

Water Fronts for June 2

The Ventura Power Squadron will celebrate its 50th anniversary next week.

The all-volunteer organization is dedicated to promoting safe boating education for Ventura County residents. Each year, there are nearly 5,000 recreational boating accidents in the United States resulting in close to 750 fatalities. "The sad part is most boating fatalities are due to drowning, and could have been prevented had a life jacket been worn," said Ventura Power Squadron Commander Don Roy. He said that with the growth of recreational boating, the Ventura Power Squadron's free public safe boating class for both sailors and power boaters is needed now more than ever.

The Squadron has over 200 members from all over the county and these volunteers teach the America's Boating Course to the public and advanced nautical skills such as piloting, navigation, and engine maintenance to its own members.

Roy noted that throughout the Squadron's 50-year history, it has enjoyed the support of the Ventura Yacht Club, Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club, Ventura Port District, the Santa Barbara Business College Ventura Campus and others which have provided free classroom space and helped to promote America's Boating Course, which is offered twice annually. The next safe boating class will start on Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Ventura Yacht Club

On Tuesday, Ventura County Supervisor Bennett will present a proclamation to the Ventura Power Squadron for its 50 years of service to the Ventura community in recognition of their dedication to saving lives and making our waters safer.

The 50th Anniversary Celebration culminates on Saturday, June 11. The Squadron will hold a "Fleet Parade," which will consist of sail and powerboats operated by Squadron members and joined by the Ventura Harbor Patrol fireboat, the Ventura Outrigger Canoe Club and local yacht clubs. The Fleet Parade will begin at 2 p.m. at the Ventura Harbor mouth and continue through to the inner harbor passing both the Ventura and Pierpont Bay yacht clubs, which will recognize the Fleet in the naval tradition of firing cannon salutes.

"We're excited," said Commander Roy. "The Fleet Parade is an old Ventura Power Squadron tradition and a great way to recognize the accomplishments of our Squadron, promote safe boating, and celebrate our mutual love of the sea with other clubs in the area. And the cannon shots will be heard throughout the harbor."

For the past 50 years, the Ventura Power Squadron has been an important partner in the Ventura County boating community. Ventura Power Squadron inspectors conduct free United States Coast Guard "Vessel Safety Checks" to insure the safe operation of recreational vessels and the members report chart corrections to the National Ocean Service to maintain the accuracy of local nautical charts. VPS members volunteer throughout the area for worthy causes including Wounded Warriors, the American Tall Ship Institute, the National Park Service, the Leo Robbins Boat Center, and the Ventura City and County sailing programs.

Anyone wishing to find out more about upcoming class schedules and events, visit the Ventura Power Squadron online at www.usps.org/ventura or call 805-876-4VPS.

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Stay up-to-date with the latest notices of race, results and other timely information by joining the local Google Group for the Association of Santa Barbara Channel Yacht Clubs. Click over to: <http://groups.google.com/group/asbcyc> and then select "Join this group" on the right side of the page.

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Upcoming Sailboat Races

* Saturday, June 4, Bob Cooke Memorial Doublehanded. This popular race is hosted by Channel Islands Yacht Club. The skippers meeting is at 8 a.m. The first start is at 11 a.m. Entry fee is \$30 (\$25 for U.S. Sailing members). For more information, contact Channel Islands Yacht Club at 985-4290.

* Saturday, June 11, Governor's Cup. Hosted by Ventura Yacht Club, this is the county's oldest, continuously run offshore race. The perpetual trophy was deeded in 1968 by the late Gov. Edmund G. Brown and stipulates that boats must sail at least 18 miles. There will be PHRF spinnaker and non-spinnaker classes and a multi-hull class if 3 or more entrants. The entry fee is \$40, with a reduced fee of \$30 for boats entered prior to June 1. The skippers meeting will be at 9 a.m. and the first start will be at noon in the vicinity of the Mandalay buoy. For more information contact Race Chair Stan Whisenhunt at 659-1464 or e-mail him at Swhisenhun@aol.com.

* Sunday, June 12. John Larson Memorial Race, hosted by Channel Islands Yacht Club. The course is from the Mandalay buoy around the Hueneme buoy and around oil rig Gina, finishing in front of CIYC. The mandatory skippers meeting is at 9 a.m. The first start is at 11 a.m. For more information, contact Mary Foster at (805) 797-5148.

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2011 ocean sailboat racing schedule

June 4, CIYC, Cooke Doublehanded Race

June 11, VYC, Governor's Cup (random leg)

June 12, CIYC, John Larson Memorial

June 18, AYC, Platform A Race (Anacapa Series 2)

June 25, VSC, Frenchy's Rum Run (Double points; ASBCYC race)

July 9-10, VYC, SailFest. PHRF & J-24 (J-24 Series)

July 16, PBYC, Ingram Trophy Race (Island Series 2; ASBCYC race)

(Fax your race announcements, results and other information to Stan Whisenhunt at 659-3058 or call him at 659-1464. His e-mail address is Swhisenhun@aol.com).