

2009 ECORA Annual Meeting
January 24, 2009

Attendance:

Debbie Hall - President and Chief

Anne Gassett - Vice president (Bill)

Tristan Stewart - Secretary

Member Clubs Represented: (to be confirmed)

1. Kent Island
2. Washington Canoe Club
3. National Capital Paddlers Association
4. Mid Atlantic Paddlers Association
5. Manu'iwa
6. Sandbridge
7. New York
8. Nantucket
9. Philadelphia
10. Ithaca Canoe club?

Meeting began at 10:00

- Introductions by Debbie
- 2008 Minutes read by Tristan
- Treasury Report handed out, Jan not in attendance to present. No questions, however, extended mahalo for teams that paid for year
- Reviewed last year's elections and decisions regarding officers. Treasurer position to be held w/no time limit.
- Awards
 - OC6 Tristan
 - OC1/2 Jim Hall

Standup in 2009 (SUP) presented by Anne Gassett

- Bill will be bringing in different boards, Joe Bark
- Bill / Anne honor SUP paddlers of the year
 - Bill Graf
 - Neil Mckendoe
 - Lang King
- This year, 2009
 - Will be three classes:

- Surf class under 12'6"
 - Stock class 12'6" to 14'
 - Unlimited class 14'+
- Neil to give overview of 2009
 - Sport is growing, boards being purchased by many
 - Incorporate with the paddle
 - Bring it into outrigger
 - Start out with doing separate races and afterwards fun races or call it a challenge

Discussions about SUP crossover:

- Debbie asks about the crossover, how we incorporate into outrigger
- Drew from POCC asks about distance 5-7 or 8-11?
- How about running it all together?
- After outrigger race put on a two mile switch race
- Debbie offers up Sunday after KI race to have SUP paddling races
- Or after WCC race April 19
- Will be up to race directors about how to handle each race
- Ed Acker from NYO then asks what about others like surf-skis
- Discussions ensue about surf skis and their contribution to outrigger, no real promise to our sport
- Race directors to determine the allowance of alternative paddlers Kayaks, surf skis, lay down and SUP
- Debbie offers up general races twice a month on Wednesday evenings during the season at KIYC

Changing the subject, Brook from Nantucket asks, how do other clubs attract young people into the sport?

- Debbie and Neil explain how they went about setting a children's camp at KI
 - No advertisement, all word of mouth
 - Week long - a little too long
 - Next year will be a Wednesday through Friday with a BBQ on Friday
 - Made it fun
 - Added some cultural learning
 - Tattoos

- Hula
 - Gave out Hawaiian names
 - It was very hot, canoes chased SUP with squirt guns
 - Ages 7-14
- WCC offers up how their program works
 - 5 week program
 - break it with crafts or games
 - paddle over to Roosevelt Island to play capture the flag
 - Kids and parents train and play together
- Drew asks, how much does this stuff cost?
 - Debbie replies, at KI it was \$50 a week with tee-shirts and food, but will increase in 2009
- Craft ideas included taking pictures making frames, which were then presented to kids at camp end, they liked it
- Nantucket offers up suggestions based upon past experience, 4 to 5 week program
- Twice a week, paddling including huli drills and ama rides
- Get parents involved
- Drew asks about waivers and insurance
 - Life vests
 - Get ACA waivers
 - KI got paddles cheap off Ebay
- Again somebody mentions get parents involved
- Snacks and drinks
- Mud football (WCC)
- Brook then asks what about college kids?
- Peter from Ithaca is trying while also bringing in the cultural part
- Using videos from Ocean Paddler TV
- Terry Wilton volunteers to contact Naval Academy to see if they will be interested in a recreational team
- Debbie offers up some advice, no matter what you have to make it easy!!!

Now a word from Chris O'Keefe, with a perspective from California on the difference between Cali and East Coast

- No arguing here
- East coast more laid back
- SUP will bring more people into sport
- They are separating SCORA into a north and south, should we?

- Smaller more frequent races and less travel
- The commitment is tough and this is why OC1 and SUP will grow
- OC1 and SUP will or can be a launching point to OC6
- Make everyone feel welcome whether you do 3 miles or 35 miles
- Novice paddlers need to be nurtured to transition to experienced paddler
 - Debbie replies
 - Club growth is key but can be a two-edged sword
 - Be careful when pushing people into long distance boats - can drive them away, when not ready
 - KI has a core group that has been with the club for 8-10 years
 - Need to grow clubs
 - Need shorter more frequent races
 - Philly did a good job with sprints but sprints don't seem to work
 - For east coast, people questioned travel time vs. boat time
 - Drew replies it was tough to get boats
 - Did the corporate thing
 - Spent two months training everyone and setting up race.
Corporate challenges sound good but are time consuming
 - Anne mentions that she has been contacted by people in North and South Carolinas looking for boats, Sandbridge only has one and they are expensive
 - Debbie suggests smaller races for the average paddler while the hard core can go long
 - Question is asked how do we get more boats???
 - Chris comments that California has many more boats and somebody maybe able to pick up a Malia cheap, probably around \$3,000 plus shipping
 - Still it's hard to get a boat from the west coast, too many teams need boats
 - If you are interested begin contacting big clubs and it may take a year or so (Dana Point or Marina Del Ray, Chris O'Keefe would assist)
 - Suggestion to talk to dealers on west coast (Vancouver) about used boats
 - Bradley rep can find used boats
 - Another suggestion, fund raising
 - Ask your company to match (perhaps in better times)

- A group on the team may all pitch in money and get paid back over time
- Drew suggests a Halloween party or other theme or raffle off prizes
- Offer team building excursions, a good way to make money but takes time
- Maybe try to sell raffle tickets on ECORA website

Lunch break!

Vendors

- Chris O'Keefe Ocean Ohana, offers up OC1s and Paddles
<http://web.mac.com/chrisok/iWeb/Ocean%20Ohana/Welcome.html>
- Chesapeake Light Craft, John Harris offers a build your own SUP and plans for a OC1 <http://www.clcboats.com/>
- Jim Hall suggests good entry level boat for the handy man and could generate it's own class, a one design class that for \$1000 you can get a canoe

Races

- First introduction of a new race put on by Nantucket Outrigger.
 - Race to be from Hyannis port to Nantucket Island
 - A 30 mile open ocean change race could be first ECORA sponsored ocean race. \$250 a paddler gets two meals and pays for transportation back to mainland. Does not cover escort boat.
 - Will secure block of rooms
 - Need registration and fees by June 1

Discussion about point series by Debbie

- There was some discussion about the race season not fair to teams in the north
- Participation is still key, but does the series championship promote it anymore, who really cares
- Should we do an OC6 championship?
- If so must be all official members of team, no dial a team
- Suggestion to make separate point series both north and south, via separate divisions
- Debbie suggests that teams in the north become more active and sponsor races

- Another idea to divide total number of points by races
- or just take top three races.
- More discussion
- When the races were examined it was determined that it was not broken and perhaps we just try to keep it balanced by the point series designations.
 - Motion to keep race series as is
 - Matt offers no championship race
 - Seconded by Jim Hall
 - Wye island not a point series race this year
 - Lighthouse to lighthouse added to PS - north south now even

Ed Acker (NYO) on challenges and thoughts for Liberty

- Getting canoes to the race, what about a transport that would bring boats from all over the east coast
- Expensive!
- Would ECORA consider helping out with financial contributions to getting canoes to the race
- Ray Fussco (sp) will be hired to look into promoting the race and taking it to the next level

Suggestion was made to set up a board of POCs from each club for a year round contact:

- Matt motions
- 2nd Jim Hall
- contact with email list

Election for vice president

- Motion (Ed) to make Joann Carlos vice president
- Elected

****End of meeting!****

2009 ECORA Race Schedule:

North OC6

South OC6

North OC1/2

South OC1/2

April:

- 18 -WCC 15k challenge OC1 (PS)
- 19 -SUP @ KIOCC to be announced
- 25 -MAPA Lynnhaven all paddle (NPS)

May:

- 9-10 KIOCC Steering clinic with Nick Beck
- 16 MAPA Buckroe Beach 8 miles OC1, OC2, SUP (PS)
- 30 -MAPA Lafayette River all paddle 7 miles (NPS)

June:

- 6 -KIOCC 6-8 miles OC1, OC2, SUP (PS)
- 20 -NCA Monumental 12 and 6-8 (mxd) (PS)
- 27 -NYO Liberty OC6 (PS)

July:

- 4 -Toronto 12 miles OC6 (PS)
- 5 - Toronto OC1 (NPS)
- 18 -Boston Blackburn 22 miles OC6 (PS)

August:

- 1 -MAPA Paddle for the Bay OC6 (PS) OC1/OC2 (NPS)
- 8 -Manu'iwa Milford Championships OC1 (PS)
- 15 -Sandbridge Ocean Race OC6 (PS)
- 22 -MAPA Seaford OC1 (PS)*** May change to August 16

September:

- 5-6 KIOCC KI CUP OC6 (PS)
- 12 -Nantucket 9 person Ocean change race (NPS)
- 19 -Lighthouse to Lighthouse (OC6) (PS)