

April General Meeting Virtual Demo Day with the Kayak Centre

Tuesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m.

For our April General Meeting, Matt and Rachel will be providing an overview of the Kayak Centre's latest inventory.



We won't be there in person,
but a Virtual Demo Day
is the next best thing!

Spring is upon us, and many people are anxious to get outside to enjoy the great outdoors. As a result, business at local paddle shops has been brisk and inventories may run low later in the year. If you are interested in a new boat or other paddling gear, this would be a great time to order. Take a look at the Kayak Centre's web page to see what's new and let us know via RSVP what kayaks, equipment or accessories you would like to see highlighted. The Kayak Centre's website is: <https://www.kayakcentre.com/>. We will also be electing officers for the 2021 to 2022 year (see page 5).

The meeting will take place on Zoom videoconference. RSVP to Pat Lardner at pslardner@gmail.com and the Zoom link will be sent to you via email.

Flatwater Leader Training

Friday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m.

The [RICKA Flatwater Group](#) will be holding a virtual Flatwater Leader Training in advance of our 2021 Planning Meeting.

This session is open to new or experienced leaders, or anyone interested in learning about trip planning and logistics. In this 2-hour session we will cover the basics of planning and leading flatwater canoe/kayak trips including risk management, selecting the trip, advance planning, and what to do at the put-in, on the water, and after the trip. The session will be lead by Flatwater Leader and Paddler Editor Erik Eckilson.

The meeting will take place on Zoom videoconference. RSVP to Pat Lardner at pslardner@gmail.com and the Zoom link will be sent to you via email.

Flatwater Planning Meeting

Saturday, April 10th at 12:00 p.m. (Rain date April 11th)

Join us outside at the Kent Pavilion in Chepachet RI (across the street from 1116 Putnam Pike in Chepachet) for our annual Flatwater Planning Meeting.

Like our trips, this meeting will be held in a socially distanced manner. At this meeting, we will set up our calendar for the 2021 year, so please bring ideas for trips. If you would like to lead a trip but do not have experience, we will partner you up with an experienced leader. If you need a specific date due to tides or other considerations, we can reserve that date for you in advance of the meeting.

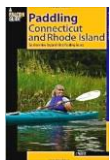
Contact Cheryl Thompson at stonefoxfarm@juno.com for additional information.

From the RICKA Library...

Local Paddle Guides

Paddling Connecticut and Rhode Island Southern New England's Best Paddling Routes

By Jim Cole



This is the NEW classic guide to Southern New England's waterways by our own Jim Cole. From flatwater and tidal rivers to wilderness trips, easy whitewater, and coastal and open water expeditions, this guidebook describes thirty-one trips that encompass Connecticut's greatest watersheds and nearly every river that can be paddled in Rhode Island. Whether you use your canoe or kayak to fish, hunt, bird watch, or just relax and enjoy the outdoors, you'll find plenty of locations in this guide that are just right for you.

Paddling Southern New England 30 Canoe Trips in MA, RI and CT

By Ken Webber



This is the original classic guide to paddling the waters of southern New England. Chapters include day trips on flatwater, selected whitewater runs, and suggestions for overnight trips—with 30 trips in all, there's something here for every level of paddler. Each chapter includes information on put-ins and take-outs, distance, water conditions, dams and rapids, portages, what time of year to paddle, and what you'll see along the way. A detailed map and a handy mileage chart for each river make planning easy.

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 April 7th at 7:00 p.m. online as a ZOOM videoconference. Contact Pat (Mayhew) Lardner at pslardner@gmail.com if you would like to participate.

Newsletter Editor:

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

Membership:

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

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

Your RICKA membership expired March 31, 2021...

Don't forget to renew your RICKA membership!

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

President: Pat (Mayhew) Lardner401-524-8057..... pslardner@gmail.com

Vice President: Danny O'Shea401-527-3447..... doshea5031@aol.com

Secretary: Skye Pechie401-647-0074..... scitamb.2@juno.com

Treasurer: Andy Viera.....774-218-5731..... andyv51@hotmail.com

Members at Large:

Mike Bussell.....401-568-8605..... canoedad@cox.net

Peter Hill508-366-6381..... peter.kayaker@yahoo.com

Sean Murphy401-206-7829 sean026@hotmail.com

Marty O'Loughlin508-336-9592..... maopao@comcast.net

Gary Powers garpow28@aol.com

Conservation: Ron Entringer rentringer42@gmail.com

Pat (Mayhew) Lardner.....401-524-8057..... pslardner@gmail.com

Flatwater : Cheryl Thompson401-497-5887..... stonefoxfarm@juno.com

Librarian: Bill Hahn..... 401-524-1612..... librarian@ricka.org

Safety & Education: Bill Luther.....401-527-4126... williamluther058@gmail.com

Sea Kayak: Carleen McOsker.....401-499-7007... carleenmcosker@icloud.com

Webmaster: Cheryl Thompson401-497-5887..... stonefoxfarm@juno.com

Whitewater: Paul Leclerc 401-568-1103 paul_leclerc@hotmail.com

Wilderness: Chuck Horbert 401-418-2838..... chorbert13@gmail.com

It's Time to Renew your Membership

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

As you know, last season started out a bit slow. Out of an abundance of caution, we refrained from posting any paddles on our calendar in early to mid-spring and then slowly opened the calendar as we moved into summer. This season, however, we're throwing caution to the wind! Not really, but we have figured out how to offer paddles while adhering to COVID protocols.

As a result, our spring planning meetings have been scheduled, and we expect to have a full calendar of paddles this year. **Now is the time to renew your RICKA membership!**

Why should you join RICKA? Let's start with the trips. Each year RICKA organizes trips ranging from easy daytrips to weeklong excursions. Whether you enjoy



Join RICKA and be part of the fun – mask and all!

[flatwater](#), [sea kayaking](#), [whitewater](#) or [wilderness tripping](#), there is trip for every interest and skill level at RICKA. In these challenging times, we do our best to follow COVID safe practices.

In addition to trips, we produce eleven monthly issues of our outstanding newsletter the [Paddler](#), hold off-season

[Zoom 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, 2021 to 2022. You can join the club or renew your membership online using PayPal at:

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



2021 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 ☐ Wilderness ☐

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 Flatwater

What is the RICKA Flatwater group?

RICKA has four interest groups – [Flatwater](#), [Whitewater](#), [Sea Kayak](#) and [Wilderness](#). These groups often overlap and many members paddle regularly with all four groups. The Flatwater group is the largest of the four and holds trips on most weekends from late spring through fall.

What types of trips are there?

Flatwater trips run the gamut from lakes and ponds, to rivers and streams. Swimming, picnicking, and short hikes may accompany some trips.

How do I find out about trips?

You will find a list of trips on the flatwater website.

<http://www.ricka-flatwater.org/rickaschedule.htm>

To sign up for flatwater email notifications send an email the [Flatwater Leader](#) and write “email list” in the subject line.

Who runs the trips?

All trips are run by volunteer trip coordinators. These coordinators will have done the trip before and will be able to advise the group of potential hazards. It is important to note that conditions can change from day to day, or even hour to hour. Safety is always of paramount importance, but you, and you alone, are responsible for your decision to join a RICKA trip.

What equipment do I need?

Every paddler will need a boat (canoe or kayak) that is appropriate for the



Summer day on a RICKA flatwater trip

conditions, paddle and personal floatation device (PFD). Your PFD should be zipped, buckled and properly adjusted at all times. Inflatable PFDs and boats are not suitable for RICKA trips.

You can find a list of other equipment on the website.

<http://www.ricka-flatwater.org/kayakgear.htm>

What about clothing?

Paddling is a water sport, so you should plan to get wet. Cotton cloths should be avoided. Polypropylene, fleece, wool, and lycra blends insulate well when wet. In colder weather, a neoprene wetsuit is a better insulator, and splash jackets and dry wear are good investments.

And for my feet?

Footwear should protect your feet in and out of the water. Sneakers, watershoes or heavy Teva-type sandals are recommended.

How do I join a trip?

Most flatwater trips are “show and go” requiring no advanced notice. Simply arrive at the time indicated and enjoy the trip. More difficult trips will require an RSVP.

Please note that the trip coordinator may cancel a trip or change its location as conditions warrant. When possible, cancellations and changes will be posted on

the [message board](#) at least 2 hours in advance the scheduled launch.

What should I do to prepare for a trip?

Paddlers should research the trip in advance to make sure that it is right for them. The trip coordinator will often post basic information such as the length of the trip, the equipment that is needed, and the hazards that might be encountered. There are also a number of excellent paddle guides in the [RICKA Library](#).

Please be honest about your abilities when deciding to attend a trip. New paddlers should start with short, easy trips before attempting longer, more difficult ones. All paddlers need to be in good physical condition and be competent swimmers.

What will happen when I get to the put-in?

If you are new to the group ask for and introduce yourself to the trip coordinator. We were all new to the group at one point and you'll find that we're all pretty easy going. With COVID restrictions, please wear your mask, maintain social distancing and avoid group gatherings at the put in or in the parking lot before the trip.

You should arrive for the trip at the appointed time, launch your boat and wait on the water near the put-in. Once everyone is on the water the trip coordinator will give a brief safety talk and take a head count of paddlers. Masks are not required on the water as long as you can maintain social distancing.

What will happen on the water?

On the water, all paddlers are expected to stay with the group. If you need to leave for any reason, please notify the trip coordinator. After the trip, please load your boat and be on your way - don't congregate at the put-in or in the parking lot after the 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. **YOU ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE DECISION TO LAUNCH YOUR BOAT.**

Flatwater Trips

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

Flatwater Leader Training Friday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m.

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Contact Cheryl Thompson at 401-647-5887 or stonefoxfarm@juno.com for additional information.

2021 Adirondacks Trip August 7 to 14, 2021

So long as the trip can go forward safely under any COVID travel restrictions, RICKA is again planning our popular week of camping and paddling on the rivers and lakes of the northern Adirondacks State Park. We will be camping at Rollins Pond State Campground. Campsite reservations can only be made online at:

<http://www.reserveamerica.com>.

We will be targeting the "A" loop in Rollins Pond (A001-A031). If you cannot get into this area, try for a low campsite number. The lower the campsite number, the closer you are to the "A" loop.

More details will follow as we get closer to our camping date. Please contact either Chuck Horbert chorbert13@gmail.com or Henry Dziadosz hdziadosz@verizon.net to get included in future planning emails.

Sea Kayak Trips

Sea Kayak trips are now posted in the Trips Section of the [Sea Kayak Message Board](#). Appropriate skills and equipment are required. Before choosing to participate in a trip, check the marine forecast and consider the trip level. Changes and cancellations will be posted.

A Cold Water Caution

As we enter 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!

Nominations Open for RICKA Executive Board

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of officers for the 2021 to 2022 year:

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

Members are encouraged to attend the April General Meeting on Tuesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. to cast their votes.

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Tiderace XPlore M kayak** - excellent condition, outfitted with a Brunton compass and an electric cockpit pump with magnetic switch. The price includes Snapdragon sprayskirt with a neoprene deck and a GoreTex tunnel - \$1,700. For another \$100 I will include a Northern Lights 3 piece carbon fiber Greenland paddle with 3 different sized looms. Contact david.dewitt@outlook.com
- **Two No.2 Brooks spray skirts** - never used, coated nylon - asking \$50 each. Contact Al at wanderlust_bristol@yahoo.com
- **Gore-Tex Large men's drysuit** - upgraded neoprene wrist and neck gaskets and water proof footies - \$725 obo Contact dcornell_2000@yahoo.com
- **Simon River Sports Carbon Arrow K-2 Light** – spacious and fast 3 cockpit, tandem K-2 with shallow U-shape hull for stability, created for speed. Condition: excellent - \$2,900. Contact acopp.oceanskylle@gmail.com
- **Mariner Express** - a very hard to find fiberglass sea kayak - 16" length, 21.5" beam. It is in very good condition and has always been stored indoors. Features a high stability hull without bulkheads that can hold a lot of gear. Includes original owners manual - \$2,300 (was \$3,800 new). Contact jklowan@excite.com
- **Impex Force 3 Sea Kayak** - 2019 new condition - 17' length, 20.5" beam. This is a beautiful, fast, strong tracking, kayak, has enough storage for overnight or weekend trips. It has been stored indoors - new condition. White with lime green stripes - \$2,200, (orig. \$3,500). **Wilderness Tempest 165** – rotomolded, lime green. In good condition with working skeg, hatches with no leaks, stable, durable kayak which can handle conditions - \$800. Call Beklen at 646-263-9359
- **Valley Avocet** - (poly) along with two paddles (one a two piece wooden), hula-port cradles, a paddle float and cockpit pump. - \$900 for the package. Contact aja151@aol.com
- **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. Contact caryl@netscape.com or 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** - purchased new May 2014. Excellent condition, stored indoors, lovingly maintained. 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
- **Tahe Greenland model kayak** – 18' length, 20" beam, white over white fiberglass. Ocean Cockpit in very good condition. No deep scratches, or damage. \$1,500. **Werner Camino 100% carbon bent shaft paddle** - 220 length. Excellent condition - used 4 times. \$300. Contact aikijerry@gmail.com
- **Wanted to Buy: General recreational flat-water kayak** - 12 to 13 foot range. I have in mind an Eddyline Skylark Kayak or similar model. Contact mike.rubin54@gmail.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

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.