

PADDLER

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Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

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October 2021

October Zoom Meeting Paddling the Lofoten Islands with Tim Gleason Monday, October 25th at 7:00 p.m.

In July of 2019, five RICKA paddlers took a kayak camping trip to the Lofoten Islands in Norway. At our October Zoom Meeting, Tim Gleason will relive that adventure.



Lofoten is an archipelago above the Arctic Circle with an exposed, demanding coastline and sparse sandy beaches. Some of the highlights of this trip include katabatic winds and a crossing of the feature that inspired Edgar Allan Poe's short story *A Descent into the Maelström* – the story that brought the term maelstrom, meaning a strong whirlpool, into the English language.

Tim has been an active sea kayaker and trip leader with RICKA since 2013. He is an Advanced Sea Leader through British Canoeing, and has led kayak trips throughout New England, and in Canada and Scotland.

RSVP to Pat Lardner at pslardner@gmail.com and the Zoom link will be forward to you via email.

Halloween Monster Paddle at Roger Williams Park Saturday, October 30th at 4:00 p.m.

Come join the fun at this year's Monster Paddle! Boooooooo!
Come as you are, or in full costume, or anything in between.
We will paddle around the Cunliff Lake checking out the Halloween Lights and Swan Boats. The paddle will last an hour to an hour-and-a half. Since this is a twilight paddle, you will be required to bring a headlamp or flashlight for safety. A seasonal favorite that you don't want to miss.

Contact Chris Kracik at kracikj@cox.net for additional information.

Movie Night - Our Favorite Trips of 2021

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

At our November Meeting, we'll look back with stories, pictures and videos at our favorite trips of 2021. With all the trips scheduled by RICKA this year, it can be tough to pick a favorite, but we'll do just that. 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.

If you have a video you would like to share, please contact Erik Eckilson at eckilson@cox.net. Videos should be no longer than 10 minutes.

Whitewater Paddling from the RICKA Library

Whitewater Handbook

By Bruce Lessels

Whitewater kayaking and canoeing have come a long way in the last few years with new gear, new techniques, and new ways to run the river. To start the novice right off, or to polish whitewater skills already acquired, renowned whitewater paddler and instructor Bruce Lessels has created step-by-step lessons for all essential techniques. He surveys safety issues such as managing risk, dealing with hazards, and rescue tools. Equipment choices are also surveyed. An introduction to racing is provided along with advanced techniques of playboating, squirt boating.

Whitewater Rescue Manual

By Charles Walbridge & Wayne Sundmacher Sr.

Regardless of skill, running rivers presents an element of danger. *Whitewater Rescue Manual* presents 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 by wading, swimming, or using ropes; how to coordinate a rescue effort how to make sure that would-be rescuers don't become victims.

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. 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 October 6th 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.

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!

Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

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14th Annual RICKA Family Picnic

A fun day, and an opportunity to thank our many volunteers

Once a year, the entire club gets together for the RICKA Family Picnic. It's a great time to get together for some fun, and an important opportunity to recognize the dedicated volunteers that make our club possible. This year's picnic was held at the [North Kingstown Town Beach](#) – a new location with great views of Narragansett Bay.

In the morning, [Sea Kayakers](#) made the crossing to Hope Island, while [Flatwater](#) paddlers met at Wilson Park to explore the backwaters of Wickford Harbor. After the trips, we gathered under the oak trees at North Kingstown Town Beach for the picnic and awards ceremony. This year, awards were presented to four deserving volunteers.

Volunteer of the Year Award **Richard Coupland**

For many years, Rich has served as a leader for RICKA Sea Kayak trips at all levels. Rich took the initiative to organize and run pool sessions in 2019 and 2020, which provided valuable opportunities for winter practice for RICKA paddlers.

Rich has always been willing to help people practice and learn sea kayaking. He has worked hard to develop his own skills and abilities to be a strong asset on the water. His calm, thoughtful approach to water sports makes him a valued paddling companion.

Wilderness Award **Chuck Horbert**

Chuck is a long-time RICKA member and RICKA President from 2001 to 2003. He is a founding member of the [RICKA](#)



Chuck receives the Wilderness Award

[Wilderness Group](#) and has been the Wilderness Chair since 2017. He is also a Flatwater paddler and leader. Chuck has led trips in the Adirondacks and the Allagash, and expeditions in the North Maine Woods. He has the experience and knowledge to lead wilderness trips that are fun filled, adventurous and safe.

Chuck organized the [Paddle across Rhode Island](#) in 2014 – the first successful canoe and kayak journey across Rhode Island from north to south using an inland route. He is one of several RICKA members that have completed substantially all of the 740-mile [Northern Forest Canoe Trail](#). He is Vice President of [Rhode Island Blueways](#) and is dedicated to promoting paddling opportunities on waterways throughout the state.

Conservation Award **William Luther**

Bill is a long-time RICKA member and RICKA President from 1988 to 1991. He stepped up to serve as President again in 2011 – the only person to serve as RICKA President on two separate occasions. He has also been the RICKA Conservation Chair and is currently the Safety and

Education Chair. As a paddler, Bill is a jack-of-all-trades. He is a sea kayaker, flatwater paddler and leader, whitewater paddler and wilderness tripper.

Bill is also a Board Member for the [Ten Mile River Watershed Council](#). He has arranged several clean-ups along the Ten Mile River, and has worked with RIDEM to organize water chestnut pulls on the Turner Reservoir. He is an advocate removing invasive species and for clean boating practices.

Rookie of the Year Award **Jose Schroen**

It is always great when a new paddler joins us and brings experience and joy. Jose joined us on RICKA and Blackstone Valley Paddle Club trips this season after buying a solo canoe from our Vice President Danny O'Shea.

She is a great paddler and a very interesting person with a lot of outdoor experiences to share with us in our conversations while paddling. This year alone she has bicycled from Wisconsin, camped and paddled a wilderness trip and shared many of her past experiences. She is always smiling and a pleasure to share a paddle with.

In addition, *Flatwater Leader Awards* were presented to **Jennifer Stanton** and **Roberta Engel**, and the *Continuous Paddling Award* was presented to **Frank Cortesa** and **Jim Crowley**.

It was great day, so thanks to everyone who helped make it possible. We would also like to thank all the other RICKA volunteers that make this club possible throughout the year – especially our many trip leaders. We couldn't do it without you!

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. **ESPECIALLY WITH COVID-19, 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. **An RSVP to the coordinator is required for all trips.** Appropriate skills and equipment are required.

October 3rd - meet at 9:30
Pawcatuck - Potter Hill to Westerly
Coordinators: Cindy and Chuck
chorbert13@gmail.com 401-418-2838
and Roberta Engel.

This paddle begins at Post Office Landing in Potter Hill and ends 7-miles later at the Westerly Municipal Boat Ramp in downtown Westerly. This stretch of the Pawcatuck River is the boundary between Pawcatuck, CT to the west and Westerly, RI to the east. Bring a lunch.

October 9 – 10, 2021
Housatonic Paddling Weekend

Join us for a weekend of foliage paddling on two flatwater sections of the beautiful Housatonic River in western MA and CT.

October 9th – RSVP Required
Housatonic River – Sheffield, MA to Ashley Falls, MA
Coordinator: Erik Eckilson
eckilson@cox.net 617-794-0378

This 8-mile trip begins at the Covered Bridge in Sheffield, MA and ends at Rannapo Road in Ashley Falls CT. The

river twists and turns through fields and forests along the foothills of the Berkshires. RSVP to leader.

October 10th – RSVP Required
Housatonic – Ashley Falls, MA to Falls Village, CT
Coordinator: Erik Eckilson
eckilson@cox.net 617-794-0378

This 10.5-mile trip begins at Rappapo Road in Ashley Falls CT and ends at Falls Village above the dam. This section also meanders through fields and forests in the foothills of the Berkshires including [Bartholomew's Cobble](#) – a National Natural Landmark. There is one dam to portage in Canaan. RSVP to leader.

October 11th - meet at 11:00 for an 11:30 launch
Fall Foliage Paddle at the Blackstone Gorge
Coordinator: Gary Powers
garpow28@aol.com

This is a pretty fall foliage paddle, just under 4-miles round trip and suitable for all paddlers. Due to the size of the parking lot, this trip will be limited to 10 cars or 15 paddlers. RSVP on the message board.

October 17th - meet at 9:00 for a 9:30 launch
Charles River - Cambridge to Boston
Coordinators: Rosco Skurka
cskurka61@gmail.com 401-823-8925,
Skye Peche scitamb.2@juno.com, Steve Peche
Resq1192@gmail.com

We will paddle up the Charles River past the [Museum of Science](#), through the locks, and a short distance into Boston Harbor to view the [USS Constitution](#) before turning around and returning to then put-in. Due to winds and currents strong paddling skills and boats 12-feet and over required. Bring a lunch.

October 23rd - meet at 10:30 for an 11:00 launch
Quinebaug River – Canterbury, CT

Coordinators: Cheryl Thompson 401-497-5887 stonefoxfarm@juno.com and Tom Farley

We will put in at the Butts Bridge State Boat Launch for an up and back trip. The current is slow and the river makes five large, meandering turns. Approximately an 11-mile trip but we can turn around at any point to make a shorter trip. Bring a lunch

October 30th - meet at 4:00 for a 4:30 launch
Halloween Paddle - Roger Williams Park
Coordinator: Chris Kracik
chris.kracik@gmail.com

Come as you are, or in full costume, or anything in between. We will paddle around the Cunliff Lake checking out the Halloween Lights and Swan Boats. Since this is a twilight paddle, you will be required to bring a headlamp or flashlight for safety. This trip is limited to 15 paddlers - please RSVP to leader.

November 6th
Turkey Paddle and Dinner
Coordinators: Cheryl Thompson
stonefoxfarm@juno.com 401-497-5887
and Sharon shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942

A fun paddle on Wallum Lake with dinner to follow. Come for the paddle, come for the dinner or both. RSVP required for the dinner. At this time of year a change of clothes in a waterproof bag is required and a wetsuit or drysuit is recommended.

Sea Kayak Trips

[Sea Kayak](#) trips are posted in the [Paddles](#) section of the [Sea Kayak Message Board](#). Appropriate skills and equipment are required. Due to recent upgrades you may need to re-register to access the Sea Kayak Message Board.

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Rockpool Taran** - 18' -great condition. White with red combing- \$2,700. Located in Westchester County, NY. Contact Rick at rfeinerlaw@gmail.com
- **Heritage Expedition** – red kevlar, \$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
PRICE REDUCED -P&H Aries 150 - boat is in,practically new condition. Deck Compass and a new NDK Seat - \$2,800, Located in Providence. Contact ruelles@gmail.com
- **Old Town Discovery 16.9 Canoe** - blue rotomolded plastic, 1990s vintage, good condition, with 2 Mowhawk ABS paddles, in N. Kingstown, \$250. garywhitney3@cox.net
- **Betsie Bay Recluse** - Greenland Style Outfitted Boat; 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; Excellent condition (stored indoors/only fresh water use); \$2750 (\$4500 value); Contact Charlie 518-234-9235 in Albany, NY area.
- **Waldon Passage Kayak** – 15-foot performance touring kayak. Providence and East Bay: 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.
- **High performance paddle board** - approximate retail value of \$2K, offered \$900. **Valley Pintail** - if new, approximately \$4,500. This one in excellent condition; Asking 2,30. **Necky Gliss** - is new. A great value, offered @ \$1,240. Available for viewing on the East Side of Providence rogernc@mac.com or cell 401-339-4068
- **PRICE REDUCED Handmade Wooden Kayak with Wooden Paddle** - Wood Duck 12 hybrid from Chesapeake Light Craft. Fiberglass/epoxy so no maintenance required - \$1,500. Contact 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 spray skirt- \$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 - \$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](mailto:alan02860@usa.com) or 401-725-3344.
- **Nordica glass ocean kayak** - prime condition. yellow. \$4,000 plus boat, asking \$2,600. **Gliss white water play boat** - brand new, used once in fresh water lake. yellow. \$1,600. **Infinity (relatively high performance) paddleboard** -used less than a dozen times in Narragansett Bay, red. \$ 1,600 Call or text Roger @ 401-339-4068 or e-mail rogernc@mac.com
- **P&H Code Zero Sail for kayak** -with mast - used only a few times. \$200. jonathansharlin@gmail.com
- **Valley Q-Boat** - Quill over Quill Q-Boat with black trim. Some spider cracks. Asking \$1000 or B.O. Eric emjohnso3@verizon.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.

Would you like to read more about sea kayaking? **Subscribe to Atlantic Coastal Kayaker**

Atlantic Coastal Kayaker will bring you a 36-page issue all about sea kayaking, 8 months a year.
(March through December)

**Special rate for RICKA members
\$18 a year – a \$6.00 discount**

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