



# THE MARINER'S NEEDLE



January 2025

Volume 64 Number 6

Celebrating 64 years!

ABC/USPS D28

## SAN LUIS REY SAIL AND POWER SQUADRON

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

# JANUARY 2025



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ADVERTISING RATES AVAILABLE





# 2025

## JANUARY

- 6 1830 Ex. Com Meeting—via FreeConferenceCall
- 11 1800 San Diego Change of Watch—Southwestern Yacht Club
- 12 1530 Oceanside Change of Watch—Location Hunter Steakhouse, Oceanside, CA. *See Page 4.*

## FEBRUARY

- 1-10 ABC Annual Meeting—Orlando, FL.
- 5 1830 All Member & Guest Event—Happy Hour—TBA

## MARCH

- 7-8 D28 Annual Conference & Change of Watch, La Costa Valley Club, Carlsbad, CA. 92009.

**Bold**—Our own club event and all members invited to attend.

## A Note from the Commander



Hello San Luis Rey (SLR) USPS / Americas Boating Club (ABC) Oceanside members.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable end of the year holiday season, and now that we are celebrating New Year's Day 2025, it's time to reflect on the past twelve (12) months.

We've had a very productive Year 2024. Our Squadron's Training Section expanded the course curriculum by adding a weekend one-day **Americas Boating Club (ABC) Course**, and the Boat **Operator Hands-on-Training (HOT)** course has completed several training sessions on the newly obtained USPS training boat named "*Student Driver*".

*The Education Department's Instructors continue to be recognized at all levels within the USPS organization for their breadth and depth of knowledge, and dedication to training.*

Our Squadron's **Social Media Committee** has expanded its capabilities, and now the various community facing websites have a new look and feel that's attracting great interest in attending the Squadron's training and general membership events. The SLR USPS / ABC Oceanside Social Media Committee and National SEO Team is constantly looking for ways to improve our internet presence.

For the first time, there's a on-going internet presence for a non-profit such as SLR USPS / ABC Oceanside to have a dedicated portal for anyone to make a charitable donation. Similar to most non-profit charities, donations aid the organization through financial support to provide services and support to the local community.

Another first, is that the **Vessel Safety Committee** has a member that has completed over **100 vessel safety checks in 2024**. This is a monumental achievement and true dedication to ensuring boat operators have a watercraft with the proper safety items.

*Continued on Page 6*

**Photos in this issue of The Mariner's Needle**  
*courtesy of Jill Powell.*



**LEON HULL** Phone: 760-809-9327  
Vessel Safety Examiner North County San Diego, CA.  
E323385

Email: [LeonVesselSafetyCheck@gmail.com](mailto:LeonVesselSafetyCheck@gmail.com)  
<https://AmericasBoatingClubOceanside.org>



Happy Birthday!

# JANUARY

<b>RUSSELL SCHNEIDER</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>BENJAMIN SOOY IV</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>ALLAN BOMBARD</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>JANIS SIEMS</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>BARBARA DACIOLAS-SEMON</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>DOUG REAGAN</b>	<b>30</b>



## **2025 SAN LUIS REY USPS (ABC OCEANSIDE)**

### **NOMINATIONS:**

#### **BRIDGE**

Commander: Shawn Goit, JN-ON  
 Executive Officer: Jeff Olsen, P  
 Educational Officer: Cida Diehl, SN-CN  
 A/Educational Officer:  
 Administrative Officer:  
 A/Administrative Officer:  
 Secretary: Kirk Lippert, JN-CN  
 Treasurer: Darryel Simmons, AP  
 A/Treasurer:

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

3 Year Term: Jill Powell, AP  
 2 Year Term: Barbara Daciolas-Semon, S  
 1 Year Term: Richele Daciolas-Semon, AP

Immediate P/Commander: Darryel Simmons, AP

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

3 Year Term:  
 2 Year Term: Shawn Goit, JN-ON  
 1 Year Term: Kirk Lippert, JN-CN

**Adriaan Veldhuisen** will continue as Chair of the Rules & Law Committee and Leadership Development; Continue to publish Coast Guard Safety articles in The Mariner's Needle.

**Jill Powell** will continue as:  
 Editor and publisher of The Mariner's Needle  
 Maintain and publish the roster  
 Ensign Correspondent  
 Assistant Policies and Procedures





# CHANGE OF WATCH 2025

## ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!

Join your peers for the Annual Change of Watch Dinner  
— *thanking the outgoing Bridge and installing the  
incoming Bridge.*

When: **Sunday 12 January 2025**

Time: **3:30 — 5:30pm**

Where: **Hunter Steakhouse, 1221  
Vista Way, Oceanside, CA. 92054.**  
(At I-5 and Vista Way.)

Cost: \$45 Per Person ([Payment link here](#))

### EARLY DINNER MENU CHOICES:

ORDER UPON ARRIVAL

#### TOP SIRLOIN STEAK (MEDIUM)

- Mixed vegetables and garlic  
mashed potatoes

#### LEMON HERB CHICKEN

- Served with rice pilaf and mixed  
vegetables

#### ROASTED SALMON

- Served with rice pilaf and mixed  
vegetables.

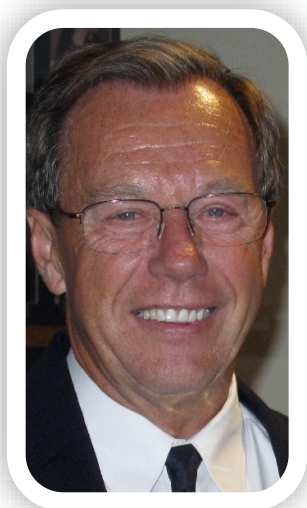
VEGETARIAN AVAILABLE UPON  
REQUEST.



**Register NOW / Reservations Required**  
**Please respond by 05 January 2025.**

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/>





## SAFETY LESSONS LEARNED

### DECEMBER



When we lived in **Southern California** I used to hear people say "*I miss the seasons.*"

Cool weather is nice for Thanksgiving, and maybe snow for Christmas, but I loved our SoCal climate over anything else in the world. I am thankful for 22 wonderful years of a mild climate, a boating season that lasted all year long, and the many friends I could share this with..

In the past month there was one particular article that drew my attention. I have taught different levels of **Navigation** for many years, and the concepts of TRUE NORTH vs. MAGNETIC NORTH are particularly crucial to the process of knowing where you are and where you go. So, don't be alarmed, but if you read in The Independent that "the Magnetic North Pole moves closer to Russia" you should at least be curious. "The world magnetic model is embedded in pretty much any piece of technology, from smartphones to cars and military jets," Dr Brown told The Independent. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/magnetic-north-pole-moves-closer-to-russia-in-way-never-seen-before-by-scientists/ar-AA1ucGcQ?ocid=socialshare>.

Interesting, and good to understand the concept, but the last 'geomagnetic reversal' was about 780,000 years ago and the reversal took between 2000 and 7000 years to complete.

As most of my readers know, I am a proud captain, licensed by the **United States Coast Guard (USCG)**, since 2012. It may seem clear to us, California sailors, where this function belongs, but the history of the USCG tells a different story. USCG goes back to 1790 as part of the **Department of the Treasury** to "chase" US revenue off our shores. It became the US Coast Guard in 1915 as a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times." In 1939 the **US Lighthouse Service** was merged into the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard itself was moved to the **Department of Transportation** in 1967, and in 2003 it became part of the **Department of Homeland Security**. Since 2006, the Coast Guard operates as a service in the **Department of the Navy**. And while we may all have an idea what the USCG does, here are some of their press releases for November 2024.



**11/05/2024:** Coast Guard medevacs 39-year-old male from oil tanker near Oceanside, Calif.

**11/15/2024:** Coast Guard interdicts 21 migrants off coast of Newport Beach

**11/19/2024:** Coast Guard crew offloads \$335.8 million worth of cocaine in San Diego

**11/24/2024:** Coast Guard interdicts 37 migrants off coast of Point Loma

*Continued on Page 10*

# S.E.O. EDUCATION UPDATE



As we sail into the new year, **America's Boating Club Oceanside** is excited to announce upcoming classes designed to enhance boating skills and safety for our community of boating enthusiasts.

## UPCOMING CLASSES FOR JANUARY 2025

### **ABC Class - January 7th, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

Start the year with our foundational America's Boating Course (ABC). This class is perfect for new boaters and those looking to refresh their knowledge. Successful completion earns the **California Safe Boating Card**, a requirement for many boating activities.

### **Marine Electrical Systems - January 9th, 7:00 PM - 9:00M**

Dive deeper into marine systems with our Marine Electrical class. This course covers essential knowledge about maintaining and trouble-

shooting your boat's electrical system, ensuring safety and reliability on the water.

**Both classes** will be held in the **Oceanside Yacht Club (OYC) classroom**, providing a comfortable learning environment.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025

We are thrilled to kick off another year of *top-tier* boating education and training. In addition to these classes, we have a full schedule of seminars, on-water training, and advanced courses planned. ***Whether you are a seasoned captain or a new boater, we have something to help you navigate your journey.***

Stay tuned for updates on our **Hands-On Training (HOT)** classes, advanced navigation courses, and special events like our **National Safe Boating Day** activities. Together, we can make boating safer, more enjoyable, and accessible to everyone.

Join Us Today—Spaces are limited, so be sure to register early for our January classes. Let's make 2025 a year of learning, adventure, and safe boating.

For more details and registration, visit our website or contact us directly.

We look forward to seeing you on the water!

## **Commander's Report**—Continued from Page 2

**Finally**, as my role of **SLR USPS / ABC Oceanside Commander** comes to an end and the role transitions to our next **Squadron Commander**, I would like to personally thank the **SLR USPS / ABC Oceanside Bridge Staff Officer, Committee Chairs** and various members for their efforts and support to the mission of USPS. It's your unwavering dedication that keeps our Squadron relevant and improving our status in the community.

As always, Fair Winds and Following Seas to ALL!!!

*Cdr Darryel D. Simmons, AP*

*Shawn Goit, JN-ON*

## PLEASE STAY CLEAR OF THE BOOM and BE VIGILANT

### SYDNEY—HOBART = 630 NM

A total of 104 yachts began the **2024 Rolex Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race** in **Sydney Harbor** on Boxing Day 26 December. There were 75 still racing on the 27th December, 29 having “retired”. Those retiring suffered from equipment failures, sail damage, dismasting and loss of life. Winds varied from 7 to 35 knots.

Tragically, two crewmen died within the first 24 hours.

**The Race Committee was advised one crew member was hit by the boom which had been moving violently during the night. The second (experienced) crewmember was hit by the mainsheet which threw him across the boat hitting his head on the winch.**

Immediately, and on different boats, crew members performed CPR, but they could not revive their mates.

To avoid being hit by the boom on a sailing yacht, the most effective method is to always use a “boom preventer” line, which is a dedicated line rigged to limit the boom's swing across the boat, especially when changing tacks or gybing; ensure all crew members are aware of its function and are positioned away from the boom's path during maneuvers, and always maintain vigilance when near the boom, especially when sailing downwind.

Clear communication between crew members is crucial, especially when calling out maneuvers that could involve boom movement.

**ACCIDENTS HAPPEN!!!!**

At 3:30am, a 37-year-old crew member of another yacht, was swept overboard as it sailed in heavy seas and strong winds 60 miles off the New South Wales (Eastern Australian) coast.

The crewmember, who was eventually rescued, told reporters he was pinned underwater and felt he was on his last breath, when “*I somehow managed to unclip myself from the boat. When I popped up above the water, the boat was probably 200m in front of me,*” he said.

Bobbing in rough seas, in the pitch dark, he was able to keep sight of the boat's stern light for about two or three waves. “*Then they were gone,*” he said.

After 10 minutes in the water, he began feeling cold and tried to “*keep the thoughts under control*”.

“*It was pretty rough, getting thrown down waves – it's hard to keep yourself above water a lot of the time.*”

While he was trying to stay alive, he activated his personal locator beacon, sent a satellite message to the **Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)** which contacted the race control and all of the safety provisions were put into place. A jet was dispatched and a search and rescue vessel deployed searching for him“

After half an hour, he spotted a light – his yacht returning. “*That's when I got my head torch up and held it up so they could see where I was.*”

“*That is one of the most terrifying experiences that you can have. The fact it happened at night made it ten-fold terrifying. All of the training and all of the safety systems that we've got kicked into place*”.

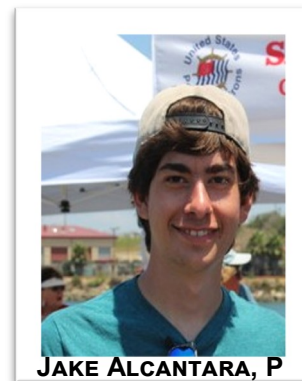
*Article provided with assistance from the  
Australian Associated Press*

# SAFETY REPORT—Activating the Fog Horn Using MRASS at Oceanside Harbor

## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

### **PURPOSE OF THE MRASS SYSTEM**

The MRASS (*Maritime Radio Activated Sound Signal*) system at Oceanside Harbor provides an essential safety feature for vessels navigating in low-visibility conditions, such as fog. This system allows mariners to activate the harbor's fog horn, ensuring safer navigation and reducing the risk of collisions.



**JAKE ALCANTARA, P**

### **HOW TO ACTIVATE THE FOG HORN:**

To use the MRASS system and activate the fog horn at Oceanside Harbor, follow these steps:

#### **1. Position Check:**

- *Ensure your vessel is within **1 nautical mile (NM)** of Oceanside Harbor. The system is only operable within this range.*

#### **2. Tune to VHF Channel 81:**

- *Set your marine VHF radio to **Channel 81** (the designated channel for MRASS activation).*

#### **3. Key the Microphone:**

- *Press and release the microphone key **5 times** within a span of **10 seconds**. This sequence signals the system to activate the fog horn.*

#### **4. Fog Horn Activation:**

- *Upon successful activation, the fog horn will emit sound signals to alert nearby vessels of your position.*

#### **5. Navigation Precautions:**

- *After activation, maintain reduced speed and a vigilant lookout.*
- *Continue monitoring your surroundings and communicate with other vessels as needed.*

### **Importance of Fog Horn Usage**

In foggy or reduced visibility conditions, the fog horn serves as an auditory signal to inform nearby vessels of your location, direction, and presence. This aligns with navigation safety protocols and helps mitigate the risks of accidents in the harbor area.

### **Safety Reminders**

- Always use the MRASS system responsibly and only when necessary.
- Familiarize yourself with the operation of your VHF radio and ensure it is functioning correctly before entering areas with potential fog or reduced visibility.
- Monitor emergency channels (e.g., Channel 16) for updates and potential warnings from the **Coast Guard** or harbor authorities.
- Regularly inspect your vessel's navigation lights and other sound-producing devices to ensure compliance with safety regulations.

### **Conclusion**

The MRASS system is a vital safety feature at Oceanside Harbor, providing an efficient way to enhance visibility awareness in challenging conditions. By following the outlined steps and safety protocols, America's Boating Club Oceanside members can confidently navigate the harbor while prioritizing safety for all.

*Lessons from the Coast Guard* continued from P. 5

**11/30/2024:** Coast Guard medevacs 66-year-old woman from cruise ship off California Coast.

In my last **challenge**, I took one of our common weather conditions (California) into consideration for this time of the year. Say you are on watch in the fog. The vessel is proceeding at a safe speed when you hear a fog signal ahead of you. The Rules require you to navigate with caution until the danger of collision is over and what else do you have to do? Let me reiterate the process just one more time: Find on the **CONTENTS** page your "Conduct of Vessels in Restricted Visibility, Rule 19", where (e) says to reduce speed to a minimum at which she can be kept on course. **So the right answer was B.**

For **this month's challenge**, you probably need to draw yourself a picture. Let me try to talk you through the situation. **You are vessel A, a power vessel towing another vessel on open waters. You are crossing paths with sailing vessel B off your port bow. My question is: which vessel is stand-on and why?**

A: *Vessel A is the stand-on vessel because she is towing.*

B: *Vessel A is the stand-on vessel because she is to starboard of vessel B.*

C: *Vessel B is the stand-on vessel because she is sailing.*

D: *Vessel B is the stand-on vessel because she is to PORT of vessel A.*

We also teach an "**On the Water Boating Program** with **Shawn Goit** as the instructor in the classroom and on the water. To see if you can join, don't hesitate to get in touch with him at <https://americasboatingcluboceaside.org/classroom/>

Captain Adriaan Veldhuisen

[awveldhuisen@gmail.com](mailto:awveldhuisen@gmail.com)



## WANTED

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS FOR AMERICA'S  
BOATING CLUB DISTRICT 28 CONFERENCE  
ON SATURDAY 08 MARCH 2025.

### DISTRIT 28 SILENT AUCTION ITEMS



### ANY IDEAS AND DONATIONS WILL BE WELCOMED:

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NEW ITEMS ONLY

CONTACT D/LT/C JILL POWELL  
(760) 716-1675 TALK/TEXT/VOICEMAIL

**D28 ANNUAL MEETING  
AND CHANGE OF WATCH  
2025**

**FRIDAY 07 MARCH**

**DOCK PARTY—"S" DOCK—OCEANSIDE HARBOR**

**SATURDAY 08 MARCH**

**LA COSTA VALLEY CLUB**

2080 CALLE BARCELONA, CARLSBAD, CA. 92009

0900 —1500 1700 —2030



# Christmas 2024



AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS



District 28

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- Visit the iconic Roman amphitheatre in Arles

*STOP and SMELL the lavender!*

ensemble

CST #1006676-10



# MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

to join us



QR code is  
For Home Page



**America's Boating Club - Oceanside** offers you a fun membership at a low price. The club is run by people who love boating and the boating experience. You do not need to own a boat to join. You will have fun at social events, on the water events, educational classes, hands on boating activities, and so much more.

### *Don't delay join TODAY!!!*

- **Website:** AmericasBoatingClubOceanside.org
- **Members also get discounts on a variety of products, services and classes.**

Contact the Membership Administrator at 760-439-8929 for more information or simply go to our website to join.

QR code is for Membership Web Page



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Classes

**2**  
Social  
Events

**3**  
On-The-Water  
Events

**Single Memberships** only \$103 for the year.

**Family Memberships ...** \$136(for two) add \$2 for each additional household member per year



# AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OCEANSIDE

## SAN LUIS REY SAIL & POWER SQUADRON : 2024—2025 BRIDGE

### COMMANDER

Cdr Darryel Simmons, AP  
 (858) 523-8104  
*Darryel.Simmons@gmail.com*

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Lt/C Kirk T. Lippert, JN-CN  
 (442) 488-4178

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Position Open

### ASST. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1/Lt Shawn Goit, JN-ON  
 (760) 468-6212  
*District28USPS@gmail.com*

### SECRETARY

Lt/C Lisa Attardo, AP  
 (760) 726-4456  
*LisaAttardo@yahoo.com*

### EDUCATION OFFICER

Lt/C Shawn Goit, JN-ON  
 (760) 468-6212  
*District28USPS@gmail.com*

### ASST. EDUCATION OFFICER

1/Lt Cida Diehl, SN-CN  
 (760) 798-5794  
*cidadiehl@sbcglobal.net*

### TREASURER

Position Open

### ASST. TREASURER

Cdr Darryel Simmons, AP

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

3 year Term: 1/Lt Barbara Semon-Daciolas, AP  
 2 Year Term: 1/Lt Richele Daciolas-Semon AP  
 1 Year Term: 1/Lt Jill Powell, AP

### FLAG LIEUTENANT

Position Open

### MERIT MARKS

P/C Kirk Lippert, JN-CN

### COMMANDER'S AIDE

### IMMED. PAST COMMANDER

P/C Shawn Goit, JN-ON

### MEMBER AT LARGE

1/Lt Jeff Olsen, P

### BOATING ACTIVITIES

Lt/C Shawn Goit, JN-ON  
 (760) 468-6212  
*District28USPS@gmail.com*

### PORT CAPTAIN

Position Open

### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Lt/C Shawn Goit, JN-ON  
 (760) 468-6212  
*District28USPS@gmail.com*

### RULES & LAW

Lt/C Adriaan Veldhuisen, SN-ON  
 (760) 716-4713  
*AWVeldhuisen@gmail.com*

### WEBCAM

Lt Nancy Kangas, AP  
 (858) 208-8693  
*NancyWebWizard@gmail.com*

### SAFETY OFFICER

D/Lt Jake Alcantara, P  
 (760) 468-6212  
*JacobCAlcantara@gmail.com*

### ADVERTISING & PUBLIC REL.

Lt Marlyss McElroy  
 (253) 350-0805  
*MarlyssM@yahoo.com*

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

3 year Term: Shawn Goit, JN-ON  
 2 Year Term: Kirk Lippert, JN-CN  
 1 Year Term: Jorge Alonso, S

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Position Open

### CO-OPERATIVE CHARTING

Cdr Darryel Simmons, AP

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Lt/C Adriaan Veldhuisen, SN-ON

### VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

1/Lt Shawn Goit, JN-ON

### THE MARINER'S NEEDLE EDITOR and CLUB ROSTER

1/Lt. Jill Powell, AP  
 (760) 716-1675

Email: [ABCSanLuisRey@gmail.com](mailto:ABCSanLuisRey@gmail.com)

## NEED TO CONTACT AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB OCEANSIDE ?

Call or write us: (760) 468-6212 or 46 Parkwood Lane, Oceanside, CA. 90254

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<https://AmericasBoatingClubOceanside.org>