

January 2018

# SPLASH



## The Ventura Sailing Club Newsletter

Welcome to the January 2018 newsletter of our water sports and recreation club. This publication is issued when we have content, but approximately every two months.

The content is, as always, dependent on contributions from you, the members. We welcome all submissions.

**Officers:** Commodore  
Vice Commodore  
Rear Commodore  
Port Captain  
Fleet Captain  
Multi Hull Fleet Captain  
Communications Officer  
Sergeant at Arms  
Secretary

Will Yount  
Richard Sharpe  
Norbert Hirsch  
Mike Holbert  
Jimmy McWaters  
Bob Martinez  
Guy Skinner  
Mike Adams  
Paula Sharpe

Content:

**Commodore's Corner**.....William Yount

**What's New at the Nature Conservancy**.....Nature Conservancy

**Pub Quiz!!!**.....Richard Sharpe

**A very Foggy Day**.....Guy Skinner



# COMMODORE'S CORNER

**by William Yount**

AKA - Happenings from the December/January Meetings

## Current VSC Vital Statistics

*\*As reported by the Commodore*

- Paid members of SCYA, US Sailing Association and ASBCYC w/ Regatta Ins.  
Paid members for '18 – 16  
  
✓ *Keep sending in those dues for this year, send your \$60 check in the mail to:*  
Ventura Sailing Club  
4500 Antigua Way  
Oxnard, Ca. 93035
- December/January; deposited \$300.00: 3 memberships and FRR entries  
Paid out this period: \$500.00 for regatta insurance; \$190.00 for U.S Sailing membership; \$535.18 for giveaways and prizes; \$100.00 to AYC for hosting WTCP  
Current Bank Account: \$3,999.06 w/ outstanding debt for 2018: SCYA membership, ASBCYC membership and regatta insurance

## *And Other Official Business....*

- Hats and Burgees, on sale now at VSC meetings for only \$20!
- Business Cards – Pass them out to anyone interested in the best Sailing Club Ever
- Website Updates – Rear Commodore Norbert Hirsch is on it, check out the Website!  
<https://venturasailingclub.org/>
- Splash – Well you must be reading it now... Thanks Paula!

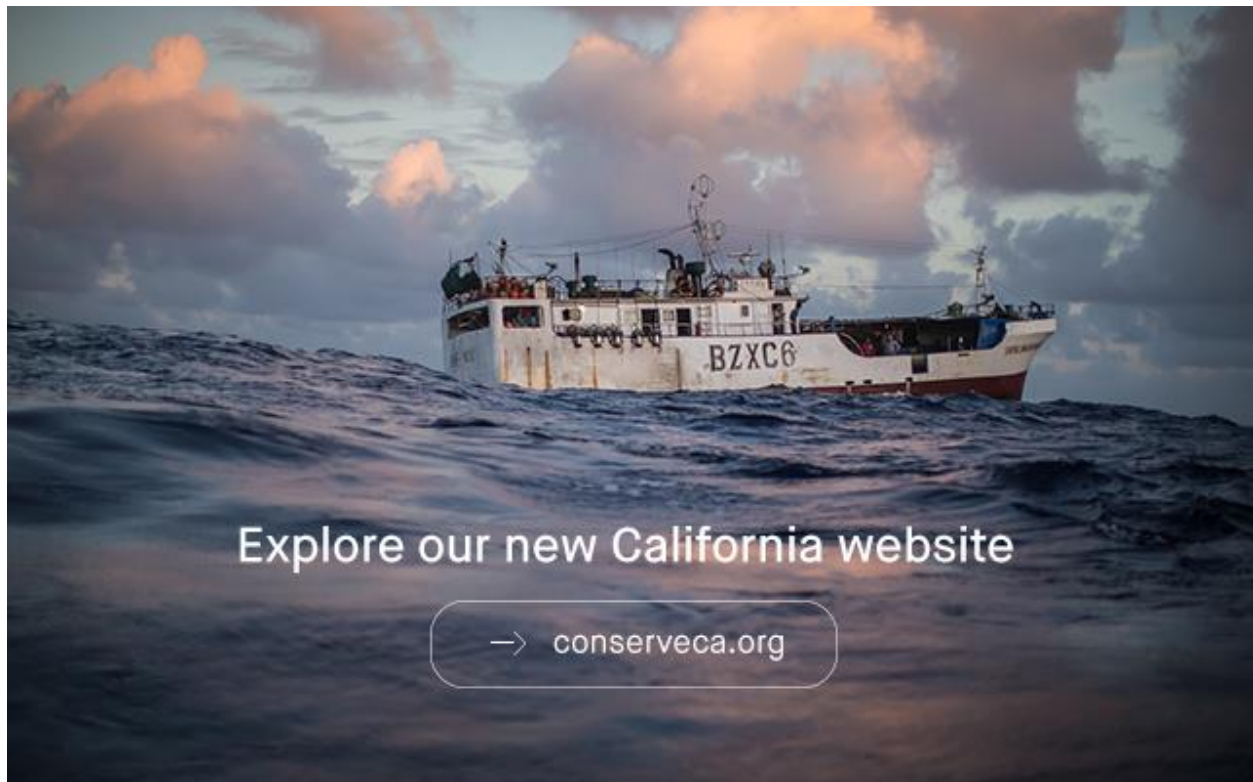
## Recent/Upcoming Events Reported by Guest Speakers

*\*Big thanks to these fearless souls who come up to the microphone and entertain the crowd!*

- The WTCP 2017 was huge success in great conditions – see full report this issue of Splash!
- Thanks again to everyone who comes out for the monthly meetings, and especially to Mike Holbert and the staff of the most excellent club house ever, the Victoria Pub and Grill!

# WHAT'S NEW AT THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

**Did you know there is a  
Nature Conservancy web site specific to California?**



Twenty-five miles off the coast of southern California lies Santa Cruz Island, the largest of California's eight Channel Islands. **More than 1,000 species of plants and animals** inhabit the island's high peaks, deep canyons, pastoral valleys, and 77 miles of dramatic coastline.

Once on the brink of ecological collapse, Santa Cruz Island now offers visitors a glimpse of what southern California used to be like hundreds of years ago.

After three decades of tireless work, Santa Cruz Island has emerged as **a leading example for successful island restoration and innovative conservation**. Today, the Conservancy and its partners are focused on preserving the island's unique plants and animals and

sharing lessons learned in island restoration with other island conservation projects around the world.

## Island History

When The Nature Conservancy purchased most of Santa Cruz Island in 1978, it was an island in crisis.

- Feral pigs and sheep — descendants of introduced domestic livestock — overgrazed the island, severely altering its natural systems and landscape.
- Ten species of plants and animals faced extinction, including the [Santa Cruz Island fox](#) — the island's top predator for thousands of years.
- A new island predator — the golden eagle — moved in from the mainland to prey on piglets and island foxes, wiping out 95% of the fox population in less than a decade.
- The island's [native bald eagles](#), which are highly territorial and prey on fish rather than foxes, had been wiped out by DDT contamination nearly five decades ago, leaving golden eagles free to devastate the fox population.

## An Island Comes Alive

The Conservancy worked with its partners — the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Fish and Game — to engage in an intensive, science-based restoration program to **save the island fox and revitalize the natural communities** of Santa Cruz Island.

As part of this effort, feral sheep and pigs were removed from the island, and golden eagles were captured and relocated to the mainland. [Bald eagle chicks were reintroduced](#) and carefully raised and released into the wild.

[Efforts to restore the fox population](#) were initiated in 2002, and the fox program has been heralded as one of the fastest and most successful endangered species recovery programs in the country.

For the first time in over 150 years, the island is free of non-native animals and native species are flourishing.

### **Santa Cruz Island restoration milestones:**

- Feral sheep removed in the 1980s.
- Unprecedented removal of feral pigs in 18 months; the island has been pig-free since 2006.
- More than 1,200 foxes now live in the wild, up from fewer than 100 in 2004.
- Bald eagles now reside and nest successfully on the island, for the first time in over half a century.
- No golden eagles have nested on the island since 2006.
- Native plants are flourishing and are re-vegetating formerly barren hillsides.
- Oak seedlings abound, now that the pigs — which feasted on oak acorns — are gone.

### **Managing the Present, Protecting the Future**

The restoration of Santa Cruz Island has been a resounding success and will allow thousands of visiting boaters and hikers each year to enjoy this unique landscape. However, managing human interaction with native plants and animals is vital to maintaining the island's health. Our research, restoration and outreach efforts continue:

- Regular check-ups on the island's radio-collared foxes to monitor their health and administer vaccinations for canine distemper — a disease easily contracted from domestic dogs illegally brought ashore by boaters
- Ongoing native plant restoration and invasive weed management activities
- Educating visitors on the importance of protecting the island's delicate ecology and preventing the introduction of non-native species
- Vaccinating the rare and vulnerable island scrub-jay against West Nile virus, a disease that has yet to establish on the island but that is particularly deadly to this species.

### **Did You Know...?**

#### **Santa Cruz Island Harbors:**

- more than 650 vascular plant species (75% of which are native)
- over 200 species of birds
- 8 species of reptiles and amphibians
- 7 mammal species (3 of which are bats)
- 12 species found nowhere else on Earth

*Courtesy of The Nature Conservancy web site.*

***<https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/california/placesweprotect/santa-cruz-island-california.xml>***



## PUB QUIZ!!!!

**Simple.... It is a Quiz set in a Pub**

Twenty questions on general knowledge and sailing. All can enter – prizes given.

February will see the third Pub Quiz which has proved to be popular with all!

The Ventura Sailing Club Pub Quiz is destined to be one of the greats! This started with our December meeting and continues at each meeting. The prize is a good one – well worth joining in.

So get your team together and get your calendar marked for the third VSC Pub Quiz on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

**There will be prizes! Did we mention that?**



# A VERY FOGGY DAY

Guy Skinner

This last year's Thanksgiving Race, the VSC's own "Wild Turkey Classic Plastic", will go down as being remembered as the year that started with a bang and ended with a whimper!

Lately I've been a part of the race committee and safety team for the local races but this year my good friends, Paul

and son Saben, were visiting from New England.

So, we all decided that we wanted to join Norbert and Lester as crew on Norbert's Islander 32, "Halona". This was my first time back on Halona in a year or so and was I really looking forward to it. Back in a race with my friends it just doesn't get any better than that!



The day began with tremendous optimism at the skipper's meeting early Saturday morning. The prediction was that the winds were looking to increase, and the race was going to be an exciting one with a very good turnout of enthusiastic racers! As we head for the start

the winds are still hanging on to early morning lite conditions out of the southwest. As all the boats positioned for an advantage at the start line the wind began to come up!

This made for watching the clock and approaching the start marker and the committee boat, with Will and George, even trickier. This particular race is considered a "Pursuit Style Race" and is especially fun because it is a 'reverse start race" which means that each boat has a start time that is determined based on each vessel's race

handicap. Ideally this means that the race fleet will, as the race progresses, stay closer together and especially towards the finish! I remember a few years back I was on the finish line photographing each boat as it crossed, and it was one of my shots that determined the winner. A photo finish of less than a meter!







And the race was on! Each boat with very nice form across the start and pointed west north west with an increasing wind from the southeast across our stern. The boats with the earlier starts were making very good headway towards the Mandalay Buoy sailing some wing and wing and some on a port tack, lots of strategizing. The wind seemed to peak as the last of the fleet was well into their first leg. The earlier starts were rounding Mandalay and off to Gina with an unstoppable mood of excitement.

The fleet began to spread out depending on their individual headings. Getting to Gina was going to require several tacks with heading up wind. The boats in the lead held their own with good speed as the boats trailing in the fleet began to lose their hold. The wind at Mandalay Buoy was beginning to falter and this is when what started out as an amazing day in so many ways began to unravel into a completely different one. Not only was the wind beginning to back off but there was something very big looming on the horizon, a ginormous fog bank!

The portion of the fleet that was still rounding Mandalay was struggling to catch the leading vessels and eventually lost sight of Gina and the leaders of the pack to the fog. As we are all desperately trying to make it to Gina the fog bank is very quickly bearing down on each and every one of us. The fog is, in fact, caught up in the head wind and we sail rather rapidly right into a very wet and windy, not to mention, cold and not able to see much ahead. Visibility, in an instant, became 50 yds at best. Thank god for a good compass and, of course, Norbert's brand new, just purchased the day before, GPS!

A day that starts with blue skies, lots of sun with T shirts, shorts and shades and island views evolved, on a dime, into a cold, wet, blustery, no visibility afternoon. And to deliver insult to injury, as soon as we had realized that all was turning to S—t, the wind completely died.

As we bobbed in the dead calm seeming to be completely alone we could only listen to what was out there. So, listen we did to each and every boat coming on the radio to announce their moment of DNF. I'm not sure but I think Halona was the last to DNF and cautiously follow our brand-new GPS home to Channel Islands Harbor.

All in all, a very interesting sail with my friends that I wouldn't trade for anything. As they say on the "Sailing Vessel Prism", wishing you all "fair winds and following seas!"



# 2018 VSC RACE CALENDAR



**Smuggler's Bash**

**April 21-22, 2018**



**Frenchy's Rum Run**

**June 23, 2018**



**The Prison Break**

**September 8-9, 2018**



**Wild Turkey Classic Plastic**

**November 24, 2018**





.....And a big thanks to all our sponsors

Victoria Pub and Grill  
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VSC Newsletter contributions.....

. Please email to [Paula@intelligentwt.com](mailto:Paula@intelligentwt.com).

### Membership & Sponsorship

.....and don't forget to pass along the Membership and Sponsorship information to all your friends, family, acquaintances, business partners and anyone you pass on the street



**Submit Contributions to:**

Paula Sharpe ..... [Paula@intelligentwt.com](mailto:Paula@intelligentwt.com)

Deadline for contributions...The 1st of each month

We need content from you, the members, along with suggestions you may have for articles.

**Club Location:**



*Victoria*  
Pub & Grill



Established 1988

1413 S. Victoria Ave # F  
Ventura, CA 93003  
805-650-0060

[www.venturasailingclub.com](http://www.venturasailingclub.com)

**Meetings:**

Second Tuesday of every month  
6:30 PM...or approximately thereafter...or  
sometime after everyone finishes dinner

**Gatherings:**

Fourth Tuesday of every month...  
somewhere near 6:30 PM

**Newsletter Sponsorships:**

Business card sized advertisements  
\$20 for 3 months or \$70 per year