



SANTA BARBARA
YACHT CLUB

Catalina Ping Pong Perpetual Trophy
Story by Sarah Chrisman

Back in 2002, it was still a tradition for the Catalina Cruisers to spend the weekend between the Avalon and Two Harbors legs of the cruise at Moonstone Cove, the Newport Harbor Yacht Club outstation. In those days we still had reciprocal privileges. On the beach, the yacht club “maintained” a very old ping pong table with even older paddles. It was traditional to hold a casual ping pong tournament there. I am a pretty good ping pong player, but so were many of the men.

That particular year, I had the great challenge to win given to me by my “coach,” John Ambrecht. Particularly dangerous competitors were Dennis Friederich and Dave Baxter who were expected to battle it out for the championship. Dennis was feeling so confident that he offered to play against Kathy Norton left-handed. That did not go so well for him. As the competition continued, my coach John kept me going and winning with his secret strategy, “stay sober.” I did just that and had the final match against Dave Baxter and I won.

Jan and Dave Baxter, Cruise Captains that year, had the wonderful perpetual trophy made in my honor as the first winner of what became the Annual Catalina Ping Pong Tournament.