

The Watchhorn

November 2010

Holiday Harbor-Cabrillo Marina

As I watch the sun fall quicker and quicker with each passing day and nighttime throws a larger swath of darkness across the northern hemisphere, I am reminded of that silly mnemonic phrase we all learn as children and which sticks with us throughout adulthood. "Fall back, spring forward." Yes, once again daylight saving time (FYI, saving *without* an "s" on the end is the proper spelling), is about to end. Thankfully of the two times each year we have to adjust our clocks by an hour, the switch on November 7th is my (and probably every child on earth's) favorite of the two. You'll certainly never hear me complain about getting an extra hour of sleep in a night. Other people must agree as well, because I'm constantly being told I need to catch up on my beauty sleep. I'm pretty sure it isn't a compliment.

I've asked many people why exactly we have a daylight saving time and it appears that nobody really knows the true answer. Is it to give farmers more time for harvest, similar to the way traditional schools schedule their summer vacation? Backbreaking labor in the blistering heat, hands as rough as sandpaper, low pay and no benefits; those farmers get all the breaks. Is it to keep drivers from having to commute daily in the dark and prevent accidents? Maybe, but then again my girlfriend rear-ended a car in broad daylight the other day, and the car she hit was parked in my neighbor's garage. I doubt changing the clocks would have helped her too much. Perhaps we are simply carrying on with a tradition that has been weaved so tightly into our habits that we do it simply for the sake of doing it. Like celebrating Columbus Day; let's face it, we really don't care when or by whom our continent was discovered so long as we don't have to alter our calendar. Humans handle change poorly.

Knowing that this question has been keeping all of you awake at night, I decided to do some backbreaking research (I.E. googling the words Daylight Saving Time) and it turns out that there really is a reason for DST. Go figure. Apparently during the WWI some smart guy in the U.S. Government had a brilliant idea (it was the last time such an event was ever recorded) to conserve energy by utilizing the later daylight hours between April and October. It is estimated that 10,000 barrels of oil are saved each day that DST is in effect. Another interesting fact is that it's not just the U.S.A. that practices DST, currently there are dozens of countries that follow it. Iceland liked it so much they never even switched back, but considering they don't see the sun from November to March anyhow I guess there isn't much need to fiddle with the clocks. This is a country who's main claim to fame is that they discovered Greenland, so if they want to distinguish themselves by having year-round DST I say we throw them a bone.

So what does all of this have to do with boating? Not a thing. If you were looking for intelligent, rational thought you are reading the wrong newsletter. I'm still cranky they took away the one hour of sunlight I had remaining after work and gave it to the people who actually have to get up early in the morning. Convince Iceland to give me my hour back and I might put some thought into the December issue. As you can see, I handle change poorly.

D.H. Jr.

Real News

- The marina, being part of a larger ecosystem, is fortunate enough to have a wide variety of wildlife frequenting it on a regular basis. While all of these animals are welcome and help to provide an environment that is both beautiful and fascinating, they can also bring unwanted problems as well (E.G. droppings and damage to property). As a result, Holiday Harbor asks that boaters make sure that all food, drinks, and any other forms of nutrition (food sources) be securely stowed and inaccessible by wandering animals.
- Be aware that Growth Energy, a group of ethanol manufacturers, is requesting that the EPA consider bumping ethanol additive percentages from ten to fifteen percent. While most newer cars are being designed to run on this increase in ethanol, currently there are NO marine engine manufacturers building engines that are E15 tolerant. Some of the potential unwanted effects of using E15 are: increased water absorption, fuel tank corrosion, carrying gum-like residues from the tank to the engine, and damaging rubber fuel lines and gaskets. For this reason it is important that all boat owners keep informed of the changes in fuel additives and take the necessary precautions to keep their engines running in a safe manner.