



PORT OF BELLINGHAM
Washington State

HARBOR NEWS

BLAINE AND SQUALICUM HARBORS' NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY & MARCH 2024

CHECK YOUR BOAT

This is a friendly reminder to regularly inspect your vessel, especially during the winter season when it might not get regular use. Strong winds, freezing temperatures, rain and snow can quickly damage your vessel's equipment and gear. If you own a sailboat, don't forget to appropriately secure your roller furling and head sails. If you plan on travelling, arrange to have someone regularly check your vessel so any potential for damage is minimized. And don't forget to update your contact information with the harbor office.

Identify your dinghy

High tides and storms cause many dinghies and kayaks to become lost off beaches or docks and may initiate unnecessary search and rescue missions. The Coast Guard recommends securing your small boat, kayak, and paddle board with good line or storing it safely away from the water during storms. They also recommend writing your name and contact information on all dinghies, canoes and kayaks so you can be contacted promptly when found.



Marina Fire Safety

Marina fires are extremely dangerous and can spread rapidly. There are many steps boaters can take to help reduce the risk of marine fires. Regularly inspect electrical, fuel, and heating systems. Use only marine approved electrical devices and never leave equipment, including heaters, unattended. Employ professionals to work on your vessels systems. Have USCG approved fire extinguishers on board and know how to use them. Maintain vigilance as you walk the docks. If something seems wrong, report it to the harbor office immediately.



Only Rain Down the Drain

Both harbors participate in outreach programs to help educate the public about storm water. We have installed markers near our storm water drains as a reminder that only rain water and snow melt are permitted to flow down the drain. Paints, oils, fuels etc. are not to be placed into the drains. If you spot a spill in the parking lot or someone dumping anything into a storm water drain, please let the harbor staff know immediately so preventative measures can be taken. Likewise, if you have a chemical or substance that you are not sure how to dispose of, please contact the harbor office or stop by during business hours. Our staff would be happy to provide you information to make sure your item is disposed of properly.



Harbor's Going Cashless

We'd like to thank our customers for their patience and support as we transitioned the harbors' to cashless facilities. Converting coin operated showers, laundry, and visitor moorage pay stations to accept credit cards has improved customer convenience and reduced opportunities for theft and vandalism. The harbor office will continue accepting checks and credit cards at the counter and customers are encouraged to try paying their statement online at

[PAY-YOUR-BILL](#)

Holding Tank Pump-outs

Thank you to all our customers for helping us keep our marine waters clean and safe by using the holding tank pump-out and adopting best management practices to eliminate discharges and pollution. Please feel free to contact the harbor office and staff would be happy to walk you through the steps of operating our equipment to pump-out your vessel's holding tank. For more information on pumping out and a list of locations

[CLICK HERE](#)



Winter Power Bills

Many boaters watching their power bills are often surprised by how much power it actually takes to keep their boat warm and dry during cold weather. As a reference, a typical space heater aboard your boat can cost over \$90 per month. Since most boats are not constructed with insulated windows, cabins or hulls it's not easy to compare your boat's power bill with your home heating bill.

Annual Moorage Due in April

A friendly reminder that payment for annual moorage is due before the last day of April 2024. Moorage payments can be made online at the Port's website in addition to making payments by check or credit card at the harbor office during business hours. Customers who have elected auto-pay will automatically have their authorized bank account or card charged no later than April 15th. If you wish to have the annual moorage paid by another method, you must contact the Harbor Office before the 15th or the moorage will automatically be charged on your credit card or checking account on file. In 2024, customers paying annual moorage April 1st receive a 5% savings over monthly moorage. Be sure to check your email junk mailbox if you don't see your moorage statement in your Inbox. Please feel free to contact the Harbor Office if you have any questions.

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MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Peter Border, Robert Brooks, Paul Burrill, Stan Campbell,
Dick Cathell, Jace Cotton, Loren Kapp, Jim Kyle,
Ross Tennant, Julie Winkler and Faith Worthley