

# March Club Meeting Spring Soiree at Chelo's

Thursday, March 14, 2019 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  $42^{nd}$  season with our third annual <u>Spring Soiree</u>.

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. 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 <u>shdrag1@gmail.com</u> by Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 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.** 

# Paddling Film Festival at the Kayak Centre

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Each spring, the <u>Northern Forest Canoe Trail</u> co-hosts screenings of Rapid Media's <u>Paddling Film Festival</u> with <u>Northwest River</u> <u>Supply</u>. This year, films will be screened locally at the <u>Kayak</u> <u>Centre</u> in Wickford on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Since 2006, the Paddling Film Festival has showcased the best in paddling films. You will be inspired to explore rivers, lakes and oceans, push extremes, embrace the paddling lifestyle and appreciate wild places. Your admission will also help support paddling films and other charitable causes. <u>Click here for tickets</u> and choose the Providence location.

# Nominations Open for RICKA Executive Board

Nominations are now open for club officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and Members-at-Large to the RICKA Executive Board. Elections will be held at the April General Meeting.

The <u>Executive Board</u> is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the club and the future directions the club will take. The commitment is one evening a month for the board meeting, plus organizational and committee work. If you are interested in any of these positions, or would like to nominate someone else, please contact Nomination Committee members Erik Eckilson eckilson@cox.net or Cheryl Thompson stonefoxfarm@juno.com

# From the RICKA Library... AMC Paddle Guides

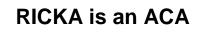
#### Sea Kayaking along the New England Coast By Tamsin Venn

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 <u>collection</u>. If you would like to check out these or any other selections, contact Bill Hahn at <u>librarian@ricka.org</u>. Library selections can be mailed to you with a postage paid return mailer provided at no cost to the borrower.





### Paddle America Club

#### Executive Board:

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the <u>REI Cranston Store</u>, 22 Chapel View Boulevard, Cranston. All are welcome to attend.

#### Newsletter Editor:

Erik Eckilson 11 Diana Drive Woonsocket, RI 02895 Email: <u>editor@ricka.org</u>

#### Membership:

Sharon Dragon P.O. Box 184 Hope Valley, RI 02832 Email: <u>membership@ricka.org</u>

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

Your RICKA membership will expire on March 31, 2019...

# Renew your RICKA membership now!

Please visit the website at: <u>http://www.ricka.org/Join/JointheFun.html</u> You can renew by mail, or online using PayPal.

### **Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association**

#### **Executive Board**

President: Sharon Dragon	401-225-3942	<u>membership@ricka.org</u>
Vice President: Pat (Mayhew) Lar	dner401-524-8057	pslardner@gmail.com
Secretary: Skye Pechie		<u>scitamb.2@juno.com</u>
Treasurer: Andy Viera		<u>andyv51@hotmail.com</u>
Members at Large:		
Mike Bussell	401-568-8605	<u>canoedad@cox.net</u>
Peter Hill		. peter.kayaker@yahoo.com
Danny O'Shea	401-527-3447	<u>doshea5031@aol.com</u>
Marty O'Loughlin		<u>maopao@comcast.net</u>
Conservation: Ric Souza		rj_salty@yahoo.com
Flatwater: Cheryl Thompson	401-497-5887	<u>stonefoxfarm@juno.com</u>
Librarian: Bill Hahn	401-524-1612	<u>librarian@ricka.org</u>
Safety & Education: Bill Luther		illiamluther058@gmail.com
Sea Kayak: Carleen McOsker		Carleenmco@gmail.com
Webmaster: Cheryl Thompson	401-497-5887	<u>stonefoxfarm@juno.com</u>
Whitewater: Andy Viera		<u>andyv51@hotmail.com</u>
Wilderness: Chuck Horbert	401-418-2838	<u>chorbert13@gmail.com</u>





### It's Time to Renew your Membership

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

For 42 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 1<sup>st</sup>, so please join or renew your membership today.

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 <u>flatwater</u>, <u>sea kayaking</u>, <u>whitewater</u> or <u>wilderness tripping</u>, 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

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Join RICKA and be part of the fun!

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 <u>Paddler</u>, hold <u>monthly meetings</u> with interesting and informative speakers, and maintain the <u>websites</u>, <u>Facebook page</u>, and message boards that keep you up-to-date on trips and activities. Our <u>library</u> 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 <u>RICKA Classified</u> <u>Ads</u> 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, 2019 to 2020. 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 <u>membership@ricka.org</u>. **Please join today and support your club!** 

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2019 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.

<b>RICKA DUES</b> (with email newsletter) = \$15	[]		
BVPC DUES (Blackstone Valley Paddle Club) add \$1	0 [] (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/Wor	Phone2 ()Home/Cell/Work		
Email 1 @ Ema	il 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 <u>http://www.ricka.org/Join/JointheFun.html</u>			





### Interest Group Q&A Paddling with RICKA Whitewater

# What is the RICKA Whitewater group?

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

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

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.



Paul running 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.rickaflatwater.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 16, 2019

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 <u>Whitewater Message</u> <u>Board</u> when available.





### Five for Five A Great Day on the Quaboag River By Erik Eckilson

I arrived at the put-in at around 10:00, and was glad to see that a couple of paddlers were already unloading their gear. The sun was out and the sky was blue, but temperatures were in the mid-30's and there was a strong wind blowing, so we knew it would be a chilly day on the water. We would be running a popular whitewater section of the Quaboag River in central Massachusetts.



Running Mouse Hole (Photo by David Hubelbank)

The Quaboag River arises at Quaboag Pond in Brookfield, and flows west to Town of Three Rivers where it joins with the Ware River to form the Chicopee River. There's a flatwater section from Quaboag Pond in Brookfield to Lucy Stone Park in Warren that I would like to try sometime - maybe a future flatwater trip. Today, we would be running the whitewater section from Lucy Stone Park in Warren to Route 67 in Palmer – about 5-miles.

Eight paddlers had gathered to do the trip - two canoes and six kayaks. Along the way we would run **five major rapids** – **Mouse Hole, the Trestle, the Broken Dam, Angel's Field, and the Quaboag Drop** in Devil's Gorge.



Running the Broken Dam (Photo by Donald Williams)

We put in at around 10:30 and began our trip downstream. The river was running at 4.5 feet - a little low for most of the yakkers, but a perfect level for an open boater like me. The run starts off with quickwater and easy class I/II rapids. By 11:30, we had reached the first class III rapid – Mouse Hole.

At **Mouse Hole**, the river takes a 90-degree turn to the left before dropping four-feet down the rocky remnants of an old dam. A large tree blocked the usual line to the right, but the left side was open. I bounced my way down the drop and pulled into an eddy on the right to empty out my boat. **One down, four to go.** 

Shortly after Mouse Hole is the **Trestle Rapid**. Once again the river takes a 90degree turn before a long rocky drop under a railroad bridge. A straight run through this rapid is difficult due to a large group of boulders at the bottom. I was able to catch an eddy on the right half way down, which allowed me to line up on a narrow shoot through the boulders at the bottom. **Two down, three to go.** 



At the bottom of Angel's Field (Photo by Donald Williams)

After a few more class II rapids, and the portage of an unrunnable dam, we ran the **Broken Dam** – a breached dam with about a four-foot drop and a large hole at the bottom. I ran it just left of center, and my canoe punched through the hole with no problem. I didn't even need to empty my boat. **Three down, two to go**.

We enjoyed some more easy rapids as we approached **Angel's Field**. This rapid doesn't require any fancy maneuvering. It's just a long run of rocks and large standing waves. Some of the yakkers caught eddies and did some surfing on the way down, but I was content to blast my way through the waves straight to the bottom. **Four down, one to go.** 



Running the Quaboag Drop in Devil's Gorge (Photo by Donald Williams)

From there, the river enters a pretty section known as Devil's Gorge that includes a series of three rapids. The first is the most difficult and ends in a three-foot drop on the right known as the **Quaboag Drop**. The shoot was clearly visible as I approached, and I caught it without difficulty. I filled my boat up with water running the standing waves at the bottom, but was able to pull into a nearby eddy to empty my boat. **I did it – five for five.** 

After playing in the rapids below the Quaboag Drop, we ran the two remaining rapids before pulling out at the picnic area on Route 67. We backed up our gear, said our good byes, and headed home after another great day on the river.





### 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.



Check the <u>Flatwater Message Board</u> for adhoc trips and hikes. Appropriate skills and equipment are required.

#### Flatwater Planning Meeting April 7, 2019 from 12:30 to 3:00

Join us at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge, MA for our annual <u>Flatwater Planning</u> <u>Meeting</u>. 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 <u>stonefoxfarm@juno.com</u> for additional information.

#### 2019 Adirondacks Trip August 3 to 10, 2019

We will be camping at Lake Eaton Campground in the Adirondacks for our 2019 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 <u>Reserve America</u>. 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 <u>hdziadosz@verizon.net</u> to be included on the invite list.

## Sea Kayak Trips

Sea Kayak trips are now posted in the Show and Go Section of the <u>Sea Kayak</u> <u>Message Board</u>. Appropriate skills and equipment are required.

#### Final Pool Practice Session March 10, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:00

Our last Pool Practice session will be March 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 at the <u>South</u> <u>County YMCA</u>. Doors open at 12:30, and we must be out of the pool building by 3:00. 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 and all are welcome to attend. Please contact Gary at <u>gpbranch@verizon.net</u> for additional information.

## Whitewater Trips

Check the <u>Whitewater Message Board</u> for ad-hoc trips and hikes. Appropriate skills and equipment are required.

#### Branch River Icebreaker March 16, 2019

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### A Cold Water Caution

As we approach the spring paddling season when the air is warm but the water is still cold, its time to think about cold water safety. Exposure to the cold can drain your strength and rob you of the ability to make sound judgments regarding safety. Cold water immersion is especially dangerous due to the initial shock and rapid loss of heat. For cold water paddling, please remember:

- Never paddle alone at least three boats are recommended, four boats are better.
- Keep the trip short, and well within the paddling ability of the group.
- Dress for immersion in a drysuit or wetsuit. Protect the extremities with a hat, neoprene gloves and warm footwear. Always carry a change of cloths in a waterproof bag.
- Know how to recognize and treat the symptoms of hypothermia.
- Always, always, always wear your PFD.

Paddle safe. Paddle smart!

### RICKA Scholarship to ACA River Kayak Trip Leader Training May 17 - 19, 2019

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association will be hosting an <u>ACA River Kayak</u> <u>Leader</u> certification class on May 17<sup>tt</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. The course will provide the skills needed for leaders to lead day trips in calm water environments. The regular cost is \$450 per person, but **RICKA will provide a \$225 scholarship** to 4 members who agree to lead a least 2 RICKA trips in the coming year. Please contact Pat Lardner at <u>pslardner@gmail.com</u> to apply.





# **RICKA Classifieds**

Classified ads free for RICKA members and are printed here on space-available basis. Please see the <u>website</u> for the complete list.

- QCC500 fiberglass, length/width: 16' 10" x 23" cockpit: 30" x 16" yellow/white, nice stable boat. Comes with full-zip custom canvas cover and storm paddle. New skeg and cable \$1,200 firm. QCC700 carbon kevlar, length/width: 18.0' x 21" cockpit: 30" x 16". Used 3 times, stored indoors, perfect condition. Includes cockpit cover; extremely fast. \$3000. Call 401-480-7799
- **PRICE REDUCED: Valley Aquanaut** fiberglass, 17'7", looks like new and in very good to excellent condition. Always stored in a garage, new front and rear hatch covers, foam block instead of back band \$1,500.00. Thule J-bars and racks with c-clips show wear and tear but structurally still sound. Asking \$35. Contact fred@g33zr@gmx.com or text 401-569-6038
- **P & H Cetus HV** 2017 boat, used approximately six times, as new, 18"3" x 22" 5", expedition lay-up, wide seams, keel strip, team graphics, compass, custom cockpit foam including sacral block and footrest, \$3000. Call Tim at 401-783-6287 before 9 p.m.

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

- Shearwater stitch and glue kayak designed by Erik Schade this kayak was built in Erik's class around July '18. Extremely sea worthy 17' by 22" greenland style with keyhole cockpit, foot pegs, carbon epoxy on hull (limits scratches) and front and back hatches with bulckheads \$1400. <u>aikijerry@gmail.com</u>
- Snapdragon neoprene kayak skirt excellent condition. Cockpit size large 18 wide x 33-35 length. Tunnel size small. 28-30 inches circumference \$50. welcomeplacefarm@yahoo.com
- **Price Reduced: Beautiful handmade wooden kayak with wooden paddle** Wood Duck 12 Hybrid from Chesapeake Light Craft. Fiberglass/epoxy so no maintenance required \$1500. petemeboy@gmail.com
- Valley Skerry RM sea kayak 17' x 23". Bought new in 1994, well maintained. Skeg, ocean cockpit (slightly longer than the original ocean cockpit). The sealed bulkheads are 100% watertight. Includes nylon sprayskirt. The boat is in Tiverton \$400 / OBO. New Wave Cruise Control WW/ surfing kayak 10.5" x 26". Mid-90s design, well maintained, stored indoors, not too abused as it has been used for surfing. Great for surfing (it carves!) and extremely easy to roll. Worn but functional sprayskirt included. Foot pegs removed- customize with foam \$150. Ace Explorer 515 tandem kayak 17' x 28". This is a well maintained double kayak , about 25 years old, European make. It is a very forgiving, yet fast, design, with the bow being more characteristic of a racing boat than a sea kayak. Included are two Perception nylon sprayskirts \$300. A child's Werner kayak paddle is available for \$30. All are in Tiverton, RI. Contact Todd tsmoore991@gmail.com
- Mad River Rampage -14" whitewater canoe. \$600. Alan, 401-725-3344 or alan02860@usa.com
- Nordica glass ocean kayak prime condition. Yellow \$4,000 plus boat, asking \$2,600. Glass white water play boat: brand new, used once in fresh water lake. Yellow \$1,600. Infinity paddleboard used less than a dozen times in Narragansett Bay, red \$1,600. Might consider offers for all three! Please call or text Roger @ 401-339-4068 or e-mail rogernc@mac.com
- Old Town Discovery 16.9 Canoe Blue rotomolded plastic, 1990s vintage, good condition, with 2 Mowhawk ABS paddles, in N. Kingstown, \$450 or bo. garywhitney3@cox.net
- Coleman duel fuel lantern with case \$50.00. Goes for 110.00 new. Louise Price weezrad@yahoo.com
- NDK High Volume Explorer \$1000. Email <u>mathermotorsports@gmail.com</u>
- North Shore Atlantic Fiberglass Composite LV- excellent condition gently used 6 times. Has skeg, keel strip, built in compass and Neoprene cover. Total value \$3,800. Asking \$2,650. Located in Wrentham contact <a href="mailto:barachial@icloud.com">barachial@icloud.com</a>

Send your classified ads to RICKA Webmaster Cheryl Thompson, 53 Anan Wade Road, Glocester, RI 02857-2611 or <u>webmaster@ricka.org</u>. 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.



