

Blazing Paddles

Newsletter of Long Island Paddlers

Fall 2007

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.



Our Secretary - Fran Cassidy
Photo by Alan Mindlin

LI Paddlers Volunteers Request

By Diane Cousins

NAME _____

TOWN _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____ CELL # _____

To make your club events run well, we sometimes need more volunteers. PLEASE check off where you'd like to help, so we know who to call for that event. Submit this form to David Thaler at a monthly meeting or mail it to him at 14 Westchester Ct., Middle Island, NY 11953.

Picnic/Holiday Party

Coordinate for an event

Sell tickets

Set Up

Clean up

Help with entertainment

Help with food

Skills Day

Volunteer to help teach

Other

Do water clean up (Conservation committee)

Help with refreshments for a Thursday night meeting

Pick up refreshments for a Thursday night meeting

Sell 50-50 tickets at a Thursday night meeting

Volunteer for Swim Across America
(Kayak assist for swimmers)

Sell ad space for newsletters
(Contact vendors, prices on last page of newsletter)

Write an article for newsletter
(Submit to editor)

Drop off club info at kayak related stores

Organize an overnight trip or day trip

Do a presentation at monthly meeting

Thanks for volunteering for your club!

Nominations and Elections

It's that time of year again. . . nominations are being sought for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and two members-at-large. Elections will be held in November for terms beginning Jan 1, 2008.

If you would like to nominate someone or nominate yourself for any of these positions, please email Fran Cassidy, chairperson of the nominations and elections committee, at francassidy@optonline.net by Wednesday, October 17th. Nominations can also be made at the Club meeting on October 18th. Self-nominations are welcome.

Thank you,
The nominations & election committee

FOR SALE: \$550.00

Aquasport Santee XL kayak in excellent condition, it's red with white bottom; 11.6 feet; weighs 31 lbs.; made of lightweight tylon. If interested call Chris 631-793-6094; she lives in Stony Brook.

Summer 2007 Paddles By Alan Mindlin

Hi everyone. I hope you all had a fun summer. Many of us have new adventures from our paddling trips which I am sure we can share at a meeting. We had quite a few planned trips lead by Barbara, Dave, Steve and Ken. I want to thank all four of them plus anyone else who led a trip this summer. We had music paddles where we paddled and then listened to a concert. The first one at Tappan Beach Park was more paddle and less listen. The evening was really beautiful (except for the rain) so we paddled a little longer than we planned and as we brought our chairs to the stage they announced "Drive safely and have a good night."

There were two other trips this year. First, we had the pizza photo paddle which was attended by over 20 members. Special thanks to Frank Chillemi who took our photos prior to embarking on a trip across the Great South Bay and around Gilgo Island. Unlike last year we were doubly lucky since we had only a slight breeze and the green flies chose to take the night off. We watched the sun set and the pizza disappear. If you missed it you missed one of the most

enjoyable trips of the year. We thank Jim and Susan, the owners of the Dingy Shop in Amityville, for the kind use of their facilities.

Our music paddles were really fun. When you combine a music paddle and fireworks with a gorgeous night with a full moon cruise you have a night to remember. We arrived at the Dingy Shop where we embarked on a short trip to John Burns Park in Massapequa. The Great South Bay was quite calm as we listened to a Country Music concert along with 4000 people. "We sat in the back and not too close to the band. The rockets red glare was in our eyes as we paddled back to the Dingy shop under a beautiful full moon. The bay was flat as a pancake and boat traffic was sparse. While paddling, a large white motor boat came from across the bay slowed and made a left turn. He shouted "I could see your lights clear across the bay." Needless to say he made my day. Hope everybody can join us next year. Again special thanks to all who led trips and anyone who helped sweep, screen or teach while on a trip.



Justin Freund



Paul Aledort

Photos by Alan Mindlin

Upper Nissequogue River Clean Up

Caleb Smith State Park has agreed to allow a few boats to do a fall river clean up this year. Sunday, October 21 is the date and should be a beautiful time of year to be in the park. We will be meeting in the in the main parking lot of Caleb Smith State Park (on the north side of Jericho Tpk.) at 9:30 AM.

This is a great opportunity to provide some community service as well as paddle a stretch of the river closed to boats the rest of the year. The trip starts out narrow and winding. . . a bit of a challenge to stay out of the shrubbery and pick up garbage at the same time! After about 4 hours we end up in the lake by the mill. Last year the water level was especially high as the dam was being worked on and we had quite a wild ride!

Please call Liz at (631)439-1487 to sign-up. Space is limited. PFD's and cold weather/water gear are mandatory. No exceptions! Bring your canoe or recreational kayak (smaller is better in this case!)

Bring snacks and drinks if you like. There is no portaging.

A committee was formed earlier this year to revise the bylaws. Dave Thaler, Paul Adeldort, Fred Hosage, Kaye Eastman and Barbara Fontana worked on this and have proposed the following changes. Members will vote on these changes at the November meeting.

Proposed changes: delete words that are underlined; add words in bold italics.

Bylaws of Long Island Paddlers

1. Purpose

Long Island Paddlers is a club for kayakers and canoeists who share a common love for paddle sports and the outdoors. We meet in a spirit of fellowship and to pass on to others the skills and knowledge we've gained. We exchange information on safety, education, paddling experiences, and other paddling-related subjects. We are a nonpartisan Club and membership is open to all. We are active all year. We participate in river clean-ups and other conservation activities and encourage state and local governing bodies to improve access to local waters for non-motorized crafts. We are a nonprofit club, not being incorporated, owning no real property, having no paid positions, and acknowledging no liabilities.

2. Club Organization

A. Executive Committee

The governing body of this club is the Executive Committee in consultation with the Board. The Executive Committee consists of the elected officers. Club officers are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past-President and two Members-at-Large. A person may hold only one elected office but may hold other appointed positions.

B. The Board

The Board consists of the Executive Committee and the Committee Chairpersons appointed by a majority vote of the officers. Whenever possible decisions will be made by consensus; when a vote is needed, only elected officers may vote.

C. Committee Chairpersons

Committee Chairpersons are: Membership Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Training & Safety Coordinator, Special Events Coordinator, Trip Coordinator, American Canoe Association Liaison, Program Coordinator, Public Affairs Coordinator and any other committee chairpersons the Executive Committee may appoint.

D. Members

1. Admitting Members

People who share LI Paddlers' Purpose and who agree to follow these bylaws are welcome to apply for membership. Applicants shall be admitted to membership upon 1) submitting an application and signed liability waiver; 2) being approved by the Board; 3) paying dues.

A person may be denied membership, if, in the opinion of a majority of the Executive

Committee, he/she does not meet the membership requirements. Reasons for denying membership may include, but are not limited to, actions in conflict with the mission or bylaws of the club and/or inappropriate behavior directed at the club or its members

2. Removing Members

A person may be removed from membership, if, in the opinion of a majority of the Executive Committee, there is just cause. Reasons for removing a member may include, but are not limited to actions in conflict with the mission or by laws of the club, inappropriate behavior directed at the club or its members or actions which may threaten the safety of others.

3. Members in Good Standing

Members in good standing have paid their Club dues, are members in good standing of the ACA, have a current signed liability waiver, and follow the club bylaws.

3. Board Operations

A. Meetings

The Board shall meet monthly to conduct the business of the club including, but not limited to: establishing club policy; setting goals; deciding and reviewing financial matters; approving club activities and trips; setting dues; deciding qualification issues for trip leaders and trip participants. To conduct business for the club a quorum of officers must be present. A simple majority shall constitute a quorum.

B. Vacancies

If, for whatever reason, a seat is vacated by an officer, the remaining officers, by majority vote, may appoint a replacement for the remainder of that person's term.

C. Removal of an Officer

By a majority vote of the officers, an officer may be relieved of his/her duties and removed from the Executive Committee

if that person is not adequately performing the duties of his/her office, as specified in these bylaws.

D. Committees

Club committees will include: Membership, Newsletter, Website, Training and Safety, Special Events, Trips, ACA Liaison, Programs, Public Affairs and any other committee approved by the Board Executive Committee. Each committee will have a coordinator/chairperson appointed by majority vote of the Executive Committee for a term of one year. The coordinator/chairperson will report to the Board each month about the activities of his/her committee. The coordinator/chairperson may be assisted by club members to carry out the responsibilities of his/her committee. By majority vote of the Executive Committee a committee coordinator/chairperson can be relieved of his/her duties if that person is not adequately performing his/her duties as specified by the Executive Committee.

4. General Membership Meetings

A general membership meeting will be scheduled each month by the Board. Notices of meetings shall be distributed to the members by email and on the club website at least two weeks before the meeting date. Meeting locations shall be approved by the Board. Whenever a vote is called for at a meeting, each member in good standing shall be accorded one vote. In case of a family membership, each adult will have one vote. Proxy or write-in votes will not be allowed. A simple majority of those present at the meeting will decide all issues. Should there be a tie, the President will cast the deciding vote.

5. Nominations and Elections

A. Nominations

Starting no later than September 1st of each year, the Vice President and two club members, appointed by the Board, will form a Nominations & Election Committee.

1. The Committee will make a list of possible candidates, contact these people, review the responsibilities of the office with them and determine if the person is willing to run for office and, if elected, serve. They must make every effort to have at least one nominee for each office.

Each nominee must be a club member in good standing for at least one year prior to the election. A member can only run for one office in any given election.

2. The Committee will post the first notice of nominations and the election in the September newsletter to solicit members who might be interested in holding a Club office. Any member who wishes to be considered by the Committee for an office must notify the Vice President by the date specified in the notice.

3. The Committee will also ask for nominations from the floor at the *September and* October membership meeting.

4. Before a member is included as a nominee, the Committee will review the responsibilities of the office with him/her and determine if the person is willing to run for office and, if elected, serve.

5. The Committee will compile and publish the final list of nominees.

B. Elections

1. The Nominations and Election committee will prepare the ballot and conduct the election. The election will take place at the November general membership meeting. The Committee will mail a ballot to every club member in good standing and will specify the date by which it must be received to be counted at the November meeting for those who cannot attend the meeting. Members may choose to vote, in person, at the November meeting. The Committee must devise a way to verify that each member only votes once.

2. Voting at the November membership meeting must be by paper ballot. Each member in good standing shall have one vote. In the case of family membership, each adult will have one vote. Proxy or write-in candidates will not be allowed.

3. Both the ballots cast at the November meeting and those sent in by members prior to the meeting will be tallied at the November meeting. A simple majority vote will decide. Should there be a tie, the President will cast the deciding vote *the officers will vote by paper ballot to select the winner*. The winners will be announced at this meeting.

4. The results of the elections will also be posted in the next issue of the Club newsletter.

5. *If, after seeking nominations as described above, there is only one nominee for each office, the Nominations and Election committee will notify the Board and the members that there will not be a formal ballot mailed to all members. Instead, the committee will hold a voice vote at the November meeting.*

C. Term of Office

The new officers shall take office on January 1st and their term shall end December 31st of the same year. All terms are for one year.

D. Term Limits

No person shall serve in the same office for more than three consecutive terms.

E. Transition of Responsibilities

To insure the smooth transition of responsibilities, each previously serving officer and newly elected officer shall meet as necessary to insure that the transition goes smoothly. This includes such things as financial records, membership lists and other important Club information.

F. The above procedures will commence with the nominations and elections beginning September 2006.

G. Since it is anticipated that these bylaws will be adopted in the winter of 2006, the officers at the time of the passage of these bylaws will decide how to hold the first election of officers. The term of these new officers will end on December 31, 2006.

6. Amending the Bylaws

Any part of these bylaws may be amended through the following process:

- a. notification of a proposed change must be announced at the general membership meeting in the month immediately preceding the meeting where the vote will be taken;
- b. notification of a proposed change must also be posted in the club newsletter at least 15 days before a scheduled vote; posted in the club newsletter and on the club website before a scheduled vote; this notification must include information on how a member may request a ballot if he/she cannot attend the membership meeting.
- c. voting will be take place, in person, at a general membership meeting by paper ballot and there must be a way for members who cannot attend the meeting to vote prior to the meeting date. The Committee must devise a way to verify that each member only votes once.
- d. *absentee ballots must be received by the date specified.*
- e. a proposed change must be approved by two-thirds of the members voting in order for the bylaws to be amended. *If approved, the bylaws change will become effective immediately.*

7. Duties of Officers

All officers must be able to attend monthly Executive Committee and Board meetings and monthly membership meetings.

President

Position Requirements:

- estimated average time: 3 hrs/ wk
- Have a well-rounded knowledge of paddling, with at least 3 years of paddling experience.
- Leadership skills

Responsibilities:

- Presides and officiates at all LI Paddlers functions & meetings, including Executive Committee Meetings, Board meetings, General Meetings, and any special meeting called.
- Presents information from the Board to the membership.
- In collaboration with the Board, develops and oversees the overall direction of the club.
- The President can vote at Board Meetings, but may only vote in cases of a tie vote at General Membership Meetings.
- Ensures that Club elections are carried out in a timely manner in accordance with the Club's by laws.
- Shall represent the Club and liaison with the public and other organizations.
- Shall coordinate the work of the various committees.

Vice President

Position Requirements:

- estimated average time: 2 hrs/wk

Responsibilities:

- Assists the President with the duties of that office and presides over any function at which the President cannot be present.
- Serves as the chair of the Nominations and Election Committee

Treasurer

Position Requirements:

- estimated average time: 2 hrs/ wk
- Knowledge and ability to balance bank account and complete Club Income and Expense Statement

Responsibilities:

- Maintains the club checking account, reconciles the checkbook each month, and submits a monthly income/expense statement to the Board.

- Maintains all club financial statements, receipts, etc for a period of five years.
- Receives monies in the form of dues, and other collections, such as for club events, and products.
- Obtains approval from the Executive Committee for all expenditures of \$100 \$300 or more.
- Obtains approval of the club membership for any expenditure of \$500 or more by majority vote at a general membership meeting.
- Within one week of the request, writes and sends necessary checks to reimburse legitimate Club expenses.
- Submits an Annual Financial Report of the previous year to the Board at the January committee meeting.
- Keeps the books ready for inspection by the Executive Committee or its agent/s.
- Follow the financial controls established by the Executive Committee.

Secretary

Position Requirements:

- Estimated average time: 1 hour/week.
- Ability to record and create accurate written account of club's business.

Responsibilities:

- Take minutes at all Board meetings **and** records votes.
- Prepares written summary of Board meetings and in a timely manner, submits to Board for their approval.
- Where necessary and appropriate, records decisions and/or consensus of General Membership, especially when a vote is taken on an agenda item.
- Assists the Nominating Committee in conducting annual election and recording the votes of the membership.
- Maintains club minutes for a period of five years.

Members-At-Large

Position Requirements:

- Estimated average time: 3 hours/month.
- Have the interest and commitment to serve in a club leadership position.

Responsibilities: Attend monthly Board meetings and General membership meetings.

8. Conflict of Interest

All Board members of LI Paddlers are committed to the mission of the club, and have a clear obligation to conduct all affairs of the club in a manner consistent with this concept. Decisions of the Board are to be made solely on the basis of the desire to promote the best interests of the club.

Board members shall promptly disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest in any matter relating to the club. In each such instance, the Board member shall avoid participating in any club decision in which the Board member or any affiliate of the Board member could be said to have any personal, financial or other stake in the decision or where other institutional connections could influence the Board member's independent judgement.

9. New Programs

Any proposed program or project to be considered by the Club must first be submitted in writing to the Board and contain the following information:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| a. goals | d. anticipated income | g. outside organizations or persons required |
| b. benefit to club | e. proposed start and completion dates | h. methodology |
| c. anticipated costs | f. number of members required | |

10. These Bylaws become effective the day they are ratified by a majority vote of the members. January 8, 2006

What Do You Think?

From Paddling News Website

Are you contemplating a boat purchase before the prime paddling season fades into fall? Do your research by utilizing the Paddling.net Boat Buyers Guide, the Product Reviews and the Classified Ads. They're all useful tools. As always, if you have any questions or comments, drop us a line at feedback@paddling.net.

Experience

DONALDSONS

Cathy Kelleher • Subaru Sales



SUBARU

"The Smart Choice"

5700 Sunrise Highway, Sayville, NY 11782

Tel. 631.567.6400 Direct: 631.590.5245 Fax: 631.567.8400

Cathysubaru@aol.com

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.lipaddlers.org

**Tentative monthly meeting dates • Always check website
3rd Thursday of every month 7-9:30 PM**

September 20 • October 18 • November 15 • December 20

**LOCATION: Suffolk County Community College Brentwood (Grant Campus)
Captree Commons - C114 - Cafeteria Building**

From the east or west take the Long Island Expressway to Exit 53. Follow signs to Wicks Road.
Go south on Wicks Road to campus entrance on right-hand side.

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Advertising Rates

	1 Issue	4 Issues
Full Page	\$250	\$800
Half Page	\$150	500
Quarter Page	\$85	275
Business Card	\$45	150
2 Lines	\$25	85

Long Island Paddler's Publication Dates

June 15 • September 15 • December 15 • March 15
Deadlines for submission are one month prior to publication date. All copies submitted must be typewritten. Members are encouraged to submit articles, letters to the editor Newsworthy Notes, trip reports or future trip information, etc. to editors. Editors reserve the right to editorial privileges. Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent official position statements of Long Island Paddlers Club.

Submit all newsletter articles,
letters and advertising to the editor
news@lipaddlers.org