

Bobby Pratt

SUP Stand-up Paddleboard 101

Everything you need to know to get started in this fantastic sport



Have you seen someone standing on a surfboard with a long canoe paddle? Have you tried it and want to know more about selecting a board? Are you an experienced paddler looking for new adventures? Are you a pro, looking for the next big thing? THIS is the session for you!!

SUP Stand-up Paddleboard is the fastest growing water sport in North America. This session will talk about the origins of the sport. It will give advice about how to choose the right equipment and begin enjoying the water in a new way. If you're an experienced paddler, we'll also cover new paddling opportunities. There will be a HUGE emphasis on safety: not only will you learn how to paddle safely, you will learn how to use your board to save others.

Bobby Pratt is a water safety advocate and an avid SUP paddler, windsurfer, open water swimmer, surf lifeguard, prone paddler, kayaker, surfer). After retiring from East Lansing Fire Department he co-created the Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project (<https://www.glsrp.org>) to promote water safety in the Great Lakes region. He began paddling a SUP in 2006, one of the first paddlers in Michigan. He's placed in local SUP races and won the 2nd annual OABI (Once around Belle Isle) race around Belle Isle. He loves surfing with a SUP, has been a certified instructor and is a charter member of USA-SUP.

Water safety and SUP safety are his passion. He's presented about SUP safety at a NDPA (national Drowning Prevention Alliance) National conference and maintains the "Great Lakes SUP Alliance" facebook page. Pratt has spoken at hundreds of water safety events including several national conferences and an international symposiums. He has also won several awards for his advocacy including the 2011 NDPA "lifesaver of the Year" award.

His lively presentation style is both entertaining and educational. You don't want to miss this session!

