



THE MARINA

AT DANA POINT

NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2026

Greetings from the Marina at Dana Point!

It is officially spring and we are loving the longer days and warm weather! There have been a ton of playful gray whales, fin whales, humpback whales and dolphins splashing around outside the harbor. Everyone seems to be excited for the start of another boating season! We hope you have had a chance to get out on the water and enjoy the experience.



Speaking of whales, the 55th Annual Dana Point Festival of Whales was a huge success! The weather was amazing, all events were very well attended and the concert on the water on Sunday was the perfect ending to a fantastic weekend!

We realize this event creates more traffic and congestion in the harbor as well as brief inconvenience with street and lot closures for the parade. We truly appreciate your grace and cooperation each year when this beloved community event takes over our harbor. It is wonderful to see our community come together in celebration of our spectacular sea life. Thank YOU!

Dana Point Harbor retail and restaurants are OPEN during construction. The Wharf is action packed with Wind & Sea, Turks, Frisby Cellars, Coco Bloom Coffee and Proud Mary's for dining and refreshments plus Vintage Yacht Club, Art Sea + Gift Chateau, Golden Galleon, Dana Wharf Sportfishing, and Top Brass for shopping...so much fun in one place!

You have likely heard that the remaining restaurant and retail tenants in the Village will be closing on April 30, 2026. These tenants include The Brig, Beach Harbor Pizza, Bella Bazaar and Village Market. We encourage you to frequent these businesses throughout the month of April and give them the farewell they deserve.

Ongoing events in Dana Point Harbor include the weekly Certified Farmers Market on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Village parking lot and Cars & Coffee held the 4th Saturday of each month from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM in the parking lot near the parking structure. Keep up with all events and happening in Dana Point Harbor by visiting www.danapointharbor.com/events

Continue reading for more important updates and information. Here comes Peter Cottontail...Wishing you a Happy Easter!

Marina Office



There has been a lot of moving and shaking happening in the office as the weather heats up! Everyone is excited for the extended daylight hours...there is nothing better than 7:30 PM sunsets on the boat!

All marina tenants were sent a notice of slip fee adjustment on March 24, 2026. Slip fees will increase 9% on all sizes effective June 1, 2026. Notices were sent by email. Please reach out to us if you have not received it.

With the busy season upon us, we want to share a few helpful parking reminders and tips. Guest passes can be reserved using the ParkWhiz app. Click [HERE](#) for instructions and information for reserving guest passes. Guest passes must be used to enter the lot for them to work at the exit, so it is important that your guest be provided with the guest pass in advance of their visit. The only way to transfer a guest pass is via email directly from the ParkWhiz app. Screen shots of the pass do not work.

As a tenant of the marina, you have a monthly parking pass that lives in your ParkWhiz app. The monthly parking pass is a QR code on your phone that is meant to be used as an alternative to your RFID tag and not as a second parking pass. If your vehicle with the RFID tag on it is already in the parking lot, the monthly parking pass on your phone will not work to let another vehicle in the parking lot. If you use your app to allow a vehicle to exit while your vehicle with the RFID tag is still in the lot, you will be locked in at exit. The system requires you to make a full loop with an entry and exit before it will allow the pass to enter or exit again.

RFID tags are the barcode readers adhered to your vehicle windshield and work as one in the same with the monthly parking pass on the app.

If you need assistance with setting up the app or learning how to reserve guest passes, please stop by our office and we will be happy to help you.

Please contact our office anytime with questions, work order requests, etc. Stop by or give us a call, (949) 496-6137.

On the Docks



Last month we asked you to share photos of your adventures on the water and fun times on the docks. Charles from the Dock of the Indigo Lantern shared this spectacular picture he snapped of a whale fluke! Wow...looks like a great day on the water! Thanks for sharing, Charles! Keep those fantastic photos coming...we love to see them!

Dock carts are provided by the marina and available for use by all marina tenants. We have received a lot of feedback from tenants saying they are having a difficult time finding a dock cart when they need one. We hear you and have implemented additional daily practices to round carts up and distribute dock carts to the foot of the dock gangways as well as the dock cart corral near the boater parking in the parking structure. We have also added more carts to the inventory and continue to add carts as we open



new docks. We request your assistance with returning dock carts to the foot of the gangway after use. Please do not leave the cart on the dock finger at your slip while you go out for the day or leave your supplies in the cart while you are tinkering on the boat. If we all work together we should have carts available for everyone when they are needed. Thank you!

We understand there are sometimes issues with the WiFi on the docks. Fortunately, there is support in place to troubleshoot these issues. If you find yourself having difficulty connecting to the WiFi or are finding that the WiFi is not supporting what you are trying to do, please reach out to Boater WiFi Support.

The WiFi network on all new docks is **Boater Wifi** (contact the office for the password).

The WiFi network on all old docks is **Marina Wifi** (contact the office for the password).

Please note the following for WiFi assistance and support:

Support Telephone: (949) 850-WIFI (9434)

Support Website: <https://support.boaterwifi.net> (helpful FAQ and articles available here)

Support Email: Support@boaterwifi.net

If you are unable to get the support you need, please contact the marina office, (949) 496-6137.

We'll see you on the docks!

Marina Revitalization

Phase 11 is well underway and coming along great! 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 are expected to open mid-May. Slip selection is ongoing and almost complete. When Phase 11 opens, all marina tenants assigned to a 30' slip will be in a new slip!



Any remaining 30' slips on old docks will be used for relocations as we complete the final phases of the project.

Phase 12 will start in late May and includes east basin island docks D, E and F. Tenants on docks D, E and F in east basin island will be issued slip relocation notices in early April. Phase 13 includes docks A, B, and C in east basin island and is expected to start in mid to late September. The entire east basin island is on track to be completed by the end of this year!

Along with temporary slip relocation letters, we will also be sending notices for vessel seaworthy compliance to tenants in east basin island on docks A through F. These notices will outline the vessel seaworthy guidelines and require tenants to participate in the vessel seaworthy inspection prior to selecting a new slip. If you are still in an old slip, please plan to get ahead of this requirement by calling our office to schedule your vessel seaworthy evaluation, (949) 496-6137.

Bellingham recently completed the fuel tank replacement project at the Dana Point Fuel Dock. The project involved pulling out the old underground fuel tanks and installing new fuel tanks compliant with today's standards. Despite this major project, temporary fuel was brought in and there were only two brief closures of the fuel dock. We thank Bellingham for their amazing efforts throughout this project. Fuel services are now open and restored for the foreseeable future!



On March 17th, the Dana Point Harbor Partners hosted a groundbreaking in celebration of the start of Phase 3 of the commercial core revitalization project. Phase 3 includes the waterfront restaurant, retail, and public space areas along the waterfront. Demolition of this phase has already come a long way. Click [HERE](#) to view renderings and for information about the commercial core revitalization. The Dana Point Harbor leasing team is in talks with existing harbor tenants as well as potential new tenants and will soon be announcing some of the restaurants and retail that will be coming into the space. Phase 5 of the commercial core revitalization is set to commence on May 1, 2026. Phase 5 includes the restaurant and retail from The Brig to Beach Harbor Pizza as well as the surface parking lot in the Village area.

Also on March 17th, Dana Point Harbor Partners celebrated the dedication of the beautiful new flagpole mast that was recently installed near the monument sign on Dana Point Harbor Drive and Golden Lantern. The new 33-foot flagpole is crafted from salvaged, preserved wood from the historic Pilgrim ship that spent forty years in Dana Point Harbor before she tragically sank in her berth in 2020. The flagpole represents Dana Point Harbor's rich maritime history and celebrates the future. In addition to the American Flag, the flagpole features the flags of The County of



Orange and Dana Point Harbor Partners along with an array of decorative maritime flags. If you haven't had an opportunity to see it, stop by and check it out...it is beautiful and an excellent way to greet our Dana Point Harbor community and visitors to the harbor!

Harbor revitalization is moving along with beauty and delight. Nothing better than spring days on the boat and our dock color lanterns all lit up at night!



BOATING CLEAN & GREEN

Clean & Green Boating: Preventing Fuel Spills

Fuel spills are one of the most common—and preventable—sources of water pollution in marinas and harbors. Even small drips of gasoline or diesel can harm marine life, contaminate water, and create safety hazards. The good news: with a few simple habits, every boater can make a big difference.

1. Fuel Slowly and Stay Attentive

Never leave the fuel nozzle unattended. Pump at a slow, steady rate to avoid splash-back or overfilling, especially as the tank nears full.

2. Use Absorbent Pads

Keep fuel absorbent pads or collars on hand and place them around the fill opening before fueling. They catch drips before they reach the water.

3. Know Your Tank's Capacity

Avoid “topping off.” Leave space in the tank for fuel expansion—especially on warm days—to prevent overflow.

4. Listen and Look

Pay attention as you fuel. Changes in sound or back pressure can signal the tank is nearly full. Stop fueling immediately if you notice fuel backing up.

5. Report and Respond Quickly

If a spill occurs, notify marina staff right away. Never use soap or detergent to disperse fuel—it spreads pollution and is illegal in many areas.

6. Maintain Your Fuel System

Regularly inspect hoses, fittings, and vents for cracks or leaks. A well-maintained system reduces the risk of spills before you even reach the dock.

A Cleaner Harbor Starts with You

By taking a few extra moments at the fuel dock, you help protect water quality, marine wildlife, and the boating experience for everyone. Clean boating isn't complicated—it's just being mindful, prepared, and responsible every time you fuel up.

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
