

December 2007

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BLAINE MARINA
Port of Bellingham

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

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MARINA NEWS

Holiday Port Festival

Once again, the Port of Bellingham is proud to present this traditional community holiday event which runs December 7-9, 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 free horse drawn wagon rides, art activities for the kids provided by the Whatcom Children's Museum, and complimentary gingerbread cookies and cider. For complete schedule information: www.portofbellingham.com and click on the Holiday Port link under "Latest News and Events."

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 pm.

BLAINE WHARF DISTRICT MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Draft Blaine Wharf District Master Plan has been completed, and hearings were held in September at locations in Blaine and Bellingham where each entity heard and considered public testimony. A series of public meetings were held this fall involving work study sessions, recommendations, and final decisions by the City of Blaine Planning Commission & City Council as well as the Port of Bellingham Commission.

The outcome of the public process resulted in the City of Blaine Council approving the Blaine Wharf District Master Plan with one minor revision regarding building heights in the marine industrial area on November 13, 2007.

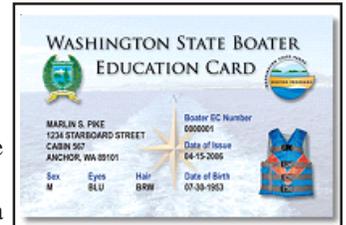
The Port of Bellingham Commission will be considering adoption of the Blaine Wharf District Master plan in December, and a programmatic State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review of the draft plan is projected to be prepared based on the revised, preferred alternative selected in 2008.

The City of Blaine and Port of Bellingham's coordinated vision for the future of the waterfront will be illustrated in the Blaine Wharf District Master Plan. The Wharf District Master Plan establishes public policy and development standards for all new public and private development in the Wharf District that will create a lively mixed use district for living, working, and playing.

For more information about the plan, view the Planning and Development pages at www.portofbellingham.com.

MANDATORY BOATER EDUCATION

As we near the 2008 deadline for mandatory boater education, we thought we would send out a reminder and listing of when you will need to be in compliance in obtaining your Washington State Boater Education Card.



When do I need to get my card?

YEAR	AGE GROUP
2008	12 years to 20 years old
2009	25 years and under
2010	30 years " "
2011	35 years " "
2012	40 years " "
2013	50 years " "
2014	60 years " "

*People born before Jan. 1, 1955, are exempt from needing a Boater Education Card.

For more information about mandatory boater education, go to the Washington State Parks Boating Program website at www.parks.wa.gov/boating.

SEATTLE BOAT SHOW 2008

What better way to prepare for the warm days of the upcoming boating season than to attend the 2008 Seattle Boat Show. The show runs **Thursday, January 24th to Saturday, February 2nd.**

OWEST Field Events Center

Weekdays: Noon – 8 pm
Saturdays: 10 am – 8 pm
Sunday: 10 am – 6 pm

South Lake Union

Weekdays: 11 am – 5 pm
Saturdays: 10 am – 5 pm
Sunday: 10 am – 5 pm

Tickets: Adults: \$10.00 Youth (ages 11 – 17): \$5.00
Children (10 and under): free 3-day Flex Pass: \$18.00
Starting December 1st, there will be special incentives if you purchase your Seattle Boat Show ticket online. Go to www.seattleboatshow.com for details.

MAC MEETING

The next MAC meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8, 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.



WINTER WEATHER

The month of November served as a friendly reminder of what Mother Nature has to offer. With our first winter wind storm under our belt, the Squalicum Harbor Staff would like to thank you all for your early preparations. Every winter we expect high winds, extensive rainfall, and the occasional snow storm. Helpful reminders never hurt and we would like for you to review the following items to help prepare your vessel and yourself for winter weather.

- **Snow Accumulation and Slippery Conditions** – A build up of snow will not normally sink a vessel, but freezing rain on top of it can. The same is true with boathouses. It's important to remove snow accumulations from your vessel and from your boathouse. Please be cautious of the slippery conditions and always use extreme caution while walking the docks during freezing temperatures. The docks can be very slippery.
- **Freeze Damage** - Vessels commonly sink when the weather warms up causing thawing conditions. During the freeze, sea strainers, intake hoses, etc. will freeze, splitting the hose or sea strainer; however it will not leak until it thaws. The frozen water, which breaks the hose or sea strainer, acts as a plug. When the plug thaws, the vessel is in jeopardy. Constantly running bilge pumps are an indicator of a problem.
- **Shovels and Sand** are available for your use. If you would like to use a snow shovel, you may check one out free of charge--at the Squalicum Harbor Office. Buckets of sand will be available at the bottom of the ramps for your use around your mooring area. Please return the materials to the bottom of the ramp for others to use.
- **Space Heaters** – If you use a space heater, it's imperative that you use one 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. 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** – After your last cruise of the season, make the extra effort to remove your dinghy from the water. Store your dinghy if you have room on your vessel or better yet, take it home for safe and secure storage.

- **Fenders** – Make sure your vessel is adequately protected from damage with the proper amount of appropriately sized fenders. Too often, during winter wind storms, 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 ensure your vessel is adequately tied to withstand rough winter weather.
- **Remove Your Sails; Secure Your Halyards and Canvas** - This winter, take the time to remove sails and secure your canvas and halyards. High winds can cause considerable damage. This is also a great opportunity to inspect sails for wear and tear.
- **Don't Be a Stranger** – Be sure to check on your vessel regularly during winter months. Periodic checks can catch small problems quickly before they escalate into larger ones. If you are out of town for an extended period of time this 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, contact the Harbor Office immediately. We can contact the owner and respond quickly if necessary.
- **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 have and will damage your dock box lid if it is not secured. Please secure your dock box lid before this happens. It is also very important to not store flammable materials inside your dock box.
- **Burglar Proofing** – Remove all of the valuables you have on board and keep them secure at home and make sure all hatches and companionways are secure and locked.
- **Hoses** – Please remove your hose from the faucet and store it out of the way. This helps prevent a trip hazard in the event of snow accumulation and helps prevent potential freezing of our water systems.

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

Blaine Harbor Office

235 Marine Drive (360) 647-6176
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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