



Halifax Harbor Marina

at Daytona Beach

March 2009

These two Golden Retriever crewmen visited Halifax Harbor Marina in December on their way to the Bahamas with their Captain and First Mate. They were two of the nicest dogs to hit the fuel dock in some time. This was their maiden voyage on their “parents” new trawler. They proudly walked fore and aft on the weather decks, as if to be showing off their fancy new ride. It’s always a pleasure to look out and see a couple of four legged boaters having a blast, while at the same time being true gentlemen. The one on the left is 8 years old, while the other was just a pup, under one year old.



You may want to check out the web site address www.activecaptain.com. It’s loaded with information that may be helpful to you. They have given us the ability to update our fuel prices whenever we want, which will help to keep you informed about the price of our petro.

The dock work on NC has been one of quality, but not necessarily quantity. Since budget belt tightening forced the City to reduce their work force, more and more odd jobs have been delegated to the Property Maintenance Department, our in-house dock builders. It’s difficult for the guys to string together a



solid week of work without being pulled in so many different directions. They’ve made the turn from the end of the dock and are moving toward the entrance gate, or

exit gate in this case! If you’re on the dock when the guys are working, please take a second to say “hi” and drop a few words of encouragement. They’ll appreciate the effort!

I’ve been thinking (and it’s killing me!) about how to better distribute the new dock boxes in the South Basin that we have in our inventory. When a dock box is chosen for replacement, we must call the slip holder, ask them to unlock (it is locked, right?) the box, and remove all of the equipment before we can get started. This all takes time and makes scheduling and coordination problematic. To help facilitate continuous installations, I ask you to drop me an email at: phillipsm@codb.us, requesting a new dock box at your slip. Be sure to include your

name, slip number and boat name. From this point, Harbormaster Bob and I will prioritize replacement from, 1) those dock boxes that need immediate replacement, 2) to those that fall under the “would be nice” to have a new dock box. Once this is determined we will contact you so that arrangements can be made to get the old dock box ready for removal. Please bear in mind that the only boxes qualifying for replacement are the original plastic boxes, of which approximately 250 remain. The newer fiberglass and plastic storage units are to stay in place.

Our ongoing troubles with the J and Plaza dock electrical upgrade has moved into year five. The latest web that has been spun goes like this: The City is presently in a lawsuit with **Ace Electric** (original contractor) and the *bonding agency* holding the performance bond on the project. There are four lawsuits; the bonding agency is suing Ace, Ace is suing the City, and the City is suing



both the bonding agency and Ace. Last summer there was a mediation session where Ace had tentatively agreed that they would settle, but they decided after a few weeks of cerebral pondering, to hire a new attorney. That put the brakes on everything. That’s when the current, second round of lawsuits began. Each side has submitted pleadings and responses. The City is now waiting for a determination as to whether there will be mediation on these suits or if it will go directly to a judge. Either way, The City is beginning to look at rebidding the job.

You may have noticed that open slips have recently begun to appear in both basins. It’s safe to say that this is a direct result of the current economic downturn. I’m relatively certain that we’ll experience many more vacancies in the months to come. It’s a tragedy to witness a Florida family tradition taking such a big hit, one that is rarely reported in the media. Now instead of watching boating related shows, reading about fishing tournaments, rendezvous’ and cruising, we read (when published) about layoffs and plant closings. Florida’s marine industry represented a total economic output of \$18.4 billion in 2005, more than the citrus and cruise ship industries combined! And jobs? Over 220,000 Floridians *were* employed within the industry in 2005. My unsolicited opinion is to, “Standby, we have a long way to go.”

Thanks for being here! Contact me anytime at 1-800-343-2899 ext. 3606, 386-671-3603, and always via my email phillipsm@codb.us. Marc