

February 2007

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SQUALICUM MARINA
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MARINA NEWS

MOTHER NATURE IN FULL FORCE

Over the last few months, Whatcom County has experienced nearly all the winter weather that Mother Nature has to offer. The Squalicum Harbor Staff would like to thank you for your early preparations. Despite the high winds, extensive rainfall and more than usual snow and ice, we have seen minimal damage to vessels. Helpful reminders never hurt and we would like you to review the following items to help prepare you and your vessel for more winter weather.

Snow Accumulation – A build up of snow will not normally sink a vessel, but freezing rain on top of it can. The same is true with boathouses. Its important to remove snow accumulations from your vessel and from your boathouse. Please be cautious of the slippery conditions.

Freeze Damage - Vessels commonly sink when the weather warms up causing thawing conditions. During the freeze, sea strainers, intake hoses, etc., can split but won't leak until it thaws. The frozen water, which breaks the hose or sea strainer, acts as a plug. When the plug thaws, the vessel is in jeopardy. Constantly running bilge pumps are an indicator of a problem.

Frost Bite to exposed skin happens in less than 20 minutes at 0 degrees. Bundle up!

Slippery Conditions - Always use extreme caution while walking the docks during freezing temperatures. The docks can be very slippery.

Shovels and Sand are available for your use. If you would like to use a snow shovel, you may check one out-free of charge at the Squalicum Harbor Office. During the last round of January snow, buckets full of sand were available at the bottom of the ramps for use around your mooring area. Please return the materials to the bottom of the ramp for others to use.

Space Heaters – Space heaters can be dangerous and costly to operate. It's imperative that you use a space heater with a tip-over switch and a thermal cut out. Set your heater at the lowest possible setting and keep it clear from any combustibles.

Shore Power Cords – Please make sure that your power cord is kept out of the water and that it is in good condition. Shore power cords must be designed for marine applications with the appropriate twist lock and be a minimum of 10-gauge wire. The use of household extension cords is prohibited, regardless of how much current your vessel demands.

Dinghies – Make the extra effort to remove your dinghy from the water. Either store it on your vessel or take it home and store it out of harm's way.

Fenders – Make sure your vessel is adequately protected from damage with the proper amount of appropriately sized fenders.

Dock Lines – Remember to check your dock lines regularly and make sure they are free from tears or chafe. Providing an appropriate amount of mooring lines will ensure your vessel is adequately tied to withstand rough winter weather.

Remove Sails, Secure Halyards and Canvas. Take the time to remove sails and secure your canvas and halyards. High winds can cause considerable damage. This is also a great opportunity to inspect sails for wear and tear. Be kind to your neighbors and tie your halyards away from your mast. This reduces unnecessary noise and prevents chafe and wear.

Don't Be a Stranger – Make sure to check on your vessel regularly during winter months. Periodic checks can catch small problems before they escalate into larger ones. Should you find yourself out of town for an extended period of time over the winter, there are Squalicum and Blaine Harbor businesses that offer programs for caring for your vessel. Call the Harbor office for details, if you're interested.

Be a Good Neighbor – When you visit your boat in the winter and see something out of order or a safety hazard on a neighboring boat, contact the Harbor Office immediately. We can contact the owner and respond quickly if necessary. Your neighbors thank you.

Bilge Pumps – Make sure your bilge pumps are in good operating condition. Keep your float switches free from debris and make sure your bilge is clean and dry.

Slip Space – Please keep your dock space free of all debris. This keeps us all safe in winter storms when making sure boats are secure. Remove hoses and store them out of the way. This helps prevent freeze damage.

Dock Boxes - Winter winds have and will damage your dock box lid if it is not secured. Please secure your dock box lid before this happens. It is also very important to not store flammable materials inside your dock box. Not only does this create an explosion hazard it degrades the dock box materials.

Burglar Proofing – Remove all of the valuables you have on board and keep them secure at home. Small outboards are attractive to thieves and the best way to prevent them from getting into the wrong hands is to bring them home or make sure they are locked securely. Make sure all hatches and companionways are secure and locked.



CHARTERFEST

Squalicum Harbor



The Port of Bellingham and local charter companies are excited to present the third annual *CharterFest* at Squalicum Harbor. *CharterFest* has grown to a 2-day event and will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15, at the Gate 3 Visitor Dock, near the Bellingham Yacht Club.

Both motoryachts and sailboats will be on display, and representatives from the charter companies will be on hand to answer questions and even book that dream vacation of cruising the San Juans or touring the Inside Passage. Participating yacht charters include:

- Bellhaven Charters
- Bellingham Yachts
- Northwest Explorations
- Par Yacht Charters
- San Juan Sailing/San Juan Yachting

To help keep kids safe while touring boats at *CharterFest*, children's life jackets will be available to borrow, at no charge, from the Squalicum Harbor Office. Other events planned include boating safety and education information booths.

FREE VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

Before we know it, the summer boating season will be upon us. Why not get a free vessel safety check to help prepare yourself and your vessel for the upcoming season? As a public service, U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Safety Examiners from Flotilla 11 will be offering free vessel safety checks at Squalicum Harbor again this year. The schedule for safety checks will be:

Gate 8 - Saturday, March 24 from 9 am. to noon

Gate 9 - Saturday, April 14 from 9 am. to noon

Gate 3 - Saturday, May 5 from 9 am to noon

Gate 6 - Saturday, June 2 from 9 am to noon

Safety checks will be done on a first come-first served basis. Several examiners will be on hand to assist. For more information contact Peter Border, FSO-VE, at 360-733-8187.

AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS

Did you know that you can make moorage payments through automatic direct payment from your United States checking account? Our Direct Payment Plan is easy and convenient. You can sign up for this service at any time. Call the Harbor Office for details.

You can contact your Marina Advisory Representatives by calling either the Blaine or Squalicum Harbor offices.

Mark Gumley	Hamilton Hayes	Jeffrey Hegedus
John Hollstein	Ryan Kapp	Stan Larson
Paul LeVelle	Tim Mumford	Sandra Palm
Raleigh Province	Michael Reed	Jim Splaine
Roger Van Dyken		

MYSTERY SPILLS

Over the last few months, Squalicum Harbor has experienced several unknown fuel sheens. We would like to remind our boaters that Squalicum Harbor is a *No Discharge Harbor*. As boaters, we need to take these types of environmental issues seriously and practice due diligence in complying with environmental regulations. If you notice questionable sheens, or foreign materials of any type in the water, please report the problem to the Harbor Office immediately. Our trained staff can respond quickly with appropriate measures.

BOATING CLASSES OFFERED

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will be offering two boating classes in February. The Boating Skills & Seamanship class will start February 12 and runs through March 26 at the St. Luke's Health Education Center in Bellingham. The class will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm. Successful completion of the class will qualify attendees for the Washington State Boaters Education Card. For more information contact John Milczewski at 360-752-0391.

America's Boating Course (ABC) a one-day class for novice and experienced boaters that consists of important safety and operational instructions of handling boats in most general conditions will be held on February 24 at the Blaine Boating Center Conference Room. Graduates of this course will qualify for the Washington State Boaters Education Card. For more information contact Jo Swartos at 360-371-8096.

MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The next MAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, at the Harbor Center Building, at Squalicum Harbor, 1801 Roeder Avenue, at 6 pm. Visitors are always welcome. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Harbor Office or any of your MAC members. They are your voice in the boating community.

Squalicum Harbor Office

722 Coho Way (360) 676-2542

After Hours (360) 739-8131

Office Hours

8 am - 5 pm

Dan Stahl, Director of Marine Services

Mike Endsley, Harbormaster

Dave Warter, Operations Supervisor

Andy Peterson, Moorage Coordinator

Marine Service Representatives

Patty Paus

Greg Hoffman

Lynda Lamoureaux

Arnold Korbmacher

Paul Knippel