

YPRC New Member Orientation Package

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Overview of the Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club

Key Objectives

The YPRC is a not-for-profit organization that brings together a large community of people of all ages, backgrounds and skill sets who are interested in paddling and rowing. With nearly 150 member households, membership is open to all regardless of skill level, age, race, ethnic background, religion or sexual orientation.

We do not function as an “outfitter,” and do not offer guided trips and formal courses of instruction. Members provide their own equipment and boats.

In addition to facilitating paddling activities, events and trips, YPRC actively engages in community service/outreach, safety training, and Hudson River environmental efforts.

Since we have no paid staff, we are dependent on members’ volunteer efforts, and participation from everyone is actively encouraged.

Club Location/Getting There

The YPRC boathouse is located on the Hudson River, by Alexander Street in Yonkers. This is in the heart of the revitalized, expanding Yonkers waterfront district.

The boathouse has a dock to facilitate launching into the Hudson River, limited inside/outside reserved boat storage berths, a picnic table and garden. The area is gated and is accessible through Habirshaw Park next to the Beczak Environmental Education Center.

The club is easy to reach by major highways. The Yonkers Metro-North Station is a couple of blocks away. There is metered parking on Alexander Street, the Beczak Center lot can be used when they are open.

If you have any questions about parking or specific driving directions, they are posted on our web site: www.yprc.org. or google maps: url

Web site/listserv

www.yprc.org outlines many club activities, gives information on our historical boathouse, announces club events, has driving directions, allows you to sign up for our listserv and has a membership section with a downloadable application.

The listserv is maintained by the YPRC and allows participants, via e-mail, to ask questions of all people on listserv about paddling, equipment or to make arrangements for trips. It is open to members and non-members, with sign-up via instructions on our home page.

Some typical uses of the listserv are:

- Asking for recommendations on equipment (i.e. what are the best night lights to buy)
- Announcement of group paddles.
- Notice of club meetings or other sponsored activities.
- All members are encouraged to subscribe to the listserv in order to get up-to-date information about club activities.

Governance

The YPRC is a not-for-profit organization with a Board of Directors. Current officers are:

Commodore
Pat Slaven
pat.slaven@gmail.com

Vice Commodore
Eileen O’Connor
eioc@optonline.net

Secretary
Jerry Blackstone
gerrychem@aol.com

Treasurer
John Maggiotto
john@maggiotto.com

House Captain
Jack Gilman
HUDSONSB@YAHOO.COM

Past Commodore
Bob Morrow
rwmorrowmd@aol.com

Member at Large
Beth Kleckner
bethkleckner@yahoo.com

Member at Large
Dave Beaver
DBEAVER@YonkersPublicSchools.org

Member at Large
Dave Solomon
dsolomon76@gmail.com

Meetings

Spring Membership Meeting (early May):

The Membership meeting will be announced by mail and on our listserver. You will be mailed an agenda and your annual dues bill. We meet mid-day on a weekend at the boathouse.

Fall Meeting:

A mail announcement includes agenda items and ballots for election of club officers. Notice is also posted on the listserver. Location is at the boathouse on a weekend, mid-day. Dates to be posted on the listserve and on the web site.

Monthly Board Meetings:

These are held the first Thursday of each month, unless announced otherwise. The meetings are open to all, with announcement and minutes posted on the listserver. The meetings are held at the boathouse during warmer weather. Alternate locations will be announced.

Various Committees:

As needed, meetings for committees formed for various events or other objectives are announced on listserver.

Dues and Fees

Membership dues are assessed on annual basis and cover the period from May 1st to that date the following year. New members who join after September 30 of a particular year, have their membership extended to include the next membership year.

Dues are:

Individual – \$75

Family – \$100

For existing members, billing with reply envelopes is sent out mid-April, along with notice of the annual members meeting. Payment is due within 30 days.

New members must enclose payment with the completed membership application, which is downloadable from the web site's Membership area. Applications/fees are sent to:

YPRC

P.O. Box 871
Yonkers, NY 10702

Fees for Boat Berths/Lockers:

Inside Storage – \$150

Outside storage –\$125

Locker – \$25

Since there are lengthy waiting lists for berths, remittance is required after a berth becomes available for your use. Procedures for getting on the list and use of berths are in the next section, under "Boat Waiting List."

Miscellaneous Fees

Fees for specific events are assessed/collected from participants as they occur. The annual holiday Party and the Mayor's Cup Races are specific examples in this category. They are announced in advance on the listserver.

Berth Waiting List

The boathouse is an active place for boat usage, not merely a storage place. YPRC's goal is to get as many people on the water as possible. Members who apply for a space will hopefully use their boats frequently during the course of a season.

The club keeps a waiting list for new berth assignments. Members considering boat storage are encouraged to be placed on the list. Spots are assigned according to date of list enrollment as they come open. The list is maintained by the membership coordinator and house captain, and posted in the boathouse and on our website.

Only members in good standing may be on this list. Berth assignments must be paid for in thirty days or the space will be given to the next member on the list.

To be placed on the waiting list new members should check the box on the membership application. If you are already a member and want to be placed on the list, contact the Membership Coordinator John Maggiotto at: john@maggiotto.com.

Boathouse Rules

Keys:

Paid-up members will receive a key to the front gate and boathouse. To obtain a key please contact the House Captain, Jack Gilman at: HUDSONSB@YAHOO.COM

If you lose your set, contact the house captain for a replacement. It is also suggested that you take a set of keys with you whenever you launch from the club.

Security:

Entrance to the club is from the gate at the Beczak Parking lot on Alexander Street. We need to keep this gate locked after we enter the park.

Always lock the club gate behind you before launching kayaks.

Always lock the outside boat rack prior to launching.

Make sure that both doors to the clubhouse are locked when you launch. Turn off all lights when leaving the building.

If you are onsite and wish to keep the gate open, please lock the chain to gate so that the lock does not disappear.

We haven't had any problems with missing gear, but please don't leave gear strewn around so it becomes misplaced. There are also paddle storage areas in the rear of the building for common use.

If there are ever any "visitors" when you get to the club, politely ask them to leave, explaining that our insurance does not cover them.

If anyone presents any danger to yourself or the premises, call the Yonkers Police at 914 377-7900 or dial 911.

Onsite Safety:

A VHF base station is in the boathouse for communicating with paddlers with VHF radios and for weather reports.

Please be careful if walking on the floating ramp by the beach during a falling tide—it can be quite wet and slippery.

There is a First Aid Kit in the clubhouse, over the main table, on the left of the main doors.

All Guests/Non YPRC Members must sign a waiver prior to entering the water on any boat from our facility.

Garbage Disposal:

Please take any food garbage out with you when you leave, especially in the summer. Pack it in, pack it out.

Empty cans may be left in the recycling bin. If you wish to recycle at home, feel free to take any available cans/bottles with you. Bags will be provided.

Use of Club Boats:

All use of club boats must be cleared through the House Captain.

All paddlers using personal or club boats must wear a PFD. Sprayskirts are optional, but their responsible use is encouraged.

The use of club boats will be limited to club paddles from the premises, unless specific permission has been requested and granted by the House Captain.

All club members using club boats must have demonstrated the ability to do a wet exit and an assisted rescue, with the paddler getting successfully back in his boat. Unassisted rescue skills are not necessary but encouraged.

No club boats will be taken out solo, unless explicit permission is granted by the House Captain.

All guest paddlers must sign a waiver.

Guest paddlers are welcome to paddle private boats at any time, as long as they are hosted by a YPRC member and sign a waiver.

Any repairs/maintenance required for club boats should be brought to the attention of the house Captain.

Group Paddles

During the warmer months (May–September), club members usually paddle after work on Tuesdays and Fridays. Since Madeline Wilson has been an informal organizer on Tuesdays, these outings have taken on the name “Paddlin’ with Madeline.” A reminder is posted on the listserver the day before. Participants bring their own equipment, and are expected to be knowledgeable in safety skills/procedures.

Other informal trips are planned during the year and are posted on the listserver. These can include trips on the Connecticut/Sound shore, Hudson Valley, or a circumnavigation of Manhattan Island. Each July, several club members also participate in the annual, multi-day Great Hudson River Paddle, which goes from Albany to Battery Park.

Informally, club members frequently seek out paddling partners for specific dates, times and locations via the listserver to paddle from our clubhouse.

Please remember that you are always responsible for your own safety when paddling and participating in informal paddling activities.

Community Events

The YPRC actively supports and participates in several key events in our community. Some of these include:

Public Kayaking at Kennedy Marina (June-August) – We do public paddling for individuals and groups with our fleet of sit-on-tops from the boat ramp at Kennedy Marina. Dates and times to be announced on our list server and web site.

Yonkers Riverfest (early October) – The YPRC maintains a booth at this large, popular downtown festival and also gives public kayak demos at the boathouse.

Hudson River Greenland Festival (June 25-27) – The YPRC sponsors this weekend of instruction in Greenlandic paddling and skills. More information can be found on our website.

Instruction

Structured training programs at the YPRC are limited to:

Spring Pool Sessions – These are held at the Yonkers YMCA to teach club members to learn to roll. Information is posted on the listserver, or you can contact Kam Truhn at find_kam@yahoo.com

Children’s Pool Sessions at The Yonkers Y – Enroll your child or volunteer to help teach Sundays at the Yonkers Y’s pool. For more information please contact Eileen O’Connor at eioc@earthlink.net

Safety Clinics – Full day instruction is given to club members once or twice each summer at the Lake Sebago American Canoe Association Camp near Harriman, New York. These are usually held on a Sunday, and instruction is given by club volunteers in assisted and unassisted rescue. Dates are posted on the website calendar and reminders are sent out on the listserve.

Club members are encouraged to pursue instruction at various organizations listed in the Resource Guide under the Instructors and Outfitters section.

Youth Activities

The YPRC has a fleet of sit on top kayaks housed at Kennedy Marina in Yonkers. **Kayaking at Kennedy Marina** runs 4-7pm Mondays, and 6-8pm Tuesdays, mid-June through Labor Day. The program is open to invited groups such as the Nepperhan Community Center and the Yonkers YMCA. For more information contact Jerry Blackstone at: gerrychem@aol.com

The YPRC sponsors youth clinics and instruction at the Yonkers YMCA and the ACA camp at Lake Sebago. For information, please contact Eileen O'Connor at eioc@earthlink.net.

American Canoe Association (ACA) Camp at Lake Sebago

The YPRC has use of a dedicated cabin at Lake Sebago in Harriman Park.

Seasonally, the cabin is available for overnight use. You must be both a YPRC and an ACA member. Specific information about the camp and directions are on the YPRC web site. For further information and to reserve the cabin, please contact Eileen O'Connor at eioc@optonline.net.

Instruction and Outfitters

Atlantic Kayak Tours

<http://www.atlantickayaktours.com>

e-mail: kayaktours@aol.com

845 246-2187

Atlantic Kayak Tours also runs the Annesville Paddlesport Center (opens each April):
914 739-2588

Located at Annesville Creek in Peekskill. Large offering of instruction, British Canoe Union certification, tours, rentals and kayak and equipment sales

Outdoor Sports Center

80 Danbury Road, Wilton, Ct.

www.outdoorsports.com

e-mail: mark@outdoorsports.com

800 762-2193 • 203 762-8797

Large selection of kayaks, equipment, gear. Kayak rentals, in season.

American Terrain

www.americanterrain.com

914 682-3971

175 East Post Road, White Plains, N.Y.

Gear, Equipment, Kayaks.

American Terrain also owns:

Hudson River Recreation

267 Palmer Avenue (Kingsland Point Park)

Sleepy Hollow, New York

www.kayakhudson.com

e-mail: info@kayakhudson.com

Full and half-day kayak tours.

Hudson Valley Outfitters

63 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York

www.hudsonvalleyoutfitters.com

e-mail: kayak@hudsonValleyOutfitters.com

866 TO-Kayak or 845 265-0221

Kayak rentals, tours, instruction and sales..

The Small Boat Shop

144 Water Street, Norwalk, CT

www.thsmallboatshop.com

e-mail: thsmallboatshop@sbcglobal.net

203 854 5223

Kayaks, equipment, gear, tours, kayak and rowing instruction.

Manhattan Kayak Company

www.manhattankayak.com

e-mail: info@manhattankayak.com

Pier 63, Chelsea Piers

212 924-1788

Tours, equipment, instruction, rentals.

Kayak Adventure, LLC

<http://www.kayak-adventure.net/>

e-mail: michele@kayak-adventure.net

Norwalk, Connecticut. 203 852-7294

Sea kayak lessons & tours year-round on Long Island Sound.

Associations/Clubs

American Canoe Association

Hudson River Watertrail Association

Hudson River Audubon Society

Sebago Kayak Club

East River Kayak Club

South Jersey Canoe and Kayak Club

Scenic Hudson

Beczak Environmental Education Center

Hackensack River Club

NYC Downtown Boathouse

Cold Spring Kayak Club

QajaqUSA

E-mail Lists/Sites

The e-mail lists usually give you an option of receiving a single, daily e-mail digest that includes all the e-mails/messages for that day, so you don't get flooded with numerous e-mails.

NYCKayaker

General Information about this list is at: <http://lists.hrwa.org/mailman/listinfo/nyckayaker>

MidHudsonKayaker

MidHudsonKayaker-on@mail-list.com

Paddling.net

Kayak Building Bulletin Board

<http://www.kayakforum.com/cgi-bin/Building/index.cgi>

QajaqUSA Greenland Skills Forum

http://www.qajaqusa.org/cgi-bin/GreenlandTechniqueForum_config.pl