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RIVERBANK MARINA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS
ON THE SACRAMENTO RIVER

Local Business Offers Much More Than Just A Place to Float Your Boat

Sacramento, California – August 2011 – Riverbank Marina, Sacramento’s premier boating facility, is celebrating its 25th year in business. Since 1986, Riverbank Marina has been offering Sacramentans an unsurpassed experience on the Sacramento River. Its unique water-front setting makes it a not-to-be-missed spot in the River City for locals and out-of-towners alike.

“The Sacramento River is truly one of this city’s gems,” said Tess Jones, Harbor Master at Riverbank Marina. “We provide a gateway to enjoying everything the river has to offer.”

Riverbank Marina, located on Garden Highway just minutes from downtown Sacramento and Discovery Park, has over 175 covered and uncovered berths and slips, eleven office spaces and is home to Crawdad’s River Cantina, Chevys and Pearl on the River restaurants.

Many of the tenants at Riverbank Marina have been at the marina since its opening in 1986. “We’ve been here since this place was dirt,” said Jill Guzzetta of Guzzetta & Co Fine Jewelers. “The other boaters here are our extended family; this is our second home.” The Guzzetta’s are not alone; over 4,000 boaters have berthed at Riverbank Marina over the past 25 years.

“Riverbank (Marina) is a wonderful place unlike anywhere else in Sacramento,” commented Paulene Benson Norwood, a long-time tenant. “Being here is so much more than boating to us – it’s a community of good friends.”

During the summer, Riverbank Marina has always been a hub of activity for boaters and water lovers. With all three restaurants offering patio dining, it is easy to see why people gather here. Towering oak trees and stunning sunsets mix perfectly with the food, live music and refreshments offered by Crawdad’s River Cantina, Chevys and Pearl on the River. “There is no place like this in Sacramento” said Jeff Pooler, owner at Pearl on the River. “We are very fortunate to call such a beautiful place home.”

Tenants at the marina know the convenience of keeping their boat in the water and are always ready for water activities on the Sacramento River including waterskiing, wakeboarding, fishing and tubing. Riverbank also offers dinner docking and overnight guest docking to visiting boaters. Friendly Dock Hands help boaters in and out of a slip where they are welcome to stay for a few hours or a few nights.

History of Riverbank Marina

After obtaining permits from 37 different agencies, construction began on the marina in 1985 with most of the business opening by 1986. The Marina’s wharf-themed design meant most of the project was built out of wood – resulting in a unique boardwalk-style upper deck. The \$8 million dollar project is still the newest marina built on the Sacramento River – and is surely to be the last due to more stringent permitting processes now in place.

“Something like this could not be built today,” said Tess Jones, the Marina’s current Harbor Master. “For starters, everything that does not float would have to be built on the land side of the levee.” In other words, it would have to be built on the other side of the Garden Highway making Riverbank Marina truly one of a kind.

Over the years, Riverbank Marina has seen firsthand the high water levels that come with the winter rains and snow melt. There are over 80 pilings that keep the Marina safely floating in place. “The marina was built to withstand Sacramento’s weather patterns,” continued Jones. “Even at maximum river levels with 80 mph winds, the pilings would hold us in place.” Just in case you had any doubts.

Another impressive design measure – which proved to be the most challenging for designers – is the handicap access. As the water rises, all the bridges and utilities must be moved from the

lower parking lot (which floods in the winter months) to the upper parking lot keeping the Marina handicap accessible at all times.

In 1986, the nearby U.S. Air Force docks limited Riverbank's design on the river. Designers were required to leave a 150 foot channel for barge traffic up and down the river. The Air Force needed a means of transporting planes from McClellan Air Force base if local bridges were destroyed. Barge traffic has since been terminated along that portion of the river and the dock sold to the City of Sacramento.

As it celebrates its Silver Anniversary, Riverbank Marina reflects on how much Sacramento has changed; and yet how so much is still the same. "The city has grown up in a lot of ways. But the heart of Sacramento will always be her rivers."

For further information on Riverbank Marina or to schedule an interview, please contact Kelsey Follett with Twelve Anchors at Kelsey@twelveanchors.com or 916.204.3537.