

PADDLER

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Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe/Kayak Association Vol. XXXIII No. 1 January, 2010

January Club Meeting:

Date: Monday, January 18th

Location: Jewish Community Center, Providence

Time: 7pm

An Evening of Paddling Videos: *Cold Water Boot Camp; Exploring the Atlantic Coast*

January's meeting will feature two video presentations. First up will be the National Water Safety Congress' Cold Water Boot Camp. This is a fascinating look at the effects of cold water, as average people in various states of dress, with and without PFDs, jump into chilly waters accompanied by rescue swimmers. Data is collected on each of the variables, showing what happens and how to increase one's chances of survival in cold water. The second part of the evening's presentation will be a look at excerpts from the recently released video *Eastern Horizons*, with a focus on exploring the Atlantic Coast by kayak.

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

From Rt. 95 South: take Exit 24 & turn left onto Branch Avenue. (From Rt. 95N Northbound take Exit 24 & turn *right* onto Branch Ave.) Cross North Main Street at the lights and continue up the hill (past Kentucky Fried Chicken). Cross Hope St. and continue one block to the end at Morris Ave. Go left, then immediately right onto Sessions St., then down the hill to Elmgrove Ave. The JCC will be across the street. Please note: members should use the back entrance. Staff will buzz the door open. From there, take the elevator up to the second floor.

Winter weather cancellations:

If the JCC is closed, the meeting is canceled. Otherwise, the meeting is on. The JCC can be reached at 861-8800.

Coast Guard issues Christmas kayak safety advisory

Dec 24th, 2009

Boston –The Coast Guard is advising paddlers and fishermen who found a kayak under their Christmas tree to exercise extreme caution in regard to the danger of sudden cold water immersion if they plan on a weekend launch.

With Northeast sporting retailers describing pre-holiday sales of kayaks and paddle sport accessories as good to steady and the weather forecasted to be slightly warmer but wetter, the urge to test new equipment can be tempting.

“With water temperatures in the 40-degree range or colder, wearing a dry suit or full wet suit and a Coast Guard approved life jacket is the only proper attire with these water temperatures,” said Al Johnson, recreational boating specialist for the First Coast Guard District. “Whether you’re a novice paddler or the most experienced mariner, a fall into cold water is painfully shocking and systemically brutal,”

Sudden immersion in cold water will cause surprise, panic, gasping, hyperventilation, an inability to hold your breath and an immediate rise

Massachusetts legislature debating proposed kayak regulation

December 22, 2009 - The Massachusetts House gave initial approval to a bill (S 974) that would require any person aboard a kayak to wear a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device. The measure also gives the state's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife the power to mandate that other safety equipment be aboard. Other provisions require that kayak instructors receive certification as an instructor from the American Canoe

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2010 Rolling Clinics

RICKA's second rolling clinic will be held in
February at the Bayside YMCA, 70 West St., Barrington, RI

Session 2: February 6 & 13, 6-8 pm

Cost: Two-week clinic: \$55 per person; Practice time (two-week, no instruction): \$15 per person

(There may be an additional \$5 insurance fee for all participants)

Enrollment is limited to 8 students and 4 practice boats per night, so register early!

For information call or email Cat Radcliffe at 508-369-3028, catherineradcliffe@earthlink.net

2010 ROLLING CLINIC REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email (required) _____

Session 2: February 6 & 13 Clinic \$55 Practice \$15

Mail registration form
with check payable to RICKA to:

Cat Radcliffe
573 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02740

⇒ **Call first to be sure the classes are not full** ⇐

EXECUTIVE BOARD: Next meeting: **Wednesday, January 27 @ 7pm**

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Additional Member-at-Large position open

From the editor:

As we start a new year (RICKA's 33rd, by the way), I have decided to step down as editor of the RICKA **Paddler**. This is my last issue; Cat Radcliffe will take over with the February newsletter.

I've enjoyed editing RICKA's newsletter for over seven years. Now I look forward to spending less time parked at my computer and more of my non-working hours on the water, plotting adventures, exploring new places to paddle, leading club trips and experiencing everything I love about this sport—from calm, lazy rivers to wind-driven waves on the bay. Spring can't come soon enough.

See you on the water!

—Caryl

Homemade boat on Seekonk River draws rescuers from three cities

By Maria Armental, The Providence Journal Dec 22, 2009

PAWTUCKET, R.I. — Reports of a homemade boat launched Tuesday afternoon with about four young men on board amid freezing temperatures put firefighters in three cities on high alert as they recovered the precarious craft and searched for the occupants.

“With these temperatures, if somebody went in the water, it would have been a disaster,” said Fire Battalion Chief Michael Brindamour.

Fire boats from Pawtucket, Providence and East Providence converged on the Seekonk River near the Providence city line, he said, and Warwick fire was on standby to help.

The craft — a pickup-truck bed propped up with Styrofoam — was launched from a state pier off School Street and managed to float about a mile down the river, Brindamour said.

By the time firefighters arrived — alerted by a passerby who had seen the young men trying to launch the boat — the craft had been tied ashore and the occupants had disappeared into the woods, Brindamour said. None were wearing life jackets and the craft was not equipped with lights or any other safety mechanisms, he added.

The men turned up later at the boat launch, where they confirmed that no one had fallen into the water and claimed the boat.

They were given a warning about trespassing on the state pier, Brindamour said.

Legislation

Continued from page 1

Association or American Red Cross and also take first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training.

The Senate has already approved the bill. Additional approval is needed in both branches prior to the measure going to Gov. Patrick.

Supporters said that present law is too loose and does not sufficiently regulate kayaks. They note that currently Massachusetts requires that PFDs be worn on kayaks only from Sept. 15 to May 15. Some cite the recent case of two kayakers who were lost because they had inadequate safety equipment on board.

Opponents said that the bill goes too far and gives excessive power to the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife to set all kinds of rules about kayaking. They argue that the Legislature itself should study the situation and then establish any new safety rules.

Coast Guard

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in breath, heart rate and blood pressure said Johnson.

“My goal is to intentionally dampen the excitement of launching any new boat,” said Johnson, “unless the person is properly attired and prepared for sudden cold water immersion. It might sound excessive but, if it saves a life, it isn't.”

Johnson also notes that this applies to anyone using our waters during the winter months, including hunters, fishermen and inland and coastal fowlers.

Johnson recommends that boaters and paddlers who have not yet taken an approved boater education course utilize the winter months to do so. Courses are available through the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons or with state, private or Internet providers. Additional course information can be found at the following websites or by calling the BoatUS course line at 1-800-336-BOAT:

- .. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary – www.cgaux.org
- .. U.S. Power Squadrons – www.usps.org
- .. U.S. Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and
- .. Boating Safety – www.uscgboating.org
- .. National Association of State Boating Law
- Administrators – www.nasbla.org

Johnson also notes that for kayakers and canoeists life jacket wear is mandatory on Massachusetts and Connecticut waters through mid-May 2010. New York requires mandatory life jacket wear on all vessels under 21-feet through 1 May.

A Long Strange Trip: Wild adventures at sea documented in new book

By KATHY LAUER-WILLIAMS
The Morning Call (Allentown, Pa.)

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — Fritz Sprandel doesn't back down from a dare.

The most fantastic journey in his adventure-filled life began one August evening in 1970 at Ye Old Ale House in Allentown, Pa. Over drinks, a friend bet Sprandel he couldn't pilot his canoe in the ocean.

Sprandel, then 25, a sometimes bartender and perpetual vagabond, boasted he could paddle from New York, down the East Coast, through the Panama Canal and up the West Coast to Los Angeles.

The friend promised to outfit Sprandel for the trip and give him a dime to call him when he was ready to quit.

Before the months-long trip down the East Coast would be over, Sprandel would paddle 1,700 miles, brave storms, fight off a manatee, drink moonshine and repair a brothel's roof. And then there were the 46 days spent in a Cuban prison, after he accidentally landed on the communist country's shore. In an international incident that played prominently on the pages of *The Morning Call*, he was found guilty of espionage and ultimately released in an exchange for Cuban fishermen.

He even wound up in a 1971 episode of TV's "To Tell the Truth," with Kitty Carlisle, Peggy Cass and others trying to guess which of three people was truly the man who had canoed to Cuba.

Sprandel, who was born in Bethlehem, Pa., and grew up in Allentown, would move away from the area in 1978 and disappear from the limelight. Occasionally, his adventure would crop up in the newspaper in "whatever happened to?" stories.

Today, Sprandel, 65, has found God and his way home. He's retelling his story in a new self-published book, "Adventure on a Dare." In it, he explained his motivation for the trip.

"I didn't really know what I was trying to prove," Sprandel wrote. "I was an alcoholic Army vet divorced from the love of my life, unemployed and homeless. I was totally unmoored, so I didn't need to inform a soul of my plans. Hell, L.A. was as good a destination as any, and making the trip in a canoe would at least be some sort of accomplishment in my lackluster life."

A friend who had been a bartender at Ye Old Ale House said Sprandel epitomized the restlessness of the early '70s.

"It was the days of Evel Knievel, the Vietnam War, hippies and free love," said Stephen Bell of Tunkhannock, Wyoming County. "Fritz was the individual personification of the devil-may-care attitude of the country at that time.

"He's still a character," he said.

Robert Laudenslager, another Ale House friend, recalls Sprandel would often show up at his door and crash at his apartment.

"He was a hell-raiser," Laudenslager said. "He was a great guy, but he was a guy who would try anything."

After the bet at the bar, Sprandel and his friend Andy Perkin headed to the Army Navy store, where Perkin bought a wood-and-canvas canoe. They dubbed it P.S. (for Perkin-Sprandel) Enterprise. With Army-issue meal kits, scotch and beer, the pair headed to New York on Aug. 17, 1970.

Tipped off by Perkin, the media loved the story. A throng of reporters met Sprandel and Perkin when they got to Staten Island to launch the boat on its planned 7,000-mile journey.

"I tried to answer all their questions the best I could but the entire time I was uncomfortable because I was receiving so much attention," Sprandel wrote.

Heading down the East Coast alone, Sprandel was surprised that people recognized him and offered him food and shelter. Outside Atlantic City, tourists waved from a sightseeing boat.

"I was starting to get used to the idea of being a celebrity," he said in a recent interview with *The Morning Call*. "That was a rush. It was crazy."

Back in Allentown, the papers and his friends followed his route. Bell charted

his progress on a large map and displayed newspaper articles about the trip in the back room of the Ale House. Laudenslager, a teacher at the now-closed Herbst Elementary School in Allentown, followed his course on a bulletin board in his classroom.

After braving a rough ocean, Sprandel decided it would be safer to follow the Intracoastal Waterway. So he headed down the Chesapeake Bay into marshlands where, he wrote, "the mosquitoes were the loudest and biggest things I ever saw."

As his beer ran low, Sprandel met a fisherman who introduced him to a man "who looked like he belonged in the ZZ Top band, stroking his long frazzled beard," Sprandel wrote.

From a contraption made of two oil cans, a metal drum and a car radiator came a moonshine that "smelled a bit like turpentine," Sprandel wrote.

The next morning Sprandel headed out to sea with a wicked hangover.

Crossing into the waters off North Carolina, Sprandel braved storms that nearly capsized the canoe.

"The water slammed into me with tremendous force," Sprandel wrote. "I felt as if Neptune's fists were beating me to death." Waves sent buckets of water into the boat. To keep afloat Sprandel tossed overboard almost all his provisions - 25 pounds of food and beer.

More danger awaited off the coast of Georgia, where he felt a thump that nearly overturned the canoe. As spectators yelled from shore, a huge gray animal slammed into his canoe a second and third time, cracking the hull. Sprandel reacted by hitting the creature with an oar.

"My blood ran cold when I heard something snap in the bow," Sprandel wrote. "I gave (the animal) one more poke and I found myself looking into the dark and rather soulful eyes of a manatee."

After he dragged the damaged canoe ashore, a pretty girl offered to take him to a place where he could get help as another storm threatened.

The place turned out to be a house of ill repute. Scantly clad women told him they

Strange

Continued from previous page

had heard of his exploits. Sprandel rode out the storm in the brothel's basement. He earned money to fix his boat by repairing holes in the roof.

He paddled on to Fort Lauderdale, where his story hit the front pages of newspapers and made the TV news. He spent a week in the city with a new friend who was sailing a similar route. The sailor persuaded him to canoe across the Gulf of Mexico rather than along the coast as he originally had planned.

Sprandel completed his trip down the East Coast, arriving in Key West in mid-November. He had traveled 1,700 miles in three months, and now he planned his next stage to the Panama Canal.

He enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner in Key West with a friendly couple he met. Then he headed out into the Gulf of Mexico. A storm hit, and the waves in the open Gulf waters were too rough for the little boat.

"The Enterprise and I were tossed around like a cork in a fountain," Sprandel wrote. "I was completely disoriented and getting more terrified by the moment."

As 35-foot swells pounded the canoe, Sprandel heard a crack - the keel had broken. A nearby Coast Guard ship hauled in Sprandel and his damaged canoe.

"It was like seeing a beloved pet with a fractured spine," Sprandel wrote in his book. "The crew told me I was lucky to be alive, but I felt defeated."

Sprandel flew back to Allentown. He was embarrassed he hadn't finished the trip, so he wore a disguise. He told no one he was home, including Bell, who was about to get married in the Muhlenberg College chapel.

"I didn't know he'd be back in town," Bell said. "He sat in the back of church in a wig and a hat. And during the receiving line, my parents said, 'Who's the hippie?' I said, 'That's Fritz!'"

Sprandel wasn't finished.

With a Morning Call headline trumpeting "Fritz hasn't given up," he returned in spring 1971 to Key West with a new aluminum canoe called Miss Allentown.

It had a Mack bulldog hood ornament attached to the bow.

Back in the Gulf of Mexico, he had what he says now was his darkest moment. During the night, a group of either whales or dolphins began bumping the canoe. Afraid of being overturned, Sprandel lashed himself to the boat and called out to God to help him. The animals left.

"Slowly I untied myself," he wrote. "I looked up and saw the sky wasn't completely black - the stars had come out. I wasn't alone."

But his luck was about to run out. As he neared a lighthouse in the dark, a shot rang out.

"Bullets whizzed by me no more than a couple inches above my head," he wrote. "A flare burning red as blood rose into the sky."

He hadn't realized that he had paddled to the Cuban shoreline.

"I was more surprised than scared when I was fired at," Sprandel said. "I didn't have time to be scared."

Jailed on suspicion of spying, Sprandel was held in a room with seven political prisoners.

"They were all on the FBI's most wanted list," he wrote. "They were killers, dope runners, plane hijackers and armed bandits."

Sprandel's capture made headlines throughout the United States. At a trial in Cuba a month after his capture, he was found guilty of espionage. He remained in jail for 46 days, until July 6, 1971, when he was exchanged for four Cuban fisherman seized by the United States.

Friends arranged to pay a \$2,005 fine imposed by the Cuban government, and he was whisked back into the country where the CIA and FBI interrogated him about the other political prisoners.

"I was a pawn in a Cuban-America chess game," Sprandel said. "I was a nobody but it was the beginning of an incident. What upset Castro was somebody had made it onto his property undetected."

Sprandel would try to complete his trip to Los Angeles a third time, this time starting out from the Bahamas. But as he paddled in the area of the Bermuda

Triangle, he noticed water in his canoe. Waves had cracked the hull, and he finally decided to end the trip.

"I'd nearly killed myself over an idiotic dare," he wrote.

Sprandel would have other adventures. Two months after he returned from Cuba, he and Bell climbed into the repaired P.S. Enterprise to attempt to paddle over the approximately 4-foot-high Hamilton Street dam on the Lehigh River. A Morning Call photographer captured the successful stunt. The men then abandoned the canoe and fled an angry state fish commission officer.

"I haven't seen it since," Sprandel said of the canoe. "I think they impounded it."

A few years later, another friend challenged Sprandel to drive a snowmobile cross-country. During the winter of 1977-78, Sprandel rode more than 5,000 miles from Westport, Wash., to Eastport, Maine, never leaving the United States.

"Anyone can do it through Canada," Sprandel said.

During the trip he illegally rode his snowmobile across the Mackinac Bridge, a five-mile-long suspension bridge that connects the peninsulas of Michigan between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

Sprandel's adventuring ended after he canoed rivers from Oregon to New York City in 1978. During the trip, his dog, along for the trip, drowned. Sprandel paddled to New York City, but no reporters greeted him. The media were at a riot, and Sprandel had been forgotten.

Disappointed and depressed, Sprandel left Allentown for western Pennsylvania in late 1978. There he settled down a bit. He got into RV sales, married and eventually divorced.

He returned to eastern Pennsylvania in 1985. He's now sober (he quit drinking in 1975) and semi-retired (he occasionally chauffeurs a limousine).

Sprandel decided it was time to record his stories. He hopes to follow "Adventure on a Dare" with two more books about his travels, and a final book about his search for God.

"I used the heck out of God on my adventures and now I want to know him," he said.

Old Town Canoe celebrates expansion, move to new site

By Meg Haskell, Bangor Daily News

OLD TOWN, Maine — With its watercraft division now fully consolidated in Old Town, Wisconsin-based Johnson Outdoors held a celebration that drew state and city officials, corporate executives and invited rank-and-file employees of the Old Town Canoe manufacturing plant.

A facsimile of Old Town Canoe's familiar and historic downtown factory building welcomed about 150 visitors to the modern Johnson Outdoors facility on Gilman Falls Avenue.

"As much as my father loved that old factory ... he would agree that the future of Old Town Canoe is right here in this building," said Johnson Outdoors Chairwoman and CEO Helen Johnson-Leopold, whose father, Sam Johnson, purchased Old Town Canoe from former owner Dean Gray in 1974 for \$1 million.

Earlier this year, Johnson Outdoors announced it would close its manufacturing facility in Ferndale, Wash., and consolidate its plastic boat manufacturing in Old Town. In addition to Old Town Canoe brand canoes and kayaks, Johnson Outdoors manufactures the Necky and Ocean Kayak brands.

A combination of public and private grants, tax breaks and other business incentives not only helped to keep the company in Old Town, but also prompted it to invest in new facilities and equipment and expand its operations.

The consolidation and expansion promise to bring about 48 new full-time jobs to Old Town. Tim Magoon, director of operations at Old Town Canoe, said that about 20 of the new positions have been filled. The company will hire additional workers as the production process gets fully up to speed, he said. About 200 workers are employed at the Old Town facility.

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.

On display at the event was a new gas-fired "oven" — a massive box in which aluminum boat molds filled with plastic powder are rotated evenly to create the sleek hulls of molded canoes or kayaks. The oven cost about \$400,000 — half of which was provided in the form of a development grant from the city of Old Town, according to City Manager Peggy Daigle.

The facility, which produces up to 200,000 boats each year, will have a total of eight ovens, most of which have been relocated from the historic Old Town Canoe factory and the Ferndale plant.

As for Old Town Canoe's trademark wood-and-canvas models, Kelly Grindle, vice president for marine electronics and watercraft at Johnson Outdoors, said the much-loved traditional canoes will continue to be made and restored.

"We will do new production as well as service work," he said. "There are a lot of Old Town Canoes out there, and they last forever. It is a part of our heritage. It will never go away."

The company has contracted with Island Falls Canoe, owned by Jerry Stelmok of Atkinson, to build and maintain its line of wooden canoes.

SPECIAL SAVINGS FOR RICKA MEMBERS

You must show your RICKA card to receive these discounts:

Canoe Passage Outfitters:

Glass and Kevlar boats, 10% off retail; polyethylene boats 15% off retail accessories, trips and instructions, 10% off regular prices. 277 Water Street, Warren, RI, (401)289-2754 www.canoepassage.com

Eastern Mountain Sports: Cranston and Middletown locations only;

15% off plastic hulls and accessories (when purchased with a hull); 10% off all other kayak accessories without purchase of a hull. Terms & Conditions: Discount is off full-priced, in-stock merchandise only; not valid in other locations, online, or on phone orders. Offer expires 12/29/2009.

The Kayak Centre:

Glass boats 6% off normal retail; plastic boats 10% 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

Northwind Sports

10% RICKA discount on non-sale items. 267 Thames St., Bristol, 401-254-4295 www.northwindsports.com

OceanState Adventures:

10% RICKA discount. 99 Poppasquash Road, Bristol. 401-254-4000. www.kayakri.com

OspreySea Kayak Adventures:

10% off accessories. 489 Old County Rd Westport Mass. 02790 (508) 636-0300 www.ospreyseakayak.com

Quaker Lane Outfitters :

All canoes & kayaks 10% off. Accessories 20% off. 4019 Quaker Lane (Rte 2) North Kingstown. 800-249-5400.

Claude's Cycles

Snowshoes 10% off. Canoe & power sports accessories 10% off. Wood canoes & fiberglass canoes 8% off. 50cc scooters 3% off. Receive an additional 2% discount on canoes and 50cc scooters when you pay by bank check. Discounts are for card carrying RICKA members and apply to non-sale items. Foxborough, Ma. (call for directions) 508-543-0490 www.claudescycles.com

WaveLength Magazine: Offers a \$10

introductory "Club Sub" for new subscribers (regularly \$15). Send a check with your name, mailing address and a note saying you're a RICKA member to: WaveLength Magazine, 2735 North Rd., Gabriola, BC, Canada, V0R 1X7. www.WaveLengthMagazine.com

Catching Tuna and Hanging On for the Ride

By Charles McGrath, *The New York Times*

November 23, 2009

YARMOUTH, Mass. — Dave Lamoureux's kayak, named *Fortitude*, must be the only one in Massachusetts registered as a motor vessel. That's because a powerboat registration is required to get a permit to fish for tuna here.

Apparently, it never occurred to the authorities that someone might be crazy enough to want to catch a bluefin while sitting in what amounts to a floating plastic chair and enjoying what Melville called a "Nantucket sleigh ride."

Since the end of July, Lamoureux has caught three bluefins this way, paddling a couple of miles off Race Point, at the tip of Provincetown, hooking a tuna and holding on, the rod clipped to a harness on his chest, while being towed at speeds up to 15 miles an hour before the fish exhausts itself.

His most recent catch, on Nov. 5, was a 157-pound bluefin, a record tuna for an unassisted kayak fisherman, and a near record over all, topped only by a 183-pound halibut caught by Howard McKim, an Alaskan, in 2004. Reeling in a halibut, though, has been likened to hauling in a load of plywood, and some of Lamoureux's admirers consider landing a bluefin, known for its power and ferocity, the greater feat. He is a hero at bait shops up and down Cape Cod. On fishing blogs, a few grumblers call him a dangerous idiot.

Until about 10 years ago most kayak fishermen knew each other by name. Lately the sport has enjoyed a growth spurt, but it is still not recognized by the International Game Fish Association, the official record keeper for saltwater anglers. So kayakers keep their records informally and on Internet forums. There is an honor system. Some kayakers allow themselves to be towed out and back by a mother ship.

Lamoureux's record required paddling alone and bringing the fish into shore.

Lamoureux is 42 and friendly, with a big smile and a ready laugh, and lives most

of the year in Chicago, where he is a futures and options trader. He also has a place in Boston and access to his parents' summer home here.

"My personality — I trend toward risk and danger," he said last week, explaining that he used to rock climb and do extreme skiing.

But kayak fishing entailed "measured risk, not being-crazy risk," he added, and compared it to trading. "Being a trader, you like risk. You're comfortable with it. You have to weigh the reward versus the other side, which in this case is your life."

Lamoureux's 12-foot Heritage FeatherLite isn't even a fishing kayak.

It's a recreational kayak he found in the family garage and modified with additional equipment, the exact nature of which he will not disclose.

"I can't be revealing all my secrets," he said, "or else guys who are younger and in better shape will be breaking my records."

When Lamoureux climbs into his kayak, wearing a wet suit or a dry suit, he is loaded down with safety gear: life jacket, whistles, strobe lights, a signaling mirror, a compass, two GPS devices, two radios, two cellphones, and two knives, in case he is dragged too far out to sea and needs to slash the line.

He hasn't yet capsized, but Lamoureux still prepares himself psychologically to wind up in the drink.

"I actually consider myself safer than the average boater because all the safety equipment is attached to my person," he said. He also carries dive fins in case he has to swim home. "I don't plan on calling the Coast Guard or the commercial fishermen for help," he said. "I think that's irresponsible."

When Lamoureux first showed up in their fishing grounds, commercial tuna fishermen figured he was lost or in distress. Now he has befriended several of them, and he will turn over a fish too big for him to manage. In August he reluctantly did this with a bluefin that eventually escaped but that on the fishing boat's sonar looked to be about 800 pounds.

"That just broke my spirit," he said.

"They told me, 'That fish is so big, it doesn't even know you're here.'"

Two years ago, Lamoureux began kayaking for stripers and bluefish. This summer he started looping through the tuna grounds on his way home, and at the end of July he hooked a bluefin. It proved too big for his striper rig and broke his line, but made him think catching a big fish was at least possible.

Lamoureux consulted with George Lewis, a longtime mentor at Truman's Bait and Tackle in Yarmouth, with the staff of Nelson's Bait and Tackle in Provincetown, and with Austin Proudfoot at Goose Hummock, a shop in Orleans that coincidentally specializes in kayaks and tuna — though until Lamoureux came along, not in both at once.

Proudfoot fixed Lamoureux up with Van Staal rods and Fin-Nor reels, heavy duty-spinning equipment, and came up with the idea of using frozen ballyhoo, a sort of miniature swordfish, as bait.

Learning on the job, Lamoureux hooked 14 tuna before he finally caught one. There are five steps, he explained.

First you have to hook the fish, which strikes suddenly and violently — "sort of like a raging bull," he said. Then there's the ride, which is the scariest part but also "the most fun thing I've ever done." After that you have to fight the fish until it dies of exhaustion.

This can take hours and entails steering the tuna — Lamoureux won't say how — and controlling its speed with the drag on the reel.

Bluefins are powerful enough, he said, that if given too little line, they can cause a kayak to flip end over end. When they get close enough, commercial fishermen harpoon a tuna, but Lamoureux right away realized that that would be a disaster from a kayak.

"Even I'm bright enough not to do that," he said, laughing.

At the end, the fish must be attached to the kayak and towed home, which is harder than it sounds, especially if, as Lamoureux hopes one day soon, it is a 300- or 400-pounder — enough weight to drag someone under. He has that part, too, all figured out, but don't hold your breath waiting for him to tell you how.

Classifieds

Stohlquist BPod Drysuit, Brand NEW men's large. Next generation drysuit has features that add a significant degree of comfort beyond traditional drysuits. See the detailed description with photos on Stohlquist's website at http://stohlquist.com/dyn_prod.php?p=STO56501 I bought this online last week. It is however too small for me with my winter layers. I need an x-large. \$425 OBO contact Jeff at jeff6570@yahoo.com or 508-493-2434. (12/11)

2 Prijon Seayaks (red) click here for specs. <http://www.wildnet.com/tour.asp?name=seayak> Great boats used very little, both with rudders, sprayskirts some other accessories. \$1000 each. I also have 2 carbon fiber Bending Branches slice hybrid paddles, 1 normal grip 1 small grip. If interested contact Rolf@Xmission.com (12/10) Selling both my kayaks so I can get one that FITS. Both boats are well-used, well-loved & expertly maintained.

P&H Sirius S, Carbon/kevlar, 17' x 20.5", yellow w/red trim over light grey refinished hull. Extremely fast, great tracker in wind & following seas; awesome stability in bumpy water has saved my butt more times than I care to remember. New \$3,600, asking \$1,200.

Boreal Ellesmere OC, 17' x 22", Fiberglass, cork deck over white hull. OC Sprayskirt(s) included. Stable on the flats and incredibly maneuverable on edge, this kayak is a confidence builder and a dream to paddle in surf and rock gardens, yet will eat up the miles. If you want a bombproof roll, this is THE kayak. New \$2,500, asking \$1,500. If I were 40lbs heavier I would never let these boats go, but you can only eat so many doughnuts. Cat 508-369-3028 catherineradcliffe@earthlink.net. (11/18)

Epic 16 kevlar touring with SmartTrak rudder only 39#. Near new yellow / white plus new fitted neoprene skirt. Super woman's boat. \$2000 / (860) 334 9433 (10/20)

Hurricane Santee 116, beautiful Blue, used 1 season. Tylon plastic is very durable, won't oil can. Specs: 42 lbs, 11'5", 28" wide, cockpit 38x21, 2 bulkheads/hatches, comfortable adjustable seat. VERY nice, stable boat asking \$600 (firm), paid \$890. Perfect for a small person who has trouble lifting a heavy kayak but yet is also perfect for a larger person due to the size of the cockpit. email lynde256@yahoo.com (10/11)

Woman's Kokatat Gore-Tex dry suit, with built in booties, and back relief zipper, size L, \$425. call Bev at 401-568-8166 or bevthomas2@cox.net (10/6)

P&H Capella polyethylene sea kayak, skeg, yellow, 2 day hatches, good for a beginner or more advanced, a fun boat. \$749 bevthomas2@cox.net, 401-568-8166 (10/6)

Partially completed Pygmy kayak kit, stitch & glue construction. Includes enough mahogany and teak for a 2nd boat. Wood Rockguard Journey paddle, composite Nimbus paddle, dry suit (med/lg). 2 dry bags, camera bag, bilge pump, numerous tapes, books, plans, magazines. PRICE REDUCED! \$800 or b.o. for everything. Call 508-823-1426 (8/27)

Perception Dancer xt, 12 ft, red, good condition; kept in garage. \$350.00. pmini@bryant.edu (8/18)

Pro 150 Wilderness Systems Fiberglass Kayak \$2,400.00 or Best. (North Kingstown, R.I.) The kayak is in perfect condition. No Scratches. Many, Many, Many EXTRAS. Designed for Fresh or Salt Water Fishing. The guy that designed it, must be a genius. MUST SEE. Call Ed (401-885-2326) or e-mail me at: zita59@verizon.net (7/30)

Necky Elaho, Red, Length: 15'8" Width: 22.5" The Elaho is a low profile touring playboat. Its multi-chine diamond hull and rocker combine to make a very playful and maneuverable kayak. Polymer construction makes this boat incredibly durable. Excellent condition. \$800 obo. Will email pictures upon request. Call Rick at 401-864-5457 or ricktjader@cox.net (5/22)

Boreal Inukshuk Red Touring Kayak 16ft with rudder. Everything is in good shape, a few scratches on the bottom. 650.00 APaul041@hotmail.com (2/23)

Old Town Penobscot 16 canoe. One owner, stored indoors. Good condition. Superb all-around canoe, and a great tandem. Loves moving water. Selling to make room for a solo canoe. Located in eastern CT. \$500 Contact Wayne at wsmith16@charter.net(2/3)

Betsie Bay Recluse 19 feet by 20.5 inches. Fast, fun boat, and a good roller. New hatches, declines forward of cockpit, gel seat insert, and backband. Sprayskirt included. \$1,500.00 Contact Wayne at wsmith16@charter.net (2/3)

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