Port Director’s Corner

At its July Docks & Harbors Board meeting, Mr. Greg Busch was elected Board Chair for this year and Mr. Tom Donek has been appointed as the Vice-Chair. Greg previously served as the Vice-Chair. Docks & Harbors is also thankful for the many contributions and leadership provided by Mr. Kevin Jardell as he steps down after serving as Board Chair since 2011. Kevin will remain on as a Board Member.

In the fall, the Board will also convene a sub-committee to update the Docks & Harbors Board By-Laws, the consensus is that the three committee (CIP, Operations & Finance) will be consolidated into a two committee arrangement. In the near term, the two committees will be designated “Operations & CIP” and “Finance”. Chair Busch made the following assignments: Operations & CIP Committee: Budd Simpson (Chair), David Logan (Vice), John Bush & Bob Janes.

Finance Committee: Tom Donek (Chair), Scott Spickler (Vice), Kevin Jardell, Mike Peterson. Please note that the Operations & CIP Committee Meeting will be held on the CIP meeting schedule (Thursday August 22 at 5 pm in Assembly Chambers). Mike Peterson was also assigned as Liaison to the CBJ Lands Committee.

Mike Pusich Douglas Harbor sign unveiling

On Saturday, July 26th, Assembly members and Docks & Harbor Board members joined the Pusich family in a ceremony to unveil an interpretive sign which recognizes the renaming of the small boat harbor to the “Mike Pusich Douglas Harbor”. Approximately seventy Pusich relatives were on hand to witness the dedication of the sign which provides a historical context of Douglas Mayor Mike Pusich to lobby Congress for and to construct the Douglas Harbor in 1951. Ms. Sharon Pusich Gill, a granddaughter, led the ceremony which included acknowledgement of Mike Pusich’s civic involvement as Douglas Fire Chief, City Councilman, Mayor and as a successful businessman. The sign was funded through a CBJ historical grant and through private funding initiated by the Pusich family. The CBJ Assembly approved the renaming of the harbor in a resolution in April 2012. The sign is mounted near the main gangway leading to the harbor floats.


Speed Limits

Harbor patrons are kindly reminded that there remains a 5 knot speed restriction 1000 feet seaward from the Statter Breakwater. The white buoy marks the 1000 feet. Note the speed restriction within the harbor is 4 knots.

Docks & Harbors’ Employee of the Quarter. Ms. Teena Scovill, the Administrative Assistant at the Port Office, was recognized at the July Board Meeting as the inaugural recipient of the Docks & Harbors’ Employee of the Quarter. She was nominated by a peer for providing extraordinary customer service and innovation. She improved cruise ship billing procedures and actively engaged vendors holding commercial permits to ensure a smooth transition to the cruise ship season. Teena, single-handedly, stood-up the Docks & Harbors on-line launch ramp sales site at www.juneauharbors.com She was noted as having a can-do attitude and a strong commitment to CBJ Docks & Harbors. Teena received a plaque, a cash award and many thanks for her efforts.

Work Experience Program. Docks and Harbors supported the REACH work experience program by welcoming Allena Baysinger to work at the Port Director’s office executing administrative tasks during a six week period. This program is designed to assist people reentering the work force. A special thanks goes out to Allena for doing a great job!

Golden Salmon Derby Weekend (August 9-11). With major construction in the vicinity of Auke Bay, Derby participants should plan in advance their intentions in launching boats. With the congestion at Statter Harbor, it may be prudent to use other CBJ launch ramp facilities. Another suggestion has been to encourage boaters to launch their boats earlier in the week and drop off trailers offsite. Docks & Harbors has approached local land holders inquiring about using their lots for the Derby Weekend, thus far we have not received permission to do so.

Parking Lot adjacent to the People’s Wharf. The parking lot near the downtown Cruise Terminal berth is managed by Docks & Harbors. Our goal is to provide greater parking opportunities for local Juneauites picking up visitors traveling on cruise ship and for increased options to visit Franklin Street retail shops and the Mt Roberts Tram. The Board set the rate at $2.00 per hour last year. In 2014, this area will be transformed into the Terminal Staging Area and will be utilized by coaches and “A” permit holders. At that time private vehicle parking will be available at the new lot near the Twisted Fish at the rate noted above.

Aurora Harbor Public Meeting. On July 24th, Docks & Harbors held its 3rd public meeting on the rebuild of the Aurora Harbor. Thirty-two harbor patrons or stakeholders met at the Yacht Club and were provided an overview presentation along with questions & answers. The $11M Phase I project would replace A, B, C & D floats, associated head floats and access ramp. The current schedule calls for the project to be bid in January 2014 with a start date of October 2014 and a completion date of May 2015. Project review cards are available at the Harbor Offices.

The combined “Operations & CIP” meeting on August 22nd will again take public input into the design of Aurora Harbor Phase I. The major consideration yet to be determined is whether to build wider slip widths to accommodate the potential demand of the future commercial fishery industry at the expensive of building fewer slips. Public input is welcome which begins at 5 pm in the Assembly Chambers.

JUNEAU AREA SECTION 11-A CLOSED TO PERSONAL USE AND SPORT SHRIMP FISHING JULY 1, 2013 Due to declining commercial fishery catch per unit of effort (CPUE) indicating low shrimp abundance in section 11-A, the commercial fishery will be closed for a period of three years to allow the stock to rebuild. There is limited personal use (PU) and sport fishery harvest data available for this area, however creel census data from 2003-2007 indicate that the PU/sport fishery harvests were equal to commercial harvests during this time. Therefore, closure of all fisheries that harvest this stock is necessary to rebuild the stock. The personal use and sport shrimp fisheries will be closed until further notice.

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Act, often referred to as the Dingell-Johnson (D-J) Act or the Wallop-Breaux (W-B) Amendment, not only provides funding for sport fisheries management and research, but also funds projects to improve recreational power boating and sport fishing access. This legislation has created a model ‘user pay/user benefit’ program through federal excise taxes and import duties placed on sport fishing equipment, recreational powerboats, and gasoline used in recreational boats. The tax revenue collected by the U.S. Treasury is transferred to the U.S Department of Fish and Wildlife Service, which is the agency responsible for administering the SFR program.

Safety Tip – Dockside Do’s & Don’ts. Always neatly coil excess line both on the dock and onboard your boat to prevent tripping. Always turn off all AC breakers on board, then turn off the breaker and disconnect the power cord from the dock first. One slip and you could be in the water with a live wire. Always make sure you turn off all outside lights, instruments, and VHF radio, for your neighbors sake. Never connect a dock water supply to the pressure side of the water system on your boat. If a hose clamp quit or flexible hose ruptured, this could fill your boat with water and sink it. Never have a water tank that overflows anywhere onboard in case you leave the hose when filling. Plumb the overflow onboard.