

**AMERICA'S BOATING CLUB®**  
For Boaters, By Boaters™



*Helmsman May 2021  
Volume 62  
Issue No. 2*

# The Peralta Helmsman

[www.peraltasquadron.org](http://www.peraltasquadron.org)



In the last issue we reported that recreational boaters have far more electronic accessories that were available 10 or 20-years ago. In this issue we are reporting on the Pumpout Nav App provided by the California State Division of Boating and Waerways. This app is a free iOS and Android mobile

app that shows you where the nearest sewage pumpout, dump station and floating restrooms are located. The app shows nearest pumpouts to your location on a map and list its status. How does it work? If all is well, a pumpout will appear as a green place marker and once you tap on the marker, the station will read “operational.” The app also provides boater information and marina tracking access. You can get pumpout cost and hours, the exact location within the marina, and access to educational information such as guidance on how and why to pumpout. Marina operators can track pumpout usage data and post updates. There are over 200 boating facilities in the App now with about 240 pumpout stations.

Article Continued on top of Page 5



*Save the waters  
you love*

## Pumpout Nav

Find the Nearest Pumpout, Dump Station or Floating Restroom



Powered by epical™

*Not for navigation purposes*

### Also in this Issue:

- Messages from our Commander and Bridge Officers
- Mike Holmes sailing on the Viveka
- Calendar Update

## Executive Officer's Report

By Lt/C Nick Pack, JN

### VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

2021 is now with us and with the new year, it is time to get a free vessel safety check. The vessel safety check only takes about 20-minutes on the averaged size boat. Whether or not you vessel passes the safety check, you will know that your vessel is safe and compliant, or that you need to take care of a few things. Items that usually need to be addressed are having the current registration, documentation and pollution signage on your boat, fully functioning

navigation lights, a clean bilge free of oil or other containments, If your vessel passes the safety check, your boat will be awarded the blue VSC for 2021. This will not guartenee that you will not be boarded, however may lessen the change of being boarded by the Coast Guard for a safety check.

Starting in 2022, owners of documented vessels will be required to pay \$130 for the renewal of their documentation. The good news is that the renewal period will be for five years. Should you sell yor boat before the end of the five year period you will not receive a refund. The new owner will have to pay the full amount for a new five-year renewal term.

The state of California is considering a 250 percent increase in boat registration fees that will take effect July 1st. The new registration fee would go to \$70.

# SAVE A LIFE



Providing FREE & Confidential  
Vessel Safety Checks

"We will come to you."



"United States Power Squadrons®"  
WWW.USPS.ORG



### VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)

To be completed by a U.S. Coast Guard approved Vessel Examiner.  
See the back of this form for a brief explanation of required items.  
A Federal Requirements pamphlet is also available.

Date of VSC: \_\_\_\_\_  
Decal Awarded: Yes  No

Owner/Operator Name:	<b>VESSEL INFORMATION:</b>
Owner/Operator has attended a CGAUX, USPS, State or Boating Safety Class: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Registration or Documentation Number:
Location of VSC - County: _____ State: _____	HIN:
Replaced decal was: Last Year <input type="checkbox"/> Outdated <input type="checkbox"/> First time <input type="checkbox"/>	Length: <16 <input type="checkbox"/> 16-25 <input type="checkbox"/> 26-39 <input type="checkbox"/> 40-65 <input type="checkbox"/> >65 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Powered by: Gas <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel <input type="checkbox"/> Sail <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
	Area of Operations: Inland <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal <input type="checkbox"/>
	Type: PWC <input type="checkbox"/> Open <input type="checkbox"/> Cabin <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK DECAL REQUIREMENTS				RECOMMENDED AND DISCUSSION ITEMS (While encouraged, items below are not VSC requirements)			
Item	Yes	No	N/A	Item	Yes	No	N/A
1. Display of Numbers				I. Marine Radio			
2. Registration/Documentation				II. Dewatering Device & Backup			
3. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)				III. Mounted Fire Extinguishers			
4. Visual Distress Signals (VDS)				IV. Anchor & Line for Area			
5. Fire Extinguishers				V. First Aid and P/W Kits (**over)			
6. Ventilation				VI. Inland Visual Distress Signals			
7. Back for Flame Control				VII. Capacity/Certificate of Compliance			
8. Sound Producing Devices/Bell				VIII. Discussion Items: as applies			
9. Navigation Lights				a. Accident Reporting - Owner Responsibility			
10. Pollution Placard				b. Offshore Operations			
11. MARPOL Trash Placard				c. Nautical Charts / Navigation Aids			
12. Marine Sanitation Devices				d. Survival Tips / First Aid			
13. Navigation Rules				e. Fueling / Fuel Management			
14. State and/or Local Requirements				f. Frost Plan / Weather & Sea Conditions			
15. Overall Vessel Condition: as applies				g. Insurance Considerations			
a. Deck Free of Hazards / Clean Bilge				h. Boating Check List			
b. Electrical - Fuel Systems				i. Safe Boating Classes			
c. Galley - Heating Systems				j. Maritime Domain Awareness			

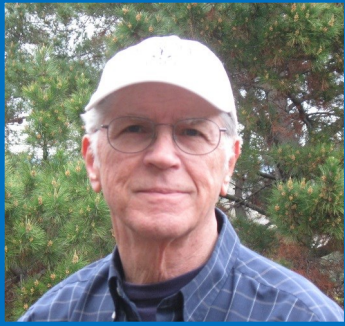
I certify that I have personally examined this vessel and find it meets the above requirements at the time of this Vessel Safety Check. I am a qualified Vessel Examiner of the: CGAUX  USPS  State of \_\_\_\_\_  or \_\_\_\_\_   
Printed Name of the Examiner: \_\_\_\_\_ Examiner Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: This is not an official boarding for law enforcement purposes. It is recommended that you correct any deficiencies noted. This checklist is provided for your information. There is no exemption of liability of any kind for advice given or opinions expressed in connection to this examination. By accepting the Vessel Safety Check decal you are pledging to maintain your boat and equipment to the standard of safety exhibited during this examination. Please remove the Vessel Safety Check decal if the boat is sold or no longer meets these requirements.  
I am consenting to the Vessel Safety Check of my watercraft with full knowledge that it is provided to me as a public service on a volunteer basis without cost, and I understand and agree that my receipt of a Vessel Safety Check shall not constitute or be construed as a warranty or guarantee as to either the qualification, knowledge, or skills of the operator; the seaworthiness of the vessel; or the serviceability or adequacy of any equipment on board.

Owner/Operator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
ANSC7012 (4-08) Previous edition may be used

## Squadron Educational Officer's Report

D/Lt/C NORM PENNINGTON, SN-ON



With the Covid-19 Pandemic and our loss of the use of the San Leandro Yacht Club, we have had to more or less shut down the offering of courses and seminars. An alternative in class instruction, the concept of virtual

learning has been used to keep the interest moving along.

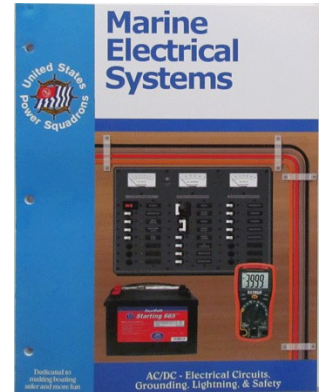


Early in 2020, we offered the new Radar course followed with the AIS seminar. That was followed with Celestial Navigation. All of these courses were conducted using Free Conference Call.

Starting in March of this year, two squadrons have been holding courses virtually. The Sacramento Squadron held the Engine Maintenance course while the Santa Clara Squadron is currently holding the Boat Handling course. Members of several squadrons are attending these offerings without regard to the physical location where the course is being presented. In each of these offerings, the host squadron presents the material while the member squadron handles course registration, materials acquisition and the administration for the final examination.

Our squadron is planning on holding the America's Boating Course in May, hosted by the Coyote Pont Yacht Club in a virtual environment.

Later in July or August we will be offering Marine Electrical Systems (basic electricity). The next course planned for this year will be the 2021 Weather course. Locations to be determined



The Educational Department is finalizing the 2021 version of the Weather course. The course material will be in a hybrid format, some using the 2012 book in paper with 3-weather maps and other components in digital format including a 2021 Errata, Chapter 8 update and Cloud Chart.

This course will also be in an eBook format with a 2021 student text, 3-Weather Maps and Cloud Chart.

Also underway is the addition of some course materials being made available in eBook format as an alternative to printed materials. Some instructor materials will also be available in eBook format. [eBook format is expected to be in the format of a portable document file format (pdf)]

### On the Calendar:

- May 22-28—National Safe Boating Week
- June 14 Peralta Executive Committee Meeting  
Via Zoom, All Members Welcome
- July 16-18 District 25 Summer Rendezvous at Rio Vista  
pending Covid-19 restrictions lifted
- August 2 Peralta Executive Committee Meeting  
Via Zoom, All Members Welcome



# Administrative Officer's Report By Lt/C Alan Smith, P



This year I'm the new Admin Officer for Peralta Power and Sail Squadron. The way the pandemic is going I'm not exactly sure what that means. This pandemic has really

changed the way we currently conduct business. Over the last 14 months we have had to cancel or delay a lot of fun activities. I really missed the yearly crab feed we usually have.

Before the pandemic started we started having 2 or 3 meetings a year through other video conference software packages. Currently we can still conduct our meetings via ZOOM.



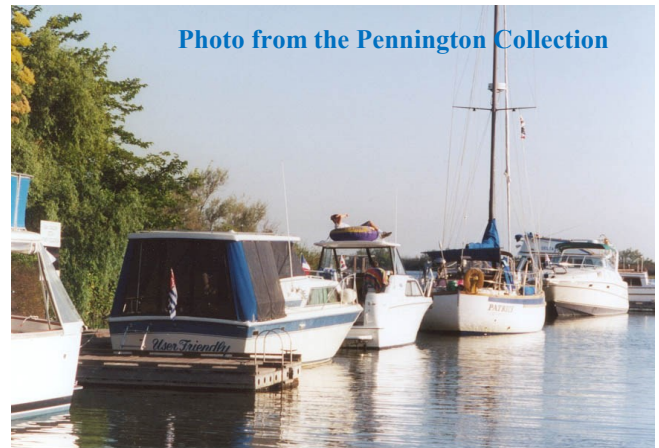
During the winter I found an interesting article about how part of Alameda island is part of San Francisco.

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11702058/why-is-part-of-alameda-island-in-san-francisco>

*.[Editor Note: The above link further explains the origin of the Peralta name through the land grant from the last Spanish governor of California. The Alameda Estuary was once named San Antonio Creek that was on the edge of Rancho San Antonio.]*

In years past, the Peralta Squadron has engaged in a number of activities outside of the classroom that are similar to activities in yacht clubs. For example, as a fund raiser we have held an annual crab feed that has been very successful and has added funds to keep our dues low. Additionally, we have held several general membership meetings each year that have been combined with a dinner or barbecue. Additionally, we have participated in one or two cruises, that if the timing was with us, we would end our cruise with the start of the local district rendezvous. When we had 13-squadrons in the district, these affairs were quite large and a lot of fun for members getting to know members, and of course, exploring new places to visit, either by asphalt cruiser on land, or by boats on the water.

The Peralta Squadron would have an annual week long cruise in the Delta where we would visit Devil's Isle near Tower Park, or Delta Yacht Club. On the way home, a stop at the Pittsburg Yacht Club was a must-do for their outstanding Friday night dinner that was close to a feast.



**Peralta Helmsman**  
 Published in March, May, September and December

D/Lt/C Norm Pennington, SN, Editor  
 650-595-2169 or  
 nwpen@sbglobal.net  
 Quarterly publication  
 of Peralta Sail and Power Squadron



from Page 1

The app was first developed by California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways' (DBW) Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Program in partnership with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and the Bay Foundation (funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund) for boaters in the San Francisco Bay/Delta and Southern California regions.

## 2020-21 Bridge

**Commander:**

Cdr Rick Erickson, JN-IN

**Executive Officer:**

Lt/C Nicholas J. Pack, JN

**Educational Officer:**

D/Lt/C Norm Pennington, SN-ON

**Administrative Officer:**

Lt/C Alan Smith, P

**Secretary:**

Lt/C Barbara Waldstreicher, JN

**Treasurer:**

D/Lt/C Judy Pennington, P

**Assist Educational Officer:**

1st/Lt Ricardo L. Mares, P

**General Committees**

**Auditing**

P/C Janis K. Chapman, AP

Susan Ann Holmes, S

P/Lt/C Fred Holmes, AP

**Nominating**

P/Lt/C Josette Mares, S

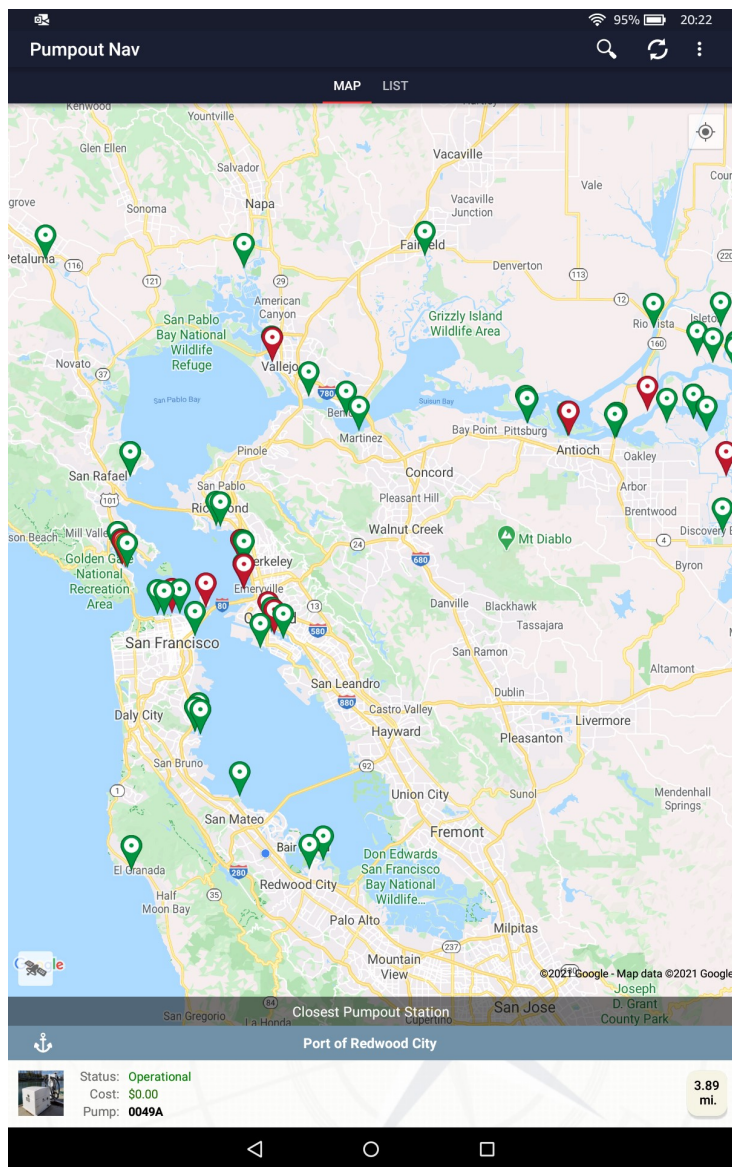
P/C Melba J. K. Hale, P

**Rules**

1st/Lt Ricardo L. Mares, P

D/Lt/C Norman W. Pennington, SN-ON

P/Lt/C Vickie Erickson, JN



To download the Free Pumpout Nav App simply go to your the Apple App Store or Google Play and look for the Pumpout Nav App.

The image on the left was taken from a Kindle Fire. The image on Page 1 was taken from an Android phone.

Article content courtesy of the California Department of Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways.



## DELIVERY OF VIVEKA MIKE HOLMES, P



I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to be part of the delivery crew for Viveka from San Francisco to San Diego in December 2020. She spent the last five years being completely restored at Rutherford's

Boatshop. The new owner is relocating her to the Mediterranean where she will race in classic yacht regattas.



[From the dock at Point Loma Marina in San Diego. Our social sailing bubble from left to right, Mark Niall, Johnny Horton, Mike Holmes, Garrett Greenhalgh, Gery Atkins and Milos Stojiljkovic. Photo credit Maria Gauri.]

The delivery down south consisted of a crew of six, including myself. The captain, Gery Atkins, a sailor originally from Kenya whose career has been focused on classic sailing yachts including schooners Kelpie and Mariette; Milos Stojiljkovic, a professional sailor from the East Coast who crews on America's Cup class J boats; Mark Niall, an Australian boat builder working at Rutherford's Boatshop; Johnny Horton, a welder and boat builder who was instrumental in installing the mechanical systems aboard Viveka; and Garrett Greenhalgh

from San Francisco based Spinnaker Sailing, who has traversed the Bay and California coast over the years in numerous deliveries and regattas, would be our local guide heading south.

With a narrowing departure window to ensure Viveka makes her transport vessel east, we were waiting for the perfect weather window. "Perfect" is probably not the best word to describe weather. Not wanting to throw heavy weather at a beautifully restored 1929 schooner, it was best to wait for optimal conditions.

On December 11th we got the greenlight and departed Svendsen's Bay Marine in Richmond towards San Diego. It must have been bittersweet for those involved in the restoration. Years of sweat and hard work to create a beautiful piece of functional art was headed out of the Bay, her home for the later part of her past life.

Exiting Raccoon Straits, we were boarded by the USCG for a random vessel inspection. As a professional mariner, the Captain, and boat manager Maria, had all the paperwork organized and within a few minutes the coastguard was gone, and we were off underneath

the Golden Gate Bridge.

Turning to port just past Mile Rock, we motor sailed through the night, making way as fast south as we could in anticipation of the wind and swell building within the next 36 hours. The goal was to get past Point Conception before the wind really picked up.

Saturday was spent gybing down the coast in misty conditions. 15 to 20kts of wind on the quarter and a two-meter sea state. We were able to turn off the engine and get 24 hours of pure sailing in.

*Continued on Page 7*

*from Page 6*

She handles exceptionally well, cruising down the coastline at 8 knots.



[Passing the Golden Gate Bridge. From left to right, Mark Niall, Gery Atkins, Milos Stojiljkovic and Johnny Horton. Photo credit Mike Holmes]

Throwing in a few more gybes, we rounded Point Conception in the early morning hours on Sunday. Cloud cover had cleared and as we entered the Santa Barbara Channel, we were treated to the Geminid meteor shower. Never have the crew witnessed such an amazing display of falling light, so many meteors you would lose count after just a minute.

Just past Point Mugu we were able to hoist the spinnaker. During the setup and hoist we passed through hundreds of Pacific white-sided dolphins feeding on a school of fish. One word comes to mind, “Epic”.

Sailing conservatively, we doused the spinnaker at dusk and continued towards the San Pedro Channel. On deck for the 2100 to 0000 watch, it was a far cry from the night prior. So much light pollution from Long Beach reflected off the marine layer, one could probably read a book in the cockpit on a moonless night.

Coming back on watch at 0600 we were inside of the last 50 miles of our delivery. As we ap-

proached San Diego there was the proverbial US Navy warship off Point Loma conducting drills. Warship 27 (USS Portland) announced a *sécurité* on channel 16 for all vessels to stay clear as they were conducting a circular maneuver hard to starboard.

Given we were the only vessel in the area we knew it was probably intended for us. Captain Gery hails the warship on the VHF, switches to a working channel, and proceeds to state our intentions. After telling them we would stay as low as possible, but we may have to gybe, there was a long pause on the other side. Finally, a response, “Understood, just please keep clear”, and with that the warship altered her course. There must have been a sailor on watch.

We were greeted into San Diego harbor with the typical warm SoCal weather and cold beverages on the dock. Viveka had been safely delivered to San Diego, where she will spend some time before transiting to Mexico to be loaded on a transport vessel headed towards the Mediterranean. Gery, Maria, Jeff Rutherford, and all those that worked on her over the past few years should be proud of their final product. She is a beautiful boat that the new owner is excited to take delivery of.



[ Viveka with her spinnaker up during sea trials. Photo credit Mike Holmes ]

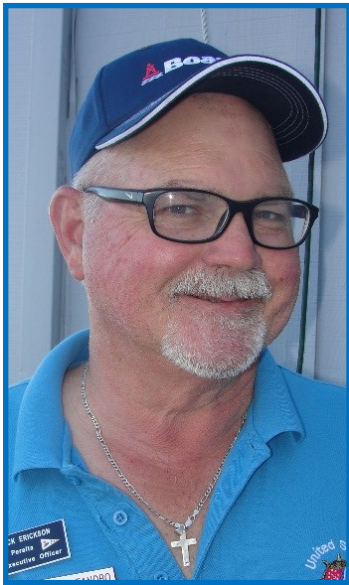


## THE PERALTA HELMSMAN

Peralta Sail and Power Squadron  
16 Cobblestone Lane  
Belmont, CA 94002-2310



# Commander's Comments



### Greetings, Shipmates,

We again stand on the threshold of another interesting year in the time of COVID, and I am happy to see that more and more restrictions on our 'normal' lives are being eased. I noticed the other day at Kaiser Hospital in San Leandro where there were several hand wash stations and a small battalion of people asking the same questions about possible exposures, there is now one person at the door

dispensing hand sanitizer (just like on a cruise ship). Vaccinations are now available and I heard this morning that nearly 30% of Californians have been fully vaxed. Most of the Bay area is in the 'Orange' tier, so gatherings are being allowed, albeit in small numbers. These are, in my humble opinion, signs of hope that we will soon have the opportunity to gather together as a group and eat, share stories, and laugh uncontrollably!

As of now, we continue to gather virtually to meet, conduct our club business, and learn. I am gratified to see that the new distance learning model is enabling members to participate in classes of their interest that are being presented by other Squadrons within our District. Kinda cool! We should all recognize Norm

Pennington, in his capacity as both Squadron and District Education Officer, for being one of the main drivers in the new model of learning.

I also want to thank last year's Bridge for a Job Well Done as we travelled through uncharted pandemic waters last year. Thank you: Norm, Judy, Barbara, Nick, Vickie, Ricardo, Josette, Alan, Melba, and all of you for your support, encouragement and guidance.

This year's Bridge has some exciting opportunities to embrace, and I look forward to this year being the year we transition back to the routine we have been used to. One significant opportunity is in growing our membership! Remember, our Chief Commander tells us the 'Membership is Job One!' I hear that boat sales are through the roof, so we can continue to invite new boat owners to the ABC course, as well as other offerings we have. And, who wouldn't want to join our group of fun-loving boaters? Win-Win.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy. As the ad for Celebrity Cruises says: I Can't Wait! To see you all soon!

