



Shangri-La Marina Newsletter
March 1, 2021

February was an interesting month, for sure, at Shangri-La Marina. The Oklahoma Virtual Boat Show was a great success for Nichols Marine at Shangri-La – and we sure looked smart for doing it virtually. Our crews were not among those fighting snow and freezing cold bringing back boats from the Tulsa Boat Show!

Not that we didn't have our own challenges with the weather, though. It has been ten years since the water in the marina froze over completely, but we had it again this year. We had no major dock damage due to the snow and ice, but it was certainly a little tricky navigating around the docks for a couple of weeks. Predictably, we had some minor problems with boat lifts. Frozen water and frozen lines gave us a bit of a challenge with a few, but all boats are secured, and hopefully our challenges of winter weather are behind us.

We continue to work on marina upgrades during the off-season, including new fuel dispensers that will soon be on the way. We are replacing our aging fuel pumps to provide greater efficiency and faster speeds. Hopefully, installation of the new equipment will be completed in April.

This month, we are anticipating better weather and some landmark dates than we look forward to each year. March 14 marks the return of Daylight Saving Time; and the official First Day of Spring is March 20.

TIME TO SCHEDULE DEWINTERIZATION

Looking back on the miserable February weather, it might seem like an odd time to bring it up, but it is time to plan dewinterization of your boats to prepare for the beginning of the major boating season that will be here before you know it.

The average date of the last freeze in our area is April 5, but since those early Spring freezing temperatures are normally not too cold and don't last very long, many of our regular boaters begin dewinterizing March 15.

No matter when you plan to dewinterize, it's time to get on the schedule. Just as our crews from Nichols Marine can't winterize all the boats in the marina at once – they can't dewinterize them all on the same day, either. As you look toward your planned on-the-water outings, be sure to ensure that your dewinterization is scheduled ahead of that date. This is also a good time to take care of routine maintenance items like oil changes and lower unit service, as well as any mechanical repairs that are needed.

It's time to make your maintenance plans and set your boating date, though. Contact Tyler Sourjohn at Nichols Marine at 918-257-5500 and get on the schedule!

BOAT RENTALS AND ADVANCE RESERVATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

If you're planning to spend some time on the water, but you don't own your own boat, advance reservations are now available online for boat rentals at www.sailgrand.com – or by telephone at 918-257-6000.

Pontoon boat rentals are now available, if you would like to refresh your view of Grand Lake up close. Personal watercraft and runabout rentals and yacht charters will be available later in the Spring – and parasailing adventures will kick off the 2021 season on Memorial weekend.

BOAT SALES

It's been a crazy year already in boat sales. My advice is simple: if you plan to get a new boat this year, do it now! January and February sales have been unexpectedly high, coming on the heels of a record year in 2020. That, combined with delivery issues that have hamstrung production in many cases, have already created a shortage of available new vessels.

The Nichols Marine at Shangri-La team has a somewhat depleted inventory, but we still have a selection of Benningtons and Chaparrals in stock, as well as a couple of Chris Craft and Robalo models, and a few MasterCraft boats. We have a few ordered boats in the production pipeline right now but, believe it or not, we have already been notified by a couple of manufacturers that any boats ordered now are likely to have an October delivery date.

As crazy as it sounds, right now is the best time to make your purchase – otherwise, the boat you want may simply be unavailable. You can view the entire lineup of new and used boats available by checking our website at www.nicholsmarine.com.

IF YOU WANT A BOAT SLIP – GET ON THE LIST NOW!

We still have a waiting list of folks who want to join the Shangri-La Marina family. We are currently 100% occupied, but things change daily, and we are working hard to accommodate all who want to join us. Boat show activity always results in increased slip demand, and this year is no different. We work hard to accommodate everyone who wants to be a part of our Shangri-La Marina family, but if you have friends who are interested in slip rental, they need to get on our waiting list ASAP. Have them give me a call.

Remember, slip renters at Shangri-La Marina may also become members of Shangri-La Resort, Golf Club & Racquet Club without paying initiation fees!

DOCK LOCKERS

If you need a dock locker, give me a call as soon as you can. Going forward, only Dock Box Unlimited dock lockers will be allowed at Shangri-La Marina in order to maintain consistency and an attractive and consistent look on the docks. I'll be happy to order one for you and get it placed at your slip. Both upright and horizontal dock boxes are available. You can check out available models at www.dockboxes.com, then let me know which model best suits your needs.

If you're in need of a boat lift, we can take care of that, as well! Shangri-La Marina is one of the region's largest dealers for HydroHoist Boat Lifts.

We are here to serve you Monday through Saturday – and we're always happy to see you.

Mitch Whitehead
Shangri-La Marina Manager

