

October 2007

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 2008 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 Squilicum 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 2007 boating season a great success. We're looking forward to a safe winter and are already dreaming of warm boating weather in 2008!

SEATTLE BOAT SHOW

As we start moving out of our beautiful summer into the next season, we start focusing on upcoming events like THE SEATTLE BOAT SHOW. The boat show will run from January 24th – February 2nd at the QWEST Field Events Center. We will keep you posted.



HARBOR SECURITY UPDATE

GATE CODES CHANGING

The Port will be changing the gate codes at the end of October to ensure boater security. Please contact the Blaine Harbor Office after October 15th 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.

GATE 3 SECURITY GATE

Gate 3 will soon be getting a security gate that will be similar to that at Gate 1. We are anticipating installation to be around the end of the year if not the beginning of 2008. This gate will remain open during the day to allow our working fishermen unencumbered access to and from their boats and will be locked during the night.

SR 543 PROJECT UPDATE

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has been busy this past year widening SR 543 (Pacific Highway) to three lanes from Boblett Street to the U.S.-Canada border in both directions, building a new overpass and interchange at D Street to improve safety and relieve congestion, as well as lowering SR 543 and truck parking for the interchange. Here is the latest update from WSDOT as of September:

- All drivers temporarily are using the new northbound lanes of SR 543. One lane in each direction is open for northbound and southbound drivers.
- All trucks and north- and southbound drivers will share the new lanes while crews finish the D Street interchange and future southbound lanes.
- While this is a major milestone for the project, it will not relieve the current daily congestion. Drivers will still have the same amount of lanes open to drive in. They'll just be in a different place on the highway.
- WSDOT will open the designated truck lanes and D Street this fall, and open the D Street interchange ramps and southbound lanes in spring 2008.

Sign up for e-mail updates to stay informed about upcoming lane closures, delays and construction projects that may affect your commute or neighborhood at WSDOT's web site: www.wsdot.wa.gov/Northwest/EmailUpdates.

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 LaVelle | Tim Mumford | Sandra Palm |
| Raleigh Province | Michael Reed | Jim Splaine |
| Roger Van Dyken | | |



NEW PUMPOUT HAS ARRIVED

We finally have our new peristaltic pumpout installed at Gate 3. We have been limping along with our old system and many of you have made the trek with the pumpout cart from Gate 2 to 3, so we thank you for your patience! Gate 3 was our final pumpout purchase to convert all of our systems to the peristaltic style of pump. This system is designed to be easier to use. If you have any questions or would like help getting to know the new system, please feel free to contact Harbor Office staff.

HOLIDAY PORT FESTIVAL & GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST & DISPLAY

Once again, the Port of Bellingham is proud to present this traditional community holiday event which runs December 7, 8, and 9, 2007, 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.portofbellingham.com and click on Port-sponsored events under the calendar section.

CHRISTMAS SAIL PAST & TREE LIGHTING

The International Yacht Club is again holding their Lighted Boat Parade with the Christmas Sail Past on December 8th. They will parade around Drayton Harbor, Semiahmoo Bay and into White Rock. One of the best viewing sights to see these beautiful lights is on the Blaine Public Pier at the end of Marine Dr. The parade will start around 4 P.M.

MAC MEETING

The next MAC meeting will be on Tuesday, October 9th 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.

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