YPRC New Member Orientation Package

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Overview of the Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club

Key Objectives

The YPRC is a 501C3 all volunteer run not-for-profit membership 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 200 members, membership is open to all regardless of age, race, ethnic background, religion or sexual orientation.

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.

Web site/list-server

The Website is www.yprc.org. It outlines many club activities, gives information on our historical boathouse, announces club events, and has driving directions. All members are required to subscribe to the list-serve, which will allow you to get up-to-date information about club activities and safety issues. It is open to members and Non-members.

Some typical uses of the list-server are:

- Notice of club meetings or other sponsored activities.
- Announcement of group paddles.
- Asking for recommendations on equipment (i.e. what are the best night lights to buy).

All new members are automatically subscribed to the list serve by the membership chair. You will receive a notice to opt in or out of the list-serve. It is recommended you not opt out of the list-serve. The list-server is maintained by the YPRC and allows participants, via e-mail, to ask questions of all people on the list-server about paddling

Club Location/Getting There

The YPRC boathouse is located on the Hudson River, behind Beczak Environmental Center on Alexander Street in Yonkers. This is in the heart of the revitalized and expanding Yonkers waterfront District.

The boathouse has a dock to facilitate launching

into the Hudson River, limited inside/outside reserved boat storage berths, and a picnic table. 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 do not have programs scheduled. If you have any questions about parking or specific driving directions, they are posted on our web site: www.yprc.org. or use Google maps.

Governance

The Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club is a 501C3 not-for-profit membership organization run by a volunteer group of officers and Board members.
The Current governing body (2013-2014) is as follows:

Commodore
John Maggiotto john@maggiotto.com

Vice Commodore
Phil Giller briogg@yahoo.com

Secretary
Marie McCann-Barab mcbarab@mac.com

Treasurer
Kevin Kehoe kfkehoe@verizon.net

Past Commodore
Jack Gilman hudsonsb@yahoo.com

House Captain
Pat Slaven pat.slaven@gmail.com

Members at Large

Robert Hothan hothan_inc@yahoo.com

Peter Riley priley347@gmail.com

Todd Patton srijan@optonline.net

Various Committees:
As needed, meetings for committees formed for various events or other objectives are announced on the list-server.

Meetings

Spring Membership Meeting (early May):
The Membership meeting will be announced by mail and on our list-server. 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 list- server. Location is at the boathouse on a weekend, mid-day. Dates to be posted on the list-serve and on the web site.

Monthly Board Meetings:

These are held the first Monday of each month, unless announced otherwise. The meetings are open to all, with announcement and minutes posted on the list-server. The meetings are held at the boathouse during warmer weather months and at The Yonkers Public Library at Larkin Plaza at other times. See list-serve for specifics

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 member-ship year.

Dues are: Individual – $95.00 a year

Family – $125.00 a year

For existing members, billing notices are sent out mid-April, we request that you pay electronically on the website. See the members' page.

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 at Alexander Street and waitlist:

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.

Fees for Boat Berths/Lockers at Alexander Street:
Inside Storage – $150
Outside storage – $125
Locker – $25

Currently there is a waiting list for storage. 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 Past Commodore Jack Gilman hudsonsb@yahoo.com

Fees for Boat Berths/Lockers JFK Marina
Inside Storage – $150
Outside storage – $150
Locker – $25

Miscellaneous Fees
Fees for specific events are assessed/collected from participants as they occur. The annual holiday Party and the Mayor's Cup Races, and some instruction classes are specific examples in this category. They are announced in advance on the list-server.

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, Pat Slaven pat.slaven@gmail.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 or the south gate on the waterfront promenade. Both gate locks use the same key.

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. **Label your gear with your name.**

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. We use Channel 68 as our main channel.

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:

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

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

The use of club boats is limited to club paddles from the premises, unless specific permission has been requested and granted by the House Captain or you have requested to be designated as safety certified; for information and safety certification requirements, contact the safety committee.

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 an 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

All club sponsored paddles, activities and instruction are listed on the calendar on the website,

During the warmer months (June–September), the club hosts member paddles on Tuesdays. The Tuesday paddles are the main summer social events of the club and are followed by a gourmet potluck bbq. Arrive by 5:30p to launch at 6p.

Participants should bring their own equipment; there are a limited number of club boats and equipment available. You are expected to be knowledgeable in safety skills/procedures and/or willing to learn them. Use of club boats is arranged through the House Captain.

Instruction

YPRC is very fortunate to have members who are trained and certified to teach sea kayaking under the American Canoe Association (ACA) or the British Canoe Union (BCU). These coaches offer both free and paid instruction year round. Training is on the Hudson River and at the ACA camp on Lake Sebago in Harriman State Park.

New paddlers should consider coming to the public paddles on Thursday afternoons in the summer at JFK Marina. See Youth activities below

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 list-serve.

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. The club runs a free kayaking program at JFK Marina during the summer on Thursdays from 4pm-7pm from mid-June through Labor Day. The program is open to the public, YPRC members and invited youth groups. Volunteer members act as guides on and off the water. For more information contact Phil Giller briogg@yahoo.com

American Canoe Association (ACA) Camp at Lake Sebago

The YPRC is a Paddle America club associated with the American Canoe Association (ACA). The ACA runs a camp for all ACA members in Harriman State Park; YPRC has use of a dedicated cabin at Lake Sebago for members use.

Seasonally, the cabin is available for overnight use. You must be both an YPRC and an ACA member to use the cabin or participant in any actives at Lake Sebago. Specific information about the camp Inc. fees and directions are on the YPRC web site. For further information, contact Eileen O'Connor at **eioc@optonline.net.** Reservations for the cabin can be made by contacting Eileen.

Membership into the ACA is NOT part of your YPRC dues, while the club does not require members to be ACA members we encourage you to join; you will receive a reduced rate because YPRS is a paddle America Club.

Instruction and Outfitters

A comprehensive list of local outfitters that offer instruction as well as kayak equipment can be found on our website. Local Outfitters:

Atlantic Kayak Tours
www.atlantickayaktours.com

American Terrain
www.americanterrain.com

Manhattan Kayak Company
www.manhattankayak.com

New York Kayak Company
www.nykayak.com

Associations/Clubs

American Canoe Association
Hudson River Watertrails Association
New York City Watertrails 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

Besides subscribing to the YPRC email list, you might be interested in some of these outside lists. Most of 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