

Blazing Paddles

Newsletter of Long Island Paddlers



February 2006

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.

Meeting Thursday, February 23, 2006 - 7 PM to 9:30 PM

Northport Public Library

151 Laurel Avenue, Northport, NY 11768

(631) 261-6930

Directions:

From the East:

Long Island Expressway Exit 53-N or Northern State Parkway Exit 45-N to Sagtikos-Sunken Meadow Parkway. Exit at East Northport Road (Pulaski Road). West on Pulaski to Larkfield Road; right onto Larkfield Road. Continue on Larkfield Road across railroad tracks; bear left at fork onto Laurel Road. Cross route 25A (approx. one mile past fork) to Laurel Avenue. Northport Public Library is one block north of 25A on left.

From the West:

Long Island Expressway Exit 51-N or Northern State Parkway Exit 42-N. Travel north onto Deer Park Avenue (bear to right after parkway - Deer Park Ave. East) to Jericho Turnpike. Left at next light onto Elwood Road. Follow Elwood Road approximately four miles to route 25A (Fort Salonga Road). Cross route 25A and go 2 blocks to Scudder Avenue. Turn right and proceed to the end of Scudder Avenue. The Northport Public Library is on the corner of Scudder and Laurel Avenues.

February 23rd Program

Club elections will be held at the meeting on February 23rd. We will be electing a President, Vice President, Secretary and two members-at-large. Members can vote in person at the meeting or by returning the ballot mailed to them by Monday, February 20th.

Mailed ballots must be received by this date to be counted.

All mailed ballots will be opened and counted at the meeting. Ballots and envelopes will first be separated so that those counting the ballots will not know how each member voted. The return address labels on the envelopes will be used to verify that each member only votes once. Ballots without return address labels will not be counted.

Members attending the meeting, who did not mail in a ballot, **will** be able to vote. We will have ballots for them to use. All ballots will be counted at the meeting and the results of the election will be announced. The election results will also be published in the next newsletter.

ALSO

"Getting from my Garage to the Put In, and Back . . . Safely"

Learn all the ins and out of safe (for you and your kayak) cartopping, from rooflines to tie-down lines. David Chin will help prepare you for the upcoming season's first trip for your boat, the transporting of your kayak or canoe from winter storage to it's first taste of the water this Spring.

Using chalktalk, hardware, and software, David will take you through the basics of safe and easy roof-racking. He will be covering the physics, the problems, the products, and the secret solutions of safely and easy portaging your precious boat via roof-rack. *Bring a note pad and a 6' length of line, and any questions or unique problems you may be facing.*



January 26th Meeting

By Vi Quintero

The highlight of the January meeting was the membership's approval of the new bylaws, a formal document that codifies the structure of the club—its membership, governing body, how business is conducted, nomination and election process, etc. This formal structure overlays the informal association of paddlesports enthusiasts that has existed for over twenty-five years.

Over the last several months, a committee, headed by Barbara Fontana and Vi Quintero, and encompassing over fifteen members of the club, created the bylaws. The bylaws were then emailed to club members for their review prior to the meeting on January 26th. At the meeting, following some discussion and suggestions for future amendments to the document, the bylaws were approved. The bylaws will be available shortly on the club's website; hard copies can be obtained at a general meeting.

Also at the January meeting, John Giuffre, Co-Vice-President, presided over the nomination of officers for the election to be held at the February meeting. Members nominated for the open officer positions are:

President:	Ken Fink, Alan Mindlin
Vice-President:	Steve Berner, Barry Goldblatt
Secretary:	Vi Quintero
2 Members at Large:	Dave Chin, Barbara Fontana, Kaye Eastman

If you have any questions regarding the elections, please call John Giuffre at 631-737-2522.

Sunset and Fireworks

by Alan Mindlin

When I think back on my kayak adventures for 2005 I have many beautiful memories. It is difficult to narrow it down to just one adventure. The finalists in my mind is the full moon paddle with the club from Smith Point, the trip to New Hampshire with Mark and paddling Squarm lake but the winner is the evening paddle on the third of July from Theodore Roosevelt County Park.

It was a Sunday evening and I brought my boat to work so I could go out for summer evening paddle. The weather was beautiful with a few clouds. Rushing out of work as fast as possible I changed and was on the water about 6:30 P.M. I brought my night lights with me and was glad that I had attended David Chin's midnight paddle prior to Bay Day. This helped overcome my fear of paddling in the dark. As I passed under the Bayville bridge I could see that I would be treated to a spectacle sunset. The sun started to set as I neared the Bayville Creek. I just took out my camera and waited. I was rewarded with a beautiful red sunset and thought it could not get any better than this. I was wrong. As the sky darkened I stopped and turned on my lights and headed home. As the kayak near the Bayville Bridge the sky lite up with an incredible display of fireworks. As my Merlin passed under the bridge it seemed each town had commenced their bombardment and the whole harbor was ablaze with fireworks. It was tough to concentrate on paddling. When I made it back to my put in I realized that I had been treated to two wonderful shows and all I had expected was a little fresh air and exercise.

