



TIME & TIDE Wait for No (Wo)Man

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This column introduces the re-starting of a weekly update by the South Shore Press on the tides around the Moriches Inlet.

Beyond just supplying you with weekly tide tables, let's take a moment to review a few essentials. First, don't mistake precision with accuracy. Just because we can predict the tides to the second as far into the future as you could imagine (after all, we certainly know the orbits of the earth, sun and moon to exquisite precision), that doesn't mean the times are accurate!

Why aren't they? First, the weather matters. Picture the Moriches Inlet as a straw between one big balloon (Moriches Bay) and one really big balloon (the North Atlantic). If there are strong winds from any northerly heading, someone is blowing back out the straw while the tide itself is trying to come through the straw and into the bay. What happens? The tide wins but it arrives later than predicted based on the celestial relationships between the earth, sun and moon. Think of all the combinations of wind and tide --outgoing/ebbing,

incoming/flooding -- and you can see why the times are approximate.

Secondly, the tidal range (height, top to bottom) varies too. We know when the sun lines up with the moon (new and full moons), that creates "Spring" tides (higher highs, lower lows). We know when they are lined up at right angles to the earth (quarter moons), that creates "neap" tides (lower highs, higher lows). And have you ever heard the weather man say, "There is a high pressure area coming." Well, air has weight (14 lbs./square inch at sea level). If pressure increases, it matters! Air lies on top of the water like a blanket. Similarly, and much more worrisome, if the weather man says, "There is a low-pressure area building," be ready for strong winds and higher tides.

By the way, if the wind is starting to rise, face it and point straight out to your right. If you are pointing towards water, start to double your dock lines. That means the center of the storm is over water, whence it derives its power. Face northeast and point straight out to the right. What are you pointing at? The North Atlantic. Ever wonder why Nor'easters are so powerful?

One last thing: Tides change at different times in the same bay. When the tide starts to form outside the Inlet, it eventually has to work its way around the shoal island just inside the Inlet. Then it has to

work its way east and west toward Shinnecock and the Great South Bay, respectively. The wide expanse of those two reaches takes some of the power out of the "straw" that is still being fed by the tidal surge.

What to do

1. Use your "seaman's eye" to anticipate how the tide times might be affected by the weather.
2. Be aware of the moon's phase regarding the range of the tide. She is beautiful indeed and will have her way.
3. Remember to adjust the tide times for your locale. If none of the offsets listed next to the tide chart is close enough to your homeport to give you comfort, take some time and watch the tide in your creek or at your dock. I live between the Inlet and Potunk Point. The tide reaches me 75 minutes before it reaches Potunk Point!

Check out the tide tables supplied to you by South Shore Press in cooperation with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 18-06. (If you are interested in becoming a member of US Coast Guard Forces through the USCGAux, email me at USCGAUX2006@aol.com or go direct to MaryJo Cruickshank, who is charge of new members matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing.")

Moriches Inlet, Long Island, New York - September 2006

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Phase	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Fri 01	00:54 /	06:35 /	13:29 /	20:16 /			06:17	19:23	15:10	23:46
Sat 02	01:58 /	08:03 /	14:33 /	21:23 /			06:18	19:21	16:11	
Sun 03	03:08 /	09:19 /	15:41 /	22:20 /			06:19	19:20	17:03	00:46
Mon 04	04:18 /	10:22 /	16:45 /	23:13 /			06:20	19:18	17:47	01:58
Tue 05	05:20 /	11:19 /	17:42 /				06:21	19:16	18:23	03:16
Wed 06		00:03 /	06:14 /	12:15 /	18:34 /		06:22	19:15	18:53	04:37
Thu 07		00:51 /	07:03 /	13:09 /	19:23 /	Full Moon	06:23	19:13	19:19	05:58
Fri 08		01:39 /	07:51 /	14:02 /	20:11 /		06:24	19:12	19:44	07:17
Sat 09		02:24 /	08:39 /	14:53 /	21:01 /		06:25	19:10	20:09	08:36
Sun 10		03:09 /	09:29 /	15:44 /	21:53 /		06:26	19:08	20:36	09:55
Mon 11		03:54 /	10:21 /	16:35 /	22:49 /		06:27	19:07	21:08	11:13
Tue 12		04:40 /	11:16 /	17:31 /	23:47 /		06:28	19:05	21:45	12:30
Wed 13		05:31 /	12:12 /	18:35 /			06:29	19:03	22:30	13:43
Thu 14	00:46 /	06:30 /	13:10 /	19:46 /		Last Quarter	06:30	19:01	23:24	14:48
Fri 15	01:46 /	07:40 /	14:09 /	20:54 /			06:31	19:00		15:42
Sat 16	02:48 /	08:49 /	15:11 /	21:53 /			06:32	18:58	00:24	16:26
Sun 17	03:51 /	09:48 /	16:12 /	22:42 /			06:33	18:56	01:29	17:01
Mon 18	04:49 /	10:39 /	17:06 /	23:26 /			06:34	18:55	02:34	17:29
Tue 19	05:39 /	11:26 /	17:52 /				06:35	18:53	03:38	17:53
Wed 20		00:06 /	06:22 /	12:10 /	18:32 /		06:36	18:51	04:40	18:13
Thu 21		00:44 /	07:00 /	12:52 /	19:09 /		06:37	18:50	05:41	18:32
Fri 22		01:20 /	07:36 /	13:33 /	19:43 /	New Moon	06:38	18:48	06:41	18:50
Sat 23		01:54 /	08:10 /	14:12 /	20:17 /		06:39	18:46	07:41	19:09
Sun 24		02:26 /	08:42 /	14:50 /	20:49 /		06:40	18:44	08:41	19:29
Mon 25		02:56 /	09:12 /	15:26 /	21:21 /		06:41	18:43	09:44	19:53
Tue 26		03:25 /	09:44 /	16:02 /	21:56 /		06:42	18:41	10:48	20:21
Wed 27		03:52 /	10:19 /	16:39 /	22:38 /		06:43	18:39	11:54	20:55
Thu 28		04:23 /	11:03 /	17:24 /	23:32 /		06:44	18:38	12:59	21:39
Fri 29		05:03 /	11:59 /	18:28 /			06:45	18:36	14:01	22:34
Sat 30	00:34 /	06:05 /	13:01 /	19:46 /		First Quarter	06:46	18:34	14:55	23:39