

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 17, 2017
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Harbor Operations Report**

BOATING ACCIDENT AT STEARNS WHARF

On Sunday, July 2nd, a 24' ridged-bulld inflatable boat with several people aboard sped into the Stearns Wharf Wye at 20 knots, crashing into a piling and dumping several passengers into the water before coming to a halt. Surprisingly, nobody was injured in this accident. Passengers who wound up in the ocean were either assisted back onto the vessel or climbed up a Wharf ladder to safety. The piling was replaced almost immediately, as was a bent, stainless-steel ladder, which the boat also struck. The operator will be billed for replacement costs (about \$22,000).

Though the vessel's operator, a slip permittee and charter operator in Santa Barbara Harbor, exhibited no signs of intoxication, he was cited for a misdemeanor violation of the California Harbors and Navigation Code, *Reckless and Negligent Operation*.

The incident remains under investigation.

AND ANOTHER BOATING ACCIDENT. . .

On Sunday, July 9th, another boating accident ended more tragically, after a 15' sailboat with four persons aboard capsized a mile south of Stearns Wharf. All four ended up in the water, and despite assists from other boaters (some of whom also entered the water to help) and Harbor Patrol Officers, who used several means to attempt resuscitating the 62-year-old owner of the boat, Mr. Curtis Oshock, he perished during the incident. Staff extends its most sincere condolences to Mr. Oshock's family and friends.

RECORD VENDOR ATTENDANCE AT HARBOR NAUTICAL SWAP MEET

A record 76 vendors—18 more than the previous record—participated in the 8th annual Harbor Nautical Swap Meet on May 13th. Hundreds of community members jammed the Marina 3 parking lot, enjoying great deals on everything from paddle boards and surfboards to boat rigging, fishing gear, dive gear, kayaks, skiffs, motors, pumps and more. All while enjoying free coffee, donuts, bagels and fruit, care of the Harbor Merchants Association, designated beneficiary of this popular event.

Waterfront staff also distributed a slew of goodies and information, including reusable water bottles, the ABCs of California Boating Law, oil-absorbent bibs and pillows, West Marine coupons, and reusable tote bags.

In concert with the Swap Meet, local boaters took advantage of a Hazmat disposal facility to get rid of hazardous materials taking up space in dock boxes or boats. The Hazmat Turn-in was funded in part through a CalRecycle used-oil grant.

With its growing popularity, next year's event should be equally successful. Stay tuned for the date in May, 2018, so you can circle your calendar early.

RECAP: FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Building on the last two years' successful Independence Day celebrations, this year's event hit all the marks for a memorable July 4th. Perfect weather set the tone, with beach crowds arriving by 10:00 a.m. On West Beach, thousands enjoyed stage performances from family-friendly musicians and dancers, plus food from curbside vendors. Stearns Wharf, in turn, attracted 6,200 pedestrians to a family-style celebration from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., with face-painting, food, shopping and live music. A magnificent fireworks display, care of Garden State Fireworks, was simulcast at 9:00 p.m. sharp on KJEE 92.9 FM and streamed live on www.KEYT.com.

The only challenge this year was long lines at the Harbor Lot Parking kiosk, due in part to delays related to the Castillo Underpass closure during CalTrans' summer-long construction project.

Waterfront staff worked with several City departments and its nonprofit partner to coordinate this safe, popular event, which included a strong social media and web presence to efficiently communicate with the public.

Finally, thanks in part to the presence of many City police officers, there were no major law-enforcement incidents during the entire event. This added an extra layer of comfort and security for this traditional family celebration.

RECAP: KING HARBOR RACE

Seventy-five sailboats (17 from Santa Barbara) headed over the horizon on July 28th, kicking off the 45th annual King Harbor Race, an 81-mile course that terminates at King Harbor in Redondo. Due to light winds along the way, only 56 boats finished the race. The first finishers reached King Harbor in just over 20 hours. Locals who "placed" in various categories included:

Vance Newell, *Epic*, 4th overall

Dick Freeland, *Sundowner*, 8th overall

John Vincent/ Ken Kieding, *Argo 3*, 3rd, Ultra-Light Displacement Hull "B" class

Rick Yabsley, *Captain Sluggo*, 3rd, Ultra-Light Displacement Hull "C" class

Tom Cullen, *Fuego*, 2nd, Performance Handicap Racing Fleet "A" class

Lander Nicolait, *Second Wind*, 3rd overall, Cruising Class

The Department wishes to congratulate all participants in this year's King Harbor Race, and looks forward to serving as "host harbor" again next year.

HARBOR AND SEAFOOD FESTIVAL – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

Circle your calendars! The 16th annual Harbor and Seafood Festival will take place from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, October 14th. If you loved last year's festival, you'll love this one, too. We've got it all again this year—fresh crab, lobster, oysters, mussels, and barbecued albacore, plus paella, sea urchin "uni," fish tacos, Brophy Bros' clam chowder and more. Then there's great music (three bands), 40+ arts and craft vendors, tall-ship tours, Coast Guard tours, touch tanks, free boat rides and maritime education booths. Festival admission is free. The festival is presented by the City, Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, Inc., Santa Barbara Harbor Merchants' Association, and Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. Find directions and parking details and more at www.HarborFestival.org or www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/SeafoodFestival

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