

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Vol. XXXIX

No. 4

April, 2016

April Annual Meeting MacKenzie River in Canada's Northwest Territories Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Our Annual Meeting will include the election of officers for the 2016 to 2017 year (see below), followed by a talk by Marshall Moore and Jean Gerber on their 31-day, 600-mile canoe trip down the MacKenzie River in Canada's Northwest Territories. It was an incredible trip that led to many adventures including forest fires, encounters with bears, interactions with local First Nations people and a few nasty whirlpools that caused a little anxiety. Marshall and Jean paddled part of the route that Sir Alexander MacKenzie followed in 1789 in his quest to find the Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean. He later learned that the river led to the Arctic Ocean instead.



Approaching Bear Rock at the confluence
with the Great Bear River

PLEASE NOTE DATE AND LOCATION!

Directions to St. Martin's from Route 95 – From Route 95 North or South take the exit to Route 195 East. Take exit 2 for India Street toward Gano Street. Take a left on to Gano Street. Follow Gano Street to Waterman Street and take a right. Take the next left on to Wayland Avenue. Take your 4th right on to Orchard Avenue. St. Martin's will be on your left.

Vote for Club Officers at the April Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of officers for the 2016 to 2017 year:

President: Susan Engelman
Vice President: Sharon Dragon
Secretary: Henry Dziadosz
Treasurer: Andy Viera

Members are encouraged to attend the April Annual Meeting to cast their votes. Contact Erik Eckilson at eckilson@cox.net or Cheryl Thompson at stonefoxfarm@cox.net with any questions.

Sea Kayak Potluck Paddle and Planning Meeting Saturday, May 7, 2016

The day will start at 10:00 with paddles at Gooseberry Island, Westport, MA. There will be a level 2 trip on the Westport River, and a level 3 trip in Buzzards Bay. All paddlers will meet at Goosberry Beach. Dry suits or protective wet suits are strongly recommended. A Potluck and Planning Meeting will follow at 3:00 at 75 Drift Road in Westport. There will be plenty of food and conversation, so bring a potluck dish to share. Paddlers should also bring ideas for trips to add to the summer calendar. If you cannot come to the paddle, please come to the Planning Meeting - we need your input. Please contact [Carleen McOsker](#) or [Jon Sharlin](#) with any questions.

Enjoy Camping and Paddling this Summer

Pawcatuck River Overnight

May 14, 2016 to May 15, 2016

We will meet at the Alton Dam (Route 91 at the Hopkinton / Richmond town line) at 10:00 on Saturday for a 10:15 shuttle, and paddle down to the Burlingame Canoe Campsites for the evening. We will take out at the Bradford Landing on Sunday. You are responsible for your own equipment and food. There are more than 20 miles of hiking trails and more than 50 geocaches in this area, including about 16 new caches as of March 2016. Please RSVP to Jim Cole at jimcole@hotmail.com or call 401-699-1172

Cape Cod Paddling Week

June 25, 2016 to July 2, 2016

Join us for a week of paddling the waterways of Cape Cod. All paddling trips will be in protected bays, harbors and rivers. Participants must be able to handle 5-10 miles of paddling, and there may be days of paddling against current and wind. Sea kayaks and recreational kayaks 12 feet or longer will be best for most trips. We will be camping at [Shady Knoll Campground](#) in Brewster. You will be responsible for your own meals. Contact [Louise Price](#) for additional information.

All paddling trips are at the discretion of the leader. Paddlers will need a canoe or kayak that is appropriate for the conditions, paddle, personal floatation device (PFD), paddle float, pump, and spare clothes. You will also need camping equipment including a tent, sleeping bag and cooking gear. You are responsible for your own food. Contact the leaders for additional information.

RICKA is an ACA



Paddle America Club

Your RICKA membership expired on March 31, 2016...

Renew your RICKA membership now!

Please visit the website at:

<http://www.ricka.org/Join/Jointhefun.html>

You can renew by mail, or online using PayPal.

Executive Board:

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m. at the [REI Cranston Store](#) 22 Chapel View Boulevard, Cranston. All are welcome to attend.

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It's Time to Renew your Membership

You'll be supporting Rhode Island's oldest and largest paddle sports club

For over 39 years, the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association (RICKA) has been providing great paddling opportunities for it's members. We are the oldest and largest paddle sport club in Rhode Island. **A new membership year begins in April, so please join or renew your membership now!**



Join RICKA and be part of the fun!

Why should you join RICKA? Let's start with the trips. Each year RICKA organizes hundreds of trips ranging from easy daytrips to weeklong excursions. Whether you enjoy [flatwater](#), [sea kayaking](#), [whitewater](#) or [wilderness tripping](#), there is trip for every interest and skill level at RICKA.

Are you looking to improve your paddling skills? Training is also an important part of the RICKA mission. Each year RICKA offers many fun and informative training

sessions. Many of these sessions are offered free of charge, or at a significant discount to our members.

In addition to trips and training, we produce eleven monthly issues of our outstanding newsletter the [Paddler](#), hold [monthly meetings](#) with interesting and informative speakers, and maintain the [websites](#), [Facebook page](#), and message

boards that keep you up-to-date on trips and activities. Our [library](#) also includes an extensive collection of paddling books and videos covering all aspects of paddling.

Do you need to buy or sell boat? You should check out the [RICKA Classified Ads](#) on our website and in the Paddler. If you can't find what you need there, RICKA members also get special discounts at several area retailers (see page 5).

So, if you like what we do, but are not a RICKA member, please join today - its just \$15 for the entire family. If you are a RICKA member, please renew your membership now. Memberships run from April 1, 2016 to 2017. You can join the club or renew your membership online using PayPal at:

<http://www.ricka.org/Join/Jointhefun.html>.

For additional information you can contact Sharon at membership@ricka.org. **Please join today and support your club!**



2016 Membership Application/Renewal

(Please submit one form per family)

New members complete entire application.

Renewal members fill in ONLY your NAME and any NEW information.

RICKA DUES (with email newsletter) = \$15

BVPC DUES (Blackstone Valley Paddle Club) add \$10 (RICKA membership is also required)

Total

Enclose your check and mail to: RICKA, P.O. Box 184, Hope Valley, RI 02832

Name Adult 1 (primary) _____

Name Adult 2 (spouse, significant other) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____

Phone 1 (_____) _____ - _____ Home/Cell/Work Phone2 (_____) _____ - _____ Home/Cell/Work

Email 1 _____@_____ Email 2 _____@_____

Interest(s): Flatwater Sea Kayak Whitewater Surfing Wilderness Geocaching

Are you willing to volunteer for club activities? Picnic Newsletter Trip Leader Other: _____

You can also renew your membership online using PayPal at <http://www.ricka.org/Join/Jointhefun.html>

Interest Group Q&A

Paddling with RICKA Sea Kayak

What is the RICKA Sea Kayak group?

The [RICKA Sea Kayak](#) group is specifically focused on kayaking in coastal environments. We organize trips throughout the spring, summer, and fall. We encourage people to join us and discover the joy of sea kayaking.

What types of trips do you do?

Our trips range in difficulty from novice to highly experienced. RICKA does not assign ratings to paddlers. We assign difficulty levels to our trips (see RICKA Sea Kayaking Levels). A trip's rating is designed to be a guide to help you judge if you have the skills to participate in a trip.

Who runs the trips?

RICKA is not a professional paddling organization. Our members coordinate paddles for their own enjoyment and the enjoyment of the rest of the paddling community. These trip coordinators are not professional guides or instructors.

How do I know if a trip is right for me?

You should assess your comfort level for participating in the trip based on the difficulty level, the forecasted conditions, your skill and experience, and your comfort with the other participants in the group. Each participant in the group trip shares the responsibility for the safety and enjoyment of the entire group.

Surf and rocks present special dangers to paddlers. Surf is unpredictable and powerful, and rocks can smash you or your kayak. Only skilled paddlers should venture into these conditions.



RICKA paddlers off Sakonnet Point in Little Compton

How do I find out about trips?

From June through September, RICKA Sea Kayak trips are posted on the trip calendar on our website:

<http://www.rickaseakayaking.org/calendar/month.php>

All times listed are **LAUNCH** times. Please arrive early enough to prepare. If necessary, paddles will be cancelled by 8:00 a.m. Check the [message board](#) for cancellation notices.

Off-season, "show & go" trips are posted on the message board:

<http://www.rickaseakayaking.org/forums/index.php>

What equipment do I need?

In order to participate in RICKA Sea Kayak trips you **MUST** have a sea kayak (15 feet or longer with front and rear floatation and perimeter lines on the deck), a Coast Guard approved PFD, a spray skirt, paddle, paddle float, bilge pump, helmet (for surfing or rock gardening), appropriate clothing for the conditions, and a whistle (or other approved daytime signaling device).

We also recommend that you bring drinking water, food, sunscreen, a change of clothes, a knife and a compass. For sunset or night paddles, a headlamp and coast guard approved navigation lights are

also required. It is also a good idea to bring an emergency strobe light

What about cold water trips?

When the water is cold hypothermia is a serious danger. Submersion in cold water dramatically reduces a paddler's ability to assist in their own rescue. In cold-water conditions, we required that all paddlers wear a dry suit with fleece or polypro underneath, a hat or neoprene hood to protect the head, and neoprene gloves or poggies to protect the hands. A change of warm, dry clothes stored in a dry bag is also required.

RICKA Sea Kayaking Levels

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 2 trips generally follow the shoreline.

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.
Level 5 trips require an RSVP.

RICKA's Ten Steps to Successful Paddling

That got your attention didn't it? Of course it did! We all want to find an easy way to reach our goals, and there are countless articles out there stating "Ten Easy Steps". OK, so here are RICKA's Ten Steps to Successful Paddling:

1. **There are no ten steps to success** - everyone has different goals and objectives, so how you get there is up to you.
2. **Try everything** - take out a canoe, a kayak or a paddleboard; paddle solo and tandem; try [flatwater](#), [sea kayak](#), [whitewater](#) and [wilderness](#). They all have something to teach you.
3. **Take a class** - with good instruction your paddling skills will improve much faster. RICKA often holds flatwater, whitewater, wilderness and sea kayak training. Training sessions are posted on the RICKA [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) - watch for them.
4. **Supplement your paddling time with instructional books, videos and articles** - the [RICKA Library](#) is a great place to start.
5. **NEVER stop LEARNING!!!**
6. **Expensive gear won't make you better a paddler.** Your gear must be appropriate for the trip and conditions, but beyond that, the best gear is the gear that you have and that gets you out on the water.
7. **Paddling is an experience that should be shared** - please share yours by volunteering to lead a trip at your favorite paddling spot.
8. **As your skills improve, pass along what you know by teaching someone else** - you'll be surprised what you learn in the process.
9. **Mix it up.** We all have a core group of paddling friends, and that is great. In fact, it's one of the great joys of paddling. That being said, make it a point to paddle with different people on occasion. It will give you the opportunity to paddle at different places, to learn new skills, and to make new friends.
10. **Nothing replaces time on the water, so get out and paddle.**

Most importantly, please don't forget to support RICKA. If you are not a member, please join us now. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so now. You can find additional information at: <http://www.ricka.org/Join/Jointhefun.html>.

RICKA Releases a Limited Edition Paddling "Geocoin"

As a way to promote paddling, geocaching, and our home state of Rhode Island, RICKA will be offering a limited edition, paddling themed geocaching coin or "geocoin".

RICKA has an active group of geocachers who often combine paddling with geocaching. Geocaching is like a treasure hunt that uses a GPS to navigate to a set of coordinates where a geocache is located. Many geocaches are located on the water, and we would like to encourage more geocachers to become paddlers, and hopefully [RICKA members](#).

A "geocoin" is small coin or medallion that is placed in a geocache to make it a more

interesting cache to find. These coins often include a serial number that allows them to be tracked on [geocaching websites](#) as they move from cache to cache around the state, the country, or even the world.

The RICKA geocoin has a paddling theme with a river canoeist on the front, and a sea kayaker on the back. A polished nickel version is available for the general public. RICKA members can also purchase a special antique cooper version. Either version is available as a trackable or non-trackable coin.

Don't miss out - you can pre-order your RICKA Geocoin on our website at: <http://ricka.org/Payments/geocoin.html>

Earth Day Cleanup

April 16, 2016 - 9:00 to 1:00

The [Ten Mile River Watershed](#) will be doing a cleanup of Central Pond in East Providence/Pawtucket. They have plenty of volunteers to help with the land-based cleanup on the Greenway, but need more volunteers to paddle the pond to help with cleanup efforts from the water.

If you are interested in helping, please meet at the Kimberly Ann Rock Complex, 215 Ferris Ave in Rumford (02916 N 41° 50.875 W 071° 20.765) at 9:00. We will be able to unload and launch boats from this parking area. It is a short portage to water's edge, so wheels may be helpful. Trash bags and gloves will be provided, but if you have gloves you may want to bring them.

Please contact [Lori Lucas](#) with any questions.

Before you Paddle...

Educate yourself about the area in which you will be paddling, and carry appropriate gear, clothing, water, food, etc. Always check the weather forecast before launching. **YOU ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE DECISION TO LAUNCH YOUR BOAT.**

Flatwater Trips

Late changes and cancellations will be posted on the [Flatwater Message Board](#). Please check the board before leaving for any trip. Check [web site](#) for directions and/or GPS coordinates

April 3rd – meet at the gate at 11:00
West River at West Hill Park, Uxbridge, MA

Trip coordinator: Earl MacRae
earlandpat@comcast.net

Cancelled
Meet at gate at 11:00 – the ranger will unlock the gate for us. At this time of year, wetsuits or drysuits are required. Be aware that West Hill Park is in a different location than West Hill Dam. You will pass signs for both on your way to the park - ignore West Hill Dam signs.

April 9th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch
Palmer River, Rehoboth, MA
Trip coordinator: Bill Luther
prijon@juno.com 508-761-7961

Put in at Shad Factory Pond and paddle upstream. At this time of year, wetsuits or drysuits are required. You should find this trip easier with boats under 15 feet. Bring a lunch.

April 16th meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 shuttle
Quinnebaug River – Killingly to Canterbury, CT
Trip coordinator: Earl MacRae
earlandpat@comcast.net

The river is mostly smooth, with a few sections of quickwater. Moving water skills and cold water gear required. There is a 700-foot carry from the parking lot to the put-in, so bring wheels. Bring a lunch - we will be stopping along the river.

April 23rd - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 shuttle

Wood River - Mechanic Street to Woodville

Trip coordinators: Sharon Dragon
shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942 and
Mike Vechinsky m.vechinsky@att.net
860-271-1586.

A beautiful and clean river - suitable for all boats and levels of experience. There is one portage. Portage wheels will be helpful, bring them if you have them. At this time of year, wetsuits or drysuits are required. Bring a lunch.

April 26th - meet at 5:30 for a 6:00 launch
Valley Falls Marsh – Cumberland, RI
Trip coordinator: Phil Tetreault
philt211@gmail.com

A very scenic paddle for paddlers of all abilities. Enjoy the marsh and a paddle up the Blackstone River.

April 30th - meet at 9:00 for a 9:30 shuttle
Great Swamp - Taylor's Landing to Biscuit City - Kingston, RI
Trip coordinators: Henry Dziadosz 401-567-0313 hdziadosz@verizon.net and
Cheryl Thompson 401-497-5887
stonefoxfarm@cox.net

Very scenic, but not a beginner trip. Suitable for kayaks under 15 feet. A change of clothes in a waterproof bag is required. Bring a lunch.

May 1st - meet at 10:00
Joint RICKA Paddle with the Ten Mile River Watershed Council on the Bungay River, Attleboro, MA
Trip Coordinator: Bill Luther
prijon@juno.com 508-761-7961

An easy paddle up a very scenic river - you will forget you are in the city of Attleboro after a few of the twists and turns of the Bungay River. You should find this trip easier with boats under 15 feet. An RSVP to the leader is required for this trip.

Discounts for Members

The following retailers offer special discounts for RICKA members:

Blackstone Valley Outfitters
401-312-0369
<http://www.bvori.com/>

Claude's Cycles
508-543-0490
<http://www.claudescycles.com/>

CrossFitRhody
<http://www.crossfitrhody.com/>

Narrow River Kayaks
(401) 789-0334
<http://www.narrowriverkayaks.com/>

Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures
508-636-0300
<http://www.ospreyseakayak.com>

Outdoorplay.com
<http://www.outdoorplay.com/kayaks>

Quaker Lane Outfitters
401-294-9642

The Kayak Centre
888-SEA-KAYAK
<http://www.kayakcentre.com/>

WaveLength Magazine
<http://www.wavelengthmagazine.com/>

See the [website](#) for details and remember to ASK for the discount.

RICKA Classifieds

Classified ads free for RICKA members and are printed here on space-available basis. Please see the [website](#) for the complete list.

- **Cane Canoe Seats Replaced** - contact Jim Cole - 401-699-1172
- **Caribou by Current Design** - fiberglass in excellent condition with professionally applied keel strip. Brilliant blue with white hull. Large tight hatches, good for day or multi day trips - \$2,000. Carleenmco@gmail.com
- **NDK Pilgrim** - white/white/navy seam, 15'9" length, 19.7" beam. Versatile sea kayak for small or lean paddler. Well-maintained by long-time RICKA sea kayaker, the usual hull scratches. Offers considered. Contact pikake98353@mypacks.net
- **Necky Chatham 16 fiberglass kayak** - skeg, compass & foot-operated bilge pump. White and grey. Mint condition - always stored indoors. Cockpit cover and spray skirt. Like new - \$1,300. Christy Russell 401-364-3093 or christyrussell@gmail.com
- **Romany Explorer sea kayak** - fiberglass, 17'6" X. 21.5". **Prijon Hurricane whitewater kayak** with stern air bag. **Kopapa Kiwi kayak** - 8' X 26". Medium dry top & drysuit (needs wrist & ankle gaskets). Large PFD, bilge pump. 3 cockpit covers. 5 paddles and 2 dry bags. Yakima rack w/ locks plus 2 sets of saddles. Extra towers & clips \$1500. Contact goray7ray@gmail.com
- **Werner Carbon Fiber Ikelos paddle** - bent shaft. 215 cm. Only used twice and is in brand new condition - \$350. Contact aikijerry@optonline.net
- **Free: Two youth size PFDs** - 50-90 lbs, 24-28" chest. One is LL Bean (color blue), the other is HO Sports (color black). Can bring to RICKA monthly meetings. Milton 978-618-7679 mlchow622@gmail.com
- **Valley Aquanaut** - plastic, in good condition with built in skeg - \$600. Contact Paul O'Reilly at 401- 640-5052
- **Necky Looksha** - 17' poly model includes Werner carbon paddle, cockpit cover, spray shirt, paddle float, kayak dolly - \$1,200. Call Pat Cosma at 401-480-3508
- **Necky Arluck III** - 18', 35 lbs., kevlar with rudder, yellow & white with blue stripe. Cuts through the wind and surf like butter - \$2400 OBO. Contact Bill at 401-447-2397
- **Current Designs Soltice GT XL** - yellow over white fiberglass, 55 lbs. 17'7". Very stable and predictable boat. Cockpit cover and sprayskirt included - \$1800. E-mail hdziadosz@verizon.net or 401-497-5887
- **Malone XV kayak Auto Loader** - complete system, new 2015, never used - \$300. Pat Cosma 401-480-3508
- **Tiderace Xplore-X** - length: 18', width: 24", cockpit: 34.5"x19", depth: 14". Black and red deck over white hull with black keel strip. Gently used for two seasons and in perfect condition - \$2,400. SeaNskidog@hotmail.com
- **Folbot collapsible kayak** - weighs 40 lbs., color is bright orange. 2007 model in like new condition with paddle, spray cover and extra seat included, as well as full directions. Asking \$1000.00. Call Tom at 401-783-2750 or cell 520-240-7353
- **Make me an offer on any item listed:** Canoe/Kayak equipment - 2 four foot end air bags for OC1, 2 pieces of foam closed cell side flotation, pair of adjustable foot pegs for kayak, other items (if you're looking for miscellaneous whitewater items, please email me, I may have them). Email me for details. Jimcole@hotmail.com or 401-699-1172
- **Valley Knordkapp HM** - a classic. Mid 90s model - yellow hull and deck, chimp pump, mounted compass. Used but not abused, stored indoors, clean, good shape. \$1200. OBO. Todd at tsmoore991@gmail.com
- **Dagger Sitka** - fiberglass, yellow/black/white, 17'11 x 22". Good condition. Fast and comfortable; front/rear ultra-wide hatch openings; day hatch behind the cockpit - \$800. cammac@ieee.org

Would you like to read more about sea kayaking?

Subscribe to Atlantic Coastal Kayaker

Atlantic Coastal Kayaker will bring you a 36-page issue all about sea kayaking, 8 months a year. (March through December)

**Special rate for RICKA members
\$18 a year – a \$6.00 discount**

Send for a free sample issue.

Atlantic Coastal Kayaker
224 Argilla Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

Phone: 978-356-6112 (phone and fax)

Email: ackayak@comcast.net

Website: <http://www.atlanticcoastalkayaker.com>

Send your classified ads to RICKA Webmaster Cheryl Thompson, 53 Anan Wade Road, Gloucester, RI 02857-2611 or 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 are at the webmaster's discretion.