



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LONE CANCER SURVIVOR TO PADDLE 1,700 MILES FOR TWO MILLION MEN BATTLING PROSTATE CANCER**

#### ***High-School Instructor from Massachusetts Charts 54-day Kayak Trek to Raise Awareness***

**SANTA MONICA, CA/June 9, 2008**—Nine months a year Skip Ciccarelli, a 60-year-old survivor of prostate cancer, is a high school carpentry instructor at Shawsheen Technical High School in the Boston suburb of Billerica. On June 14 he will become the champion of two million American men who are currently battling prostate cancer when he sets out on a 54-day, 1,700 mile kayak trek that will take him from the shores of Lake Michigan in Chicago to the Hudson River in New York City. His goal is simple: to raise awareness for one of the most prevalent forms of cancer, second only to melanomas.

In 2002, Skip was diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer and was told by his doctors that he had two months time before the cancer spread to other parts of his body. After

consultation with a team of doctors in Boston, he placed his bet on surgery and won. He is now cancer-free.

“At the time I realized, that like most men, I was clueless about prostate cancer and soon became flummoxed at how little men know about their own bodies,” says Skip, a husband and father of three adult children. “I realize I need to use my own abilities to help raise awareness. By drawing attention to prostate cancer, I’m hoping more men will get prostate check ups, PSA screenings and that more research will focus on this disease. When is the last time you heard someone talk about prostate cancer?”

According to the National Cancer Institute, 28,000 men will die from prostate cancer in 2008 while 186,000 new cases are diagnosed. With the aging of the baby-boomer generation, the number of new cases diagnosed annually is projected to increase more than 60 percent to 300,000 by 2015, with an accompanying annual death rate of 45,000—an increase of approximately 66 percent. Early detection and treatment can result in a five-year survival rate of more than 90 percent.

Skip’s approach is simple. He is hoping kayak clubs, cancer support groups, men’s groups and individuals will join him in getting the word out about both his journey for prostate cancer awareness. He also says that he would be delighted to have fellow kayakers and canoers paddle with him for stretches along the route. In fact, it wasn’t until this week that a friend of his contacted the Prostate Cancer Foundation for some help in getting the word out.

The course charted by Skip will take him through Lakes Michigan, Huron, St. Claire and Erie. It will also take him through the Detroit River and the Erie Canal before he starts his trip down the Hudson River. Covering 40 miles a day, with six days built in for bad weather delays and two days off to join his students at a technical competition in Kansas City Missouri, Skip is planning on arriving at Manhattan’s Pier 66 on August 9—the seven year anniversary of his surgery. More information on Skip and his 1,700 mile journey can be found at [www.paddle4prostate.org](http://www.paddle4prostate.org).

## **About the Prostate Cancer Foundation**

Prostate cancer strikes one out of every six American men. The Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) is the world's largest philanthropic source of support for prostate cancer research to discover better treatments and a cure for recurrent prostate cancer. PCF pursues its mission by reaching out to individuals, corporations and others to harness society's resources-- financial and human--to fight this deadly disease. Founded in 1993, the PCF has raised more than \$350 million and provided funding for more than 1,400 research projects at nearly 150 institutions worldwide. The PCF has been a pioneer in the grant making process, simplifying paperwork for grantees, leaving more time for scientific investigators to conduct needed research. The PCF also advocates for greater awareness of prostate cancer and more government resources, resulting in a twenty-fold increase in government funding for prostate cancer. More information about PCF can be found at [www.pcf.org](http://www.pcf.org).