



THE MARINA

AT DANA POINT

NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2025

Happy Holidays from the Marina at Dana Point!

It is a special time of year to be in Dana Point Harbor! The holiday lights are twinkling. The boats are lit up in their slips. The Wharf is bustling with holiday shoppers, diners, and Merry Kiss Me photo opportunity seekers. We are having Happy Harbor Days indeed!



The 50th Annual Dana Point Harbor Boat Parade of Lights brought festive cheer to Dana Point Harbor once again. The Carol of the Boats was a Golden Jubilee honoring five decades of holiday tradition, community spirit and nautical creativity! The harbor shimmered with beautifully decorated boats, festive music and joyful energy, creating unforgettable memories for residents, visitors and participants alike. From the imaginative displays to the enthusiastic crowds lining the waterfront, the parade once again showcased what makes Dana Point Harbor such a special place during the holidays. Winners of over \$10,000 in prize money will be announced to parade participants at our Awards Dinner and Reception in early January 2026. Bravo to our 77 participating boaters for making the 50th anniversary a remarkable and memorable success. Here's to 50 years of magic on the water and to many more to come!



VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE BOAT TO WIN THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD! Click [HERE](#) to cast your vote!

As the sun begins to set on 2025, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to our marina customers for your continued tenancy. Dana Point Harbor is a special place, and you play an essential role in making our marina such a unique, vibrant and welcoming community. We wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward

to continuing to provide you with exceptional service in 2026. Thank you again for being part of our marina family.

Marina Office



Keep the 50th Annual Dana Point Harbor Boat Parade of Lights celebration going with our exclusive parade merchandise available in the marina office for a limited time! We have short-sleeved T-shirts, long-sleeved T-shirts, sweatshirts, pins and ornaments!

Please note the following holiday hours for the marina:

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 – **CLOSED at 12 PM**

Thursday, December 25, 2025 – **CLOSED** (we will re-open Friday, 12/26 with normal business hours)

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 – **CLOSED at 12 PM**

Thursday, January 1, 2026 - **CLOSED**

Please give us a call or stop by anytime, (949) 496-6137! We are open 8 AM to 5 PM daily.

On the Docks



We continue to have a lot of activity and movement around the docks with boats relocating out of Phase 11 and into available slips throughout the marina. Many boats are relocating to the east basin cove while they await their new slip coming into Phase 11. Please continue to keep the slips, dock fingers and dock boxes around your assigned slip clear. Boats are moving around daily.

The weatherman is predicting a lot of rain over the next 2-3 days. A few proactive steps can help protect your boat while it's in the slip. Make sure deck drains and scuppers are clear so rainwater can flow freely, and check that bilge pumps are working properly and set to automatic. Secure canvas, covers, and dock lines to prevent pooling water and reduce strain during storms, adjusting lines to allow for changing water levels. A quick inspection before heavy rain can go a long way toward keeping your vessel safe, dry, and ready for your next outing.

To follow up our previous announcement indicating a temporary closure of the fuel dock from 11/20/2025 through 12/2/2025...we can confirm that the temporary fuel tanks are in at the Dana Point Fuel Dock and fuel has been available since 12/3/2025. There is construction happening in the area of the fuel dock as Bellingham continues to work on the fuel tank replacement project. Fortunately, they were able to successfully install temporary fuel tanks and have fuel available throughout the project.

Our maintenance team is out and about taking care of business. Please call the marina office anytime with maintenance requests, (949) 496-6137.

Marina Revitalization

We are excited to open Phase 10 for occupancy next week! Phase 10 includes G38, Dock of the **Sage** Lantern and G39, Dock of the **Admiral** Lantern in the east basin island. All the slips have been selected and we have many anxious boats awaiting the move to their new slip.



Boats in slips located within Phase 11 are in the process of moving to their temporary relocation assignments or awaiting the opening of Phase 10 to make their way to their new slip. Phase 11 includes docks G through J in east basin island and is expected to begin demolition in early January 2026.

You may have noticed the west basin pedestal light colors being in the holiday spirit! 100% of the pedestal lights in the west basin changed to shades of red, green and blue for one hour each evening at sunset. It was a festive light display with more to come in 2026!

Commercial core Phase 3 construction perimeter fencing in the east basin cove was installed on November 19th. They later opened up a portion of the fence near boater building 1 which allows easier access to the lot and docks for the holidays. The fence will be secured in late December or early January which will divert boaters to park in the parking structure and walk around the fence to get to your gangway. We are excited to see the Phase 3 commercial core construction begin and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

The marina revitalization is 2/3 complete! This is a reason to celebrate!



USCG AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 6-8 DANA POINT

PUBLIC EDUCATION CLASS

Boat America – 1 day – 8 hour class.

Saturday, January 17, 8:30am to 5:30pm

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.

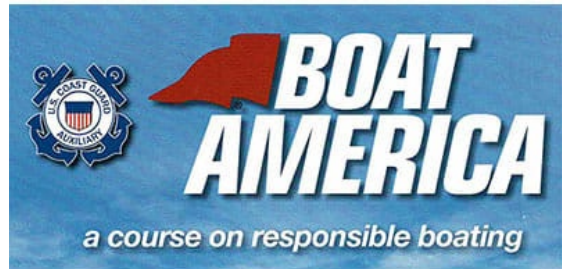
Anyone operating a motorized vessel in California waters must now have a Boater Operator card issued by the State of California. This class will meet the State requirement.

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.

Garry Nelson at: nelson.garry@gmail.com



BOATING CLEAN & GREEN

Boating is Good Clean Fun. Let's Keep it that Way!

Every effort to follow the actions below is a significant step towards preserving the waterways in our beautiful state.

- **Prevent oily discharge from the bilge.**

Keep the bilge clean and dry and your boat engine well-tuned to prevent fuel and oil leaks. Place an oil absorbent under the engine and in the bilge. Check the absorbents often and dispose of them as hazardous waste at a marina or nearby collection center.

- **Spill-proof your oil changes and fueling.**

If you change your boat engine oil, be sure to use a closed system (such as a portable oil-change pump) available at marine supplies stores and always have an oil absorbent handy. Drain the used oil into a container that can be closed to prevent spills. Fuel up your tank slowly and use absorbents to catch spills. Do not top-off or overflow your fuel tank and leave 10% of your tank empty to allow fuel to expand as it warms. Dispose of saturated absorbents and fuel bibs at a hazardous household waste facility. Recycle your used oil and oil filters.

- **Do not add soap.**
Never use soap to disperse fuel and oil spills. It is harmful to the environment, and it is illegal. Avoid using bilge cleaners as they may get discharged overboard.
- **Dispose of hazardous waste properly.**
Dispose of paints, batteries, antifreeze, cleaning products, oil, oil filters, and other hazardous wastes at a hazardous waste collection facility or event.
- **Plan ahead! Manage sewage wastes properly.**
It is illegal to discharge untreated sewage anywhere within the three-mile territorial limit including lakes, rivers, reservoirs or coastal waters. Never discharge treated sewage into “restricted waters” such as a marina, swimming/wading areas, a sanctuary, poorly flushed areas, lakes, reservoirs, or freshwater impoundments and into a federal No Discharge Zones. Use sewage pumpouts, dump stations, or mobile-pumpout services.
- **Stow it, do not throw it!**
Keep your trash on-board. Never throw cigarette butts, fishing line, or any other garbage into our waterways. Take advantage of shore-side facilities to recycle plastic, glass, metal, and paper. Avoid excess packaging.
- **Reduce grey water discharges.**
Use a phosphate-free soap to minimize the impacts of grey water on the marine environment. Also, minimize discharge by doing dishes and showers on-shore whenever possible.

Thank you for doing your part to preserve water quality!

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 New Year,

Kelly Rinderknecht
