



Cybersecurity and the Private Boater

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We've all often read about cybersecurity, or better said, cyber intrusions, in the corporate and government worlds. It even touches the average "Joe or Jill" when one of those corporations loses a file with social security numbers on them - OMG! And none of us has to be reminded that we must guard our credit card numbers, passwords and other personal data that some creep (did I just call them a creep!) might use to steal our "identity."

What does that have to do with boating? Nothing. Directly. Do you use online services to get tidal tables? Buy anything at Westmarine or a similar chandlery by their web site? Getting the picture? Yes, cybersecurity has enough of an impact on us just as boaters that it is well worth dedicating one column to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Cybersecurity Awareness Campaign that is now underway.

National Cybersecurity Awareness Campaign

"People cannot value security without first understanding how much is at risk. Therefore, the Federal government should initiate a national public awareness and education campaign... This campaign should focus on public messages to promote responsible use of the Internet and awareness of fraud, identity theft, cyber predators, and cyber ethics."

White House Cyberspace Policy Review June 2009

Well, now they are. On October 4th, DHS announced the

"Stop-Think-Connect" public cybersecurity awareness campaign. This is a national initiative that promotes simple steps that we can take to increase our safety and security online. The creation of "Stop-Think-Connect" was the result of an intensive effort by several industry and governmental entities over the past year. Some names worth mentioning are the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), the Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG), key industry leaders, government agencies, and nonprofits. National Cybersecurity Awareness Month is a coordinated effort between DHS, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), and NCSA to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity and help us establish smart cyber habits that will lead to increased protection for us and by us, online. Maybe the genesis of it really came from us - a recent national study (Heart + Mind Strategies Online Consumer Security & Safety Messaging Convention, National Consumer Quantitative Survey) found that online safety is a personal priority for Americans where 96% of Americans surveyed felt a personal responsibility to be safe and secure online, and 93% said their online actions could protect not only friends and family but also help make the Internet safer for everyone around the world.

You're The Skipper - of your own cybersecurity:

There are a few steps that you can take to not only participate in National

Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but also enhance cybersecurity year-round

- Make sure that you have anti-virus software and firewalls installed, properly configured, and up-to-date.
- New threats are discovered every day, and keeping your software updated is one of the easier ways to protect yourself from an attack.
- Software updates offer the latest protection against malicious activities. Consider turning on automatic updating if that feature is available.
- Back up key files. For most people, the idea of backing up to "floppies" or CDs is just too daunting. There are now online services that auto-back-up your files while you sleep - and you can retrieve them at will.

You might even consider joining the National Cybersecurity Awareness Campaign: Stop. Think. Connect at "<http://www.dhs.gov/files/events/top-think-connect.shtm>"

Demonstrate your commitment to cybersecurity.

- Show your family's commitment to cybersecurity and National Cybersecurity Awareness Month by signing the online endorsement form at www.staysafeonline.org. The kids will show you how...
- Create a section for cybersecurity on your refrigerator.. Download banners at www.staysafeonline.org and post them on your refrigerator door.
- Add a signature block to your e-mail: "October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Stay Safe Online!"

Visit <http://www.staysafeonline.org> for the latest cybersecurity tips."

Find out what more you and the teachers in your life can do to secure cyberspace and how you can share this with others.

• Participate in the National Cyber Security Alliance Cyber Security Awareness Volunteer Education (C-SAVE) Program and help educate elementary, middle, and high-school students about Internet safety and security. For more information or to download the C-Save curriculum, visit www.staysafeonline.org/content/c-save.

• Educate family, friends, peers at www.StaySafeOnline.org

• Learn the fundamentals of cybersecurity, starting with the IT Security Essential Body of Knowledge (EBK)

• For more detailed Tips, read these Tip Sheets from National Cyber Security Alliance

And report Suspicious Cyber Activity to the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) by visiting <https://forms.us-cert.gov/report/> or by calling 1-888-282-0870. You may also visit <http://www.staysafeonline.org/content/report-and-handle-problems> for more information.

Boat safely. And "surf" safely too. BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux2010@aol.com or go direct to John Blevins, who is in charge of new members matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."



FISHING WITH TONY

TOGS AND BASS ON TAP FOR THIS WEEKEND

by TONY SALERNO

With porgy and sea bass season now officially closed, anglers will look towards occupying their time nailing a few big blackfish and striped bass. Thankfully, the bite for both species has been real good thanks to the drop of water temperatures ever since those nasty fronts plagued our shores a couple of weeks ago. Well now the weather is ideal and anglers on both the north and south shores are harvesting on the good catches. Therefore now is the time to get out there and enjoy.

Along the north shore, the Port Jeff based open boats the Celtic Quest and the Osprey have been doing a fine job slamming a combination of blues, stripers, porgies and blackfish on a daily basis with bluefish the best bet at the moment. Anglers are finding limits of blues to 15-pounds on a daily basis with some nice stripers and togs mixed in. As water temps continue to drop, both boats will be focusing more and more on the togs, which the Celtic Quest enjoyed a good shot of them this past week. For anglers wishing to go black fishing on their own, Cranes Neck and Old Field Point have lots of small to medium size togs for the taking on fiddler and Asian crabs. If you are without a boat and want to enjoy some of this quality fishing, you can always rent a skiff from Candy and Tim Caraffis at Caraffis Fishing Station on Main Street in Port Jeff where Candy and Tim will steer you in the right direction for a great day at tog fishing.

Along the south shore, both Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets have been chock full of stripers either during the day or evening tides. Bass to 30-pounds have been cobbling down fresh clams, live spot, bunker and eels during the outgoing tide. During the daylight hours the action has been best employing live spots, while live eels rule after dark. Speaking of inlets, the rock jetties that line these two waterways are loaded with mixed size blackfish and the jetty jocks have been enjoying the action with fish to 8-pounds. Fiddler and green crabs have been working okay, but if you rally want to hammer the fish, use Asian crabs. Outside the inlets, there is plenty of quality tog waiting to be caught at the local reefs and wrecks where open boats such as the Rosie, Shinnecock Star and the Hampton Lady are enjoying a tog fest.



Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington

Making "Sober Homes" Safe Havens and Good Neighbors

If you have ever lived near what is loosely termed as a sober home, chances are you have not been pleased with what you have witnessed. Also known as a recovery home, sober homes generally are boarding houses that use a wide variety of methods to help residents abstain from alcohol and drug use. As they exist now, sober/recovery homes provide only housing to their residents. Treatment services, which are overseen by the state, are not offered in these homes.

Some recovery homes work well. Phoenix House is a good example. The organization runs licensed residential programs throughout the nation for people struggling with substance abuse. A Phoenix House program is structured and provides oversight. Unfortunately, many sober homes come nowhere near this model. In fact, too many sober homes are little more than flop houses, managed poorly with little to no oversight. The problems associated with these kinds of residences have become overwhelming in some neighborhoods. For the residents, who honestly may be looking for a safe haven in which to seek support and treatment, these residences are just as problematic.

As a lawmaker who has received many complaints from constituents who are trying to cope with a bad sober home in their neighborhood, I already know the limitations that exist to regulate them. Regulations must come from the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). It has yet to establish them and on a county level we cannot do so.

This is why I have joined with Legislator Kate Browning to sponsor a bill authorizing the Suffolk County Department of Social Services to create its own list of responsible and qualified sober home operators. Operators who make it to "the list" will be eligible for County incentives to encourage them to stay on the list. And this is the list the County will work from when referring persons in recovery to a home.

There really is more than one way to reach a goal, and with this bill, I think we may have found it. Everyone needs a place to live. Most people do not begrudge individuals who are in recovery a safe haven. What they are dead-set against is the fact that too many sober homes are anything but safe. These are the homes they do not want in their neighborhoods, and I don't blame them.