

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe/Kayak Association Vol. XXXI No. 6 June, 2008

June Club Meeting/Paddle Sunset Paddle—Hundred Acre Cove in Barrington

Monday, June 16th, 5:30 p.m.

The first on-water meeting/paddle of the season is the signal that summer is (almost) officially here! For those of you who are new to the club, a group paddle replaces the more structured meetings of fall through spring, and falls on the third Monday evening of the month.

The leader for this month's trip is Jean Josephson: kayakjmj@yahoo.com, (401)245-5523. This is suitable for all boats and levels of experience.

If this trip has to be canceled for any reason, a notice will be posted on all RICKA message boards. As always, check before you go.

Directions to Walker Farm boat ramp: From Route 195 take 114 South (Barrington exit). Take the last turnaround (to 114 North) just before 114 becomes a two-way road (you'll see it just ahead—if you get to the church, you've gone too far). Immediately after the turnaround you'll see a small sign that says Walker Farm; turn right—the boat ramp is directly ahead.

Two Opportunities to Develop Your Skills

1. Improve your skills on moving water. The RICKA Flatwater group's River Touring class is on Sunday, June 8, free for qualified RICKA members.

The morning lake session will review basic strokes; the afternoon session, on a local river, will cover river moves like eddy turns, peel-outs and ferries.

This is an introductory course, but it is not for novice paddlers. You must be able to handle self rescues (wet exits) and know the basic strokes. Helmets are required for the afternoon session, and sprayskirts for both. Kayaks must be 14 feet or shorter. Tandem and solo canoes are also welcome. The club may be able to arrange for the loan of a limited amount of equipment.

This is a great introduction for newer paddlers wishing to move up to the RICKA Whitewater School (below).

Contact Bill Luther prijon@juno.com, Erik Eckilson eckilson@cox.net or Cheryl Thompson Cameron, stonefoxfarm@juno.com for additional information.

2. The RICKA Whitewater group is planning a Class II Whitewater Kayak School, probably in mid-August (date TBD).

The course will be taught by ACA-certified whitewater instructor Mike Rock and will be free for qualified RICKA members. More details will appear on the web site and in the Paddler when they become available.

RICKA Executive Committee Vacancies

Applicants are being sought to fill vacant positions, listed below, all of which have voting privileges at the Executive Committee monthly meeting (which the holders of these positions will be expected to attend).

This is an opportunity to get involved with the inner workings of your club and promote the goals of RICKA and your fellow paddlers.

Competition Chair

The new chair can resurrect the whitewater and/or flatwater race, or strike out in a totally new direction. Past Chairs are available to assist and advise.

Qualifications: Familiarity with, or the willingness to learn about, classes of boats and/or racers for canoe and kayak races. Ability to coordinate volunteers to aid in all aspects of scheduling and running a race event, or to act as a liaison between RICKA and race events being coordinated by other local or regional groups.

Conservation/Environmental Chair

Qualifications: Interest in and knowledge of local conservation/environmental concerns and the public and private organizations, and state agencies working on these types of issues. The ability to write brief articles of local interest to canoers and kayakers on conservation/environmental matters. The ability to recruit and coordinate volunteers for local events of importance to RICKA.

A **Member-at-Large** brings to the Executive Committee his/her interest in helping to direct the future of our organization. Members-at-Large can be seasoned paddlers and long time members or new members just starting out.

To apply, please send a note to Bill Hahn (bhahn02835@yahoo.com) or Terry Meyer (terry_meyer@cox.net) with a brief description of your background and areas of interest.

“Green up” your PADDLER

You can help make the PADDLER a greener publication by changing from the paper mailing option to electronic delivery. If you currently receive your monthly issue from the US Postal Service, please consider having the PADDLER sent to your email address.

The benefits of doing this are numerous. You will receive your electronic PADDLER several days earlier than through snail mail. The PADDLER is produced utilizing recycled materials however if you opt for email delivery no trees will be sacrificed for the paper, envelopes, and labels required for the hard copy option. The printed version of the PADDLER is produced totally in house by Webmaster Alan August using our own printer and collator/stapler. Changing over to the email version will save ink, reduce maintenance and avoid earlier-than-necessary replacement of these costly machines. You will also save your Executive Committee members the considerable amount of time spent folding, stuffing, sealing, and labeling the PADDLER at every monthly board meeting.

About 35% of the 400-plus PADDLERs sent out every month are emailed. We would like to at least double this percentage. If you don't like to read material off a screen or you pass your paper copy on to others, by all means feel free to stay with the paper version. Also, if you do change to email and you decide you do not like it in this form, you can certainly change back.

To change your PADDLER delivery to email please contact Membership Chair Jim Cole at jimcole@hotmail.com.

Great Canadian Demo Day: June 8th

Town Beach, Lake Singletary, Sutton MA
(508) 865-0010 or (800) 98-CANOE

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Next Executive Board meeting: Wednesday, July 9 @ 7pm

The PADDLER is published monthly except December by the Rhode Island Canoe Association, Inc. It is mailed from Providence on the Thursday 1 1/2 weeks preceeding the third Monday. It is not available by subscription, but is included in the cost of membership in the Association.

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Please Note:

- **The trip schedule** shown in the newsletter can change at any time after publication. Check the message boards prior to leaving for a trip for changes.
- **PFDs are required** for all trips (worn correctly); lights are required for all evening trips.

Save The Bay Seeks Kayakers

The 2008 Citizens Bank/Save the Bay Swim—now in its 32nd year—takes place on July 28, and many swimmers must be accompanied by kayakers in order to be allowed in the race.

Kayakers are also needed to work with the eelgrass restoration project throughout the month. During the harvest, kayakers will transport the vegetation from divers to the shore. During the transplantation, they will ferry equipment to the divers.

All information is available at www.savebay.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.

TO ADVERTISE IN THE PADDLER

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

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Try This in a Kayak

by Chuck Horbert

Perched under clear twilight skies on a large rock located at the confluence of the Dead River and Spencer Stream, I watched a white-tailed deer wading and swimming against the current of Spencer Stream. It was a struggle, even for this long-legged creature. It didn't seem too bright a thing to do. Ironically, twelve hours later, we would be doing just about the same thing, boating against the current of Spencer Stream.

The setting: We were spending our second night camping on what would be a six day canoe trip from Stratton, ME on Flagstaff Lake to Rockwood, ME on Moosehead Lake, travelling a 90-mile or so segment of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. It had taken us over a day to travel the length of Flagstaff Lake, and the second day had taken us to this picturesque camp right across from where rafters normally put in for a whitewater run down the Dead. The days had been hot and tiring, the nights somewhat buggy, and our legs were feeling the effects of the multiple portages of this second day. But, at least we had generally been headed downstream.

The next day, my morning started out with a hike across Spencer Stream on a snowmobile bridge and a trudge up the hill to where a line of porta-johns awaited the next hoards of rafters. Not very pleasant, but a sight more convenient than digging a cat hole in the woods. Returning to camp, we each attended to packing our gear, taking down tents, boiling up water for coffee, eating powerbars or oatmeal for a quick breakfast and generally delaying the inevitable.

We all knew this day was going to be the crux of the trip. Having seen and experienced the low levels in the Dead River, we envisioned a nightmare seven-mile drag-fest slog up Spencer and Little Spencer Streams (Mike kept telling himself it was five miles...sounded better that way). A glance at the sky, as we brought the boats to the river and started securing gear, promised another

hot and sunny day with an absolute minimum of cooling breezes.

Things started auspiciously, but only for about 100 feet or so. Mike and Billy were out of the boat early, pulling it along as they waded up stream. I fared a little better by poling up the shallow riffles, but soon came upon a stretch that was just too quick and rocky for me to make much progress. So, I hopped out and started dragging the boat up behind me. The deer and horseflies painfully made an appearance. I could kill three with every slap to my leg. I knew it was going to be a long day at that point.

As it turned out, I was able to pole and paddle most of the way. The day fell into a pattern; I would pole (and occasionally paddle, if it was deep enough) up a couple rapids, and then pull over to wait for Billy and Mike to catch up. With at least twice the weight in men

and gear to move, their progress was not as easy. They had to track (pull the canoe upstream) most of the way, stumbling on rocks and battling the flies. I am sure that where I found a magical stream corridor full of wildflowers, marsh, interesting ledges, lunker trout and bejeweled dragon flies and damselflies, they saw hell. A real "upstream slog". I still feel some guilt about this, but they were troupers and only threatened to lynch me a couple times. And we all made a decision that would normally not sit well with us...the PFDs came off. Given the much higher likelihood of heat stroke and dehydration as compared to the chances of drowning in a river we could basically hike, it was an easy decision.

We turned up Little Spencer Stream after two miles, and I found myself frequently

Continued on page 4

SPECIAL SAVINGS FOR RICKA MEMBERS

Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures:

- 10% off accessories.
- 489 Old County Rd, Westport, MA
- (508) 636-0300
- www.ospreyseakayak.com

Northwind Sports:

- 10% RICKA discount.
- 267 Thames St., Bristol
- 254-4295
- www.northwindsports.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

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

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
- 1-888-SEA-KAYAK
- www.kayakcentre.com

Canoe Passage Outfitters:

- Glass and Kevlar boats, 10% off retail; polyethylene boats 15% off retail; 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.canoepassage.com

Wildwood Outfitters

- 10% discount on kayaks and accessories.
- 271 Main Street, Wakefield
- 401-789-1244
- www.wildwoodoutfittersri.com

SHOW YOUR RICKA MEMBERSHIP CARD TO OBTAIN DISCOUNTS

Try This

Continued from page 3

consulting the GPS, especially at the confluence of very similar-looking streams, to be sure we were headed in the right direction.

As we neared Spencer Lake, we encountered a couple of shallow rapids with larger rocks that forced even me out of my boat to do some upstream pulling. Each of these rapids gave way to beautiful, wide, glassy-clear ponds. After the last of these we came upon a scene right out of the movies: a mirror-surface river reflecting abrupt 30-foot granite cliffs and ledges, topped by thick groves of spruce and firs, with the sound of a waterfall in the distance. We had done it, putting seven hard miles behind us, and the sense of accomplishment I felt was satisfying.

But it wasn't over...our reward for the seven-mile upstream travel was what appeared to be a new dam without any obvious portage route. The dam at Spencer Lake was just rebuilt last year, or perhaps the year before, and can no longer be easily lifted over as it says in the guidebooks. And the surrounding area downstream appears to consist largely of steep ledges and cliffs.

Wet Willy eventually found a faint trail near the base of the dam on river-right, that led to a short cliff, requiring us to tie the canoes off to some suspect shrubs at the base of the falls. We chain-ganged all of the gear, and each canoe, in turn, up the trail and cliff to the top of the ledge, which was flat and spacious enough to accommodate it all, and then lowered everything down another cliff to the pool above the dam. From there, we had to paddle and slide the canoes over a log-chain barrier set above the spillway to reach Spencer Lake.

From here, it was another 5.5 mile paddle to our intended camp on Fish Pond. It was a nice change of pace, especially with a slight (almost non-existent) tail-wind, but the upstream push and subsequent portage (which turned out to be both the shortest and most difficult of the trip) had exhausted us, so those last miles were tough. We

pulled into camp after a ten-hour day to the sight of our first moose, feeding across the pond.

All of the land around Spencer Lake and Fish Pond (two portions of the same water body) are evidently owned by one guy, rumored to be an oil tycoon who loved the area and wanted to preserve it wild, for hunting and recreating. He allows camping in designated areas for free, but reservations are required.

I had made the arrangements, but I had a real tough time explaining to the woman who took my call that we did not have a vehicle and I could not give her any license number. When I informed her that we would be arriving by canoe via Flagstaff Lake, she actually stated that she didn't think we could get there that way. In any case, it appeared that we had the entire campground area to ourselves. Weekday camping is where it's at!

We quickly set up camp, had a swim, started a fire (big-time luck...found a

stack of dry, split firewood for the night), cooked dinner and broke out the Sailor Jerry. The worst was behind us! We hoped.

That night, the mosquitoes found all of us. The woods were alive with the hum of millions of the beasts. Even I had to break out the Deep Woods Off, despite the fact that both Bill and Mike were as good as ultraviolet lights the first couple nights. And Bill discovered why his repellent did not work very well... Cutter "Skintastic" is only about 7% deet! Maine mosquitoes laugh at it! But once the moon was up and the fire was roaring, the mosquito attack abated.

We were all, of course, exhausted, and hit the sack early. After all, the next morning would greet us with our next challenge...a five mile portage over logging roads to the Moose River.

© 2008 by Chuck Horbert

PFDs SAVE LIVES

How to choose the one that's right for you.

There's no doubt that life jackets, also known as Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs), save lives—but the wrong type or the wrong fit can actually put a person at risk of drowning. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers tips for choosing a PFD.

Choose only a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved life jacket correctly sized for the wearer. The USCG stamp of approval, size, whether it is for a child or an adult, and appropriate weight of the wearer should be listed inside the jacket.

Use the "touchdown" test to see if your life jacket fits properly; Lift your arms above your head as if calling a touchdown. The chest portion of the jacket should not touch your chin when you look left, right or over your shoulder. If the jacket passes this test, it most likely fits. If possible try it out in shallow water. The life jacket should not ride up on your body.

Be sure a life jacket for a child has a crotch strap to help keep the life jacket



on, an oversized float collar to help keep the head out of the water and a grab loop for easier water rescue. All straps should be intact and fastened at all times. Check for proper fit of a life jacket on a child. Wearing the jacket, the child should stand normally with arms at his or her sides. Grab the jacket at the shoulders and firmly lift up. The jacket does not fit if it moves more than three inches up and down the child's body during the test.

So what is the safest life jacket? In terms of drowning risk, it's the one you're willing to wear. A "Think Safe" pamphlet is sold with every US Coast Guard approved life jacket. For more information about life jacket types visit www.safeboatingcampaign.net/types.htm

(Note: A PFD suitable for paddling has a label that reads: US Coast Guard Approved Flotation Aid Type III PFD. If the next line says Intended Use, Ski Vest, this is not the one for you. -Ed.)

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the United States Coast Guard. For more information visit www.cgaux.org

SEA KAYAK TRIPS

Cuttyhunk Crossing

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2008

Time: 9:00am

Level 5 (RSVP Only)

Coordinators: Carleen McOsker

(carleenmco@charter.net)

Jon Sharlin (ojphoto1@cox.net)

Eric Johnson (eric.johnso3@att.net) Todd

Moore

Dutch Island

Level 2

Date: Sunday, June 8, 2008

Time: 10:00am

Coordinator: Tim Motte (tmotte@crmc.ri.gov)

Put-In: URI Bay Campus

Directions: The URI Bay Campus is located at the end of Bridgetown Road in Wakefield, RI.

Wickford Harbor

Date: Saturday, June 14, 2008

Time: 10:00am

Level: 2

Coordinators: Carole Costanza

(c2sea@verizon.net) Bob Hogan

(hogan_r@earthlink.net) Put-In: Wilson

Park Directions: From Rt 4 (North or South),

exit on Rt 102 east (Wickford). Proceed to

stop light at junction of 102 and Rt 1. Turn

left on Rt 1 north. Just beyond the Fire/Police

Station, turn right onto Intrepid Dr. (small

Wilson Park sign). Continue to the launch and

the parking lot at the very end. It is labeled

Long Pt on the map.

Fort Wetherill

Date: Sunday, June 22, 2008

Time: 10:00am

Level: 3

Coordinator: Tony Moore

Put-In: Ft. Wetherill Directions: Follow Rt.

138 and exit into downtown Jamestown on the

East side of the island. Head south on the

main street which turns into Walcott Ave., turn

left at the sign for Ft. Wetherill. Follow this

road to the park, turn right into the park (Brick

restrooms on right) then take a quick left to

the boat launch parking area.

Date: Saturday, June 28, 2008

Time: 10:00am

Gooseberry Neck

Level: 3

Coordinator: Peter Hill (Peter.Hill@hp.com)

Directions: Take Rt. 195 to Rt. 88 South. At

the end of Rt 88, by the beach, turn right.

Follow the road over the causeway and into

the parking lot.

Date: Friday, July 4, 2008

Time: 10:00am

Annual Narrow River Beach Picnic

Contacts: Joe Sherlock

(sherlock244@aol.com) Carleen McOsker

(carleenmco@charter.net) Put-in: Polluck

St. Directions: Take Rt. 1 to Bridgetown Road.

Turn off of Bridgetown Road onto

Middlebridge Road. Pollack Ave. is a left off

of Middlebridge Road.

Outer West Passage

Date: Sunday, July 6, 2008

Time: 9:00am

Level: 3

Coordinator: Tim Motte

(tmotte@crmc.ri.gov) Put-In: URI Bay

Campus Directions: The URI Bay Campus is

located at the end of Bridgetown Road in

Wakefield, RI. Paddle along the Jamestown

coast to Beavertail. Then return along the

mainland coast. This trip offers a nice mix of

conditions and offers a chance for paddlers to

stretch their skills with a taste of open water.

FLATWATER TRIPS

June 7th Saturday- Connecticut River Eagles Paddle - Barton's Cove, Gill MA. 10:00 am shuttle

Leaders: Jim Cole JimCole@hotmail.com 401-

377-1033 and Mark Roberts

MRoberts@CIA.com, 401-533-1883.

Ten mile paddle suitable for experienced

paddlers and all sizes of boat. Slow paddlers

will have shorter turnaround option. Bring a

lunch.

Expect a fair amount of boat traffic, similar to

the Narrow River in RI. However, much of the

paddle is in a wide area of the river where it is

easy to avoid the boats.

We will paddle right under the bald eagle nest

at the start and end of the trip. The baby

eagles will be in the nest, but probably not

flying yet. Bring your binoculars to see the

eagle chicks in the nest. Launch from Barton's

Cove, 66 French King Hwy, Gill, MA.

Directions: Take 146 North to Worcester, then

I-290 East to I-190 North, then Route 2 West

to Gill. Call 401-533-1883 if lost.

Sunday June 8th River Touring School

See page one for details.

Massachusetts Construction Companies Fined for Storm Water Violations



(Boston, Mass. – May 22, 2008) –

Two Massachusetts residential housing developers have agreed to pay fines totaling \$35,109 to resolve storm water release violations that took place at construction projects in Millbury and Kingston.

The settlements stem from construction projects that either improperly discharged storm water or occurred without having the necessary storm water permit coverage for the construction site.

Storm water at the Platinum Building & Design, Inc. development on Cronin Brook Road in Millbury discharges through several swales leading off the site and into storm drains. Two swales discharge to an unnamed tributary of the Blackstone River, while another swale and the storm drains discharge into waterways that eventually reach the Blackstone River. Platinum failed to have storm water permit coverage for the site since construction commenced in 2003. EPA and the company have agreed to a \$22,609 penalty to settle this violation.

"EPA is serious about enforcing storm water regulations," said Robert W. Varney, regional administrator of EPA's New England office. "Controlling storm water runoff from construction sites helps protect our vital wetlands and waterways."

The EPA storm water permit seeks to protect waters from harmful pollutants that typically run off such sites and discharge into nearby waters. The permit requires that operators of a construction site develop a detailed management plan for minimizing the effects of storm water runoff.

For more information about EPA New England enforcement of the Clean Water Act: www.epa.gov/region1/enforcement/water

Continued on next page

FLATWATER

(continued)

June 21st Saturday - Blackstone River, Plummers Landing to Route 122 10 a.m. shuttle

Leader - Erik Eckilson eckilson@cox.net
(401) 765-1741

Suitable for shorter boats (under 15 feet) and for paddlers with good boat control.

A seven-mile trip on one of the prettiest sections of the Blackstone River. This trip requires good boat handling skills - there are narrow sections of river with tricky currents and overhanging trees (strainers) that can easily cause accidental swims. Bring a lunch.

Directions: From Route 146, take Route 16 to Uxbridge Center. Go left onto Main Street/Route 122 North. Go approx. 2 miles & turn right onto Church Street in Northbridge. Continue for about a mile to the Blackstone River Canal and Heritage Park on the right just before the bridge.

June 14-21 Cape Cod

Join us for a week of paddling Cape Cod's coastal waterways. This is one of the best ways to see the Cape's natural beauty and to explore areas accessible only by kayak or canoe. Go to www.ricka.org and click on Flatwater for more details.

Leaders: Louse Price weezrad@charter.net
508-529-3402; Sue Sirois_ s.sirois@yahoo.com

(Please email—phone calls only if necessary.)

June 16th Monday evening- RICKA's "On the Water Meeting" 100 Acre Cove Barrington. See page one for details.

June 28th and June 29th Housatonic River Weekend. Meet on Saturday at 11:00am at the put-in for shuttle.

Come for one day or both.

If you are paddling on Sunday only, contact leader for time of paddle on Sunday before the weekend of the trip. Trips are 10 miles each day.

Leaders: Jim Cole (JimCole@hotmail.com)
401-377-1033 or Mark Roberts
(HRMmark@gmail.com) 401-533-1883

Day one paddle- from Ashley Falls to Falls Village. Day two paddle -from Falls Village to Kent or alternate depending a river conditions See directions and camping information on web site.

July 4th Friday -Surf and Play Day. Annual Fourth of July event open to all paddlers- flatwater, sea kayakers and white water paddlers.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SEA KAYAK TRIPS

1. REQUIRED

In order to participate in RICKA sea kayaking trips you **MUST** have this equipment:

- A sea kayak that meets the following criteria:
 - 15 feet or longer
 - front and rear flotation (bulkheads or flotation bags)
- Coast Guard-approved PFD
- Spray skirt
- Paddle float
- Bilge pump
- Appropriate clothing for the **water** temperature

2. SUGGESTED

We strongly recommend that you bring along the following:

- Drinking water
- Food
- Sunscreen
- Whistle
- A change of clothes

Contact Cheryl Thompson Cameron or Benn Thompson at 401-647-5887 or StoneFoxFarm@juno.com if you need more information. Bring a lunch.

If you plan to surf in your kayak, helmets are strongly recommended.

We will meet at the beach, not at the launch. Put-in on Narrow River and paddle to the right to the mouth of the river and the beach.

Directions: From Tower Hill Road turn left onto Bridgetown Road (at large tower). Turn right onto Middlebridge Road. Take either Pollock or Mitchell street to boat launch.

July 8th- Tuesday evening paddle Wickford. Meet at 6:00pm and paddle to local concert.

Leader- Gregg O'Brien, goh243@aol.com
(401) 580-5147. Head lamps or boat lights required.

Directions to Wilson Park boat ramp: Take RT 1 to Intrepid St. or Route 1A to main entrance. Continue to the launch and the parking lot at the very end.

RICKA SEA KAYAKING LEVELS

RICKA does not assign ratings to paddlers. We assign difficulty levels to our trips. A trip's difficulty rating is a guide for judging if you have the skills to participate in a trip.

Every paddler must decide for themselves to participate in a group trip. Your decision should be based on some of the following considerations: the difficulty level of the trip; the forecasted weather conditions; your skill and experience level; your comfort level with the other participants

Every paddler that decides to participate in a group trip shares responsibility for the safety of the group as a whole.

Level 1: No previous kayak experience required.

Level 2: Participants should be able to:

Paddle 6 miles in a day.

Perform a wet exit.

Perform an assisted deep water rescue.

Maintain a heading for short distances without the use of a rudder.

Turn a kayak using forward and reverse sweep strokes.

Level 3: Participants should be able to:

Perform skills listed under Level 2.

Paddle 13 miles in a day.

Control a kayak in 15- to 20-knot winds.

Feel comfortable in 2-3 foot waves.

Handle SURF and BEACH LANDINGS.

Level 4: Participants should be able to:

Perform the skills listed under Level 3.

Paddle 15 miles in a day.

Control a kayak in 20 knot winds.

Handle large ocean swells.

Level 5: Participants should be able to:

Perform the skills listed under Level 4.

Paddle 20+ miles in a day.

Control a kayak in 25 knot winds.

Have fun...and don't forget to wear your PFD! (It's a requirement for all RICKA trips)

BLACKSTONE VALLEY PADDLERS

Unless otherwise noted, BVPC trips are suitable for all boats and skill levels. Boat rentals are available on the first and third Tuesday of the month; see the web site for more information. Training nights are free of charge this year and included with your membership or with a boat rental. More detailed directions can be found on the web site.

June 10th 6:15pm Nipmuc River and Harrisville Pond, Harrisville RI

Naturalist Julie Reindeau will be leading this trip. This river, above the pond and above where the Clear River enters, is listed by the state as pristine water, the state's highest rating for water quality. Note, if you choose the river route, there are numerous beaver dams to drag your boat over. The river is very narrow with lots of turns.

Directions from the South: 146 North to Route 102 West to East Ave to Harrisville to Route 98 and the Harrisville Fishing Area just outside of town by the green bridge.

Directions from the North: 146 South to Chocolog Rd. Right on 146A by Darling Farm. Right on 98 south to green truss bridge by Harrisville fishing area.

June 17 Rental Night 6:15pm Slatersville Reservoir- North Smithfield RI

Anice paddle through a flatwater section of upper Slatersville Reservoir and then a stretch of the Branch River.

Directions from North: From 146 South, take the Slatersville exit.

Take a right off the ramp onto Great Road/Victory Highway. Travel approximately 1.5 miles. Go straight through the light, continuing on Victory Highway (Route 102), and travel another mile. You'll see a DEM sign for the Slatersville Boat Launch on left-hand side. Park in the dirt lot on the left (adjacent to the Slatersville Fishing Club Parking Lot). If you get to the Burrillville town line you have gone too far.

Directions from South: From 146 North, take the Slatersville Exit. Make a left off the ramp onto School Street. Travel 1.25 miles and merge (left) onto Greene Street.

Travel straight on Greene St. (which becomes Main St.) for another 1.25 miles. Take a left onto Victory Highway (Route 102). Less than a mile on left is a DEM Sign for Slatersville Boat Launch. Park in the dirt parking area on the left-hand side. If you get to the Burrillville town line you have gone too far.

June 24 - Ranger night River Bend Farm Loop 6:15pm

Paddle on the canal to historic Goat Hill lock or experienced paddlers can paddle the loop, down the river and then up the canal. There will be 2 trips to accommodate all levels of experience.

Directions to River Bend Farm: From Rt. 146 North or South: Take the exit for Rt. 16 East. Follow Rt. 16 East for about three miles into downtown Uxbridge. At light turn right and immediate left, to continue on Rt. 16 East. After light, continue to second left. Turn left onto Oak Street. Proceed north on Oak Street for about 1.5 miles, staying right at fork by school. River Bend Farm is on the right.

June 26th 6:15pm Lincoln Woods, Olney Pond in Lincoln RI Training Night

Directions to Lincoln Woods state park.: Take the Twin River Road exit from route 146 and follow the signs. Turn right onto the ring road in the park (it's one way). Follow a few miles to get to the state boat ramp.

July 1st 6:15pm Blackstone Gorge, Blackstone MA Rentals Available.

Naturalist Julie Reindeau will be leading this trip.

Paddle from the Gorge upriver to the Millville locks. Come and see the improved canoe/kayak access. Lots of history and natural beauty on this trip.

Directions from the North: Route 146 South: Take the Forrestdale/ Slatersville exit. At the top of the ramp turn left, then right at light onto Rt. 146A. At next intersection with traffic light turn left onto St. Paul Street. Follow St. Paul street until end at light at Route 122 (Main Street) in Blackstone Mass. Take left at light. Follow Rt. 122 North for about 1 mile. Turn left at brown & white Blackstone Gorge sign.

Plans For World's Longest Canoe And Kayak Race Underway

ABC Alaska, May 27— Alaska already hosts several of the “world's longest” races, with the addition of the longest canoe and kayak race, the state may further secure it's claim as the ultimate outdoors-man's paradise.

The state may be adding another of the “world's longest” races to it's already long list of races. Home of the longest sled dog, snowmachine and riverboat races, Alaska may also play host to the world's longest canoe and kayak race.

Plans for a race scheduled for next year are already under way. The trek could stretch as long as 1,000-miles, and would begin on the Yukon River in Whitehorse, and run all the way to the Dalton Highway bridge.

The race would run almost evenly between both Alaska and Canada.

A full field of 50 teams is anticipated by the event's organizer Peter Coates of Whitehorse. Fast teams, said Coates, are expected to finish the race in about a week, while slower teams may take as long as three.

Directions from the South: Take Route 146 North to the Slatersville/Forestdale exit. Take a right at the top of the exit ramp, then right at light onto Rt. 146A. Follow directions above.

July 8th 6:15pm Wallum Lake Douglas State Park, Douglas, MA

Wallum Lake is located on the border of RI and Ma., has crystal clear water, and an easy paddle.

Directions: 146 north to exit for Rt 16 to Douglas/Uxbridge
Follow Rt 16 W thru the town of Douglas. You will come to an intersection for Rt 16 & 96. GO STRAIGHT. (You will see a sign for Douglas State Park/Wallum Lake) This is S. Main St. Follow until you see a sign for Douglas State Park, take this left. Just down the road take a right at park entrance. Follow road bearing left down the hill to the put-in.

Classifieds

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Pygmy Coho wood (Mahogany) kayak. Kit boat. Excellent condition, about 9 years old. Fast, good handling sea kayak. Many extras. \$1,500 firm. Located in Cumberland. Contact Neal 401 333-4091 or nealpiggott@cox.net (5/27)

Necky Kyook, Blue, 25.5" wide, 15' long, 2 bulkheads, No Rudder, plastic, in good condition. \$650 obo. Contact: jimcole@hotmail.com (5/24)

Necky Arluk IV, yellow deck /white hull, 24" wide, 16' long, w/Rudder, Fiberglass in good condition, stored inside. \$1350 obo. Contact: jimcole@hotmail.com (5/24)

Dagger Cascade C-1, 11' long, 27.5" wide, 24"x19" cockpit, w/spray skirt, stored inside. \$500 OBO. Contact Jim Cole: jimcole@hotmail.com (5/24)

NDK Greenlander Pro, white over white, garage kept, very good condition, only used a couple of times in the winter, I use my surf ski in the summer. Pick up only, \$1500. contact Chris at clawlor@cpsed.net. (5/15)

Mad River Lamoille 18' Excellent canoe for tripping and family camping. Kevlar construction is lightweight and durable. \$900.00 See reviews <http://www.paddling.net/Reviews/showReviews.html?prod=376> contact henry@twincitysupply.com (4/27)

Valley Nordkapp, 2 1/2 years old Ultra carbon/kevlar layup, custom front bulkhead (more storage space), custom skeg slide placement, custom color (midnight blue over white with grey trim), manufacture installed keel strip, deck mounted compass. New \$4400, asking \$2800. Pictures available. Email

kkaykk@aol.com, or call Ken at 401-486-0264 (4/19)

Old Town Tripper canoe 1991 royalex 17' 5" length excellent condition stored in the basement at least the past 10 years. Asking \$800 OBO. Call Ken @ 401-766-5346 or e-mail KLP02876@yahoo.com (4/2)

Walden Naturalist Kayak very good condition 10 yrs old, terrific entry level and young adult kayak asking \$200 OBO, Call Ken @ 401-766-5346 or e-mail KLP02876@yahoo.com (4/2)

Two kayaks for sale - pics available. **NDK Romany**, 16 x 21. Yellow over white. Excellent condition with typical hull scratches - deck is great. Hard plastic seat replaced with Valley soft seat. \$1,900. **Night Heron stitch and glue**, 18x20. High performance kayak, hard chine Greenland style. Immaculate. Hardly used. Built in foot pump. Two water tight hatches/ bulkheads -rear is VCP rubber hatch for larger items storage. \$1,600. Jerry Borenstein 914 793 0431. aikijerry@optonline.net (2/29)

Thule kayak rack single rack from an Escort for sale. \$100.00 call Sally Ann 401-861-5049 or campy272@juno.com (2/18)

Ultra light and fast handmade kayak - Thirty-four pounds 16' long X 23" beam. Stitch & glue plywood kit construction. Almost new - \$950 Contact Greta: 272-2950 in am or at gabbott505@aol.com (11/19)

Old Town Loon 111 Kayak, \$400, pics available: wsk112@gmail.com (10/5)

Dagger Super Ego and Dagger Ego kayaks for sale. 300 for each. Both are in great shape. Nice for park and play and great ocean surfers. 401 783 4112. Iv message (9/10)

Werner Cyprus Paddle 220 cm ,Straight Shaft used once, \$380.00 new will sell for \$275.00 Call Greg or Patrice at 401-624-2822 (8/14)

Current Designs Extreme. Excellent condition. Fast Sea Kayak.

Handles all conditions well. Kevlar. Smart Trac Rudder control. Yellow/White. New \$3200+, asking \$2600. Located in North Kingstown. Call Tom 401 885-7649 (8/24)

Seaward Quest, special "Guide Edition", 19', fiberglass and in immaculate shape. All the bells and whistles. Striking Ivory hull, red deck and yellow seam striping color scheme. This kayak is fast and can handle anything. Own this rare bird for \$2000. Call Bill @ 401 253 2191, wjgirrier@yahoo.com (7/2)

Kevlar Arluk III by Necky. Yellow/white, 18ft., \$1399 OBO. Also a ton of accessories. Bob, 401-247-2309. (5/21)

Dagger Super Ego. White water play boat, handles big water (class V) very well. Boat has seen little use. Google the boat for a picture. \$350 email with interest jw_20@hotmail.com or call 401 783-4112 (5/15)

Seaward Expedition kayak, made in Canada, 18'-5". Blue over white hull, two hatches, great storage, little usage minor hull scuffs, rudder, stored indoors. Deck bungies and reflective perimeter lines. Multi chine shallow V hull. Adjustable seat and backrest. Asking \$1275. David in Warwick 737.5825 (5/9)

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

Classifieds are free for RICKA members.

Send your classified ads 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.