

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 15, 2011
To: Harbor Commissioners
From: Scott Riedman, Interim Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

King Harbor Race

Highlighting our yacht racing season, 80 sailboats departed Santa Barbara Harbor July 29th for the 39th Annual King Harbor Race, an 81-mile course that terminates at King Harbor in Redondo. This was down from the 120 boats that participated last year. Blame it on the economy. Better yet, blame it on the TransPac race that took place at the same time, carrying many potential King Harbor boaters with it.

As opposed to the last two years, winds at the starting line, if not brisk, were adequate (5-8 knots). The Santa Barbara Yacht Club fielded nine teams and several took home awards. Overall, it was a relatively fast race, with consistent breeze throughout—perfect pleasure sailing, considering it was, after all, a race. The breeze especially helped smaller boats (30-footers and smaller), which benefit from such conditions, allowing them to finish the race in a reasonable time, 12 hours or less.

Find complete King Harbor race results at the Santa Barbara Yacht Club website.

Senate Bill 623 (Copper Bottom Paint) on Hold

Senate Bill 623, which would establish strict limits on the use of copper bottom paint, has, at the request of its author Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego), been put on hold for another year. Now a “two-year bill,” it will be addressed again during the 2012 legislative session. According to Kehoe’s legislative director, her office has recently received “productive input from state agencies, the Governor’s Office and other sources” indicating that further brainstorming and consideration of alternatives would be beneficial.

Since the proposal includes assessment of what constitutes “low leach rates” for copper bottom paint, which, in turn, involves considerable work by the Department of Pesticide Regulation and the State Water Resources Control Board, and because boating groups paint manufacturers and environmental groups have weighed in on the issue, the extra time should help nuance the bill to the satisfaction of all interests, plus help locate funds for the studies and water quality monitoring it requires. So, stay tuned. Staff will update the Commission when SB 623 reappears on the political radar in the near future.

Marina Security

At the request of Commissioner Kelly, staff has compiled information regarding marina security, dividing the discussion into two sub-sections:

1. Unauthorized Marina Entry

It has long been evident that unauthorized individuals, that is, individuals other than boat owners, slip permittees and their guests, Business Activity Permit Holders, City-hired contractors and City staff; illegally gain access to gated areas of the marina (including restrooms) on a regular basis. To reduce this frequency of this illegal activity, staff has:

- Augmented wire-mesh panels discouraging illegal entry into the marinas;
- Changed signage on marina gates to more explicitly explain rules and regulations related to marina entry, bicycles in the marinas, pet containment in the marinas and vessel occupancy in the marinas; and
- Designated space in the fall 2011 issue of *Docklines* to describe what can be done to discourage unauthorized marina or restroom use.

In addition, it should be noted that 10 Harbor Patrol officers work three overlapping shifts, though there are typically no more than two officers on duty at any time. Despite our best efforts at vigilant enforcement, officers can't be everywhere at all times. In fiscal year 2011, they conducted 2,815 motor patrols, 1,672 boat patrols and 3,641 foot patrols—the latter of which include every finger of every dock.

Finally, boaters can help. The Department discourages boaters from allowing unfamiliar individuals into the marinas who don't have gate access cards and/or are acting or behaving suspiciously. Please contact Harbor Patrol immediately when you witness or suspect illegal entries into the marinas or restrooms. Remember to identify suspects clearly with estimated age, gender, type and color of clothing, and location. The sooner you call Harbor Patrol, the better chance we have of contacting offenders. We will respond immediately, or as soon as time allows, if officers are on a priority call. Also, don't loan your gate access card to strangers. Retrieve cards from friends or BAPs who have temporarily needed or used them for a specific, limited time, during a guest stay or boat project. Contact the Waterfront Administrative Office to discontinue access cards that are no longer needed and should no longer be in service.

2. Riding Bicycles on Marina Walkways

Bicycle riding on the breakwater sidewalk and in the marinas has been problematic for years. Waterfront staff attempts to inform or intercept riders, but again, their numbers exceed our ability to comprehensively enforce this rule. Here's what the Department is doing to enforce no-bicycling rules:

- Marina entry signs are being changed to indicate that no bicycling (not just "no bicycles") is allowed on marina walkways.
- Harbor Patrol consistently issues warnings for bicycle riding on the breakwater sidewalk, as many visitors do not see or read Waterfront signs, are unfamiliar with the bicycle rules and/or may be riding very slowly, in a non-threatening manner.

Upon repeated contacts, they are cited. In calendar year 2010, Patrol issued 13 citations for riding bikes on the breakwater sidewalk or in the marinas. Nine have been issued to date in 2011.

- Citizens are welcomed to issue citizen arrests (citations) after contacting Harbor Patrol when they witness an infraction. But they should contact Patrol first.
- Again, we'll cover these issues in *Docklines* this fall.

In conclusion, staff will continue to pursue both engineering and administrative means of deterring unauthorized persons from entering the marinas and bicycling on the breakwater sidewalk and in the marinas. We look forward to a partnership with our boaters in this endeavor, as we have the same goal and mutual assets to protect.

Harbor Patrol Commended for Role in Insurance Fraud Bust

On July 28th, the California Department of Insurance Fraud teamed with Harbor Patrol to serve a felony warrant on a slip permittee aboard his boat. The suspect had a criminal record and several guns registered to him, so Patrol and the state detectives developed joint tactical plan that included maintaining the safety of nearby boaters as the warrant was served. The bust went seamlessly, with detectives leading the suspect out of the marina in handcuffs. Subsequent to the arrest, three Harbor Patrol officers, including Supervisor Steve McCullough, received a commendation letter from the California Department of Insurance Fraud for their professional appearance, professional actions, willingness to assist another law enforcement agency and knowledge and execution of tactical operations.

Harbor and Seafood Festival's 10th Anniversary—Saturday, October 8th

The Harbor and Seafood Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary on Saturday, October 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We've got it all again this year—fresh crab, lobster, oysters and shrimp, plus barbequed albacore, lobster bisque, paella, sea urchin “uni,” seafood gumbo, clam chowder, fish tacos and more. And while indulging the seafood, enjoy tall-ship and Coast Guard cutter tours, live music, touch tanks, arts-and-crafts vendors, free boat rides and maritime education booths. And remember, festival admission is free, so bring the whole family for a day at the harbor you won't forget.

Attachments: 1. Photograph, Marina Gate Extension
2. Photographs, Marina Gate Signs, Before and After
3. Commendation Letter, Department of Insurance

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