

# 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

April 2013 Vol. 80, Issue 1

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Insert

## SEASON OPENER

April 27, 2013

10am - 4pm

General Meeting - 4pm

## OPEN HOUSE

May 18, 2013

10am - 4pm

Open to the public.  
Join us for a day of kayaking, sailing,  
canoeing, rowing and flatwater racing.





## Commodore's Report – Spring 2013 *By Walter Lewandowski*

Out on the bay I noticed our resident ospreys have returned from their annual winter tropical sojourn. Spring has finally arrived with only a few short weeks to the club's season opener and another boating season at Sebago. Your activity committees have planned an action-packed schedule of events. Members will see new opportunities to socialize and improve skills in kayaking, canoeing and sailing with new courses and events.

As a club we are partnering with new groups and hosting events to promote Jamaica Bay as a destination recreational area and highlight Sebago as a leader in the greater New York paddling and dinghy-sailing community. One of the events I am most excited about is the City of Water Day in Your Neighborhood at Sebago on Saturday, July 20. Partnering with the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, the National Parks Service and the Regional Plan Association our club will once again provide a destination for human powered boating. Such new events along with our Open House, Public Paddling Program and Youth Programs achieve the increasingly important mission of serving the community, making Sebago a valued partner in providing access to Jamaica Bay.

As the Bay and shoreline become more attractive so does the property Sebago sits on. This past winter we had a threat to our use of the grassy area along the basin between the clubhouse and the willow tree when the Paerdegat Athletic Club attempted to expand their footprint. Fortunately the issue was resolved in our favor, this time, thanks to our record of service to the community.

Volunteer service is vital to keep all programs running and allow the club to offer new events. A little commitment on your part goes a long way in supporting Sebago and there are many opportunities in which you can serve the club. A pressing need is Officer of the Day avail-

able on Saturdays and Sundays in half-day morning or afternoon shifts. This simple task, meeting and greeting people, makes the grounds available to the public and is vitally important to our mission.

Check the Sebago calendar on the website, [sebagocanoecub.org](http://sebagocanoecub.org) for details of all official club programs and new events. This is a good moment to remind everyone to insure they are listed to receive club emails. Contact Holly Sears at [sailing@sebagocanoecub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoecub.org) and request that you be included on the official Sebago email list.

Members can connect with individuals and groups through the Sebago Yahoo list. Use the link at the bottom of the Sebago website membership page to make the connection.

A change to the basic structure of your Sebago membership is taking effect this year and you will hear about this many times this season. Simply, all members are now responsible for maintaining their ACA membership. Sebago will no longer charge you for ACA dues. This year when you receive your ACA renewal notice you must pay it directly to the ACA. This is important to our insurance coverage for on-the-water activities. You must present proof of ACA membership to take part in any official club trip or to use club equipment at any time. Through the ACA website you can easily print your membership card. Without an ACA membership card you will be required to fill out a waiver and pay the five-dollar single event membership fee. Details of this policy have been emailed and will be included with your dues bill.

Hurricane Sandy repairs have increased our cash outlay making it ever so important for the club's solvency that you pay your dues bill promptly.

May the winds blow lightly.



Page 2: Commodore Walter Lewandowski with kayak group on Paerdegat Basin  
Page 3: top left-Kayak chair Tony Pignatello on Jamaica Bay,  
top right-Vicki Moss and John Harris, our Moonlight paddle leaders,  
bottom right-Pete Peterson at the Sebago dock

## Sea Kayak Report – Spring 2013

By Tony Pignatello

Ahoy Sebago,

The days are getting longer and warmer. It's time to find that wetsuit and hit the water!

We've been busy over the winter. On Feb. 17, we had our first Kayak Committee meeting of the year. The clubhouse was standing room only, with more than 40 kayakers in attendance. Everyone was very enthusiastic and full of energy. I'm confident that Sebago's 80th year will be our best year yet.

We also had an instructors meeting that was very well attended. We have commitments to do all levels of instruction. We'll schedule "Quick Start" lessons for all new members, basic Level 1 & 2 training, advanced Level 3 classes, trip-leader workshops and safety-and-rescue classes. We have a plethora of highly trained instructors who give time generously and freely to Sebago. The fees that are generated from our lessons enable us to have and maintain a fleet of more than 30 high-caliber kayaks.

Our goal this year is to have all the commitments for our Open Paddles in place before Memorial Day, at least one Member Paddle per weekend, and many more inter-club events. The calendar should be more or less complete before the season opener on April 27.

Feel free to contact me with any projects you would like to get involved with. We are always looking for ways to make our programs better.

Let's all have a safe and fun-filled season.





top-Sebago Canoe Club members prepare to launch for a visit to Orient Point's Plum Gut, August 2012  
bottom-Steve Heinzerling performs the traditional New Year's Day rolls during the 2013 Frostbite Regatta





top-Sebago group on seal watch hike (was a paddle - too much wind!) to Jones Beach.

bottom-Jeff Kraus (with Lynn Kraus bringing up the rear) retrieves dock flotation knocked loose by Hurricane Sandy for our neighbors at the Diamond Point Yacht Club





top-Pool Sessions 2012-13  
bottom-Pool Sessions 2012-13





top-Lynn Kraus and Jeff Kraus in the Four Sparrows Marsh, November 2012 Jamaica Bay  
bottom-Sebago kayakers Oct. 13 Norwalk, CT





## Sebago Sailing Report – 2013 Season

By Holly Sears and Jim Luton

Once again it is warming up, and the sailors are ready to get on the water and GO SAILING! (OK, some of us never stopped over the winter, but we're looking forward to shedding our drysuits for the warmer water to come).

We held our annual midwinter Sail Committee planning session back in February. (Thanks to our meeting host, John Decker) Now, we have a full season of sailing events scheduled at Sebago.

Our fleet building continues with the purchase of a Vanguard 15. We are looking forward to rigging it very soon!

We start the 2013 season with a new event, the Spring Race Series, similar to our popular fall series. Races are scheduled for April 28, May 5 and May 12 for those of you itching to get out on that cold water.

Jim will be leading an Intro to Canoe Sailing workshop on June 1. It will be open only to those with prior sailing experience. Our annual two-day Sailing Instruction is June 15 and 16. (Yes, it filled up to capacity in February.)

In addition to this class, we will try another instructional event. This is a one-day, Intro to Sailing class, on July 14. Here is an opportunity to see what it takes to sail one of our Sunfish, and to begin to understand the concepts of sailing.

As always, we have Jamaica Bay cruises scheduled once a month for our sailing members. This year those cruise dates are May 27, June 29, July 21 and Aug. 11. We plan to pair various informational seminars with the cruises to expand the skills of our sailors prior to each cruise, for those who are interested. Topics may include: trip planning, intermediate sailing technique, Laser sailing 101, basic race start-up.

We have a Family Fun Day scheduled for July 28, and for this event we hope to join with the Canoe Committee to run some on-the-water games and relay races. We will have a Race Clinic/Tune-up on Aug. 24 in preparation for our Fall Race Series.

The Sebago Cup, our now-famous annual Jamaica Bay cruising race, is scheduled for Sept. 14. And then our five-week fall series begins

Sept. 8 and continues on Oct. 6, Oct. 13, Oct. 20 and Oct. 27.

As always, we need to put time into tuning up our boats, checking rigs and equipment to get the club fleet in working order, and organizing our storage space. So, there will be sailing workdays throughout the spring and into the summer as repairs are required. Look for those announcements through the sailing email list. Sailors, if you would like to take charge of maintaining a boat (please, adopt a boat!), or if perhaps you might like to organize and maintain equipment, build racks or do any of the other tasks involved in running our fleet, let us know. There are plenty of projects for all. Just email [sailing@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanooclub.org).

In the meantime, most of us will be sailing at every opportunity throughout the summer, in addition to our scheduled group events. If you have an interest in sailing and would like to be included on the Sailing Committee email list, contact [sailing@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanooclub.org) and visit the sailing page of the club website for details and updates on our events, [sebagocanooclub.org/sailing.html](http://sebagocanooclub.org/sailing.html).

See you on the water.







Page 8:  
 top left-Sailing chairs Holly Sears (laser) and Jim Luton (skiff) negotiating the water trial through the marsh.  
 top right-fish in the rain  
 bottom right-Tracy Kornrich and guest, Open House 2012



Page 9:  
 top-John Decker and Sherry Decker going through the bridge - looking forward to fewer pilings and barges this year. What will be the new 'right of passage' for the sailors??  
 bottom-Holly Sears, Ami Samin and Jim Luton tacking through the Jamaica Bay marsh

This page:  
 left, from top to bottom-  
 Sebago Cup start 2012,  
 Bonnie Aldinger on a screaming run through the marsh, Sebago Cup 2012  
 Three lasers round the leeward mark, Holly, Andre, Tracy,Fall Series 2012  
 John Decker crosses the start line, Fall Series 2012

right, from top to bottom-  
 Eoin Delap and Tracy Kornrich , Fall Race Clinic  
 Sail Class 2012, Tracy and Jack Resnick Sail Class 2012, the group on the first day

Next page:  
 top-Winter sail in the fog, Chris Bickford in his melon seed, Jim in his sailing canoe, Matthew Peverly in a sunfish  
 bottom-Jim Luton in the sailing canoe with ACA rig - look for the return of canoe sailing this year with the Canoe Sailing Clinic on June 1.







top-Canoe chair Dan Olson and John Wright, Bronx River  
bottom-Pine Barrens trip, Fall 2012

Next page: left-Sebago's war canoe, right-John's canoe trip, circa 1957



## Canoe Committee Report – Spring 2013

By Dan Olson

The Canoe Committee honors the heritage of paddling in the New York region and provides accessible paddling experiences for people of all ages.

Our program gives families the opportunity to get their kids on the water and enjoy the unique fun of paddling. Family events in 2013 will range from morning trips on Jamaica Bay to two-day trips in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. Experienced canoeists will be challenged by the unique wind, wave and tide conditions of Jamaica Bay, as well as an extended excursion in the Adirondacks.

Committee members will be asked to provide support for youth group outings, Bronx River Alliance events and other New York City paddling groups. Trained instructors will help you improve your skills and modernize your “J” stroke!

The Canoe Committee has many activities planned for the summer. Please go to the Sebago website for our calendar and up-to-date information. You can also talk to Jim Luton, Dan Olson or John Wright about our plans.

## Memories

By John Wright

Since that first Sebago meeting 12 years ago, I knew I would fit right in with this cast of characters. Something about early childhood imprinting, long summers surrounded by woodlands and waters, and a profligate college career majoring in Outing Club ordained where I would end up at retirement: back hauling canoes.

My first car was a '34 Ford. That year was Ford's second contribution to America's love of the V8. The car would go 15 miles on a gallon of gas and maybe 75 miles on a quart of oil. It ran like a blue streak and smelled like one, too. That car took us to canoe and camping trips, and even into the Adirondacks for winter mountaineering. At \$35, it was a pretty good buy for a car just a year older than me.

Now, the Canoe Committee has scheduled an August paddle, portage and camp adventure in the Adirondacks. Dan Olson threatens us with pre-trip training, including hill climbing with 50-lb packs on our backs and a canoe yoked around our necks. Can I return to all this 50 years after my last outings to the North Country?

Maybe a little help from the wind will get me by. I used to scavenge a couple of saplings, snap together two Korean War shelter halves, and build a Macaroni rig. My buddy Grubby Sam would hold the boom in position, with a quick-release line at the ready, should a gust threaten to capsize the rig. It was far better than paddling all the way up Long Lake.

Camping equipment was simple in those days of minimal budgets. It all worked fine in this 1957 shot of a trip just before I went into basic training at Fort Dix. But that will be the last time I willingly go into the woods in June, the black-fly season.



## Rowing Report - Spring 2013

By Joe Romano

I don't know if it was the after effects of Sandy, but I got out on the water the fewest number of times in any winter in quite a while.

Sandy wreaked some havoc on our most popular rowing shell. The high water banged it around in the rowing container and inflicted five cuts in its hull. As of March 30, we were in contact with the manufacturer, Little River Marine, to get its opinion on making repairs. Otherwise, we'll have to start shopping for another recreational rowing shell.

Luckily, the Alden rowing shell wasn't harmed, so we still have that one to use.

When they finish removing the old bridge, it will be a pleasure to row out into Jamaica Bay under the two beautiful new spans with plenty of room to maneuver and avoid power boats.

Contact me if you would like to try sculling. It's another way to enjoy getting out on the bay and getting some good exercise as you glide along.



## New Club Policy for ACA Membership

In the past each Sebago member's dues fees included American Canoe Association (ACA) membership. The ACA provides on-the-water insurance for our club.

As of January 2013, the club will no longer process your ACA membership. It is now the personal responsibility of all members to maintain their own ACA membership. This decision was based on the fact that the ACA is able to mail out renewal notices/forms to each member before memberships expire and the ACA's website allows on-line renewals. Sebago dues have been adjusted so that the ACA fees are no longer included.

We suggest that all members set up their personal login on the ACA website ([www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)) to review and update their contact information. Also, if a new or replacement ACA card is needed, one can be printed directly from their website.

At all of our club-sanctioned events, trip leaders will now be checking that all participants have valid ACA cards. If we cannot establish your ACA membership, you will need to purchase the \$5-a-day event fee and fill out a waiver to be able to participate.

If you need assistance in setting up your ACA account, or if you have any questions regarding the ACA membership, contact

Rachel Vetterlein

[rvetterlein@americancanoe.org](mailto:rvetterlein@americancanoe.org)

540-907-4460 ext 104

## Name Published for Senior Membership

Ibrahim Habib

Deanne Draeger

Gerry Louw

*top left*-Rowing chair Joe Romano rowing the whaler  
*bottom right*-kayakers launch from beach at Norwalk Yacht Club  
*Next page*: Frostbite paddle and sail 2012



## Boat Money, Beer Money

By Steve Heinzerling

Anyone who's been around boats for a while knows that the boats you own over the years change and evolve with your needs and skills. You may let a boat go because of a new acquisition and need to make room. I remember as a kid one time counting all my Dad's boats which filled the yard, the beach racks and a boat yard. They totaled at 8 craft, sail boats, dingy, a folding dingy, and a kayak. I think I'm on my eleventh kayak since I joined Sebago.

Not that I'm a gear freak or always looking for the newest thing. Most of my kayaks have been either used or boats that I've built myself. Whenever I sell a boat I keep that money aside from other household expenses. That is "Boat Money" to be invested in the next boat or other on-water gear.

In my early days at Sebago I had the pleasure of introducing Tom Potter to kayaking on Jamaica Bay. I took him out for a weeknight paddle to the Canarsie Pol. The lights were coming up on the Manhattan skyline and the sun was setting. It was a very high tide so we were paddling very close to the shore. Suddenly an owl swept down and landed on a branch hanging just in front of us. It was one of those moments neither of us will ever forget.

From that day on Tom was hooked on kayaking. He went on to become a pivotal sea kayak chair at Sebago. Tom more than anyone else at our club challenged and brought the skill level up from rank amateurs to competent Level 2 and 3 paddlers.

I'm jumping ahead. This is about buying, selling, and trading boats. Shortly after that evening paddle I mentioned to Tom that I wanted to sell the Chinook that I'd been paddling. Tom wanted the boat but didn't have the spare cash to buy it. He was then co-owner of the Brooklyn Brewery and offered me a line of credit at their warehouse in beer. I was more than agreeable to this arrangement.

At that time they were importing and distributing some of the best beers in the world. I'd load up my car with some of the best Belgian imports and Brooklyn's finest. I also started collecting Thomas Hardy's Ale. This was reputed to be the world's rarest ale with a recommended cellaring age of 10 to 20 years. I started buying a case a year and putting it down for my future enjoyment. After more than fifteen years of investing and collecting this ale I realized that this style of brewing "Barley Wine" was not really to my taste. So I was sitting on over a fifteen year collection of this "rare ale" that I didn't want to drink but was worth some good money.

I tried listing it on EBay but that didn't go anywhere. Finally I contacted a beer-centric restaurant here in Brooklyn where I negotiated a good price for it. That sale almost bought me the kayak of my dreams, the Tahe Marine Greenlander. If I flipped my Anas Acuta I'd have what I needed. That's what I did. The Anas went to another club member and I got a new boat. Trading boat for beer and beer for boat came full circle.

Keep paddling, sailing and rowing. A life of boats and boats for life.



## In Loving Memory of John Skorupa, Sebago's Flatwater Kayak Coach

(Jan. 3, 1957 to Feb. 26, 2013)

By Claudia Ashforth, Elisabeth Ashforth and Candice Poiss Murray

The memories we all share of John Skorupa bind us together as kayakers, teammates, family, and friends for life. They aren't just our memories, but the memories of all who were touched by John as a teammate, coach, friend, husband and father.

John competed as a flatwater kayaker during his high school and college years and won awards on the divisional and national level. He attended St. Francis Prep and helped to build part of the original Sebago Canoe Club buildings.

Unfortunately, as his athletes, we never really knew much about his success as a kayaker, but he certainly had a great understanding of the kind of training we needed.

John was an extremely patient teacher, especially for beginners learning to stay up in a racing boat. Everyone began their training in a big "tub" boat, a more stable version of a racing boat. The club had two of these wide and clunky boats; one of them didn't have a rudder, so steering and keeping it straight was a challenge. But no one seemed to mind.

We all advanced to the racing boats, spending countless hours swimming--not intentionally--in the waters of Paerdegat Basin. The most important part of this learning process was John's patience in holding the back of the boat steady from the dock, in an effort to help us learn the balance point. He would call out to us to "Relax!" and "Imagine that you're sitting on your couch at home watching TV." It was easier said than done.

After we progressed from those first very frustrating days, John would follow us up and down the basin in the motor boat, always there to rescue us if we tipped over far from a dock. It's impossible to imagine how many times he emptied the water out of our boats and got us back afloat.

But he could also be a tough coach. John was easy-going and fun at certain times, but when he got that serious look in his eyes, he meant business. We all knew it, and gave him our full attention.

There was a time and place for fun, and there was certainly a time and place for hard work and dedication. John loved the phrase "Do or do not; there is no try." If someone answered him with an "I'll try," for whatever instruction he had given, he always informed them that there is no try, and that they should "just do." He expected 100% effort at everything we did.

John always had a training plan for each athlete that fit their ability and challenged their strengths and weaknesses, and he was always several steps ahead in planning our next goals and activities. He told us what to do during trainings, at races and in between: John had the answer to every problem.

In the mid-1980s and 1990s, John trained a small group of us competitive kayak racers year round. First to meet John was Candice Poiss (Murray). After the 1984 Olympics, she sought out a place where she could kayak and met John and fellow canoe racer Greg Gordon in late October 1985. John showed Candice the training kayak and let her try it

left to right -Ashforth and Poiss Kayakers -- Claudia Ashforth, Veronica Poiss, Candice Poiss Murray, Dominic Poiss, Elisabeth Ashforth



out just a few times, because the weather was already fairly cold.

The following spring, Candice began training daily alongside John, in his blue kayak, and Greg, in his wooden canoe. The first several months were in the big blue training boat until it came time to try the race boat. Like so many others, learning to balance a race boat is tricky, as the boat is extremely tippy.

The first race for Candice was at the 1986 National Championships. She flipped at the starting line, but was able to race after the starter helped her get back into the boat before the start. Candice spent the next year training really hard with John's careful guidance and coaching. In the summer of 1987, Candice went to the Junior World Championships because of the many months of dedication John gave to her.

Candice had many years of success at the local, national and international levels. Her best memories are the Junior World Championships, Pan American Games, U.S. Olympic Festival, Empire State Games and National Championships. One of her best races was the K-4 (4-person kayak) 200 meters at the 1994 Nationals, where she won a bronze medal along with Claudia, Elisabeth (Liz), and Veronica, and beat the national A-team boat in the club's K-4, which was 30 pounds overweight.

In 1988, Claudia and Liz visited Sebago for a barbecue and enjoyed exploring the club's grounds. They had paddled a few times before and wanted to learn to kayak. A club member suggested they return when the coach was there. At the next training session, they met John, who started the "twins" on their kayaking careers.

The things Claudia remembers most about John are his zest for life, his laugh and his love of the color red. He was always wearing a red T-shirt and drove an awesome red 1980s Pontiac Trans Am.

Liz says she and Claudia enjoyed being out on the water. They started coming to the club several times a week for training. John took them out and gave them instruction; it started off with paddling technique--how to hold the paddle, how to move the arms out straight, and how to use the shoulders, too. After some time, John suggested they try paddling a racing boat. Because the boats are tippy and difficult to balance, he put them in the K-2, the 2-man kayak, without seats, to make it slightly more stable.

As they improved in the K-2, they advanced to the K-1, the singles kayak, which is even tippier. Again, they fell into the water a lot, but with time they also learned to balance the singles. John said that the twins would be the K-2 doubles team to "come out of the woodwork" (he liked that phrase) and beat all the other girls who weren't training nearly as hard. He even went out of his way to arrange a gym membership for them at the athletic club next door, so they could swim and run indoors during the winter.

Soon thereafter, in 1989, Yosi Dayan showed up at Sebago with a picture of a kayak in hand. Yosi is from Israel and, at the time, his English was less than perfect. He asked John, "You have this here? I want to train." That was one of the things John always poked fun at with Yosi, reminding him of that first day.

Yosi remained a loyal club member, often training with the group and sometimes training on his own, but part of the small group of kayak family

we all remember. He also fondly recalls the training sessions with John.

In the early 1990s, Dominic Poiss and then Veronica Poiss, brother and sister to Candice, took up kayaking. They were always dragged to races when they were quite little and now also began training with John.

Dominic has fond memories of John. He specifically remembers the time when John began calling him "the animal" for finishing a 10K race as a child. He did really well racing against kids much older than he was. He finished the race with heat exhaustion, but never complained.

Dominic was a practical joker, and he not only enjoyed these kayaking days, but also the opportunity to play jokes on John and other fellow kayakers. He received the Paddler of the Year Award from Sebago one year and always enjoyed success on the local and national level.

Veronica was the youngest Poiss to paddle with the club and, though her time was shorter than others, she fondly remembers the many K-2 races with her sister and K-4 races with Candice and the Twins. Her best memory is the 1994 Nationals, when the K-4 won the bronze medal.

#### *Things we all remember about John...*

He would always say "Learning to balance a kayak is like riding a bike; once you figure it out, you'll never forget it." We all practiced and fell into the water a lot. But then, after a while, we all got the hang of it. That's when it's awesome! The racing kayak is built for speed, and it glides beautifully through the water.

Two acronyms that John used constantly were CANI and WIT. CANI stood for "Constant and Never-Ending Improvement." WIT stood for "Whatever It Takes." These two phrases appeared at random on the Sebago Canoe Club grounds; sometimes they were written in chalk on the dock or locker-room bench, written in the wet sand with a stick, or in pen on the back of a training schedule. We aspired to train by and also to live life by those words.

Claudia noted that even in much later years when she was faced with difficult situations, she would think of CANI and WIT, and she would imagine John telling her that, of course, she could do this. Candice even passed on these important mottos to the college athletes she coached, in an effort to share with them the many life lessons John taught her.

In the summers, John trained us on the water six days a week, and we had a great little group: Elisabeth, Claudia, Candice, Dominic, Veronica, and Yosi. Occasionally, other kayakers and canoeists who wanted to compete joined us (Beau Broker, Zsolt Molnar; Leon Tonoyan; John, Barbara, Julian, and Tal Bednarek; Frank and John Lutz; Laura and Kathy Lee; the Sorrentino sisters).

It was always exciting to hear the whir of the motor when John pulled up next to our kayaks in the chase boat after our warm-up lap to get started with the day's training. He yelled our instructions over the noise of the motor and the wind: a 1,000-meter push, 250-meter sprint, practice starts, or working on our technique. Some of the ones we remember most are: "Keep your hand up!"; "Twist!"; "Yosi, put your feet back in the boat!" (Yosi had a funny habit of putting a foot out of the



front to back- Bronze Medal K-4 Team - Candice Poiss Murray, Elisabeth Ashforth, Veronica Poiss, Claudia Ashforth

boat to find his balance); “Dominic, stop sightseeing!” (Dominic would at times paddle along the shore looking at the flotsam and jetsam or the shore birds, forgetting about his training routine.)

John taught us all so many things: practical things, training and perseverance kind of values, and life skills. He taught us how to securely tie boats to the top of the car roof racks so that they could survive a 16-hour drive to the Nationals in Indianapolis. In John’s mind, there was only one kind of knot to use, and we all learned it well. To this day, we use it for all kinds of other things too.

He taught us how to care for and repair boats, especially our older wooden boats, a lost art. He taught us how to work out with little or no equipment; he would design strength and conditioning workouts with things he found around the club, similar to the now-popular workouts like Crossfit. He taught us how to do pull-ups.

The annual races at Lake Sebago on Memorial Day and Divisional Championships, the races on the Potomac at the Washington Canoe Club, and the Nationals in Indianapolis/Chicago/North Carolina were exciting times. John always made time to meet us at the events, to attend the scratch meeting for us, to guide us, and to calm us down before races. He was a calm and steady leader. In the evenings at Nationals, we remember going to the “Sizzler” restaurant and having a lot of fun hanging out with John and our team.

John was a tremendous coach and our leader. He was the glue that kept all of us at Sebago together. He was an inspiring coach; he taught us

and gave us so much. He was our motivator when our arms were aching after the many sprints. He was our friend who laughed with us. He was our visionary.

John never expected pay nor did he ever complain about the many hours he spent helping us. He had so much faith in each of us and our success. He never doubted that we would be the best that we could be, and that we would win at the National Championships.

John made everything fun; he even made the most strenuous and monotonous workouts enjoyable. We remember laughing all the time. He loved to tease. Whenever we pass over the Paerdegat Basin Bridge on the Belt Parkway, we look over in the direction of Sebago Canoe Club and look for paddlers. It always makes us think of John and the happy times we spent there with him.

John made everybody’s life better, whether intentionally or unintentionally, and whether he knew it or not. He was just that kind of a person. We will be forever grateful for having known him and for the opportunities we had, and wouldn’t have had, if it wasn’t for him. We will miss John, but will forever remember him fondly.

John leaves behind his wife Terry Skorupa and 15-year old daughter Christine Skorupa, who both will miss him greatly. Terry says she has lost her best friend, while Christine has lost her dear father. We, as kayakers, are grateful to have met both Terry and Christine and will continue to keep them in our lives.

left-John Skorupa

below-Christine Skorupa - she is now 15 years old



**Sebago Canoe Club Board of Directors:****Commodore** - Walter Lewandowski**Vice-Commodore** - John Wright**Secretary** - Linda Peterson**Treasurer** - Zachary Abrams**Board Members:**

Luis Matallana

John Decker

Tony Pignatello

Jim Luton

Beth Eller

Denis Sivack

Pete Peterson

Ramona Rottkamp

**Activity Chairs:****Kayaking** - Tony Pignatello – [kayaking@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:kayaking@sebagocanooclub.org) 718-353-8018**Cruising** - Tony Pignatello & Walter Lewandowski – [cruising@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:cruising@sebagocanooclub.org) 718-353-8018/718-894-2637**Sailing** - Jim Luton & Holly Sears – [sailing@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanooclub.org) 917-971-7544/917-587-0117**Flatwater Racing** - Mike Boxer – [racing@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:racing@sebagocanooclub.org)**Rowing** - Joe Romano – [rowing@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:rowing@sebagocanooclub.org) 718-680-4574**Canoeing** - Dan Olson - [canoeing@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:canoeing@sebagocanooclub.org)**Membership** - Beth Eller – [membership@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:membership@sebagocanooclub.org)**General Information** – [contact@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:contact@sebagocanooclub.org) 718-241-3683**Website** – [www.sebagocanooclub.org](http://www.sebagocanooclub.org)

EBlade

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



## Calendar of Events – 2013

Check the Google Calendar for updated listings . . .

### April

#### SEASON OPENER AND GENERAL MEETING 4 pm

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, April 27, 9-4

Get on the water for the first time this year and see old friends. Potluck; bring food and drinks to share. Stay for the meeting to hear club news and vote in new senior members.

#### Sebago Sailing Spring Race Series

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, April 28

Skippers meeting 11 am. First gun noon.

Sebago-certified sailors only.

Contact [sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org).

### May

#### ACA Trip Leader Certification

##### Workshop

Lake Sebago

Saturday-Sunday, May 4-5

Taught by Chris Raab. Contact Linda Peterson [surenoproblem27@yahoo.com](mailto:surenoproblem27@yahoo.com) to register.

#### InterClub Paddle

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, May 5

Contact Tony Pignatello

[picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com) for details.

#### Sebago Sailing Spring Race Series

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, May 5

Skippers meeting 11 am. First gun noon.

Sebago-certified sailors only.

Contact [sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org).

#### Bronx River Flotilla

Starlight Park, Bronx

Saturday, May 11

The Canoe Committee will provide support for this annual event. Contact Dan Olson [danolson98@aol.com](mailto:danolson98@aol.com) to volunteer. Visit [bronxriver.org/flotilla](http://bronxriver.org/flotilla) for details on the event.

#### Sebago Sailing Spring Race Series

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, May 12

Skippers meeting 11 am. First gun noon.

Sebago-certified sailors only.

Contact [sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org).

#### OPEN HOUSE

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, May 18, 10-4

Open to the public. Join us for a day of kayaking, sailing, canoeing, rowing and flatwater racing. Club members are needed to volunteer for a variety of tasks, on-water and off. Contact Commodore Walter Lewandowski [kayaker824@gmail.com](mailto:kayaker824@gmail.com) for more information.

#### Moonlight Paddle

Brooklyn clubhouse

Friday, May 24, 7:30 pm

Trip leaders, Vicki Moss and John Harris.

Contact [luseana@nyc.rr.com](mailto:luseana@nyc.rr.com) for details.

#### BOARD MEETINGS

Brooklyn clubhouse

First Tuesday of the month, 7 pm

All Sebago members are welcome.

#### OPEN PADDLES

Brooklyn clubhouse

Wednesdays 5:30-8 pm

May 29 – August 28 and

Saturdays 9-12 am

June 1 – September 1

Open to the public. Join us for a kayak trip on Jamaica Bay. Free or low cost. Space is limited. Sorry, no reservations.

#### ACA IDW/Update for Level 2

Lake Sebago

Saturday-Sunday, May 25-26

Instructor training class for all levels and update for Level 2. Taught by Chris Raab. Contact Linda Peterson [surenoproblem27@yahoo.com](mailto:surenoproblem27@yahoo.com) to register.

#### New Member Orientation

Brooklyn clubhouse

Saturday, May 25

If you are new to the club, let us tell you all we have to offer and answer any questions. BBQ and kayak lesson to follow orientation.

#### Sebago Sailing May Cruise

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, May 26, 9:30 am

Monthly cruise of the sailing committee, including a lunch stop (bring your own picnic). All Sebago-certified sailors are welcome. Contact [sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org) for more information.

#### Memorial Day Paddle

Brooklyn clubhouse

Monday, May 27

Trip leader TBA. Contact Tony Pignatello, [picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com) for information.

Brooklyn clubhouse events are at Sebago Canoe Club, 1400 Paerdegat Avenue North, Brooklyn, NY 11236.

Lake Sebago events are at the Sebago Canoe Club cabin in Harriman State Park.



## June

### Annual Jamaica Bay Blessing of the Fleet Regatta

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Saturday, June 1, 9 am

Join us for breakfast before we take out both war canoes and as many kayaks as needed and paddle to Canarsie Pier for the blessing at 11 am. Show your club spirit and join our marina neighbors for this local tradition. Contact Tony Pignatello [picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com) for more information.

### Canoe Sailing Workshop

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Saturday, June 1, 10 am

One-day workshop for canoe sailing. What is canoe sailing? How do you choose and rig a canoe? What are these boats like to sail? Attend this workshop and you'll find out! This is for individuals who are already sailing certified in dinghies. Contact [sailing@sebagocanoecub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoecub.org).

### Member Paddle

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Saturday, June 8, 1 pm

Trip leaders, Walter Lewandowski and Tony Pignatello. Contact [picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com) for information.

### Open Paddle Trip Leader Workshop

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Sunday, June 9, 9 am

Training and certification for Open Paddle trip leaders and assistants. Taught by Walter Lewandowski and Tony Pignatello. Contact [kayaker824@gmail.com](mailto:kayaker824@gmail.com) for more information and to register.

### Annual Sailing Instruction Weekend

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Saturday-Sunday, June 15-16, 9-5  
Cost, \$160. Using club boats: Sunfish/Laser. This class is full; wait list only. Contact [sailing@sebagocanoecub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoecub.org) for information.

### ACA ICE/Update for Level 3

Lake Sebago  
Saturday-Sunday, June 15-16  
Instructor training class for all levels and update for Level 3. Taught by Chris Raab. Contact Linda Peterson, [surenoproblem27@yahoo.com](mailto:surenoproblem27@yahoo.com) to register.

### Moonlight Paddle

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Friday, June 21, 7:30 pm  
Trip leaders, Vicki Moss and John Harris.  
Contact [luseana@nyc.rr.com](mailto:luseana@nyc.rr.com) for details.

### New Member Orientation

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Sunday, June 23  
If you are new to the club, let us tell you all we have to offer and answer any questions. BBQ and kayak lesson to follow orientation.

### ACA Intro to Canoeing

Lake Sebago  
Sunday, June 23  
This Level 1 canoeing class is for beginners. Taught by Chris Raab. Contact Linda Peterson [surenoproblem27@yahoo.com](mailto:surenoproblem27@yahoo.com) to register.

### Sebago Sailing June Cruise

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Saturday, June 29, 10:30 am  
Monthly cruise of the sailing committee, including a lunch stop (bring your own picnic). All Sebago-certified sailors are welcome. Contact [sailing@sebagocanoecub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoecub.org) for more information.

### ACA Level 1 Kayak Instruction

Lake Sebago  
Saturday-Sunday, June 29-30  
On Saturday, a full ACA Level 1 course will be given. On Sunday, a four-hour workshop with instructors will be given for class members. This is a beginners' course with limited enrollment. Contact Linda Peterson, [surenoproblem27@yahoo.com](mailto:surenoproblem27@yahoo.com) for information and to register.

#### SEBAGO SAILING MONTHLY CRUISES

We plan to offer a topic for each cruise (potential subjects: learning how to sail the Vanguard 15 and/or 420, intermediate and advanced sailing skills, sailing the laser, trip planning) and use our cruise and/or lunch break on the beach to focus on our topic-of-the-day, if there is interest.

## July

### Jamaica Bay Paddle

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Thursday, July 4  
Trip leader TBA. Contact [picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com) for information.

### Member Paddle

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Saturday, July 13, 1 pm  
Trip leaders, Walter Lewandowski and Tony Pignatello. Contact [picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com).

### GENERAL MEETING

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Sunday, July 14, 4 pm  
Find out what's happening and vote in new senior members. Get involved!

### Intro to Sailing

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Sunday, July 14, 10-5  
Cost, \$60. One-day class. Sign up, space is limited. Open to all club members. Contact [sailing@sebagocanoecub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoecub.org) to register.

### Moonlight Paddle

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Friday, July 19, 7:30 pm  
Trip leaders, Vicki Moss and John Harris.  
Contact [luseana@nyc.rr.com](mailto:luseana@nyc.rr.com) for details.

### City of Water Day

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Saturday, July 20, 10-4  
[cityofwaterday.org/](http://cityofwaterday.org/) Be part of the celebration brought to you by the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance.s

### Sebago Sailing July Cruise

Brooklyn clubhouse  
Sunday, July 21, 2 pm  
Monthly cruise of the sailing committee, including a lunch stop (bring your own picnic). All Sebago-certified sailors are welcome. Contact [sailing@sebagocanoecub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoecub.org) for more information.

### **Canoe Paddlemaking Workshop**

*Lake Sebago*

*Sunday, July 21*

Taught by Chris Raab. Make a completed paddle to fit you! For information and to register, contact Linda Peterson at [surenoproblem27@yahoo.com](mailto:surenoproblem27@yahoo.com).

### **Paddle Through Hell Gate to Barretto Point Park with LICCB**

*Saturday, July 27, 11 am*

Join with the Long Island City Community Boathouse. Trip leader, Nicholas Lung-Bugenski. Contact [picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com) for information.

### **Family Sail Game Day!**

*Brooklyn clubhouse*

*Sunday, July 28, 10 am*

Family fun on the water, including picnic lunch (bring your own). Kids' relay races with two to a boat: one certified sailor, one child. All minors must have an adult to sail with. Sebago-certified sailors and youth family members are encouraged to participate. Contact [sailing@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanooclub.org) for more information.

### **New Member Orientation**

*Brooklyn clubhouse*

*Sunday, July 28*

If you are new to the club, let us tell you all we have to offer and answer any questions. BBQ and kayak lesson to follow orientation.

## **August**

### **Regional Trip: Orient Point**

*Orient Point, LI*

*Friday-Sunday, August 2-4*

Overnight camping. Contact Tony Pignatello [picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com) for more information.

### **Kayak Safety and Rescue Clinic**

*Lake Sebago*

*Saturday, August 3*

For more information and to register, contact Tony Pignatello, [picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com).

### **Trip Leader Workshop**

*Lake Sebago*

*Saturday-Sunday, August 10-11*

Taught by Tom Potter. For information and to register, contact Tony Pignatello at [picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com).

### **Sebago Sailing August Cruise**

*Brooklyn clubhouse*

*Sunday, August 11, 9 am*

Monthly cruise of the sailing committee, including a snack stop (bring your own picnic). All Sebago-certified sailors are welcome. Contact [sailing@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanooclub.org) for more information.

### **ACA Level 2 Kayak Instruction**

*Lake Sebago*

*Saturday-Sunday, August 17-18*

This two-day course is open to Level 1 kayakers. Limited enrollment. Contact Linda Peterson, [surenoproblem27@yahoo.com](mailto:surenoproblem27@yahoo.com) for information and to register.

### **Moonlight Paddle**

*Brooklyn clubhouse*

*Friday, August 23, 7:30 pm*

Trip leaders, Vicki Moss and John Harris. Contact [luseana@nyc.rr.com](mailto:luseana@nyc.rr.com) for details.

### **Moonlight Paddle to Brooklyn Bridge Park with LICCB**

*Saturday, August 24, 4 pm*

Join with the Long Island City Community Boathouse. Trip leader, Nicholas Lung-Bugenski. Contact [picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com) for information.

### **Sebago Sailing Intermediate Refresher and Race Prep Workshop**

*Brooklyn clubhouse*

*Saturday, August 24, 10 am*

Skill and strategy session for sailing certified members only in preparation for the Sebago Cup/Fall race series. On-land discussion, lunch (bring your own) and an afternoon of on-the-water exercises. All sailors encouraged to attend and get a jump-start on the competition! Contact David Cripton, [dcripton@yahoo.com](mailto:dcripton@yahoo.com) for details.

### **New Member Orientation**

*Brooklyn clubhouse*

*Sunday, August 25*

If you are new to the club, let us tell you all we have to offer and answer any questions. BBQ and kayak lesson to follow orientation.

### **ACA Level 1 Kayak Instruction**

*Lake Sebago*

*Sunday, August 25*

This is a beginners' course with limited enrollment. Contact Linda Peterson, [surenoproblem27@yahoo.com](mailto:surenoproblem27@yahoo.com) for information and to register.

## **September**

### **Annual Labor Day Square Dance**

*Lake Sebago*

*Sunday, September 1*

Contact Linda Peterson, [surenoproblem27@yahoo.com](mailto:surenoproblem27@yahoo.com) for information.

### **Labor Day Paddle**

*Brooklyn clubhouse*

*Monday, September 2*

Trip leader TBD. Contact Tony Pignatello, [picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com) for information.

### **Sebago Sailing Fall Race Series, Race #1**

*Brooklyn clubhouse*

*Sunday, September 8*

*First gun 12:30 pm*

All Sebago-certified sailors encouraged to participate. Open to non-members. Contact [sailing@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanooclub.org) for information

### **Sebago Sailing Sebago Cup Race**

*Brooklyn clubhouse*

*Saturday, September 14*

*Race start 1 pm*

Annual cruise-style race. One-design classes (Sunfish, Laser) and open-class mixed fleet. Skipper meeting noon, ready to launch. Potluck supper party and annual Sailing Committee meeting to follow. All Sebago-certified sailors encouraged to participate. Open to non-members. Contact [sailing@sebagocanooclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanooclub.org) for information.

### Navigation Class

Lake Sebago

Saturday-Sunday, September 14-15

Taught by Chris Raab. For information and to register, contact Linda Peterson at [surenoproblem27@yahoo.com](mailto:surenoproblem27@yahoo.com).

### InterClub Paddle

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, September 15

Contact Tony Pignatello [picksix929@aol.com](mailto:picksix929@aol.com) for details.

### Moonlight Paddle

Brooklyn clubhouse

Friday, September 20, 6:00 pm

Trip leaders, Vicki Moss and John Harris. Contact [luseana@nyc.rr.com](mailto:luseana@nyc.rr.com) for details.

### ANNUAL MEETING

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, September 22, 2 pm

Voting for board members, officers and constitutional amendments, as well as senior membership for those who have been members for one year and have had their names published in the Blade. Contact Beth Bloedow [bethbloedow@netzero.com](mailto:bethbloedow@netzero.com) to have your name published. Potluck; bring food and drinks to share.

### Greenland Paddlemaking Workshop

Lake Sebago

Saturday, September 28

Taught by Chris Raab. Make a completed paddle to fit you! For information and to register, contact Linda Peterson at [surenoproblem27@yahoo.com](mailto:surenoproblem27@yahoo.com).

## October

### Atlantic Division Annual Meeting

Lake Sebago

Sunday, October 6, noon

Elections for Atlantic Division board of directors. Contact chair Jerry Dunne [jerry.dunne@dunnelaw.net](mailto:jerry.dunne@dunnelaw.net) for details.

### Sebago Sailing Fall Race Series, Race #2

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, October 6

First gun 12:30 pm

All Sebago-certified sailors encouraged to participate. Open to non-members. Contact [sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org) for information

### Sebago Sailing Fall Race Series, Race #3

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, October 13

First gun 12:30 pm

All Sebago-certified sailors encouraged to participate. Open to non-members. Contact [sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org) for information

### Sebago Sailing Fall Race Series, Race #4

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, October 20

First gun 12:30 pm

All Sebago-certified sailors encouraged to participate. Open to non-members. Contact [sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org) for information

### Sebago Sailing Fall Race Series, Race #5

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sunday, October 27

First gun 12:30 pm

All Sebago-certified sailors encouraged to participate. Open to non-members. Contact [sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org) for information

### SEBAGO SAILING FALL RACE SERIES

Brooklyn clubhouse

Sundays, September 8 and October 6, 13, 20 and 27

Fall race series for Sunfish and Lasers. Skippers' meeting 11:30 am; first gun at 12:30 pm All Sebago-certified sailors are encouraged to participate. NOR and SI Experienced sailors from the area interested in the series should visit [www.sebagocanoeclub.org/sailing.html](http://www.sebagocanoeclub.org/sailing.html) Contact [sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org) for more information.

All events are subject to change without notice. Check with contact person listed to confirm all events.

Sailors should contact Sebago Sailing Committee chairs Holly Sears or Jim Luton to schedule time for certification to use the club (see sailing page of [www.SebagoCanoeClub.org/sailing.html](http://www.SebagoCanoeClub.org/sailing.html) for requirements). Contact the chairs at [sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org](mailto:sailing@sebagocanoeclub.org) or 917.587.0117.

Sea Kayakers should contact Sea Kayak Committee chair Tony Pignatello to schedule time for certification to use the club kayaks (see sea kayaking page of [www.SebagoCanoeClub.org](http://www.SebagoCanoeClub.org) for requirements). Contact [kayaking@sebagocanoeclub.org](mailto:kayaking@sebagocanoeclub.org) for information.

Racers should contact Racing Committee chair Michael Boxer to schedule time for certification to use the club racing boats. Contact 917.670.0336 or [racing@sebagocanoeclub.org](mailto:racing@sebagocanoeclub.org).

\* Events with this symbol are not sponsored and/or endorsed by Sebago Canoe Club. This information is provided for those who may be interested. Please check with the organization sponsoring the event to confirm all dates, times and details.