

A lot has happened since my last message to the membership. A lot of good news.

RAMP UPDATE -- When I took office the ramp has been my main concern. We have been fortunate over the years to have members fix the ramp when it was broken, so-to-speak. Most of it was what I call a band-aid approach and the work usually took care of the problem or problems. But that was a temporary fix and I feel and maintain that band-aid work must be replaced by a more permanent fix. It is time to bite the bullet, so-to-speak.

With the help of member Cal Gladden, who has put together what I call a “ramp team” of engineers, permit experts, etc. we have had a meeting at the ramp and with Rick Toft, the City of West Sacramento Port Manager. We discussed the issues and just how long the permit process could be and some of our options.

But a recent meeting with another member, Mick Ramos, and the ramp team, really has me optimistic that we could greatly improve the ramp conditions and that this is not just a wishlist item that may never get done but is very possible.

I have asked the city for a long-term lease (20 years). This may put us in a better position to get a loan to fund the project as well as tell the membership that we are going to be around for a long time.

A survey dive team is in the process of being hired to give us a better picture of just how much erosion there is around the ramp and what is the dropoff. The plan, after we get the survey, is to dump tons of rock in a horseshoe pattern out and around the ramp and dock. That will build up a base and gradually a slope, which will allow us to extend the ramp. This will now create a ramp that will not have straight dropoff at the end, that will be extended and will make it much easier **and safer** to launch at low tides.

Once we get the survey back, then the ramp team, with Ramos really wanting to get involved, will be in a much better position to come up with a cost of material and labor. The next step will be how we will pay for the project. I have a potential lender as well as other ideas about generating some income to help make payments, should we get a loan.

Stay tuned.

- **SHRINERS TOY DRIVE** -- Please bring any new, wrapped or boxed toys to the November and December meetings for our annual toy drive for the Shriner’s Hospital. See the ad/flyer on the website for more info.
- **ELECTIONS** – Nominations for officers and board positions will close at the November meeting. All positions, save for the commodore position, are open. Already nominated for purser is **Tom Harina**. For two board positions are **Charlie Kite, Bill Leonard, Roger Haney, Alan Mapalo** and **Dean Needham**.
- **NEW ENTRANCE** – In case you have not been to the port lately, the new entrance is now open. The old entrance is closed so don’t use it, please! The new entrance is a direct route to the lower entrance gate and ramp. When you are at the stoplight on Harbor Blvd. and Industrial and looking straight ahead to the entrance of the Port and the guard shack, go across Industrial, across the tracks and as you approach the shack, turn right. Then go straight down to the parking lot in front of the entrance gate to the

ramp. It is a straight shot and the only caveat is that the right turn by the guard shack when you are coming in and left turn when you are going out is a little tight for big boats, so make a wide turn.

- **BYLAWS CHANGE** – Please see on the website the proposed bylaws change. It has been posted there since October and we will vote on it at the December meeting.
- **HOLIDAY DINNER NOW IN JANUARY** -- With the elections in December, the board decided to move our annual holiday dinner to our January meetings. Look for more information on the website. Tentatively dinner is planned from 4:30-6 allowing us enough time to clean up, and set up for the regular member meeting at 7.