

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Vol. XXXXI

No. 3

March 2018

March Club Meeting Spring Soiree at Chelo's Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Our monthly meetings resume in March, but we'll take a break from our usual lecture series and start off our 41st season with our second annual Spring Soiree. For many years, the Spring Soiree was RICKA's annual banquet held at the Quonset Club. This year we will be returning to Chelo's in Warwick, and everyone who attends will be eligible for a raffle drawing for a RICKA towel or an iron-on RICKA patch.

Come join your friends 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 Monday, March 19th 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.**

Pool Practice Session March 18, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00

The RICKA [Sea Kayak group](#) is once again offering pool practice sessions on the third Sunday of the month through March. **These sessions are now FREE for RICKA members (\$25 for non-members), and all are welcome to attend.** All paddlers are invited to come and practice your safety and rescue skills.

The final session will be March 18th from 1:00 to 4:00 at the [South County YMCA](#). Doors open at 12:30, and we must be out of the pool building by 4:00. Boats must be clean and free of sand and seaweed. Due to a change in YMCA policy, all participants must bring a driver's license, which will be copied and retained by the YMCA. Please contact Gary at gpbranch@verizon.net for additional information.

Vote for Club Officers at the April Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of officers for the 2018 to 2019 year:

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

Members are encouraged to attend the April Annual Meeting to cast their votes. Contact Erik Eckilson at eckilson@cox.net or Cheryl Thompson at stonefoxfarm@juno.com with any questions

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, tapes and DVD's 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

Executive Board:

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on March 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the [REI Cranston Store](#), 22 Chapel View Boulevard, Cranston. All are welcome to attend.

Newsletter Editor:

Erik Eckilson
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The **Paddler** is published monthly except December by the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association, Inc.

Your RICKA membership will expire on March 31, 2018...

Renew your RICKA membership now!

Please visit the website at:

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

You can renew by mail, or online using PayPal.

Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Executive Board

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Wilderness: Chuck Horbert401-418-2838.....chorbert13@gmail.com

It's Time to Renew your Membership

You'll be supporting Rhode Island's oldest and largest paddle sports club

For 41 years, the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association (RICKA) has been providing great paddling opportunities for it's members. We are the oldest and largest paddle sport club in Rhode Island. **A new membership year begins on April 1st, so please join or renew your membership today.**



Join RICKA and be part of the fun!

Why should you join RICKA? Let's start with the trips. Each year RICKA organizes hundreds of trips ranging from easy daytrips to weeklong excursions. Whether you enjoy [flatwater](#), [sea kayaking](#), [whitewater](#) or [wilderness tripping](#), there is trip for every interest and skill level at RICKA.

Are you looking to improve your paddling skills? Training is also an important part of the RICKA mission. Each year RICKA offers many fun and informative training

sessions. Many of these sessions are offered free of charge, or at a significant discount to our members.

In addition to trips and training, we produce eleven monthly issues of our outstanding newsletter the [Paddler](#), hold [monthly meetings](#) with interesting and informative speakers, and maintain the [websites](#), [Facebook page](#), and message

boards that keep you up-to-date on trips and activities. Our [library](#) also includes an extensive collection of paddling books and videos covering all aspects of paddling.

Do you need to buy or sell boat? You should check out the [RICKA Classified Ads](#) on our website and in the Paddler. If you can't find what you need there, RICKA members also get special discounts at several area retailers (see the website).

So, if you like what we do, but are not a RICKA member, please join today - its just \$15 for the entire family. If you are a RICKA member, please renew your membership now. Memberships run from April 1, 2018 to 2019. You can join the club or renew your membership online using PayPal at:

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

For additional information you can contact Sharon at membership@ricka.org. **Please join today and support your club!**



2018 Membership Application/Renewal

(Please submit one form per family)

New members complete entire application.

Renewal members fill in **ONLY** your NAME and any **NEW** information.

RICKA DUES (with email newsletter) = \$15

BVPC DUES (Blackstone Valley Paddle Club) add \$10 (RICKA membership is also required)

Total

Enclose your check and mail to: RICKA, P.O. Box 184, Hope Valley, RI 02832

Name Adult 1 (primary) _____

Name Adult 2 (spouse, significant other) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ - _____

Phone 1 (_____) _____ - _____ Home/Cell/Work Phone2 (_____) _____ - _____ Home/Cell/Work

Email 1 _____@_____ Email 2 _____@_____

Interest(s): Flatwater Sea Kayak Whitewater Surfing Wilderness Geocaching

Are you willing to volunteer for club activities? Picnic Newsletter Trip Leader Other: _____

You can also renew your membership online using PayPal at <http://www.ricka.org/Join/JointheFun.html>

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.



Duke Wavewalker surfing the Gorge Drop on the Knightville section of the Westfield 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 on the website and 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 17, 2018

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](#) when available.

Dam Removal Projects Move Forward in Rhode Island

Few things have as big an impact on a river as a dam. Dams block the flow of the river, limit the movement of fish, inundate river habitat, and impair water quality. As dams age and decay they can also become safety hazards, increasing the risk of failure and becoming an attractive nuisance.

In Rhode Island, dams have been built on local rivers since Roger Williams and the colonists first settled in Providence in 1636. Initially, dams were built to power small sawmills and gristmills to serve the needs of local farmers. A fine example of these early mills is the [Gilbert Stuart Birthplace](#) on the [Narrow River](#).



The waterwheel at the Gilbert Stuart Birthplace on the Narrow River

Rhode Island's economy changed dramatically in 1793 when [Samuel Slater](#) built the first successful water powered textile mill on the [Blackstone River](#) in Pawtucket.

Slater's success formed the basis for a new economy - one much more lucrative than grinding grain or sawing logs. Across New England, dams were built to provide power for the region's growing textile industry.

Waterpower remained an important part of the regional economy until the 1920's when it was replaced by power from steam boilers and electric generators. Today,

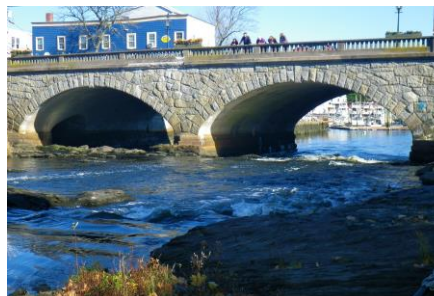


Danny below the Pawtucket Falls Dam with the Slater Mill in the background

many dams that were once the center of a community's livelihood are now old, unsafe and no longer serving their intended purpose. Many of these dams need to be removed.

According to [American Rivers](#), 2017 was a banner year for the removal of these obsolete dams. Across the country, eighty-six dams were removed in 2017, beating the previous record of seventy-eight dams in 2014. Communities in 21 states, including Rhode Island, removed or modified dams to reconnect more than 550 miles of free flowing streams.

One of the earliest dam removal projects in Rhode Island was the removal of the Pawtucket Falls Dam on the lower [Pawtucket River](#) in 2010. The removal of this dam restored 11 miles of free-flowing river habitat on the lower Pawtucket to river herring, alewife and shad. These fish are an important part of the ecosystem, providing food for bluefish, striped bass, largemouth bass, herons, ospreys and other predators.



Restored Pawtucket Falls with the Broad Street Bridge in the background

Another river that has benefited greatly from dam removals is the [Woonasquatucket](#). In 2009 and 2010, the Dyerville and Paragon Dams were removed. Fish ladders were also installed at the Rising Sun, Atlantic Mills and Malton Dams to allow fish such as eels and herring to migrate between the saltwater and freshwater section of the river.

Perhaps nowhere has dam removal and river restoration been more active than on the [Pawcatuck River](#). In 2010, the Lower Shannock Falls Dam was removed and replaced with a short rapid that allows fish to swim upstream, and paddlers to run downstream.



Paul running the rapids in the restored Lower Shannock Falls

In 2013, an 85 foot long fish ramp was added to the downstream side of the old Kenyon Dam. This ramp is made up of five gradually ascending stone weirs, which serve like terraced steps. Gaps were left in the weirs to create channels for water to flow and fish to swim, including the main current down the middle that forms a nice channel for paddlers.

In 2016, the White Rock Dam in Westerly was removed. For nearly 250 years, this dam at the lower end of the Pawcatuck River blocked upstream passage to Rhode Island's largest watershed. The dam redirected much of the river's flow down a granite-lined raceway whose rapids made an exciting run for paddlers. With the dam

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gone, the river now flows through a



Chuck poling through the restored riverbed at the old Whiterock Dam

restored riverbed. The river is pretty, but not as exciting as a run through the old raceway. Still, it's a worthwhile sacrifice for paddlers to restore the health of this wonderful river system.

In 2017, work began on the removal of the 200 year old Bradford Dam. Like the reconstructed Kenyon Dam, the Bradford Dam includes fish ramp that will allow river herring to swim upstream to their traditional breeding grounds. The project also includes a 10 foot wide channel allowing canoes and kayaks to pass easily downstream, eliminating the portage just

downstream of the boat launch at Bradford Landing. Combined with fish ladders at Potter Hill and Upper Shannock Falls, the removal or modification of these dams has opened up 31 miles of the Pawcatuck River to migratory fish.

We look forward to more river restoration work in the future, and thank all the [watershed groups](#) that work so hard to keep our rivers healthy, and enjoyable to paddle. For additional information on efforts to restore America's rivers, you can visit American Rivers at: <https://www.americanrivers.org>.

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

Check the [Flatwater Message Board](#) for ad-hoc trips and hikes. Appropriate skills and equipment are required.

Flatwater Planning Meeting April 7, 2018 from 12:00 to 3:00

Join us at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge, MA for our annual Flatwater Planning Meeting. Please bring ideas for trips. If you would like to lead a trip but do not have experience, we can partner you with an experienced leader.

Contact Cheryl Thompson at 401-647-5887 or stonefoxfarm@juno.com for additional information.

2018 Adirondacks Trip

August 4 to 11, 2018

We will be camping at Lake Eaton Campground in the Adirondacks for our 2018 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](#). Please try to select a site in the 40's and 50's or other sites close by. An organizational meeting will be held in the spring to discuss trips.

Contact Henry at hdziadosz@verizon.net to be included on the invite list.

Sea Kayak Trips

Sea Kayak trips are now posted in the Show and Go Section of the [Sea Kayak Message Board](#). Appropriate skills and equipment are required.

Pool Practice Session March 18, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00

The next Pool Practice session will be

Congratulations to Jim and Frank



Congratulations to Jim Crowley and Frank Cortesa who have paddled at least once a month for the past 84 months – that's 7 years!

March 18th from 1:00 to 4:00 at the [South County YMCA](#). Doors open at 12:30, and we must be out of the pool building by 4:00. Boats must be clean and free of sand and seaweed. All participants must bring a driver's license, which will be copied and retained by the YMCA. These sessions are FREE for RICKA members (\$25 for nonmembers) and all are welcome to attend.

Please contact Gary at gpbranch@verizon.net for additional information.

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Swift, Saranac 14** - 2008, loving cared fore , stored indoors and cleaned after every use - asking \$650. Contact Al at wanderlust_bristol@yahoo.com
- **Mad River Freedom Solo** - whitewater canoe, like new condition - \$1,200. Boat stored indoors in central CT. Email mathermotorsports@gmail.com
- **Adirondack Guide Boat** – 17 feet, seaworthy and fast rowing boat, that needs TLC. \$350 obo. Contact aelliott@aol.com
- **NDK High Volume Explorer** - \$1,000 - mathermotorsports@gmail.com
- **North Shore Atlantic Fiberglass Composite LV** - gently used 6 times, like new. Skeg, keel strip, built in compass and neoprene cover. Total value \$3,800. Asking \$2,650. Located in Wrentham, MA. Contact barachial@icloud.com
- **Mad River Malecite** - ultra lightweight Kevlar canoe - \$1,600 - mathermotorsports@gmail.com
- **Betsie Bay Recluse** - 19 feet x 20.5 inches Fair to good condition \$500 cash only. Located in eastern CT - you come get it at my house. wsmith16@charter.net
- **Valley Aquanaut** - fast, stable touring kayak, fiberglass, 17'7", very good condition (stored in garage) with new front and rear hatch covers, foam block instead of back band, but will include new replacement back band. Asking \$1,750 OBO. Fred at g33zr@gmx.com or text 401-569-6038
- **PRICE REDUCTION: Betsie Bay Recluse** - Greenland style kayak. 19 feet long; 20 1/2 inches maximum beam; 32 lbs. One season of use; less than 10 times on the water. Includes Greenland paddle (unused); spray skirt; cockpit cover; 2 hatch lids; and an instructional DVD on Greenland Paddling. \$2700. Contact Ken at kenpariseau@verizon.net.
- **NRS Catalina spray skirt** - never used, go for \$60 new. \$40 today. Label says 38 inches stretched. Email David target3777@yahoo.com
- **Current Designs Sirocco** – white. I bought it in 2004 and it has ALWAYS been stored inside when not in use. PFD, spray skirt, paddling jackets, Two paddles Kokatat Semi Dry suit. Compass, sponge, pump, paddle float, etc. Paul 401-644-8529 or wynnpl1@yahoo.com
- **P&H Code Zero Sail for kayak (with mast)** - used only a few times. \$200. jonathansharlin@gmail.com
- **Kayak wetsuits, PFDs and Drytop** - Jerry Borenstein aikijerry@gmail.com
- **Current Designs Caribou** - used fewer than 10 times, water launched, stored exclusively indoors and with gaskets treated from time to time, this boat is in excellent condition. Color red and white. Asking \$2,100. Located in Portsmouth, RI. Text Carin 401-374-1145
- **Mad River Rampage** -14" whitewater canoe. \$600. Alan, 401-725-3344 or alan02860@usa.com
- **PRICE REDUCTION Three Werner Camano Paddles** - two fiberglass paddles with blue shafts and white blades (these are two piece paddles). One is 230 and the other is a 240 in length - \$50 each. Also for sale is a one-piece Werner Camano fiberglass paddle 240 length with an offset of 45 degrees. This paddle has yellow blades with a black shaft - \$75. Contact Cheryl at stonefoxfarm@juno.com or 401-497-5887
- **Betsie Bay Custom Greenland Kayak** - white in very good condition. Comes with new neoprene cockpit cover and spray skirt with medium tunnel. Asking 1,700 for everything. Chris 813-390-8222 ctobbe12@gmail.com
- **Valley Q-Boat** - Quill over Quill Q-Boat with black trim. Some spider cracks. Asking \$1000 or B.O. Eric emjohnso3@verizon.net

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.

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Email: ackayak@comcast.net
Website: <http://www.atlanticcoastalkayaker.com>

Send your classified ads to RICKA Webmaster Cheryl Thompson, 53 Anan Wade Road, Gloucester, 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.