

KEVO'S BOATING TIPS & MORE

BY
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Clean Marinas California Program

Respecting and being a good steward of the marine environment is a responsibility shared by everyone associated with boating. Who among us would want to go boating in an unhealthy nautical environment or keep their vessel berthed in a polluted marina? Me neither!

This is why I am adamant about informing and explaining to my clients at Pacific Powerboating how to be a responsible boater when it comes to preserving the marine environment. This module of instruction is called "Machinery/Systems Orientation." In addition to explaining the mechanical/electrical/ventilation and hydraulic systems, I show my client the "Y" valve, pumpout procedures, fueling procedures and waste management.

What the heck is a Y valve you ask? A Y valve directs the flow of black water, and in some cases gray water, either into a holding tank or overboard into the marine environment. So what the heck is the difference between "gray" water and "black" water, you ask? Black water comes from the vessel's heads. Gray water comes from sinks and showers.

If the vessel does not have a type 1 or type 2 waste treatment system, the law requires that this valve be shut and secured when the vessel is within 3 miles of U.S. coastal waters. (In some areas the required distance from shore is significantly larger.) I have found that a "cable tie" is a very good method of securing this valve shut. The only way to open the valve is to physically cut the tie with a knife or wire cutter so there is no way the valve can open accidentally.

It is interesting that on a significant percentage of pre-owned vessels I find the Y valve in the open position. This was the case when we purchased our boat, *Her Way*. More often than not, my new client are mortified when I inform them that they have been discharging untreated waste into the marine environment unintentionally. Well, it turns out the California marina industry has a program to help both marina operators and boaters keep our marinas cleaner and safer as well.

The CMCP's Mission Statement

"An ongoing endeavor, by a marine industry alliance, determined to provide environmentally clean facilities and protect the state's coastal and inland waterways from pollution through compliance of best management practices."

The Clean Marinas California Program (CMCP) grew out of a concern by local marine interests in Southern California. They felt that the State Water Quality Control Board for Region 9, which governs harbors from Dana Point to Chula Vista, would soon require local marinas, yacht clubs and other

waterfront concerns to pay for and abide by pollution source permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

The CMCP is administered by the Marina Recreation Association (MRA) and supported by both MRA and the California Association of Harbor Masters & Port Captains (CAHMPC), the two largest marina associations in the state. Tim Leathers, regional vice president for Almar Management Inc., which manages marinas up and down the coast, chaired a committee that developed the CMCP manual and certification program. The first marina to be certified under this program was San Diego's Cabrillo Isle Marina in April of 2004.

Since then, 57 marinas in California have been certified clean marinas, including 14 in Northern California. This represents approximately 10 percent of all marinas and yacht clubs with at least 10 berths.

The agenda for being certified a clean marina under the CMCP includes but is not limited to:

- Emergency management and preparedness
- Petroleum Containment
- Topside Boat Maintenance & Cleaning
- Underwater Boat Hull Cleaning
- Marina Operations
- Marina Debris
- Boat Sewage Discharge
- Solid Waste
- Liquid Waste
- Fish Waste
- Hazardous Materials
- Storm Water Runoff



To find out more about each of these issues and view the entire CMCP, visit www.cleanmarinascalifornia.org.

Goals of the CMCP

One of the goals of the CMCP is to get participation from volunteers involved with the marine industry to be trained as inspectors for the program. Yacht club members, marina employees, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA) and United States Power Squadron (USPS) members and others are encouraged to join this effort to keep the waters in our marinas as clean as possible. If you would like to get more information on being trained to be a CMCP inspector, contact Ms. Mariann Timms at 209/334-0661.

The overall goals of the CMCP for 2007 include but are not limited to: (1) Certifying as many marinas and yacht clubs in Northern California as possible; (2) Getting community involvement to help administer the program; and (3) Get the word out to all marinas in Northern California that this program is available to them and that it is in their best interest to get certified as a Clean Marinas California marina.

Pittsburg marina, where the Admiral and I berth our vessel, *Her Way*, was just certified a Clean Marinas California marina on April 12, 2007, and we are proud that the management of the marina has taken steps to address these very important ecological and environmental concerns as well as to apply best management practices to the operation of the marina. We are also proud to tell our friends that our vessel is berthed in a Clean Marinas California marina.



From Antioch, left to right: Larry Nash, Marina Maintenance; John Cruger-Hansen, Harbor Master; and David Palmeri, Marina Maintenance.



From Bellina Isle, left to right: Dan Leininger, Office Manager; Linda Leathers, Marina Manager; Cynthia Dupont, Customer Service Representative; and Sara Larsen, Customer Service Representative.



From Emery Cove Yacht Harbor, left to right: Matt McDonell, Assistant Harbor Master; Diane Isley, Harbor Master; and Tim Paprocki, Dock Maintenance.



From Marina Village Yacht Harbor, back row from left to right: Stephen Orosz, Assistant Harbor Master; David Merrick, Dockmaster; and Alan Weaver, Harbor Master Par Excellence. Front row from left: Jose Flores, Maintenance Technician, and Sandra Coong, Office Manager.

Kevo's Tip:

Is your marina a certified Clean Marinas California? Would you like it to be? (Who wouldn't?) Why not bring this program to your marina or yacht club management's attention? They can get more information on this **GREAT** program by visiting www.cleanmarinasocalifornia.org.



From Pittsburg, left to right: Kevin Billeci, Recreational Service Worker Lead; Matthew Fraga, Recreational Service Worker; Lisa Folena, Account Clerk; Rafael Munoz, Recreational Service Worker; Vita Collaco, Administrative Assistant; Gene Lacey, Recreational Service Worker; and Van DePiero, Harbor Master.

org or contacting Mariann Timms: Marina Recreation Association, 14900 West Highway 12, #D14, Lodi, CA 95242, 209/334-0661 phone, 209/334-6876 fax, 209/482-1152 cell, timms@marina.org or www.marina.org.

Going forward, I predict being a CMCP certified marina is going to take on greater and greater priority as a criteria for potential berthers in determining where to berth their vessels. Also, *Bay & Delta Yachtsman* has announced that going forward all certified clean marinas in Northern California would be acknowledged and celebrated with a photo in the magazine of the staff holding the Clean Marina official burgee just like the ones

in this article. There may even be an insurance incentive for your marina or yacht club to become certified as a Clean Marina. If that doesn't get their attention... check their pulse!

As always feedback is appreciated. I can be reached at 925/890-8428 or kevo@yachtsmanmagazine.com.

Be safe & happy boating! ☞