



What Side of the Buoy Do I Go On???

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One of the "great mysteries" of boating is "Good Lord, what side of this buoy do I go on?" While conducting a safety patrol last summer for USCG Forces, our crew came upon a skipper, bringing a new boat down from Rhode Island, in Moriches Bay near the new buoy system south of Seatuck Cove (see SSP, "New Buoys in Moriches Bay - Head UP", 7/16/08). The skipper was concerned with his 4' draft and being able to make it to Massapequa in the Great South Bay from there. We advised him that, "Tide is near flood now so stay in the channel and be careful near Nun-18. It has been moved to the north due to shoaling in the original channel. Forget what your GPS says. Use your eyes." Naturally, he took the buoy on the wrong side and was grounded for a number of hours. So, let's re-address this now and forever! Here we go...

Reality TV - You've Won!

Imagine this. You are on one of those reality TV shows and you have won! In addition to the big job and the big bucks, the host throws in a beautiful penthouse apartment in a brand new 50-story condo overlooking the marina and harbor. You get so excited that you faint straight away. You wake up in the elevator and you see the elevator numbers flashing by...

If the numbers were going up, would you be leaving the building or returning to our new home in the penthouse? If the numbers were going down, would you be returning to your new home in the penthouse or leaving to go to work...? Clearly, if the numbers are going up, you are going up - returning home. If the numbers are going down, you are heading for the street level - leaving.

And the same is true of the buoyage system in the entire United States! While certain pearls of wisdom work in local waters ("keep the reds and the ocean on the same of your boat"), they don't work everywhere



and they also fail to educate you as a mariner as to "how the system works" and why...

Of course, many of us have heard and used the old saw of "red, right, return" - meaning when returning from sea/to your harbor/home, keep the red buoys on your right. But when you leave Seatuck Cove to starboard, you are entering Tuthill Cove almost immediately. Are you returning to Tuthill or leaving Seatuck? So, let's extend the old saw and get it right forever more...

Red - Right, Return; Left, Leaving

Keep the red buoys on your right when returning and on your left when leaving. If the numbers are going up, you are returning (to your penthouse in the sky!) If the numbers are going down, you are leaving (to that great job you just won!)

Be wary of one thing - "discontinuous numbers", meaning big jumps between buoy numbers or the numbers starting to go the opposite way. This means you have entered a new seaway or road and you need to recalibrate the direction of the numbers. For example, if returning from sea via the Moriches Inlet and heading through the West Cut towards Forge River, you will see the following. You will pass red-4W (to starboard), red-6W (to starboard - see the #s are going up) and green-7W to port. Then you will see green-MOR-15. That is a big jump! If you were in the same channel, you should be seeing #8 or #9 - not #15! Now, what side? Quickly checking your chart, you will see that red-MOR-14 is about 1,000 yards ahead. The buoy numbers are now going down! You are in a new seaway that says, despite the fact that you are heading back to your slip up the Forge River, you are leaving as far as the buoyage system is concerned! Take green-MOR-15 to starboard (so that you can take red-MOR-14 to port (left leaving!). Never fails (in North America).

Want to know why our reds are on our right when returning from sea and not the other way around as in Europe? Well, when we were at war with the mightiest navy in the world 230+ years, the revolutionaries turned all the buoys around so that the English men-of-war would run aground... and we just kept them that way ever since...!

"Red - Right, Return; Left, Leaving." If the numbers are going up, you are returning as far as the rules of the road are concerned... Always...

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux@aol.com or go direct to the DISR Human Resources department, who are in charge of new members matters, at DSO-HR and we will help you "get in this thing..."

Levy, Dormer Recognize Lindy's for Providing More Than 200 Free Rides



Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy and Police Commissioner Richard Dormer thank President of Lindy's Transportation John Tomitz (center) for providing the public free taxi rides during the holiday season. Pictured (l-r) Police Commissioner Richard Dormer; John Tomitz, President Lindy's Transportation and Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy.

Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy and Suffolk County Police Commissioner Richard Dormer commended John Tomitz, the owner of Lindy's Taxi, for providing free rides home to people who drank alcohol at bars or parties during the holidays.

The company provided more than 200 rides home, and offered people a ride back to the location to retrieve their vehicles the next day, potentially preventing these individuals from driving home drunk.

"We are extremely thankful to the staff of Lindy's taxi for this valuable service they provided," Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy said. "Their generosity potentially saved lives and helped to make our streets safer."

As part of the county's DWI prevention efforts, the police department will extend its enhanced DWI enforcement beyond the holiday season. In addition to the SAFE-T Section (Selective Alcohol Fatality Enforcement), which focuses on DWI enforcement year round, the Holiday DWI Task Force will continue and supplemental DWI patrols will be deployed for enforcement and checkpoints.

"Drinking and driving is a serious offense that has injured and killed too many individuals," Suffolk County Police Commissioner Richard Dormer said. "Our enforcement initiatives combined with community efforts help to make the roads of Suffolk County safer."

Supervisor Lesko and Councilman Panico Announce Town's Quality of Life Task Force Action on Illegal Two-Family Home in Mastic

The Quality of Life Task Force took action on a non-owner occupied, illegal two-family dwelling located at 48 Dover Street in Mastic. Task Force investigators, who responded to a "walk-in" complaint, discovered that the home was divided into two apartments, one on the first floor and one on the second floor. Mold was present throughout the house and raw garbage and debris was scattered about. There was an expired permit from 2001 in the Town Building Department for the entire second floor, including a sunroom and an expired building permit for other interior alterations from 2001.

Investigators also reported that the tenants were using their ovens to heat most of the house, because the baseboard heating is nearly destroyed. There were no smoke detectors, no GFI outlets, no railings on the staircase leading to the second floor and numerous electrical outlets were hanging off the walls. Egress from the bedrooms was blocked by air conditioning units and furniture, and some windows were inoperable or broken. The only entrance to an outdoor deck and sunroom is through a second floor bathroom. Investigators also found that there were three electric meters on the house, an unregistered vehicle in the yard and a discarded refrigerator in the rear with the doors still on it. Law Investigators already served nine appearance tickets, seven of which are misdemeanors, for failure to submit rental registration, an unregistered vehicle, outdoor storage of appliances, alterations without permits and CO's, and illegal conversion to a two-family dwelling. Task Force investigators contacted Suffolk County Social Services to help relocate the tenants. The court date is February 24.

"The action taken on this property is evidence that the Town will continue to aggressively pursue those who violate our code, disregard the health and safety of our residents and exploit those who must live in these deplorable conditions. They will work even harder in the upcoming year to help improve the quality of life for residents throughout Brookhaven Town."

"The message to those who exploit are community is clear; Brookhaven will not tolerate those who break up houses into illegal apartments, boarding houses, and exploit the surrounding areas," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico. "From my first day in office I have made it a priority to clean up our communities block by block and house by house. By riding along block by block with our Quality of Life Task Force, our public safety department, police department, community leaders, and town investigators to identify and remedy problem properties we are taking back our streets. In less than a year in office we have made major improvements, and this effort will continue in 2011"

If residents believe that a property is in violation of any Town of Brookhaven codes, they can call 451-TOWN to file a complaint.