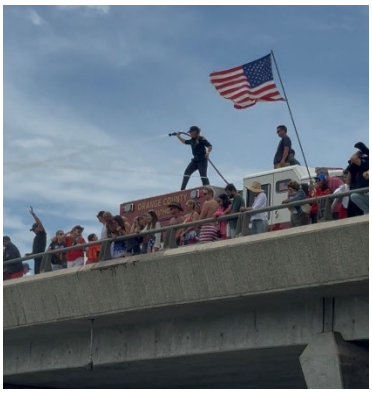
THE MARINA
AT DANA POINT

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2026

Greetings from the Marina at Dana Point!



Summer at The Marina at Dana Point is in full swing, and there's no better place to soak it all in. From glassy morning waters to golden-hour cruises along the coast, our harbor is buzzing with energy this season. Whether you're prepping your boat for a weekend adventure, soaking in the sun on anchor at the sandbar, or simply enjoying the sea breeze with friends on the dock, this is the season to get out and make the most of everything our beautiful harbor has to offer.



July 4th was a busy day in the harbor and on the docks. Although there were a lot of people enjoying the harbor and marina, there were very few problems, and everyone did a great job playing within the rules and regulations of the marina. The water wars were action packed fun…even the OC Fire team joined in on the action shooting water down from the bridge! The City of Dana Point outdid themselves this year with a phenomenal fireworks show! Flags were flying. Fun was had. It was a great day!

Our team did an excellent job managing the boater parking lots, from early morning when the lots sat empty to the midday rush and late in the evening as they gradually cleared out. Despite our best efforts, a couple of lots reached capacity by late morning/early afternoon on the holiday. No boaters were turned away due to a lack of parking — we simply directed them to the next nearest lot with availability. Our large overflow lot in the East Cove (Harbor Village Lot) never filled, and neither did the West Basin or East Basin Island lots.

We also received feedback that some individuals were circumventing the parking app by using screenshots to gain access. With that in mind, we will be revisiting this policy for next year, either eliminating the app as an access option or enforcing its use more strictly.

July 4th is a great day in the harbor and one we all look forward to each year. Our team is already reviewing this year's operations to identify where we can do better, from traffic flow and signage to additional staffing during peak hours. We're committed to making meaningful improvements well ahead of next year's holiday rush.

The summertime fun continues in Dana Point Harbor at the Wharf with dining, shopping, entertainment and special events including the weekly Wednesday Farmer's Market, Taco Tuesdays at Frisby Cellars, Delanya's Smokin' Hot Texas BBQ weekend popup, daily specials at Wind & Sea, camaraderie and tales of the sea at Turks, mornings at Proud Mary's, and plenty of great shopping opportunities!

Oh Say...Did You See?



If you were in the harbor this Fourth of July, you may have caught a glimpse of our brand-new docks glowing in brilliant red, white, and blue! As dusk settled over the harbor and anticipation for the fireworks show built, our dock lighting came alive in a stunning patriotic display, casting rippling color across the water and turning the marina itself into part of the celebration. It was a beautiful sight: American pride shimmering from slip to slip, setting the stage perfectly before the sky lit up overhead.

This is just the beginning. Our new dock lighting system is designed with the ability to change colors, meaning Independence Day was only a preview of what's to come. Picture our docks glowing in festive colors for the holidays, special event hues for marina celebrations, or simply a beautiful ambient glow for an evening stroll along the water. This technology connects land and

sea in a whole new way, transforming our lanterns into a dynamic, living part of the harbor's atmosphere.

We're thrilled about the possibilities ahead and can't wait to light up the docks for many occasions to come. Here's to celebrating in style — and to a marina that shines brighter with every season!

Marina Office



We love this time of year at The Marina at Dana Point, and it's all because of you — our incredible boater tenants, who make this harbor feel like home. Your energy, your stories at the dock, and your passion for life on the water are what make this community so special, and we couldn't be more excited to share the summer season with you!

Our exclusive 2026 Summer T-Shirts are in stock and available for purchase at the Marina office. Stop by to grab yours and show off your Marina pride wherever you go. These are available while supplies last, so don't wait too long — swing by soon and say hello, we'd love to see you!

Just a friendly reminder that vehicle storage is not permitted in boater parking lots. Parking is reserved exclusively for boaters actively using their boats, ensuring there's always space available for our tenants. Vehicles found being stored in the boater parking lots will be tagged, and if our efforts to reach you go unanswered, the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense. We appreciate your cooperation.

Regarding parking, we want to reiterate that the parking stalls on the Wharf are shared with the restaurant/retail and are first come first served. The primary reserved boater parking for docks L through O is in the parking structure.

As we continue to move through the marina revitalization project, we continue to move boats into vacant slips throughout the marina. In preparation for the start of Phase 13 in September, we are preparing to move vessels from slips on docks A, B and C in east basin island. Temporary relocations for these vessels have been identified in old slips in the east basin cove. 100% of our vacant slips will be utilized for relocation or as guest slips during the final three phases of the interior marina project. Please do not place dinghies, kayaks, paddleboards or other items in slips you assume are vacant. This is extremely problematic and time-consuming for our staff. Items found in vacant slips will be impounded with applicable daily fees.

Please stop by the marina office or give us a call anytime should you have a question or need assistance. Our office is open 8 AM to 5 PM daily.

On the Docks

We know keeping your vessel in top shape is a top priority, and we're happy to support routine care right at the dock. But it's a good time for a reminder that The Marina at Dana Point is a recreational facility, not a boatyard or repair shop, so certain types of work simply can't be done slip-side.

Prohibited at the dock: hull scraping and hull painting, engine or transmission repair, heavy sanding, use of paint remover or spray guns, and burning paint on the topside or above deck. Spray painting or spraying varnish is never allowed anywhere in the marina. Anything that could send sanding residue, petroleum products, or other debris into the water is off-limits — light sanding is the only exception, and only with a vacuum attachment to capture the dust.

As a general guideline, minor maintenance projects should stay under 25% of the vessel's surface and wrap up within 5 days. Bigger jobs need Marina approval before you start, and any outside contractors or independent workers must be registered and approved by the Marina office in advance, carry proper insurance, and follow our Best Management Practices for fueling, painting, sewage, and chemical storage.

These guidelines help us protect water quality, keep our harbor beautiful, and stay compliant with environmental regulations that benefit everyone in our community. For bigger repairs, we're happy to help point you toward local boatyards. Questions about what's allowed? The Marina office is always here to help.

Please be advised that the Army Core or Engineers will be onsite beginning August 3, 2026, to start the dredging and breakwater repair project. Their equipment will be staged in the outer channel and will not impede navigation.

The sun is shining, the water's calling, and our harbor is alive with the kind of good vibes only boaters know how to bring. From impromptu happy hours on the swim step to friendly waves exchanged between neighbors, the dock is where our community really comes together. We are glad to be a part of your story and always enjoy seeing you out there.

Marina Revitalization



Phase 12 is moving right along and expected to open for occupancy in September. Incase you forgot or just started following along, Phase 12 is in the east basin island and includes G31, Dock of the **Juniper** Lantern, G32, Dock of the **Cobalt** Lantern and G33, Dock of the **Coral** Lantern. Slip selection for slips coming into Phase 12 and Phase 13 is 2/3 complete. If you are waiting for a slip in east basin island, please keep an eye on your email inbox and make your selection quickly so we can keep the process moving along. Those that do not respond with a selection will be assigned a slip based on any preferences that were previously provided.

As we prepare to begin demolition pf Phase 13 in September, temporary slip relocation letters have been sent to tenants in slips on docks A, B and C in the east basin island. Of course, any tenants in slips in east basin island docks A, B or C that have selected a slip in Phase 12 do not need to relocate to a temporary slip and will move directly to your new slip location on G31, G32 or G33.

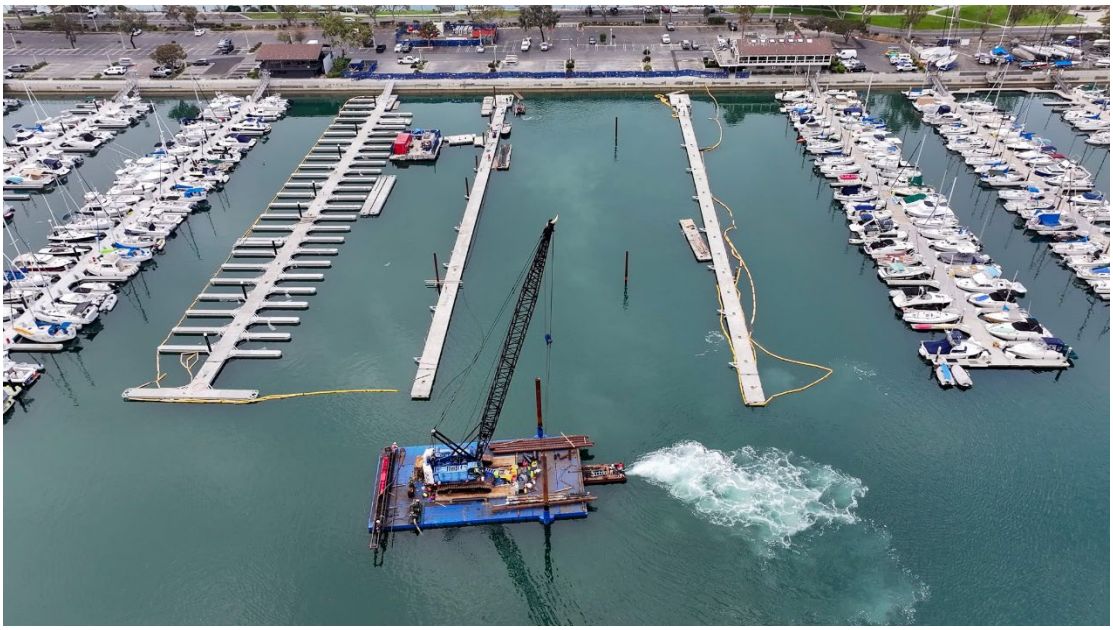
Phase 13 will start in September and open for occupancy in December which completes the east island. Phase 14 will start in January and includes docks G, H, I, J and K in east basin cove. Slip selection for locations coming into Phase 14 and Phase 15 will begin in mid to late August.

As we move into the final three phases of marina revitalization, it is essential that all vessels remaining in the marina comply with the Maritime Wharfage Contract, which requires, among other things, that vessels be seaworthy, well-maintained, and in operable condition. If you declined to select a new slip because you knew your vessel would not qualify, now is the time to make arrangements to exit the marina. Your vessel must meet these requirements to have a place in the marina.

Notices of termination will be sent to owners of vessels that have declined to select a new slip, as well as to those we know will not qualify under these standards. We have been communicating this message consistently since the project began in 2022, and it remains unchanged: if your vessel is not seaworthy now, it is unlikely to be seaworthy by the time you will be required to move to a new slip. Please make the proper arrangements now to either comply with the Maritime Wharfage Contract or find a new location.

If you are still in an old slip, now is the time to begin preparing for your move to a new slip. With that in mind, please start cleaning out your dock box and making plans to remove any floats, Air Docks, or bait receivers from your current slip — none of these items are permitted in the new slips. It's important to get ahead of this now, as there will be no delays in the marina revitalization progress.

It is amazing to think that in a little over one year, the interior marina project will be complete, and all boats will be in new slips! Thank you for hanging in there with us and for your ongoing cooperation.



Boater Safety & Education

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

SUDDENLY IN COMMAND

USCG AUXILIARY DANA POINT
UPCOMING PUBLIC EDUCATION CLASS
When: Wednesday August 12, 2026. 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Where: Aventura Sailing Association. 24707 Dana Drive, Dana Point 92629
Cost: $20
Contact Eric Gritzmacher at: ericgritz@gmail.com or call: (949) 632-2378

HOW TO USE A VHF MARINE RADIO

USCG AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 6-8, DANA POINT
PUBLIC EDUCATION CLASS
WHEN: Wednesday August 19, 2026. 7:00pm to 8:30pm
WHERE : Aventura Sailing Association.24707 Dana Drive, Dana Point CA, 92629
COST: $20
To register contact Eric Gritzmacher at: ericgritz@gmail.com or (949)632-2378.

BOATING CLEAN & GREEN

In the Engine Room

Use absorbent bilge pads to catch oil and fuel and never discharge bilge water if it has a sheen. Check engines regularly for leaks, keep drip pans or absorbent pads underneath, and use extra care when fueling to avoid spills — fueling at dockside is prohibited, so head to the fuel dock and use oil-absorbent pads there too.

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