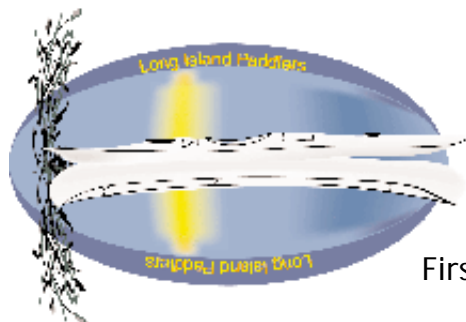


Blazing Paddles

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

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 Director	Tim Williams New!
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

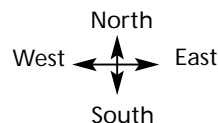
***Directions to
Half Hollow Hills Community Library
631-421-4530***

- 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



LIE (495)

Exit 51

Deer Park Ave.

Blazing Paddles

Newsletter of Long Island Paddlers



February 2005



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 2005

7-9:30 PM - Half Hollow Hills Library

Please note: The next two meetings will be on **Tuesday NOT Thursday.**

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Tuesday, March 15, 2005



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 Pam and Stu Selkin.



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**

Hofstra Kayak Course

The classes will be at Hofstra University swim center from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. on Monday nights.

Kayaking Basics: 2/7 - 3/7/05 (no class 2/21/05)

Kayaking Basic to Intermediate: 3/14 - 4/4/05

Kayaking Advanced: 4/11 - 5/2/05

Each block of 4 classes costs \$155.00

We supply the boats, paddles, and gear. Students should bring a bathing suite and towel.

Additional information is available at the website <http://members.aol.com/kayakli/>

People interested in enrolling can contact the university directly at

<http://www.hofstra.edu/ucce> or call (516) 463-5993.

They can also contact Doug Ford at doug4d@optonline.net with any questions (put Hofstra Kayaking in the subject line).



Open Pool

with

Sea Kayaking Skills and Adventures

Practice your skill or learn new ones

Sunday from 3:00PM till 6:00PM

Boats and instruction available upon request.

Visit the web www.sksa-ltd.com

or call 631-563-6654

for more information



Important

A list of all member's name, home address, e-mail address and phone numbers is being compiled to give out to all members.

Please fill out the information below and e-mail it to David Thaler at dthaler@optonline.net

or print this page out and mail it to: David Thaler, Membership
14 Westchester Court
Middle Island, NY 11953

If we don't hear from you by April 15, 2005, your name and info WILL NOT appear on the list.

Name _____

Please circle the appropriate answers:

I want my name listed Yes or NO

I want my home address listed Yes or NO

I want my e-mail address listed Yes or NO

I want my phone number listed Yes or NO



Membership Dues Reminder!!!

Membership renewals are due. The membership period is from January 1 through December 31 of the current year. 2005 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, 2005. Please renew today.**

Library Updated!!!

**Listed below are a few new items that
Alan Mindlin has purchased for our library.**

Book:

Sea Kayaker - "Deep Trouble"

True Stories and their Lessons from Sea Kayaker Magazine by Matt Broze and George Gronseth

DVD: There will be a \$10.00 deposits on all DVDs

"Forward Stroke Clinic" - The Berent Reitz

"This is the Sea" - The first ever action Sea Kayak video - Justine Curgenven

"The Kayaking Fishing Video" - Dennis Spike

USK presents "Capsize Recoveries and Rescue Procedures - Vol. 1 and 2



T-Shirts for Sale!!!

Bruce Mulligan is selling t-shirts with our club logo.

They are for sale at the meetings.

Unisex Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XL and XX.

Price: \$10.00



Jersey Paddler's 2005 Paddlesport Show

March 18, 19 & 20

Friday Noon-9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. & Sunday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, New Jersey

The biggest Kayak, Canoe and Outdoor Show on the East Coast will once again be presented by The Jersey Paddler of Brick, New Jersey Exhibits will include manufacturers of kayaks, canoes, accessories, sportswear, paddling clubs professional instruction and expeditions. Lectures and video/slide shows of exotic trips and expeditions, plus paddling techniques.

More information and directions:

Call: 1-888-22-KAYAK or 1-732-458-5777

or go to their website

<http://www.jerseypaddler.com/padsport.html>

Geocaching and Kayaking

by Raymond Clarkson

With the decreasing water temperatures as winter set in I realized the kayak was going to be spending more time hanging in the garage than on the water. So the next question was how to get some exercise over the winter months. Since I've never been a gym rat I knew going to a health club or planning on riding a stationary bike were out of the question. While playing with my GPS and computer I stumbled on what appeared to be the perfect solution. Here was this website www.geocaching.com and all I had to do was enter my zip code and it would send me off on an adventure to try and find a hidden cache [treasure]. Not only would it send me out looking for the cache but it was for free. Thinking this was too good of a deal there must be a catch I decided to see how it works and picked a local cache by putting in my zip code, WOW there sure are a lot of them. Well I have to go to the library and this one is near there so I'll just see if I can find it.

Now lets see exactly how do I load these coordinates into the GPS, the book must be around here somewhere. Ok, so now I've got them loaded in as a waypoint so what's this "find" thing do on the GPS. Gee it gives me an arrow that points over there in the woods. Hey this is pretty neat. I'm hiking in the woods next to this great little pond with a hawk flying overhead and the GPS says I'm only 50 feet from the cache. A treasure hunters dream. Now what exactly was that hint I decoded on the cache page "where Kleebler elves live" it must be in a tree. But which one the GPS now says 5 feet North, no wait now it's 5 feet West. Darn this thing I wonder what's wrong with it, I can't get a reading under all these trees. I guess I'll just have to look around. Those sticks by that tree don't seem to fit I wonder if it's hidden there. Like a little kid I find and eagerly open the container to reveal a number of small items and a log book. Remembering the guidelines on the Geocaching website I sign the log book and if I take something I have to replace it with something of equal or greater value or I can just re-hide the cache and take nothing. I have to be careful so Muggles [non-geocachers] don't see me and destroy or ruin the cache.

After signing the log book I headed home and checked the geocaching website again to find out how to log my first find. Hey this registration process is easy so I follow the directions and pick a login name (Waterspyder) and a secret password. Will you look at that when I check the found button it opens a window and I can type in my comments about the cache. Neat, it even listed it as my finding one (1) cache so far. I'm hooked and this is for free – I wonder what other caches are out there. Here's one close to the put-in at Carmen's River near Glacier Bay and another for the river off Beaver Dam Road, and what's this one over by the Setauket Harbor put-in, and there's three by Mt. Sinai Harbor, and one on Bellport Dock, another on Patchogue Dock and I wonder what these are that are labeled "Canoe" or these out on that island in Great South Bay. Whoa, what are these in Port Jefferson Harbor it reads you need a boat to get to them or you can walk along the shore for a couple of miles at low tide and find them. Since caches can be placed on almost all public property they are located all over the Island.

So now I'm hooked on using the GPS and finding these crazy little boxes in the woods. Well over 100 finds later I've been to parks and nature trails I never knew were on Long Island, I've found places to put-in a kayak that I didn't consider in the past and I've even hidden caches of my own. I've also found a local group of geocachers at www.ligeocaching.com that's also for free and these people seem crazier about walking in the woods, placing caches in attractive locations and picking up trash as they walk in the woods then I am so if you like the outdoors you'll fit in with this group. I now receive a free email each week from Geocaching.com telling me about new caches in the local area. I've learned more about using my GPS than I would have over a few seasons of regular use. I even found a cache that is kayak accessible on the University of Washington campus.

When the weather warms up I already have a number of kayak friendly places to hide caches and maybe with a little help I can place dozens of them for other kayakers to find on the island. Once you have a GPS all you need is a little bit of a kid left in you and the lust for adventure. The rewards are tours of parks and nature areas you never knew existed in your own neighborhood and a better understanding of how to use your GPS for navigation. The caches are rated for difficulty and range from wheelchair accessible locations all the way up to extreme conditions involving scuba diving or mountain climbing to reach the cache. Give it a try all you need to do is log onto the website and type in your Zip code to get a sense of what's out there.

PS: the Waterspyder log-in name has a dual meaning one having to do with liking to move across the water in my kayak and the other involves what I do for a living. You'll have to figure the second part out for yourself, but here's a hint the term evolved from wncnarfr yrna znahsnpghevat cebprffrs. (The key to the hint is on any geocache you look up at www.geocaching.com.)



A Message From the Editor

Denise Caparatta

The newsletter is available for any member who would like to include free advertising and any upcoming events or dates. Information should be submitted about three weeks before each meeting. If anyone has anything to submit you can e-mail me (Denise) at: pcaparat@optonline.net.

It would be enjoyable to read about warm weather kayaking while we are waiting for the winter to pass. Members can submit an article about a paddle. It doesn't have to be current. Please keep it short, just a few paragraphs would be great. Let's try to get several articles in the next few newsletters.