

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT
DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

Date: July 17, 2014
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

STATE BOATING FATALITIES HIT RECORD LOW—BUT NOT LOW ENOUGH

The Division of Boating and Waterways' recently released annual report says 38 persons in California lost their lives in boating accidents in 2013, the fewest annual number of fatalities ever recorded (next to 40 in 1994). But there's little room to celebrate. First, 38 is still far too many, plus the number may be artificially low due to low water levels in California lakes that discouraged many folks from going boating.

Worst of all, a majority of the deaths were preventable. Of the 38 fatalities, 26 drowned, and of those, 21 were not wearing life jackets. Put simply, wearing a life jacket can save your life or loved ones' lives. In addition, attention to these boating tips will help make boating safe for you, your friends and family:

- Take a boating safety class;
- Equip your vessel (SUPs and kayaks included) with all required safety equipment, including life-jackets (USCG approved and size-appropriate for each passenger). Children under 13 must wear a life jacket on any vessel measuring 26 feet or less;
- Don't drink alcohol while boating—they don't mix;
- Operate at safe speeds;
- Maintain a proper lookout;
- Monitor weather and sea conditions;
- File a float plan with a friend or relative; and
- Review the ABCs of California Boating Law at: <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Pubs/Abc/>

HARBOR NAUTICAL SWAP MEET CONTINUES TO GROW

Vendors occupied a record 58 stalls at the eighth annual Harbor Nautical Swap Meet on May 10th. Business was brisk, with a bountiful supply of fishing gear, kayaks, sailboat rigging, surfboards, paddle boards and more. Vendor Skip Abed, owner of the Santa Barbara Sailing Center, went through his storage facility at Marina Four, unloading so much gear that the float upon which the facility rests rose 8" inches after this "weight loss program." Needless to say, Skip had a good day at the Swap Meet, a befit for the Harbor Merchants Association, which, in turn for its \$580 of proceeds, donated bagels, donuts, SB Roasting Company coffee and fruit from The Berry Man. Considering the growing popularity of this event, we expect an equally enthusiastic turnout May, 2015—exact date to be determined.

JULY 4th RECAP—FOG, FIREWORKS AND FIZZLE

Thousands of revelers enjoyed a sunny, warm July 4th at the Waterfront, but fog and low clouds rolled in just before the fireworks began, adding a gauzy effect to higher-altitude displays. Then, 15 minutes into a 20-22-minute show, everything stopped when a falling ember burned through a control-panel wire. Delayed 20 minutes, the show resumed via manual (not computer-controlled) firing, leading to a sporadic conclusion, with over 160 shells left unfired. Finally, this year's show contained no music simulcast, due to SPARKLE's inability to participate. Staff will investigate options for resuming this part of the show next year. Staff is also drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit quotes from other fireworks companies for next year's show.

Prepared by: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager