



The Locks Are Open - They're Closed - They're Open!

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Perhaps since the time of the Montaukett sachem Mongotucksee, mariners and local businesses have wanted to connect the Peconic and Shinnecock bays. The 4,700' isthmus is clearly the most convenient place to dig a canal - and dig they have since the time before the Revolution. There was only one problem. The Peconics and Shinnecock bays are on different tidal cycles or clocks. This requires significant mechanical management. This column is about that.

The Locks are Broken!

After centuries of attempts at maintaining a canal, to little lasting avail, and significant legislative maneuvering, the monies to create the Shinnecock Canal was appropriated in 1886. The amount to create the canal? \$15,000... You can't find a boat that motors through it today that costs that little... The canal wasn't completed until 1892 as running out of money (I guess \$15,000 wasn't quite enough) and weather damages kept the canal "at bay" for years. But open it did and there was an immediate positive effect on the fishing and clamming industries of the Shinnecock Bay as it had increasingly become brackish as rain water kept replacing the sea water that was within it. This then created the urge to have an opening to the ocean and many failed attempts were made therein...until 1938 when Mother Nature accomplished what man had

failed to do. The Hurricane of 1938 created what we now know as the Shinnecock Inlet. 27,000 boats per year now use that inlet.

The canal brought to light for the engineers what many locals had known for centuries. The tides of the Peconics and Shinnecock Bay were almost perfectly out of sync - high at one end while low at the other. Also, the Peconics themselves are naturally higher in water content - 3' more when measured tidally. The result was that large volumes of water would flow swiftly, first in one direction and then in the opposite direction, in accordance with the tidal cycle, causing heavy and dangerous erosion in the canal. So, tide gates were first built, pushed open by the Peconics "ebbing" into Shinnecock Bay and pushed closed by Shinnecock Bay "flooding" into the Peconics. In 1919, locks were added - the lock is 41 feet wide and 250 feet long so anything that will fit is allowed to enter - and the system was complete. Almost...The locks had to be rebuilt about 30 years ago - and are now being virtually rebuilt again. So, until the scheduled completion of May 31st, which means they will be closed over the Memorial Day weekend, we are back to the system of pre-1919...when the Peconics are ebbing south, the tidal gates will be pushed open by that rush of water and when Shinnecock is flooding north, the

tidal gates will be pushed closed by that reciprocal flow of water...

What Do I Do???

There are little choices until the repairs are affected. These repairs will require essentially the creation of a coffer dam (how bridge footings are created.) The locks are sealed off and all the water is drained from them. Then, using quick-drying cement, all new footings for the lock mechanisms and seawalls are put in place. Once dry, the coffer dam is removed and we have our locks back.

So, until then, you will need to call the Lock Master at 631-852-8299 and just ask when the locks will be open next. There are internet-based programs which will give you a good estimate of when the ebbing and flooding will occur. Notice I didn't say when high and low tides are. This is all about when the tides turn. You need the ebb and flood times, as I said, not the high and low tides.

BTW, who is the stand-on vessel and who is the give-way vessel when two boats are in a head-on condition in the canal? The vessel with the tidal current on her stern is stand-on as she is less maneuverable with that current pushing her. The vessel with the current on her bow is give-way as she can effectively stand fast by matching throttle power to the push of the current.

A Refresher on Lock Protocol

The locks are operated 24 hours a day. The operator controls all movement of boats through the lock by light signals. All canal locks and lift bridges monitor marine radio channel 13 and cellular phones. 631-852-8299 - don't call anyone but the operator!

When approaching the lock, boaters should stop at a safe distance and follow specified signals. Boaters should give three (3) short blasts on the horn or whistle.

Lock operators will reply with lights in the following manner:

- Green: Lock is ready, craft may advance.
- Red: Craft must wait.
- No Light: Craft must wait or tie up to approach wall.
- Six flashes of red or green: Remain stopped and await further instructions.

On entering the lock chamber, all boats must be equipped with adequate mooring lines and fenders. As you near the walls of the lock chamber, have your crew members ready to loop their lines - not tie them - around the snubbing posts. Serious injury can result from using your hands or feet to fend off a wall. Use a boat hook or fender.

As soon as the water in the lock chamber reaches the proper level, the gates will be opened; boaters should cast off all lines and proceed at a reduced speed to exit the chamber in station order.

1708 Montauk Highway,
Mastic, NY 11950



Island Cinemas

Movie Listing Hotline
1-631-657-3297

Showtime Information for Friday May 16 - Thursday May 22

Indiana Jones & The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

Special Preview Thurs May 22 - 8:00 PM

Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian

Fri: 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
Sat: 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
Sun: 1:15, 4:00, 6:45
Mon - Thu: 4:00, 6:45

Speed Racer

Fri: 3:25, 5:45, 8:05 PM, 10:25
Sat: 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25
Sun: 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05
Mon - Thu: 3:25, 5:45, 8:05

Iron Man

Fri: 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:05
Sat: 1:10, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:05
Sun: 1:10, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50
Mon - Thu: 3:20, 5:35, 7:50

What Happens in Vegas

Fri: 3:15, 5:05, 6:55, 8:45, 10:35
Sat: 1:25, 3:15, 5:05, 6:55, 8:45, 10:35
Sun: 1:25, 3:15, 5:05, 6:55, 8:45
Mon - Thu: 3:15, 5:05, 6:55, 8:45

Made of Honor

Fri: 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40, 10:30
Sat: 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40, 10:30
Sun: 1:20, 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40
Mon - Thu: 3:10, 5:00, 6:50, 8:40

The Forbidden Kingdom

Fri: 3:05, 5:10
Sat & Sun: 1:00, 3:05, 5:10
Mon - Thu: 3:05, 5:10

Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay

Fri: 7:15, 9:05
Sat: 7:15, 9:05, 10:50
Sun: 7:15, 9:05
Mon - Thu: 7:15, 9:05

Movie Recommendations

In *Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*, four children from our world return to Narnia, where they were kings and queens. A thousand years have gone by since they returned to Earth, and their kingdom is ruled by an evil king. Now they must rescue *Prince Caspian*, defeat King Mariz, and save Narnia. *Prince Caspian* will be the fantasy hit of 2008.

The driver known as *Speed Racer* is determined to win the world's toughest, most dangerous race. Royalton Industries is spending millions to defeat Speed, and who is the mysterious Racer X? *Speed Racer* is a perfect family movie, with high-speed action and adventure, comedy and romance in a perfect mix.

If you haven't seen *IRON MAN* yet, this is a must-see movie. When bad-boy billionaire Tony Stark discovers a dangerous conspiracy close to home, he becomes Iron Man, dedicating himself and his high-tech weapons to defending the world. Iron

Man is this summer's smash action hit.

Hilarious grossout comedy meets political commentary in *Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay*. Fresh from their famous run to White Castle, they go to Amsterdam seeking love, and on their way back end up prisoners at Guantanamo, and then on a crazy trip across America that includes meeting (and laughing at) George Bush, the KKK, and the former star of *Doogie Houser, MD*. A comedy-adventure that will keep you laughing.

Getting drunk and marrying a total stranger, then winning 3 million dollars? That's *What Happens in Vegas*, starring Ashton Kutcher and Cameron Diaz. With a fortune at stake, they try to outwit and out-trick each other ... but are these two just maybe starting to like each other? The chemistry between the stars makes this a great romantic comedy.

In the hit romantic comedy *Made of Honor*, Tom has problems. He's just realized that he's in love with Hannah, and she's going to be gone for six months. When she finally comes home, she's engaged to a perfect-seeming man. And she wants Tom to be *Maid of Honor* at her wedding. Can Tom win Hannah back before the ceremony? Come see *Made of Honor* and find out.

In *The Forbidden Kingdom*, teenager Jason is a Kung Fu movie fan, transported to ancient China. He joins forces with famous heroes to rescue a legendary king who has been turned to stone. This movie has everything: romance, magic, and two of the greatest movie action stars ever: Jackie Chan and Jet Li, appearing together for the first time. You cannot miss *The Forbidden Kingdom*.

These movie reviews were provided by Island Cinemas. Located at 1708 Montauk Highway in Mastic, Island Cinemas is a newly-renovated, 7-screen movie theater.

For showtimes call 631-657-3297. To get more movie reviews, see movie trailers, and learn how to get a Free Movie Pass, visit our web site: www.island-cinemas.com.