

October 2007

PORT COMMISSIONERS

Doug Smith
Scott Walker
Jim Jorgensen



SQUALICUM MARINA
Port of Bellingham

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

1801 Roeder Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

(360)676-2542

FAX (360)671-6149

www.portofbellingham.com

MARINA NEWS

WINTER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

As the 2007 boating season draws to a close, 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. Too often, Harbor Staff spends time keeping dinghies from sinking due to the collection of rain water or they find themselves in the possession of a thief.
- **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 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.

