

**CARL W. ROBINETTE YACHTING AWARD**  
**FOR**  
**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO YACHTING**  
**1979**

1979, at the Club Youth Foundation Testimonial Dinner, the SANTA BARBARA YACHT CLUB recognized Carl Robinette for his support and building of Youth Sailing at the SANTA BARBARA YACHT CLUB and within the community of Santa Barbara.

The testimonial culminated with the inauguration of the **“CARL W. ROBINETTE YACHTING AWARD”** being presented and stating that it’s **“to be given in future years to individuals or groups who have contributed to the enhancement of yachting”**.

**The Award is a giant ship’s wheel.**

By Bob Kieding, SBYC Scuttlebutt, Dec. 1979  
(documented 2025, SBYC History Committee)

Carl W. ROBINETTE

B – 1911    D – 1989

SANTA BARBARA YACHT CLUB, Flag Member and Life Member 1956 – 1989

*A charismatic and dynamic leader, Carl Robinette had a vision for youth to learn sailing through competition. This led to the creation of the Yacht Club's Youth Foundation.*

Carl Robbinette was an all-around amazing individual quietly driven, professionally accomplished, dynamic but selfless in his personality, and tremendously generous to others.

Trained in navigation in the Navy in WWII, Carl went to officer's candidate school and became a lieutenant commander, later he attended law school in Ohio.

Carl and his wife and their two little boys, Roy and Carl Jr., moved from Cleveland to Santa Barbara. When Carl's brother and sister-in-law were killed in a plane crash, Carl and his wife adopted his two little nieces, Lynn and Laurel.

Carl was a big sailor. Well known locally as a superb celestial navigator, Carl Robinette was tapped for both the Trans-Pac and the Tahiti Races. He went traveling to exotic places. Carl and his wife were frequently included in the local society circles, and his wife was involved in community activities.

Carl was very popular and served his community as a Santa Barbara City Councilman during the 1950s.

Carl was a uniquely charismatic man who was dynamic without being egotistic, and accomplished without being self-congratulatory. He never wished to draw attention to himself, just his activities, and he had the ability to stir up other people to follow his passion. He was truly the idea and the driving energy behind the Youth Foundation, and his enthusiasm brought in a terrific team of other dedicated volunteers.