



NEWPORT MOORING ASSOCIATION



Newport Mooring Association

Fall/Winter 2019

To all Newport Harbor Mooring Permittees:

Please pay your Newport Mooring Association dues now. It's money well spent. The NMA is constantly vigilant in watching out for the rights of all Newport Harbor Mooring Permittees.

Please send a check for \$50 or more to:

**Newport Mooring Association, P.O. Box 1118,
Newport Beach, CA 92659-1118**

Use the form below to renew your NMA Membership and please include your Email address.

\$50 now and you are paid up until the end of 2020.

Note: The NMA did not send out a billing for 2019.

NMA Annual Meeting Set for Thursday April 23, 2020, 6:30 PM, at Marina Park, 1600 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach. Put it on your calendar.

NEWS TOPICS

City of Newport Beach Hires Kurt Borsting as new Harbormaster

The City of Newport Beach revamped its organizational structure in 2018 and has created a new **Harbor Department**.

In December of 2018 the City of Newport Beach hired **Kurt Borsting** to fill the position of **Harbormaster**. The Harbormaster is head of the Harbor Department and reports to Assistant City Manager Carol Jacobs.

The Harbor Commission is currently doing a comprehensive review of **Title 17 – Harbor Code** — of the City's Municipal Code. Title 17 – Harbor Code sets the rules for the Harbor. It is sort of like a General Plan for the Harbor, and like a General Plan, it needs to be updated on a regular basis. The Harbor Commission formed an Ad-Hoc Committee to conduct a thorough review and to identify potential for code modifications to Title 17. They have invited public participation and the Newport Mooring Association has participated at every step. This review is nearing completion.

A few current items of interest worth mentioning to mooring permittees:

1. Spreader lines between double moorings will remain optional.
2. The Harbor Department is now authorized to place sea lion deterrents on vessels if sea lions are aboard and the vessel owner cannot be reached within a reasonable amount of time. The vessel owner will be charged for this service.

3. Mooring extensions will once again be allowed subject to new and fairly strict rules under Section 17.60.040 (M). This language is not finalized but some highlights are as follows:
 - a. There has to be room in your row and in your fairway for an extension to occur.
 - b. 5 foot maximum extensions can be granted by Harbormaster review.
 - c. Extensions greater than 5 feet need to go before the Harbor Commission.
 - d. If an extension is granted, mooring permittee must occupy the mooring with a vessel of appropriate size within 12 months following the date of approval.
 - e. If an extension is granted, mooring may not be sold or otherwise transferred for a period of 12 months following the date of occupancy of the mooring with the new (larger) vessel.
4. On many of the 11 public dinghy docks in the harbor controlled by the City of Newport Beach, signage and hourly parking zones have changed. Each dock is labelled and signed uniquely to best fit the needs of the regular users of that dock. A 3 hour zone, a 24 hour zone, and a 72 hour zone have been added to several docks. Code enforcement of

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Pay By
12/31!**

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (important): _____ Mooring #: _____

Email (crucial): _____

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- these zones will occur more regularly and you can expect to find time stamped stickers on your dinghy from time to time.
5. On the public dinghy dock controlled by the County and located on Bayside Drive at the Harbor Patrol office in Corona del Mar on the backside of the pumpout dock, rules have changed and dinghies are now only allowed during daylight hours. The Newport Mooring Association would like to see this changed to have at least some space set aside for overnight usage and maybe even 72 hour usage. We have had some very reasonable discussion with Lt. Corn of the OCSD and are working on it.
 6. Mooring Permittees are only allowed to spend a maximum of three nights per month staying aboard their vessel while on their mooring. This rule has been in place for many years however many mooring permittees had hoped to get this rule changed to a twelve night maximum which would mirror the rules in most marinas. At the Title 17 Outreach meetings, we seemed well on our way to achieving the twelve night rule change, but this proposed change was shot down at the full Harbor Commission meeting in June after several vociferous bayfront homeowners complained about the change. Interestingly a mooring subpermittee – such as a visiting yachtsman – can stay aboard their vessel on their assigned mooring for up to 15 consecutive nights with permission from the Harbormaster. Clearly these rules need to be redefined a little better to appease both sides. If you feel strongly about this rule, please make your opinions known to the Harbor Commissioners and the Newport Beach City Council. The Newport Mooring Association plans to propose some ideas on this topic.
 7. Marina slips at Marina Park are now available to offshore mooring permittees in good standing for 3 hour periods Sunday through Thursday subject to slip availability. The

City is calling this their Get Ship Shape program and should be useful to some mooring permittees for wash pumpouts, replenishing the water tanks, light maintenance, etc. Although use of the slip for 3 hours is free, please note that the City is planning on charging \$12 for use of electricity. Since this defies common sense, hopefully this is just an oversight in their rules, and either it will get changed or maybe it will not be enforced.

The Harbor Department maintains a very good website: www.newportharbor.org and all of Title 17 can be reached from that website.

If you have questions regarding the Harbor Commission's review of Title 17, please contact the Harbor Department at 949-270-8159 or email title17review@newportbeachca.gov.

Code Enforcement – It's ongoing and a general rule of thumb to avoid code enforcement citations is that your vessel needs to look good out on her mooring. Think of your vessel as part of the overall beautiful harbor landscape. Your vessel should not stand out visually in a negative way. In a well maintained garden the weeds will get picked. Make sure your vessel isn't perceived as a weed. Most citations have to do with lack of vessel upkeep -- excessive bird crap and/or sea lions, black mold, flaking varnish, even a big hairy growth underwater due to lack of bottom cleaning are all items that will result in your boat being noticed. Pay particular attention to the type of sea lion deterrent devices you chose to use. Any device that could permanently harm a sea lion is not going to be legal and you risk being cited -- an example might be a wooden batten filled with sharp nails that could break off of your vessel and stay lodged in a sea lion. Be ready for a dye tab test. The City has the right to board your boat when you are aboard to do a dye test of your marine sanitation device and holding tank.

LONGER TERM ISSUES AND TOPICS:

Copper Bottom Paint – The State of California's Regional Water Quality Board, Los Angeles region, is once again pressuring harbors within its jurisdiction to adopt unreasonable rules regarding allowable bottom paints. The City of Newport Beach is on our side on this one and has displayed an admirable position in fighting for the rights of boaters in Newport Harbor.

Law Enforcement – The Harbor Patrol, which is run by the Orange County Sheriffs Department, remains the law enforcement agency in the harbor. The OCSD Harbor Patrol has no code enforcement responsibility with regards to City of Newport Beach rules and regulations (Title 17), and conversely the City of Newport Beach harborworkers and code enforcement personnel have no general law enforcement capability or responsibility when it comes to criminal activity. It is very probable that sometime in the not too distant future the City of Newport Beach police and fire departments will have a presence in the harbor in the form of a dedicated police boat and a dedicated city owned fire boat.

Changes to Mooring Field Boundaries – The Harbor Commission is tasked with making the harbor a better and

more useable asset for the public at large. In doing this there might be some impacts to the some of the mooring fields but the impacts are expected to be slight and very workable.

Accessibility – Most of the offshore moorings in Newport Harbor do not have shoreboat service and would have more value if they were more easily accessible. The beautiful City owned Marina Park facility would seem to be a natural spot to run a shoreboat service of some sort. There are rumblings that this might occur. In addition, it would seem that Marina Park should have some sort of dinghy dock access and main dock access for mooring permittees. The NMA is pushing for these things and we get the feeling that the City is in fact considering these proposals.

Join the Board of the Newport Mooring Association – Your NMA is looking for new boardmembers to help with all NMA activities. We could use help on several committees: If interested please send an Email to: mail@newportmooringassociation.org and plan to join us at our next board meeting.

