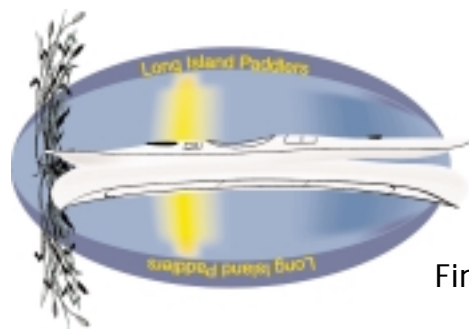


# Blazing Paddles

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)

President	Ed Luke
Vice President	Ken Fink/John Giuffre
Treasurer	Paul Caparatta
Trip Coordinators	Christopher Watt Bruce Mulligan
Program Director	Pam and Stu Selkin
Training Directors	Thomas Skabry
Conservation Director	Elizabeth Marcellus
Membership Director	David Thaler
Librarian	Alan Mindlin
Refreshment Director	Barbara Kasa
Webmaster	Ed Luke
Newsletter Coordinator	Denise Caparatta
Special Events	Barbara Fontana Denise Caparatta Kaye Eastman
Awards Director	David Chin

## *Directions to Half Hollow Hills Community Library*

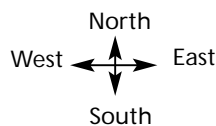
- LIE (495) to exit 51 North or Northern State Parkway to exit 42 south
- Deer Park Ave. to Vanderbilt Parkway
- West onto Vanderbilt Parkway
- The library is about a mile on the right, on Vanderbilt, opposite the High School.

Northern State Parkway

Exit 42

**LIBRARY** Vanderbilt Parkway

Deer Park Ave.



LIE (495)

Exit 51

# Blazing Paddles

## Newsletter of Long Island Paddlers

April 2004



### Disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter are strictly those of their respective authors. Information offered on any topic should not be assumed to be authoritative or complete. On all paddling issues, it is important to base one's practices on multiple sources of information.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS 2004

7-9:30 PM - Half Hollow Hills Library

DATE	REFRESHMENTS	DARK HORSE
April 15, 2004	Pam and Stu Selkin	Alan Mindlin
May 20, 2004	Elizabeth Strong, Steve & Sandy Berner	Jim Koehler
June 24, 2004		Ken Fink



## REMINDER!!!

Membership renewals are due. The membership period is from January 1 through December 31 of the current year. 2004 membership dues is \$25.00 per household. If you have not already done so, please make the check payable to Long Island Paddlers and mail it to:

David Thaler, Membership  
14 Westchester Court  
Middle Island, NY 11953

**Membership must be current in order to participate in club activities.  
The deadline for renewal is April 15, 2004. Please renew today.**

### Water Weighs

Here's a little bit of interesting info, from Liz Marcellus, you might find interesting. Water weighs 8.33 pounds per gallon and weighs 62.4 pounds per cubic foot. ( makes you think twice about not bailing out that "little bit of water" in your boat doesn't it ??? )

# MARCH MEETING

## ELECTIONS:

The program directors will now be Pam and Stu Selkin. John Giuffre has volunteered to assist Ken Fink as Vice President. Alan Mindlin will be taking over as Librarian. We thank Trish Caputo for all of her efforts as program director and Chris Watt for being the librarian these past few years.

## AWARDS:

The president's award was presented by Ed Luke to Barbara Fontana for all of her work and overall club spirit over the past years. She always goes all out in organizing and supervising the picnics etc. throughout the year. Ray Smith hand made two awards and presented them at the meeting. If you know Ray Smith, then you know that he is a very thoughtful gentleman, who is always willing to help. A driftwood plaque with seashells and horseshoe crabs was given to Liz Marcellus for all of her efforts as conservation director. She accepted her award with much appreciation and surprise. A hand-carved replica of Liz O'Connor's kayak that will hang on a wooden plaque was accepted by Ed Luke for Liz. Liz O'Connor worked very hard organizing and supervising the Long Island Symposium held on March 13, 2004 at Suffolk County Community College Sports and Expo Complex in Brentwood, NY.

## PROGRAM:

The program was presented by Brian Banninger. He brought kayaks, helmets, life jackets and paddles that would be used when playing kayak polo. He talked in detail about the kayaks, equipment, and the rules. We also watched a video, there are two sets of videotapes that are available from our library and Brian offered training tapes to interested players. Talk to Ken Fink (info@kayaken-outfitters.com) about pool availability or (b.banninger@att.net) about polo. There is no charge to see games played at Roosevelt Island Pool in Manhattan every Saturday at 10 AM to 12 PM.

## INFORMATION:

- Liz Marcellus gave us the website for the **The Long Island Estuary/South Shore Bayway**, it is: [www.estuary.cog.ny.us](http://www.estuary.cog.ny.us)
- Liz Marcellus gave us information about upcoming **Bay House Tours** on a passenger boat for a 11/2 hour trip to the bay houses. Sun. May 23rd • Sat., June 19th • Sun. Sept. 19th - 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM. Ticket prices: \$25/person, \$40/couple. Boats leave from Freeport, reservations are required, call 516-767-8803.



- Barbara Fontana discussed the possible dates and location for our annual **SPRING PICNIC**.

So far we are trying to have the catered picnic on June 27th at Tobay Beach on the south shore.

# **THE KAYAK and CANOE FESTIVAL** **at The Dinghy Shop**

**Saturday, April 17th and Sunday, April 18th**

In Store (indoors) • On The Water...You can try out the Boats!



## **EMS Spring Club Day Sale**

**Friday, April 23rd and Saturday, April 24th**

Active members of outdoor clubs take 20% OFF everything in the store.

Anyone interested in representing LI Paddlers and promoting the club to prospective new members contact

Judy @ 516-747-7360.



## **KAYAK WEEKEND ADVENTURE**

**MAY 14-16**

**in beautiful Southern New Jersey**

Organized by Alan Mindlin

**Wading Pines Camping Resort** [www.wadingpines.com](http://www.wadingpines.com)

The cost of the trip is \$125.00 per person. A deposit of \$25.00 was due by the March 18th meeting. The balance is due by the April meeting. Contact Alan at [Photonut50@hotmail.com](mailto:Photonut50@hotmail.com) or call 516-798-7160.



## **Bay Day June 6th**

Season launch is once again, BAY DAY, June 6th, with our LI Paddlers' club's involvement as the kayaking experts and exposition leaders, and our second attempt at the Guinness's World Record at man powered raft up, followed by the Row-around-the BAY. (Overnight camp might be a real option with this one time park approval.)

Pictured are some of the members that participated last year. Despite the inclement weather, all that attended had a great time.

# LONG ISLAND PADDLESPORT SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

Denise and Paul Caparatta

This new symposium was held March 13, 2004 at Suffolk County Community College Sports and Expo in Brentwood, NY. Admission was Free. There were talks on: Communication From Your Boat, Choosing the Right Boat, Small Boat Navigation, Safety Equipment, plus in-water rescues demonstrations and displays. This was Paddlesport's first year and it was well worth attending. Valuable information was presented for both the experienced paddler as well as the beginner. The Coast Guard is very concerned with the safety of this growing sport. They are trying to prevent future tragedies by getting the word out about safety. Coast Guardsman, Al Johnson, of Boston, said he has participated in the water-recovery of more than 350 bodies during his career. In most instances, these deaths could have been avoided if the victims had paid any attention to their own safety. Our own Elizabeth O'Conner conducted poolside demos with live kayakers and John Giuffre demonstrated a canoe self-rescue. Club president, Ed Luke, together with Judy Realmuto, made a valuable presentation on paddling clothing and equipment, with an emphasis on how the items demonstrated impacts your safety.

Frankly, the Long Island Paddlesport should have enjoyed far better attendance than the one hundred or so people who showed up. Boaters, especially kayakers, can suddenly find themselves in a life-threatening situation even on the calmest, most beautiful days. I can't begin to describe the many hazards the Coast Guard wants us to be aware of. Your best bet is to watch for next year's Paddlesport and make every effort to attend. Remember, it's a reasonable drive from most anywhere on the island and it's free.



The following information was specifically prepared for the event, if you any questions, comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact:

Ro Woodard, Education Specialist, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, 518-474-0445 or Al Johnson, First Coast Guard District - Recreational Boating Safety, 408 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02110-3350, Telephone: 617-223-8464 E-mail: [ajohnson@dl.uscg.mil](mailto:ajohnson@dl.uscg.mil)

## **Coastal Kayaking Safety Tips Communicating through sight, sound and signal**

**SIGHT-** Choose equipment in vivid, visually attracting colors.

**Check your charts - Choose a route—Be a responsible and prudent mariner.**

Have the appropriate National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) nautical charts for the areas in which you paddle.

For Shinnecock Bay to East Rockaway Inlet - south coast of Long Island see Nautical Chart #123S2.

To extend chart life, make color copies of the areas you transit and waterproof with adhesive plastic sheets. Make copies for your paddling partners and your FLOAT PLAN HOLDER.

Chart or plan a course. Know where you're going; know where you're at; know your return.

Obtain local information on hazards, currents, navigable waterways and channels and commercial and recreational vessel traffic patterns. Always be prepared for unforeseen dangers.

**Check the local weather forecasts and tide tables.**

### **Websites for additional information:**

For coastal weather information go to the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) at [www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml](http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml). On the world map, click on Northeast area and then click on the appropriate data source for Long Island Sound or the south coast of Long Island. Check LINKS for additional information sources.

For a coastal water temperature guide go to the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) at <http://www.nodc.noaa.gov>. Under Popular Items, click on Beach Temperatures and then click on the Central Atlantic Coast, either in the listings or on the United States map at “NY.”

This will give you current and yearly water temperature averages from Montauk to New York City to Baltimore to Washington, DC.

For information on New York boating and paddling - [www.nysparks.com/boats](http://www.nysparks.com/boats) and for information on coastal and inland waters from the New York Sea Grant College Program [www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/](http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/)

For the First Coast Guard District Local Notice to Mariners and the Coast Guard Navigation Center: [www.navcell.uscg.gov](http://www.navcell.uscg.gov).

The Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety - <http://www.uscgboating.org/> - and the National Safe Boating Council - <http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/> - offer a variety of recreational boating and paddling information.

Also, the Northeast Paddlers Message Board - <http://www.npmb.com/>

**Always prepare a Float Plan.** Let a responsible, trustworthy, dependable individual know where you’re going and when you’ll return. Make sure they have a Float Plan copy with all pertinent information, vehicle location and know whom to call if you fail to return on time. If you change your plans, and as soon as possible on your return, notify your Float Plan holder.

### **U.S. Coast Guard Search and Rescue Emergency numbers:**

USCG Group Moriches Command Center:	631-395-4405
USCG Station East Moriches:	516-395-4412
USCG Station Fire Island:	631-661-9101
USCG Station Jones Beach:	516-785-2995
USCG Station Montauk:	631-668-2773
USCG Station Shinnecock:	631-728-0343
USCG Group Long Island Sound:	203-468-4401
USCG Station New Haven:	203-468-4497
USCG Station Fisher Island (seasonal):	860-442-4471
USCG Station New London:	860-442-4471
USCG Station Eatons Neck:	631 -261 -6959
USCG Activities New York Command Center:	718-354-4120
USCG Station New York:	718-354-4035
USCG Station Kings Point:	516-466-7135
USCG Station Sandy Hook, NJ:	732-872-3428

**You can access the Coast Guard on Channel 16 on your VHF radio.**

**Your VHF radio is your means of communicating with other vessels on the water.**

## Prior to launching:

- Chart your intended course of travel, and bring the chart or a copy with you.
- Prepare a Float Plan with your intended course, location of your vehicle, etc.
- Bring your compass and a hand-held global positioning system (GPS).
- Make sure you have the right paddling and safety equipment, food and water, etc.
- **SIGHT/SIGNAL** - Make sure you have appropriate Visual Distress Signals - for night and day use, flash light, strobe light, signal mirror, chemical lights, etc.
- **SOUND/SIGNAL** - Make sure you have a whistle, horn or other sound-producing device.
- Dress for the water temperature by wearing a wet or dry suit. The coastal waters of Long Island are usually cold, very cold or colder - dress for the water, dress for getting wet.
- Wear your life jacket with appropriate safety items attached - whistle, lights, flares, signal mirror, VHF radio, etc. **SIGNAL - The VHF radio is the recommended and most dependable means of on-water emergency communications.**
- **Be aware of what can go wrong and BE PREPARED. YOU ALONE ARE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY.**
- **Be a responsible and prudent mariner.**
- **Remember, "You're in Command" - boat and paddle safely.**

## GEAR LIST

- **KAYAK** - appropriate for conditions, with bulkheads or float bags
- **LIFE JACKET** aka PFD or personal floatation device.
  - must be worn at all times
  - “WHEN YOU NEED IT, YOU NEED IT ON”
  - proper fit
  - color
  - pockets
- **CLOTHING**
  - Warm weather** - quick-dry synthetics, brimmed hat, water shoes or neoprene booties, sunglasses with straps, sunscreen.  
(In a dry bag - spare set of clothing, L/S shirt, paddling jacket or rain gear)
  - Cold weather** - wet suit /dry suit, layers of polypro and fleece neoprene booties, gloves, hood  
(In a dry bag- spare in layers)
- **SPRAY SKIRT**
- **BILGE PUMP** or bailer
- **PADDLE FLOAT** - inflatable/foam
- **SPARE PADDLE**
- **FOOD and WATER**
- **FIRST AID KIT**
- **SIGNALING DEVICES**
  - whistle
  - mirror
  - fog horn
  - flares
- **COMPASS** - hand held and deck mounted
- **CHARTS**
- **LIGHTING**
  - PFD light
  - strobe
  - flashlight
  - headlamp
  - chemical lights
- **TOW BELT** or extra line
- **VHF MARINE RADIO**
- **WEATHER RADIO**
- **EPIRB** or **PPIRB**

# Sea Kayaking Float Plan

What happens if you don't return from a day trip or overnight within a reasonable period? Nothing unless you let someone know the details of your trip and tell that person how to secure help

Complete this float plan and give a copy to a trustworthy individual. Place a second copy on the dash board of the vehicle you leave at the launch site. File a plan for every trip no matter the length

**For each person in group, fill out the following (use back of sheet if necessary):**

Name	Age	Paddling Exp.	Kayak Type	Kayak Color	PFD Color	Medical Info
		<input type="checkbox"/> beg. <input type="checkbox"/> interm. <input type="checkbox"/> adv.				
		<input type="checkbox"/> beg. <input type="checkbox"/> interm. <input type="checkbox"/> adv.				
		<input type="checkbox"/> beg. <input type="checkbox"/> interm. <input type="checkbox"/> adv.				
		<input type="checkbox"/> beg. <input type="checkbox"/> interm. <input type="checkbox"/> adv.				
		<input type="checkbox"/> beg. <input type="checkbox"/> interm. <input type="checkbox"/> adv.				
		<input type="checkbox"/> beg. <input type="checkbox"/> interm. <input type="checkbox"/> adv.				
		<input type="checkbox"/> beg. <input type="checkbox"/> interm. <input type="checkbox"/> adv.				
		<input type="checkbox"/> beg. <input type="checkbox"/> interm. <input type="checkbox"/> adv.				

**Emergency Contacts:**

---

---

---

---

**Launch Time and Location:**

---

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---

---

**Take out time and location with latest expected return date**

---

---

---

---

**Intended Route:**

---

---

---

---

**Safety equipment you have with you (include tent color and style):**

---

---

---

---

**Plan of action if not back by latest expected return date:**

---

---

---

---

Vehicle type: \_\_\_\_\_

License Plate: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

# **JERSEY PADDLER'S 2004 PADDLESPORT SHOW**

Denise and Paul Caparatta

Friday, March 26 through Sunday, March 28 was the JERSEY PADDLER'S 2004 PADDLESPORT SHOW. On Saturday, we arrived early and stayed late to avoid the traffic and to make a full day of it. We weren't disappointed. There was a lot to see and a lot to buy. For us, the main attraction were the speakers. We were treated to the adventures of Byron Ricks, who, along with his wife, made a 1500-mile, five-month kayak tour through the Inside Passage from Glacier Bay, Alaska to Puget Sound. Among the many challenges and hardships of a marathon paddle, Ricks also had to contend with large brown bears visiting his campsites.

Jon Bowermaster described the hardships of paddling the unforgiving waters of the Bering Sea and the Alutians, as well as the political intrigue involved in getting permission to paddle the waters of North Vietnam. He's paddled on five continents and hopes to eventually paddle the remaining ones.

Danny Mongno described his paddling adventures across America and displayed much of the gear he recommends that paddlers have with them.

Chris Duff spent ten-weeks doing a 1500-mile circumnavigation of Iceland. He described the hearty people of Iceland and their simple lives. Interestingly, he said there was a 200-mile stretch of coastline along Iceland's south shore that was completely devoid of a place to land. This was perhaps the most difficult and challenging leg of the adventure.

There were many other speakers but several hours sitting on hard folding chairs tends to be tough on the butt so we selected the speakers we most wanted to hear, then spent the rest of the time browsing through the many displays. Most of the speakers have books in print on their paddling adventures. Naturally, there were many new kayak models on display. It's enough to make you want to buy a new kayak each season.



## **Caleb Smith Cleanup**

Liz Marcellus



The team this year consisted of Vi and John, Marge and Dave, Peter, Ray, Hank, Henry, Ed, new member Frank, and me. A Big thank you to all!

(continued on next page)

## Caleb Smith Cleanup (continued)

Mother Nature was smiling upon us again this year for LIPaddlers, annual Caleb Smith cleanup. It was actually raining on the morning of Saturday, March 27th but a hardy bunch of 11 paddlers were not afraid of a little rain. We were met at the park by Bob of Bob,s Canoe Rentals. He helped load up the four canoes and three kayaks onto his carrier and dropped us off by the lake in Blydenburg Park. By the time we had all the boats in the water the rain had stopped. There was a good flow of water which made it fun. However, it also made it trickier to grab the garbage . One winds up doing a lot of back-paddling against the current. We all agreed to meet at the small spillway at about the halfway point so as not to get too far apart. We were able to make good use of the FRS radios that David purchased for the club,s use. The sweep boat wound up a half hour behind the first boat, so we were able to make contact and put minds at ease.



Eggs from frogs or toads

We all gathered at the spillway, had a few snacks and laughs, and then continued on. We spotted some interesting wildlife, including wood ducks, osprey, a red-eared slider turtle and loads of eggs from frogs or toads (not sure which) in the water. We also got to enjoy the sounds of the spring peepers (tiny frogs) calling to each other in the woods.

The temperature climbed during the day to about 65F and was wonderful. We picked up lots of garbage and had some fun challenges getting to some of it. It's all in the tools! Long-handled tools make it easier to avoid thorny vines and reach down in the deep water.

At the end of the paddle we were met by Joanne and Mike of the Friends of Caleb Smith with coffee, teas, juice, cookies and fruit. We also got a tour of the mill house with some personal history and interesting stories: a wonderful treat!! The mill house is owned by Joanne's father. One story that amazed us all concerned the eye hooks in the ceiling and the straps on the furniture. Whenever it floods (three times this year so far), they hoist up the furniture above the rising water!

I can't wait to do it again next year!



Marge Tuthill took this great picture of Ed and Liz snagging some debris