

4/16/16

## Paddle to Eat (or Eat to Paddle)

We paddle to lunch or dinner on Tuesdays in the summer, and other days. Some restaurants make it easy to “park” your watercraft, put on dry clothes and bring your paddles to the table. The restaurants below are listed in order of convenience. BTW, they all have excellent food and many have beautiful sunrises or sunsets. (When dining out in summer, it is important to eat with a view of the water.)

**Docker’s for lunch:** we paddle east from the marina on Library Ave. in Westhampton Beach, park under the deck, get dressed and climb up for lobster, burgers, ahi tuna BLT and other good food. It is helpful to check the tides because the H2O really rips during tide change, but strong paddlers can handle it.

**Docker’s for dinner:** Paddle to Docker’s (East Quogue) from the east into a beautiful sunset and dine on lobster, shrimp, oysters, dessert and a margarita. On Fridays, go for \$5.00 drinks and \$5.00 appetizers. On Tuesday and Wednesday, go for “Surf or Turf” special dinner. The views are always magnificent.

**Lobster Grill**, 162 Inlet Road, Southampton. You need 2 cars for this one. Leave one at restaurant and drive to Riverhead. Put in at the Peconic Paddler’s easement on east side of Peconic Ave. and paddle to lunch at the Grill. The scenery on the way east is beautiful, especially in the bird sanctuary just west of Rt. 105. At the Grill, please dine on mussels, calamari, steamers, clams, salmon, oysters or tuna tacos.

**Backbar**, Foster Ave., Hampton Bays, has tuna tacos to die for and ½ price burgers on Tuesdays. Access is from back of the rear parking lot but worth climbing up the bulkhead for unbelievably good food/drink.

**Rumba**, Canoe Place Rd, Hampton Bays, has a beautiful view of Bennet Cove and Shinnecock Bay. Park (car) by the Old Ponquogue Bridge, paddle north 2 miles to Rumba, park (kayak) on beach or dock; get dressed and go up the stairs for guacamole, tuna, burgers and jerk chicken, and other Caribbean foods.

**Cowfish**, same owner as Rumba, also has a beach to park your canoe, SUP or kayak and enjoy a great meal and a view of Shinnecock Canal. Try their scallop ceviche, tuna poke, jumbo diver scallops, lobster stuffed mushrooms, clam chowder and North Fork Salad, and burgers. 258 E. Montauk Hwy, HB.

**John Scotts Surf Shack** on Dune Road in Westhampton Beach has steamers, sandwiches, shrimp, lobster and salads. Park (your car) at Pike’s Beach, bayside, on Dune Road and paddle ½ mile to Surf Shack. Park (your kayak) on the beach, go swimming and walk to John Scotts for a great meal and a beautiful sunset.

**Farm Country Kitchen** on the banks of the Peconic River has great salads, wraps, drinks and sandwiches. Parking your car is a problem so it is best to go there by paddlecraft. You can keep an eye on your SUP or kayak from the upstairs, outside deck. It is a popular restaurant; you might have to wait for a table.

**Jerry and the Mermaid** has great seafood entrees: Mussels Luciano, Lobster and Shrimp. Start at Peconic Ave. or Indian Island County Park. Take out by the aquarium for lunch or dinner. Or, paddle to the west end of the Peconic, leave your kayak at Peconic Paddler (no charge) and walk to Main Street to Jerry’s, Perebell, Sonoma Grill, Turquaz, Digger’s, Tweed’s, Spicy’s and other fine Riverhead restaurants.

**Old Mill Inn**, on west side of Mattituck Creek has delicious clam chowder, calamari and shrimp for lunch and dinner. Park your car at the beautiful and functional, new DEC parking lot just north of Old Mill Inn.

**Edgewater** on 27A east of Shinnecock Canal, has food to die for, especially **roasted corn salad**, mussels and linguini w/white clam sauce. Paddle northeast from the Coast Guard Station to a beach just east of the restaurant. Carry your kayaks to the lawn or be trusting and leave them on beach where you can see them from the deck overlooking the beautiful Shinnecock Bay. It's worth the trip for the food.

**Canal Café** is a very popular restaurant. Try the Oyster Po-Boy, Fried Shrimp or Calamari or Grilled Salmon and an ice-cold Lemonade. The setting is beautiful: it overlooks the Shinnecock Canal.

**Morgan's Marina** on Swan River in Patchogue (363 Grove Ave.) has ample room to beach your watercraft and have a fine seafood meal of clams, shrimp, mussels, baked clams, scampi and calamari. A very nice, new, launch site is on Montauk Highway east of Route 112 in Patchogue.

There are many more food establishments in Suffolk County that can be accessed from the water but you must use some ingenuity (and a climbing rope) to eat at them. Please send suggestions so this list can be increased and updated. We can add Nassau County restaurants if you recommend them.

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**The Bay Constables and Coast Guard prefer, if you paddle, drink H2O, OJ, V8, Prune Juice or O'douls.**

**Disclaimer:** I have not personally tasted all of the food I have written about because I am allergic to shrimp, lobster and crabs. Friends who I trust have recommended to me the foods that I can't eat so I can tell you about them.

**Very cool paddles that end at fine restaurants:**

- 1) Orient Point to Riverhead: If you do it in 9 hours, you will get a **\$100.00 gift certificate** from Peconic Paddler. You can eat at Jerry's, Digger O'Dell's, Turkuaz, Spicy's, McDonald's, Snowflake or Funcho's.
- 2) Put in at East or West Landing or Red Creek Pond in Hampton Bays and paddle to Riverhead. 3 hours.
- 3) Put in by Riverhead Town Dock or Peconic Paddler and paddle to Lobster Grille Inn in Southampton.
- 4) Paddle from the Old Ponquogue Bridge to Dockers in East Quogue or Rumba, Cow Fish or Edgewater in Hampton Bays, or, if you are feeling real good, to John Scott's Surf Shack in Westhampton Beach.

<p><b>Foods to die for, not to be missed, last meal before execution:</b> Elbow Room steaks, Backbar tuna taco, Edgewater roasted corn salad, Spicy's fried oysters, Stone Creek octopus, Jerry's mussels, Docker's raw bar, Jamesport Winery Merlot, 1 North scallops w/bacon, Snowflake ice cream, Lolly's bacon and eggs, Maple Tree grilled Reuben, Rumba guacamole, Roadhouse pizza, Carlos' heroes, Perebell's burgers.</p>
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