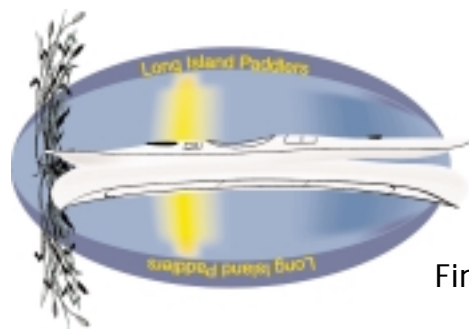


# Blazing Paddles

P.O. Box 115  
West Sayville, NY 11796

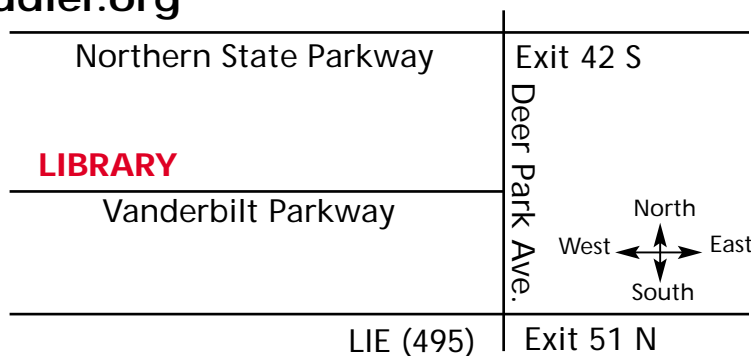


First Class Mail

To learn and see more of what Long Island Paddlers is all about, visit our website  
[www.lipaddler.org](http://www.lipaddler.org)

### *Directions to Half Hollow Hills Community Library*

- LIE (495) to exit 51 North or Northern State Parkway to exit 42 south
- Deer Park Ave. to Vanderbilt Parkway
- West onto Vanderbilt Parkway
- The library is about a mile on the right, on Vanderbilt, opposite the High School.



## Monthly Meetings 2004 7-9:30 PM - Half Hollow Hills Library

DATE	REFRESHMENTS	DARK HORSE
January 15	Carol Landsman & Howard Loenicker	Pete Brown
February 19	<i>volunteer please</i>	John and Vi
March 2004	<i>volunteer please</i>	Alan Mindlin

The **DARK HORSE** is typically a \$5-10 paddling related item that is raffled at the monthly meeting. It is wrapped and brought by club-member volunteers. Each raffle is \$1 and members can buy as many raffles as they like. The proceeds from the sale of the raffle goes to the club treasury.

The **REFRESHMENTS** are also purchased by volunteers. Usually they buy cake, fruit and some cold drinks. The club supplies instant coffee, tea, milk, paper products and the coffee urn. The refreshment volunteer is reimbursed up to \$30.00. Dark horse and refreshments volunteers sign up, preferably, a few months in advance.

The **PROGRAM** for each meeting is coordinated by Trish Caputo. She is planning the schedule for the next several meetings.

# Letter From The President

Happy New Year, and thanks to all who have contributed time and energy on behalf of our community, our shared love for all things paddling, the environment, and the betterment of our knowledge. Our mission statement attempts to capture our common purpose this way:

*"Long Island Paddlers was formed to bring together a group of like-minded Canoeists and Kayakers to share a common love for boating and the outdoors. We endeavor to share information on safety, education, our experiences on the water, and other paddling-related subjects. Long Island Paddlers is open to all who would like to share in this sport. We are active during all twelve months of the year, both on the water and at our meetings with various programs and guest speakers. We participate in river clean-ups and other conservation activities, and encourage state and local governing bodies to improve access to the waters in and around Long Island by non motor-propelled watercraft. Long Island Paddlers has been and will continue to be active in many aspects of the sport of paddling, and to bring people together to share in all the fun that paddling with others has to offer."*

Of course, there are as many variations in our purpose as there are members. For this reason, we are preparing to take a snapshot of the group's needs and expectations, and how well they are being met, by the distribution of a questionnaire in the near future. Hopefully this will receive your thoughtful attention.

It's election time again this month, and also time to give some public recognition to those who have been active in the club. Dave Chin will be presenting the awards, so be sure to attend this month's meeting if you can. All officer positions are, of course, open to new representation. Stu Selkin has announced that he's stepping down from his position as Newsletter Editor. Over the past two years, Stu has published a mind boggling two hundred pages per year. Thank you, Stu, for the enthusiasm you've brought to the role (to say the least). Denise Caparatta has stepped up to the plate and graciously offered to take over, with some continued assistance from Stu.

Denise has rightfully asserted some boundaries, advising us to expect a more succinct publication that stresses the essentials on which our club functions. Once per quarter, she expects to publish an expanded edition with one or more feature articles.

This shift, however, in no ways reflects an intent to restrict the flow and expression of information and ideas. To the contrary, look forward to further improvements in our online presence that will make the newsletter a much more collaborative and real-time web-based community effort. Presently, new forums have been added to our web message board for classified ads and locating instructional opportunities. Take advantage of and contribute to these additional resources, as well as our online put-in guide and other forums.

Also this year, look forward to new trip coordination guidelines that will serve as a road map to effective group management for every club trip. Work is under way, too, to revamp our trip level designation scheme to improve its descriptiveness and precision.

A number of trips have already been scheduled, and should be published sometime around the start of the second quarter. An overnight trip in NJ is currently in the works for May, so keep an eye out for that. To some extent, work and planning of this sort now takes place online, which is another good reason to tune in once in a while.

As paddling continues to gain public visibility, I would urge all to keep a sharp eye out for changes in water access opportunities, and keep us all informed when there are improvements or further restrictions. I sense a trend toward more restrictions, and as a group we must encourage the former and fight the latter. We are each most sensitized to our "home turf" and hopefully take it upon ourselves to be lookouts, custodians, and sometimes, activists for the areas that we know and appreciate best.

Our club has evolved over the past year, changed its name to better reflect the geographic scope of its focus and membership, and traveled through some of the bumpy water that accompanies change. In the year ahead, I see lot's of enthusiasm and fun, especially with your participation. Full bore ahead!

Ed Luke

**[www.lipaddler.org](http://www.lipaddler.org)** - Offers information about:

- **The Club:** Events, Trips, Previous and Current Articles, Newsletters, Membership Application, Education, Meeting Location
- **Members:** Short Notice Paddles, Discussion Forum - Put-in Guide
- **On The Water Information**
- **Organizations**
- **Environment**
- **Other Clubs**
- **Commercial**
- **Publications**