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# SEARCHLIGHT

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA YACHTING ASSOCIATION

*MARCH 2025*

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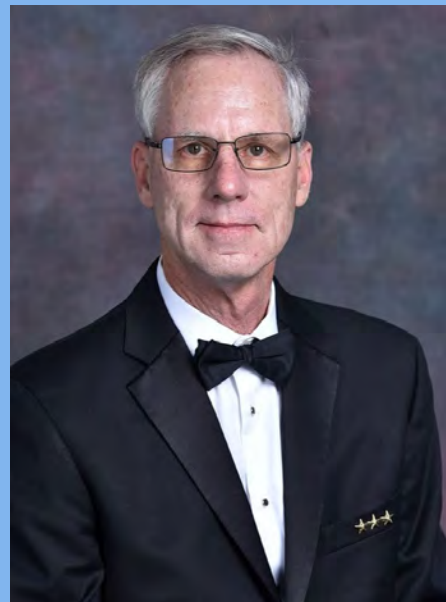
# From the Helm

## Commodore's Report

### Lee Coller

2025 SCYA Commodore

[commodore@scya.org](mailto:commodore@scya.org)



Now that we are in April we are deep into opening day season. As SCYA Commodore, I try to attend as many as I can to show support for our individual clubs. Also (or perhaps more importantly) my wife (Lorraine, SCYA Secretary and 2024 Honorary Commodore) enjoys attending them. My understanding is that Staff Commodore Gary Green attended 35 opening days in his commodore year – a record I'm sure will never be broken. It looks like I'll be attending around 25 (I've already been to eight as I write this, and it should be nine by time you read this).

On the 23rd of March I attended the opening day for Hollywood Yacht Club in Wilmington (no, it is not in Hollywood – [go to their website to see their history](#)), my first time there – don't rely on GPS to get you there. See the attached photo with Commodore Grace Harley. When I introduced myself to her, she reminded me that we had met at the rear commodore's seminar I led in 2023 – not the first time I've heard that. I had a wonderful time, great food, and it is always interesting to see the unique items each club does on their opening day.




(SCYA Commodore Lee Coller and Hollywood YC Commodore Grace Harley)

As an aside, it is nice to observe that some of the suggestions we made in our seminar on opening days last November have been heeded. If you did not see the recording, it is available [HERE](#). I strongly recommend you view this as you plan your opening day.

Back on March 18 I was in Sacramento with Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC) advocating to our state legislators on key boating issues (for the most part their staff, as the legislature was in session during this time). Did you know that RBOC was founded by SCYA in conjunction with Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association (our partners in Northern CA)? Key issues we were advocating for are a bill that would suspend copper bottom paint restrictions until an available, effective, and affordable alternative is available, a bill that would authorize E15 gasoline (which are not allowed in marine engines) and issues with flare disposal. See that article [HERE](#). We encourage all of our clubs to support RBOC financially – and supporting RBOC financially counts towards club-of-the-year points.

**Lee Coller**

2025 SCYA Commodore  
[commodore@scya.org](mailto:commodore@scya.org)





# From the Bridge

## V/C Report

### Jodi Masters-Gonzales

2025 SCYA Vice Commodore

[vicecommodore@scya.org](mailto:vicecommodore@scya.org)

Happy Spring Equinox—and the opening of the 2025 Corinthian yachting season!

### **RAGTIME AND TRANSPAC**

It was a pleasure attending the Cruising Club of America (CCA) luncheon this month to learn about the history and transformation of *Ragtime*, a legendary yacht, built with an ultralight monohull design of plywood and over 89,000 NM sailing offshore in many races, including the Transpac, Tahiti, Sydney Hobart, and Ensenada. *Ragtime* is celebrating her 60+ years with a new chapter to be written in sailing competition. Now under the loving care and stewardship of Tina Roberts, she

has undergone an extensive refit to improve/modernize all areas of the yacht under the design leadership of CCA member and naval architect, Alan Andrews. To learn more about *Ragtime's* history and future plans, click [HERE](#).



(Tina Roberts presenting on Ragtime at LBYC)

While at the CCA luncheon, Transpacific Yacht Club Commodore Guilfoyle gave a [Transpac 2025 update](#), announcing the Aloha Send-Off Party on June 28 and extending an invitation to all SCYA club members (find those details [below](#).) Hope to see you there!

### **OPENING DAYS: MARCH REFLECTION**

My goal while on the SCYA Bridge is to attend the Opening Days of all member organizations at least once. This month I had the honor of attending the festivities at California Yacht Club (CYC), Pacific Mariners Yacht Club (PMYC) and Del Rey Yacht Club (DRYC). I really enjoy the custom and traditions of this day that bind us as one community—while discovering the flair and

nuance that differentiates each club too!

CYC opened its ceremony with a dramatic, multi-pass flyby by the Condor Squadron and Airman's Association, a non-profit started by WWII Veterans in 1965, that instantly pulled deep excitement forward in each of us. In her speech, Commodore Ondrey described how the Condor Squadron joined the effort to douse recent wildfires and the impact those fires had on CYC as they began the new year. What stood out most to me was the theme she chose for 2025, "CYC Strong," emphasizing the role of community and how a resilient mindset makes renewal capable. It was so inspiring to me that it is included in its entirety below.

Following the ceremony, CYC members opened their boats to guests, along with generous amounts of libations! A real treat was visiting the *Siwash*, a 47-foot wooden sailboat given to Howard Walter Wright, Jr. by his father in 1911 as a high school graduation gift. Wright's grandson, Bill Wright and current owner, was a delight to meet. It was a lot of fun hearing this beauty's history firsthand!



(L-R: Bill Rogers, SCYA Dir. Marie Rogers, SCYA V/C Jodi Masters-Gonzales)



(L-R: SCYA Commodore Lee Coller and Bill Wright)

We were transported into PMYC's vibe and Opening Day next. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces back-to-back and I was thankful for a Bloody Mary! PMYC's ceremony had all the elements of the Corinthian tradition with their unique customs woven in at just the right moments. The Cannoneer kept us on our toes throughout and not to disappoint, the ceremony ended with some traditional cow flair! PMYC sure knows how to punctuate!!



DRYC capped off the day by literally rolling out the red carpet for us. As the magnificent front doors swung open, we were greeted by the most lovely ladies wearing huge smiles and red

coats. They made us feel like VIPs and so, very welcome to be there. The Red Coats are part of DRYC's Hospitality Committee and sure know how to leave a lasting impression. Following the ceremony, we enjoyed delicious appetizers—including my favorite, the latkas dabbled with cavier—and flowing Champagne!



(L-R: Vicki Smith, Muri Blake, and Susan Haber)

## PORT OF LOS ANGELES HARBOR CUP

The Port of Los Angeles Harbor Cup was founded in 2008, “to support and encourage young men and women to enjoy the benefits of competitive sailing,” according to the Deed of Gift. Hosted by Cal Maritime, the Port of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Yacht Club, it is unique in providing an opportunity to participate in one-design big boat offshore competition. For more information on this year's race and results, click [HERE](#).



(Three top three-finishes [during Saturday's racing](#) at the US Sailing Center in Long Beach, CA)

José and I finished out the weekend learning about this prestigious race firsthand, assisting SCYA Director Marie Rogers, and others, deliver the Catalina 37 fleet from Los Angeles Yacht Club (LAYC) to Long Beach Yacht Club (LBYC) following Sunday's race. Upon arrival, the LBYC bar was packed, so Commodore Meier arranged a table for our crew. We broke bread, shared

stories, enjoyed a delicious dinner and yummy cocktails (Happy Birthday, Marie!) It was glorious to be on the water and the kinship, a perfect end to the weekend.



(L-R: Justin Leach, Marie Rogers, José Gonzales, and Jodi Masters-Gonzales)

Much aloha and mahalo 🌺

**Jodi Masters-Gonzales**  
2025 SCYA Vice Commodore  
[vicecommodore@scya.org](mailto:vicecommodore@scya.org)

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## From the Bridge

### R/C Report

**Elena Yuasa**  
2025 SCYA Rear Commodore  
[rearcommodore@scya.org](mailto:rearcommodore@scya.org)

### Opening Days at Yacht Clubs: A Rear Commodore's Reflection

As Rear Commodore of the Southern California Yachting Association (SCYA), I have the privilege of attending numerous Opening Days at our member clubs. These ceremonies are more than just the start of a new boating season. They are a

testament to tradition, leadership, and the spirit of camaraderie that unites the yachting community.



(L-R: Tina Romain Vice Commodore South Coast Corinthian YC, Kathryn McDonough - Santa Monica Windjammers Cruise Chair and VC of WSA, Jay Nager, Santa Monica Windjammers YC Commodore, and Maria Elena Nager Spouse Commandorable.)

### **Celebrating Our Past, Charting the Future**

Each yacht club carries a rich legacy, and Opening Day is a time to celebrate that history while looking ahead. It is a moment to honor past leaders and recognize the dedication of all members, whether they serve on committees, mentor new sailors, or contribute to club events, inspiring the next generation. Standing among fellow flag officers, seasoned members, and

enthusiastic newcomers, I see the continuity of service in each generation building upon the work of those before them.

### **Behind the Celebration**

Opening Day may appear seamless, but it is the result of months of planning and dedication. I recall one club's team working tirelessly to polish brass fittings, coordinating a flawless flag ceremony, and rehearsing speeches late into the evening, all to ensure their Opening Day was a proud reflection of their club's legacy. These events are made possible not just by flag officers but by the many hands behind the scenes, including race committees, social chairs, junior sailing coaches, and dedicated volunteers, all of whom embody the Corinthian spirit of selfless commitment to yachting and the community.



(L-R: SCYA Secretary H/C Lorraine Collier and Hester, SCYA R/C Elena Yuasa, and SCYA Director Judi Glover.)

**Strengthening Bonds, Elevating Leadership**

One of the most significant rewards of attending Opening Days is the opportunity to connect, learn, and share best practices. Conversations with members and club leaders provide invaluable insights on member engagement, club growth, and fostering a thriving boating culture. Whether discussing how to attract younger sailors, enhance social activities, or preserve maritime traditions, these interactions not only strengthen individual clubs but elevate the entire yachting community.

### **A Call to Inspire**

For those stepping into leadership roles, Opening Day is both a celebration and an opportunity to reflect on the responsibility and privilege of guiding a club's future. It is an opportunity to honor traditions while embracing progress, to learn from those who came before us, and to contribute meaningfully, whether through mentoring, volunteering, or fostering a welcoming and inclusive community.

As we celebrate each Opening Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to service, camaraderie, and the Corinthian spirit that makes our community extraordinary. Yachting is more than a pastime; it's a lifelong passion strengthened by the dedication of every member.

**Elena**

2025 SCYA

[rearcommodore@scya.org](mailto:rearcommodore@scya.org)

Rear

**Yuasa**

Commodore



## SCYA BOARD REPORT

# Fleet Captain Report



By SCYA Fleet Captain S/C Bill McNamara  
[fleetcaptain@scya.org](mailto:fleetcaptain@scya.org)

### SCYA Member Club Racing News

Our member clubs have held over 200 race dates already this year, with many happening more during the St Patric's Day weekend. Weather permitting, I'll be celebrating the holiday in Avalon and checking race results via StarLink.

SCYA's Midwinter Regatta had most of their 26 hosts' races took place in the last couple weekends. Watch for detailed reports and photos from tr Midwinter Regatta Committee, but be aware that Regatta wear makes a great gift for skippers or crews that competed [Midwinter Regatta gear 2025](#).

The Newport to Ensenada race starts April 25th - just weeks away. Registration is already over 70 boats. Forty (40) SCYA clubs are represented by member's boats so far. Something has changed however - overall participation has declined... Can SCYA encourage our member clubs to promote increased participation in yacht racing by their members? I think we can. Here is the registration  
hyperlink: [https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/28870#\\_reg](https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/28870#_reg)

## istration

I'll be with you all at the start line as Race Ops R/C Timer and Announcer and I'll be celebrating the competitors at the Coral Hotel as the perpetual trophies and take-home awards are presented to the top finishers in each class.

And here is a video interview of an experienced N2E racer - SCYA Staff Commodore Rick Dinon, recorded in Ensenada after the 2014 race and before he went up the SCYA

flags: <https://www.facebook.com/NewportToEnsenada/videos/672375599491419/>

## **US Sailing FIRST SAIL Program**

First Sail is a nationwide initiative created by US Sailing with support from sailing schools, community sailing centers, Corinthian yacht clubs and other sailing industry organizations around the United States. First Sail offers a pathway to participation through resources, finding a place to learn and how to get started. The First Sail Experience offers beginners an introduction to sailing in a casual setting and is offered by a growing list of First Sail locations, who are fully committed to providing a memorable experience. US Sailing has over 170 participating First Sail Locations around the country, who are introducing our sport to hundreds of beginners. In the SCYA territory there are only a handful and just a handful are SCYA member Corinthian Yacht Clubs... we can do better. Let's get our delegates talking this up... individual SCYA member yacht club memberships and participation in regattas could only benefit from this community outreach creating new sailors and prospective yacht club members.

The United States Sailing Association (US Sailing), our National Governing Body for sailing, provides leadership, integrity, and advancement for the sport in the United States.

Founded in 1897, US Sailing is headquartered in a building on the beautiful 140-acre waterfront campus of Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island,

US Sailing is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that offers training and education programs for instructors and race officials, supports a wide range of sailing organizations and communities, issues offshore rating certificates, and provides administration and oversight of competitive sailing across the country, including National Championships and the US Sailing Team. For more information, please visit [ussailing.org](http://ussailing.org).

SCYA serves as US Sailing's Southwestern US RSA (Regional Sailing Authority). My fellow delegates and volunteers help administer Appeals to Racing Rule Protest Hearings, represent Corinthian yachting organizations in our regional area and help select nominees for National Racing competitions.

**SCYA is looking for highly competitive small boat racing team**

One of SCYA's projects this year is to identify and nominate a team to represent SCYA at the US Adult National Sailing Championship regatta. The event is being hosted within SCYA's geographic responsibility – Area J (So CA, NV, AZ & UT). The event is to be sailed in provided J22s and will be hosted by the lakefront Park City Sailing Association - September 26-28,

2025.

Stay tuned for the SCYA nominee qualification/application process details and start thinking about your club's team that's ready to travel to a national championship!

### **2028 Summer Olympic Games including Sailing Events**

The 2028 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles – will likely include Long Beach (Alamitos Bay) and Los Angeles (San Pedro) based sailing events! As many of you know, SCYA's founding clubs had a big part in bringing sailing to the LA 1932 Olympics (for details our Staff Commodore, Shawn Milligan is as good a historian as you could hope to find). Let's make plans to participate again in 2028. Encourage our member clubs to appoint SCYA delegates with a passion for Corinthian boating and an interest in getting involved in planning for this historic local sailing event.

According to ABC news, hosting the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games could generate significant jobs and increase economic output by up to \$11.2 billion in Los Angeles County (including sailing venues in Long Beach. Additional estimates will be available after sailing venues are reviewed by the end of the month.

This early study, was conducted by Beacon Economics LLC and the University of California, Riverside School of Business Center for Economic Forecasting and Development. According to the study, originally focused on a failed LA 2024 Olympic bid, concluded that the Los Angeles economy could see a benefit between \$10.62 billion to \$11.18 billion. Tourism and games

operations will be the sole primary drivers of this positive economic impact, the study stated.

Hosting the games will see additional tax revenues between \$152 million and \$167 million in L.A., reported the study, which also stated that the increased economic output is equivalent to between 74,308 and 79,307 new full-time jobs. The Paris games will be figured into updated figures.

### **California Boater Card**

As of Jan 1st this requirement applies to all California residents

In Jan., 2018, California began phasing in (by age) the requirement that residents who operate a motorized recreational vessel on state waterways will be required to carry the California Boater Card. The card is issued by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) ... not the DMV (pew).

As of the dates shown below, these boaters will be required to carry a boater card issued by DBW, unless they meet certain exemptions. California Harbors and Navigation Code Section 678.11(b) contains details summarized below:

The following persons are not required to have a boater card to operate a motorized vessel on California waterways:

1. A person operating a rental vessel.
2. A person operating a vessel while under the direct supervision of a person 18 years of age or older who is in possession of a California Boater Card.

3. A person who is a resident of a state other than California who is temporarily operating a vessel in California for less than 60 days and meets the boating requirements, if any, of his/her state.
4. A person who is a resident of a country other than the United States who is temporarily operating a vessel in California for less than 90 days and meets the boating requirements, if any, of his/her country.
5. A person operating a vessel in an organized regatta or vessel race, or water ski race.
6. A person who is in possession of a current commercial fishing license.
7. A person who is in possession of a valid marine operator license (MMC), for the waters upon which the licensee is operating, issued by the United States Coast Guard, or who is in possession of a valid certificate issued pursuant to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.
8. A person who has successfully completed a boating course approved by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Post.

Per item 7. Above, the following US Coast Guard licensees AKA Merchant Mariner Certificate (MMC) holders are exempt from producing a CA Boaters Card (though the MMC should be presented instead).

- Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (6-pack),

- Limited Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels
- Master 25-200 Near Coastal
- Master 25-200 Inland
- Limited Master

However, USCG Masters licenses are only good for 5 years, are difficult for recreational boaters to qualify for and are expensive. It is likely that I will be boating (beyond racing) much longer than I will maintain USCG licensing as a Merchant Mariner Master, so I got the \$10.00 lifetime CA Boaters Card before it was required. Encourage your members to get the card – if only to demonstrate to the state how many law-abiding boat operators there are in CA. Many of our member clubs are offering Boater Card test prep classes to the public. They are often advertised in the SCYA Searchlight.

Fair winds all,  
S/C Bill McNamara  
SCYA Fleet Captain

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SCYA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

# RBOC Supporting Legislation to Address Copper-



# Based Antifouling Paint Concerns

Jerry Desmond, Esq., Director of Government Relations  
Recreational Boaters of California (RBOC)  
[jerry@DesmondLobbyFirm.com](mailto:jerry@DesmondLobbyFirm.com)

March 21, 2025

RBOC is supporting AB 773 [Dixon], legislation that would suspend enforcement of regulations relating to copper-based antifouling paint until a determination is made of the best methods to regulate the use of copper-based antifouling paint within the state.

Copper-based anti-fouling surfaces are important to boating. From recreational boats in the water for a season to commercial ships that are in the water year-round, antifouling paint on the underwater part of the boat is fundamental to the proper maintenance and performance of almost all watercraft. The uncontrolled growth of marine organisms on boats significantly degrades performance, increases fuel consumption, contributes to the spread of aquatic invasive species and can even lead to a vessel sinking in extreme cases.

Boaters are doing their part to address the presence of copper in impaired water bodies in California. They are buying and using low-leach-rate copper-based antifouling paint approved by the Department of Pesticide Regulation in an attempt to reduce

the amount of dissolved copper that is discharged into impaired water bodies.

Boaters have also been participating in studies to identify potential alternatives. To date, however, there is no replacement that is available, effective and affordable.

RBOC supports the provisions of AB 773 that would suspend enforcement of the regulations relating to copper-based antifouling paint until:

- The completion and release any active studies related to the effectiveness of low-leach-rate paint before adopting any new regulations relating to copper-based antifouling paint or low-leach-rate paint.
- The determination of the best methods to regulate the use of copper-based antifouling paint within the state.
- A collaborative agreement on guidelines that provide for the uniform enforcement of the copper-based antifouling paint regulations throughout the state.

### **TAKE ACTION**

RBOC is requesting that recreational boaters take action – this involves contacting your elected representatives to express a position on a key boating issue.

### **JOIN FRIENDS OF RBOC**

You can also take action by joining Friends of RBOC. Your contribution at any level helps RBOC continue the grassroots

effort and advocacy activities needed in California to ensure boaters can continue to enjoy boating! By contributing at least \$20 for the year, and providing your eMail address, you will be included in exclusive communication from RBOC about upcoming boating issues and successes.



*(Assembly Member Damon Connolly [D-Marin, Sonoma] with RBOC Directors during their legislative visits in Sacramento on March 18, 2025. L-R: Jerry Desmond (Desmond & Desmond LLC), PICYA V/C Colleen Stauss, President Bill Gargan, SCYA Commodore Lee Coller, Director Themis Glatman, Vice President North Linda Blue, Assembly Member Damon Connolly [D-Marin, Sonoma], Director Mia Bernt, David Kennedy (Boat US Government Affairs), Director John Marshall, Treasurer Rob Orr, Vice President South Anne Eubanks, Director Morris Lum. Not shown but also present for the day, Director Anne Sacks, Director John Wimer and Director Debrenia Madison Smith.)*

RBOC Directors Advocate Key 2025 Boating Issues with Policy Makers in Sacramento. RBOC's voluntary Board of Directors, together with their national advocacy partner BoatUS, spent the day on March 18 visiting with their elected representatives in

the State Legislature as well as the Senators and Assembly Members authoring legislation impacting recreational boating including:

- Copper-based Anti-fouling Surfaces
- E15 Threat to Boat Engines
- Marine Flares - Extended Producer Responsibility
- Inventory of Abandoned Vessels
- Sacramento -San Joaquin Delta Conveyance
- State Division of Boating & Waterways Deficit
- Boat Slip Rates
- Outdoor Recreation for all [30x30]

For more information on these issues and RBOC's positions, [CLICK HERE](#).

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## SCYA COMMITTEE REPORTS

# Inclusive Boating Committee (IBC)



By SCYA Director, Marie Rogers,  
[marieelizabethrogers@gmail.com](mailto:marieelizabethrogers@gmail.com)



Our committee partnered with [Aquatic Futures Foundation](#) to offer a unique sailing experience with teens from the San Pedro and Wilmington area. The kids spent an afternoon with [LA Maritime Institute's TopSail Program](#) running the tall ship *American Pride*. This was the first of many aquatic adventures and STEM programs that Aquatic Futures plans on offering with LAYC and other SCYA member clubs. The Foundation is comprised of a diverse team of ocean researchers whose purpose is to create equitable access to ocean science education and careers.

*"The Aquatic Futures Foundation recognizes the critical importance of diversity in the scientific diving industry. Diverse perspectives are essential for tackling the complex challenges facing our oceans. The lack of diverse voices in the scientific diving community limits our understanding of marine*

*ecosystems and conservation efforts, hindering innovative solutions. We're committed to fostering inclusion and empowering underrepresented groups in the diving industry. By providing access to training, mentorship, and opportunities, we're inspiring change and cultivating the next generation of diverse ocean stewards."*

The Aquatic Futures media team produced a video of our afternoon adventure.

By SCYA V/C Jodi Masters-Gonzales, [vicecommodore@scya.org](mailto:vicecommodore@scya.org)

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## AWARDS COMMITTEE

# Letter from the Chair



By Herbert Brown, II, SCYA Awards Chair  
[herbert.brown007@gmail.com](mailto:herbert.brown007@gmail.com)

Hello SCYA Community,

My name is Herbert J. Brown, II, the SCYA Awards Chair for 2025. I am reaching out to encourage your participation in this year's SCYA Service Award nominations, which are due between

October 31 and November 1, 2025. Awards and nomination details are below.

Please note, other SCYA perpetual service and performance awards are handled by other SCYA Committees. More information on those awards can be accessed on our website: [SCYA Awards](#), [SCYA Midwinter Regatta](#), [SCYA Club of the Year](#), and [SCYA Racing and Cruising Club of the Year](#).

Although the nomination period may seem far off as of now, it's never too early to start thinking about those in our clubs and community whom you feel may be deserving this year.

### **Awards Committee Overview: Purpose**

The Awards Committee is responsible for reviewing nominations for the James M. (Jim) Webster Sportsman Award, Rescue Award, and Mort Bloom Award. Selections are made based on the nominees' alignment with the criteria outlined in each award's Deed of Gift.

### **James M. (Jim) Webster Sportsmanship Trophy**



(Current winner, Peter Phillips (CSSD, SDYC) and SCYA Commodore Lee Coller)

The James Webster Memorial Trophy is awarded in recognition of an outstanding contribution to yachting. The individual need not be actively engaged in sailing events or the winner of a

number of races, nor a yacht owner, or be or have been a flag officer of a yacht club. The individual may be, among other things, a race committee member, a member of the press, or someone who has displayed exceptional sportsmanship, or someone not directly associated with yachting who has made an outstanding contribution to yachting. Read the Deed of Gift [HERE](#) for nomination eligibility/requirements and selection process.

### **Mort Bloom Perpetual Trophy**



(Current winner, Colleen Cooke (CRA) not shown – Award accepted by Commodore Mark Pearcy of Southwestern Yacht Club)

This award is presented to recognize excellence, commitment and duration of Judges, umpires and Race Officers plying their skills in competitive sailing events. The Southern California Yachting Association presents this trophy in honor of Mort Bloom, an outstanding Judge who represented SCYA for many years in our area and many parts of the world. Read the Deed of Gift [HERE](#) for nomination eligibility/requirements and selection process.

### **SCYA Rescue Award**



(Current winners, Jana Davis and Megan Marsh (WSASMB))

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. Read the Deed of Gift [HERE](#) for nomination eligibility/requirements and selection process.

### **Nomination Procedure**

- Nominations must be submitted via SCYA website by the designated deadlines (10/31 or 11/1). A separate notice with instructions will be sent out when the nomination period opens.

- The Service Administrator logs the submissions and forwards them to the Awards Committee Chair, who distributes them to the nominating committees for review.
- Where appropriate, the Awards Chair selects nominating committee members from various geographical areas within the SCYA service region, ensuring alignment with requirements in each Deed of Gift.
- The nominating committees meet after the nomination deadline (via conference call if necessary) to review submissions and make selections prior to the November SCYA Board meeting.
- Award selections are presented for ratification at the November SCYA Board meeting.
- Winners are contacted by the Awards Chair and formally invited to the SCYA awards presentation.

### **Committee Responsibilities**

The Awards Chair, appointed by the Commodore and reporting to the Vice Commodore, is responsible for:

1. Encouraging SCYA member clubs to submit nominations.
2. Ensuring timely reviews and submission of nominations to the Commodore and Board.
3. Promoting the awards through Searchlight and email communications from the Service Administrator.

### **Call to Action**

Commodores, I encourage you and your board where required, to recognize and nominate outstanding individuals from your

club or community for these prestigious awards. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me via email at [herbert.brown007@gmail.com](mailto:herbert.brown007@gmail.com) or by phone/text at 760.814.4188.

I look forward to receiving nominations from each of our member clubs and harbor associations, where appropriate, and celebrating the achievements of our outstanding Corinthians Sailors.

Yours in Service,  
Herbert J. Brown, II  
Awards Chair 2025  
Southern California Yachting Association

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SCYA COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

# "CYC Strong" Opening Day Message



By Commodore Michelle Ondrey, California Yacht Club  
[mlparker22@verizon.net](mailto:mlparker22@verizon.net)

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Good morning everyone! What a beautiful day. This is one of my favorite days of the year at California Yacht Club – a day we

celebrate the beginning of the season and all that our club and marina community has to offer.

A word about the flyby we enjoyed at the beginning of the ceremony: the CYC Fleet and several CYC members have made a significant donation to the Condor Squadron Officers and Airmen's Association, a nonprofit organization that supports the air resources so integral to Los Angeles firefighting. The Condors, because of our underwriting, will be hosting an event this spring thanking air personnel for their extraordinary work. This is especially a poignant recognition for their heroic efforts during the Palisades, Alta Dena and other fires at the start of this year, as well as assistance with CYC's own loss over a year ago.



(Condor Squadron flyby at CYC)

The Condors performed a tribute flyby to kickoff our ceremony in gratitude for our support. What you should also know is that CYC members S/C Monica Antola, Lara Clark, Drew Baldwin and Jeff Janov were in the rear seats of the planes as they flew. What an experience! Make sure to ask them about it when you see them later. We are so proud to support our Los Angeles firefighting air resources and we thank them immensely for their brave service.

Earlier in the year I said it was hard to believe we were starting 2025 with fire, just as we started 2024 at CYC. I chose my theme, 'CYC Strong,' mid-last year intending to represent the strength of our club as evidenced by our history and the strength of the relationships we develop here. I could not have imagined that we would be seeing or needing this theme of strength in various communities across Los Angeles. I hope that this will be a year of renewal for our club and our communities. We will stand 'CYC Strong' together.

I'm honored to serve California Yacht Club as Commodore this year. I'd like to give Sue Service a huge thank you for everything she did last year to keep the CYC spirit alive. Sue ensured we continued long-standing events and regattas, while also adding new ones. 2024 was definitely not the year we expected, and Sue led us through it with grace. Thank you Sue. I'd also like to thank my husband, Michael, who is a constant support and is still wondering what I've gotten us into.



(CYC 2025 Commodore Ondrey and CYC Jr. S/C Service)

As we look to a year of renewal, I would like to share a few thoughts on what I think makes California Yacht Club special to

the members and to the community.

My relationship with CYC started well before I became a member. I attended Yachting Program Talks that were (and still are) open to the community with widely varied topics from ocean crossings, to boating safety, to the history of Marina del Rey. I raced in Sunstroke series and met a community of sailors from across the area. I raced in Sunset Series and was in awe of the nearly 100 boats that would be out every Wednesday night with California Yacht Club volunteers putting on this event week after week – and of course I'd come in after the race for hospitality at CYC.

These experiences introduced me to a club that I knew I wanted to be a part of, a family that loves the water and loves to help the entire community enjoy it as well. The club has evolved for me through the twenty years Michael and I have been members. We've learned here, volunteered here, and raised our children here - the club has been an evolving source of strength and community for us through many years – and I am sure many of you have had the same experience. This is what keeps us CYC STRONG and we invite everyone to experience it today and throughout the year.

Looking at our 2025 calendar, we have a strong event schedule lined up. We will kick off our participation in the 2028 Olympics by managing a racing circle in Long Beach for the Olympic Classes Regatta in mid-July. This event will continue each year until 2028 when CYC will proudly participate in running the Olympic sailing races. We will host Opti Nationals in late July with over 200 junior sailors. And, of course, we will continue the

Sunset Series with amazing after-regatta hospitality. We have a full cruising schedule planned with many destinations accessible by land so everyone can attend. We'll continue the popular daysails to offer more members and friends opportunities to get out on the water together. Our Family Activities Committee has fantastic events planned for our younger members, and the Power Fleet has dock parties and other activities in the works. The Women's Association (not just for women!) activities include art classes, book clubs, mah jongg, day trips, and more.

Let me close with this ... we are CYC Strong. We have started two years in a row needing this strength, but we are resilient. The club is a home away from home for many and a resource in the community, and this is why I am so proud to be Commodore this year. California Yacht Club has been an integral part of the community for over 100 years – in that time we have supported the each other and we have supported the community, and we will continue to do so in 2025.

I look forward to spending this year with all of you ... on the water, on the courts, on a cruise, on race committee, in the tent, on the docks, and all the other places we are 'CYC Strong.' Let's kick off the season and have a great Opening Day!

---

SCYA COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

# Annual Rockfish



# Tournament and Fish Fry

SPONSORED BY MARINA DEL REY ANGLERS WITH A FISH FRY DINNER

## WHEN?

Fishing Starts at sunrise: Saturday May 31st, and ends on Sunday June 1st, 2024 at 3 pm.

- 7AM Start
- 3:30PM Scales Close
- 4PM Fish Fry and Fishing Tackle Raffle Begins

## WHERE?

Burton Chace Park, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

## DIVISIONS

- Heaviest Halibut (25% Live Bonus)
- Heaviest Fish Overall
- Heaviest White Seabass
- Heaviest 5 Live Bass
- Sport Boat
- Shore/Kayak
- Women's
- Youth (<16 yrs)
- Club
- Small Team (2 Anglers)

- Large Team (3-6 Anglers)

### FOR PRIZE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please visit <http://www.HalibutDerby.com> for Official Rules  
**Tournament Entry – \$20.00**

### NO BOAT?

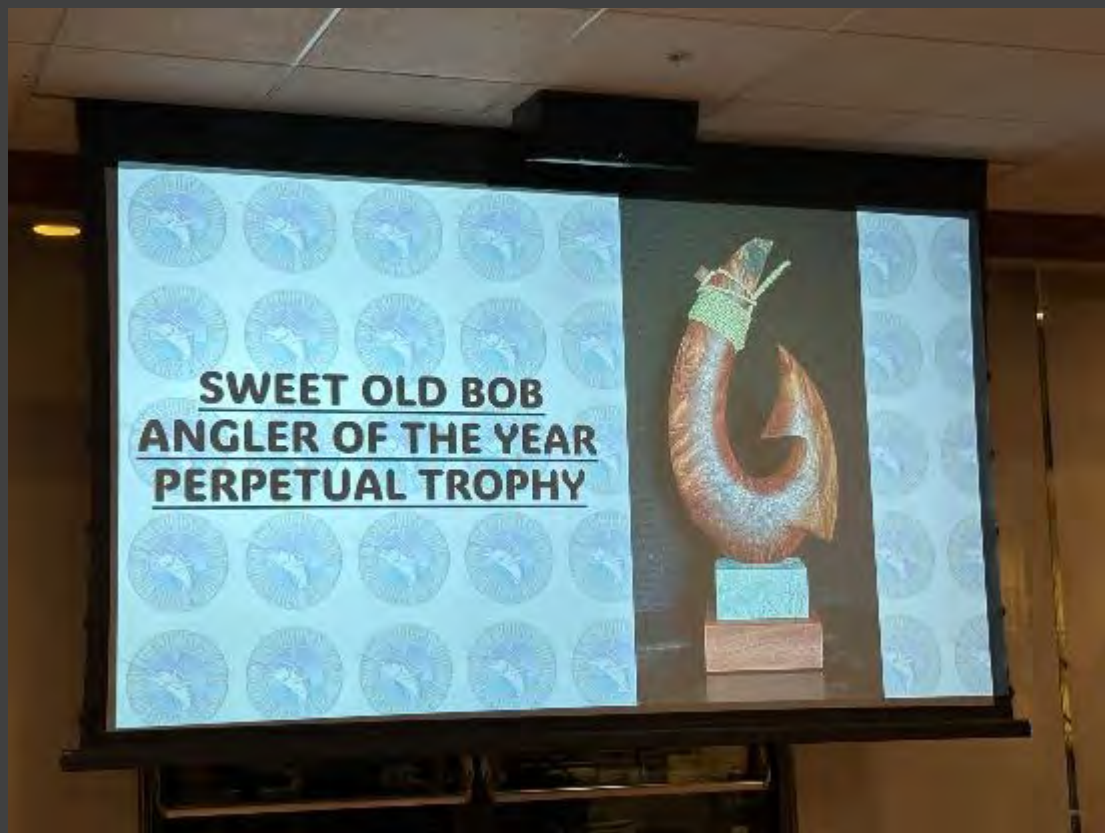
The Betty-O out of Marina Del Rey will also be offering a special Sat-Sun Derby charter. One price for both days starting extra early, and back to the docks for both days weigh in. **BOOK ON THE BETTY-O [HERE](#)** or to inquire about the charter please call 310-600-3069.





(L-R: Richard Somers, Carl Lambert, Robert "Sweet Old Bob" (SOB) Godfrey, and Victor Jedlicka)

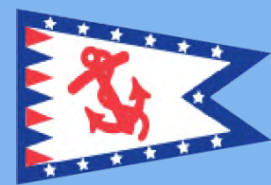
At the MDRA Annual Awards ceremony this month, a new annual perpetual trophy was introduced—the Sweet Old Bob (SOB)! This new trophy honors the lifetime dedication of Robert "SOB" Godfrey, Past President 1987. Sweet Old Bob has devoted a portion of his life time volunteering his time to this organization and shaping it to what it is today. He successfully developed their White Seabass grow out pens program. Congratulations BOB!



Other GOATS present (pictured above) were Richard Somers, long time member of Marina del Rey Anglers and DRYC, who was instrumental in the development of their Fishing program for under privileged children. Carl Lambert, long time member and Past President 1988. Excellent fisherman! Lambert is a member of DRYC and Tuna Club. Victor Jedlicka, long time member, also Director at DRYC and SCYA. Vic chaired the largest MDR Anglers Halibut Derby in Santa Monica Bay.

SCYA COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

# Transpac 2025 Update



By TPYC Commodore, William J. Guilfoyle  
[wguilfoyle3603@gmail.com](mailto:wguilfoyle3603@gmail.com)

Transpac 2025, the 53rd edition of the classic race across the Pacific is set for the first start July 1. In these final months the TPYC Board of Directors, committee chairs, volunteers both here and in Honolulu are hard at work making the final preparations to welcome the 61 entries to Cabrillo Way Marina and across the finish line at Diamondhead buoy off Honolulu.

The fleet will be split into 3 handicapped based starting days on Tuesday July 2, Thursday July 3 and Saturday July 5.

I'd like to extend an invitation to all SCYA club members to join us in San Pedro for a week of festivities to see the boats as they make their final preparations, celebrate with the sailors their first significant milestone, making it to the starting line and send this year's fleet off to Honolulu.



The week starts on Saturday June 28 with the Aloha Send-off Party sponsored by Fess Parker & Third Window Brewing onboard the USS Iowa. There we will have live music, food & drink, USCG demonstrations, fleet introductions and a blessing of the fleet capped off with firing the USS Iowa's anti-aircraft guns to mark the official opening of Transpac 2025. If you'd like to join us, tickets can be purchased online from our website at [transpacyc.com](http://transpacyc.com).

Sunday June 29 will mark the official opening of the Suntex Race Village in Cabrillo Way Marina. The village located on the south side of the marina adjacent to the Dry boat storage will be the home to the official Race Office & sponsors. Official Transpac 2025 race gear can be purchased, Third Window Brewing will have daily smash burgers, smoked ribs, beer and wine, Mount Gay will be there to introduce their new Navy Strength Rum along with SD Boat Works, Garmin and other race sponsors each afternoon through the last start on Saturday.

We're excited to have an iconic fleet and plenty of shore side activities. Whether attending the party, joining us at Suntex Race Village or getting out on the water as part of the large spectator fleets to watch the starts we hope to see SCYA club members come down to wish the teams a fast and safe passage to Hawaii.

Aloha –  
Bill Guilfoyle  
Commodore  
TPYC

SCYA COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

# 2025 California Dreamin' Series



## SKIPPERS ANNOUNCED FOR 2025 CDS SERIES FINALE IN LONG BEACH

*Long Beach, CA – March 14, 2025* – The Long Beach Yacht Club has announced the eight skippers that will compete in the final stop of the 2025 California Dreamin' Series at LBYC on April 5 - 6:

Lindsey Baab, St. Francis Yacht Club  
Nicole Breault, St. Francis Yacht Club  
Justin Law, Newport Harbor Yacht Club  
Cormac Murphy, Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club  
Siena Nichols, Balboa Yacht Club  
Derek Webster, New York Yacht Club, Shelter Island YC  
Matt Whitfield, Plym Yacht Club  
Shane Young, Long Beach Yacht Club

The California Dreamin' Series events are traditionally the nation's first match racing regattas of the year and serve an important role in the development of up-and-coming match racers, with several having moved on to national competition. The Series is rated as a Grade 3 event by World Sailing.

According to Tom Camp, Chair of the LBYC CDS stop, "The competition at this final stop of the California Dreamin' Series will be intense. Any one of these eight skippers could take podium position at Long Beach. We may well see a battle to the end to determine who takes first place in the Series and will receive the invitation to compete in the 2026 Ficker Cup."

Sienna Nichols and Shane Young each took first place at one of the prior CDS stops and come into the LBYC stop tied for points in the Series. Matt Whitfield also did well in the prior CDS stops. He trails Nichols and Young by only 25 points in the Series. Cormac Murphy also picked up enough points in the prior events to be a contender for the Series win.

The competitors in Long Beach include several top match race skippers based on World

Sailing rankings: Nicole Breault at #17 and Cormac Murphy at #21 in the world. Three of the four female skippers are ranked in the top 35 in WS Women Rankings, with Nicole Breault at #18, Lindsey Baab at #29, and Siena Nichols at #35 as well as #11 in the WS Youth rankings.

The eight skippers and their teams will be sailing on a fleet of identical Catalina 37 sailboats designed and built specifically for match racing and donated to the Long Beach Sailing Foundation by Frank Butler and Catalina Yachts. These are the same boats that will be used later in the month for LBYC's World Sailing Grade 2 Ficker Cup April 25 – 27, which is Stage 2 of the 2025 World Match Racing Tour, and the 60<sup>th</sup> Congressional Cup April 30 – May 4, which is one of five 2025 World Championship Events on the 2025 World Match Racing Tour.

Prior stops in the CDS Series were at San Diego Yacht Club in J/22s on January 25-26, Balboa Yacht Club in GovCup 22s on February 15-16, and St. Francis Yacht Club in J/22s on March 8-9.

CDS continues to develop numerous sailors within this specialized sport as skippers seek to climb the World Sailing rankings. The quick pace and challenging maneuvers also help sharpen everyone's skills for fleet racing. The event is highly sought after by race committee volunteers and umpires thanks to the non-stop action that comes with multiple round robins and up to 28 matches each day. Spectacular close-up views of the racing will be available each day from the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier.

Cameron MacLaren  
LBYC Race Office  
P: +1 562.294.5161  
E: [raceoffice@lbyc.org](mailto:raceoffice@lbyc.org)

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**SCYA COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS**



**Register Now!**

# **KHYC Spinnaker Series #2 & DRYC Berger/Stein #4**

**Saturday, April 12**



**A KHYC & DRYC Combined Race!**

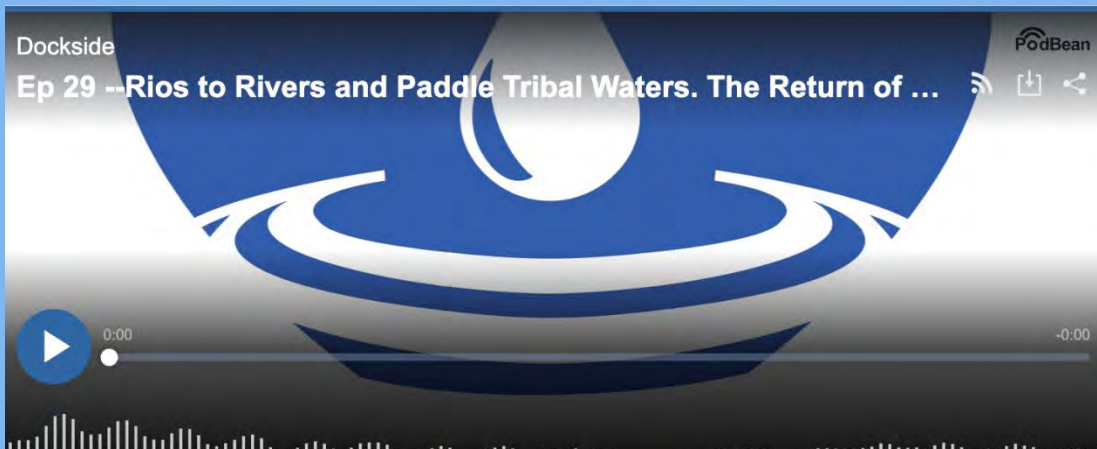
**Step 1 - Register at  
khyc.org (\$25 until Apr 11)**

**Step 2 - Register for  
Berger/Stein scoring at  
dryc.org (\$10 fee waived  
for US Sailing members)**



SCYA COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

# Ep 29 --Rios to Rivers and Paddle Tribal Waters. The Return of the Klamath River



In this episode we talk with Weston Boyles, the Founder and Executive Director of Rios to Rivers and Danielle Rey Frank, the Director of Development and Community Relations of Rios to Rivers. Rios to Rivers inspires the protection of rivers worldwide by investing in underserved and Indigenous youth who are intimately connected to their local waters and supporting their development as the next generation of environmental stewards. Today we will learn about the largest dam removal in history

and the Indigenous Youth who will make the first descent down the newly freed river.

This podcast is also available in all the following streaming platforms including Spotify, Apple podcast, iHeartRadio, Amazon music, and Pandora

Want more? Check our previous podcast episodes [here](#)

*This podcast was brought to you by the California State Parks and the California Coastal Commission*

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SCYA COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

# FREE Free Spill Response Communication Workshops





The California Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response, the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways and the California Coastal Commission are inviting all the marinas and yacht clubs to participate in the FREE 2025 workshops. Join us in one of these important workshops! All facilities are encouraged to participate because you deal with motorized vessels.

### **LEARN ABOUT**

- California's Oil Spill Response Structure
- California's Marinas and Yacht Clubs Spill Response Communication Packet
- NEW Real Life Spill Case Studies: Lessons Learned and Best Practices
- Oil Spill Response Resources for Boating Facilities

### **REGISTRATION**

**Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025 (9:45 am to 12:30 pm)**

Virtual Workshop: Click [here](#) to register

**Friday, May 2nd, 2025 (9:45 am to 12:45 pm)**

Attend in-Person: Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club  
(13589 Mindanao Way, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292)

Free parking available at the facility

You Must Register at [Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov)

Attend Virtually: Click [here](#) to register

**Thursday, June 19th, 2025 (9:45 am to 12:45 pm)**

Attend in-Person: Encinal Yacht Club (1251 Pacific Marina,  
Alameda, CA 94501)

Free parking available at the facility

You Must Register at [Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Vivian.Matuk@coastal.ca.gov)

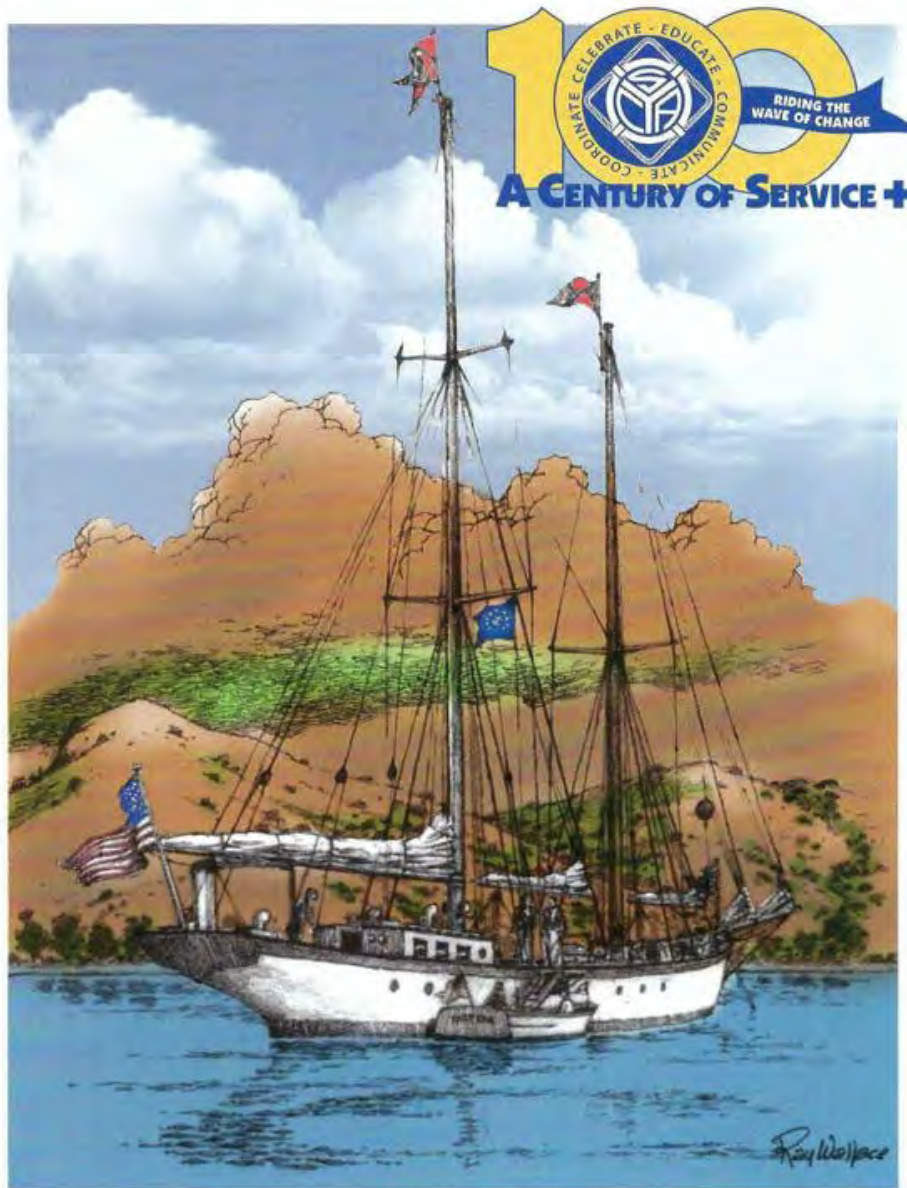
Attend Virtually: Click [here](#) to register



SCYA SHIP STORE



# Yachting Protocol Guidelines Book



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

# **Yachting Protocol Guidelines**

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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 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!***

FOLLOW SCYA



SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



**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**

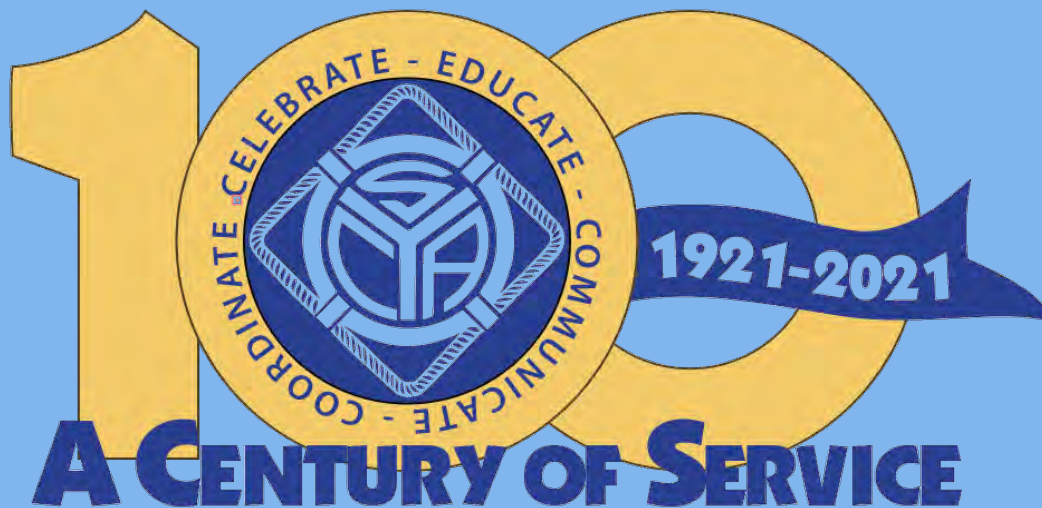
### **Guidelines**

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 [scyanenewsletter@scya.org](mailto:scyanenewsletter@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](mailto: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](mailto:service@scya.org) or (562) 433-7426.

#### **SCYA Searchlight Newsletter Information**

Searchlight Editor: John Gaddis, [scyanewsletter@scya.org](mailto:scyanewsletter@scya.org)

MarCom Committee Chair: V/C Jodi Masters-Gonzales

Commodore: Lee Coller, [commodore@scya.org](mailto:commodore@scya.org)

#### **SCYA Customer Service**

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[Cruising Calendar](#) | [Club of the Year](#) | [SCYA Awards](#)



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**Our mailing address is**

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