

Kayakers in Training

The scene at the Merton Williams School Aquatic Center in Hilton on a recent Saturday afternoon was a little chaotic, with kayaks moving in all directions as students prepared to learn the Eskimo roll from Instructors Harry Weidman and Dave Klafehn. The course is sponsored by Dave and Juliann Klafehn, owners of Braddock Bay Paddlesports. In another class scheduled for the end of April, students can learn about capsizing recovery.

come to the class to learn self-rescue skills, according to Weidman. "Fun is the only technical term we use here. Some students are new to kayaking, some have done it for several years; they are trying to learn different phases of techniques." Students use a narrow-bladed paddle, the traditional Greenland-style paddle developed by the Inuit Indians. It can be grasped in the blade area, giving more leverage from the paddle when needed for maneuvers.

Students of all different experience levels

Photographs and text by Walter Horylev.



Dave Murphy helps daughter **Madi** get geared up with a personal floatation device and adjusting the spray skirt on her kayak. They traveled from Ontario, NY for the class. One of the maneuvers covered at the training was the Eskimo Roll. Students learn it in reserve order. Below, she demonstrates a balance brace technique. Once proficient in the roll-over, kayakers can right themselves without leaving the boat.



Photographs by Walter Horylev



Hilton resident **Guy Lovejoy** practices a roll



Guy Lovejoy, under the watchful eyes of instructor **Dave Klafehn** is shown at various points of the maneuver.



Ithaca area resident **Louise Adie** has been kayaking for ten years and paddled solo around Lake Ontario seven years ago. She is working on mastery of the Eskimo Roll and came to the Hilton class for lessons. Here, she comes out of the roll and is about to right the craft.



Harry Weidman, a certified open water sea instructor, gives some tips on how to bend the back properly to Parma resident **Bob Comstock**. Weidman has been certified as an instructor by the American Canoe Association.