

Robert B. Kieding - Honorary Member 2025

Robert B. Kiending was born March 28, 1937 in Evanston Illinois. His family moved to Santa Barbara when he was 9 years old.

Bob Kieding was a lifelong sailor who began sailing an 8-foot, single-handed pram at age eight, and went on to race and compete in one-design offshore yachts throughout the US and beyond. As a teen, Bob worked as a paid hand on various yachts out of Santa Barbara, California. By age 18 he had earned his first professional command as a yacht skipper, managing a yacht crew on weekends and over the summers. Upon completing college at UC Santa Barbara, he held several conventional on-land jobs but kept returning to his first love: the sea.

In 1977 Bob purchased Santa Barbara's primary ship's chandlery, and went on to open several other retail businesses in and around the Santa Barbara waterfront area. Chandlery Yacht Sales is still operating today, as one of Santa Barbara's oldest businesses, having been in operation since 1946. Today Bob's son, Kenny, and daughter-in-law, Krista, own and run the family business.

Bob held many community positions throughout the years, including President of the Santa Barbara Youth Sailing Foundation, Chairman of the Junior Rowing Program for the 1984 Olympics, Trustee of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, President of the Santa Barbara Semana Nautica Summer Sports Festival and more. He was also the primary founder of Santa Barbara's popular Maritime Museum, which was one of his proudest accomplishments. Boating is deeply etched into the Kieding family, and continues to be an integral and much-loved part of their family to this day.

Bio by Krista Kieding 2025