



Bringing It Home - Safely

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National Safe Boating Week runs from May 16th to May 22nd this year. US Coast Guard Forces nation-wide and especially here "Out East" have a lot of plans to take and make safety a daily, year-long event. This column is about that.

National Safe Boating Week - Why?

By 1958, boating "by the millions" rather than "by millionaires" was in full swing. What Coast Guard statistics showed was that the democratization of boating was coming at a cost - and it wasn't the 29-cents per gallon for the gasoline. It was accidents and fatalities. The US Congress passed the Federal Boating Act and the National Safe Boating Week was born upon President Eisenhower's signature. It was initially run as a committee - US Coast Guard as chairman, with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Power Squadron and the Red Cross as its informal members. It still took some time for the focused attention of the Coast Guard on boater safety to work its way through long habits and aged traditions. It wasn't until 1973, when 1,754 people died in boating accidents, that the trend started to reverse. Today, the death rate per 100,000 boats is less than 1/3 of what it was at the turning point - 18.3 deaths in 1973 versus 5.6 deaths in 2006. Why? Why else - money, people and untiring focus!

Safety First - The Big Picture

Safety isn't something you put on like an overcoat. Safety, to be truly effective, needs to be part of your daily habit and part of that is education - day-in, day-out. US Coast Guard Auxiliary Division-18 is all about that. Division 18 is com-

prised of 4 flotillas and it is at the flotilla level where the work gets done.

Division-18, which supports three Coast Guard stations "Out East" - SFO Moriches, Station Shinnecock and Station Montauk, is putting on/coordinating/participating in Open Houses at those US Coast Guard Stations, "kayak-a-thons" and other maritime "fests" all summer long.

Open Houses

More than just grilling hot dogs and hamburgers, the Open Houses provide opportunities for the local community to visit and experience "their" Coast Guard station. As Andrew Jackson noted, even the White House was the "People's House" and he served as their "steward" and so it goes with the Coast Guard. As importantly as creating that bond between the private boaters and US Coast Guard Forces, it creates the forum for education of a direct nature - Public Education classes, Vessel Exams and, given the statistics, a direct message on the Coast Guard's Operation Paddle Smart initiative. Discussions about America's Waterway Watch, where the Coast Guard asks the "average Joe or Jill" to keep a sharp-lookout for suspicious characters on our waters, will go on. If past experience is any indication, hundreds of fellow citizens will "see and be seen" - and hear and experience. And come Saturday, June 6th, the Coast Guard Station in East Moriches will be open for visitors! Come one, come all!

Kayak Races and TrawlerFests

At \$4/gallon for fuel, we can expect the explosion in the use of paddle sports to continue and the

Coast Guard's Operation Paddle Smart is key to curtailing the injuries and even deaths that these pastimes are piling up statistically. Division-18 will have shore-side booths/tables to continue the story from the Open Houses - Public Education, Vessel Exams, Paddle Smart, America's Waterway Watch and, hopefully, recruiting more citizens to join the USCGAux!

Life Jacket Statistics

World War II brought us the inflatable life jacket, as worn by sailors, pilots and Submariners. The fabric, which looked like rubber, dried out easily. Talcum powder was used to keep the fabric pliable. Later on, military technology was applied to making consumer life jackets. These have developed through the years to the various styles we see today. But any life jacket, inflatable or otherwise, must be worn to work. Here are the stats: 16 people go in the water with life-jackets on and 15 come out. 16 people go in the water without life jackets on - and one comes out... (see SSP, "Life Jackets Save Lives - Maybe Yours!", 2/11/09 and SSP, "Do I Really Need to Wear a Life Jacket?", 1/3/07)

Don't be a statistic. And do be a visitor to the Open Houses. Our first one is on June 6th at the Coast Guard Station at 100 Moriches Island Road in East Moriches.

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux2009@aol.com or go direct to Lisa Etter, who is in charge of new members matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..." If you'd like a copy of any of the columns cited, email me and I will send it to you.



FISHING WITH TONY

Moriches Bay Alive with Fluke, Stripers and Blues

by TONY SALERNO

It was once again a solid week on the striped bass and bluefish front from the waters of Patchogue Bay spreading through Shinnecock Bay. While the duo can be found just about anywhere a gull or a tern is wheeling overhead stretched through the south shore bay complexes, it seemed that the docks lining the north side of Patchogue Bay and the Narrows by Forge Point are the center of attention as of late.

"The bite at the L-Dock at the end of Ocean Avenue has been simply insane the last three weeks and shows no sign of letting up" states my longtime friend Bob over at Mr. B's Bait and Tackle at 580 Route 112 in Patchogue. According to Bobby, anglers tossing tins, spoons and plugs are having just as much of a blast as those employing bunker or mackerel chunks and clams fishing bottom rigs. Sure there are lull periods; however, those who are sticking it out for a few hours are experiencing blitz like action on blues and a good dose of keeper stripers. In fact, during the week, one of the shop regulars stopped in to weigh in a fat 18-pound bass stretching out at 36 inches taken on a bunker chunk on the east corner of the L-Dock. Should you decide to take advantage of the current bite, stop by Mr. B's where Bobby will be more than happy to help you with all your fishing needs.

To the east of Smiths Point, boaters are seeing similar action north of buoy 9 by Forge Point and just outside the Forge River north of buoys 11 and 12. Popping plugs do the best job of nailing blues to 12 pounds while some stripers find a chance to snatch the plug away from the choppers to 25 pounds. For the larger bass, bunker chunks have also been working well. Another reliable source of fish has been just outside and inside of Moriches Inlet with the best action on clam baits during the outgoing tides.

Fluke season opened this past Friday and the weather did deter a lot of anglers from hitting their traditional early honey holes. Narrows Bay and the buoy 15 area did see good action with several limits to go around.

Anglers sticking with the flounder are experiencing sporadic catches depending on the weather and the day. Some days see anglers limiting out in an hour or two, while other days see a handful of flatties for a day's work. Buoys 20 through 30 on the last of the incoming tide have been best with heavy chum and worm on the hook a must.

Tides for Moriches Inlet Starting with May 20, 2009

Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
Wed. 20	High	3:44 AM	2.7	5:29 AM	Rise 2:47 AM	25
20	Low	9:57 AM	0.3	8:06 PM	Set 4:00 PM	
20	High	4:17 PM	3.1			
20	Low	10:45 PM	0.4			
Thur. 21	High	4:42 AM	2.8	5:28 AM	Rise 3:12 AM	16
21	Low	10:43 AM	0.1	8:07 PM	Set 5:11 PM	
21	High	5:07 PM	3.3			
21	Low	11:36 PM	0.1			
Fri. 22	High	5:36 AM	2.9	5:28 AM	Rise 3:42 AM	9
22	Low	11:31 AM	0.1	8:08 PM	Set 6:25 PM	
22	High	5:56 PM	3.6			
Sat. 23	Low	12:27 AM	-0.1	5:27 AM	Rise 4:18 AM	3
23	High	6:28 AM	3.0	8:09 PM	Set 7:41 PM	
23	Low	12:20 PM	-0.1			
23	High	6:43 PM	3.8			
Sun. 24	Low	1:19 AM	-0.2	5:26 AM	Rise 5:04 AM	0
24	High	7:18 AM	3.0	8:10 PM	Set 8:55 PM	
24	Low	1:12 PM	-0.1			
24	High	7:31 PM	3.8			
Mon. 25	Low	2:10 AM	-0.3	5:25 AM	Rise 6:00 AM	0
25	High	8:09 AM	3.1	8:11 PM	Set 10:02 PM	
25	Low	2:04 PM	-0.1			
25	High	8:21 PM	3.8			
Tue. 26	Low	3:00 AM	-0.3	5:25 AM	Rise 7:08 AM	2
26	High	9:03 AM	3.0	8:11 PM	Set 10:58 PM	
26	Low	2:57 PM	-0.1			
26	High	9:16 PM	3.8			
Wed. 27	Low	3:51 AM	-0.3	5:24 AM	Rise 8:23 AM	8
27	High	10:01 AM	3.0	8:12 PM	Set 11:43 PM	
27	Low	3:49 PM	-0.1			
27	High	10:14 PM	3.7			
Thur. 28	Low	4:42 AM	-0.2	5:24 AM	Rise 9:41 AM	15
28	High	11:02 AM	3.0	8:13 PM		
28	Low	4:45 PM	0.1			
28	High	11:14 PM	3.5			
Fri. 29	Low	5:37 AM	-0.1	5:23 AM	Set 12:19 AM	25
29	High	12:01 PM	3.1	8:14 PM	Rise 10:57 AM	
29	Low	5:46 PM	0.2			
Sat. 30	High	12:12 AM	3.3	5:23 AM	Set 12:49 AM	36
30	Low	6:35 AM	0.0	8:15 PM	Rise 12:09 PM	
30	High	12:58 PM	3.1			
30	Low	6:53 PM	0.4			
Sun. 31	High	1:08 AM	3.2	5:22 AM	Set 1:15 AM	47
31	Low	7:35 AM	0.1	8:15 PM	Rise 1:19 PM	
31	High	1:53 PM	3.2			
31	Low	8:03 PM	0.4			