

# PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

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## A Message from RICKA President Susan Engelman Paddling the Four Seasons

I love to paddle. I love to be on or near water. For most people, the paddling season starts in May and ends when it starts to get cold. But for some RICKA members, the paddling season never ends. I am fortunate to be a member of the "Twelve Month Club" - a group that has paddled at least one day in each of the twelve months. Paddling the twelve months, or the four seasons, has made me aware of how much beauty there is to behold in each season.



RICKA President  
Susan Engelman

### Spring

The Earth awakens with new growth. Birds come back and start their calls. Buds start to appear on the trees and other flora along the rivers. No longer can I see the long distances that I was able to see when the leaves were totally gone. Colors reappear after taking their winter naps. The waters are running a bit faster with the thaw of the snows and the spring rains. It is breathtaking to be an onlooker in this renewing process and truly remarkable to witness Mother Nature at work. Spring launches into summer as boats start launching into the waters.

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## Chuck Horbert is RICKA's new Wilderness Chair

We are pleased to announce that Chuck Horbert has accepted the position of [Wilderness](#) Chair. Chuck is a long-time RICKA member, past RICKA President, and an avid river tripper. Chuck has almost completed the 740-mile [Northern Forest Canoe Trail](#) (NFCT) from Old Forge, NY to Fort Kent, ME. You can read Chuck's NFCT adventures at his blog [Northern Forest Canoe Tales](#). Chuck also coordinated and completed the [Paddle Across Rhode Island](#) - the first successful attempt in the modern age to paddle north to south across the state of Rhode Island. Keep an eye out for great wilderness trips to come.

*You can read about Chuck's latest adventure on page 3.*

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

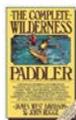
We will be camping at Lake Eaton Campground in the Adirondacks for our [2017 summer camping and paddling trip](#).

[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.

# Wilderness Selections from the RICKA Library

**The Complete Wilderness Paddler (Book)** –  
Reviewed by [Log of Ibi](#)



The authors use a canoe trip on the Moisie River as the vehicle for teaching us everything we need to know to make a similar trip. The book includes sections on navigation, maps, portaging, camping, reading rivers and learning how to plan descents by ferrying, lining and maneuvering. It covers everything from how to find a wilderness worthy of paddling, to managing capsizes and wilderness disasters. It's unfortunate that the book hasn't been revised, but the dated material is minor and easily ignored, as the most valuable information on things like safety, wind and the behavior of whitewater are timeless.

**Northern Forest Canoe Trail - Official Guidebook (Book)** - Reviewed by Susan Engleman



The newest addition to the RICKA Library is a great source of information for anyone thinking of paddling a section of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail which runs 740 miles and links waterways from New York to Maine. The book is divided into sections by state and includes information on camping, portages, gear and equipment. It describes opportunities for flatwater, quickwater and whitewater paddling on a range of rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. Details of flora and fauna are also included. Paddlers of all skill levels will appreciate the vast amounts of information this book has to offer.

These are just three of the great tapes and DVD's 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, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the [REI Cranston Store](#) 22 Chapel View Boulevard, Cranston. 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 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.

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# Over 100-Miles, with No Portages: An Allegheny River Trip

By Chuck Horbert

When my buddy Mike first broached the idea of a canoe trip down the Allegheny River in western Pennsylvania I wasn't sure what to expect. I mean I had heard of the river, but knew nothing about it.

When he told us that the trip would be a little over a hundred miles with absolutely no portages, I ceased to care that I knew nothing about the Allegheny. I was going!



The RICKA crew – Jim, Mike, Bill and Chuck

I started researching the river to prepare for the trip, and found that there isn't a lot of information about canoeing on it at all. The segment we were paddling is called the Middle Allegheny River Water Trail, and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission provides a rudimentary map on-line that is real tough to print at a readable scale. One member of the crew happened to have a DeLorme's Pennsylvania Atlas & Gazetteer, which provided a bit better topographic detail of the river. There is also a river guide that covers the first 50-miles. But that was about the extent of information any of us could get.

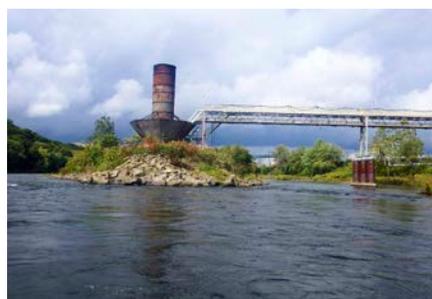
It was enough to come up with a plan, though, so plans were made and on October 1, 2016, six paddlers converged on the small town of Emlenton Pennsylvania to our cabins at the Gaslight Campground.



Put-in at Kinzua Dam

Jim Cole drove his way over two days from his new home in Florida. Mike Bussell, Bill Luther, and I caravanned in two cars from RI. And finally Tommy Taylor and Mena Schmid carpooled down from the western suburbs of Boston in Massachusetts.

The owner of the campground also runs a canoe and kayak rental service, and was our shuttle driver the next day. We loaded the canoe trailer and van in a dim drizzly fog and settled back for the almost two hour drive up to Kinzua Dam where we would put on the river. This area of Pennsylvania was where the first oil well was drilled in 1859, and the whole area is now enjoying a second oil boom of sorts with the technique of fracking shale beds to release more oil and natural gas. We passed



Perpetual flame at the Union Refining Plant

many small oil wells and gas wells on our way up to the put-in.

The shuttle driver drove us right down to the boat ramp, where we unloaded the trailer and the van and assembled our gear to load into the boats. The skies were gray as we shoved off from shore, and in short order, the rain began. This happens a lot on canoe trips I am part of, so I apologized to everyone.

As it turned out, we only had rain on that first day, and intermittent at that. Every day the weather improved. For most of the trip, we would wake up to thick fog that would not disperse until we had paddled for a while. The wind was never an issue and most days would clear to blue skies and 70 degrees.



Chuck and Jim running the rapids

The Allegheny River is mostly a moving flatwater river with frequent shallow quickwater and Class I drops. There are only two drops of any consequence. The first, which we encountered on the first day, is a sloshy chute of confused waves next to the United Refining plant in Warren, PA, below which is an island with a perpetually flaming low-pressure flare located on an island. There is definitely *no trespassing* allowed on that island! The second is a rocky Class II rapid in Oil City, which we stopped to scout from the bank but probably didn't need to. No one had any issues with either rapid. We all had our

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share, however, of bottoming out and occasionally dragging to a halt when we guessed wrong as to the location of the channels when paddling shallow quickwater.

Camping is available along the river, but campsites aren't exactly evenly distributed. Our first day was about 17- miles of paddling to get to Crulls Island, the first of a number of river islands that are part of the Allegheny National Forest.



**Camping at Crulls Island**

Our second day was quite a bit longer, somewhere around 24-miles to get past West Hickory to King Island. That left a real short day to get to an unnamed island in Venango County, just past Hunter. The islands were nice, but primitive in every sense of the word. No outhouse, no picnic tables, just a fire ring and pick-your-own-tent-spots. Firewood pickings were generally pretty slim, but we managed to have a good fire each night with wood to spare in the morning. Great Horned and Screech owls were heard each night, and at the second campsite a night heron called pretty much all night.

The next known nice campsite was at a place known as Danners Rest, but getting there would have meant a 35-mile marathon on day 4, so we decided to investigate some rail trail sites alleged to exist along the Allegheny River Trail, which is a former railroad turned into a bike path that runs along the river here. It still meant a 24.5-mile day for us, but the river is constantly moving and the



**Rail Trail Lean-to Shelters**

numerous shallow rips as well as the rapids in Oil City helped boost our average speed. We reached a nice, spacious, grassy camping area with two lean-to shelters, fire rings, and enough picnic tables to serve a couple large scout troops. It even had a trashcan! It wasn't exactly private, with bikers and walkers passing us on the nearby bike path (one of which Jim sweet-talked into buying us ice), but we weren't complaining, even when we found out that the porta-john that is normally there had been removed literally the day before for an upcoming apple festival! It was a nice site.

Our mission the next day was to find a site far enough down the river to leave us a relatively short paddle from our final take-out in Emlenton. It turned out to be about an 18-mile day of decent moving flatwater and Class I rapids. On the way, we stopped at a large outcrop named Indian God Rock, known for ancient Native American petroglyphs. Unfortunately, they are nearly impossible to find under the words of wisdom and rock graphics that have been carved into it since at least the 1740's. We passed Kennerdell Bridge and a known



**Chuck at Indian God Rock**

campsite just downstream of it, and continued a couple miles past it to another rail-trail site that we found thanks to the directions of one of the many fishermen we saw on the river. This one was set back from the bike path so was nice and private, and firewood was plentiful. It also had a lean-to shelter and picnic table, but once again, no toilet facilities. After camp was set, most of us hiked up to the Kennerdell Tunnel, a former railroad tunnel that cuts of a 2-3-mile meander of the river with a ¾-mile rock tunnel. It was dark and cool inside!



**Chuck and Bill celebrate a great trip**

The last day found us leaving the Muddy Lagoon (so named since it was by far the muddiest landing of any campsite we visited) early, in the fog. We quickly put the last 15-miles under our hulls and pulled into Emlenton at the local boat ramp, called Mike from the campsite for a shuttle, and retrieved vehicles to load up for the trip home.

The Allegheny is a beautiful River, and it is easy to see why it has been designated a Wild and Scenic River, but I would not call this a wilderness trip. Many homes line the river for nearly the entire distance, at least on one bank or the other. We were never far from someone's house when camping. And I've never been on a wilderness trip and had to paddle past an oil refinery! That being said, the hills above the homes were generally heavily forested, and I've never seen as many bald eagles as I did on this trip...one day we saw nearly two dozen of them! It was a special trip. But don't take my word for it...go out and see it for yourself.

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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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## Paddling the Four Seasons

### Summer

Most of the Spring flowering bushes have dropped their buds. Almost everything is

green. Sometimes, the rivers seem to close in on themselves creating a sense of intimacy and closeness. The waters warm as the summer temperatures start rising. Everyone is happy with the onset of beautiful weather and longer days, and even if it happens to rain while out in the boat, it doesn't seem to matter that much. It is a happy time to paddle, conditions and people's moods are rising with the daily temps. Euphoria among people is contagious.

### Autumn

I find Autumn to be a glorious time to be in my boat. To have my senses blasted with all the changes of Fall, is a shock to my system. The colors of the trees and the falling leaves provide a never-ending awe as Mother Nature starts preparing for the Winter. There is or can be a nip in the air, and I am thankful I can be outdoors to enjoy this. The rivers start to open up again with the diminishing leaves on the trees, giving way to a sense of freeness and openness that is not there in the summer months. Some paddlers are putting their boats away for the season, but some of us just keep going, taking out the heavier, more protective clothing to keep the paddling season alive.

### Winter

Temperatures are falling and there is a definite chill in the air. The harbors are desolate. So open are the waters. The rivers are crisp and sparkling as the sun shines down, also lending some warmth. The lack of leaves and color on the trees gives a beauty and openness that is muted against the pines that still show their greens. The shades of browns and grays of the landscapes against the shades of the waters' blues and greens provide a backdrop of peace and tranquility that is not matched in the other seasons.

Being in heavier clothing envelops me with the feelings of safety and security that the hibernating animals might feel. Paddling the four seasons has enlightened me to the

beauty and differences each season has to offer. My love for the water and nature in general has intensified as I became more aware of my surroundings. My five senses have certainly gotten a workout...and it's been great!!

*Susan is a [Flatwater](#) Leader and one of RICKA's longest serving Presidents. She will complete her term in April.*

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## 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 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 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 - \$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 [tsmoore991@gmail.com](mailto:tsmoore991@gmail.com)

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  
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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.