



Suffolk County Blazes Its Own Path on Boating Safety



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The US Coast Guard continues to support the states and our other partners in their efforts to increase recreational boater education. And education generally means safer boating. In fact, consistently over the years, Coast Guard's boating statistics show huge percentages (80%-90% some years) of all reported fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not received boating safety instruction. And now, Suffolk County has passed what is arguably the toughest boating safety instruction law in New York State - everyone who boats in the County shall (read: must) have formal, approved boating safety education. This column is about that.

Like a Driver's License

Can you imagine having a driver's license issued by NYS and, upon entering Connecticut; you find that it isn't valid? A driver's license for every state makes no sense. There has to be some baseline that the states, individually and taken as a whole, accept as a minimum standard that is accepted everywhere.

Well, this isn't true yet with respect to boats, but it is slowly happening. With this legislation just passed in Suffolk County, a boating safety certificate issued by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, the US Power Squadrons or any entity that meets the standards set by NASBLA (National Association of Boating Law Administrators) must be held by the skipper, period, full stop, if operating a recreational vessel in Suffolk County waters.

What about boaters from NJ or CT? Well, those states already have a state-wide boating safety certificate program, so they are good to go. Boaters from Nassau County or New York City? Sure, as long as they have a boating safety certificate issued by an authorized entity. No certificate..? Well, better get on it. (See below.)

Suffolk County Waters Means What?

If it flows in, through or by Suffolk County, it counts. And the certificate needs to be on the board, and apply to the skipper at the helm, if/as/when the boat is stopped by law enforcement.

Else, Penalties Ensnare...

First offense? \$250. Second offense? \$500. After that, you are guilty of a misdemeanor and the fine is \$1,000 per offense. You may also find yourself a guest of the local constabulary. For a year...

Any Exemptions?

Well, yes. Boating Safety instructors certified by New York State are exempt. Boating Safety Instructors of the US Power Squadrons are exempt. All members of the US Coast Guard, US Coast Guard Auxiliary and US Navy are exempt. Police officers, fire and rescue personnel acting pursuant to assigned duties are exempt. Persons licensed by the US Coast Guard, or the Merchant Marine or Canadian Coast Guard, to operate vessels are also exempt. If you are one of those, you are good to go. If you aren't, and haven't taken an approved boating safety class, you must act.

The Clock is Ticking...

The law goes into effect next September - so the perfect time to get started is now.

Basic Course Requirements

The kind of course that the state is looking for, (from an approved instructor, Bunky, not your uncle) has these basic characteristics:

- **Introduction to Boating** - Types of power boats; sailboats; outboards; paddle boats; houseboats; different uses of boats; various power boating engines

- **Boating Law** -

Boat registration; boating regulation; hull identification number; required boat safety equipment; operating safely and reporting accidents; Federal boat law; state boating laws; personal watercraft requirements.

- **Boat Safety Equipment** -

Personal flotation devices ("life jackets"); fire extinguishers; sound-producing devices; visual-distress signals; dock lines and rope; first aid kit; anchors and anchor lines; other boating safety equipment.

- **Safe Boating** -

Bow riding; alcohol and drug abuse; entering, loading, and trimming a boat; fueling portable and permanent tanks; steering with a tiller and a wheel; docking, undocking and mooring; knots; filing a float plan; checking equipment, fuel, weather and tides; using charts; choosing and using an anchor.

- **Navigation** - The U.S. Aids to Navigation system; types of buoys and

beacons; USCG navigation rules; avoiding collisions; sound signals; PWC "tunnel vision."

- **Boating Problems** -

Hypothermia; boating accidents and rescues; man overboard recovery; capsizing; running aground; river hazards; strainers; emergency radio calls; engine problems; equipment failures; carbon monoxide (CO); other boating and PWC problems.

- **Trailing, Storing and Protecting Your Boat** -

Types of trailers; trailer brakes, lights, hitches, tires, and bearings; loading, balancing, and towing a trailer; towing (and backing) a trailer; boat launching and retrieving; boat storage.

- **Hunting and Fishing, Water-skiing and River Boating** -

Carrying hunting gear and weapons in a boat; fishing from a boat; water-skiing safety guidelines and hand signals; water-skiing with a PWC; navigating rivers, and other boating tips.

Where to find such classes?

Start here -

http://www.d1south.org/pages/boating_safety.php

Put in your zip code - and click "submit".

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 October 24, 2012

Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
Wed. 24	High	3:07 AM	3.0	7:13 AM	Set	68
24	Low	9:23 AM	0.4	5:57 PM	Rise	
24	High	3:27 PM	3.1			
24	Low	9:50 PM	0.1			
Thur. 25	High	4:05 AM	3.0	7:14 AM	Set	77
25	Low	10:18 AM	0.2	5:56 PM	Rise	
25	High	4:23 PM	3.0			
25	Low	10:36 PM	0.0			
Fri. 26	High	4:58 AM	3.2	7:15 AM	Set	85
26	Low	11:07 AM	0.2	5:54 PM	Rise	
26	High	5:15 PM	3.1			
26	Low	11:19 PM	0.0			
Sat. 27	High	5:44 AM	3.3	7:16 AM	Set	91
27	Low	11:53 AM	0.1	5:53 PM	Rise	
27	High	6:02 PM	3.1			
27	Low	11:59 PM	0.0			
Sun. 28	High	6:26 AM	3.4	7:17 AM	Set	96
28	Low	12:37 PM	0.1	5:52 PM	Rise	
28	High	6:44 PM	3.1			
28	Low	12:39 AM	0.0			
Mon. 29	Low	12:39 AM	0.0	7:19 AM	Set	99
29	High	7:04 AM	3.4	5:51 PM	Rise	
29	Low	1:19 PM	0.0			
29	High	7:25 PM	3.0			
Tues. 30	Low	1:18 AM	0.1	7:20 AM	Set	99
30	High	7:40 AM	3.4	5:49 PM	Rise	
30	Low	2:00 PM	0.1			
30	High	8:04 PM	2.9			
Wed. 31	Low	1:56 AM	0.1	7:21 AM	Set	99
31	High	8:15 AM	3.3	5:48 PM	Rise	
31	Low	2:40 PM	0.1			
31	High	8:44 PM	2.8			
Thur. 1	Low	2:32 AM	0.2	7:22 AM	Set	96
1	High	8:50 AM	3.2	5:47 PM	Rise	
1	Low	3:18 PM	0.2			
1	High	9:26 PM	2.7			
Fri. 2	Low	3:08 AM	0.3	7:23 AM	Set	91
2	High	9:26 AM	3.1	5:46 PM	Rise	
2	Low	3:55 PM	0.3			
2	High	10:10 PM	2.5			



by TONY SALERNO

FISHING WITH TONY

ROUGH WEATHER, GOOD FISHING

Although the weather may be sunny most days, and temperatures relatively mild for this time of year, don't be fooled. Well, at least just outside most of the south shore inlets along the barrier beaches, in spite of the Indian summer conditions, the surfs been up, making navigation just outside the inlets nearly impossible for any small craft looking to venture out into the ocean. And while this phenomenon of nature is quite common this time of year, it is a time that striper addicts fishing along the sand bars that situate in front of the inlet take advantage of the conditions and fill their coolers with quality striped bass.

With the combination of low lying depressions brewing well offshore and northeast winds effecting local waters, stripers will move tight to the beach feasting on a myriad of feeble baitfish that get caught up in turbulent undertows and crashing waves. Anglers tossing popping plugs, or drifting live baits reap the benefits of the action. Although anglers should always proceed with extreme caution when fishing these areas, the night bite can produce some real quality fish. In fact, blend in an evening of outgoing tide, a northeast wind and some live eels, and it would be a good bet that some real quality bass will make its way to the boat. Please remember to exercise caution around these areas and always go with two people.

Along the north shore, blackfish action has been very good in the shallow waters of the Sound. Ten to twelve feet of water remains the ideal depth for those fishing Cranes Neck and Old Field Point. Make sure to have Asian crabs on hand at these spots, since at the present moment, the Asians are top choice for fish to 8-pounds. Out at the Middle Grounds, it is the porgies and bluefish that dominate these waters with some stripers be jigged up as well. Blackfish have also started to wake up in this area; however you will have to go through a lot of porgies to get to the togs. A few more cool nights and that will get things rolling. In the meantime, Asian and green crabs are best here, but as the porgies move out, hermit crabs will be top choice.