

From the Newsletter Editor...

## A Paddler's View of COVID-19

For many of us, paddling is more than a hobby and the people that we paddle with are more than friends. We are part of an amazing community, and in the face of the coronavirus and COVID-19, we are all adapting to a new reality that will reshape our community for months to come.

This is usually the time of year when we all come out of our winter hibernation and begin the planning for the upcoming year. For me, the whitewater season should be in full swing and flatwater trips should be starting. Not this year!

A few weeks ago the term *“social distancing”* was just coming into our vocabulary. Initially we thought padding would be unaffected since we are pretty much always 6-feet apart anyway. As the outbreak grew, though, we began to realize that social distancing isn't just about paddling. We had to think about shuttles, surface spread on gear, and socializing before and after the trip. As our understanding of the virus grew, *“social distancing”* morphed into *“self-isolating”* and paddling ground to a halt.

All of this is based on the hope of *“flattening the curve”*. The science of what's happening with COVID-19 shows us that we all need to take these extraordinary measures to slow the spread of the virus and to protect vulnerable members of the community. Flattening the

curve will keep us from overwhelming our healthcare systems and reduce fatalities.

Like many, my thinking on this has evolved over time as I have gone from ignorance to skepticism to the realization that we have no other choice. As we look at the risks from coronavirus, it is clear that they are catastrophic. To use a paddling metaphor, there is no gear that can protect us (vaccine) and no rescue that can save us (treatment) from this deadly virus.

Of course the ramifications of self-isolating are also enormous – layoffs, school and church closings, and event cancellations. Most of us are now under *“stay at home”* orders and our sphere of travel has narrowed to the radius of our homes. Stress and social isolation are high. Getting outside can help relieve our stress and increase our physical and mental health.

So how do we walk the fine line between safety, social responsibility, and not going crazy by staying in the house? The best choice is to stay close to home and enjoy fresh air and sunshine in our own neighborhoods. With travel across state lines prohibited and most state and town parks closed our choices are limited anyway.

What about paddling? Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures, and for our community that is going to mean less

paddling. Many of us will find that difficult, but with the continued spread of COVID-19 there is really no option. The water will wait for us. One of the best justifications that I have seen for this approach came from Doug Welch, Executive Director at the [Maine Island Trail](#):

*“Beyond the surface-level isolation, the act of social distancing is actually:*

- *a powerful, widespread act of love for friends, family, colleagues, and strangers*
- *an epic collective action to protect the weakest among us*
- *an opportunity to think differently for a while*
- *a chance to help people who really need it now*
- *an invitation to get outside and breathe the spring air*
- *a break in which to plan new adventures”*

Leave it to a Mainer to get that right.

Will I be getting out to paddle anytime soon? We'll see. Will I be seeing any of you at the put-in? Not until things settle down. Now is the time to do whatever we can to help flatten the curve of COVID-19's spread. Until then, stay safe and maybe I will see you online sometime.

# Vote for Officers at the next Club Meeting

## Time and Place to be Determined

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of officers for the 2020 to 2021 year:

**President:** Pat (Mayhew) Lardner  
**Vice President:** Danny O'Shea  
**Secretary:** Skye Pechie  
**Treasurer:** Andy Viera

Our Annual Meeting and election is usually in April, but it will be delayed until the next member's meeting as a result of coronavirus/COVID-19.

# Coronavirus/COVID-19 Cancellations

Due to coronavirus/COVID-19 and Governor Raimondo's Executive Order, the following events are cancelled:

**Flatwater Planning Meeting**  
April 11<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 3:30

**Sea Kayak Paddle and Potluck Planning Meeting**  
April 25<sup>th</sup> – Paddle at 10:00, Potluck at 3:00

In addition, there will no club meeting in April. Check the website for updates on when these events will be rescheduled, and for updates on future events.

## RICKA is an ACA



## Paddle America Club

### Board Meetings:

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> online as a ZOOM videoconference. Contact Pat (Mayhew) Lardner at [pslardner@gmail.com](mailto:pslardner@gmail.com) if you would like to participate

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Your RICKA membership expired on March 31, 2020...

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Please visit the website at:

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

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## Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

### Executive Board

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**Wilderness:** Chuck Horbert .....401-418-2838..... [chorbert13@gmail.com](mailto:chorbert13@gmail.com)

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# RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Wanted to Buy: General recreational flat-water kayak** in the 12 to 13 foot range. I have in mind an Eddyline Skylark Kayak or similar model. Please contact me with specs, location, pictures and price at [mike.rubin54@gmail.com](mailto:mike.rubin54@gmail.com)
- **P&H Cetus** - low volume, yellow over white kevlar combo in very good condition. \$1,700. Contact: [aikijerry@gmail.com](mailto:aikijerry@gmail.com)
- **Werner Bent Shaft Cyprus Paddle** – 205 cm small shaft diameter, good condition, asking \$300. **Werner Bent Shaft Cyprus Paddle** – 210 cm, good condition, asking \$300. **Werner Bent Shaft Shuna Paddle** – 210 cm Citrus, never used (just sat on the kayak deck for 2 trips), \$260. Contact [emilkrasich@gmail.com](mailto:emilkrasich@gmail.com) or 508-878-1502
- **Tahe Greenland Model Kayak** - 18 x 20 white over white fiberglass. Ocean Cockpit in very good condition. No deep scratches, or damage - \$1,500. Contact [aikijerry@gmail.com](mailto:aikijerry@gmail.com)
- **Valley Skerrary** - 17 ft. X 23". Color Yellow Rotomold, wire skeg, ocean cockpit and lots of rocker - \$500. **Valley Avocet** - 16 ft. X 22". Color Yellow Rotomold, wire skeg, keyhole cockpit and lots of rocker - \$500. **Dagger Baja** - 16 ft. X 22". Color Blue Rotomold, integral rudder, keyhole cockpit - \$500. Please contact: Greg Paquin, Kayak Waveology, LLC. email: [coach@kayakwaveology.com](mailto:coach@kayakwaveology.com) tel: 860-304-4000
- **Old Town Discovery 16.9 Canoe** - Blue rotomolded plastic, 1990s vintage, good condition, with 2 Mowhawk ABS paddles, in N. Kingstown, \$250. Contact [garywhitney3@cox.net](mailto:garywhitney3@cox.net)
- **Betsie Bay Recluse Kayak** - 19' long and 20 1/2" wide; weight 30 to 34 lbs.; Paddler weight 175 lbs. & greater; Excellent Condition (stored indoors/only fresh water use); \$2,400 (\$4,000 new); Includes cockpit cover, spray skirt, & Greenland paddle. Contact Charlie 518-234-9235 in Albany, NY area.
- **2011 Valley Etain Sea Kayak** - it is the 17-7 model. The boat is in excellent structural condition, with only a few cosmetic repairs to the gel coat on hull. \$1,700 OBO. Located in North Kingstown. Contact Gary at [glreynolds@hotmail.com](mailto:glreynolds@hotmail.com) or 401-295-1449
- **High Performance Paddle Board** - approximate retail value of \$2K, offered at \$900. Available for viewing on the East Side of Providence. **Valley Pintail** - excellent condition - sking \$2,300. **Necky Gliss** - \$1,240. Contact [rogernc@mac.com](mailto: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 footrest, 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 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 OBO. Will also consider a trade for right boat. Contact Fred at [g33zr@gmx.com](mailto: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. \$3,000. 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. \$1,500 OBO. Located in East Bay area. Contact [kayakjmi@yahoo.com](mailto:kayakjmi@yahoo.com)
- **Snapdragon neoprene kayak skirt** - excellent condition. Cockpit size large – 18" wide x 33"-35" length. Tunnel size small – 28" -30" circumference = \$50. Contact [welcomelacefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:welcomelacefarm@yahoo.com)

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