



## Overview for Racers 2008

### Safety Plan

This safety plan is a comprehensive look at the overall logistics of Mayor's Cup race. Safety is of utmost importance. Safety depends on the seamanship and good judgment of each participant.

**There will be a mandatory safety meeting before the race at 09:30am at the stage in front of the volleyball court.**

**Safety Officer** – Greg Porteus – cell 914-490-2753

The designated safety officer's sole responsibility will be to monitor communications of all safety boats, make important safety/rescue decisions and stay in constant communications with local Coast Guard and other authorities.

**All paddlers are advised to have a cell phone or VHF radio on board to reach the safety officer in case of an emergency. VHF channels for race day will be 71 primary/ 73 secondary.**

### Other safety components involved:

- Volunteer EMT's
- 7 water rescue boats

### Key points for all racers to understand:

- All paddlers must obey the rules of the road and be aware of and avoid commercial boat traffic.
- All paddlers must finish the race in 6 hours or will be removed from the water.
- Any paddler in distress should wave their arms over their head for rescue assistance.
- The rescue team has been instructed to allow paddlers to first attempt a self rescue in order to finish the race.
- The rescue team has the authority to pull racers off the course for safety reasons.
- The rescue team has the authority to pull racers off the course or disqualify racers due to unsafe maritime conduct.
- It is the responsibility of each racer to determine for themselves\* if they have the skills and conditioning required to compete on this course and in this race.
- You should take this responsibility seriously. Do not place yourself and others at risk by entering this race if it is beyond your level of skill or conditioning.

- Seamanship and good judgment suggest that each participant be confident with self rescue techniques and a strong understanding of paddling in waters with heavy commercial traffic, strong currents and potentially difficult and changing sea state conditions.

### **Sportsmanship:**

As with all other kayak races and kayak events the rule of sportsmanship is that you always stop to help fellow paddlers if distressed or injured.

Sportsmanlike conduct will in every instance prevail. Sportsmanlike conduct precludes any attempt to block an overtaking boat. Sportsmanship also requires that competitors find within themselves the mettle to complete the course.

### **Participants and their equipment:**

Seamanship and good judgment demand that each participant carry or wear a USCG-approved PFD, as well as a whistle or horn.

No one lacking the above equipment will be allowed to participate.

Each participant is strongly encouraged to carry a bilge pump, chart, water, and energy drinks/energy gel packs.

Participants are strongly encouraged to carry a cell phone and/or VHF radio. VHF channels for race day will be 71 primary/ 73 secondary.

### **Drop off & Parking – Battery Park & North Cove Marina**

Boat unloading and loading happens at the “Drop Off ” section on Liberty Street at the entrance to the park. Google Map link below:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=Liberty+St,+New+York,+New+York,+New+York,+United+States&ie=UTF8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-a&hl=en&cd=1&geocode=0,40.709700,-74.011670&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=32.610437,59.0625&ll=40.711752,-74.016008&spn=0.001903,0.003605&z=18&om=1>

A group of volunteer paddlers who are not racing will help unload and portage your boat across the park (75 yards) to the staging area. You can then park your car in the parking lot 20 feet away.

### **Registration**

Registration is located at the Main tent on the South side of the park area in the big 60 foot tent. You will receive your race number, T-shirt and must sign waiver.

**No boat changes will be accepted on race day. Make certain boat color and descriptions are accurate. This is for your safety. You will be given 2 race numbers please put them on both sides of your the BOW.**

**You will also be given a Champion Chip GPS tracker this is for safety and spectatorship. Please tape this securely to the deck of your boat between the race numbers.**

**Time Line – North Cove Marina (see Map for details)**

**Saturday October 18, 2008**

6:00pm to 8:00pm – Early Kayak drop off (We have security overnight)

## **Sunday October 19, 2008**

06:00am to 07:00am – Load in

07:00am to 09:00am – Registration/Breakfast/Prep

09:00am to 09:20am – Mayor's Proclamation

09:20am to 09:30am – National Anthem – FDNY Firefighter Regina Wilson

09:30am to 10:00am – Safety briefing

10:00am to 10:15am – Timing Team briefing/Champion Chip GPS briefing

10:15am to 10:30am - Last Minute Prep

10:30am – launch challenged athletes division

10:45am – launch touring class 1

11:00am – launch touring class 2

11:15am – launch OC1's & 2's

11:30am – launch touring tandems class

11:45am – launch fast touring class

12:00pm – launch Elite Open class

12:30pm to 2:30pm – Music – Ukulele Cabaret

2:30pm to 4:30pm – Music – Cold Flavor Repair

2:30pm to 5:00pm – Lunch

4:30pm – Awards, Raffle

### **The Course**

Race start and finish will be inside North Cove Marina.

The race will travel north on the Hudson River to the Harlem River down the East river around the battery finishing at the North Cove marina.

On the Hudson participants need to stay at least 50 yards away from the end of the piers but no further than 75 yards as to avoid being in the shipping channel.

In Spuyten Duyvil Creek participants need to stay 15 yards from Manhattan coastline.

Into the Harlem River participants need to stay 15 yards from the western coastline of Manhattan.

### **MID WAY CHECK POINT**

**At approximately mile 13 and approximately 1 mile along the Harlem River is The Peter Jay Sharp boathouse. The boathouse is located on your RIGHT. This location may be used in case of emergency.**

• **Hell's Gate** – is located approximately 5 miles from mid way check point and at the Northern tip of Roosevelt Island.

At the end of Roosevelt Island participants will need to paddle due south and cross the shipping channel to reach the coastline of Manhattan staying 25 yards from the ends of the piers.

Continuing around the bottom of Manhattan past South Street Seaport being very mindful of commercial boat traffic such as the Staten Island Ferry.

Then paddling around the Battery and up the Hudson to North Cove Marina.

### Key hot spots on the course:

- **Passenger Ferry Terminal** – This terminal is just north of the start at North Cove Marina. Racers must be aware that immediately after they exit the marina they must go around this terminal. It is an area of very high commercial boat traffic.
- **Pier 68** – NY Waterway ferry dock and all piers north to the City Sanitation pier – area for very high commercial boat traffic and must stay at least 50 yards away from this designated security zone.
- **Spuyten Duyval rotary bridge** – Watch for boat traffic coming out of the Harlem and onto the Hudson.
- **Hell's Gate** – is located approximately 5 miles from mid way check point. You will pass under the blue bridge attached to Ward's Island look for CG Aux boats and find the safest route possible. The water here can be very choppy and confused. There is a small passage around the chop and confused water up against the break wall stay RIVER RIGHT or far left closer to Roosevelt Island RIVER LEFT. Be mindful of the channel and boat traffic.
- **South Street Seaport** – busy commercial traffic
- **Staten Island Ferry Terminal** – busy commercial traffic
- **Around the Battery and last leg** – look out for fishing lines, busy commercial traffic

### Key Points along the way:

1. **There will be 1 lead boat** to alert oncoming traffic of the race and to monitor the lead racers.
2. **NY Waterways terminal/Cruise ship terminal** – Pier 79 and above – NYC Parks Boat will patrol this area to ensure racers make a clean pass of the terminal.
3. **Hudson and Harlem River intersection** - There will be a Westchester County Marine unit stationed on the Hudson outside the Train Bridge at the mouth of the Harlem River monitoring the progress of the racers and boat traffic.
4. **Columbia Boat launch** – first designated pull out opportunity for distressed or injured racers
5. **Swindlers Cove/Peter Jay Sharp boathouse** – This boathouse is located at approximately mile 13 and approximately 1 mile along the Harlem River. The boathouse is located on your RIGHT. This location may be used in case of emergency.
6. **Northern Roosevelt Island (Hell Gate)** – safety boats will monitor progress along with a CG Boat to control traffic.
7. **East 23rd street marina** – Safety boat hotspot for distressed paddlers. If paddlers are not going to make the 6 hour window they will be pulled out here. This info will be relayed from the safety boat.
8. **South Street Sea Port** – safety boat will patrol area for distressed paddlers.
9. **Battery/Hudson River** – monitoring the final progress of the paddlers.
10. **Sweep Boat** – There will be a designated sweep boat monitoring the progress of the slower racers.

Email Ray at [ray@nymayorscup.com](mailto:ray@nymayorscup.com) for any other details.