

PADDLER

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Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Vol. XXXXII

No. 5

May 2019

May Club Meeting

Green Jacket Shoal:

Uncovering Rhode Island's Largest Ship Graveyard
Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

What was long thought to be an unsightly debris field along the East Providence shoreline has, thanks to the dogged work of marine archaeologist David Robinson, been discovered to be the largest graveyard of 19th and 20th century ships in the state. Between 2015 and 2016, David conducted an archaeological assessment of Green Jacket Shoal in the Providence River on behalf of RI Sea Grant. His talk will focus on the results of that research.



Marine Archaeologist
David S. Robinson, M.A., R.P.A

David S. Robinson, M.A., R.P.A., is a marine archaeologist at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography and president of the submerged cultural resource management consulting firm, David S. Robinson & Associates, Inc. David specializes in multi-disciplinary marine archaeological investigations of submerged shipwrecks, coastal infrastructure, and ancient cultural sites submerged by sea level rise. **The meeting will be held in the Community Center at the West Greenwich Louttit Library, 274 Victory Highway, West Greenwich, RI.**

Directions: From Route 1-95, take exit 5B to merge on to Route 102 North toward West Greenwich. The Louttit Library will be up the road about 3 miles on the right.

Sea Kayak Paddle and Potluck Planning Meeting

May 4, 2019 (Rain date May 5, 2019)

The day will start 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, or carleenmcosker@icloud.com.

Congratulations to the 2019 to 2020 RICKA Officers

Congratulations to the RICKA officers that were elected at our Annual Meeting in April, and our new Members at Large:

- **President:** Pat Lardner
- **Vice President:** Danny O'Shea
- **Secretary:** Skye Pechie
- **Treasurer:** Andy Viera
- **Members at Large:** Sean Murphy, Marty O'Loughlin and Gary Powers

We'd also like to extend a special thank you to out-going President Sharon Dragon for her two years of service as a President, and her on-going work as Membership Chair.

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 capsizing. 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 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the [REI Cranston Store](#), 22 Chapel View Boulevard, Cranston. All are welcome to attend.

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Sharon Dragon
P.O. Box 184
Hope Valley, RI 02832
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The **Paddler** is published monthly except December by the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association, Inc.

Your RICKA membership expired on March 31, 2019...

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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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 its 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 paddle a canoe or kayak, 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, 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 membership@ricka.org. **Please join today and support your club!**



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.

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 Sea Kayak

What is the RICKA Sea Kayak group?

The [RICKA Sea Kayak](#) 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.



Exploring Rhode Island's beautiful shoreline

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.htm>

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.

A Day on the Blackstone River that I Never Expected!

By Krysten Kruger

I got my Sea Eagle 330 inflatable kayak last year, and I spent last summer and fall on flat water as much as possible. I love the peace and serenity that solo kayaking brings, and always felt safe. For my first kayaking trip of the new season, I intended to go to Rice City Pond, my favorite, but then thought maybe I would put in at Plummers' Landing instead since I never had.

I saw that the water was moving but it didn't look like anything I couldn't handle. After I got in and started moving downstream I realized I that there was no way I would be able to paddle back upstream to my car in the fast moving current. I enjoyed it for a while - it was nice not to have to even paddle! Then at some point I tried to go river left, but it was all blocked up. I couldn't get back upstream so I had to get to a shallow area, bail out, and walk my boat a bit.

At that point I decided to take some pictures and call my husband to let him know that he would likely have to pick me up at River Bend Farm. We chatted for a bit and laughed at my predicament. He said to keep him posted and his last words to me were "don't drown."

I tried to go against the current and get to a little inlet that ran parallel to the river, which I did and it was lovely. After a bit, though, it was all blocked off and impassable. I considered at that point just getting out and walking back, but I wasn't sure how far I had gone, and didn't relish the idea of dragging my kayak. I turned back and met the river again, and after that it was awful.

I met a couple of downed trees and had some near misses. The current was getting

stronger and faster. I saw a low downed tree and it all happened so fast. I slammed into it and got knocked out of the boat. My first thought was to hang on to the kayak at all costs. I was so worried about collecting everything that had scattered - my dry bag, the kayak pump, my paddle, and my sweatshirt. I didn't pay near enough attention to the fact that I was still racing along in the current and moving downstream.

Eventually I got wedged up against a beaver dam and couldn't get loose. My pants were tangled. The beaver dam was slimy and I couldn't get a purchase. The river was relentless and kept trying to push me under the dam. If I didn't have my PFD on, I would have died. I spent at least ten minutes struggling and trying to get free. I was so cold and so tired.

I was finally able to get out of my pants under the water. Even then, I was still in the middle of the river. The whole thing ended with the Search and Rescue Team from Northbridge's finest, and an ambulance ride to the hospital due to hyperthermia and being really banged up.

I just have no words to really describe how awful all of this was. You hear all the time that things happen so fast, but you always assume that YOU'LL know, it'll be different for YOU. This was by far the scariest thing that has ever happened to me.

I am so glad that I am still here, and I wanted to share this story as a cautionary tale to others. I did so many things wrong. I know better now. Thanks to the Northbridge Fire Department for the rescue, and to Karl and Peter for helping to recover my gear.

Editor's Note:

Spring is here, and we all want to head out to paddle. Krysten's story is a great reminder that safety always needs to be our first priority. As we begin our spring paddling season, please remember:

Don't paddle alone – especially in unfamiliar waters. Trips are now posted on the RICKA calendars ([Flatwater](#), [Blackstone Valley Paddle Club](#), [Sea Kayak](#)), so join us.

Have proper gear – you will need a boat that is appropriate for the conditions, paddle and personal floatation device (PFD). You can find a list of other equipment on the website ([Flatwater](#), [Sea Kayak](#)).

Always, always, always wear your PFD – your PFD should be zipped and buckled at all times – you never know when you will need it.

Avoid cotton cloths - Polypropylene, fleece, wool, and lycra blends insulate well when wet. It is always good to carry a change of cloths in a waterproof drybag.

Wear appropriate footwear - water shoes or heavy Teva-type sandals are recommended – they need to stay on your feet if you swim.

Research the trip in advance – you should know basic information such as the length of the trip and the hazards that might be encountered. There are a number of excellent paddle guides in the [RICKA Library](#).

Be honest about your abilities - new paddlers should start with short, easy trips before attempting more difficult ones.

Stay with the group - if you need to leave for any reason, please notify the trip coordinator.

RICKA occasionally offers training for new and experienced paddlers. Announcements of training sessions are made on the [website](#) and in the [Paddler](#) newsletter. Please take advantage of these opportunities to improve your skills.

Thanks for sharing your story Krysten!

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 14th - meet at 6:00 for a 6:15 launch
Upper Pawtuxet River – Hope, RI
Joint Paddle with [Southern New England Paddlers](#)

Leaders: Rosco Skurka cskurka@cox.net 401-823-8925 and Cheryl Thompson stonefoxfarm@juno.com 401-497-5887.

Paddle up to the Scituate Reservoir and back again. A 4-mile round trip.

May 21st - meet at 6:00 for a 6:15 launch
West River – Uxbridge, MA
Leaders: Frank Cortesa frankcortesa@charter.net 508-369-8205, Julie Riendeau julierie@verizon.net and Louise Price weezrad@yahoo.com

You'll have the chance to see lots of wildlife as you paddle upstream through this stretch of clean, clear flatwater. Trip is suitable for boats 14 feet and under.

May 28th - meet at 6:00 for a 6:15 launch
West River – Upton, MA
Leaders: Louise Price weezrad@yahoo.com and Frank Cortesa frankcortesa@charter.net 508-369-8205

Trip is suitable for boats 14 feet and under.

June 4th - meet at 6:00 for a 6:15 launch
Nipmuc River – Harrisville, RI
Leaders: Julie and Steve Riendeau julierie@verizon.net

If you choose the river route, there are numerous beaver dams to drag your boat over. Trip is suitable for boats 14 feet and under.

Flatwater Trips

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

May 4th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 shuttle
Assabet River- Acton MA to Concord MA
Leader: Sharon Dragon shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942

We will paddle down the Assabet River to its convergence with the Sudbury River to form the Concord River. This trip is mostly flatwater, with some quickwater. Suitable for all boats and all levels of experience. Bring a lunch.

May 11th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 shuttle
Upper Wood River – Route 165
Leader: Sharon Dragon shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942

The beginning of the river may be narrow, shallow and rocky but soon opens up. Trip is approximately 7 miles long. Paddlers with kayaks 15 feet and under will have an easier time navigating the river. Bring a lunch.

May 18th - meet at 9:30 for a 9:45 shuttle
Great Swamp - Taylor's Landing, Kingston, RI
Leaders: Cindy and Chuck Horbert chorbert13@gmail.com 401-418-2838

The Great Swamp provides perhaps the most intriguing canoe trip in the state. Trip

is easier for shorter boats. Please bring a change of clothes in a drybag and a lunch.

May 25th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch
Quinebaug River – Brooklyn, CT
Leaders: Skye and Steve scitamb.2@juno.com

Trip is suitable for everyone. No shuttle needed, this will be an up and back trip. Bring a lunch.

June 1st - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch
Quinebaug River Canoe Trail - Holland to East Brimfield, MA
Leader: Louise Price weezrad@yahoo.com

Up and back trip – no shuttle required. Bring a lunch

June 2nd - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 shuttle
Lower Wood River - Switch Road (AKA Mechanic Street)
Leader: Sharon Dragon shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942

Much of the river in this stretch is narrow and winding, but as you get closer to the Woodville Dam the river opens up. Bring portage wheels if you have them. Suitable for all boats and levels of experience. Bring a lunch.

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.

Sea Kayak Potluck/Planning Party
May 4th at 3:00
(Rain date May 5th)

Paddle in the Westport area followed at 3:00 by a potluck and planning meeting at the home of Carleen McOsker, 75 Drift Road, Westport, MA. All are welcome to attend and meet fellow sea kayakers. See the [Sea Kayak Message Board](#) for details.

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Waldon Passage Kayak** - 15 foot performance touring kayak. Yellow. Perfect for coast, bay, or river. Adjustable foot pedals. Built-in skeg. Bow and stern bulkheads. Always garaged. Yours for \$675 including nylon spray skirt and cockpit rim cover. (Matching two piece 230 cm wood paddle also available for extra \$100). Contact Mark at shinnen108@gmail.com or 401-999-7364.
- **2011 Valley Etain Sea Kayak** - this is the 17-7 model. The boat is in excellent structural condition, with only a few cosmetic repairs to the gel coat on hull. \$1700 OBO. Located in North Kingstown, RI. Gary at greynolds@hotmail.com or 401-295-1449
- **Custom Kayak Trailer** - converted galvanized jet ski trailer. New lights, wiring, corner lighted whip lights, bearings, jack stand, spare tire mount with tire and carabineer type safety chains. Has lockable diamond plate tool box with keys. Add your own J-racks and/or remove box for a double kayak trailer or second kayak can be attached to top of box. Will include lockable security cable for 12-16' kayak, (hitch lock, coupler lock and receiver lock all keyed alike) and 4-way lug wrench that fits tires and spare mount. Asking \$600. Contact at: 401-678-6620 text only or at android2@earthlink.net.
- **Bending Branches Slice Paddle** - 230cm. \$50. Al Sampson wanderlust_bristol@yahoo.com
- **2008 Wilderness Tsunami 120 Duralite** - 12' Long, 25.5" Wide, 53 lbs., 275 lbs. Capacity, Polyethylene, Excellent Condition. \$495. **2008 Wilderness Tsunami 140 Duralite** - 14' Long, 24" Wide, 55 lbs., 300 lbs. Capacity, Polyethylene, Excellent Condition. \$595. Both are Lime Color, Phase 3 AirPro Adjustable Seat, Adjustable & Padded Thigh Braces, SlideLock XL Adjustable Foot Braces, Fore & Aft Bulkhead Storage Compartments, Bungee Deck Rigging, Carry Handles, Top Deck Drain Plugs, Water Bottle Holder, Stored Indoors. Contact bruce@britvideosystems.com 401-334-1422
- **High performance paddle board** - approximate retail value of \$2K, offered @ \$900. **Valley Pintail** - if new, approximately \$4,500 This one in excellent condition; Asking 2,30. **Necky Gliss** - is new. A great value, offered @ \$1,240. Available for viewing on the East Side of Providence rogernc@mac.com or cell 401-339-4068
- **P&H Scorpio LV (2009)** - 16'7" Beam 22", custom cockpit with foam sacral block instead of back band, foam foot rest, and foam under-deck thigh pad (have original thigh braces and foot pegs for re-installation if desired). Boat is in very good condition. Always stored in garage. \$675.00 OBO. **Valley Aquanaut (2005)** - 17'7" Beam 22". The boat is very good to excellent condition. Foam sacral block instead of back band, new front and rear hatch covers. Always stored in garage. \$1,275.00 OBO. Will also consider a trade for right boat. Contact Fred at g33zr@gmx.com or text 401-569-6038
- **NRS farmer John wet suit**, small, \$50.00; **Kokatat paddle jacket**, small, royal blue, \$30.00; **EMS paddle gloves**, small, \$10.00; **NRS booties**, size 6, very good condition, \$15.00. **Men's Hydroskin G2 Titanium neoprene short-sleeve shirt**. \$15.00; **Men's PDF 36-44"** \$20.00; **Women's PDF 30-36"** \$20.00. For more info, contact Fred at g33zr@gmx.com or text 401-569-6038
- **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 & 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. Contact 401.480.7799
- **Necky Looksha IV** - 17' long x 22" wide, polyglass. Fore & aft hatches, rudder, some poly dings repaired, new keel strip; double hard chines & rockered hull. About 54 pounds. \$1500 OBO. Located in East Bay area. kayakjmj@yahoo.com
- **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, \$3000.00, 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: 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.