

October 2006

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SQUALICUM MARINA
Port of Bellingham

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

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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 at the end of October to ensure boater security. Please contact the Squalicum 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.



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 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.portofbellingham.com and click on Port-sponsored events under the calendar section.

LIGHTED BOAT PARADE

Bellingham Yacht Club's lighted boat parade will be held on **Saturday, December 2**. Please register your boat at BYC between 3:30pm and 5:00pm. This event is open to all boaters and there is no fee required to participate. For details visit the Bellingham Yacht Club's website at www.byc.org.

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 BOATSHOW. The boat show will run from January 25th – February 3rd at the QWEST Field Events Center. We will keep you posted.

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.

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	

Sand IN THE City™

The Port of Bellingham and the Northwest Discovery Project would like to thank everyone who visited and participated at the first annual Comcast's Sand in the City sand sculpting competition and exhibition event, September 29 - October 1 at the Squalicum Harbor Boat Launch Parking Lot. This exciting new event benefited the Marine Life Center.

Ten corporate teams worked all summer long with local architects to draw up designs and practice their sand sculpting skills on six yards of sand. They put their talent to the test in the sand sculpting competition held on Friday, September 29. The teams and architects who participated were: Comcast, Birch Equipment, Larrabee Springs, Ryzex, Whidbey Island Bank, Bellingham Cold Storage, Dawson Construction, Trans-Ocean Products, VECO USA, Inc., and Zervas Group. Architectural firms: Curt Carpenter, Grinstad & Wagner, RMC, and Stewart and King.

The creations were judged by local artists Jody Bergsma and Tom Wood, actor Ryan Stiles and Cody Rivers Show funnyman Andrew Conner and Mike Mathieu. The judges tallied their votes late Friday afternoon and handed out the coveted "Golden Shovel" trophy to Bellingham Cold Storage.

Over the weekend, visitors enjoyed live entertainment from jazz to Celtic to classic rock, watched master sand sculptors at work creating a huge sculpture and could build their own sand castle in the giant community sandbox. Craft vendors and specialty food vendors were also on hand to satisfy hunger or shopping desires. By purchasing a "sand dollar" for one dollar to support the Marine Life Center, people could vote for their favorite sand sculpture for the People's Choice Award. Stay tuned for the complete list of winners in the next marina newsletter!



Squalicum Harbor Office

722 Coho Way (360) 676-2542
After Hours (360) 739-8131

Office Hours
8am - 7pm

Dan Stahl, Director of Marine Services
Mike Endsley, Harbormaster
Dave Warter, Operations Coordinator
Andy Peterson, Moorage Coordinator

Marine Service Representatives

Patty Paus
Lynda Lamoureaux
Paul Knippel
Greg Hoffman
Arnold Korbmacher