



Lightning

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If you have been boating more than 5 minutes, it is quite possible that you have left the dock under fair skies and come back being chased by the Wrath of God... This column is about that.

Facts and Myths About Lightning

The only natural disaster that kills more Americans than lightning is floods. That's right. Hurricanes, mudslides, forest fires and tornadoes all come in behind lightning. And what is amazing to me is that you can go to a NASA website, particularly given the intro above, (NASA-Lightning), and find that lightning avoids the ocean. This proves once again that there are lies, damn lies and statistics. Lightning may not hit the ocean often – the vast, almost limitless ocean that covers three-quarters of the surface of the planet – but it sure likes near-coastal environments... That's where we are...!

We've all grown up counting to 5 or 6 between thunder claps to determine how far away the storm is and whether it is getting closer or not. Lightning, which can hit as far away as 20 miles from its source-thunder-cloud, is so dangerous that it just makes no sense to try to outwit it. That being the case, are there any preventative tools? Well, now that you ask, there is something called a Lightning Detector. They have been used by the military and aircraft operators for years. Now, for \$200-\$500, you can get a portable one for the boat.

"I need a lightning detector? I can see it!" Not if it is 20 miles away and you



need to know if it is between you and home...

Unlike metal boats, fiberglass or wood boats, unfortunately, don't conduct electricity well so "side flash" occurs, which makes the electric charge jump around looking for good conductors. Take a look in the mirror. We are good conductors.

What to Do...

Well, not getting hit in the first place is the best advice. If the weather forecast is bad, forget about trying to get out there to take advantage of the predators starting to "feed up" (they can sense the lowering pressure via their lateral lines) before the storm. It isn't worth it.

But, if you are out there, what do you do when you see a storm approaching? NOAA says:

- Get out of the water if you are swimming off the transom. It's a great conductor of electricity.

- If caught in a boat, crouch down in the center away from metal hardware.

- Don't stand in puddles of water. (Ya' think?)

Let me add a couple of thoughts.

1. Life jackets on everyone.
2. Disconnect all electronics that aren't essential to getting home. Electrical tape over the exposed leads so nothing climbs up the wire to the gear...

3. If you can see the edges of the storm, and the center of the storm is between you and home, run at speed at a 90-degree angle to the storm and try to go around it. Squalls can be as deadly as a major blow but they are small-ish and can be avoided. If the storm covers the sky from horizon to horizon, say a prayer* (I carry one on the outside of my sea journal) and head in at speed. (See SSP article, "Skipping in Heavy Seas", July 15, 2010)

4. Get on the radio and let someone know where you are, where you are headed and at what speed you can make. Check in every 15 minutes. After 30 minutes of not checking in, someone needs to start the "rescue starts now" clock...

5. It would be great to have individuals aboard who are competent in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid. Many individuals struck by lightning or exposed to excessive electrical current can be saved with prompt and proper artificial respiration and/or CPR. There is no danger in touching persons after they have been struck by

lightning. No joke. Some people fear that. No one has CPR training? Call the American Red Cross and get a course under your keel.

If a boat has been, or is suspected of having been, struck by lightning (overnight on a mooring?), check out the electrical system and the compasses to insure that no damage has occurred. A number of years ago, I dinghy'd out to my son's 17' Seahunt, sitting on her mooring east of Gunning Point. As I approached, I noticed that the bow-mounted nav lights were broken. "Son of a gun, some yahoo hit the boat last night. Must have been drunk as a skunk!" Then I noticed some of the other electronics had scorch marks and cracked glass covers. The light went on! I realized that this must be a left-over from a storm that had come through the night before. Scratching my head, I lifted the cover to check the fuel tank. Looking down, I saw that the sender wire that runs from the cockpit gauge back to the fuel tank was completely scorched – to within 1" of the fuel tank itself... We re-wired the boat and repeated our prayer.

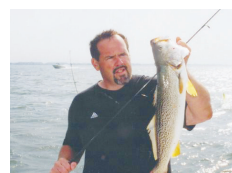
Dear God, Thy sea is so great and my boat is so small. Protect me...

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at 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..."

Tides for Moriches Inlet starting with September 11, 2013

Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
Wed. 11	Low	5:07 AM	0.3	6:28 AM	Rise 12:56 PM	29
11	High	11:49 AM	3.3	7:07 PM	Set 10:58 PM	
11	Low	6:06 PM	0.4			
Thur. 12	High	12:16 AM	2.9	6:29 AM	Rise 1:56 PM	40
12	Low	6:10 AM	0.4	7:05 PM	Set 11:55 PM	
12	High	12:50 PM	3.3			
12	Low	7:19 PM	0.4			
Fri. 13	High	1:20 AM	2.8	6:30 AM	Rise 2:52 PM	51
13	Low	7:29 AM	0.4	7:03 PM		
13	High	1:52 PM	3.3			
13	Low	8:31 PM	0.4			
Sat. 14	High	2:26 AM	2.9	6:31 AM	Set 12:58 AM	63
14	Low	8:44 AM	0.4	7:02 PM	Rise 3:42 PM	
14	High	2:57 PM	3.4			
14	Low	9:33 PM	0.2			
Sun. 15	High	3:33 AM	3.0	6:32 AM	Set 2:05 AM	73
15	Low	9:49 AM	0.2	7:00 PM	Rise 4:26 PM	
15	High	4:02 PM	3.5			
15	Low	10:29 PM	0.0			
Mon. 16	High	4:37 AM	3.2	6:33 AM	Set 3:15 AM	83
16	Low	10:47 AM	0.1	6:58 PM	Rise 5:06 PM	
16	High	5:03 PM	3.6			
16	Low	11:20 PM	-0.2			
Tues. 17	High	5:35 AM	3.4	6:34 AM	Set 4:25 AM	91
17	Low	11:41 AM	-0.1	6:56 PM	Rise 5:42 PM	
17	High	5:58 PM	3.7			
Wed. 18	Low	12:10 AM	-0.3	6:35 AM	Set 5:34 AM	96
18	High	6:27 AM	3.6	6:55 PM	Rise 6:16 PM	
18	Low	12:34 PM	-0.2			
18	High	6:47 PM	3.7			

Weather Forecast	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
E Moriches, NY (11940)	Sep 11	Sep 12	Sep 13	Sep 14	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17	Sep 18
	85°F 71°F	80°F 67°F	74°F 54°F	67°F 52°F	70°F 56°F	73°F 59°F	71°F 57°F	72°F 58°F



by TONY SALERNO

FISHING WITH TONY

ANGLERS SWITCHING FISHING HATS FOR HUNTING CAPS

Well as the wave of the summer of 2013 comes to a close, the cool nights of autumn are reminding many anglers that the 2013/14 fall and winter hunting season will be upon us as quick as blinking an eye. Make no mistake about it, there is still plenty of solid fishing to be had in the few months ahead; however in the hearts of the hunters, it's that time again when hunters get that particular itch and transform their graphite for iron. As for me, I'll stick to the fishing, however for you Grisly Adams out there; you'll want to check out the happenings over at the Ridge Fire Department on October 1st 2013.

The Ridge Fire Department Company 2 will have their second Annual Big Buck Contest and Wild Game Dinner on Tuesday October 1st at 7 P.M. at the Ridge FD located at 525 Lockwood Drive, Shirley NY 11967. The event is sponsored by Ducks Unlimited, Smith Point Archery and Island Wide Taxidermy. There will be live music entertainment, a spread of wild game entrees and all the fixings along with spirits and soft beverages for the donation of \$50. The opportunity to purchase some great hunting apparatus will be available as well. In Addition, there will be raffles available for those looking to win some neat prizes. For you hunters that want to get in on the Big Buck Contest, entry fee is \$50 with the contest running from October 1st till January. All bucks must be legal to qualify with the winner collecting 50 percent of the entry fee. You'll have to act soon since the cutoff date to enter will be no later than September 31st. Tickets to the dinner can be purchased at the door. For more info and registration, you can contact Jeremy at (631) 924-5550.

On the fishing front, things have been relatively quiet in Moriches and Shinnecock bays as both areas are infested with short fluke with a keeper here and there. Outside the two inlets it is a totally different world as fluke, sea bass, porgies and triggerfish are all available for the taking. Along the north shore, porgies continue to dominate the waters as they have all summer with some of the largest scup seen in recent history making their way into coolers. In addition, there are quite a few keeper sea bass making it into the coolers as well. Some bluefish round out the catches. Stay tuned, as the best of the fall is still a few weeks away.