



PORT OF BELLINGHAM  
*Washington State*

✱ OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2013 ✱

# HARBOR NEWS

Blaine and Squalicum Harbors' Newsletter

## HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

Over the past 3 years you probably noticed work taking place on the docks around the harbor as part of our dock life extension projects. Capital improvements to Blaine and Squalicum Harbors are scheduled to continue into 2014. Harbor Staff would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience while we work on these harbor improvement projects.

Later this fall, Squalicum customers moored at Gate 6, docks J,K,L,M,N and Gate 8 on KK and JJ docks will be contacted to temporarily relocate their boats while their docks have wood whalers, dock boxes and cleats replaced. As part of our goal to provide functional dock boxes in designated slips, we will replace dock boxes installed at Gate 3. As soon as the work is scheduled, we notify affected customers so they can empty their dock boxes.

Customers at Blaine and Squalicum Harbors will also see the installation of dock ladders along the walkways. These ladders are intended to provide a way for people to get out of the water. The ladders are a simple pull-down type ladder, which will keep it free of marine growth and corrosion. Please keep access to these ladders clear and available.

We will contact customers affected by these projects in a timely manner to allow them an opportunity to secure personal items and move their boat.

To preserve the integrity of the wood structure and uniformity across the harbor, we will not permit homemade attachments, cleats and dinghy racks to be attached to the floats once they have been upgraded. Thank you for your patience and cooperation while we complete this work.

## SECURITY: IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

There have been instances of theft and vandalism in the harbors over the past months. In some cases, neighbors noticed suspicious activity, but may have been convinced that the activities were legitimate. In short, trust your instincts. If something doesn't look right, it probably isn't. Notify the Port or the boat owner immediately. Call 911 if necessary.

### SECURITY TIPS

- Get to know your neighbors.
- Keep your vessel and your valuables locked up and secured.
- Make sure your contact information is up-to-date at the Harbor Office.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and report suspicious behavior immediately. Between 8am and 5pm, call the Harbor Office, and between 5pm and 8am, call the after-hours security cell phone. Blaine Harbor Office (360) 647-6176 or Security (360) 303-7110; Squalicum Harbor Office (360) 676-2542 or Security (360) 739-8131.

## BRIEFLY INFORMATIVE

### GATE CODES CHANGING OCT. 31

Gate Codes at Squalicum and Blaine Harbors will be changing Oct. 31. The new gate codes will be available at the Harbor Office on Oct. 15. Do not give out gate codes or open the door for someone you do not recognize. Send them to the Harbor Office. Your fellow boaters will thank you.

### SLIPS AVAILABLE IN BLAINE HARBOR

Blaine Harbor has immediate availability for slips 26 to 40 feet and a very short wait for other size slips. If you know someone who is considering getting a new boat or moving their boat closer to home, send them our way!

### BOATER EDUCATION CLASSES OFFERED

The fall and winter months are a great time to reflect back on the great boating adventures of the past summer, as well as plan and prepare for the next year. Consider taking a boating course to refresh your boating knowledge, gain new skills and meet new friends with like minded interests.

Locally, classes are offered by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadron. Additionally, your basic boater education course can be taken online to satisfy the Washington State boater education card requirement. Visit the websites below for more information on boating requirements and upcoming classes.

- [www.boatingisfun.com](http://www.boatingisfun.com)
- [www.bliaux.com](http://www.bliaux.com)
- [www.boat-ed.com/washington/](http://www.boat-ed.com/washington/)

## BLAINE HARBOR NEWS

### BOAT LAUNCH RINSE IMPROVEMENTS

The Blaine boat and trailer rinse will be closed in November for improvements to the drainage system. The work will include a new rinse pad sloping to a drain system that will capture the rinse water and take it to the City of Blaine's sanitary sewer for processing. The work will be partially weather dependent and the rinse station will be out of service for the duration of the project. There is a coin-operated, self-service car wash in downtown Blaine that could accommodate trailer boats for any customers who may want to rinse their boat and trailer before hauling them home.

## SQUALICUM HARBOR NEWS

### REMOVE UNUSABLE/UNWANTED DINGHIES AND TENDERS

Please remove any unwanted, deflated or unusable dinghies/tenders from the racks on the docks. There are many derelict kayaks and water toys stored on these racks. They are consuming space that otherwise could be used by a fellow boater for the intended purpose. Again, if you have a small craft on the racks and are not using it, please forfeit the space for someone who truly needs it. Thank you!

## SAFELY DISPOSE OF PAINTS, VARNISHES AND OTHER UNWANTED CHEMICALS BEFORE WINTER

As the active summer boating season draws to a close, we'd like to encourage all our customers to take stock of their supplies and equipment stored aboard their vessels, in their boathouses, dock boxes and storage lockers. Get rid of unused paints, varnishes, cleaners and chemicals and all flammable materials from dock boxes and properly recycle or dispose of them.

The Washington State Department of Transportation operates a Disposal of Toxics program, which will accept many items for disposal. They are located at 3505 Airport Drive, and can be reached by phone at (360) 380-4640 or visit their website at [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/publicworks/solidwaste](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/publicworks/solidwaste), then scroll down and click on "Disposal of Toxics."

Don't dump  
me down drains  
or in the trash!



## PREPARE NOW TO KEEP YOUR VESSEL SAFE FROM ICE, SNOW AND WINDY WEATHER

This past summer was a memorable season for boating here in our beautiful local waters, yet the waves of change are facing us and it is time to begin preparing our boats for the winter.

Late September has already delivered some strong winds and rain, and has reminded us that efforts should be directed toward prudence and protection of our favorite activity. As captain of your ship, now is the time to focus on the following:

- Check your dock lines. Are they ready for winter?

- Replace worn and cracked fenders that no longer hold air and fail to provide protection for your boat.
- Check that your furling lines are cleated and able to keep the sail from unfurling in the breeze. The best prevention is to strike your sails, flake them, bag them and store them down below. This will provide you with peace of mind that your sails will not shred in a storm.
- Check and clean your bilge pumps and sump box/log to be certain they are free from debris, fuel, oil and that the

pumps are solidly wired to perform, should the need arise.

- Check all scuppers and cockpit drains to ensure they can clear the deck of water.
- Tie all halyards and control lines to prevent them from flagging in the breeze and slapping on the spar.

The above list contains the essentials for this time of year, and will go a long way to prepare your boat for the fall season.

Let's hope we have a few more weekends of great weather and boating. Enjoy!

### Squalicum Harbor Office

722 Coho Way, Bellingham

(360) 676-2542

or after hours (360) 739-8131

Dan Stahl, Director of Maritime  
Pam Taft, Special Projects Administrator  
Chris Tibbe, Harbormaster

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 Maritime  
Pam Taft, Special Projects Administrator  
Andy Peterson, Harbormaster

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



ENVIROSTARS



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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 • Jim Young