year, all boaters, regardless of age, must have and possess a California Boater Card if you will be operating a vessel on any body of water in California. The California Boater Card shows that its holder has successfully taken and passed a state-approved boater safety education examination. As of January 1 2025, all persons who operate a vessel on California waters will be required to have one. To learn more, click [HERE](#).

Get Started Today

1. You must first apply for a California Boaters Card by following, click [HERE](#)
2. Then, take the course from BoatUS **FOR FREE!** (click [HERE](#)). Other providers charge a fee.

The card is issued by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW). Once DBW has received your application, proof of education and payment, you will receive a 90-day temporary boater card by email. You should receive your official boater card by mail within 30 days from the time the application was approved. The lifetime card fee is \$10.00 and the lost card replacement fee is \$5.

SCYA SPONSORS

Proud Partners



SMJ Industrial Radio

We are able to stay connected during the SCYA 2024 Safety at Sea “hands on day” without the rental radios from SJM Industrial Radio. The ability of the instructors to stay in touch throughout the large venue was a key safety factor. SJM is our go to choice for walkie talkie professional radios. <https://radios.sjmradio.com/>



Santa Monica Bay Sailing Association

The SCYA 2024 Safety at Sea event was graced with a grant from the Santa Monica Bay Sailing Foundation. I truly want to thank the Foundation. This helped to keep the costs down for those attending. <https://www.smbssf.org>



Mustang Survival

Mustang Survival donated their top-of-the-line PFD for a raffle item. The HIT Hydrostatic Inflatable PFD. It was the coveted item in the drawing. Local MdR sailor Marcy Rye won it. After the weekend of training, she left with the best tool to survive at sea. <https://mustangsurvival.com/collections/inflatable-pfds>



Maritime Museum of San Diego



Another coveted raffle item came from the Maritime Museum of San Diego.

The lucky winner got two passes for a four-hour adventure on the gorgeous official tall ship of the State of California the Californian. The four hours on board a Topsail Schooner is the one raffle item I really wanted to run off with. The Museum provided two sets of the passes. The other set was auctioned off during one of our SCYA general meetings. My thanks to Theresa Smullen, Director of Marketing at the Museum for building a partnership with SCYA. Please go to the Museum, tell them you are a member of SCYA! <https://sdmaritime.org>



LA ROCHE-POSAY

LA ROCHE-POSAY, the top-of-the-line sunscreen and dermatological skincare laboratory provided ample supplies of their famous sunscreen. They provided so many samples, they were shared during one of our meetings as well as the Safety at Sea. Every sample and their well-made hats were scooped up. Our sailors will be much safer from sun damage now. <https://www.laroche-posay.us/>

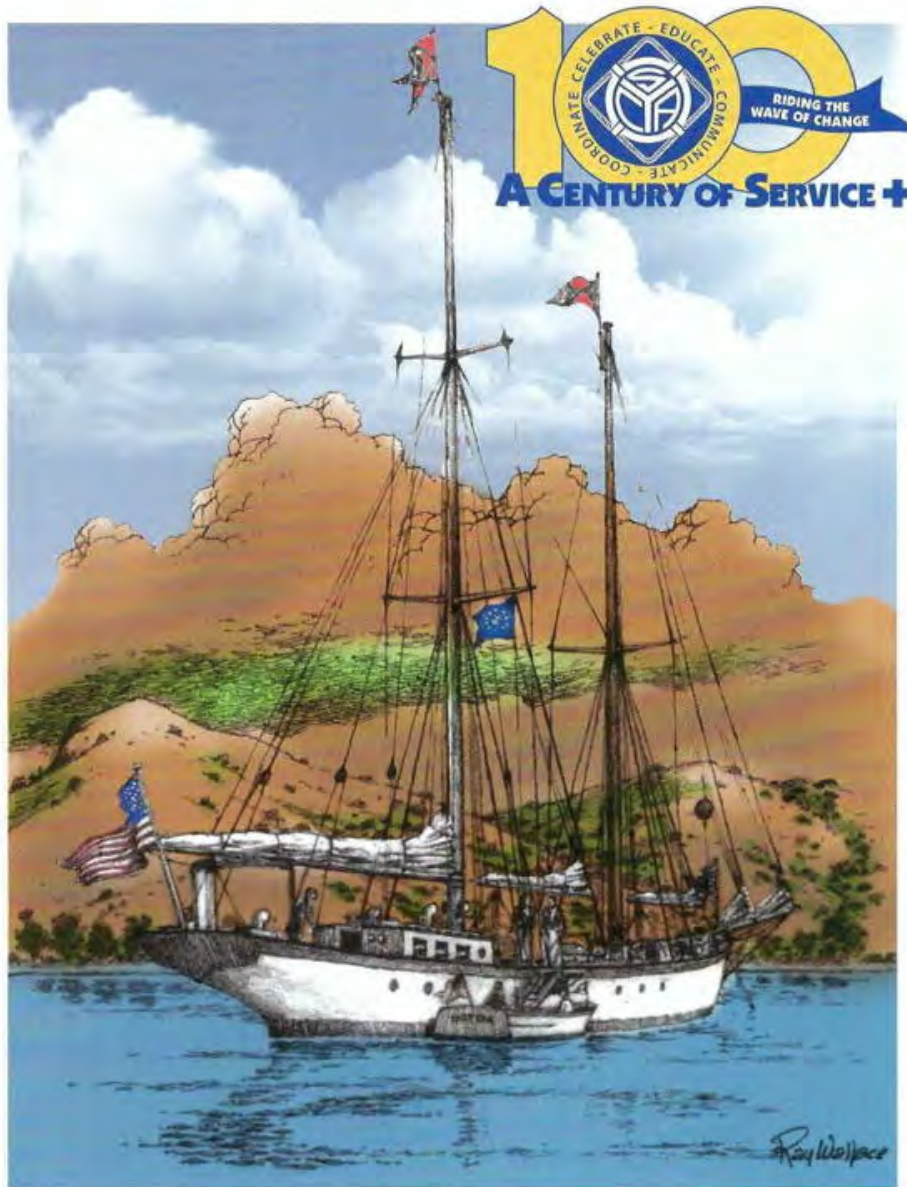
AGAIN, THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS. SCYA IS PROUD TO BE PARTNERS WITH EACH ONE!



SCYA ONLINE SHOP

Yachting Protocol Guidelines Book





Southern California Yachting Association's
**YACHTING PROTOCOL
GUIDELINES**

Yachting Protocol Guidelines

Contents by Section

Section I	Recommended Dress – Uniform	9
Section II	Rank Emblems and Flags	14
Section III	Ceremonies	17
Section IV	Flag Etiquette and Dress at Clubs	25
Section V	Flag Etiquette and Display Afloat	35
Section VI	Visitation Protocol and Courtesies	43
Section VII	SCYA Affiliated Organizations	44
Section VIII	SCYA Member’s Burgees	47

Page 5

Southern California Yachting Association’s YACHTING PROTOCOL GUIDELINES, 6th edition 2024, is available for purchase online [at the SCYA Shop](#).

Free Ground shipping is available within the 48 contiguous states. We apologize, but Hawaii, Alaska, and international destinations are excluded.

SCYA SEARCHLIGHT NEWSLETTER

Submission Guidelines



SCYA sends two types of email messaging: Searchlight (monthly newsletter) and Spotlight (alerts and invitations).

The Searchlight is the monthly SCYA Newsletter. It's intended for News and Announcements. Boater and community interest stories, event details, race results, awards, and member news and save-the-date. The Searchlight is sent to all subscribers.

The Spotlight is intended for Alerts and Invitations and is sent no more than 1x per day, Monday through Friday and can be sent to all subscribers or to member clubs by Harbor Association. Alerts are items of concern that could have an immediate impact on the boating community such as entangled whales or areas to avoid. Invitations include Opening Days, seminars and webinars, NOR, or any other item with a Who, What, When, Where, and How to register to attend.

Submission Guidelines

To submit articles to the Searchlight, send the text of your

article in a copiable format such as Word or plain text along with a single related image preferably sized 400x400 pixels in jpg, gif, or png format. **Searchlight submissions should be sent to the Searchlight Editor at scyanewsletter@scya.org.**

You can submit to the Spotlight in one of two ways. You can submit the Who What When and Where text copiable format such as Word or plain text along with a single related image preferably sized 800x800 pixels in jpg, gif, or png format. Alternatively, you can submit your fully coded HTML with image assets that follow our general format in a .zip file. **Spotlight submissions should be sent to the SCYA Service Administrator at service@scya.org.**

Neither the Searchlight or the Spotlight sends PDFs, Single-Image or link-only email. SCYA is not equipped to retype text from image files nor responsible for any spelling errors from duplicate efforts. All submissions are subject to editorial approval and/or editing for space or tempo.





Contact Kim Bergeron, SCYA Service Administrator
at service@scya.org or (562) 433-7426.

SCYA Searchlight Newsletter Information

Searchlight Editor: John Gaddis, scyanewsletter@scya.org

MarCom Committee Chair: [V/C Jodi Masters-Gonzales](#)

Commodore: Lee Coller, commodore@scya.org

SCYA Customer Service

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