

Ventura Sailing Club meeting January 2026

Our January meeting was well attended by about 20 members, 1 new member and 2 visitors from Ventura Yacht Club. Sean Gultinan and Avery Stewart from VYC reached out to our membership with an invitation to attend their series of lectures “Trim and Pints” and “Tactics and Pints” on 2/4 and 2/25 at 5:30 pm at VYC. A flyer is forthcoming. They also have offered for our membership to attend their Wet Wednesday series this year. Details for beachcats will be ironed out if we are interested. They also invited us to hold a meeting at VYC at some point if we’d like a change of scenery for a meeting. More coming on all of that.

Welcome to our newest member, Brenda Wilson. She has been a crewmember on several boats in the area, including Wailani and Cirrus. When I get her information, I’ll have more details on her availability for crewing.

We voted to keep our dues at \$80 per year. I’ll blend this into our treasurer report because that is what guided this. As of the first of the year we had \$3500 in our account, which is roughly what we had 1 year ago. Our major bills are paid for 2026; Insurance, SCYA, and USSailing. Our 2 races for the year yielded a positive cash flow. And we paid roughly a thousand dollars of fees for reincorporating the club and regaining our 501c7 status with the State and IRS. BUT, those are one-time fees that we won’t be paying again. There doesn’t appear to be a reason to raise our dues and since we’re still attracting new members, why not keep the dues low?

We voted to keep our incumbent board members the same.

Commodore Hall Stratton

Vice Commodore Chris Hancock

Treasurer Leo Vazquez

Secretary Alicia Stratton

Thank you to our board members for their time and dedication to the club. Also, thank you to the members that are serving in non-elected positions.

Eric Beck our webmaster

Ricky Vazquez and Alicia - Social Media

Bobby Martinez - Multihull Fleet Captain

Bill Brayton - PRO

Jane Thomas - Emissary

CC and Alicia - Graphic Design

We couldn’t do all of this without you, THANK YOU!

Discussion was held on having an Anacapa Arch race on April 25, to replace our Smugglers Bash event. This is also the day that many of the local yacht clubs have their opening ceremonies so we will have a limited number of entries from outside VSC. However, it should be noted that the original intention for the Smugglers Bash was for VSC to “just go sailing” on opening day, rather than parading around the harbor with flags a waving and blue blazers a blazing. So, let’s go sailing! Now, dovetail this idea with one that Chuck proffered, to have VSC members race for free for the year. Since turnout could be limited, maybe we do Anacapa Arch old school. We don’t do registration with Regatta Network (\$), we don’t charge anyone to race, and we go somewhat minimalist on trophies. We have John Gray with the “Moby Dill” offering to be the RC boat with minimal expense. The only other expense would be a chase boat for beachcats if they are interested. Discussion was held on a course to Anacapa Arch. The usual debate ensued between providing an interesting course for spinnaker boats and a simple reaching race for the more laid-back sailors. We tabled that discussion for later, but our board is ready to hear your suggestions and come up with a plan. And it will certainly help if we can get a feel for what boats will be sailing.

A request was made to get our checking account set up to receive Venmo and Paypal payments. We’ll get this going.

The State of California sent us a present that arrived a couple of days before Christmas. Our not for profit (501c7) status was reinstated. Almost a year following submittal. Jane told me it would be a 13 – 14 month process to get the club back up and running, and she was right.

We voted to have Lisa at Custom Embroidery (one of our sponsors) handle our Swag needs rather than us ordering in batches and selling stuff out of a cardboard box. While that worked to get things started, members have expressed an interest in more items than we have storage for. Go to <https://venturasailingclub.itemorder.com/shop/home/> to order shirts, sweatshirts and hats. She’s added lightweight UV protection shirts to the selection as well.

Alicia is going to work on setting up a Google drive photo share account for photos. It would be nice if we can share pictures directly with one another in addition to the facebook page. She is also working with Don North to set up an Instagram page. More coming on that.

Alicia's Island Report

Island report: Santa Barbara channel has been windy and dead calm both, enormous rains have created active and plentiful waterfalls in the islands. Gray whales migrating south from Alaska are scarce, estimates of a 50 % reduction in the population off eastern pacific and our area. More on this next month. Also, a very large pod of ORCAs have been roaming the waters south of Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands.

Keep Jane in your thoughts and prayers,
Hall