



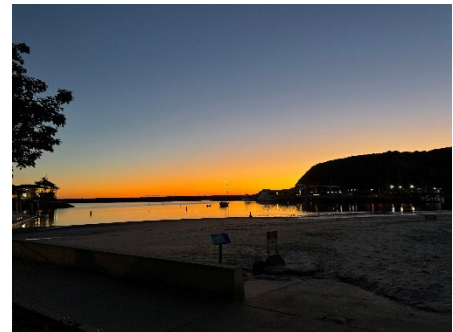
# THE MARINA

## AT DANA POINT

NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2026

### Greetings from the Marina at Dana Point!

A new year has arrived! We hope you enjoyed the holidays and are having a great 2026 so far. As the winter weather begins to settle in around the world, it sure is nice to know we are here in paradise where the temperatures are mostly over 60 degrees and windchill is not a thing. Aside from a little rain now and then, the weather and ocean conditions have been stunning in January. There is nothing better than calm seas with visibility for miles! Hope you have an opportunity to enjoy some winter boating.



On January 7, 2026 we hosted our annual Dana Point Harbor Boat Parade of Lights Awards Reception where parade participants enjoyed dinner and drinks and the following parade winners were announced:

Best Overall – Heir Time #248

Golden Harmony, Best in Theme – Piggy Bank #250

Most Original – Whole Life #236

Legacy of Light – Running Water #201

People's Choice – Clarebuoyant #254

Spirit of the Jubilee (tie) – Hiatus #233 & Ege Cesme #219

Heart of the Jubilee – The Field Office #217

Legacy of Joy – Black Pearl #225

Timeless Tradition – Ursula #209



- 50 & Fabulous – Strike Zone #215
- Craziest Crew – Why Knot #229
- Seaworthy Sparkle – Dolphin in Me #259
- Santa Spirit – Reel Necessity #240
- Best Power Boat – Tritonia #252
- Best Sailboat – Blackwing #251
- Mayor’s Cup – Dana Outriggers #269
- Supervisor’s Cup (tie) – Yacht in Training #255 & CF4589TB #226



During the awards ceremony, we talked about how much the parade means to the community and the positive impact it has on our local businesses in the harbor and throughout the city. With that, I want to send a big THANK YOU to our participants in the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Dana Point Harbor Boat Parade of Lights as well as Dana Point Harbor Partners for sponsoring and coordinating the event and to our Marina

and Embarcadero at Dana Point staff who worked their tails off throughout the event. It has been a magical 50 years and the Golden Jubilee was the icing on the cake!



We are already looking forward to Dana Point’s HARBORITAVILLE at the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Dana Point Harbor Boat Parade of Lights! We’ll see you there!

## Marina Office



The 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Dana Point Festival of Whales is Friday, Saturday & Sunday, March 6, 7 & 8, 2026! The Festival of Whales is a full weekend dedicated to fun, community support, education, conservation and most of all, the magical migration of the whales off the coast of Dana Point. This year’s Festival of Whales is sure to be the biggest and best event yet kicking off on Friday evening with the Welcoming of the Whales event at Ocean Institute followed by the return of the carnival at Lantern Bay Park throughout the weekend, the Clam Chowder Cookoff, The Cardboard Classic & Dinghy Dash and the Whale of a Concert on the water on Sunday, March 8, 2026. Also announcing the return of the beloved Festival of Whales Parade on Saturday, March 7, 2026! Save the date and plan to celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Dana Point Festival of Whales. More details and information to come.

With the return of the Festival of Whales Parade, there will be road closures and restrictions on Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 8 AM to 11 AM with the primary impact being that there will be no access on and off the island from 9 AM to 11 AM on Saturday, March 7, 2026.



If your boat is registered with the California DMV, your registration expired on December 31, 2025. You should have received your new Certificate of Registration by now. If you have not yet shared a copy with our office, please do so at your soonest convenience. You can drop by the office or [email](#) it to us.

The marina office is open every day from 8 AM to 5 PM. We still have a limited amount of 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Dana Point Harbor Boat Parade of Lights merchandise available. Stop by anytime or give us a call if there is anything we can help you with, (949) 496-6137.

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## On the Docks



Our weather has been phenomenal lately with sunny skies, calm seas and great visibility! It is always great to see boaters boating during the offseason and even better when the weather is so inviting. We hope you are finding time to visit the docks and your boat this winter.

The pumpout station on the Harbor Patrol dock is up and running with access to water. If you are on an old dock or a new dock without Pumpout service, please use the self-service Pumpout located on the Harbor Patrol dock in the east basin island. If you prefer, please call the marina office to make an appointment and we will be happy to have someone meet you at the end of dock G20 (west island) for Pumpout service.

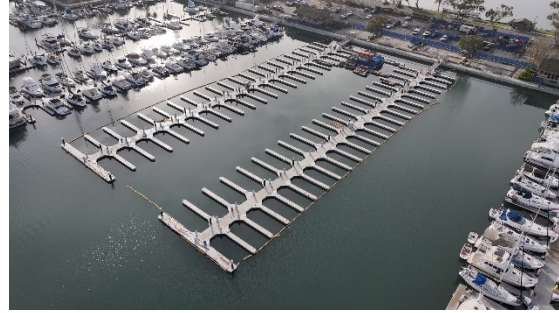
The fenceline for Phase 3 of the commercial core revitalization project will be closed off completely in early February 2026. This will affect boater parking in lot 1 diverting all boaters to park in the parking structure or in the dedicated boater stalls in the Wharf. The fence was opened for a while due to a delay in the start of the project. Once it is closed off, it will not re-open until the project is completed. Boaters in slips on east basin cove docks G through J should use the boater parking in lot 2 off Casitas Place. Boaters assigned to slips in east basin cove docks K through O should use the dedicated boater parking in the structure or Dana Wharf.

Please give us a call anytime if you are on the docks and see something in need of our attention, (949) 496-6137 or send an [EMAIL](#) if you prefer. Happy Boating!

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## Marina Revitalization

As planned, Phase 10 opened for occupancy in late December 2025. All the slips in this phase are occupied with the boats settled in and happy. Completion of Phase 10 left us with a handful of excess slip locations which allowed us to bring in new boaters off the slip waitlist. It is always nice to make someone's day with a slip offer and opportunity to bring their boat into Dana Point Harbor after a long wait!



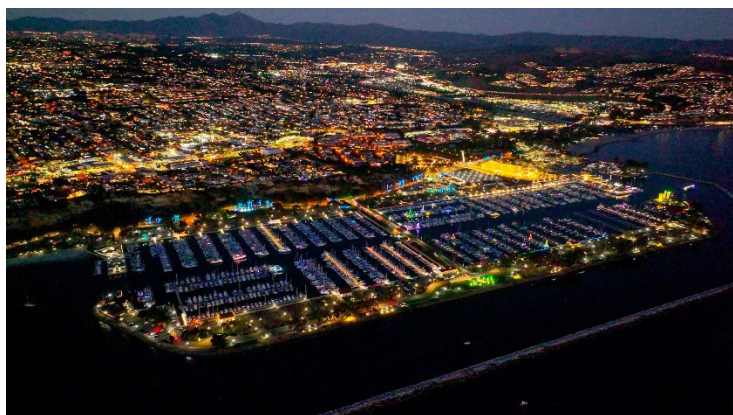
As we continue to move through the marina revitalization project we look forward to continuing to bring in new tenants. With the marina project now 2/3 of the way complete, we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel and it is bright!

Demolition of Phase 11 started mid-January and is moving along nicely. Phase 11 includes docks G through J in east basin island and is scheduled to open for occupancy in late April or early May 2026. Slip selection for Phase 11 will start in early February 2026.

If you are still on an old dock awaiting your slip selection preference and want to get into a new slip in the meantime, please reach out to the marina office. Slips turn over occasionally and we maintain a transfer list. If we do not have something available for you immediately, we can add you to the transfer list to get the ball rolling and get you into a new slip as soon as possible.

New docks with slips 30' and larger have built-in pumpout units. Boats on these docks can be pumped out at the slip. The in-slip pumpouts can be done by the vessel owner provided they have received a lesson from our team on using the equipment or we will provide the pumpout service for you. Either option requires that the vessel owner be onsite for the first service. If you are in a new slip and have not yet utilized the in-slip pumpout, please give us a call anytime to schedule an appointment, (949) 496-6137. Not only is the in-slip pumpout capability convenient, it is also another reason we are one of the cleanest and greenest marinas on the coast!

Marina revitalization is on a roll with ten phases complete and five to go! Please contact the marina office anytime to discuss the phasing plan, slip selection or any other marina revitalization questions you may have.



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## **BOATING CLEAN & GREEN**

### **Recycle Oily Waste—Right Here at the Marina**

Help keep our marina and surrounding waters clean by using our **onsite recycling center** to properly dispose of **used bilge pads, waste oil and oil filters**.

Improper disposal of oily materials can harm water quality and marine life. Recycling these items is easy, environmentally responsible, and helps our marina remain a certified Clean Marina.

Recycle centers are located in the west cove boater parking lot and in the east island boater parking lot and are available to boaters during regular marina operating hours.

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

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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

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