

PADDLER

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Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Vol. XLIII

No. 9

September 2020

13th Annual RICKA Picnic

Bristol Town Beach Pavilion

Saturday, September 19, 2020

The 13th Annual RICKA Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at the Bristol Town Beach and Sports Complex Pavilion.

The [Bristol Town Beach and Sports Complex](#) is located adjacent to Colt State Park at 50 Asylum Road, Bristol, RI 02809. In addition to the Pavilion that will be our base of operations, the park includes wonderful views of Narragansett Bay with walking/biking trails, a playground, and a clean, sandy beach.

In the morning, there will be flatwater and sea kayak trips. Details will be posted on the [flatwater](#) and [sea kayak](#) message boards. Lunch will be available starting at 12:30 in at Pavilion.

Balasco's Pizzeria will provide a variety of specialty sandwiches in individual bag lunches including an assortment of salads (macaroni salad, garden salad and fruit salad) and a water bottle. Options will be available for vegetarian, gluten free and lactose free. The cost will be \$10.50 per person.

Picnic tables are available in the Pavilion, but we also recommended that you bring your own chairs so we can maintain social distancing. Please respect others by wearing your mask whenever social distancing can't be maintained.

The 2020 RICKA Awards Ceremony will follow lunch.



A pre-COVID awards ceremony – Tony receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2013.

Because this is a catered event we must have your reservation no later than September 12, 2020. You can register by mail or online using PayPal at:

http://www.ricka.org/Payments/ricka_picnic.html

If you register by mail, please print out the form below and return it with your check payable to RICKA to:

RICKA
P.O. Box 184
Hope Valley RI 02832

All are welcome to attend including members, their families, significant others, and friends.

Mark your calendars for this fun event!! Rain or Shine. Who knows.... you may be receiving an award. Hope to see you all there!

Member Name: _____

Number of Meals (same price for all): _____ X \$10.50 = \$ _____

Special Requirements: Vegetarian _____ Gluten Free _____ Lactose Free _____

Balasco's Pizzeria will provide a variety of specialty sandwiches in individual bag lunches including an assortment of salads (macaroni salad, garden salad and fruit salad) and a water bottle.

Make check payable to RICKA and mail them to:

RICKA
P.O. Box 184
Hope Valley, RI 02832

Where Can I Find Trips?

With the uncertainty related to COVID-19, most trips are now posted on the [flatwater](#) and [sea kayak](#) message boards. For the month of September you will also find trips on the [flatwater calendar](#).

We recommend the following guidelines for anyone who participates in trips:

- Don't come if you are sick, or have been exposed to someone who is sick.
- Keep the group under 15.

- Maintain physical distancing of 6-feet at all times.
- Always wear a mask or gaiter on land, and anytime you are within 6 feet of someone on the water - narrow waterways, rescues, etc.
- Disinfect your hands often - especially before launching and landing, and anytime you come in contact with another person.
- Keep the trip well within your skill level - minimize the chances of requiring outside assistance or rescues.
- Be responsible for your own gear - loading/unloading, launching/landing.
- Don't share snacks or food.
- Avoid car shuttles - launch, paddle

and return to the same put-in.

- Don't congregate at the put-in or take-out - come, paddle and leave.
- Always follow state regulations and national guidance.

Please remember that participating in paddle sport activities can increase your risk of serious injury or death, including exposure to infectious disease such as COVID-19.

We all want to paddle, and we all want to stay safe. During the coronavirus crisis it may be difficult to do both. Be patient, understand the risks and only paddle when you are ready.

RICKA is an ACA



Paddle America Club

Board Meetings:

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on September 2nd online as a ZOOM videoconference. Contact Pat (Mayhew) Lardner at pslardner@gmail.com if you would like to participate

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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, 2020...

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

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A Bike Shuttle on the Pawcatuck

By Erik Eckilson

By now, we have all developed pretty good COVID-19 paddling habits - wear your mask, keep your distance, and no car shuttles. As a river paddler, though, there are times when I just want to go downstream. Without a car how do you make that happen? Easy – just hop on your bike.

Bike shuttles work just like car shuttles except for the part when you all crowd into one vehicle to get back to the put-in. Instead, you hop on your bike. It's a fun addition to the trip, and you get some great exercise.



Bike shuttle back to the put-in

Lately I have been looking for trips with a relatively long paddle and a relatively short, flat bike ride. The way our local rivers twist-and-turn there are many, but some of the best are on the [Pawcatuck](#) – RI's [Wild and Scenic River](#) system.

The [Wood-Pawcatuck watershed](#) encompasses 300 square miles in southwestern RI and southeastern CT. It is one of the largest remaining natural areas along the northeast corridor between New York and Boston, and received Wild and Scenic River status in 2019.

The Pawcatuck River itself arises at [Worden Pond](#) in South Kingstown and



Running the Bradford Fish Weirs

flows 34-miles south and west to Westerly where it flows into Little Narragansett Bay on Long Island Sound. We would be paddling the section from [Bradford](#) to [Potter Hill](#) – about 7-miles. Unlike some of the sections upstream, there is plenty of water here all summer long.

Jonathan, Bill and I dropped off our boats at Bradford at around 9:00, and drove to take-out at Potter Hill. Parking is available at Post Office Landing – a DEM boat launch across the street from the take-out. It looks like someone's driveway, but it is a public access point. At least they have now put up a sign.

We left our cars at the take-out and did the easy 4-mile bike ride back to Bradford. It doesn't take that much longer than arranging a car shuttle. When we arrived back at Bradford, Sharon and Paul were waiting for us. Sharon had arranged her own shuttle, and Paul would do the bike ride after the trip.

We got on the river a little after 10:00 and headed downstream. The river was low, but surprisingly there was enough water to

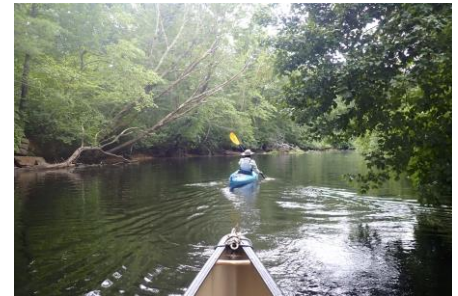


Under the Polly Coon Footbridge

run the Bradford Fish Weirs, which replaced the old Bradford Dam in 2018.

The old Bradford Dam was a 19th century stone and timber structure that provided power to the Bradford textile mills. Built on top of a natural falls, the 6-foot dam spanned the entire width of the river. Since removing the dam would drop the water level upstream by about 5-feet and negatively impact wetlands, the decision was made to replace the existing dam with a new rock ramp structure.

The new dam is made up of 6 gradually ascending stone weirs, which serve like terraced steps. Pools between the steps give fish a place to rest on their way upstream. Gaps in the weirs create channels for water to flow and fish to swim, including the main current down the middle that forms a nice channel for paddlers.



Down the Pawcatuck River

After running or portaging the Bradford Dam we continued downstream. From Bradford to Route 3 the river twists and turns through the woodlands of the [Grills Preserve](#). We passed under the [Polly Coon Footbridge](#) and continued downstream stopping at the beach off Narragansett Way for a break and a socially distanced lunch.

Below Route 3 there is more development as the river meanders through open marshland to the Potter Hill Dam. The take out is on the Westerly side of the river just above the Potter Hill Road Bridge at the [Whiteley Preserve](#) - a [Westerly Land Trust](#) property. We loaded our boats and drove back to Bradford to pick up our bikes after another great trip.

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. **ESPECIALLY WITH THE RISK OF COVID-19, YOU ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE DECISION TO LAUNCH YOUR BOAT.**

Flatwater Trips

Please RSVP to the leader – all trips are limited to 15 people. Please check the [Message Board](#) before leaving for any trip. Face coverings and social distancing are required at the launch and take out, and any time people are closer than 6' apart. Everyone will be responsible for their own equipment and launch. You do not have to wear a face covering while paddling, but you need to have something with you at all times for this purpose. Do not attend if you are ill.

September 5th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch (Rain date of September 6th)

West Thompson Lake

Trip Coordinator - Henry Dziadosz
hdziadosz@verizon.net 401-567-0313

We will paddle around the lake at the West Thompson Dam and up a section of the Quinebaug River. Suitable for all boats and all levels of experience. Bring a lunch.

September 6th - meet at 11:00am for an 11:30 launch

Providence River

Trip Coordinator - Cheryl Thompson
stonefoxfarm@juno.com
401-497-5887 and Tom Farley

We will put in at Bold Point and paddle across Providence Harbor, through the Hurricane Barrier and up the Providence River through downtown Providence.

Spray skirts are recommended for the crossing from Bold Point to the Hurricane Barrier.

September 12th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:15 launch

Sudbury River – Lincoln to Concord

Trip Coordinator – Erik Eckilson
eeckilsn@cox.net 617-791-0318

A 6-mile trip on a pretty section of the Sudbury River. We will put in at the Lincoln Canoe Landing and paddle down to Bold Point in Concord. On the way, we will stop for lunch in Fairhaven Bay. Suitable for all boats and all levels of experience. Bring a lunch. This trip may change depending on MA quarantine requirements.

September 13th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch.

Wallum Lake in Douglas State Forest

Trip Coordinator - Gary Powers
garpow28@aol.com

Last time we paddled this lake we logged about 5 miles. Wind can be a factor but it is a very clean and pretty lake. You will see plenty of birds along the way including a possible bald eagle sighting. There is a small beach, open field, and picnic tables near the launch if you would like to bring a lunch for after the paddle. Suitable for all boats and all levels of experience. Restrooms are available too. This trip may change depending on MA quarantine requirements.

September 19th

13th Annual RICKA Picnic and Paddle at Bristol Town Beach

See page 1 for details.

September 26th – meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch

Blackstone River at Riverbend Farm in Uxbridge, MA

Trip Coordinator - Gary Powers
garpow28@aol.com

This paddle will be a round trip 3-mile paddle, starting on the river, weaving its way south to the Stanly Woolen Mill and then a portage to the canal back past River Bend Farms to the end. The river in this stretch of the Blackstone has multiple personalities depending upon the water level and can be very challenging. Gary will review the water levels and give an update on the message board a week before the scheduled date. Look for this paddle on the message board to RSVP. Due to the narrowness of the river, this paddle is set with a participant maximum of 10. This trip may change depending on MA quarantine requirements.

October 3rd – meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch

Green Hill Pond in Charlestown, RI

Trip Coordinator - Pat Lardner
pslardner@gmail.com 401-524-8057

We will paddle the pond, plan to bring a lunch or snack, we will plan to take a lunch break or snack on the ocean following a short sand trail to the ocean and then heading back. Green Hill Pond offer lots of possibilities for exploration and this is a great area for wildlife viewing

October 10th - meet at 10:30 for an 11:00 launch.

Blackstone Gorge Fall Colors Paddle

Trip Coordinator - Gary Powers
garpow28@aol.com

This is a pretty fall paddle, just under 4 mi. round trip and suitable for all paddlers. Due to the size of the parking lot, this trip will be limited to 10 cars or 15 paddlers. Please RSVP to Gary at garpow28@aol.com listing each person in your party with their real name. This trip may change depending on MA quarantine requirements.

Continued on page 5.

Continued from page 6.

October 17th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:15 launch

**Tully Lake Recreation Area -
Royalton, MA**

Trip Coordinator - Erik Eckilson
eckilson@cox.net 617-794-0378

It's a bit of a drive, but worth the trip, the foliage can be spectacular, and there are two waterfalls within easy walking distance. We will put-in at the Tully River Canoe Launch and paddle up the Tully River to Long Pond. If it is running, we can take a short hike to Spirit Falls, which tumbles 150-feet down a rocky slope into Long Pond. We will then paddle back down the Tully River to Tully Lake for lunch on one of the islands. Before leaving, we can also take a short hike from the canoe launch to Doane's Falls on Lawrence Brook it's a series of four waterfalls with a stone arch bridge on top. Suitable for all boats and all levels of experience. Bring a

lunch. This trip may change depending on MA quarantine requirements.

October 24th - meet at the launch at 4:00pm for a 4:30 launch.

Halloween Paddle at Roger Williams Park

Trip organizer: Chris Kracik
chris.krakik@gmail.com

Come join the fun at this year's Monster Paddle! Booooooooo! Come as you are, or in full costume, or anything in between. We will paddle around the Cunliff Lake checking out the Halloween Lights and Swan Boats. The paddle will be about 1-1.5 hours long. Since this is a twilight paddle, you will be required to bring a white flashlight for safety

November 7th - meet at 1:00 pm for a 1:30 launch (Rain date of November 8th)

Turkey-less, Turkey Paddle on Wallum Lake

Trip Coordinators: Cheryl Thompson
stonefoxfarm@juno.com 401-497-5887
and Sharon Dragon shdrag1@gmail.com

Wallum Lake is located on the border of RI and MA, has crystal clear water, and an easy paddle. Suitable for all boats and all levels of experience. Due to current circumstances, we will have to miss out on our annual after paddle dinner. This trip may change depending on MA quarantine requirements.

Sea Kayak Trips

[Sea Kayak](#) trips are posted in the [Paddles](#) section of the [Sea Kayak Message Board](#). Appropriate skills and equipment are required. Due to recent upgrades you may need to re-register to access the Sea Kayak Message Board.

Pictures from Recent Sea Kayak Trips

Check the [Paddles](#) section of the [Sea Kayak Message Board](#) for upcoming trips

Photos by Jonathan Sharlin



RICKA Classifieds

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

- Thanks to Bill and Sue Rose who generously donated a **Necky Eliza** kayak to the club. All proceeds have gone directly to RICKA.
- **Valley Avocet** – poly along with two paddles (one a two piece wooden) hula-port cradles, a paddle float and cockpit pump - asking \$900 for the package. Pictures available from aja151@aol.com
- **Valley Aquanaut** – 2005, 17'7" Beam 22", yellow over white. The boat is very good to excellent condition. Foam sacral block instead of back band; all hatch covers replaced within the past two years. Always stored in garage = \$1,250 OBO. Email scr1v3nr@gmail.com or text 401-569-6038
- **Yakima Even Keel rooftop kayak saddles** - brand new, never used; bought during quarantine, accidentally put in storage during move and now it's too late to return them. Paid \$119; will sell for half price-\$60. Will deliver within 20 miles of Barrington or meet halfway. caryl@netscape.com; 401-480-7799.
- **Yakima roof rack** - Q-towers, Q70 & Q124 clips, 48" crossbars Used for 10 years, most recently fit a 2005 Toyota Prius, reasonable wear but sturdy system. Will consider selling towers separately as needed - \$60. Contact babsona@gmail.com
- **Tiderace Xplore S sea kayak** - purchased new May 2014, excellent condition. Length 17' 5", Width 20", Weight 55 lbs. Best suited for intermediate to experienced paddlers, 5' 4" to 5' 10", 130-170 lbs. Includes Tiderace neoprene spray skirt and Wildwasser pump - \$2,400 (was \$4,000 new). Boat is in City Island, NY (Bronx/Westchester). Contact Jean at 917-379-4499 can be seen in RI by arrangement
- **PRICE REDUCED: Valley Etain Sea Kayak** - 17-7 model – the boat is in excellent structural condition, with only a few cosmetic repairs to the gel coat on hull. Price reduced from \$1,700 to \$1,200. Located in North Kingstown, RI. Gary at glreynolds@hotmail.com or 401-295-1449
- **Werner Camano 100% carbon bent shaft paddle** - 220 length. Excellent condition - used 4 times - \$300. **P&H Cetus** - low volume, yellow over white kevlar combo in very good condition - \$1,700. Contact aikijerry@optonline.net
- **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
- **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
- **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
- **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.
- **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 - asking \$2,300. **Necky Gliss** - \$1,240. Contact rogernc@mac.com or cell 401-339-4068
- **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

Safety Boats Needed

Dan Potts, a Chariho Middle School teacher, is looking for volunteers to help get students out on the water for a month of activities from September 17th to October 15th. Class size will be limited to 15 students so there will be room for social distancing. Volunteers will need to bring their own boats and safety gear.

Contact Mr. Potts for additional details at Daniel.Potts@chariho.k12.ri.us.

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.