

OAK HARBOR MARINA NEWSLETTER

January 1, 2008

Nautical Lingo. Buoy—A navigational aid indicating there is something worth noting somewhere close to the location of the buoy, possibly to one side or the other or below it.

Compass—A navigational aid that accurately points to the largest metal object on your boat.

Crew—This term refers to the people working on your boat. They are usually friends that do not find out about the “work” part of the ride until you are away from the dock.

Dragging—A method of moving around when the anchor is deployed.

Mooring Lines. We have been lucky to survive the storm season so far with minimal damage. Remember to use at least four lines to secure your boat, bow and stern lines plus spring lines.

Keep your bilge clean. The marina has records of 26 reportable spills during 2007 (and undoubtedly there were some spills that we did not notice). Most of the spills were related to bilge pump operation. Bilge pumps are designed to keep your boat floating, so they are critically important. But please keep your bilge clean. Another way to keep our waters clean is to install two bilge pumps. The lower bilge pump should operate manually and you should keep the switch turned off. The upper level bilge pump should be set to automatically operate. Let’s try to cut the number of oil spills by half in 2008.

Please help us hire new marina employees. We are advertising two openings: Beni’s position and Assistant Harbormaster. Applications are available at City Hall at the Utilities Office and at www.oakharbor.org or by calling 360-279-4509. The application deadline is January 11.

Winter Schedule. The marina office and fuel dock won’t be open for business on Monday January 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Call 911 for any emergencies and the harbormaster at 360.914.7479 for business.

Dock Cleaning. Keeping our docks clean year-round is very challenging to marina management. During 2007 we have used 3 community service workers to perform various tasks including dock cleaning. These people have been ordered by the court to perform community service work. Two of these workers have completed their hourly service obligation—one for 160 hours and another for 120 hours. These workers are “free” to the marina. In December we had a Department of Corrections crew here cleaning for several days. We are required to pay them \$1.34 per hour plus travel expenses. The DOC provides a supervisor with the crew. I am not aware of any problems during this past year in Oak Harbor. I contacted another marina that has been using “offender” labor for the past 4 years and they did not have any problems either. The City of Oak Harbor executed its DOC contract in January 2003. We are also fortunate to have volunteer labor helping us to clean the docks. One way or the other, I am committed to keep the docks cleaner in 2008 than 2007.

Mack Funk, Harbormaster