

Marina del Rey  
Historical Society  
Newsletter  
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*Save the Dates*

**Discover Marina del Rey**

Sunday, October 9, 2011 - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Burton Chace Park**

Open to the public - Free

(\$5.00 Optional - wristband purchase for unlimited access to inflatables, games and rides and 'picking a pumpkin from the Pumpkin Patch')  
Parking is \$8 in County Lots #77 and #4 located on Mindanao Way.

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**The Argonaut's 40th Anniversary Celebration**

Sunday, November 6, 2011 - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ceremonies: 2:00p.m.

**Marina del Rey Hotel**

13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey

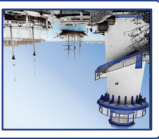
Open to the public - No charge

Parking is free

Marina del Rey, CA 90295-1950

P.O. Box 9550

Marina del Rey Historical Society



Marina del Rey  
**Historical  
Society**



Inaugural Newsletter - October 2011

*Historic Beginnings*

**D**o you know Marina del Rey has an Historical Society? Well, it does! And, this edition marks the inaugural newsletter that will tell what the Marina del Rey Historical Society ("MdRHS") does and hopes to accomplish in the coming years.

**How it all Began**

It was a rainy afternoon in February 1975 when Greg Wenger, "contract photographer" for the Department of Beaches and Harbors, was meeting with a county official to discuss a photo shoot.

Wenger noticed two "banker" storage boxes in the hallway. They were a bit wet from storage in a closet that had developed a leak. He jokingly asked "what 'treasures' might be stored in them?" "Old photos of the Marina but we don't know if they can be restored," came the reply. "Original negatives and prints are stored downtown." Ever quick to recognize a 'photographic moment,' Wenger asked, "May I have them for my files and collections?" The reply was, "Sure, let me help you take them to your car!" Officially, that was to be considered a gift from the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors.

**Building the Foundation**

As it turned out, nothing inside the boxes was damaged. And so began Wenger's extensive collection of photos and information that became



Brad Graverson Photographer, Daily Breeze

Willie Hjorth, Greg Wenger and Debbie Talbot - Directors, Marina del Rey Historical Society

the foundation of the Marina del Rey Historical Society.

The early boating magazine, *Del Rey Dinghy*, founded by Betty and Ed Borgeson in 1963 was sold to David Asper Johnson, founder and original publisher of *The Argonaut*. Darien Murray, an Argonaut employee and Wenger became partners of *The Dinghy* when Johnson sold his interest in the Dinghy to them. Following Murray's death in 2002, *The Dinghy's* collection was donated to the Historical Society.

Additional photographs and documents were received from Security Pacific Bank,

Summa Corporation (Howard Hughes Airfield - Playa Vista), LAX Mines Field, and retired writers for local daily and weekly newspapers in Venice and Santa Monica.

**Our Mission**

The Historical Society was founded in 2007 as a 501(c)3 non-profit, charitable organization to collect and preserve historical documents, photographs, artifacts, publications, data and information relating to the development of Marina del Rey and its future.

MdRHS hopes to keep the past alive for community pride as well as create a

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Marina del Rey, circa 1968, and the Marina today

Greg Wenger, Photographer

## Marina del Rey's 50th Anniversary

Marina del Rey was officially dedicated by the County of Los Angeles on April 10, 1965, following the completion of the detached breakwater and repairs to storm surge-damaged docks and pilings.

The Marina del Rey Historical Society will mark the celebration, planned for April 10, 2015, with a 50-year

retrospective of boating and recreation in Marina del Rey.

If you would like to be a part of the organizing committee, please call Greg Wenger at 310-578-1001 and sign up to help. WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

It's never too soon to start planning. We welcome all hands! //

## Exhibits by Marina del Rey Historical Society

Documents and photographs of the development of Marina del Rey are currently on exhibit at the **Lloyd Taber Marina del Rey Library** in the Nautical Wing.

The Marina Library is located at 4533 Admiralty Way. Please call 310-821-3415 for library open hours.



The **Marina del Rey Hotel**, on Bali Way, has recently lined its west wing, hallway walls with historical photographs and captions from the Marina del Rey Historical Society collection.

Enjoy a refreshment at the Hotel's renovated restaurant facilities when you visit to see their informative exhibit.



The Marina del Rey Historical Society will have a display booth at **DISCOVER MARINA DEL REY DAY 2011** at Burton Chace Park.

Sunday, October 9, 2011 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public.

Parking is available for \$8 in County Lots #77 and #4, located on Mindanao Way.



### Our Collection

The MdrHS database is used to identify privately and publicly held archives and collections that document aspects of Marina del Rey life and history and are recognized by community historians. Since our collections are scanned and electronically

filed, all original contributions will be returned to donors. This online directory provides a unique resource of cultural materials that are easily retrievable and accessible to the public. To learn how you can donate, contact Greg Wenger (310-578-1001).

## Hoppyland Amusement Park

### Marina History

Were you aware that Hopalong Cassidy, the most famous cowboy of the 1940's and 50's, opened *Hoppyland Amusement Park* at the vicinity of now Via Dolce and Washington Boulevard, currently the location of *Islands Restaurant*? It's true.

William (Bill) Boyd, star of silent movies under contract to Cecil B. DeMille, brought the western hero, Hopalong Cassidy, to the screen. Between Paramount Pictures and United Artists, 66 pictures were produced. Never in Hollywood history has one man played the same character in as many features.

This large body of work led Boyd to television in 1950. He purchased the TV rights to all the Hoppy motion pictures and licensed 52 of them to NBC, where they premiered, and were telecast as one hour episodes.

The year before he retired, Boyd made 40 Hoppy episodes. Bill Boyd's TV success



Children on a Hoppyland Seahorse Merry-go-round (with Boyd), circa 1949

has also never been rivaled.

MdrHS has received a wonderful CD of the grand opening of *Hoppyland Amusement Park* (original in film) from the Rosemary Delarme collection.

Famous movie stars are seen with families congratulating Hopalong.

Other scenes show children riding merry-go-rounds! The short film will be shown at a future MdrHS exhibition. //



### Marina del Rey Historical Society Membership Application

Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be a member in the following category:

- |                          |   |       |
|--------------------------|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Founding Member                         | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Business Member (Annual Contribution)   | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting Member (Annual Contribution) | \$ 25 |

Please make check payable to: **Marina del Rey Historical Society**

Mail to: **Greg Wenger  
Post Office Box 9550  
Marina del Rey, CA 90295-1950**

Credit Card: **Visa or Master Card**

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code (on Back): \_\_\_\_\_

*The Marina del Rey Historical Society is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization. For information call: 310-578-1001*

