

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

Date: January 23, 2014
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

Parade of Lights Recap

By Santa Barbara standards the weather was frigid, yet thousands of spectators crowded both Stearns Wharf and the Breakwater to view the 28th annual Parade of Lights on December 8th.

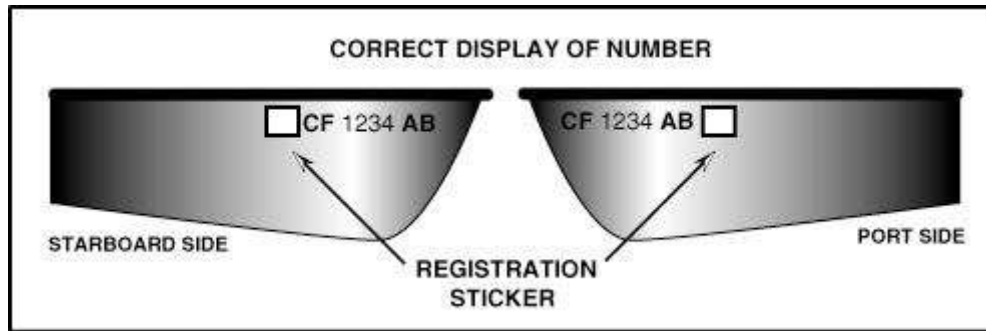
Twenty-two boats decorated to the theme of “Rock’n & Roll’n Holiday!” A fireworks display by Bay Fireworks followed the parade, after which boat participants packed the Maritime Museum for an awards party catered by The Endless Summer bar-café. Donated cash and prizes—many from Waterfront businesses—were awarded, including a grand prize that went to Kristian Beadle aboard the *S/V Aldebaran*. Staff wishes to thank all event participants and sponsors, and remind boaters that it’s not too early to circle the date for this year’s Parade of Lights—Sunday, December 14th.

Powerful Windstorm Rakes Waterfront

A powerful (northeast) windstorm, with gusts nearing 100 mph, pummeled the Waterfront on the night of January 9th and the early morning of January 10th, causing thousands of dollars of damage to buildings and boats. Torn sails, plus coolers, surfboards and trash blown into the harbor were minor consequences compared to shingles blown off the Waterfront Center Building, sailboats blown on top of each other on West Beach and a boat blown off its jack-stands at Harbor Marineworks’ boatyard. Repairs and cleanup are underway at the time of this writing. Staff will show photos of the damage as part of this report on January 23rd.

Reminder: Vessel Registration Renewal

Vessel registration renewals were due by December 31, 2013. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) issues a Certificate of Number (registration certificate) and registration stickers to identify a vessel as currently registered. A copy of current registration must be kept on board whenever your boat is used on the water. The registration (CF) numbers must be painted on or permanently attached to each side of the forward part of the vessel. CFs must be plain, vertical block characters at least 3 inches high of a contrasting color to the hull, and be arranged to read from left to right.



Generally, every sail-powered vessel over eight feet long and every motor-driven vessel (regardless of length) that is not documented by the U.S. Coast Guard and is used on state waters are subject to DMV registration. Commercial vessels five net tons or more or 30 feet long or more require U.S. Coast Guard documentation. Vessels previously registered in other states must register in California within 120 days of being brought into the state, if it will be used on California waterways a majority of the time. Harbor Patrol recommends registering all boats. Skiffs are frequently found adrift, both inside the harbor and at sea. If a skiff has current CF numbers posted, it's much easier to locate the owner when the vessel is recovered.

Note: The biennial fee for re-registering a previously registered recreational vessel is \$20. This year, however, boaters must pay \$36, due to a legislatively imposed (\$16) Quagga/Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Fee, designed to fund efforts to control these invasive pests that plague California waterways. If, however, you do not intend to use your vessel in fresh water, you can check a box on the DMV's Vessel Registration Form to opt out of this "Mussel Fee." If you don't physically opt out, you must pay \$36.

For more DMV registration information visit: <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/boatsinfo/boat.htm>

Department Receives Grant Approval Notification

The California Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), a Division of the State Department of Parks and Recreation, has reviewed and approved the Waterfront Department's application for a \$10,000 grant for removal and disposal of abandoned recreational vessels and related navigational hazards from City waters and beaches. The funds, drawn from DBW's Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF), are used to reimburse the City for 90% of the cost of removing and disposing such vessels and navigational hazards. The remaining 10% can be applied via "in-kind" services such as staff time or administrative costs related to removing and disposing vessels.

The City has participated in the AWAF grant program since 2005, removing a total of 63 abandoned vessels. City Council will consider approving acceptance of the current grant at its January 28th meeting.