

The Yacht Doctor

March 2011

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The Set & Drift

Tsunami

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We made it through the Japan Tsunami. Ventura County harbors received little, if any damage. Our prayers go out to those affected and displaced by the earthquake and tsunami's that followed. We were lucky to have such a huge warning before the waves hit our shore. Still, the powerful surges were something to be in awe of. Some boaters rushed to their boats to protect and defend. Some headed out of the harbor to avoid collisions of sorts. The boat yards updated their Facebook pages regularly to keep persons informed. We played it safe that day and watched all the action from the news channels figuring it was not a good to be hanging over or crammed inside an engine when uncertain catastrophe is near....and mostly because *The Boss* is overly cautious of keeping her baby-daddy alive at all costs!

So let's get to the discussion at hand. Is there anything that you can do to prepare for the unexpected? Some boaters are miles off. Some are close enough to check on their boat. Obviously, the more warning we have of Mother Nature, the better.

The following recommendations are good for any inclement weather or winds...mild tsunami waves included.

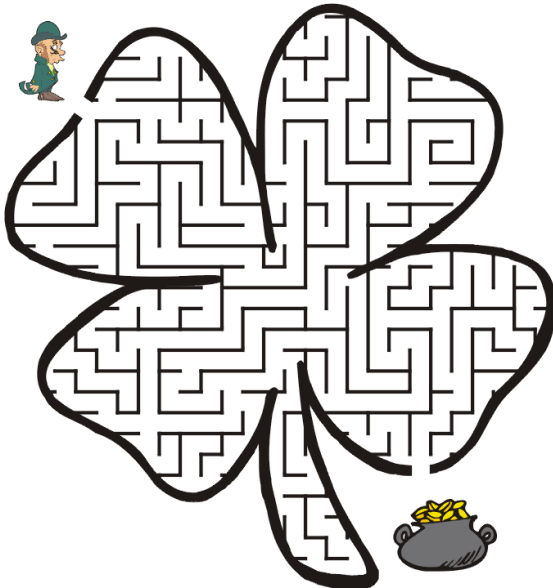
First and foremost, each time you tie up, be sure your dock lines are tight. Regularly check the condition of your boat and dock cleats. Salt water and time contribute to the weathering of the wood. Make sure your fenders pumped up. Put out extras if you know a storm is headed our way. Ensure your sails and boom are secured while in the harbor -just the other day, Jason had a boom from a neighboring boat swing over and nearly dislodge him from the boat he was working on. Check your deck drains to ensure they are clear. And always be sure your bilge pumps and float switches are working.

Another idea for out-of-towners, if you haven't already done so, get phone numbers of live-aboards near you. It is always nice to hear a friendly voice tell you your boat is still secure so you don't have to drive four hours to check your dock lines.



Electrolysis?

Recently we have had a number of calls for electrolysis issues for boats in different marinas. Electrolysis can be caused by electrical issues on your boat, improper bonding, bad shore power cords, or even from neighboring boat's stray currents. Divers are usually a resourceful way to detect electrolysis. What are some signs? They may notice that your boat is burning up zincs more quickly. White deposits may start to collect on your outdrive or propellers. Bottom paint may start to bubble at the metal mounts on the bottom of the boat. In severe cases, your propellers can crack or the metal on the bottom could corrode away and you could spring a leak. If you suspect you have electrolysis problems, call quickly and we will talk you through it. Your haste will reward your pocket book.



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St. Patrick's Day Word Search

IRELAND
IRISH
GOLD
POT
RAINBOW
GREEN
CLOVER
LUCK
SHAMROCK
PATRICK

K	P	T	P	V	J	W	B	G	S
X	G	R	E	E	N	V	T	D	E
X	E	E	U	G	V	M	I	Z	G
M	B	V	L	N	S	V	R	U	O
X	G	O	L	D	A	D	I	M	D
K	T	L	U	C	K	N	S	P	O
T	K	C	O	R	M	A	H	S	A
B	B	Q	N	X	E	L	P	G	H
D	E	O	L	K	J	E	O	D	I
D	F	I	K	C	I	R	T	A	P
G	L	W	O	B	N	I	A	R	N
E	M	N	F	S	W	O	H	Z	V

