

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Rick Sturges, AP-CN
Education Officer



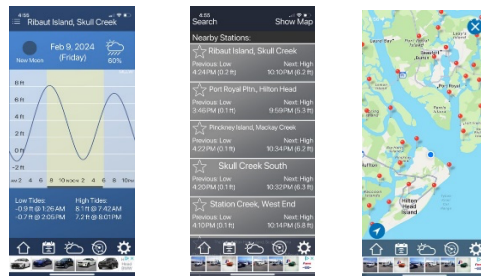
Brad Loescher, AP-CN
Asst. Education Officer



Don Becker, P=IN
ABC Coordinator

There is a lot of talk among newer members about impact of the wind and the tide around the Lowcountry waters. The wind is fairly easy to understand but tides are more of a mystery to some. We have six to nine foot tides in the Lowcountry with the actual change varying from day to day. The tides create fairly strong currents since a lot of water is moving in restricted areas.

How do you find tide information? It can be obtained online or via a number of apps. One local favorite app is Tide Charts and the information shown is as follows:



The screen on the left is what you see when you open the app. It gives the tide information nearest the user. As you can see, on February 9, we'll have a New Moon which gives us an 8.1 ft high tide at 7:42AM and a 7.2 ft high tide at 8:01PM. The low tides will be -0.9 ft at 1:26 AM and - 0.7 ft at 2:05 PM. This data is for Ribaut Island on the north end of HHI. If you want another location, click the bars in the upper left to get the second screen to pick another location or from the second screen, click Show Map to get to the third screen to pick a location.

Always go out boating with tide information! If exploring, go when the tide is low and rising since a “rising tide floats all boats.” Tidal currents are near zero at “slack” tide (at high tide or low tide). The fastest currents are running at the half way point between high and low.

Which way does the current run? This is where a little local knowledge helps. When the tide is going out (from high to low), the water is running toward the ocean and when it is coming in, it is flowing from the ocean up the estuaries. The best way to learn tidal current direction is to talk to the locals and go out mid-tide and watch the wakes on channel markers or speed limit sign

buoys. Knowing the direction and speed of the current at various stages of the tide will help you anchoring and docking/undocking. Note that it is possible for currents to run in both directions in a given body of water – from the May River, the water runs toward the Skull Creek and Port Royal Sound and it also runs from the May River down Callibogue Sound toward Daufuskie and out to the ocean.

To learn more about the tops of wind and tides, sign up for Anchoring and Docking/Undocking (Boat Handling seminars) given in February and the Tides and Currents seminar in April.

Rick Sturges

Brad Loescher

Don Becker