

# \*\*\*For What It's Worth\*\*\*

Janice Nelson, Editor



May 13, 2016

## Editor's Comment

As I type my comments today, the weather has taken a turn for the better! Hope all you ALLGO ladies had a great time on the golf course yesterday. Wishing you many, many nice Thursdays for future tee-offs. The Kentucky Derby (Alpine's version) was held last Saturday to much fanfare and success. All in attendance, including myself, had much fun! Although, I didn't do as well as I did last year! That time of year is upon us...boating season! For those of us who have difficulty getting in and out of a kayak or canoe (which I definitely do), have no fear, help is near! Soon to be installed, thanks to Jim Rocchi, the YAK-A-LAUNCHER is just for you! Be sure to read more about the LAUNCHER in this issue, as well as directions and safety issues posted on the last two pages of this FWIW. I would be remiss if I didn't mention a big THANK YOU to the PO Committee for funding this valuable piece of lake/boating equipment. Again, there are many activities being planned in the coming weeks/months. Be certain to read all about them in this issue. A handy-dandy dates to remember is listed for your convenience, so mark your calendars! Also, remember that Community Pride day has been cancelled for Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Keep your eyes and ears open for a date yet to be determined. Until next time!

**The next FWIW will be issued on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Please email all articles to me, Janice Nelson, at [mamaj11@yahoo.com](mailto:mamaj11@yahoo.com), or use the FWIW box on the lobby counter. Please keep your article brief so we can fit all the news in each issue. Thanks for your cooperation and participation. Enjoy!**

## TIMELY NOTICES AND REMINDERS

### **NEXT EGG DELIVERIES** by Sheila Amato

James Stemple will deliver eggs to the Lodge at Alpine Lake every other Wednesday around 11:15am. Upcoming delivery dates are May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>. He will continue this schedule until the Farmer's Market opens up in Terra Alta; typically that happens towards the end of June. Anticipate his future deliveries of flowers to plant... he always has a wonderful selection and his prices are very reasonable. Be on the lookout for an email message on the Friday before his delivery date to place your order. If you would like to be added to this list (or removed from it), please let me know.

Jennie Kahly from Possum Tail Farms comes to the Lodge on alternate Wednesdays around 11am to sell her organic eggs and organically raised meat. You can place orders and pay her directly via her messages on the Friends of Alpine Lake Facebook page or directly online at <http://www.possumtailfarm.com/>

## **HAPPENINGS AROUND THE LAKE & NEARBY...**

### **YAK-A-LAUNCHER** by *Jim Rocchi*

The PO Committee has purchased a YAK-A-LAUNCHER (a device for launching and retrieving a kayak or canoe) for use by property owners and their guests. Once the dock is put back into the water for the season, it will be attached to the dock. There is one important safety rule for launching your boat...**IT MUST HAVE A BOW-LINE!** If you intend to use the LAUNCHER, please install a bow-line to your vessel and read the instructions and safety warnings posted on the last pages of this publication. Also, you can view videos on how to use the LAUNCHER on their website ([www.getkayactive.com](http://www.getkayactive.com)).

### **CRANBERRY GARDEN CLUB, AN INVITATION** by *Sharon Golmitz*

Those April Showers did their job and now the May flowers are here for us to enjoy. The members of the Cranberry Garden Club invite you to join them as a member or guest for their 2016 program. Monthly meetings are held between April and November.

Helen Wylie, a long term Alpine Lake resident, will present a program on wildflowers at 1pm on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> in the Rhododendron Room at the Lodge. Helen is an expert on our local wildflowers and will share her knowledge, expertise and locations of these Preston County treasures (BUT only if you promise not to pick them).

On Thursday, July 21st, we are planning our annual fund raising bus trip to the Flight 93 Memorial and Bedford Village in Pennsylvania. Additional details will be published later. In August, we are planning a program to imprint nature designs on fabric. This fall we will have programs here at Alpine with resident Ron Stemple sharing his expertise on Preston County maple syrup production. In October, Garrett County resident Shelly Stoner Uphole will provide a program on the desire to ensure that the eagles often seen flying over Alpine will be able to nest here and propagate. For information, please call Sharon Golmitz at (304) 789-6575.

### **POOL DATA** by *Tom Kinsey*

Recently, on the Community Chat, I posted a reminder to sign in when using the pool. I received a series of responses regarding alternative methods (some automatic) to gather data on pool usage. In the future, we may have some more elegant way to gather data on pool usage. In the meantime...what we have are the sign-in sheets. The Board will be conducting a full review of all things related to the pool. That review is set for ten months following the opening of the pool. At that time, I am sure there will be a variety of things for the Board to consider related to pool usage and expenses. In order to make the best possible decisions, the Board will need data. Usage data is very important. So, please if/when you go to the pool (and you should be because it is wonderful), please sign-in providing all of the requested information. Thank you for helping with this data gathering effort.

### **JULIET'S LUNCHEON** by *Trish Birch*

Our next Juliet's luncheon will take place at the Olive Garden on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, time to be determined.

### **THE GARRETT CHORAL SOCIETY** by *Denise Kerr*

The Garrett Choral Society will be presenting a concert called "Simple Gifts" on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Oakland, MD. The music will consist of American Folk songs along with many by Aaron Copland. It will be a very entertaining concert. Denise Kerr has tickets (\$12 each) if you are interested in buying them early.

### **LADIES' SPRING LUNCHEON** by Sue Aamodt

What annual event brings together a few dozen ladies (this year 43) in one spot for a great afternoon of friendship, fun and good food? It's the annual Ladies Spring Luncheon which was held on 5<sup>th</sup> May at SEASONS Restaurant. The event couldn't have been successful without the volunteerism of Charlotte Wiles and Sally Rocchi who put the event together. These gals were aided by Kathy Andes, Jean Edens and Bev Serpone. On behalf of all who attended, thank you ladies for a terrific afternoon. And, of course, one would be remiss if the great job that the SEASONS Restaurant did was not mentioned. The tables were beautifully decorated with spring flower centerpieces, the food was delicious and the entire SEASONS staff did everything possible to please all who attended. Thank you!

### **KUDOS TO SEASONS RESTAURANT** by Sue Aamodt

On 5<sup>th</sup> May, SEASONS Restaurant had two events—a luncheon at noon (see above) followed by their first Cinco de Mayo evening featuring live music and Mexican food specials. As soon as the first event was over, the staff had to tear down the buffet tables, clear the dining tables, rearrange them, and assemble the dance floor for the evening event. As this was happening, back in the kitchen, dishes had to be washed and food prepped for the evening. I had the opportunity to attend both events and can truthfully say that I was quite impressed. The food for each was fantastic, the service was excellent, and the music in the evening was great. Thank you SEASONS for a wonderful day!

### **ALPINE LEARNING PROGRAM** by Norleen Hoadley

The Alpine Learning Program (ALP) committee will have its first 2016 organizational and planning meeting on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the Rhododendron Room at the Lodge. For those new to Alpine Lake, ALP hosts a series of programs ranging from expert talks to field trips and hands-on lessons. We average two programs per month from June to September. You are invited to join us on the 25<sup>th</sup> if you have a program/skill/talent/destination in mind that you would like to share with our community. Our marketing coordinator will be in attendance as well. Continuing education is seen as a “plus” when offered in communities such as ours.

### **BIG BUCKS BINGO** by Kathleen Berry, Sec. of East Preston Lions Club

Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> - \$30/person. Doors open at 3pm. Early Bird Bingo starts 4pm. Held at the Terra Alta Ambulance building. Proceeds will benefit the East Preston Lions Club Sight Fund. This fund is to provide eye exams and eye glasses for the visually impaired adults and children in the Terra Alta area

### **OF INTEREST TO OUR COMMUNITY**

#### **BLOOD DRIVE**

The next blood mobile is set for May 26<sup>th</sup>. It's Noon to 5:30pm at the Ambulance Hall.

#### **U.S. FOUR BALL CHAMPIONSHIP** by Dorothea Creamer

Nick Barrett, former Junior and Men's Club Champion at Alpine, will play for a national title at Winged Foot in N.Y. This is the US Four Ball Championship. Nick's partner is Conner Flauk. Competition starts May 21<sup>st</sup> with the finals televised the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> on FOX Sports. Go Nick!

#### **TERRA ALTA FOOD BANK**

There is an ongoing need to replenish supplies at our local food bank so please add your donations whenever you can to help this worthy cause. There is a box inside the front foyer of the Lodge for your convenience. Please continue to be generous in your giving.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ECC** by *Dick Gallagher*

We have received a few calls from property owners asking if we could recommend a contractor. The simple answer is, "No." We can provide a list of licensed contractors who work in Alpine regularly and can answer questions as to their current projects. We can answer questions directly about contractors who have worked for us as individuals, but we cannot provide a committee recommendation for obvious reasons.

On the website, under ECC forms, there is a Contractor Evaluation. We encourage all property owners who have had work done to fill one out and return it to us. We keep them on file in our office. Any property owner can review them. We realize that some property owners may have difficulty climbing the stairs to our office, so if you want to review what is on file, let us know and we will bring them to a suitable location on the first floor.

### **ALPUC NEWS** by *Kim Mayne, General Manager*

Although it's been a very wet spring thus far, ALPUC will continue with its spring annual fire hydrant flushing throughout Alpine. Also, when we get a break from the rain, we plan to make enhancements to the system by installing a few new valves.

We are gearing up for the annual meeting to be held on June 25th at the Lodge. The ALPUC meeting will begin at 9am and we hope to see many of you there. As previously announced, one board member seat expires this year. The deadline for ALPUC members to submit their name to the nomination committee to run for the position was April 15<sup>th</sup>. Kay Bayer is the only candidate who chose to run for her own expiring term. As a result, absentee ballots were not mailed with the April billing.

In addition, as section 4.3 of the ALPUC by-laws reads "Any person not nominated by the nominating committee may file a nomination petition with the secretary of the board of directors to be considered as a candidate for a seat on the board of directors; provided that such nominating petition is delivered to the Corporation's principal office at least six (6) days before the meeting at which the directors will be elected. The members shall then select from the pool of candidates the new directors of the Corporation." if no member submits a nominating petition by 3pm, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Kay Bayer will be automatically re-appointed for a term of three years.

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** by *Charlotte Wiles*

Reminder: Please check the Alpine Lake Telephone book for the accuracy of your address, phone number, email, etc. All additions, corrections and deletions must be submitted to Nina Sheets or me by the first week in June. We will be updating and printing a new Alpine Lake telephone directory for 2016/2017 and it will be distributed at the annual June board meeting.

## **PROPERTY OWNER'S COMMITTEE** by *Bernie and Birgit Stock*

Despite Mother's Day, Cheat Fest and other schedule conflicts, the annual Kentucky Derby Party/Fundraiser did take place at the Boathouse last Saturday. Approximately fifty PO's and their guests enjoyed a fun afternoon of eating, drinking and wagering. As usual, the prepared food was great and we did have several carry-outs as well as late arrivals. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success by volunteering their time. After expenses of \$521, our proceeds were \$1100. Winnings totaled more than \$900. Thanks to those who donated money back and who sent a donation to the POC in their absence. Gift certificates were provided by SEASONS Restaurant and ALPOA for the winners of our Derby Fashion Show. They were Jay Beigel (men's hat), Barb Herndon (women's hat), John Golmitz (best dressed male), Birgit Stock (best dressed female) and Dottie & Skip Creamer (best dressed couple).

The next CARRY-IN PICNIC is Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 5pm at the Boathouse. Bring the usual, especially your happy face. Questions? Call the Stocks (789-2443).

Our Annual MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC will take place at the Boathouse on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, starting at 1pm (rain or shine). The POC will supply hotdogs/buns with other libations offered at a very reasonable price. Please bring a dish to share (salad, covered dish or dessert) and set-up. Bring your boat, kayak, tennis racket, fishing gear, etc. and make a great day of it. We'll have some games and music/karaoke for you as well. We'll start with a small service to HONOR OUR FALLEN HEROS OF WAR. Please join us.

## **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE** by *Boris Nazaroff*

### 2016 Board of Directors Positions

The following members of the ALPOA in good standing have officially announced their candidacy for the ALPOA board:

**Pat Arnone    Xaver Gramkow    Craig Stevens    Ginger Tucker**

We thank them for their willingness to serve and wish them well. Their biographies are provided in the Newsletter and in the Community Chat.

They will be elected at the ALPOA annual meeting on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10am in the Lodge. Members of the association in good standing who wish to vote by Absentee Ballot must request a ballot starting on May 1st by mail, email, or telephone from the Business Manager, Ms. Tammy Heavner, Alpine Lake Property Owners Association, Inc., 700 West Alpine Drive, Terra Alta, WV 26764, email [tammyheavner@alpinelake.com](mailto:tammyheavner@alpinelake.com), or telephone (304) 789-2481 ext. 151. The ballot must be returned by U.S. Mail/FEDEX/UPS to Tammy Heavner at the above address so that the committee receives it no later than 5pm, Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Instructions on how to submit the ballot are included in the ballot.

Property owners may query board candidates prior to "Meet the Candidates Night" using Community Chat from June 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. You are reminded that candidates are one of seven board members and may not have all the answers or be familiar with past actions therefore a lack of response should not be considered as an effort to evade a question as candidates have varied backgrounds and history with Alpine Lake.

This venue should not be considered a debate with endless back and forth. A property owner may ask the candidates a question and if the answer is not clear they can then submit a clarifying question. We remind all that we are neighbors and friends and wish all discourse to be respectful and courteous.



## FROM MANAGEMENT & STAFF

### Linette Sines – Interim General Manager

I thank everyone for the patience in the recent assessment billing delay. I want to reiterate to everyone that the bills show a due date of May 16<sup>th</sup>; however, as long as payments are posted prior to June 1st, no additional charges will be incurred.

Due to the wet forecast, Community Pride Day has been cancelled. Thanks to all who had signed up to help. I will post an alternative date as soon as one has been determined.

The new Alpine Lake Resort brochures have arrived and nearly all of them have been sent to various distributors, so this summer many potential guests will be exposed to our resort. A shipment of new gift merchandise arrived in the Gift Shop and we are expecting some T-Shirts and mugs to arrive early next week.

You will notice a new large wall clock in the pool area which was generously donated by Tom Kinsey. Thanks, Tom! There are also several pool noodles and other toys donated by Tony and Sheila Amato. Thanks, Tony & Sheila! George and Lori Thomas have purchased a new child's swing for the playground area which will be installed by the weekend. Thanks, George and Lori!

We welcome Jamie Richardson to our community! Jamie is the new owner of 128 Primrose Lane and is a full time resident here at Alpine. And, finally, Vern and Misty Starcher welcomed their baby boy, Clayton. into the world yesterday evening! He weighed in at 4lbs 15 oz.

## ALPOA BOARD NEWS

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT – by *Ginger Tucker, President*

Someday the rain will stop and we will be out on the lake and golf course enjoying the beauty that surrounds us. But until then take this time to plan your summer activities or just plunge into the pool! While the rain is interfering with fun activity it has also caused us to postpone Community Pride Day which was originally scheduled for Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be looking at June dates so that both Mother Nature and all homeowners can spring into action.

We are still negotiating for the cell tower and hope to make some progress soon. They say anything worth having is worth waiting for so we are holding on.

Again, we remind everyone about Prodigy's broadband offer. The Preston Journal recently carried an article about Prodigy completing fiber cable through Kingwood and preparing to carry it through Terra Alta. We still need to have 250 homes interested to be a spur off Route 7. Please notify Linette Sines if you are interested. Once we have interest from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the 250 homes, we will invite Tim Wotring to visit Alpine to promote his program.

Everyone may have noticed the rhododendrons are gone from the front of the Lodge. The Beautification Committee has a landscape plan for the area on both sides of the Lodge doors. Removing the large plants enables us to repair a drainage problem that has existed for several years in the Allegheny Room. Chester and his crew will attempt to transplant the rhododendrons once they determine a good location.

Wilma Rumble volunteered to plan the Alpine Lake 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration this year and we are sure she will be looking for volunteers to assist in making this a special day at the lake. Please let Wilma know if you can help in any way.

## FREE CLASSIFIED ADS – “A Service for our Community”

*Editor’s Note: Ads will run in 4 issues, and then be deleted, unless new ones are resubmitted. This will be accomplished by inserting the date the ad was first run, with new ads at the top of the listing.*

*Remember to notify me if your item is no longer available, too. Thank you.*

**For Sale:** “Leather like” beige rocker recliner. Very good condition! \$50. Call 304-789-6062. (5/13)

**For Sale:** Love Seats: 2 dual reclining seat units in classic burgundy leather/vinyl. Originally sold for over \$600. One in perfect shape \$200, one with minor damage \$100. Call 304-730-2989 (5/13)

**For Sale:** Pine Furniture settee - Four cushions blue plaid. \$50.00 – Call 304-789-6600 (5/13)

**For Sale:** Craftsman 16-inch Variable Speed Table Scroll Saw only lightly used. User Manual included. Original price \$130. Your price: \$40. Call Allan at (304) 789-2290. (4/29)

**For Sale:** Black and Decker 2-amp Orbital Sander, 4 ½ x 4 ½ inch surface, only lightly used. Original price \$30. Your Price \$10. Call Allan at (304)789-2290. (4/29)

**Home for Sale:** I would like to sell my big, beautiful house at Alpine Lake (397 Betony Lane) and buy a small cabin here. If you are interested in seeing my house, or you have a small house to sell at Alpine, please call Marilyn at (304) 789-3134. (4/15)

**Insurance:** Carrie See Insurance, located on Alpine Lake Rd. We offer great rates on homeowners and automobile insurance, annuities and investments, life insurance, and business operations coverage. Give us a call for a free quote! (304) 789-5585 or email [carrieseeinurance@gmail.com](mailto:carrieseeinurance@gmail.com). (4/15)\*

**Tax Services:** Dorinda Kisner, CPA, and staff providing professional services for individuals, businesses, estates and trusts. Tax planning, compliance, estimated payments, consulting and accounting services locally in Terra Alta. Contact us at (304) 789-6082 or email at [questions@kisnercpa.com](mailto:questions@kisnercpa.com) (4/15)\*

**Handyman Services** – White Oak Works LLC ~ Property Maintenance, Lawn Care, & more!  
Call (304) 698-7710 (4/15)\*

**Wanted:** Reliable contractor to complete various projects at my Alpine Lake home. Projects range from painting, pantry shelves, drywall repair and deck staining to new kitchen, deck expansion, new shed and bathroom remodel. Looking to complete some of the priority projects before the summer rental season. Phone: (412) 400-9240 (4/15)

**Needed:** A slightly used kayak or canoe for sale. We are new to Alpine and want to get started on the waterways. Budget around \$300. Let me know if you are moving or just don't use the kayak/canoe anymore. Contact Robin Turner-Grimshaw 678 Bluebell Drive (703) 623-1690 (4/1)

**In House Sale:** Tools, ladders, furniture, gas grill & much more. Phone (304) 789-6391 (4/1)

**Pet Sitting & House Checks.** Call Kay Bayer (304) 789-2111

## ALPINE LAKE LODGE HOURS

**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY (NOTE CHANGES)**

### FRONT DESK

**Mondays – Fridays:** 8am-4pm

**Saturday & Sunday:** 8am-3pm

### SEASONS LOUNGE

**Mondays – Saturdays:** 4pm-9pm

**Sundays:** 12pm-9pm

### SEASONS DINING ROOM

**Breakfast: Fridays – Sundays:** 7am-10:30am

**OPEN DAILY** from 9am-5pm

### PRO SHOP

### FITNESS CENTER

**OPEN DAILY** from 7am – 10pm

### POOL

**OPEN DAILY** from 8am-9pm

### **DATES TO REMEMBER** (*A handy summary of dates to put on your calendar now*)

Please note that the following events occur **weekly** on the day and time noted:

**Mon., Wed. & Fri.** 9am -10am – **FUN-FIT Aerobics Classes**, Lodge, Allegheny Room

**Mondays** 10am - 3pm – **Sew Together**, Rhododendron Room, Boathouse

**Wednesdays** 10am – **Needlework Club** - Rhododendron Room, Lunch Follows

6 -7pm - **Jammers** – Rhododendron Room (except the first Wed. of each month)

7pm – **Property Owners Game Night**, Boathouse

**Thursdays** 8:30 a.m. - **ALLGO Ladies' Golf** - Rhododendron Room (18/9/Golf Buddies)

**Thursdays** 10am - Noon – **Braille Workshop** – Rhododendron Room

6pm – 9pm- **Open Mic** – May 26th @ Boathouse

**Note:** **Dump Open:** Tues/Thurs 7am – 4pm & Saturdays 7am-4pm

**T.A. Recycling Plant Open:** Tues/Weds/Thurs 8am –4pm, and Saturdays 8am ‘til Noon

Also – monthly events:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month – 7am – 1pm – **Kingwood VFD Breakfast**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month – 9am – **ALPUC Board Meeting** (meets March, June’s annual mtg., Sept., Nov.)

## **ALPOA WORKSHOP & POA BOARD MEETINGS**

### **Saturday, May 21 POA Meeting @ 10am**

June 18 Board Workshop, June 25 Annual POA Meeting

**COMING EVENTS** (Please put on your calendar now – don't miss a thing – watch for more details):

- Sat., May 14<sup>th</sup> – Community Pride Day** – Cancelled – Future date TBD
- Sat., May 14<sup>th</sup> - 3pm - Big Bucks Bingo** @Terra Alta Ambulance Building
- Sun., May 15<sup>th</sup> - 2pm – Garret Chorale Society** – St. Mark's Lutheran Church – Oakland, MD
- Mon., May 16<sup>th</sup> - Assessments** payment due (Note: checks must be posted prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Wed., May 18<sup>th</sup> - 11:15am - Next Egg Delivery** @ Lodge
- Thurs., May 19<sup>th</sup> - 1pm – Cranberry Garden Club Program** – Rhododendron Room
- Thurs., May 19<sup>th</sup> - 5pm – Carry-in-Picnic** - Boathouse
- Wed., May 25<sup>th</sup> – 11am - Possum Tail Farm** @ Lodge
- Wed., May 25<sup>th</sup> - Juliet's Luncheon** – Olive Garden – Time TBD
- Wed., May 25<sup>th</sup>- 2pm – Alpine Learning Program** – Rhododendron Room
- Thurs., May 26<sup>th</sup> - 12pm – 5:30pm - Blood mobile drive** at Ambulance Hall
- Fri., May 27<sup>th</sup> - Women's Mountaineer League** – Fairmont Field, Fairmont, WV
- Fri., May 27<sup>th</sup> – Next FWIW published** – submit articles by Wednesday, May 25
- Sun., May 29<sup>th</sup> - 1pm – Memorial Day Picnic** – Boathouse – (rain or shine)
- Mon., June 6<sup>th</sup> - Women's Mountaineer League** – Oakland Golf Club, Oakland, MD
- Wed., June 15<sup>th</sup> - Women's Mountaineer League** – Clarksburg Country Club, Clarksburg, WV
- Sat., June 25<sup>th</sup> - 9am – ALPUC Annual Mtg.** - Lodge
- Sat., June 25<sup>th</sup> - 10am – ALPOA Annual Mtg.** – Lodge
- Sun., June 26<sup>th</sup> - 12pm-5pm - Annual Alpine Lake Home Tour**
- Mon., June 27<sup>th</sup> - Women's Mountaineer League** – Alpine Lake
- Wed., July 6<sup>th</sup> - Women's Mountaineer League** – Sunny Croft, Clarksburg, WV
- Wed., July 13<sup>th</sup> - Women's Mountaineer League** – Green Hills, Fairmont, WV
- Thurs., July 28<sup>th</sup> - Women's Mountaineer League** – The Pines, Morgantown, WV
- Thurs., August 18<sup>th</sup> - Women's Mountaineer League** – Bridgeport Country Club, Bridgeport, WV

## **CAUTIONS FOR USING THE YAK-A-LAUNCHER™**

**Paddlesports are inherently dangerous activities which can result in injury or death! Proper care and precautions should always be considered and used when engaging in these activities. Safety begins by reading these instructions and following the recommendations below.**

- **ALWAYS** wear a Coast Guard approved PFD (life vest) when using this product.
- **Make sure ALL** fittings are snugly attached; never use a Launcher with broken, bent, or worn parts.
- **If water gets into the pontoons, unscrew caps and drain. Replace caps!**
- **NEVER** use the Launcher without the lines/ropes properly secured to both the pontoons and the dock/bulkhead.
- **NEVER** use the Launcher with frayed or excessively worn lines. Replace immediately!
- **NEVER** use alcohol or mind-altering or medications when using the Launcher.
- **NEVER** hang, swing from, or hoist the Launcher using the Handrail.
- **Make sure boat is securely tied (using bow-line) to the Handrail BEFORE** getting into, or out of your boat.
- **NEVER** step onto the Launcher where non-skid surface **IS NOT** present to avoid slipping.
- **NEVER** allow small children to use or play on the Launcher!
- **ALWAYS** center the cockpit of your boat between/over the 2 forward roller-bars prior to getting in to, or out of the boat. *Make sure the boat feels centered and balanced before entering or exiting the boat.*
- **ALWAYS** exercise caution when using a boat with a deep "V" hulled shape, as the craft will be unusually unstable on the flat roller-bar of the Launcher.
- **The Launcher IS NOT** designed for use with boats that have any protruding/outboard parts or accessories. Such parts **MUST** be removed or retracted prior to entering or exiting the unit!

## MORE ABOUT THE YAK-A-LAUNCHER

**Using the bow-line:** This is the **most important** rule in the safe use of the YAK-A-LAUNCHER™. NEVER forget that your **kayak/canoe** is resting on rollers that turn *freely* under the craft! The rollers allow the boat to *easily* exit & enter the unit. It is **CRITICAL** to always secure your craft, using the (included) bow-line **secured/tied** to the "handrail", *before* stepping into, or out off the boat ..... likewise, **BEFORE** either standing up, or sitting down!! If the bow-line isn't secured to the Launcher's™ handrail, your boat will (sooner or later) roll out from under you!! Besides preventing a potential "roll-out", the secured bow-line will keep the boat from leaving the Launcher should wind or waves come along. The bow-line is a great aid to launching or retrieving another's kayak or canoe as well! The bow-line included with your Launcher is 10' long and you may need to shorten it to fit your particular kayak's length. Put your boat in the Launcher such that the seat is located in the perfect place (to suit you!), and then wrap the line around the handrail *twice*. Leaving enough slack to attach to the included "S-Biner" clip, then cut the bow-line (you might need a match or lighter to seal the end where you cut it) and tie bitter-end of the line to the S-biner. Now all you have to do is simply wrap the line several times around the handrail and then clip it to back to itself, and your boat will always be in the right place when you launch. **NOTE:** The supplied "S-Biner" clip **is not** capable of holding your kayak if attached directly to the kayak's bow, but rather *only* as a wrap (several times) around the handrail and then clipped back to itself. If you know how to tie a bowline, that would a great choice for tying the S-clip (like the one I tied on the included lines). This little clip is an easy and handy way to secure the line *at the handrail*. Not only is this a simple solution (versus learning to tie a secure knot each time), but using it will also ensure that your kayak will always be in exactly the same position (coming *and* going!) each time you use it. Securing the bowline to the handrail *should* become a matter of routine!! **REMEMBER** ..... **ALWAYS USE A BOW-LINE!!**

### Some final thoughts on using the Yak-A-Launcher™.

There's an endless variety of kayak models available ... different hull shapes, widths, lengths, etc.. There are even MORE different (unique!) individuals that paddle them! I (AI) have paddled hundreds of various models and have participated in launching and retrieving *thousands* of folks (over many decades), and with *this* experience, I offer the following tips for your first few outings using the Yak-A-Launcher.

First, when leaving (launching) for the *very* first time, push-off with vigor (e.g., give it a heartfelt "push"). Your successful launch has as much to do with the length and shape of the kayak's hull than *any* other factor. After your first successful exit, you should be able to "launch" with *less* of a push! (checkout the videos online at [www.getkayactive.com](http://www.getkayactive.com)). Some kayaks are so short and/wide that it might be helpful to simply lean back a little to give the bow a little lift as you enter. I know this; you simply **CANNOT** paddle yourself up a ramp! This is why the Launcher is *so* unique (and actually works!). Finally, some folks actually prefer to exit out of the *front* of the Launcher (see online video). This is even easier, as the stern is (usually) shorter (behind the seat) in length than the front. Bottom line; start strong and then back down to find your unique "sweet-spot"!

Second, when re-entering the Launcher, approach with **VIGOR** ("hot")! Again, the ease of entering the Launcher is as much dependent on the boat's length and hull shape as anything! Of course, your own physical abilities play a role as well. Just as with launching, subsequent entries into the unit *should* require less speed & effort ..... you will find that "sweet-spot" that works best for you and your boat. When reentering the Launcher, you really only need to get you (and your boat) to the place where you can reach the pontoon's rear handles. At that point, simply pull yourself up.

**BOTTOM LINE;** Try coming and going several times before judging the efficacy of the Yak-A-Launcher™! You **WILL** find the right combination that fits you, your boat, AND your abilities. If you don't, call me and we can discuss your specific issue (there are *always* options available! My main goal is to help you enjoy the activity of "paddling", like never before. Check the "testimonial" page on our web site for real-people's responses & experiences with the product. If you're not happy, I'm not happy!! So get out there and get more "kayactive"!