

PADDLER

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Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Vol. XLIV

No. 11

November 2021

November Club Meeting Movie Night - Our Favorite Trips of 2021 Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us on our November Zoom meeting as we look back with stories, pictures and videos at our favorite trips of 2021.

2021 turned out to be a great year for paddling. We had a full calendar of [flatwater](#), [sea kayak](#) and [Blackstone Valley Paddle Club](#) trips. The [whitewater](#) group was out running the rapids, and there were several [overnight camping trips](#), including another great adventure in the Adirondacks. Join us as we reminisce and relive these fun trips.

If you have a story you would like to share, please contact Erik Eckilson at eckilson@cox.net or 617-794-0378. Videos should be no longer than 10 minutes and advance notice is required.

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.



Turkey Paddle and Dinner November 6, 2021 - meet at 1:00 p.m. for a 1:30 p.m. launch

The traditional Turkey Paddle will be on [Wallum Lake](#) with dinner to follow at the [Lodge Restaurant](#). Come for the paddle, the dinner, or both!

Wallum Lake is located on the border of RI and MA, has crystal clear water, and is an easy paddle. A wet suit or dry suit is recommended, and a change of clothes in a waterproof dry bag is required if you plan to paddle. **Because of the popularity of this trip, an RSVP is required by November 1st if you plan to attend the dinner.**

Please RSVP with Sharon Dragon shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942 and Cheryl Thompson 401-497-5887 or stonefoxfarm@juno.com.

Paddle with Santa at Wickford Harbor

December 4, 2021 – meet at 11:30 a.m. for a
12:10 p.m. launch

Join us as we escort Santa as he arrives by boat in Wickford Harbor. We will meet at the Wickford Town Dock next to Gardner's Wharf (170 Main Street, North Kingstown, RI). Please RSVP to Pat Lardner at pslardner@gmail.com so we know how many hats we will need for Santa's elves.



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1,721 people follow us – how about you?

<http://www.facebook.com/RhodeIslandCanoeKayakAssociation>

From the RICKA Library...

Stay Fit in the Offseason with these DVD's

Kayak Fitness

Kayak Fitness – the Fusion of Sport and Exercise is designed to improve your paddling as well as your overall fitness. The program moves through multiple segments broken down by the main muscle groups used in paddling. This DVD comes with 3 pre-programmed workouts, or you can create your own sequences tailored to your personal needs and time.

Paddler's Personal Trainer

Everyone who uses a paddle is at risk of injuring his or her shoulders. This tape will help you become stronger and more flexible, reducing this risk, and making you a safer and more effective boater. It includes help for kayak and canoe paddlers with a full flexibility workout, shoulder strength exercises focusing on the rotator cuff, and a pre-boating session

Yoga for Paddlers

Yoga increases strength, flexibility, balance, confidence and focus, which are all attributes of a skilled kayaker, canoeist or rafter. This video features two different workouts with instruction on poses, breathing and meditation. Work out regularly, and you can reduce your chance of injury and improve your boating

These are just three 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. 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 November 3rd 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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Submit your stories to the

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!

Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

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Housatonic Foliage Weekend

By Erik Eckilson

Fall is a great time for a weekend camping trip. One great option is an overnight trip on the Pawcatuck, but we've done that several times before, and this year we wanted to try something different. I've always wanted to check out the flatwater sections of the Housatonic River described in Jim Cole's book [Paddling – Connecticut and Rhode Island](#), so we decided to do a Fall Foliage Trip on the Housatonic.



Heading out from the Covered Bridge

The [Housatonic](#) originates in the Berkshire Hills of western MA and flows south for 150-miles along the western border of MA and CT before emptying into Long Island Sound. On this trip we would be paddling the flatwater sections from the Covered Bridge in Sheffield, MA to Ashley Falls, MA on Saturday, and Ashley Falls, MA to Great Falls in Falls Village, CT on Sunday.

Bill and I headed out on Friday to check out the put-ins and take-outs before heading over to the campground at [Taconic State Park](#). As we were checking out the put-in at the Covered Bridge a guy on a bike rode up and asked us if we'd seen any tingleys. "What are tingleys?" we ask. "They are UFO's" he says. Apparently this was the site of a [famous UFO sighting](#) back



Paddling through fields and meadows

in the 1960's, but there were no UFO sightings or alien abductions on this trip.

When we arrived at our campsite we found Jim Cole waiting for us. He had made the 1,400-mile trip from FL to NY to join us. How's that for determination. None of us had stayed at Taconic State Park before, but it turned out to be perfect. We had 11 campers for Friday and Saturday nights, and a few even stayed through Columbus Day.

On Saturday, we did the 9-mile trip from Sheffield, MA to Ashley Falls, MA. In addition to 11 campers, we had 3 who came out to run this section as a day trip. The river was high after peaking earlier in the week. The higher water was a blessing and a curse - a blessing for the fast moving current, but a curse for the steep, slick banks and soggy lunch spot.

We put in at the Covered Bridge and headed downstream. The river twists and turns through fields and meadows along the



Bill at Bash Bish Falls

foothills of the Berkshires. There was some nice color, but we probably missed peak foliage by a couple of weeks. The trip was uneventful except for two river-wide log-piles that we had to portage, and a tough hill to climb at the take-out.

After the trip, Bill and I took a detour to check out [Bash Bish Falls](#) – the tallest waterfall in MA. We then returned to the campground for a nice potluck supper around the campfire. The food was plentiful and the conversation was great. We turned in early after a long, fun day.

On Sunday, we had coffee around the campfire before heading out for our next trip – the 11-mile section from Ashley Falls, MA to the Great Falls Dam in Falls Village, CT. This trip began where Saturday's trip ended, so we once again had to deal with the steep hill at the put-in. The river had dropped slightly but we still had good current, along with slick banks and a soggy lunch spot.



At the take out

The main feature on this section of the river is the broken dam in Canaan. Supposedly there is a rapid on the right side that is runnable, but it would have been difficult to scout, so we all portaged on the left. A steep bank at the end of the portage trail was a challenge, but we worked together to get everyone's boats back in the water below the dam.

From there it is about 5-miles to the take-out at the Great Falls Dam and the end of another great trip!

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Necy Arluk 1.9 sea kayak** - 19 ft long by 22 in wide, kevlar, with Sea Line Smart Track rudder system, yellow deck, white hull, good condition - \$750 cash only, in-person. Contact jgreenflash@aol.com
- **Valley Gemini ST** - excellent condition, 3 yrs old, used about 20 times - \$2,000. Contact Tim Rancourt at trcourt55@aol.com
- **Heritage Expedition** - kevlar, red - \$1,200. Contact pabergh@gmail.com
- **Werner Cyprus Paddle** - 215 cm straight shaft. Barely used -\$350. **Valley Nordkapp H2O** - standard volume, factory keel strip, traffic yellow over white with black trim. Excellent condition - \$2,400. Contact Bob at veelenturfr@asme.org
- **Betsie Bay Recluse** - built/bought 2007/original owner; 19' long and 20 1/2" wide; weight 30 to 34 lbs.; with spray skirt, cockpit cover, Greenland paddle (Tuktu), Brooks Tuilik (large), and other accessories - \$2,750. Contact Charlie 518-234-9235 in Albany, NY area; meet half way possible.
- **Waldon Passage Kayak** - 15-foot performance touring kayak - yellow. Perfect for coast, bay, or river. Adjustable foot pedals, built-in skeg, bow and stern bulkheads - \$675 including nylon spray skirt and cockpit rim cover. **Matching two-piece 230 cm wood paddle** also available for extra \$100. Contact Mark at shinnen108@gmail.com or 401-999-7364.
- **A high performance paddle board** - offered @ \$900. **Valley Pintail** - excellent condition - asking \$2,300. **Necy Gliss** - new, - offered @ \$1,240. rogernc@mac.com or cell 401-339-4068
- **Handmade wooden kayak with wooden paddle** - Wood Duck 12 Hybrid from Chesapeake Light Craft. Fiberglass/epoxy so no maintenance required - \$1500. petemeboy@gmail.com
- **Valley Skerry RM sea kayak** - 17' x 23", bought new in 1994, well maintained. Skeg, ocean cockpit (slightly longer than the original ocean cockpit). Includes nylon sprayskirt. Fast for plastic, but also good for taking a beating in the rock gardens - \$400. **New Wave Cruise Control WW/ surfing kayak** - 10.5" x 26", mid-90s design. Well maintained, stored indoors, not too abused as it has been used for surfing. Worn but functional sprayskirt included. Foot pegs removed- customize with foam - \$150. Contact Todd at tsmoore991@gmail.com
- **Mad River Rampage 14'** - ABS whitewater canoe with both high initial and excellent secondary stability; it tracks well yet is very maneuverable. Equipped with an electric bilge pump that puts the water back in the river while you paddle - \$250. Alan, alan02860@usa.com or 401-725-3344
- **Nordica glass ocean kayak** - prime condition - yellow - asking \$2,600. **Gliss white water play boat** - brand new, used once in fresh water lake - yellow - \$1,600. **Infinity paddleboard** - used less than a dozen times in Narragansett Bay - red - \$1,600. Might consider offers for all three. Call or text Roger @ 401-339-4068 or rogernc@mac.com
- **P&H Code Zero Sail for kayak with mast** - used only a few times. \$200. Contact jonathansharlin@gmail.com
- **Valley Q-Boat** - Quill over Quill Q-Boat with black trim - some spider cracks - asking \$1000 or B.O. Contact Eric at emjohnso3@verizon.net

2022 Fall Adirondacks Trip September 10 - 17, 2022

Next year's Adirondack trip will be in the early fall – the trip is scheduled for September 10 to 17, 2022.

We will be camping at Lake Eaton Campground in Long Lake and doing local day-trips to many available destinations. Further details to follow.

Contact trip coordinator Chuck Horbert at chorbert13@gmail.com with questions or to sign up.

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.