February Club Meeting
“Expedition Think” with Greg Paquin

Monday, February 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

At our February meeting, Greg Paquin will present an inspirational talk on how to gather the required personal and seamanship skills and know-how for short and long journeys in our personnel paddle craft, and then live it. Taking it from our local shores, to Northern New England, to the Canadian Maritimes where the sea moves with a purpose, then to the British Islands of the UK where the Irish Sea moves up to 6 knots with no forgiveness. Places like the Bold Coast USA, the Canadian Maritimes of Grand Manan, North Wales and the Isle of Man are explored.

Greg Paquin is the owner of Kayak Waveology. He is a BCU (British Canoe Union) Coach 4, A4, 5 Star Sea Leader, and ACA Level 5 Coach. The meeting will be held at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence. All RICKA members in attendance will be entered into a drawing to win one of four door prizes including a copy of Jim Cole’s book Paddling Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Directions to the Jewish Community Center: From Rt. 95 South take Exit 24 and turn left onto Branch Avenue. From Rt. 95 North take Exit 24 and turn right onto Branch Avenue. Go past Benny’s. Cross North Main Street and continue up the hill (past KFC). At the top of the hill cross Hope Street and continue one block to the end at Morris Avenue. Go left, then immediately right onto Sessions Street. Go down the hill to Elmgrove Avenue. The Jewish Community Center will be across the street.

RICKA Rolling Clinics

RICKA’s annual rolling clinics & pool practice sessions will be held at Cumberland High School. There will be two (two-week) sessions:

• Session I - February 19 & 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
• Session II - March 18 & 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

NEW! RESCUE INSTRUCTION ADDED TO MARCH CLINICS. In response to requests from RICKA members, the March clinics will feature rescue instruction. Boats, paddles and helmets are available for rolling clinic participants (you must provide your own PFD). Practice and rescue participants will be using their own boats and gear. See page 3 for additional details.

March meeting to feature talk on kayak design

At our March meeting, Nick Schade will provide an overview of kayak design to help new and experienced paddlers get more out of their boats. Nick is the owner of Guillemot Kayaks and author of The Strip-Built Sea Kayak.

Follow us on Facebook

211 people like us – how about you? http://www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandCanoeKaya kAssociation
Board elections coming up in April

Would you (or someone you know) like to get more involved in the club? Nominations are now open for club officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and Members-at-Large to the RICKA Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is responsible for both the day-to-day operation of the club and the future directions the club will take in the services and activities that it provides to the membership. Elections will take place at the club meeting in April.

We are also looking for volunteers to fill two open committee chairs – Conservation and Competition. Members accepting these positions are also members of the RICKA Executive Committee. The commitment is one evening a month for a board meeting, plus organizational and committee work to put on events. It’s a great way to get involved and meet other paddlers.

If you are interested in any of these positions, or would like to nominate someone, please contact Nomination Committee Chair Erik Eckilson at (401) 765-1741 or eckilson@cox.net.

Gear to buy or sell?
Try the RICKA Classified Ads http://www.ricka.org/Classifieds/Classified_ads.html

Flatwater Planning Meeting

Join us on Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge, MA for our annual Flatwater Planning Meeting.

Please bring ideas for trips. If you would like to lead a trip but do not have experience, we can partner you with an experienced leader.

We will have party pizza and soda; you may bring a snack or dish to share, if you wish. River Bend Farm allows us the use of their conference room at no charge - a huge thank you goes out to Ranger Val!

See page 7 for additional details.

The Paddler is published monthly except December by the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association, Inc. It is not available by subscription, but is included in the cost of membership in the Association.

Your annual RICKA membership will expire on March 31, 2012… Renew your membership now!

See page 5 for additional information, or you can visit our website at: http://www.ricka.org/Join/Jointhefun.html
You can now renew online using PayPal.

Executive Committee:
The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at 70 Scott Street, Pawtucket. All are welcome to attend.

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Conservation: Position Open
Flatwater: Cheryl Thompson Cameron..401-647-5887…………stonefoxfarm@juno.com
Librarian: Elijah Swift………………………401-294-6043………librarian@ricka.org
Publicity: Jim Cole………………………401-377-1033…………jimcole@hotmail.com
Safety & Education: Cat Radcliffe……508-369-3028…………catherineradcliffe@earthlink.net
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Whitewater: Andy Viera………………..774-218-5731…………andyv51@hotmail.com
2012 Rolling Clinics and Pool Practice Sessions

RICKA’s 2012 Rolling Clinic and Pool Practice sessions will be held at Cumberland High School. There will be two (two-week) sessions:

- **Session I** - February 19 & 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- **Session II** - March 18 & 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**NEW! RESCUE INSTRUCTION ADDED TO MARCH CLINICS.**
In response to requests from RICKA members, the March clinics will feature instruction in self and assisted rescues. Please be sure and specify rolling OR rescues on the registration form. Because we need longer boats for rescues, space is limited, so register early.

These sessions are open to current RICKA members. Boats, paddles and helmets are available for rolling clinic participants (you must provide your own PFD). Practice and rescue participants should plan on using their own boats and gear. The cost is:

- **Clinic**: $55 per two-week session
- **Practice** (no instruction): $20 per two-week session

Insurance is required for these sessions, but there is no insurance charge for current ACA members. Non-ACA members may choose a $5 event fee per two-week session, or to join the ACA at a discounted annual rate of $30 individual, $40 family (regularly $40 and $60).

Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis based upon postmark date. We reserve the right to limit enrollment if necessary. Information, instructions and waiver forms will be emailed to you upon registration. You can register using the form below, or on line using PayPay at: http://www.ricka.org/RollingPayments/rolling.html

For additional information please contact: Cat Radcliffe
catherineradcliffe@earthlink.net
508-369-3028

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2012 ROLLING CLINIC REGISTRATION FORM
(Please submit one form per person)

Name ________________________________
Phone ________________________________
Address ______________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
Email (Required) ________________________________

| Clinic - Session 1: February 19 & 26 - $55 | $___________ |
| Practice - Session 1: February 19 & 26 - $20 | $___________ |
| Clinic- Session 2: March 18 & 25 - $55 | $___________ |
| Please specify: Rolling _______ Rescues _______ | |
| Practice - Session 2: March 18 &25 - $20 | $___________ |
| Total Enclosed: | $___________ |

Mail registration form with check payable to RICKA to:
Catherine Radcliffe, 573 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford MA 02740
An Interview with
RICKA Whitewater
Chair Andy Veria

What is the RICKA Whitewater group?
The Whitewater group is the smallest of RICKA’s three 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 of our 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](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/](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.

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. The leader will ask you some basic questions about your equipment and your skills. With this information, the leader can help you decide if the trip is right for you.

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 flotation, 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](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 does offer an annual Class II Kayak Whitewater School – details will be posted 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 which are evident without scouting. Occasional maneuvering may be required.

**Class III** - Rapids with high, irregular waves which 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 17th

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 Falls in Harrisville. This is a 5-mile trip with 3 with significant class II rapids – Whipple Drop, the Glendale Rapid and the Atlas Pallet Rapid. Cold weather gear (wetsuit or drysuit) is required. You must have class II skills and be properly prepared for the conditions.

Final details will be posted on the [Whitewater Message Board](http://members.boardhost.com/RI_Whitewater/) when available.
Why Join RICKA?

For 35 years, the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association has been one of the largest paddle sport clubs in southeastern New England. Here are some of the reasons why you should be a member.

At RICKA, paddling is at the heart of everything that we do. Last year, RICKA organized over 100 flatwater, whitewater and sea kayak trips. These trips ranged from easy daytrips to weeklong excursions. Our affiliated clubs – the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club and the Southern New England Paddlers – also organized trips throughout the summer. At RICKA, we organize trips for paddlers of every interest and skill level.

Are you looking to improve your skills? Training is also an important part of the RICKA mission. Each year RICKA sponsors fun and informative training sessions. These including our annual rolling clinic; flatwater, whitewater and sea kayak training; leadership training; first aid and CPR classes. Many of these sessions are offered free of charge, or at a significant discount to our members.

In addition to trips and training, we produce eleven monthly issues of our outstanding newsletter the Paddler, hold monthly meetings with interesting and informative speakers, and maintain the websites, message boards and email lists that keep you up-to-date on trips and activities. Our Library also includes an extensive collection of 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.

None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of our members. If you like what we do, but are not a RICKA member, please join today – it’s just $15 for the entire family. If you are a RICKA member, please renew your membership now. Your current membership expires on March 31, 2012. You can register with the form below, or on line using PayPal at: http://www.ricka.org/Join/Jointhefun.html

For more information, please contact Jim Cole, Membership Chair at 401-377-1033 or jimcole@hotmail.com.

RICKA is looking for Worthy Charitable Causes

On occasion, The Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association donates funds to worthy organizations that promote recreational boating or conservation of our natural resources. Past recipients have included Rhode Island Blueways, the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, The Last Green Valley and the Girl Scouts of Rhode Island.

If you know of an organization that is worthy of our support, please contact Cat Radcliffe catherineradcliffe@earthlink.net 508-369-3028. We will evaluate proposals in April, and make donation recommendations at the Executive Committee meeting in May.

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Membership Renewal
(Please submit one form per family)

FILL in ONLY your name and any NEW information.

RICKA DUES (with email newsletter) = $15 [_____]  
BVPC DUES (Blackstone Valley Paddle Club)= $10 [_____]  
FULL MEMBERSHIP (Includes RICKA & BVPC) = $25 [_____]  
First Class Mail option for newsletter add $5 [_____]  

ENCLOSE YOUR CHECK AND MAIL TO: RICKA, P.O. BOX 163, WOOD RIVER JCT, RI 02894

Name Adult 1 (primary) ________________________________________________________________
Name Adult 2 (spouse, significant other) __________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________________________
City __________________________________________ State _________ ZIP+4__________-
Phone 1 (_______)________-_____________ Home/Cell/Work  Phone2 (_______)________-_____________ Home/Cell/Work
Email 1____________________@_____________ Email 2__________________@_____________

Are you willing to volunteer for club activities? Yes: Picnic, Newsletter, Trip Leader, RICKA Board, Other: ___________________

You can also renew your membership online using PayPal at http://www.ricka.org/Join/Jointhefun.html

Membership year is from April 1, through March 31 of the following year.

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Paddling on a Big Lake in a Little Boat

By Bill Luther

Lake Champlain on the New York Vermont border is a large body of water, sometimes called the sixth Great Lake. I was attempting to complete a 30-mile segment of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail which crosses the lake from Old Forge, NY on its way to Fort Kent, Maine. I had big dreams and remember swimming to the islands on the lakes during the summer back home. I was alone on this trip in my 16-foot Caribou kayak and my kid’s dreams were soon put to rest by the grandeur of my surroundings.

My four friends had planned to complete the same trip later in the week. I was on a different schedule and went solo, planning a round trip with almost twice the distance. I set off from the Missisquoi River, Louie’s Landing around 1:30 in the afternoon. The skies were slightly overcast and the air was still and close to summer warm. I spent the night in a lean to which would have been a great site if I had company. Nevertheless, it was early to bed and early to rise. I was in my kayak around 6:30 a.m. when it was dark and foggy. I set off for the breach between North and South Hero Island called The Gut. I was paddling into the fog and my whole being was focused on to a steady SW compass bearing. This was to be my longest paddling day. I kept thinking about 4 foot breaking waves. Soon I found the breach between the islands went under the bridge and emerged on the western side of the lake headed to Plattsburgh, NY. Two hours later after playing tag with the interstate ferry boats, I reached Cumberland Bay, the southernmost reach of my trip. It was around 10 a.m. when I set off for my return trip to my car.

Once again I tried to out think the passenger ferryboats that were crossing the lake with a full load of cars every twenty minutes. I watched the two boats and then tried to make a mad scramble to squeeze between them. I was just a little boat and they seemed to want to wipe out all kayakers on the lake. I made one move to their inside and got away from them. I was just a mere speck on their lake and this was my second trip across a two-mile passage. I was pumping out some serious strokes now and my plans to reach base camp by 2:00 p.m. were rapidly fading.

I was headed in a Northernly direction and the land formations seemed to blend together, I was running out of steam. I was the guy in the life raft now seeing mermaids and rescue planes all around me. Around 2:00 p.m. I was in the West passage about a mile from the shoreline and headed toward Montreal. I was looking for a breach with a RR bridge going over it. Luckily I just barely spotted it in the distance and was now paddling in a narrower channel headed toward the campsites on North Hero Island. I had been paddling for 8 hours now and probably was approaching 25 miles total. Luckily the winds were minimal and if not for my exhaustion, this was a very pretty trip. I had seen fewer than 10 other motorized boats during my trip. The summer season had come and gone. After a few more hours and some painful forward strokes, I reached my second night encampment.

I disembarked on to North Hero Island and cap-sized toward my landside lean. I was now wet and just a little cold and hungry and tired. Soon every mosquito on the island knew that I was fresh meat. It was 5:00 p.m. and the tent stakes were bending. Help me, Lou! No such luck. No lean-tos on this island. My whole body ached. I inhaled my next freeze-dried meal and collapsed in my shaky tent shelter. This was a day to remember as punishment.

I awoke the next day and did not want to do it. I knew that I had to get going before the lake swallowed me up with 3 to 4 foot breaking waves. This was enough motivation. I eased into the boat with some gentle breezes blowing in my face at 5 knots. From North Hero Island I got across remainder of the lake, found the Missisquoi delta and after 3 hours found my car. This was my journey into manhood or perhaps into fool Dom depending on your perspective. Lesson learned. Never underestimate how small you are on the face of the earth. Never lose your bearings and know your compass well. I would encourage people to explore Lake Champlain but to always be prepared for bad weather.

Bill is the current RICKA President and is one of several RICKA members who are segment paddling the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.
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.

Sea Kayak Trips

Sea kayak trips are now posted on the Show & Go Message Board at: http://rickaseakayaking.org/forums/index.php?board=2.0

Whitewater Trips

Late cancellations & changes to trips will be posted on the Whitewater Message Board. Appropriate skills and equipment are required for whitewater trips.

Branch River Icebreaker (Class II)
Saturday, March 17th

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 Falls in Harrisville. Cold weather gear (wetsuit or drysuit) is required. You must have class II skills and be properly prepared for the conditions. Final details will be posted on the Whitewater Message Board when available.

RICKA Trivia Question of the Month…

Would you like to win an official RICKA Towel? The first 5 entries to get the correct answer will be awarded their very own RICKA towel which comes in a net bag with the RICKA logo. One prize per member in a six-month period.

What is the largest natural pond in Rhode Island?

Send responses to membership@ricka.org with the subject “RICKA Trivia”.

January’s Trivia Question - we had 5 correct answers to the question:

In what year was the Blackstone Canal completed?

The correct answer is 1828.

Discounts for Members

The following retailers offer special discounts for RICKA members:

Blackstone Valley Outfitters
401-312-0369
http://www.bvori.com/

Claude's Cycles
508-543-0490
http://www.claudescycles.com/

CrossFitRhody
http://www.crossfithody.com/

Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures
508-636-0300
http://www.ospreyseakayak.com

Outdoorplay.com
http://www.outdoorplay.com/kayaks

Quaker Lane Outfitters
800-249-5400

The KayakCentre
508-636-0300
http://www.kayakcentre.com/

WaveLength Magazine
http://www.wavelengthmagazine.com/

See the website for details and remember to ASK for the discount.

• **Strip built Outer Island**, 18’ X 20”, ocean cockpit. Fast and maneuverable. Built with extra layers of fiberglass for battleship strength so weighs approx 55lbs. $2,200 Located in Westchester County, NY Jerry Borenstein

• **Necky Elaho**, poly, 17’ sea kayak with skirt - excellent condition, $600 or best offer. **Necky Elaho** high volume, poly 17’ sea kayak with skirt, excellent condition, $600 or best offer. Steve 401-295-0877 sttesaun@verizon.net

• **Perception Acadia kayak**, blue, 11 1/2 feet long - $400. Harmony cockpit cover - $30.Call 861-1537 or email shelly-dimatteo@cox.net

• **Valley Avocet Kayak** - 16’ x 22” 13” depth. British green over white hull w/yellow stripe between. 54lbs. $1850 or best offer. Call Bruce 508-364-5877 or email specdwheels@wakeat.pdf.com

• **Tandem 16 foot wood canvas canoe**, no seats (probably made in 1950’s before seats became popular) - $450 or best offer. Pictures are available. **Woman's Dry suit, small/med**, needs gaskets, very good condition - $250 or best offer. **Waterproof camera case** - good down to 110 ft. Cost new $264, selling for $60 obo. **Ewa-Marine D-A Marine case** for digital photo camera - Glass, PVC, like new. Perfect for super zoom digital cameras. Contact Jim at jimcole@hotmail.com

• **Wanted to buy, rent or borrow:** **Solo Canoe**, 14.25’ to 15’, with 32” to 35” beam. Canoes that fit this category include, Mad River Guide, Eclipse, Independence or similar design. Depending on boat and condition may be willing to trade for my Kevlar Mad River Guide. Contact Jim at jimcole@hotmail.com

• **Boreal Designs Nanook**, composite, dark red/ white, as is $900. Of course you can try it out! Cat Radcliffe 508-369-3028 catherineradcliffe@earthlink.net

• **Looksha Sport Kayak by Necky.** 14’6” x 23”. Stable, hard-chined. poly, yellow. Good condition. Front and rear hatches. Excellent for ocean or lake, day trips or week-end trips. Fun boat. $600. Call Ed Rose 508-987-6165. Try it out.

• **Dagger Encore OC1** Excellent Whitewater boat. ABS, Red, vinyl gunnels, outfitted with Perception saddle, side flotation, kneepads, $200 obo. Contact Gary, garywhitney3@cox.net, 401.539-0922.

• **NDK Greenlander Pro**, 17’10”x21” white/white. Built in 2000, in very good condition. No skeg, no leaks. $900 firm. Two spray skirts for $100 and one Cricket greenland paddle for $100. Contact clawlor@cpsed.net

• **WANTED: Khatsalano by Feathercraft.** Rusty Norton (203) 281-0066 lovepotent@hotmail.com

• **Tahe Reval sea kayak**, 18’ x 21”, 50 lbs, Beautiful orange deck over white fiberglass in brand new condition. $1,700. (retail $2,900) Hull is similar to the Valley Nordkapp so this is a very fast kayak, designed for a paddler 180lbs and up. Contact: aikijerry@optonline.net

• **Kokatat Expedition Drysuit** - bought new in 2008. Mango, men's large - very good shape. Has goretex hood and socks, relief zipper, 3 pockets, cordura reinforced seat and knees, overskirt to keep water from entering top of skirt. Asking $650. Sells new for $1,085. Gerry P 860 235-0430 gerry@SeaSherpakayak.com

• **2 P&H Orca 15** kayaks, $625/each or $1,200 for both. One blue, one yellow. Large person’s, hard chined, 3 layer, poly touring kayak. Includes Werner Skagit 220cm paddle (with each boat) in very good shape. $130 new. Also available a Seals Coastal Tour Skirt 2.2 (fits the Orcas). $85 new. Asking $60. Call Gerry at 860 235-0430 with questions.

• **Valley Nordkapp Jubilee** sea kayak, 17’10”x21” cockpit 29.5 x 15.5 retractable skeg, 56 lbs., color is white on white, very good condition. 4-5 years of age, saw little action, always garaged. $1800.00 - lovely boat for the right size person. Ralph 401-954-3203 or rwernett@aol.com

• **Wanted - old wooden paddles & kayaks** (or pieces thereof) that you'd otherwise throw out. outside@cox.net

Send your classified ads to RICKA Webmaster Cheryl Thompson Cameron, 53 Anan Wade Road, Glocester, RI 02857-2611; 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 is at the webmaster’s discretion.