

October 2006

PORT COMMISSIONERS

Doug Smith  
Scott Walker  
Jim Jorgensen



BLAINE MARINA  
*Port of Bellingham*

**PORT OF BELLINGHAM**

1801 Roeder Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225

(360)647-6176

FAX (360)332-1043

www.portofbellingham.com

## MARINA NEWS

### WINTER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Once again, it's time for our friendly reminder to spend some time this fall preparing your vessel for the upcoming winter weather. Although getting your vessel ready for winter can be hard work, your preparation now will surely be paid off by a smoother transition into the 2007 boating season.

- **Space Heaters** – Keep in mind that 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. A 1500 watt heater left running 24 hours a day for one month can use 1080 kilowatts. Please be aware that space heaters, furnaces and engine block heaters can all contribute to higher winter power bills.
- **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** – When you've taken the last cruise of the season, make the extra effort to remove your dinghy from the water. If you have room on your vessel for your dingy store it there. If not, bring 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. During winter wind storms some vessels are found without fenders. This can cause serious damage and is easy to remedy by purchasing appropriately sized fenders for your vessel.
- **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 insure your vessel is adequately tied to withstand rough winter weather.
- **Remove sails, secure halyards and canvas.** When putting your boat away for the winter, take the time to remove and secure these items. 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 quickly 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, please contact the Harbor Office immediately. We can contact the owner and respond quickly if necessary. Your neighbors will 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 our boats are secure. Remove your hoses and store them out of the way. This helps prevent freeze damage.
- **Dock Boxes** - Winter winds will wreak havoc on your dock box lid if it is not secured. Please secure it 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 but also 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.

We would like to thank all of our wonderful boating customers for making the 2006 boating season a great success. We're looking forward to a safe winter and are already dreaming of warm boating weather in 2007!

### GATE CODES CHANGE

The Port will be changing the gate codes on November 1 to ensure boater security. Please contact the Blaine Harbor Office to obtain your new gate code information. Please identify yourself and give the Harbor staff your current account number. Please do not share your code with people who do not have boats in the harbor. Keep an eye out and report any suspicious activity to the Harbor Office or Harbor Security.



## SR 543 DESIGNATED TRUCK LANE TO CLOSE

Starting Monday, Oct. 2, WSDOT crews will close the designated truck lane on State Route 543, Pacific Highway, for an entire year. The mile-long truck lane helps separate northbound trucks from passenger vehicles as they wait to cross the border into Canada. Now both trucks and passenger vehicles will share one lane. During the closure crews will build a new overpass at D Street, build retaining walls, lower the highway, and relocate the truck lane.

Drivers should prepare for delays and consider alternate routes. WSDOT recommends passenger vehicles use the Peace Arch border crossing on I-5 when possible to avoid delays and congestion. Construction will continue for two more years as crews convert the Blaine truck crossing from a narrow and congested two-lane roadway into a safer and more efficient five-lane highway. This includes a designated truck lane better aligned with the border inspection booths and an overpass at D Street that will reconnect the community of Blaine. The aggressive construction schedule will have the new lanes open by fall 2008.

WSDOT will do everything they can to minimize delays and inform drivers. Highway information signs will alert drivers to the delays and drivers can call 511 to get updates on traffic. Those planning a trip can get border wait times by going to the WSDOT border page at: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/border/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/border/). For more project information and to sign up for an email distribution list, visit the project web page at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr543/i5\\_canadian](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr543/i5_canadian)

## NEW PUMPOUTS

Gate 1 has finally received two new pumpout carts. The new peristaltic pumps replace the old diaphragm pumps that have certainly been used well and getting very tired. We hope that you find these easier to use and will have less maintenance problems. We thank you for your patience during this transition.

## MAC MEETING

The next MAC meeting will be on Tuesday, October 10 at 6 pm in the Harbor Center Conference Room, 1801 Roeder Avenue. 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	Paul LaVelle	Tim Mumford
Sandra Palm	Raleigh Province	Michael Reed
Jim Splaine	Roger Van Dyken	

## HOLIDAY PORT FESTIVAL & GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

Once again, the Port of Bellingham is proud to present this traditional community holiday event which runs December 1, 2, and 3, 2006, at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal. Over 30 groups with 1,100 performers will ring in the sounds and sights of the season. In addition to the Gingerbread House Contest there will be horse drawn wagon rides, photos with Santa and art activities for the kids. For complete schedule information: [www.portofbellinham.com](http://www.portofbellinham.com) and click on Port-sponsored events under the calendar section.

## CHRISTMASSAIL PAST & TREE LIGHTING

The International Yacht Club is again holding their Lighted Boat Parade with the Christmas Sail Past on December 2nd. They will parade around Drayton Harbor, Semiahmoo Bay and into White Rock. You may view these beautiful lights on the Blaine Public Pier at the end of Marine Dr. The parade will start around 4pm.

After viewing the beautiful lighted boats, you can walk up town and watch Santa arrive and see the Christmas tree light up! All this will take place around 6:00pm at the corner of H and Peace Portal. What a nice way to start the Holiday Season!

## CUSTOMS UPDATE

Earlier this year we reported that US Customs had changed their reporting procedures by asking people to call ahead for an appointment to clear at either Blaine or Squalicum Harbors. We would like to hear from you on how or if this change has affected you and provide any feedback on the entire process. You can contact the Squalicum Harbormaster at 360-676-2542, or the Blaine Harbormaster at 360-647-6176. We thank you for your input.

## INSURANCE RENEWALS

When your insurance renews, please remember to drop by a current copy so that we can place it in your file. Thank you for your cooperation.

### 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