



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 this weekend 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 overlook-

ing 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 JoinUSCGAux2008@aol.com or go direct to MaryJo Cruickshank, who is in charge of new members matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing."

Joan's View SOUTH/WEST story and photos by Joan Travan

Patchogue, October 15:

The Great South Bay Republican Club held its monthly meeting at the Domino Yacht Club in East Patchogue with the telekinetic John Faso as their guest speaker. If you remember, Faso was the Republican nominee for Governor of New York in 2006 and his opponent was the infamous client # 9, who won the race and then lost it all.

John a former New York State Assemblyman made fighting increases in school property taxes a main focus during his tenure in the state assembly.

A man who has been a fixture in New York State government, Senator Caesar Trunzo, who is running for reelection stated that he has brought home a half billion dollars in state school aid to his Senatorial District during his term in state government.

Scott Salimando who is a candidate for New York State Assembly in the 3rd Assembly District said the one issue that he has heard over and over again is the need for school property tax relief and he said, "I have a plan that will bring true property tax relief."

Scott Salimando School Property Tax Relief information: www.votesalimando.com



Patchogue Village Trustee Joseph Dean, NYS Senator Caesar Trunzo, Scott Salimando, Guest speaker John Faso, Club President Brian Pendergast



Brian Egan - Senator Caesar Trunzo



Frank Zimlinghaus - Scott Salimando

Ronkonkoma, October 15:

The West Brookhaven Lake Republican Club held its annual spaghetti dinner at the American Legion Hall in Ronkonkoma. The event was a fun filled evening with club members, their spouses and friends enjoying the hospitality of the club and for those first timers - making new friends.

The fact that it was the club's first annual spaghetti dinner and it was a huge success will be a sure factor there is a second dinner in the works. Kudos to the organizers!



RuthAnn DiLina, Julie Wilson, Madeline Grosso, Susan Gamaldi, seated, Joan Hudson



Mr. & Mrs. Tom Muratore



Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Kathy Walsh & Judge Howard Bergson