



LONG BEACH YACHT CLUB

Presents the

2026 SEASON OPENER

Cruiser Navigation Rally

March 7, 2026



This rally kicks off the season in SCCA cruiser navigation rallies. Held in the sheltered waters of the Long Beach Harbor, it provides the year's first opportunity for power cruiser skippers to check out their vessels and refresh their skills in this exciting navigational challenge. Long Beach Yacht Club invites its members and all members of Southern California Cruiser Association Yacht Clubs to participate in this fun Cruiser Navigation Rally, previously known as a predicted log contest.

The following is a reprint of an article written by SCCA S/C Tom Collins."

EVOLUTION OF THE "SEASON OPENER"

In 1947, a group of Cruiser Navigation skippers who had been competing under the Southern California Yachting Association (SCYA) met at Ciro's restaurant on Santa Monica Boulevard and organized the Southern California Cruiser Association (SCCA). The intent was to create a separate organization whose primary emphasis was on power cruiser navigation rallies rather than sailboat racing. King Brugman of Long Beach YC was named as the first Commodore. Subsequently the SCCA sanctioned a handful of rallies each year. That tradition has carried on for over 70 years.

The two Cruiser Navigation rallies that had been run during the SCYA's Midwinter and Midsummer Regattas remained with SCYA. They were the Brittain and the Donaldson contests, respectively. Later the Midsummer was dropped and the Donaldson trophy was moved to the Midwinter as the Class B trophy. The host club for the Midwinter log rally alternated yearly between California and Long Beach Yacht Clubs. The entry fee for sailboats in the Midwinter ranged from a couple of bucks for the smallest class of sailboats to a very substantial fee for the largest seventy-plus foot sailboats. In the mid seventies discontent arose when the entry fee for all the predicted loggers was set at the maximum charged for the largest sailboats.

After meetings between the SCYA and the SCCA failed to produce an acceptable resolution to the problem, SCCA withdrew from further participation in the SCYA Midwinter. A replacement contest needed to be created to fill the void in the schedule. Then LBYC fleet captain Arnold Cowan proposed the Season Opener and created the present trophy.

Interestingly, after the split, the Donaldson Trophy was retained by the SCCA and is now used for the first leg of the LBYC hosted Long Beach to San Diego Craig Rally.

The Season Opener Rally typically runs in the sheltered waters of the San Pedro Bay and is a relatively short course that can easily be navigated on a Saturday morning. Skippers usually tie up after the rally at the LBYC Long Dock for lunch in the Lounge and some enjoyable camaraderie. The Awards banquet Saturday evening is a favorite as skippers and crew get together to discuss the contest and catch up on happenings since the previous year's Season Closer. The LBYC Season Opener remains as one of the more popular rallies on the SCCA calendar.

LBYC - SEASON OPENER

CRUISER NAVIGATION RALLY

Saturday, March 7, 2026

SPONSORED BY: Long Beach Yacht Club

SANCTIONED BY: Southern California Cruiser Association
North American Cruiser Association

ELIGIBILITY: All eligible members of SCCA member clubs and per SCCA Rules.

POINTS FOR: SCCA Brugman, Top Ten, Bathke, Simonson, Lurie, and Spring Series. North American Cruiser Association season trophies.

TROPHIES: Season Opener Perpetual Trophy.
Keeper Trophies for: Top places overall.
First Place, first year
First-place Easy Entry

RULES: SCCA latest rules. Download from: SoCalCruiserAssociation.org

LOG FORMS: Latest version. Download from: SoCalCruiserAssociation.org

COMMITTEE: Chairman: Bill McCormick C 626-375-4208
Committee Boat: Inamorata VHF Channel 71
Scorer Tom Collins C 818-383-6292

SKIPPER'S MEETING: None – predictions to be submitted via e-mail to twc741@gmail.com before starting Rally.

OBSERVERS: Skippers are to furnish their own observer.

ACTUAL LOGS: Scan or photo of Actual Log to be **e-mailed** to Scorer at twc741@gmail.com no later than 1400.

BERTHING: Berthing will be assigned by LBYC to the extent available.
Advance overnight berthing reservations are required.

TROPHY PRESENTATION: 1830 Saturday: No-host cocktails followed by the trophy presentation dinner at 1930. Reservations are required.
(Blazers and ties are the traditional attire for this event.)

Season Opener Cruiser Navigation Contest

Hosted by...**Long Beach Yacht Club**

Saturday – March 7, 2026

The Course:

Start:	Alamitos Bay East Jetty light “2”	100 yards stbd
CP1:	Long Beach Breakwater light “1” (east end)	150 yards port
WP1:	West Measured Mile Marker, Long Beach Breakwater	100 yards port
CP2:	Long Beach Channel Entrance Light “2” (west end LB Breakwater)	100 yards port
WP2:	Comer – Middle Breakwater	75 yards port
CP3:	Pier 400 Light “A”	150 yards ahead
CP4:	Long Beach Channel Light “9”	100 yards port
WP 3:	Pier J Light “8”	600 yards port
CP5:	Long Beach Lighted Channel Buoy “3”	50 yards port
CP6:	Island Freeman northwest Beacon	150 yards stbd
CP7:	Island Grissom east Beacon	75 yards port
WP4:	Belmont Pier - as-a-range	200 yards port
Finish:	Alamitos Bay West Jetty Light “1”	200 yards port

Notes & Special Rules:

1. Start Time: Start at skipper’s discretion so as to turn in logs by email before 1330 hours (Scan or photograph of Actual Log e-mailed to twc741@gmail.com).
2. Contest prepared using chart: US5CA61M, 49th Ed. No scoring handicap will be used.
3. Official distance: 15.5 nautical miles (may vary depending on distance off the marks).
4. If interfering ship traffic is encountered, a time out may be called. Call time-in at the same place or return to last called mark. Note details and clock times on back of log.
5. Rally communications: All vessels shall monitor VHF 71 during the Rally.
6. All equipment aboard the vessel may be used including GPS, speed, chart plotters, etc., except use of clock time, elapsed time, or ETA from any source is prohibited.
7. Distances off of fixed structures should be considered as minimum (as well as maximum) to avoid chance of grounding or coming close to swimmers at Belmont Pier.
8. This contest allows an open log where during the regatta the skipper may view all times that are recorded on the actual Log.
9. Skippers should announce: “Five minutes to start” on VHF-71 if other vessels are in the area.

March 7 2026, LBYC Season Opener Rally - Easy Entry

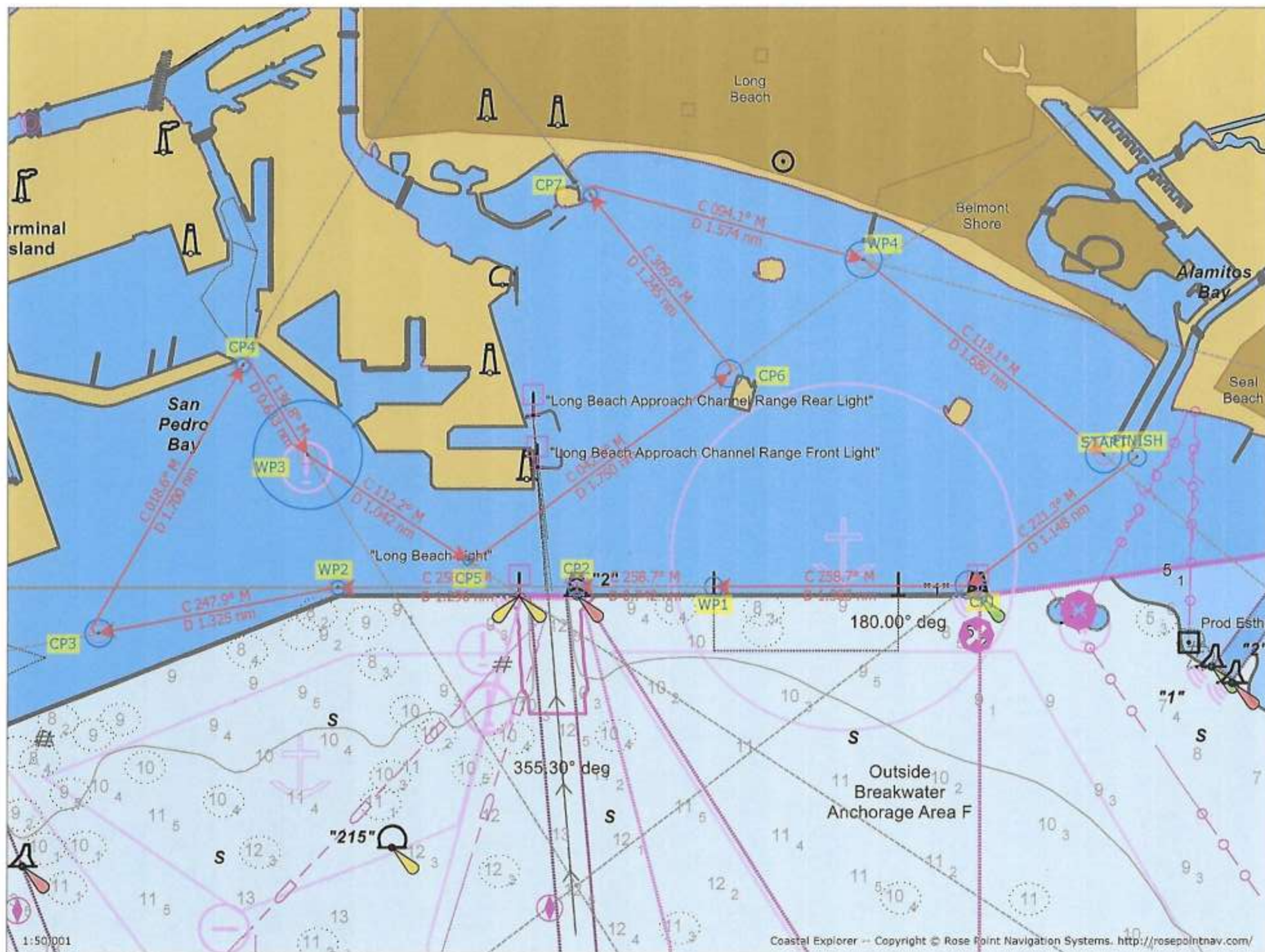
A special feature of the LBYC Season Opener Cruiser Navigation Rally is the provision for Easy-Entry rally skippers to participate without the need to run a measured mile or to prepare and submit a predicted log. The course is just sixteen miles and it's all inside the Long Beach breakwater so you'll be running in sheltered water.

It's simple! Saturday morning go to the Seal Beach Pier and start. Then follow the course instructions to navigate past the control points. Simply run the course at your planned speed. Your observer records the time on the Actual Log when you pass the control points. You can use the speed readout on your GPS to adjust your throttle to maintain the speed you've chosen to run. Be sure to note your planned speed on the front of your log.

After your Log is turned in, the Committee will use the speed you choose to prepare a prediction for your boat. Then they'll compare that prediction with your actual times to figure your score. Join in the FUN!

Course Headings:

To:	Steer:
CP1	221° magnetic
WP1	259°
CP2	259°
WP2	259°
CP3	248°
CP4	019°
WP3	137°
CP5	112°
CP6	043°
CP7	310°
WP4	094°
Finish	118°



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CRUISER ASSOCIATION

Official Cruiser Nav Rally Entry Form

Vessel: _____ Rally: _____

SCCA Number: _____ NACA Number: _____ Rally Date: _____

PREDICTED LOG

Checkpoints (no waypoints or blindpoints)		Predicted Clock Time		
		Hrs.	Mins.	Secs.
Start				
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

I am entering this rally at my own risk and will save, hold harmless and indemnify the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CRUISER ASSOCIATION, and such other Club and/or Association that may be sponsoring, hosting, or sanctioning this rally, together with their officers, directors, committees and members, from any and all liability or responsibility of any nature whatsoever for accidents, damage or injury to myself, my crew, my guests and my boat, and for any damage I or my boat might cause to any other boat, person or property, and I waive and relinquish any claim I might have for injury or damage to myself or my boat and against any such association and/or club and/or their officers, directors, committees, or members.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Skipper (print) _____

Address _____

Email _____ Yacht Club _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Observer Name (Furnished) _____ (Assigned) _____

First Year Duff Wadants Only:

I certify that it has been less than 12 months since I participated in my first SCCA cruiser nav rally.

Signature _____

(SCCA Log Form revised 04/08/2021)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CRUISER ASSOCIATION

Official Observer Actual Log Form

Vessel: _____ Rally: _____

(Observer to fill in gray areas)

Actual Vessel Number Displayed: _____

ACTUAL LOG

Checkpoints (to be entered by Skipper)		Port or Stbd.	Yards Off	Predicted Start Time		
				Adjusted Start Time		
Start				Hrs.	Mins.	Secs.
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						

Optional for Skipper:

I have calculated my error to be: _____

Blind Point Predictions				
From C.P.#	To B.P.#	Elapsed Time		
		Hrs.	Mins.	Secs.

Committee Use Only

Watch Error (Seconds) _____ Fast
 _____ Slow
 _____ % Error

Equipment checklist to be completed by Observer (Y or N)

SCCA Burgee _____ YC Burgee _____ All clocks covered ? _____
 Depth Sounder _____ VHF Radio _____ Chartplotter used? _____
 GPS Used ? _____ If GPS used, are all the prohibited items on the GPS taped over? _____

Observer is to record all unusual occurrences, rule violations, etc., on reverse side.

I have read the current SCCA rules and certify that I have abided by them.

Observer _____ Date _____

I have participated in this rally in the true spirit of yachtsmanship and have abided by all rules of the SCCA.

Skipper _____ Date _____

(SCCA Log Form revised 04/08/2021)

RESERVATIONS FOR THE 2026 LBYC SEASON OPENER

Cruiser Navigation Rally

March 7, 2026

E-MAIL TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN Tuesday March 3, 2026

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Yacht Club: _____

Boat Name: _____

Email: _____

If slip is needed, please also include boat length and beam and contact Bill McCormick directly at 626-375-4208

Please reserve dinner(s) for _____ persons at the LBYC Season Opener awards dinner Feb. 7.

Cocktails at 1830, Dinner at 1900.

Dinner will be a buffet with salad, choice of short ribs or salmon, sides and dessert. Pay at door - \$67.50 tip included, cash or check.

Please return this reservation by Tuesday, March 3, so we can plan for the dinners.