

PADDLER

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Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Vol. XXXXI

No. 5

May 2018

May Club Meeting

Keeping an Eye on Narragansett Bay

Monday, May 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

With over 400 miles of coastline, Narragansett Bay is a Rhode Island treasure and a great place for paddlers to explore. Since 1970, [Save The Bay](#) has helped us understand and preserve this amazing ecosystem. At our May Meeting, Save The Bay's Mike Jarbeau will talk about the [Baykeeper Program](#) and its efforts to protect the Bay and to restore water quality, habitat, and ecological health to the system. The Baykeeper Program identifies and responds to environmental threats by keeping in close contact with members of the Bay community and with environmental agencies.

Mike is a Warwick native who came to Save The Bay from the Coast Guard where he worked on fisheries management and other issues. **The meeting will be held at the Save The Bay Center, 100 Save The Bay Drive, Providence, RI 02905. Enter the building through the main entrance.**

Directions: From Route I-95 north or south, take exit 18 for US-1A. Merge onto Thurbers Ave, and then turn right on to Allens Ave. Allens Ave will become Narragansett Blvd. Turn left on to Harborside Blvd, and then right on the Save The Bay Drive. Save The Bay Center will be on the right. **Be sure to use Harborside Blvd to enter the JWU campus. Your GPS may suggest Ernest St, but the back gate off Ernest St requires a key card.**



Baykeeper Mike Jarbeau
from [Save The Bay](#)

Sea Kayak Paddle and Potluck Planning Meeting

May 5, 2018 – paddle at 10:00, meeting at 3:00

The day will start at 10:00 with a level 3 paddle in the Westport area. Dry suits or protective wet suits are required. See the [Sea Kayak Message Board](#) for details. A Potluck and Planning Meeting will follow at 3:00 at 75 Drift Road in Westport. There will be plenty of food and conversation, so bring a potluck dish to share. Paddlers should also bring ideas for trips to add to the summer calendar. If you cannot come to the paddle, please come to the Planning Meeting - we need your input.

Please contact Carleen McOsker with any questions at cell 401-499-7007, home 508-636-0546 or email carleenmco@gmail.com.

Basic Flatwater Training

June 16, 2018 at 1:00

The [RICKA Flatwater Group](#) will be holding a Basic Flatwater Paddling Class on Saturday, June 16th at 1:00 at the [EMS Outdoor School on Late Pearl](#) in Wrentham, MA. Class size is limited to 25 paddlers, and an RSVP is required.

In this 3-hour class, paddlers will learn the basic strokes and maneuvers to control their boats on flatwater. We will also practice basic rescue techniques. The class will be taught by long-time RICKA member and EMS Kayak School Manager Joe Sherlock. Joe is an ACA Level IV Open Water Coastal Kayaking Instructor.

Please RSVP to Cheryl Thompson at stonefoxfarm@juno.com or Erik Eckilson at eckilson@cox.net.

From the RICKA Library

Sea Kayak Videos from Derek Hutchinson

Beyond the Cockpit - Volume 3

Many paddlers do all of their strokes and maneuvers while keeping their body directly over their kayak. Most sea kayaks turn a lot easier when they are put on edge. However, when you put your kayak on edge it increases the possibility of a capsize. If you can support yourself with your paddle as you lean out "Beyond the Cockpit" you can begin doing amazing things in calm water or rough water conditions. Derek has developed a unique approach (techniques & progressions) for getting his students to edge and lean their kayaks without the fear of capsizing and looking good in the process.

ABC's of the Surf Zone - Volume 4

This video will help the sea kayaker successfully negotiate their way through the surf zone while launching and landing. Even though there are some surfing demonstrations in sea kayaks, the focus of this video is learning how NOT to surf and remain in control. A full list of flatwater drills and skills are demonstrated to prepare you for the surf zone. The main sections include: oceanography, ocean effects on your kayak, the ABC's (Attitude, Body-Boat-Blade, Control, Safety), flat water drills, surf zone drills, launching, landing, capsizing in the surf zone, group launching & landing, surfing and more.

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 May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the [REI Cranston Store](#), 22 Chapel View Boulevard, Cranston. All are welcome to attend.

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Your RICKA membership expired on March 31, 2018...

Please 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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Interest Group Q&A

Paddling with RICKA Sea Kayak

What is the RICKA Sea Kayak group?

The [RICKA Sea Kayak](http://www.rickaseakayaking.org) group is specifically focused on kayaking in coastal environments. We organize trips throughout the spring, summer, and fall. We encourage people to join us and discover the joy of sea kayaking.

What types of trips do you do?

Our trips range in difficulty from novice to highly experienced. RICKA does not assign ratings to paddlers. We assign difficulty levels to our trips (see RICKA Sea Kayaking Levels). A trip's rating is designed to be a guide to help you judge if you have the skills to participate in a trip.

Who runs the trips?

RICKA is not a professional paddling organization. Our members coordinate paddles for their own enjoyment and the enjoyment of the rest of the paddling community. These trip coordinators are not professional guides or instructors.

How do I know if a trip is right for me?

You should assess your comfort level for participating in the trip based on the difficulty level, the forecasted conditions, your skill and experience, and your comfort with the other participants in the group. Each participant in the group trip shares the responsibility for the safety and enjoyment of the entire group.

Surf and rocks present special dangers to paddlers. Surf is unpredictable and powerful, and rocks can smash you or your kayak. Only skilled paddlers should venture into these conditions.



RICKA paddlers enjoying the rocky coast
off Fort Wetherill in Jamestown, RI
(Photo by Joe Sharlin)

How do I find out about trips?

From June through September, RICKA Sea Kayak trips are posted on the trip calendar on our website:

<http://www.rickaseakayaking.org/calendar/month.php>

All times listed are **LAUNCH** times. Please arrive early enough to prepare. If necessary, paddles will be cancelled by 8:00 a.m. Check the [message board](#) for cancellation notices.

Off-season, “show & go” trips are posted on the message board:
<http://www.rickaseakayaking.org/forums/index.php>

What equipment do I need?

In order to participate in RICKA Sea Kayak trips you **MUST** have a sea kayak (15 feet or longer with front and rear floatation and perimeter lines on the deck), a Coast Guard approved PFD, a spray skirt, paddle, paddle float, bilge pump, helmet (for surfing or rock gardening), appropriate clothing for the conditions, and a whistle (or other approved daytime signaling device).

We also recommend that you bring drinking water, food, sunscreen, a change of clothes, a knife and a compass. For sunset or night paddles, a headlamp and coast guard approved navigation lights are

also required. It is also a good idea to bring an emergency strobe light

What about cold water trips?

When the water is cold hypothermia is a serious danger. Submersion in cold water dramatically reduces a paddler's ability to assist in their own rescue. In cold-water conditions, we required that all paddlers wear a dry suit with fleece or polypro underneath, a hat or neoprene hood to protect the head, and neoprene gloves or poggies to protect the hands. A change of warm, dry clothes stored in a dry bag is also required.

RICKA Sea Kayaking Levels

Level 1: No previous kayak experience required.

Level 2: Participants should be able to:
Paddle 6 miles in a day.
Perform a wet exit.
Perform an assisted deep-water rescue.
Maintain a heading for short distances without the use of a rudder.
Turn a kayak using forward and reverse sweep strokes.
Level 2 trips generally follow the shoreline.

Level 3: Participants should be able to:
Perform skills listed under Level 2.
Paddle 13 miles in a day.
Control a kayak in 15- to 20-knot winds.
Feel comfortable in 2-3 foot waves.
Handle surf and beach landings.

Level 4: Participants should be able to:
Perform the skills listed under Level 3.
Paddle 15 miles in a day.
Control a kayak in 20-knot winds.
Handle large ocean swells.

Level 5: Participants should be able to:
Perform the skills listed under Level 4.
Paddle 20+ miles in a day.
Control a kayak in 25-knot winds.
Level 5 trips require an RSVP.

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.**

Blackstone Valley Paddle Club Trips

Unless otherwise noted, Blackstone Valley Paddle Club trips are suitable for all boats and skill levels. More detailed trip descriptions can be found on the [web site](#).

May 7th - meet at 6:00 for a 6:15 launch
Joint Paddle with SNEP on the Upper Pawtuxet River – Hope, RI

This will be a combined trip with the Southern New England Paddlers and the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club. We will paddle up to the Scituate Reservoir and back again. The water is very clean, coming directly from the reservoir. A 4-mile round trip.

May 15th – meet at 6:00 for a 6:15 launch
Blackstone River above the Gorge - Blackstone, MA

We will put-in above the Rolling Dam and paddle up the Blackstone River. The current here is slow and we should be able to paddle under the Triad Bridge (now the bike path), past the Millville Lock, and up to Millville.

May 22nd – meet at 6:00 for a 6:15 launch
West River - Uxbridge , MA

You'll have the chance to see lots of wildlife as you paddle upstream through this stretch of clean, clear flatwater. The West River has excellent water quality and

is one of our rivers that is clean enough to swim in the Blackstone Valley.

May 29th – meet at 6:00 for a 6:15 launch
West River – Upton, MA

For this section of West River parking area is on the left just before Town DPW Garage on 100 Pleasant Street in Upton, MA.

June 5th – meet at 6:00 for a 6:15 launch
Valley Falls Marsh and the Blackstone River - Cumberland, RI

A very scenic paddle for paddlers of all abilities. Enjoy the scenic marsh and a paddle up the Blackstone to the Pratt Dam.

June 12th - meet at 6:00 for a 6:15 launch
River Bend Farm – Uxbridge, MA

Paddle on the canal to Rice City Pond and the historic Goat Hill Lock, or more experienced paddlers can paddle the loop, down the river and then up the canal.

June 19th - meet at 6:00 for a 6:15 launch
Lackey Dam and the Mumford River - Sutton, MA

We will put-in at the Lackey Dam, paddle up the pond and into the Mumford River.

June 26th - meet at 6:00 for a 6:15 launch
Blackstone River – Albion to Manville - Lincoln, RI

Put-in above the Albion Dam and paddle upstream to the Manville Dam and back.

Flatwater Trips

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

May 5th - meet at 10:00

West Hill Park – Uxbridge, MA

Leader: Earl MacRae

earlandpat@comcast.net 508-988-5589.

Be aware that West Hill Park is in a different location than West Hill Dam. You will pass signs for both on your way to the park. Ignore West Hill Dam signs.

May 12th - meet at 9:30 for a shuttle

Nemasket River – Lakeville, MA

Leader: Will Conrad will235@verizon.net
781-767-1903.

A 12-mile trip with two easy portages. The AMC River guide describes this river as one of the prettiest in eastern MA. Very clean river! Suitable for all boats. Bring a lunch and wheels if you wish.

May 26th – meet at 10:00

Big River - Coventry

Leaders: Henry Dziadosz

hdziadosz@verizon.net 401-567-0313 and
Louise Price weezrad@aol.com

We will put in at Zeke's Bridge, paddle upstream against the current, and then return with the current to the put-in. River is narrow with lots of twist and turns - not suitable for kayaks over 15 feet. Bring a lunch.

June 2nd – shuttle leaves at 10:00

Wood River Route 165 to Wyoming Dam

Leader: Sharon Dragon

shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942.

A 7-mile trip on a pretty section of the Wood River. The beginning of the river may be narrow, shallow and rocky but soon opens up. Bring a lunch.

June 9th - meet at 10:00

Slatersville and the Branch River - North Smithfield RI

Leader: AJ Barbato

android2@earthlink.net

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Continued from Page 4.

This trip provides a nice paddle through a flatwater section of upper Slatersville Reservoir and then a stretch of the Branch River. Bring a lunch

June 10th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch
Snake River, Taunton MA
Leader: Aaron Correia
ackayaking@gmail.com

The Snake meanders with countless hairpin turns through the vast Hockomock Swamp. Aaron will be flying his drone and taking pictures while we paddle. Canoes and kayaks under 16' only - no long boats. Bring a lunch. (Rain date June 17th)

June 16th - meet at 1:00
Flatwater Training at Lake Pearl
Coordinators: Cheryl Thompson
stonefoxfarm@juno.com or Erik Eckilson
eckilson@cox.net

The [Flatwater Group](#) will be holding a Basic Flatwater Paddling Class at the [EMS Outdoor School on Lake Pearl](#) in Wrentham, MA. Class size is limited to 25 paddlers, and attendance is on a first-come, first-serve basis. In this 3-hour class, paddlers will learn the basic strokes and maneuvers to control their boats on flatwater. We will also practice basic rescue techniques.

June 16th - shuttle leaves promptly at 10:00
Wood River- Mechanic Street to Alton
Leader: Sharon Dragon
shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942.

Suitable for all boats and levels of experience. Bring a lunch. Bring portage wheels if you have them.

June 17th - meet at 10:00
Charles River and Populatic Pond- Norfolk to Medway/Franklin, MA
Leaders: Louise Price
weezrad@yahoo.com and Frank Cortesa
frankcortesa@charter.net 508-369-8205.

Suitable for all level of experience. Many twists and turns - suitable for boats 15 feet and shorter. Bring a lunch.

Monday, June 18th - meet 6:30
June Meeting on the Water
How to Paddle a Tandem Canoe

Join us at [Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone Environmental Center](#) (60 New River Road, Lincoln, RI) as Erik Eckilson, Henry Dziadosz and Earl MacRae demonstrate how to paddle a tandem canoe. We will start with an on-shore demonstration, followed by coaching on the water. Bring a canoe if you have one, otherwise the Friends of the Blackstone will have canoes available for us to use. We hope to get everyone out on the water for a short trip down to the Albion Dam.

June 23rd - meet at 9:00
Geocaching Armada Paddle - Wood/Pawcatuck - Alton to Bradford, RI
Leader: Chris Kracik Kracikcj@cox.net
This is a joint paddle with the Geocaching group. All are welcome to attend even if you do not geocache. We will paddle down the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers with geocaching along the way. We will stop for lunch and Burlingame Canoe Campsites.

June 30th - RSVP required
Joint Flatwater/Whitewater Trip
Deerfield River - Charlemont, MA
Leader: Erik Eckilson eckilson@cox.net
401-765-1741

This 7-mile trip has flatwater, quickwater, and three short class I/II rapids. Moving water experience is required, as is a helmet and sprayskirt. We will shuttle three hours after the start of the dam release. Check the [Flatwater Message Board](#) the morning of the trip for shuttle time.

July 7th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 shuttle.
Pawcatuck River - Richmond to Bradford
Leaders: Henry Dziadosz
hdziadosz@verizon.net 401-567-0313

home and Erik Eckilson eckilson@cox.net
401-765-1741

This is a good access point for paddling on the Pawcatuck River above the confluence with the Wood River. The Pawcatuck River in this area is relatively wild and slow moving with narrow passages and some downed trees to negotiate.

July 16th - launch at 6:00pm.
July Meeting on the Water
Alton to Woodville Dam
Leader: Sharon Dragon
shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942.

We will put-in at the Alton Dam and paddle upstream to the Woodville Dam and back. There is very little current as the Wood River flows through the wetlands above the Alton Dam.

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.

May 5th - Paddle a 10:00, Potluck at 3:00
Sea Kayak Potluck/Planning Party

The day will start at 10:00 with a level 3 paddle in the Westport area. Dry suits or protective wet suits are required. See the [Sea Kayak Message Board](#) for details. A Potluck and Planning Meeting will follow at 3:00 at 75 Drift Road in Westport. There will be plenty of food and paddlers should also bring ideas for trips to add to the calendar. If you cannot come to the paddle, please come to the planning meeting - we need your input.

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **P&H Delphin 150 Surf** - length: 15', width: 21.5" - good condition. always stored in a garage. Asking \$950. Contact Gary at gpbranch@verizon.net or text/call - 401.269-6850
- **Valley Aquanaut** - fiberglass, 17'7", looks like new and in very good to excellent condition. Also includes Werner Shuna paddle (215 cm), Snap Dragon spray skirt (LG), and cockpit cover. Asking \$2,150. **Superior Kayak carbon-fiber Greenland paddle** - 220 cm, one piece; and 1 **western red cedar Greenland paddle** - 215 cm; and **western red cedar storm paddle** -180 cm. Asking \$250. Contact Fred at g33zr@gmx.com or text 401.569.6038
- **Coleman duel fuel lantern with case** - \$50 - goes for 110 new. Louise Price at weezrad@yahoo.com
- **Adirondack Guide Boat** - 17 feet, seaworthy and fast rowing boat, that needs TLC. \$350 obo. Contact aelliotd@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
- **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 Greenlander 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 wynnpw1@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

Thanks to [Narrow River Kayaks](#) for their generous support of RICKA.



[Narrow River Kayaks](#) provides kayak and SUP tours and rentals on Rhode Island's beautiful Pettaquamscutt watershed, commonly known as the Narrow River. RICKA members also get special discounts on purchases (see the [website](#)).

Narrow River Kayaks
94 Middlebridge Road
Narragansett, RI 02882
(401) 789-0334

<http://www.narrowriverkayaks.net>

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.