



# THE SHEETS

The Official Publication of The South Shore Yacht Club

March 2022

## Commodore's Comments by Jennifer Johns



February has gotten us back on track with our regular line up of events and it feels good. Social, Cruise, and Race all had fantastic opportunities this past month to get out and spend some time with fellow SSYC members. By now, each of you should have received your 2023 Membership Cards and Reciprocal Courtesy Card. One of the great benefits we offer is having reciprocals at other clubs. If you haven't used this, I highly recommend getting out there and visiting other clubs. Thank you, Marty Albrecht, for getting these out to all members.

The Bridge and Board have been active, too. Last month we voted to approve a new event management and data base solution that will help streamline processes: Wild Apricot.

Wild Apricot is ranked as the # 1 Membership Management Software and has a host of features that will enhance our current method. Some of the highlights: Member Database, Account Self Service, Mobile App, Online Event Registration and Payments, Website Builder. There are a handful of current SSYC Members who are familiar with this system and have nothing but great things to say about it. Our goal is to get everything set up and running by end of March, early April. Stay tuned for updates on this.

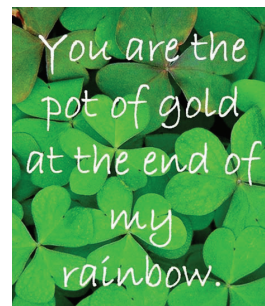
March is going to be a very exciting month as we celebrate the Installation of myself as Commodore along with the rest of the new Bridge and Board. I am so thankful for Tom Noto, Clive Gurwitz, Kate Ladd Pearson, Aline Young, Patty Malone, Brad Brigante, Jim Coleman, Andrea Haro, Don Albrecht

and Tina Simmons for volunteering their time and energy to provide oversight to SSYC. We would not be who we are without you.

We are also getting our own email, [info@southshoreyc.com](mailto:info@southshoreyc.com), this month. Previously, we were using a Gmail account. This new one through our domain will be safe, secure, and on-brand.

Other happenings: The Philanthropy committee is meeting to map out a calendar of events where we can give back, the last Jim White Memorial Race of the season is taking place, we have an opportunity to be on the water and go whale watching with cruise, and we will also be celebrating St. Patrick's Day this month, which leaves me with this message for you...

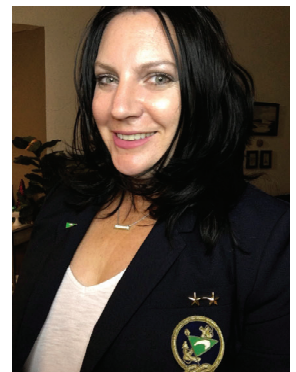
"For each petal on the shamrock this brings a wish your way, Good Health, Good Luck and Happiness, for today and everyday".



Anchors Away!

*Jen Johns*

Commodore



## Vice Commodore by Tom Noto



Me again: all hat, no cattle, but Spring is at hand so let's tackle the question everyone's talking about this time of year: is John Marshall *really* a Pisces? Tout le monde wants to know.

John's birthday is March 14<sup>th</sup>. The conventional view is that anyone born between February 20 and March 20 is a Pisces including, lest we forget, John on March 14th. Then why all the buzz? To suss this out, let's start with a quick refresher on what makes the first day of Spring the first day of Spring, specifically the upcoming Spring or "Vernal" Equinox. We'll see how it provides a reference point in the stars from which we can map out areas corresponding to zodiac signs. Then we'll talk about how the sun is "in" each of those areas successively over a year, sprinkling zodiac signs on us based on its location on our birth date. Then we'll talk some more about John's birthday which, remember, is March 14<sup>th</sup>.

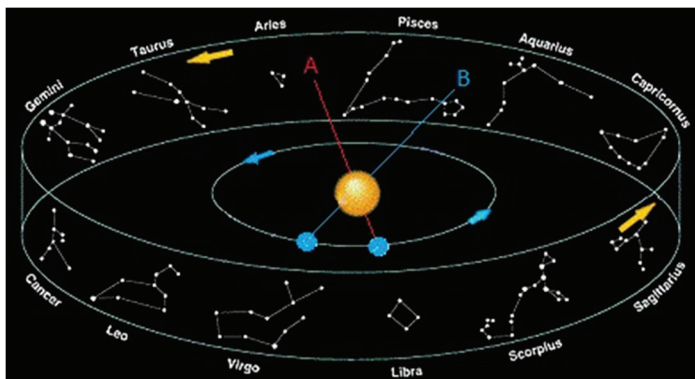
First, Spring. The earth revolves around the sun and also is tilted 23.5 degrees on its axis relative to it. During the course of a year, those two things cause the sun to spend 6 months somewhere over the southern hemisphere (our fall and winter) and 6 months somewhere over the northern hemisphere (our spring and summer). The sun crosses from the southern to the northern hemisphere on the Spring Equinox. That day, it will rise directly east and set directly west, and day and night will be equal lengths ("Equi"=equal, "nox"=night). The 2022 Nautical Almanac says the sun will be directly over the equator heading north at roughly 08:33 PDT on March 20<sup>th</sup>. An instant later, the sun is in the northern hemisphere and Spring is here for us!

Now let's build ourselves a zodiac. Imagine that on the Spring Equinox, you could dim the sun so the stars behind it become visible (they're there!). A couple thousand years ago, when people came up with the notion of a zodiac, the sun would have appeared just at the right edge of the constellation Aries (Point "A" in the diagram to below). For that reason, the sun's position against the stars on that "over-the equator" moment on the Spring Equinox is called the "first point of Aries" or usually just "Aries" for short.

Starting at Aries and, moving counterclockwise along the plane the sun follows against the stars (the "ecliptic" – more on sun movement below), you can divide the heavens into 12 equal slices. Each of those would comprise 30 degrees of arc (1/12<sup>th</sup> of a 360-degree circle) and they can be named after the constellation found in each slice. Going all the way around, that traditionally would give, in order, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces. We now have a zodiac.

Next, we'll discuss the sun's apparent motion through the zodiac. Start by mentally dimming the sun so you can visualize what's going on behind it. We're circling counterclockwise around it so its apparent position against the background of stars is going to change. Think what you'd see over time if you were riding the blue earth in the diagram around the sun. If you looked up each day at noon, the stars would appear a tiny bit (about 1 degree) to the *right* of where they were the day before compared to the sun. The other way to think about that is that the sun appeared to travel *leftward* across the stars. Under that view, which is the preferred perspective for this discussion, each month the sun will move a full 30 degrees to the left through the stars thus going full circle in a year.

To illustrate, if we started on the Spring Equinox with the sun at Point A, the sun would spend about 1 month "in" each of the 12 slices of sky we defined above in a year. It would start March 20<sup>th</sup> at the right edge of the constellation Aries (Point "A"). By around April 21, it would have moved 30 degrees left across Aries and would be entering Taurus. It would cross Taurus over the next month arriving at Gemini on May 22, then to Cancer by June 22, and so on through the list (note how these dates correspond to classical zodiac definitions). By February 20<sup>th</sup>, it would have gotten all the way around to the beginning of Pisces.



## Vice Commodore (Continued)



During the ensuing 30 days, which would include John's birthday on March 14<sup>th</sup>, it would move across Pisces and arrive back at Aries where we started. *The important takeaway is that John being a Pisces (or anyone being anything) is based on him being born during the 30ish days during which the sun was in the slice of sky corresponding to his zodiac sign.* Looks like he was, so he has to be a Pisces, right?

I'm sure you suspect by now that if it were that simple, there'd be no reason for all the chatter about John's sign these days. Yes, it is more complicated. First, the earth actually wobbles like a top, making a full wobble over about 26,000 years. This causes the apparent position of the sun on the Spring Equinox to shift westward or to the right over time (Google "precession of the equinoxes"). The zodiac was developed 3,000 or so years ago. Because of the wobble, however, these days the sun isn't at point "A" at the edge of Aries on the Spring Equinox – it's actually over in Pisces near point "B" in the diagram and edging towards Aquarius. That's why, as they say in the song, "this is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius," but it also means the sun is, in a sense, "slow" relative to the old zodiac signs since it starts further back in the zodiac and will be in Pisces, rather than Aries, for a comparatively longer chunk of March.

A second complication is that in the 1930's, astronomers prescribed official boundaries for constellations (Google "IAU Constellations"). As formally defined, the zodiac constellations do not each occupy a constant 30 degrees of arc along the sun's path which means, if you use those definitions, the sun can be in a constellation for more or less than a month and, in fact, it is in one called Ophiuchus, instead of Sagittarius, for much of December. So now we have 13 signs?

Finally, the earth's speed around the sun varies throughout the year, meaning it does not traverse a consistent amount of sky per unit of time (Google "equation of time" or "analemma").

If you combine these three things, you find that on the dates traditionally associated with zodiac signs, the sun often is *not* in the corresponding constellation. It may be in a different constellation entirely, meaning you'd actually be a different sign than you thought you were. The table below shows when the sun *really* was in each of the zodiac constellations for anyone alive today. To illustrate how it works, someone born on May 6<sup>th</sup> who always thought himself a Taurus given the classic definition (April 21 to May 21) is really an Aries since the sun *actually* was in the constellation Aries between April 19 and May 14, including May 6<sup>th</sup>. I'll come to terms with this eventually. See how you fare:

Sign/Constellation	Classic Definition	Sun Actually in Constellation	Days
Aries	March 21 to April 20	April 19 to May 14	25
Taurus	April 21 to May 21	May 15 to June 21	38
Gemini	May 22 to June 21	June 22 to July 20	30
Cancer	June 22 to July 22	July 21 to August 10	21
Leo	July 23 to August 23	August 11 to September 16	37
Virgo	August 24 to September 22	September 17 to October 31	44
Libra	September 23 to October 23	November 1 to November 23	23
Scorpio	October 24 to November 22	November 24 to November 30	7
Ophiuchus	N/A (not a classical sign)	December 1 to December 18	18
Sagittarius	November 23 to December 22	December 19 to January 19	31
Capricorn	December 23 to January 20	January 20 to February 16	28
Aquarius	January 21 to February 19	February 17 to March 11	24
Pisces	February 20 to March 20	March 12 to April 18	38

And so to *finally* answer the question of the season: John Marshall (b. March 14, quite a few years ago) *is*, in fact, a Pisces. We can all breathe again. Who would like to tell Tina Simmons she's a Goat, not a Water Bearer?

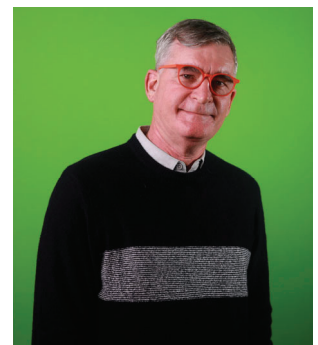
Finally, it's fair to ask what John's zodiac sign could *possibly* have to do with boats. The answer is that the stars were the GPS satellites of their day. If you know where a celestial object is above the earth and can see it and the horizon simultaneously, you can figure out where you are. To establish the object's position, though, you need a celestial coordinate system similar to latitude and longitude.

Let's start with something like longitude. Remember the "first point of Aires?" It's still called that even though, as we've learned, Aries is in Pisces these days. If you draw a north/south meridian through that point, you essentially have a celestial Prime Meridian and can specify (in arc degrees) the east/west position of anything in the sky relative to there. Navigators measure "sidereal hour angle" westward from Aries while astronomers measure "right ascension" eastward. Both approaches work. You can establish a celestial analogue to *latitude* by just projecting the earth's equator out onto the stars to establish a line called the "equinoctical." An object's "declination" in degrees north or south of that can then be specified, just like latitude relative to the terrestrial equator. There's your coordinate system.

More, perhaps, on how this helped people find their way about in a future article.

Tom Nota

Vice Commodore





## Rear Commodore by Clive Gurwitz



Four years ago, Martha and I were deciding about joining the South Shore Yacht Club.

Two events were significant in our decision to join SSYC. First, we met with Tina Simmons, the wonderful chair of the Membership Committee, who invited us to the monthly Friday dinner. The Friday dinners are a terrific way for members to get together with their sailing friends, have an enjoyable time and a delicious dinner. It also allows new prospective members to see what kind of people SSYC members are.



The other significant event was the invitation by John Marshall, our outstanding Race Committee Chair, to come aboard the Race Committee boat before we even joined the club. The Race Committee Boat is another way to get to know members in a close and more intimate setting and to see how much fun it is being part of a working Committee.

I encourage all of the members to welcome prospective or new members when you meet them at any of the great SSYC events. Show them around, introduce them to our members, let them know about your favorite activities at the Club and make them feel welcome. Invite them to join you at the next SSYC event or to meet you at the Club for a drink. We are all SSYC Ambassadors and are dedicated to being "the friendliest Yacht Club" in the area.

Happy  
Sailing and Cruising,

*Clive*

SSYC Rear Commodore



# Social by Jennifer Johns



While there wasn't much activity on the social front in January, we made up for it in Feb with 2 events. First off was our 2nd Friday Dinner "A Nautical Valentine". We had a fantastic turnout filling the Dockside room with lots of love. New members Blake and Clara Borup were present and received their SSYC Binder and Burgee. Unfortunately, we all don't get a case of beer as they figured out how to hold it up correctly. Welcome Blake and Clara! We are very excited to have you as part of the club.



## What Next on the Calendar

### **March – Commodore's Ball**

Celebrate the installation of the Bridge and Board Saturday, March 12, 2022 with dinner, drinks and dancing. This is a celebration you don't want to miss.

### **April – Nautical Spring Theme**

Spring is the air and it has a nautical feel. Join us for our 2nd Friday Dinner April 8, 2022 at 6:00pm. A great time to socialize and enjoy a good meal with members.

### **May – Gilligan's Island**

Channel your best Gilligan, Skipper, Thurston Howell, Lovey Howell, Professor, Ginger or Mary Ann and join us for 3 hour evening May 13, 2022.

### **June – Opening Day**

Our Opening Day has moved to June due some conflicts with the Bridge and Board. Come join us in "officially" opening the 2022 season at our 64th Opening Day, June 11, 2022. A Mexican buffet, champagne, and dancing follows the ceremony. This event will replace the 2nd Friday Dinner.

It was busy weekend in February for SSYC as a group of us met up that next Sunday for Superbowl. We couldn't have asked for a better day. It was sunny and warm allowing for quite a few people to enjoy the game out on the patio. Thank you, John Marshall, for brining extra sound and setting up the Superbowl Pool. Congrats to all the winners that day and to the LA Rams for taking Superbowl LVI!



Cheers!

*Jen Johns*

Social Director





## Cruise by Martha Gurwitz

On Saturday morning, February 19th, Lynn Tadlock, her friend and myself headed to the Ronald Reagan Library with Lynn as the driver. It was an hour and a half trip to Simi Valley but it was well worth it. There we met up with several of our friends from SSYC who were joining us on this land cruise.

As we approached the museum you could see that it was in a beautiful location, perched atop a hill with sweeping views of the southland. The Reagan Library is one of California's most beautiful and unique destinations.

We had decided to visit the Library after I saw an ad on TV promoting their special exhibit at that time: FBI: From Al Capone to Al Qaeda. The stories and displays about many of the gangsters like Submachine Gun Thompson, New York's five major Italian-American Mafia families, as well as the notorious Bonnie & Clyde, were very interesting. They had the actual car that Bonnie & Clyde were killed in, full of bullet holes. There was also a display about the Oklahoma Bombing, The bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, and the Shoe Bomber. It's because of him that passengers now need to take off their shoes at the airport so they can be x-rayed. We also got to see a compelling display about the world renowned identity theft expert and subject of the blockbuster movie "Catch Me If You Can". There was a ton of exciting and fascinating exhibits to see, but we also wanted to have time for lunch and to visit the permanent part of the Library, so we kept moving on.

At the Reagan Library, we got to step aboard the same Air Force One that flew President Reagan over 660,000 miles – to 26 foreign countries and 46 U.S. states. We were able to view one of his presidential limousines and secret service suburbans as part of an exhibit on presidential motorcades.

There was an exact replica of the Oval Office as well as many of the gifts Ronald and Nancy received when he was President including many saddles. Reagan had always loved horses and was a very skilled rider, having been a reserve cavalry officer at Fort

Des Moines in the 1930s. He also owned and raced his own Thoroughbreds for years. He sold horses at the Del Mar sale and loved visiting with the jockeys and with Marge Everett, the owner of Hollywood Park Racetrack.

There were many more exhibits to see and we wanted to see all of them. In fact, we were the last people out of the museum!

Here are some pictures from that day:



*Martha Gurwitz*

Martha Gurwitz,  
Cruise Co-Chair



## Race by John Marshall

### THE JIM WHITE MEMORIAL WINTER SERIES

Mother Nature finally looked upon our fleet favorably. We had wind! We managed to get three races in on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Mike and Penny Nelson with their trawler, “Shindig”, and their crack race committee crew to pull off three races in one day. It was the first time in my experience for South Shore Yacht Club to start three separate races in one day. The reason I’m mentioning Race 5 Results is to reinforce how important it is for the Race Committee to secure accurate finish times. The corrected time for “Celia” was ONE SECOND faster than “Valkyrie”. That was the difference between first and second place! Next race day is scheduled for Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. We’ll finish up the series with Races 7 and 8.



### ENSENADA TUNE-UP RACE – SATURDAY, APRIL 9

South Shore Yacht Club and Dana Point Yacht Club are the co-Organizing Authorities for the Ensenada Tune-up race. Historically, DPYC is the club with the most entries in the Newport-to-Ensenada race. This year marks the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual 14.2 mile Ensenada Tune-up Race in preparation for the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual 125 mile Newport-to-Ensenada Race. This Off Wind Course allows the racers and their boats to fine tune any issues with their vessel and crew prior to the “N2E” race event. The Newport-to-Ensenada Race is scheduled to start on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. South Shore Yacht Club is expected to assist on the start of the N2E with either check-in boats or start boats at the beginning of the race. We’ll see you on the water!

**John**

John Marshall,  
Club Race Chair



# March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Board Meeting	3	4	5 Whale Watching
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Commodore's Ball
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Jim White Winter Series Race #4
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



# April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Board Meeting	7	8 2nd Friday Dinner 6pm	9 Ensenada Tune Up Race
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Easter	18	19	20	21	22 Newport to Ensenada Race	23
24 Newport to Ensenada Race	25	26	27	28 Cruise to Avalon	29 28th - May 1st	30

# May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cruise to Avalon 1 Last Day	2	3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7 Opening Ceremonies
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Back Bay - Paddle Boarding & Kayaking
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Whale Watching
29	30	31				

# June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Hibachi Series 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	Hibachi Series 8	9	10 2nd Friday Dinner 6pm	11
12	13	14	Hibachi Series 15	16	17	18
19	20	21	Hibachi Series 22	23	24 Cruise to Alamitos Bay Marina Long Beach - 24th - 26th	25
26 Alamitos Cruise Last Day	27	28	Hibachi Series 29	30		



# July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	Hibachi Series 6	7	2nd Friday Dinner 8 6pm	9
10	11	12	Hibachi Series 13	14	15	16 Crew of 2 Start
Crew of 2 Finish 17	18	19	Hibachi Series 20	21	22	23 Raft up Newport Harbor
24	25	26	Hibachi Series 27	28	29	30
31						

# August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	Hibachi Series 3	4	5	6
7	8	9	Hibachi Series 10	11	2nd Friday Dinner 12 6pm	13
14	15	16	Hibachi Series 17	18 Cruise to Two Harbors	19 Catalina 18th - 21st	20
21 Cruise to Two Harbors Last Day	22	23	Hibachi Series 24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Hibachi Series 31			

# September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	Endless Summer Beach Party 17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Dana Point Cruise & Raft Up Last Day 25 Sunday Sailing Series	26	27	28	29	30	Dana Point Cruise and Raft Up 23rd - 25th



# October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Cruise to Air Show Huntington Beach <sup>1</sup>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	2nd Friday Dinner 6pm <sup>14</sup>	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					Land Cruise Lake Arrowhead Oktoberfest	
Lake Arrowhead Oktoberfest Last Day <sup>23</sup>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 2nd Friday Dinner & Closing Ceremonies	12 Long Beach Cruise
Long Beach Cruise Last Day 13	14	15	16	17	18	Turkey Regatta 19
20	21	22	23	Thanksgiving 24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

# December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	Christmas Lights Cruise - Newport Harbor 10
11	12	13	14	15	16	Boat Parade Party 6pm 17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



# Details 2022 Officers & Board Members

**Commodore:**

**Jennifer Johns**  
ssycsocial@gmail.com

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**Julie Holt**

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**Social Director:**

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**Chris Haro**  
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**Director:**

**Jim Coleman**  
colemanjames@msn.com

**Race Director:**

**John Marshall**  
jmarshall@expeditor.com

Any members with children who are interested in heading up a **Kids Learn to Sail Program**, please call Don Albrecht at 714-501-7520 or email him at hb\_sailor@yahoo.com

**New Members**

**Don & Nancy Hughes**

**Wade & Lisa Elliott**



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