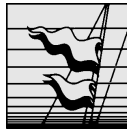


June 2006

PORT COMMISSIONERS

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BLAINE MARINA
Port of Bellingham

PORT OF BELLINGHAM
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MARINA NEWS

SUMMER BOATING SEASON IS HERE

Boating season is in full swing and we are seeing a lot more activity in the harbor. The Blaine Harbor staff would like to make sure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable boating experience. Here are a few helpful reminders:

- The gate code is for boaters. Please keep the gate code to yourself and those associated with your vessel. This helps ensure security after-hours.
- When visiting the harbor after-hours, make sure the gate closes securely behind you.
- Please return dock carts to the top of the ramp when you are finished using them. Other boaters will appreciate the opportunity to use the dock carts as well.
- Keep your mooring area clear of debris and miscellaneous items. Items being stored on the dock can become a safety hazard.
- When traveling to and from your boat with pets, make sure that they are on a leash. Additionally, dog scooper bags are available throughout the harbor and at the head of each ramp. Please pick up after your pets.

TUNICATE UPDATE

In follow up to a letter that was mailed to Blaine moorage customers last month regarding the invasive species Club Tunicate in the marina, the divers who were sent to identify and remove the tunicates have finished the job and may be back this fall to remove tunicates from the docks.

The divers were able to remove most tunicates (a non-native sea squirt) from the boats that had them on it, with the exception of a couple that will need to have alternative measures taken. Tunicates were identified under the docks and in order to remove them, a different method other than snipping will need to be devised. There is so much dock space that the method used on boats will probably not be used on the docks.

Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife will be going back to the State asking for more money in order to continue monitoring and removing the tunicates. The State encourages boaters to include in their maintenance plan regular haul-outs and bottom cleaning that will remove the tunicates if they are attached.

We will notify you by letter if further action is required. If you would like more information on the Club Tunicate or to see what they look like, check out the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife website at http://wdfw.wa.gov/factshts/tunicates_fact_mar06.htm

MARINE DRIVE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The construction for the City of Blaine's new waste water reclamation plant is scheduled to begin the week of May 29th. This phased project will start with the installation of a new storage tank and reconstruction of Marine Drive.

While this project will interrupt normal traffic flow along Marine Drive, it will still allow access with minor delays. The City of Blaine has been very receptive with the Port's request to not block parking lots or entrances. We realize that customers at Gate 1 will feel the impact of this project when the parking on the city property is eliminated and we want to emphasize that only daily commuter vehicles use the Gate 1 parking while all other vehicles park in the Boating Center parking lot.

The hours of construction will be Monday-Friday from 7 am to 5:30 pm. The contract duration is 175 calendar days from the Notice To Proceed and the paving should be substantially completed by October 1st, with the exception of the storage tank vicinity.

The Port has asked for advance notice of interruption in utilities, and while the city is trying to be as compliant as possible, they request that any unanticipated, immediate interruptions be understood. We will post notices at the Gates informing you of any interruption.

DINGHY STORAGE RACKS

To better monitor our dinghy rack storage system, the Harbor Office staff is asking that everyone who uses the rack to please label your dinghy with your boat name. We are having a hard time identifying which dinghy belongs to what boat! If they are clearly marked we will know that the dinghy belongs to an active customer. There are many dinghies that have never moved so we want to make sure that these racks are being utilized by moorage customers only.

Please have your dinghy labeled by July 31, so we can start inventorying the racks. Unidentified dinghies will be impounded and removed.

GATE 1 PARKING

Harbor Office staff will be monitoring the Gate 1 parking lot to ensure that it is being used for "active" vehicles. Please use Gate 1 to only park vehicles that are regularly used as daily commuter vehicles and move all others to Gate 2 parking. Note that the lot north of the Drayton Harbor Building only allows 2 hour parking. Please make sure that you abide by the regulations as your vehicle may be towed. We appreciate your cooperation with our limited parking areas.



NEW U.S. CUSTOMS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In January, the Federal Government announced changes in its Small Boat Reporting System for small boats arriving in the United States from Canada. These changes included having Customs staff available from 8 am to 5 pm throughout the year and from 8 am to 8 pm during the summer at five designated Pacific Northwest ports: Friday Harbor, Roche Harbor, Port Angeles, Point Roberts and Anacortes. These facilities were chosen based upon their geographic location with the goal of having regularly staffed entry locations at the points closest to Canadian waters so that boaters would clear Customs soon after entering U.S. waters.

Blaine and Squalicum Harbor are still Ports of Entry, and our visiting and permanent customers can clear Customs in both facilities. What has changed is that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is requiring all boaters call before they arrive in our harbors to make an appointment to be inspected and cleared by a CBP officer. Boaters are asked to make appointments no later than when arriving in U.S. waters from Canada.

In Blaine, officers will be dispatched from the Peace Arch Border Crossing offices. In Bellingham, CBP still plans to staff its office at Bellwether Way when possible. When that office is not staffed, officers will be sent from their Bellingham Airport offices.

Boaters also have the option of enrolling in an Alternative Inspection Systems Program (I-68) or NEXUS/SENTRI, which allows them to report their arrivals by phone. A CBP Officer may inspect and clear the boater by phone or the boater may be required to report to a dock for a physical inspection.

For more information about the US Customs and Border Protection program: www.cbp.gov/travel/pleasure_boats.

We would like your feedback on this new process so please contact the Blaine or Squalicum Harbormasters once you've cleared Customs so that we may monitor this new system.

MAC MEETING

The next MAC meeting will be on June 13 at 6 pm in the Harbor Center Conference Room, 1801 Roeder Avenue, Bellingham. Visitors are always welcome at the MAC meetings. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Harbor Office or any of your MAC members. They are your voice in the boating community.

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

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



SATURDAY, JULY 8 - 10 AM - 5 PM

ZUANICH POINT PARK

The Port of Bellingham presents BayFest - an exciting new waterfront festival celebrating our maritime heritage. BayFest will showcase the many and diverse marine-oriented fitness and recreation organizations, clubs and products offered in our region. Admission and parking is free.

- Live Entertainment
- Specialty Food Vendors
- Marine-Related Booths & Exhibits
- Boats and Watersports Equipment Displays
- Bellingham Bay Tours aboard the M.V. Fairhaven

Activities and Fun for the Whole Family

- Bellingham Waterfront Mile Run and 1/2 Mile Run/Walk
 - Corporate Relay & Mile Challenge
 - Half-Sized Kids 1/2 Mile Run
- Kayak Tours & Events And Much More!

Limited booth/display space is still available--contact Ann Grimm at (360) 676-2500 for information. For a complete schedule of events check *BayFest* in the calendar/events section at www.portofbelllingham.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 10th Drayton Harbor Shellfish District Open House and Oyster Feed

Come by the Boating Center and taste some delicious oysters harvested right from Drayton Harbor from 10am-2pm. The Plover will also be running to give tours of the oyster beds.

June 24th Customer Appreciation Lunch

Please join Harbor Staff for a barbecue lunch and lots of prizes! This year there will be something for everyone on top of our free drawings for hats and sweatshirts. (We'll have the coveted free month's moorage drawing this year too!) Hope to see you there from 11:30am to 2pm. The drawing for the month of moorage will be held at 2 pm so make sure you get your name in the hat.

July 4th Blaine's Old Fashioned Fourth of July

Enjoy the small town parade and beautiful fireworks display over Semiahmoo Bay.

Blaine Harbor Office

235 Marine Drive (360) 647-6176

After Hours: (360) 303-7110

Dan Stahl, Director of Marine Services

Pam Taft, Harbormaster

Dave Warter, Operations Coordinator

Andy Peterson, Moorage Coordinator

Marine Service Representatives: Tony Flaherty,

Kevin Smith, Roland Montoure