

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

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No. 3

March 2017

March Club Meeting Spring Soiree at Chelo's Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Our monthly meetings resume in March, but we'll take a break from our usual lecture series and start off our **40th Anniversary Season** with our traditional Spring Soiree. For many years, the Spring Soiree was RICKA's annual banquet held at the Quonset Club. This year, we've moved the event to Chelo's in Warwick, and everyone who attends will receive a **FREE RICKA 40th Anniversary Water Bottle** - a 25 oz. water bottle complete with the RICKA 40th Anniversary logo (limit 50).



Come join your fiends as we relive stories from the past and make plans for the future. We have reserved the upstairs area of the restaurant for the evening. Everyone will be responsible for their own food and drinks. (Chelo's will add an 18% gratuity due to the size of the group.) Chelo's Warwick is located at 2225 Post Road, Warwick. Please RSVP to Sharon Dragon at shdrag1@gmail.com by Friday, March 17th if you plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you at this fun event.

Directions to Chelo's Warwick: From Route 95 North or South take exit 13 to Route 1 – T.F. Green Airport. After 1.3 miles take the exit for Post Road – Route 1. Turn right on Post Road. Chelo's Warwick will be a short distance down the road on the right at **2225 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886**.

Flatwater Planning Meeting Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us at Visitor Center at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge, MA for our annual [Flatwater Planning Meeting](#).

At this meeting, we will set up our calendar for the 2017 year, so please bring ideas for trips. If you would like to lead a trip but do not have experience, we will partner you up with an experienced leader. If you would like to lead a trip, but cannot attend the meeting, we can reserve a date in advance of the meeting. We will have party pizza and soda; you may bring a snack or dish to share, if you wish. The Visitor Center is located at 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge, MA.

Contact Cheryl Thompson at stonefoxfarm@juno.com for additional information.

Vote for Club Officers at the April Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of officers for the 2017 to 2018 year:

President: Sharon Dragon
Vice President: Pat (Mayhew) Lardner
Secretary: Henry Dziadosz
Treasurer: Andy Viera

Members are encouraged to attend our April Annual Meeting to cast their votes. Our monthly lecture series will also begin with Carl Ladd of [Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures](#) speaking on boat repair. The meeting will be held at [REI](#) in Cranston.

From the RICKA Library

AMC Paddle Guides

Sea Kayaking along the New England Coast By Tamsin Venn

This is the AMC's classic guide that leads adventurous kayakers on more than 45 trips along the magnificent New England coastline. Kayakers of all abilities can explore expansive sand beaches, bird watch in vast marshes, tour solitary estuaries, or challenge their skills along wild shorelines. Each trip includes a detailed map and description. Whether you're just discovering the joys of sea kayaking or have been exploring the New England coast for years, Sea Kayaking Along the New England Coast will expand your list of paddling locations.

Quiet Water MA, CT and RI By John Hayes and Alex Wilson

This is the AMC's popular Quiet Water guide that offers paddlers of all ages and abilities adventure and enjoyment on the water. These tours lead you to out-of-the-way lakes and ponds, meandering rivers, marshy coves and inlets, and more. Each trip features a detailed tour description including habitat type and notes about the flora and fauna you'll discover along the way. Beginner and experienced paddlers, birdwatchers, anglers, and families alike will appreciate this detailed, easy-to-use guide to southern New England's best quiet water.

These are just two of the great books covering the range of paddling topics that are available in our [collection](#). If you would like to check out these or any other selections, 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

If you haven't already renewed, your RICKA membership expires this month.

Renew your membership now!

You can renew by mail, or online using PayPal. Please visit the website at:

<http://www.ricka.org/Join/Jointhefun.html>

Beginning this year, membership renewal letters will be sent by email. In addition, you will no longer need a membership card to get member discounts at local retailers. Just show the email to the retailer, or print and bring the letter with you while shopping.

Executive Board:

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the [Kayak Centre](#), 9 Phillips Street, Wickford. All are welcome to attend.

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Remembering 40 Years of RICKA

The Rhode Island Whitewater Championship

Rhode Island's wildwater downriver race!

The Rhode Island Whitewater Championship, also known as the Branch River Race, was established by RICKA in 1980. Its long-time Race Director was Mike Bussell. For over 25 years it was run on the third weekend in March - the first race of the year on calendar the New England Downriver Championship series (now the [New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association](#)), which continues to run races across the northeast.



Running the Glendale Rapid

course began below the Route 107 Bridge and ended above the Slatersville Reservoir. It is mostly quickwater with some flatwater and four class II rapids.

The first rapid was at the start below the Route 107 Bridge. The next rapid was about a half mile downstream at the Whipple Drop - a broken dam with a 2½-foot drop and a canoe-busting boulder about 25 feet downstream.

About 3½ miles downstream was the portage at the Oakland Dam. Below the dam, was a mile-long section of quickwater that led to the Glendale Rapid. This short, rocky rapid caused problems for new and experienced paddlers alike.

After another half mile of quickwater was the Mohegan (now called the Atlas Pallet)



Running the Mohegan Rapid

Rapid. This rocky drop changed at different water levels. It always required superior maneuvering skills but became easier as the water level rose. Another half mile downstream was the portage at the Nasonville Dam. After that, the remainder of the run was quickwater.

As with all RICKA events, safety was a principal concern. Safety checkpoints were set up at critical points along the route. From many years, the Ocean State Amateur Radio group partnered with RICKA to provide real-time communication between safety personnel on the racecourse, and those back at race headquarters.



The original race logo

This well-known race was run in accordance with American Canoe Association rules. All racers had to submit to safety inspections, and improperly equipped boats or paddlers would not be allowed to participate. All entrants were required to wear PFD's, spray skirts (for kayaks) and helmets. Wetsuits and drysuits were strongly recommended, as were float bags in canoes and kayaks.

The base of operations for the race was the Townsman Club, later the Village Barn and now the Western Hotel. Classes were included for canoe and kayak, with classes for recreational, mixed, women and masters. There was even a "tavern" class competing for the coveted "Saloon Cup".

The race was run on Rhode Island's only whitewater river - the Clear and Branch from Harrisville to Nasonville. The 7-mile



25th anniversary race course map

The Branch River Race was an important fundraiser for RICKA, and provided the opportunity for new paddlers to experience whitewater paddling using good safety practices under relatively controlled conditions. The [race continued for over 25 years](#), but eventually had to be discontinued due to the high cost of insurance and problems with river access.

Today, many RICKA paddlers still paddle the Clear and Branch on the traditional third weekend in March (see page 4).

Interest Group Q&A

Paddling with RICKA Whitewater

What is the RICKA Whitewater group?

The Whitewater group is the smallest of RICKA's four interest groups. We paddle whitewater rivers and streams across New England.

What is a whitewater trip?

Whitewater trips are designated according to difficulty of the rapids (see AMC River Ratings at right). Our trips range from easy class I trips which are open to any experienced RICKA paddler, to extremely difficult class IV trips which are open to experienced whitewater paddlers only. Most trips are rated class II/III.

An important difference between whitewater and flatwater trips is one of emphasis. A whitewater trip usually takes place on a single section of a river that happens to have the desired level of difficulty. We may spend an hour playing at a single rapid.

How do I find out about trips?

On occasion, RICKA Whitewater trips are posted on the trip calendar on our website. <http://www.ricka-flatwater.org/wwschedule.htm>

More often, they are posted as "bootleg" trips on the club's message board. http://members.boardhost.com/RI_Whitewater/

Please note that these bootleg trips are not official RICKA trips. They are posted for the convenience of our paddlers. As always, you are responsible for determining if the trip is suitable for your level of experience.



Mike Bussell running Whipple Drop on the Branch River

Most RICKA members also paddle with other whitewater groups such as the AMC, MVP or other internet groups.

How do I join a trip?

Official RICKA Whitewater trips are always RSVP trips. Contact the leader via email or at the phone number listed.

Most "bootleg" trips are "show and go" requiring no advanced notice other than confirmation on the message board.

What equipment do I need?

Every paddler will need a whitewater canoe or kayak with floatation, paddle, personal floatation device (PFD) and a properly fitted whitewater helmet. You can find a list of other equipment on our website.

<http://www.ricka-flatwater.org/wwschedule.htm>

What about clothing?

Whitewater paddling is definitely a water sport, and you should expect to get wet. Since the whitewater paddling season begins early in the spring, cold water paddling gear is required.

Do you offer training?

RICKA occasionally offers a Class II Kayak Whitewater School – details are posted in the Paddler.

AMC River Ratings

Flatwater - There is little or no current - paddling upstream is easy.

Quickwater - The river moves fast, but is generally smooth.

Class I - Fast moving water with riffles and small waves, but few obstructions.

Class II - Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels that are evident without scouting. Occasional maneuvering may be required.

Class III - Rapids with high, irregular waves that may be difficult to avoid. Narrow passages often require complex maneuvering in fast current. May require scouting from shore. Self-rescues are usually easy.

Class IV - Intense and powerful rapids requiring precise boat control. May include large, unavoidable waves and holes or constricted passages demanding fast maneuvers under pressure. Scouting is necessary the first time down. Swims will be long, and self-rescue difficult.

Branch River Icebreaker (Class II)

Saturday, March 18, 2017

As a 'nod' to all the years that RICKA ran the RI Whitewater Championships, we are planning to run the Branch River on the traditional 3rd Saturday in March.

We'll meet at the put-in below the Harrisville Dam (access is now at 4 Central Street, Harrisville). This is a 7-mile trip with a couple of short class II rapids depending on water level. Cold weather gear (wetsuit or drysuit) is required. You must have class II skills and be properly prepared for the conditions.

Final details will be posted on the [Whitewater Message Board](#).

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

Flatwater trips are now posted on the Flatwater Message Board at:
<http://members.boardhost.com/FLATWATER/>

Flatwater Planning Meeting
Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge, MA for our annual Flatwater Planning Meeting.

At this meeting, we will set up our calendar for the 2017 year, so please bring ideas for trips. If you would like to lead a trip but do not have experience, we will partner you up with an experienced leader. If you would like to lead a trip, but cannot attend the meeting, we can reserve a date in advance of the meeting. We will have party pizza and soda; you may bring a snack or dish to share, if you wish.

Contact Cheryl Thompson at stonefoxfarm@juno.com for additional information.

2017 RICKA Adirondacks Trip
August 5 - 12, 2017

We will be camping at Lake Eaton Campground in the Adirondacks for our [2017 summer camping and paddling trip](#).

[Lake Eaton Campground](#) is a beautiful campground with spacious sites and good bathroom facilities. It is also within an hour's drive of many prime-paddling destinations. You can make campground reservations now at Reserve America: <http://www.reserveamerica.com/>. Please try to select a site in the 30's to 50's, or other sites close by.

Please notify Henry Dziadosz hdziadosz@verizon.net if you are planning to attend.

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/

Branch River Icebreaker
Saturday, March 18, 2017

As a 'nod' to all the years that RICKA ran the RI Whitewater Championships, we are planning to run the Branch River on the traditional 3rd weekend in March. We'll meet at the put-in below the Harrisville Dam (access is now at 4 Central Street, Harrisville). This is a 7-mile trip with 3 with significant class II rapids – Whipple Drop, the Glendale Rapid and the Atlas Pallet Rapid. Cold weather gear (wetsuit or drysuit) is required. You must have class II skills and be properly prepared for the conditions. Final details will be posted on the [Whitewater Message](#)



Congratulations to Jim Crowley and Frank Cortesa who have paddled at least once a month for the past 72 months – that's 6 years!

[Board](#) when available.

Discounts for Members

The following retailers offer special discounts for RICKA members:

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>

The KayakCentre
508-636-0300
<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.

- **Warner Carbon Ikelos Paddle** - 210 cm. Used on less than 10 occasions. Nearly indistinguishable from new - \$200 OBO. I will accept PayPal and Cash only please. Call Mike at 401-644-9946 11/16
- **Valley Q-Boat** - Quill over Quill Q-Boat with black trim. Some spider cracks. Asking \$1000 or B.O. Eric emjohnso3@verizon.net
- **Kokatat front entry GORE-TEX GFER dry suit** with relief zipper and GORE-TEX socks. This suit has been lightly used and is in excellent condition. \$400. Contact [Bill Hahn](#)
- **Old Town Tripper** – this 17” royalex canoe has been stored inside for over 20 years and is in very good condition - asking \$800. Contact 508-808-0530 or jrmiller59@yahoo.com
- **Kokatat Orbit Tour PFD** - Small/Med – used 3 times then I realized that it was too small - \$75. Contact michael.hazeltine@gmail.com
- **FOLBOT "Yukon"** - 13', excellent condition. Spray cover, extra seat, paddle. \$800 OBO. Wakefield area, can deliver to RI buyer - 401-783-2750
- **NRS Flux Drytop** - men's size XL, red with black highlights, latex wrist and neck gaskets. Excellent, like new condition used less than 6 times. Sells new for \$325, yours for \$200. **Henderson 7mm Dive Boot** - men's size 11 fit my size 10 feet with thick socks and drysuit booties with room to spare. Two years old but used less than a dozen times. Sells new for \$95, yours \$45. **Reed Aquatherm Fleece Men's Long Sleeved Top** – black, men's size large. Worn less than 12 times and in good shape. I paid around \$95, yours for \$35. Contact Gerry at sea sherpa kayak dot com
- **Bungee/ Stretch Cord** - all sizes, colors, and styles available. Prices start at \$5.00/spool. Jonathan at 401-447-7973 Jon@marineropeinternational.com
- **Dagger Exodus 168** – red, length 16'-11", width 23.25", weight 60 lbs, cockpit 34" x 19". Bow and stern storage compartments, full rudder system - mint condition. Asking \$789. **Corsica S Whitewater Kayak** – purple, length 10' 7", width 24", weight 39 lbs. Some scratches. Kayak, spray skirt, PFD, carbon fiber paddle – \$389. **Two Dagger Mamba 8.1 Whitewater Kayaks** - your choice of sunrise or yellow. Length 8' 1", width 26.75", weight 47 lb., cockpit 34" x 19". Very little use. Kayak, PFD, helmet, carbon fiber paddle - \$699. Email or call watersedge99@comcast.net 508-944-2539
- **Werner Carbon Ikelos paddle** - bent shaft. 215 cm. Only used twice and is in brand new condition - \$350. Contact aikijerry@optonline.net
- **Valley Aquanaut** - plastic, in good condition with built in skeg - \$600. Contact Paul O'Reilly at 401- 640-5052
- **Necky 17 Looksha** - poly 2012 model in new condition \$800. Email for picture, Pat, Westerly RI, 401-480-3508, patcosma@juno.com
- **Necky Arluck III** - 18', 35 lbs. kevlar with rudder. Yellow & white with blue stripe - \$2400 OBO. Contact Bill at 401.447.2397
- **Malone XV kayak Auto Loader** - complete system, new 2015, never used. \$300. Pat Cosma 401-480-3508
- **Tiderace Xplore-X** - great expedition kayak with large volume and excellent rough water handling. Length: 18' , width: 24" , volume: 15.1ft3, cockpit: 34.5"x19", depth: 14". Black and red deck over white hull with black keel strip - \$2,400. Contact SeaNskidog@hotmail.com
- **Valley Knordkapp HM** – classic mid-90's model - yellow hull and deck, Chimp pump, mounted compass. Used but not abused, stored indoors, clean, good shape - \$1200 OBO. Email Todd at tsmoore991@gmail.com
- **Dagger Sitka** - fiberglass, yellow/black/white, 17'11 x 22". Good condition. Fast and comfortable; excellent kayak for expedition touring. Front/rear ultra-wide hatch openings; day hatch behind the cockpit - \$800. Email cammac@ieee.org

Would you like to read more about sea kayaking?

Subscribe to Atlantic Coastal Kayaker

Atlantic Coastal Kayaker will bring you a 36-page issue all about sea kayaking, 8 months a year. (March through December)

**Special rate for RICKA members
\$18 a year – a \$6.00 discount**

Send for a free sample issue.

Atlantic Coastal Kayaker
224 Argilla Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

Phone: 978-356-6112 (phone and fax)

Email: ackayak@comcast.net

Website: <http://www.atlanticcoastalkayaker.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 are at the webmaster's and newsletter editor's discretion.