

# Whoo News

## May 2016



[www.OwlHarbor.com](http://www.OwlHarbor.com)

### *This Month @ Owl Harbor*

#### May is all about ....

Getting your boat ready for the water! What a great year this has turned out to be and just 5 months into it. We have had some good rain and nice breaks in between with sunshine. The marina looks the best I've ever seen it.

So what else does May bring? Our beloved swallows. Did you know that they will make nests in the same place as last year, especially if they were successful. This is their place, they love the water and insects, so don't be surprised if you haven't been out for a while if your boat has a few droppings, or nest. A few other things you will find this time of year; the fish biting and the vegetables as fresh as can be - so gear up, it's going to be great!

Cheers,

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

#### \*May 7<sup>th</sup>

Owl Harbor Nautical Swap Meet. 9-Noon. Bring your stuff to sell or trade. There will be coffee and donuts available to kick start your day.

#### \*May 8<sup>th</sup>

Happy Mothers Day

#### \*May 21<sup>st</sup>

Join in this National Event by supporting boating safety with "Ready, Set, Wear It! For more information visit: [www.readysetwearit.com](http://www.readysetwearit.com)

#### \*May 30<sup>th</sup>

Happy Memorial Day! We will be open from 10-4 with limited staff. Enjoy the day.

#### \*Other News

Every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings join us in

the clubhouse between 4:30 - 5:00 pm for Pilates, Yoga, Kick Boxing, Step or some other form of exercise. We have a few extra mats if you need to borrow one, but you will need to bring a step for the step exercise. No experience is necessary - it's just fun and good for you.

#### \*Coming Up

#### \*June 4<sup>th</sup>

Kick off for Movies on the Green - movie "Stripes"

#### \*June 18<sup>th</sup>

Tenant and Delta Doo Dah BBQ @ 5:00pm



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# Boating News

## Crew Communication

Many take for granted the clear days of talking with your crew. What do you do when you can't be within ear shot? Do you have hand signals in place to know what is going on or what to do, and I'm not talking about finger gestures?

There are many boating hand signs and with family or friends regularly crewing with you, it's good to get a few of these hand signals understood by them all. Like giving the "thumbs up" or "Ok" symbol to show the captain that all is good. Or when getting ready to anchor a thumbs up or pointing up to cue "drop anchor".

Take a look at what your signals look like, because someday the wind may be blowing and you won't be able to hear your crew no matter how loud they yell that "we have a problem"!



You would much rather see this:



## Kicking off to a great Boating Season

As you prepare for boating season, if you haven't been out on your boat for a season, or if you just want to do some regular maintenance, here are a few lists to get you started.

### \*Getting Started

-Reinstall batteries, top up lead acid batteries with distilled water. Charge, clean, tighten electrical connections.

-Open and close seacocks, hoses should be double clamped with stainless steel hose clamps. Replace any that look rusted.

-Inspect raw-water intake strainer to be sure it has not cracked and is clean and free of corrosion. Make sure strainer top fits snugly.

-Check running lights. Clean and tighten connections, check bulbs.

-Check VHF and GPS antenna connections by disconnecting and spraying with moisture-displacing lubricant, then connect and test.

-Look for indications of leaking at hoses, steering cables, and gasket areas.

-Make sure stuffing box or shaft seal is dry when boat is docked.

-Inspect portlights, hatches, deck fittings for dirty or displaced caulking, water trails, dirt and corrosion.

-Test bilge pump and high-water switches and alarms.

-Test smoke, carbon monoxide, and LPG alarms and detectors.

-Check flare and fire extinguishers dates and charges.

-Inspect swage fittings for rust and cracks. Running rigging should be supple and free of chafe.

-Run a rag over stays and shrouds to find "fishhooks" that indicate the wire may need to be replaced.

-Ensure that spreaders bisect the shrouds. Ends should be protected.

-Remove tape at turnbuckles and lubricate threads with Teflon.

-Run a water hose over chainplates to check for leaks. Look for rust streaks.

-Flexible gasoline lines should say "USCG Approved, J1527". Replace if they don't.

-Fuel hoses should be supple with no cracks, bulges or soft spots. Check for odors on the hose lines.

-Cooling hoses should fit snugly and be solidly clamped.

-Replace any hose clamps that show signs of corrosion.

-Replace fuel filters.

-Change engine oil, unless done in the fall. Check fluid levels: transmission, hydraulic and coolant.

-Check belts for tension and wear.

-Check pumps for seepage from gaskets that may need to be replaced.

-Check life jackets for frayed straps or broken clips.

These are a few steps you can take to make sure your boat, and you, are ready for a great trip.



Happy Boating  
And  
Be Safe.





# News & Noteworthy

## What's your fish story?

### More than just fish.....

Many have seen a number of different kinds of wildlife here in our slough, including some very happy sea lions. They are enjoying the buffet with the fish life that is starting to populate the slough, so don't be surprised if you hear a big splash. You may also be noticing the swallows, as I mentioned on page 1, they are beautiful pests that come here in swarms every season. Don't get too irritated with them though, they are great insect eaters and make the warming evenings less "pesty" from the bugs. Some other species you will start to see are the herons and egrets which are incredible to gaze at. Whatever you encounter, remember, this is nature at her best!

Spring is here and it's been a wet winter, but the fishing is starting to pick up with the spawning season coming into full swing.

Black bass are moving in to bulk up on food as they get ready to pair up, and as always around here, big rubber worms are a safe bet. Casting from the docks toward the levee and slowly twitching them, with the occasional pause will usually get a strike. Topwater frogs and surface plugs before sun up and after sunset can also get a blow up just when you least expect it.

The San Joaquin and Mokelumne Rivers are starting to clear up after the storms that muddied them a couple weeks ago, and the striped bass are moving in from the Bay to spawn. Big fish in small water is where it's at right now.

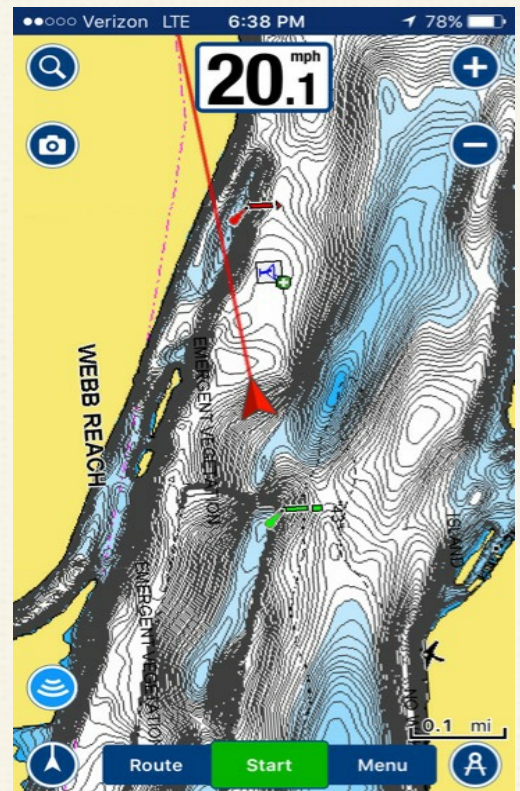
Topwater "walking" plugs and good 'ol rubber swim baits up shallow in the tullees may just get you the fish of a lifetime. The key is to find water in the 3-5 foot deep range, just at the edges of deeper water with good current flowing by.

Watch the tides and focus on the downstream ledges and drop-offs on the incoming, and just the opposite on the out go.

That's where the bait tends to collect, and electronics are helpful in locating these areas.

Fish finders and GPS are great if you have them, but the Navionics Boating App for your smart phone is the next best thing when it comes to finding the structure that fish relate to.

Tight lines...





# And then.....

.....You are here!



Great weather is here and boy are we having fun. Jo, one of our tenants, has been taking incredible photos of the property before she and her partner Gary head South. It's beautiful to see the marina through someone else's eyes - or lens. It truly catches my breath to look at all the pictures. Everything is in full force with the rains for watering and then the heat for making them grow.

We are also preparing for our regular summer guests, to wow them with some changes from last year, and welcoming many new guests here for the first time. It is gearing up to be one busy season, so for those that call Owl Harbor home, enjoy for now the solitude.



One of the entertaining photos is of the new head located across from F Dock on the levee. Some of you may recall we have always called it "Don's Bath". Well, Don, and everyone else, are in for a surprise with the remodel. It is turning out beautifully, and Kurtis, Javier, and Luis are doing an awesome job. In the meantime, as you can see in the photo below, we are really taking this outdoor place to the limit with the temporary head.

So, until you get here, I thought you could enjoy some photos of your home away from home. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

