



July/August/Sept. 2021

[www.mbcachannelislands.org](http://www.mbcachannelislands.org)

# THE CHANNEL ISLANDS STAR

## President's Message

Hello Members:

I hope this newsletter finds you in good spirits and good health. I would like to welcome Sarah McFadden, Deborah Adrian, Justin Kane & Vassil Valchev to our Section. They recently joined and we all extend a warm welcome.

We hope to see you at the upcoming functions. We have a Poker Run to the Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum and Janes-Parkway Carriage House, scheduled for Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. We're planning our traditional Oktoberfest in October, Cliff House Restaurant gathering in November (Lunch by the Sea!), and a Christmas Party in December...COVID permitting. Hopefully you can make it to all the events. We will let you know as plans are finalized. See this newsletter for the Poker Run details.

It looks like our Clean Car Show will resume after a two year break. We are planning this event for the end of January.

Best Regards,

Peter Samaha

President, MBCACI  
(805) 890-8489

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**MBCACI Poker Run & Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum**  
**Sunday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Social gathering, museum tours, food and friends**

**Oktoberfest @ Samaha House**

See page 5

**Do you have an idea for an event? Questions?**

**Peter Samaha - (805) 890-8489**

**E-Mail [psamaha@msn.com](mailto:psamaha@msn.com)**

or

**Steve Koger – (805) 341-2901**

**E-mail [kogermeister@verizon.net](mailto:kogermeister@verizon.net)**



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**MBCACI Poker Run  
to the  
Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum  
& Parks-Janeway Carriage House  
3596 Sagunto Street, Santa Ynez, CA 93460  
Sunday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>**



The Historical Museum houses fascinating exhibits from the Chumash period through early 20th Century ranching days. The Carriage House displays more than 36 carriages including a variety of wagons, carts, stagecoaches, and other historical modes of horse-drawn transportation. Also featured in the Carriage House is an outstanding display of saddlery including Visalia and Bohlin saddles, bridles, harnesses, and other tack. The Ellen Gleason Memorial Library is devoted to local and California history.

**Please register for this event. We need to know how many people are coming.**

1. Email Peter or Steve that you will be attending the event. [psamaha@msn.com](mailto:psamaha@msn.com) or [kogermeister@verizon.net](mailto:kogermeister@verizon.net)
2. Complete the form (bottom of next page) and send a check to the indicated address. Cost is \$12.50/person. Fee includes entry and snacks/beverages at the museum
3. Please notify us and make payment as soon as possible

**Poker Run Instructions:**

This is 5 Card Stud (you will receive five cards...best hands win!)

For those of us who live in the Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, Ventura area...

1. **STOP #1: Coffee, Bean and Tea Leaf, 4360 E. Main Street in Ventura at 10:30 AM SHARP** and randomly select one poker card from a playing card deck.



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2. **STOP #2:** Location will be revealed on a route/stop flyer that you will receive on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. Select one poker card.
3. **STOP #3: Starbucks, 3957 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.**
  - a. **Ventura area participants** will select one poker card
  - b. **Santa Barbara area participants** may join the Poker Run at this stop...select three poker cards. **MEET AT 11:20 AM SHARP.**
4. **STOP #4:** Location will be revealed on a route/stop flyer that you will receive on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. Select one poker card.
5. **STOP #5:** Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum. Select one poker card  
**Best Hand wins \$100; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Best Hands win \$25 each**

**General Driving Instructions:**

**ROUTE FROM VENTURA (without stops):** 63 miles total, one way

- STOP #1 location to 101 Freeway to Santa Barbara - 154 West (San Marcos Pass Road) exit (39 miles)
- Exit 154 West; drive for 22 miles to 246 West
- Turn Left on 246 West; drive 1.5 miles to Edison Street
- Turn right onto Edison Street; continue 0.2 miles to Sagunto Street
- Turn right onto Sagunto Street to Museum on right side (450 feet)

**Tear off and mail with check**

**Sunday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> MBCACI Event – Poker Run to Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum**

Name of Person Registering: \_\_\_\_\_

Your contact information: E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of people in your party who will be attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.50 per person = \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks out to MBCACI.** Mail this form and your check to: Peter Samaha  
1900 Hobart Drive  
Camarillo, CA 93010



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**The Details:**

- We've selected a 10:30 AM start time in Ventura, considering the time it takes to make the drive with stops and arrive at the Museum before Noon (when they open). Museum closes at 4 PM.
- Someone will be at each stop location to give you your next card. Look for an obvious chapter officer (Peter, Steve and TBD) with a MB sign and/or a MB hat or shirt on and standing beside their Mercedes car.
- Depending upon how many people participate, we may have to combine two card decks. In that case, standard poker rules apply for winning hands, except for obvious variations...e.g., you could end up with Five of a Kind.
- Museum will provide tables and chairs for our group. Club will provide lite snacks and beverages (water, sodas).
- **LUNCH:** **Panino**, right across the street from the Museum (3569 Sagunto Street) Phone: (805) 688-0213. Soups, Salads, Sandwiches. Self-order and self-pay.  
Menu: [https://www.paninorestaurants.com/files/Panino\\_Menu\\_Santa\\_Ynez.pdf](https://www.paninorestaurants.com/files/Panino_Menu_Santa_Ynez.pdf)  
Other nearby restaurants: S. Y. Kitchen (Italian), Dos Carlitos Restaurant & Tequila Bar
- Plan is for everyone to purchase and get their own lunches and bring them back to eat and socialize at the museum. You are welcome to bring a favorite personal appetizer or snack. Unsure about whether we can bring and consume alcohol at the museum. The docents only work a few days/week and have not returned our call yet.
- We know that everyone has their personal opinions about masks but we strongly encourage everyone to bring and use masks and we will encourage social distancing. *In fact, the museum may require it.* Many of us have underlying conditions so it's wise to take precautions. Thanks.
- **AFTER THE MUSEUM EVENT** you are on your own. Here are some local options:
  - Visit a local winery for wine tasting. Here are a couple of wine tasting locations in the Santa Ynez area:
    - Gainey Vineyard Tasting Room, 3950 East Highway 246, Santa Ynez, CA 93460 (805) 688-0558, Sunday: 11 AM – 5 PM (Reservations highly recommended; last seating is 4 PM; \$20/person; 1 hour limit)
    - CrossHatch Winery Tasting Room, 1090 Edison Street, #104, Santa Ynez, CA 93460 (805) 691-9192 Sunday: Noon – 6 PM (Wines by the glass, wine tasting, bottles to go)
  - Visit Solvang or Santa Barbara
  - Chumash Casino
  - Take a scenic drive in any direction



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## Oktoberfest at the Samaha House

Peter and Tamara will provide the main course and some side dishes. Attendees are welcome to bring a favorite appetizer or a German beer or wine. There will be a nominal per person fee to cover cost of the sausages and side dishes. If you have Lederhosen or other German clothing, wear it and be the hit of the party!

**October date and additional details to come...stay tuned!**

Our last event...

## California Oil Museum, Santa Paula

Many of our chapter members recently enjoyed a hot, sunny day, socializing and having lunch in Santa Paula at the historic California Oil Museum. The museum is housed in the original Union Oil Company Building, built in 1890. In 1950, the building was established as the Union Oil Museum. For its 100th year anniversary, the upstairs offices were restored to their original appearance and opened for public viewing. The Museum's free-standing Rig Room contains a 1890's cable tool rig, comprising authentic mechanical elements salvaged from local oil fields and restored to working condition.





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The images above show the smiling faces of our members who attended, including new members...the McKnight's and the Goldberg's in the lower left image. Welcome, and a big *Thank You* to everyone who attended. Most chose to tour the main museum, as well as to take the docent-led tour of the upper business offices of the early oil company headquarters. The lower right image shows a very grateful Steve Koger who received MBCACI Section's 2020 Member of the Year award plaque for his leadership contributions to the chapter and a series of articles on his 2020 visit to the Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart, Germany.

Below are a few images that attendees provided of the second floor renovated business offices, which few had previously seen.



Image 1: Painting of the original Union Oil Company building in Santa Paula and a bust of an early company leader. Image 2: An ornate early cash register...circa late 1800's. Image 3: Company safe to store the early oil money. Image 4: I can't read the keys, even when enlarged...I think this is a very old accounting machine or typewriter. Image 5: Simple desk with a photo of a company official and definitely a very old typewriter. Image 6: Geological map of a portion of Ventura.



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## So, How Old is the Discovery of Oil in California? *Not what you think!*

I found some really interesting facts about the discovery and early history of oil in California and thought I would share the following, taken from Wikipedia and their cited sources.

The story of oil production in California began in the late 19th century. In 1903, California became the leading oil-producing state in the US and traded the number one position back-and-forth with Oklahoma through the year 1930. The history of oil in the state of California, however, dates back much earlier than the 19th century. Native Americans were keenly aware of oil reserves in California and they relied on its utility for thousands of years, albeit not for energy sources. The most abundant oil seep in the ancient California territory was the La Brea tar pits, in present-day Los Angeles. Native Americans used oil from La Brea and other seeps primarily as a lubricant, but they also used it as a sealant to waterproof canoes. When Spanish explorers arrived in California in the 1500s, they also used oil to seal cracks in their ships and the roofs of their homes.

By the mid-19th century, American geologists discovered the vast oil reserves in California and began mass drilling in the Western Territory. In 1865, seven years after Edwin Drake developed the first oil drilling system in Pennsylvania—the Union Mattole Company started producing oil in the Mattole Valley near Petrolia, California. The company hoped to replicate the success of the Pennsylvania drillings and find large amounts of oil in Northern California. During this period, California's population increased by approximately 375% in the years following the 1849 gold rush and California's demand for oil was increasing dramatically, however, Union Matolle failed to find sufficient oil supplies. The company could not produce the oil to keep up with consumer demand. As a result, Californians found themselves in desperate need of oil.

In 1866, Thomas Bard and Josiah Stanford produced oil from Sulphur Mountain in the **Ojai Basin**.

The next sections of the Wikipedia article detail the California companies that sprang up in the mid-to-late 1800's, including:

- In 1876, at the Pico Canyon Oilfield in the Santa Susana Mountains, north of the San Fernando Valley, Well #4 was the first commercially successful California oil well, producing oil for 114 years until it was capped in 1990. In the early years the oil was piped to a refinery in Newhall. Later, the oil pipeline was extended to the ocean in Ventura.
- The Pico Canyon Oilfield was eventually purchased in 1883 by the Pacific Coast Oil Company (later to become Standard Oil of California), having 30 oil wells that produced 500 barrels of oil per day at that time.
- In 1892, two former Gold Rush prospectors, Edward Doheny and Charles Canfield, discovered an abundance of oil in the Los Angeles City Oilfield, which soon extended throughout the Los Angeles Basin. When word spread, a flock of oil companies descended upon the area to drill for oil. In 1894, there were 80 oil-producing wells, which burgeoned to over 500 by 1897.



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