THE MARINA
AT DANA POINT

NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2026

Greetings from the Marina at Dana Point!



Fall may be on the horizon, but summer vibes are still in full swing here at the marina! It is HOT out. The water is warm. The fish are biting. The dolphins are frolicking. Conditions are prime for boating!

After many wonderful years serving our harbor community, Wind & Sea will be closing its doors, on September 15th, and we want to take a moment to recognize their incredible contribution to the harbor and Dana Point community. For over 50 years, they've been a familiar and welcoming presence for boaters and visitors alike, embodying the small-business spirit that makes our harbor so special. As we bid farewell to them, we encourage everyone to stop by, show your support, and say thank you before they close. Small businesses like Wind & Sea have been the heart of our harbor community, and they will be missed.

As harbor redevelopment continues to progress, all businesses located in the Wharf, except for Dana Wharf Sportfishing & Whale Watching, will close on October 31, 2026. Some businesses are working with Dana Point Harbor Partners to secure space in the new development, some have decided to relocate out of the harbor, and some have decided to retire after decades of service to the community. We want to thank all of our harbor businesses for their contribution to our harbor community. Our harbor restaurants and storefronts have been the backdrop to countless cherished memories through the years. We encourage the community to show their support now and into the next chapter for these businesses. Dana Wharf Sportfishing will move to temporary onsite trailers near the parking structure and continue to operate during construction.

Change is never easy, especially in a place as special as our harbor, where so many memories have been made over the years. As Dana Point Harbor moves forward with redevelopment, we

recognize that saying goodbye to familiar faces and beloved spots isn't simple — and we don't take that lightly. At the same time, we're genuinely excited about what's ahead. Growth and renewal bring fresh opportunities to enhance the harbor experience for boaters, businesses, and the community alike, while still honoring the spirit that has always made this place feel like home. Here's to embracing what's next, together.

Marina Office



It’s time to start thinking about the 51st Annual Dana Point Harbor Boat Parade of Lights! This year’s theme is Harboritaville! Yes, we know — it feels early to be talking about the holidays while we’re melting in the sweltering heat as summer winds down! But trust us, December has a way of sneaking up fast, and now's the perfect time to start planning. If you're a boat owner ready to deck your vessel out in lights and cruise the harbor as part of the 51st Annual Boat Parade of Lights, mark your calendar: registration opens in October.

However you interpret Harboritaville, the goal is simple: bring the laid-back, salt-in-the-air, five-o'clock-somewhere spirit to the harbor and have fun with it. Start dreaming up your decor now, gather your crew, and get ready to be part of one of Dana Point's most beloved holiday traditions. Keep an eye on our newsletter and website for registration details and the official parade logo coming this fall — your spot in the parade lineup awaits!

We're working to improve our after-hours parking management, including faster response to service calls from the parking kiosks. As part of this effort, we need your help using your RFID tag and app technology correctly. While equipment malfunctions do happen occasionally, most access issues are actually the result of user error — so understanding how the system works will save you time and frustration.

A few important things to know:

- **One tag, one entry.** Your RFID tag permits a single entry into the lot, and you must record an exit to complete the loop.
- **Your RFID tag and ParkWhiz app are linked as one.** You cannot use your RFID tag to drive into the lot, then use your app to open the gate for a guest. Doing so will generate a system error and may lock you in or out.
- **Enter and exit the same way.** Whatever method you use to enter (app, RFID tag, guest pass, etc.) must also be used to exit.
- **Phone numbers are not valid access at the kiosk.** Entering with your phone number will generate a charge at exit, and you'll need to pay to get out.

As a marina tenant, you should already have the tools you need to access the parking gate, and reserve guest passes for your visitors. If you're having trouble with parking access, guest passes, or the lots in general, please stop by the marina office and we'll be happy to help.

One more note on guest passes: they must be reserved and shared with your guest via email in order to function properly. Your guest must use that pass to enter the lot — if they take a ticket instead, they'll need to use the ticket to exit, which will result in a charge.

As we continue improving our parking gate management, we'll be taking a closer look at recurring issues to make the overall parking experience smoother for everyone.

Our office is open daily, and we are ready to assist you. We are just a phone call away, (949) 496-6137 or stop by anytime 8 AM to 5 PM Monday through Sunday. We always enjoy seeing you!

On the Docks



Things are moving and shaking on the docks! We love seeing everyone out there enjoying time on the water. It's been a fantastic summer, and we look forward to more great weather and boating opportunities throughout the fall.

Between marina tenants and guest slips throughout the marina, all slips are occupied and expecting boats. Please do not assume a slip is empty or that you can "borrow" it. If a boat is not in it yet, one is coming soon. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

The US Army Corps of Engineers dredging and breakwater repair project continues in the outer channel with the dredging portion of the project due to complete on August 31, 2026. Breakwater repairs will commence following completion of the dredging and be ongoing throughout the month of September. Crews will replace displaced protective stone and reset existing stone so it all interlocks and holds strong. Please proceed with caution when navigating near the project site, keeping at your slowest speed to minimize wake. Recreational boaters, sailors, kayakers, paddleboarders, and all other harbor users are requested to remain outside the designated Keep-Out Zone and transit through the marked navigation channel.

Our maintenance team is onsite daily 8 AM to 5 PM. Please contact the marina office anytime should you require assistance or see something in need of our attention.

Boater Safety & Education

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is hosting the following boater safety and education classes in Dana Point in September:

BOAT AMERICA – A COURSE ON RESPONSIBLE BOATING

USCG AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 6-8, DANA POINT

Anyone operating a motorized vessel in California waters must now have a Boater Operator card issued by the State of California. This class will meet the State requirement.

Boat America A 1 day, 8-hour class. Saturday September 26, 8:30am to 5:00pm

The class will cover what you need to know about operating a boat safely. Subjects include: Rules, navigation, Coast Guard requirements, risk management, aids to navigation, registering your boat and many other subjects to help you be a better, safer boater

Cost: $40

Where: Dana Point Community Center 34052 Del Obispo St., Dana Point CA, 92629
To register contact Eric Gritzmacher at: ericgritz@gmail.com or (949)632-2378.

BOATING CLEAN & GREEN

A Reminder About Bait Disposal in the Harbor

We love that Dana Point Harbor is such a great fishing spot, but a quick reminder: please don't dump unused bait in the harbor. Discarded bait attracts unwanted animal activity, including birds and sea lions, which can create safety hazards and disrupt the natural balance of our harbor environment. If you have leftover bait, dispose of it well before returning to the harbor — not at the harbor entrance and not inside the harbor itself. Also, please note that fish cleaning is prohibited within the harbor. Thanks for helping us keep the harbor safe, clean, and wildlife-friendly for everyone!

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