

SEBAGO CANOE CLUB E B L A D E

The official electronic newsletter of the Sebago Canoe Club in Brooklyn, NY

kayaking, canoeing, sailing, racing, rowing

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FROSTBITE REGATTA & General Meeting

January 1, 2011
10 am - 4 pm

Join us on New Year's Day for our annual gathering, which includes paddling and sailing*, a nonstop potluck feast and a club meeting.

Bring food and drink to share - and stay for the general meeting at 2 pm, to vote in new senior members and hear brief reports on future activities.

**Folks with appropriate clothing and training for the cold conditions can join up to go on the water in the morning if the weather is favorable.*

COMMODORE'S REPORT

By Tony Pignatello



I'd like to thank all the people who didn't run for commodore for allowing me to become the commodore.

Now that I've been at it a couple of months I have to say that it's harder than I thought it would be. It's also very rewarding, and I am really enjoying the challenge. I owe a debt of gratitude to John Wright for showing me the ropes and continuing to do many of the jobs of the commodore. I would be totally lost without him. But enough about me. Let's talk about Sebago.

It was Andrew Sherman's idea to remodel the clubhouse, and that's exactly what we're doing. New member Agnes Dolata, who is an architect in real life, is helping with the design. Many members have put in hundreds of hours scraping, painting, knocking down walls, adding rooms and building closets. It may or may not be ready for the Frostbite Regatta, but it will surely be different.

David Zweighaft has offered to set up an accounting system that will make treasurer Zach Abram's job much easier. Also pitching in are Norman Blumstein, Mary Eyster, Ed Huber, Derrick McKenzie, Pei Arsrairas, David Rybstein and Dan Olson. We'll now be able to get our dues bills in January, and to pay Sebago before we pay Uncle Sam. Chris Russo has consented to head the grant committee. Joining him in the hunt for funding are Severn Clay, Miriam Cohen, Elizabeth Green, Phil Giller, Rochelle Rubin, and Brenda Rybstein. We have just been awarded a \$7,500 grant that Phil applied for, and I am sure more will follow.

I feel much safer now that Gary Gorman is heading the new safety committee. Mike Chandler, Kevin Rogers, and Nina Sabghir are assisting Gary. They have made many suggestions that will be realized during the coming season.

Adele Abrams is handing over the administration of the gardening committee to Mary Ann Hoag. I'm confident that Mary Ann and the other gardeners will make the grounds even more pleasant for members and visitors alike.

For the coming year we have plans to expand training, have more paddles, host a sailing regatta, hold more social events, add personal lockers, and spruce up the grounds. I'll leave it up to the various committee heads to tell you all about it. As you can see we're planning many ambitious projects. We've already gotten a tremendous response from members. Now it's time for more members to join in. Who knows? You may really enjoy it.



The Board of Directors gave John Wright an award at this year's Annual Meeting, to recognize his many years of service to Sebago. Incoming Commodore Tony Pignatello (right) makes the presentation to outgoing Commodore, John Wright (left).



VICE COMMODORE'S REPORT

By Andrew Sherman

When most people think of the fall and early winter, they might think about the season's outdoor activities; apple picking, raking fallen leaves on a crisp early morning, and placing their kayak into its container for a well-deserved hibernation come to mind.

They might also imagine sipping hot chocolate near the wood stove while relaxing with a good outfitter's catalog, daydreaming of the moments spent out on the water again... but not at Sebago Canoe Club!

Starting in October, club members have been gathering at the clubhouse for hours on end for the simple pleasure of improving the facilities at the club. Over the past months, members have been showing up in swarms for scheduled, and non-scheduled, work days to complete tasks ranging from gardening to major construction. I don't believe that even honey bees work this hard for the common good.

One of the largest projects that we completed this year was installing the work area roof this past spring. We will now have an enclosed area to fix those pesky gel coat scratches, do fiberglass work and make other repairs to our boats, all while staying out of the elements. The new roof was sealed to the adjoining storage containers this fall to prevent water from entering the space. I will have to give a special thanks to Phil Giller, who got more roofing tar on him than the rest of us wanted to that weekend. Enclosing this area will be an ongoing project next spring.

Among other improvements, the sea kayak container has been re-configured with a storage system inside for the coming season. All of the boats stored in this container have been placed on their side, which allows another eight kayaks to be placed onto the storage racks out of the elements. As a reminder to members, we will have to place the kayaks bow first into the rack to prevent damage to the rudder and skeg systems on these boats.

The greatest news for our members this year was the renovation of our clubhouse. The facilities where we enjoy gathering were U.S. Army surplus in the 1960's and in a need for a minor facelift. Just hours after the board of directors had approved the project, hammers were swinging, volunteers were gathering, and John Wright's famous "frozen chocolate cakes" were devoured. As long as we had hot coffee on and the new wood stove was warm, we were having a blast!

Well, as much fun as you can have sanding sheetrock...

I wish I had the time and space to adequately describe the fruits of our labors, but you will just have to come to the club and witness the results yourself. I am positive that when you walk into the clubhouse again, you will be impressed!

I would like to end this report by reminding everyone that we are an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization. Without the effort and hard work of our members, either small or large, we would not exist!. Please continue to support our club and our organization.

I hope to see you on the water soon.

Welcome New Members in 2010

Oscar Aarts & Cherie Coley
Carl Aldrich
Andrew E. Baron
Eugene Borodan & Jennifer Johnson
Peter Cain
Natalie Chin
David Crompton & Nadia Jenefsky
Benjamin Degen & Hope Gangloff
John R. Demler
Jerry DiColo
Agnes Dolata
Fred Doolittle & Susan Wefald
Frank Favia
Lisa Feiner
Raymond Fusco & Christine Simek
Gregory Hahn
Mary Ann Hoag
Timothy & Elizabeth Holden
Deborah Howard
Everardus H. Huisman
Gerald C. Kastner
Martha Keavney
Nathan Langford
Mark McGlynn
Susan McNamara
Danielle Peterson & Joseph McCauley
Valerie Rose
John Salanitro & Yelena Gorina
Roger & Angela Sarmuksnis
Amir Shpilman
JoAnn Spangler
Edward K. Swain, Jr., DMD
Patricio Tejada
Patrick Thrasher
Cleo Paul Tucker
John B. Zhou

Member names for senior membership consideration:

Milton Puryear
Ramona Rottkamp
Lori Gralnick
Michael Weinstein

KAYAK COMMITTEE REPORT – FROSTBITE 2011

By Walter Lewandowski



Class at Brooklyn Bridge Park

The mornings are colder, the winds have a little bite, and the city is decked out in holiday regalia. Another Frostbite Regatta must be upon us, which means another sea kayak committee report.

Once again, thanks to the tireless efforts of Sebago's volunteers, I have a wonderful season to look back on.

Both at Lake Sebago and Jamaica Bay we had a great season of instruction. Starting with the trip leader workshop and working our way through ACA levels 1 through 3, we had more students than ever before. Congratulations are due to all of our new trip leaders and assistant trip leaders, who will work hard to help make our Sebago programs successful, as well as to all our kayaking students who put a lot of effort into improving their skills.

Heartfelt thanks to all the instructors who made the 2010 Sebago kayak season a success.

The cruising committee had a banner year. We had a spectacular return to Orient Point, a wonderful weekend of camping and paddling blessed by wonderful weather and great companions.

We made a return to New Jersey paddling with a great summertime trip to Barnegat Bay. This year's fall foliage trip offered something completely different, with a day trip to the Sebonic Inlet in South Hampton,

a magical paddle full of fall colors, pheasants and some playful paddling in the strong currents at the mouth of the inlet.

With the board's approval we bought five new plastic kayaks suitable for more advanced classes, along with some new paddles. As some of you know, these kayaks have proved to be very popular with club members and have received quite a bit of use. It is up to you, the users, to care for these boats so the club can continue to upgrade our fleet. Please report any problems to the fleet captain, so they can be addressed.

Don't miss the opportunity for instruction and practice at Sebago's pool sessions this winter. We are trying to make it extra easy for Sebago members to use this great learning tool. It is wonderful to practice wet exits and other skills in the clear, warm water of an indoor pool. Contact Stevie McAllister, brooklynkayak@gmail.com, for more info.

Looking ahead to the 2011 season, we hope to continue to expand our instruction and day-tripping opportunities on Jamaica Bay. I hope to offer classes in all ACA levels and a safety & recovery program, in addition to our usual trip leader class. At the lake we plan to offer some additional classes beyond the usual ACA levels 1, 2 and 3.

A new program of instructional paddles, hopefully every weekend, is planned on Jamaica Bay. An instructor will be available to lead a small



group on a trip appropriate to the group's experience and work on skills the participants need or desire. This is still in the planning phase, so watch for more details to be forthcoming.

The cruising committee will return to Orient Point this summer, but with a twist. Instead of paddling around the point, we will take advantage of the many different paddling venues for all levels in the area and hold an instructional weekend. It will be a sort of Sebago mini-symposium, where paddlers get to expand their skills, try different boats and spend a weekend immersed in paddling with their instructors.

Keep a lookout for the Sebago calendar as all cruising committee trips and teaching events will be listed as soon as dates are finalized. I also plan to use the club's blog and Facebook page for announcements, along with the usual emails. So please make sure your email is registered and your browser has the Sebago pages bookmarked.

Have a great winter, and may the wind be at your back.

Top left: Barnegat Bay, top right: Susan McNamara at Bug Lighthouse, bottom: Orient Point



SEBAGO SAILING END OF SEASON REPORT

By Jim Luton

As we near the end of the 2010 sailing season, we look back on another year of impressive growth for the sailing committee. We have again set records for new members in the program, and for activity attendance from both within the club, and from the region.

In May we held our second annual Laser District 8 Spring Regatta. Sailors came from Long Island and Connecticut, and from as far away as Saratoga Springs to race in Jamaica Bay. The regatta was won by David Nicol of Saratoga Springs, who drove down with his dad (a competitive racer also) and two boats.

We continued our usual activities this year, with the annual Basic Sailing Course, monthly bay cruises, Thursday night races, and the Sebago Cup Race, but we also added some new events. Our first ever Kids' Sunfish Relay was held in June, and it was blast! We would like to continue building the kids' program, and will certainly reprise this event next year. We also added a Sunfish Rigging and Rcing Clinic this year. We brought in Marguerite Kohler from the Dinghy Shop who showed us advanced Sunfish rigging techniques, basic racing strategies, and then led us in racing drills out in the bay in a very blowy westerly. We dubbed this the "Tough Love" clinic. We started our Fall Race Series last year, and have expanded the popular series this year to seven regattas over as many weeks. We have opened up the Fall Series to outside sailors, and published a Notice of Race (NOR) on the website. The first race was extremely well attended, with eleven boats sailing. All club boats were in use.

We continue to improve our fleet of sailboats and equipment. This year we added three boats, two Sunfish and a Laser. We lost one Laser that was on loan to us, and sold the Force 5 and an old Super Sunfish. The sales helped very much with new purchases, and we got rid of some under-utilized equipment. We added two new Sunfish racing sails to our quiver, plus a new Sietech dolly and deck covers for two boats (along with other much-needed gear). The fleet is stronger than ever, and we would like to recognize the hard work put in by Don Campbell and John Decker, who headed up the maintenance and repair shop this year. Several other members helped with the work as well. It's a never-ending war of attrition, keeping up with hard-used equipment.

2010 has been a record-breaking year for new members. We added eight brand new club members who joined for the sailing program, for a total of eleven new sailors this year. We are now attracting some very experienced sailors to the group, a sure sign of quality growth. There has also been a lot of improvement within our ranks, and some brand new sailors have really made strides forward. There was stiff competition for the coveted "Most Improved Sailor" award, but this year that plaque goes to Sarah Griswold. Jim Luton won this years' Sebago Cup, in a Sunfish (against two Lasers), in a wild, blowy easterly.

Our official sailing season drew to a close on Halloween, with the last race of the Fall Series. Bryn Will came out to sail with us while visiting from Russia, and was surprised at how we've grown in the few years that she has been away. Unfortunately the wind favored us a little



too much, with a small craft advisory and a stiff northwesterly breeze. JFK recorded winds in the 20's with gusts to 30. There was some gear failure, a lot of capsizes, and blood was spilled...literally! The safety boat couldn't stay on post at the line with all the carnage, so in the end we had to call the race.

But what a series it was! We ran a total of 19 races over seven separate days (two whole days were called because of dangerous conditions). Twenty-six individual sailors participated over the course of the series. We had a lot of interest this fall from among our sailors, and have signed up four new members since Labor Day. Many of our novices sailed several races this fall, and have shown a marked improvement in their sailing. Close quarters racing is a wonderful skill builder.

The last official event for 2010 was our workday, potluck, and season closer held on November 14. All of the active sailors were there to clean, sort and label gear, and clean out the dinghy shack. All of the Sunfish gooseneck adjusters were oiled up, and the spars were all marked for gooseneck locations. Sails were checked over and washed, hulls were washed and blow-tested for leaks, and parts inventories were made. The safety boat was hauled on the Diamond Point Yacht Club ramp, and thanks are extended to Joe Romano and John Wright for helping out with that. Since the haul-out, Joe has also completed the winterization to the Honda 30, and the Mariner 5.

Several of the new sailors had previously expressed an interest in rigging and launching the old 420 that we've had in the yard for several years, so we located all the gear, and Justin Steil, David Cripton, and Eek Huisman (all former 420 sailors) got her rigged. At that point there was no reason to just look at her, so we launched her (dirty hull and all) and we all took turns sailing up and down the basin. It was a blast! We need to rebuild a couple of pieces on the transom, and replace all the running rigging, and probably the standing rigging too, but she's all there, and we look forward to putting her into service next year.



The potluck luncheon and Fall Series awards were held after the work activities. It was noted that the visiting kayak chair commented quite favorably on the quality of the sailors' cuisine. Once again, I can't say enough about the success of our program this year, and we all look forward to the 2011 season.

We'll be holding a sailing committee meeting in February to plan and set our schedule for the 2011 season.

I would like to thank the Sebago Canoe Club members, and in particular the board of directors, for their continued generous support of our sailing program. We are looking forward to the 2011 season, and this one's barely done! And hey, let's be careful out there.



WINTER KAYAK FISHING WITHOUT A KAYAK

By Andy Novick

In winter you take the kayak out less often, put away your rod and reel, and think more about sports like skiing than you do about fishing. But winter can be the best time to catch some fish that are really great for eating. I am talking about herring, and they can be caught right here in Jamaica Bay.

You don't even need your kayak. In fact, using a kayak for herring fishing can be a detriment. The tackle used for catching herring is very long, and you can't reach the fish in a seated position. You need to be standing, able to fill a bucket quickly and keep your hands warm and dry.

Here is how you do it. First, you need a simple fishing rod. Any inexpensive rod will do. A light-weight rod with a spinning reel is fine. Then, you need a special set of hooks, called a "herring rig," that is made by a Japanese company. The multi-hook sabibki rig is inexpensive (\$4.99 apiece) and sold at every bait shop at Sheepshead Bay. You will also need a lead sinker and a bucket for your catch. And you will catch plenty of herring if you go on the right day.

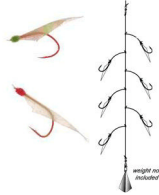
The Atlantic herring is a special fish, and a lot bigger than you might expect. It can grow to fifteen inches, and can be caught in groups of five fish at a time.

Herring are an extremely healthy food. They contain lots of Omega-3 fatty acids, no mercury, and few environmental contaminants like PCBs. That's because they are low on the food chain.

Young herring feed on phytoplankton and as they mature they start to consume larger organisms. Adult herring feed on zooplankton, tiny animals that are found in oceanic surface waters, as well as small fish and fish larvae.

Most of all, however, nothing tastes as good as a fresh herring. They are nothing like the bottled, or canned, pickled herring you get at the grocery store. The Dutch are so crazy for fresh herring, they eat them raw when they first appear. They declare it a holiday and have festivals to celebrate the "Dutch New" herring.

You can catch your herring at any dock or pier along Jamaica Bay, but make sure you check the tides and conditions. Herring come in with the tides, and they migrate almost at random. You need to ask local fishermen if the herring are in, and then bring your fishing gear, your bucket and enjoy.



SAFETY COMMITTEE IS UP AND RUNNING

By Gary Gorman

The Sebago Canoe Club Safety Committee is now in full swing, with Gary Gorman, Mike Chandler, Kevin Rogers, Nina Sabghir and Glen Schneider. If you would like to join us please e-mail nypd24423@aol.com subject: Safety Committee. Also, if you have any ideas or suggestions regarding safety issues, please feel free to share them with us or the Sebago board. So far we have submitted two reports for the board to review.

Commodore Tony Pignatello has given permission for safety committee member Glen Schneider to be liaison between the club and the New York Police Department Harbor Unit and other law-enforcement agencies to help ensure our safety and enjoyment on the water.

We have opened up communications with Enver Velovic, community liaison for the reconstruction of seven bridges on the Belt Parkway, to ensure safe passage to and from the basin and the bay. This will include notification of events, such as sailing regattas, wounded-warrior and youth paddles, and special events as per the board and committee chairpersons. A schedule will be supplied to Mr. Velovic, with an email follow-up and a phone call 72 hours before an event.

Put a Name on It

Nobody wants to mark up their PFD, paddle, personal equipment, etc., but it's a good idea. So many of us have similar equipment it can easily be mistaken for someone else's. A simple tag inside your equipment will prevent this. Mark your initials and the last four digits of your home phone or cellphone number. Use permanent ink or waterproof ink. Sew your initials into hats or PFDs. Tape your ID inside your paddle. Mark your lights and marine radio.

Opening Day Blood Drive?

Sebago's board has approved a request to investigate how many members would like to participate in a New York Blood Center blood drive on opening day in 2011. We would be using the services of the center's mobile donor vehicle. I will also be asking the members of the surrounding marinas if they wish to join us. Information about who can give blood and what to expect can be found at these two Web links: www.nybloodcenter.org/whocangiveblood/index.do?sid0=2&sid1=16 and www.nybloodcenter.org/whocangiveblood/what-to-expect.do?sid0=2&sid1=15.

If you are unable to donate, maybe a family member or friend can give. There will be a slight variation since this will be in the blood donor bus, but you will still be able to rest and receive refreshments afterward. Please e-mail me at nypd24423@aol.com with your name if you would like to participate and/or if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Gary Gorman O+

ROWING REPORT

By Joe Romano



Sebago welcomes another rower to our ranks!

I tried to talk him out of it. I said Sebago members don't like their sculls to get wet. They'd rather keep them as decorative art, or hold onto them until they

appreciate in value, so they can be sold and used to finance our own access to city drinking water.

But all kidding aside, we were glad to have a serious rower join our club. Ibrahim Habib intends to visit the club, and go rowing, when he visits his daughters who live in Brooklyn. When not visiting them, he lives in Arizona, where he also rows.

Ibrahim says rowing is very popular in Arizona, and that there are times when all the sculls are taken, and you have to wait for someone to finish their row and bring one back for you to use. No such problem at Sebago.



ALL CLUB INVITATIONAL

By Vivian Carter

They came to Jamaica Bay from far and wide. They came hauling boats of all kinds – kayaks, canoes, sailboats and rowboats – from handmade, skin-covered Greenland kayaks to a wicker-trimmed Adirondack touring canoe. Some drove from upstate New York. Others arrived from New Jersey. Members of the Village Boathouse camped with the raccoons at Floyd Bennett Field, and rowed into Canarsie in style, sporting a pirate's flag on their craft. The Long Island City Boathouse came through the front gate with a trailer loaded with kayaks. One couple arrived via public transportation, toting two compact folding kayaks.

No matter how they arrived, everyone enjoyed the fun, food and activities at the inaugural All-Club Invitational hosted by Sebago Canoe Club on July 17. The event was the brainchild of Phil Giller, Sebago's past commodore, who obtained grants to fund it from New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program.

Sebago T-shirts and hats sold briskly throughout the day, helping to further defray some of the costs of the event.

Sebago's partners included Gateway National Recreation Area and the New York City Water Trail Association. Sebago's dock is a designated launching/landing location on the trail.

Over 100 visitors, plus more than 60 club members, participated in a variety of excursions to explore the bay. The goal was to host the largest gathering of human-powered boaters on Jamaica Bay in history. Each trip was led by members of Sebago and selected local experts, including Don Riepe of Broad Channel, Jamaica Bay Guardian, who pointed out ospreys, oystercatchers and herons as one group paddled along the marshes of Canarsie Pol. Sebago member Tom Potter, who is also spearheading the development of human-powered boating at the new Brooklyn Bridge Park, guided a group of beginners around the Pol in the opposite direction. The most advanced paddlers circumnavigated clockwise around the western portion of the bay, passing the North Channel Bridge in Howard Beach and continuing along the eastern fringes of Broad Channel.

As evening set in and the boat washing racks were called into service, Sebago grill-master Fran Pignatello and her crew kept the burgers and dogs flying onto the plates for hungry boaters. The event concluded with the recycling of beer and soda cans by club members. Even the water bottles – made of recyclable and compostable cornstarch donated by Green Planet of Chicago, Illinois, were eco-friendly.

Rick Horan, president of Rockaway's Gateway Bike & Boathouse (far left), shares an anecdote with (right to left): Sebago's rowing committee chair, Joe Romano, Eric (The Chanteyman) Russell of Sebago, and Rob Buchanan of Village Community Boathouse.

Chris Russo at the sign up table..



Steve Heinzerling, Bonnie Aldinger, George Sullivan, Tom Anderson, Ilene Levenson, John Huntington, Minh Nguyen, Pete Peterson and Stevie McAllister - the group at Orient Point.

AROUND LONG ISLAND – YEAR FOUR *By Steve Heinzerling.*

This past September the group that is doing a five-year-long progressive paddle around Long Island set out on the fourth leg of the trip. We picked up where we left off last year, which was at Cedar Point, north of East Hampton.

It was the same cast of characters as in past years. Most important among them is our ground support team, drivers John Wright and Linda and Cody Peterson. The paddlers on this odyssey are Stevie McAllister, Minh Nguyen, Bonnie Aldinger, Ilene Levenson, Tom Anderson, George Sullivan, John Huntington, Pete Peterson and myself.

When we got our boats unloaded on the beach we noticed that a number of us had gotten new boats, and now the entire fleet was red and yellow. The sole exception was George, with his light-blue Anis Acuda.

Our plan was to paddle across Gardiners Bay to Orient Point. If conditions allowed we'd round Orient and log in a few more miles on Long Island Sound. Northwest winds and waves made for a choppy crossing of the bay. The group made two different choices about how to handle the prevailing conditions. About half the group hugged closer to Shelter Island in search of calmer seas. The others shot straight across the bay. Surprisingly, we all landed at Orient Beach at the same time.

It was a rough crossing, but we all enjoyed a nice leisurely lunch together. I broke out a watermelon from my hatch and cut it up for the group. At that time the contents of the Sound were pouring through the infamous "Gut" between Orient Point and Plum Island.

We proceeded eastward down the beach to see what we'd find at

the point. Water was racing against us at the Gut, and the North Shore was getting hammered, so we decided to call it a day then and there.

I called for our ground support team to pick us up. They wouldn't arrive for about an hour and a half, so we had time to hang out and play. The Gut is an awesome sight with the water rushing through it. George was the first to get in his boat to battle his way through the current. We all stood on the point cheering him on. He'd be pushed back, and then paddle harder to make his way through the rocks.

Finally he made it through to all of our cheers and hollering. Minh and Bonnie were the next to jump in their boats. I couldn't resist when I saw how much fun they were having.

I paddle with a Greenland blade, so it was extra challenging to fight the strong current. I had to go a bit further out to make it through, but I finally did. It was a great feeling holding my paddle in the air and shouting "with a skinny stick!"

After lazing about and skipping stones John and Linda came bouncing down the dirt road that led to the point. It was great to see them and to get out of the wind.

Our base camp for the weekend was the Wading River Motel. It was central to our activities, reasonably priced, and has an area with picnic tables and barbecue grills.

Food is always an important part of our trips. That night we dined on Wagyu (Kobe) flank steak, grilled local squash, and brown rice. The picnic table was lit up with our deck lights (port and starboard



This page: Loading boats - day 2, talking strategy, Steve with watermelon.



to make for some very challenging conditions, especially as we crossed shallow shoals and points.

Before our first break we had a few capsizes. Ilene, Bonnie and Steve M. were amazing with their rescue skills. On the beach we all fueled up on snacks and hot tea. Boats were repaired and adjusted. We agreed on a system of rotating the sweep paddler so the same person wasn't assisting the slowest paddler all day.

Conditions improved as the day progressed. We had an idyllic lunch break at Goldsmith Inlet. We all had fun with the current rushing into this little salt pond. Minh and Ilene had fun floating the current in their dry suits. Almost on cue the Mister Softie truck pulled up as we were finishing lunch.

We paddled on down the Sound in now very calm conditions. We made it to Mattituck Inlet, where John, Linda and Cody were waiting for us. It was another great evening of grilling and hanging out together.

The next day looked like perfect conditions, and we hoped to get in some good mileage. John Huntington wasn't feeling up to another long day of paddling. He had had surgery on his shoulder some months earlier and needed to listen to his body.

The next day we had following seas and wind. We covered 12 miles in the first two hours of paddling. Before we knew it we were flying past Shoreham. We had fantasized about getting as far as Port Jefferson and, before we knew it, it was there within reach.

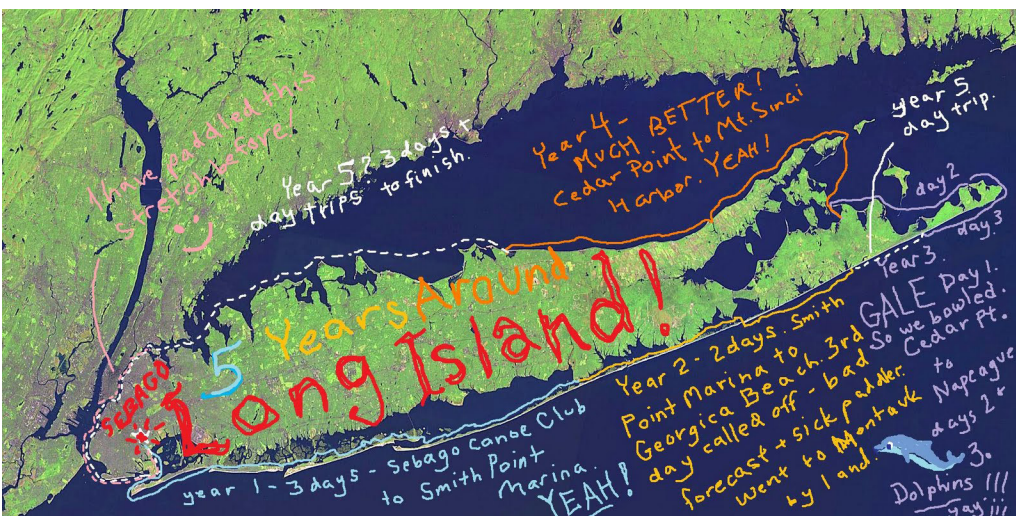
oriented). It was a great evening, with lots of laughs and libations.

The next morning was a 6 am wake-up for a 7:30 launch. We had coffee and bagels on the road we took to the Orient Point ferry, where we launched. It was Saturday morning. We had two days ahead of us to get in some good mileage on the Sound.

As a group of nine paddlers you need to be aware of everyone's ability and condition on the water. We timed the weekend to be in sync with the flood tide of the Sound. We rounded Orient Point and made very good progress down the beach. But the following seas and wind started

We paddled more than 30 miles that day and about 75 miles over the three-day weekend. John H. was back the following weekend to pick up the miles he'd missed.

Next year we'll pick up where we left off and head for home: Port Jeff to Brooklyn. Totally doable. Totally fun. Once again, all of our thanks to John, Linda, and Cody, without whom we couldn't have done the trip.



Bonnie Aldinger's map.

THE JOURNEY OF MINIK WALLACE

By Denis Sivack

The first white men to see the Polar Eskimos of northwestern Greenland were the British explorer John Ross and the later American explorer Elisha Kent Kane in 1854.

Starting in 1891, and for years after, Robert Peary made enough expeditions of his own to the Arctic to consider it his turf, as part of his grander ambition for personal enrichment and fame as an explorer. He had heard of a large meteorite, alluded to by Ross as an “Iron Mountain”, and, having seen it, was determined to bring it back to America. In August 1897 he made it his mission to secure the meteorite. In addition to objects taken for trade, or just taken, he would return from this trip with more than material objects. He brought back with him six natives. The lives of all six would be forever changed.

There were three men, one woman, a girl of about 12 and a boy of about six. Nuktaq, in his 40s, and Qisuk, in his late 30s, had been guides and dog drivers for Peary on several of his trips. With Nuktaq were his wife Atangana and his adopted daughter Aviaq. Qisuk’s wife had died that year, but he had his son Minik with him. Also included was Uisaakassak, a man found in one of the Eskimo camps visited by Peary’s ship, the Hope. Uisaakassak asked to go to America in the belief that Aviaq would someday be his wife, and he didn’t want to leave her.

On arrival in America, the Eskimos and their native dress were objects of curiosity, with people paying to board the Hope, whether or not Peary was there. In fact, he was often elsewhere fundraising or promoting his future adventures. Arrangements were made for the Eskimos to stay in the basement of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, where they were regarded with wonder by the curious public.

Qisuk, Atangana, Nuktaq and Aviaq would soon die of diseases contracted in their new land. Uisaakassak returned to Greenland in 1898, where the stories he told about America were so far beyond the comprehension of his fellow Greenlanders that he was regarded as a perpetual liar. As a consequence of his plural wife stealing, a disposition perhaps hinted at by his early interest in Aviaq, he was later killed by two villagers he had taunted about their wives.

The orphaned Minik was cared for by the AMNH superintendent of buildings, William Wallace, who raised him with his own son in the Bronx and in the upstate New York towns of Lawyersville and Cobleskill. Minik took Wallace’s name, with Peary as a middle name. Those years appeared to be happy ones for Minik, but there came a time when he learned that the supposed burial of his father, which the museum people had arranged for Minik, was a sham. His father hadn’t been buried at all. Instead his skeletal remains were being kept at the museum. Minik’s life-long attempts to recover his father’s bones met only with the museum’s denials of having the “body.” The museum showed no inclination to own up to any of its actions regarding the remains. In this and related matters, such as arrangements for Minik’s education and care, the actions and statements by the eminent figures Robert Peary, anthropologist Franz Boas, Morris K. Jessup, the museum’s president, and naturalist Dr. Hermon Carey Bumpus are a study in themselves.

As Minik turned from boy to man, he grew up American and lost

his native language, but he didn’t really feel at home anywhere. He was briefly enrolled at Manhattan College to study civil engineering and astronomy, with the goal of returning to Greenland wise in the ways of instruments and navigation. While at Manhattan College he was again an object of curiosity, and seemed to stay only a few months. He ran away, apparently failing to find any meaningful connections to his earlier homes around Schoharie or Cobleskill. He went to Canada and was brought back to New York.

Through many complicated negotiations involving Robert Peary’s travels and claims to have reached the North Pole, Minik returned to Greenland in 1909. He had only his New York clothing and a medical and dental kit he had been given. He adapted, learned to hunt, relearned the language and told strange tales, adding bizarre incidents to what would already seem improbable. While he was accepted by the community and had many friends and married, he felt very alone—neither part of the world he had left nor the one he had returned to.

By 1916 Minik had returned to America. Papers showing his intent to become a US citizen are dated 1917. In the fall of that year Minik was in Pittsburg, NH, where he made a fresh start in the harsh, cold winter working among migrant workers as a lumberjack.

He befriended Afton Hall and lived with his family. He was happy where he was and with what he was doing. In 1918 the Spanish flu swept through the lumber camps and Minik, who regularly suffered from pneumonia and poor health while in America, died on October 29 of bronchial pneumonia. He was buried there on the banks of the Indian Stream the following day.

Further Readings

A detailed account of Minik’s life can be found in Kenn Harper’s study, “Give Me My Father’s Body.” Harper himself has lived in the Arctic for more than 30 years, and is personally connected to the land through marriage and the language. His account is very thorough in its documentation of the remarks of Peary and AMNH officials and related scandals and public-relations tactics. His 1999 afterward (the book was first published in 1986) discusses the return of the bones of the four Polar Eskimos to Greenland.

See also Michael T. Kaufman’s article “About New York: A Museum’s Eskimo Skeletons and Its Own,” *The New York Times*, August 21, 1993.

Underwaternewyork.com has an interesting piece by Adam Sexton, “Anhook and the Eskimo Caddie.”

A SEBAGO MEMBER CIRCUMNAVIGATES BRITAIN

By Marcus Demuth



In May 2010 I set out to circumnavigate Britain by kayak, starting from Skegness, on the country's east coast. Since 2005, all such attempts had ended unsuccessfully, mainly due to bad weather and unfavorable winds.

After eighty days I paddled back into Skegness, closing the loop and becoming the sixteenth kayaker to successfully circle Britain by sea. I paddled most of the 2,468 miles and eighty days in fair weather, except on the east coast, where the winds seemed to be exclusively from the south. That generated a fair amount of head wind, due to the clockwise nature of the trip, as well as some cursing, during the last 600 miles.

It was a long haul, equal to going four times around the Falkland Islands, two and a half times around Ireland, or paddling the 28-mile loop around Manhattan eighty-eight times.

My journey should be the fastest solo circumnavigation of Britain, and tie the eighty-day record set by the kayak trio of Barry Shaw, Phil Clegg and Harry Whelan in 2005. The second-fastest circumnavigation of the country was completed in eighty-five days by Nigel Dennis and Paul Caffyn in 1980.

My warmest thanks to all the kind English, Welsh and Scottish people who helped me on my way. More than on any other trip, people opened their homes and whisky vaults for me during my almost three months around the British Isles.

For more on my expedition, check out the December 11 issue of *Canoe & Kayak* magazine, or go to marcusdemuth.com/GreatBritain2010.

A VETERANS DAY TRADITION IS BORN

By Gary Gorman

Thanks to all who attended the Sebago Canoe Club's Veterans Day breakfast--those who have served in the U.S. military, those who are health professionals in the Veterans Administration hospitals and those who support our veterans.

Special thanks to those who brought additional food items, Chris Russo for the veteran memorabilia and Dennis Sivack for allowing us to fly his aunt's U.S. flag on her birthday, and in memory of her service as a Army nurse in World War I.

As always, thanks to our new and former commodores, Tony Pignatello and John Wright, and the Sebago board of directors for allowing us to have this celebration at the club house. Twenty club members attended, and we have started a tradition that will expand next year--hopefully by inviting other marinas. We are pleased to report everybody in attendance had a very enjoyable morning.



Trash Bash 2010 on Paerdegat Basin







EBlade:

Thanks to Editor: Beth Bloedow, Assistant Editor: Beth Eastman, Designer: Holly Sears, Photographers: Bonnie Aldinger and Chris Bickford and all contributors.

All content in this issue is from individual contributors and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Sebago Canoe Club.

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