



# Vallejo Municipal Marina Newsletter

June 2018

## Upcoming events >>>

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July

Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>  
Vallejo Downtown & Waterfront

### USCG Auxiliary Free Vessel Safety Check Day

Vallejo Municipal Marina  
Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>  
9:30AM – 2:00PM  
(see Marina Office for more info.)

## Important Announcements

### New Berth Rates

Per Resolution 16-051 N.C., effective July 1, 2018 new slip rental and live aboard rates will be implemented. Official notice of these changes were sent in May 2018.

### Temporary Office Hours

Please be advised that starting June 18<sup>th</sup> Marina Office hours will temporarily be:

Mon – Wed – Fri  
8:30-4:00

Tues – Thurs  
12-4:00

## 10 Tips for Boating at Night

By Lenny Rudow

**1. Gear up, even if you don't really plan to be out after dark.** Every boat should have an emergency flashlight aboard. A bag of glow-sticks is also helpful; if you find yourself out after dark have each crewmember crack one and put it in a pocket or on a lanyard, so if someone falls overboard they can be easily spotted. And consider getting some night-vision gear.

**2. Turn down the ambient light.** Dim everything you can as much as you can, from the chartplotter to the courtesy lights. Any and all light on your boat reduces your ability to see beyond the bow, because your eyes automatically adjust to the amount of light available to them. When your eyes detect a level of brightness above that of the surroundings they may adjust to "mesopic" vision, used for intermediate light levels, where neither the rods nor the cones in your eyes function at peak efficiency—what we commonly call "killing your night vision."

**3. Slow down.** Yes, we know this one's pretty obvious, but if you've ever been on the water at night you've probably seen some nut-ball roaring across the water at highway speeds. On a night with full moonlight in open, un-congested waters you may (or may not) have enough visibility to feel safe just barely breaking a plane, but when it's really dark out, pre-planing speeds are in order.

**4. Post a look-out (who isn't driving).** The captain has concerns that go beyond watching ahead. You have to monitor the gauges, adjust the throttle, and check the chartplotter. In broad daylight you can afford to glance away now and again to take care of these tasks, but at night there must always—always—be a pair of eyes directed to the horizon and nothing else.

**5. Use the chartplotter as little as possible.** Even in fully dimmed modes, looking at a chartplotter will temporarily diminish your night vision. Glance at it sparingly, and instead use your compass to hold a proper, if less than ideal, heading.

**6. Keep a towel handy.** You can use it to drape over any light-giving item that you can't afford to completely black out, like that chartplotter, gauges, or the VHF display. Then, when you need to look at these items, all you have to do is pull the towel away.

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## CALIFORNIA BOATER CARD

As of January 1, 2018 the mandatory boating safety education law went into effect. The law requires anyone who operates any type of motorized vessel on California waterways (including powered sailboats/paddlecraft) to pass an approved boating safety examination and carry a lifetime California Boater Card. The California Boater Card shows that its holder has successfully taken and passed a NASBLA/state-approved boater safety education exam. The California Boater Card program will be phased-in by age for operators of motorized boats on state waterways (see California Harbors and Navigation Code Section 678.11(b) for the phase-in schedule). The card is issued by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW). The lifetime card fee is \$10.

## Go GREEN - EMAIL

In order to be environmentally friendly, all statements, notices, and newsletters will be emailed moving forward. If you wish to receive a printed copy *in addition to an emailed copy*, please let us know. Thank you in advance for helping us help the environment!

Rent Payments are due by the 10<sup>th</sup>!  
Payments can be made at the following locations:

Check and Credit Card  
Marina Office  
42 Harbor Way  
Vallejo, CA 94590

Cash, Check and Credit Card  
Commercial Services,  
City Hall  
555 Santa Clara Street  
Vallejo, CA 94590



**Vallejo Municipal Marina**  
42 Harbor Way  
Vallejo, CA 94590

707-648-4370  
[www.cityofvallejo.net](http://www.cityofvallejo.net)

Office Hours  
Monday-Friday  
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

**After Hours Maintenance**  
**Emergency Pager**  
**707-746-3473**



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**7. Don't believe your own eyes when they tell you the chartplotter is wrong.** Things get deceiving on the water after dark, especially when looking for lighted landmarks. A close bell buoy may appear bigger and brighter than a distant lighthouse and can easily draw you off course, for example. If your chartplotter tells you one thing and your eyes tell you another, second-guess yourself—and slow down even more, if possible, until you figure out who's right.



**8. Leave the “headlights” and the spotlight turned off.** Sure, it's comforting to be able to see clearly for a few dozen feet. But that's about all those lights can do for you, and between the glare and the effect on your night-vision, you won't be able to see one bit beyond that. Headlights on boats are really called docking lights, and that's exactly what they're good for. Spotlights should only be turned on and panned for a moment or two, to locate reflective markers or other objects you're specifically trying to find.

**9. Try to avoid looking at or getting close to boats with their docking lights or spotlights on.** First off, since they're leaving those lights on you know they're probably inexperienced at night cruising and likely are out of their depth. Secondly, if a wave or panning causes one of those lights to suddenly point directly at you, you'll lose all semblance of night vision and find yourself temporarily blinded.

**10. Don't tilt your head back and gaze at the stars for more than a moment or two.** This may well be tempting on a clear, calm night, because the stars seem 100 times brighter than they do on land. Without all the usual light pollution, stargazing from a boat can be incredible. But if the boat's in motion, staring at the heavens for more than a few seconds can give you vertigo. Worse still, once vertigo hits seasickness often follows—even for experienced mariners.

Retrieved on June 11, 2018 from <http://www.boats.com/how-to/10-tips-for-boating-at-night/>

**BOAT QUOTE: “Someone asked me, if I were stranded on a desert island what book would I bring...’How to Build a Boat.’” - Steven Wright**

Retrieved on June 18, 2018 from [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/steven\\_wright\\_578936?src=t\\_boat](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/steven_wright_578936?src=t_boat)

## Is your boat an anchor

### What if I just walk away from my boat?

Under California law any owner found guilty of abandoning a vessel shall be fined \$1,000 to \$3000, and may be ordered to pay any additional costs for the removal and disposal of the vessel to the removing agency. Abandoning a boat is one of the worst things a boat owner can do to get rid of an unwanted boat. When a boat is abandoned the detrimental effects can be immediate, and may have serious consequences to:



Public safety • Water quality • Environment and sensitive habitats • Navigation • Local businesses • Marinas and waterway residences • Structures and other features • Resources of state and local governments

Proper vessel disposal is a vital part of clean and responsible boating, and if it's your boat it's your responsibility.

For information on the Vessel Turn In Program (VTIP), visit the CA Department of Boating and Waterways website at [https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=28768](https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28768)

Retrieved on May 29, 2018 from [https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/pages/28702/files/vtip\\_1pg.pdf](https://dbw.parks.ca.gov/pages/28702/files/vtip_1pg.pdf)