

# The Watchhorn

May 2011

Holiday Harbor-Cabrillo Marina

## Who was the first boater?

Did you ever wonder who the first person was to chop down a tree and think: "I bet if I cut that log in half, scoop out the insides, find a stick that's wider on one end than the other to paddle around with, and push everything into the water while I sip a cocktail, I bet that thing would really scoot!" Considering the first boat was built long before bronze tools, domesticated farm animals or the birth of Larry King, it must have been a novel concept at the time. Sure, it's easy in hindsight to imagine that someone would stumble upon the idea eventually, but considering the unforgiving and inherently dangerous nature of water, especially in an age devoid of scantily clad Baywatch girls to act as lifeguards, it seems to me that it would be easier to avoid water than to challenge it. On top of all that, no other animal in the wild can claim to use such a tool, so it's not as if some burly caveman watched an elephant build itself a SeaDoo and thought he'd give it a try.

I can imagine a large crowd of natives standing around the shoreline waiting for the initial unveiling, a glass of distilled pine needles in their hands as they watched Harry shove his log into the placid water. They were probably all snickering under their breath, certain some lanky sea-serpent was going to have him for lunch, while a saber tooth tiger-scarred hunchback named Guido walked around taking bets on how long it would be before Harry paddled off the edge of the earth. Would they have been excited, fearful, or completely indifferent? My warped imagination needs to know.

And who was this Harry guy anyway? Considering the theory of displacement was high technology at the time, I like to think of him as the young scientific outcast, alone in his studio cave on a Friday night chiseling swift calculations on his stone tablet because the handsome caveboys managed to club all the good looking cavegirls before he mustered the courage to do it himself. Perhaps he needed to build his canoe to impress the woman of his affection, complete with heated wooly mammoth leather seats and the front end lowered for effect. The concept of sails wouldn't come for many generations, but I'll bet he had the best chrome-tipped paddles money could buy.

If you think about it, the boat probably ranks as one of mankind's most important inventions. No other tool has gone so far, done so much, or lasted as long as the basic boat. They fight wars, transport goods, catch enough fish to augment the diets of billions of people, and provide us with a lot of fun recreation. Harry, we love you.

*D.H. Jr.*

## **Real News**

- It is always a good idea to add fuel treatments to your engine's fuel system, especially at the beginning of the boating season. For diesel systems there are combination additives that remove algae and microbes as well as lubricate fuel injectors and improve performance and can easily be found at West Marine or other marine suppliers. For those of us with gas engines, the market is full of great products that boost octane, stabilize the fuel, remove moisture and add additional lubrication. Marvel Mystery Oil is a great product that can be added to the engine oil as well as gasoline, and is a must for any engines originally designed for leaded gasoline. Ask your mechanic what additives are best for your particular motor to ensure maximum performance and engine longevity.
- Never let an unfamiliar face into the bathrooms or on the docks for any reason. Our security systems are only as secure as the individuals that operate them, and it is quite common for someone wishing to gain access to the docks to simply wait for someone to walk by and open the gate for them. All tenants have their own keys, and all vendors and guests must visit the marina office before gaining access to the docks anyway (unless they are escorted by a tenant), so if someone asks you to let them onto the docks and they look unfamiliar please ask them to visit the marina office and we will take the appropriate steps to ensure that they get where they belong.
- Holiday Harbor has recently installed an electronic key access system to all gates in the marina and will soon phase out the existing traditional key access to the gates. The new electronic key system means that your current bathroom key cards will not only open the restroom doors, but will also open the laundry room gate and all dock gates. In a few short months, Holiday Harbor will change the locks on the gates, therefore everyone should turn in their metal gate keys for a \$25 refund per key. Those of you with more gate keys than bathroom card keys can exchange your metal keys for the newer electronic keys to ensure you have the same access to the marina as before. To operate the new electronic access system, simply place your electronic key against the black receiver to the left of the latch, wait for a beep and pull open the gate when the gate unlocks (just like accessing the bathrooms).