



SANTA BARBARA
YACHT CLUB

Edward T. Attlesey, 1991

Ed Attlesey spent his early years in Palos Verdes, CA. When he was 13 years old, his family moved to Maceio, Brazil, where they lived for 2 years. After a brief, several-month return to the States, they were off again to Buenos Aires. He moved back to finish his last 2 years of high school at Palos Verdes High.

Living in such beautiful areas near the water, I knew he must have begun sailing in his youth. Ed told me he learned to sail while in Brazil. Their home was on the beach and a boat builder had a shop right behind it. His dad commissioned a 9' English design sailboat. Ed spent many afternoons watching his first “yacht” come to life. After the christening, I would spend most of my spare time sailing the beautiful water of Maceio.”

“Upon returning to Palos Verdes, we acquired a Lido 14. My friends and I spent many weekends sailing Alamitos Bay.” Even while serving in the Navy, Ed was fortunate enough to spend time at bases in the South Pacific that rented Lidos. Sailing had officially become his passion. He bought a Hobie 16 and traveled with his brother, Tim, to Hobie regattas throughout California. While attending Long Beach State University, the two would sail the Hobie over to Avalon, work summer jobs, return to school, and repeat the wonderful experience the following summer.

Then something special happened. “Upon graduation, I met the most special person in my life – Jan.” When Ed was appointed a State Farm Insurance agency in Goleta, up they came. Ten years later, they bought a Catalina 30 and joined SBYC. Ed calls that a life-changing experience. “Growing up on the water and boating had given me an image of yacht clubs that didn’t interest me, but our new neighbors (next slip) convinced us it was the right move. And it was!” Soon after, these neighbors, Ed and Susie Dougherty, became close friends with the Attleseys, and before long, they found that Ed’s misconception of yacht clubs was simply because he hadn’t found the right club until he walked into SBYC. We are friendly and fun!

With its picturesque location and its kind, welcoming members, the Club became a big part of their lives. The couple raced, attended parties and cruises. They held positions on social and racing committees. When Ed received “a phone call from Dexter Goodell asking if I would “run” for Rear Commodore” he said yes. “I was shocked at this, but extremely excited to serve and contribute to something that had become so special to our family.”

The years Ed spent going through the chairs were eventful, and include such memories as representing SBYC in the Masters’ Regatta in San Francisco, thanks to Staff Commodore Bill Deardorff. Some of Ed’s proudest moments occurred while taking their Grand Banks *Grand Times* up and down the coast, representing SBYC at such races as the America’s Cup in San Diego, as well as other major regattas in which SBYC participated. Among Ed’s fondest memories was a particular cruise to PCYC, which he enjoyed with his good friend and flight/skydiving instructor, Stan Los. Yes, memories can sometimes hit you harder than you expect.

The Attleseys lived on their boat “in the most beautiful harbor on the coast” for 8 years with their daughter, Lynn, who insisted mom and dad do so before she finished high school. Lynn knows a good neighborhood when she sees one.

I feel this next part needs to be in Ed’s own words. “Now here’s where it gets interesting.

The *Vaquero*, a 64’, 23’ beam boat built in Santa Barbara by “Sugar and his dad to ship 100 head of cattle from Santa Rosa Island to the mainland became available. As usual, my “vision” kicked in and we acquired the

“corral on water” to convert to a beautiful live-aboard “yacht”. I know there are some chuckles in the crowd now!” As it turned out, Ed and Jan received “a dose of reality” when they actually discussed their plan with a boat builder in Oregon. They held onto their cattle yacht for about a year. “We had some yacht club cruises with it. That was a kick. We had a cocktail party...and it was quite the scene.” They sold it to a Club member who brought it to Mexico, installed a jacuzzi, and used it as a charter boat for a time. He’s not sure where it is now.

Ed and Jan eventually moved off the water, remodeled a home and bought a 45’ R.V. The two spend a lot of their time at their second home “in La Quinta and traveling this country that is so beautiful and filled with great people. I have found that there is nothing better than a day at sea, but you can see a lot more at 70 mph!” The couple has a message for all their SBYC friends. “Jan and I sort of disappeared from the scene at the Club. Our interests changed and we seemed to fill up our spare time with travel and cruising in our “land yacht”. We just want you to know that we love you, we think about you and cherish your friendship. If you ever get out to the desert, please give us a call. We’d love to see you. Mi casa es su casa!!!” Lastly, Ed would like to remind the membership that we are part of a community, at SBYC, that is very special. The people, environment and special friendships are rare. They should be cherished.