

The Paradoxical Commandments for Paddlers

By George Wessberg, Club Captain

I met Dr. Kent Keith 15 years ago when our daughters were classmates in elementary school. Ten years later I was intrigued by his Paradoxical Commandments. I borrowed Kent's clever and philosophical format in an attempt to motivate our paddlers to become the best they can be as they face challenges during this canoe racing season.

1. Some people deny that virtues are necessary in a successful paddling program. Be virtuous anyway.
2. Some people discourage volunteers who don't know how to help. Become a volunteer anyway.
3. Some people practice less than you do but still make the race crew. Continue to practice anyway.
4. Some people will resist your efforts to improve the paddling program. Be a leader anyway.
5. Some people will undermine your efforts to maintain a positive attitude. Be a positive attractor anyway.
6. Some people will be frustrated by your eagerness to learn new skills. Nurture your teachable spirit anyway.
7. Some people will place their own needs above the welfare of the Club. Promote team spirit anyway.
8. Some people will blame you for their frustrations and disappointments. Be gracious anyway.
9. Some people will fail to keep their commitments to the paddling program. Be responsible anyway.
10. Some people will fail to acknowledge your efforts and accomplishments. Give others recognition anyway.

Our paddlers must exercise vigilance and patience as we address the ongoing concerns about the Ala Wai Canal situation. The Canoe Racing Subcommittee, the Board of Directors and I will continue to pursue every feasible option and consider every reasonable suggestion until we find a permanent solution to this complex problem. Now, more than ever, we must come together and support our Club.