

DockLines

Vol. XIII, No. 2

THE SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

March 2014

Editor: Mick Kronman
Art Director: Brian Slagle



Not since 1983...Harbor Closes
Two-week shut down

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Marina One fingers "M" through "P"

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Help City reduce consumption by 20%

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Vendor Applications available April 7th

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Policing Your Key Card
Preventing unauthorized access

Check Vessel Lengths and Beams
Avoid a "Santa Barbara Nose Job"

2014 Parking Permits
Available now

Mark Your Calendar
Event and Harbor Commission Schedules



Photo courtesy Capt. Harvey Banick

Harbor Closes for the First Time in Decades

Karl Treiberg, Waterfront Facilities Manager

Most people cannot remember the last time the harbor entrance closed but some older locals suggest it was during the epic 1983 El Niño winter. After months of dry weather and calm seas, a powerful storm hit Santa Barbara on March 1st. The largest swell in six years pushed all the material on the sandspit across the channel entrance, eliminating access to a majority of vessels in the harbor. Small, shallow-draft vessels found slightly deeper water off West Beach allowing some commercial fishermen to conduct business as usual.

Unfortunately, that channel was much too shallow for larger powerboats and the vast majority of sailboats to leave the harbor. The March 1st swell was big, but not that big. A larger swell hit Santa Barbara on February 24, 2008, but the harbor didn't close.

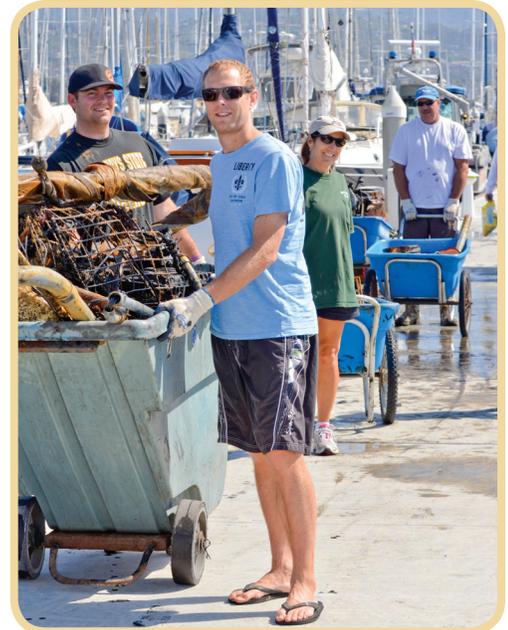
So what happened this time? The Army Corps of Engineers administers and funds a three-year

contract to dredge Santa Barbara Harbor. The contract requires harbor dredging twice a year, once in the fall to remove sand that gradually accumulates in the channel over the summer and again in the spring to remove sand that deposits rapidly during large winter swells. With the channel typically cleared of sand by November, there is plenty of room to absorb sand deposited during the winter months.

Unfortunately, the Corps rejected the one and only bid submitted for the next three-year contract (commencing, theoretically, in fall, 2013). The low-bid contractor and the Corps eventually renegotiated an acceptable bid but it was too late to conduct the fall dredging. This left an entrance channel partially full of sand that could not absorb extra sand deposited during the March 1st swell. The contractor began dredging on March 8th only to break down hours later. Five days later the dredge was repaired and making good progress. A small channel was established after a couple days, and thereafter the dredge worked steadily until the harbor was back to normal.

Eighth Annual Operation Clean Sweep Set for May 3rd

Operation Clean Sweep, a volunteer seafloor cleanup program, has removed 14.4 tons of debris from Santa Barbara Harbor during seven annual one-day events. Typical debris includes barbecues, bicycles, plastic barrels, skiffs, boat propellers, outboard engines and an occasional marine battery. This year's event, scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd, will target fingers "M" through "P" in Marina 1. Staff expects 50 volunteer divers and dock workers to participate. Next year's event will finish the harbor "circumnavigation," to begin again in Marina 4 in 2016. If you wish to volunteer in this year's Operation Clean Sweep, please call Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager, at 897-2587 or email him at mikronman@santabarbarca.gov



DockLines

City of Santa Barbara
Waterfront Department

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to noon
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Business Office: 564-5531
Harbor Patrol: 564-5530
Maintenance: 564-5522
Parking Services: 564-5523
Office Fax: 560-7580

(805) local area code



Photo courtesy Santa Barbara State of the City

Stage 1 Drought Declaration

The lack of rain and the beautiful weather we've enjoyed at the harbor for months comes at a price. Not surprisingly, City Council recently declared a Stage 1 drought. This means citizens are encouraged to reduce water consumption by 20%. A Stage 2 drought will likely be declared this summer which will require further reductions coupled with increased water rates. Hopefully, our community will meet the requested reductions and a Stage 2 drought declaration can be avoided.

So what is the Waterfront doing to conserve water? Fortunately the City's Water Resources Division recently conducted an audit of water usage and came up with eight recommendations to reduce water usage. The most notable reductions for harbor users involve restrooms and the docks.

Our restrooms will be retrofitted with low flow shower heads and faucet aerators that are estimated to save thousands of gallons a day. Regulars at the harbor will notice these

differences in our restrooms but will hopefully get used to them and help us conserve water.

Another recommendation is to provide "power nozzles" for every slip holder in the harbor. A tremendous amount of water is wasted when people wash their boats and let water flow unattended. A good nozzle helps do a better job and conserve water. Nozzles will be free but we rely on slip holders to replace hoses that leak and turn off faucets when they notice leaking hoses, nozzles, or other fixtures. Together we can meet the City's 20% goal and save thousands of dollars. Questions? Call Harbor Maintenance at 564-5522.

Clean Marina Corner

New Waste Oil Tank at the Fuel Dock

For many years, boaters have enjoyed three, free waste-oil disposal stations, one each at Marina 2, Marina 4 and the Fuel Dock at the end of the City Pier. In addition, the Fuel Dock waste-oil tank connects to a vessel bilge pump-out, so it accepts oil from that facility, too.

In January, Fuel Dock staff reported that primary containment of its waste-oil holding tank had failed, and that the tank needed replacement. Fortunately, per its design, a secondary containment wall in the tank prevented any oil from spilling.

City staff and Fuel Dock management worked quickly to replace the tank, the cost of which (\$6,000) the City will apply to its existing CalRecycle waste-oil disposal grant.



Storm Recap—Dry Winter and One Wallop

A powerful winter storm, particularly troublesome since it occurred simultaneously with seasonal high tides and a large westerly swell, pummeled the Waterfront on the weekend of March 1st. Overall, the harbor fared well, with no injuries or ocean rescues. There were, however, several significant consequences:

- **Near closure of the harbor mouth (covered in a separate report);**
- **Significant flooding of Harbor Way from waves overtopping the 800' berm extending from the Yacht Club toward Leadbetter Beach;**
- **Three beached boats (anchorage, not mooring area), all removed;**
- **Dramatic erosion of local beaches, specifically East Beach;**
- **A broken window and destroyed catwalk at Moby Dick Restaurant;**
- **Damaged and/or broken piles and twisted pile caps on Stearns Wharf;**
- **Large mats of kelp "land locking" boats in Marina One; and**
- **Flooding and closure of Harbor West Parking Lot for two days.**

Direct costs from the storm included:

- **Rebuilding the catwalk at Moby Dick Restaurant: \$5,430.46;**
- **Remove kelp from harbor: \$25,000;**
- **Remove one sailboat from East Beach: \$1,900; and**
- **Repairing Stearns Wharf piles and pile-caps, cost TBD (included in pile driving contract).**

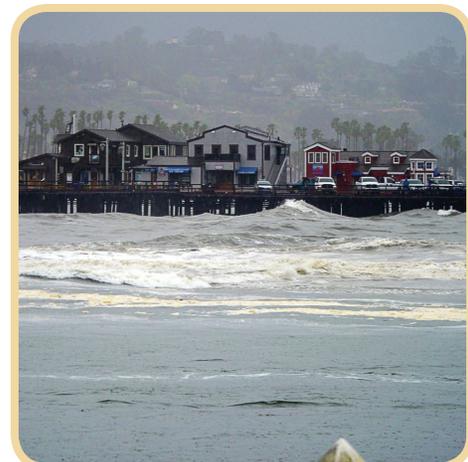
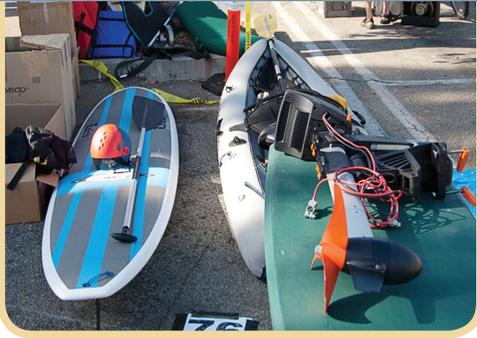


Photo courtesy Capt. Harvey Banick



Harbor Nautical Swap Meet and Hazmat Turn-In Day May 10th

It's back again! The annual Harbor Nautical Swap Meet, sponsored by the Waterfront Department and Harbor Merchants Association, will take place on Saturday, May 10th in the Marina 3 parking lot. Come to buy, sell, peruse or just enjoy good company, coffee and donuts at this uniquely local event. Typical sales include sailboat rigging, fishing gear, outboard motors, surfboards, kayaks and all manner of boat parts. Signups for vendor spaces (\$10 apiece) begin Monday, April 7th.

And while you're taking inventory of what you need to buy or sell, check your dock box too, since again this year the Waterfront Department will sponsor a Hazmat Turn-in event on May 10th, in conjunction with the Harbor Nautical Swap Meet. Located next to the Swap Meet, you'll find a marked disposal area for hazardous materials you may want to get rid of before boating season hit high gear—items like waste oil, old cans of varnish, lacquer or paint, or small amounts of gasoline or diesel. The Hazmat Turn-in is funded through a CalRecycle used-oil grant.

In an effort to limit the Hazmat event to harbor boat owners only, an "entry ticket" will be included in May's slip billing. The ticket entitles the slip permittee to dispose of any appropriate items from his or her boat or dock box. No ticket is necessary to participate in the Swap Meet. Questions? Call Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager, at 897-2587.

Easy Bill Pay

In an effort to better serve Harbor and Waterfront patrons, plus save resources and time, the Waterfront Department will soon implement an electronic billing statement program that will allow you to receive bill statements via e-mail. An enrollment form was sent out in the March billing statement. If you are interested in participating in this program please call our offices at 564-5531 or stop by and pick up an enrollment form.

In addition to the upcoming e-billing statements, the City's Automatic Payment Service program has been available to slip permittees for over a decade. This is an excellent option for people who travel frequently or simply want the safety and convenience of having their payment automatically debited from their checking account.

Approximately 425 slip permittees (37% of slip accounts) currently participate in the program. Participants receive monthly statements as usual near the first of the month. On the fifteenth of the month, their checking account is debited for charges shown on the statement. There is no charge from the City's Billing Office to participate.

Note: The Waterfront Department now handles its entire billing process, so slip fees must be mailed to, or submitted in person at, the Waterfront Offices at 132A Harbor Way, Santa Barbara CA 93109. If your bill is mailed to City Hall the Waterfront might not receive it in a timely manner – another good reason to sign up for the Automatic Payment Service.

Policing Your Key Card

Erik Engbretson, Harbor Patrol Officer

Harbor Patrol's top priority is keeping our harbor safe and secure. In 2013, Patrol Officers conducted over 3,700 foot patrols throughout the marinas and the harbor's adjoining areas. During these foot patrols we sometimes come across people who are not authorized to be inside the marinas and/or restrooms. How do these people get into the marina? Some enter simply by having a marina gate or bathroom door held open for them as a kind gesture. Others enter the facility by using a key card that has been entrusted to them by a boat owner to work on their boat. And, unfortunately, still others enter the facility because someone gave them a key card even though they are not a slip permittee nor do they work on a boat. This can lead to theft or burglary and presents a considerable challenge for Harbor Patrol.

Recently, a few interactions involved persons who were given a key card out of kindness to someone down on their luck and in need of a shower. Though the intention is good, it creates a less secure facility. So, we are asking for your help. Please do not give key cards to anyone you wouldn't want using your bathroom or facilities at your home. If you feel uncomfortable with someone who has "slipped" through the gate, please call Harbor Patrol at 564-5530, or on VHF channels 12 or 16 (emergencies use 9-1-1). If you have key cards that are lost or stolen, contact Waterfront Administration at 564-5531 to have them deactivated.

Thanks for your continued support to help keep our harbor safe and secure.

Vessel Lengths and Beams— Play It Safe, Check in Advance

Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager

Here's a puzzle: What do you do when slips remain the same size and boats get longer and beamer? Boaters and Waterfront staff face this challenge together as we jointly wrestle to promote boating and stay within existing laws, regulations and guidelines.

Harbor regulations, for example, require that boat lengths not exceed limits established by City Council. Staff has no wiggle room here, and for good reason. By consistently applying length limits, slips and fairways remain safe and navigable. Please check with harbor administration if you have questions about allowable lengths in various-sized slips. They can be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 564-5531 or at the Waterfront Administration Building. This is especially important because allowable "overhangs" for similarly sized slips may vary throughout the harbor. By checking in advance, you can avoid the nightmare of buying a boat only to learn when Harbor Patrol measures it (the only "official" measurement for slip transactions) that it's too long for its intended berth. That's why you see so many "Santa Barbara Nose Jobs" around the harbor—bow pulpits trimmed and refitted to accommodate maximum-length regulations.

Now, beams are a bit different. State Division of Boating and Waterways guidelines for maximum beams in double-berth slips like ours in Santa Barbara Harbor say a boat's beam should not exceed one-half the width of the double berth minus one foot. In other words, if the double berth measures (rub rail to rub rail) 30 feet, then one half that distance minus one foot would be 14 feet. That would be the maximum beam for a boat in either slip of the double berth.

The Waterfront Department tries to stick to these guidelines, but in some cases we can allow a bit more beam in conditions where navigability won't be affected. But it's smart to never take a chance. Always contact Waterfront administrative staff if you think the beam of a boat you intend to place in a given slip either meets the guidelines straight away or you need an approved waiver from the Harbormaster for any beam length exceeding the beam guidelines. Waivers are considered on a case by case basis.

Again, it's always best to play it safe. Check in advance regarding the length and beam of any boat you plan to place in a harbor slip. That way, there will be no surprises when it comes time to measure and officially assign it to that berth.



City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department
132 A Harbor Way, Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Free Oil-Absorbent Bilge Pads

Help prevent bilge-oil leaks, discharges and spills in the harbor. Stop by the Harbormaster's Office and pick up your **free** oil-absorbent bilge pads funded by a grant from CalRecycle.

Got Used Oil?

Find a certified Used Oil Recycling Center* nearest you. A list of Recycling Center locations are also available at the Harbormaster's Office.

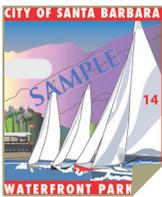
To:

* For a complete list of certified used oil collection center, hours of operation, and types of materials collected, visit <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/usedoil/certcenters/>

This publication of Docklines is funded by a Grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

2014 Waterfront Parking Permits Now on Sale

Cesar Barrios, Waterfront Parking Supervisor



Annual Waterfront parking permits went on sale in December. General permits cost \$95. Slip permittee permits (one per slip) cost \$70. Permits are valid from the date of purchase through December 31, 2014. The Waterfront Department encourages residents and slip permittees to purchase 2014 parking permits early for a full year of economical parking. General permits are available at the Harbormaster's Office and at all Waterfront parking kiosks, except Stearns Wharf. Slip permittee permits may only be purchased at the Harbormaster's Office.

This year's permit features an illustration by Harbor Commissioner Helene Webb. For more parking information, please contact the Waterfront Parking Office at 897-1965.



Page 2: Drought Declaration

Waterfront Department

AUTOMATIC PAYMENT SERVICE

Pick up an application at the Harbormaster's Office

It's simple, convenient and free

Page 3: Easy Bill Pay

2014 Event Schedule

- May 3** Harbor Clean Sweep
- May 10** Harbor Swap Meet
- May 10** Hazmat Turn-In Day
- July 4 Independence Day
- Aug.-Sept. Wharf Movies (free)
- October 11 Harbor & Seafood Festival
- December 14 Parade of Lights

2014 Regular Meeting Schedule of the Santa Barbara Harbor Commission

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| January 16 | July 17 |
| February 20 | August 21 |
| March 20 | September 18 |
| April 17 | October 16 |
| May 15 | November 20 |
| June 19 | December 18 |

Harbor Commission meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers