April Meeting

Monday, 4/16 at 7pm at the J.C.C.

Jack Radcliffe: Kayak Navigation

“Navigation is the art and science of figuring out where you are and how to safely get where you’re going.” Jack Radcliffe, owner of Ocean State Adventures in Bristol, will start his discussion with the basic principles and tools of navigation, then continue with navigation as it relates specifically to kayaks. “Seat-of-pants” and “rule-of-thumb” calculations figure prominently in kayak navigation, where access to, and employment of unwieldy or unreliable gear is problematic. Why learn this ancient craft when your GPS can lead you anywhere? Because the best piece of technology is worthless when the batteries die—or you drop it overboard.

Directions to the Jewish Community Ctr., 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence: From Rt. 95 South take Exit 24 & turn left onto Branch Avenue. (From Rt. 95 North take Exit 24 & turn right onto Branch Ave.) Go past Benny’s. Cross North Main Street and continue up the hill (past Kentucky Fried Chicken). At the top of the hill cross Hope St. and continue one block to the end at Morris Ave. Go left, then immediately right onto Sessions St. Go down the hill to Elmgrove Ave. The JCC will be across the street.

The RICKA Spring Soiree

The club would like to extend sincere thanks to the following companies for their generous donations of merchandise to the RICKA auction:

Great Canadian Canoe Company in Sutton, MA;
Ocean State Adventures in Bristol;
Canoe Passage Outfitters in Warren, RI and Taunton, MA;
Blackstone Valley Outfitters in Cumberland; and
The Kayak Centre in Wickford.

Your support of RICKA’s programs is deeply appreciated!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Are you one of the many (many, many, many) RICKA members who’s forgotten to renew? If so, you’re reading this online, because you no longer receive mail/email from the club. While you’re online, just click on “Join the Fun” to download a membership renewal form....and, like it says, join the fun!
LETTER

Regarding last month’s letter from Eben Oldmixon about recent trip reports:

I think Eben Oldmixon raises a valid concern, but he misses the point of passing along the stories he mentioned. RIC/KA has been very lucky to not have had many serious accidents in its long history. Kayaking is an inherently risky activity and injury, even death, are always a real possibility. Along with lady luck, the RIC/KA membership itself has a large hand in minimizing the chances of a serious accidents.

* The level system forces paddlers to consider the amount of exposure they are comfortable taking compared to their level of skill and experience.
* Trips are modified based on conditions at the launch. There have been many trips where the paddle has been modified to lessen the risk to an acceptable level. In fact one of the trips he mentioned was changed to account for conditions.
* Most leaders are very cognizant of the skill-level of the whole group and works to stay within it.
* Most RIC/KA paddlers use sound judgement about when to paddle.
* As a club we offer a lot of opportunity for paddlers to hone their skills.

We also share the tales of paddles gone wrong. This is done to foster discussion about the judgments made by the people involved, to raise awareness of the possible conditions in the area, and to remind people that even smart, experienced, and skilled paddlers can get into trouble. The hope is that by reading these stories paddlers will be able to use the experiences of others to make better judgments about when to paddle and how to avoid serious trouble.

It must also be pointed out that the majority of trips that RIC/KA organizes are tame compared to the three mentioned in the article. Individual paddlers may seek out a rocky outcropping to play near, but that is often the extent of it. It is also worth mentioning that at least one of the paddles mentioned by Eben was rated as a level 4 trip and by its very nature a level 4 trip, particularly in the winter, has more risk than a level 2-3 trip in the summer. Let us all wish for continued luck, sanity in our own judgments, and the shared wisdom of the group to keep our paddles fun and safe. —Eric Johnson

AREA SHOPS & OUTFITTERS:
DO YOU HAVE A DEMO DAY (OR DAYS) COMING UP? LET OUR MEMBERS KNOW ABOUT IT! SEND AN EMAIL WITH DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS TO EDITOR @ RICKA.ORG.

The Rhode Island Canoe/Kayak Association (Rhode Island Canoe Association, Inc.), although safety conscious, cannot guarantee your personal safety in club activities. You are responsible for the adequacy of your own skills, training and equipment when engaging in or attending RICKA activities. A PFD—worn as intended by the manufacturer—is a requirement for all RICKA trips.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS: TO ADVERTISE IN THE PADDLER

The next meeting is on Wednesday, April 4.

Send an mail to: editor@ricka.org for rates, sizes and details.

The Paddler is published monthly except December by the Rhode Island Canoe Association, Inc. It is mailed from Providence on the Thursday 11/2 weeks preceding the third Monday. It is not available by subscription, but is included in the cost of membership in the Association.

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Two Australian adventurers are pressing ahead with their Trans-Tasman kayaking quest despite the fate of Sydney kayaker Andrew McAuley who perished at sea while attempting the same ocean crossing.

James Castrission and Justin Jones were distraught at the tragic end to their fellow kayaker’s dream.

“We were quite devastated (about Andrew) and we feel incredibly remorseful for his family and close friends,” Mr Castrission said.

However, this has not deterred them from embarking on their own 2200km journey across the Tasman Sea.

“It will be a very, very different crossing. We have a lot of confidence in our approach.”

Money raised from the Crossing the Ditch expedition is going to the Sydney Children’s Hospital.

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Protect Your Camera

Kayaks and cameras are not always a happy mix—but there are ways to safeguard your investment. Photographer and RICKA webmaster Alan August responds to a question from a member.

The best description of how I protect my camera is a couple photos. (What else would you expect from me?) The photo below tells most of the story. I carry my camera in a dry bag held down by the deck bungies. The foam foot lifts the end up off the deck so the camera isn’t being pressed against the deck. It was difficult to get the camera in and out until I added the foot.

There’s a mini carabiner attached to the cord, and I clip it to one of the strap eyes on deck. There’s a length of 5-inch PVC pipe inside the bag (photo at right). Without it the deck bungies would make it impossible to slide the camera in or out.

The first time I tried it the rough end wore through the bag. It is now padded with foam, and I use a heavier bag with a reinforced foot. As you can see in the photo I found some scrap foam and wrapped it around the top of the pipe as well. It extends slightly beyond the end of the PVC to keep the camera body from rubbing on it.

I haven’t yet learned whether there’s enough air and foam in the bag to float the camera. I used to use a padded ammo box in my whitewater canoeing days and it definitely floated. It took a heck of a beating while the camera just tumbled against the foam inside the box.

Above: looking into the dry bag.

Below: Dry bag, pipe and padding...and the camera, of course.

The Fourth Annual River Run will take place on Saturday, June 16, 2007 rain or shine.

Come out and play on the Westport River. Kayakers and canoers will be able to participate in either a family-fun course or a competitive paddle, beginning at Hix Bridge and finishing at the Head of Westport.

If you don’t have a boat, kayak rentals are available on race day at a discounted price from Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures. Transportation of kayak to race start is included. Call Osprey Sea Kayak at 508-636-0300 to reserve.

If you would rather help volunteer for the race call WRWA 508-636-3016.

* Prizes awarded in a variety of classes.
* Registration begins at 8:30 AM
* Challenge Race at 10 AM
* Family Fun Race at 10:30 AM

Call WRWA 508-636-3016 for entry details.
SEA KAYAK EVENTS

Saturday, April 14
6:00 PM
ANNUAL POTLUCK-PADDLE PLANNER PARTY
hosted by Kevin & Vera Bowen,
11 Dolly Drive, Bristol, RI
Please bring goodies for 3.
Your paddle ideas may be submitted ahead to Carleen McOsker,
carleenmco@charter.net.

Directions from Providence: From I-195E take Exit 2 onto RT-136. Continue on Rt-136 for 2.7 miles. Bear right onto Market St for 0.6 mile. Turn left onto RI-103 (RI-114, Main St). Continue on Dolly Dr for 0.2 mile.

Continue to check the message boards and web site for sea kayak trips; cold weather gear is still required.

Sea Kayak Trip Ratings
Level 1: No previous kayak experience is required.
Level 2: You should feel comfortable:
- Paddling 6 miles in a day. Check the weather forecast. Wind can make any paddle seem endless.
- Performing a wet exit.
- Performing an assisted deep water rescue.
- Maintaining a heading for short distances without the use of a rudder.
- Turning a kayak using forward and reverse sweep strokes.
Level 3: You should be able to:
- Perform skills listed above.
- Paddle 13 miles in a day. Check the weather forecast. Wind can make any paddle seem endless.
- Paddle in 10-15 knot winds and 2-3 foot waves.
- Surfing may be required for beach landings.
Level 4: You should be able to:
- Perform the skills listed above.
- Paddle 15 miles in a day.
- Paddle in 20 knot winds.
- Handle large ocean swells.
Level 5: You should be able to:
- Perform the skills listed above.
- Paddle 20+ miles in a day.
- Paddle in 25 knot winds.

FLATWATER TRIPS

Saturday, April 7
10:30 AM
Easter Egg Hunt on the Hunt River.
Leader Louise Price
weezrad@aol.com 508-529-3402.
Launching at 10:30 AM
The water is cold, a change of clothes in a waterproof bag is required.
Wetsuits are recommended.
Hunt River, East Greenwich RI
Directions: Rt. 95 to Route 4 (exit 9). Take the second exit (route 402) and go to the left (towards Quonset). The access will be a short distance down the road on the right.

Sunday, April 22
Whitewater Trip for experienced flatwater paddlers (See whitewater trips)

Friday, April 27
5:30 PM
Hundred Acre Cove, Barrington
Leader: Caryl Salisbury
Editor@ricka.org ; 401-245-1890
A paddle jacket and a change of clothes in a waterproof bag are required (water is still cold). Suitable for all boats and levels of experience.
Although we plan to be back by twilight, a head lamp or flashlight is required for all night trips.
Directions: The put-in for Hundred-Acre Cove and the Barrington River is on Route 114 (the Wampanoag Trail) in Barrington. From Route 195 go south on 114 and take the last turnaround before 114 becomes a two-way road (you’ll see a white house with limousines on the other side). Just after the turnaround (you’re now heading north), you’ll see a sign on the right that says Walker Farm. Turn in; this is the town dock and boat ramp. Park anywhere that’s not posted. From Bristol and points south, take 114 North past the Congregational church and follow directions above.

Saturday, April 28
1:00 PM launch
Big River Coventry RI
Leader: Henry Dziadosz
henry@twincitysupply.com
Hdziadosz@hotmail.com 401-567-0313.
The river is narrow with many twists and turns, suitable for boats 15 feet and shorter. Suitable for all levels of experience. First we will travel upstream against the current and over a beaver dam or two and then stop for lunch. After lunch, we will turn around and paddle downstream back to the put-in.
Zeke’s Bridge state access.
From 95 South. Take exit 6 To Rt. 3 north (DO NOT take exit 6-A or 6-B Hopkins Hill Road) Take a right at the bottom of the exit and follow 3 North for about a mile and a half.
Take a left onto Harkeny Hill Road. Follow for a little over a mile and look for the access for Zeke’s Bridge. From 95 North, Take exit 6 to Rt. 3 north. (DO NOT take exit 6-A or 6-B Hopkins Hill Road) Take a left at the bottom of the exit and follow 3 North for about a mile and a half. Follow directions above.

May 6th
Pawtuxet River
Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, Cranston
Leader Bill Brown
kayakbill222@aol.com, or call Cheryl at 401-647-5887. Non-shuttle trip- we will paddle upstream and then return. Bring a lunch. Trip is suitable for all levels of experience and boat size.
Directions: from 95 South take exit 17- From 95 North take exit 16. Both exits lead to Elmwood Avenue. Drive south to traffic light at Elmwood and Park Avenues. Go left onto Park Avenue (A mobile station will be on your left). Stay straight on Park until end and go right onto Broad Street. Go ½ mile on Broad Street. You will see a gazebo on your right—take a right and follow the road into the parking lot.
FLATWATER (continued)

June 23-30, 2007
Cape Cod, Massachusetts

Join us for a week of paddling to explore the saltwater bays, inlets, marshes, rivers and glacial kettle ponds of Cape Cod. Reservations for Nickerson Sate Park are up to each individual and can be made through www.reserveamerica.com. We have chosen camping area 7; in the event that 7 is full, make your reservations in areas 6 or 6X. Book early—the camp-

ground fills up fast! As soon as you have booked your campsite contact the trip leaders. Louise Price: WeezRad@aol.com, 508-529-3402; Sue Sirois: s.sirois@yahoo.com, 401-725-6916. If absolutely necessary phone calls are acceptable but E-mail communication is preferred.

August 4 - 13, 2007
Adirondack State Park,
New York

Once again we will be camping at Rollins Pond state campground. You can visit their website at http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/do/camping/campgrounds/rollins.html

SPECIAL SAVINGS FOR RICKA MEMBERS

Sakonnet Boathouse:
7% off MSRP of glass boats, 12% off
MSRP of plastic boats, 15% off accessories with a boat, 10% off accessories any time. Final sale prices as marked.
169 Riverside Dr, Tiverton · (401) 624-1440 · www.sakonnetboathouse.com

Ocean State Adventures:
10% discount for RICKA members.
99 Poppasquash Road, Bristol · 401-254-4000 · www.kayakri.com

The Kayak Centre:
Glass boats 7% off normal retail; plastic boats 12% off normal retail; accessories with boat purchase 15% off, 10% off all other times for RICKA members. Brown and Phillips Streets, Wickford Village · 1-888-SEA-KAYAK · www.kayakcentre.com

Canoe Passage Outfitters:
Glass and Kevlar boats, 10% off retail; polyethylene boats 15% off; accessories, trips and instructions, 10% off regular prices. · 120 Ingell Street, Taunton, MA 02780 · (800) 689-7884 · 277 Water Street, Warren, RI (401)245-9025 · www.canopassage.com

Compass Cayak:
RICKA members will receive a free Compass Cayak hat after purchasing a Streamer open cayak from any Compass Cayak dealer. Call (401) 635-9990 or email compasscaneoe@cox.net to request yours. www.compasscaneoe.com

Northwind Sports:
10% RICKA discount.
267 Thames St., Bristol · 254-4295 · www.northwindsports.com

Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures:
10% off accessories. 489 Old County Rd, Westport, MA · (508) 636-0300 · www.ospreyseakayak.com

Quaker Lane Outfitters:
All canoes & kayaks 10% off, accessories 20% off. 4019 Quaker Lane, North Kingstown · 1-800-249-5400

Salt Pond Watersports:
10% off all canoes & kayaks, 20% off accessories. Located at Rampoint Marina, 2 William Schmid Dr, S. Kingstown · (401)-782-2866

Eastern Mountain Sports will match all retailers’ club discounts (take a copy of the Paddler with you to verify other club discounts). www.ems.com
· Garden City Shopping Center, Cranston (401) 944-5500
· 1313 West Main Road, Middletown (401) 846-6766
· The Shoppes at Blackstone Valley, Millbury, MA 508.865.6776

Wildwood Outfitters
10% discount on kayaks and accessories and will match competitors with proper verification.
· 271 Main Street, Wakefield
· 401-789-1244
· www.wildwoodoutfittersri.com

WaveLength Magazine offers a $10 introductory “Club Sub” for new subscribers (the regular price is $15). Send a check with your name and mailing address along with a note saying you’re a RICKA member to: WaveLength Magazine, 2735 North Rd., Gabriola, BC, Canada, V0R 1X7. www.WaveLengthMagazine.com

SHOW YOUR RICKA MEMBERSHIP CARD TO OBTAIN DISCOUNTS

The trips are suitable for any type of canoe or kayak. However, some of the longer trips are more suited to sea kayaks or touring canoes. As in the past, the trips will be decided by a group vote the night before. Camping reservations for Rollins Pond state campground can be made at www.reserveamerica.com . Sites A01 – A31 are on the water and would be your first choices. For more information, contact trip leader Henry Dziadosz—henry@twincitysupply.com

WHITEWATER TRIPS

Sunday, April 22
1:00 PM

Willimantic River (RSVP)
West Willington, CT

RSVP required. Please contact leader
- Bill Luther Prijon@juno.com 508-761-7961 or Erik Eckilson
eckilson@cox.net 401-765-1741

We will put in at Nye-Holman State Park (Route 74) and take out at the bridge on Merrow Road – about 5 miles. At high water levels this is a quickwater trip with tight turns and a few play spots. At lower water levels it may be scratchy. This is a beginner trip, but prior quickwater experience is required - you must have direction control of your boat at all times. Appropriate cold water paddling gear (wetsuit/drysuit) is also required. The trip will be cancelled due to low water.

Directions from Route 6 in RI:
From Route 6 West, bear right onto Route 101. Follow Route 101 west until it becomes Route 44. Continue on Route 44 west to the intersection with Route 74. Bear right on Route 74. After you pass Route 32, begin looking on the right for the entrance to Nye-Holman State Park. Put-in is down the entrance road to the right. If you cross over I 84, you have gone too far. From I 84 in CT
Take Exit 69 (Route 74) toward Route 44/Putnam. After .3 miles, turn left into Nye-Holman State Forest. Put-in is down road to right.
Conservationists go to war against phragmites

By Dan Atkinson, Staff Writer
Daily News of Newburyport

NEWBURY - The Great Marsh is being invaded. Not by tourists, not by al-Qaida, not by Martians - but by plants.

"The reality of the situation is very grave," conservationist Geoff Walker said yesterday at a meeting of the Parker River Clean Water Association. "We are virtually at war."

Walker and fellow conservationist Peter Phippen were discussing the spread of phragmites, a tall reed that has been in the marsh and visible along Route 1 for many years. However, those dense patches are not alone. Nearly twice as many less-dense stands of phragmites - about 120 - have appeared in the marsh over the past two years, suggesting that the plant is spreading.

Phragmites can grow up to 6 feet tall, and their clusters can be so dense that they are impassable. The reeds crowd out other plant life and trap freshwater, Walker said. They can significantly change the ecosystem of the marsh, which sees 70 percent of the East Coast’s migratory birds and is home to hundreds of species of wildlife, Phippen said. Plus, they are sort of ugly.

"We have to get rid of what’s there now before it gets to a level where we can’t control it," he said.

Phippen and Walker have spent the last few summers marking the emerging strands of phragmites, but they can only remove them through “mowing and aerial spray,” Walker said. They are applying for grants to eradicate the plants, and they said people should write to their planning boards and conservation committees and encourage them to help take down the reed.

Nancy Pau, a biologist for the Parker River Wildlife Refuge, has had more success getting rid of perennial pepperweed. The white-flowered plant first came to the area in the 1930s, Pau said, and it also grows in dense amounts that allow no other plant life. Pau has used herbicide on infestations, which does a good job of stopping growth in particular areas for several years. However, the weed spreads rapidly.

"We treat it with chemicals, which keep plants from coming in, but we keep finding it in new spots,” Pau said.

So last year, Pau and 70 volunteers, including students from Newburyport High School, spent a week yanking the pepperweed out by its roots. They concentrated on the Pine Island area and pulled more than two tons of the weed out of the marsh.

Pau is looking for volunteers to help mark infestations of the weed this spring and pull it later in the summer. She can be contacted at 978-465-5753.

BLACKSTONE VALLEY PADDLERS

Blackstone Valley Paddlers’ first paddle of the season is on May 15th.

Join us for our 7th season when we explore a different waterway every Tuesday night in the Blackstone River Valley. Improve your paddling skills, find the best paddling locations in the valley, learn about water quality, and enjoy a relaxing evening on the water. Meet at 6:15 PM each Tuesday night May through August.

The Blackstone Valley Paddle Club was formed by the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, in conjunction with the Rhode Island Canoe and Kayak Association. Great Canadian Canoe & Kayak Company is the vendor of choice for the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club. To participate in the Blackstone Paddler’s Events, RI Canoe and Kayak Association membership is required, as is an additional $10.00 BVPC membership fee. The $10.00 Blackstone Valley Paddle Club membership fee is good for the entire 2007 season. If you are a current RICKA member, come to a Blackstone Paddler’s event and you may join for the additional $10.00 membership fee at your first event. If you are not yet a RICKA member, you may join and pay your dues for both RICKA and Blackstone Valley Paddle Club at your first paddle. You may also print out the application and join at any time! Please make checks payable to RICKA.
Classifieds

You must be a RICKA member to have an ad posted. For more classifieds, go to www.ricka.org.

Thule 830 The Stacker Kayak Rack
Used one season and comes complete with all straps. $75 plus shipping. eweskit@cox.net (3/28)

2006 NDK Greenlander OC black over yellow. Framed front bulkhead, NDK foam seat, skeg, keel strip, Nexus70p compass, custom cockpit cover. New kink resistant wire keel strip, recessed cockpit for easier laybacks. Carved antler toggles and sliders included. Little use - too much volume for me with my Black Pearl. 53lbs with keel strip and standard FG layup! Replacement cost - $3000 will sell for $2400. slovrien@charter.net (3/20)

Kayak Storage Needed: I just moved and am looking for a covered place to store my 16 foot kayak (garage or basement would be ok). Near Providence, ideal, but I’m flexible! Please call Heather at 774-219-9052 (1/10)

* 8’ Pyranha Acroba 270 - Well used, but no leaks, still reliable and useable. Spray skirt incl. $100 OBO. (10/10)

* 10’ old Perception Corsica - no holes, needs air bags, spray skirt incl. $85 OBO. (10/10)

* 76” Lightning brand whitewater paddle - tip has been re-fiberglassed, $25.

* White water helmet - Pro-Tec yellow, $15.

* Perception Harmony sprayskirt - LC-1 neoprene - medium waist (approx 25” circumference), fits Corsica or similar whitewater kayak, GC, $25.

* Neoprene pants - 41” length, approx. women’s size 12, $15.

* Walrus 2-person tent - GC, $55.

* Crazy Creek Therm-a-lounger, 46” x 20”, $10. Yakima rack - towers, stretchbars and other parts, best offer.

Call 860-439-1556. (3/17)

17’ Cape Horn 170 Pro Wilderness Systems fiberglass sea kayak with rudder; 23” beam. Stored inside, lightly used. $1465 with skirt and Ritchie deck compass ($2700+ new). Olive/ivory. Straight tracking, stable, multi-chined touring boat. (203) 281-0066 (3/14)

Yakima Rack System - $100. Includes rain gutter set with locking cores, 78 inch crossbars, and kayak stacker. Mok4@verizon.net (1/10)

Pro-Tec Ace Helmet, Size: L, Color: Red, it has seen little use, excellent condition, $29+shipping. For details: http://www.outdoorplay.com/store/product.asp?DID=165&Pcatid=7&SKU=EHE_PCACE

Wanted - old wooden paddles & kayaks (or pieces) that you’d otherwise throw out. outside@cox.net (11/29)

Glass Seaward Endeavor, 17.5 ft. green over white. 5 years old; good condition with regular amount of wear and tear. Comes with a spray skirt. $1100. cary_428@yahoo.com (11/2)

Dagger Freefall, brand whitewater kayak. Blue/black. Hardly used, stored inside. $500 or B.O. Tom Canning, 508-269-6695 (10/18)


Current Designs Whistler, yellow poly, 14’ 6” long X 25” wide, 58lbs, cockpit 33 X 17, 2 hatches, rudder; purchased last year, been in the water about 6 times. I have too many boats. Contact Jay - jayfurtado@cox.net OR 401-639-5346 (9/18)

Valley Aquila - red over white, 18’3” x 22.5” sea kayak with compass, day hatch and skeg. Stable and fast. Well used but in good shape. $1200. OBO. Contact Tim evenings before 9 p.m. @ (401) 783-6287. (9/8)


Wilderness System Pungo 120 (2005 model) Includes Paddle, Thule rack, front saddles, rear rollers (not the post and crossbars), Small woman’s life jacket. First aid kit, Bailout sponge, Dry bag. Asking $850. webb.pinner@noaa.gov (8/31)

Hydra Searunner kayak with paddle, 17’1”, good open water boat, $535. Mike at 774-287-6988 (8/29)

Azul Triumph sea kayak. 18’ by 24” Yellow over white. Integrated rudder, new IR back band. Neoprene spray skirt. This boat has been used less than ten times. $1500 OBO. Larry at insidediameter@cox.net or call 401-683-5078. (8/29)

Seda Glider Excellent condition, yellow top/waterline, Sealine rudder, glass over Kevlar. Washed and dried every time out, waxed monthly and 303’d. $1750. Replacement cost $3000 plus. Andy V. Gallonio, 751-1900 (7/25)

Classifieds are free for RICKA members.

Send to RICKA Webmaster Alan August: 70 Scott Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860; 401-725-3344; webmaster@ricka.org. Include your name for membership verification. Please notify the webmaster when your gear is sold so that the ad can be removed. Acceptance, duration and formatting of your ad is at the webmaster’s discretion.