

# PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association Vol. XXXX No. 2 February 2017

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## A Short History of RICKA Remembering 40 Years of Paddling Fun

What is now the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association (RICKA) was originally founded as the Rhode Island Canoe Association (RICA). The group was born on a Monday night in April 1977. Its father was Manny Point, and its mother was a tiny listing in the “What’s Going On” section of the Providence Journal. Thirty people showed up for the initial meeting, and RICKA was off and running, or should we say paddling.



Many people had a hand in the creation of RICKA including Manny Point, Leo Fontaine, Barbara Strawn (August), John Baxter, Carolyn Stefanik (Cyr), Pete Pandozzi, Dick Ormsby, Henry and Nikki Dziadosz, and more. **This year, we celebrate RICKA’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

From the start, RICKA was founded with a focus on safety. In the late 1970’s, boating accidents were becoming more frequent, and PFD use was not common. On RICKA trips, everyone was required to wear a PFD. This focus on safety was due in large part to Manny Point, and it gave the club a legitimate foundation and a focus that continues to this day.

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## Executive Board Elections are coming up in April

Nominations are now open for club officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and Members-at-Large to the RICKA Executive Board.

The Executive Board is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the club and the future directions the club will take. The commitment is one evening a month for the board meeting, plus organizational and committee work.

If you are interested in any of these positions, or would like to nominate someone else, please contact Nomination Committee Chair Erik Eckilson [eckilson@cox.net](mailto:eckilson@cox.net).

## 2017 RICKA Adirondacks Trip August 5 - 12, 2017

We will be camping at Lake Eaton Campground in the Adirondacks for our [2017 summer camping and paddling trip](#).

[Lake Eaton Campground](#) 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 30’s to 50’s, or other sites close by.

Please notify Henry Dziadosz [hdziadosz@verizon.net](mailto:hdziadosz@verizon.net) if you are planning to attend.

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From the RICKA Library...

# How to Roll Your Kayak

**The Bombproof Roll and Beyond** – by Paul Dutky



The ability to hold the kayak level or on edge using knee pressure, to maintain balance using body lean, or to shift weight forward or backward are skills that are fundamental to even simple maneuvers such as bracing, upstream ferries, and the Eskimo roll. The Bombproof Roll and Beyond is an introduction to edge control and balance for paddlers from the beginner to expert. Author Paul Dutky shares his experience to help paddlers master techniques that will enable them to surf and to run challenging water with confidence.

**Eskimo Rolling, Third Edition** – by Derek C. Hutchinson



The thrill of kayaking can quickly turn to panic if you don't know how to right a capsized kayak. The Eskimo Roll is the key to building confidence for all paddling conditions. Eskimo Rolling provides detailed instruction on how to perform this maneuver with skill and success including explanations and demonstrations of many different Eskimo Roll techniques. Author Derek C. Hutchinson was an international sea kayaking authority with nearly forty years of experience. His other books include The Complete Book of Sea Kayaking, and Expedition Kayaking.

These are just two of the great books covering the range of paddling topics that are available in our [collection](#). If you would like to check out these or any other selections, contact Bill Hahn at [librarian@ricka.org](mailto: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, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the [REI Cranston Store](#) 22 Chapel View Boulevard, Cranston. All are welcome to attend.

## Newsletter Editor:

Erik Eckilson  
11 Diana Drive  
Woonsocket, RI 02895  
Email: [editor@ricka.org](mailto:editor@ricka.org)

## Membership:

Sharon Dragon  
P.O. Box 184  
Hope Valley, RI 02832  
Email: [membership@ricka.org](mailto:membership@ricka.org)

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

Your annual RICKA membership will expire on March 31, 2017

## Renew your membership now!

You can renew by mail, or online using PayPal. Please visit the website at:

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

Beginning this year, membership renewal letters will be sent by email. In addition, you will no longer need a membership card to get member discounts at local retailers. Just show the email to the retailer, or print and bring the letter with you while shopping.

## Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

**President:** Susan Engelman.....508-353-6411..... [sje54@hotmail.com](mailto:sje54@hotmail.com)  
**Vice President:** Sharon Dragon .....401-225-3942..... [membership@ricka.org](mailto:membership@ricka.org)  
**Secretary:** Henry Dziadosz .....401-567-0313..... [hdziadosz@verizon.net](mailto:hdziadosz@verizon.net)  
**Treasurer:** Andy Viera.....774-218-5731..... [andyv51@hotmail.com](mailto:andyv51@hotmail.com)

## Members at Large:

Mike Bussell.....401-568-8605..... [canoedad@cox.net](mailto:canoedad@cox.net)  
Pat (Mayhew) Lardner .....401-524-8057..... [pslardner@gmail.com](mailto:pslardner@gmail.com)  
Lori Lucas .....508-494-2131... [lorilucas41@gmail.com](mailto:lorilucas41@gmail.com)  
Tom McHugh.....401-454-2752..... [tmc99992@yahoo.com](mailto:tmc99992@yahoo.com)  
Danny O'Shea .....401-527-3447..... [doshea5031@aol.com](mailto:doshea5031@aol.com)

**Conservation:** Ric Souza .....508-572-3095 ..... [rj\\_salty@yahoo.com](mailto:rj_salty@yahoo.com)

**Flatwater:** Cheryl Thompson .....401-647-5887..... [stonefoxfarm@cox.net](mailto:stonefoxfarm@cox.net)

**Librarian:** Bill Hahn..... 401-524-1612..... [librarian@ricka.org](mailto:librarian@ricka.org)

**Membership:** Sharon Dragon .....401-225-3942..... [membership@ricka.org](mailto:membership@ricka.org)

**Safety & Education:** Cat Radcliffe.....508-369-3028..... [catherineradcliffe@earthlink.net](mailto:catherineradcliffe@earthlink.net)

**Sea Kayak:** Carleen McOsker.....508-636-0546..... [Carleenmco@gmail.com](mailto:Carleenmco@gmail.com)

**Webmaster:** Cheryl Thompson .....401-647-5887..... [stonefoxfarm@cox.net](mailto:stonefoxfarm@cox.net)

**Whitewater:** Andy Viera.....774-218-5731..... [andyv51@hotmail.com](mailto:andyv51@hotmail.com)

**Wilderness:** Chuck Horbert ..... 401-418-2838..... [chorbert13@gmail.com](mailto:chorbert13@gmail.com)

# A Short History of RICKA

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Shortly after it was founded, RICKA began publishing its [Paddler](#) newsletter to keep members up-to-date on club news and trip information. Newsletter Editors John Baxter, Alan August, Caryl Salisbury, Cat Radcliffe and Erik Eckilson have continued to produce the Paddler newsletter each month for the last 40 years.

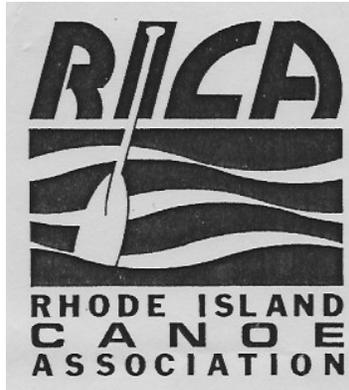
Recognizing that information was needed more frequently than a monthly newsletter could provide, the club also established a telephone hotline that members could call on Thursday evenings to learn about options for that weekend's trips. The telephone hotline continued into the 1990's when it was eventually replaced by the RICKA website.



Original 1977 RICKA Logo

Charlie Allsworth launched the first RICKA webpage in 1993. Alan August became the RICKA webmaster in 1995 and expanded the site significantly. Initially the website was an extension of the Paddler newsletter, but by 1997 it had evolved into a destination itself with links to trip calendars, message boards and email lists.

For many, regular visits to the RICKA website keep us up to date on what is going on with the club, and help us plan our paddling adventures. Today, Cheryl Thompson is the webmaster for [RICKA.org](#), [Flatwater](#), [Whitewater](#) and



1992 RICKA Logo

[Wilderness](#); Eric Johnson is the [Sea Kayak](#) webmaster; and Susan Engelman manages our [Facebook](#) page.

The original RICKA logo paid homage to our open boating roots – a solo canoeist over an outline of the State of Rhode Island. In 1992, Frank Oleksyk was one of several RICKA members who submitted designs for a new logo. His design included a canoe paddle with blue waves and the words “RICKA” at the top and “Rhode Island Canoe Association” at the bottom. It was adopted at the November 1992 meeting. In 1998, the club acknowledged the growing influence of kayaks by adopting its current name – the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association - and changing the logo accordingly.

In the early years of the club many people were interested in racing, so the club developed a large and active racing group. RICKA ran the Rhode Island Whitewater Championship on the Branch River for over 25 years. Mike Bussell was the long-time chair of the Branch River Race, which brought whitewater racers to Rhode Island from across the northeast on the third weekend in March each year. RICKA also ran the Rhode Island Fall Classic flatwater race on the Wood/Pawcatuck River until 2007. This race was generally held in September, and Barbara and Alan August were it's long-time chairs.

In the early years of RICKA many people also wanted to paddle whitewater, so

through trial and error (lot's of error) and a few destroyed canoes, the club established a large and active whitewater group. Safety remained a major focus for Whitewater paddlers, and experienced paddlers were encouraged to become ACA certified instructors and teach newer members. Safety clinics, run by long-time Safety and Education Chair Kevin Allsworth, were also popular events for Whitewater paddlers. Now chaired by Andy Viera, the [Whitewater](#) group continues to paddle whitewater rivers and streams across the northeast.

Then as now, many of RICKA's early members simply wanted to enjoy the pleasure of a quiet trip on a meandering river, and they were accommodated as well. In the early days, Manny Point led many of the flatwater trips, and he always placed an emphasis on safety. Today, the [Flatwater](#) group is chaired by Cheryl Thompson, and it has grown to become the largest of RICKA's four interest groups with trips on lakes and rivers in Rhode Island and across New England.



In 1989, RICKA added the [Sea Kayak](#) or Coastal Cruising group in response to growing interest in this area. Now chaired by Carleen McOsker, the Sea Kayak group is specifically focused on kayaking in coastal environments, and organizes trips throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

Camping has always been an important part of the RICKA, but it wasn't until 2013 that RICKA established its Wilderness

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group. Jim Cole, Chuck Horbert, Mike Bussell and Bill Luther were instrumental in creating our Wilderness group, which organizes trips that involve paddling, camping and other wilderness skills. Chuck Horbert is the current [Wilderness](#) Chair, and Henry Dziadosz and Louise Price have also organized RICKA camping trips for many years.



Today, the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association is the largest paddle sport club in Rhode Island, and one of the largest in New England. Of course, paddling is at the heart of everything that we do. Each year, RICKA organizes hundreds of trips ranging from easy daytrips to weeklong

excursions. There is trip for every interest and skill level at RICKA. Our affiliated clubs – the [Blackstone Valley Paddle Club](#) and [Southern New England Paddlers](#) – also run evening trips throughout the summer.

From its inception, training has also been an important part of the RICKA mission. Each year RICKA offers fun and informative training sessions that might include flatwater, whitewater, wilderness or sea kayak skill and safety training. Many of these sessions are offered free of charge or at a significant discount to our members.

In addition to trips and training, eleven monthly issues of our newsletter the [Paddler](#) are produced each year, and eight [monthly meetings](#) with interesting and informative speakers are organized. Our [library](#) continues to be updated with new paddling books and DVD's, and our [websites](#), email lists and [Facebook page](#) continue to provide updated information to our members.

None of this would be possible without the generous efforts of our many volunteers. These volunteers coordinate trips, plan and execute training sessions, and work behind the scenes to make everything happen.

Thanks to all of the volunteers that make this club possible.

If you have yet to put some time in supporting club activities please consider doing so in this 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. Maybe you could coordinate a trip at your favorite paddling site, or perhaps you have a special paddling skill that could be added to a training session or spoken about at a monthly meeting. Please volunteer to help.

Most importantly, don't forget to renew your RICKA membership. Your 2016 membership will expire on March 31, 2017. You can register or renew for the 2017 year at:

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

For additional information on membership please contact Sharon Dragon at [membership@ricka.org](mailto:membership@ricka.org), and thanks for supporting RICKA as we paddle on to celebrate **40 Years of RICKA!**

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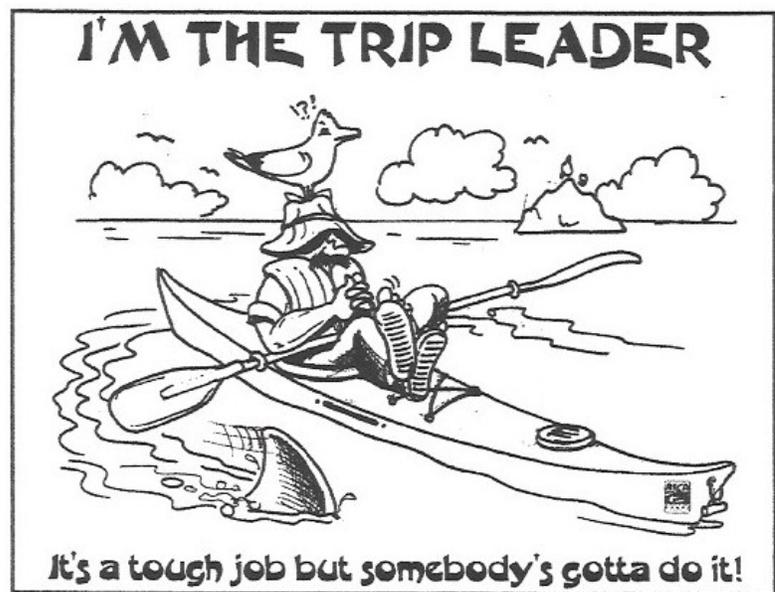
*Thanks to Doug Nagle, Barbara August and Alan August for contributing to this history.*

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## The Artwork of Chick Noreau

Long-time RICKA members probably remember the wonderful artwork and illustrations from Chick Noreau that appeared in many issues of the Paddler, including those in the RICKA history above. Chick joined RICKA in 1985 and was an avid canoeist, whitewater paddler, and past Flatwater Chair. In addition to contributing artwork to the Paddler, he also designed many RICKA tee shirts, such as this trip leader design from the 1990's.

Chick passed away on November 19, 2012. Rest in peace Chick– you are missed.



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## 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

Flatwater trips are now posted on the Flatwater Message Board at:  
<http://members.boardhost.com/FLATWATER/>

### 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>

### Whitewater Trips

Whitewater trips are now posted on the Whitewater Message Board at:  
[http://members.boardhost.com/RI\\_Whitewater/](http://members.boardhost.com/RI_Whitewater/)

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## Branch River Icebreaker (Class II)

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 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in March.

We'll meet at the Falls in Harrisville. This is a 5-mile trip with 3 with significant class II rapids – Whipple Drop, the Glendale Rapid and the Atlas Pallet Rapid. 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.

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## The RICKA Lamp gets a Permanent Home



The infamous RICKA Lamp in its place of honor at Susan's house

Do you remember the RICKA Lamp? The lamp began its life in 1985 as a Chianti bottle with a light bulb stuck in its neck. It was brought to the auction at the RICKA Holiday Party, and became one of RICKA's most enduring traditions.

Each year since 1985 the lamp has been re-sold at the RICKA auction. The winning bidder takes custody of the lamp for one year, but must return it the following year with the addition of a new RICKA decoration. The longevity of this tradition was assured in 1989 when a solid wood base was added to the lamp.

In recent years, the RICKA auction has been part of the RICKA Family Picnic. Safety and Education Chair Cat Radcliffe has auctioned off the lamp, and for the past several years RICKA President Susan Engelman has been the highest bidder. At this year's auction, it was decided that

Susan should become the lamp's permanent custodian.

Susan is a long-time RICKA member, flatwater paddler and trip leader. She will be stepping down this year as one of RICKA's longest serving Presidents. She will be moving to FL, but we know that the RICKA Lamp will always have a special place in her home, and heart.

Thanks for everything Susan!

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## Discounts for Members

The following retailers offer special discounts for RICKA members:

### 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 KayakCentre

508-636-0300

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

### WaveLength Magazine

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

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

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# RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Warner Carbon Ikelos Paddle** - 210 cm. Used on less than 10 occasions. Nearly indistinguishable from new - \$200 OBO. I will accept PayPal and Cash only please. Call Mike at 401-644-9946 11/16
- **Valley Q-Boat** - Quill over Quill Q-Boat with black trim. Some spider cracks. Asking \$1000 or B.O. Eric [emjohnso3@verizon.net](mailto:emjohnso3@verizon.net)
- **Kokatat front entry GORE-TEX GFER dry suit** with relief zipper and GORE-TEX socks. This suit has been lightly used and is in excellent condition. \$400. Contact [Bill Hahn](#)
- **Old Town Tripper** – this 17” royalex canoe has been stored inside for over 20 years and is in very good condition - asking \$800. Contact 508-808-0530 or [jrmiller59@yahoo.com](mailto:jrmiller59@yahoo.com)
- **Kokatat Orbit Tour PFD** - Small/Med – used 3 times then I realized that it was too small - \$75. Contact [michael.hazeltine@gmail.com](mailto:michael.hazeltine@gmail.com)
- **FOLBOT "Yukon"** - 13', excellent condition. Spray cover, extra seat, paddle. \$800 OBO. Wakefield area, can deliver to RI buyer - 401-783-2750
- **NRS Flux Drytop** - men's size XL, red with black highlights, latex wrist and neck gaskets. Excellent, like new condition used less than 6 times. Sells new for \$325, yours for \$200. **Henderson 7mm Dive Boot** - men's size 11 fit my size 10 feet with thick socks and drysuit booties with room to spare. Two years old but used less than a dozen times. Sells new for \$95, yours \$45. **Reed Aquatherm Fleece Men's Long Sleeved Top** – black, men's size large. Worn less than 12 times and in good shape. I paid around \$95, yours for \$35. Contact Gerry at sea sherpa kayak dot com
- **Bungee/ Stretch Cord** - all sizes, colors, and styles available. Prices start at \$5.00/spool. Jonathan at 401-447-7973 [Jon@marineropeinternational.com](mailto:Jon@marineropeinternational.com)
- **Dagger Exodus 168** – red, length 16'-11", width 23.25", weight 60 lbs, cockpit 34" x 19". Bow and stern storage compartments, full rudder system - mint condition. Asking \$789. **Corsica S Whitewater Kayak** – purple, length 10' 7", width 24", weight 39 lbs. Some scratches. Kayak, spray skirt, PFD, carbon fiber paddle – \$389. **Two Dagger Mamba 8.1 Whitewater Kayaks** - your choice of sunrise or yellow. Length 8' 1", width 26.75", weight 47 lb., cockpit 34" x 19". Very little use. Kayak, PFD, helmet, carbon fiber paddle - \$699. Email or call [watersedge99@comcast.net](mailto:watersedge99@comcast.net) 508-944-2539
- **Werner Carbon Ikelos paddle** - bent shaft. 215 cm. Only used twice and is in brand new condition - \$350. Contact [aikijerry@optonline.net](mailto:aikijerry@optonline.net)
- **Valley Aquanaut** - plastic, in good condition with built in skeg - \$600. Contact Paul O'Reilly at 401- 640-5052
- **Necky Arluck III** - 18', 35 lbs. kevlar with rudder. Yellow & white with blue stripe - \$2400 OBO. Contact Bill at 401.447.2397
- **Malone XV kayak Auto Loader** - complete system, new 2015, never used. \$300. Pat Cosma 401-480-3508
- **Tiderace Xplore-X** - great expedition kayak with large volume and excellent rough water handling. Length: 18' , width: 24" , volume: 15.1ft3, cockpit: 34.5"x19", depth: 14". Black and red deck over white hull with black keel strip - \$2,400. Contact [SeaNskidog@hotmail.com](mailto:SeaNskidog@hotmail.com)
- **Folbot Collapsible Kayak** - 2007 model in like new condition. Color is bright orange. 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
- **Valley Knordkapp HM** – classic mid-90's model - yellow hull and deck, Chimp pump, mounted compass. Used but not abused, stored indoors, clean, good shape - \$1200 OBO. Email Todd at [tmoore991@gmail.com](mailto:tmoore991@gmail.com)
- **Dagger Sitka** - fiberglass, yellow/black/white, 17'11 x 22". Good condition. Fast and comfortable; excellent kayak for expedition touring. Front/rear ultra-wide hatch openings; day hatch behind the cockpit - \$800. Email [cammac@ieee.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 and newsletter editor's discretion.