

# PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association Vol. XLVIII No. 8 August/September 2025

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## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual RICKA Family Picnic

Cold Spring Community Center  
at the North Kingstown Town Beach  
Sunday, September 14, 2025

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual [RICKA Family Picnic](#) will be held on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Cold Spring Community Center at the North Kingstown Town Beach – a great location with gorgeous views of Narragansett Bay. The Cold Spring Community Center is located at [36 Beach Street, North Kingstown, RI 02852](#).

In the morning a Flatwater trip will leave from [Wilson Park](#) to paddle Wickford Harbor, and a Sea Kayak trip will leave from the [North Kingstown Town Beach](#) to paddle in Narragansett Bay. Check the flatwater and sea kayak websites for details.

Lunch will be available starting at 1:00 at the Cold Spring Community Center. Options will be available for vegan and gluten-free. The cost will be \$15.50 per person. The 2025 RICKA Awards Ceremony will follow lunch.

Register now for this fun event - your registration is due by September 7, 2025. See page 3 for registration details.



Sharon receives the 2024 Volunteer of the Year award at last year's RICKA Picnic.  
Who will win this year?

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## Paddle for Progress – Wickford Harbor

September 2, 2025 - meet at 9:00 for a 10:00 launch

We will meet at Gardner's Wharf ([170 Main Street, North Kingstown, RI](#)) for a paddle in support of the 2025 [Paddle for Progress](#) to help the Rhode Island Hospital Foundation raise money and awareness for breast cancer research and care in RI. RICKA will have a team, and will have an optional extended paddle after the organized event. You can join the team or make a donation [here](#).

See page 4 or contact Gary Powers at [garpow28@aol.com](mailto:garpow28@aol.com) for additional information.

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## Introduction to Level 3 Paddling

September 7, 2025 - launch at 9:30

We will meet at the URI Bay Campus Beach ([S Ferry Rd, Saunderstown, RI](#)). This will be a step-up trip geared to sea kayakers who have mostly paddled Level 2 trips, or even more experienced flatwater paddlers. You will have the opportunity to paddle in swells, current, rocks, and/or other dynamic (but still manageable) conditions. This trip will be in Level 2+/3 conditions – appropriate equipment is required.

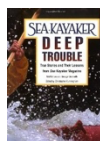
Be sure to check the [Sea Kayak message board](#) for any changes or additional information.

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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 and videos 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](mailto: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 Meeting:

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. online as a ZOOM videoconference. To participate contact Erik Eckilson at [eckilson@cox.net](mailto:eckilson@cox.net) and the Zoom link will be sent to you.

#### Newsletter Editor:

Erik Eckilson  
Email: [editor@ricka.org](mailto:editor@ricka.org)

#### Newsletter Archive:

<http://ricka.org/paddler/paddler/PaddlerList.HTML>

#### Membership:

Gary Powers  
Email: [rickamembership@gmail.com](mailto:rickamembership@gmail.com)

#### Registration Form:

[Join the Fun!](#)

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

## Submit your stories to the **PADDLER**

Do you have a story that you could share, a picture, gear review or trip report? **Please consider sending it to the Paddler.** Chances are, there are a lot of people who would really enjoy seeing it.

Don't be shy, please send it along to [editor@ricka.org](mailto:editor@ricka.org)!

### RICKA Executive Board Members

#### Executive Officers

**President :** Erik Eckilson  
**Vice President:** Steve Pechie  
**Secretary:** Skye Pechie  
**Treasurer:** Frank Cortesa

**Sea Kayak:** Rich Coupland  
**Webmaster:** Cheryl Thompson  
**Whitewater:** Paul Leclerc  
**Wilderness:** Chuck Horbert

#### Members at Large

Deb Britt  
Sharon Dragon  
Michael Hazeltine  
Peter Hill  
Pat (Mayhew) Lardner  
Danny O'Shea  
Brenda Rashleigh  
Aaron Rouby  
Jenifer Stanton

#### Practice Group Chairs

**Conservation:** Ron Entringer  
Pat (Mayhew) Lardner  
**Flatwater:** Cheryl Thompson  
**Librarian:** Bill Hahn  
**Membership:** Gary Powers  
**Newsletter Editor:** Erik Eckilson  
**Safety & Education:** Steve Pechie

Due to frequent spam and phishing attacks, we have removed personal phone numbers and email addresses for executive board members from the Paddler. If you need to contact the club, please reach out to Erik Eckilson at [eckilson@cox.net](mailto:eckilson@cox.net).



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# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual RICKA Family Picnic

**Cold Spring Community Center at the North Kingstown Town Beach**  
**Sunday, September 14, 2025**

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual RICKA Family Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Cold Spring Community Center at the [North Kingstown Town Beach](#) – a great location with gorgeous views of Narragansett Bay.

In the morning a Flatwater trip will leave from [Wilson Park](#) to paddle Wickford Harbor, and a Sea Kayak trip will leave from the [North Kingstown Town Beach](#) to paddle in Narragansett Bay. Check the flatwater and sea kayak websites for details.

Lunch will be available starting at 1:00 at the Cold Spring Community Center. Options will be available for vegan and gluten-free. The cost will be \$15.50 per



**Cold Spring Community Center  
at the North Kingstown Town Beach**

person. The 2025 RICKA Awards Ceremony will follow lunch.

Because this is a catered event we must have your reservation no later than **September 7, 2025**. You can register by mail or online using PayPal at:

[http://www.ricka.org/Payments/ricka\\_picnic.html](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 c/o Frank Cortesa  
290 Pond Street  
Uxbridge, MA 01569

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

**Register now for this fun event.** Rain or shine. Who knows, you may be receiving an award.



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## 2025 RICKA Family Picnic

**Registration due by September 7, 2025**

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Meals (same price for all):** \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.50 per meal = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Meal (include number):**

Croissant:	Eggplant Burger _____	Turkey _____	Chicken Salad _____
Gluten & Dairy Free Roll:	Eggplant Burger _____	Turkey _____	Chicken Salad _____
White Wrap:	Eggplant Burger _____	Turkey _____	Chicken Salad _____

**Make check payable to RICKA and mail to:**

RICKA c/o Frank Cortesa  
290 Pond Street  
Uxbridge, MA 01569

You can also register on line at [https://ricka.org/Payments/ricka\\_picnic.html](https://ricka.org/Payments/ricka_picnic.html)

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# Join the Fun, Join the Cause

As summer turns to fall, what could be better than a gentle paddle around the picturesque islands of Wickford Harbor with scores of other paddlers, all in support of a good cause.

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, Wickford Harbor will once again “turn pink” as the Paddle for Progress brings paddlers of all abilities together for this fun event. The goal, other than enjoying a nice paddle, is to help the RI Hospital Foundation raise money and awareness for breast cancer research and care in RI.

This is Paddle for Progress’ 3rd year, a paddling event created by a mother/daughter team and avid paddlers Deb Shapiro and Daryl West who were



both diagnosed with breast cancer 100 days apart.

“When we started this event, our main goal was to create an event that would bring the community together while spotlighting the extraordinary care available at the Breast Cancer Multidisciplinary Clinic and raising some money for advancements in breast cancer treatments locally. It has since grown into something bigger and much more profound,” Shapiro said.

Last year’s event bought over 100 paddlers and raised over \$64,400, doubling the total from the inaugural event in 2023. This year the buzz is even greater, and it is hoped that they will surpass the \$100,000 mark.

In 2023 and 2024 a handful of RICKA paddlers joined in the fun. This year, RICKA has created a team with hopes of having a greater presence and will include an optional extended paddle for interested flatwater or sea kayakers. Joining in the event is easy with a required registration, however donations are not required (just appreciated).

We would love you to join the RICKA team either as a paddler or simply putting our donation link on your social media page. To register or donate, please click on the link below and thank you for your support and hope to see you on the water!

[RICKA Team - Paddle for Progress](#)

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# Bastille Day Campout

Back in the old days, RICKA held an annual summer camping trip – the Bastille Day Campout. Why Bastille Day was chosen as a theme for a RICKA camping trip has been lost to history. The connection to summer is obvious, and maybe it was a simple as that.

The event was originally held on Dutch Island. When the DEM prohibited camping on Dutch Island in 1991, it moved to the Burlingame Canoe Campsites on the Pawcatuck.

It was celebrated with an assortment of French and French-Canadian delicacies – mostly wine and beer. A Molson toast around the fire was always the highlight of an evening filled with good food and good friends.



**The traditional Molson Toast**

Reviving this RICKA tradition seemed like a worthy challenge, so for the past few years we have been organizing a summer overnight trip at the Burlingame Canoe Campsites.

This year, we met at the Bradford Landing at 2:30 to load up our boats. The weather was beautiful as we headed out. We arrived and found the field campsite empty, so we hauled our gear up and set up camp.

We started the dinner fire, then cooled off taking turns on the rope swing as the fire

burned down to coals for cooking. The food was plentiful and delicious.

After dinner, we settled in around the campfire for a night of tall-tales and war-stories. I finally turned in at around 10:00.

Before I knew it, morning light was streaming through my tent. I got up around 6:00, started the fire and got the coffee perking.

Dan was up shortly after, so we started on breakfast. I fired up my Dutch oven to make a batch of cinnamon rolls, and Dan fired up his 20” Big Daddy skillet to cook everything else. No one ever goes hungry on these trips.

After breakfast we packed for the trip back to Bradford. I was on the road by 10:00, and I was home by 11:00. We will definitely put the Bastille Day Campout on the RICKA calendar again next year – hope you can join us!



## 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](#)

August 26<sup>th</sup> - launching promptly at 6:00 (note the earlier time due to sunset)  
**Party and Paddle at Spring Lake**  
Trip Coordinators: Julie [Julierie87@gmail.com](mailto:Julierie87@gmail.com) and Steve Reindeau [steverie154@gmail.com](mailto:steverie154@gmail.com)

Join us for a short paddle around Spring Lake and then a gathering at Julie and Steve's waterfront home for pizza and a party to celebrate the end of another successful season. Please RSVP to Julie at [Julierie87@gmail.com](mailto:Julierie87@gmail.com) if you are coming to the party.

### Flatwater Trips

Late changes and cancellations will be posted on the [Flatwater Message Board](#). Please check the board before leaving for any trip. Check [web site](#) for directions and/or GPS coordinates.

August 31<sup>st</sup> - meet at 11:00 for an 11:30 launch  
**Assonet Bay – Assonet, MA**  
Trip organizers: Steve and Joanna Norris [sirron30@gmail.com](mailto:sirron30@gmail.com)

We plan to launch from the [Hathaway Park Boat Ramp](#) and paddle into the bay. We

expect to see many different birds while exploring the many coves along the bay.

September 6<sup>th</sup> - meet at 5:15 for a 5:45pm launch  
**Swallow Murmuration Paddle on the Connecticut River**  
Trip coordinators: Cheryl Thompson [stonefoxfarm75@gmail.com](mailto:stonefoxfarm75@gmail.com), Skye Pechie [tmbgambassador@gmail.com](mailto:tmbgambassador@gmail.com), Steve Pechie [resq1192@gmail.com](mailto:resq1192@gmail.com)

Every year swallows congregate on the lower Connecticut River. Bring your dinner if you wish to eat while waiting in your boat for the display to begin. Minimum boat length requirement is 14 feet and longer. Joint paddle with the sea kayak group.

September 14<sup>th</sup> – meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch  
**RICKA Picnic and Paddle - Wickford**  
Trip coordinator: Aaron Rouby [aaronrouby@gmail.com](mailto:aaronrouby@gmail.com)

We will put-in at Wilson Park and paddle in the calm, protected waters of Wickford Harbor. After the paddle we will head to the North Kingstown Town Beach for the RICKA Picnic and Awards Ceremony.

September 21<sup>st</sup> - meet at 9:00 for a 10:00 launch  
**Paddle for Progress – Wickford**  
Trip organizer: Gary Powers [garpow28@aol.com](mailto:garpow28@aol.com)

We will meet at Gardner's Wharf (170 Main Street, North Kingstown, RI) for a paddle in support of the 2025 Paddle for Progress. You can join the team or make a donation [here](#).

September 27<sup>th</sup> - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch  
**Charles River – Needham to Wellesley**  
Trip coordinator: Erik Eckilson - 617-794-0378 [eckilson@cox.net](mailto:eckilson@cox.net)

We will put-in at the Charles River Peninsula and paddle upstream 5-miles to

the Elm Bank Reservation. Bring a lunch. Long boats are better for this trip.

## Sea Kayak Trips

Before choosing to participate in a trip, check the marine forecast and consider the trip. Cancellations due to weather or other conditions will be posted on the [Message Board](#) by 8:00 a.m. the day of the trip.

August 30<sup>th</sup> - TBD  
**Potluck & Bioluminescence Paddle - Level: 2**  
Potluck Location: Bradford, RI  
Paddle Location: Ninigret Pond  
Coordinator: Bill Fournier

Details to be posted on the [message board](#).

September 6<sup>th</sup> - launch at 5:45  
**Swallows Paddle**  
Location: Ferry Landing State Park, Old Lyme, CT  
Coordinator: Rich Coupland

This is a joint paddle with the Flatwater Group. Be sure to bring a dinner you can eat on the water or after the paddle. Bring a single white light to attach to your boat.

September 7<sup>th</sup> - launch at 9:30  
**Introduction to Level 3 Paddling - Level: 2+**  
Location: URI Bay Campus Beach, Parking lot, S Ferry Rd, Saunderstown, RI 02874  
Coordinators: Rick Brooks and John Davenport

A step-up trip geared to sea kayakers who have mostly paddled Level 2 trips. You will have the opportunity to paddle in swells, current, rocks, and/or other dynamic (but still manageable) conditions.

September 14<sup>th</sup> – TBD  
**RICKA Picnic and Paddle**  
North Kingstown Town Beach

Details to be posted on the [message board](#).

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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.

- **Mad River Canoe** - three seats, 16 feet long, made of Royalex, with wood trim and it has new web seats - \$500. Call 860-227-0503
- **Free: Seward Kayak** - 17' yellow, 50 lbs. I am moving and cannot keep boats at new place. Contact [Weezrad@yahoo.com](mailto:Weezrad@yahoo.com) or 505-817-6931
- **Eddyline Equinox** - \$500.00. Contact [Weezrad@yahoo.com](mailto:Weezrad@yahoo.com) or 505-817-693
- **Warren Light Craft Little Wing 15.5 kayaks** – selling two. One has the standard all carbon layup (28 lbs) while the other has the “expedition” layup which is comprised of a carbon/fiberglass/carbon sandwich for additional ruggedness (32 lbs). Selling prices: Standard layup \$1,900; Expedition layup \$2,100. Both can be bought for \$3,500. Original costs were \$4,818 and \$5,023. Cash and pickup only [petekir@comcast.net](mailto:petekir@comcast.net)
- **NDK Explorer Sea Kayak** - 17'6" x 21.5". Cockpit: 32" x 15.0" Weight: 56 lbs - \$4, 500. Contact [sandy@ducharme.org](mailto:sandy@ducharme.org)
- **Necky Chatham 17** - full carbon with glass keel strip. Excellent condition. \$1,400. Contact [aikijerry@gmail.com](mailto:aikijerry@gmail.com)
- **Perception Eclipse Kayak** - yellow deck with white hull. Length: 17 ft, width: 22.5 inches, weight: 52 lbs. with rudder. In very good condition - \$980. Contact [sandbobo@yahoo.com](mailto:sandbobo@yahoo.com)
- **Valley Anas Acuta Sea Kayak** - 17' 2" by 20", good condition. Gray with blue trim, Ocean cockpit, Sea-Lect hatch covers, deck mounted compass, retractable skeg, and Jackson Sweet Cheeks seat. Comes with Greenlandic style skirt and cockpit cover - \$1,200 cash only, in person. Located near Mansfield, CT. Contact [wsmith16@charter.net](mailto:wsmith16@charter.net)
- **Men's Kokatat Paddling Jacket** – XL, mango, never used, stored in closet for 25 years - \$100 includes shipping. **Woman's Kokatat Drop Seat, Gortex Dry Suit** – medium, blue & mango, no socks, never used, stored in closet for 25 years - \$320 includes shipping. Contact [timothyjmotte@gmail.com](mailto:timothyjmotte@gmail.com)
- **Necky Zoar Kayak** – yellow, 16'. Tough polyethylene construction with hatches and bulkheads in bow and stern and perimeter lines as well as bungees. Rudder that is operated by foot paddles. Comes with a black cockpit cover and a yellow spray skirt. Weight is 65 lbs. - \$600. Contact/text at 401-410-7434
- **Eddyline Fathom Touring Kayak**- white with yellow deck -pristine condition. Length 16'6", width 22", depth 13.5", weight 50 lbs. Cockpit Size 31.6" x 16.5". Includes cockpit cover - \$2, 100. Located in Newport. Text 401- 662-6548 with “kayak” in subject line
- **Stellar Kingfisher Sit-on-Top** - white on red. advantage layup, 35 lbs. Lightly used, excellent condition. 16.3 ft long, 22.64 in wide. Cockpit: 59.84 in long, 18.9 in wide, Self bailing. Rudder with solid foot brace and toe pedal control, carbon carrying handles - \$3,500. Sale in person only, cash only. Located in eastern CT - [smith16@charter.net](mailto:smith16@charter.net)
- **PRICE REDUCED - P&H Aries 155** – 2016, Expedition Layup w/Keel Strip, 70P Compass, Paddle Britches. Pea Green Deck/ White Seam/White Hull/White Kevlar Keel Strip. Foam Block Footrest - \$1,200. Seller lives in Providence - text 401-654-3168
- **Thule Hull-a-Port Pro XT Kayak Racks (Model: 848)** - black. Excellent condition. Straps and cords never used; still in original packaging. \$95. Contact [andree.rathemacher@gmail.com](mailto:andree.rathemacher@gmail.com) or 401-792-7034.
- **Thule 50" square bars with universal mount** (mounts to various side rails) - \$50. **Thule 50" square bars** with mounts for 2013 Corolla - \$50. **Thule 56" square bars with universal mounts** (mounts to various side rails) - \$50. Contact Chris at [chris.krack@gmail.com](mailto:chris.krack@gmail.com)
- **Two 12-foot Perception Pompano 120** - sit-on-top Kayaks in very good condition, lightly used, stored properly. Capacity 350 lbs., 3 dry-hatches, lots of storage, tracks nicely. Also have clip-on seats, paddles, J-racks, tow ropes. \$475 each, buy both and get all the gear. Call (401) 651-7701
- **Bending Branch Breeze** - evening carbon fiber paddle- asking \$125. **Nylon Sprayskirt** - asking \$25. **Paddle Float** - asking \$25. **Bilge Pump** - asking \$15. **Neoprene Paddling Booties** - size 12 - asking \$25. **Fly Fishing Rod** - Orvis Sliver Label TL Tip Flex 9.5 fly fishing rod (9 ft., 4 piece, 3/4 oz. 8 wt) with case. Also Orvis Teton WF-8-F reel. Contact Mark at [hozho108@gmail.com](mailto:hozho108@gmail.com)

Send your classified ads to RICKA Webmaster Cheryl Thompson, 53 Anan Wade Road, Glocester, RI 02857-2611 or [webmaster@ricka.org](mailto: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.