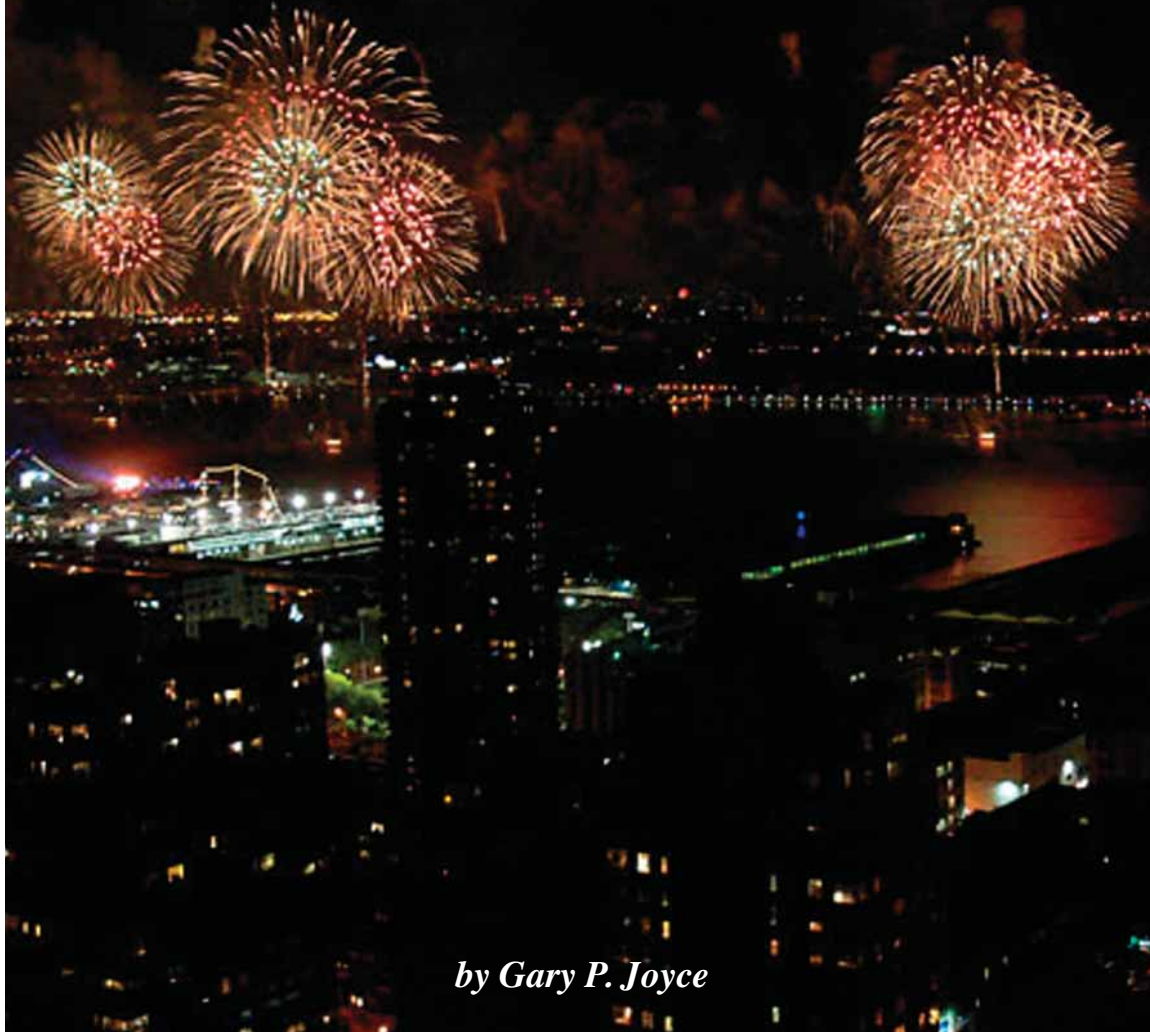


Fourth of July Fireworks By Boat



by Gary P. Joyce

This year's Fourth of July holiday weekend starts Saturday, July 3 and carries through to Monday, July 5 as the "Federal" holiday, meaning the Fourth is on Sunday (probably apropos, since prayers and setting off explosives should go hand-in-hand!).

What follows is the annual *Long Island Boating World* guide to some of the most popular and traditional watch-by-boat fireworks in our area for this year's Fourth of July celebrations. If you're planning on attending any of these we offer the following tips:

- If you're bringing someone aboard your boat for the first time, make them take Dramamine, etc., especially if they "never get seasick" on any boat (read: ferry) on which they've ever traveled. There's no point in ruining a terrific evening because of *mal de mer*.

- Bring extra fenders for rafting-up, and extra line to rig your boat to others. Rafting-up is always fun, but often the friend of a friend of a buddy may not be quite as skilled as you think *you* are.

- The earlier you arrive and drop the hook at your chosen spot, the better. The more room you have to let out realistic scope, and account for tide, wind or current swings, the better.

- Make sure those requiring it wear life jackets; the last thing you want is a child oohing and ahing right over the rails. It also doesn't hurt to make sure everybody aboard — especially any first timers — can swim.

- Leave any imbibing of anything alcoholic

until you're safely back at the home dock unless you're anchoring out. And even then, go easy.

- This is night boating and not everybody is familiar, at ease or competent to run at night. And if you aren't, don't make the Fourth of July your first attempt. Consider anchoring out with another more experienced boater.

- Tell your guests to bring their own flashlights.

The tide data in this article comes from the NOAA tables, www.saltwatertides.com or JTides. Times are given in 24-hour clock. Nonetheless, check your own tide tables before setting out and if you haven't updated your charts for the season, do so.

If you won't be in this area during the Fourth, go to www.fireworksguide.com for a world-wide listing of firework shows.

Shooting the Fourth

For starters you're not going to get a shot off a boat, so break out the oars and dinghy and head for shore if you want a chance at some decent shots. For film cameras, it's hands-down an SLR (single lens reflex), but few people use them anymore. A DSLR (digital single lens reflex) beats a DPOS (digital point and shoot) all to hell, and in capable hands will



produce as good, if not better, than a film SLR, and the principles and possibilities are virtually the same, save for the instant gratification of the DSLR.

You'll want a tripod and solid land for the best results. If you can find a shutter release for your camera — no matter what kind — that's a plus, since it takes away any shake pushing the release button will cause

Technique for a digital? Well, once you get the shot composed — the area where the fireworks are supposed to be — pull the trigger (so to speak) and keep pulling it. You might want to bring some extra memory as well.

Once the technical aspects are taken care of, composition will make or break a photo — film or digital. Try to include some kind of identifiable object in the lower foreground. Your boat, a bridge, kids' faces ... anything.

Jones Beach

This extremely popular view-by-boat show has been cancelled as of May 5, according to Dan Keefe, Deputy Public Information Officer for NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The reason: New York State economics.

Macy's 4th of July Fireworks Display, NYC

This is the granddaddy of them all and if you can make it by boat, this is the one to see. As of June 1, the 34th Macy's Fireworks Marine Hotline was operational. The number is 212-494-5243. Use it for the latest information.

As of May 14 (and, thus, subject to change) the Captain of the Port of New York has established the following Safety/Security Zone boundaries:

Northern Boundary — All waters of the Hudson River south of a line drawn from Pier 8, Weehawken, NJ to 62nd Street, Manhattan;

Southern Boundary — All waters of the Hudson River south of a line drawn from Pier 10, 11th Street in Hoboken, NJ to 19th Street, Pier 60, Chelsea Piers.

Waterway Restriction Northern Boundary — North of a line drawn from Pier 11A, Weehawken, NJ to 70th Street, Manhattan, NY.

Waterway Restriction Southern Boundary — North of a line drawn from the northwest corner of Pier 40, Manhattan, NY to Jersey City Piers, NJ.

These restrictions should be in place around 1800, but that's not solid as of this writing.

NOAA Chart 12334 and/or 12335 (and if you haven't been there before, throw in Chart 12349). High tide at The Battery is 1439, with low right about at the start of the show (2124), going high at 0248 on July 5.

Sag Harbor

Sag Harbor YC's annual shoot will be held July 3. The show is shot from a barge outside the breakwater. The best viewing spots are outside the breakwater or in the town anchorage. You'll also be able to view it pretty much anywhere between the southern end of North Haven peninsula and Northwest Harbor off Mashomack Point on Shelter Island. Pay attention to the tide and your chart and depth sounder if you choose to anchor up northeast and east of the breakwater; there are some very shoal and rocky waters adjacent to all

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