

Super tides

Spring tides, when our shores get the highest high and lowest low tides, are not limited to any particular season, despite their name. In fact they occur about every two weeks, following each new and full moon by one or two days. Tides are caused by the gravitational pull of the sun and moon on the earth and seas, so when the sun and the moon line up in a straight line, the tidal influence of the sun and the moon reinforce each other. As crossword puzzlers know, this configuration is called "syzygy."

Full moon



New moon



The average rise and fall of tides at Virginia Key is about 2½ feet.

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