

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe/Kayak Association Vol. XXXI No.1 January, 2008

January Meeting

Monday, January 21st at 7p.m. at the JCC

Mike Krabach: Newfoundland Paddle Trip

On January 21st, RICKA member Mike Krabach will host a slide presentation about his 2003 trip to Newfoundland with members of RICKA and ConnYak.

In addition to showing the variety of their paddling adventures, Mike will also display the scenic beauty of Canada's easternmost province.

Those of you who know Mike are familiar with his photographic skills, as well as his detailed knowledge of maps (his maps and directions are on the Sea Kayak section of the RICKA web site, and also accompany listings on the spring-fall paddling calendar).

Join us on Monday, January 21st to learn all about a great place to paddle, and maybestart thinking about an adventure for the upcoming paddling season.

Directions to the Jewish Community Ctr., 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence:

From Rt. 95 South take Exit 24 & turn left onto Branch Avenue. (From Rt. 95 North take Exit 24 & turn right onto Branch Ave.) Go past Benny's. Cross North Main Street and continue up the hill (past Kentucky Fried Chicken). At the top of the hill cross Hope St. and continue one block to the end at Morris Ave. Go left, then immediately right onto Sessions St. Go down the hill to Elmgrove Ave. The JCC will be across the street.

RICKA to Host Mystic Aquarium Workshop in Feb.

The Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle Stranding Program at Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration will hold a First Responder Workshop at RICKA's monthly meeting on February 18th..

This program is for anyone who would like to actively participate in safeguarding the well-being of these animals, and

will also be of interest to anyone who wants to learn more about the program and our local sea animals.

Kayakers, especially, will benefit from information about the seals seen at this time of year around Narragansett Bay, including the reasons for maintaining a distance when encountering them.

This program is free and open to the public. It is expected to be well-attended, so call Barbara August at 401-725-3344 to guarantee your spot.



Legacy Paddlesports First to Utilize New Lightweight Composite

Thursday, 01 November 2007

Milliken's Tegriss™ composite is riding the waves of success as the material behind one of the lightest, toughest watercraft available on the kayak market. The use of Tegriss to produce Legacy Paddlesports' Ultimate™ Kayak results from significant product and process developments, and close collaboration between Milliken and Legacy Paddlesports of Greensboro, North Carolina, USA.

Tegriss is characterized by its high stiffness-to-weight ratio and exceptional impact performance, making it ideal for watersports, armor and motorsports applications.

To boost the abrasion resistance and prevent UV surface degradation, Milliken developed a technology which allows film to be molded onto the fabric during the forming process. The film allows easy coloration.

"We have worked diligently during the past year to develop a process with Milliken for manufacturing reliable high performance kayaks," notes Andy Zimmerman, President and CEO of Legacy Paddlesports. "We are now confident we can deliver the highest quality kayaks with Tegriss composite and are excited about providing access to paddling for consumers to whom light weight and strength are exceptionally important."

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Can You Organize? We Need You.

The Rhode Island Flatwater Classic Canoe & Kayak Race needs a new director. The race, traditionally held in September, will not continue unless someone steps up to the challenge.

If you have organizational skills and a desire to volunteer, Call Frank, 401-334-5003 or email webmaster@ricka.org.

Seeking Award Nominations

The RICKA spring party is approaching (details to be announced), and with it the annual awards presentation.

You can nominate people for serious topics, or for on-water antics that provided entertainment on a trip. Be creative--there are no restrictions on award categories, except for the bounds of good taste. Actually, come to think of it, not even that.

Send your nominations to Bob Hogan, hogan_r@earthlink.net

Ten Mile River Advisory Update

December 19, 2007

PROVIDENCE - The Department of Environmental Management and the Department of Health announce that they have lifted a temporary advisory issued regarding water from the Ten Mile River, including its impoundments, Turner Reservoir and Omega Pond. The river originates in Massachusetts and forms the MA/RI boundary along the northern half of East Providence and Seekonk.

In September, a dense algae bloom turned the waters of Turner Reservoir a bright green color. Laboratory tests found the naturally occurring algal toxin, Microcystin, in levels significantly above the guideline from the World Health Organization.

High levels of Microcystin in water causes serious damage to the liver when the water is used as a water supply, or when water is swallowed repeatedly during recreational activities. Pets can suffer similar affects, but with smaller quantities of water.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Next meeting date: **Wednesday, February 6 @ 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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Rock Snot Alert (rock *what?*) Issued by Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group

Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Massachusetts Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group have issued an alert for the invasive freshwater diatom, *Didymosphenia geminata*, otherwise know as Didymo or Rock Snot.

This alga has the potential to blanket streambeds in a thick mat, leading to a loss of habitat for fish and invertebrates, and make swimming and fishing undesirable. Didymo has already been discovered in some New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York rivers, and the working group is seeking the public's help to keep this invasive species out of Massachusetts waters.

A single drop of water can spread Didymo, therefore, a "Clean, Check, Dry" procedure is recommended to decontaminate materials that have been in contact with rivers, lakes, and streams. For more information, download the Rock Snot Alert at www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/lakepond/hottopic/ht_didymo.pdf or contact Adrienne Pappal at adrienne.pappal@state.ma.us.

Rock Snot. Right. The editor suspects that somewhere in Massachusetts, press release writers are gasping with laughter as they high-five each other and shout, "They fell for it!"

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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Why I Paddle Rivers

by Erik Eckilson

What's your favorite river? That's probably not an easy question for any RICKA paddler. There are so many great rivers in southern New England that it can be difficult to choose. For each, there's something that makes it special.

My local river is the Blackstone. Its like an old friend – easy and comfortable. There's also the Branch. It doesn't run very often, so it's like a far away relative that you seldom see. When you get together, it's a treat.

Down south is the Wood and the Pawcatuck. To the west is the Quinebaug and the Willimantic. To the north is the Charles. To the east is the Nemasket. I could go on and on.

Personally, I'll paddle rivers any time of year. With proper gear and a few good friends, winter paddling can be spectacular. A new layer of snow makes everything look fresh and clean. Icicles hanging from the trees sparkle in the sunshine. The air is crisp and refreshing. A short winter paddle, followed by refreshments at the local pub, can make the long cold days more bearable.

In the spring, the action picks up a bit – it's whitewater season. As the spring run-off swells local streams, river runners and play boaters head out for an adrenaline rush. But spring paddling isn't only about whitewater. With higher water levels, many of the area's best flatwater rivers are also great to paddle in the spring.

As we enter the lazy days of summer, the paddling gets easier. The scenery is lush and green. Birds and wildlife are everywhere. We take long breaks for lunch – especially if a swimming hole or rope swing is involved. Everyone loves summer paddling.

Then comes the fall. The nights are cool, but the days stay warm. The leaves turn brilliant shades of yellow, orange and red. Even rivers that we know well become a new experience with stunning views around every twist and turn.

I'll paddle anywhere, but for me, there's something about moving water that makes paddling rivers a special treat. Anyone want to go paddling?

Rescued Canoe Couple Described as "Idiots"

Dec 12 2007, Scottish Daily Record

Two canoeists who sparked a massive five-hour search and rescue operation have been slammed as "idiotic".

Four coastguard teams, the Navy, police and volunteers responded to the alarm after the man and woman failed to return to their guesthouse.

They battled "horrendous" weather conditions in a bid to trace the couple, who had gone out on Loch Awe, Argyll, on Monday afternoon. The pair, from Yorkshire, were finally found around 2am yesterday camping on the island of Innis Chonnell.

But last night, they came under fire for failing to tell anyone of their plans. It's thought the rescue operation cost about £18,000. One source said: "This type of behaviour is idiotic."

Iain MacKinnon, of Oban Coastguard, revealed they were expecting "a much worse outcome".

He explained: "Loch Awe is treacherous and there have been so many fatalities there." He said it was "a fact" the pair had put others at risk but "they just didn't think".

Argyll SNP MSP Jim Mathers added: "This is unfortunate and regrettable. It was a waste of resources."

From the Olympia, WA *Olympian*:

"The third annual Barnes Lake Illuminated Parade takes place on December 23rd. The event, known as BLIP, features lighted kayaks paddling around the lake to the tune of Elvis Presley singing Christmas carols."

Elvis has left the boathouse.

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

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'Crazy Night' for Kayak Adventurers

Paul Bibby, *The Sydney Morning Herald*
December 19, 2007

A "crazy, horrible night" is how one of two Australian kayakers has described the hours they spent floundering in the Tasman Sea while powerful waves and 30-knot winds hammered their disabled kayak.

Justin Jones has spoken for the first time about the harrowing night he and James Castrission spent in pounding seas, after the rudder of their double-hulled kayak became tangled in a cable last night.

The duo, who are attempting the first trans-Tasman kayak crossing, spent the night in survival suits with emergency beacons strapped to their chests in fear that they would be thrown into the sea.

"Crazy night last night ... listening to the main line screeching against the rudder," Jones said in a video report posted on the duo's website, crossingtheditch.com.au.

"Everybody don't worry - we're fine and the kayak is fine and just looking forward for this wind to abate."

The duo got into trouble late last night when they were hit by a large wave and a crucial cable, known as the 'power anchor line', became tangled around the craft's rudder.

With the seas rising and winds reaching 30 knots, diving in to the water to unhook the cable would have been a life-threatening move.

Jones said that the swell had now dropped and the two travellers were hoping to continue with their journey

"We will try to fix ourselves as soon as the opportunity presents itself today, or if not, wait until the seas abate even further," he said. "We're through the worst of the wind now and it just looks like going to wait it out."

The director of the kayaker's Australian-based support team, Patrick Brothers, said there had been a possibility that a strong wave last night could have ripped the rudder off and taken part of the kayak with it.

"They're still around 900km from New Zealand - any rescue mission would take days to reach them."

He said a combination of unfavorable currents and rough seas had set the duo back over a week in their journey, a major setback considering they have been rowing up to 12 hours a day to get where they are now.

The two men set off on the 2200-kilometre voyage from Forster in a custom-designed double kayak on November 13.

The friends, who went to school together, hope theirs will be the first successful attempt by kayakers to cross the Tasman Sea after a series of failed bids.

The most tragic bid occurred in February, when 39-year-old Australian Andrew McAuley died.

Around New Zealand's South Island in 70 days

Stuff.co.nz, Wellington, New Zealand
Thursday, 03 January

German kayaker Freya Hoffmeister has become the first woman to paddle around the South Island.

Hoffmeister returned to Okiwi Bay near Nelson yesterday, setting a new record of 70 days for the 2500km trip and finished with a flourish, doing two rolls as onlookers cheered and opened a bottle of bubbles.

"I feel well done, like a good steak," Hoffmeister said as she climbed out of her trusty black kayak and patted her butt. "I want a shower and dry clothes, but first I must go for a swim."

The 43-year-old then floated on her back, stretching her tired muscles.

She had paddled the final 169km through the night from Big River east of Kahurangi Point on the West Coast, taking 10-second power naps. She had planned to rest overnight at Farewell Spit but decided to keep going and with a tail wind reached Okiwi Bay at 3pm.

West Coaster Paul Caffyn, the first kayaker to circumnavigate the South Island, was there to hug Hoffmeister, who beat his record by six days.

"It's an outstanding accomplishment," said Caffyn. "I don't think there is anybody with quite the same 100 per cent determination for achieving a trip like this."

"You have to be so strong mentally as well as having the physical skills."

Christchurch kayaker Fiona Fraser, who greeted Hoffmeister with a pavlova, said: "She is so brave and inspirational. She has battled huge seas, doing 60 or 70km some days."

Hoffmeister acknowledged it was a huge accomplishment.

Only three men, besides Caffyn, have completed the trip. However, Hoffmeister made it in the fastest time. She paddled 51 out of the 70 days.

The worst moment was on the West Coast when the stern of her kayak broke in the morning and she lost her paddle in the evening.

The most dangerous was battling 3m swells, with the crests breaking off Te Waewae Bay off Fiordland.

"I was thinking if I capsized, 'Who would rescue me?'" said Hoffmeister.

Her highlight was the last stretch.

"It was lovely, there was bio-luminescence glowing in the water and dolphins swimming. It was magical," she said.

"It is one of the hardest islands to paddle around — there is rough swell and few sheltered places to land."

Admire the Bravery, but Consider the Cost

Editorial in *The Age*, Melbourne, Australia
December 30, 2007

Sometime today or tomorrow, God and currents willing, a high-tech rowing boat powered by four tired but happy rowers should enter Sydney Harbour after crossing the Tasman. Cameras will click and whir, a fleet of small craft will turn out to escort the adventurers to the line and sponsors will savour the publicity bonanza — or at least heave a sigh of relief. Days later, with luck, a variation on the same scene will be repeated in Auckland Harbour when two exhausted young Australians paddle their kayak into safety after many weeks and 2200 kilometres.

If and when each happens, much will be made of them and their feat. Success has many fathers, the saying goes, and the backslapping and celebration and vicarious identification with the heroes of the hour will last for a few days before their names fade into trivia quiz answers. For the record, the kayakers are James Castrission and Justin Jones, who left the NSW coast on November 13 in their

nine-metre kayak, Lot 41. The rowers, aboard their boat Sarag, are Steven Gates, Andrew Johnson, Kerry Tozer and surf boat champion Sally Macready.

Each crew, if successful, will claim a place in the record books, and they deserve that and any other reward. They are extraordinary athletes, not only for their physical endurance but their Napoleonic self-belief. Which brings us to the other, darker, side of such attempts. It takes, perhaps, a certain type of person to undergo adventure by ordeal: a person whose courage is matched only by their willingness to risk inflicting misery on loved ones and cost on the community. Think Tony Bullimore, the English yachtsman rescued by the Australian Navy. Think, tragically, of Andrew McAuley, who died last summer attempting to paddle solo to New Zealand. One of the most heart-breaking news photographs of the year was of his grief-stricken widow, weeping for a man who gambled his own life but ruined his family's. Heroic, perhaps. But selfish, too.

Two Marines Awarded For Heroic Rescue

By Justine Judge, WHSM-TV, Springfield, MA
December 23, 2007

A Belchertown, MA family is counting their blessings this Christmas. They're lucky to be alive after a canoeing accident in May. They owe it all to two Marines who are now local heroes.

Jesse and Joey Charette are both trained Marines. So when they came across a family in trouble on the Chicopee River they knew they had to help.

Jesse Charette describes what happened. "The canoe went sideways where the river meets over there and was stuck on a rock and immediately filled up with water."

His brother Josef Charette says "He said that there was some people stuck under the bridge, and sure enough there is a family of 4 and a dog down under the bridge stuck on some rocks. The boat was filled up with water and the kids were screaming and terrified."

The canoe had three small children inside along with their father and the family dog. Thanks to the Charette brothers, all five were rescued, which is why the community decided it was time to recognize their bravery.

Senator Steve Brewer says "the community had the opportunity to come together and say thank you to real heroes who saw impending tragedy on the river in front of them with no regard to their own lives."

The Humane Society presented the Charette brothers with Silver Medals and each received a check for \$5,000. While it feels great to be honored, they say they were just acting on instinct.

Jesse Charette says "I didn't even really think about it, I just did it."

Fire Officials said if the brothers hadn't risked their lives, this heroic rescue could have had a tragic end.

Woman rescues dog, gets stuck on pond

By ABBEY STIRGWOLT
The Newark (OH) Advocate

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, NJ — Katie Kiracofe, 21, might be a little old for show-and-tell. But when she returns to Ohio University next week, she'll have an adventure story to share that's sure to be an original.

Kiracofe crawled across a frozen pond Thursday, dragging a canoe, to rescue her dog, Dudley, who had fallen through a hole in the ice. After struggling to lift Dudley into the canoe, Kiracofe placed her jacket over him and waited nearly an hour for squads to come to her rescue.

"We stayed fairly warm, or warm-ish," Kiracofe said Thursday evening. The incident began when Kiracofe's aunt saw Dudley run across the backyard pond and fall through the ice. Her aunt alerted Kiracofe, who wasn't sure what to do.

"I was immediately in panic mode," she said. Her first strategy was to break through the ice with shovels in order to canoe out, but she was unable to break through the ice. "I crawled on the ice and shoved the canoe along with me," she said.

When she got to Dudley, she crawled into the canoe and made her way to the front, then pulled the roughly 90-pound dog in with her.

"I was thinking, 'OK, this is good, now how do I get back?'" she said. By that time, her parents had joined her aunt and uncle at the shoreline, about 60 feet away. They attempted to throw a rope out to her, but nothing seemed to be working.

Meanwhile, Kiracofe was in the canoe with her wet shoes off and only a hooded sweatshirt and sweatpants on. Attempts to haul the canoe in were unsuccessful.

Finally, the family called emergency personnel. Utica and Newton Township fire arrived at the scene and were able to haul the canoe in.

"The guys went out there and got her," Utica EMS Chief Mike Evans said. "(It was) just a matter of getting the right (equipment) here."

By Thursday evening, Kiracofe and Dudley were back to normal.

Chicago canoe fans feel loss of 'River Mom'

By Eileen O. Daday, ChicagoDaily Herald
11/5/2007

Those in the kayaking and canoeing community referred to Marge Cline simply as "River Mom."

It was a term of endearment for the Cary, IL resident, who had taught literally thousands of people to paddle, and was one of the driving forces behind the Salt Creek Park District's "Paddle in the Park" event held for 12 years.

It was designed to give visitors a chance to experience a variety of watercrafts in a safe environment.

Mrs. Cline headed the instructional aspect of the fest, organizing the paddling clinics and getting the instructors. She wanted to draw as many people as possible to the event, to hook them on the sport.

Now, her legions of friends are mourning her passing. Mrs. Cline passed away Oct. 29. She was 66.

"Her enthusiasm was contagious," Pilgrim says. "She was a great teacher, and she just had a way of communicating how to effectively use the body and the paddle to maneuver the boat through the water."

Friends say she started paddling a dugout canoe at the age of 8, and her interest never waned. In fact, friends say, that typically,

One of her signature moves was doing a headstand in the bow of a C-2 while surfing a wave.

Mrs. Cline spent every possible weekend on the river.

As an adult, Mrs. Cline became active in the American Canoe Association, in which she was one of about 20 certified Instructor Trainers nationally, and later served as the president of its Midwest division.

Mrs. Cline also became active with Chicago Whitewater Association, writing its newsletter for 28 years, and American Whitewater, of which she was president from 1982-1988.

About 35 years ago, Mrs. Cline expanded her paddling sports to include kayaking, when she and her husband, Bob, took lessons at the Lattof YMCA in Des Plaines.

At the same time, Mrs. Cline also enjoyed open boat canoeing and "freestyle canoeing," described as doing choreographed moves in a canoe, to music.

One of her signature moves was doing a headstand in the bow of a C-2 while surfing a wave with a trusted stern partner, which had nothing to do with freestyle canoeing.

"That was pure Marge," Pilgrim says. "She was definitely a character."

Among her many accomplishments, they include an honor she received in 2000, when Paddler Magazine named her as one of 100 "Paddlers of the 20th Century" who have made a difference.

Former AOL Official Leads American Canoe Association

Sunday, 16 December 2007

Martin Bartles takes the helm of the American Canoe Association at one of its most turbulent times.

Bartles, 47, was named director Dec. 1, as the organization was in the midst of planning for its move from its longtime headquarters.

"I'm thrilled to be on board," said Bartles. He replaced Pamela Dillon, who left in September for a job with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

ACA, founded in 1880, is one of the oldest organizations of its kind in the country.

"Given that, it's not as well-known as it should be, and what I hope to bring is an opportunity to grow membership and awareness" in promoting paddling and protecting rivers, Bartles said.

He was hired by America Online as managing editor of its Chicago City Guide, and then moved to Reston, VA as director of AOL's editorial operations.

"I had a lot of marketing and communication skills, and I felt that nonprofits was where I wanted to be," he said.

Until taking ACA post, he was director of marketing and communications for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Olympic Kayaker Busted—Again

By David Johnston, Paddling Instructor magazine
November 21, 2007

Unless you have been living underwater with earplugs in, you know that doping in competitive sports is a huge issue that doesn't seem to be going away.

In Australia former world champion and Olympic kayaker, Nathan Baggaley and

his brother were arrested for drug offences in New South Wales.

The police said they seized a pill press and quantities of cash in the raid.

This isn't the first time that Baggaley has been in trouble. In September 2005, he tested positive for two steroids, stanozolol and methindione, which led to a two-year ban from competitive sports by the Australian Canoe Federation.

In July 2007, the three-time world champion was committed to stand trial in Brisbane Supreme Court on drug charges after police found 762 ecstasy tablets in a car he was driving on the Gold Coast in February.

He also pleaded guilty in a northern NSW court last month to stealing a surf-ski from Byron Bay Surf Club.

He was placed on six-month probation and ordered to pay \$70 court costs.

Riding The Waves Of Winter

If The Surf's Up, Hardy Sea Kayakers Don't Care If The Mercury's Down

By Steve Grant, The Hartford Courant
December 10, 2007

The wind gusted to 40 mph; the temperature was in the 20s. Waves crested and crashed over the rocks off Groton Long Point. As the day began, storm clouds with black bellies scudded across the sky, scattering occasional snow showers as they passed.

For seven very serious sea kayakers, it was a beautiful December day. The sea was not so much perilous as a playground.

“Looks like there’s some fun to be had out there,” said Nick Schade of Glastonbury as he approached the biggest offshore waves.

The water temperature was dangerous, the wind piercing cold, but Schade and his party were comfortable in layers of clothing topped by dry suits, whole-body garments waterproof to the neck. Each wore a head cover to prevent shock if they flipped a boat, and waterproof gloves to endure the spray that crashed over the bow.

They surfed their kayaks over the big waves, at times playing among the jagged rocks, happy to be there. “There is nothing else like being on the water,” said Phil Warner of Hampden, Mass., president of ConnYak, the Connecticut sea kayaker club, and a dedicated winter paddler.

As these ConnYak paddlers demonstrated, for some people who love their small boats, the season never ends.

“Part of it is, it is just beautiful out here this time of year,” Schade said. “And it is nice that there are no other boats.” In summer, the waters off Groton are thick with powerboats and sailboats. On this day, there wasn’t a pleasure craft to be seen — other than the kayakers.

When the wind isn’t quite so strong, the paddlers often circumnavigate Fishers Island, a trip of some 20 miles, and usually see seals along the way, along with some birds, like the razor-bill, that are not seen in summer.

And it is the exercise. “We’re trying to keep in shape through the winter,” Warner said. In shape for what? Spring kayaking. (A warm weather outing for some of these paddlers is something called the Stonington Triangle: Paddle from Stonington to Montauk, N.Y., to Block Island, R.I., and back to Stonington. About 53 miles through often difficult water in three states — and you do it in one day.)

This group does not just go out in any winter weather, usually. Even with temperatures in the 20s, the cold from the ocean this day was pervasive. When temperatures dip to the teens and below, especially with wind, even these souls stay home — at least sometimes.

“That gets kind of cold,” Schade said.

Catching The Waves

Still, the temptation to surf on a windy winter day, even a really cold one, apparently is irresistible for some of them: “Anytime the surfing is good, we’ll be there. It doesn’t matter what,” Warner said.

The surfing is just that. The paddlers choose a big incoming wave, time their paddling to catch the roll and let the wave flush their boat forward in an exhilarating rush. It can be tricky. One paddler this day smacked a rock so hard he immediately paddled to shore to check for a crack in the hull. None this time. Back out he went.

In the event a paddler flips over — even the experts can flip on a windy day with difficult waves — knowing how to roll a kayak can be critical to minimize the amount of time spent in the frigid water.

“Everybody in our group that goes out practices rolls and rescues and has radios,” said David Fasulo of Essex, the paddler who thought up the Stonington Triangle challenge.

Prepared they are. This group had their marine radios, giving them the ability to call for help or communicate with larger boats; compasses; flares; tow ropes; spare paddles; food; hot liquids; extra dry clothing in waterproof bags; extra gloves; first-aid kits; warming packets; an emergency shelter; extra headgear; pumps to bail a boat; even dye, which can be dropped in the water to create a stain that would be seen more easily by rescuers in the air or water.

Even on a warm day in winter months, even in early spring, water temperature in Long Island Sound is so low that a kayaker not properly prepared could die comparatively quickly if he or she flipped over without having the right equipment.

“If you are 100 yards from shore and you go in the water, you are not going to make it back when the water gets down to the 40s and below,” Schade said.

The ConnYak group strongly recommends that those who want to try winter kayaking first go out with experienced winter paddlers to avoid a dangerous situation.

On a windy, cold day especially, that is good advice.

“The objective, of course, is to stay upright,” Warner said. “Even with the right equipment, if you roll today, you might think about coming in.”

But it proved to be a play day without incident. Aside from a little sea spray in the face, nobody got wet.

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Mohawk Solo 14 Canoe

Used once. White, with Yakima foot pegs and seat adjusting kit. Paddle w/ epoxy tip and foam block rooftop kit included. Fun play boat, perfect flatwater fishing boat. See www.mohawkcanoes.com/solo.htm New (boat plus foot pegs) \$790; \$600 takes all. Will drop off within 1 hr of Cumberland. Pictures avail. on request.

Email jhmonaghan@verizon.net

Aquabound Shred whitewater

paddle, one-piece carbon shaft, 194cm \$150. Snap Dragon neoprene spray skirt, large deck, large tunnel, only used twice \$100. Contact clawlor@cpsed.net (12/7)

17' Cape Horn 170 Pro Wilderness Systems fiberglass sea kayak with rudder; 23" beam. Stored inside, lightly used. \$1465 with skirt and Ritchie deck compass (\$2700+ new). Olive / Ivory. Straight tracking stable multi-chined touring boat. (203) 281-0066 or oldphoto9@earthlink.net (11/27)

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)

15' Mansfield Canoe, Stowe Co. of Vt. A classic by Stowe Canoe Co. of Vt. Hand crafted ash seats and paddles, green fiberglass body, this canoe has seen little use and looks great. Includes life vests. Great condition, great buy! \$425 Pictures available. Contact jon@animail.com. (11/3)

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

Kayak Sun Flight DLX (now: Riot

Stealth EXP) 12'- 5" - 45 lbs. Cross-over Sea and River, Day Touring, Very stable, good beginning kayak! Designed for Smaller Paddlers (female - young male) 2005 Infrequently used Reduced \$ 550 Inquire: roomwithview@verizon.net (9/17)

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. lv 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 o.b.o. Also a ton of accessories. Call 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)

Werner Camano Paddle, all carbon, straight shaft 230cm. Very good

condition. Has reflective tape on the blades. I am a smaller paddler and went with a shorter paddle. So I don't really need the longer paddle anymore. I paid \$300 for it and I'm asking \$200 or best offer.

lsfalter@verizon.net (5/2)

* **8' Pyranha Acrobat 270** - Well used, but no leaks, still reliable and useable. Spray skirt incl. \$100 OBO.

* **10' old Perception Corsica** - no holes, needs air bags, spray skirt incl. \$85 OBO.

* **76" Lightning** brand whitewater paddle - tip has been re-fiberglassed, \$25.

* **White water helmet** - protect yellow, \$15.

* **Perception Harmony sprayskirt** - LC-1 neoprene - medium waist (approx 25" circumference), fits Corsica or similar whitewater kayak, GC, \$25.

* **Neoprene pants** - 41" length, approx. women's size 12, \$15.

* **Walrus 2-person tent** - GC, \$55.

* **Crazy Creek Therma-lounger**, 46" x 20", \$10. Yakima rack - towers, stretchbars and other parts, best offer.

Call 860-439-1556. (3/17)

17' Cape Horn 170 Pro Wilderness Systems fiberglass sea kayak with rudder; 23" beam. Stored inside, lightly used. \$1465 with skirt and Ritchie deck compass (\$2700+ new). Olive / Ivory. Straight tracking stable multi-chined touring boat. (203) 281-0066 (3/14)

Yakima Rack System - \$100.

Includes rain gutter set with locking cores, 78 inch crossbars, and kayak stacker. Mok4@verizon.net (1/10)

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