



# THE CHANGING TIDE

Winter 2009/2010

## California Dockwalkers - a success story *Education is the key to clean water!*

During the 2009 boating season, the California Department of Boating and Waterways and the California Coastal Commission's statewide Boating Clean and Green Program, in partnership with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, the Keep the Delta Clean Program, and many other organizations trained over 130 new Dockwalkers at a total of seven trainings.

Dockwalkers are volunteers who inspire and educate boaters to be safe and environmentally conscious while boating in California, because education is the key to improving boater practices. Dockwalkers distribute boater kits with educational materials at marinas, boat launch ramps, boat shows and events. There are over 500 Dockwalkers statewide who have distributed more than 80,000 boater kits since 2000.

Thanks to the volunteer Dockwalkers, we were able to distribute over 8,000 State and Delta kits in 2009. Boater kit recipients completed an anonymous ques-

tionnaire. The information collected in these questionnaires helps to improve our programs and better orient our education and outreach efforts. A report with the information collected will be developed by June, 2010.

The Top 10 Dockwalkers received three Jackets donated by West Marine, donations from Trader Joe's, and four "airplane blankets" donated by the Coastal Commission made up of 87% recycled plastic bottles and 13% polyester.

The 2010 Boater kits will be ready by March 2010. Starting March, we will be conducting several trainings throughout the state. Let us know if you would like a training in your area.

Learn more about the Dockwalkers program and upcoming trainings, at [dbw.ca.gov](http://dbw.ca.gov) or [coast4u.org](http://coast4u.org) (click on Boating Clean & Green) or contact Vivian Matuk at (415) 904-6905 / [vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov).

- The 10 Dockwalkers who administered and returned the most questionnaires in 2009 were:
1. Mel Widawski (South Coast Corinthian Yacht Club, Los Angeles County) – 453
  2. Jim Sinasek (Special Projects Coordinator, Office of the City Manager, Orange County) – 213
  3. Charlie Duncan (US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 3-9, Shasta County) – 206
  4. Lauren Gilligan (Save Our Shores, Santa Cruz County) – 188
  5. & 6. Lauren Young & Jasmine Greer (Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership, Napa County) - each 134
  7. Dick Daybell (Commander Alamitos Sail and Power Squadron, Orange County) – 120
  8. Mark Foster (US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 114-0209, Orange County) – 103
  9. James & Priscilla Minkel (US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Solano County) - 73
  10. Suzanne Weber (Dana West Yacht Club, Orange County) – 64



Dockwalkers supporting the Life Jacket Loaner Program Pancake Breakfast, hosted by the Alamitos Power Squadron and Sunset Aquatic Marina.

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.  
Funded by a grant from the California Department of Boating and Waterways



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trees	water	energy	solid waste	greenhouse gases
5 fully grown	2,344 gallons	3 million BTU	252 pounds	560 pounds

Calculations based on research by Environmental Defense Fund and other members of the Paper Task Force.

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**Southern California Boater's Guide Gets a Facelift**



**Preview of the new look!**

At last, the much-awaited cruiser's guide, the Southern California Boater's Guide, 3rd Edition, is set to arrive in February! The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, with grant funds from California Department of Boating and Waterways, is proud to announce the release of a newly updated and hugely popular "Southern California Boater's Guide", 3rd Edition. The objective in creating this Guide was to provide boaters with important information in a format that would be kept handy.

This guide offers valuable information about the numerous recreational opportunities available within Southern California harbors, conveniently features boat safety and proper maintenance, and offers environmentally sound boating tips. It also provides custom made maps and practical harbor information, such as how to obtain a guest slip, location of waste and pumpout facilities, entrance obstacles, and local rules and ordinances.

To order copies, please contact Unica Luna at [uluna@santamonicabay.org](mailto:uluna@santamonicabay.org) / (310) 216-9824.



**Checking out the Pumps...**  
*statewide sewage pumpout facility evaluation program continues through 2010*

On behalf of the Department of Boating and Waterways and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, we extend our gratitude to everyone who supported our sewage pumpout evaluation program over the past year. Since June 2009, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation consistently gathered information about public sewage pumpout facilities in Southern California on a monthly basis. This means we collected seven consecutive months of data.

The main purpose for this data will help support the need for continued federal allocation towards sewage pumpouts (to pay for installation, maintenance expenses, and outreach/education programs). Information about these facilities fill data gaps for where future funding and outreach efforts should be directed. For example, if a pumpout is used VERY frequently, more effort and grant support may be focused on maintenance and signage at that popular facility. If a pumpout is rarely visited, our staff can direct their efforts on promoting the use of pumpout facilities among the local boating community.

After just a quick glance, the information we gathered has already revealed some interesting tidbits. For example, the highest frequency of use for sewage pumpouts in Southern California occurs in the month of July and on Mondays!

Using the data we collected, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation will create two summary reports for facility managers.

These will include:

1. An end-of-the-year wrap up of results that will show a detailed breakdown of numbers for vacuum pressure and evacuation time (time it took to evacuate 5 gallons of water) for the past six months. This summary will feature case studies for signage, maintenance routines, and other creative ways managers in Southern California keep their facilities in tip top shape.
2. In June 2010, after collecting a full 12 months of data, our staff will create an "operators manual" for you to keep on hand.

We plan to distribute these summaries to all participating marinas. Please let us know if you do not want your numbers included.

It's also very important to note that this monitoring program is non-regulatory and the information we gather will only be used to help improve our programs and inform us on how to better assist the boating community.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Grace Lee at (310) 216-9828 / [glee@santamonicabay.org](mailto:glee@santamonicabay.org).



Joe Harvell, SMBRF Monitoring Consultant, checks the hour counter. The hour counter indicates the total run-time of the pumpout's motor.

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

## *Destination Series:*

### *Marina del Rey*

Marina del Rey Harbor is located along Santa Monica Bay's coastline. Since its completion in 1965, the harbor and surrounding area have grown to over 800 acres and are home to some 6,000 boat tenants, making it the largest man-made pleasure craft harbor in the world.



Depending on one's mood, there is a full spectrum of fun activities for everyone such as sportfishing, enjoying summer concerts in Burton Chace Park, cruising the 21-mile bike path, or riding on the Marina del Rey Waterbus. Other popular tourist destinations include Fisherman's Village on Fiji Way and the variety of restaurants, shops, and sites along Admiralty Way.

Along with enjoying Marina del Rey's resources, there are many things boaters can do to prevent boating related pollutants from entering the harbor waters. This is particularly important in Marina del Rey due to poor flushing activity

and low tidal action in the marina. What goes into the water in Marina del Rey typically stays there for a very long time.

Boaters can drop off their used oil and used oil filters at the County-run Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site located on Fiji Way. Be aware that it is illegal to dispose of any other Household Hazardous Waste at the facility besides used oil and oil filters. Go to [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) or call 1-800-Earth 911 to find alternate Household Hazardous Waste collection sites for other waste materials. For boaters in need of a new oil absorbent pad or for

a place to recycle used oil absorbents, visit the Oil Absorbent Exchange Location at Del Rey Fuel. The exchange program is hosted by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation in partnership with Del Rey Fuel and is funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Although of Del Rey Fuel is renovating their docks, the Bilge Pad Exchange Program at the fuel dock is up and running at the temporary location.

Need a sewage pumpout? There are three conveniently located public vessel sewage pumpout stations in the harbor:

1. Transient docks at Burton Chace Park
2. Public Boat Launch Ramp
3. Full service sewage pumpout service at Del Rey Fuel (out of service during renovation until further notice)

Don't forget, boaters can also contract with a mobile pumpout service! If you haven't heard already, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation is offering Marina del Rey boaters free and convenient mobile pumpouts through their Honey Pot Day program. To get a free mobile pumpout, contact Unica Luna at (310) 216-9824 /[uluna@santamonica-bay.org](mailto:uluna@santamonica-bay.org).

So whether you are a boater, cyclist, jogger, or just enjoying the ocean breeze in the marina, there is something for everyone in Marina del Rey!



## Some (Belated) New Year's Resolutions for Boating in 2010

The new year is a time when we often think of ways to improve ourselves in the coming year. Here are a few resolutions for you and your family to make sure that your boating in 2010 (and beyond!) is safe, fun, and environmentally responsible.

### Never Drink and Drive

A glass of champagne to celebrate the New Year can be fun, and so can boating on the Delta. But *never* mix the two. Nearly one-third of boating deaths involve drinking alcohol.

### Stash Your Trash

A piece of trash occasionally getting blown off your boat and into the water doesn't seem like a big deal, but with around one million boaters in California, it can add up quickly! Make sure to keep a trash bag secured on your boat to keep trash out of our water.



### Become a Dockwalker

A great way to get involved is to become a Dockwalker. Dockwalkers are volunteers who are trained to talk to other boaters at marinas, boat shows, and many other locations about clean and safe boating. The Department of Boating and Waterways and the California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program offer classes throughout the year that will certify you as a Dockwalker. These classes are free and always fun.

For more information please contact Vivian Matuk at (415) 904-6905 and [vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov)

### Wear a Personal Floatation Device (Life Jacket)

It's the law for children under twelve and it makes good sense for everyone, particularly weak swimmers and for days when the water is choppy. Don't forget that California law requires all vessels to have at least one personal flotation device that is U.S. Coast Guard-approved, wearable, and of the proper size for each person on board.

### Take a Boating Class

Your local Power Squadron or Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla will offer courses on boating that cover everything from the mechanics of boating, to the law, to being safe and environmentally friendly when you are on the water. These classes are great for both new and experienced boaters alike.

For more information visit:

<http://www.dbw.ca.gov/BoaterInfo/BSClasses.aspx>

### Watch Out for Invasive Species

Invasive species can quickly overtake a body of water. Whenever you take your boat out of the water, wash it thoroughly, preferably with high pressure hot water, drain all water and dry all areas, and remove all plants and animal material (including bait). You should also wait five days and keep your boat dry between launches into different fresh water bodies. One of the biggest invasive species of concern in the Delta in 2010 will be the Quagga and Zebra Mussels, pictured below. For more information visit:

<http://dbw.ca.gov/BoaterInfo/QuaggaLoc.aspx>



Photo courtesy U.S. Geological Survey

# 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

## King Island Resort

By Sherri Keys

King Island Resort is a quaint marina located in Stockton, California. By water you can find us located on Disappointment and White Slough. A fun bit of history is that Disappointment Slough received its name when the ships would travel on the main channel and some would accidentally turn into the slough and become stuck, hence, the "disappointment."

King Island Resort became a Westrec Marina in 1989, and prior to that it was three individual marinas known as Uncle Bobbies, Sunset Marina and Holiday Harbor.

King Island Resort has 296 slips ranging from 16 to 66 feet. It also has 100 dry storage spaces open and covered.

On the King Island property is an old two room schoolhouse originally built in 1920. In the 1960's King Island was used to film a television series called "Along Came Bronson." King Island was also used to film episodes of the 1970's "BJ and the Bear" series. We are also the home of the "River Route Mail Boat" which is the last mail route in the United States still run on the water.



*Photos by Sherri Keys*

King Island Resort is also the launch port for the Tinsley Island Ferry. This ferry transports members of St. Francis Yacht Club to Tinsley Island located on the main channel near Light 12. We are also the home of the Stockton Bass Club and Bait Shop. Stockton Bass Club holds their Bass Tournaments during the fall and winter season. We also have a General Store, fuel dock, and launch ramp.

We are very proud to say that King Island became a designated Clean Marina in May of 2009. Also on the property is a Certified Oil Recycle Center and bilge exchange program along with a fishing line recycling and battery collection center. We have a 24 hour pump out facility refurbished with new equipment in November with assistance from a Department of Boating and Waterways grant. The pump out facility is free of charge.

If you are interested in Delta history and charm, King Island is the place to visit.

For more information, please call:  
(209) 951-2188

## Destination Series Vallejo Marina: Gateway to the Bay and Delta

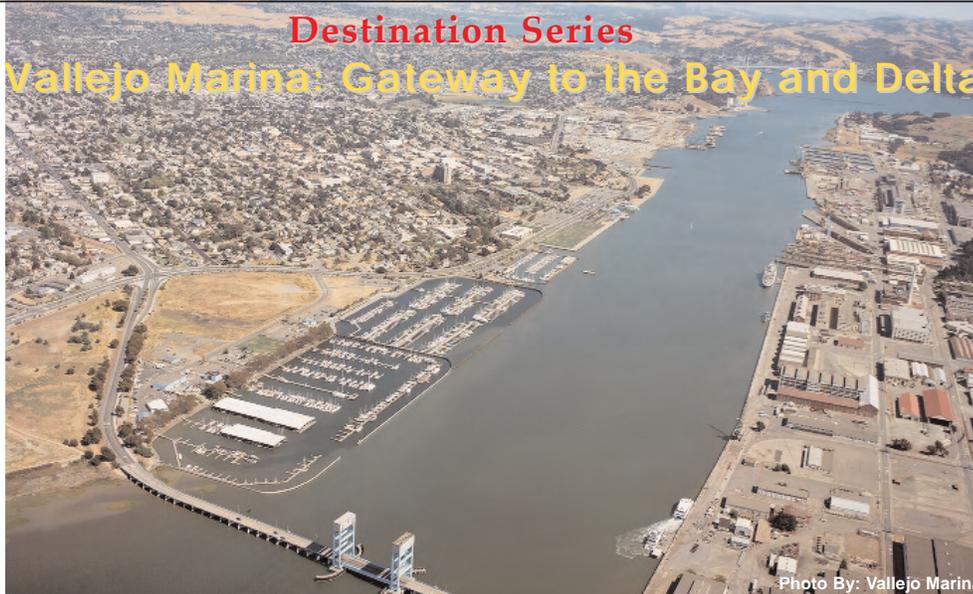


Photo By: Vallejo Marina

**Vallejo** has a rich history. It is home to California's first state capitol, the California Maritime Academy; the U.S. Navy's first west coast naval installation. It is also the entry point to Napa Valley; and, depending on one's direction of travel, the entry to San Francisco Bay or Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Vallejo Marina is in a unique boating position located at the foot of the Napa River on Mare Island Strait near the Carquinez Strait which separates the San Pablo and Suisun Bays. Due to the confluence of waterways there, Vallejo Marina over the past fifty years has seen hydro-boat races, sailboat races, crew and whaleboat races, water skiing tournaments, and the animals of Marine World move to their new home by barge.

Year round fishing takes place for striped bass, halibut, shark, sturgeon, and until recently salmon. Cruisers enjoy a nice trip up the Napa River or through the Carquinez Strait, possibly to look at the USS Iowa and other ships in the "mothball" fleet. Sailors enjoy the protected waters of Mare Island Strait or the wide open space of San Pablo Bay for sailing or racing. With its location between San Pablo and Suisun Bays, the Vallejo Marina is a well known stopping point for yacht clubs and individual cruisers heading to or from the Delta.

The Vallejo Marina was originally constructed in 1959 and added to in 1992. It consists of two boat basin with 500 boats in open and covered slips, a fuel

dock, transient berthing, launch ramp, dry storage for trailerable power boats, two free pumpout stations, used

oil and filter collection as well as an absorbent bilge pad program. Several years ago the Marina developed its Environmental Best Management Practices that includes the drop off



Photo By: James M. Haussener, Vallejo Marina,

locations for items the Marina doesn't collect from boaters such as household hazardous wastes.

Lessees providing services to boaters include Coast Guard Station Vallejo with its 41' utility boat and several 25' Defender class boats; Vallejo Boat Works with a 50 ton travel lift; Brinkman's Marine providing outboard and I/O services and sales; Norm's Bait Shop, the Sardine Can and Zio Fraedo's restaurants.

Next store is the Vallejo Yacht Club, which hosted the 110th Annual Great Vallejo Race this year as the season opener for the Yacht Racing Association. Hundreds of boats and their crew enjoy this two day event racing up to Vallejo on a Saturday and back the next day. Within walking distance is the Baylink Ferry System with daily service to San Francisco. Tours of Napa Valley, the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard or Six Flags Discovery Kingdom are available for transient boaters.

# News from the Northern Chapter



## Fishing Line Recycling Stations - Protecting Our Waterways, Wildlife and your Boat



Davies Boat Launch Ramp, Rainbow Harbor  
Los Angeles County

In October 2008, the California Coastal Commission and the California Department of Boating and Waterways' Boating Clean and Green Program in partnership with the BoatUS Founda-

tion and the Keep the Delta Clean Program installed 31 monofilament fishing line recycling stations in the areas of California with the highest fishing activity.

Monofilament line is another name for single-strand, high-density, nylon fishing line that is used on fishing reels and in the manufacturing of fishing nets.

When disposed of improperly, monofilament can be hazardous to marine life, scuba divers and even boat



Eureka Marina Boat Launch Ramp,  
Humboldt County

propellers. The Boating facilities that received the fishing line stations are collecting, tracking and mailing the line to the leading fishing line recycler-Berkley Conservation Institute. The collected line is recycled into tackle boxes and other items. The locations where the stations are installed throughout the State can be found at:

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/trashdebris.html>

This is an ongoing project, but the current numbers show that the stations are making a big difference. Since October 2008, the boating facilities have collected **over 170 pounds of fishing line**. We thank all the partnering boating facilities, boaters and fishermen who, through large and small actions, are working to help us keep our California waterways clean!

## A New San Francisco Bay Area Invader: The Asian Kelp



Photo By: Chella Zablin, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and UC-Davis

The Asian kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* is a fast-growing, opportunistic species that thrives in marinas where it will attach to essentially anything in the water, including boats, docks, ropes and bumpers. This kelp can get

large - up to 9 feet long - and each individual is capable of releasing millions of microscopic spores. In addition to being a nuisance for boat owners and marina operators, if the invasive kelp spreads to coastal waters, it could outcompete native kelps and threaten the ecosystems they support. The kelp was first discovered in California in 2000 at the Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor. It quickly spread to other marinas in Southern California to as far north as Monterey, probably by hitchhiking on boat hulls. In 2009, new populations were discovered in San Francisco Bay and Pillar Point Harbor.

### What Boaters Can Do To Halt the Spread of the Asian Kelp:

- ✓ Report any observations of this kelp to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) at (415) 435-7128. If possible, take a photo and send it to [SERCUndaria@si.edu](mailto:SERCUndaria@si.edu) to confirm identity.
- ✓ Store the sample in a plastic bag in a cooler or refrigerator until its identity has been confirmed.
- ✓ Avoid moving contaminated (infected) vessels or equipment.
- ✓ Clean boats before moving or returning home.
- ✓ Clean boat hull, underwater running gear, and internal seawater systems before traveling beyond home region, especially if visiting major ports, international waters, islands or event with boats from many places.
- ✓ Clean the boat again before moving to another region or returning home.
- ✓ If your boat is heavily fouled after such trips, haul it for cleaning upon arrival and contain the fouling growth.
- ✓ Drain livewells, bait tanks and bilge water before traveling and before returning.
- ✓ Do not throw the kelp back in the water.

For more information visit [www.serc.si.edu/labs](http://www.serc.si.edu/labs) (Click in "Research" and then in "Labs and Marine Infestations").

## New Abandoned Vessel Removal Program

**Did you know that removing an abandoned vessel from the water costs about \$200 per foot, which means that removing one small houseboat can cost upwards of \$5,000?**

In October, the Governor signed AB 166 introduced by California Assemblyman Ted Lieu to address the problem of abandoned recreational boats that are polluting California's waterways. With the passing of this bill, local agencies will be able to solicit funding under the California Department of Boating and Waterways's existing Abandoned Watercraft Abatement (AWAF) Fund to remove and dispose of dilapidated recreational vessels surrendered by owners before they are abandoned. The bill increases the minimum fine for boat abandonment from \$500 to \$1000. By providing a safe disposal option, AB 166 encourages responsible behavior by owners of aging boats and protects our waterways from dangerous pollutants.



### Why do we need to care about abandoned boats?

Abandoned vessels are a major problem in California posing serious threats to our State's water quality and safety. Abandoned boats can contain toxic pollutants that can enter our waterways including gasoline, antifreeze, sewage, batteries and cleaning fluids that affect the aquatic environment and its organisms. In addition, derelict vessels also pose a safety hazard to boaters attempting to navigate waterways.

To learn more about AB166, visit: <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Funding/AWAF.aspx>



santa monica bay restoration foundation  
1 lmu drive, north hall  
pereira annex ms: 8160  
los angeles, ca 90045

A SMBRF, DBW, CCC, and Keep the Delta Clean Program Publication for the California Clean Boating Network

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