



PORT OF BELLINGHAM
Washington State

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

HARBOR NEWS

BLAINE AND SQUALICUM HARBORS' NEWSLETTER

BELOW: The Fidalgo Bay Yacht Club visited Blaine harbor with 20 boats in September.



New Insurance Requirements

In June of this year, the Washington Legislature passed 2SHB2457, which is a State Law concerning the states Derelict Vessel Program. 2SHB2457 will impact all boaters in the State of Washington as it requires that all moorage facilities, public or private, collect proof of insurance on each vessel within the marina. The bill also designates criteria for minimum vessel insurance which are;

- Minimum 300k in coverage
- Liability coverage must include- general, legal, and pollution liability

2SHB2457 also establishes the following requirements and fees;

- Creates new requirements on the sale of certain vessels

- Establishes a fee on commercial vessels required to be listed with the Department of Revenue to fund the states derelict and abandoned vessel program.

- Creates new penalties for failure to register a vessel

We suggest taking a moment and review this bill online and perhaps reaching out to your insurance provider to determine if your current policy is compliant and if not making sure that you make the necessary coverage additions. As we all learn more about this Policy, Harbor Staff will be working with the Marina Advisory Committee (MAC) to develop a process that will make the transition to compliance as simple, and straightforward as possible.

BRIEFLY INFORMATIVE

Gate Code Changing October 31st

Gate codes at Squalicum and Blaine Harbors will be changing Oct. 31. The new gate code will be available at the harbor office on Oct 15. Please do not give out the gate code or open the door for someone you do not recognize. Send them to the harbor office.

Update your contact information

Cell phone numbers and email addresses can change frequently and you may not have thought to update the harbor office. We depend on updated information to contact you in an emergency. You can update your information by calling or emailing the harbors at the [email addresses](#) on the back of this newsletter.

Boater education

The fall and winter months are a great time to reflect on our passion for boating and plan ahead for the Spring. Consider taking a boating course to refresh your boating knowledge, gain new skills, and meet new friends with likeminded interests. Locally, classes are offered by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons. Additionally, you can complete your basic boater education course online to satisfy the Washington State boater education requirement. Visit the websites below for more information on boating requirements and upcoming classes.

www.boatingisfun.org
www.bliaux.com
www.boat-ed.com/washington/



HELP US PROMOTE DOCK SAFETY. PLEASE WALK YOUR BIKES AND SCOOTERS WHILE ON THE DOCK.

Prepare now to keep your vessel safe from

winter weather

The weather is changing and many of us are tucking our boats away for the winter. Taking time to properly prepare your boat for the wet and cold can save you from a phone call from the harbor office during a storm or worse expensive repairs this spring. Here are some suggestions for winter preparedness:

- **Check your vessel regularly.** If you see something out of order or a safety hazard on a neighboring boat contact the Harbor Office immediately.
- **Remove your hoses from the hose bib** to prevent expensive freeze damage.



- **Remove your dinghy from the water** when you've taken the last cruise of the season. Store it aboard your vessel or on the dinghy rack.
- **Check your dock lines and fender regularly:** check lines for chafe and fender location.
- **Check scuppers and cockpit drains** routinely to ensure they can clear water quickly.
- **Inspect your shore-power cord** and replace immediately if any defects are discovered: Only marine rated shore-power are permitted. The use of household extension cords is prohibited.

- **Heaters** – Do not leave heaters unattended. When operating a diesel furnace ensure the exhaust is free and clear of combustible materials.

- **Remove your sails, secure your halyards and canvas.** High winds can cause considerable damage on roller furling sails. Tie your halyards away from your mast to reduce chafe and wear.

- **Dock Boxes** - Winter winds have and will damage your dock box lid if it is not secured.

- **Bilge Pumps** – Make sure your bilge pumps are in good operating condition. Keep your float switches free from debris and make sure your bilge is clean of fuel and oil.
- **Burglar Proofing** – Remove all of the valuables you have on board and keep them secure at home. Small outboards are attractive to thieves. Take them home or make sure they are locked securely. Make sure all hatches and companionways are secure and locked.

Dogs

During our September Marina Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting, the subject of dogs and pets on the docks was addressed. Several members of the MAC, expressed their concerns regarding the amount of off leash dogs and the tremendous amount of dog waste not being picked up. This newsletter has commented many times that there are some dog owners who are not picking up after their dogs creating an unnecessary safety risk as well as detracting from the pleasant experience of spending time at the marina. Please comply with these simple requirements or consider leaving your pet at home:

- **Pick up your pet's mess.** Pet waste bags are located around the harbor and walking paths for your convenience.
- **Keep your pet leashed and under your control at all times.**
- **Please do not leave your pet unattended on your boat if it likes to bark at people.**
- **Please do not take your pets into the showers.**

A big thanks goes out those of you promoting the common sense rules of pet ownership so we all have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Blaine Harbor

PREPARING FOR A NATURAL DISASTER

North Whatcom Fire & Rescue which serves Blaine Harbor and the surrounding community has started an outreach to inform people what to do and where to go in the event of a tsunami.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO PREPARE FOR A TSUNAMI OR NATURAL DISASTER visit the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management at www.whatcomready.org.

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MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

You can contact your Marina Advisory Committee Representatives by calling either the Blaine or Squalicum Harbor offices.

Peter Border, William Douglas, Elizabeth Kilanowski, Jim Kyle,
Ron Kleinknecht, Brian Pemberton, Ian Puchlik, Doug Sterrett,
Jerry Writer and Jim Young