

Ventura Sailing Club



NOTICE OF RACE



21st Annual FRENCHY'S RUM RUN June 14th, 2025



In 1928 Raymond "Frenchy" LaDreau arrived on West Anacapa Island and lived a hermit-like existence for the next 28 years. Frenchy's wife had died, it was said, and he'd come to the island in a state of mourning. As the years passed, Frenchy's sorrow over the loss of his wife did not lessen and his drinking increased. Despite this (or because of this), Frenchy became the unofficial Park Service representative, reporting on acts of vandalism and island activities. When he was 68, he suffered a fall and NPS decided to move him to the mainland. He was put on a bus in Port Hueneme. "His destination was not known," a Park representative says, "and that was the last they ever saw of him." Not a single scrap of wood, a nail, a stone, remains to suggest his curious, long tenancy. He was well-known among fisherman from Monterey to Ensenada; who often stopped in to sample his bouillabaisse from the lobster he trapped, the fish he caught and the abalone he pried from the rocks. Prohibition was in force from 1920 to 1933. Is this why Frenchy stayed? Some say he was the supplier for illegal rum running. Maybe his stash of rum is still there! If you feel like stopping off at the cove during the race to search for the legendary Frenchy's stash, then be our guest. Each year we hold this race in Frenchy's memory.

THE COURSE: The start will be at the Mandalay Buoy and a mark will be set in Frenchy's Cove at Anacapa Island to be rounded to port. The finish will be at the Mandalay Buoy, taken to port. Finishers (except beach cats) will record their own times when they are over the line between the Mandalay Buoy and the Mandalay Power Plant and within 3 boat lengths of the Mandalay Buoy. The beach cats will finish inside Ventura Harbor after leaving Mandalay Buoy to port.

THE CLASSES: PHRF-handicapped spinnaker and non-spinnaker monohull classes, ORCA, and beach cat (18' minimum length) classes are welcome. Classes may be modified as necessary to accommodate all boats.

THE ENTRY: Entry online using Regatta Network <https://www.regattanetwork.com/>. The entry fee is \$35 and \$25 for VSC members. (\$5 discount for USSA members). Deadline for registration is 5 p.m. June 13th.

THE RULES: The race will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing. The Sailing Instructions are available on the Ventura Sailing Club website www.venturasailingclub.org and <https://www.regattanetwork.com/>

HARDWARE FOR THE MANTLE: Trophies/prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place boats in each class, depending on class size.

For further info. call Hall Stratton (805) 806-8544 or email venturasailingclub1@gmail.com