

# The Watchhorn

April 2007

Holiday Harbor/Cabrillo Marina

Well, it seems Spring has sprung, at least that's what the papers have announced. We are somewhat quiet about posting such news in L.A., ashamed I suppose, that we have now eliminated all the seasons. We never really had much in the way of weather swings in LaLa Land, but currently it seems even less is in the offering. The usual flooding of our valleys, mud slides, and houses nose-diving off their stilts is no longer winter news, but rather raging fires and high winds where rain once fell. One can dispute, I suppose, Al Gore's message regarding our planets changing weather pattern, but find his predictions closer to the mark than our 6 o'clock weatherman's daily guess.

I'm so old I remember 4 gallons of gas for a buck, delivered milk, and the belief beef should be consumed at every meal. Tin-Can Beach proved even garbage could be shaped into a tourist attraction, and recall when the Valley had more trees than people. Remember when tires had tubes, when freeways were just that, and every young boy was required to own a Daisy BB Gun? If so, you're old too. I'm so old I remember why I bought those rubber boots sleeping in my closet, and why you never open an umbrella indoors.

*Dock Holiday*

## Real News

- On occasion, as most of you know, we are visited by those pesky fur-balls we call raccoons. I know they are cute, fun to watch and talented, but they can also be aggressive and rake havoc aboard your boat. They first poke their heads out around dusk, then party until sunrise. If you happen to spot any critters on the docks or rock-hopping, please notify us so we can set our traps. (We are told they are relocated to a raccoon friendly environment).
- February's issue of the Log reported some interesting findings regarding a survey taken between boaters and non-boaters. When both groups were presented with the comment "I am pleased with the quality of my sex life," more yeahs than nays were reported from the boaters. It's not clear if the women's voice was heard, or how the word "pleased" sits on the 1 to 10 scale of bliss, but it made for a better read than the fishing report.
- The America's Cup coverage will begin on April 16<sup>th</sup> on the Versus Network. I'm not familiar with the network, but will assume I will need more than my rabbit-ear antenna to receive the news from Valencia, Spain.
- 'Tis the season for boat shows, and the next one up to bat is the Orange County Boat Show at the Anaheim Convention Center April 12-15. If you miss that one, Dana Point In-Water Show will run from May 31 through June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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## **Topside Boat Maintenance and Cleaning**

For your convenience, the following information is being provided to ensure that **ALL** of our Holiday Harbor boaters are informed of the Best Management Practices, as contained in the **Clean Marinas California Program**. Use of solvents, paints and varnishes for in-slip boat maintenance can contribute to pollution entering the water. The best way to protect the water is to perform only small maintenance jobs in the slip. Use of a variety of boat cleaners, such as detergents, teak cleaners and fiberglass polishers can also contribute to pollution and nutrients entering the water.

### **BOATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP):**

- Ask your marina manager what types of maintenance projects are allowed in your slip.
- Tackle boat projects in the water only if they involve less than 25% of the surface above water line.
- Ask your marina manager about rules for do-it-yourself work, contractors or vendors working in the marina.
- Drape vessel with tarps to catch waste from projects.
- Cover the water between boat and dock with visquine or tarps.
- Use a dust-containment bag with sanding equipment.
- Sweep or vacuum all residential sanding dust and put in the trash.
- Plug scuppers to contain dust and debris.
- Ventilate your space to prevent the accumulation of flammable or noxious fumes.
- Use eye protection and a respirator when there is the possibility that dust and debris could damage eyes or lungs.
- Remove oil, debris and clutter from your immediate work area.
- Do not sand with steel wool.
- Do not sand in a heavy breeze.
- Mix all solvents, paints and varnishes over a tarp or on land.
- Avoid spills in the water of all solvents, paints and varnishes.
  - Use or ask your topside maintenance service to use environmentally friendly cleaning products. Carefully read labels to ensure the products are phosphate-free and bio-degradable. Use products in moderation, since more of the cleaner product does not automatically mean your topside is cleaner.
- Avoid cleaners that contain ammonia, lye, sodium hypochlorite, chlorine or petroleum distillates.
- Consider allowing teak to fade to gray and rinse it occasionally with salt water to remove the dirt; or, for the look of freshly sanded teak, scrub teak decks with salt water and let the sun bleach them.
- Use teak cleaners sparingly and avoid spilling them or fiberglass polishers in the water.