

The Watchorn

March 2008

Holiday Harbor/Cabrillo Marina

They tell me that February is the shortest month of the year, but due to the fickle weather, the celebration of birthdays for nearly every president in American history, and the continued emergence of political battles for the presidency, the 29 days somehow stretched themselves into 60. Even the days themselves are getting longer, and although I encourage the sun to hold its station above the horizon during the evenings for as long as it possibly can, being woken up by a 6:30am laser beam that seems to penetrate my curtains and assault my fragile eyes is not something I enjoy.

That said; March is going to be a great month for boaters. With the temperature rising higher every day and the wind finally moving back to its steady summer westerly direction, boaters will have no more excuses (other than spring chores) for not coming down and enjoying the cool sea breeze off San Pedro and Catalina Island.

Which brings me to a serious question I have for my fellow American's; what happened to our work ethic? It seems the older I get, the less I find people who are willing to expend any sort of effort on their part. This idea was reinforced in my mind when a buddy turned to me one day while I was reading a good book and said, "What are you reading for, the television isn't broken?" Is this how far we have come in our era of hands free, computer driven technology? While one can make the argument for autopilots and GPS, do we really need an earpiece for our phones so we can talk without the hefty weight of a 3 ounce piece of plastic in our hands? (I can still remember when cell phones were so large they came mounted in their own zippered binder and weighed several pounds) And when was the last time we opted to wash our cars in our driveway, rather than taking the drive to a carwash that doesn't even require us to exit the vehicle?

But have no fear my fellow boaters, spring is very near. And with spring comes varnish, oil changes, engine overhauls, a good scrub down (no drive-thru boat washes around here) and a million other itches your boat is just waiting to have scratched. The weather is great, the beer is waiting to be drunk, and after a few seasonal chores you too can sail into the soft embrace of Mother Ocean. We look forward to seeing you, so enjoy!

D.H. Jr.

Real News

- Holiday Harbor-Cabrillo Marina has now adopted a new vendor manual as part of the Clean Marina Program. The purpose of the vendor manual is to educate the vendors (boat maintenance personnel, divers, etc.) as to the best management practices (BMP's) to prevent or reduce pollution in our coastal waters. Some of these BMP's include: topside maintenance and cleaning, solid waste management, petroleum containment, and hazardous materials. This manual will be used as a guideline to assist vendors, as well as tenants, in making our waterways as clean and pollutant free as possible and can be accessed online at our website, www.holidayharborcm.com.
- Before you take your boat out for the first time this year, make sure you have put on new 09' registration tags, purchase new flares (if you didn't do it last year), have working fire extinguishers, and enough PFD's (lifejackets for you old-timers) for every person on your boat. I went out in the middle of February and was boarded by the U.S. Coast Guard; so don't think it can't happen to you.
- On Saturday, March 1st 2008 the U.S. Coast Guard & Auxiliary will be having a boating/ocean safety expo and lighthouse open house. Among other things, they will have U.S. Coast Guard & Auxiliary information and opportunities, boating/ocean safety information and demonstrations, boating equipment and demonstrations, and a tour of Point Vincente Lighthouse and museum. It will be located at 31550 Palos Verdes Dr. West, Rancho Palos Verdes from 10am – 3pm. Admission is free! For further details, visit www.vincenlight.org or www.whaleofaday.com.