



Whoo News

April 2017

April Showers bring May flowers

We have had plenty of rain to give us great flowers, and lots of green. It seems even the wildlife is enjoying all that Mother Nature has gifted us this winter. But, now we are into Spring, are you prepared? It's a good time to clean out your boat before you head out on the water. It's easy and will save you a headache. In the meantime, it's time to prepare for a great boating season ahead, we can't wait to see you.

Happy Boating and
Happy Spring!

Your friends,
Devery, Max, Abby,
Stephanie, Twitchell and
Capt. Jack Sparrow

Coming Up and What's Next.....

April 1

Lodi Wine & Food Festival. Check it out at: www.grapefestival.com

April 1

It's a fool's day for those practical jokers. Stay on your toes.

April 6 - 9

Hope to see you at the Pacific Sail and Power Boat Show. Don't forget to use your Owl Harbor code **OWHARPBS17** to get a \$2.00 discount off your entry ticket price by March 31st. We have an Owl Harbor exhibitor's booth this year and hope you **come by E-04 to say hi, I'd love to see you!**

April 14

Good Friday

April 16

Happy Easter, the office will be closed.



April 22

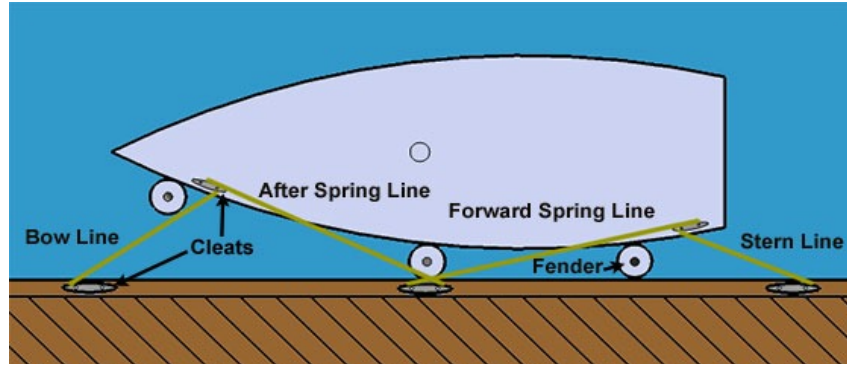
Earth Day

May 6

Owl Harbor Nautical Swap Meet. 8-Noon, rain or shine, free entry and free space available. Start collecting your goods now so you are ready for selling, trading, and buying! Please call, (916)777-6055, if you need more information. It's a great time!



The Docking Spring Line - are you set up and tied up correctly?



When using a spring line at the dock to secure your boat so that it doesn't move forward or aft while tied to that dock, the only thing to remember is that the lines are named for the direction that they go in when they leave your boat. An aft spring line goes aft and a forward spring line goes forward. So, if the skipper says "hand over the 'bow aft' spring line to the deck hand!" he means – go to the bow, put a line on the cleat and hand it to the deck hand who will walk aft and probably cleat it to the dock just past the mid-point of the boat.

The skipper will likely then say, "OK, hand him over the 'stern forward' spring line." You will then tie a line to your stern cleat, hand it to the dock hand who will walk it forward and cleat it to the dock, also just past the mid-point of the boat. You now have an "X" formed by the two spring lines criss-crossing each other. The aft spring line keeps the boat from moving forward and the forward spring line keeps the boat from moving aft. In that they are crossed like that, you don't need to leave any slack in them for the tide changes because they will act like scissors as the boat goes up and down with the tide!

BTW, the dock hand could have tied them both to the same mid-cleat on the dock as that does not put double pressure on one cleat. When the wind is on the bow, the stern forward spring line is the only one tensioning the cleat. When the wind is astern, it is the bow aft spring line that is keeping the boat from moving ahead.

As a good rule of thumb, if the boat is over 26' in length, you should have a spring line to secure the boat from swinging back and forth. It is also a safety issue that no bow should hang over into the main dock ways - if your boat is hanging over, time to adjust your lines!

Beautiful blooming echiums, bee in flight and Mt. Diablo in the background - awesome!



Yes, the fish are biting - right off the docks.



There's an App for that.... Expand your navigation tools with these boating Apps.

Ever wonder what the best apps are for you and your boat travels? Well, here is a list that Boating Magazine's, Randy Vance, has listed as pretty impressive with the navigation power and weather tracking. For those that really like their tablets and smart phones and want to do a little exploring, here you go.

1. Inavx
2. RaceLogic VBox Sport
3. FishWeather
4. Garmin Quatix 3 and Garmin Connect App
5. MyRadar NOAA Weather Radar
6. Navonics Boating
7. Jappesen Plan2Nav
8. Garmin Blue Chart Mobile
9. Skipper
10. SST Online
11. Terrafin

Not long ago we scoffed at the idea of using a tablet as the primary navigation device, not anymore. You may not be able to connect an autopilot to a tablet, yet, but you can do just about everything else with them. Waterproof cases, extra battery life and solar charging extend the safety and endurance of this great technology. Most are free to download (Apple Apps), and may provide just enough information to make it better on the water. They may have a charge for additional charts or subscriptions, but could be a good way to get introduced to "charting your course" in the Delta or Bay.

A Split Boat Won't Float.....

I recently read this article in Sea Magazine and thought I would share it as a little reminder and maybe some food for thought.

In most relationships, one of the partners (often the man) loves the boat far more than the other partner. Perhaps he owned the boat before he met his significant other. Perhaps the boat devoured years of his time while he lovingly and painstakingly built or restored the vessel. Or, it could be that the couple enthusiastically bought the boat together, but one of them has less admiration for it.

I've also heard that "living on a boat with one's partner is similar to living in a closet together." There is some truth to the statement. Few things will test a relationship faster than being in a confined space together. It makes little difference whether the boat is 25 feet or 50 feet, closeness can be an asset or a liability when it comes to a couple's compatibility. No boat is big enough for two when there is unresolved conflict. But when both are working toward a common goal, that of enjoying the freedom of the cruising life, it doesn't get much better!

As fun, romantic and adventurous as boating can be, make no mistake, a boat is a third party in the relationship. It can — and often does — drive a wedge between two people. Some of the best memories together can be on a boat, but the opposite can be equally true.

So, what's the secret to keeping your boat and spouse too?

Rule #1 - No Yelling

Rule #2 - Don't Minimize Fears

Rule #3 - Communicate

Rule #4 - Establish Trust

Rule #5 - It's a Team Effort

Rule #6 - Have a Plan for Docking

Rule #7 - Share the Chores

Rule #8 - Respect Each Other's Space

Rule #9 - Remember to Have Fun

