



Sounding Smart on the Radio

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There is a natural tendency to shy away from the unfamiliar, especially when you can't get the words back. Remember the first time you were faced with a phone message machine: "leave your answer after the beep" - BEEP! Now what? Even today, that beep can strike fear into the hearts of some. Now, how about multiplying that a hundred-fold to everyone tuned to channel 16...?

Some Basics

Unless you know the cell phone number of every boater in your vicinity, your only source of help is your radio. You don't have one, you say? Stop reading and check yourself in someplace because that is simply nutty. Your radio is likely to be your only source of help and you go to sea without one? Over a couple of hundred dollars? And Westmarine for one will give you a three-year warranty in the price... Come on, Bunky, where else can we skimp with such potentially disastrous results?

So, let's assume we all have a radio, even if only a 5watt handheld, aboard. Calls fall into three categories and if you use the introduction properly, you will save essential time with US Coast Guard Forces. Tune it to VHF channel '16' and leave it there.

Imminent Loss of Life Aboard

The all-familiar "May-day, May-day, May-day" is the ultimate. It means that "I need help right now. There is imminent risk to lives aboard my vessel." (Emanating from the sinking of the Titanic, it comes from the French for "help me!" "M'aide".) Would you use it if there wasn't imminent threat to lives? No. What then do I use?

Someone to Watch Over Me

"Pan-pan, pan-pan, pan-pan" (said "pahn") is the introduction to indicate that a high level of concern exists and advice, at a minimum, is needed (see "Skippers in Heavy Weather, SSP, Oct 11, 2006). You're taking on water but you have it generally



under control - but you wisely want the USCG to keep an eye on you... Or you are coming in during a heavy storm, are struggling but maintaining steerage - but want the USCG to keep an eye on you... Don't be bashful. Get on that radio and have someone watch over you...

Someone to Look Out for Me

"Security-security-security" (often said with the French pronunciation - "secure-a-tay"). You are coming into the Inlet at night, can't see anybody but worried, as you should be, that there is somebody there... You're coming back from Montauk during a foggy day and you are on the rhumb line from the Montauk sea buoy towards the Moriches sea buoy. Someone going from Moriches to Montauk will be on a reciprocal course to yours - in the fog. Put out the security call!

All of these introductions, which immediately

establish the level of the issue, are repeated three times, per above.

Now What Do I Say?

What you say next will save time and possibly save your life. Identify yourself (the name of the boat - if you don't have one, make something up right then "motor vessel 'charlie'") and, most importantly, the nature of your distress and where you are! For example, "pahn-pahn, pahn-pahn, pahn-pahn, this is the motor-vessel Charlie. We are taking on water and are 10 miles due south of Moriches Inlet. Over." When the USCG hears that, they will come right back to you (if they don't within, say, a minute, hail them again.) Note that I finished my hail with the word "over." This means I am finished talking and hoping to hear back. (There is no such sign-off, despite the movies, as "over and out." "Out" means I am done talking and I don't want to talk to you any more. "Over" means I am done talking and I do want to talk to you some more. Which is it, bunky???)

The rest will be pretty straight forward for the private boat captain. USCG Forces will essentially take over the conversational and situational control at that point. They will gather essential information (how many people aboard?) and direct you to take action consistent with the risk of the situation (get everyone in life jackets.) They will also put out an urgent call to all boaters in your vicinity to render assistance if they can, as Good Samaritans. And, if the risk warrants it, they will get underway within minutes of your hail.

Get a radio - and sound safe and smart out there!

By the way 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 12, 2012

Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
Wed. 12	High	4:30 AM	2.7	6:29 AM	Rise 2:42 AM	19
12	Low	10:26 AM	0.5	7:04 PM	Set 4:51 PM	
12	High	4:42 PM	3.1			
12	Low	11:08 PM	0.3			
Thurs. 13	High	5:20 AM	3.0	6:30 AM	Rise 3:46 AM	12
13	Low	11:15 AM	0.3	7:03 PM	Set 5:24 PM	
13	High	5:31 PM	3.3			
13	Low	11:51 PM	0.1			
Fri. 14	High	6:05 AM	3.2	6:31 AM	Rise 4:52 AM	6
14	Low	12:03 PM	0.1	7:01 PM	Set 5:56 PM	
14	High	6:16 PM	3.5			
Sat. 15	Low	12:34 AM	-0.1	6:32 AM	Rise 6:00 AM	1
15	High	6:47 AM	3.4	6:59 PM	Set 6:28 PM	
15	Low	12:51 PM	-0.1			
15	High	6:59 PM	3.5			
Sun. 16	Low	1:17 AM	-0.2	6:33 AM	Rise 7:10 AM	0
16	High	7:29 AM	3.6	6:58 PM	Set 7:00 PM	
16	Low	1:40 PM	-0.2			
16	High	7:42 PM	3.5			
Mon. 17	Low	1:59 AM	-0.2	6:34 AM	Rise 8:21 AM	0
17	High	8:12 AM	3.7	6:56 PM	Set 7:35 PM	
17	Low	2:27 PM	-0.2			
17	High	8:27 PM	3.5			
Tues. 18	Low	2:42 AM	-0.2	6:35 AM	Rise 9:33 AM	4
18	High	8:57 AM	3.8	6:54 PM	Set 8:14 PM	
18	Low	3:15 PM	-0.2			
18	High	9:16 PM	3.3			
Wed. 19	Low	3:26 AM	-0.2	6:36 AM	Rise 10:45 AM	10
19	High	9:48 AM	3.7	6:53 PM	Set 8:58 PM	
19	Low	4:05 PM	-0.1			
19	High	10:11 PM	3.2			
Thur. 20	Low	4:13 AM	-0.1	6:37 AM	Rise 11:54 AM	18
20	High	10:44 AM	3.7	6:51 PM	Set 9:48 PM	
20	Low	4:59 PM	0.1			
20	High	11:12 PM	3.0			
Fri. 21	Low	5:06 AM	0.1	6:38 AM	Rise 12:59 PM	28
21	High	11:44 AM	3.5	6:49 PM	Set 10:45 PM	
21	Low	6:00 PM	0.2			
Sat. 22	High	12:14 AM	2.9	6:39 AM	Rise 1:57 PM	39
22	Low	6:09 AM	0.3	6:48 PM	Set 11:47 PM	
22	High	12:45 PM	3.4			
22	Low	7:10 PM	0.3			



by TONY SALERNO

FISHING WITH TONY

GET READY FOR THE AUTUMN BLUES

Now that the kids are back in school and most recreational boaters have officially ended their season, anglers can start to get serious about the upcoming fall season. But first, what better way to kick in the autumn season than to tangle with gator size bluefish that have stormed the waters around the island.

Indeed, due to the abundance of the myriad of forage baitfish that continues to dominate the bays and harbors of the Sound, and the bays and ocean of the south shore, bluefish anywhere from 2 to 16-pounds have been terrorizing bunker large and small, in pods or not, both day and night, particularly just inside and outside of all the south shore Inlets and especially at the Middle Grounds in the Sound.

Along the south shore, live bait have been accounting for the majority of monster blues and the inlet. Most anglers are finding out the expensive way as live spot or croakers intended for trophy size stripers at a price tag of five bucks a pop are being chomped up by the blues often frustrating anglers. Should this be the case, fret not, instead bring along some small hook tandem rigs and some squid and clam baits and take advantage of the great run of kingfish just about anywhere you put down a baited hook. Keep them healthy in a live baitwell, and employ them as live bait instead. They are just as effective as the spot and croakers and a lot easier on the wallet. In addition, while loading up on the kingfish, don't be surprised if you encounter some spot yourself, as plenty of the southern invaders are inside the bays inhabiting the same grounds as the kings.

Up along the north shore, you can find the blues smashing bunker pods just about anywhere at anytime. However, the most consistency has been the rip lines at all the points along the Sound, and especially at the Stratford Shoals up at the Middle Grounds. Diamond jigs and chunk baits are working best at all the locations as well as trolling tubes or swim shads. While trolling, it's a good possibility that some stripers will mix in with the chopers as bass to 25-pounds are being reported intercepting the umbrella rigs. You may also want to consider live lining some legal size porgies as they also make for outstanding bass and bluefish bait.