

# Blazing Paddles

## Newsletter of the LI Paddlers

Volume 2021, Issue 1

Winter Edition

January 2021

### Message from the President



#### Hello Paddlers & Seasons Greeting

Our Paddling season has ended for some of us. There are a few brave and bold paddlers that take on the cold months ahead, despite the challenge that Covid has imposed on us. I am very impressed with the members of this club; they have shown the unity to work together during the Covid crisis. I thank all the members for their patience in dealing with these obstacles. The Executive Board (VP Emilio Sosa, Treasurer Lise Poulos, Secretary Bob Hansen, Members at large Don Gorycki, JoAnne Polino Past President Steve  
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# Message from the President (Cont'd)

Berner, Committee Coordinators Frank Posillico, Steve Berner, Chiara Nuzzo, Mike Matty, Donna DiGiovanni, Dan DiGiovanni, Don Gorycki, Robert Condemi, Shirley Espinosa, Debbie Gallucci, Liz Marcellus, Bob Hansen, Irene Wiener, Diana Price, and Tony Pellet). All these members have worked hard in keeping the club together. You have my appreciation and thank you as I look forward to working with all of you in 2021.

A warm thank you to the Dinghy Shop for supporting us in 2020 and a great help in providing us with a place to meet. Special thanks to our Newsletter Coordinator Don Gorycki his diligence in publishing our newsletter is greatly appreciated by all. I look forward to serving as Club President in 2021 and working with everyone in coming up with solutions and ideas for the New Year.

To all the Long Island Paddlers, families and friends, I wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanzaa, Feliz Navidad and a safe and Happy New Year.  
See you in 2021. Ed Mangual, Club President



## Election results

Candidates for Club executive Council positions “threw their hats into the ring” in October and elections are held in November. Voting results of last November for the 2021 season is:

- President: Ed Mangual
- Vice President: Emilio Sosa
- Treasurer: Lise Poulos
- Secretary: Bob Hansen
- Members at Large: JoAnne Paolino, Don Gorycki
- Past President: Fred Hosage

## Committee Coordinators 2020

Membership	Debbie Galluci
Programs	Position is open
Trips	Chiara Nuzzo
Training & Safety	Mike Matty
Public Relations	Dan & Donna DiGiovanni
Newsletter	Don Gorycki
Website	Robert Julius Condemi
Special Events	Position is open
Librarian	Debbie Gallucci
Conservation	Liz Marcellus
Big Buddy Program	Bob Hansen
Hospitality	Irene Weiner
Merchandise	Diana Price & Tony Pellet



← Even dogs like kayaking

→ Smart move Santa - trading up to a kayak!



## My Favorite Paddle Trip

“Kayaking in British Columbia, August 2015” by Colin Mullen

It was after midnight on Sunday August 9, 2015 when Dara and I finally arrived home from our kayaking vacation in British Columbia. Dara and I along with Robin started our journey home with a car ride to the 7:00 A.M. Quadra Island ferry. It was the first ferry leaving the island on Sundays so once it docked on Vancouver Island we had to race to the airport in order to hopefully making our flight. Luckily, for us, Canadian airport employees, travelers and airport security personal were so nice and accommodating. Once we arrived at the airport, the person at the check in counter moved us to the front of the line, without a complaint from anyone already waiting for their flights. Then the airport security personal ushered us to our plane without sending us through security, all of which allowed us to make our flight. We spent the remainder of our day flying between three other airports, waiting in airports, than going through U.S. customs and security, which was not nearly as pleasant as going through Canadian Customs and security. We concluded our days travel in a van from JFK to home.

(Continued on page 6)

## Members-At-Large – Who are they?

The Long Island Paddlers is a club comprising people who enjoy paddling kayaks and canoes. As with any large organization, the Club has a defined structure to ensure its smooth and successful operation. The Club has an executive Committee comprising the President, Vice-President, Past President, Treasurer, Secretary, and two Members-At-Large.

All of the officers mentioned above are elected from the general membership and must meet certain requirements as stated in the Club’s By-Laws.

OK, so what about the Members-At-Large? First of all they must have the “interest and commitment to serve the Club in a leadership position.” Members-At-Large attend the monthly Executive Counsel and General Membership meetings. Anyone can attend the Executive Council meeting but only as silent observers.

So how does anyone bring subject matters the Executive Counsel’s attention? That’s where the Members-at-Large come into play. They are the liaison between the General Membership and the Executive Counsel.

So, if you have a concern, new idea, a suggested improvement, or anything that affects the Club, just track down any of the two current Members-At-Large:

Joanne Paolino

[Paolino46@gmail.com]

Don Gorycki

[DGorycki6@gmail.com]

They will ensure that your recommendation will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Executive Council for discussion and disposition.



Submitted by Don Gorycki

## Long Island Paddlers Volunteer Points Program

The Long Island Paddlers Kayak Club supports many different activities above and beyond formal paddling trips. These activities are accomplished by volunteers who give their time and effort to make these activities successful. As a way of rewarding those who volunteer a system of 'Volunteer Points' have been established in the past and has been recently updated again by the Club's executive Council under the guidance of Mike Matty. Here are the latest guidelines for this program (changes in red).

### Long Island Paddlers Volunteer Points Program

The following describes the volunteer program for the Long Island Paddlers. To promote volunteerism, volunteer points will be awarded in the following

1. Leading a trip - **5 Points** (submittal of trip report required).
2. Assistant Trip Leader - **2 points** (if pre-listed on the web site in advance)
3. Leading a clean-up – **5 points**
4. Leading or helping out at a skill session – **5 points**
5. Submitting an article for the newsletter – **2 points**
6. Organizing / helping a club event (i.e. picnic, party etc.). – **5 points**
7. Giving a club presentation – **5 points**
8. Volunteering / participating at an outreach program or community event representing the Long Island Paddlers. *Must be present for a minimum of 3 hours* – **5 points**
9. Active participation in the Big Buddy Program - 5 points for the first face to face mentoring session for each mentee.
10. Serving on a committee - 20 points per year awarded at the beginning of each year

The Volunteer Points program will work as follows:

1. There will be a Volunteer Points Coordinator and a Backup Volunteer Points Coordinator.
2. Volunteer points will be maintained with Google Sheets on a dedicated Google Drive
3. The Volunteer Points Coordinator and a Backup Volunteer Points Coordinator will have Read/Write access to the spreadsheet
4. When a person volunteers and earns points, they shall send an email to either or both Volunteer Points Coordinator and the Backup Volunteer Points Coordinator to update the spreadsheet.
5. When a person uses volunteer points, the organizer of the event (party organizer, store coordinator) shall send an email to either or both Volunteer Points Coordinator and the Backup Volunteer Points Coordinator to update the spreadsheet.
6. One volunteer point is equal to \$1.
7. Volunteer Points may be redeemed at the Long Island Paddlers Store, any Long Island Paddlers event (i.e. picnic, party).
8. The maximum amount of points that can be redeemed by any member is **50 points** annually.
9. Points are carried over from year to year.
10. Points are not transferable.

Chris Scalisi and Mike Matty are the Volunteer Points Coordinators. Our emails are:

[Mike.matty@verizon.net](mailto:Mike.matty@verizon.net)

[kayakchris@optimum.net](mailto:kayakchris@optimum.net)

All enquires for points should be made to both of us. 

Submitted by Mike Matty



## Did You Know? (Club's website ->Newsletter Archive)



Look for newsletters under 'Resources'



Sampling of past newsletters

The club's newsletter, 'Blazing Paddles' is published four times a year – once for each season. The Club's president reviews the final copy and then emails it to the Club members. Past newsletters can also be found on the Club's website under the heading of 'Resources'. Currently the inventory of past newsletters is incomplete but an effort is underway to place all newsletters on the website.

So, if you have an email problem that prevents you from receiving the newsletter, you can always find it on the website. ☹️

Submitted by your Editor



## Cold Water Paddling

Our paddling club comprises many different types of paddlers; from beginners to intermediate to highly skilled. We have members who only paddle during the warmer months to members who paddle all year round, even when the weather turns colder, if not down-right frigid.

Safe cold water paddling requires special attention and knowledge in several areas; proper clothing, knowing your limitations to avoid risks, weather conditions and more.

Cold water paddling certainly has its bright sides including but not limited to minimal boat traffic, cold crisp air, connecting to nature on the water can soothe the soul.

Our website has great information on cold water paddling so why not check it out?

Here is where to find it: Club website -> Resources -> Cold Water Paddling ☹️

Submitted by your Editor

## My Favorite Paddle Trip (Cont'd)

On Sunday, Aug. 2, 2015 Dara, Robin and I started our vacation by taking a van to JFK at 4:30 AM there we caught the 7:00 AM flight to Toronto. Our flight to Toronto was our first in a series of three flights we would take that day. In Toronto, we had sufficient time to go through Canadian customs and enjoy a relaxing breakfast before boarding our next flight to Vancouver, British Columbia Canada. When we arrived in Vancouver Airport we boarded our third flight of the day, a small 18-passenger, two-engine propeller powered plane for a flight to the Campbell River Airport on Vancouver Island. This airport is a small dot on the map. The Campbell River Airport makes Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach look like a major international airport. With our flights finally over and seven hours after leaving JFK the three of us now obtained a taxi for the ten to fifteen minute ride to the London Drug Store in Campbell River, Vancouver Island. It was there at the London Drug store that Dara and I purchased a Canadian marriage license. Yes, that is correct the London Drug Store, Campbell Island on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada issues Canadian marriage licenses and you do not have to be a Canadian citizen or a Canadian resident to obtain one. Dara and I did not tell Robin that we intended to get married while in Canada prior to our purchasing of the marriage license and that she would be both my best woman and Dara's maid of honor.

After purchasing our marriage license Dara and I along with Robin enjoyed a leisurely fifteen minute walk to the Quadra Island ferry. We purchased our ferry tickets from the vending machine and waited for the ferry's arrival. It is not a long ferry ride to Quadra Island from Vancouver Island but having spent the entire day traveling I was tired and getting impatient to arrive at our destination. Once we arrived on the island, a taxi drove us to the Harbor House Bed & Breakfast, where we stayed for two nights. From the window of our second floor, room Dara and I had a picturesque view of the cove below us with a mountain range in the background. Each morning at 5:00 A.M., the sun greeted us with a bright orange glowing sky that reflected down onto the cove's calm surface. The sun's raising silhouetted the distant mountain range in hues of black and grays.



## My Favorite Paddle Trip (Cont'd)

A few weeks prior to our trip, Dara contacted Ms. Sarah Bible the Quadra Island Marriage Commissioner, inquiring if she could perform our wedding ceremony on Monday, August 3, 2015. During the summer months in British Columbia, Canadian's look for any and every reason to take Monday off from work and Dara and I had picked Monday; Aug.3, 2015 to get married not knowing it coincided with the Provincial Holiday of British Columbia Day. Since all Canadian governmental offices are close on Provincial Holidays Sarah suggested she performed our wedding ceremony on the beach of Rebecca Spit Provincial Park on Quadra Island, British Columbia; Sarah could not have picked a better location. In addition to Robin, attending our wedding there was two of our friends from California, Mary-Ellen and Bianca. Like Robin, we did not inform them of our wedding plans until they also arrived in Canada. Prior to this trip Dara and I have been happy living together for over a decade. Over that time, we have probably canoed and kayaked over a thousand miles together so it only seemed appropriate for us to get married on a paddling trip.



At 8:15 AM on our third day on Quadra Island, Sprit of the West guide's Lee, Tessa and Marissa picked Robin, Mary-Ellen and Bianca, Dara and I up at the Harbor House and drove us to the island's dock. At the dock, the five of us along with our guides meet nine other paddlers and we all boarded two water taxis for a three-hour ride to West Cracroft Island. While on the water taxis, we saw two pods of orca whales. Each time a pod of orca whales appeared the captains of the water taxis stopped their engines allowing the boats to drift so we could view the whales. The whales demonstrated no fear of the boats presence and swam in front of and alongside the boats. One of the orca whales swam within a few feet of the water taxi and then submerging

and swimming directly under the boat from port to starboard. The water was so clear that when the orca swam under the boat I could clearly distinguish its white and black patterns and see clearly into one of its eyes as it swam sideways under the water taxi. When the whale surfaced, it turned alongside the boat as if on cue allowing me to take its picture.





## My Favorite Paddle Trip (Cont'd)

When the water taxis arrived at West Cracroft Island, here and there scattered among the trees and rock outcroppings I could distinguish small-secluded tents, perched upon wooden platforms. The view of the island's campsites from the water taxis reminded me of J.R.R. Tolkien's description of a hobbit's village. A rowboat ferried us from the water taxis to the hobbit-looking village where we would be living and kayaking from for the remainder of the week.



We booked this trip through Spirit of the West Adventures of Heriot Bay, BC. Along with the three guides, they supplied tents perched upon wooden platforms, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, pillows, extra blankets; propane heated outdoor shower, a wood-fueled hot tub and fiberglass kayaks etc. From an outdoor kitchen, our guides prepared and served us three exquisite hot meals daily. Attached to the kitchen was a large open-air dining area with a clear fiberglass or plastic roof. Our three guides were just great. We used guides before but none equaled Lee, Tessa and Marissa, they went far beyond what is required or expected of a guide. They are three of the friendliest, nicest, considerate people I ever met who went out of their way including baking a carrot wedding cake with wild berries on top for Dara and me; and if that was not enough they even packed in two bottles sparkling wine to help us celebrate. Our guides did everything possible to make this an enjoyable experience for all their charges, including keeping the wood-fueled hot tub at the perfect temperature.

Our guides offered us two to three paddling trips each day. Designed for novice to medium paddlers these trips averaged around three to maybe five miles each. However, our guides recognizing that Dara, Robin and I were capable of paddling longer distances and arranged longer distance paddle for us. On one paddle, a stellar sea lion weighing approximately 400 pounds took exception to Lee, Robin, Dara and I paddling past it. The sea lion concentrated all its anger on Dara by swimming behind her kayak snorting and complaining for the entire paddle back to our campsite.



## My Favorite Paddle Trip (Cont'd)

It then spent the night in the small cove below our tent, continuously complaining causing Dara to dub it the "bitchy sea lion". One day during one of our paddles, two cruise ships sailed through the Johnson Straight, Robin and I took this as an opportunity to surf the ships wakes in our kayaks. We would ride a cruise ships wake almost to shore, then paddle back out and catch another wake. I got four great rides from these ships wakes.



Just as we expected it rained on and off almost every day and/or night. No one seemed to mind the almost daily/nightly rain, maybe because there is something peaceful about kayaking and sleeping during a gentle rain. I find it extremely peaceful to sleep in a dry, warm tent when it rains so I got a good night's sleep each night. However, each morning when I awoke from my peaceful night's sleep and emerged from our tent I managed to bang my head on the overhead wooden section of the tents platform. Once this morning ritual was completed, I blissfully went about enjoying the remainder of my day.

While on this trip in addition to the two pods of orca whales, we also saw one humpback whale. The humpback whale swam right below the rocks we were standing on not ten yards from our tent site. During every paddle and from our campsite we witnessed large numbers of salmon bursting out of the water. There was the daily sighting of porpoises and sea lions. Sea lions have slightly different physical characteristics and are much larger than the harbor and gray seals we commonly see here on Long Island. Multiple times a day we saw ravens, kingfishers and bald eagles flying above us and perched in trees. Dara and I have seen bald eagles many times before, in Maine, Washington State and even on the Carmans River etc. but never in such large a concentration as we witnessed on this trip.

On four occasions, we ran across black bears on the shoreline, totaling six bears in all. It was a great experience to see six black bears in the wild. Dara and I have seen or heard them before on some of our canoe camping trips but never more than one per trip.

## My Favorite Paddle Trip

(Cont'd)



We launched and landed our kayaks from the beach of a big U shaped cove. One morning after breakfast and before going, kayaking Dara and I walked the cove's shoreline. A few hours after our walk and maybe a hundred yards from where we turned around, we witnessed a black bear with her two cubs on the beach. Because the cove was in a U shape, the bears were directly we launched and landed our kayaks from the beach of a big U shaped cove. One morning after breakfast and before going, kayaking Dara and I walked the cove's shoreline. A few hours after our walk and maybe a hundred yards from where we turned around, we witnessed a black bear with her two cubs on the beach. Because the cove was in a U shape, the bears were directly across from the campsite where we were now standing. It was so cool knowing the bears were practically standing in the same location where Dara and I were walking a few hours prior. The only thing separating us now from these three bears was approximately 70 yards of water. When we saw these bears, it was low tide, the mother black bear was turning over some large rocks, and her cubs appeared to be eating what she exposed under the rocks. After a few minutes one of the cubs started mimicking its mother's actions by turning over the rocks. The cub was apparently learning from its mother's example.

Logging is a huge industry in this area of the Johnson Straight. Taking advantage of their environment, the logger's will cut down trees, clear them of their branches and then simply pushes them down a mountainside into the water of the Johnson Straight. Once the logs reach the water,

## My Favorite Paddle Trip

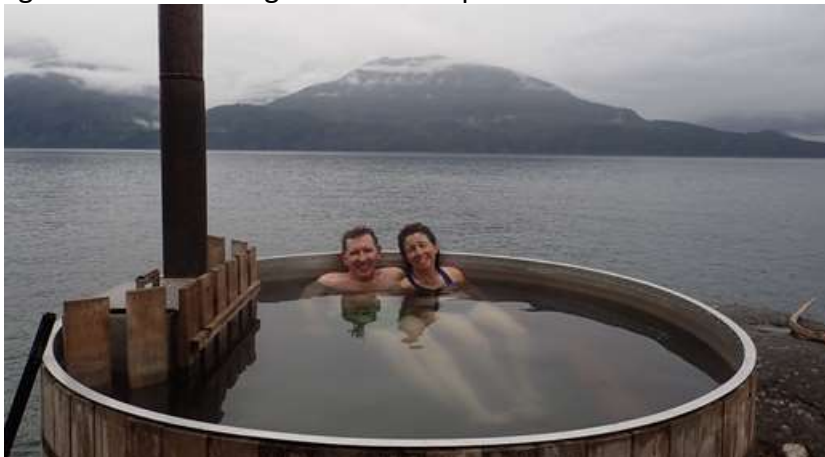
(Cont'd)

a barge equipped with a crane retrieves the floating logs and places them upon its deck. Because of this method of logging, numerous logs escape the cranes grasp or fall off the barge's deck. Boaters simply consider the huge escaped floating logs a minor navigational hazard. Eventually these minor navigational hazards wash up on the shoreline and cease being a problem for boaters or at least until the next extreme high tide.

Apparently, content after dining on what its mother exposed under the rocks, one of the black bear cubs started walking on top of one of the numerous beached logs. The cub demonstrated the balance of a tightrope walker while walking atop the log. It appears that once a log washes up on the shore where it is no longer a minor navigational hazard to boaters it becomes a piece of gymnastic equipment for black bear cubs.

A few hours after the bears meandered off back into the woods I went down to the water's edge to find out what attracted them to the area and what was under the rocks. By turning over the rocks below the high water mark, I discovered large populations of small green crabs living under them. These crabs living under the rocks were what the bears were searching for and eating. From watching the bears, it is clear that turning over the rocks between the low and high tide mark to expose the crabs is a learned experience passed on from mother to cub. I turned over a few rocks above the high tide mark and failed to find any crabs living under those rocks. So, locating crabs under rocks below the high tide mark is a learned experience which adult bears passed down to the younger generation which raises the questions of how do bears know when it is low tide? In addition, how do black bears pass down the knowledge of reading a tide chart and where do they purchase a tide chart?

Aside from the obvious reason, this will always remain as Dara's and my most memorable kayaking trip. We spent an entire week with three of our nicest friends. We had the opportunity to view orca whales again in the wild along with other wildlife we seldom get the opportunity to observe. This was the first kayaking or canoe camping trip where Dara and I were able to take hot showers every day. In addition, did I fail to mention that we daily stoked in a perfect tempter wood-fueled hot tub with an exceptional view overlooking the Johnson Straight from a campsite that reminded me of a hobbit's village. 🌊



Submitted by  
Colin Mullen



## You Kayakers Are All So Eclectic

During the 'idea phase' of this project I got to thinking about something a woman had said to me more than two years ago. In August, 2019, our team of club members and other volunteer kayakers were on the beach at 5:30am preparing to provide swimmer escort for the annual Swim Across America event. The woman looked at my boat, a run-of-the-mill Current Designs Tandem, and then looked at the other kayaks, thought for a moment, then loudly blurted out to no one in particular, **"You Kayakers Are All So Eclectic!"** To this day I'm not sure if she was being complementary.

That got me thinking. If this lady felt this way, as I'm sure many non-kayakers do, why not create a poster that would visualize what eclectic actually means? By definition, we kayakers are an eclectic bunch, and that's a good thing. My task now was to celebrate that in a single image. The layout for this poster popped into my head in a heartbeat. Sometimes I have to drag ideas out of me, kicking and screaming. This one came out like a burp! It was time to get busy.

Finding a significantly eclectic kayak was a no-brainer. Back in 2006 I had built an authentic-as-possible replica of a four-thousand year old West Greenland Hunting Kayak. Skin-on-frame construction, small, very narrow, somewhat fragile, incredibly cramped, and notoriously uncomfortable...and an absolute blast to paddle!

Next on my list was to secure an equally eclectic



vehicle to appear to be transporting the boat. It had to be something that is designed and built with no practical purpose whatsoever. No storage space to speak of, no protection from bad weather at all and an exhaust note that is just barely civilized. All that this vehicle can provide is a driving thrill that is truly unsurpassed! A nice side benefit would be if it could also deliver about sixty *smiles* per gallon as you travel down the road. The answer here - a Morgan 3 Wheeler. Built in England since 1910, these sharp little hot rods are imported into the U.S in limited quantities.

The mating of these two vehicles is, of course, strictly for photo purposes only. The lady at the Swim Across America put-in, however, does not have to know that, and she gave me her card. I'm seriously thinking about sending her a copy with no explanation and letting her figure it out. 🙄

Submitted by Frank Chillemi



### Club Trips

By the time you read this there may be snow covering your favorite put-ins. The winter season is typically a slow time for paddling.

However...

As you're enjoying your hot chocolate you may want to check out our Club's different website categories, including (but not limited to): Trips, Meetings, Resources, Classified, and Member-Only. 🔄

### Do You Recognize This?



Answer on page 16.



☺What would you get if you crossed a kayaker and the Invisible Man? Kayaking like no one has ever seen.

☺Why was Cinderella such a bad kayaker? Her coach was a pumpkin.

☺And finally, there was the person who sent ten different kayak puns to his friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.



I have to wear these shades because the bright sun hurts my coals.

### From the pen of Jim Dreeben (Part 1)

“Paddlecraft Have Evolved Over the Years”

I put a “canoes wanted” ad in the newspaper in 1979. It surprised me how many people had canoes; most were on rafters in garages covered in dust. I bought 10 used canoes. They were made of fiberglass, aluminum, plastic and canvas-covered wood. Most worked well (floated) except for a Skimmar

Fiberglass one. Water got into an empty end chamber with no way to drain. When you came back from paddling the bow was almost under water. I drilled a hole in the bulkhead, drained the water out and sprayed in foam insulation to take up the space.

My favorite canoe is a Grumman 18'; it is fast, durable, stable and roomy.

(Continued on next page)

## From the pen of Jim Dreeben Part 1

“Paddlecraft Have Evolved Over the Years”

You can add a rowing rig or an outboard motor. You can even stand up in it and pole or cast for blues. I also love paddling an ultralight Kevlar, sleek, hard-to-turn racing canoe and a 21' long, 29 pound, fast outrigger canoe. Royalex, a new material in the '70s, now deceased, was very durable and made for running rocky rivers. A 16'2" Royalex Penobscot was designed so that you could lean it 75 degrees, water came over the side, and it did not tip. It had good “secondary stability”.

Sea kayaks started becoming popular in 1985 with the advent of rotomolded plastic. Roto kayaks cost less than fiberglass or Kevlar kayaks. They are a few pounds heavier and not quite as fast. Aquaterra sent me a prototype 17'2" Sea Lion in January, 1987, to test paddle. I loved it. It became many outfitters' touring kayak. I paddled a Sea Lion in Bimini, The Everglades, The Exumas, Honduras, the Okefenokee Swamp, Belize, the Hudson River and on Long Island.

As kayaks evolved, they became lighter, faster, sleeker and more exciting to paddle. Now, I use an 18' long, 39 lb. Kevlar Surge or an 18'10" long by 21" wide Nomad. When I race, I use a 16' carbon/Kevlar Epic Kayak. The 16' class competition is not as fierce as in the 18' class.

I thought 18'10" was long but my new “toy” is a 20 foot long, 27 ½ pound surf ski, and a sit on top kayak that is built for speed and cruising. It is only 18.9" wide. It is very fast and moderately stable. You must turn it with the rudder because it's too tippy to lean and carve. I use a paddle that looks like 2 pizza spatulas, or a wing racing paddle. See article “A Treatise on Paddles”.

I enjoyed meeting and dealing with paddling customers. They were very happy to be buying or renting something to have fun with. A few famous people, summering in the Hamptons, came into the store. Alan Alda bought a canoe. When I went to deliver it, my daughters and a few friends jumped into my truck to help make the delivery, and to meet Alan.

Don Hewitt (60 minutes) and his wife bought a Kevlar canoe from me. I built a rack for them by the beach on their beautiful property. Calvin Klein's wife bought Calvin a limited edition, 18', wood/canvas canoe. I delivered it to Georgica Pond and paddled it to their boat house.

Other famous people came in for gas at my BP Station: Eli Wallach drove a Citroen. He showed me how you could lower and raise the car depending on the depth of the snow. Jack Kelly, from “Maverick” and “To Hell and Back”, was a regular. Hal Holbrook got gas and he needed water in his battery. Ann Margaret's chauffer was a regular gas customer. She might have been in the car but behind tinted windows. Dick Cavett came in for gas and met my daughters. They were excited. I have a picture of Peter Jennings holding my grandson. Alec Baldwin rented a 14' U-Haul Truck from me. While he was there, I had to stop traffic so a family of ducks could cross the street. He autographed, I mean he signed, the truck rental contract.

Stand up paddleboards are popular water toys. They are paddled for fun, for a core workout or for surfing or racing. Some SUPs looks like surfboards; they have planning hulls and are better in rough water or for surfing. Touring and racing SUPs have displacement hulls. They track better and are usually faster. I use a 12'6", displacement hull, SUP for cruising, racing and working out.

Continued on page 16



### Baked Clams



Recipe borrowed from Denise Caparatta

Borrowed from Pinterest

Many of you have asked for my baked clams recipe. Ingredients: 1 Tablespoon Olive oil 1 chopped small sweet onion 1 minced garlic clove 1 6.5 oz. can (minced) clams with juice 1/2 cup Seasoned bread crumbs 2 Tablespoons Grated Cheese (Parmesan/Pecorino Romano) 1/2 teaspoon Oregano Preparation: Sauté the chopped onions, in olive oil, until tender. Add the minced garlic and sauté 10 seconds. Shut off the heat. Add the canned clams with the clam juice. Add bread crumbs and cheese to absorb the clam juice. Mixture should be moist but not soupy. Sprinkle a little oregano on top and mix well. Stuff clam shells and bake in a 375° oven for about 15 minutes until golden color. Makes about 6 medium size baked clams per can. I use Snow's Minced Clams in clam juice. ☺



➔ Trail mix Recipe borrowed from Pinterest 'KAYAKS'

GREENBELLY.COM

## The 6 Best DIY TRAIL MIXES

### 1. Asian Zest.

Ingredients: Dried mango, kale chips, shredded coconut, cashews, teriyaki beef jerky, rice crackers.

### 2. Peanut Butter Galore.

Ingredients: Peanut butter chips, banana chips, peanuts, dark chocolate chips, pretzels.

### 3. Berry Jam.

Ingredients: Pecans, dried blueberries, wheat cereal, dried strawberries.

### 4. Cajun Mama.

Ingredients: Sesame sticks, green peas, salted peanuts, pumpkin seeds, garlic powder, chili powder, ground cumin, cayenne pepper.

### 5. Classic.

Ingredients: Peanuts, raisins, granola, chocolate chips, almonds.

### 6. Wasabi.

Ingredients: Dried cranberries, wasabi peas, sunflower seeds, cashews.



## Kayak Paddle Drip Rings – Do They Work?

You may have heard people talking about drip rings for kayak paddles but what are they and do you really need them?

That's what this article is all about...confirming whether or not they work and if they might be useful to you and particularly your style of paddling.

### What Are Drip Rings? Do They Work?

Drip rings are rubber rings that can attach to either end of your paddle. They're designed to prevent water from running down the shaft of your paddle and onto your lap.

However, some people might argue that drip rings for kayak paddles don't always work as intended, and that you should expect to get at least a little wet while paddling. Although your paddling technique can also affect how much water will drip onto you.

### Do I Need Them?

You may or may not be bothered by water dripping on you while you're paddling. If it's a hot day it may bother you less, than if it's winter and you're trying to stay warm and dry. So whether you need drip rings for your kayak paddle will likely be down to personal preference.

If you have a low paddling stroke you might be less likely to suffer drips. But if you raise your paddle higher, the laws of gravity will cause water to run down the shaft, so the more vertical your paddle is the more likely water will land on you. Some people may find that drip rings don't work and that they seem to scoop up more water than if they weren't there at all. However, it could just be how they're set on your paddle.

Setting them at the ends of your paddle above where the water line will be may give you better results. If the drip rings enter the water, you might find that they will scoop it up.

Some paddles will come with drip rings already attached but you can also make your own out of various materials, including pool noodles.

### Conclusion

Now that you know a little more about drip rings for kayak paddles you can decide whether or not they might be useful for you. If you have a high angle stroke you might benefit from them in order to stop the water running down and onto your lap.

As long as the drip rings are set in the right place they can help you to stay dry but it's all about what works for you.

A good way of setting your drip rings is to use your hands to measure one or two hand widths along from your blade. If the drip rings are set too close to you, the point at which the water will drip off them might be on your yak, so you'll need to find the perfect position specifically for you and your kayak. 🔄

Article borrowed by Don Gorycki from [kayakguru.com](http://kayakguru.com)

Answer to the **"Do You Recognize This?"**

The Northport Power Station in Northport on April 25, 2015.



## 5 Tips to Avoid Kayak Buyer's Remorse

Every day a few dozen kayaks get listed on Craigslist, fishing forums, and Buy/Sell/Trade lists. On these lists are people with buyer's remorse, listing these kayaks as "never seen the water" or "only used twice" or some other variant. If you follow these tips when you get ready to purchase, the chances of you having to flip that kayak to try to get your cash back will be lessened significantly.

### #1 TALK TO YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER

One of the biggest issues I see constantly are folks who go buy a kayak without discussing it with their spouse, boyfriend, girlfriend or fiancée first. Obviously this really only applies to those that have shared bank accounts or shared financial responsibility but a good discussion of why you want it, how much it will cost and what it will be used for will lay the groundwork. I see a LOT of big box store kayaks back on the market a couple of days after purchase. This is because big box stores usually don't take returns on kayaks. Communication on a large purchase is always advisable.

### #2 DEMO, DEMO, DEMO

You are tired of hearing it by now I am sure. If at all possible demo a kayak before you buy it. I'm speaking from experience. I'm a knucklehead and have broken this rule MORE THAN ONCE. Find a buddy with the kayak, take a drive to a shop, do something to make sure that the kayak you are about to drop that hard earned money on is actually the right fit. Save yourself some heartache.

### #3 TRY TO SEE THROUGH THE HYPE

Major brands are good at marketing. That's how they become major brands. Don't buy a

kayak because you want to have the same adventures as the people in the commercials and videos. Don't buy a kayak because you think it will get you into a new peer group. There is no perfect kayak. If you ever hear someone say Brand X is the perfect kayak, they either a) are speaking only for themselves or b) are a liar. Only you can decide what the best kayak for you is. Frankly, it rarely is the first one you buy.

### #4 MAKE A LIST

Sit down and make a list of all the things you want in a kayak. Make a list of all the places you'll be fishing. Keep the list realistic. I bought a kayak once because I wanted to fish BTB (Beyond the Breakers) more. It didn't result in any more trips than normal and didn't get used for what I bought it for. It wasn't realistic. I fish lakes and rivers 10 times more than saltwater. It's a proximity thing. If you are nine hours from the nearest beach, buying a kayak specifically for BTB might be a bit pie in the sky, especially if it's the ONLY kayak you will have. Ask lots of people what they like about their kayaks. Then you need to ask them what they would change. Take all of this with you when you go shopping.

### #5 DON'T RUSH

The little kid in me has come out with a few kayak purchases in the past. I'd sell of some gear, get \$250 in my pocket and go buy just what I could get. Literally less than a week from when I had the money in hand, it was gone. What I should have done was take my time, follow all these other tips, save some more money and gotten something I would have liked for the long term. Don't buy a one night stand kayak. Look for the long term relationship. ☹️

Article borrowed from Pinterest/kayaks

**Photo Gallery – Featuring Hidden Gems of Long Island**



**ARGYLE LAKE**

Visit this beautiful lake to take some time for you, located in Babylon in southern Long Island.

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**CLARK BOTANIC GARDENS**

This beautiful 12-acre botanical garden located in Albertson is home to a variety of different trees, plants and flowers.

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**PATCHOGUE LIGHTHOUSE**



**HORTON  
POINT  
LIGHTHOUSE  
NAUTICAL  
MUSEUM**

## Photo Gallery – Featuring Hidden Gems of Long Island (Cont'd)



### 67 STEPS BEACH

Next to Horton Point Lighthouse before you get into the parking lot there is a staircase leading down to a really beautiful beach.

Looking for things to do in Long Island? Here are a few favorite hidden gems that are perfect for an outing year-round.

To get much more information on these gems please visit the following website:

<https://lightlytraveling.com/unitedstates/https/lightlytraveling-1>



### Calling all paddlers!

Spring-time is around the corner welcoming in a new paddling season. It will be time to get your boats out of mothballs, perform any needed maintenance, and plan your paddling trips.

There's plenty of room in our next Newsletter for your paddling adventure stories. No need to be bashful, we're all interested in your photos, stories, anecdotes and anything you have to share.

From personal stories (how you got involved in kayaking or what brought you to the Club) to reviews to recipes. How about a paragraph on a committee that you're serving on?

Been on a paddling trip? Have a favorite trip? Why not share some photos?

As the saying goes, "a picture is worth a thousand words".

It's so easy; just send an email to [dgorycki6@gmail.com](mailto:dgorycki6@gmail.com). A thank-you email is returned as a receipt acknowledgement. 🌐



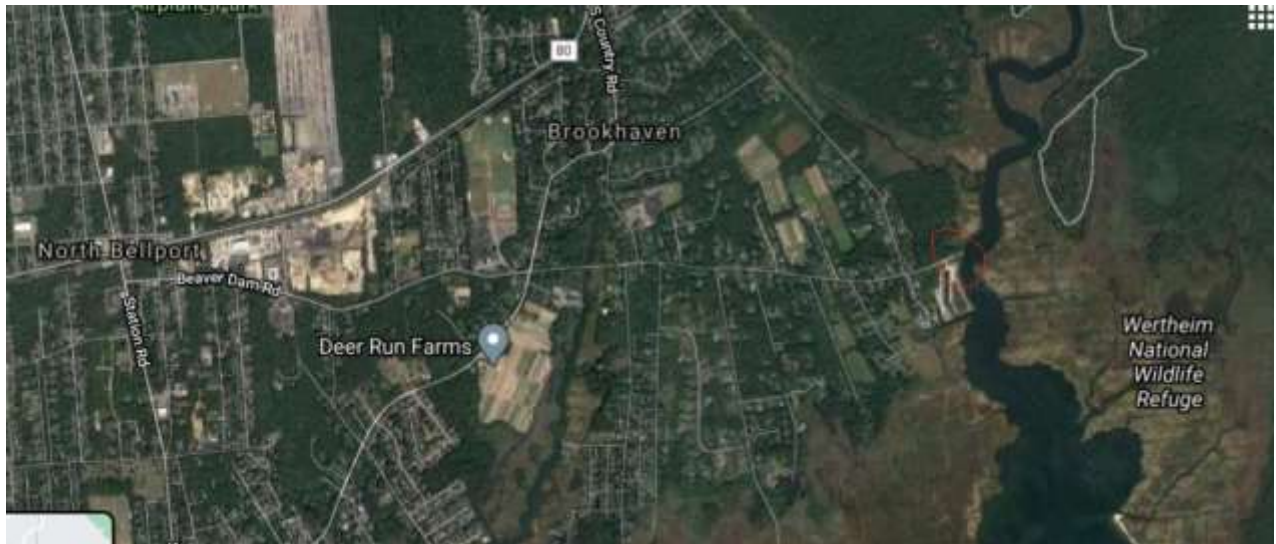


## Put-In Alert...(at the end of) Beaver Dam Road

The Carmans River is a 10-mile (16 km) long river in Brookhaven in Suffolk County on Long Island.

It is one of the four largest rivers on Long Island and is similar to other Long Island rivers in that it is totally groundwater generated (e.g., no lakes), although a lake did exist long ago. Almost the entire river is specifically protected by the Central Long Island Pine Barrens. All of it is designated by New York State as either a "Scenic River" or a "Recreational River."

It is fresh water for the first eight miles (13 km) and then becomes an estuary for the last two, as it encounters the tidal effects of Great South Bay.



When driving east along Beaver Dam Road in Brookhaven Hamlet, it used to be that the roadway would end in a tangle of weeds and thicket. Beyond the vegetation was the Carmans River, though you would barely know it. The roadway's end now has been transformed into an aesthetically pleasing, environmentally-friendly community area that includes benches, new landscaping, and a kayak launch.

I launched my kayak there a few times and the kayak launch is actually a floating dock that is a bit tricky to enter and exit a kayak. However, once on the water, you have a choice of destinations, including (but not limited to) paddling north on the river, southeast to Narrow Bay or southwest to Bellport Bay.

(Continued on next page)





## Put-In Alert...Beaver Dam Road (Cont'd)



**Parking is very limited**



**The floating dock can be a bit tricky to use**



**Great view of the Carmans River**

Do you have a favorite  
put-in?  
There's room in the next  
newsletter that's reserved  
just for you! 🗨️

## From the pen of Jim Dreeben (Part 1, Cont'd)

“Paddlecraft Have Evolved Over the Years”

My first SUP was a 9'5" long piece of Styrofoam. It was 23" wide and so tippy and stressful that it felt like I had over 200 pounds on my shoulders while trying to balance. I was hooked. Then I got real boards. Average dimensions of most SUPs: 11 feet long and 30 to 33" wide and much more stable. I prefer paddling a 12'6" SUP with a width of 27" to 29". I like fast watercraft.

SUPers usually use lightweight carbon paddles that have **forward - angled blades**. They weigh as light as 14.5 ounces and are made of carbon. They can be custom cut to 10" above your height for cruising and 8" for surfing. Some paddles are adjustable, but they are heavier.

The newest water toy is a **prone board**. (“Prone” as in lying flat, face down.) Most prone boards are 12' or 14' long. You swim a prone board and you go very fast. It gives you the best upper body, shoulders, neck and chest workout. You can swim it like the crawl or do a breast stroke or you can kneel and “lunge swim” with both arms and go even faster. It's exciting. 🌊

Submitted by Jim Dreeben

## From the pen of Jim Dreeben (Part 2, Kayak Noyack/Nyack)

My first time on the water was in 1948 in **Noyack**. I rowed a row boat across the bay with seven passengers. We were visiting friends from New York City, Barry Glunts and family. (Barry and I have known each other since our stroller days along Riverside Drive.) Now I paddle in Noyack quite often.

Noyack, on the north side of the South Fork, has numerous put-ins from North Sea Harbor to North Haven and Sag Harbor. My favorite put-in is Cedar Point Ave. Paddle in and around Jessup Neck and see lots of birds and deer in Morton Wildlife Refuge. For a picnic lunch and a swim, take out at the tip of Jessup Neck. If you drive east or west of Morton on Noyack Road, and up some side streets, you will find many places to put in and paddle. You can paddle many miles and always be close to shore.

For a long, interesting, beautiful round-trip, (or

bring 2 cars and do one-way) paddle from North Sea Harbor to North Haven. I like to stop at the beach on Bay Avenue and walk to **Cromer's Market** for breakfast or lunch. Cromer's is an outstanding supermarket on Noyack Road. Cromer's Deli Counter makes humongous, delicious sandwiches and they have a salad bar. Go there for breakfast or lunch if you are in the area. For a smile, ask for Diana at the deli counter and tell her you're a friend of mine.

Long Beach is just east of Cromer's. It is also a good place to paddle. You can start at Bay Avenue east to Short Beach and back. Or, park at Long Beach and carry your kayak across Noyack Road to paddle in Paynes Creek and Sag Harbor Cove. If you are hungry in Sag Harbor, LT Burger makes outstanding burgers and they have many beers on tap. Il Cappucino makes really good linguini with clam sauce. I order it with a glass of Merlot.

(Continued on next page)

### From the pen of Jim Dreeben (Part 2, Kayak Noyack/Nyack, Cont'd)

Sag Harbor has many good restaurants walking distance from the water.

It's fun to paddle under the North Haven Bridge and past a marina heading east to Barcelona Neck and down Northwest Creek, another place to see wildlife and go fishing. Or, paddle north to Shelter Island.

Shortly after the turn of the century (2001), for few years, I escorted swimmers across the Hudson River from **Nyack** to Tarrytown. It is 2.6 miles across by the Tappan Zee Bridge but, with tacking, it's 3 miles. The swimmers got bussed across the bridge; the kayakers paddled across. My job was to help distressed or tired swimmers. That hardly ever happened but I did rescue a few other escort kayakers.

One year, an experienced kayaker in a Kevlar Looksha IV, tipped. Using a T-rescue, I drained and righted his kayak and held it steady for him to climb back in. He seemed to know how to do it but he did not have the strength to pull himself up. Evidently he had studied the method but he never practiced it. I moved my paddle up and down, a signal that help is needed. A police boat

came to the rescue.

For a few years, a paddler's 16' Romany was missing 2 VCP hatch covers. I am surprised the safety team let him paddle with us. I kept my eyes on him the best I could while escorting swimmers.

Orange buoys marked the swim/paddle across the Hudson. One time the wind picked up and moved the buoys and created dangerous paddling/swimming conditions. Police and fire department boats picked up most of the swimmers. Kayakers were left out there to fend for ourselves. Two guys went over in the big waves. I helped them get back on top of their sit on top kayaks and escorted them to the beach.

Most of the time I was paddling back and forth keeping the swimmers from going off-course. I kept paddling until the last swimmer finished, about three hours. Then we were given a good lunch. 🍷

Submitted by Jim Dreeben



←Aahhhh...

Not soon enough!





## A Year Like No Other

2020 has come to a close, and it certainly has been a year like no other. But come wind or high water—or COVID!—Club leaders managed to schedule trips and Club members donned their masks along with their caps and got out on the water. This year the Club offered 50 trips/clean-up events, and that number is no different from 2019. Congrats to our dedicated trip leaders and to our intrepid paddlers. You all contribute to this fun, social and dynamic Club we call the LIP.

Safety first; Safety Always. We, of course, had to make adjustments to get on the water safely. Early in the season we kept our trip numbers within State and County health department guidelines. We kept physically distant during put-in and take-out and while having our lunch breaks. We wore our masks whenever needed. The Council and the Safety Coordinator researched and discussed the ways rescues could be done with the least risk. Hopefully, our 2021 paddling season will not again be defined by COVID-19. Regardless, safety will always be first and foremost when planning and conducting our trips. The Club hopes to resume paddling skills & safety trainings, possibly pool safety sessions, and certainly trip leader orientation & safety trainings.

All kinds of paddlers; All kinds of trips. As in years past, we held a variety of trips, from creeks, to rivers, to bays, from the north shore to the south shore and also off-Island. Some of our paddles involved large groups and some were more intimate. Some involved time on a beach for play and others for watching birds/wildlife. The greater the variety of trips, the more Club paddlers can get out and enjoy the water. We all benefit from having both trips short-and-slow and trips long-and-fast. Both trips requiring basic skills to trips requiring more advanced skills. Both trips that involve getting to a destination and trips that involve stopping for birding and/or photography. Trips for fitness and trips for rest & relaxation. You get the idea. The possibilities are endless. But our trip leader list is not!

Will you be one of our new Club trip leaders? How do you like to be out on the water? Where are your favorite places to paddle? What level of trip best matches your skills and goals? If there is a particular place you want to paddle and/or a type of paddle you'd like to join, then make the commitment to lead that trip. If you have been frustrated by closed/full trips, then schedule one of your own.

Let's make 2021 a year like no other, too. But in a very different way! Let's make it a year of more paddles than we can count, with all types of trips, for all of us to enjoy all season long. So, see you in 2021 for member meetings and group safety sessions (hopefully at some point) and for those new trip leader meetings (whether online or in person) that you just can't wait to sign up for.

And let me end this message by honoring this year's leaders. Hats (and masks) off to: Bob Hansen, Emilio Sosa, Liz Marcellus, Alan Mindlin, Edwin Mangual, Helen Horton, Chris Scalisi, Steve Berner, Chi-Chi & Jim Gibney, Tom Stirnweis, Don Gorycki, and Mike Matty (skills session). 🍷

Submitted by Chiara Nuzzo, our Trips Coordinator

### Our meeting place in the Brightwaters Public Library is still closed

While the Covid-19 pandemic still has the library closed, Jim Koehler of the Dinghy Shop offered to host our general monthly meetings at his shop in Amityville. Some of the restrictions include (but not limited to): bring your own chair, maintain social distancing, wear face mask, meeting limited to 40 people maximum, no refreshments available.

Please be advised that club meetings may have to revert to 'virtual meetings' depending upon current guidelines.

In addition, until further notice, the in-person Club Library and Hospitality Table are not available to us. When the pandemic is no longer a threat and the library re-opens, the newsletter will continue advertising these club services.

Merchandise, however, can still be purchased remotely from our Club store. You can contact the merchandise assistant (Tony Pellot at [juanpellot@yahoo.com](mailto:juanpellot@yahoo.com)) to arrange for your purchase. Items for sale are shown below.

303 Cleaner	(\$12)	Works great on more than just your kayak
Croakies	(\$5)	You won't lose another pair of glasses
Hats	(\$13)	Heavy weight. Logo on front & Long Island Paddlers on back
	(\$10)	Light weight. "Long Island Paddlers" embroidered on front
Horns	(\$6)	Don't leave shore without one...works great
Lights	(\$20)	A must for night-time paddling
Shirts	(\$25)	Long sleeved with logo...keeps you warm or keeps you cool
T-Shirts (Men)	(\$8)	You can't beat this price for great t-shirts. Available in several colors
T-Shirts (Ladies)	(\$8)	Special colors and v-neck shirts with club logo
Decals	(\$1)	Club logo decals, not only looks great but good advertising
Fleece Jackets	(\$26)	individually ordered – just choose size and color
Cell Phone Dry-Pak	(\$13)	Wet phones don't work too well
Whistle	(price not available at publication time)	

And for your reading pleasure we have the following books:

Inside Passage	(\$15)	Fearless	(\$12)
Canoeing the Peconic	(\$1)	Canoeing & Kayaking	(\$10)
Exploring east End	(\$12)	Trip Planner	(\$8)
Paddling Long Island	(\$10)	More Deep Trouble	(\$10)

(Prices and items are subject to change due to market conditions.)

There is also a limited supply of FREE Coast Guard ID stickers for your kayak. 

## Club Sponsors




**Kayak Lesson  
Guided Tours  
Group Outing  
Gear Rentals**

**Kevin Stiegelmaie**  
www.paumanoktours.ci  
(631) 404-6447

Next Long Island Paddlers Publication Date:

**April 15, 2021**

Deadlines for submission are two weeks prior to publication date. Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures, letters to the editor, newsworthy notes, recipes, trip reports or future trip information etc. to the editor. Editor reserves the right to editorial privileges. Unless otherwise stated, the views expressed are those of the authors and do not represent official position statements of Long Island Paddlers Club, Inc. Please submit all newsletter articles, pictures, letters and advertising by deadline, to the Newsletter Editor at: [DGorycki6@gmail.com](mailto:DGorycki6@gmail.com). 

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