



ANCHORAGE
MARINA 

ANCHOR WATCH

Your Home on the Harbor! Vol. I, Issue 1

Hello, friends!

Welcome to Anchorage Marina's monthly newsletter!



Curious about upcoming events at Anchorage Marina?

Trying to stay abreast of goings-on in the Canton neighborhood?

Want to test your knowledge of nautical trivia? Read on!

AHOY FROM THE HELM



*Glenn Shaefer,
General Manager*

Happy New Year! We have so much going on at Anchorage this year, and so much to look forward to! Right now we are in the middle of having about 50% of our pilings sleeved. The new 8 ft. steel sleeves are the most cost-effective way of

NUMBERS TO KNOW

AMI Office:

(410)-522-7200

After Hours Security:

(EMERGENCIES ONLY)

(443)-520-9567

dealing with the electrolysis which has been chewing its way through the pilings in the marina for the past 30 years. The sleeves will add 10 to 15 years, and maybe even more, to the longevity of the pilings. New docks replacing D, E, and F are also in the works for 2018. We will keep you updated on the progress and projected replacement schedule as that information becomes available.

We have BIG plans for Anchorage this year, and we will start 2018 off right with a Super Bowl party in the boaters lounge on Sunday, February 4th. Come on down with some snacks to share (and your favorite libation). We'll tailgate party our way through the game and have a great time! Speaking of great times, we will be putting together a full 2018 schedule of all marina events within the next few weeks, so keep an eye out for the next edition of Anchor Watch. You can also take a look at our website's 2018 Anchorage Marina event calendar.

Please remember to visit your boat often throughout the winter season to check on your dock lines and power cords, and to make sure your boat is handling the winter well in general. In all this very cold weather it doesn't take much to break open a hose, cause a bilge pump to fail, or create some other potentially catastrophic situation. Thankfully the dock support team of AJ and Christina, led by our Dockmaster, Wayne, is busy keeping a watchful eye on the boats. But it's almost impossible to catch everything, so a monthly visit by you is highly recommended to assure that your boat is safe and sound! While you're at the marina, stop by the office and say hello to Rheannon and Maggie. They will greet you with big smiles, and assist you with your marina business needs. If there's anything I can help you with, please reach out to me via email at: gm@anchorage marina.com Until next time, stay warm, everyone. We will be enjoying the boating season again before you know it!

Best regards to all, Capt. Glenn Shaefer

WHEN SPARKS FLY

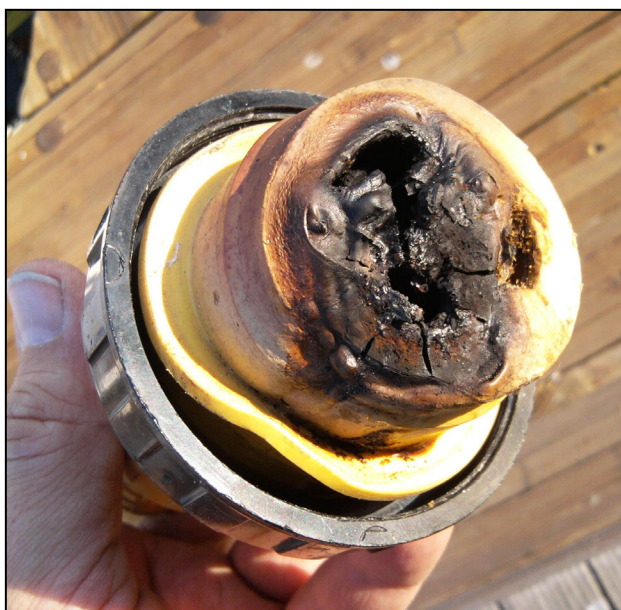
By an Anchorage member

After two weeks away for the holidays, I came back to a very cold boat. I turned both space heaters up to max—only 25 amps on a 30-amp line. As the cabins warmed, I turned one down to half and went to sleep. The next day was balmy, for January, and I turned on both heaters. The first indication of trouble was an odd chirping from my cell phone. I saw no alerts, but noticed the charge was stopping and starting. Moments later, the UPS feeding the phone and laptop whined and flashed “wiring fault.”



Immediately, I checked all the inside connections. None were warm. I figured the marina power was fritzing. Switching of the circuit breakers, which had not tripped, I stepped on shore to check the power pedestal with a test lamp. That connector looked good. The plug was not warm, and the test lamp turned on. What was wrong? Back aboard, I checked the GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) box. Not warm, and cables coming in and going out, fine!

The last thing I checked was where the shore power cable plugged into the boat. Now I noticed that plug had a slight curl on one side. As I unscrewed the retaining ring the plug slid out, charred and melted! The socket had a blade missing and a burnt hole where it should be. Unscrewing the socket from the hull, I discovered the back melted and burned from what had to have been very intense heat.



“Most winter boat fires start right there. At the boat inlet connection,” says Robert Adriance, editor of *Seaworthy*, the safety publication of Boat U.S. Insurance Group. In response to my protest of never having exceeded a 25-amp load, he says, “This wasn’t excess current; it was resistance, probably from corrosion, which caused extreme heat. That’s why your breakers never tripped. They only detect excess current.” But the connections looked fine three weeks ago.

NAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE: “WHO WAS CHING SHI?” See next page for answer

Bob Campbell of Marine Electric Systems has seen a lot of melted connectors. “Electric feeds to a house are bolted on, but boats have a simple twist lock plug,” he explains. “It is a big extension cord.” The connections have two enemies: moisture and wiggling. Tides come and go, waves and wind move the boat around, and cockpit connections are bumped. If the connection is not secure, if it wiggles a little bit, the metal plates of plug and socket may separate. If they do, the electricity may maintain flow by jumping across the air gap. “There is still an electrical connection, just not copper to copper. “Arcing,” he said, “generates a lot of heat!”

If the plates reconnect, or power is turned off by the switch or heater cycling on ther-

NAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE: “WHO WAS CHING SHI?”

Ching Shih, also known as “Madame Ching,” was perhaps the most successful pirate of all time. She lived in China during the Qing Dynasty, and commanded over 80,000 men and 1,800 ships. An ex-prostitute and brilliant businesswoman, she married Cheng I, the commander of the Red Flag Fleet of pirates, when she was 26 years old. She became an equal partner in his organization, and after his death she took over and expanded the fleet. Unlike many pirates, she was never captured. Instead, she voluntarily retired at 35 after negotiating a cushy amnesty deal with the Chinese government. She died in 1844, when she was 69 years old. For more information, check out the NPR show *On Point*’s archived podcast episode, “Real ‘Pirate Women’ on the High Seas of Old,” or the Atlas Obscura online article “The Chinese Female Pirate Who Commanded 80,000 Outlaws.”

mostat, the arcing stops. But the plates are damaged, and as they cool, corrosion forms. Corrosion makes more resistance to current flow, which generates higher heat. A self-destructive process is underway. Superheated contacts cool and form more corrosion and superheat again. Once the damage begins, it worsens until catastrophic failure occurs, which can happen very quickly.

What can boaters do to prevent this, or detect it is happening? Campbell and Adriance agree on the particulars. Although this can happen on any boat, the older the cables, plug, and boat, the more likely there will be problems. These components age and live in a lousy environment. In rain and spray, during summer heat and bitter winter cold, moisture, even just from the atmosphere, gradually works its way into a locker or lazarette. Moisture is an enemy and will begin corrosion. So, keep the ends dry. Use covers or boots.

“Fire and smoke alarms are cheap insurance,” says Adriance. “Buy more than one. When you seal the boat up for winter weather, leave yourself more than one way out.”

My problem developed at a socket mounted in the cockpit. No smoke had yet penetrated the cabin, but an alarm mounted inside the locker, behind the socket, probably would have sounded. I was lucky the ultimate failure happened when I was awake with minimal current flowing. Looking at my pictures, Adriance says, "that boat could have gone up in a nanosecond."

(Article reprinted courtesy of Spinsheet)

Do you have a story about a boat problem that you solved? A harrowing near miss? Send it to: receptiondesk@anchorage marina.com

GOT REGISTRATION?

This year it is easier than ever to renew your vessel registration! The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has announced that boat owners can renew their registration online at the DNR's online licensing and registration service, or through the Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration eStore. To do so, visit dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Pages/Vessel-Registration-Renewal.aspx. All that's required are your hull identification and vessel numbers.

Then make sure to bring proof of your renewed registration to the marina office, as we must have copies of your up-to-date vessel registration and insurance in our files at all time.

PLANNING AHEAD?

The Maryland Fleet Week & Air Show is October 6th through 9th. Check out visitbaltimore.org and its page on Fleet Week & Air Show Baltimore events. This is not to be missed!



Terrapin, the Lyons' (C-Dock) cat-ketch junk rig. Do you have any summer boating pictures? Send them!

NAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE: What poet wrote the following lines, and what was the name of the nautical-themed poem the lines come from?

*Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.*

(See next page for answer)

BECOME AN EXPERT PILOT!

The US Power Squadron (USPS) is offering a piloting course here at Anchorage Marina. The course will cover the basics of coastal and inland navigation, including many in-class exercises that help students hone their skills through hands-on practice and learning.

Begins THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1st, at 7pm in the AMI boaters' lounge.

Cost: \$78 for members, \$130 for non-members. Limited to 12 seats. If interested, contact Glenn Haldeman at gbhaldeman@comcast.net

PARTY, PARTY!

One of the best things about living in a marina with a large liveaboard community is that you truly have neighbors—they just happen to live on homes that float! So come enjoy some lively company and good entertainment at these upcoming events.

SUPER BOWL LII *The party starts at 4pm on February 4th.*

WHERE: The Anchorage Marina Boaters' Lounge. The game starts at 6:30pm. There will be a keg of beer, as well as oysters and sausages! AMI will also provide ice, sodas, and water. Bring a snack to share!

90TH ACADEMY AWARDS *(the Oscars)*

Party starts at 5pm on March 4th. The show starts at 6:30pm.

WHERE: Ice, sodas, and water will be provided. Bring some nibbles! RED CARPET ALERT: Dressing up is encouraged! Bring your best red carpet fashion game.

The iconic lines are from the poem "Rime of the Ancient Mariner," by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.



Location, location...

When you're situated in the heart of the Inner Harbor, it can seem like there's almost too much to do! Where do you start? Well, here are a few of our favorite spots. And don't worry; we don't get paid to advertise them! So you can trust that our love is real...

OLD-TIMEY BAR: Myth & Moonshine *2300 Boston St.*

If you get bored of the same drink over and over, then this is the place for you. They have so many flavors of moonshine that you'll be trying something new each time for months! Plus, there's a pool table upstairs and their burgers are excellent.

BEST BUFFET: Darbar *1911 Aliceanna St.*

\$11.99 for all-you-can eat Indian food, and you've never met nicer servers. Rheannon and Maggie, Anchorage Marina's administrative assistants, are die-hard fans.

WATERFRONT EATS: Cannery Row *2723 Lighthouse Pt E*

Try the grilled calamari, a personal favorite of our General Manager, Glenn Shaefer!

COFFEE, COFFEE, COFFEE: The Daily Grind *1720 Thames St.*

Are you the kind of person who always adds an extra espresso shot to your latte? Then The Jitter Machine is your dream come true. At four shots in their 12 oz. size, it's so much espresso that the baristas give you a warning! This drink is not for the caffeine novice.

