



## Bringing It Home Safely – National Safe Boating Week 2012



by VINCENT PICA

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

### Bringing It Home - Safely

National Safe Boating Week runs from May 19 to May 25 in 2012. 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. 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 comprised of four flotillas and it is at the flotilla level where the work gets done. Division-18 supports three Coast Guard stations "Out East" – SFO Moriches, Station Shinnecock and Station Montauk.

### "Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear it" – Get In the Picture!

In 2012, the Wear It! campaign will continue, reminding boaters from coast to coast to put on their life jacket when on the water. The campaign is sponsored by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the National Safe Boating Council and many other boating organizations. Looking ahead to the 2012 campaign, note that the National Safe Boating Council will offer its free material on its [www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com) website. There is nothing stopping marina owners, dive shop proprietors, camp counselors and concerned parents from getting and using those materials!

On May 19, 2012 at 12:00 p.m., the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, in cooperation with West Marine Patchogue, will be holding a Ready Set Wear It event.

The West Marine store will be opening at 8:00 am and the Coast Guard Auxiliarists will be promoting Life Jacket Wear and performing free vessel safety checks for all boats that are trailered in.

At 12:00 noon will be the photo op for the Ready Set Wear It event and it's our hope to get as many members as possible there at 12:00 wearing their life jacket for the photo op. "Hey, honey, there's me!"

The simple use of life jackets when engaging in any boating or paddle boat activity saves lives. Obeying and knowing the Navigation Rules or the nautical "Rules of the Road" through safe boating classes and not drinking alcohol or taking drugs while operating a boat, will save the lives of the boaters and those sharing the water with you. Wearing a life jacket can reduce the number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year by

approximately 80%! It is a simple task that has the potential to reduce terrible loss in lives. The goal of National Safe Boating Week is to emphasize the year-round effort to promote safe boating. All who enjoy the waters of our beautiful state are urged to practice safe boating habits. Remember: "Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear it."

### Kayak Races and TrawlerFests

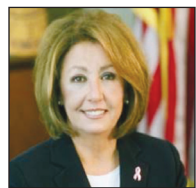
At \$5/gallon for fuel, we can expect the explosion in the use of paddle sports to continue and the Coast Guard's Operation Paddle Smart is key to curtailing the injuries and even deaths that these pastimes are piling up statistically.

### 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.

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at [JoinUSCGAux@aol.com](mailto:JoinUSCGAux@aol.com) or go direct to the D1SR Human Resources department, who are in charge of new members matters, at DSO-HR and we will help you "get in this thing..."



## County Clerk Update

by SUFFOLK COUNTY CLERK

JUDY PASCALE

### COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE PROVIDES 24-HOUR SERVICE

County Clerk Judith Pascale and the Suffolk County Clerk's Office have expanded its on-line land record retrieval system and Land Record & Court Hotline to provide access 24-hours a day.

The information online is available in index form only, and does not contain images of the actual records. However, access to this information is an incredibly useful tool for the residents, and businesses that service the residents, of Suffolk County. After locating a record, copies can be purchased from the County Clerk's Office.

Currently, indexes to deed, mortgage, judgment, lien, UCC, business certificate and corporation records are available via the website.

Additionally, the automated telephone service is available 24/7 and allows attorneys, title professionals, banks, as well as the general public, to enter their tax map property identification number and/or Supreme Court Index number into an automated system that will provide recent activity, i.e. deed transfers, mortgage satisfactions and/or court filings.

"As County Clerk, it has always been my goal to provide the best services to the residents of Suffolk County. By increasing the range of available land record data back to 1987, we have provided a safe and efficient means for the residents of Suffolk County to check their property information on-line and avoiding the need to visit our office in Riverhead. Furthermore, by limiting the information available to data only, we have ensured that the privacy concerns of residents remain paramount," commented Suffolk County Clerk Judith A. Pascale.

Property information is only retrievable by utilizing your distinct property tax map number which appears on your tax bill or with the case index number for Supreme Court lawsuits.

"The Suffolk County Clerk's Office is pleased to provide the latest in safe efficient retrieval of land record information, while protecting the records from anyone who may use them for illegitimate reasons," concluded Suffolk County Clerk Judith A. Pascale.

Residents are encouraged to visit the Suffolk County Clerk's website at [SuffolkCountyNY.gov/Clerk](http://SuffolkCountyNY.gov/Clerk) for more information. The automated telephone service is available by dialing 631-852-2000 ext. 650.



by TONY SALERNO

## FISHING WITH TONY

### FISHING STANDS TRUE DESPITE WEATHER

If you are letting some wind and rain deter you from fishing, then it may be necessary to reassess priorities as stripers, blues, porgies and fluke have all exploded this week, especially blues and stripers. In fact, it seems the snottier the weather the better the fishing. This past week has seen a huge influx of bluefish inside all of the south shore bays and inside the north shore harbors. And to make things more interesting, many of the oversize snappers are of gator proportion hitting the scales back at the docks to 15-pounds. Although there are plenty of big choppers around, it is still your typical mid May madness with most blues falling in the 3 to 5-pound range. Just find the birds and you're sure to find the blues. Poppers, tins and spoons are working best on both shores.



Striped bass have also made their presence felt in a big way this week with Cranes Neck and Oldfield Points being the hot spots on the north, while just inside Shinnecock and Moriches Inlets rule the roost along the south shore bays. Fresh clams and frozen clam chum has been doing the trick at the inlets, while whole sandworms or chunks of fresh bunker entice the bite along the north shore. The night bite for bass has also been good, with live eels leading the front, while albino color 7-inch Bass Assassins work an incredibly close second.

Porgies continue please on both shores with both size and quantity. The scup are sucking down clams, worms and squid at just about any rock pile between 30 and 40 feet of water between Smithtown Bay and Miller Place, while the Shinnecock Reef along the south shore is stuffed with big slab pork chops. Many anglers drifting for fluke at the reef are slamming the chops on bucktails as well.

Everyone loves fluke. And thus far, the fishing been a little more challenging than expected mostly due to the east winds and chilly rains, particularly along the north shore. However, the fish are stacked up in Smithtown Bay all the way east to Roanoke Shoal just waiting for water temps to notch up a couple of degrees where the fishing should take off higher than a kite in the wind. Just inside and outside Shinnecock and Moriches Bays, the summer flatfish populations are strong and here to a little spike of warmer temperatures will really start filling anglers coolers with quality keepers.