

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT  
DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** August 21, 2014  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** Harbor Operations Report

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**MID-SUMMER YACHT RACES: FARR 40 AND KING HARBOR**

Farr 40: Fifteen high-tech 40-foot racing sailboats competed in the Santa Barbara leg of the West Coast Farr 40 championships, a race featuring elite sailors from Australia, Italy and Mexico. Hosted by the Santa Barbara Yacht Club, the three-day event (July 16-19) featured racing along the Santa Barbara coast, as part of a championship series stretched among several West Coast harbors, including world championships scheduled for San Francisco in October.

The event took place in moderate 6-15 knot winds, allowing skippers and crews to showcase their abilities in extremely competitive, close-quarters racing. Skipper Alberto Rossi steered the Italian entry *Enfant Terrible* to one-point victory over *Flash Gordon 6* (from Chicago). Three Santa Barbara boats participated in the event, with John Demourkas on *Groovederci*, placing sixth, a very respectable result amid such a competitive, world-class fleet.

King Harbor: Marking the high-point in our yachting season, 93 sailboats (up from 78 last year) departed Santa Barbara Harbor July 25th for the 42nd annual King Harbor Race, an 81-mile course that terminates at King Harbor in Redondo. Winds at the starting line were 3-5 knots, just enough to send the fleet over the horizon, and remained moderate and steady throughout the race. The Santa Barbara Yacht Club and Santa Barbara Sailing Club fielded 12 teams and took home several awards.

Two Santa Barbara boats earned “first in class” awards, including *Tranquility* (skipper Max Lynn – his 41st time sailing the race) and *Crazy 88* (skipper Dr. Laura Schlessinger). The *Flying Dutchman*, a Hobie 33 from King Harbor Yacht Club skippered by Jason Herring, turned in the fastest corrected time of 11:31:53. For complete King Harbor race results visit the Santa Barbara Yacht Club website at <http://www.sbyc.org/>.

**STATE OUTRIGGER SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On July 26th, outrigger clubs from San Francisco to San Diego gathered in Santa Barbara for one of their most competitive and popular races—the Southern California Outrigger Sprint Championship, hosted for the past 30 years by the Santa Barbara Outrigger Canoe Club. The spectator-friendly races were broken into age categories and different-sized outrigger canoes, which ran courses ranging in length from 1,000 to 3,000 meters. In keeping with tradition the event included ceremonial activities, like a Hawaiian canoe blessing, singing and hula dancing.

Notable results from Santa Barbara racers included Novice Men, who placed second, Masters, who placed third, Open Men's "A" who placed second, and Open Women's, "A" who placed 4<sup>th</sup>. Staff sends a hearty "congratulations" to all our local competitors.

## **KAYAK AND STAND-UP PADDLEBOARD (SUP) SAFETY**

As summer heads toward fall, Santa Barbara boating season remains in high gear. This summer, staff has heard a number of complaints about kayaks and stand-up paddleboards "crowding the harbor, causing headaches for other boaters," making this a good time to clear up misconceptions and offer some safety reminders.

First, kayaks and SUPs are boats, and enjoy the same privileges as any other boats. That said, they are of course very small, sometimes unpredictable in movement and tend to enjoy our local waters in significant numbers.

We have three kayak/SUP vendors in the Harbor, including Chanel Islands Outfitters (AKA "Paddle Sports"), Santa Barbara Sailing Center and Sea Landing. All three do a good job of educating their clients about rules of the road and safety considerations for small, human-powered craft. Among other efforts, they distribute Waterfront brochures on Safe Kayaking in Santa Barbara Harbor. We also have several businesses outside the harbor that conduct guided kayak tours, including Captain Jack Kayak Rentals and Santa Barbara Adventure Company, not to mention private kayaks and SUPs—making the harbor "crowded house" on most warm, summer days.

Here is a brief summary of safe kayaking tips for Santa Barbara Harbor:

1. Familiarize yourself with maritime rules of the road and basic requirements of California Boating Law.
2. Avoid high-traffic areas of the harbor.
3. Avoid crossing in front of oncoming traffic.
4. Wear your Personal Flotation Device (PFD); it can save your life.
5. Have a whistle on your PFD; it's louder than your voice.
6. Avoid "rafting up" or lingering the main harbor channel.
7. Avoid zigzagging or "floating" near boat traffic.
8. When crossing the Harbor, do so at the narrowest point (right angle); avoid crossing diagonally.
9. Avoid the dredge and all dredge equipment.
10. When feasible, travel in a group. Don't spread out.
11. Avoid fishermen's lines near Stearns Wharf.
12. Avoid the Passenger Loading Ramp on Stearns Wharf.
13. Check the weather forecast. Wind and kayaking don't mix.
14. Call 564-5530 for a current status or check NOAA weather online or by phone.