

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

Date: July 18, 2013
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

Harbor Nautical Swap Meet Nets Record Participation

The eighth annual Harbor Nautical Swap Meet, held May 11, 2013, saw record participation, with 56 vendor stalls occupied for the half-day event. Sales at the annual “happening,” a fundraiser for the Harbor Merchants Association were brisk, and included the usual fare—kayaks, fishing equipment, pumps, sailboat rigging and more.

Harbor Patrol, City Fire and Coast Guard Participate in Joint Training

On May 21st, during National Safe Boating Week, Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol, Santa Barbara City Firefighters and the Coast Guard participated in joint training exercises in the waters outside Santa Barbara Harbor.

Scenarios included a vessel adrift near shore with a victim aboard and six helicopter rescues of victim(s) from three different Harbor Patrol boats. City Fire’s 18-member Water Rescue Team and Coast Guard rescue swimmers participated in the exercise, which gained broad attention from news outlets throughout the region.

The multi-agency training featured a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter dropping divers and making mock rescue lifts from waiting Harbor Patrol boats. The exercise was the first of its kind because it included the Santa Barbara Fire Department’s recently formed Water Rescue Team, and was the first training exercise in Santa Barbara waters with a Coast Guard helicopter since 2006. The eight-hour training also works on communication and inter-operability.

Held in advance of Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial start of boating season, the training was also intended to remind folks to wear their life jackets, file a float plan and not mix booze and boating. Drunken boaters account for 16 percent of all boating fatalities. Some boaters don’t realize that laws are the same for drunk driving on the water as they are on the land. Harbor Patrol will be on the lookout for Boating Under the Influence violations throughout the summer.

July 4th Recap

The Waterfront teemed with good times on July 4th as tens of thousands of locals and

visitors enjoyed warm ocean waters, sunny skies and a spectacular 20-minute nighttime fireworks show by Bay Fireworks. The show capped a day of celebration at the Waterfront, including live music on West Beach and food vendors on Cabrillo Boulevard, courtesy of SPARKLE, the City's partner in July 4th activities. Owing to the fact that July 4th fell on Thursday this year, attendance was down a bit, though onlookers still numbered in the thousands. Harbor Patrol reported no significant law enforcement contacts other than one felony warrant arrest for a probation violation. Most contacts involved parking violations, illegal fireworks, and Stand Up Paddleboards (SUP's) and kayakers without personal floatation devices.

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