

The Watchhorn

October 2008

Holiday Harbor/Cabrillo Marina

Speaking with a friend at the marina the other day, we began a conversation regarding the current weather. "Fall will be on us soon," he said, nodding to himself with certainty. "Soon the weather will cool down, and we'll be digging through our closets for jackets and sweaters." My first reaction was to do a double-take, instinctively agreeing before my other faculties, namely my intelligence, kicked in. "Soon jackets and sweaters, did you say?" I looked around, seeing a beautiful cloudless sky stretching on into oblivion as the heat of the day pressed upon my neck. "You got a reason to believe this, or did you forget where you were? This is Southern California my friend, not Alaska!" He looked at me, his forehead knuckled in confusion as he considered what I was trying to say. He was lost.

Growing up in Northern California like I did, there is little it can offer that Southern California does not, but seasons are one of them. I remember one year where the summer high was a blistering 119 degree's in the shade, with the low for the winter being a chilling 14 degree's. Now *those* are seasons. They taught you to respect other times of the year, and to enjoy the good while it lasted. In winter you dreamed of tanned sweaty hands grasping for ice cream while you spat on black mailboxes to watch the liquid evaporate in split seconds, and during summer imagined yourself in winter running through the front lawn in your underwear with steam rising from your body as your extremities grew numb. (It was only imagined people, if they really ran around half-naked in the winter I would have never left!)

Now, I can only wish what my friend said was true. My first year here, I went all 12 months without putting the top on my Jeep. To this day I have not worn my nice leather jacket since moving and can wear pants to work in the dead of summer. If L.A. has lost anything over time, it is a healthy respect for the weather. We know no hurricane, deadly hail, or melting heat. The day the temp reaches triple digits rolling blackouts occur, Seven-Eleven's across the city run out of ice, and people lay sprawled about the house on segments of tile floor like the family dog in search of a cool spot.

So for those of you who still believe that the weather can be terrible down here in 'So. Cal,' let me leave you with a memory of mine on a typical winter weekday back when I lived in Reno for a short time. 8:30am, walked to car in blizzard, spent ten minutes scraping ice from windshield. 10:30am, first break. Sun shining, not a cloud in the sky. 12:30pm, lunch. Rain falling heavy, streets are flooded. 3:30pm, second break. Humid and hot, had to strip off all outer layers. 5:00pm, had to put car in 4-wheel drive, ice on road, heavy snow falling. I #!&%ing hate winter, I'm moving to L.A.!

D.H. Jr.

Real News

- For those of you who missed the reincarnation of the annual F.E.A.R. Regatta, you missed a heck of a day. With ten boats on the water, and close to fifty people at the party, we were more than pleased with the turnout. But although this year was good, we expect next year to be even better. We encourage anyone with a sailboat to participate in 2009, and those with powerboats are encouraged to join as crew. We had many boats who would have loved an extra hand or even a bit of rail meat. Everyone is more than welcome. By the way, the results were as follows: Stan Lewis and crew took 1st, Bill Swenson and crew took 2nd, and Chris Eulert and crew took 3rd.

- As the boating season winds down, remember to prepare your boat for the winter. Thankfully we do not have to worry about frozen coolant lines here in L.A., but if you are planning on letting your boat sit idle for a few months, make sure you have no leaks, have finished any repairs you started earlier in the season, and have put everything away where it won't fall into the water during any future storms.

- A reminder that each tenant is only allowed to stay aboard their vessel three nights in any given seven day period, and guests can only stay aboard if the tenant is with them, unless given permission by marina management.