



PORT OF BELLINGHAM
Washington State

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2020

HARBOR NEWS

BLAINE AND SQUALICUM HARBORS' NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU for a Great Boating Season

The marina staff would like to thank all our customers, visitors and marine trades for a memorable summer. Although we seemed to battle daily with the effects of the health pandemic nipping at our daily lives, we appreciated the truly positive experiences of working with our boating community. As people looked for safe recreational opportunities, many discovered the special benefits of boating in the Pacific Northwest and it was exciting to work with many new boaters looking for moorage or just trying to figure out what this activity is all about. While 2020 may be remembered for many different reasons, the marina staffs at Blaine and Squalicum will recall the 2020 Boating Season with good memories. Thank you all for making this industry an exciting and pleasurable experience.

Harbors' Access Control Update

Effective October 1, 2020, both harbors have transitioned to the new access control system administering access to the secured areas such as moorage gates, washrooms and laundry rooms. Each customer account has been assigned two credentials allowing access to your gate and the adjacent washroom and laundry room. We ask that you return these credentials to the harbor office when you cancel your moorage. For everyone's safety and security, if you are approached by anyone trying to gain access to a secure area, please refer them to the harbor office for assistance.

Storage on Floats

Please help us keep our docks and floats safe for walking. Stored items and dock clutter creates trip hazards and blocks emergency access. If you have a boat related item you no longer need or don't know how to dispose of properly, harbor staff may be able to suggest a solution to your problem.

MARINA SAFETY Shore Power Cords

During the colder months many boaters rely on their shore power to supply electricity to their boats. This is a reminder that only marine rated power cords are permitted on the docks. Keep your cord in good shape by using the appropriate strain relief, prevent it from draping into the water, and ensuring the cord wires are not pinched or crushed. Cords and connectors should be inspected often and replaced when damage or corrosion is discovered. Boat US recommends that plugs with brown discoloration at the base of the blades or a worn nickel coating or pitting should not be used. Boat US also recommends inspecting your vessel's shore power inlet at least every 5 years. A qualified marine electrician would be able to assist boaters with any questions and repairs.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR

Squalicum Harbor in Bellingham has recently experienced an increase in theft and we are asking for everyone's assistance to help solve this issue. Recently, thieves have targeted boats and trailers stored in the upland areas in addition to fishing gear and outboard motors. Recent improvements to the door locks have made a noticeable difference securing the facility but we still need your help!

• **REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR IMMEDIATELY.** If you have any concern about someone actively trying to access the secured facilities, please contact the harbor office at the numbers listed on the back of this newsletter. If you see something, say something.

• **BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION** of the suspect or vehicle and license plate number. If you are involved in an emergency, contact 911 immediately. After hours, harbor security can be contacted at the phone numbers listed on the bottom of the back page.

• **DO NOT CONFRONT SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE.** Contact the harbor office or call 911 for Police assistance.

• **REPORT THEFTS IN A TIMELY MANNER** to help the police solve ongoing cases.

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Prepare for WINTER Weather

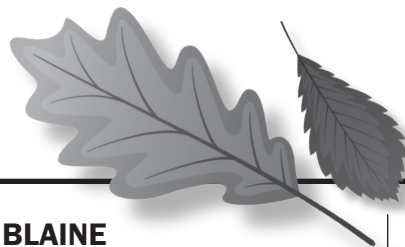
Properly preparing your boat for the winter can save you from a phone call from the harbor office during a storm or worse, expensive repairs this spring. Here are some suggestions for winter preparedness:

- ☐ **Check your vessel regularly** and contact the harbor office if you see a safety hazard on a neighboring boat.
 - ☐ **Remove your dinghy from the water** when you have taken the last cruise of the season. This will keep it clear of marine growth and prevent it from filling with rainwater.
 - ☐ **Check your dock lines and fenders regularly for chafe.**
 - ☐ **Inspect your shore-power cord** and replace immediately if any defects are discovered. Only marine rated shore-power cords are permitted. The use of household extension cords is prohibited.
 - ☐ **Heaters** should not be left unattended. When operating a diesel furnace ensure the exhaust is free and clear of combustible materials.
 - ☐ **Remove your sails, secure your halyards and canvas** as high winds can cause considerable damage on roller furling sails. Tie your halyards away from your mast to reduce chafe and wear.
 - ☐ **Check scuppers and cockpit drains routinely** to ensure they can clear water quickly.
 - ☐ **Bilge pumps should be checked** to ensure they are in good operating condition. Keep your float switches free from debris and make sure your bilge is clean of fuel and oil.
 - ☐ **Burglar proof your vessel** and remove all of the valuables you have on board and keep them secure at home. Small outboards are attractive to thieves. Take them home or make sure they are locked securely. Make sure all hatches and companionways are secure and locked.
 - ☐ **Arrange for someone to watch your boat** if you are going to be away.
 - ☐ **Update your contact information with the office.**
- In addition, we ask that our customers please help us reduce dockside maintenance and repairs by taking these steps:**
- **Please disconnect your dock hose** from the faucet. This reduces the chances of frozen water in a hose expanding and causing damage to the faucet.
 - **Please secure your dock box lid** to prevent damage in high winds.
 - **Please secure your dinghy** on the dinghy rack so it does not blow away.
 - **Please keep the docks and floats clear** of stored items. Dock clutter can get blown into the water in high winds and clutter causes trip hazards.

Blaine Bulkhead and Wave Attenuator Repairs

Over the next few months, you will likely see construction activity in and around Blaine Harbor as the Port continues to make infrastructure investments to support our working waterfront and extend the life of Whatcom County's maritime assets. Port contractors will be replacing two water-side bulkheads, one next to seafood processors located in the Blaine marine industrial area and the other behind the sawtooth pier utilized by the commercial fishing fleet. This work requires closing the sawtooth pier for up to six months, however commercial fishermen can contact the Blaine Harbormaster for alternative arrangements to load nets and refuel while working in Blaine Harbor. Port contractors will also be working on another important project to extend the life of the steel wave attenuator protecting Blaine Harbor against the harsh saltwater environment. This repair work involves re-coating the exposed steel and will be performed from small barges moored near the harbor entrance. The barges will be marked with safety lights, however the Port is asking all boaters to be extra cautious while entering and exiting Blaine Harbor and give the workers as wide of berth as possible so they can safely complete these important life extension repairs. Work on the wave attenuator will take place mostly during daylight hours through November 2020. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and understanding as we work to modernize

Blaine Harbor and develop a world-class facility for our recreational boaters and working waterfront. Stay tuned for more updates on exciting projects to revitalize Blaine's waterfront.



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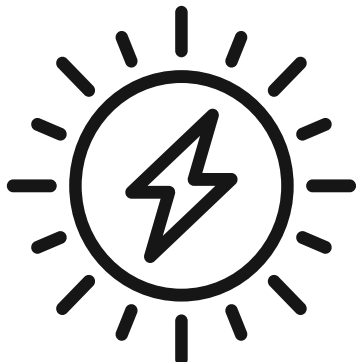


MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

You can contact your Marina Advisory Committee Representatives by calling either of the harbor offices.

Jon Alexander, Lisa Anderson, Peter Border, Robert Brooks, Paul Burrill, Dick Cathell, Charlie Hawkins, Loren Kapp, Jim Kyle, Byron Richards, Ross Tenant, Linda Thomson and Julie Winkler

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