



## March 20 – 22, 2015 Friday to Sunday

Long Beach area boaters usually look toward Catalina Island for weekend cruising activities. As good as Catalina can be, there are many other local options available and one of the best is Island White, an oil island located off the Belmont Shore Pier.

In the mid 1960's, the City of Long Beach authorized the construction of 4 offshore islands with the sole purpose of above ground drilling platforms to facilitate extraction of oil located below the sea bottom. These platforms were named after 4 American astronauts who died in a 1967 fire prior to lift-off of their Apollo launch vehicle. Island White, named after Astronaut Edward White, is located midway between the Alamitos Bay and Shoreline Marina entrances and has a beautiful protected anchorage area for weekend boaters and visitors.

The anchorage area also has three mooring cans (similar to those at Catalina) available to boaters who prefer to moor rather than anchor. The anchorage area has a sand or mud bottom with good holding in depths of 25 to 50 feet. When selecting a specific placement of your anchor, it is important to carefully check where other boats are anchored and give plenty of swing room as the wind shifts during the day or into the night.

Usually vessels will anchor on the NE or East side of the island, anticipating the normal westerly afternoon winds. (At night the winds often shift to offshore, so beware of <u>anchoring</u> too close to the island in the afternoon). Since this is an open anchorage, it is important to show your anchor light if you are staying overnight.

Boaters anchoring or mooring at Island White also can dinghy over to Belmont Shore Pier and use the floating dock to go ashore. There are a variety of restaurants, markets and shopping opportunities within easy walking distance of the pier.

SIGN UP FOR MORE DETAILS REGARDING THIS WEEKEND!

**RSVP** to Grayce Hardy

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