

The Watchhorn

March 2011

Holiday Harbor-Cabrillo Marina

Normally I try to write my newsletters in a lighthearted, airy sort of fashion. People usually associate their boats with relaxation and fun, and so I try to stick with topics that are easy to relate to and which will at times provide a little humor. To be completely honest I actually try to include a great deal of humor, but at some point while writing this newsletter each month I'm forced with the realization that I'm not really all that funny. I guess eventually we all have to acknowledge that we more closely resemble Clark Kent than we do the Man of Steel. I don't care what anyone says though; I look great in a red cape and flashy blue tights. In fact, I'm wearing the red underwear right now.

This month I'd like to switch gears however and get a little philosophical with you about boating. I was recently reading a lengthy article titled "Singlehanded Tips," a text written by Andrew Evans, a singlehanded sailor out of Victoria, Canada who has logged more than 3,000 hours of singlehanded sailing in the last ten years. The article is a great read that runs for 147 pages and can be downloaded free of charge at www.sfbaysss.org/tipsbook. I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in the mental and physical affects that singlehanded sailing can have on an individual, or for those who are toying with the idea of rigging your vessel for singlehanded operation.

The subject that interests me most in this article is the underlying desire for these eccentric boaters to try singlehanded sailing in the first place. Yes, at times everyone has a reason for taking their boat out by themselves and partaking in a little solo cruise, but this type of sailing is a far cry from bashing through fifteen foot seas with a triple reef in the main and sixty knot winds trying to knock the boat over on her ear. And to do this by yourself, with no one there to relieve you at the wheel or to make you a hot cup of coffee when you are tired, must require a hearty individual indeed. If these men and women weren't finding their thrills sailing they would probably be getting them by fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan, base-jumping off of cliffs or, even more terrifying, trying to eat my girlfriend's meatloaf without making a funny face. (To be fair, she is a vegetarian. Trying to get her to cook meat is like asking a blind man to describe a rainbow.) I guess some people see a mountain and just have to climb it.

I wonder if some people have a natural inclination towards danger. Certainly the idea goes against Darwin's thoughts; natural selection does not favor those who stick their necks too far into the fire. And yet I have known too many people who simply must do something dangerous in order to truly feel alive. Is this rush of adrenaline really worth the chance of perishing in Arctic waters during a heavy storm? Being the polar opposite of these adrenaline junkies, I guess I really cannot say. I *can* tell you I'm jealous every time I read literature like the aforementioned article, and can't help but daydream of what it must truly be like to fight tooth and nail for every second of survival. I can also tell you that it simply must be better to feel those fleeting moments of danger and survive them than to have never felt them at all. Andrew Evans, I salute you.

D.H. Jr.

Real News

- Holiday Harbor would like to remind you that the docks are not designed to store materials or loose items of any kind. Each tenant may place one dock step on the docks (no more than 1/2 the width of the finger), a marine grade electrical cord, a hose if coiled neatly around the dock box, and a dinghy *IF* there is room and it is placed properly. All other items must be stored on board the vessel, in the dock box, in a Holiday Harbor locker if you rent one (lockers are available for \$28 per month and are 4'x4'x4' in size, if you would like to rent a locker please visit the marina office and speak with the marina manager), or offsite. For any questions or concerns please speak with the marina manager.
- Several tenants have expressed interest in a "dock box spring cleaning day," a day where tenants could exchange or give away some of the items stored on board their vessel or in their dock box. Items such as paints, rope, used ground tackle or running rigging might not be of value to you anymore but could be to someone else. If you have items you would like to get rid of and wish to participate in this event please email Kyle at kyle@holidayharborcm.com or visit him in the marina office. If enough people show interest we will make efforts to arrange for such an event. Please note that we are not interested in holding a swap meet, if you would like to sell some of your nautical items there are numerous swap meets throughout the year along the Southern California coast that would be more appropriate for the sale of your items.