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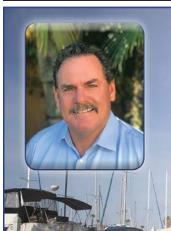
Story and photos on page 8.

January 2024



tura Yacht Club Established 1938





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## 2024 Ventura Yacht Club

1755 Spinnaker Drive • Ventura • CA • 93001



#### Flag Officers

☆☆☆ Commodore John Sugden **☆☆ Vice Commodore** Don Clark ☆ Rear Commodore Dwight Rowe Secretary, Interim Christina Baum Rena Mills 🕆 Treasurer Bryan Drew 🎎 Port Captain Ed Burnett Fleet Captain/Sail Dan Cahn 

Fleet Surgeon Peter Karlsberg, M.D.

X Judge Advocate Rob Miller

🕆 Chaplain Judi Balcerzak, PhD

#### **Board of Directors**

(Term Ending)

Peter Acutt (26)
Joel Bozarth (26)
David Morris (26)
Dwight Rowe (26)
John Spille (26)
Don Clark (25)
Sean Guiltinan (25)
John Sugden (25)
Carolyn Cahn (24)
Dave Merrick (24)
Rena Mills (24)
Stanton Smith (24)

#### Yacht Club Staff

General Manager Nick Moller
Assistant Manager Kai Salazar
Waterfront Activities Manager
Head Chef José Silva
Sous Chef Carlos Islas

#### **Office Hours**

Tuesday - Sunday 0900-1700

# Telephone Number

**E-mail:** office@venturayachtclub.org **Web Page:** www.venturayachtclub.org

#### **Marine Radio**

**VHF:** WRV 530 **VYC Group MMSI:** 036713092

In case of an EMERGENCY contact The Commodore or a Flag Officer

# 2024 VYC Committees

**Audit** Jon Everhart, Chair

**Bylaws** Stan Whisenhunt, Chair

David Boatner/Bob Beck, Co-Chairs Cannoneer

Communications Stan Whisenhunt/Sheri Green.

Co-Chairs

Sean Guiltinan, Chair **Community Outreach** 

Cruise Joel Bozarth/Hans Larson, Co-Chairs

Finance Rena Mills, Chair

Rob Miller, Chair **Fishing** 

Historian Don Mills/Katie Rowe, Co-Chairs

Bryan Drew, Chair

Peter Acutt. Chair

**Human Resources** Don Clark, Chair

Don Clark, Chair Insurance

Junior's Program Christina Baum, Chair

**Membership** 

Sean Guiltinan, Chair **Membership Enrichment** 

**PHRF** Representative TBD

**Marina Management** 

**Predicted Log Race** Ed Kutchma, Chair

**Property Management** David Merrick, Chair

Race Warren Casey, Chair

Social Tracie West, Chair

Ventura Cup TBD

Webmaster Belinda Del Pesco

# From the Commodore

By Commodore John Sugden

Parade of Lights tonight. Christmas in 10 days (not ready). New Years Party in 16 (really not ready). Excited but a bit nervous about the new job-Commodore.

One step at a time.

My email is abuzz with traffic between our new Race

Chair, Warren Casey, and our new Rear Commodore, Dwight Rowe, among others, regarding the skipper and crew training seminars in January and March. What a brilliant idea to encourage new racers. Teach them what they need and want to know. Watch for the flyers for the finalized dates. Plan to attend.

Dave Boatner has had recent success lighting the proverbial fire to push the dock project along. We are aware that delays may conflict with our use of the marina when the boating season starts this spring. On the bright side, as discussed at last night's Finance Committee meeting, the changed timeline has improved our financial situation slightly because some of our investments will mature before payments to the contractor are due.

I am confident that the docks will be done with a minimum of fuss so that we can focus on what comes next. Topics include more family-oriented activities, adding to our food service, developing new revenue sources for the Junior's Program, and planning, for the





long term (mitigating energy costs) and for the really long term (lease renewal/clubhouse improvements). I encourage you, the members, to come to the Board meetings and share your ideas. The Board Agenda includes time for gallery comments, and we are an easy group to talk to. No

public speaking experience required.

I plan to hold a training/orientation meeting with the Board in early January. We have a couple of new members (Dave Morris and Peter Acutt) and the idea is to highlight the club's governing and controlling policies, including the Bylaws, House and Grounds Rules, Finance Manual, Dock Rules, and the HR Manual, so that everyone feels comfortable and confident as we begin our monthly Board meetings in January.

I am personally pleased to bid 2023 an expeditious Adios. We faced significant challenges superimposed upon the club's post COVID renaissance. I had the great pleasure of being part of "Team Baum" and I want to again thank Garrett, our outgoing Commodore, for his tireless dedication.

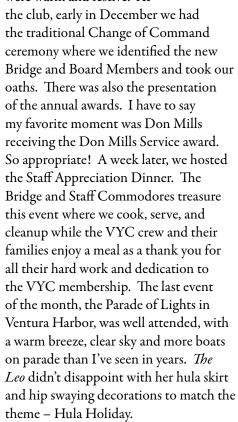
Finally, I am pleased to welcome 2024, my 70<sup>th</sup> year and my 30<sup>th</sup> as a member of VYC. Here's to a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year.

John Sugden

# **Vice Views**

By Vice Commodore Don Clark

appy New Year! Do you think we should have a grace period of a week or so to wish people a Happy New Year before it starts getting a bit awkward? If someone wishes me a happy anything, I'll take it any day of the year! I hope your December Holidays were warm and festive. At



As I ease into my new role for 2024, I'm looking forward to attending my first Social Committee meeting to see what kinds of exciting events the group has





planned. Activity related to the Dock Replacement Project will continue ramping up to identify where the boats on B, D, and E will be located during construction of the new docks slated to begin March 1. Currently, it looks like a mix of homes in the Keys and Safe Harbor Marina will be docking the VYC fleet

during construction. The Marina Management Committee has put a lot of time into the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on our website – and they should answer nearly all your questions. If you don't find the answer, call the office and they will get the answer for you, and we'll continue to update the FAQ, so everyone benefits. There are links for the FAQ on the VYC Website and the "In the Know" weekly email distribution. You can also go "old school" and request a paper copy from the office but be aware that the paper version doesn't update like the website with the newest information.

Soon, we'll begin planning for Opening Day and developing the project list for maintenance and beautification efforts for the club grounds. I have already received a few ideas. If you have something you'd like to see us work on, please reach out. 2024 looks to be great year...

Happy New Year and I hope to see you at the club!

Don Clark

# From the Rear

By Rear Commodore Dwight Rowe

hank you all for voting and allowing me to become Rear Commodore. I'll strive to serve with integrity and honesty, with a little fun thrown in just to stir things up a bit.

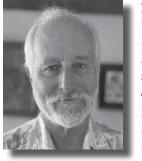
I'd like to share a little bit about me. . .

It was a sunny Ventura day some 57 years ago when I set out on a short voyage all by myself.

I was 10 years old and my father, Ralph Rowe (VYC Commodore 1980), and older brother, Bruce, had built an El Toro-style dinghy in the garage. They decided, however, that the boat would not have a centerboard, opting instead for a leeboard. Only problem, Bruce hadn't finished the leeboard in shop class. On the day I set sail for the first time, there was no leeboard or centerboard. Without

the ability upwind, let's just say I became keenly aware of what it's like to wash up on a lee shore. It was -- a humbling experience.

I grew up at Ventura Yacht Club learning the ropes, er, lines from many great sailors. Leo Robbins, Chuck Miller, Art Giddings, Cag Graham, Gary Buck, Howard Young and Mel Lennox, were among my mentors. For a time, I had a Hobie 14 that I kept on, what was then, the tiny guest dock at the club. The club manager at the time was a friend to the





TAILS FROM THE REAR

Dog graphic courtesy of Warren Casey younger members and used to run Portsmouth handicap racing for small boats in the harbor. All varieties of small sailing craft were represented. I delighted in finishing first most of the time in my Hobie—until I met my nemesis (and soon to be best friend) Warren Casey. He figured all he had to do was

to jump in the water, capsize my boat, swim back to his boat, and finish the race, while I was fighting for my life.

In our early teens, Warren and I started the first Laser fleet in the county with a few of our friends. Back then, we were sailing five days a week: two days on bigger keel boats, and three days on the Lasers. Good times. I fondly remember the Blue Water Series races. They started at VYC and would stop at

an anchorage on Santa Cruz Island. Party all night and race back the following day. I remember 50 club boats in Pelican or Little Scorpion.

When I was 17, Staff Commodore Bill Gelvin took me to Hawaii onboard the *Lori Lynn*, a 44-foot wooden cutter, with his family. That was a great summer with Bill and his family and Bill Kohut and Eric Rigney on *Getel*, a beautiful 32-foot ferro-cement cutter. We nearly

Continued on page 8

# 2023 Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights

By Rena Mills

n addition to VYC's entry of the *Leo Robbins* for this year's "Hula Holiday" Parade of Lights on December 15 and 16, there were four other Ventura Yacht Club boats entered by members Dave Merrick, Sean Guiltinan, Avery Stewart and Doug Littell with Adam Yates.

Three entries were winners! Dave Merrick took the People's Choice award with a \$200 prize, which he will be donating to the Junior's sailing program. Sean Guiltinan took 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for Sailboats Over 30 Feet and the *Leo Robbins* took 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Power Under 26 Feet.

The event this year had over 50 boats participating—the largest amount anyone can remember. There were hula dancers, volcanoes, lots of palm trees, dancing butterflies and plentiful lights.

Thank you to all the VYC volunteers who helped with the *Leo Robbins*: Jan Lawson, Dave Merrick, Jim Albert, Dave Boatner, Jim Graves, Craig Leverault, Dean Prophet, Rena and Don Mills were constructors. Didi Martin drew the lovely/lively hula dancer, Dawnita Fend-



**Leo Robbins** official photo showing 1st Place for Power 26' and Under.



ley fashioned the sparkly hula skirt, and Belinda del Pesco painted our theme sign.

#### From the Rear

#### Continued from page 7

sunk on the return trip, and I'll be forever grateful for that Whale pump Kohut loaned us. Saved our lives.

For years after that I sailed on other members' boats and eventually got *Kite*, an Olson 30 which I raced extensively with my father and best friends, Warren and Arthur McNary.

After marrying the love of my life, Katie, we had two kids, Benjamin and Laura, who both went through the Junior's Sailing Program. We eventually purchased our Olson 40, *Buena Vista* and sailed to Hawaii on the Pacific Cup race out of San Francisco.

So, as you can tell, I have spent many years in and around the club and look forward to the next three years of service to the club as a member of the Bridge.



**Dwight Rowe** 

Ventura Yacht Club

# Meet the BRIDGE







<u>Sunday</u> January 7, 2024

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Join us for a **Member Only** soiree to mix and mingle with our **2024 Bridge** 

# **General Manager**

By Nick Moller

hope 2024 brings you a year filled with happiness and joy.

Looking back I can tell you that my 2023 has memories of both happiness and sorrow, sadness and laughter, highs and lows.

I can also tell you that now is not the time for reminiscing. There's simply too many good times and potential great memories on the horizon.

The 2024 Bridge, Board and Committees along with myself and the VYC Crew are prepared to make 2024 another great year. There will be some changes and challenges. There will be continued traditions. And there will be some new items as well.

But enough with all this idealism and optimism, let's talk winning and losing. Saturday January 13 starting



at 6 p.m. the Thrill of Victory and the Agony of Defeat will be on full display. The steaks have never been so high. With a grand prize worth over \$100.

Trivia Night is here. Or it's back, or it's happening again, or it's.....

well, it's trivia night hosted by me! Three rounds of competition. Topics covering: sailing, sports, food, history, TV, music and more.

Hopefully you were paying attention as you read this, because the answer to one of the trivia questions was given.

Good luck.

See ya at the club.

Mully

Nick Moller



# MONTHLY BIRTHDAY DINNER Friday, January 26 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Member Welcome and Birthday Announcements approximately at 7 p.m.

#### **MENU**

Top Sirloin, Chicken Piccata,

Stuffed Tomatoes, Mediterranean Salad,

Angel Hair Pasta, French Onion Soup

Assorted Cakes for DESSERT!

*Dinner* \$25.00++ *Soup & Salad* \$15.00++

Don't forget, if it's your birthday or you're a Staff Commodore please notify the office if you're attending. 805-642-0426 Thank You.



# **Membership Report**

By Peter Acutt

he longest night is behind us, the caroling is all done and we are all aglow with the warmth and love of family and friends, savoring the blessings of the Christmas and Holiday seasons. The new Bridge and Board are installed and ready to make 2024 a stellar year.

There are a number of drives and new initiatives that we the membership committee will be working on. We look forward to another year of fun-filled events both on and off the water to enhance your club experience. We encourage you to bring friends, family and associates to the club to explore all the benefits VYC membership brings. We have a very unique and deep history in the area, along with a truly stunning location to meet and socialize. The more active we all are in all the club activities, the more we put in the more we get out.

We certainly have a bumper group of new members to introduce along with congratulations to the trail members, Rick and Terri Wall, who have switched to regular membership they are already very active in the club. **Member UPDATE:** Beginner Racing Seminar – *Where Boats Meet!* 



As boating is deeply rooted in our DNA, we are delighted to take one step forward towards our boating heritage for all.

Following up on the increased interest in on-the-water competitive sailing during the '23 Wet Wednesday series, the Race Committee will be running a beginning course in sailboat racing. These are for both the Class A&B racers who want to hone their knowledge and skills along with the C- Class (*aka Social Cruiser Racers*) novice or semi experienced.

Keep an eye out for more details in the *Forecast* and all other club communications and noticeboard. They are

> open to everyone, skippers, crew, experienced or not, for both club and non-club members. So, share with your friends and associates who may be interested in signing up.



Rick and Terri Wall

#### **New Trial Members Eric & Therri Allison**

ric and Theresa (Therri) are both natives of Ventura, having grown up as neighbors and both attended Cal-Poly. They have a 16 year old daughter.

Therri went on following her master's

in architecture to work in San Diego on many high-rise projects. Returning to Ventura to marry and is now the Facilities Director at VUSD.

Eric started off in the Ventura County DA office then purchased Allison's Country Café from his Mom but eventually ended up in one of his two loves "Flying" – the other being boating – and



became a professional pilot in light and regional jets. However, the vocational aspect of commercial flying extinguished his passion for that and it is now turning to the second, the ocean where he feels

he always belonged.

They have a 20-foot Century C/ Console fishing boat. He is looking forward to their association with VYC members to help him be a safe and more skilled boater, to fuel his love of boating.

Eric has always wanted to become a VYC member and is delighted that it has finally happened.

# New Trial Members Walter Beckwith & Kimberly Rain (Miner)

alter grew up as the son of a wooden boat builder, so he has boats in his blood. He started sailing at a tender young age in the cold, dark waters of the North Atlantic. His summers were spent sailing

and rowing between the many islands along the coast of Maine and then hibernated during the winters, dreaming of the sea. (Possibly the Pacific!)

Rain moved to California as a boisterous 18-year-old and has been in love with the ocean ever since. She has an affinity for spiky sea creatures. She can



often be found kayaking out of the harbor with the sea lions.

They are both in the scientific fields. Walter was once an archaeologist and is now a writer for *Science Magazine* and Rain is

in the Earth Sciences.

They live across the water from the club in Portside along with a rescued cattle dog named Darby. Walter crewed for Wet Wednesday and plans to continue at every opportunity. They are looking forward to participating in ALL the club activities.

## **New Trial Members Joe & Jeri Dunham**

oe and Jeri have lived in Ventura for many years with boating being part of their lives since they first met. They started out in 8' Sabots, moving up through Snarks to a McGregor 26 sailboat. Joining a boating club in Long Beach and becoming immersed in boating

with many trips to Catalina, exploring every cove. Eventually they acquired a Pacific Seacraft Orion 27 named *Mintaka*.

Joe retired from law enforcement, facilitating their move to Ventura which gave them the opportunity to then explore the Channel Islands and even further afield into Mexico.

On moving to Ventura, Jeri worked



for Ventura Isle Marina, evolving into the role of Marina Manager for 15 years.

Jeri is now the Regional Project Manager bringing her marina experience to Safe Harbor Marinas. Joe has been dedicated to the security at the Ronald Regan Library

in Simi Valley for the past 22 years.

Their current boat is a Pacific Seacraft 24 *Minka* with their anchor firmly set in VIM. They are looking forward to being part of the VYC community. They are also eager to participate in events, regattas, and many other programs along with meeting a host of new friends with the same enjoyment in life and boating.

## New Regular Members Neal & Luana Morrison

eal and Luana love sailing, a key ingredient in their relationship, which started in college at UC San Diego. Neal introduced his college sweetheart to the wonderful world of cruising and the magic of the Channel Is-

lands. Neal has been sailing his whole life even when living in Wyoming, thanks to his dad's (Don Morrison) love of the sea.

They moved to San Francisco in 1990 to pursue careers as video producers, and are still living in there today, with their son Cruz (16), who is on his High School sailing team skippering FJs.



The family is active in sailing on the "Bay" on their 35' Santana based in City Harbor SFO. They also enjoy a diverse range of other activities, from camping, skiing, and biking, along with the vast arts and mu-

sic culture available in San Francisco.

In addition, they have been fortunate to have traveled extensively, with most travels highlighting beautiful coastlines.

Neal, Luana and Cruz look forward to becoming members of VYC and enjoy many years of sailing the Channel Islands in the family boat!

# **New Trial Members Stepen & Alex Steric**

Stephen and Alex, along with their daughters, Skylar (6) and Scarlett (3), are a family with a deep connection to the sea, bolstered by their entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to mental wellness.

Stephen is an innovative entrepreneur deeply involved in
AI technology with his forward-thinking
approach. He has a love for problemsolving and exploration, qualities that
also drive his passion for boating. His
cherished childhood experiences of boating from Channel Islands Harbor have
inspired him to introduce his own family
to the joys of the sea.

Alex, a successful mental health therapist and entrepreneur, runs her own



private practice and is strongly supportive both professionally and at home. Alex's enthusiasm for new adventures complement the family's aspirations perfectly.

Skylar and Scarlett share their parents' excitement

for the water. Skylar's inquisitiveness and Scarlett's delight during their seaside outings are heartening glimpses of the future sea adventurers in them.

The Steric family is currently in the market for their first family boat planned for next year. This step symbolizes more than just fulfilling a lifelong dream for Stephen; it represents a new chapter of adventure, learning, and togetherness for the entire family on the open seas.

# **New Regular Member Alex Wilbanks**

lex grew up racing at Cedar Point, Conneticut in all types of boats from dinghies to junior offshore keelboats. This led to race coaching including a summer exchange at the Royal Gothenburg YS in Sweden.

More recently, he actively races with his family George and Ann, in their

J/105, *Revelation* and their J/24, *Señoir Happy* and races as helmsman on a Shields out of Montery Peninsula YC.

He recently purchased an Olson 30 Hot Betty and looks forward to competing in the local VYC and costal events between Ventura and the Bay area along



with being active in the clubs' social events.

Alex lived in India for three years during his twenties while working in development finance consulting – during this time he also rode 30,000 miles by motorcycle.

He has held a number of roles in the natural resource management and

financial services industries.

After receiving an MSc degree from UC Davis in International Agricultural Development he went to work in corporate strategy for a large farming and consumer goods company. He lives in Santa Barbara.

15



# **Port Captain**

By Bryan Drew

As we approach the winter months, we kindly remind you to take necessary precautions to secure your boats. Ensure that dock lines are snugly secured to minimize shock loads, canvas and sails are adequately wrapped with at least three wraps on roller furlers, and employ your personalized methods to withstand the Ventura winds.

A crucial reminder is that VYC property is leased from the Port, designating it as Private Property. Our Legal Team has confirmed this status. Individuals who are not members, their guests, or invited professional maintenance personnel are considered trespassers. We have encountered specific issues, including unauthorized restroom use, theft, and instances of kayakers violating our facilities after hours, breaching the Private Property boundaries we diligently pay for.

Members are advised that tying up a dinghy or kayak without proper identification may prompt our staff and crew to investigate potential trespassing. To streamline this process, we encourage you to display a VYC Burgee or decal on your property, saving both our team the effort and you from being treated as a trespasser.

Please be mindful that the Guest Dock is the designated area for temporary tie-ups in accordance with VYC rules. The Waterfront team and Office manage a schedule for the Guest Dock, so it's advisable to check with the office in advance for availability.

In terms of the marina, the commencement of the B&D dock replacement has been rescheduled to March 1, 2024. Further details can be found on the VYC website. For members seeking a new slip, it is essential to emphasize that ensuring your vessel fits the requested slip is the responsibility of the applicant, not VYC. If an awarded slip is declined, even if it fails inspection, including size, the applicant is accountable for one month of the slip fee, along with other applicable fees. Despite the signed application specifying the vessel size, this has been a recurring issue with new members.

As the season takes a brisk turn, relish the warm club atmosphere and camaraderie. Enjoy.

# Forecast Deadline Reminder Forecast articles,

flyers, ads and photos are due the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. (i.e. Content for the

February Forecast is due January 15.)

Please send content to Cindy

Delve at good by Openhall part and

Daly at cmdaly@pacbell.net and also copy the VYC Office on the email. Thank you!

# History of the VYC Topiary

By Katie Rowe, VYC Historian

e drive in to our yacht club, look for a spot and park. We see and recognize the vehicles of friends and look forward to saying hello. Another clue to who is on site is an Officer's Flag on the flagpole, signaling the presence of one or more Commodores (current, Vice or Rear) on the premises. We leave our vehicle and perhaps chat with a friend in the parking lot. Eventually, we go into the clubhouse or down the dock ramp to our boats.

I invite you, however, next time you arrive at the club, to take a moment to look to the right as you pass through the gate. You'll see what I think is the most charming feature on the

grounds. Is it a dragon? A serpent? This fanciful topiary is indeed a sea serpent and is the creation of our club member Don Mills. The inspiration began with a visit Don made to Corona del Mar many years ago. On a bluff overlooking the Newport Harbor entrance he observed a topiary garden of sea mammals including frolicking porpoise and dolphin silhouetted above the blue sea beyond. He was impressed and inspired. He thought that something similar at Ventura Yacht Club



Don Mills next to serpent face where he observed some "wind burn" damage to the new growth.



Don Mills pruning topiary demonstrating pruning the new fins that are sprouting along the backbone.

would be interesting and enhance the landscaping.

Don envisioned how a topiary garden could be created along the southerly fence. Back then, there was a row of nine shapeless shrubs that had never been trimmed or trained in any way. The shrubs are identified as Hollywood Juniper or Juniperus Torulosa, that have long twisting branches with rich green foliage. The tools used to create the initial topiary in 2008 were a Sawzall, loppers, and basic principles of pruning and shaping from the art of Bonsai. The first step was to select the branches to be saved and position them as desired by bending and holding in place with twine and wire

to commence the training. The next step was to remove the excess branches. Every serpent needs a face. When the rubber balls for eyes were stolen, Don used the cut-off ends of prune juice bottles, painted red inside. Don describes the process of maintaining the topiary as an ongoing experiment. I call it creative genius.

Clearly, this years-long project took patience, vision, care, and more than a

Continued on page 19

# **Social Report**

By Tracie West

appy New Year! Hoping you and your families had a lovely Holiday Season! We definitely had a lot of fun at the club.

Thank you Monica Boatner for arranging all the festivities at the boat parade and the special visit from Santa and his lovely elf! (Dave and Cate) Thank you for volunteering! Both nights the Parade of Lights were absolutely spectacular!

As you are reading this I imagine we are all recovering from an incredible New Years Eve 24-Karat Casino Night. Thank you Mary Beck for the decorations and live music, Iris for the pop up tent and cigar bar and Cristina Baum, Nick and VYC staff for arranging the delicious all night appetizers and champagne.

The Social Committee is looking forward to planning more fun events this year! If you aren't already on the Social Committee please join us. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome. We meet every second Sunday at 2:00 p.m.





# History of the VYC Topiary

Continued from page 18

dash of fanciful humor. These qualities illustrate the breadth of heart and passion that Don has brought to every VYC project on which he has been involved. So, please pause for a moment the next time you drive into our club and appreciate the beauty, fun, and perseverance that this gift from our own Don Mills represents.

After nearly 40 years as Ventura Yacht Club Historian, Don Mills has decided to step back from the role. I have agreed to attempt to fill those shoes, which I will do by relying heavily on Don's vast experience, knowledge, and expertise on the club and its roots. If you have an idea or interest in a topic related to our club's history: people, boats, events, facilities, or other aspects of the harbor or club, let me know, and I will research the topic and share the story in the *Forecast*. I am honored to fill the role of VYC Historian. (*This article contains excerpts from Don Mills' March 2015* Forecast *article "VYC's Topiary Garden of Sea Serpents"*)



# **Staff Appreciation Dinner Photos**





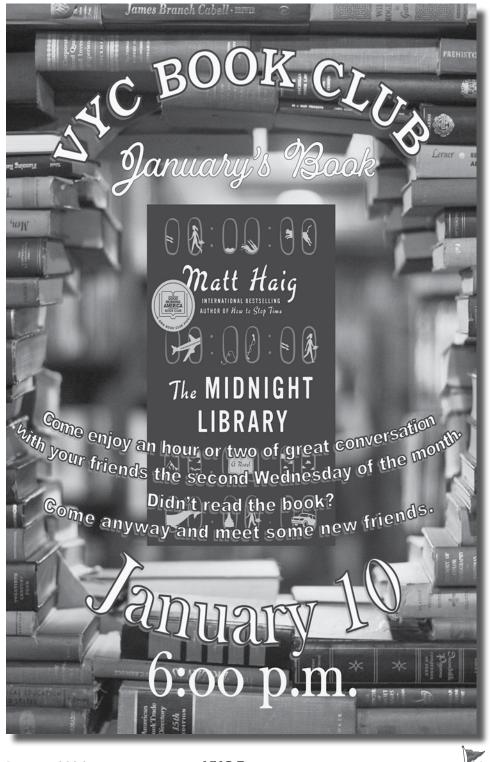












January 2024 VYC Forecast

# VYC's Amateur Radio Group

Story by Belinda Del Pesco & Mike Doman, Photos by Kay Neumann

YC members are invited to participate in our Amateur Radio (or Ham Radio) group - known as VYC-ARG (Ventura Yacht Club Amateur Radio Group). We were lucky to get the pirate-flavored Arg in our club call sign! We're all pirates after all!

Ham radio, or amateur radio, is the use of the radio frequency spectrum for non-commercial exchange of messages, private recreation, contesting, wireless experimentation, self-training and emergency communications...and its a good exercise for your brain.

The National Association for Amateur Radio was founded in 1914, and there were more than 6000 amateurs on the air by 1917. Today, there are about 800,000 Ham Radio operators in the US alone.

You may be wondering: If I have VHF Radio on my boat, why would I use a Ham Radio? Why would anyone be interested in getting certified to use a Ham radio when we have the internet, cell phones and VHF Radios on our boats?

Marine VHF allows you to communicate between vessels within line of sight, depending on the height of your antenna, but the curvature of the earth's surface will restrict communication to about 16-20 miles. Amateur Radio operators using 2m handhelds can bounce their radio signal off of local repeaters usually mounted on the





Scott Sampson and Miguel Valdez (Top), and Belinda and Sandy Sampson soldering/building twin lead antennas for portable use on boats, hikes etc.

top of local mountains that receive the signal then re-broadcast it at much higher power greatly extending range to possibly 100 miles. The Santa Barbara Yacht Club installed a repeater on Mount Diablo on Santa Cruz Island for use of all "yacht club amateurs" in the Channel Islands.

Amateur radios are fun...not confined to "channels" like marine radios, Ham radios use "bands" which are contiguous ranges of radio frequency. A ham radio will fit in your pocket, and travel with you on hikes, boat trips, car rides and the like.

Amateur Radio Operators have a long

history of serving their communities when disasters strike, knocking out cell phone towers, over-taxing 911 systems and fiber optic networks (as they were during the recent Lahaina fire on Maui).

If you're interested in attending a Ham Radio Group meeting at VYC, we meet in the dining room at the club every second Thursday at 7:00 p.m., often with radios, antennas and related gear to discuss components, operations, upgrades and trouble shooting. We also host a monthly Radio Net you can tune into if you're already a Ham Radio operator every first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at 146.970 frequency -0.6 127.3 Oxnard WB6YQN. You can also find VYCARG on Groups.io





## First Thursday of the Month

Monthly Radio Network

7:00 p.m.

Frequency 146.970 Offset -0.6MHz Tone 127.3Hz

## Second Thursday of the Month

**HAM Radio Meeting** 

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Upstairs Dining Room

## **Every Saturday in February**

**HAM Radio Class** 

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Upstairs Dining Room

# MG

# 2024 Gruises

SANTA BARBARA HARBOR March 22 - 24

**ANACAPA CRUISE April 27** 

**MEMORIAL DAY CRUISE** May 24 - 27

FATHER'S DAY CRUISE June 14 - 16

JULY FOURTH CRUISE July 4 - 7

VYC's ANNUAL CATALINA CRUISE July 21 - 26

LABOR DAY CRUISE August 30 - September 2

**COLUMBUS DAY CRUISE** October 11 - 14



# Race Report

By Warren Casey

VYC's Facebook Racing Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1015985196505205



ur first two racing events in 2024 are not races, but seminars for sailors who are new to racing and/or would like to learn more about the rules of rac-



ing. The first Beginner Racing Seminar starts on January 27 at 9:00 a.m., with the second seminar taking place on March 10. See page 26 for more information about these seminars.

**NOTE:** In the November's issue of the *Forecast*, we printed the wrong date for the **Governor's Cup.** The correct date is Saturday, June 8, 2024 (not the 10<sup>th</sup>).

News of Changes to the first three

Wet Wednesdays:

◆ Wednesday, April 3, 2024 – Wet Wednesday Skipper's Meeting and Pizza

◆ Wednesday, April 10, 2024 – Starting Mania Wet Wednes-

day – Just as many starts at R2 as we can do in a selected time limit – Then back to the club for dinner

- ◆ Wednesday, April 17, 2024 MOB Wet Wednesday Everyone must do a Man Over Board drill on the first leg of the race.
- ◆ Wednesday, April 24, 2024 Wet Wednesday typical racing begins!

  More info will be coming soon!

  Happy Racing!



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January 2024 VYC Forecast VYC Forecast

# Beginner Racing Seminars, "When Boats Meet" #1 & #2 - Introduction

Seminar #1 - January 27, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Seminar #2 - March 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

ith the uptick in interest in racing from family cruising sailors, we thought it would be helpful to hold an introductory racing seminar. These seminars are open to anyone, captain or crew, club member or nonmember, experienced sailor or novice who is interested in a beginning course in sailboat racing. The seminars will focus on preparing for our VYC Wet Wednesday racing series and our returning Blue Water Series. Our teaching and syllabus will be based on a great book: "Getting Started in Sailboat Racing" by Adam Cort and Richard Stearns. You can find it on Amazon: https://a. co/d/3O9sOFb. Our trainers/teachers are experienced west coast award-winning sailors from VYC. All attendees will receive a US Sailing Racing Rules Pamphlet, various handouts, and enjoy a continental breakfast!

#### These seminar are FREE.

More information is coming soon and will be posted on the club's racing webpage: https://venturay-achtclub.org/5619-2/



#### Our trainers/teachers:

- Braedon Baum
- Dwight Rowe
- Dave Boatner
- Ryan Cox



# A sampling of the first seminar's subjects:

- ◆ Reading the NOR (Notice of Race) and SI (sailing Instruction)
- ◆ Basic Racing Rules with safety in mind
  - Rating rules ie: PHRF
  - ♦ The race course
  - Safety equipment essentials
  - Crew Management
  - Boat set up
  - Sail Selection

# A sampling of the seconds seminar's subjects:

- Starting
- ◆ Windward leg and weather mark rounding, & tactics
- ◆ Downwind leg, leeward mark rounding, & tactics
  - Finishing
- ◆ Boat speed upwind, downwind, reaching & wind speed

# Having a Party? Tired of Cleaning UP?

Call the Ventura Yacht Club and have your party or function here! **New Pricing** for 2024

ne of the great benefits of membership is that you have access to a great facility for weddings, anniversary celebrations, birthday parties - you name it. The club is available for your friends and family members who are having a party. All you have to do is be a sponsor.

## Reasonable prices and Great location!! Club rental fees:

**Club Facilities Fee (Non-staffed events) Member-hosted only** 

13 to 25 persons: \$150 51 to 75 persons: \$275 76+ persons: \$450

26 to 50 persons: \$225

No regularly scheduled club food service or events will be cancelled for these member hosted, non-staffed events. Outside caterers or staffing is prohibited. Rental times from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. only, not to exceed five hours. Events extending beyond 5 hours will be billed double.

#### Club Usage Fee (VYC staffed events)

Member-hosted parties

13 to 50 persons: \$150 51+ persons: \$250

Member-sponsored parties

Under 50 persons: \$450 50 to 99 persons: \$650 100 persons or more: \$950

Bartender and catering available.

Bartender charge for member-hosted parties: \$30 per hour. Bartender charge for member-sponsored parties: \$45 per hour.

A **refundable** clean-up and repair deposit of \$300 is required with the private party application. Cancellation of less than 72 hours before the event is subject to the forfeiture of 50% of deposit.

The best place in town to have a party and you save the headaches of hosting in your own home. Call the club at 642-0426 for more details or to make a reservation.









# Rome, Corsica, Elba, Monaco & The Tyrrhenianian Sea

By Jim Eisenhart

n mid-April, I had *Adagio* put back in the water in Gaeta between Naples and Rome. The Italian coast north of Gaeta in the Tyrrhenian Sea is not that spectacular and offered little in the way of attractive anchorages or harbors until I reached Elba. But the small islands some 25–50 miles offshore seemed enticing. If you play it right, you can island-hop to Elba and into the Ligurian Sea, which were *Adagio's* home waters.

Off Isola Giannutri I anchored next to a young British couple with an infant on a 50-foot Oyster. Having purchased the boat in the UK, Harold and Anne were headed home to Hong Kong via the Suez Canal and the Indian Ocean, I could not fathom traveling that distance with a young child any more than they could understand my singlehanded cruising. In sharing our mutual incomprehension of our respective lifestyles over proper English tea on their vessel, we found a common bond of sorts in our flouting of conventional wisdom but in a civilized manner. Encounters with sailors like Harold and Anne who were doing their own thing have always inspired me.

The next day I found a tight cove or large grotto on the island and anchored there. The following morning, I rowed ashore in the 60-degree water that I deemed too cold for me to swim in. Returning from my run, I found four teenage Italian girls swimming in the cove. Humbled once again.

#### **Easter in Rome**

I wanted to stop in Rome of course.

And a strong sirocco from Africa, this one with reddish-brown dust, compelled me to do so. Do these winds really get this far up north? I was berthed in the nondescript town and marina of Ostia, about 30 minutes by train from Rome. Rome does not have a marina or harbor per se apart from its commercial port to the north. I spent a rainy, dreary Easter Sunday walking the streets of Rome, which was alive with tourists. The Pope, for some reason, declined my request for an immediate private audience.

Elba is sizable, mountainous, and—in the early Mediterranean spring—lush and verdant. The island is deeply indented with many anchorable golfos (gulfs) and more than a few upscale marinas, which were very reasonably priced. In my opinion, Napoleon should have remained here, savored his exile, and thereby avoided Waterloo and his ultimate depressing exile and death on desolate St. Helena. And yes, you can visit his residences here.

I spent a week on the east and south coasts, alternating between anchorages and marinas on Elba. I could have easily spent a month on this beautiful and culturally rich island. In Marina di Campo I was moored offshore for a couple of nights with my neighbors Phillippe, Ian, and William on a 40-foot Beneteau. In the evenings I would hitch a ride into town on their large dinghy for dinner. This attractive town somehow combined being both a very popular tourist attraction and an active commercial fishing

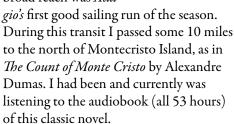
Continued on page 29

### The Real French Riviera, etc.

Continued from page 28

harbor.

The west end of Elba proved to be a good jumping-off point for the passage to Corsica to the west. This 75-mile broad reach was *Ada-*



Until I saw the island on my chart plotter screen, I had assumed that it was a fictitious creation of the author. Isolo Montecristo soon visually emerged as a small, cone-shaped, obviously volcanic island. The cruising guide and Dumas both agreed that the island was dotted with numerous grottos—in one of which the novel's protagonist, Edmond Dantès, found a fabulous fortune in gold and jewels. Think like winning a 19th century mega lottery. According to The Italian Pilot, no anchoring or going ashore was allowed except for two days a year. Hmm ... but I needed money to make my mark on the upcoming French Riviera. Let's put it this way: if I did go ashore and found some leftovers, you can bet that I would not be mentioning them in this narrative.

#### Corsican Return

The wind was blowing a good 25 knots out of the east as I approached the large city of Bastia on Corsica's east coast. Uncertain about the winds in the harbor,



West End of Elba with Squall

I radioed one of Bastia's marinas. "Fine, calm," he replied.
"Come on in." I should know by now that this was a stupid question. It was like asking a restaurateur

if his food is any good.

Well, as I entered Bastia's breakwater, the wind was not so fine. It was gusting over 15 knots inside the harbor, exceeding my self-imposed Med mooring limit of 10 knots. I asked the harbormaster if they had a tender for a dock assist, to which he curtly replied, "Non, Capitaine." The young dock assist guy on the quay subsequently motioned me to back into the concrete quay with the 15-knot wind on my beam. There was absolutely no way I was doing this. I waved him off. Fortunately, there were no other vessels on the quay. I threw the helm hard over and swung the starboard side of Adagio up into the wind and, with five fenders out, against the quay. There was a goodsized jolt but no harm. I chucked the fellow my lines and directed him where to tie me off. I then politely asked if I could stay here abeam the quay for two nights, and he obliged me.

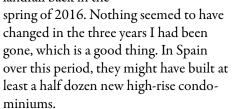
The lesson here is that in this slow time of the year, Mediterranean marinas do not often have their A Team on the docks if they even have anyone at all to assist you. This means that you may need to firmly direct them what you want to do, where you want to do it, and what they need to do. But do it nicely.

Continued on page 30

#### The Real French Riviera, etc.

Continued from page 29

In Bastia I sat out a 30-knot mistral for the duration, and then it was up to Macinaggio, where *Adagio* had first made Corsican landfall back in the



On a run up the scenic coast and then inland, I jumped a rock wall and shortly thereafter was startled by sharp, vicious barking. I froze, waited, and listened while picking up a large stick. A lot of good that would do me. The barking continued, and I figured (hoped) that unless the dogs were somehow restrained, they would have been on me by now. I continued to walk tentatively down the dirt jeep track. Shortly, to my relief, I saw three large white dogs who were in a secure enclosure, much to their continued very vocal vexation.

The next night I anchored at the very top of Corsica, the Cap Corse, to arise before sunup the next day and get a jump on the 90-mile crossing of the Ligurian Sea. This would take me back to the Italian Coté d'Azur. I have become partial to predawn departures; the conditions are almost always calm and peaceful, with scenic sunrises. It was nice to motor slowly out of the anchorage with a hot cup of coffee in hand on this brisk, cool Mediterranean morning.



Monaco

Arriving in Ventimiglia Harbor in Italy in the early evening, I found myself just a few miles east of San Remo and 20 miles from the

Monaco border.

#### Monaco, Meh . . .

It was a cool, gray, drizzly day when I motored slowly through Monaco's huge outer harbor, which constituted much of the small nation's coastline. It struck me as remarkedly unimpressive. The city looked overbuilt and lifeless with monochromatic, densely packed high-rise apartments and condos built up against a steep mountain backdrop. Perhaps if *Adagio* had been a larger, more resplendent yacht and I had a royal pedigree, I might have had a different reception and more positive experience. This, however, did not strike me as something to aspire toward. I moved on into France.

But alas, I did not have a Mediterranean France cruising guide or pilot. I had naively assumed that I would be able to purchase an English-language one in France or Italy. Once again, my trusty iPad, iPhone, and unerring Navionics display would have to do. Call it an unwarranted, cocky self-confidence, but I had now reached a point where I reasoned that all I really needed to do was watch the weather, stay alert, and then just show up at a marina or anchorage. In this northern Mediterranean off-season, I would invariably find accommodations or a calm uncrowded anchorage.

# SATURDAY LUNCH

11:30 to 2:00 p.m.

#### **GRILLED CHICKEN, SALMON OR SHRIMP SALAD**

Grilled chicken, salmon or shrimp on a bed of fresh organic greens with tomatoes, cucumbers, red onion, avocado and feta cheese. Served with your choice of blue cheese, ranch, thousand island or balsamic vinaigrette. Chicken \$13.00. Salmon \$15.50 Shrimp \$15.00

#### CHEESEBURGER OR GARDEN BURGER

Our 6 oz burgers are freshly made from premium Angus Santa Carota grass fed beef and are non-GMO, hormone and antibiotic free. Garden burger made fresh.

Served with your choice of French fries, onion rings, coleslaw, or potato salad. CB-\$15.00 GB-\$13.00

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A top shelf, natural, gluten free 6oz grilled boneless chicken breast smothered in Swiss cheese and topped with two slices of freshly cooked bacon (cheese and bacon are optional). \$14.00

#### **VENTURA YACHT-CLUB SANDWICH**

Avocado, bacon, turkey, ham and Swiss cheese top this delectable toasted sandwich. \$13.00

#### **FISH OR SHRIMP & CHIPS**

Freshly breaded with a signature spiced batter. Fish \$15.00 Shrimp \$15.00

#### BAJA FISH OR SHRIMP TACOS

Two freshly battered fish tacos with a special baja sauce & avocado pico de gallo. \$15.00 Two freshly battered Shrimp tacos. \$15.00 Served with your choice of side.

# SOUP OF THE DAY · CUP \$3.50 BOWL \$6.50 CUP OF SOUP AN HALF SANDWICH \$11.00

All items subject to tax & tip





# SATURDAY NIGHT GRILL

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

STEAMED CLAMS \$15.00

SHRIMP COCKTAIL ......\$13.00

VYC CRAB CAKES .....\$16.50

Add chicken \$5.00 Add Shrimp \$6.00 Add Salmon \$7.00

Grill Includes Salad Bar, Baked Potato & Garlic Bread

CHEF'S MONTHLY SPECIAL......Market Price

TOP SIRLOIN (10 oz) ......\$21.00

SALMON (8oz) .....\$22.50

HAMBURGER OR GARDEN BURGER......\$16.00

#### **Extras**

Side Onion Rings/Fries.....\$2.50 Add Avocado...\$2.00

Coleslaw/ Potato Salad...\$2.00 Add Bacon......\$2.50

Split Plate......\$2.00

ICE CREAM SUNDAE ......\$2.50

ALL ITEMS SUBJECT TO TAX & TIP



All items subject to tax and tip.





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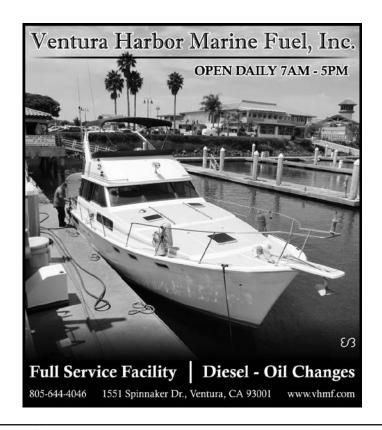


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#### **Club Hours**

Friday	
Dinner	1700-2030
Saturday	
Lunch	1100-1400
Grill Night	1700-2030
Sunday	
Breakfast	0800-1230
Sunday Munchies	1230-1700
(Complimentary)	
New Extended Bar	
Friday	1600-2130
Saturday	1100-2130
Sunday	0800-1800
Office Hours	
Tuesday - Sunday	0900-1700

**Meeting Notice:** The Annual Meeting of the Membership is held on the fourth Friday of October at 8 p.m. Regular Meetings of the Membership are usually held on the fourth Friday of the months of January, April, July, August, and September and are held after dinner. The Board of Directors usually meets the third Thursday of every month except December at 7 p.m. Notice of a change to Regular Meetings of the Membership, or of a change to Board of Director meetings, and Notice of Special Board of Director meetings will be via the VYC website Master Calendar.

### The Forecast

The Forecast is distributed to the membership by the first of each month. Contributing articles, photographs and flyers should be emailed to the editor, the graphic designer and the club office by the copy deadline.



**Copy deadline:** The 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. (i.e. Content for the January *Forecast* is due December 15.)

Editor: Stan Whisenhunt, 805-919-0555; swhisenhun@aol.com

Copy Editor: Sheri Green, 661-414-6915; sheridangreen317@gmail.com

Graphic Designer: Cindy Daly, 805-701-0882; cmdaly@pacbell.net



# FRIDAY DINNERS 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

#### JANUARY 5:

Chicken Florentine, Blackened Mahi-mahi,

Rice Pilaf, Mixed Veggies, Lobster Bisque

— Brownies and Ice Cream for Dessert —

Dinner: \$21.00++ Soup, Salad & Dessert: \$15.00++

#### **JANUARY 12:**

Carnitas Tacos, Fish Tacos,

Rice and Beans, Southwest Salad, Chicken Tortilla Soup

- Tres Leches & Churros for Dessert -

Dinner: \$21.00++ Soup, Salad, & Dessert: \$15.00++

#### JANUARY 19:

Prime Rib Carving Station,

Green Beans, Twice Baked Potatoes, Chicken Caesar Salad, Cioppino Soup

- Bread Pudding for Dessert -

Dinner: \$27.00++ Soup, Salad, & Dessert: \$15.00++

#### JANUARY 26:

Top Sirloin, Chicken Piccata, Angle Hair Pasta,

Stuffed Tomatoes, Mediterranean Salad, French Onion Soup,

- Assorted Cakes for dessert -

Dinner: \$25.00++ Soup, Salad, & Dessert: \$15.00++



# January Birthdays



Andrew B. Clark, January 1.

Floyd Hester, January 2.

Dan Danska, January 4.

Carolyn Vanbenthuysen, January 4.

Alex Wilbanks, January 4.

John Berry, January 6.

Pierre Gastonguay, January 6.

Susan Nelson, January 6.

Diane DiConti, January 7.

Jason Seidler, January 7.

Heidi Francke, January 8.

Jan Hester, January 8.

Robert Haberer, January 9.

Tom Henderson, January 10.

Denise Ridley, January 13.

Joseph Dunham, January 17.

Therri Wall, January 19.

Mary Beck, January 20.

Doug Farrell, January 20.

Gregory Frank, January 20.

Jim Suley, January 20.

Rudy Nodar, January 21.

Sam Daley, January 22.

Mike Leary, January 22.

James Wise, January 22.

Sheila Reilly, January 24.

Susan Nodar, January 26.

Ken Collin, January 27.

Fred Vance, January 27.

Debbie Gastonguay, January 28.

\$ 50 per month

Katie Carpenter, January 30.

Eric Rigney, January 30.

Eleanor West, January 31.

#### **Ventura Yacht Club 2024 Advertising Rates**

Business Card (3" wide x 2" tall)\*

(\$45 if advertiser commits for 6 months)

Half-page (5" wide x 3 1/2" tall)\* \$ 75 per month

(\$65 if advertiser commits for 6 months)

Full-page (5" wide x 7 1/2" tall)\* \$105 per month

(\$95 if advertiser commits for 6 months)

Full-page - inside cover - color (5" wide x 8" tall)\* \$150 per month

(\$125 if pay in advance 6 months or more)

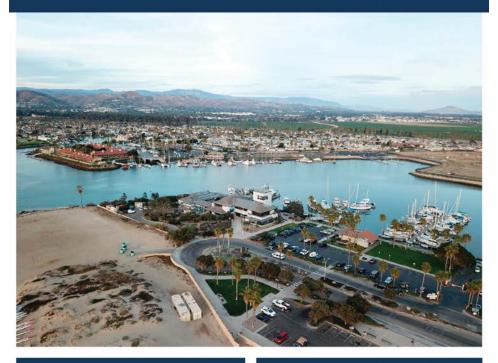
Full-page - back cover - color (5" wide x 8" tall)\* \$175 per month

(\$150 if pay in advance 6 months or more)

\*Prices are for camera ready ads. If not camera ready, an additional charge will apply for set-up. Ads are black and white except for the inside cover and back cover.

To place an ad please contact the VYC office at 805-642-0426.

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