



May Club Meeting

Rhode Island Oyster Gardeners

Monday, May 17th, 7 pm

Jewish Community Center,

401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence

Started in the summer of 2006, the Rhode Island Oyster Gardening for Restoration and Enhancement program (RI-OGRE) is working to restore the oyster population in Narragansett Bay. The oysters are expected to improve water quality through their filtering processes, provide essential habitat for a variety of estuarine and marine organisms whose populations have also declined, and eventually mature into adult populations capable of providing future generations of these important bivalve mollusks.

RI-OGRE Coordinator Steve Patterson will present a slide show and bring along several representative oysters and some visual aids and brochures about this important project to restore the health of Narragansett Bay.

Directions to the Jewish Community Center:

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 use the back entrance. Staff will buzz the door open. From there, take the elevator up to the second floor.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS TO BE HELD AT THE MAY 17TH MEETING

Election of RICKA officers will be held at the May 17, 2010 membership meeting.

Please plan to attend.

The nominating committee has recommended the following slate of candidates:

President: Mark Roberts

Vice-President: Andrew (AJ) Barbato

Secretary: Barbara August

Treasurer: Charlie Laroque, CPA

Members at Large: Bill Brown

Mike Bussell

Benn Thompson

Andy Viera

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE RICKA PICNIC

Sunday, July 25, 2010

Save the date for the second annual RICKA family picnic and paddle, to be held at the Pavilion at Fort Getty in Jamestown.

Plan on bringing your boat and your family for a day of fun and food with your fellow RICKA members. There will be both sea kayak and flat-water paddles along the Jamestown shore and Dutch Harbor, plus swimming and fishing for the non-paddlers.

Complete details will appear in the June issue of The Paddler.



RICKA Pride

On renewing your membership this year, Jim Cole, Membership Chairman, will send you your new badge laminated with a ring and carabiner. Your name will also be boldly printed on the back to make identification easier. It is designed to be clipped to your life vest on paddles.

We ask you to proudly wear it on RICKA paddles. With so many new paddlers joining RICKA, it is becoming difficult to know all the paddlers personally.

Furthermore, this will help people considering joining us to recognize us as a group, and to see how many belong to RICKA.

RICKA membership is one of the best price/performance deals out there today. Given most group paddle tours cost \$15 to \$40 **per person**, this seems to me like an extraordinary deal.

For our \$15 membership fee you get:

- Unlimited paddling trips in cool places. We usually have several paddles offered every week in season,
- The companionship of other RICKA members who are often knowledgeable paddlers, historians, ecologists, biologists, naturalists, etc. I cannot count the number of interesting people I have met on RICKA paddles.
- Club-subsidized reduced-cost or free training by certified instructors. RICKA sponsors two annual rolling clinics, plus sea kayak, flatwater and whitewater skills sessions and classes (see announcements in this issue under Club Events & Activities).
- Free help for the asking. Most paddlers will be happy to give you suggestions on how you can paddle more effectively and improve your skills.
- The monthly RICKA *Paddler* newsletter.
- Motivation to get out there and paddle. It is wonderful exercise that uses all your big muscles (stomach, legs, shoulders) when you do it correctly. It also burns tremendous calories per hour. Belonging to RICKA helps get you out there.
- Because RICKA is now part of the American Canoe Association (ACA), you get a reduced cost membership in the ACA, should you desire, as well.
- RICKA discounts at many local outfitters (see Page
- With the various RICKA divisions of Flatwater, Sea Kayaking, and White Water, you can also check out other forms of paddling you may have an interest in. They all have paddles requiring lower skills for people new to that form of paddling.
- For an additional \$10 you can also belong to the *Blackstone Valley Paddlers* a special part of RICKA oriented to beginning paddlers Tuesday evenings. You get a great deal of individual attention while learning about the beautiful Blackstone Valley. This is how I learned. It is a great deal. They can even coordinate kayak rentals (see announcement on Page 4)

Most importantly, your membership helps keep RICKA going, organizing paddles for all kinds of styles, helping many many people enjoy the water and our natural environment.

Contributed by Mark Roberts, Interim Board President

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CLUB EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MAY 15:

PROVIDENCE RIVER CLEANUP

SPONSORED BY:
RICKA, Providence
Downtown Improvement District (DID), Providence
Parks Department, RI BlueWays & Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council



Join the RICKA Flatwater Group for a spring cleaning of the waterway that is the heart of Providence. This should be a fun day that will make a big difference to all of us who enjoy the rivers in downtown Providence. Both BlueWays and Woonasquatucket people said they would be joining us.

Our plan is to do as much as we can that morning. We will finish by 1:00 PM at the latest. Each boat will take a trash bag and I will direct you to an area to clean up. We expect the Providence River to clean up quickly, and plan to move to the Woonasquatucket River as time permits. DID will have people on the south shore docks so we can just paddle up with a full bag and hand it to them. The Parks Dept will have a truck to haul away the trash.

ARRIVE: 9:00 AM Saturday May 15 (if raining May 16, unless it rains both days). Tides are high.

REQUIREMENTS: PFDs required, suitable for all boats, no special skills needed. The water is still cold this time of year, so wear insulation or bring a change of clothes in a waterproof bag.

DIRECTIONS:
Meet at the South Water Street boat ramp across from the parking lot after Hemenway's.
Auto GPS: Use address 280 South Water Street, Providence

ORGANIZER: Mark Roberts hrrmark@gmail.com 401-533-1883

Blackstone River Watershed Council

2010 Riverfest Canoe and Kayak Race

The Riverfest Canoe and Kayak race will be held on June 5th this year. Please note that this year's race will be held at a new location: Rivers Edge Recreational Facility on Davison Street, Woonsocket, RI.

The venue will sport a new race course, as well as new activities and attractions.

Go to <http://www.blackstoneriver.org> for details.

Basic Whitewater Course

The RICKA Whitewater Group will be holding a Class II Whitewater Kayak Course on July 17 and 18, 2010. The course will be taught by ACA certified whitewater instructor Mike Rock and will be free for qualified RICKA and ACA members. If you are not an ACA member, there will be a one-time \$5 event membership fee.

In this course, participants will learn and refine the techniques needed to paddle in class II whitewater. After a review of the basic strokes on flatwater, we will head to the river to work on eddy turns, peel-outs and ferries. We will also cover river reading and basic river safety. The class will be held on the Deerfield River in western Massachusetts.

While this is a beginner whitewater course, it is not for novice paddlers. You must be able to handle self rescues (wet exits) and already know the basic strokes. Previous moving water experience is a plus. Participants must provide their own equipment including a whitewater kayak, sprayskirt and helmet. Recreational kayaks are not allowed in this class.

Go to www.woonsocket.org/wwschool.html to register. Contact Mike Rock Kayak-Fool2@aol.com or Erik Eckilson eckilson@cox.net for additional information.



Yeeee-
HAW!

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Next meeting: **Wednesday, May 26, 2010, at 7 pm**

70 Scott Street, Pawtucket

All members are welcome to attend.

CLUB EVENTS & ACTIVITIES (ctd)



Basic Flatwater Paddling Class

Would you like to improve your flatwater paddling skills? The RICKA Flatwater Group will be holding a Basic Flatwater Paddling Class on Sunday, June 13th at 1:00. In this 3-hour class, paddlers will learn the basic strokes and maneuvers to control their boats on flatwater. We will also cover basic rescue techniques.

The class will take place at Stump Pond in Smithfield and will be free for RICKA and ACA members. If you are not an ACA member, there will be a one-time \$5 event membership fee.

Class size is limited to 25 paddlers. Attendance is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please do not reserve a spot unless you are 100% certain that you can attend. If you cancel at the last minute, you will have tied up a spot that someone else could have used.

Register at <http://www.woonsocket.org/flatwatertraining.html>

Blackstone Valley Paddle Club

Come join in the fun as the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club kicks off its 10th season! For details on the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club's events please visit www.ricka.org and click on BV Paddlers.

May 18th 6:15 pm - Quinsigamond River - Grafton, Ma
Meet at the Riverview Apartments.
Rentals available

May 25th 6:15 pm - West River- Uxbridge MA Naturalist Julie Reindeau will be leading this trip and she will be joined by a Ranger from the Army Corps of Engineers.

May 27th "Intro to Paddling Night" Singletary Lake - Sutton MA Rentals Available

June 1st 6:15 pm - Slatersville Reservoir & the Branch River, North Smithfield RI
Rentals available.

June 8th 6:15 pm - Blackstone Canal - Kelly House, Cumberland, RI. River and canal loop. We will have National Park Service Rangers paddling with us this evening.

RENTALS: We have rental boats available for a fee on the first and third Tuesday evenings of the month and for our Intro to Paddling nights. To reserve a boat, call Great Canadian at 1-508-865-0010. Great Canadian will drop off your boat at the paddle location and bring it back to their shop after the paddle.

If you have questions please contact Cheryl at StoneFox-Farm@juno.com or 401-647-5887.

May 2010 RICKA Sea Kayaking Calendar

www.rickaseakayaking.org

Kayaking on the ocean is an inherently risky endeavor.

Before choosing to participate in a group trip, check the marine forecast and consider the trip level at <http://rickaseakayaking.org/levels.htm>.

Check the RIC/KA Sea Kayaking Paddling Basics, <http://rickaseakayaking.org/basics.htm>, for more information about group trips.



Saturday, May 1, 2010, 10 am 3rd Beach, Middletown RI

Level 3 Jon Sharlin (ojphoto1@cox.net), Carleen McOsker (carleenmco@charter.net)

Sunday, May 2, 2010, 10 am Narrow River, Wakefield RI

Level 2 Tim Motte (ttamotte@cox.net)

Saturday, May 8, 2010, 10 am URI Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI

Level 2 Rich Coupland (rcoupland@msn.com)

Saturday, May 15, 2010, 10 am Spinks Beach, N. Kingstown, RI

Level 2 Mike Krabach (mkrabach@efortress.com)

Sunday, May 30, 2010, 10 am Safety Practice, Quonny Pond, Charlestown, RI

Level 2 Tim Motte (ttamotte@cox.net)

A Spring Day on the Upper Millers

Text and Photos by Erik Eckilson

It started off like many RICKA Whitewater trips with an early morning stop at the McDonald's off Route 146 in Uxbridge. I wanted to get a sausage biscuit, but settled for milk to go with the cereal that I brought from home – a little healthier start to a busy day.

I was one of six RICKA boaters that were meeting at the McDonald's before heading up to the Millers River in north central Massachusetts. The Millers arises in southern New Hampshire and flows southward, and then westward through Massachusetts before emptying into the Connecticut River.

There are two sections of the Millers that are popular for whitewater boating – the upper section from South Royalston to Athol (class II - III), and the lower section from Erving to Millers Falls (class II - IV). On this day, RICKA had groups running both sections. I was in the group paddling the upper section.

Mike, Jeff, Eric and I arrived at the put in on the upper section of the Millers around 10:00 to find Andy, Steve and the two Tommy's waiting for us. After a few quick hellos, we unloaded our boats and ran the shuttle. Everyone knew that there would be plenty of time to get acquainted (or re-acquainted) on the river.



The Upper Millers is a beautiful section of river that alternates between rock gardens and long wave trains. With the exception of a couple of railroad bridges, there is nothing to break the wilderness feeling of the river. The day started off overcast and windy, but the sun came out as we moved downstream.

We put in around 10:30 and the fun began immediately with a long class III rapid. I followed Mike into the rapid and bobbed through the 2 to 3 foot waves. About half way through the rapid I pulled into an eddy to get some pictures of the others coming downstream.

As I turned, I could see Andy approaching a nasty pour-over on river right. He paddled hard to avoid it, but didn't quite make it and got sucked back into the hydraulic. He side-surfed for a while, but eventually flipped. I saw him set up for a roll, but go back over again. There wasn't a second attempt. Within a few seconds, Andy was out of his boat and working his way to shore with the help of Tommy and Steve. He was quickly reunited with his gear and we heading back downstream.



We continued riding the waves and playing in the rock gardens for another couple of miles when we decided it was time for a break. We found a spot with a beach large enough to pull all the boats on shore and decided to have our lunch. As we were eating, a group from the RiverRunners Yahoo group pulled up to share our spot. Soon we were all talking and sharing paddling stories.

After lunch, we loaded up the boats and continued our trip downstream. Occasional sections of quickwater were interspersed with long wave trains and fun rock gardens. By the time we reached the take out in Athol, we were all pretty tired. Unfortunately, it was a long carry up a steep hill to get back to our cars. Everyone pitched in to get the gear up the hill, and then we pitched in to help the RiverRunners group that pulled in behind us.

I got home in time for dinner – tired, but excited about a great trip, and looking forward to the next.

Classifieds

Please note: You must be a RICKA member in order to have an ad posted.

Current Design Sirocco sea kayak, 17' x 23", yellow, Used but not abused. This is a Derek Hutchinson design for performance but still user friendly. It has retractable skeg, recessed deck fittings, bulk heads and hatches, including an 8' day hatch just behind the paddler for easy access. A proven performer. Asking \$850 or best reasonable offer. More details? Call Al at (508) 222- 9127 (4/26)

Brand new Swift Bering Sea kayak, kevlar, skeg, red over white. 40 lbs, 15'10" long, 23.5" wide. Fast, stable, forgiving kayak. See details at <http://www.swiftcanoe.com/kayak/touring/BeringSeaSport.htm>. Retail for \$3,200, asking \$2,300. Cat 508-369-3028 or catherineradcliffe@earthlink.net (4/25)

Necky Zoar Sport 14' 3" touring kayak; rudder, bow & stern hatches with bulkheads, deck rigging; always garaged; excellent condition; \$300. Contact John at 401-364-9237 or x3cfj8.ri32@yahoo.com (4/19)

Necky Looksha Sport 14' 6" touring kayak; rudder, bow & stern hatches with bulkheads, deck rigging; always stored indoors; excellent condition; \$325. Contact John at 401-364-9237 or x3cfj8.ri32@yahoo.com (4/19)

Yakima Kayak J Rack, includes installation tool, instructions and straps, great condition, like new, purchased August 2008. \$125.00. Please call 508-713-5697 (4/15)

Orion kayak, designed by Hans Friedel and hand-built by seller. Length 17' 9", width 20' 3/4", weight 49 lbs. Fibreglass with beautiful red/white cedar deck and green hull. Hard-chined Greenland style. A great and eye-catching play boat that tracks well and will be fun to paddle by all skill levels. \$1,500. Reply to peterlc@msn.com for further details, photos, test paddle info. (4/6)

Fiberglass kayak, 17' X 23", rudder. Never used and in immaculate condition. \$1,900 (New \$2,900+). This is a great kayak for expeditions or day use and is stable and handles rough seas extremely well. For manufacturer's info go to: www.borealdesign.com/en/kayak.php?id=3 email: aikijerry@optonline.net (4/2)

NRS Ladies wet suit with relief zipper. Size medium but runs small. Worn once. \$75. welcometoplacfarm@yahoo.com 401 374-0924 (3/20)

Big Agnes Parkview 3 Tent (includes rainfly & footprint - *perfect for the annual RICKA trip to the Adirondacks!*) for only \$100. Original cost is tent \$300 and footprint \$30. Both are barely used and in excellent shape. Visit the REI website for specs <http://www.rei.com/product/785350>. Please email me at bfarrell7@hotmail.com if you are interested. (1/18)

Emergency Storm Shelter, made by Expedition Essentials for Sea Kayak Georgia, offers protection and warmth for up to 4 people on the coldest and windiest of days. Made of lightweight zero-porosity, paragliding material, it's non-breathable by design. Packs down to nothing. I used a similar product while paddling in Wales, and believe me, it works! Never used. I paid \$120, asking \$99. Information at <http://www.kayakwaveology.com/EEStormShelter.html> email Zak <zmettger@verizon.net> (01/02)

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)

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)

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)

OUTFITTER DISCOUNTS FOR RICKA MEMBERS

Blackstone Valley Outfitters

10% off retail prices on all kayak accessories, guided trips and instructions, at Blackstone Valley Outfitters 25 Carrington Street, Lincoln, RI 02865 401-312-0369, www.bvori.com

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

EMS: Club Day April 23-24: 20% off in-store stock, not valid for on-line or prior purchases, gift cards or rentals.

OspreySea Kayak Adventures:

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

Quaker Lane Outfitters :

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

The KayakCentre:

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 Village. 1-888-SEA-KAYAK, www.kayakcentre.com

WaveLengthMagazine: Offers a "Club Sub" introductory discount for new subscribers who are paddling club members. A subscription generally costs \$15/year, but new subscribers who are RICKA members, can subscribe for \$10. Send a check with your name and mailing address along with a note saying you belong to the RI-Canoe/Kayak Association. The mailing address is: WaveLength Magazine, 2735 North Rd., Gabriola, BC, Canada, V0R 1X7. Check them out on the Web at <http://www.WaveLengthMagazine.com>