



THE CHANGING TIDE

Spring 2010

What's Lurking in YOUR bilge?

Spring Cleaning and Greening the Bilge

The boating season is here! This means it is time to clean your boat and get ready for cruising. It is also a perfect time to clean your bilge. Unfortunately, there are several cleaning products commonly used in bilges that are toxic, affecting both human health and the health of the aquatic environment.

One common example is chlorine bleach, which is among the most toxic of household chemicals. Some common names for chlorine bleach include chloramine, sodium hypochlorite, bleach, hydrochloric acid, trihalomethanes.

Using bleach to clean your bilge is not a clean boating practice. If this chemical is discharged overboard, it can be extremely detrimental to our aquatic environment. Not to mention, it is a violation of the Clean Water Act.



Photo: Vivian Matuk



Photo: Vivian Matuk

When using bleach at home, typically people just let it flow down the sink or shower drain. This water is diverted through the sanitary sewer system to a treatment plant prior to being released into local waterways (remember that this is not true of water that enters the storm drains along the gutters). If bleach leaves your boat, on the other hand, it flows straight into the water. On the boat, it is important to make sure that any chemical is not discharged overboard.

Cleaning the boat bilge can be done easily and effectively without the use of bleach or other toxic chemicals. Flip to the back cover to read about some valuable recommendations.

article continued on back cover



Did you know monofilament fishing line lasts in the environment for 600 years? Now on the market is biodegradable fishing line. This technology is new and research on it is not very extensive, but according to manufacturers, biodegradable fishing line degrades in the environment in five years. Five years is definitely better than 600 years, but is still plenty of time in which wildlife can get entangled or mistakenly ingest fishing line, leading to starvation, suffocation, and death. And no matter how long it is in the environment, all fishing line can require costly repairs to your boat by fouling propellers, shafts, and the casing of outboard engines. The most responsible practice is still: always recover your line (when safe to do so) and recycle your monofilament fishing line.

Everyday there are new technologies that attempt to deal with modern day environmental problems, like the alarming amount of marine debris in the ocean. It's great to seek out environmentally-friendly alternatives when available, but first and foremost, always practice clean and green boating practices.

For recycling stations near you check www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/trashdebris.html. If you are not near any of those locations, mail your monofilament fishing line to: Berkley Recycling Collection Center at 1900 18th Street, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360.

A California Clean Boating Network Publication presented by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, California Department of Boating and Waterways, California Coastal Commission, and the Keep the Delta Clean Program.

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Southern California Chapter *Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Ventura & San Bernardino Counties*

Destination Series: **Dana Point**



Photo: Paul Lawrence, Dana Point Harbor

If you are looking for an extraordinary place to spend a weekend, then Dana Point Harbor is the perfect place to do just that. This beautiful harbor is situated in a natural-cliffed cove south of Newport Beach and is home to approximately 2,900 vessels. Owned by the County of Orange (OC) and operated by OC Dana Point Harbor, this picturesque location was described by Richard Henry Dana as the only romantic spot on the coast.

There is plenty to see and do in and around the harbor such as Mariner's Village & Dana Wharf for shopping and dining. Unexpected treasures can be found in any of the area's many wonderful shops, and with so many restaurants to choose from you won't go hungry. There is also the Ocean Institute, a center for hands-on marine science, environmental education, and maritime history programs. Dana Point Harbor is also very accommodating to those who would rather spend the day on the water. Visitors can choose to go ocean fishing (full-day, half-day, or twilight), rent a sail, electric powered boat, or powerboat, or take a whale watching cruise (November-April, Gray Whales/May-October, Blue Whales). There are also many park areas along the waterfront where visitors can picnic, stroll or they can swim at a protected beach. There are tide pools at the west end of the harbor, and several nearby walking paths and trails to explore. Whatever your choice, you won't be disappointed.

OC Dana Point Harbor is not just serious about having fun, they take protecting the environment just as seriously. The County provides many environmental services for the boating community: several bilge pad exchange locations (public boat launch ramp, Dana West Marina, and Dana East Marina), drop off locations at West Basin Marina, and East Basin Marina for used hazardous waste (antifreeze/coolant, transmission fluid, used oil, oil filters, and batteries), there are recycling bins all over the harbor, even receptacles for cigarette butts along the marina boardwalk.

To address storm water runoff issues, the OC/OC Dana Point Harbor, working collaboratively with their harbor operators, employs many water conservation and storm water filtration programs. Sidewalks and parking medians are planted with drought-resistant plants. Timers shut off boat wash hoses automatically after a few minutes at the launch ramp area. Storm water catch basins are installed in all the drains leading to the harbor that capture debris and filters runoff before entering the marina waters, along with an extensive trench drain/catch basin with filtration at the public boat launch ramp to capture boat wash runoff. There is even a dedicated harbor staff that scoops bird droppings off the sand at Baby Beach.

For those of you looking for a sewage pump out, there are four stations located at:

- » Dana West Marina on the A dock
- » Dana West marina on F dock
- » Dana West marina at the guest dock
- » Next to the Harbor Patrol office

Because of these combined efforts, both Dana Point Harbor marinas and even the dry boat storage facility have successfully been certified clean and green by the California Clean Marinas Program.

We hope you visit Dana Point Harbor soon and experience the friendly atmosphere and beautiful scenery. And make sure to pick up a free oil absorbent bilge pad or drop off some used oil!



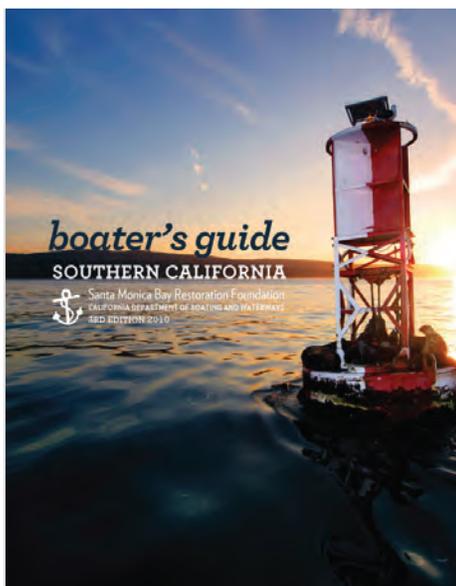
Paul Lawrence, Dana Point Harbor

Southern California Chapter *Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Ventura & San Bernardino Counties*



The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, in partnership with the California Department of Boating and Waterways, is proud to release the 3rd Edition of the Southern California Boater's Guide. The Guide is a comprehensive "cruising guide" that also provides environmental and best management practice resources for the recreational boater.

The Guide is a beloved resource that provides essential boating information, updated custom harbor maps, and all new professional scenic and aerial photos of 15 Southern California harbors, including Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties. It provides details about each harbor's unique features, how to obtain a guest slip, location of waste disposal and fueling facilities, tourist information, emergency contact information, safety tips, and much more! The Guide also focuses on the importance of maintaining a boat in the most environmentally-friendly manner possible and the potential impacts a poorly maintained boat can have on our coastal waters.



Updating of the Southern California Boater's Guide would not have been possible without the help of the California Department of Boating and Waterways, California Coastal Commission, I.K. Curtis Inc., Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguard Division, Orange County Sheriff Department Marine Operations Bureau, San Diego Police Department, City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department, City of Ventura, City of Channel Islands, AMEC Earth & Environmental, Marine Animal Rescue, City of Los Angeles, City of Redondo Beach, City of Newport Beach, and City of Oceanside who tirelessly devoted their time to the update process over the last year.

To order copies, please contact Michelle Kearney at mkearney@waterboards.ca.gov / (213) 576-6648.

SAVE THE DATES!
June 12 - 13, 2010



**Live and Play in Marina del Rey,
June 12-13, MarinaFest 2010**

Marina del Rey, one of the world's largest man-made small boat harbors, will host MarinaFest 2010 on June 12-13 at G Basin and Pier 44 on the corner of Admiralty and Bali Way. MarinaFest is a community based event, centered around the boating lifestyle. The finest new and brokerage motoryachts, sailboats, fishing boats and family sportboats will be on display. MarinaFest will also be showcasing a variety of other local businesses including boating facilities, charter companies, hotels, restaurants, and apartment communities. A wide range of boating accessories, electronics and water sports equipment will also be on display. As an added attraction, on Sunday, June 13, MarinaFest will present performances from the Westside High School Band. If you're an outdoor enthusiast who likes being in and around the water, join us in a celebration of Marina del Rey. Please log onto www.marinafest.com for more information.

Announcement contributed by Bob Brown from Media Direction

Take the Clean Boating Pledge!

This year the Keep the Delta Clean Program, in partnership with the California Coastal Commission and Department of Boating and Waterways, is trying something new. Each year for the past five years we have produced and distributed our clean boating kits that are full of valuable information and good tools for clean and safe boating.

Previously we asked boaters to fill out a survey to tell us about their knowledge of clean and safe boating, as well as their boating habits. This year we are asking boaters to answer a very brief survey, and then fill out a new pledge. This pledge asks you, the boater, to implement good, clean and safe practices when you are boating.

Please take a moment to look through the pledge. It is full of great ideas for boating and can help you do your part to keep our waterways clean!

I Pledge to:

- Avoid "topping off" the tank and leave it at least 10% empty to allow for fuel expansion.
- Keep an oil absorbent on board to catch fuel and oil drips, then dispose of it safely.
- Keep my engine tuned and operating at peak efficiency.
- Use oil absorbents in the bilge or beneath the engine to capture unexpected engine leaks and never pump oily bilge water overboard.
- Only discharge raw sewage using a pumpout, port-a-potty dump station, or mobile service and NEVER overboard.
- Use less toxic, biodegradable, and safer cleaning products to clean my boat.
- Properly dispose of hazardous wastes (i.e. used oil, oil filters, oil/fuel-saturated absorbents, solvent varnishes, bottom paints, batteries, antifreeze, solvents, zinc anodes, fluorescent lights, and propane tanks) at a local Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.
- Stash trash onboard, recycle, and avoid using plastic bags.
- Never use soaps to remove any oil or fuel sheen on the surface of the water – it is illegal, bad for the environment, and toxic to wildlife.
- Save hull maintenance for the boatyard or hire a diver who uses environmentally sound practices for hull cleaning.
- Explore using nontoxic antifouling coatings that are less harmful to aquatic life.
- Review and implement the practices included in the educational materials found in my Clean Boating Kit.

Cigarette Butts: Small Litter, BIG Problem



The Keep the Delta Clean Program has cigarette butt receptacles available for free to marina operators. Supplies are limited, and are first come first serve. These are perfect for keeping cigarette butts off the ground, which is great because discarded cigarettes are not only an eyesore, they also pose a serious threat to the environment.

Forty percent of all debris items picked up on Coastal Cleanup Day in 2008 was cigarette butts and it was the 24th straight year in which cigarette butts were the most numerous debris item. This may be because many smokers *mistakenly* believe cigarettes are biodegradable.

However, once a cigarette butt hits the ground, wind and rain carry it into the water supply, where the toxic chemicals in the cigarette filter leak out into the ecosystem, threatening the quality of the water and the lives of aquatic plants and animals. And though cigarette butts may seem small, with several trillion butts littered every year across the world, these toxic chemicals add up!

This is an opportunity for marina operators to provide a valuable service that will not only keep your facilities looking good, but will also help keep the Delta clean.

Interested? Please contact Dan Jordan at djord@pw.cccounty.us or (925) 313-2023.



News from the Delta Chapter

The Delta Chapter is implemented with the support of: Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo Counties; City of Stockton; California Coastal Commission; and Department of Boating and Waterways

Glen Cove Marina: The Best Kept Secret on the Carquinez Strait

Between Benicia and Vallejo, nestled in the hills overlooking the Carquinez Strait, Glen Cove Marina offers a scenic retreat for boaters with immediate access to San Francisco Bay and the Delta.

The Strait makes for a wonderful boating destination, with afternoon winds for good sailing and waters famous for record sturgeon and striped bass. A stopping point for those traveling to and from the Delta, thousands come every year to enjoy this unique spot. Summer is a popular time, when Glen Cove Marina hosts our annual Jazz, Arts, and Wine Festival.

Our trademark white Victorian house serves as the marina office. Built in 1909, it was originally a 28-room dwelling with an attached tower and fog signal building. Sitting on pilings at the entrance to the Napa River, it housed several families and was used as a lighthouse and Coast Guard rescue station. Known as the Carquinez Strait Lighthouse, it was replaced by a smaller beacon and fog signal in 1951. Four years later, the residence was sold to a private investor and moved by barge to its present location.

Glen Cove Marina is a privately owned marina, with covered slips up to 44' and uncovered slips up to 72'. Live-aboards are accepted. The 140' guest dock and free pumpout station are open to the public. Private security patrols nightly and management is onsite and on-call 24/7. The marina is dredged to 10' and is sheltered from wind and waves by the surrounding hills and breakwater.

A short hike from the marina along the San Francisco Bay Trail is Glen Cove Waterfront Park, which features the remains of the Stremmel Mansion, a Native American burial site, and shell mounds. Views of the Carquinez Bridge, the C&H Sugar Factory and the Martinez-Crockett shoreline can be enjoyed from the marina and park.



Visitors cite the marina's quiet atmosphere as a great place to get away from the rest of the world. Unlike many San Francisco Bay and Delta marinas, which are built in commercial areas, Glen Cove is located in a residential neighborhood and is surrounded by undeveloped hills and shoreline trails. The marina is frequented by River Otters, Harbor Seals, turtles, Great Blue Herons, White Egrets, Night Herons, pelicans, cormorants, kingfishers and numerous other species of aquatic water fowl. Bird watchers and artists come to Glen Cove to see the wildlife that inhabits the marina and its surrounding area.

Under new ownership in late 2007, Glen Cove Marina underwent a facelift, renovating docks and all facilities, and made numerous changes to minimize our impact on the environment. The marina offers paperless billing; pet waste stations on our lawns; monofilament fishing line recycling; and oil, filter, bilge pad, battery and zinc recycling. In 2009 we became a certified Clean Marina as part of the California Clean Marinas Program and every year we host California Coastal Cleanup Day.

For more information please visit
www.glencovemarina.net

Article and photography by Tom Zedacker



Destination Series Visit a New Marina in San Francisco Bay - West Point Harbor



Photo By: Steve Hiller.
First three docks and guest dock being completed in early 2009.

The Port of Redwood City (San Mateo County) is a natural harbor, which has been an important maritime center for nearly two centuries. Home to twelve shipyards during the peak of the redwood lumber era, it continues today as one of four deep-water ports in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, and remains an active commercial and recreational boating center. This area enjoys an ideal Mediterranean climate with more than 300 sunny days per year.

Westpoint Harbor is a new addition to the Port. More than twenty years in development, Westpoint Harbor finally opened in late 2008 as the first private full-service marina in more than 30 years. The 50-acre facility is designed as a "big boat" harbor with an average slip size of 48 feet, and has ultra-wide berths and fairways and special slips for multihull vessels. It is close to historic downtown Redwood City, just 20 minutes to San Francisco and San Jose airports, and walking distance to nearby Sequoia and Peninsula Yacht Clubs.



Round end on dock fingers. Photo By: Mark Sanders, West Point Harbor, Harbor Master

The marina is also near Greco Island, a wonderful wildlife refuge sheltering an array of wildlife, including some endangered species. Westpoint Marina provides walkways, viewing areas, and benches so people can see Greco Island.

The harbor's concrete docks are unique and include innovative features—such as one-piece cast fingers with round ends and continuous rub-rails; slip-side pump-out facilities at every slip; and under-deck pile guides with inboard piles.



Photo By: Mark Sanders, West Point Harbor, Harbor Master

The marina offers an in-dock pumpout system so every boat can pumpout at its slip. In the future, the marina will offer 408 slips, a full-service boatyard, fuel dock, a rowing center and other water-oriented retail facilities.

When visiting the South Bay and West Point Harbor, plan to also visit the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, the Bayfront Park and the Bair and Greco Islands and their marshes. Do not forget to bring your binoculars and your bird and plant lists to help you identify some amazing species inhabiting these areas such as the endangered California clapper rail, the Snowy plover, Least tern, among others.

Westpoint Harbor offers peninsula boaters convenient access to the Bay, fabulous weather, first-class facilities with unmatched accommodations for larger vessels. And with 1,000 feet of guest docks, Westpoint Harbor can host visiting boaters and cruise-ins for up to 40 boats wanting to experience the delights of the South Bay.

News from the Northern Chapter



Get on Board! This Boating Season Become a DOCKWALKER and Help Boating Be Clean, Safe and Fun!

The California Department of Boating and Waterways and the California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean & Green Program in partnership with the Keep the Delta Clean Program, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, the US Power Squadrons and many more organizations will conduct more Dockwalker trainings this year.

Dockwalkers distribute boater kits while visiting marinas, boat launch ramps, boat shows and events. The kits include: Reusable Canvas Tote-bag; A Boater's Guide to Keeping Pollutants Out of the Water; "Environmental Boating Laws Every Recreational Boater Should Know," the ABC's of Boating Law, an oil absorbent pillow, and a stainless steel water bottle. Depending on your region, we may also provide the Delta and/or the San Francisco Bay

Area Clean Boating Map or the new edition of the Southern California Boater's Guide.

This program is dedicated to the idea that education is the key to improving boater practices. Marinas, yacht, clubs and our waterways benefit from Dockwalkers through their efforts to increase boaters' awareness about clean boating. There are over 600 Dockwalkers statewide who have distributed more than 90,000 boater kits since the year 2000. Starting in March, we will be conducting several trainings throughout the State. To learn more about the Dockwalkers program and upcoming trainings, visit our website at www.dbw.ca.gov (click on Clean & Green tab) or contact Vivian Matuk at (415) 904-6905 vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov



New North Central Coast Marine Protected Areas Go into Effect on April 1st

When the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) was passed back in 1999, the intention was to have California evaluate its existing marine protected areas (MPAs), and consider creating new ones, in order to create a statewide network of areas to enhance biological diversity, protect habitats (both healthy and degraded), aid in the recovery of depleted marine life populations (especially fish), and promote recreational, scientific, and educational opportunities.

The Act directs tackling this huge project in "chunks", with the state's 1100-mile coast divided into five areas. In each area, regional stakeholder groups, science advisory teams, policy task forces, MLPA staff members, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the public at large participate in extensive efforts to craft a series of protected areas that will allow the goals of the MLPA to be met, while balancing the needs and wants of Californians.

The North Central Coast segment (see map) goes into effect on April 1, 2010 after two years of input. Here, roughly 20 percent of the state's north central coastal waters (or approx. 153 square miles) have been placed into 21 MPAs and 3 marine recreational management areas. Contrary to rumor, MPA's are not

"keep out" areas except for six small "Special Closure" areas that extend only a few hundred yards offshore - and are designated to increase protection for marine birds and/or marine mammals. Of the rest of the MPAs, approximately 86 sq. miles are designated as "no take" state marine reserves or state marine recreational management areas where fishing or harvesting is prohibited. The remaining 67 sq. miles, two areas are designated as state marine parks and nine as state marine conservation areas, which allow different levels of "take," (that is, fishing or harvesting). For more information, coordinates, maps of boundaries, and tables of what rules apply, visit: www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/northcentralhome.asp



Keep Your Waters Clean and Clear - What Boaters Can Do

Spring Cleaning and Greening Your Bilge

continued from front cover

- » Bilges should be kept clean and as dry as possible. Prevent oily bilge discharges by conducting periodic boat maintenance and regularly inspecting fuel lines, hoses, and gaskets. Make sure they are in good condition and change them when needed.
- » NEVER use soaps. Soaps emulsify oil, dispersing hydrocarbons through the water column and making it impossible to remove them from the water. Applying soap to remove an oil sheen is illegal. Violators are subject to criminal and civil maximum penalties of up to \$32,500 per incident.
- » As a preventive measurement, it is important to keep an oil absorbent in the bilge. This pollution prevention item will remove oil from bilge water before it is pumped overboard. Once the absorbent is saturated it needs to be disposed of as a hazardous waste. Call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit www.earth911.org to find marinas and household hazardous waste centers that will accept them. Boaters may also install an inboard bilge filtration system, which can be found at any marine supply store.

- » Considering the fact that bilges can be humid, which can cause mildew and algae to grow, consider the following alternative to toxic products:
- » Make a paste of equal parts of either lemon juice or vinegar and salt. Let the paste sit, scrub, and then clean with a rag.
- » For more severe problems, scrub spots/bilge with borax/water mix.

For other alternative for less toxic cleaning products visit:
www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/lesstoxic.html



Photo: Vivian Matuk

Cover photos: John Hollenbeck, O.C. Sheriff Dept. - Marine Operations Bureau

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