

California Sea Scouts Earn Flagship Award

Fresh from an impressive finish in the Lexus Newport-to-Ensenada International Yacht Race, a crew of California Sea Scouts traveled across the country in May to accept the BoatU.S. National Sea Scout Flagship Award for 2006. BoatU.S. Chairman and Founder Richard Schwartz presented the trophy to Sea Scout Ship 711, *Del Mar*, of Newport Beach as the top performing Sea Scout unit in the country. The ceremony took place at the Boy Scouts of America Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, May 26.



Photo by Jimmie Hornburg

The crew of Ship 711 celebrates winning this year's BoatU.S. Sea Scout Flagship Award in Washington, DC.

David George, 18, of Villa Parte, CA, the ship's boatswain, and Skipper Mike Stewart of Costa Mesa accepted the award along with 13 other crewmembers and seven adults, including Wes Heusser, Commander of the Balboa Power Squadron, the sponsor of Ship 711.

The BoatU.S. Sea Scout Flagship Award recognizes excellence in program quality, youth achievement and adult commitment. Like all Sea Scout units, Ship 711 uses boats, seamanship and nautical skills to develop character and leadership qualities in young people.

The Ship and its two dozen Sea Scouts, aged 14 to 20, compiled an impressive record of accomplishments with 36 days of on-water activities last year, including 22 days of extended cruising to Catalina Island and the other Channel Islands. Regular activities range from formal training in boat handling, rules of the road and safety drills to boat maintenance, electronics and engine repair, with a good measure of fun thrown in. In addition,

the ship participates in community service events like the annual Scouting for Food drive and a harbor cleanup. Ship 711 calls the BSA Newport Sea Base homeport and its principal vessel for training and cruising is a Columbia 43 sloop, named *Del Mar*. The Ship also sails *Scout Spirit*, a 77-foot Reichel/Pugh ocean racer, which they crewed to a second-in-class finish April 30 in the Newport to Ensenada race. Mike Stewart joined Ship 711 in its founding year, 1962, as Mate. He stepped up to adult leader post of Skipper the following year and has remained at the helm ever since.

This is the fifth year for the Flagship Award, originated by BoatU.S. in 2002 to mark the 90th anniversary of Sea Scouting, a co-ed program for young adults age 14-20 with over 7,000 youth participating in 550 Ships nationwide. A perpetual trophy bearing the names of annual winning Ship resides at the BSA National Scouting Museum in Irving, TX. For more information, contact: SeaScouts@BoatUS.com.

Florida's Wrecked Boats May Be Removed

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has signed into law HB 201, clarifying notice requirements of a marina having a possessory lien on a vessel and giving boat owners time to take action. A boat in a "wrecked, junked, or substantially dismantled condition, which has been left abandoned at a marina" can be removed and disposed of by the marina, and reasonable expenses passed on to the boat owner. If the boat is damaged as a result of a named storm, the marina must wait 60 days before it can dispose of it to allow the boater or their insurance company time to take necessary action.

In order for the marina to start this process to remove the boat, the marina must first provide written notice to the vessel owner, via certified mail or in person. They must also post the notice at the marina and on the boat. The written notice is required at least 60 days before the sale of the vessel. The notice will include an itemized statement of the marina's claim, a description of the vessel, demand for payment, and a conspicuous statement that, unless the claim is paid within the time stated in the notice, the vessel will be sold at a specified time and place.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2006. ■

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