

Welcome to Floating Home living From the FHA - 2011

Included in this Welcome package are
some important announcements and
helpful tips including:

**What is the FHA?
FHA Membership Application
Kappas and Waldo Point Harbor Map
Floating Times Link and Mail
Addresses
What is CERT?
Floating Home Living Safety Do's and
Don'ts
FHA Members and Business Services
Directory**

The Floating Homes Association (FHA)
represents the owners and renters of
Sausalito's floating homes in local,
regional and state affairs. So if you're not
currently a member, please join the FHA
using the enclosed Membership
Application

What is the FHA?

The FHA was formed in the early 1980's to represent floating homeowners and renters. It is the only community wide organization that represents the interests of homeowners and residents. During its existence, the FHA has effectively worked to resolve problems with insurance, dock maintenance, berth leases, rent increases, financing and floating home registration. The FHA also sponsored legislation (the "Floating Home Residency Law") that provides owners and residents with legal rights similar to what mobile home residents have.

Your membership is essential for the FHA to continue to do its work. Membership includes:

- ***Access to the best available floating home financing via membership in the FHA's affiliated Credit Union***
- ***Floating Times newsletter***
- ***Membership Party and Dock Parties***
- ***Tide lines Calendar and Marin Express at cost***
- ***Web site for members***
- ***CERT training (class cost reimbursed by FHA)***
- ***Having Fun!***

Mission Statement

The Floating Homes Association is a volunteer civic group which represents the interests of the residents of the 400+ homes in five floating home marinas on Richardson Bay. The Association provides information to its members through general membership meetings, individual dock meetings, its Floating Times newsletter, and special notices as necessary. Information is also provided to the media, government and regulatory officials, and to the general public.

Taking into consideration the sometimes diverse interests of residents of all five marinas, the FHA does not take stands on issues that are specific to individual marinas or docks, but may be utilized as an information source by residents involved in such issues. The FHA does strive to present a unified voice for floating homes residents to regulators, legislators, landlords and other entities, on matters which affect all residents universally, such as health and safety issues.

As a non-profit corporation, the FHA is politically non-partisan, but does provide forums for political candidates to learn about our community's unique needs, and to express their views to residents through the Floating Times and community meetings.

The FHA strives to foster a sense of community among residents through activities such as the annual Floating Homes Tour, Private Tours, and a yearly membership party. Additionally, the FHA supports social events and group improvement projects on individual docks by sharing costs and helping publicize such events. FHA volunteers take active roles in Legal, Environmental, Member Services, and Public Relations.

Floating Homes Newsletter

Published 6 times a year, The Floating Homes Newsletter carries news, features and classified ads of interest to member homeowners and residents, as well as other interested parties who belong to the Association. It is published online and mailed to those without online access.

We welcome contributions of articles, photos, stories, poetry and artwork relevant to the community. All published contributions are the property of the Floating Homes Association unless otherwise indicated.

Check out recent issues at www.floatinghomes.org and click Newsletter.

Correct Address Information

Effective January 5, 2009, the Marin County Assessors Office changed all Kappas Marina and Waldo Point Harbor mailing addresses to read [Berth #] [Pier Name]. For example; "31 West Pier", "10 East Pier" or "20 Gate 6 1/2". The marina name is no longer used in our official mailing addresses.

Note: This does not apply to those using PO Boxes.

**You need the FHA More Than Ever
...And We Need You
Please Join Now**

Fill out the form and return it to the address below. Or go online to www.floatinghomes.org, click Membership and pay with PayPal. Your email is very important but will only be used for FHA business. If more than one person lives on a floating home, please list the second person's name and email and phones.

Name: _____

Floating Home Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Other people on floating home: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Own Floating Home

Own but live elsewhere

Rent Floating Home

I have enclosed 2011 membership dues made payable to FHA

\$25 (minimum)

What is CERT? □

Community Emergency Response Teams are groups of citizen emergency workers. CERT personnel receive basic training from emergency response professionals and work in the initial aftermath of a disaster to augment official emergency services. CERT members are not intended to replace a community's professional response capability, but rather to serve as an important supplement to it. The CERT Teams in the Floating Homes community respond to sinking homes, medical emergencies, high wind damage, piling failures and lines breaking. Frequently they are much more effective than professional responders due to their knowledge of the unique characteristics of living on the water. There are approximately 80 CERT trained volunteers in the floating home community.

What do CERT members do? □

CERT members respond to an event that overwhelms existing resources to deal with the event. Disasters may be natural events such as earthquakes, fires, floods, or may be caused by human actions such as a terrorist act, civil disturbances, or hazardous materials incidents.

Community Emergency Response Teams are trained in basic emergency response procedures such as:

- Conducting an initial size-up of the situation in their immediate area □
- Reducing immediate dangers by turning off utilities, suppressing small fires, and evacuating hazardous areas □
- Performing immediate medical triage and basic treatment of injuries □
- Assessing structural integrity and performing light search and rescue □
- Collecting and recording vital information to be relayed to professional responders on damage, victims, and actions taken or resources needed □
- Providing leadership to untrained volunteers

In a large scale disaster, self-reliance and the use of volunteers will be necessary. With this in mind the Fire Departments and Districts in Southern Marin have joined together to teach the CERT program. Many class formats and locations throughout Marin are now available for this **15 hour** series. Please refer to the county website at www.marincountycert.org for course scheduling, registration, questions and contact information.

All trainees receive a CERT manual. Upon completion, each trainee will receive a disaster service worker ID card, helmet, vest, eye protection, and certificate of completion.

Cost: \$30.00 per person;

Make checks payable to Marin County CERT, and mail along with the registration form to: Marin County CERT Coordinator, 1400 5th Ave., San Rafael, CA 94901

Members of the Floating Homes Association will have their class fee reimbursed upon successfully graduating from the class.

Safety Tips for Floating Home Living

Our wonderful lives aboard our floating homes come with some issues that landlubbers do not experience so, for those of you new to our community, we have compiled what we hope is a useful list of
Do's and Don'ts

FIRE SAFETY – please...

- Do not dump ashes in the garbage/recycling dumpsters as they tend to catch FIRE
- No open flames on the dock
- Do not use planter boxes as ashtrays or drop cigarettes butts on the dock
- Make sure your fire extinguishers are full and up to date (Fire Master regularly visits dock parking lot where he sells and upgrades extinguishers)
- Install/maintain smoke detectors
- Plan escape route from boat in case of fire
- Attend dock fire emergency training (CERT Captains will post dates on dock notice boards). This is in addition to CERT training and one day it may save your boat!

SEPTIC TANKS – please...

- Do not flush ANYTHING down the toilet EXCEPT toilet paper (holding tank pumps are easily jammed and can cause tanks to overflow!)
- Kleenex and dental floss are especially troublesome for holding tanks.

POWER FAILURES – please...

- If electricity is out do not run water (no showers, no dishwashing, and no flushing toilets). It is important to let renters, visitors and cleaning crews know about this as holding tanks can fill to overflowing without the electric pump working!
- Do not use generators or BBQs inside boat as toxic fumes will build up to dangerous levels
- When using candles or oil lamps make sure than are contained and extinguished before you retire to bed or leave the boat
- Switch off all circuit breakers, except one (preferably the lighting breaker), to prevent a power surge when electricity service is resumed
- Check all pilot lights are lit when power is resumed

UTILITIES – please...

- Know where your water, gas and electricity shut-offs are located
- Know where your circuit breaker box is located

FLOATING HOME SAFETY – please...

- Install and/or inspect interior hull water sensors
- Install and/or inspect holding tank level alarm
- Inspect boat lines for wear and tear
- Inspect pilings to determine if replacement or repair needed
- Tie down loose items such as tables and chairs that will blow away in storms
- Inspect exterior hoses for leaks
- Inspect interior washing machine and hoses for leaks

DOCK SAFETY – please...

- Do not encroach more than 3 planks deep each side of the dock from railing into the walkway (emergency crews need clear access to the dock)
- Do not obstruct dock lighting (report any outages to Harbor Master)
- No motorized vehicles on walkway
- Do not leave bicycles on walkway side of dock railing

BAY POLLUTION – please...

- Report to the Harbor Master any Sewage leaks or Oil and Fuel spills the water

GARBAGE and RECYCLING – please recycle

- Garbage & recycling dumpsters are located in the shed at the entrance of the dock
- Break down cardboard boxes and leave in appropriate dumpster

PARKING LOT and HIGH TIDES - please

- Check dock bulletin board for high tide and storm notices and move cars to higher ground when necessary.

FHA Members Business & Services Directory

The proposal for a business and service directory for the FHA members was unanimously approved at the April 2009 FHA board meeting. The directory will assist floating home dwellers of the useful services and businesses provided by people right here in our local community.

Invitation: As a member of the FHA you are invited to list your business or service on the new Sausalito FHA Members Business and Services Directory at no cost.

This directory

- will be an independent website
- will be a link on the Floating Homes Association website (www.floatinghomes.org)
- will be a link on the Sausalito Art Galleries (SAG) website which will provide vast exposure to your business or service as it currently receives 6,000 – 8,000 visits per month (www.sausalitoartgalleries.com). SAG also sponsors the Caledonia Street Merchants Directory (www.sausalito-california-caledonia-street.com)

You may list your business or service if

- you are a member of the FHA
- you have a legitimate business or service

The FHA members directory will have a distinct “waterfront landscape” logo and attractive listing presentation. If you are interested in having your business or service listed on the Sausalito FHA Members Business and Services Directory, please fill out the form below and return it by e mail. The future site can be found at www.Sausalito-FHA-Members-Business-Services-Directory.com.

Floating Homes Association Members Business & Services Directory

Name:

Business Name:

Type of Business (Category) (example: Art, Jewelry, Construction, Music, Physical Therapy, Real Estate, Event Planning, Interior Decorating, etc.):

Description of service or business:

Mail address and physical address:

Phone number (cell and home):

E-mail address:

Date:

I understand that

- completion of this form qualifies as an e signature
- this directory is exclusively for legitimate legal business or services, and is a benefit of the FHA membership
- my FHA membership is kept current
- there is no fee nor will future fee(s) be charged for listing
- the FHA is not responsible for this service
- the information provided will be kept confidential and listings will not be sold
- this service is made possible by volunteers

Please e mail completed questionnaire to felicity_kirsch@comcast.net If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me at (415) 888-3919.