

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

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No. 3

March 2021

March Zoom Meeting Invasive Plants in RI Waterways

Tuesday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m.

For our March meeting, Katie DeGoosh-DiMarzio, Environmental Analyst with DEM's Office of Water Resources will give us and update on invasive plants in RI's waterways with tips to help us stop the spread.

Aquatic invasive plants are a major cause of impairment in Rhode Island's freshwater lakes and rivers. More than 100 lakes and ponds are plagued with at least one species of invasive plant, and at least one invasive plant type has been recorded in 27 river segments. "Many of the aquatic invasive plants in Rhode Island can reproduce from just one small plant fragment" said DeGoosh-DiMarzio. "Cleaning off every bit of plant from recreational gear used at one pond is essential before visiting another."

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



Padding through water chestnuts with purple loosestrife in the background – invasive plants above the Lackey Dam on the Mumford River

Save the Date

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.

April Zoom Meeting

Virtual Demo Day with the Kayak Centre

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

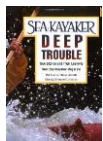
Matt and Rachel will be providing an overview of their latest inventory of kayaks and accessories. Please take a look at the Kayak Centre's web page to see what new and let us know via RSVP what kayaks, equipment or accessories you would like to see highlighted. Their new website is: <https://www.kayakcentre.com>.

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

From the RICKA Library...

Stay Safe with these Safety/Rescue Books

Sea Kayaker Deep Trouble by Matt Broze and George Gronseth



Sea Kayaker's Deep Trouble offers more than twenty real-life accounts of accidents that will both keep you on the edge of your seat and instruct you with potentially life-saving lessons. These tales are the result of interviews with survivors, witnesses and rescuers. From capsizes and hypothermia to brushes with sharks and entrapment in sea caves, the situations are described in chilling detail and then subjected to expert analysis. Sea Kayaker's Deep Trouble is rounded out by a comprehensive introduction to sea kayaking safety and tips on equipment, techniques, and improving your skills.

Whitewater Rescue Manual by Charles Walbridge and Wayne Sundmacher



In Whitewater Rescue Manual, two paddlers who have long been at the forefront of whitewater safety and rescue present a tightly focused look at the best, most current techniques for both self-rescue and rescue of others on the river. The authors provide well-reasoned guidance that will teach you when to stay with the boat and when not to; how to retrieve a lost boat; how to swim out of trouble and when not to swim; how to reach a victim; how to coordinate a rescue effort; how to make sure that would-be rescuers don't become victims; how to safely evacuate injured paddlers; and much 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 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.

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

Your RICKA membership will expire on March 31, 2021...

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

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.



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

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

[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	<input type="checkbox"/>
BVPC DUES (Blackstone Valley Paddle Club) add \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> (RICKA membership is also required)
Total	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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 Whitewater

What is the RICKA Whitewater group?

The [Whitewater](#) 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. <http://www.ricka-flatwater.org/wwschedule.htm>

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

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.ricka-flatwater.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 21, 2021

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 3rd Saturday in March.

We'll meet at the put-in below the Harrisville Dam. 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. **You must arrange your own shuttle.** Final details will be posted on the [Whitewater Message Board](#) when available.

A blast from the past...

The Rhode Island Whitewater Championship

Rhode Island's wildwater downriver race!

The Rhode Island Whitewater Championship, also known as the Branch River Race, was established by RICKA in 1980. Its long-time Race Director was Mike Bussell. For over 25 years it was run on the third weekend in March - the first race of the year on calendar the New England Downriver Championship series (now the [New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association](#)), which continues to run races across the northeast.



Running the Glendale Rapid

course began below the Route 107 Bridge and ended above the Slatersville Reservoir. It is mostly quickwater with some flatwater and four class II rapids.

The first rapid was at the start below the Route 107 Bridge. The next rapid was about a half mile downstream at the Whipple Drop - a broken dam with a 2½-foot drop and a canoe-busting boulder about 25 feet downstream.

About 3½ miles downstream was the portage at the Oakland Dam. Below the dam, was a mile-long section of quickwater that led to the Glendale Rapid. This short, rocky rapid caused problems for new and experienced paddlers alike.

After another half mile of quickwater was the Mohegan (now called the Atlas Pallet)



Running the Mohegan Rapid

Rapid. This rocky drop changed at different water levels. It always required superior maneuvering skills but became easier as the water level rose. Another half mile downstream was the portage at the Nasonville Dam. After that, the remainder of the run was quickwater.

As with all RICKA events, safety was a principal concern. Safety checkpoints were set up at critical points along the route. From many years, the Ocean State Amateur Radio group partnered with RICKA to provide real-time communication between safety personnel on the racecourse, and those back at race headquarters.



The original race logo

This well-known race was run in accordance with American Canoe Association rules. All racers had to submit to safety inspections, and improperly equipped boats or paddlers would not be allowed to participate. All entrants were required to wear PFD's, spray skirts (for kayaks) and helmets. Wetsuits and drysuits were strongly recommended, as were float bags in canoes and kayaks.

The base of operations for the race was the Townsman Club, later the Village Barn and now the Western Hotel. Classes were included for canoe and kayak, with classes for recreational, mixed, women and masters. There was even a "tavern" class competing for the coveted "Saloon Cup".

The race was run on Rhode Island's only whitewater river – the Clear and Branch from Harrisville to Nasonville. The 7-mile



25th anniversary race course map

The Branch River Race was an important fundraiser for RICKA, and provided the opportunity for new paddlers to experience whitewater paddling using good safety practices under relatively controlled conditions. The [race continued for over 25 years](#), but eventually had to be discontinued due to the high cost of insurance and problems with river access.

Today, many RICKA paddlers still paddle the Clear and Branch on the traditional third weekend in March (see page 4).

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 Planning Meeting April 10th at 12:00 p.m.

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. Rain date is April 11th.

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 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 hdziadosc@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.

Whitewater Trips

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

Branch River Icebreaker March 21, 2021

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 3rd 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, be properly prepared for the conditions, **and arrange your own shuttle.**

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!

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.

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.

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **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. The middle cockpit is perfect for a passenger and allows this boat to convert quickly into a well balanced, fast K-1. Condition: excellent - \$2,900. Contact acopp.oceanskyllc@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
- **Dagger Sitka** - fiberglass, white hull, yellow top. Close to 18 feet with smart rudder system. Very good condition with dry hatches. This is a good expedition kayak with plenty of storage space not a beginner's kayak. Contact jonathansharlin@gmail.com
- **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 ajal51@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
- **Take Greenland model kayak** – 18' legth, 20" beam, white over white fiberglass. Ocean Cockpit in very good condition. No deep scratches, or damage. \$,1500. **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
- **Betsie Bay Recluse Kayak** - super light Greenland style sea kayak. Built/bought 2007 - 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); \$2400 (\$4000 new); Includes cockpit cover, spray skirt, and Greenland paddle; Contact Charlie 518-234-9235

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.