



Port & Starboard MAY 2015 Volume 19 Issue 5

PORT OF NEWPORT

600 SE Bay Blvd.
Newport, OR 97365
www.portofnewport.com

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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PORT MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular Commission Meeting is **May 26, 2015 at 6:00 PM**, South Beach Activities Room, 2120 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport, Oregon 97365

YAQUINA BAY YACHT CLUB RACING SEASON HAS BEGUN

The Yaquina Bay Yacht Club's Spring Regatta was held April 25-26, 2015. The races were cancelled on Sunday due to lack of wind, although reportedly that did not keep people from having a good time. The club is located just east of Port Dock 7, and some racers used the Port's hoist dock to put their boats in the water. The Yacht Club was established in 1947 and member volunteers constructed its current clubhouse in 2004 on property leased from the Port. The Club offers all types of boating opportunities to members, from sailing to kayaking. It extends those experiences to the youths of the Newport community who wish to learn sailing skills. According to the Club website, a 20'x40' floating dock was added in partnership with the Oregon Boating Foundation for its Youth Sailing Program.



This photo, by Buzz Williams of the Yacht Club, shows Port Commissioner Ken Brown's boat leading the race that he won.

The regatta also provided a chance for young people to test their skills on the water, as well as the adults who participated.

The Club rents out its bay-front facilities to the public for special occasions. The Club generously provided the Port with the use of its clubhouse for the Port's April Board of Commissioners' meeting when the Port's Activity Room was in use by an RV group at the Marina RV Park. Our thanks to the Yacht Club for its hospitality and for being such a great neighbor.

PORT AND STARBOARD

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(See Website for Event Details)

- 05/14-26** Tall Ships
- 05/25** Memorial Day - Closed
- 05/26** Regular Commission Mtg
- 05/30** Newport Marathon
- 06/10** Fishermen's Forum
- 06/23** Budget Public Hearing
- 06/23** Regular Commission Mtg



LOYALTY DAYS CARNIVAL

The annual Loyalty Days carnival took place the last of April and the first days of May in the Port's dry camping lot at South Beach. The carnival is part of the larger Loyalty Days activities that are celebrated in Newport every year. According to the Oregon Coast Daily News, Loyalty Day was first started on the east coast by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Newport had its first Loyalty Day in May, 1956. As the popularity of Loyalty Day spread, Congress passed a resolution, signed by President Eisenhower, establishing May 1 as Loyalty Day to acknowledge America's freedoms. Newport celebrates Loyalty Days with the carnival, a parade, the coronation of the queen and her court, the Veterans' Honor Luncheon, the display of the Oregon Veterans' Traveling Wall, and the Oregon Hills Fun Run. The nice weather encouraged larger attendance at the carnival, and presumably for other events as well.

PORT OF NEWPORT BUDGET

Government entities throughout the state are preparing their budgets for the fiscal year 2015-2016, and the Port of Newport is no exception. The Port's Director of Finance, Steve Larrabee, prepared the budget for the Port's Budget Committee on Tuesday, the 12th of May. A public hearing on the budget will be held at the regular Board of Commissioners' meeting on June 23, 2015. Residents of the Port district can review the proposed budget on the Port's website at www.portofnewport.com.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

The Board of Commissioners passed a resolution at its April meeting establishing a policy that requires background checks on all new guests of both the RV parks and the Marina who register to stay for 30 days or more. An exception was made for guests who have stayed with the Port in the past and are of good standing. The background checks will consist of verifications of rental histories and any criminal convictions, as well as the recommendations of our harbormasters. Our RV parks are not residential parks, so establishing that guests are not using the parks for residency is part of the process. Like some other ports with RV parks and liveboards on boats in the marinas, issues have arisen that have placed the Port and other guests at risk of personal harm and property loss. The Port is implementing the use of background checks to try to prevent some of the excesses that have occurred in the past and to make sure that the Port is providing a safe and pleasant experience for all of our guests.

Vanessa Anderson, a staff member at the South Beach office, was instrumental in researching and writing the policy. She and Penny Gabrielson, also a South Beach staff member, attended the Pacific Coast Congress Conference in April and learned how other ports have been dealing with this issue.

PORT AND STARBOARD

PROFILE OF PORT EMPLOYEE KENT GIBSON

Kent Gibson began working for the Port in April, 1989. A Newport native, Kent and his wife Lucy live in their Newport home surrounded by Kent's pastime. Kent spends much of his spare time doing what many people do at the coast - beachcombing - but he has taken it to a whole new level. Kent is a nationally-known marine fossil hunter; several of his finds are now in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC. Kirk Johnson, Director of the Smithsonian natural history museum, has visited Kent's home in Newport twice to view his collection. In addition to searching for marine fossils on the Central Oregon Coast, Kent also searches for them in places such as Nevada, where marine deposits are also located. He often goes to the local beaches during or following winter storms to look for glass floats as well. Though glass floats from Asia are becoming less common, he has found as many as 27 in one day. Knowing how to look successfully for either fossils or floats obviously takes skill, knowledge, and a willingness to endure significant discomforts in the search for those special finds.

Kent started at the Port working security. He later went to operations at South Beach and then to operations on the commercial side. He does welding, operates equipment, and fills in at the International Terminal as needed.



Kent at his home in Newport with some of his fossil collection

Kent Gibson at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington D. C. The seven fossils on the counter next to Kent are some he has donated to the museum to add further enrichment to the nation's knowledge in the field of marine paleobiology.



PORT AND STARBOARD

INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL

The terminal dock continues to be busy as more Alaska boats returned and stripped gear to prepare for boat work or to get ready for the upcoming Pacific Whiting season. The last of the shrimp gear was finally loaded on boats returning late from doing boat-yard work. Offshore whiting should begin on the 15th of May.

Foul Weather Trawl's crew was seen working on a mid-water net again; it's that time of year. Sara is looking at possible increases in the number of Black Cod pots they are producing. Northern Refrigeration and J. Lamb Marine Electric have also been busy with Whiting boats.

Pacific Seafood is using an area at the terminal to prepare freezer equipment to be installed at their fish plant on the west end of the bay front. They hired the Port's crane to lift several items from trucks including two picks over twenty thousand pounds.



PORT OF NEWPORT'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Vanessa Anderson and Aja Vickers, South Beach staff, have constructed a Facebook page for the Port as part of a strategy to better market the Port facilities. Port revenues from RV space rentals and moorages in the recreation marina spike significantly in the summer, so having an additional way to make the Port more visible to the traveling and boating public can only be a plus. It could prove to be an asset in promoting the commercial docks and the International Terminal as well.

NEWPORT MARATHON

The Newport Marathon and half-marathon will be run on Saturday, May 30. Runners will start at the lighthouse at Yaquina Bay State Park, run north along the ocean in residential areas before turning south, going under the bridge and continuing along the bay front and up the Yaquina River. Eventually, they will return to Newport. The end of the marathon and the awards ceremony will be at Port Dock 7. The races are both sold out. Proceeds will go to the Newport Booster Club, which will in turn benefit the local schools. Newport High School athletics is the principal beneficiary, especially track and field and cross country. However, all of the Lincoln County schools' track and field and cross country teams help with the Newport Marathon, and some of the proceeds are then used to help fund those programs as well.

PORT AND STARBOARD

MEETING WITH ADMIRAL LOPEZ

On April 27, Admiral Lopez arrived from Washington D.C. She was here for the change of command for the director position at NOAA MOC-P; Captain Todd Bridgeman replaced Captain Eric Berkowitz, who was called back to NOAA command in Washington D. C. She had requested an opportunity to meet with local dignitaries to discuss ongoing relationships and operational needs. She met at the Port's South Beach Activities Room with General Manager Kevin Greenwood, Commission President Walter Chuck, and NOAA Facilities Manager Rick Fuller from the Port; also in attendance was Newport Mayor Sandra Romagoux, City Manager Spencer Nebel, and Captain Doug Baird of NOAA. The possibility of the Coast Guard fast response cutters being stationed in Newport also came up in the discussion, given the timeliness of the topic.

SOUTH BEACH

Opening day of halibut season was Thursday the 14th and it has been very busy, with both transient docks fully reserved, and the other docks filling as well. The pay station took this opportunity to break down, so boaters are having to pay their launch fees the old fashion way - putting cash or checks in an envelope and filling out a stub to put on their dash. They can also pay for their launch fees at the South Beach office. However, a new pay station is on its way. The new one will allow people to pay with a debit or credit card, which will be an improvement over the old pay station. Unfortunately, it will take four to six weeks to receive it and get it installed. Hopefully it will be in place for 4th of July weekend. Staff also hopes to have the boat launch striping done before the full season arrives.

Staff, under the direction of the Coast Guard, moved the rough bar closure light so it will be more visible to boaters. The Coast Guard will also put up a reader board at the boat launch in the next couple of months, advising people about bar conditions, and will post a notice of the fines that will be imposed if the bar closure warnings are ignored.



At left is the relocated rough bar closure light. The new reader board displaying bar conditions will be installed where the life jacket loaner board is now located at the boat launch. The loaner jackets will be placed on the Coast Guard shack at the entrance to the boat launch where they will be better protected from wind.



PORT AND STARBOARD

NORTH SIDE

The Tall Ships have arrived for their annual visit. This year they will be here through Memorial Day until May 26. The hoist dock is still busy with hag fish (slime eels) sales. Shrimp and salmon fishing is ongoing, although most of the salmon boats are down near Charleston now. The east parking lot at Port Dock 7 has been graded and is in better shape, in anticipation of the marathon later this month, which will end at the Port. The rehab of the maintenance office at Port Dock 7 is close to completion. Clear panels were put on the roof, which makes the interior much brighter and reduces the need to turn the lights on. The new coat of paint inside and the clear panels on the roof make a big difference in how the interior of the shop looks and feels.



Lighter and Brighter Makes for Better Working Conditions in the Shop

Have a fun and safe Memorial Day Weekend.