

The Forecast



Wet Wednesdays



More information on page 22



April 2026



Ventura Yacht Club
Established 1938

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2026 Ventura Yacht Club

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☆☆	Vice Commodore	John Spille
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⚙️	Fleet Captain/Power	Dan Cahn
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✂️	Judge Advocate	Rob Miller
✝️	Chaplain	Judi Balcerzak, PhD

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Ryan Cox (27)	David Morris (26)
Dave Des Bailleys (27)	Dwight Rowe (26)
Jim Linesch (27)	John Spille (26)

Yacht Club Staff

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

Office Hours

Tuesday - Sunday 0900-1700

Telephone Number

805-642-0426

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**

2026 VYC Committees

Audit	Rena Mills, <i>Chair</i>
Bylaws	John Sugden/Dave Boatner, <i>Co-chairs</i>
Cannoneer	David Boatner/Bob Beck, <i>Co-chairs</i>
Communications	Stan Whisenhunt/Sheri Green, <i>Co-chairs</i>
Community Outreach	Sean Gultinan, <i>Chair</i>
Cruise Committee	Dan Mirisola/Dan Cahn/Joel Bozarth, <i>Co-chairs</i>
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Race	Warren Casey, <i>Chair</i>
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Webmaster/Social Media	Belinda Del Pesco



Setting the Course

From the Commodore

By Commodore Dwight Rowe

Wet Wednesday Well, here we are in the middle of spring. And that means it is once again time for that annual competition that pits boat against boat and everyone against everyone else. You guessed it – Wet Wednesday season!



It's an annual ritual many of us look forward to all winter. I mean, who needs the holidays, except for the gifts which are hopefully shiny boat parts? But long before the season begins, there were preparations to be made. Our race chairman Warren Casey has rewritten the race instructions numerous times to reflect the needs and wants of each the fleets that compete. He and Ed even checked the position of each mark correcting any inaccuracies on the race chart.

Ryan Cox put on a great series of talks to teach us about pints and about the rules, tactics, and how to make your boat go faster. Ed Burnett, our resident math genius with the ratings, prepared a full analysis of everyone's performance last season and made future predictions about how the ratings should go.

So if you want to come down Wednesday night and gamble on the races, see Ed. Just kidding.

And what about the marks? Denny Dwire, with the assistance of Graham Dawson and others are the unspoken heroes of the racecourse, spending many

long hours maintaining the marks. Diving and removing the mussels that grow on the chain, towing the marks to the yard where they are hauled out at the Derecktor boatyard, cleaned and painted and hauled out to the exact location where spinnakers are to be wrapped.



This year we will have three fleets. Our regular A fleet which is, how shall I say, racing boats? Some for sure, like the J 70's but some old racer cruisers are also in the mix, including me - *Buena Vista*. This fleet has some very good sailors and some like me who think they could be great if only for a better rating. The B fleet is a new attempt at making a fleet of advanced cruisers who aspire to prove their prowess with some new spinnakers. Speaking from experience, flying spinnakers can be a humbling experience. You see, spinnakers sometimes seem to have an evil spirit that will thwart every effort a skipper makes to look cool on the racecourse. Perhaps the smartest sailors on the course are our C fleet, the cruising fleet, who are perfectly happy just getting around the course and back to the club with their honor intact. Yeah, they are the smart ones, out for fun and a nice sail with friends.

I suppose that is the way it should be.



Dwight Rowe



Vice Views

By Vice Commodore John Spille

Opening day at Ventura Yacht Club is on April 11 this year.

Opening Day is one of the most cherished traditions in yacht clubs around the world. Marking the ceremonial start of the boating season, it blends maritime heritage, camaraderie, and community pride into a day filled with pageantry and purpose. Flags are hoisted, burgee colors fly proudly, and vessels dressed in nautical signal flags form a vibrant scene at the docks. While the specific rituals may vary from port to port, the spirit remains the same: honoring seamanship, celebrating fellowship, welcoming a new season of adventure, and declaring the harbor free of ice.

Historically, Opening Day dates back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when yacht clubs formalized seasonal sailing schedules and members gathered to bless fleets and ensure safe voyages ahead. Traditions often include a Commodore's address, a ceremonial flag raising, recognition of club officers, and sometimes a blessing of the fleet: a symbolic gesture wishing safety and favorable winds for all who venture to sea.

At Ventura Yacht Club, Opening Day reflects both time-honored maritime customs and the unique character of our coastal community. Nestled in the heart of Ventura Harbor, our club enjoys a setting where the Pacific's rhythms shape our boating lifestyle. Opening Day here is more than ceremony; it is a reunion of



friends after winter's quieter months and a celebration of the active season ahead.

Members and guests gather on the docks and clubhouse decks to admire the decorated boats, share stories, and welcome new boaters into the fold. On the



docks we partake of the roving dock parties while the flying of the club burgee reminds us of the traditions and responsibilities we share as mariners. It is a day when seasoned sailors, powerboaters, and newcomers alike stand side by side, united by a love of the water.

As the season begins, Opening Day serves as a reminder that boating is not just about destinations — it is about community, stewardship of the sea, and the enduring traditions that connect us to those who sailed before us.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Spille'.

John Spille

Forecast Deadline Reminder

Forecast articles, flyers, ads and photos are due the **15th of the month prior to publication.** (i.e. Content for the May *Forecast* is due April 15.) Please send content to Cindy Daly at cmdaly@pacbell.net and also copy the VYC Office on the email. Thank you!



From the Rear

By Rear Commodore Ev Ashworth

In 1922, TS Eliot penned *The Waste Land* – oft cited as his modernist masterpiece - which begins with the familiar line: “April is the cruelest month...” Not so for denizens of the Ventura Yacht Club, as April is our rebirth, punctuated with four Wet Wednesdays, Opening Day, our first shakedown Cruise to Anacapa, Sunday Fundays, and a bevy of trips by all out to the islands by our dock mates. An impressive display of volunteerism, educational opportunities, collegial festivities - coupled with glorious spring weather - all of which underscore the pure joy of messing about in boats.

Many hands make light work – another oft-quoted line – is a truism best evidenced by the hard work of an august batch of VYC volunteers and VYC staff that spent time this March to refresh our club house and grounds, put the shine back on the trophies, clean up our boats to Bristol condition, and make our club something to be admired by all. Not a rebirth, but evidence of our club members’ continued investment in our club, our house and our docks. I spent some time this spring at SCYA conferences and took away a small measure of pride in how others in attendance speak of our club, which is recognized by many Rear Commodores that I met for the warm welcomes extended by our staff and club members. April reminds all of us – our staff, fellow members, family and friends – to take a large measure of pride in how we have



established VYC as a warm, happy, and welcoming place where we can enjoy nature’s beauty and the sustaining power of friendships.

I continue to explore how we can offer boating education classes and seminars in my dual role as Rear Commodore and Education Officer with the Ventura Sail

and Power Squadron. In April, the Squadron will host a hands-on diesel maintenance seminar, which provides practical and pragmatic guidance from skilled mechanics as evidenced with a working three-cylinder marine diesel engine. Club members with a diesel engine would benefit from the collective experience of our instructors and the ability to use spider wrenches on the working engine.

I had the pleasure the other day of chatting with Andy Clark who observed that VYC members are distinguished by their volunteerism, smarts, skills, and can-do spirit. True dat. The 2026 Spring J-Fest, Wet Wednesday re-start, March 28 workday, the Juniors’ classes and Sunday/ Fundays, our Bridge’s continued efforts to re-refresh our dining hall and docks are all evidence of these fine qualities. So in contrast to Mr. Eliot’s vision, April is our happy time, when the prospect of messing about in boats is realized and made manifest for all to enjoy.

Ev Ashworth

General Manager

By Nick Moller

In the past few weeks, I have had a few conversations with newer members asking, “What is Opening Day?”

I remember just a few years ago when I had the same question. When asked, here is my answer:

A yacht club’s Opening Day is a traditional, festive annual event marking the official start of the boating and sailing season. It features a ceremonial procession and ceremony, a Blessing of the Fleet and Members to ensure safety, some decorated boats, awards and recognitions, and social activities to bring members together.

Brief. Accurate. To the point. But lacking the feeling of what Opening Day is.

The weeks prior to Opening Day are full of meetings, planning, organization, and ordering.

There’s Clean-up Day and then more meetings, planning and organizing.

There’s a practice session and a ceremony walk-through.

There’s a band, a bagpipe, a bunch of Bloody Marys and Mimosas.

There’s Navy blazers, lots of saluting, and a TON OF VOLUNTEERS.



Then the Pomp and Circumstance give way to a reception for all, lined with multiple tables of appetizers and hors d’oeuvres. Non-stop laughter, conversations, and connections. Cocktails and refreshments.

The formal attire loosens, the sun hats and Hawaiian shirts come out. There’s a dock-roaming band and what can best be described as “VYC on Spring Break.”

The sunshine is outshined by the many host and hostesses along the docks during the dock parties. There will be tears, laughter, some sing-alongs, some sun-kissed skin, and some bleary-eyed festivities.

And just when you think your afternoon has come to an end, there is a chili dinner in the dining room that the staff always manage to put back together just in time.

It’s one of the few days where everyone agrees “that this was a great day.” It really is.

Oh wait, I almost forgot, there’s also a cannon!

See you at Opening Day.

Nick Moller

Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 5



Bar Open
10:00 a.m.

Buffet
11:00 a.m.

Buffet:
\$28++

12 and Under
\$16++

EASTER BUNNY
at 12:00 p.m.

Join VYC for an Easter Buffet filled with menu favorites including a *Traditional Ham Carving Station*, *French Toast*, *Shrimp Cocktails*, and more wonderful options for the whole family!





OPENING DAY 2026

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

9:00 a.m. **Welcome and Continental Breakfast**

9:25 a.m. **Opening Ceremony**
(Reception to follow)

12:30 p.m. **Dock Parties with Live Music**

4:30 p.m. **Traditional Chili Supper - \$15++**

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Membership Report

By Peter Acutt

Well believe it or not but one quarter of 2026 has slipped by as summer rushes in with a vengeance. I'm sure most of us did not realize it but it is in the numbers!

Yes, and the boating season is well underway with the Wet Wednesday Starting mania getting off to a great start – what a beautiful evening it was. (See the photos to the right.) NB: I don't know the name of the photographer but a huge thanks for recording this. It was a great event and a great warm up for crews and all.

By now the new video display in the downstairs lobby is up and running showcasing all the club activities. It will also be featuring new members as another step in the integration of new members. Take a moment to stop and read and when you next see them at the club please stop and greet them – welcoming them to the VYC family and community. Suggest they join your table or your group, and you will have contributed to their settling in and will have new friends.

As earlier mentioned, we have arranged a new member MIXER which will have taken place before this goes to press – we hope you will have joined us to meet the new members.

In terms of membership numbers, we are certainly enjoying a surge in interest and look forward to many



new members. We are focusing on the Convertible Category via families and also college kids to boost our long-term membership and the dinghy sailing activities.

Ahoy New members – WELCOME we all look forward to seeing you and please feel free to walk up and introduce yourselves – not everyone will recognize you at first. Come along, join, get to know fellow members and feel at home at the club.

We also take the opportunity to welcome our new members this month, Bodhi Tippo, Richard & Carolyn Mason and Evelyn Wyszynski. Check out their bios on page 12.

New Trial Member Bodhi Tippo

Bodhi has been sailing FJs, Lasers and 420s competitively in the SFO Bay area through high school.

He has been a sailing instructor at MYC for eight years and coaching at SFYC for both the youth and adult recreational program including the running of a youth class for SFYC, in addition to



running the summer youth program for three years as head instructor.

More recently – the last five years he has been working in the commercial fishing sector in Oregon.

He has just moved to Ojai, is still working commercial fishing but is looking to get back into sailing.

New Trial Members Richard & Carolyn Mason

Sailing has been an important part of Richard and Carolyn's lives. They live in Elk Grove. They have two adult children, Brian and Steven.

They enjoy sharing their passion for sailing with others who appreciate time on the water.

They are particularly interested in



the social and community aspects of the yacht club, including events, regattas, and volunteer opportunities.

“They hope to contribute positively to the club while continuing to learn and grow as sailors.”

They have a Hunter 46 sailboat named *Serenity* and have indicated an interest in cruising.

New Convertible Member Evelyn Wyszynski

Evelyn Wyszynski started sailing when she was 10, learning to sail on Westlake Lake. She won Sportsman of the Year twice at Westlake Yacht Club and worked as a sailing instructor for three summers.

Evelyn became a junior member of VYC in spring of last year ('25) where she became addicted to



ocean sailing. In addition, she loves racing Lasers, and is always looking for a chance to get better.

A graduate of Oak Park High School with honors, she is looking to pursue a college education in engineering.

Her extended family live in Michigan.

'26 BRISTOL BOAT COMPETITION

Competition Held:
Saturday, April 4

Awards:
Opening Day
Saturday, April 11



BEST SAIL
BEST POWER
BEST OVERALL

POINTS AWARDED TO COMPETITORS BY EVALUATION OF

AGE OF BOAT

**BRISTOL
CONDITION**

**VESSEL SAFETY
INSPECTION**

EQUIPMENT

Notably, points will be **deducted** for failure to maintain the equipment required under federal and state regulations.



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California's Only Pirate - Hippolyte de Bouchard

By Katie Rowe, VYC Historian

The idea of pirates sailing along the California coast may seem fantastical, but it happened. For this month's article, I will share a story about Hippolyte Bouchard, a French-born Argentine corsair who raided Spanish settlements and ships in 1818, including missions and presidios along the California coast.

While Bouchard's raid is the most prominent, other raiders and privateers likely visited the California



Portrait of Hippolyte de Bouchard

coast, attracted by the wealth of Spanish ships making their way to Asia and early settlements.

Ships operating off the east coast of the Americas in the 1700s and 1800s were often attacked by pirates. Many pirates were rogues who plied their trade for plunder and profit. Others were privateers, who were issued a commis-

sion, called a *letter of marque*, by one of

Continued on page 15

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California's Only Pirate

Continued from page 14

the major sea-powers (Portugal, Spain, France, England, Holland, and later the United States) to prey on the vessels and settlements of their enemies.

Privateers generally regarded themselves as lawful patriots of their countries.

Lines were often crossed, however. Privateers sometimes had their commissions revoked and continued to operate as pirates, while successful pirates were sometimes granted commissions.

The West Coast was largely free from pirate activities, because besides Spain, the major sea powers of Europe had very little presence. Hippolyte de Bouchard was a notable exception and is often called California's only pirate.

Bouchard was born in France circa 1780. As a young man, he served in the French merchant fleet. In 1809, he moved to Argentina (then called the *United Provinces of the River Plate*). By 1811, he was serving in the Argentine revolutionary navy and also took part in land battles. He was awarded Argentine citizenship in 1813 and was given a naval commission in 1815.

In 1817, Bouchard set off on a



Sample letter of marque

journey around the world, bearing a letter of marque allowing him to attack Spanish ships and settlements. It is on this journey that he raided the forts and missions of California.

On November 20, 1818, Bouchard attacked the Presidio at Monterey. The Spanish had seen the approach of Bouchard's two

ships and fought them off with artillery. On November 24, the pirates sent 200 men ashore and attacked the fort from the land. They quickly overcame the defenders and held the Presidio for six days before leaving. During that time, they stole cattle, weapons, and other valuables, and burned down the fort and much of the surrounding town.

On December 5, the pirates landed a force near the mission at Santa Barbara. The men raided and burned an outlying ranch, but when they approached the mission and presidio, it appeared to be heavily defended, so Bouchard decided to abandon the attack. There is an unconfirmed anecdote that the soldiers at Santa Barbara sent out men on patrol, wearing differ-

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California's Only Pirate

Continued from page 15

ent uniforms each time, to convince the raiders that the mission had several times the number of defenders than were actually present.

Some missions, one of which was San

Buenaventura, moved their herds and valuables inland and avoided an attack.

On December 16, 1818, the pirates arrived in San Juan Capistrano, where they demanded supplies and ammunition. The Spanish defenders refused, so Bouchard once again landed a force and attacked the mission. They quickly seized the town, and, after taking ammunition, supplies, and valuables, set fire to the town's houses, but spared the mission.

After the raid on San Juan Capistrano, Bouchard sailed south to Mexico. He continued to raid Spanish settlements and seize Spanish ships in



Argentine postage stamp featuring Hippolyte de Bouchard.


Mexico, until the end of his voyage on April 3, 1819.

In 1820, Bouchard joined the Peruvian navy, and in 1829, he was made Admiral and commander

of that navy. He retired the following year. In Argentina and other countries of South American, Hippolyte de Bouchard is regarded as a patriot and hero; streets and monuments bear his name. He was even commemorated on an Argentine postage stamp. But for the early settlers of California, he was a dreaded pirate, using the letter of marque framework to justify destruction and theft of property.

Source:

<https://californiamissionguide.com/californias-pirate-hippolyte-de-bouchard>



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**7:00 P.M. | THURSDAY
APRIL 9**

**SUMMITS ON THE AIR
PARKS ON THE AIR**



GUEST SPEAKER: RON TOPOLINSKI

Ron Topolinski (K6CPR) has been activating SOTA summits and chasing SOTA & POTA since 2018. An assortment of portable equipment will also be on display. Activating the Channel Islands for POTA offers a remote, scenic, and challenging experience, specifically covering Channel Islands National Park (K-0017) in California. There has also been renewed interest in more training classes. Join us for the fun and expand your understanding of this great hobby.

Social Report

By Tracie West

Greetings and Happy Spring! Last month we enjoyed celebrating St. Patrick's Day together at the Friday dinner and Tuesday Potluck. A huge shout out to MJ, Cate and Dave for decorating. A fun night for all. Thank you chef José, the dinner was delicious as always.

This month we hope you will join us for Easter Brunch and we all can't wait for Opening Day and Jfest (It's not just for racers).

As the weather gets nicer we hope you will join us and help plan social events around the club. Join us the second Sunday of every month at 2 p.m.

"Despite the Forecast. Live Like it's Spring!" - *Lilly Pulitzer*



Burgee Update

By Leslie Barnes, VYC Vexillologist

Thanks to a small but mighty crew, all the burgees upstairs in the dining room have been cleaned and rehung. Many thanks to Katie Rowe, Lisa Mirisola, Sue Gentzle and Brad Barnes. Outside of a few minor changes still to be made, everything should be ship-shape for Opening Day.

One new burgee was added to the mix, the Pacific Yacht Club. This was presented to me by Peter Ruscher after he received it from member Nelly Mac after she discovered it in her late husband, P. K. Edwards' files. It is assumed it was acquired by P.K. after one of his many Transpac Races to Hawaii. The Pacific Yacht Club was founded in 1957 at Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu, HI in Hickman Harbor. This fills in our



very ample collection of Hawaiian Burgees(12!) in the corner by the TV.

One thing we did discover, is that we are in desperate need of a new Long Beach Yacht

Club Burgee,

as well as one from

the Coronado

Yacht Club in San Diego,

Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club and

South Shore Yacht Club in Newport

Beach. Del Rey Yacht Club in Marina

Del Rey and Port Royal YC in Re-

dondo Beach are not aging well and

will need to be replaced soon as well...

but I digress. Anyone heading that way,

and would like to assist the office in

replacing one of these above mentioned

Burgees, please let the office know.

We are also delighted to say that in time for early Wet Wednesday night races, all the Burgees downstairs have been cleaned and replaced. They're looking forward to Opening Day!



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We have an online platform called Limble where you can submit requests for repairs, big and small. Is a drain clogged in the restroom? Report it on Limble! Hardware coming loose on a dock? Report it on Limble!

Our maintenance team will respond and address issues in a timely manner.

It's easy to report maintenance issues on Limble! Just scan the QR code with a QR scanner or your phone, enter information, and send! You can



take and include a photo if it helps the maintenance team locate or understand the problem. You'll get an email back on progress or resolution of the issue.

The QR code is posted downstairs next to the office

door, and QR code placards are located throughout the VYC premises at strategic locations. If you need one, you will see one!

Help VYC by letting Limble make problems less of a problem!

Notice it, Report it... on Limble!

Port Captain

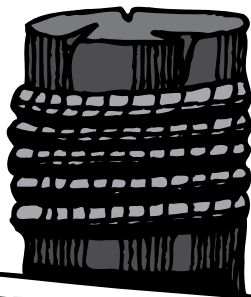
By Wally Rutledge

Opening Day is almost here! Spring cleaning time to make our boats, canvas, dock boxes and docks shine.

There is plenty of bird activity in our Marina making a mess, so please refrain from feeding them!

See you on the docks.

– Port Captain

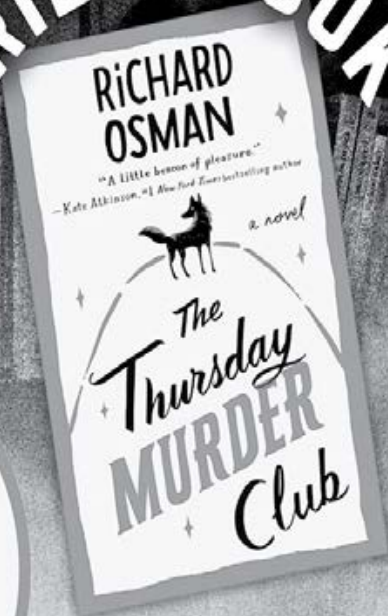


VYC BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, April 8

6:00 p.m.

APRIL'S BOOK



Come enjoy an hour or two of great conversation with friends.

Didn't read the book? Come anyway and meet some fellow booklovers

Race Report

By Warren Casey, Race Chair

Latest News

Speed & Pints

Another fun learning event, Speed & Pints, was held on February 25 - Big thank you to Sean and Ryan for hosting and for



Hosts: Sean Guiltinan and Ryan Cox.



Ryan Cox explaining how to make your boat fast.

Ryan sharing his expertise. Ryan had invited Greg Dair, a new VYC member and professional sailor who instructed us about boat speed and sail trim. Greg's webpage: <https://www.fluid-dynamics.design>. Once again, it was a learning experience for me. Sean and Ryan are planning on doing this again next winter! Thank you to the club staff for all the assistance and great food and drinks.

Wet Wednesday Starting Mania

Starting Mania was just that! Eight boats represented all three classes. We were able to accomplish eight starts over an hour of the sun we had left. RC Team was headed by our new PRO Fred Vance with Rear Commodore, Ev Ashworth, and Commodore, Dwight Rowe assisting. Filling out the crew was Joe Cardona and myself, Warren Casey. What a beautiful evening and sunset. We started around 7-8 knots and by the time we sent the fleet home around R2V, the wind was dying. This is a fun way to start the Wet Wednesday season here in Ventura Harbor!



- Event page: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/ZxziVoPe9p>
- VYC racing MOB form on G-Drive: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qVhJEl2nxoAi-8ZCx-PdYRLGEYst3HEI/view?usp=share_link

Mark Rehab and Leo Robbins Repair

Our mark Fishsticks "A" is on the hard at Derektor Ventura is being refreshed by our own Denny Dwire. Denny should have the mark back on station in a week or two, hopefully for the third WW on March 21.

The *Leo Robbins* has been fixed. There

Continued on page 23



Denny Dwire working on "A" mark.

Race Report

Continued from page 22

was no damage to hull or rudder; the steering cable had rusted solid. Dwight Rowe and John Spille solved the issue after *Leo* was on the hard. After Dwight repaired the problem, the yard painted the bottom and replaced the zincs. Dave Boatner drove *Leo* back to VYC. All current and staff Commodores are working very hard to keep the club working – Thank you!!

Coming Up in April and May

Ongoing Wet Wednesdays Until September 9!

March 18 launched our 25-race series with the Man Overboard (MOB) race, where you must complete a MOB drill before finishing. Find the “2026 MOB Drill Instructions” on our Clubspot noticeboard: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/ZxziVoPe9p/#notice-board> and in our Racing VYC 2026 Program Google Drive: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18cLeesWVdJK-4JhkHt6e9FS7utUsQJJs>

JFest April 25-26, 2026 - See flyers on page 24 and 29.

Avery Stewart and Andy Clark are hard at work to make this the best regatta of the year at the club. We could have over 20 J70s and J24s on the line for two exciting days of racing fun. After-race events are being planned.

- Event and Registration: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/hDLoSTKBym>
- Event G-Drive: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OWvqyoEe8zrhBNUmV7dS9IRZ0lRp1Uh?usp=share_link

May 9, 2026 – Lady Driver #1 - See flyer on page 25.

Ok women, it is time to start training for the next Lady Driver Race. Last year’s two-day series was a great success and a lot of fun. The NOR and RAW (Rating Adjustment Worksheet) are posted and available.

- Event and Registration: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/ZZfdD8RFX7>
- Event G-Drive: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wYPwk2RskTseD_c3MIGWb5VDC0Jz8BeY?usp=share_link

May 25, 2026 – Blue Water #1, Return From Little Scorpion Anchorage - See flyer on page 26.

Ventura Yacht Club’s Blue Water Series is back for another fun year! We will have three races returning from a weekend cruise at Santa Cruz Island – May 25, July 5, and September 7. Three different starting areas and all finishing at the club. All are welcome! The race will be using the 2025 RAW (Rating Adjustment Worksheet). It has been updated and engineered to make race boats and cruising/family boats more equal on the racecourse. The NOR, Course Chart, and RAW (Rating Adjustment Worksheet) are posted on the event page and event Google Drive.

- Event Info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/YaHGLddRUm>
- Event G-Drive: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wYPwk2RskTseD_c3MIGWb5VDC0Jz8BeY?usp=share_link

Continued on page 24

Race Report

Continued from page 23



2026 ★ JFEST

April 25 & 26

*All JBoats are welcome • 3 boats make a class
We are expecting J70 and J24 fleets*

Event Page: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/hDLosTKBym>

Register: <https://theclubspot.com/register/regatta/hDLosTKBym/class>

Notice Board: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/hDLosTKBym/#notice-board>

JFest G-Drive: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OWvqyoEe8zrhBNUmV7dS9IRZ0ILrP1Uh?usp=share_link

Regatta Chair: Avery Stewart | avery@haviandllc.com | (805)890-7901

J70 Fleet Contact: Ryan Cox | coxrm@hotmail.com | (805)402-3240

J24 Fleet Contact: Dan Chepley | dchepley@roadrunner.com | (805)275-3614

VYC Office: (805)642-0426 | office@venturayachtclub.org | www.venturayachtclub.org

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



Event page

VENTURA  YACHT CLUB

1755 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001



Registration page

Continued on page 25

Race Report

Continued from page 24



LADY DRIVER RACE SERIES

May 9
& August 2

This is VYC's random leg race series featuring Lady Drivers

At least one lady must be onboard, and at the helm during the race. Boats can have more than one lady driver.

The race will be using the RAW (Rating Adjustment Worksheet). It has been updated and engineered to make race boats and cruising/family boats more equal on the race course.

More info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/ZZfdD8RFX7>



VENTURA  YACHT CLUB

1755 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura Marina • VYC office: office@venturayachtclub.org - (805) 642-0426
Questions: Warren Casey, VYC Race Chair: wc@warrencasey.com

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Race Report

Continued from page 25

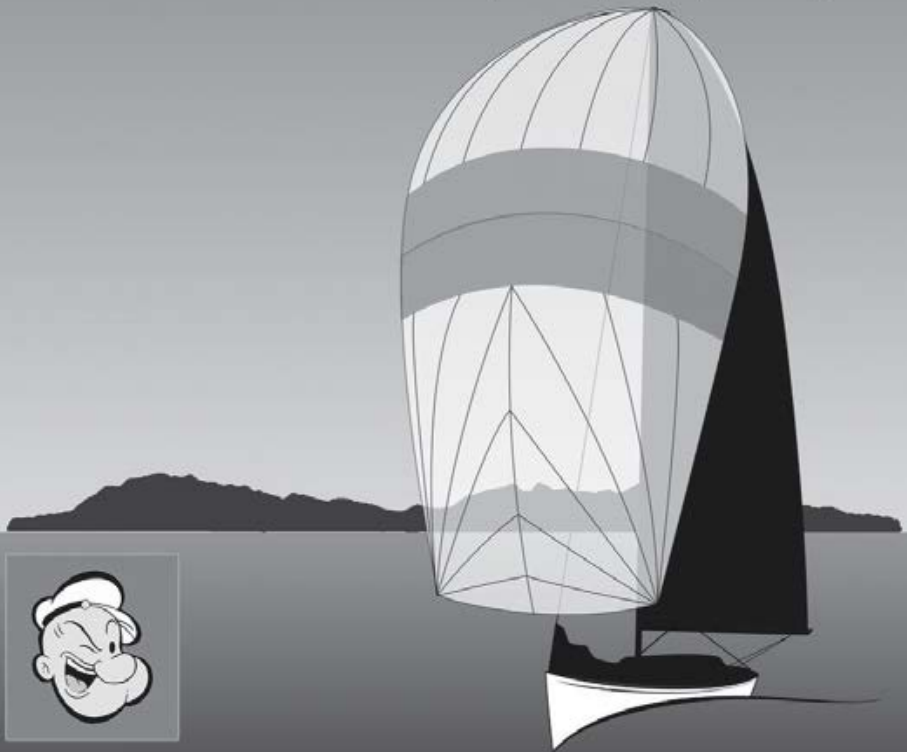
BLUE WATER SERIES

Ventura Yacht Club's 2026 Blue Water Series is back for another fun year! We will have three races returning from a weekend at Santa Cruz Island. Three different starting areas and finishing at the club. All are welcome! More information on our Clubspot, links below.

RACE #1 MAY 25 - Return from Little Scorpion: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/YaHGLddRUm>

RACE #2 JULY 5 - Return from Pelican Bay: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/q60pabjBTZ>

RACE #3 SEPT 7 - Return from San Pedro Point: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/xl99dukgy3>



VENTURA  YACHT CLUB

1755 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura CA • 805-642-0426 • www.venturayachtclub.org

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Race Report

Continued from page 26

2026 Ventura Yacht Club Racing Schedule

April 25-26 – JFest Regatt, Event Info: [https://theclubspot.com/regatta/hDLo\\$TK-Bym](https://theclubspot.com/regatta/hDLo$TK-Bym)

May 8 – Friday Night One Design #1, Event Info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/t0lPaytbww>

May 9 – Lady Driver Race #1 of 2, Event info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/ZZfdD8RFX7>

May 25 – Blue Water #1 of 3, Event Info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/YaH-GLddRUm>

May 29 – Friday Night One Design #2, Event Info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/ZO1tsft3p2>

June 7 – Governor’s Cup, Event Info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/HzK-1b7xN24>

June 12 – Friday Night One Design #3, Event Info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/64eMAAWZx2>

June 26 – Friday Night One Design #4, Event Info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/nARMf5eu5z>

July 5 – Blue Water #2 of 3, Event Info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/XyCVj-v0ipZ>

Aug. 2 – Lady Driver Race #2 of 2, Event Info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/G2xH9nspUf>

Aug. 23 – Rowdy Relay, Race Captain: Peter Acutt, Race Captain

Sept. 7 – Blue Water #3 of 3, Event info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/hbIjtpY-dCF>

Sept. 16 – Wet Wednesday Recap, No Race only dinner, recap and a few awards

Sept. 22-23 – Kavorka Cup Thistle Regatta, Regatta Captain: Stanton Smith, stanton.e.smith@gmail.com

Nov. 7 & 8 – Carrie Series #2 Fall Opti Regatta, Event Info: <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/ljmGIjJGsf>

YYC Racing, Webpages and Social Media



ASBCYC Google Calendar: <https://shorturl.at/jrl79>



YYC Racing Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1015985196505205>



YYC Racing Google Drive:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18cleesWVdJK-4JhkHt6e9FS7utUsQJJs?usp=share_link



YYC Racing webpage:
<https://venturayachtclub.org/5619-2/>

Continued on page 28

Race Report

Continued from page 27

Information about racing fleets and contact info to get involved:

Race Chairperson – Warren Casey wc@warrencasey.com

One Design Racing Chairperson – Ryan Cox coxrm@hotmail.com

Junior Program Director/Chairperson – Katelyn Dembowski katelynpdembowski@gmail.com

One Design Racing

J70 Fleet & Laser Fleet Captain – Ryan Cox coxrm@hotmail.com

Opti and CFJ Fleet Captain – Katelyn Dembowski katelynpdembowski@gmail.com

Thistle Fleet Captain – Stanton Smith stanton.e.smith@gmail.com

DF95 (Radio Control Boats) Fleet Captain – Garrett Baum garrettbau@yahoo.com

PHRF Racing

Performance Class A Fleet Captain – Avery Stewart avery@havlandllc.com

Intermediate Class B Fleet Captain – Sean Gultinan sgultinan@gmail.com

Beginning non-spinnaker Class C Fleet Captain – Peter Acutt, acuttp@gmail.com

Webpages and Social Media

VYC FB Racing Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1015985196505205>

VYC Racing Instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/ventura_yacht_club_racing/

Google Drive VYC Race Program: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18cIeesWVdJK-4JhkHt6e9FS7utUsQJJs?usp=share_link

VYC Racing Webpage: <https://venturayachtclub.org/5619-2/>

ASBCYC Google Race Calendar: <http://bit.ly/4fKmFuW>

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2026 ★ JFEST

PARTY

SATURDAY,
APRIL 25

Race
Information



Racing all weekend!



Cocktails | 4:00 p.m.

Taco Bar | 5:00 p.m.



Juniors Program

By Katelyn Dembowski

Hheavy winds and sunny days made for a great month for the Juniors! Our Opti race team has practiced in some pretty challenging conditions the past few weeks and it's helping them gear up for regattas in April and throughout the summer. If you see us practicing, please stop by and say hi!

We hosted our Juniors Maintenance Day on March 28, 2026, in connection to our Club Maintenance Day. I wanted to extend a huge shoutout to everyone who helped with the cleanup, specifically those doing the much needed fiberglass repairs (Jack Mead, John Spille, John Conway, Dwight Rowe, Ev Ashworth), and Kim Mead for securing the \$1,500 grant for maintenance supplies. This program thrives when the members of VYC care for it and help it grow, so I am eternally grateful for your support.

The biggest news regarding the Juniors Program this month was the donations received by the late Amy West. I've had the privilege of knowing and loving Amy West my whole life. She was a pillar for the women here at VYC and

she absolutely adored the Juniors Program and seeing the kids on the water every summer. Her gracious donation will help sustain the Juniors Program for many years to come and keep her memory alive within the youth sailors of VYC. If you are interested in making any donations to youth sailing, you can donate directly to the program (not tax deductible) or through the Ventura Youth Sailing Foundation (tax deductible). Please contact Dwight Rowe or me directly for more information.



WET WEDNESDAY

The background of the top half of the page features a stylized sunset with a large sun partially obscured by horizontal wavy lines representing water. Two sailboats are depicted on the water. The sailboat on the left is a smaller vessel with a white sail. The sailboat on the right is larger, with a white sail and a dark hull, and has the number '67904' on its sail. The text 'WET WEDNESDAY' is prominently displayed at the top in a large, white, sans-serif font.

BROWNIES
AND
ICE CREAM
EVERY NIGHT!

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

APRIL 1

TERIYAKI CHICKEN
RICE
EGG ROLLS
CHINESE SALAD

APRIL 8

CHICKEN PARMESAN
LINGUINI
CAESAR SALAD
GARLIC BREAD

APRIL 15

FISH TACOS
RICE AND BEANS
TORTILLA SALAD

APRIL 22

ROAST BEEF
SANDWICHES
FRENCH FRIES

APRIL 29

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS
CAESAR SALAD
GARLIC BREAD

DINNER: \$19++

Vagabond Sailor

Lessons Learned in the Mediterranean

By Jim Eisenhart

Solo cruising in unfamiliar waters like the Mediterranean places me well outside my comfort zone, where predictability is the norm. Yet most cruisers would agree that without the uncertainty of weather, the challenge of unfamiliar harbors and anchorages, and the occasional frustrations with marina, customs, and immigration officials, cruising would be little more than a floating commute.

Striving to overcome chosen—and often unchosen—challenges is what gives my life meaning and creates the opportunity for personal growth, learning, and genuine adventure. For me, these challenges come from setting and pursuing what I call moonshot goals—a term inspired by President Kennedy’s 1961 commitment to put a man on the moon before the end of the decade.

A moonshot goal is a possibility that lies beyond my current capabilities and comfort zone, yet not so far removed from reality that I would never attempt it.

I have learned that moonshot goals must be created out of possibility, not merely by solving existing problems or working harder within a familiar comfort zone. Solving problems is inherently reactive and often fueled by negative energy. A problem-based goal might read something like: Figure out how to cruise in the Mediterranean. That sounds more like a homework assignment than an

adventure.

Moonshot goals, by contrast, create a context that pulls us forward, inviting us to pour positive energy into making something extraordinary happen.

When it comes to cruising, I have learned to create compelling possibilities that acknowledge my current circumstances without being constrained by them—and that draw deeply on my intrinsic passions. What fuels these possibilities? Curiosity.

I simply keep asking:

Which cruising grounds and experiences am I genuinely curious about?

With my workshop clients I would describe such goals as BHAGs—“Big Hairy Audacious Goals”—a concept from Jim Collins and Jerry Porras in *Built to Last*. Their advice is simple: set compelling, measurable goals first, and only afterward figure out how to make them happen. Much like Kennedy did in 1961.

My Mediterranean moonshot goal, or BHAG, was this:

Cruise the entire cruiser-friendly Mediterranean while continuing to grow my business and maintaining my fitness over two seasons (subsequently extended to four seasons).

With that goal established, I realized I needed to:

a. Learn to cruise the unfamiliar Mediterranean Sea, with its quirky and

Continued on page 33

Vagabond Sailor

Continued from page 32

sometimes intimidating weather—and master the art of Med-mooring solo without causing my insurance company unnecessary grief or myself enduring public humiliation.

b. Learn how to purchase a sailboat in Europe, register it, insure it, and maintain it there.

c. Acquire the ability to single-hand in the Mediterranean, where I would often be alone for months at a time.

d. Develop a reliable way to maintain my physical fitness while afloat.

e. Create a process for running my consulting organization remotely while spending extended periods in the Med.

Although I may have been reluctant to admit it at the time, my age was both a concern and an imperative. I was 68 when I began cruising the Mediterranean and 72 when I left *Adagio* in the Caribbean. Remaining physically fit during those years, I am convinced, is a prerequisite for senior solo cruising anywhere.

At the same time, I had to acknowledge a simple truth: as I age, my comfort zone shrinks.

Do I gravitate toward familiar waters? You bet.

Do I prefer convenient, known destinations over risky new ones? Guilty.

Do I default to my expectations rather than remain open to new possibilities? Unquestionably.

And safety becomes very appealing—right up to the moment it begins to feel a little suffocating.

The advantage of being a senior sailor is that I now have a reasonably clear understanding of my abilities and limitations. They provide a comfortable logic for how I live my life—and they form the foundation of my self-identity. Yet that same assessment, however imperfect, can easily become self-fulfilling and limiting.

Only by traveling and cruising in unfamiliar waters, environments, and cultures do I become aware of the boundaries of my comfort zone. That awareness gives me a choice: remain safely within it—or venture beyond it in search of adventure, possibility, and growth.

Growing up as a military brat—attending five different high schools—was a mixed experience at the time. In retrospect, however, it taught me how to adapt quickly to new environments and become reasonably self-reliant. Vietnam tested that ability in the extreme.

One of the great revelations of cruising in the Mediterranean was that I could choose each day how much challenge I wanted to take on.

Did I want to sail seventy-five miles—or just ten?

Or simply remain in the anchorage?

Perhaps I would dinghy ashore, rent a car, and explore ancient ruins in the interior with neighbors from nearby boats while waiting for a better weather window.

With the internet—and now AI—

Continued on page 34

'26 catalina Cruise

JULY 19 - 24



NIGHTLY BBQ



CATALINA SHUFFLE

S'MORES



CAMPEIRES

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Vagabond Sailor

Continued from page 33

not knowing how to do something when it comes to cruising is no longer a very good excuse.

Not sure about immigration procedures in Albania? Google it—or ask ChatGPT.

Join your boat's user group.

Watch a YouTube video.

There are now thousands of videos covering nearly every aspect of cruising—from engine maintenance to how to purchase a boat in the Mediterranean.

Knowing how to do something, of

course, is not the same as competence—let alone mastery. But it is enough to get started. And once you step outside your comfort zone, you only need to be smart enough to recognize what you do not yet know.

Eventually, competence arrives. Sometimes even mastery.

And when it does, that competence quietly becomes a new comfort zone.

Which leaves me, once again, with a choice: **whether to remain inside it—or push beyond it yet again.**

SATURDAY LUNCH

11:30 a.m. 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, balsamic vinaigrette, or Caesar. Chicken \$13.00. Salmon \$15.50 Shrimp \$15.00

AUTUMN HARVEST SALAD NEW

Mixed greens and arugula with sliced apples, strawberries, walnuts, and feta cheese. Topped with our vinaigrette. Optional dressings of ranch, blue cheese, or Caesar are available. \$12.00

FISH OR SHRIMP & CHIPS

Freshly breaded with a signature spiced batter. \$15.00

SOUP OF THE DAY— CUP \$3.50 BOWL \$6.50

CUP OF SOUP AND HALF SANDWICH \$11.00

All dishes below are served with French fries, onion rings, coleslaw, or potato salad.

BAJA FISH OR SHRIMP TACOS

Two freshly battered fish or shrimp tacos with Baja sauce, avocado, and Pico de Gallo. \$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. \$15.00 Garden burgers are made fresh. \$13.00

CHICKEN CAESAR WRAP NEW

Grilled chicken mixed in with a classic Caesar salad, all wrapped in a spinach tortilla. \$13.00

VENTURA YACHT CLUB SANDWICH OR A BLT NEW

Avocado, bacon, turkey, ham and swiss cheese top this delectable toasted sandwich. Need something a little lighter? Try chef's BLT, crispy bacon, fresh tomatoes and lettuce on sourdough. \$13.00

All items are subject to tax and tip

VENTURA  **YACHT CLUB**

Happy Hour Small Bites

Tri-tip Sandwich \$13.00

Seared tri-tip on a toasted ciabatta loaf with cream of horse radish.
Served with an option of French fries or Onion rings (add \$2.00)

VYC Nachos \$9.00

House made chips covered with beans, ranchero sauce and shredded cheese. Topped with cilantro.
With an option of steak or chicken (add \$3.00)

Chef José's Smash Burger \$12.00

Seasoned ground beef smashed in between a toasted bun with cheddar cheese, onions, and tomatoes.
Served with an option of French fries or onion rings. (add \$2.00)

Autumn Harvest Salad \$12.50

Mixed greens and arugula with sliced apples, walnuts and feta cheese topped with our vinaigrette dressing.

Loaded Potato Skins \$6.50

Potato skins fried and baked with bacon bits and shredded cheese topped with green onions.

Pretzel Sticks \$5.50

Three baked pretzel sticks served with a nacho cheese dip.

All items are subject to tax and tip.

VENTURA YACHT CLUB

Sunday Breakfast

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All breakfasts include coffee, orange juice, toast, jellies, and fresh salsa.

EGGS BENEDICT

Chef's special recipe - Choose the traditional with ham, or try it Florentine with spinach. Served with hash browns \$15.00 NEW - California benedict style - pico de gallo and avocado with optional jalapenos \$16.00

BREAKFAST BURRITO

Comes with scrambled eggs, hash browns, cheese, and your choice of one meat. (Add extra ham, bacon, sausage, chorizo, or avocado add \$1.00 each) \$10.00

TWO EGGS - ANY STYLE

Any style eggs, cooked to order - Served with hash browns and your choice of ham, bacon, or sausage \$12.00

EGGS RANCHERO

Corn tortillas and cheese topped with two eggs over easy, smothered with a fresh grilled blend of diced ham, onions, tomatoes, mushrooms, and (optional) jalapenos \$14.00

THREE-TOPPING OMELETS

Cooked to order with your choice of three toppings - shredded cheese, ham, mushrooms, bell peppers, onions, imitation crab, bay shrimp, or tomatoes (add avocado \$1.00) \$13.00

PANCAKES, FRENCH TOAST, OR WAFFLE AND EGGS

Two pancakes, French toast, or a waffle (served with your choice of eggs add \$2.50) (add ham, bacon, or sausage \$2.00) (add fruit \$1.00) \$10.00

BREAKFAST SANDWICH NEW

Eggs of your choosing with hash browns, cheese, and your choice of one meat between toasted sour-dough bread. (Extra ham, bacon, sausage, chorizo, or avocado \$1.00 each) \$10.00

ZERO CARB BREAKFAST NEW

Two eggs any style with two bacon strips and two breakfast sausage links served with a side of cottage cheese. \$14.00

All items are subject to tax and tip.



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Club Hours

Friday

Dinner1700-2030

Saturday

Lunch1100-1400

Grill Night1700-2030

Sunday

Breakfast0800-1230

Sunday Munchies1500-1700

(*Complimentary*)

New Extended Bar

Friday1600-2130

Saturday1100-2130

Sunday0800-1800

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 15th 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

APRIL 3

Mahimahi with Citrus Salsa
Flank Steak
Lemon Pesto Pasta
Grilled Veggies
Arugula Strawberry Salad
Broccoli Cheddar
Pecan Chocolate Bar
Dinner: \$28.00++

APRIL 10

*CLOSED FOR
OPENING DAY
PREPARATION*

APRIL

*Friday Night
Dinner*

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

APRIL 17

Prime Rib
Roasted Red Potatoes
Green Beans
Caesar Salad
Seafood Chowder
Apple Pie
Dinner: \$31.00++

APRIL 24

Shrimp Kabobs
BBQ Ribs
Scalloped Potatoes
Mixed Veggies
Gumbo
Assorted Cakes
Dinner: \$27.00++

*Soup, Salad, and Dessert:
\$16.00++ every night*





April Birthdays



Everard Ashworth, April 1.
 Gordon Simpson, April 1.
 Charlie Davidson, April 3.
 Tyler Fleig, April 3.
 Pamela Phillips, April 3.
 Ann Flocker, April 4.
 Ken Gottschall, April 4.
 Rick Wall, April 5.
 David Paudler, April 6.
 Bradley Barnes, April 7.
 James D. Crawford, Jr., April 8.
 Joshua Escobar, April 8.
 David Potter, April 9.
 Joe Kapp, April 11.
 Debra Lilly, April 11.
 Lane Lopez, April 11.

April Anderson, April 13.
 Kenneth Dewing, April 16.
 Iris Acutt, April 17.
 Stanton Smith, April 17.
 Don Morrison, April 18.
 Jonathan Eells, April 20.
 Betsy Grether, April 20.
 Nick Kaschak, April 20.
 Gillian Zucker, April 21.
 Brenda Vance, April 22.
 Christina Fritsch, April 23.
 Bob Perron, April 23.
 Salley Lopez, April 24.
 W. Rand Lunsford, April 26.
 Lisa Rizzo, April 26.
 David Chase, April 30.

Ventura Yacht Club 2026 Advertising Rates

Business Card (3" wide x 2" tall)* (\$45 if advertiser commits for 6 months)	\$ 50 per month
Half-page (5" wide x 3 1/2" tall)* (\$65 if advertiser commits for 6 months)	\$ 75 per month
Full-page (5" wide x 7 1/2" tall)* (\$95 if advertiser commits for 6 months)	\$105 per month
Full-page - inside cover - color (5" wide x 8" tall)* (\$125 if pay in advance 6 months or more)	\$150 per month
Full-page - back cover - color (5" wide x 8" tall)* (\$150 if pay in advance 6 months or more)	\$175 per month

*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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5840 Hunter Street, Ventura



NEAR VICTORIA AND TELEGRAPH

Fully remodeled 4+2. Updated kitchen with a built-in desk and floating shelves Fisher-Paykel refrigerator is included, both baths fully remodeled, newer heater and A/C, Poinsettia School District. Walk to all. **\$915,000**



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