

Message from the Harbormaster

January 2016

Recreational boating continues to flourish across the nation. It is a pastime that offers pleasure, sport, fun, and relaxation. Few places anywhere offer the tranquility or the peaceful atmosphere that exists on Black Rock Harbor.

In our ongoing quest to provide an exceptional recreational opportunity for our boaters and follow the Bridgeport Harbor Commission's "Harbor Management Plan", we are very pleased that we are able to continually make boating a wonderful experience in Bridgeport.

Providing a pump out service (VHF Channel 9) in both Black Rock Harbor, Johnson's Creek and the Bridgeport Harbor area goes a long way toward our goal of establishing and maintaining an eco-friendly environment that all of us on our waters can be proud of.

In Black Rock Harbor, there are almost 1000 vessels in marinas, yacht clubs, moorings, including guest vessels. A large amount of these vessel owners are from outside of Bridgeport.

There are commercial tug and barge activities going on constantly. We have our Aquaculture Research Vessel making daily trips. Launch boats working all day long. We also have the famous Middlebank II Deep Sea Party Fishing Boat making trips daily along with Captain's Cove Scenic Cruises.

With all this action going on, I am going to make a good effort to have a noticeable presence of enforcement vessels patrolling this area. The Harbor Division of the Police Department is charged with the responsibility to ensure compliance with safe boating "rules-of-the-

road" while enforcing existing statutes and by-laws, all for the safety of those using the harbor.

For our visitors, our channel is a narrow channel. In some areas we barely have enough room for 2 way traffic. As you get deeper into the harbor the first building on your left is called Port Five. At this point the channel gets even narrower where even a small wake causes a dangerous situation.

This message is for all boaters. The gasoline pump at Fayerweather Yacht Club is usually filling up boats all day long. The next large marina is Captain's Cove. *These two areas are a "NO WAKE" area. Remember, you are responsible for your wake.* I have seen gasoline shoot up out of a vessel's gas tank spout and splash all over the dock and inside the vessel being gassed. This is because of a boater not abiding by the no wake law. ***Turn Around and check to see if your wake is appropriate when approaching these areas!***

As we all know, every Captain should have a boat safety card. What is amazing is how much people forget from the class. Every season we see many children still sitting on a vessel's bow dangling their feet while under way. We actually stopped several personal watercrafts while underway because children were sitting on the front hood. There are still children walking the docks without a PFD. There are always PFDs still in plastic, brand new, stored down below in cubbies instead of being fitted to each person and being easily accessible. There are many captains that never look back to see how large of a wake they are making and not realizing the havoc they are creating to other vessels.

KAYAKS - are the number one non motorized vessel that scares me the most. Each year more and more Kayakers enjoy the sound. Each year more and more kayakers need to be rescued or lose their lives.

- If you are a Kayaker, please take a safety course.
- If you are a boater, please turn around and check out your wake when approaching a Kayaker. Once you pass the kayak, turn around and give a quick look to see if they are OK. Again, if your wake harms a kayaker, you are responsible.

Communication - I would like you to email me of anyone you see breaking the law in our harbors. I will need the make and model of the vessel and the CT Numbers. I will pass it along to the Marine Police.

email: harbor.master@bridgeportct.gov

Please visit the Harbormaster's web page for a huge amount of information. Good luck to all captains on their maiden voyage for 2016.

Tony Palumbo
Bridgeport Harbormaster