

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Vol. XXXIX

No. 3

March, 2016

March Club Meeting Upstream Challenge with Matt Hopkinson Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

It's a safe bet that all river paddlers muse about what it must have been like to run a river before it was tamed by dams. Dams seem permanent to us, monuments to industry that cannot be altered, but they can.

Join us at our March Meeting to hear how Matt Hopkinson used his upriver canoeing skills and his knowledge of ancient canoe routes on a 182-mile trip up the Penobscot River to raise money for the [Penobscot River Restoration Trust](#). The meeting will be held in the Sterns Room at St. Martin's Church, 50 Orchard Avenue, Providence.



Matt Hopkinson on the Penobscot 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.

Flatwater Planning Meeting Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge, MA for our annual Flatwater Planning Meeting.

At this meeting, we will set up our calendar for the 2016 year, so please bring ideas for trips. If you would like to lead a trip but do not have experience, we will partner you up with an experienced leader. If you would like to lead a trip, but cannot attend the meeting, we can reserve a date in advance of the meeting. We will have party pizza and soda; you may bring a snack or dish to share, if you wish.

Contact Cheryl Thompson at 401-647-5887 or stonefoxfarm@cox.net for additional information.

From the RICKA Library...

AMC Paddle Guides

Sea Kayaking along the New England Coast By Tamsin Venn

This is the AMC's classic guide that leads adventurous kayakers on more than 45 trips along the magnificent New England coastline. Kayakers of all abilities can explore expansive sand beaches, bird watch in vast marshes, tour solitary estuaries, or challenge their skills along wild shorelines. Each trip includes a detailed map and description. Whether you're just discovering the joys of sea kayaking or have been exploring the New England coast for years, Sea Kayaking Along the New England Coast will expand your list of paddling locations.

Quiet Water MA, CT and RI By John Hayes and Alex Wilson

This is the AMC's popular Quiet Water guide that offers paddlers of all ages and abilities adventure and enjoyment on the water. These tours lead you to out-of-the-way lakes and ponds, meandering rivers, marshy coves and inlets, and more. Each trip features a detailed tour description including habitat type and notes about the flora and fauna you'll discover along the way. Beginner and experienced paddlers, birdwatchers, anglers, and families alike will appreciate this detailed, easy-to-use guide to southern New England's best quiet water.

If you would like to check out these books from the [RICKA Library](http://www.ricka.org) contact Bill Hahn at librarian@ricka.org. Library selections can be mailed to you with a postage paid return mailer provided at no cost to the borrower.

RICKA is an ACA



Paddle America Club

Executive Board:

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1 Smith Avenue, Greenville. All are welcome to attend.

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The **Paddler** is published monthly except December by the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association, Inc.

Your RICKA membership expires this month...

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.

Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

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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 on April 1st, so please join or renew your membership today.**



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 _____ @ _____

Indicate your interest (s): Flatwater Sea Kayak Whitewater Surfing Wilderness

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 Whitewater

What is the RICKA Whitewater group?

The Whitewater group is the smallest of RICKA's four interest groups. We paddle whitewater rivers and streams across New England.

What is a whitewater trip?

Whitewater trips are designated according to difficulty of the rapids (see AMC River Ratings at right). Our trips range from easy class I trips which are open to any experienced RICKA paddler, to extremely difficult class IV trips which are open to experienced whitewater paddlers only. Most trips are rated class II/III.

An important difference between whitewater and flatwater trips is one of emphasis. A whitewater trip usually takes place on a single section of a river that happens to have the desired level of difficulty. We may spend an hour playing at a single rapid.

How do I find out about trips?

On occasion, RICKA Whitewater trips are posted on the trip calendar on our website. <http://www.ricka-flatwater.org/wwschedule.htm>

More often, they are posted as "bootleg" trips on the club's message board. http://members.boardhost.com/RI_Whitewater/

Please note that these bootleg trips are not official RICKA trips. They are posted for the convenience of our paddlers. As always, you are responsible for determining if the trip is suitable for your level of experience.



Duke Wavewalker surfing the Gorge Drop on the Knightville section of the Westfield River

Most RICKA members also paddle with other whitewater groups such as the AMC, MVP or other internet groups.

How do I join a trip?

Official RICKA Whitewater trips are always RSVP trips. Contact the leader via email or at the phone number listed.

Most "bootleg" trips are "show and go" requiring no advanced notice other than confirmation on the message board.

What equipment do I need?

Every paddler will need a whitewater canoe or kayak with floatation, paddle, personal floatation device (PFD) and a properly fitted whitewater helmet. You can find a list of other equipment on our website.

<http://www.ricka-flatwater.org/wwschedule.htm>

What about clothing?

Whitewater paddling is definitely a water sport, and you should expect to get wet. Since the whitewater paddling season begins early in the spring, cold water paddling gear is required.

Do you offer training?

RICKA occasionally offers a Class II Kayak Whitewater School – details are posted in the Paddler.

AMC River Ratings

Flatwater - There is little or no current - paddling upstream is easy.

Quickwater - The river moves fast, but is generally smooth.

Class I - Fast moving water with riffles and small waves, but few obstructions.

Class II - Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels that are evident without scouting. Occasional maneuvering may be required.

Class III - Rapids with high, irregular waves that may be difficult to avoid. Narrow passages often require complex maneuvering in fast current. May require scouting from shore. Self-rescues are usually easy.

Class IV - Intense and powerful rapids requiring precise boat control. May include large, unavoidable waves and holes or constricted passages demanding fast maneuvers under pressure. Scouting is necessary the first time down. Swims will be long, and self-rescue difficult.

Branch River Icebreaker (Class II)

Saturday, March 19, 2016

As a 'nod' to all the years that RICKA ran the RI Whitewater Championships, we are planning to run the Branch River on the traditional 3rd Saturday in March.

We'll meet at the put-in below the Harrisville Dam (access is now at 4 Central Street, Harrisville). This is a 7- mile trip with a couple of short class II rapids depending on water level. Cold weather gear (wetsuit or drysuit) is required. You must have class II skills and be properly prepared for the conditions. Final details will be posted on the [Whitewater Message Board](#) when available.

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

Check the [Flatwater Message Board](#) for bootleg trips and hikes. Appropriate skills and equipment are required.

Flatwater Planning Meeting
March 13, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge, MA for our annual Flatwater Planning Meeting. Please bring ideas for trips. If you would like to lead a trip but do not have experience, we can partner you with an experienced leader. Contact Cheryl Thompson at 401-647-5887 or stonefoxfarm@cox.net for additional information.

Sea Kayak Trips

Sea kayak trips are now posted on the Show & Go Message Board at: <http://rickaseakayaking.org/forums/index.php?board=2.0>

RICKA Picnic and Barbecue

August 21, 2016

SAVE THE DATE! The 2016 RICKA Picnic and Barbeque will take place on

Sunday, August 21, 2016 at Colt State Park in Bristol. Stay tuned for more information....

Cape Cod Paddling Week

June 25, 2016 to July 2, 2016

Join us for a week of paddling the beautiful 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.

Please contact Louise Price at weezrad@yahoo.com for more information or if you are planning to attend.

RICKA Adirondacks Trip

July 30, 2016 to August 7, 2016

With thousands of miles of beautiful waterways, the toughest part of paddling in the Adirondacks can be deciding where to go. Make it easy on yourself and join this wonderful weeklong trip.

We will be camping at [Lake Eaton Campground](#), which is a beautiful campground with spacious sites and good bathroom facilities. It is also within an hour's drive of many prime-paddling destinations. You can make campground reservations now at Reserve America:

<http://www.reserveamerica.com/>

Please try to select a site in the 40's and 50's or other sites close by. You can come for the week or just a few days.

Please contact Henry Dziadosz at hdziadosz@verizon.net for more information or if you are planning to attend.

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.crossfithody.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
- **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 hdziodosz@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
- **Perception "Sonoma" kayak** - Airlite material - white hull red top- length 13' width 23", includes spray skirt and paddle. Like new - used only a few times - original retail \$1,150- ASKING \$645. Contact Allen at 401-739-5151 OR CALAFRANCISCO@AOL.COM
- **Valley Anas Acuta** - several years old but very clean. A little oxidation on the deck and only minor scratches on the hull with new fiberglass keel strip and new deck lines. Foam seat and back rest - \$1,600. Located in New Jersey but can be brought to Narragansett RI for serious interest. Photos on request from kfkehoe@verizon.net

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, Glocester, 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.