



THE MARINA

AT DANA POINT

NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2026

Greetings from the Marina at Dana Point!

As the sun sparkles across the water and the docks come alive with the rhythm of the tides, there's no better time to celebrate all the energy and excitement happening around the marina. From fresh ocean breezes to the hum of weekend adventures, our waterfront community is in full swing!

There is a lot going on in the harbor and local community as we sail into the summer season. OC Parks announced their summer lineup of Concerts and Cinema in the Park with great acts and films coming to Salt Creek Beach Park. Click [HERE](#) for the full calendar.



Don't miss the Mother's Day themed Modern Makers Mart on May 9th from 10 AM to 4 PM at Bump Out Park where you can explore over 50 local vendors all in once place. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Kick up your boots to kick off the start of trolley season with the Honky Tonk Trolley Hop on Sunday, May 24th from 12 PM to 5 PM. Join the Dana Point Chamber of Commerce aboard the Dana Point Trolley where purchase of a \$5 wristband gives you access to exclusive food and drink specials at participating restaurants and bars in Dana Point! Click [HERE](#) to sign up or for more information.

Saturday, May 16, 2026 is officially Opening Day for Dana Point Yacht Club and Dana West Yacht Club. Opening Day is a ceremonial celebration of the start of the boating season. As part of the event, the two clubs are hosting a boat parade at 10 AM. Boats will follow the normal parade route through the harbor starting at the mouth then headed toward the launch ramp, around the east basin inside channel, through the outer channel then the west basin inside channel. Boats will be decked out in theme or traditional décor. If you love a parade, this daytime boat parade is a lot of fun...catch it from the docks on May 16th!

Memorial Day is Monday, May 25, 2026. We expect a ton of fun in the harbor as boaters celebrate the unofficial kickoff to summer! If you are expecting guests, please remember to use the ParkWhiz app to reserve and share guest passes in advance of their arrival. Our office will be open throughout the long holiday weekend. Please stop by or give us a call anytime, (949) 496-6137.

Marina Office



The Marina at Dana Point 2026 Annual Summer T-Shirt is expected to arrive by Memorial Day weekend! Stay tuned for a preview of this year's design in an upcoming announcement! In the meantime, 2025 Dockside Vibes t-shirts and crew necks are on sale, and we have new Marina at Dana Point Hats, visors, and full zip hoodies on the way! Stop by and check it out.

With Phase 11 opening for occupancy, we have a lot of movement happening throughout the month of May and early part of June. We will see hundreds of boats shifting from old slips in the east basin cove into their new slips in the east basin island and from old slips in east basin island into their temporary relocations in east basin cove to make way for demolition of Phase 12. In addition, we have over 40 new tenants off the waitlist coming into new slips! As we continue to move through the marina revitalization, less slips are needed to be held for relocations allowing us the opportunity to bring new boaters into the marina. We are excited to welcome our new tenants who have been patiently waiting to enjoy time on the water in Dana Point.

Behind the scenes, our office team has been hard at work keeping things organized and running smoothly. This season is already shaping up to be one of our most vibrant yet. Occupancy is strong, guest reservations are on the rise and we're seeing an exciting mix of boaters, old and new, enjoying our little slice of waterfront paradise!

Our office is open daily 8 AM to 5 PM. Please stop by, give us a call at (949) 496-6137, or send an [email](#) if there is anything we can help you with.

Here's to fair winds, calm seas and a fantastic season ahead!

On the Docks



It is always fun to see you out and about on the docks enjoying the boat with friends and family. We have staff on the docks regularly doing the monthly dock checks and inspections. During the dock check, they are looking to make sure things are in working order and that there are no violations. The most common violation we find are dinghies left behind boats with excessive overhang creating a hazard to safe navigation. Dinghy storage behind boats is not permitted unless the dinghy and vessel together measure within the allowable LOA for the specific slip size. There is a notion that dinghy overhang is permitted during the summer season but it is not. Dinghy storage and overhang in the slip is actively addressed throughout the year regardless of the season. We appreciate your cooperation.

With most slips in the marina being new slips, it seems like a good time to remind everyone that we want to keep them nice and new for many years to come. The dock system itself is built to last over sixty years. It is important that everyone in a new slip do their part to protect the docks and keep them in pristine condition. Under no circumstance can anything be installed on the new docks. This includes using double sided tape to secure something to the dock. Nothing should be screwed, taped, attached to the whaler, triangle, pile, fire equipment, or pedestal. Power cords should be run over the bow of the boat to the pedestal.

Friendly reminder that major vessel repairs are not permitted in the slip. Basic maintenance and bright work are permitted only by a marina authorized service contractor. Tenants are not permitted to bring in their own outside contractor. Only those contractors registered with the marina are permitted to work on

boats while in a marina slip. Please click [HERE](#) to review the list of authorized contractors. If there is a specific contractor you wish to use that is not on our list, please refer them to the marina office for assistance with becoming an authorized contractor in Dana Point Harbor.

The sun is shining! It's a beautiful day to be out on the docks!

Marina Revitalization

Phase 11 will open for occupancy on May 15th! Phase 11 includes G34, Dock of the **Royal** Lantern, G35, Dock of the **Magenta** Lantern, G36, Dock of the **Aqua** Lantern, and G37, Dock of the **Sand** Lantern in east basin island. We are excited to welcome everyone to their beautiful new slip!



Temporary relocation letters have gone out to all tenants with slip assignments in Phase 12 which includes east basin island docks D, E and F. Phase 12 will begin demolition in early June. Phase 12 will bring us G31, Dock of the **Juniper** Lantern, G32, Dock of the **Cobalt** Lantern, and G33, Dock of the **Coral** Lantern. Slip selection will begin soon for slips coming into Phase 12 and Phase 13. Slip selection contact is made via email. If you have not yet selected your new slip and are interested in a slip in east basin island, please keep an eye on your inbox.

Needless to say, the marina revitalization project is moving along swiftly and things are looking great!

A day on the Water with The Marina at Dana Point Underserved Youth Program

More than 100 fourth grade students from Roosevelt Elementary in Santa Ana boarded the Dana Pride with a mix of excitement and uncertainty, many of them about to be on a boat in the ocean for the very first time. For these students, the day wasn't just a field trip—it was an introduction to a world they had only read about. Thanks to The Marina at Dana Point's underserved youth program, that world opened wide under a bright coastal sky in Dana Point.



As the boat pulled away from the harbor, the screaming and excitement began as nervous energy quickly turned into awe. The vastness of the Pacific stretched in every direction, the horizon blending sea and sky into a single endless line. For many students, it was their first time ever being on the water.

It didn't take long for the ocean to deliver its magic. A pod of dolphins appeared first, darting effortlessly alongside the boat. They were leaping and spinning as if putting on a show just for the students.

Laughter and cheers erupted from the deck as students rushed to the rails, pointing and calling out to one another. In that moment, any hesitation disappeared — replaced by pure joy.

Then came something even more extraordinary. In the distance, a massive spout rose from the water, followed by the unmistakable shape of a fin whale. As the boat drew closer to the second largest animal on earth, students watched in stunned silence as this gentle giant surfaced, its immense back gliding through the water with quiet power. It was a rare and unforgettable sight. We stayed with the whale through four breath cycles. When the whale disappeared on its deep dive, the students shooshed one another wanting to hear the silence so not to miss the whale's inevitable resurgence to the surface. Quiet, attentive and engaged, they soaked in every magical minute.



Throughout the day, students asked questions, shared observations, and soaked in every detail—from the salty air to the movement of the water. What began as a simple outing became something much deeper: a hands-on lesson in marine life, conservation, and the beauty of the natural world. Students were talking about coming back with their families or planning their next Birthday celebration on the water in Dana Point. Teachers were changing end of year lesson plans to incorporate fin whales.

For many of these students, opportunities like this are few and far between. But on this day, the ocean belonged to them.

As the boat returned to the harbor, tired smiles replaced the morning's nervous anticipation. Stories were already being told, and lifelong memories formed.

For some, it may have sparked a new passion. For others, it was simply the first boat ride, first dolphin sighting, and first glimpse of a whale. But for all of them, it was a reminder that the ocean is not just something in a textbook. It's real, it's powerful, and—on this day—it was theirs.

BOATING CLEAN & GREEN

Dana Point Celebrates Being Named a Clean California Community

On Tuesday, April 14, 2026, Dana Point City Council, Stand up to Trash and other California elected official representatives gathered in the median along Dana Point Harbor Drive and Puerto PI for a ribbon cutting and sign unveiling in celebration of Dana Point being designated as a Clean California Community. Thanks to great efforts by Stand up to Trash and the City of Dana Point, Dana Point is one of only 30 communities to have the Clean California Community designation.

The designation as a Clean California Community signifies that Dana Point and Stand up to Trash have been formally recognized by Caltrans for demonstrating a “real



documented devotion” to reducing litter, enhancing public spaces, and fostering community pride. The program is voluntary and part of the Clean California initiative that requires applicants to meet at least 10 of 15 criteria within a year, including hosting cleanups, implementing anti-litter policies, and educating the public.

Way to go City of Dana Point and Stand up to Trash!

Thank you for doing your part to keep our marina clean and our waters healthy!

As always, please contact the marina office directly if you have questions, concerns, or see something in need of our attention. You can reach me via [email](#) for a quick response, or you can call the marina office at (949) 496-6137.

Happy Boating,

Kelly Rinderknecht

