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*May/June 2026*

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# From the Helm

## Commodore's Report

**Jodi Masters-Gonzales**  
2026 SCYA Commodore  
[commodore@scya.org](mailto:commodore@scya.org)



Arriving at the halfway point in the year is exciting—summer weather, being on the water, and enjoying the camaraderie of new and old friends at the many FUN activities our clubs have worked all year to make happen. Cheers to all our superstars who make the magic!

Behind the scenes, club sustainability—including, but not limited to all things sailing, racing, membership, and managing overhead—in the near and long-term, remain a focus. As we grapple with these complex issues, SCYA continues to offer insight through seminars, panel discussions, and resources.

At our April General Meeting of Delegates, Commodore Roger Pawley of Arizona Yacht Club was our guest of honor. He presented and led a discussion on **Attracting New Members &**

**Sustaining Thriving Volunteerism.** AYC has been in continuous operation for 68 years—that says something for a club in the desert that's an hour from the lake! AYC has been focused on, and, successful in, attracting younger members, families and transplants. Roger emphasized the importance of developing the club's place in the broader community and building a culture that recognizes and invests in ways that lets their members know how much they are appreciated. Finally, he reminded us that part of their success comes from staying involved with SCYA and other member clubs. According to attendees, it was a great discussion with valuable takeaways. If you'd like to watch the replay, please reach out and we'll send you a link. (Thank you again, Commodore Pawley for your leadership and wisdom!)

Building upon the topic of membership sustainability, SCYA's June General Membership Meeting of Delegates will feature a presentation on the topic of **Attracting, Retaining, and Engaging Members: Millennial/GenZ Edition!** Our under 40 panel will share their perspective on what they look for when considering club membership, what gives them the "ick," what gets them excited about getting on the water, preferred channels of communication, and much more. A recording will be made available.

Sustaining our place on the national stage—I attended the US Sailing Board Meeting in May, where several of our clubs—CYC, ABYC, LBYC, and SMBSF, were recognized for their financial support of the San Pedro/Long Beach Olympic Racing. Related regattas in preparation for LA28 continue this summer, allowing operations to get familiar with venues, formats, and all the

coordination that goes into hosting successful games.

On the water, both US Sailing and PHRF are exploring ways of using the rating system to enable more participation. See PHRF President, [Bob Langan's article](#) in this issue for 2026 N2E insight that may signal reversal of long-term trends in racing participation.

Long Beach Women's Association upcoming meeting on June 16th will discuss **Don't Buy the Boat**—confronting the reality that boat ownership may not be for everyone and ways to get on the water before (or without) taking the big plunge. LBWSA Commodore, Sadie Johnson, reminds us of a core element of their mission: to promote, encourage, and support involvement in established sailing programs. [Click here to register.](#)

Since the beginning of the year, SCYA Technology Modernization Committee has been exploring ways to leverage the latest advances to become more effective in mission delivery, while reducing operational overhead and providing greater support, resources and information sharing amongst member leadership, volunteers, and the community-at-large. We look forward to sharing what we've learned in the second half of the year and are actively seeking input on enhancements to our website and communications that would elevate SCYA membership value for you. Reach out to Director Chris Johnson-Pasqua with suggestions, [cmjpasqua@gmail.com](mailto:cmjpasqua@gmail.com).

Building a sustainable yachting organization requires seeing the past and telltales with clear eyes, a willingness to evolve, and a resilient attitude. At ABYC's Opening Day, Commodore Steven

Smith reflected on the club's 100th anniversary—milestones that were achieved through change over time, while staying rooted in the club's values of family sailing, excellence in racing and a volunteer spirit (shared below). At ALYC's Opening Day, their honored guest, Elisabeth Small, a 102-year old U.S. Army nurse and veteran of both World War II and the Korean War, joined more than 350 boating, diving, and water enthusiasts to celebrate 60 years of the club's commitment to supporting veterans on, in, and under the water.



(With Mrs. Small at ALYC Opening Day)

On August 22nd at ABYC, Director Judi Glover is delivering an interactive leadership seminar for regatta organizers, *From Dock*

to Finish Line: 10 Steps to Run a Success Regatta. The same weekend, Director Jay Nager is organizing SCYA's annual U.S. Sailing International Safety at Sea Certification Course, moderated by Captain Kip Louttit, with second strong Captain James Lee.

Finally, save the date—the **SCYA Women's Conference is returning March 27-28, 2027 at ABYC!**

Much aloha and mahalo 🌺

**Jodi Masters-Gonzales**

2026 SCYA Commodore

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



From the Bridge

V/C Report

Elena Yuasa

## 2026 SCYA Vice Commodore

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

### Tides of Tradition & Leadership

#### **Opening Day Season: Celebrating Tradition and Corinthian Spirit**

April and May have been exceptionally active months throughout the Southern California yachting community. Across our SCYA member clubs, Opening Day traditions were celebrated with pride, dedication, and a true display of Corinthian spirit.

Each club brought its own unique style to these ceremonies. Some organized boat parades, while others combined on-the-water festivities with award presentations, IOBG inductions, games, duck races, and member recognition ceremonies. Many clubs generously offered boats to transport members and guests between neighboring yacht clubs, reinforcing the importance of camaraderie and community within organized yachting.

One of the most rewarding aspects of attending these events was witnessing how resilient and forward-thinking our yacht clubs remain. Clubs proudly showcased accomplishments in racing, junior sailing, cruising programs, and social activities, all while recognizing the volunteers who are truly the heart of every organization. These efforts are clearly paying off, as several clubs welcomed new members immediately following their ceremonies.

In addition to Opening Day celebrations, some clubs also

conducted Closing Ceremonies to formally discharge outgoing officers and directors before installing new leadership. This thoughtful tradition provides an important opportunity to honor those who have served their clubs with dedication and commitment.

### **SCYA Race Calendar Updates – A Reminder**

On the water, the season is now fully underway. Our SCYA Race Calendar, completed earlier this year, continues to evolve as clubs add new events and update schedules throughout the year.

If your club would like to add or modify race information, please feel free to email me directly so updates can be made promptly. Suggestions regarding the race calendar format are also welcome, as we continue working to improve communication and accessibility for our racing community.

### **April & May Opening Days: Tradition in Motion**

I had the pleasure of attending Opening Day ceremonies at numerous member clubs. Here is the list:

- Navy Yacht Club Long Beach
- Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club
- Anacapa Yacht Club
- Channel Islands Yacht Club
- Channel Islands Women's Sailing Association
- San Luis Yacht Club

- Morro Bay Yacht Club
- Oasis Sailing Yacht Club
- Little Ships Yacht Club
- Seagate Yacht Club
- Seal Beach Yacht Club
- Alamitos Bay Yacht Club
- American Legion Yacht Club
- South Shore Yacht Club
- Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club
- Dana Point Yacht Club
- Dana West Yacht Club
- Silvergate Yacht Club
- Southwestern Yacht Club
- Corsair Yacht Club
- Huntington Harbour Yacht Club -Closing Ceremony

These visits enriched my understanding of how SCYA can better support our member clubs and strengthen engagement throughout our yachting community. While attending so many ceremonies required significant travel and commitment, I wanted each club to know that SCYA values its members and appreciates the dedication of every volunteer, officer, and member working to strengthen their organization.

## April and May Opening Days- Tradition in Motion Collage





These events also provided valuable opportunities to reinforce awareness of SCYA programs, celebrate clubs' achievements, and offer educational seminars, communications, and member resources.



Also at the American Legion Yacht Club, SCYA, our Commodore Jodi Masters-Gonzales presented the Club of the Year award to Commodore Wyatt Hoag and the membership, announcing that they were the winners of the Club of the Year – Senior r club category.

Congratulations and job well done, American Legion Yacht Club!



At the Southwestern Yacht Club ceremony, SCYA Jr Staff Commodore Lee Coller presented the SCYA 2020 Rescue Award (CRA) to Carolyn and Sandra Sherman. They were delighted to receive the award. See Jr. Staff Commodore article for more information.

Carolyn and Sandra, Congrats!

### **Charting a Strong Course, One Mile at a Time**

Throughout April and May, I continued to connect with members, exchange ideas, and listen carefully for feedback from our clubs. These conversations help ensure SCYA continues evolving in ways that best support our membership.

I am also pleased to report that we have recruited several new

committee chairs and a new SCYA Newsletter Editor. Their experience and enthusiasm will help strengthen our organization and further our mission.

I continue to encourage every member club officer or director to become involved in SCYA meetings and committees. Your voice matters, and your participation plays an important role in shaping our future. If you are interested in serving or volunteering, please feel free to reach out and share your interests and expertise.

### **Committees in Action**

#### **Old Timers Luncheon**

Chair Grace Harley continues working diligently to prepare another memorable Old Timers Luncheon. A Save the Date flyer is included in this edition of The Searchlight. Please encourage your Staff Commodores to participate; your club may be the winner this year. Mark your calendar.

#### **Medical Emergencies at Sea Seminar**

Plans are underway to bring the Medical Emergencies at Sea Seminar to Orange County on October 1st. Additional information and registration details will be announced soon. Please Save the Date.

#### **Race Committee**

Efforts continue to locate and recover missing race trophies. Our current chair is working to organize a Race Seminar and is looking forward to adding more members to his committee. If you are interested, please reach out to Chair Robert Gonzales at [westcoastrock1@yahoo.com](mailto:westcoastrock1@yahoo.com)

## **Regatta Seminar – “From Dock to Finish Line”**

Please support our upcoming regatta seminar scheduled for August 22 at Alamitos Bay Yacht Club. Chair Judi Glover will be conducting a wonderful seminar. Register here for the [Regatta Seminar](#). Share this information with your membership.

## **Model Yachting Committee**

Under the leadership of Chair Brian Randall, the Model Yachting Committee continues to generate excitement and momentum through innovative ideas and active participation by committee members. Additional details can be found in their committee report.

## **2026 US Sailing Safety at Sea Seminar**

SCYA Director and Chair Jay Nager, leading the Safety at Sea Committee, in partnership with US Sailing, is proud to announce that registration is now open. Please visit [SCYA.org](http://SCYA.org) for registration information or register [HERE](#).

In closing, as your Vice Commodore, it remains both an honor and a privilege to represent SCYA throughout our yachting community. Every club visit, conversation, and shared experience reinforces the importance of preserving our traditions while also embracing new ideas that will strengthen organized yachting for future generations.

Our clubs thrive because of volunteers, leadership, and members who continue to give their time, passion, and dedication to the Corinthian spirit. Thank you to every individual who helps make SCYA and its member clubs vibrant, welcoming, and successful.

I look forward to seeing many of you on the water and at upcoming SCYA events throughout the season ahead.

Fair winds and following seas,

My motto is "A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

### **Elena Yuasa**

2026 SCYA Vice Commodore

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



# From the Bridge

## **R/C Report**

### **Herbert Brown**

2026 SCYA Rear Commodore

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

## **Knowledge is Power**

The Webster Dictionary defines a lake as a body of water

surrounded by land, typically larger than a pond and may be freshwater or saltwater. Lakes are formed when water collects in a natural low area of land and are fed by sources such as rain, rivers, or underground springs. In simple terms, a lake is a place where water gathers on land and remains, rather than flowing directly into the ocean.

A harbor, by contrast, is a protected coastal area where boats and ships operate safely.

I had the opportunity to attend the Canyon Lake Yacht Club on May 2nd and had the honor of delivering the Club Commissioning speech and presenting our SCYA flag to Commodore Rob Mora. Joining me for the presentation were Vice Commodore Craig Brown and Rear Commodore Stan "Forever" Young.

Canyon Lake Yacht Club has been a member of SCYA since 2024 as an interim member, though the club was originally founded in 1991. It was an honor to celebrate their Opening Day and continued growth within the association.



The event was well attended and featured participation from Boy Scouts of America Troop 2011, who presented the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The National Anthem was performed by Larry Garland, and the invocation and blessing of the fleet were delivered by Pastor Thore Ramsey.

Distinguished guests included Mayor Jeromy Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Kasey Castillo, and City Council Members Mark Terry, John Steeber, and Dale Welty. Canyon Lake Yacht Club Board Members in attendance included Yeoman Dona Ziegler, Purser Tish Penner, and Membership Chair Cathy Lekawa.

SCYA representatives included Ron Wilbur (2023 Commodore), Dave Carter (2024 Vice Commodore), and Bill VanVleet, President of the POA, along with Board Vice President Jeff Bill, Board Secretary Lainie Cooney, Board Treasurer Bill Medved, and Board Director Greg Doherty.

I encourage our SCYA community—if you are near Canyon Lake Yacht Club—to reach out and connect with them through their website: [clycca.org](http://clycca.org)

Fair winds and following seas,

**Herbert J. Brown II**

2026 SCYA Rear Commodore

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

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**PORT CAPTAIN**

Upcoming Events





PRESENTED BY SCYA

# DOCKLINE > FINISH

10 Easy Steps to Run a  
*Successful Regatta!*

- ✓ August 22, 2026
- ✓ Alamitos Bay Yacht Club
- ✓ Registration: 0900
- ✓ Seminar: 1000 - 1430
- ✓ \$60 Registration
- ✓ Lunch Included

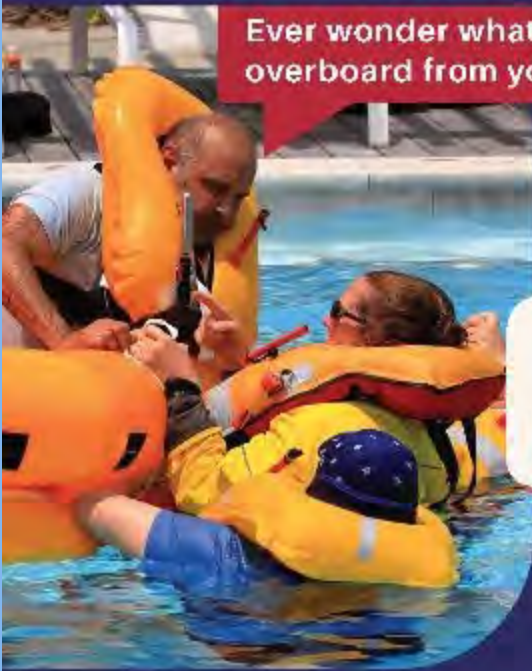
**REGISTER NOW**

 [www.scya.org/events-meetings](http://www.scya.org/events-meetings)



Facilitated by  
SCYA Dir. Judi Glover

Ever wonder what you would do if someone fell overboard from your boat?



## SAFETY AT SEA INTERNATIONAL OFFSHORE CERTIFICATION COURSE

August 22-23, 2026

California Yacht Club



### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- All levels of cruisers, power boaters & sailboat racers who operate nearshore or offshore.
- Crew members of long distance & international offshore races.

### COURSE FACTS

- Certificates are valid for 5 years from date of issue.
- Moderated & taught by experienced, lifelong sailors who include top names in sailing and safety.

### THREE OPTIONS

1. Two-Day w/ Hands On (NEW CERTIFICATES)
2. One-Day, Hands On ONLY (NEW CERTIFICATES)
3. One-Day, Hands On ONLY (REFRESHER CERTS)

**REGISTER NOW.  
LIMITED SEATING.**



PRESENTED BY  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA YACHTING ASSOCIATION**  
[WWW.SCYA.ORG](http://WWW.SCYA.ORG)



# SAVE THE DATE

## SCYA

### Old Timers Luncheon

Saturday, September 12, 2026

*Luncheon begins at noon*

Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club  
211 W. 22nd Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731  
Wilmington, CA

*Details to follow*



Check [scya.org](http://scya.org) for full calendar of meetings and events.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

# History Update



By S/C Shawn Mulligan, SCYA History Chair

Since March of 2026, I have been working with the historians of the Avalon Tuna Club, The Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles and Catalina Island Yacht Club to dissect exactly how C.I.Y.C. was conceived out of the Avalon Tuna Club back in 1924. It turns out that all the plans to form the Catalina Island Yacht Club were laid out at The Jonathan Club by the same people who were instrumental in early SCYA. There is talk for a big event next year in 2027 at the Avalon Casino for members and the public to celebrate the history of these three clubs. The origins of these clubs go back to the 1880's. More details to follow.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

# Model Yachting



By Brian Randall, SCYA Model Yachting Chair  
[brandallnImusdadulted@gmail.com](mailto:brandallnImusdadulted@gmail.com)

The following is the summary of the May 26th SCYA Model Yacht Meeting (3rd meeting of the year thus far)

- The meeting was held via zoom at 6:30 p.m. On May 26th, 2026
- The meeting Concluded at 7:17
- Many members could not attend due to the schedule conflicts right after the holiday. In retrospect we should have pushed this meeting out another week to have more participation.
- The Meeting was held via zoom
- The following is the link for the meeting minutes/Agenda:
  - [SCYA Model Yachting Agendas/Minutes](#) - (Click on the dropdown menu where it says "Template" and click on "May Minutes")
- We had 4 participants out of the 23 contacts in the group during this meeting
  - **Chair: Brian Randall - West Coast YC**
  - **Bob Shumacher - OCMSC**
  - **Michael Schachter - Helmsmen YC**
  - **Don Shirley - Helmsmen YC / Alamitos Bay YC**
  - **Rick Dinon - Lake Gregory Yacht Club**
- Clubs gave their updates of what was going on in each.

**American Legion YC** - Rick Lantelo emailed a question due to his not able to attend meeting - asked a question about having a hard time finding sail servo replacements. His usual supplier has closed shop and the other ones that he's found online have been in the \$100.00 range. Perhaps there is a substitute brand that works?

- Response:
  - Olympia Model Sailing Dan  
Shier: [dan@olympiamodelsailors.com](mailto:dan@olympiamodelsailors.com)

- New DF distributor 360-522-2122
- 95's - Use their approved sail servo but can use rudder servo from anywhere

**Lake Gregory** - Rick Dinon reported that the lake dredging has been deferred and altered and they were given a new location so as to not have to find a new venue. Last of Midwinters were held - only 3 95's, 1 laser, and 1 Soling, Raced 95's. Then started miscellaneous fleet. 95's did two laps others did 1. Matthew Phillipe had a great perspective on promoting Model Yachting via email. From his experience only 1 in 10 RC sailors has enough interest in RC sailing to move on to weekend racing with one of the 3 developed Racing Clubs. The RC sailing group at Harvenston duck pond in Temecula has grown steadily over the last few years with an emphasis on teaching people how to sail RC boats and providing loaner boats to new sailors. 11 boats were sailing this Tuesday and there were 4 different brands of boats. The first hour or two was open sailing. Later in the day there was racing with minimal rules. The start squawk box was passed from person to person, with the race course called out by the person with the start squawk box. Growing RC sailing requires a different approach, on a different day, from the existing Saturday RC racing Clubs. Mentoring by an experienced RC racer and loaner boats, with an emphasis on teaching people how to sail will help grow RC sailing. This has the potential to grow interest in the existing Yacht Clubs. How a Yacht club approaches RC sailing and the club members experience with RC sailing, will determine the success of a particular RC sailing program. Young kids are very familiar with a game controller box and find that the RC radio controller is easy to master and they can sail an RC sailboat in a very short

time. The problem is getting them to the same place at the same time weekly to grow their interest. There is also the age differential, most RC sailors are older and/or retired. Both demographics need to be considered.

**Long Beach Yacht Club** - Friday Night DragonFlite coming June 12 at LBYC 5:00 pm start!

**Dana Point Yacht Club** - No Report

**Ventura Yacht Club** - No Report

**Huntington Harbour Yacht Club** - No Report

**Del Rey Yacht Club** - No Report

**OCMSC** - Lengthy information given please refer to the link to see details.

**West Coast Yacht Club** - Cruising season has begun and Opening Days are over, we will be looking to participate in upcoming club events. Our members will try to start participating in LBYC Friday nights to get our feet wet.

**Harveston Yacht Club** - Temecula - No report

**Helmsmen Yacht Club** - Detailed summary of the clubs month's events are posted in the minutes link. However upcoming race information: San Diego Argonauts May 30th - Team racing 16 boats 8 teams. Dragonflite 95s. Pairings done by organizers but this time you can choose partners. Should be

a great event. If you have never tried a team race it is lots of fun and you should head down to San Diego for some fun.

**Suggestion to clubs to help promote their events:**

- <https://theamya.org/FindaRegatta.asp>
- This is a calendar of racing that can be sorted by boat class and our region 8. It is suggested that clubs post their races to this calendar to increase opportunities to race with other clubs. The San Diego Argonauts are excellent about posting their schedule.
- <https://theamya.org/FindaClub.asp>
- This is a list of clubs currently registered with AMYA with their contact info.

\*\*\*\*\*The group would like to see a section of the SCYA website have Model Yachting and links posted as well as a classified section to post items available.

The group once again appreciated the meeting, and the consensus was to meet next month. Brian Randall stated he would send out the invite.

Here is the link to the next meeting: June 29th 6:30 p.m.  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8379634524?omn=81448726497>

Brian Randall  
Commodore  
West Coast Yacht Club  
Established 1931  
Celebrating 95 Years!

SCYA Member since 1936  
Commodore@westcoastyachtclub.com  
brianrandall@ococeanrentals.com  
www.westcoastyachtclub.com  
619-933-6209

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

# Appeals: Jim 46719 v. Dawn Patrol 56454



By Kim Kymlicka, Chair, Appeals  
Committee, [mkymlicka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkymlicka@sbcglobal.net)

May 7, 2026

Rule Appendix R 1.1 (a) To Appeal or Make a Request  
(This appendix is a US Sailing prescription)

### FACTS AND DECISION OF THE PROTEST COMMITTEE

During the pre-start of race 3 of the series, boats Jim and Dawn Patrol collided. The Protest Committee held a protest hearing on February 21, 2026, and delivered their decision on February 23, 2026.

### DECISION OF THE ASSOCIATION APPEALS COMMITTEE

To appeal the decision or the procedures of a protest committee or an association appeals committee, no later than 15 days after receiving the written decision being appealed or a protest committee's decision not to reopen a hearing, the appellant shall send an appeal and a copy of the decision being appealed to US Sailing.

US Sailing received an appeal from boat Jim on April 10, 2026. Jim did not submit appeal within the time required by the rules.

Appeal is denied.

SCYA Appeals Committee

Kim Kymlicka, Chair

Pat Stadel

Steve Schupak

Randy Smith

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**LIAISON REPORT**

# USCG Marine Permit Application Process Modernization



The U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center has launched a new online Marine Event Permit application process effective June 3rd. Marine event sponsors conducting regattas, marine parades, fireworks displays, swim events, or similar activities on navigable waters of the United States are encouraged to utilize the updated online submission capability. Applications should be submitted to the appropriate Captain of the Port at least 135 days prior to the scheduled event. Marine Event Permit Application and additional information are available at <https://navcen.uscg.gov/contact/Application-For-Marine-Event-Permit> (NOTE: link only works if connecting WITHOUT a VPN.)

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## LIAISON REPORT

# Newport to Ensenada Handicap Ratings



By Bob Langan, President, PHRF SoCal, [blangan1@yahoo.com](mailto:blangan1@yahoo.com)

The March-April timeframe is generally the busiest time of year for the PHRF Southern California (SoCal) Regional Board of Directors. The Board's primary responsibility, providing handicap ratings for boats, usually reaches a crescendo in the run up to the annual Newport to Ensenada Race (N2E) in late April. Besides those owners who planned ahead and had their boats rated at the monthly meetings before April, there are

always many that didn't have all the information needed well in advance of the registration deadline. A significant number of these latter boats involve boat models for which we have limited information on prior race results, or for modifications to the boat that have difficult-to-predict impact on the boat's expected performance. A significant burden is placed upon our Fleet Administrator, Karen Campbell, to gather in the relevant data from the stressed owners. These data are needed for the Chief Handicapper, David Cattle, and the Assistant Chief Handicapper, Paul Katz, to do very detailed comparative analyses against known, or reference boats, in order to issue a reasonable temporary rating for the N2E race. Such analyses can take 4 to 10 hours for each boat. This year was probably the biggest "crunch" of recent years for Karen and PHRF SoCal.

But too much work is better than too little work, even for a largely volunteer organization like PHRF. It is no secret that the both the number of sailboats registered in the United States has been slowly decreasing for the last 20 years, and this has been reflected in the number of boats seeking PHRF certificates over the same period. These two measures seem to move in lockstep. However, by mid-April 2026, PHRF SoCal had issued 56 more certificates, when compared to the same period in 2025, about a 12% increase. Are the year-over-year increase in registrations, and the pre-N2E "crunch", flash signs of a reversal of those long-term trends? Time will tell.

A marketing research firm, Info-Link Technologies, has released their own long-term analysis of the boating market, and it is very interesting to get some relatively concrete data on trends in yachting, much of it based upon boat registration

numbers. This analysis is covered in a recent YouTube video (“State of the U.S. Boating Market”) and an available set of slides that can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWANpowq-x0> . It is presented in an interview style between members of a yacht brokerage, CurrentYachts.com, and the principal at Info-Link, Peter Houseworth. Here are some of the takeaways in the video to compare to my prior comments:

- The number of sailboats registered in the US has dropped by 22% in the last 10 years,
- Last year only 300 new sailboats were sold, vs. 6000 in 1986 (peak year was in 1984)
- The average age of a sailboat in the US is about 5 years older than 10 years ago
- In 2000, the average age of recreational boaters was in their late 40’s. Now it is closer to 60.

A lot more can be gleaned from this presentation and the Info-link.com website.

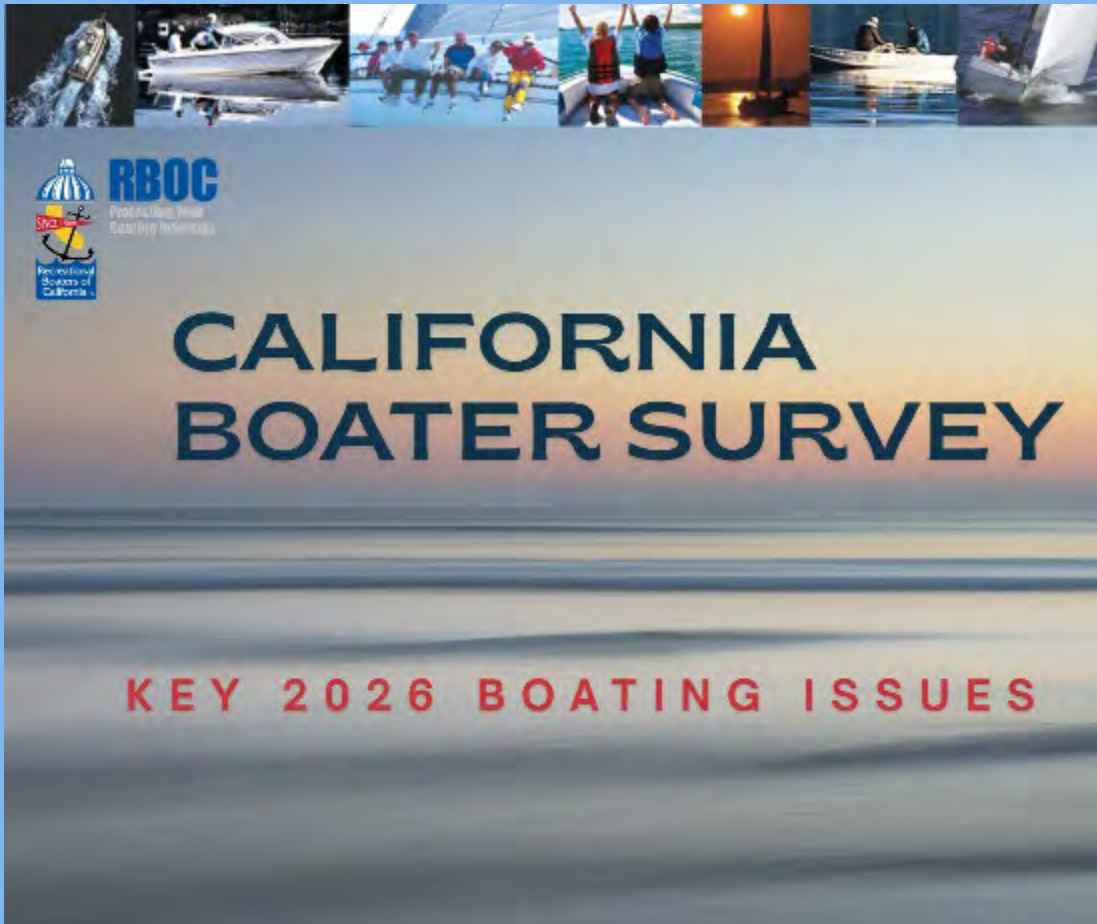
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LIAISON REPORT

# California Boater Survey



By Anne Eubanks, President, [anneeubanks@gmail.com](mailto:anneeubanks@gmail.com)



RBOC would appreciate your thoughts as a California boater on the boating issues we are advocating in the State Capitol – it will take just 3 minutes!

- Restrictions on boating access to lakes and reservoirs to prevent the spread of invasive species
- Imposition of a sticker and fee requirement on non-motorized vessels
- Restraints on the use of copper-based anti-fouling coatings to address impaired water bodies
- Impacts of the Delta Conveyance Project on boaters and navigation

- Increases in the registration fees boaters pay to the state Department of Motor Vehicles
- Expansion of state boat registration requirements to include documented vessels
- Dedication of boater fuel tax dollars to state park operations
- California's authorization of E15 fuel
- Mandatory manufacturer take-back program for pyrotechnic marine distress flares
- Any additional boating concerns boaters would like to bring to our attention

For more information on these topics, please refer to the following resources:

Spring 2026 Boater Brief:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52d745e7e4b034761cc08f68/t/69af421ba93a284c0a6c7ced/1773093403388/RBOC+Boater+Brief+3-7-26.pdf>

RBOC State Issues page:

<https://www.rboc.org/state-issues>

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY](#)



# RBOC

Protecting your boating interests.™

Recreational Boaters of California

925 L Street Suite 260

Sacramento CA 95814

916.441.4166

info@rboc.org

www.RBOC.org



## COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

# Smooth Sailing to Mexico: The 2026 Newport to Ensenada International Yacht Race



By Sue Griesbach, skipper of SV Tomol

The 2026 edition of the Newport to Ensenada International

Yacht Race kicked off on Friday, April 24, under spectacular conditions. Beginning at 11:00 AM, the fleets departed in ten-minute intervals from a double start line. The Cruising classes led the charge, followed by the PHRF racing divisions, with the fastest high-performance Ultra-Light Displacement (ULDB) classes bringing up the rear. This year's fleet of 120 boats was organized into 14 classes, showcasing the diversity of the boats participating in this epic race — from casual Cruisers (permitted to use engines but no spinnakers) to the 77-foot Reichel-Pugh maxi, Zephyrus. Into the Westerly Breeze

While the race began with winds coming from almost due south, the weather gods eventually smiled on the fleet. By 6:00 PM on Friday, the breeze had clocked to the west, providing the ideal angle for a fast transit. Most tacticians opted to stay relatively close to the rhumb line, keeping just outside of it to capitalize on the building pressure. When the winds call for a course close to rhumb line, I always ask myself, why go inside? You're on the lee side of the islands, you're near the tuna farms, there's more kelp, and you're potentially passing by small fishing boats without much lighting.

As the sun began to set, the wind moved far enough behind the beam for many racers to "pop" their spinnakers. With colorful kites flying and a steady westerly breeze, conditions were near-perfect as the fleet surged down the Baja coast.



(Exciting start to the race)

### **A Fast Finish and Wildlife Encounters**

The front-runners maintained their momentum all the way into Ensenada Bay, with the lead boats crossing the finish line just after 2:00 AM on Saturday. While the wind predictably softened in the &quot;wee hours&quot; of the morning, the rest of the fleet continued to make steady progress toward the finish.

As is tradition, the morning breeze in Ensenada Bay was light, requiring patience and concentration from the crews. However, the slow pace offered a serene finish; sailors were accompanied by rolling swells, migrating whales, and shimmering schools of fish. It was an exceptionally fast year for the race, with a significant portion of the fleet securing their finish times before

noon on Saturday, leaving plenty of time for the post-race celebrations in Ensenada.



(Happy crew)

### **Celebrations in the Heart of Ensenada**

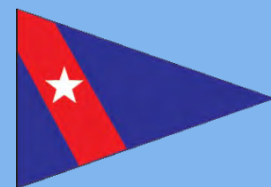
The hospitality matched the excellence of the sailing, as race headquarters returned to downtown Ensenada this year. Racers took full advantage of the move, enjoying the vibrant local restaurants and shops all within easy walking distance of the harbor and hotels. The festivities culminated in a spectacular outdoor awards ceremony at the historic Riviera Civic and Cultural Center. Under clear, beautiful skies, participants were treated to the spirited sounds of a live Mariachi band. The event was further honored by the presence of local dignitaries,

featuring keynote remarks from both the Mayor of Ensenada and the Vice-Admiral of the Mexican Navy, capping off a truly memorable year for the 78 th Newport to Ensenada race.



(From Left to Right: Chris Thompson, Bob Langan,  
Sue Griesbach (Captain), David Matthew,  
Brian Randall, Roger Salway.  
1st place PHRF D Fleet; 1st place Catalina Fleet)

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS



# A Rescue at Sea: Southwestern Yacht Club Receives SCYA Honor Rescue Award

By Jr. S/C Lee Coller



Last year while I was going through the SCYA storage unit I ran across a take-home trophy for the 2020 Rescue Award (awarded in January 2021). Realizing it had never been delivered (it has been awarded at the Zoom Awards Ceremony in January 2021), I brought it home and promptly forgot about it. Come early this year, I realized I had never tracked down the recipients, Carolyn and Sandra Sherman. Learning that they were members of Southwestern Yacht Club, I handed the trophy to their Mark Percy, SWYC Jr. Staff Commodore to forward to them while I was attending Coronado Cays Yacht Club's opening day.

Two weeks later, at Southwestern Yacht Club for their opening day, I was approached and asked if I could present it as part of the ceremony. I was very happy to and presented the award to them.

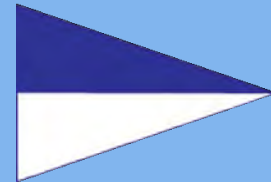
On August 29th, 2020 during the "Stephanie Jean Navirdes Memorial Race Your Own Household", the crew of Sea Maiden came to the aid of Mike Dore on Decoy. Mike was single handling and fell overboard during the race, when the shackle pin on the lifeline came out when he was putting up the whisker pole. Brian Fritzges from Sea Maiden immediately dove in the water to swim to Mike. Meanwhile, Decoy continued to sail recklessly on without anyone on board. Now going across the bay toward Harbor Island on port tack (Decoy is now an obstruction in racing). Carolyn and Sandra Sherman overtook Decoy and Sandra jumped aboard and dropped the jib. Roy Mumma who was also racing on Bolero picked up Mike Dore and Brian Fritzges and then transferred them to Sea Maiden. Sea

Maiden then came back up to Decoy and transferred Mike Dore back to his boat Decoy. All the while Mike was wearing his life preserver. Mike then retired from the race.

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COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

# ABYC 100th Anniversary Opening Day Address





**One Hundredth Anniversary Opening Day Address  
Alamitos Bay Yacht Club;**

**May 2, 2026**

**Steven C. Smith, Commodore**

What do Route 66, Southern California Yachting Association, Lufthansa Airlines, NBC, New Yorker Magazine, Schick Razors and Alamitos Bay Yacht Club have in common?

They have each been in existence for 100 years.

In 1926, Clement Calhoun Young was Governor of California and Calvin Coolidge was President of the United States. The Nation was three years from the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and the Great Depression which followed.

Through this one-hundred-year history, Alamitos Bay Yacht Club has grown from modest beginnings on a tidal estuary in the early days of the twentieth century to become a yacht club in the twenty-first century having hosted hundreds of local, national, Olympic and world championship regattas.

While early meetings were originally held on the beaches of Alamitos Bay, enough people were joining and taking part in ABYC activities that in 1948, eager members purchased an old firehouse from the Port of Long Beach and moved it to bay front land near the west end of Alamitos Bay. That clubhouse eventually became Leeway Sailing Center at the other end of this peninsula.

In the early days, racing was held exclusively on the Bay.

A bridge connecting Ocean Boulevard in Long Beach with Ocean

Avenue in Seal Beach blocked egress from Alamitos Bay for sailboats. Active racing nonetheless took place until things shut down during World War II.

Racing exploded on Alamitos Bay in the postwar years. Patricia Skimmers, Snipes, Thistles and the Naples Sabot — which had been developed on Alamitos Bay during the War — all sailed on the Bay. All four of these boats are on display today in our boat yard. Additionally, the bridge at the end of the Peninsula was washed away by a storm in 1955, permitting entrance to and exit from Alamitos Bay for sailboats.

We could now sail in the ocean as well as the relatively protected waters behind the Federal Breakwater constructed between 1941 and 1949 to provide sheltered anchorage for the Pacific Fleet

The growth of boating in Southern California spurred us to seek a newer, larger home. This location at the end of the peninsula was identified as the most favored spot. Plans were drafted for a two-story clubhouse building, adjacent boat storage and launching facilities. Groundbreaking took place in March 1964.

In time, the racing reputation of ABYC earned recognition.

ABYC became the first yacht club in the United States to win the St. Petersburg Yacht Club Trophy, awarded for excellence in race management at the 1968 Snipe Nationals.

Needing to expand our facilities, the building behind you, the Quarterdeck, was built beginning in November 1973. This

expansion led to a growth in membership and activities.

A full-time "Port Steward" lived on-site in a one-bedroom apartment on the ground floor of the Clubhouse, and the office was staffed five days a week.

ABYC took part in hosting the 1984 Olympic Sailing events. With the regatta scheduled in Long Beach and on San Pedro Bay, the club became the focal point for the 1984 Games. In preparation, we hosted the 1984 Star and Soling Olympic Trials, and joined with Los Angeles Yacht Club in running one of the four racing circles for the 1984 Games.

After assisting Long Beach Yacht Club with Race Week in 2004, ABYC and LBYC teamed up to run a combined Long Beach Race Week beginning in 2005 and continuing to the present. Also, ABYC was a founding Yacht Club of the Long Beach Charity Regatta benefiting The Children's Clinic of Long Beach.

Our Turkey Day Holiday Regatta became the west coast's largest regatta run by a single yacht club from one venue in a single weekend. US SAILING recognized our 2000 Turkey Day Regatta as the best one-design regatta of the year. We also ran the 2015 Special Olympics Sailing Events.

The Lido 14 is probably our most active fleet, now 66 years young. The Fleet actively recruits new owners and crews, not to mention new members. We see upwards of 30 boats racing Thursday evenings followed by food and refreshments here on the patio.

We are now preparing to help with the 2028 LA Olympic Women's and Men's Windsurfing and Kite events. We have other major events pending, such as the 2026 US Sailing Youth Championship, 2027 505 World Championship, and test events for the 2028 Olympics.

As we reach our one hundredth year, ABYC continues to provide service to its members, the community and the boaters of Southern California. As with many yacht clubs, our membership is aging as are our buildings and grounds. And yet, as many members pass along, new members join. Despite the changes, the roots of ABYC remain the same: family sailing, excellence in racing and a volunteer spirit. The history of ABYC is filled with success for both the club and its members. Our future is filled with hope of more to come.

Content gathered from Alamitos Bay Yacht Club Detailed History: <https://www.abyc.org/detailed-history>





AMERICAN LEGION YACHT CLUB  
PRESENTS

# 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY

★ OLD GLORY BOAT  
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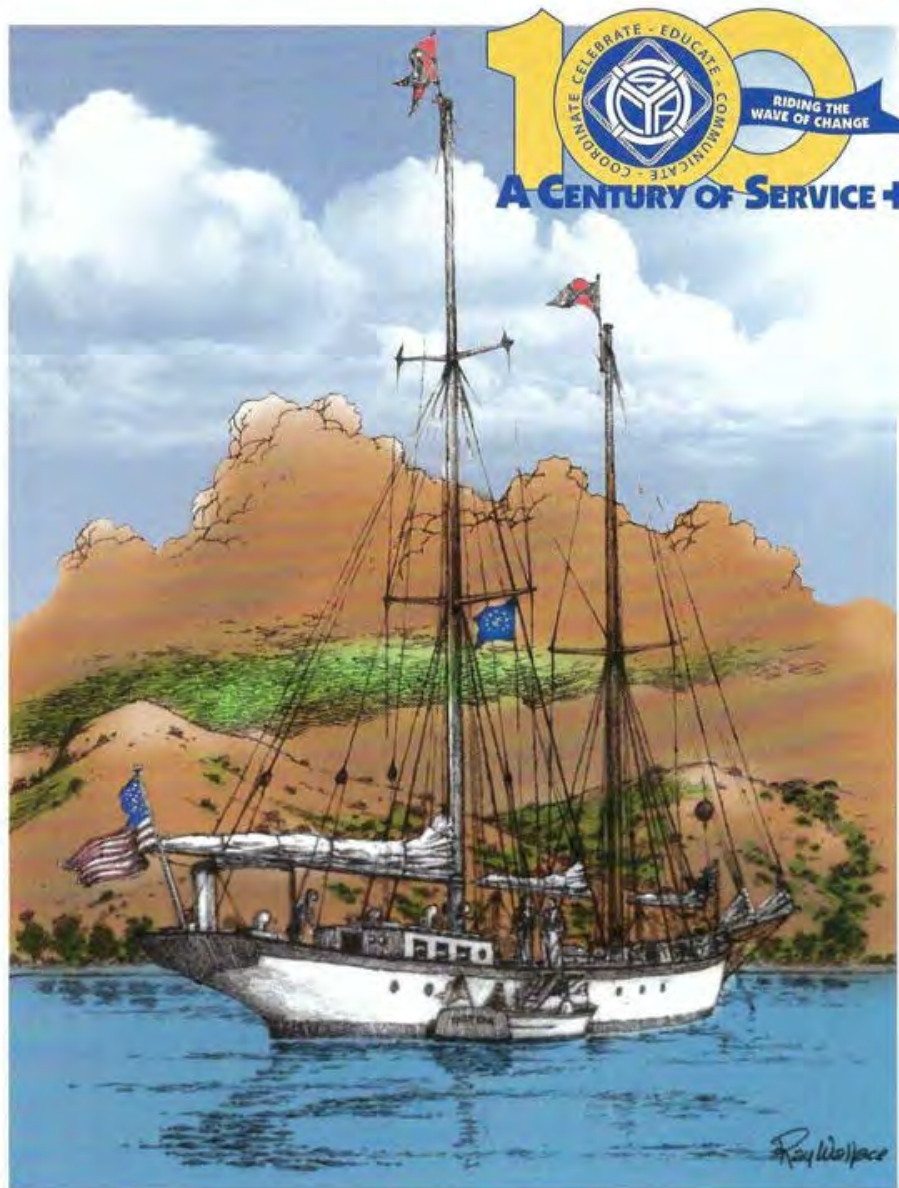
Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 1:00pm-3:30pm

215 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport  
Beach

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.

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## 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.**

It 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](mailto: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](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.

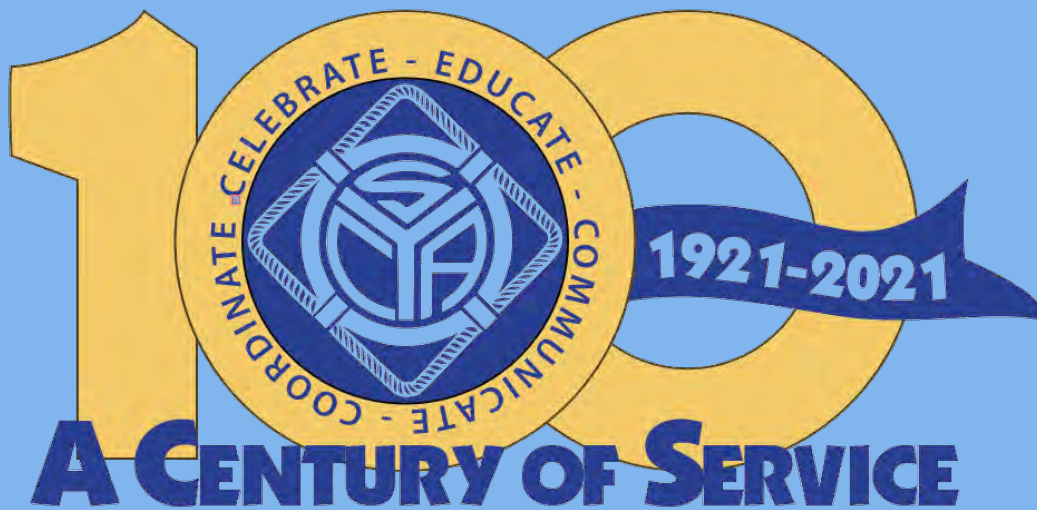
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**SCYA Searchlight Newsletter Information**

Searchlight Editor: Stephanie Sonora, [stephiemonster@gmail.com](mailto:stephiemonster@gmail.com)

Commodore: Jodi Masters-Gonzales, [commodore@scya.org](mailto:commodore@scya.org)

## SCYA Customer Service

Contact Mary Crandall Placencia, SCYA Service Administrator at [service@scya.org](mailto:service@scya.org) or (562) 433-7426.

[SCYA Website](#) | [Events & Meetings](#) | [Race Calendar](#)  
[Cruising Calendar](#) | [Club of the Year](#) | [SCYA Awards](#)



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## Our mailing address is

SCYA  
PO BOX 3265  
SEAL BEACH, California 90740

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