



# Whoo News

## February 2018

### Love is in the Air.....

One month into the new year and hopefully you are keeping your plans to spend more time on your boat!

We are gearing up for our Super Bowl and Chili Cook Off this Sunday, February 4. We will start the fun around 2:00 pm so all the chili participants can get set up. The game will start at 3:30ish and we should be all set in our seats ready for kick off.

If you have some boat projects you have been meaning to get done before the "season" begins, now is a great time. We can price out the parts or items you need and hopefully save you some money and time by getting them here fast with free delivery.

We know that for some of our friends here, the year has started off either challenging or painful. Please know, we are here as friends to lend an ear, or a hug.

Here's to a great month, filled with love, laughter and being on the water.

Hope to see you soon,  
Devery, Max, Abby, Stephanie,  
Twitchell and  
Captain Jack Sparrow

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

#### February 4

Super Bowl LII and Chili Cook Off Party in the clubhouse.



#### February 14

Happy Valentine's Day



#### February 19

President's Day

#### March 1

New Gate Codes in Effect



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

# Updates.....

- **Garden preparation time.** Please let us know if you are interested in a garden spot, space is limited. Prior gardeners will need to let us know if you still want your plot, or we can give to the next person on the list.
- **We will be changing the gate codes on March 1.** Please do not give your personal code out to family and friends, we will gladly provide you with a guest code for your visitors. If we find your code is being used by others, we will need to change your code.

## Navigating Draw Bridges

Welcome to the Delta! We know many boaters are familiar with the Delta's different types of bridges, but for those that may not be yet, here are eight tips for dealing with drawbridges wherever you boat.

### Check Schedules

Some bridges open only at set times, such as every half-hour. Be sure to check the schedules for the bridges in the area where you boat.

### Clearance

Always read the clearance board, which is a graduated scale posted at water level on the right side of the bridge opening that shows the vertical clearance at the time. Skippers should know their vertical clearance and only request a bridge opening if they cannot pass under when the bridge is closed.

### Hail on VHF

Learn the hailing channel for requesting passage for the drawbridges in the area. Most Delta bridges monitor VHF Channel 9. Do not hail the bridge tender until you are in sight of the bridge, and use low-power (1 watt) to minimize radio traffic with distant boaters.

### Sound Signals

You can also signal the drawbridge by horn to request an opening with one prolonged blast (four to six seconds in duration) followed by one short blast (about one second). The bridge tender will reply with the same sound signal to acknowledge that the bridge can be opened immediately. When approaching an open drawbridge, use the same opening signal, and if no acknowledgment is received within 30 seconds, then you may proceed. When a bridge cannot be opened immediately, or is open and must be closed promptly, the bridge tender will sound five rapid short blasts after the vessel's opening-signal request. That's your indicator to stop and stand by.

### Avoid Bumper Boats

A crowd of boats can gather on both sides when waiting for a drawbridge, so it's critical to remain attentive at the wheel. Strong currents and winds can complicate the process. Also, be wary of other boats with captains who might not be paying attention when drifting or maneuvering and could possibly collide with your boat. Being attentive at the helm also means being a defensive helmsman.

### Play Through

If you have a low-profile boat that can fit under the closed bridge, you are free to proceed, but when there are boats waiting, proceed slowly and cautiously when weaving through the flotilla.

### Wait Your Turn

Once the bridge opens, wait your turn to proceed and adhere to the rules of the road (always stay to the right). With narrow bridge channels, you might need to hold back to make room for a particularly large vessel or one that's restricted in its mobility, such as a sailboat or a boat under tow. Lying back and letting the crowd go is often the best course of action.

### Bridge Types

There are several types of opening bridges. Some provide maximum height at the center or to one side, when open. Be aware of your bridge clearance and the geometry of a particular bridge.

# Happenings around the marina

