



## SQUALICUM & BLAINE HARBOR NEWS

# Moorage Rate Formula Under Review by Marina Advisory Group

As most of you know, the port sets moorage rates at a level that covers all of the expenses of the harbors. The port has long held that the marinas should operate in a 'closed-loop,' so as to not require the support of tax revenues. The model that sets these rates is reviewed by the Marina Advisory Committee (MAC) every four years. With the last review completed in 2006, this is the year for the next update. In the annual moorage rate letter that was sent in March, we included a link to our newly created "Frequently Asked Questions" webpage which helps to explain how the current moorage model determines rates.

In the spring of 2010, to launch this review process, the Port Commission discussed the upcoming review in two consecutive public meetings. They directed port staff to take the following three points into consideration during the rate review process:

1. Ensure that the marinas generate

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

- Pam Taft, Moorage Model Coordinator  
(360) 715-7394, [pamt@portofbellingham.com](mailto:pamt@portofbellingham.com)
- <http://www.portofbellingham.com/marinasfaq.htm>

enough revenue to pay for all of their operating and capital costs.

2. Investigate charging for the total area of the slip rather than simply the slip's length. (Most marinas in Puget Sound follow this practice)
3. Complete the scheduled review by year-end.

With this direction from the Commission, the MAC started its review in May. To expedite the review, three volunteers from the MAC were selected to meet during the summer with port staff. This subcommittee has worked hard to improve the model. The new model was presented to the full MAC on Aug. 10, and again on Sept. 9.

The moorage review process and development of the new model confirmed

that the marinas remain a self-supporting, closed-loop system. The most noticeable change in the new model is the switch to a moorage rate formula that takes into account the overall area of a moorage slip rather than simply the slip's length. This moorage approach is already in place in most Northwest marinas.

The MAC anticipates finishing its review at its next meeting at 6 pm, on Oct. 12 at the Harbor Center Conference Room, located at 1801 Roeder Ave., Bellingham. Boaters are always welcome at these meetings. From there, the moorage rate model will be scheduled for a work study meeting with the Port Commission at 3 pm, on Nov. 16, at the Harbor Center Conference Room. The Commission is scheduled to vote on the new moorage model at its business meeting at 3 pm, Dec. 7, at the same location.

For more information, contact Pam Taft, moorage model coordinator, at (360) 715-7394.

## Tips to Prepare Your Vessel for Winter Weather

As the 2010 boating season draws to a close, it's time for our friendly reminder to spend some time this fall preparing your vessel for upcoming winter weather. Although getting your vessel ready for winter can be hard work, your preparation now will pay off with a smoother transition into the 2011 boating season.

**Space Heaters** – Keep in mind that space heaters can be dangerous and costly to operate. It's imperative that you use a space heater with a tip-over switch and a thermal cut out. Set your heater at the lowest possible setting and keep it clear from any combustibles. A 1500 watt heater left running 24 hours a day for one month can use 1080 kilowatts. Please be aware that space heaters, furnaces and engine block heaters can all contribute to higher winter power bills.

**Shore Power Cords** – Please make sure that your power cord is kept out of the water and that it is in good condition. Shore power cords must be designed for marine applications with the appropriate twist lock and be a minimum of 6 to 10-gauge wire depending on the amperage. The use of household extension cords is prohibited.

**Dinghies** – When you have taken the last cruise of the season,

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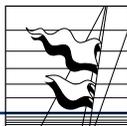
## BRIEFLY INFORMATIVE

### ***Gate Codes Changing Nov. 1***

As a way to ensure customer security, Squalicum and Blaine Harbors will change gate codes on Nov. 1 at all gate locations. Please contact the Squalicum or Blaine Harbor Office after Oct. 15 to obtain your new gate code. Identify yourself and give the Harbor Staff your current account number. Please remember to not share your code with anyone and always report suspicious activity to the Harbor Office or after-hours harbor security.

### ***Newsletter Format Changing***

Starting with this issue, both marinas' news is combined in one publication, rather than publishing two separate newsletters. We're also developing a new format that we think you will like. Look for these changes this winter.



## BLAINE NEWS

### ***Parking Lot Seal Coating***

We are scheduling asphalt seal-coating and lot striping in the Gate 2 and 3 parking lots during the first acceptable weather window in October. Although we have an approximate timeline for the work to be done, the actual work schedule will depend on weather. The work will be broken into 2 phases to make sure parking is available to our customers, but this will require that vehicles be moved from one parking lot into the other parking lot over a two to three day period. If you need long-term parking during this work, and will not be able to move your vehicle, please contact the Harbor Office and staff will direct you to parking that won't be in the way of the seal coating and stripe painting. Any vehicles left in these parking lots may be towed.

### **WINTER TIPS CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE**

remove your dinghy from the water. Store it on your vessel or bring it home and store it out of harms way. Too often, Harbor Staff spend time keeping dinghies from sinking due to collection of rain water or they are stolen.

**Fenders** – Make sure your vessel is adequately protected from damage with the proper amount of appropriately sized fenders. Too often during winter wind storms vessels are found without fenders. This can cause serious damage and is easy to remedy by purchasing appropriately sized fenders for your vessel.

**Dock lines** – Remember to check your dock lines regularly and make sure they are free from tears or chafe. Providing an appropriate amount of mooring lines will insure your vessel is adequately tied to withstand rough winter weather.

We would like to thank all of our wonderful boating customers for making the 2010 boating season a great success. We're looking forward to a safe winter and are already dreaming of warm boating weather in 2011!

### **Squalicum Harbor Office**

722 Coho Way, Bellingham

(360) 676-2542

or after hours (360) 739-8131

Dan Stahl, Director of Marine Services  
Mike Endsley, Harbormaster  
Pam Taft, Moorage Rate Coordinator  
Andy Peterson, Moorage Coord.

Marine Service Representatives:  
Bill Vonk, Patty Paus, Paul Knippel,  
Lynda Lamoureux, and Greg Hoffman

### **Blaine Harbor Office**

235 Marine Drive, Blaine

Or mail to: PO Box 1245, Blaine, 98231

(360) 647-6176

or after hours: (360) 303-7110

Dan Stahl, Director of Marine Services  
Andy Peterson, Harbormaster

Marine Service Representatives:  
Tony Flaherty, Roland Montoure  
and Bryson Tripp

## SQUALICUM NEWS

### ***Gate 3 Repairs Begin in Fall 2011***

This fall, permits will be submitted for the Gate 3 F and G dock project. Barring any unforeseen permitting delays, staff expects construction to begin on the Gate 3, F and G dock replacement project in the fall of 2011.

The project will completely replace these docks and dredge the site. Dredging complications delayed the start of this project, but staff has worked with regulatory agencies on a solution that will allow this project to move forward.

### ***Damaged Dock Boxes Replaced***

Over the summer, staff began installing new dock boxes throughout the harbor. These boxes are made of a roto-molded



plastic which are extremely durable and should have a longer useful life than the fiberglass boxes being replaced. Work will continue to focus on replacement and repairs to damaged boxes.

### ***Sawtooth Repairs Begin in Winter 2010***

For the past year or so, sections of the sawtooth have been shut down due to structural concerns. Construction is scheduled to begin in winter 2010 to repair and replace structural piling, bracing, stringers, bullrail, and decks. Any closures will be posted ahead of time to minimize any impacts to our customers.

If you would like more information, contact the Harbor Office at (360) 676-2542.



ENVIROSTARS



### **Marina Advisory Representatives**

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

Peter Border	Cliff Cultee	Jeffrey Hegedus
Ryan Kapp	Ron Kleinknecht	Gene Knutson
Paul Lavelle	Tim Mumford	Joseph Orem
Brian Pemberton	Jim Splaine	Doug Sterrett
Jerry Writer	Jim Young	