



Safety on the Ice – Barely and Very Carefully

by VINCENT T. PICA, II

District Captain, Sector Long Island Sound/South, D1SR • United States Coast Guard Auxiliary



Here's how the story goes. In the dead of winter, two duck hunters and their trusty hunting dog drive their brand new Range Rover out onto the ice of (choose: _____ [a] Moriches Bay, [b] Shinnecock Bay, [c] Great South Bay, [d] Narrow Bay, [e] body of water of your choice) and, seeing that there were no open leads to entice migratory birds to land, take out a stick of dynamite, light it and throw it as far out on the ice as they can. The plan is simple. The dynamite blows a substantial hole in the ice; they get back in the car and run the heater until the migratory birds arrive. They step out with their shotguns full of bird shot and bag much of the flock.

So, as the dynamite stick is flying through the air, the dog takes off after it, thinking that a game of fetch is exactly what will make his day. Grabbing the lit stick of dynamite in his mouth, he turns and starts running back to his master and fellow hunter. This, of course, alarms the hunters to no end. Seeing that waving their arms wildly and shouting, "no! no! no!" isn't working, they fire their bird shot at the charging dog – striking fear into a bewildered Fido. Fido turns to his only source of cover – the car. Running under the car to hide, all is fine until he burns his rump on the still-hot exhaust



pipe. As he yelps and takes off running again, the dynamite stick, which was left behind with the yelp, explodes. This sends the brand new Range Rover, in many pieces, to the bottom of (choose: _____ [a] Moriches Bay, [b] Shinnecock Bay, [c] Great South Bay, [d] Narrow Bay, [e] body of water of your choice.)

Funny – but only apocryphal as every Coast Guard station north of the 40th degree of latitude was telling that story a couple of winters ago, swearing that one of the locals swore to them that they knew somebody that was related to somebody who knew the dog owner.

But some of us do fish and/or hunt on the frozen lakes, creeks and bays out east. Please heed the following from the US Coast Guard:

Ice is unpredictable and dangerous. While the Coast Guard understands winter recreation on the ice around our area is a tradition, it is important to take safety measures:

- Always check the weather and ice conditions before any trip out onto the ice. Ice thickness is not consistent, even over the same body of water.
- Always tell family and friends where you are going and when you are expected to be back, and stick to the plan.

- Use the buddy system. NEVER go out onto the ice alone.
- Dress in bright colors. Wear an exposure suit, preferably one that is waterproof, and a personal floatation device.
- Carry a whistle or noise-making device to alert people that you are in distress; carry a cell phone and/or a VHF-FM radio in order to contact the nearest Coast Guard station in the event you see someone in distress.
- Carry two screwdrivers or a set of ice awls. If you fall through the ice you can use these items to help get yourself out. They are more effective than using your hands.

Remember, hypothermia is a killer and it sneaks up on you with woolen slippers (see SSP, "Cold Water Survival, Hypothermia, Rescue & Recovery", 10/27/10.) Cold water safety presentations by the Auxiliary are available to local organizations and can be arranged by contacting the Coast Guard Auxiliary District Public Affairs Officer via their website.

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..."

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Louis J. Marcoccia
 Brookhaven Town Receiver Of Taxes
 One Independence Hill, Farmingville, NY 11738 631-451-9009

Official Tax Notice

TO THE TAXPAYERS AND INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN, TAKE NOTICE: Louis J. Marcoccia, Receiver of Taxes, in and for the said Town, has received the tax and assessment rolls and warrant for the 2010/2011 Tax Levy and said taxes and assessments therein may be paid to the Receiver of Taxes at his office, One Independence Hill, Suite 110, Farmingville, New York 11738-2149, during the following extended hours:

Saturday, January 8th 9am – 3pm
 Monday, January 10th 8am – 8pm

Please Note:
 The Tax Office Will Be Open 9am to 12:00pm Thursday December 23rd and Will Be **Closed** Friday December 24, 2010
 &
 The Tax Office Will Be Open 9am to 12:00pm Thursday December 30th and Will Be **Closed** Friday December 31, 2010

Regular office hours will be 9:00am to 4:30pm Monday thru Friday

FIRST PAYMENT: Payable by January 10th, 2011 without penalty. First and second payments may be paid at the same time prior to January 10th, 2011

SECOND PAYMENT: Payable by May 31st, 2011 without penalty.

After May 31st, 2011, all bills must be paid to the County Treasurer:
 Hon. Angie Carpenter
 Riverhead County Center
 330 Center Drive
 Riverhead, New York 11901-3311
 631-852-3000

Louis J. Marcoccia

LOUIS J. MARCOCCIA
 BROOKHAVEN TOWN RECEIVER OF TAXES
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