



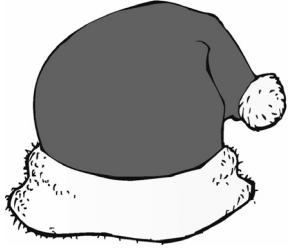
Ho-Ho-Ho! For the Boaters You Love, and It's No Laughing Matter

by VINCENT T. PICA, II

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With Christmas and Chanukah around the corner, it is time for all those who stand watch and wait for the return of those that went to sea to think about being the "safety officer" before they go! And, skipper, how about the love you have for those that go to sea with you - kids, grandkids and mates - and creating the safest environment aboard that is feasible or possible?



From the Heart to the Head

There is no doubt that even the most grizzled seafarer can benefit from a boating safety class. Regulations do change over time and techniques get refined and advanced. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Division-18 covers all of "Out East", from William Floyd out to the ends of both forks. Want to find out what, where and when the latest boating safety classes are - email me below and I'll look it up for you or go right to the web and find out - <http://www.div18cg.us/#CLASSES>.

From Stem to Stern

There is no greater "for free" service available than the free vessel safety check (see SSP, "No Fuss, No Muss - and Your Favorite Price (Free!) - Vessel Exams", 4/02/2008. And, this is not a regulatory event like getting your car inspected. If the boat doesn't meet all the Federal standards, nothing bad happens (like not being able to drive your car since the inspection sticker was scrapped off.) Most likely, the USCGAux examiner will give you their cell phone number and

ask you to call them when you've addressed the deficiency - most likely an expired flare package. And both exams are free! Want to schedule one? Email me below and I'll look it up for you or go right to the web and find out - <http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/vsc.htm>.

Nothing Lighter - or More Valuable

The statistics on life jackets are sobering for those that don't use them. For every 16 boaters that go into the water that don't have life jackets on, only 1 comes out (see SSP, "Do I Really Need to Wear a Life-Jacket", 9/24/2008. Conversely, if they had a life jacket on, 15 come out. What population do you want your boater to be in? And, if they are the inflatable time, they hardly know that they have them on! And don't forget that the USCGAux is sponsoring a "Kids Don't Float" program. We leave life jackets at various cooperating marinas and you can borrow them for the day - on the honor system solely - for your favorite price - Free!



The Silent Killer - Carbon Monoxide

If your boat has any enclosed spaces, they need a Carbon Monoxide Detector (see SSP,

"Silent and Odorless - Carbon Monoxide - A Killer!" 4/25/2007) For \$29 at any major retailer like Home Depot, etc., you have the wake-up call that otherwise wouldn't come.

The Wireless "Kill Switch"

Every boat comes with a lanyard that is tied to the helmsman's belt or life jacket and also back to the ignition switch. If the helmsman falls over board, the lanyard goes with him and the engine stops, along with the boat. This gives the boater the chance to climb back aboard. But no one uses the lanyard because the helmsman is lashed to the helm. They can't even walk a couple of feet across the deck to fetch a landing net for one of his fellow boaters. But now there are "wireless lanyards" on the market! The helmsman can walk all over the boat - just don't leave it! Now, that is a major safety uptick! Check on the internet or with any major chandlery.

Other great gift ideas to help keep boaters safe include:

- Emergency signaling kits -- flares, signal mirror, whistle, etc.
- Up-to-date navigational charts and/or a handheld GPS unit
- Navigation tools and calculators
- Hand-held VHF marine radio with extra batteries

Show your love - for the crew and the skipper.

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux2009@aol.com or go direct to Lisa Etter, who is in charge of new members matters, at F50-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."

THIELE URGES FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS TO STOCKPILE SAND AT SHINNECOCK INLET



New York State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr.

New York State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr. (I-Sag Harbor) has contacted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to provide an emergency stockpile of sand of 70,000 cubic yards near the Shinnecock Inlet. The South Shore beaches have been severely compromised by several nor'easters as well as the remnants of Tropical Storm Ida in recent weeks. Currently, the federal government is undertaking the maintenance dredging of the Shinnecock Inlet for navigation purposes which will yield about 350,000 cubic yards of sand. State and local officials are urging that a portion of the dredged material be utilized to create the emergency stockpile.

Thiele stated, "In the early 1990s the failure of state and federal action left the East End helpless to a series of nor'easters and tropical storms that ultimately resulted in two breaches of the barrier beach in Westhampton. That lack of action caused untold hardship to local residents as well as millions of dollars in repair costs to the federal government that could have been avoided by simple preventive action. As a result, during my tenure as Town Supervisor, I took the lead in an intergovernmental effort to establish a Breach Contingency Plan to insure that such a disaster never happened again. This plan includes measures such as the stockpiling of sand. Today we can avoid the mistakes of the past by again activating this contingency plan. Winter has yet to officially begin. The potential for additional severe coastal storms is significant. Simple direct action now can avoid serious and costly damage later. I urge state and federal authorities to act now."

Tides for Moriches Inlet starting with December 16, 2009

Day	High/Low	Tide Time	Height Feet	Sunrise/Sunset	Moon Time	% Moon Visible
Wed. 16	High	6:20 AM	3.3	7:09 AM 4:25 PM	Rise 7:26 AM Set 4:29 PM	0
	Low	12:40 PM	-0.1			
	High	6:45 PM	2.6			
Thur. 17	Low	12:38 AM	0.1	7:10 AM 4:25 PM	Rise 8:11 AM Set 5:27 PM	0
	High	7:00 AM	3.2			
	Low	1:22 PM	-0.1			
Fri. 18	High	7:27 PM	2.6	7:10 AM 4:25 PM	Rise 8:50 AM Set 6:28 PM	1
	Low	1:19 AM	0.1			
	High	7:40 AM	3.2			
Sat. 19	Low	2:01 PM	-0.1	7:11 AM 4:26 PM	Rise 9:22 AM Set 7:29 PM	5
	High	8:09 PM	2.5			
	Low	1:58 AM	0.2			
Sun. 20	High	8:20 AM	3.0	7:11 AM 4:26 PM	Rise 9:49 AM Set 8:29 PM	10
	Low	2:38 PM	0.0			
	High	8:52 PM	2.4			
Mon. 21	Low	3:14 PM	0.1	7:12 AM 4:27 PM	Rise 10:13 AM Set 9:29 PM	16
	High	9:01 AM	2.9			
	Low	3:14 PM	0.1			
Tue. 22	High	9:36 PM	2.4	7:12 AM 4:27 PM	Rise 10:36 AM Set 10:28 PM	24
	Low	3:13 AM	0.4			
	High	9:42 AM	2.8			
Wed. 23	Low	3:49 PM	0.1	7:13 AM 4:28 PM	Rise 10:58 AM Set 11:28 PM	32
	High	10:20 PM	2.4			
	Low	3:49 PM	0.1			
Thu. 24	High	10:24 AM	2.7	7:13 AM 4:28 PM	Rise 11:20 AM	41
	Low	4:25 PM	0.2			
	High	11:02 PM	2.4			
Fri. 25	Low	4:38 AM	0.5	7:14 AM 4:29 PM	Set 12:30 AM Rise 11:44 AM	51
	High	11:07 AM	2.5			
	Low	5:06 PM	0.3			
Sat. 26	High	11:44 PM	2.5	7:14 AM 4:30 PM	Set 1:34 AM Rise 12:11 PM	61
	Low	5:38 AM	0.6			
	High	12:27 AM	2.5			
Sun. 27	Low	6:50 AM	0.6	7:14 AM 4:30 PM	Set 1:34 AM Rise 12:11 PM	61
	High	12:41 PM	2.4			
	Low	6:52 PM	0.3			
Mon. 28	High	1:15 AM	2.7	7:14 AM 4:30 PM	Set 1:34 AM Rise 12:11 PM	61
	Low	7:56 AM	0.5			
	High	1:37 PM	2.3			
Tue. 29	Low	7:51 PM	0.2	7:14 AM 4:30 PM	Set 1:34 AM Rise 12:11 PM	61
	High	1:15 AM	2.7			
	Low	7:51 PM	0.2			