

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association Vol. XXXVI No. 9 September, 2014

September Club Meeting

Building a Birch Bark Canoe

Monday, September 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

The Ojibwe (or Chippewa) were one of the largest Native American tribes in North America. They were located around Lake Superior and were known for crafting beautiful canoes. Made from birch bark, these canoes were light, strong and able to carry very heavy loads.

This month's program is a video on building an Ojibwa birch bark canoe. Master carpenter Jim Jones guides his crew as they create an authentic replica with methods used more than 150 years ago. Follow them from the beginning as they harvest birch bark, spruce roots, and hand-split cedar, to the end as they complete this beautiful work of art.



Jim Jones works on his birch bark canoe

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.**

RICKA Family Picnic

September 14, 2014

This year's RICKA Family Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 14, 2014 at Goddard Memorial State Park in Warwick, RI. We have reserved Gazebo F (please note new location) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In the morning, flatwater and sea kayak trips will leave from the boat launch – meet at 9:30 a.m. for a 10:00 a.m. launch. A barbecue lunch from Morin's Caterer will be served at 12:30 p.m. followed by the 2014 RICKA Awards Ceremony.

Registration has been extended until September 10, 2014, so please register now for this fun event!! **See page 3 for details.**

Pawcatuck River Overnight

September 27-28, 2014

An easy overnight trip for flatwater paddlers. We will launch in the afternoon at the Richmond Fishing Area, camp at the Burlingame Canoe Campsites for the evening, and continue down to Bradford Landing the following morning.

We will do group meals for supper and breakfast so you won't have to worry about bringing food or cooking gear. You will need a tent, sleeping bag, mess kit (plate, cup and silverware), a folding chair (for sitting around the campfire), and your usual paddling gear. A dry bag for your cloths and sleeping bag is recommended.

See page 7 for details.

From the RICKA Library...

Whitewater Paddling and Rescue

Whitewater Handbook

By Bruce Lessels

Whitewater kayaking and canoeing have come a long way in the last few years with new gear, new techniques, and new ways to run the river. To start the novice right off, or to polish whitewater skills already acquired, renowned whitewater paddler and instructor Bruce Lessels has created step-by-step lessons for all essential techniques. He surveys safety issues such as managing risk, dealing with hazards, and rescue tools. Equipment choices are also surveyed. An introduction to racing is provided along with advanced techniques of playboating, squirt boating.

Whitewater Rescue Manual

By Charles Walbridge & Wayne Sundmacher Sr.

Regardless of skill, running rivers presents an element of danger. *Whitewater Rescue Manual* presents a tightly focused look at the best, most current techniques for both self-rescue and rescue of others on the river. The authors provide well-reasoned guidance that will teach you when to stay with the boat and when not to; how to retrieve a lost boat; how to swim out of trouble and when not to swim; how to reach a victim by wading, swimming, or using ropes; how to coordinate a rescue effort how to make sure that would-be rescuers don't become victims.

If you would like to check out any of these guides from the library contact Bill Hahn at librarian@ricka.org. Library selections can be mailed to you with a postage paid return mailer provided at no cost to the borrower.

RICKA is an ACA



Paddle America Club

Submit your stories to the **PADDLER**

Do you have a story that you could share, a picture, gear review or trip report? **Please consider sending it to the Paddler.** Chances are, there are a lot of people who would really enjoy seeing it.

Don't be shy, please send it along!

Executive Board:

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at 70 Scott Street, Pawtucket. All are welcome to attend.

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RICKA Family Picnic and Barbecue

Goddard Memorial State Park in Warwick, RI

Sunday, September 14, 2014 - we have Gazebo F from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's RICKA Family Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 14, 2014 at Goddard Memorial State Park in Warwick, RI. We have reserved Gazebo F (please note new location) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In the morning, flatwater and sea kayak trips will leave from the boat launch – meet at 9:30 a.m. for a 10:00 a.m. launch. Goddard Park has several miles of beautiful trails for biking or hiking. It also offers swimming, fishing and volleyball (just bring a ball). There is ample room for ball games, badminton, or most anything else. Organize an activity and bring the necessary equipment.

Lunch will be a barbecue from Morin's Caterer. The meal will include clam cakes and chowder, BBQ chicken and much more. We will have watermelon for



2013 Volunteer of the Year Tony Moore.
Who will be this year's winner?

dessert. Beverages will be provided. Veggie burgers will be available upon request. See the registration form. Lunch will be served starting at 12:30 p.m. for about an hour. The 2014 RICKA Awards Ceremony will follow lunch.

The cost will be \$19.75 per person for members (including family members and

significant others), \$5.00 for children under 12 and \$29.00 per person for non-members. **Because this is a catered event we must have your reservation no later than September 10, 2014.** Don't wait until the last minute – please register now! You can register by mail or online using PayPal at: <http://www.ricka.org/Payments/bbq.html>.

If you register by mail, please print out the form and return it with your check payable to RICKA to the address provided.

Mark your calendars for this fun event!! Rain or Shine. Who knows.... you may be receiving an award! Hope to see you all there!

**GPS Coordinates to the parking area:
N41 39.960 W071 26.090**

Member Name: _____

Number of Adult Meals: _____ X \$19.75 = \$ _____

Number of Adult Vegetarian Meals: _____ X \$19.75 = \$ _____

Number of Kid's Meals: _____ X \$5.00 = \$ _____

Number of Non-member Meals: _____ X \$29.00 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to RICKA and mail them to:

Andy Viera
8 Bradford Rd
Milford, MA 01757

Paddle Across Rhode Island

By Chuck Horbert

The week before we were to start off on the second attempt to paddle across Rhode Island, I got an email from Bill Luther wondering if we should be concerned about Hurricane Arthur.

Whaaaaat? I quickly called up the tropical weather page of my favorite weather web site, and while it was not yet even a Tropical Storm, this...thing...had just popped out of a mere bunch of thunder storms off of the Florida coast, and a lack of wind shear and steering winds looked to be prime for intensification.



At the put-in in Woonsocket

Sure enough, days later, Hurricane Arthur was slowly moving up the east coast in time to rain on my parade. I was like, “are you friggin’ kidding me? Two years in a row? The first named storm of the season is going to hit just before we plan on hitting the rivers?” I was a basket case for two days, haunting the weather web sites and river flow prediction centers.

Fortunately, the Cape got all of the rain, and Arthur dumped only 2 ½ inches or so on most of Rhode Island, giving some very dry rivers a little bump in flow levels. So with a huge breath of relief, my four-man crew assembled at The Meadows Park in North Smithfield to start a historic canoe and kayak trip across the length of Rhode Island using a route that had never been



The first portage at the Woonsocket Falls Dam

completed. A few friends and family gathered for moral support and to take photos of anything that went wrong.

Jim Cole, Billy Luther and I chose solo canoes for our journey. Friend and journalist Dave Smith used his river-touring kayak. After quickly packing up the boats, and interviews with Ambar Espinosa of RI Public Radio and Joe Nadeau of the Woonsocket Call, we were off!

Not even half an hour later, we were at our first portage around Woonsocket Falls. Here, we met our first Facebook fan of the trip, Delilah, who was super psyched to see us underway! This type of encounter became a common daily occurrence. We were all amazed at how many people, friends and strangers, came out to see us, or had heard of us, and were living



Paddling below the Albion Dam

vicariously through our adventures. By the end of our week, we felt like paddling rock stars! It became evident early on that a lot of people were rooting us on, and we sure didn’t want to disappoint anyone. It was ON!

And so we trekked onward, paddling and portaging our way across the entire state over the next eight days. Some parts were difficult and challenging. Other segments were an absolute dream to experience. Along the way, we met, and were met by, many great people, and I coordinated a number of PR programs with various watershed groups, youth groups, and towns to highlight the good work they all do to keep our rivers a clean and accessible feature of their communities.



Camping at River Island Campground

Fortunately whatever problems we encountered were few and surmountable. My portage cart, eager to keep up its streak, had a flat tire by the time we reached our last portage on the first day, but I had a spare tube, and the wheel was fixed later on in camp. On day two, we encountered an incoming tide, and a stiff Southerly breeze that, by the time we arrived at Bold Point at the mouth of the Seekonk River had worked itself up to a steady 30 mph blow right up the bay. We were forced to divert our route onto a hot, shadeless Allens Avenue to start walking our way to Pawtuxet Village. Along the way we met our first “Trail Angels”: Alisa Richardson, who brought us cold energy

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

drinks and lemonade, and Steve Brown, who supplied us with ice.

Dave's kayak cart gave him problems from day one, some of which seemed fixed by a new strapping scheme. But on the fourth day, walking along the Washington Secondary Bike Path into Coventry, it was clear that the cart was not going to last the trip. One wheel hub was actually melting off of the axle. We babied it along the rest of the day, and contacted another Trail Angel, Jim Schoer, who had offered another cart through the Facebook page. He met us at Zeke's Bridge to deliver the cart in time for our next day's planned "Grand Portage" of 10 miles to the Wood River.



Jim, Dave, Chuck and Bill

That portage got a lot of attention! No one who we talked to could wrap their mind around how we could do that. Honestly, I had no clue what we had in store. But with the exception of a long uphill struggle to get up to Route 3, and a couple short, rough patches in some trails, it went very smoothly. An early lunch of burgers and liquid courage at the Cornerstone Tavern at the halfway point didn't hurt either.

Campsites ranged from the urban Blackstone River Island Campground in Central Falls, where we were all treated to a very long, loud and seismic freight train at 2:30 a.m., to the remote pines of Big River Management Area, where we were treated to a supertime low-pass training run by a National Guard Blackhawk. On the balance, though, every campsite was pretty nice. Except for the fact that we were very close to populated areas a lot of the time, and had cell phone coverage everywhere, this trip was not very unlike many of the canoe trips I have done in northern New England.

If any segment exceeded expectations, it was the main branch Pawtuxet River. Despite the fact that three major sewage treatment plants empty into it, and it is



At the finish in Westerly

lined by two of the most populous cities in the state, it was a gem to paddle. We saw wildlife galore, including three species of turtle and a bald eagle! I will return.

So on July 13th, accompanied by a contingent of friends from RICKA, and after battling another stiff south wind coming into Little Narragansett Bay, we pulled into the Barn Island Wildlife Refuge, tired but elated at what we had accomplished. The entire time I planned this trip, and for much of the time I paddled it, I imagined this to be a one-and-done journey. But give it a few years...maybe it will call me back for a sequel. Probably just in time for Tropical Storm Angela.

Lower Deerfield

By Erik Eckilson

Once each summer, RICKA runs and "easy" whitewater trip for experienced flatwater paddlers on the Lower Deerfield River.

This year we had 10 paddlers in 9 boats – two canoes and seven kayaks. The forecast called for clouds with a slight chance of showers. We had plenty of clouds, but fortunately the rain never materialized.

Most of the whitewater rapids come early in the trip. There are three rapids in quick succession just downstream from the put in. All three can be run easily straight down the middle. We had one short swim in the second rapid, but otherwise everyone did great.

From the East Charlemont Picnic Area (just after the Indian Bridge) down to Crab Apple Rafting the river is mostly quickwater with a few easy riffles. The biggest challenge is watching where the water goes so you don't end up beached on the cobbles in the middle of the river.

Took us about 3 ½ hours to do the run down to Crab Apple. On the way home we



Cheryl running the rapids on the Lower Deerfield

stopped at Shelburne Falls to check out the Bridge of Flowers and get some pizza at Buckland Pizza. Then it was time for the long ride home. It's a bit of a drive, but always worth it!

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.

September 6th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch

Bluff Point State Park - Groton CT

Leader: Sharon Dragon
shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942

Since this is saltwater and tidal with some wind and waves, we are requiring boats 12 feet or longer. Bring a lunch.

September 7th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch

Pawcatuck River

Leaders: Louise Price
weezrad@yahoo.com Becky Settje
beckysettje@hotmail.com 972-816-6907

An easy, scenic paddle up the Pawcatuck River. This is a round trip and no shuttle is required. Suitable for all boats and levels of experience. Bring a lunch.

September 14th

RICKA Family Picnic - Goddard Memorial State Park

See page 3 for details.

September 20th - meet at 9:30

Charles River- Cambridge to Boston

Leaders Susan Engleman

sje54@hotmail.com 508-655-1633 Home and 508-353-6411 cell. Tom McHugh
tmc99992@yahoo.com 401-481-5062

We will paddle down the Charles River past the Museum of Science and through the locks. We will then venture a short distance into Boston Harbor and view the US Constitution before turning around and returning to our put-in. Suitable for boats 12 feet and longer. Bring a lunch.

September 21st - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch

Salt Pond – Galilee, Narragansett

Leader: Sharon Dragon:
shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942 and Susan Engleman sje54@hotmail.com 508-655-1633 Home and 508-353-6411 cell

Point Judith Pond is the second largest of the Rhode Island's South County salt ponds. It has many pretty islands and coves to explore. Suitable for all, bring a lunch. The state launch is located on Salt Pond Road.

September 27-28 - RSVP Required

Pawcatuck River Overnight

Leader: Erik Eckilson eckilson@cox.net
b401-765-1741

See Wilderness Trips on page 7.

September 28th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch

Quinebaug River Canoe Trail

Leader: Louise Price weezrad@yahoo.com

A one-way trip (no shuttle) up the river and back to put in. Suitable for all, bring a lunch

October 4th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 shuttle

Charles River- Wellesley to Needham

Leaders Susan Engleman
sje54@hotmail.com 508-655-1633 Home and 508-353-6411 cell. Tom McHugh
tmc99992@yahoo.com 401-481-5062

This is another pretty stretch of the Charles River starting at the 182-acre Elm Bank

Reservation, an old estate property. Surrounded on three sides by the Charles River, the Reservation is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The river twists and turns to the take out at Cochrane Dam. This dam was originally built in 1675 and once held water for mills making paper, nails and textiles. Bring a lunch.

October 11th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch

Nashua River – Groton to Pepperell

Leaders: Louise Price
weezrad@yahoo.com and Frank Cortesa
frankcortesa@charter.net 508-369-8205.

The Nashua River is one of the prettiest places to paddle in eastern MA. It twists and turns among islands and side channels that turn this inundated marshland into a giant 5-mile long maze. Round trip will make approximately a 10-mile trip. Any size boat is OK. Bring a lunch.

Sea Kayak Trips

Before choosing to participate in a trip, check the marine forecast and consider the trip level – we do not rate the paddler, only the paddle. Read the [RICKA Sea Kayak Paddling Basics](#) section of the website. **Always check the Calendar for changes to the schedule.** Cancellations due to weather or other conditions will be posted on the [Message Board](#) by 8:00 a.m. the day of the trip.

September 6, 2014 – 10:00

Fort Wetherill - Level: 4

Jamestown, RI
Coordinator: Richard Coupland
RLCoupland@msn.com

September 7, 2014 – 10:00

Rock Gardening - Level: 4

King's Beach, Ocean Drive, Newport, RI
Coordinator: Tony Moore
tsunamikayak@juno.com

September 7 - 14, 2014

**Reversing Falls & Stonington Tour -
Level: 5**

Blue Hill/Stonington, ME with camping at
The Wander' in Moose Campground
Coordinators: Tim Motte ttamotte@cox.net
and Tim Gleason gleasont63@gmail.com
RSVP Required

September 14, 2014

Annual RICKA Picnic

Goddard State, Park, East Greenwich,
RI
See page 3 for details

September 20, 2014 – 9:00

**Pier 5 to The Harbor of Refuge -
Level: 4**

Narragansett, RI
Coordinator: Richard Coupland
RLCoupland@msn.com

Wilderness Trips

September 27-28 - RSVP Required

Pawcatuck River Overnight

Leader: Erik Eckilson eckilson@cox.net
401-765-1741

An easy overnight trip for flatwater
paddlers.

We will launch in the afternoon at the
Richmond Fishing Area, camp at the
Burlingame Canoe Campsites for the
evening, and continue down to Bradford
Landing the following morning. We will
do group meals for supper and breakfast so
you won't have to worry about bringing
food or cooking gear. You will need a tent,
sleeping bag, mess kit (plate, cup and
silverware), a folding chair (for sitting
around the campfire), and your usual
paddling gear. A dry bag for your cloths
and sleeping bag is recommended.

We will have a couple of canoes to bring
extra gear. These are primitive campsites,
so outdoor facilities will not be available.

Conservation Corner

What is Eurasian Milfoil and how does it spread?



Eurasian Milfoil is an invasive aquatic
plant first seen in the Northeastern United
States in 2007. Boat propellers, fishing
lures and even canoe and kayak paddles
can chop off pieces of the milfoil plant.
These pieces float on the surface and are at
the mercy of the wind or current. In a short
period of time, roots will form on these cut
pieces of the plant. These rooted pieces
will eventually take hold, creating a new
colony of milfoil.

Milfoil forms dense mats of vegetation on
the surface of the water. These mats
interfere with recreational activities such as
swimming, fishing, water skiing, and
boating. These mats also disrupt the
ecology of a water body by crowding out
other native aquatic plants needed for a
healthy fishery. Once milfoil becomes
established in a body of water, it is
difficult, if not impossible to remove.

Boaters are most likely to cause the spread
of milfoil, which can travel easily between
bodies of water on boats, trailers and other
equipment. As boaters, we all need to do
our part to prevent the spread of Eurasian
Milfoil:

- Learn how to identify Eurasian
Milfoil.

- Avoid infected areas to reduce its
spread.
- Always clean your boat when traveling
between bodies of water.

Please do your part to help prevent the
spread of invasive plants in our waterways.

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.

- **PRICE REDUCTION: Cobra Strike** - 9'7" red plastic SOT surf kayak, fin, footbraces & kneestraps - \$200. **Compass Leader Canoe** - 12', 25 lb green fiberglass solo flatwater canoe with detachable cane seat - \$250. **Mad River Revelation Canoe** - 17' green Royalex, outfitted for tandem WW (knee straps & airbags), with 2 wood & 2 WW paddles - \$300. **Eddyline Nighthawk 175** - 17'6" red thermoform sea kayak, skeg, high volume for larger paddler - \$400. **Eddyline Phoenix** - 17' turquoise thermoform sea kayak, skeg, extremely stable for fishing or photography, surfs well - \$300. **Perception Amp WW Kayak** - 7'10" blue/green plastic low-volume playboat, surfs well - \$75. **Swift Bering Sea Kayak** - 15'9", 42 lb red fiberglass low-volume sea kayak, skeg, fast & extremely stable - \$500. All boats available to demo. **Also lots of new paddling apparel, footwear & sprayskirts** - 70% off. Cat Radcliffe 508-369-3028 catherineradcliffe@earthlink.net
- **Fiberglass Valley Skerray Sea Kayak** - red over white, 17' by 23", skeg, weighs in under 60 lbs. Ocean Cockpit for easier surf launching. Includes neoprene spray skirt - \$1100. **Skerray RM** - great rock gardening boat, needs hatches. Ocean cockpit, skeg, spray skirt included with sale - 500. Buy both for \$1500. Contact Ric S at 508-572-3095 (call or text) , email rj_salty@yahoo.com
- **North Shore Polar HV** - 17.5 x 22 purchased new June 2013, unusual circumstances force sale, list \$3,295 will sell for \$2,100. Call for photos, Westerly, 401-480-2508
- **P & H Cetus Classic expedition sea kayak** - two boats available, one is yellow over yellow with white trim, the other is white over white with black trim, keel strips, steering compasses and custom foamed bulkheads installed, \$1500.00 OBO each boat, contact Tim at 401-783-6287 evenings before 9 p.m.
- **WANTED: Kayak Rack** and feet to fit 2000 Buick Regal contact 401-941-8061
- **North Shore Polar HV** - 17.5 x 22 purchased new June 2013, unusual circumstances force sale, will sell for \$2,100. Located in Westerly. Call for photos - 401-480-2508
- **IR neoprene lined guide shorts** - size #33 waist - gray worn only once (with underwear) and washed - \$35.00 or best offer. Jon ojphoto1@cox.net
- **Werner Corryvreckan** - 215 cm, 2-piece, all carbon, straight shaft paddle, nearly new, \$200. Call Tim at 401-783-6287, evenings before 9 p.m.
- **Old Town Tripper Royalex Canoe** - length 17'2", kelvar skid plates installed. Three paddles included. Asking \$700.00. Contact Jeff cell 401-484-4896
- **Kevlar 17'6" Looksha 1V** - aqua deck, white hull, garage kept, new condition - \$1,200. Located in Westerly. Call Pat 401-480-3508
- **Two sets of Yakima Bow Down J Racks with locks** - these are brand new and were never used - \$360. Contact cell is 401-486-2518 or email rolar27@cox.net
- **NRS Cross 4 Wetshoes** - women's size 8 (comparable to size 9 in regular shoes). In excellent condition; worn only a handful of times - \$16.99. Contact Zak at zmettger@verizon.net
- **Royalex Mad River Explorer RX** - 16' in good condition. Green with cane seats, ash gunwales. Includes wooden paddles. Best offer. Contact ecaldarone@yahoo.com

The follow items were donated to RICKA and are being offered for sale to support our educational programs:

- **Great Canadian fiberglass tandem canoe** - length 15', width 38", with keel, Vinyl padded seats, aluminum gunwales. This is a great beginner canoe as it is very stable and tracks well. Asking \$150
- **Fiberglass tandem canoe** - about 38" wide with keel. This is a great beginner canoe as it is very stable and tracks well. Asking \$150
- **Custom Fiberglass Sea Kayak** - length 18', width about 22", weigh 50 plus. White with green hull. Comes with spray skirts. Asking \$150

Contact Jimcole@Hotmail.com

Send your classified ads to RICKA Webmaster Cheryl Thompson, 53 Anan Wade Road, Glocester, RI 02857-2611 or 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.