

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Vol. XLV

No. 3

April 2022

April Annual Meeting Spring Soiree at The Patio on Main

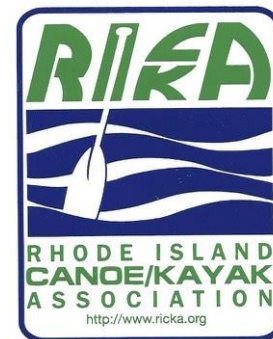
Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

We will start off RICKA's 45th year with the return of the Spring Soiree and our Annual Meeting. For many years, the Spring Soiree was RICKA's annual banquet held at the Quonset Club. This year's Spring Soiree will be held at [The Patio on Main](#).

The Patio on Main is known for great food and a wide selection of craft beers. We have reserved the heated outdoor tent. Everyone will be responsible for their own food and drinks, and please be patient on the delivery of food orders – it takes a little longer outside in the tent.

All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting to cast their votes for RICKA's 2022 to 2023 Executive Officers (see below), and to vote on a change to the Bylaws to include the Wilderness group as a Standing Committee (see page 5).

The Patio on Main is located at 431 Main Street in East Greenwich. Please RSVP to Sharon Dragon at shdrag1@gmail.com by Tuesday, April 26th if you plan to attend.



Final Pool Practice Session April 17th from 1:00 to 3:00

RICKA's final Pool Practice session will be April 17th from 1:00 to 3:00 at the [South County YMCA](#). This session is free to RICKA members and is a great opportunity to sharpen your rolling and rescue skills, and perhaps meet some like-minded paddlers. If you are not a RICKA member you can [join here](#).

Access to the pool starts at 1:00 and ends promptly at 3:00. **Boats must be clean and free of sand, seaweed and other debris.** All participants must sign an [ACA waiver](#) and provide a photo ID, which will be copied and retained by the YMCA. The South County YMCA is located at [65 Broad Rock Road, Peace Dale, RI 02883](#). Upon entering the parking lot the pool entrance is to the left of the main entrance.

Please contact Rich Coupland at rlcoupland@msn.com to confirm your attendance. Space is limited.

Vote for Club Officers at the April Annual Meeting Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of officers for the 2022 to 2023 year:

President: Frank Cortesa
Vice President: Danny O'Shea
Secretary: Skye Pechie
Treasurer: Sharon Dragon

Members are encouraged to attend the April Annual Meeting (see above) to cast their votes.

Please contact Nomination Committee members Erik Eckilson at eckilson@cox.net or Cheryl Thompson at stonefoxfarm@juno.com with any questions.

From the RICKA Library...

AMC Paddle Guides

Sea Kayaking along the New England Coast By Tamsin Venn

This is the AMC's classic guide that leads adventurous kayakers on more than 45 trips along the magnificent New England coastline. Kayakers of all abilities can explore expansive sand beaches, bird watch in vast marshes, tour solitary estuaries, or challenge their skills along wild shorelines. Each trip includes a detailed map and description. Whether you're just discovering the joys of sea kayaking or have been exploring the New England coast for years, Sea Kayaking Along the New England Coast will expand your list of paddling locations

Quiet Water MA, CT and RI By John Hayes and Alex Wilson

This is the AMC's popular Quiet Water guide that offers paddlers of all ages and abilities adventure and enjoyment on the water. These tours lead you to out-of-the-way lakes and ponds, meandering rivers, marshy coves and inlets, and more. Each trip features a detailed tour description including habitat type and notes about the flora and fauna you'll discover along the way. Beginner and experienced paddlers, birdwatchers, anglers, and families alike will appreciate this detailed, easy-to-use guide to southern New England's best quiet water.

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 Meeting:

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on April 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.

Your RICKA membership expired on March 31, 2022...

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

President: Pat (Mayhew) Lardner401-524-8057..... pslardner@gmail.com
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Webmaster: Cheryl Thompson401-497-5887..... stonefoxfarm@juno.com

Whitewater: Paul Leclerc 401-568-1103 paul_leclerc@hotmail.com

Wilderness: Chuck Horbert 401-418-2838..... chorbert13@gmail.com

It's Time to Renew your Membership

You'll be supporting Rhode Island's oldest and largest paddle sports club

For 45 years, the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association (RICKA) has been providing great paddling opportunities for its members. We are the oldest and largest paddle sport club in Rhode Island. **A new membership year begins on April 1st, so please join or renew your membership now.**

Why should you join RICKA? Let's start with the trips. Each year RICKA organizes hundreds of 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.

Are you looking to improve your paddling skills? Training is also an important part of the RICKA mission. Each year RICKA offers many fun and informative training

sessions. 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](#), [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, 2022 to 2023. You can join the club or renew your membership online using PayPal at:

<http://www.ricka.org/Join/JointheFun.html>.

For additional information, please contact Membership Chair Gary Powers at RICKAmembership@gmail.com.



2022 Membership Application/Renewal

(Please submit one form per family)

New members complete the entire application.

Renewal members fill in **ONLY** your **NAME** and any **NEW** information.

RICKA DUES (with email newsletter) = \$15

BVPC DUES (Blackstone Valley Paddle Club) add \$10 (RICKA membership is also required)

Total

Enclose your check and mail to: RICKA, PO Box 1251, 1550 Nooseneck Hill Rd., Coventry, RI 02816

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 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>

Paddling with RICKA Flatwater

What is the RICKA Flatwater group?

RICKA has four interest groups – [Flatwater](#), [Whitewater](#), [Sea Kayak](#) and [Wilderness](#). These groups often overlap and many members paddle regularly with all four groups. The Flatwater group is the largest of the four and holds trips on most weekends from late spring through fall.

What types of trips are there?

Flatwater trips run the gamut from lakes and ponds, to rivers, to open water. Swimming, picnicking, and short hikes accompany some trips.

How do I find out about trips?

You will find a list of trips on the flatwater calendar.

<http://www.ricka.org/FWCalendar.html>

If you would like to sign up for [flatwater](#) and [BVPC](#) trip notification emails, send an email to the [Flatwater/BVPC group](#) and write “email list” in the subject line.

Who runs the trips?

All trips are run by volunteer trip leaders. These leaders will have done the trip before and will be able to advise you of KNOWN potential hazards. Safety is always of paramount importance, **but you, and you alone, are responsible for yourself.**

What equipment do I need?

Every paddler will need a boat (canoe or kayak) that is appropriate for the conditions, paddle and personal floatation device (PFD). Your PFD must be zipped, buckled and properly adjusted anytime that



Summer day on a RICKA flatwater trip

you are on the water. You can find a list of other equipment on the website.

<http://www.ricka-flatwater.org/kayakgear.htm>

What about clothing?

Paddling is a water sport, so you should plan to get wet. Cotton cloths should be avoided. Polypropylene, fleece, wool, and lycra blends insulate well when wet. In colder weather, a neoprene wetsuit is a better insulator, and splash jackets and dry wear are good investments.

And for my feet?

Footwear should protect your feet in and out of the water. Sneakers, water shoes or heavy Teva-type sandals are recommended.

How do I join a trip?

Most flatwater trips are “show and go” requiring no advanced notice. Simply arrive at the time indicated and enjoy the trip. More difficult trips will require an RSVP.

Please note that the trip leader may cancel a trip or change its location as conditions warrant. When possible, cancellations and changes will be posted on the [message board](#) at least 2 hours in advance the scheduled launch.

What should I do to prepare for a trip?

Paddlers should research the trip in advance to make sure that it is right for them. The trip leader will often post basic information such as the length of the trip, the equipment that is needed, and the hazards that might be encountered. There are also a number of excellent paddle guides in the [RICKA Library](#).

Please be honest about your abilities when deciding to attend a trip. New paddlers should start with short, easy trips before attempting longer, more difficult ones. All flatwater paddlers need to be in good physical condition and be competent swimmers.

What will happen when I get to the put-in?

Please arrive for the trip on-time, and bring the right equipment. Paddlers should wait on-shore or near-by on the water for the trip leader to give a brief safety talk, and take a head count of paddlers. The trip leader may also need to assign a lead boat and a sweep boat. Please maintain social distancing and follow other COVID safety guidelines at all times.

What will happen on the water?

On the water, all paddlers are expected to stay with the group at all times. You should always paddle behind the lead boat, and in front of the sweep boat if one has been assigned. If you need to leave the group for any reason, please notify the trip leader. At the take out, please do not leave the parking lot until the trip leader has taken a final head count.

Do you offer training?

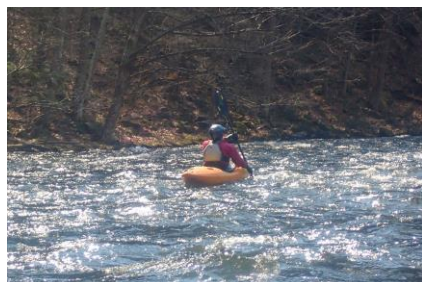
The RICKA Flatwater group occasionally holds flatwater training for new paddlers. In these classes, paddlers learn the basic strokes and maneuvers to control their boats on flatwater. They can also practice wet exits and basic recoveries. Watch the website for additional information on this year’s training session.

Playing Hooky on the Fife Brook Section of the Deerfield

By Erik Eckilson

The forecast for Friday was sunny and in the 70's. I had nothing on my calendar at work, so I decided to "play hooky" and join Norma and Conrad for a run on the [Fife Brook section](#) of the Deerfield.

Deerfield River arises in southern VT and flows for 76-miles through VT and MA to join with the Connecticut River in Greenfield below Turners Falls. With an 1,100-foot drop, hydroelectric development began in 1910 when the New England Power Company was formed to acquire water rights and build hydroelectric dams on the river. There are now 10 dams on the Deerfield owned by three different electric utilities. An innovative licensing agreement in 1994 increased the number of recreational releases on the [class II/III Fife Brook section](#), and the [class III/IV Dryway](#).



Heading out

We would be paddling the Fife Brook section, which is named for the Fife Brook Dam that controls its flow. The Fife Brook Dam was the last dam built on the river in the early 1970s. It was built in conjunction with the Bear Swamp Pumped Storage Facility, which uses excess power during slack hours to pump water up to a reservoir on top of a mountain so it can be released during periods of peak demand.

As I left my house I saw golf bags in a neighbor's driveway, so I knew I wasn't the only one planning to enjoy the day. There was heavy fog as I drove up Route



Hangover Helper

91 through the Pioneer Valley, but it lifted as I headed up Route 2 to Charlemont. We met at the take out below Zoar Gap for the shuttle up to the put-in.

The Fife Brook Dam was releasing at [1,400 cfs](#), and the gage in Charlemont was between [1,800 and 1,900 cfs](#). Two tributaries - the Chickley and the Cold - flow into the Deerfield below Zoar Gap, so the Fife Brook Dam gage is a better indicator of the flow on this section. This would be the highest level that I had run this section of the river.

We put in at around 11:30 and began working our way downstream. We ran Hangover Helper, did some surfing at Carbis Bend and the ledge below Freight Train, and played in Pinball before taking a break at Miami Beach, which is as close as you get to a beach in Florida, MA. We then ran the Island Rapid before pulling over at the take-out above Zoar Gap.



Pinball

We had scouted Zoar Gap on the way up, and decided that we were going to pass. With only three paddlers in the group, the higher water level and my mixed record running this rapid (7 for 14 with 5 swims and 2 walks), I was OK with that. Temp's hit 74 degrees, so it felt like spring even though there was still snow on the ground.



Hanging out at Miami Beach

Amendment to the RICKA Bylaws

At our April Annual Meeting, RICKA members will be asked to approve an amendment to the [RICKA Bylaws](#) to add the [Wilderness Committee](#) to the list of Standing Committees. Article VII – Standing Committees will be amended to include the following:

M. The Wilderness Committee shall:

- 1. Consist of a Chairperson and as many members as needed; recruited by the Chairperson.*
- 2. Schedule camping/wilderness trips for the general membership and guests.*
- 3. Appoint trip leaders for all trips scheduled by the Committee.*
- 4. Run training sessions in conjunction with the Safety and Education Committee to teach proper techniques, not only to members, but also guests.*

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.

April 23rd - meet at 10:30 for an 11:00 launch
Hopeville Pond and the Pachaug River – Griswold, CT

Leader: Sharon Dragon
shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942

Hopeville Pond is a widened, 3-mile section of Pachaug River in Griswold, Connecticut. Wetsuits or drysuits are recommended and a change of clothes in a drybag is required if you are not wearing a drysuit or wetsuit. Bring a snack or lunch - we will look for a place to stop along the way.

May 1st - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch
Belleville Pond - North Kingstown, RI
Leaders: Chuck Horbert
chorbert13@gmail.com 401-418-2838 and Cindy Gianfransisco

Belleville Pond is a 108-acre pond with largely forested and often marshy shorelines. There are many coves and islands to explore. The boat ramp is at Ryan Park - a North Kingstown town park. Bring a lunch and a change of clothes in a drybag.

May 14th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch

West River – Uxbridge, MA

Leaders: Jim Crowley
crowbird888@msn.com and Frank Cortesa
frankcortesa@charter.net 508-369-8205

You'll have the chance to see lots of wildlife as you paddle upstream through this stretch of clean, clear flatwater. The West River, like the Nipmuc River has excellent water quality. Bring a lunch

May 14th - meet at 7:00 for a 7:30 launch
Moonlight Paddle on Worden Pond - South Kingstown, RI

Leaders: Jen Stanton
bigredstantons@gmail.com and Chuck Horbert
chorbert13@gmail.com 401-418-2838

Worden Pond is large but quite shallow and can get quite choppy when an afternoon breeze kicks in, or simply if the day turns windy. Access is on the south shore of Worden Pond with a small dock, a cement plank boat ramp, and a large gravel parking lot. Bring a headlamp or waterproof flashlight.

May 21st - meet at 10:30 for a 11:00 launch

Pachaug Pond – Griswold, CT
Leader: Sharon Dragon
shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942

Access to Pachaug Pond is provided through a state-owned boat launch located adjacent to the dam. This 7-mile paddle is suitable for all boat sizes. Bring a lunch - we will look for a place to stop along the way.

May 28th - meet at 9:00 to launch at 9:30
Big River- Coventry, RI
Leaders: Deb Britt Botherbird@gmail.com and Pat Lardner pslardner@gmail.com 401-524-8057

Paddle upstream against the current and then return with the current to the put-in. This is a narrow and twisty river, so this trip is not suitable for kayaks over 15 feet. Bring a lunch.

2022 Adirondacks Trip

September 10 – 17, 2022

We will return to Lake Eaton Campground in Long Lake Village, NY for the 2022 Adirondacks camping and paddling trip. You can make campground reservations now at Reserve America:

<http://www.reserveamerica.com/>

Please try to select a site in the 10-54 area (waterfront from 31-54). If you are planning on joining the group, please contact Chuck Horbert at chorbert13@gmail.com to be added to the list for future organizational emails. Emails will be sent only to those who sign up.

Sea Kayak Trips

Sea Kayak trips are now posted in the Show and Go Section of the [Sea Kayak Message Board](#). Appropriate skills and equipment are required.

Final Pool Practice Session
April 17th from 1:00 to 3:00

RICKA's final Pool Practice session will be April 17th from 1:00 to 3:00 at the [South County YMCA](#). Access to the pool starts at 1:00 and ends promptly at 3:00. **Boats must be clean and free of sand, seaweed and other debris.** All participants must sign an [ACA waiver](#) and provide a photo ID, which will be copied and retained by the YMCA. Please contact Rich Coupland at rlcoupland@msn.com to confirm your attendance. Space is limited.

Sea Kayak Planning Meeting
May 14th - Save the Date

We are tentatively planning to have the RICKA sea kayak paddle and planning potluck on May 14th in Westport MA. Details to follow.

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Delphin 150** – a rock play/surf/day trip kayak for small to medium size paddler. Boat is 5 years old, orange color, and in good shape. Has been used solely for surf play - \$900 cash. Located in MA. Contact Sing at dmoyhk63@gmail.com
- **PRICE REDUCED: Wilderness Systems Tsunami 140** - excellent condition, used 5 hours only. Stored inside barn in cradle. Spray skirt included. \$750 cash only, in person, Wickford, RI. Contact langjonm@gmail.com
- **Malone Roof Racks** - steel cross system adjustable for kayak or canoe - \$90. E-mail bellshole1973@gmail.com or phone Don 774 266-3809
- **Nigel Foster Silhouette Kayak built by Seaward Kayaks** - 17' 10" length, 20.5" width, good condition, stored indoors. Kevlar construction with yellow deck, built-in compass, Sea-lect hatch covers - \$1,200 cash only in person. wsmith16@charter.net
- **Kokatat Women's Odyssey Drysuit** – medium, "Ice" color, Goretex, barely used and in excellent condition. Asking price \$900. Comes with a detachable hood. Please contact emilkrasich@gmail.com
- **Heritage Expedition** - kevlar, red - \$1,200. Contact pabergh@gmail.com
- **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. **Necky Gliss** – new, - offered @ \$1,240. 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 - \$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
- **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

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**

Send for a free sample issue.

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Website:
<http://www.atlanticcoastalkayaker.com>