

I guess it's colder in Siberia...keeping that in mind helps me not to focus on the temperature here on Long Island this winter.

Whether enjoying the outdoors this winter or sitting beside the fireplace counting the days until boating season, it's good to have something warm to drink. Who doesn't look forward to hot chocolate or a hot toddy on a blustery night after coming home from a day of sledding or skiing? I know I sure do. Or put a hot drink in a thermos to take outside with you. Better yet, snuggle up by the fire this month with your Valentine.

Following are some unusual drink ideas that are worth trying. Most are innocent, but I included one for those who need something a little stronger!

Moose Milk for Outdoors Play

3 cups of milk
3 Tb. sugar
1/2 tsp. of almond extract
1 tsp. rum flavoring

In a small heavy saucepan, scald the milk – heating it just until tiny bubbles form around the edge. Remove from the heat and add the remaining ingredients. Pour into a thermos and enjoy! Serves 2.



by Cathy Smith

Caramel Milk

1 cup of hot milk
2 Tbs. of dark brown sugar
A dash of vanilla extract

Combine all the ingredients in a mug, stir and serve. How easy is that? It's a great drink for bedtime. Serves 1.

Hot Spiced Grape Juice for a Crowd

1 qt. of grape juice

1 qt. of cranberry juice cocktail
4 whole cloves
1 stick of cinnamon
3 whole allspice
1/2 cup of brown sugar
1/3 cup of sugar

Place all the ingredients in a saucepan and stir until well mixed. Cook over low heat until the sugar is dissolved. Strain and serve in your favorite mugs. Serves 10.

Hot Lemonade with Rum

2 cups water
1-1/2 cups fresh lemon juice
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup dark rum
1 lemon sliced into rounds
Cinnamon sticks

In a medium saucepan combine water, lemon juice and sugar and simmer over low heat, stirring frequently, until sugar dissolves. Stir in the rum. Pour into warm mugs, garnish with lemon slices and cinnamon sticks. Serves 4-6.

Weird Tales !!

By Capt. Gary P. Joyce

Here are some strange things that happened in 2009 that we here at "Long Island Boating World" seem to have, er, missed reporting on last year. Enjoy.

How Good Are Your Casting Skills?

Don Elder was working the Sandy River in Oregon back in May when his skill at precision casting netted him three people who'd been swept into the ice-melt river and were headed for a serious thrashing in some rapids. Unlimbering his fly rod, he launched a Spey cast and hooked into three people, a man, his sister and his fiancé and got all three to shore.

"I heard screaming in the middle of the river," Elder said. "It took five or 10 seconds before I realized someone was in pretty desperate trouble. But what do you do first? Out in the middle of the river was a man clutching a very small girl. Between us in the water was a young woman."

"I was wearing waders and boots, so it wasn't very practical to try to get to them. If I became part of the problem, it wouldn't help anyone. The only safe way was to bite off the fly, so I (bit off the leader), and before I realized what I was doing, I started casting to them."

It worked — even though a bystander berated him for continuing to fish while the people were drowning! *From the May 28, 2009 edition of "The Oregonian," reported by Bill Monroe.*

And Next Is the Retirement Party

Curt Carish was sitting on a Port Allen, Kauai, Hawaii picnic table when he noticed a large fish swim by in the shallows. Grabbing a bamboo stick, he waded into the water, smacked the fish (a nenué, also known as a rudderfish), dragged the foot-long fish ashore, and tossed it into his cooler for that evening's barbecue. Upon opening the cooler he discovered the fish — he was pretty sure it didn't come from the chicken that was in the cooler, as well — had coughed up a gold watch. "The funny thing was," said Carish, "the watch was on time and still ticking." *From the June 4, 2009 edition of "The Garden Island" by Sheadon Ringor.*

This Kid's a Ringer at the Local Bluefish Derby

Forty-pound, six-year-old Tegan Humphrey of

Palmer, Alaska was slightly dissatisfied by her catch. She'd just boated a 138.8-pound halibut during the Homer [Alaska] Halibut Derby. "She was fishing for a mermaid, and she didn't get what she wanted," said Courtney Humphrey, her mom. "So she was a little disappointed."

Oh, Tegan's fish won the derby. *From the June 16, 2009 edition of The Anchorage News.com by Mike Campbell.*

The Law of Unintended Consequences

In May, 2009 two environmental activists were planning the first "carbon neutral" crossing of Greenland's polar ice cap. Setting sail from Bristol, England in their 40-foot sailboat, they reached approximately 400 miles off Ireland when heavy seas and hurricane-force winds destroyed their boat. In what is irony, justice or God's sense of humor, they were rescued by a crude oil tanker hauling 680,000 barrels of Texas tea. *From the May 6, 2009 edition of "The Guardian".*

Neither a Borrower nor a Lender Be

A Georgia boater in a borrowed 24-foot boat was cobia fishing off Panama City [Florida] Beach when he fell overboard. Unfortunately, the borrowed craft — a Century — was in gear, and he was solo boating without a kill switch. The man fell in about 300 yards off the beach, so beachgoers were able to alert rescuers. The boat, however, kept heading west and was found three days later, out of gas and having survived 20 knot winds and six-foot seas — 130 miles away in Alabama. *From an April 21, 2009, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission report.*

Who Invited Him Along?

On June 25, 2009 three Orange County [California] Sheriff deputies responded to a call about youths involved in pot smoking and a young sea lion trying to bite people (apparently, not a good day for the younger set). The pot smokers were gone on arrival, but the sea lion refused to leave. The three deputies decided to take it aboard and out to sea. The sea lion took over the foul weather seat and started steering, turning on the emergency lights and other equipment and at one point opening up the engines full throttle — in reverse. Eventually the sea lion

gave up the helm and the deputies took the boat back to their base and dispersed the youngster with a fire hose. *From Orange County Sheriff's spokesman's John McDonald blog, as reported in the June 25, 2009 in the "Orange County Register" by Salvador Hernandez.*

You're Calling from Where?

British businessman Andrew Cheatle lost his Nokia phone while playing with his dog at the beach. Several days later his girlfriend received a call from the phone. It was commercial fisherman Glen Kerley saying he'd just found the phone ... in a 25-pound codfish.

Kerley said the phone didn't work, but he'd removed the SIMM card and put it in his phone to try to trace the owner. Cheatle said the phone was a "bit smelly" when it was first returned, but he finally got the phone working, although he eventually had to replace the circuit board and, "... the phone works fine now." *From the February 27, 2009 edition of "The Sun" [UK], reported by Jaime Pyatt.*

Can't We All just Get Along?

A Fort Pierce [Florida] man was arrested when he threw half a fish he'd caught at a boater who refused to move his boat from where the man was bridge fishing. The fish thrower was charged with a felony of throwing a missile into a vehicle, charged with misdemeanor battery, and released on \$15,000 bond. *As reported at TCPalm.com [Florida] on April 5, 2009.*

A Bad Day Fishing Is ... Well, Sometimes It's Just a Bad Day

Marine Sgt. Adam Rush has had better days fishing. The Wyoming native stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina called 911 after his trolling motor battery died and he used a boat paddle to fight off a nine-foot alligator that tried to crawl into his boat after his stringer of bass. When authorities arrived, Rush was cited for having under-sized fish and using an unregistered watercraft. *As reported in "The Outdoor Pressroom" on April 5, 2009 via the "Jacksonville Daily News" and my Slugs & Plugs blog.*