

Richland Yacht Club - All Hands Bulletin

Those horrible tumble weeds, trees, and snakes!!!

This is a tough year for river and boat basin debris. There has not been high water like this for several years allowing tumbleweeds and other flotsam to accumulate along the river banks upstream. With the large snow accumulation this winter and record warm weather in May the river is flowing at near capacity. This results in extremely strong current and high-water levels. The high-water level and current are dislodging trees and entire islands of compacted sagebrush from the river banks and sending it down stream.

The Good News – Looks like we have enough height on our dock pilings to avert the danger of the moorage breaking loose.

Not so Good News – The water level is over the debris barrier and in fact over much of the island separating the boat basin from the river. This provides a direct path for the river debris into our boat basin. As soon as we clear out the debris – more follows.

Our Plan – Though it may seem as useless as shoveling snow while it is still snowing; the axiom holds true. If we do not keep clearing the debris it will pack in so solidly that removal will become nearly impossible. So, you will see members each day working to dislodge the debris and flush it past our docks and slips. Many hands make this work more tolerable by generating comradery and spreading out the effort. Though there is little we can offer as a Club to extend our thanks to these members, we can and do compensate them \$15 per hour for their time from the work party funds.

Your Plan – **You are required** as a member to clear debris from **your slip** on a **regular basis**. If you put this off the debris will only become more compact and more difficult to remove. If you don't know how to clear your slip call the dock captain or ask any of the volunteers clearing the docks. If you fail to comply with this requirement you may be assessed a fine. Check the Club's Standing Rules for this and several other requirements associated with Club membership. A copy is available for download from the richlandyachtclub.com web page

That done, and if you are able, come by the Clubhouse and I am sure you will find someone working and willing to teach you how to dislodge the debris from the docks.

Can We Do More – We cannot control nature and measures we have taken to block debris from the basin are designed around anticipated spring run-off, not worst-case run-off as we are currently experiencing. No matter how high the barrier, when water over runs the island separating the basin from the river, we will have to contend with debris.

A Safety Note – The water is very cold. Do not work alone on the docks or your slip; cold water drowning is an unfortunate reality this time of year. If you must work alone, wear a life jacket. Also, beware of snakes on the debris, river banks and around the clubhouse. They float down on debris this time of year. Though most are harmless, there are rattle snakes and the babies are just as lethal as the adults. If you suffer a bite seek medical care quickly or call 911. **Stay attentive – work with others – be safe.**