

The Shoreline

www.holidayharborw.com

Holiday Harbor-Wilmington

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Hello everyone,

I sincerely hope each and everyone of you had a pleasant Thanksgiving. It doesn't always seem so, but we all have lots to be thankful for.

As you know, anytime you're out boating, it's a good idea to pay attention to things and always be prepared for the unexpected, i.e. weather change, strange sounds from the motor, bilge pumps, etc. That being said, I thought I'd tell you a story about "paying attention."

We were down at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego. Our training assignment for the next two days was "Dunker School." My friend Tom and I were assigned to a squad of about 15 guys. It's important to note Tom and I have been friends since high school.

After a day of didactic training we were off to the pools. The first requirement was to swim around the 25 meter pool wearing flight suite and boots. Without specific orders, Tom and I were in the water and swimming. Why?.....because we were young and stupid and thought we were too cool for school. We breezed around the pool and upon completion we noticed a scow on the sergeant's face running the class. He reminded us of no independent action. He said we were to pay attention and stick together. Obviously, he was unaware Tom and I were too cool for school.

The pool was affixed with a large two-story contraption with a jet fuselage attached to a slide. We observed that the fuselage would slide down the ramp then flip over, roll left or right or simply sink into the water. So off we went sliding down the contraption, spinning, flipping and sinking.

Upon completion, Tom and I were more confident than ever. We figured we pretty much had this down. We were about to be proved wrong.

Next, we were taken to a hangar with an indoor pool with a helicopter fuselage suspended from the ceiling. We were allowed to view only one simulation; the fuselage dropped into the water and simply sank. The instructor pointed to Tom and I and four other guys and said "Okay, you bone heads, go first!" Bone heads? Didn't he realize how cool we were? "Know your places in the bird and all escape routes", he said, "cause you're going to be wearing blacked-out goggles to simulate a night ditching."

Blacked out goggles, night drop, he was kidding; right? "Don't worry" the instructor said, "We have four safety divers on Scuba if anything goes wrong." It went beyond wrong, we all nearly drowned.

We took our places, secured our safety belts, put on the blacked-out goggles and the fuselage dropped into the water. The flooding water was about chin height when they rolled the craft backward – we didn't know they could do that. There was an instant panic as we all scrambled to get the hell out. Reaching the surface, the instructor said "Pay attention and stick together."

REAL NEWS

Holiday afloat boat parade – Saturday December 5th @ 6PM. Registration forms – available in marina office.

Merry Christmas.

Until next time,

Jerry, HHW Marina Manager