

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association Vol. XXXV No. 11 November, 2012

November Club Meeting

Movie Night - Our Favorite Trips of 2012

Monday, November 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

We'll provide the popcorn as we look back with stories, pictures and videos at our favorite paddling trips of 2012. With over 100 trips scheduled by RICKA this year, it can be tough to pick a favorite, but we'll do just that. If you have a story you would like to share, please contact Susan Engleman sje54@hotmail.com 508-353-6411. Videos and slideshows should be no longer than 10 minutes and advance notice is required. We will have adaptors for connecting Mac and PC laptops to a projector. If anyone would like to show slides, a Kodak Carousel projector can also be available with advance notice. The meeting will be held at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI.



Paddling in the Adirondacks – one of the great stories you will hear about at this month's meeting.

Directions to the Jewish Community Center: From Rt. 95 South take Exit 24 and turn left onto Branch Avenue. From Rt. 95 North take Exit 24 and turn right onto Branch Avenue. 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 Street and continue one block to the end at Morris Avenue. Go left, then immediately right onto Sessions Street. Go down the hill to Elmgrove Avenue. The Jewish Community Center will be across the street. **Please follow the signs and enter on Elmgrove Avenue and exit on Sessions Street.**

Celebrate RICKA's 35th Anniversary with a commemorative tee shirt!



Available for \$20.00 if picked up at a meeting or mailed by first class mail. (If you wish to have priority mail, please add \$5.00).

<http://www.ricka.org/miscPayments/rickateeshirts.html>

Did you know...

The American Canoe Association works everyday to educate paddlers, advance safety practices and protect our waterways. You can learn more at the ACA website at: <http://www.americancanoe.org/>



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Annual Turkey Paddle and Dinner

November 11, 2012
Meet at 1:00 for a 1:30 launch
Dinner is rain or shine

For our last scheduled trip of the year, we will paddle Wallum Lake in the Douglas State Park with dinner to follow at the Lodge Restaurant, 148 Gore Road, Webster, MA. Come for the paddle, come for the dinner, or both.

This trip is suitable for all boats and all levels of experience. At this time of year, a wet suit or dry suit is recommended, and a change of clothes in a waterproof dry bag is required. **An RSVP is required by November 5th if you are planning to join us for dinner.**

Please RSVP on the website:
<http://ricka-flatwater.org/formturkey.htm>

Trip coordinator: Susan Engleman
Sje54@hotmail.com 508-353-6411

For information on the dinner contact Cheryl at stonefoxfarm@cox.net or 401-647-5887



Earl at last year's Turkey Paddle

Request your vacation time now...

RICKA's 2013 Adirondacks Trip will be held August 3 -11, or parts thereof. Join us as we explore the wonderful waterways of the Adirondacks.

We will be camping at Lake Eaton campground outside of Long Lake, NY. Waterfront sites 020 – 050 are pretty nice and quiet. We will try to target that area. The campground is not huge, so all the sites are relatively close.

You can reserve the sites 9 months to the day prior to you arrival date at Reserve America:

<http://www.reserveamerica.com>

The Paddler is published monthly except December by the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association, Inc. It is not available by subscription, but is included in the cost of membership in the Association.

The holidays are coming – give someone a year of paddling adventures.

RICKA memberships make great holiday gifts!

Visit the website at:
<http://www.ricka.org/Join/Jointhefun.html>
You can pay by mail, or online using PayPal.

Executive Committee:

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at 70 Scott Street, Pawtucket. All are welcome to attend.

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West Grand Lake in Maine

By Jim Cole

Pictures by Tommy Taylor, Jim Schoerer and Jim Cole

An email came in from Mike. He was in need of a fix and was suggesting a bootleg canoe trip. The email had some details but left so many questions. Then more emails started to fly. We would leave Sunday for Maine for four to six days of paddling and return whenever. We would Paddle West Grand Lake, Junior Lake as well as several others and one or two portages. We only had four paddlers so we posted the trip on the message board and got 2 more responses. The trip was on however one paddler had to back out which meant only 5 paddlers would be able make it.

Early Sunday morning four of us met at Mike's house. Bill and Mike would travel together and paddle Mike's Mad River Explorer. The two Jim's each had solo canoes. We hit the road about 8:30 AM, which is early for us and met Tommy just north of Boston. He would be paddling his Bell Magic. We were off to North East Maine.

It was shortly after 4:00 PM when we pulled into West Grand Lake. We decided it was too late to start paddling, so we drove down about 14 miles of dirt roads to check out several campsites. The only campsite that was available was at the Dennison Portage ('Dobsis') on Sysladobsis



The crew takes a break

Lake. It was a beautiful campsite, large enough for several Boy Scout Troops, but it was empty so we had it to ourselves. After supper we sat around the campfire and shared a little Sailor before turning in for the evening.

Monday morning we were up early and drove back to the West Grand Lake Boat Ramp. With everyone ready we paddled north through West Grand Lake into a slight head wind. A short time later we stopped at Kole Kill Island to check out a campsite. A sign on the island stated No Fires and No Tenting (whatever that means). We continued to paddle north.

Just off Norway Point, Mike pointed out a large rock in the middle of the lake. The rock had steel handles and a rope which could be used to climb onto the rock. Mike, Bill and Jim S. all tied the canoes to the rock and climbed up. Bill, also known as Wet Willie showed his stuff by being the only one willing to jump from the rock into the water about 8 feet below. He then repeated it several more times for the cameras.

We continued north through the Narrows and to the west side of Bear Island before heading for Junior Stream. About half way through Junior Stream we noticed a large object, black with a white top sitting on one of the large rocks in the middle of the stream. Tommy, who was out ahead of us was the only one to get a picture of it. It was a Bald Eagle and it flew off before the rest of us were close enough to see any detail. We saw several other Bald Eagles on this trip, but most were too far off to get any pictures.

Once out of Junior Stream and into Junior Lake, we headed northeast to Bottle Island which would be our next campsite. The Bottle Island campsite was large and could

probably handle a group twice our size. After setting up camp and eating dinner, Jim S. and I both decided to take short paddles. He went around the island while I headed up Bottle stream.



Bull moose feeding

The trip up Bottle Stream was a quiet one. I heard some birds that I could not identify, plus a noisy King Fisher that quickly vanished. After about a quarter mile I heard some branches break behind me, so I slowly turned to see what it was. On the north shore a rather small bull moose (as moose go), stepped out of the woods and into the stream about 200 feet from me. He looked around and put his head down and began to eat, never realizing that I was there. I had drifted to within about 100 feet, so I slowly back paddled to give him more room. After many pictures, we paddled back down stream and out to Bottle Island. I had to show everyone the pictures before turning in for the night.

The next morning a large bird in a tree over the campsite woke everyone up with a lot of screeching. We later discovered it was an immature bald eagle. It had started to build a nest right over the campsite. We were intruders and he was letting us know.

After breakfast we would take a trip to explore Scraggly Lake. Jim S. decided to relax around, so just four of us headed north up Junior Lake. We checked out several campsites on some islands near

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Junior Bay. None were as nice as Bottle Island. One site was called Mosquito which gave a good indication what it was like at night. We did not stick around for long.

The entrance to Scraggly Island was around the point and south of us in Junior Bay. As we headed south into the bay a tail wind picked up which Tommy decided to take advantage of. With his sail set Tommy was able to take advantage of the wind and leave us far behind.

As we entered Scraggly Lake, there was a large campsite we called the Boy Scout site, as there were indications that the Boy Scouts were maintaining it. This site could handle at least 20 campers and had two fairly new picnic tables.

After checking out this site, we headed east to check out the rest of the lake. At the next site, I decided to take a break as Mike, Bill and Tommy continued to explore. Once back to camp we started planning the next day's paddle which would include the only long portage of the trip.

Jim S. and I were the first ones up as usual and ready to go. We decided to get a head start on the others and see if the moose had returned to Bottle Stream. It was agreed that we would meet the others at the start of the portage.



Tommy and Jim S. set sail

As we enter Bottle Lake and we decided to paddle clockwise to see if we could find a shortcut as the boat ramp was at the far end of the Lake. Shortly after going around a small Island we spotted a ramp between two houses and got out to check it out. A man going by on an ATV said it was OK to use it and gave us directions up to the main road (as main as dirt roads get). As we prepared to portage the others caught up with us. With canoes loaded on carts, we made our way down the road to the boat ramp and reloaded the canoes on Sysladobsis Lake.

We started the trip south on Sysladobsis Lake with a headwind, but about halfway down the wind shifted. Tommy and Jim S. raised their sails for the remainder of the trip while Mike, Bill and I continued to paddle. We arrived at the Dennison Portage fairly early. Mike, Bill and Tommy wanted to continue on, but Jim S. and I had had enough for the day. After several conversations we decided slit up. Jim and I would remain here while the others would continue on.

Jim and I were up early the following morning and set out with the idea of paddling about half the distance to the takeout. We paddled through Pocumcus Lake and back through the Narrow into West Grand Lake stopping several times to rest. We stopped and checked out several campsites but did not find any that we want to stay at so we continued to the take out.

At the take out, we decided that we would spend at least one more night back at the Dennison Portage so we stopped at the general store for ice and other supplies before the 14 mile drive back to the campsite. We set up camp again and made plans for some paddling on Friday.

As we prepared to get dinner ready, Jim S. noticed some dark clouds rolling in. We both pulled out our tarps and got ready for the rain. My tent was set up on a high spot in the field but Jim S. had to move his. We then set my tarp over the picnic table.



A sunset paddle

Within seconds of setting things up the rain came pouring down. The tarps gave us all the shelter we needed. By about 9:00 PM the rain let up and we turned in for the night.

Friday morning we decided to paddle around Big Island, so we headed for the southern tip to check out the island campsite. From there we headed to Sandy Beach to find the trail to the Fourth Machios Lake. The stream going to the Fourth Machios Lake was very low and covered with blow downs. I made it about 100 feet upstream before turning back.

Next we headed up to the Pines and to check out some of the campsites along the west shore. We tried paddling up the stream to Lower Chain Lake, but had to turn back due to low water. After a short rest we had a leisurely paddle back to the campsite.

After a peaceful evening and a good night sleep we packed up and were ready to have home which ended up being an adventure in itself, but that's another story for another time.

Jim is RICKA Membership and Wilderness Chair, and one of several RICKA members who are section paddling the [Northern Forest Canoe Trail](#).

A Fun Day on the Deerfield River Joint Flatwater/Whitewater Trip

By Erik Eckilson

It rained on the way out. It rained on the way back. It even rained during the trip, but we still had a great day on the Fife Brook section of the Deerfield River for RICKA's joint [Flatwater/Whitewater](#) trip.



Susan running Hangover Helper

The Deerfield runs 73 miles across southern Vermont and northwestern Massachusetts before emptying into the Connecticut River north of Springfield. It is a beautiful river that cuts a deep valley through scenic mountains and hills. Releases at several hydroelectric dams provide whitewater paddling opportunities for boaters of all skill levels throughout the summer.

Advanced paddlers often head to "The Dryway" in Monroe Bridge. This is a class III-IV section of river for experienced whitewater paddlers. For us, the Fife Brook Section is more appropriate. It runs 9 miles from the Fife Brook Dam down to the Shunpike Rest Area in Charlemont. It is mostly quickwater and class I/II rapids, with the exception of Zoar Gap in the middle which is class III.

We had a nice group of paddlers from the whitewater, flatwater and sea kayak groups. The release was 1,100 CFS – a

great level. We ran the shuttle and got to the put in around 11:00.

This was our first joint trip on the Deerfield River since Hurricane Irene caused extensive flooding last year. For those familiar with this section of the river, the flooding caused a lot of changes:

- Hangover Helper at the start of the run is bigger, but there is an easy line to the right.
- Carbis Bend has a much smaller surf wave, and the midstream rock that was great for side surfing is gone.
- The wave train and surf hole above the railroad bridge at Freight Train are gone, although a new surf spot developed at the ledge just downstream
- Pinball is unaffected, but the wave trains and surf spots below it around Miami Beach are gone.

Some of the biggest changes occurred around Zoar Gap. The Gap is now considerably narrower, and the sneak route on the far right is gone – filled with rocks from the reconstruction of the road above.



Peter running Freight Train



Cheryl and Henry above Miami Beach

Once on the river, everyone ran Hangover Helper without incident. That got our confidence up, and we began working our way downstream. Whitewater paddlers who were familiar with the river acted as safety boats, and we ran the rapids as a group – completing one rapid before moving on to the next. We did have a couple of swims along the way, but both swimmers handled it great and were quickly rescued.

We took out above Zoar Gap and helped anyone not interested in running the Gap to portage their boats. Once that was done, five whitewater paddlers and one sea kayaker ran the Gap. The easiest line is now center right. The four kayakers made it through without incident. The two canoes (including me) both swam. I drifted too far to the left and swamped in the big hole below "Oh Shit Rock". Fortunately, Bob and Andy were nearby and helped to push my boat into a nearby eddy – saving me a long swim.

The rest of the run down to the Shunpike Rest area was uneventful. At 4:30, we pulled off the river and got everyone back to their cars. It's a long ride home, but for such a great day, it's worth it. I can't wait to do it again.

Erik is RICKA Newsletter Editor. You can read his blog *Open Boat Moving Water* at <http://eckilson.blogspot.com>

Conservation Corner...

An Interview with Richard Grant, President Narrow River Preservation Association

What does the Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) represent?

Our mission is preserving, protecting and restoring the Narrow River watershed.

How active is your group?

NRPA maintains 14 watch stations, holds awesome education graduate courses, provides scholarships and science fair awards, oversees all building permits and works closely with the Narrow River Land Trust.

What is the most interesting or picturesque place on your watershed?

We have helped compile [kayak routes](#) in conjunction with [Rhode Island Blueways](#) that feature the historic Pettaquamscutt Rock, the historic Gilbert Stuart Homestead and the view from Sprague Bridge.

What has been your greatest achievement with this group or any other conservation group that you

have belonged to?

Some of our achievements include seeing three of eleven detention ponds being completed as well as having the majority of homes tie into a sewer system in the Narragansett town portion of the watershed.

What would be your greatest goals if funding was available?

Overseeing the final leg of the O'Neill Bike Path through Canonchet Farm, continuing the expansion of the detention pond system and creating an improved kayak launch area at Sprague Bridge.

What could an interested individual do to help or volunteer for your group?

In particular we could use some help from a volunteer Secretary who could take minutes of NRPA meetings

What overall environmental issue concerns you the most?

Developing non-point pollution programs.

Does your group offer any educational or recreational opportunities that people should not miss?

Each year we send over 3000 newsletters to Narrow River watershed residents. Paid membership is 400 households. Every 5 years or so we send the [Narrow River Handbook - A Guide to Living in the Watershed](#) to the entire resident list. Some members who receive newsletters during the year volunteer and work on various watershed committees. We also hold a 10K run and walk road race, a mile turnaround swim and the Pettaquamscutt Kayak River Paddle event.

The Narrow River Preservation Association is located at:

Narrow River Preservation Association
P.O. Box 8
Saunderstown, RI 02874.

You can reach them by email at nrpa@narrowriver.org, telephone – (401) 783-6277, or visit their website at <http://www.narrowriver.org>



Gilbert Stuart Birthplace



Pettaquamscutt Cove



The Narrows

Before you Paddle...

Educate yourself about the area in which you will be paddling, and carry appropriate gear, clothing, water, food, etc. Always check the weather forecast before launching. **YOU ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE DECISION TO LAUNCH YOUR BOAT.**

Flatwater Trips

Late cancellations and changes to trips will be posted on the [Flatwater Message Board](#). Please check the Message Board before leaving for a trip. Check [web site](#) for directions and/or GPS coordinates.

November 11th (Dinner is rain or shine) - meet at 1:00 for a 1:30 launch
Annual Turkey Paddle and Dinner
Trip coordinator: Susan Engleman
Sje54@hotmail.com 508-353-6411

We will paddle on Wallum Lake in Douglas State Park with dinner after at the waterfront Lodge Restaurant. A wet suit or dry suit is recommended, and a change of clothes in a waterproof dry bag is required.

RSVP required by November 5th if you are planning on coming to the restaurant.
<http://ricka-flatwater.org/formturkey.htm>
For information on the dinner contact Cheryl at stonefoxfarm@cox.net or 401-647-5887

Directions: Take Route 146 north to the exit for Route 16 - Douglas/Uxbridge. Follow Route 16 west through the town of Douglas. You will come to an intersection for Route 16 and Route 96. GO STRAIGHT. You will see a sign for Douglas State Park/Wallum Lake. This is South Main Street. Follow South Main Street until you see a sign for Douglas State Park - take this left. Just down the road, take a right at the park entrance.

Follow the road bearing left down the hill to the put-in.
GPS coordinates: N42 01 301 W071 46

August 3 – 11, 2013
RICKA's Week in the Adirondacks

We will be camping at Lake Eaton campground outside of Long Lake, NY – see page 2 for more information.

Sea Kayak Trips

Sea kayak trips are now posted on the Show & Go Message Board at:
<http://rickaseakayaking.org/forums/index.php?board=2.0>

Whitewater Trips

Whitewater trips are now posted on the Whitewater Message Board at:
http://members.boardhost.com/RI_Whitewater/

RICKA Trivia Question of the Month...

The first 4 members to get the correct answer to the following question will be awarded a RICKA paddling-related prize:

What do you call the river hazard when a tree has fallen into fast moving water?

Send responses to membership@ricka.org with the subject "RICKA Trivia". There is a limit of one prize per member in a six-month period.

October Trivia Question - we had two correct answers to the question:

What is the difference between a rudder and a skeg?

While a rudder and a skeg both drop down in the water and are used to help the kayak go straight or track when subjected to wind, a skeg is stationary and rudder can be turned using peddles inside the cockpit.

Discounts for Members

The following retailers offer special discounts for RICKA members:

Blackstone Valley Outfitters
401-312-0369
<http://www.bvori.com/>

Claude's Cycles
508-543-0490
<http://www.claudescycles.com/>

CrossFitRhody
<http://www.crossfitrhody.com/>

Narrow River Kayaks
(401) 789-0334
<http://www.narrowriverkayaks.com/>

Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures
508-636-0300
<http://www.ospreyseakayak.com>

Outdoorplay.com
<http://www.outdoorplay.com/kayaks>

Quaker Lane Outfitters
401-294-9642

The Kayak Centre
888-SEA-KAYAK
<http://www.kayakcentre.com/>

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

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

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Garmin Yellow Etrex handheld GPS** for sale- \$35.00 firm. Basic model, waterproof. Comes with GPS receiver, manual, car charger and strap. For more information contact Cheryl Thompson Cameron at 647-5887 or stonefoxfarm@cox.net
- **Waterproof Camera case** - good down to 110ft. Cost new \$264.00, Selling for \$40.00 or best offer. [Ewa-Marine D-A Marine case for digital photo camera](#) - Glass, PVC, like new. Perfect for super zoom digital cameras. Jimcole@hotmail.com
- **Tandem 16 foot wood canvas canoe** - no seats (probably made about 1920 before seats became popular) - \$225.00 or best offer, detailed pictures are available. Jimcole@hotmail.com
- **Dagger IMPULSE** - Whitewater playboat 12'8" long 30" beam, 28.5 4" Beam @ w/l, perception saddle, side floatation, air bags Ready for the water- \$295 or best offer, Email me for details. Jimcole@hotmail.com
- **Woman's Dry suit** - small, NO relief zipper, needs gaskets, \$80.00 or best offer. Email me for details. Jimcole@hotmail.com
- **Canoe/Kayak equipment** - 2 four foot end air bags for OC1, 2 pieces of foam closed cell side floatation, Pair of adjustable foot pegs for kayak, other items (if your looking for miscellaneous WW items, please email me, I may have them. Email me for details. Jimcole@hotmail.com
- **2009 NDK Romany Surf** - roto molded, three layer (tough stuff). Rare boat, fantastic handling features. 16'2"x21.2"x49lbs. Yellow with orange specs and orange cockpit rim and seat. Fiberglass cockpit rim and seat bucket. Stripped and resealed all bulkheads and cockpit coaming so it is dry all around. Very stable, somehow solid tracking yet incredibly responsive. Sold new for \$1800 - will sell for \$875 obo. Gerry 860 235-0430 gerry@RatRaceProductions.tv
- **1 set of Thule Hullaport kayak carriers (J-style)** - \$50 or best offer. Used twice. Please email Lynde256@yahoo.com
- **P&H Scorpio** - 16'11" x 22". Poly, with retractable skeg, yellow (mango), 3 years old, stored in garage, in very good condition with usual scratches. Great, dependable, and stable boat. \$1,250. Fred cygnusfff@gmail.com or 401-467-2183
- **PRICE REDUCTION 16 foot Old Town ABS canoe** - new parts and hardware for rebuild, lost interest in this. \$150.00 dukewavewalker@gmail.com or 401.413.1194
- **Lendal Nordkapp SF fiberglass 4-piece bent shaft paddle** with key, 220 cm, like new - \$85.00. Fred: 401-467-2183
- **Quiver kayak sail.** Never out of the box! Quality sail made in USA. No need to drill any holes in your kayak!! \$100 businessfile12@gmail.com
- **Chestnut Canoe** – 1977 Ogilvy series, model - "Henry", color - Chestnut Green. Length-16', beam- 36", weight- 85 lbs. Cained seats. Interior as new, scratches on bottom from running local rivers. Have original Chestnut brochure. Asking \$4,000. **Canoe** - standard wood/canvas construction. Length- 16', beam 34", weight approx, 65 lbs. Color – yellow w/ dark-stained interior with babiche (woven rawhide) seats. Always stored indoors. Asking \$3,000. Call 860-774-0014.
- **Dagger Sitka**, 17' 11" x 22", fiberglass, mango/black/white. Perfect expedition kayak for the larger paddler. Comfortable and stable, plenty of cargo space, excels at adventure trips. \$1500. cam_mac@verizon.net
- **WANTED: Used Yakima Hullraiser or Thule Hullaport kayak carrier.** Respond to zakyak@verizon.net.
- **Crossfire, 11 ft.** in very good condition with two float bags. This boat was purchased new and has played in the Deerfield, So. Shore Beach, and Narragansett Beach - \$275. Email is best. carleenmco@gmail.com
- **14 ft. Fiberglass Sea Going Kayak Cape Horn made by Wilderness Systems** \$1,350.00. About 5 years old, has a few minor scratches. **16ft. Fiberglass Sea Going Kayak, Tsumani made by Wilderness Systems** \$2,500.00 Manufacturer- about 2 years old, has NO scratches. All the extras are the BEST. The paddle is \$500.00 (1) Warner. The wheels are S.S. Please send all serious inquiries to: zita59@verizon.net or call (401) 885-2326
- **Boreal Design, Alvic, Kevlar.** 17' 47-50 lbs. A great boat for kayak camping. I did the part of Maine Island Trail. \$1200. bevthomas2@cox.net, 401-568-8166
- **Whitewater canoes: Mohawk Rogue** - designed by whitewater canoeing legend Nolan Whitesell. Outfitted. \$350. **Dagger Genesis** - big water boat designed by whitewater legend Bob Foote. Rolls easily, plays well with waves. Outfitted. \$500 - Chick Noreau chickart@cox.net or 401-751-5477

Send your classified ads to RICKA Webmaster Cheryl Thompson Cameron, 53 Anan Wade Road, Glocester, RI 02857-2611; webmaster@ricka.org. Include your name for membership verification. Please notify the Webmaster when your gear is sold so that the ad can be removed. Acceptance, duration and formatting of your ad is at the webmaster's discretion.