

# CHOLLA CHATTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHOLLA BAY SPORTSMENS CLUB

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1976



Picture taken by Verlene Barber

"BIG TEN WINNER." GEORGE RODGER WITH HIS TROPHY  
AS PRESENTED BY BOB BOS, PRESIDENT OF TUCSON CHAPTER.

CONGRATULATIONS, GEORGE. . . .

## CHOLLA CHATTER

Official Publication

of the

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## CHRISTMAS PARTY IN CHOLLA BAY

by LEWIS FRAZIER

HELP!! HELP!! HELP!! SANTA CLAUS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We would appreciate your donations, especially needed are citrus fruit, such as oranges, tangerines, also canned and dry foods. Open your cupboards - anything you do not need put them in a sack, donate anything you may wish, as all food will be eaten...

The Christmas party and distribution will be starting at 9:00 A.M. the morning of Saturday, December 18, 1976 at the Radio Room in Cholla. If you have any donations, please bring them to the Radio Room and give them to Betty Munro, you may start as of now so we can have them ready for the 18th...

If any club member wishes to donate, give Christmas gifts, foods, etc., to a certain family in Cholla, please let any board member or me know. we will put your name on your package, and distribute same day.

Please open your hearts to the children in Cholla Bay, your donations will be most appreciated by them and you will be rewarded we are sure.

Thank you,

Lewis Frazier  
Christmas Party Chairman



## STORY OF A DISASTER AND ONE GREAT LEARNING POINT

by HARRY JOHNSON

The morning of October 22, 1976

It was 0300. My crew was asleep on the beach. I was anchored with a short anchor line and light anchor just behind the point of the sand spit at the south end of Bahia di San Jorge (Lat 31°-3'N, Long 113 -7' W) in the Gulf of California. It was a spring tide and I was not much suprised when at maximun ebb, the anchor dragged and I started to drift out to sea.

I started the outboard and started back to the beach near my anchorage. In the hurry to get the trip going, I had failed to chain the outboard to the transom. Suddenly, with a mocking roar, the engine jumped from the transom into the sea. For a moment I was too stunned to think. Then I decided that I would be an awfully stupid sailor to drift out to sea without even a sail to help direct my course.

I climbed on top of the cabin, wrapped my legs around the mast and started to bend on sail. I found that my crew, (now "safe?" on the beach) had really tangled the halyards when they took the sails down. From time to time I glanced over my shoulder and tightened my legs around the mast. The seas were getting bigger. It must have taken 15 minutes to straighten out the halyards in the dark.

The next operation was to ship the rudder and tiller which I had taken aboard when I beached the boat. Some crazy hunch caused me to take a hitch on the rudder and then on the tiller and secure the line to a cleat. (continued)

I had hardly put the rudder overboard when the rudder and tiller came apart at the hinge point and started to float away separately. Happily, with the securing line, I hauled the rudder & tiller back aboard. A big beautiful stainless steel bolt was missing. Perhaps it was aboard. Perhaps I could find it. Look! There was nothing else on board big enough to do the job. Then, as I started my hopeless task I remembered the bolt we used to secure the mast for trailering. I looked in the trailering gear. The bolt was almost perfect. Soon I was sailing.

After perhaps half an hour of beating towards my early anchorage, I found I was in shallow water. Assuming that I was on the left side of the channel, I turned right. Immediately I was in ankle deep water and found bare sand a dozen yards ahead. I was beached hard in a still ebbing tide. I crawled into my sleeping bag and went to sleep.

At daylight I found that I was beached on the sand spit 300 yards from my original anchorage and my crew.

The following are comments on the coast of Mexico. To a degree, I think it is rather presumptuous to comment with so brief an introduction to the upper gulf. On the otherhand, much of what I said came from study rather than personal experience. However, I do believe that I picked some of the worst tides and a bit of rough weather. From my point of view, that is much better than had we had a light breeze and sunny day and had jumped from Laguna to Laguna. Then, I might have thought that the upper gulf was docile and kind.

Since I really blew this bit of research, I should be quietly sitting on the beach. You know, that would never do. The boss called up this morning, he plans to have me come to Monterey in two weeks and pick up a 42 foot ketch and sail it to Cabo San Lucas, to Mazatlan and then on to Manzanillo and return.

(continued)

All I can say is: It looks like a Christmas in Mexico for me. I just hope I have my wife with me. Right now, it looks like she will go to San Diego and then fly home. Later, if we can work it out she will fly to Mazatlan or someplace further south. It sort of looks like I might have my two sons for crew on the return trip. This would be pretty interesting. One son is 33 the other 30. I can see some arguments in a situation like that.

Hasta la vista ,

Harry

Davis, California


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# The Coast Of Mexico

by Harry & Edna Johnson

The coast from Punta Penasco to the spit on the south side of Bahia de San Jorge is a low sandy beach pierced by the entrances to Laguna Moruda (sp?) and Laguna Salada. Due to the shallow waters, winds and seas are simultaneous. When there are no seas, the lagoons may be entered and boats may be beached almost anywhere along the coast although care should be taken to avoid the black lava rock which occurs in many places. When there are seas, there is a continuous line of breakers. Neither of the lagoons may be entered and boats can not be beached.

It is more comfortable to cruise this area in the period of neap tides when anchoring is easier and currents are weaker. When the currents are strong and against the wind, seas become sharp and uncomfortable.

At low tide, when the wind is from the southeast, there is an almost continuous line of breakers from the tip of the sand spit at the south end of Bahia de San Jorge to Isla San Jorge (Bird Island). At mid tide, shrimpers skirt the end of the sand spit and head south.

About 6 miles south of the tip of the spit, a narrow bay runs about 4 miles to the south. All by a little bit of water at the entrance to the bay bares at low water.

## GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE UPPER GULF OF CALIFORNIA

1. The upper Gulf of California is shallow and a 25 knot wind soon builds a rough sea.
2. Tides are high (20') thus requiring an extra 100 feet of anchor line to compensate for the rise in tide.

8 (continued)

3. Due to high tides, flood and ebb currents are very strong, thus requiring good anchoring technic. When flood or ebb current is against the wind, the waves become sharp and steep.
4. There are no lights (no dependable lights). Thus, running at night must be avoided.
5. Secure anchorages are often 45 miles apart. Thus, boats should be able to run 45 miles in 9 hours.
6. Currents induced by tide and wind make dead reckoning very difficult.
7. Boats should not be beached at high tide. In spite of tidal predictions, the next high tide may not reach high enough to reach the boat. On a gradually sloping beach it might be impossible to move the boat back into the water.

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## CORRECTIONS

Your editor received the following note for correction:

Dear Mr. Annis:

The \$100.00 donated to Search & Rescue during the fishing derby by Mr. & Mrs. Louis Knaak and C.R. - was in memory of Mrs. Knaak's father Ralph C. Sager who used to fish there ten years ago, when he co-owned a trailer across from Betty & Hector with us. "It was not in memory of C.L. Knaak whom was Lou's father. (deceased Feb. 1976)" Please make a correction in the next Chatter.

Thank you,  
Signed, Mrs. L.H. Knaak (Beverly)

It has been reported to the editor that some members have not been receiving their Chatter. Please be sure to fill out the form for any changes of address.

Thank you.



by  
DON BARBER

This year is about to close out and things in general have been so good as far as mishaps go that it leaves one with not much to talk about. We as a club of good seamen have used the Buddy System, the Check (safety) List, Grid Map & our Radio facilities so well that we in Search & Rescue can only say "Bless You".

Next year should be really nice for the new Search & Rescue chairman, whoever that might be.

We have had a couple of touchy ones this past week with the Burning of a boat just after launching (luckily no injuries or loss of life). This accident possibly could have been avoided, but then maybe not (I still don't have all the details) As a matter of fact Search & Rescue still has had no report so I shall not make any more comment.

I understand that last week we had somewhat of a sudden chibasco (Baby Hurricane) and that one of our Search & Rescue boats got caught in it and lost power, as of this writing I'm told that the use of a Sea Anchor saved him and his boat. You capable seamen give these two incidents some careful thought: (1) Is your bilge blower working properly? (2) Do you have a sea Anchor aboard?

Happy Boating



by  
VERLENE BARBER

Back in 1969, a group of men got together and organized the "Big Ten." To join, first, one must be a member of the Cholla Bay Club. Next, you buy a card, which only costs \$1.00. Then, you have your catch weighed and verified by a committee member or by the Radio operator at the Bay. There are four required fish and a choice of six of at least ten.

Now, that doesn't sound so hard, does it? But in seven years, since the Big Ten was introduced, we have had only four fill the card. The latest was George Rodgers. He needed a dolphin and hooked him on August 28th. But, he didn't get his trophy until the November 9th meeting, when Bob Bos came up from Tucson for the presentation.

The four who have filled their cards are, Mary Brown, of Tucson, Jack Gill and George Rodgers, plus myself of the Phoenix Chapter.

I happen to know of several guys and gals who have caught the right size of fish and then forgot to have it weighed. Which is of course, very discouraging. So, try harder to remember to weigh you catch before rushing to the cabin to clean up for the cocktail hour!

Continued..

The Cal Taylors new home is finished and they have moved in- but not unpacked. Mary Fran says they haven't been home long enough to get unpacked. On top of everything else, Cal had a virus and spent three days in the hospital.

Bell came home November 9th to spend some time, and help her folks get settled.

Louella Frazier celebrated her Sweet Sixteen Birthday in Cholla Bay November 13th. To help her celebrate were half of her ball team. The girls did have fun-swimming and enjoying the Bay. It was a first visit for a couple of the girls and they said they'd be back when time permits.

Little Lewie Frazier went surf fishing with his Dad and caught four Seatrout. He also went with Bub Allison and landed a 12# Pinto. I wonder if he has a Big Ten Card?

There'll be new boats at the bay over the Thanksgiving weekend and new names on the sterns.

We'll all be voting for 1977 officers before the December meetin. There will be new faces and new names. 1977 should be a good year, with new blood, new ideas and new energies. We'll be looking forward to a good year.



1. Grouper \* 30#
2. Pinto \* 15#
3. Dolphin \* 15#
4. Sailfish \* any size
5. Seatrout 5#
6. Mackerel 6#
7. Pampano 2#
8. Red Snapper 15#
9. Shark 50#
10. Cachi 6#
11. Skipjack 6#
12. Lady fish 2#
13. Black Sea 50#
14. Sardinero 10#
15. Rock Bass 2#

These shall be caught on Rod and Reel- Women 80%

\* Required



## Cholla Fish In Comeback

by Bill Valentine

MY OLD stompin' grounds a Cholla Bay are starting to make a comeback in the good fishing department-for those who know how to cut the mustard, that is.

For instance, 10-year old Lewis Frazier II slipped down the rocky shoreline south of Pelican Point about dawn last weekend and fooled four sea trout.

Then to prove that was no fluke, Lewis boated a 12-pound pinto on eight pound test line when he and his dad were guests aboard Bub Allison's super fishing machine, the "Pelican".

Kids nowadays have no respect for their elders!

A lively weekend had to produce mixed emotions for first-time Cholla Bay visitors Karen and Don Lawson. Karen's Dad, Joe Prekup, had taken them to Mexico to test their reflexes with fishing rods and almost ended up testing their swimming skill.

Joe's boat the Barefoot Boy, with Pete Salizar guiding, was anchored over Twent-Two Mile Reef, when a wild storm nearly nailed them. They heard winds of the semi-cyclone approaching just in time to crank up and race full bore toward Cholla, barely outrunning the storm.

They wisely left their marker bouy and acnhor at the reef in their haste to leave.  
(continued)

This undoubtedly kept them from a drenching.

Not so fortunate was Tucson fisherman Dennis Hohlenkant, with Hector Munro guiding. His boat, the "Sherry," was anchored in the same vicinity several miles away, but the storm moved up on him so fast he was caught with his anchor down.

Within five minutes, the water changed from an unpleasant chop to raging whitecaps. Dennis had to creep back toward port.

Severe winds ripped the canvas boat top to shreds. Water slurping over the bow spilled inboard, drowning out the CB radio. Then to really scare the soggy sailors, a following wave spilled over the transom, killing one engine.

Daring Dennis threw his anchor overboard to bring the bow around into the roaring wind and spent about an hour riding out the worst of the storm until it lessened enough to allow them to continue limping back to Cholla. God love'em, the conscientious Cholla launchers were awaiting his return in complete darkness and snugged his poor soaked outfit onto his trailer.

The reason Don and Karen have mixed emotions is because the day before nature got so upset, Karen nailed a 45 pound grouper, her mother, Selma, got a 35 pounder. Don caught a mess of big Pinto and, for frosting the whole bunch hooked and landed white sea bass.

(Reprint-Arizona Republic & Gazette)



# "Birthdays - Birthdays"

When Is Yours?

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Pauline Murphy celebrated her birthday on the 10th. (I heard that she and Charlie celebrated their wedding anniversary on November 1st..congratulations to you both and many more.)

Louella Frazier celebrated her "Sweet 16 Birthday" with her girlfriends at the Bay..sigh...Louella, Have a beautiful 16th year - hope it is very memorable for you!

Betty Howell also celebrated her birthday at the Bay with her friends, her husband Joe gave her a birthday party at the Granada in Puerto Penasco.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Eleanor Westfall will be celebrating her birthday on December 25th...wow...hope you get double presents,

To all who had birthdays...and will be celebrating birthdays...we wish you "A Great Year, Mucho Happiness Lots of Love and Buena Salud."

How about more Birthday reporting? We will even look up your sign in the Horoscope guide and inform you of your lucky days, number, travel, love, or?

Give us your Birthday Day...

See you at the next meeting!

## Greedy "Triggers" Full Of Fight

I'm quite a mouter-offer about the relative fighting qualities of various finny inhabitants of the Gulf of California.

One tough little customer that practically is ignored by most sportswriters, yet can outfight fish almost twice his heft, is a mean, ugly old buck-toothed tiggerfish.

The Mexicans have aptly named him "cochi". Translated, it means pigfish. This name fits this ever-hungry scavenger, because the only time he'll knock off his nibbling is when the sun goes down.

If they ever grew in size to 40 or 50 pounds, I sincerely believe it would take tuna tackle to subdue one.

The largest that I have caught would have to strain to weigh 10 pounds. But before I finally got a glimpse of his slab-sided shape, I was convinced I was wrestling a 20 pound fish.

They are shaped much like a freshwater bluegill. And when they turn sideways on the end of a fishing line and attempt to bore down to deeper water, they will put a bow in even the stoutest of fishing rods.

You hang into one of a freshwater bass rod, and it's nip-and-tuck as to who will land who.

They're equipped to tear up almost anything with meat on it in a most remarkable fashion. Their small mouth is just loaded with sharp canine teeth backed up with jaw muscles stout enough to nearly chop a pair of pliers in half.  
(continued)

With such a small mouth, they sometimes are hard to hook, driving a fisherman half crazy trying to figure out what in heck is ripping bait to shreds.

If you want to make a dedicated fisherman out of a kid, just equip them with a light action rod, a small reel loaded with 15 to 30 pound test line, a two ounce feather jig with a small peice of bait on the hook, and free spool it to the bottom anywhere in the Rocky Point-Cholla Bay offshore water.

These fish roam all over the place, and are liable to be caught almost anywhere. Like a shark, they seem to smell a piece of bait no matter where it is.

Not being a fish eater, all I can say is that some fishermen actually fish on purpose for these tigers, liking the fleecy steaks you can fillet off of each side, while other fishermen throw them back to the water in disgust, considering them trash.

If you don't want your fingernails trimmed clear up to your elbows, don't for gosh sakes, stick your pinkies anywhere near their greedy mouth.

(Reprint-Arizona Republic & Gazette)



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### MEMBERS-PLEASE NOTE:

If you have moved or have a chang of address, please fill out the following change of address form:

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1950 W. Lester  
Tucson, Arizona 85705  
Tel: 624-1905

Jaynie and Susie will notify your Cholla Chatter Editor. Please cooperate-Your reward will be-a Cholla Chatter in your mail every month.

If you do not get your Chatter at any time, please notify Susie, Jaynie or myself. Thanks.

We and the Cholla Chatter Staff wish you "HAPPY HOLIDAYS", Good Cheer and Good Health.

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## Black And White Ball In Puerto Penasco

The Black and White Ball was held Saturday, November 27, 1976 this year.

Per Roma Blunk:

She said the girls had a great time; she heard they didn't get home till 3:00 A.M. or after. We must find out what Patty Rodgers and Tammy Sutton did at the ball. May be they will tell us at the next general meeting?

Per Debbie Jarvis:

Mel and Debbie attended and took their guests, Ned and Loretta Saban. She said Pete Scott (Council Chairman from Tucson) and his wife, Carol took two or three couples. They all got together and had a very good time. She said there was a great turnout by the Mexican people and their families as well as the officials. A girl from Agua Fria won the Queen title, very beautiful girl, Debbie said. She also told me that our girls did very well. The ball was held at a new place called, "Casino Venus" in Puerto Penasco, the tables were all the same size, square and the chair backs were covered with white covers so the ladies would not get their gowns dirty, there was a very large orchestra and well amplified. Debbie said she and Mel and guests had a fun time, and was sure everyone there did, too.

We hope to hear more on the Black and White Ball at the general meeting. We will report back to you, we hope it was a great success. We certainly enjoyed it last year.

Hope to see you at the next meeting,  
December 14, 1976 at 8:00 p.m.

## Happenings At The Bay

by MAGGIE

From all reports we hear that the weather was very cold and uncomfortable over the Thanksgiving Holiday at the Bay. However, in spite of this, it seems that everyone had a good time, and this is how some members spent the week-end:

Ed Perlmutter - tells me that several people stopped by his place to visit Ed and Marty for a cocktail or two; Barbers, Fraziers, Hemphills, Jaskowiaks, Ed's buddy, George was over, Scotts and Dernbergers from Tucson and many others. Ed celebrated his birthday with his family, they had dinner at Monti's, how nice! Ed said Ruthie, Betty Munro's mom was also at the bay for the holiday.

Shirley Hemphill - It was cold, breezy but she said she and Ray had plenty of company, people cam in and out, a few Bloody Marys, etc. Betty and Hector Munro visited them on Saturday and they played "Hooey, Hooey? ?????" Who else has played this game? She also told me that Betty Howell had a birthday and Joe had a party for her at the Granada in Puerto Penasco. I'll bet it was a great birthday.

Slim Kemp - Said, watch for the new "Emma Lou," his brand new boat...

Anybody else have anything to report? Send it to us and we will have it in the next chatter...Please do..

We had a beautiful week-end in Auburn, California, we visited Yoli and Luis Brusuelas at their great cabin which sits in the middle of very tall pine trees, and other big tall trees looking so beautiful in its colorful fall dress of browns, yellows, reds, rust and the weather was crisp, cool but just right. We had dinner there on Thanksgiving in front of their great big fireplace.....It was just perfect..See you later....

# C. B. S. C. PHOENIX MEETING

Meeting was held Tuesday, November 9th. Nominations were held for new officers for year '77. You have probably received your ballots by now.

Bob and Susie Bos were our visiting guests from Tuscon. Bob Bos presented George Rodgers with the "Big 10 " trophy.

Prizes won: 1st prize - C. Coker - Amway Silicon lubricant, 2nd prize - Roma Blunk - Radio Operator's instructions, 3rd prize - Chuck Hoyt - Floating Key Ring.

It was reported that Wes Douglas was in the hospital for emergency surgery Saturday 6th at St. Joseph's Hospital, we hope he has recovered and feeling just great! Also reported that Cal Taylor was in the hospital the week of November 11th.

Per Don Barber - Search and Rescue - Don't forget to tune on Channel 19.....

That is all...See you at the next meeting...

## Sick Bay

by Roma Blunk

GET WELL cards have been sent to:

Vi Schmierfelt who, had surgery —

Jim Schmidt who, had surgery —

Wes Douglas who, was hospitalized for heart attack

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## TUCSON SCUTTLEBUTT



### EILEEN COURTRIGHT

We have certainly been having some very interesting programs at our meetings. At our last meeting we had Tom Mulligan from the Crime Prevention Unit of the Tucson Police Department. He gave a very interesting and informative talk on burglary and along with props and literature showed us how to safeguard our homes and cabins. I wish the owners of the "Anna Louisa" whose boat burnt in the bay the last week of October, could have heard our October meeting program on Marine Fire Hazards showing how dangerous gasoline fumes could be in a boat, it was quite scary and can happen so fast as I'm sure the crew of Anna Louisa will testify to. Those of us who witnessed the burning of Anna Louisa will never forget it, it was so very fortunate that nobody was hurt.

The raffle for the "two" CB Radios will be drawn at Cholla Bay on November 27th. Winners if not present will be notified.

We have a new item in Ships Stores, a real good looking money clip, make a very nice gift, come to our meetings and see all of the goodies we have for sale, get some good ideas for Xmas.

If you own a boat we have been asked to update the blue Search and Rescue Boat Identification and Equipment Cards which are kept on file at the Radio Room in Cholla Bay.

It was good to see Vera Hamilton a long time member we haven't seen in ages, we do miss seeing our good friends, do try to make the effort to  
(continued)

come to our December Xmas Party meeting on December 13th, it will be Pot-luck and we will have lots of door prizes. It was also good to see Daisy Tatum at the meeting, have missed her smiling face.

Nominations were held for 1977 officers and ballots will be mailed, by the time you read this you should have received your ballots. Please return them by the December 13th meeting or better still bring them to the meeting, they will be counted during the meeting and results announced.

Our newest and youngest member also made an appearance at the meeting, Pat and Frances Crossman's brand new grandson was present and naturally we all oohed and aahed at him, such a cute baby and so good.

Door prizes were won by Chuck Dernasberger - an insulated six pack (for his cokes!!) Shirley Patersen a \$5.00 Gift Certificate, Ann Faulkenbery a Gallon Thermos Jug (for her ice tea) Bill Brown a flashlight (for shark hunting on a dark night) and Dave Wolfe a propane tank.

I would like to wish everyone a happy Xmas and the best of everything for 1977. Hope to see you all at the Xmas Pot luck on December 13th.

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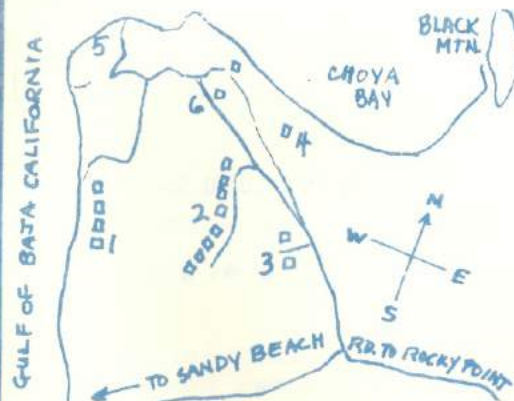
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For Sale- On lot 307 Cholla Bay, 35' metal house trailer 12 X 35 cement patio, 5 X 5 potty house with flush toilet, wash basin, ceramic tile shower, gas water heater; 500 gal. water tank, 30 gal. propane tank, all beds and all other gear. Must Sell for health reasons. Cholla member for 12yrs. Cost \$3,500.00. Sale price \$1,00.00. Call Audrie Harrison in Payson AZ at 474-2388. Cholla office can show you where the lot is.

FOR SALE - Home and double boat house. Cement block construction, two baths, 900 gallon water tower, 250 gallon propane tank, Kohler power plant, tile floors including boat house, full American kitchen, two Servel refrigerators, dry wall interior, built-in cabinets and closets, fireplace, sleeping accomodations for 14 people. Located immediately west of Nacho's White Cross. \$35,000 cost to build, will sacrifice for \$25,000. Contact Lyle Underdown, 916 West Adams, Phx, Az. Phone - 253-6131.

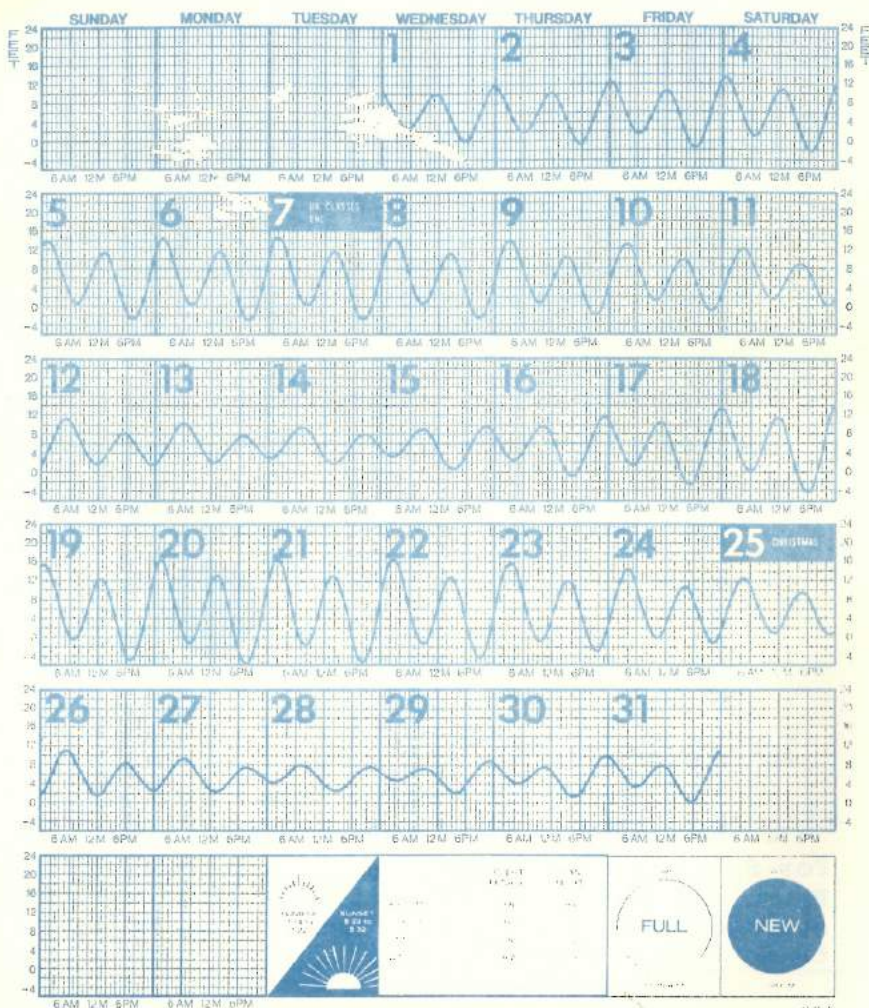
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