

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

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Forty-Five Years of RICKA

In 1977, a small group of dedicated paddlers responded to an advertisement in the Providence Journal looking to establish a paddling club, and the *Rhode Island Canoe Association* was born. Our name is just one of many things that have changed over the years (we became the *Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association* in 1998), but two things that have never changed are our dedication to paddling and our focus on safety. Hopefully, they never will.



We enter our 45th year with hope and optimism that the worst of the pandemic that has upended our lives for the past two-years is now behind us. As we begin our planning for the upcoming year we are once again talking about holding our winter rolling clinic/pool practice sessions, flatwater and sea kayak training sessions, and perhaps even in-person meetings. Of course, we will always do our best to keep our members safe.

As we begin this 45th anniversary year, we would like to thank our many members for your generous support over the years. Your membership dues provide the resources we need to support the Rhode Island paddling community. We would also like to thank our many volunteers and trip leaders. Without you none of this would be possible. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to a fun and exciting 45th anniversary year.

Executive Board Elections are coming up in April

Nominations are now open for club officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and Members at Large to the RICKA Executive Board. The Executive Board is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the club and the future directions the club will take. The commitment is one evening a month for the board meeting, plus organizational and committee work. If you are interested in any of these positions, or would like to nominate someone else, please contact Nomination Committee members Erik Eckilson at eckilson@cox.net or Cheryl Thompson at stonefoxfarm@juno.com.

We are pleased to welcome Deb Britt, Rich Copeland and Jennifer Stanton to the RICKA Executive Board as Members at Large. They join Frank Cortesa, Peter Hill and Sean Murphy in this important role. We would also like to thank Marty O'Loughlin who will be stepping down from the Executive Board this year.

Save the Date

Flatwater Planning Meeting

Saturday, March 26th at 12:00
(Rain date March 27th)

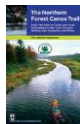
Join us outside at the Kent Pavilion in Chepachet RI (across the street from 1116 Putnam Pike in Chepachet) for our annual Flatwater Planning Meeting.

Like our trips, this meeting will be held in a socially distanced manner. At this meeting, we will set up our calendar for the 2022 year, so please bring ideas for trips. If you would like to lead a trip but do not have experience, we will partner you up with an experienced leader. If you need a specific date due to tides or other considerations, we can reserve that date for you in advance of the meeting.

Contact Cheryl Thompson at stonefoxfarm@juno.com for additional information.

Wilderness Selections from the RICKA Library

Northern Forest Canoe Trail - Official Guidebook (Book) - Reviewed by Susan Engelman



The newest addition to the RICKA Library is a great source of information for anyone thinking of paddling a section of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail that runs 740 miles and links waterways from New York to Maine. The book is divided into sections by state and includes information on camping, portages, gear and equipment. It describes opportunities for flatwater, quickwater and whitewater paddling on a range of rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. Details of flora and fauna are also included. Paddlers of all skill levels will appreciate the vast amounts of information this book has to offer.

The Complete Wilderness Paddler (Book) – Reviewed by [Log of Ibi](#)



The authors use a canoe trip on the Moisie River as the vehicle for teaching us everything we need to know to make a similar trip. The book includes sections on navigation, maps, portaging, camping, reading rivers and learning how to plan descents by ferrying, lining and maneuvering. It covers everything from how to find a wilderness worthy of paddling, to managing capsizes and wilderness disasters. It's unfortunate that the book hasn't been revised, but the dated material is minor and easily ignored, as the most valuable information on things like safety, wind and the behavior of whitewater are timeless.

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 March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. online as a ZOOM videoconference. Contact Pat (Mayhew) Lardner at pslardner@gmail.com if you would like to participate.

Newsletter Editor:

Erik Eckilson
11 Diana Drive
Woonsocket, RI 02895
eckilson@cox.net

Membership:

Gary Powers
PO Box 1251
1550 Nooseneck Hill Road
Coventry, RI 02816
RICKAmembership@gmail.com

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

Executive Board

President: Pat (Mayhew) Lardner401-524-8057..... pslardner@gmail.com

Vice President: Danny O'Shea401-527-3447..... doshea5031@aol.com

Secretary: Skye Pechie401-647-0074..... scitamb.2@juno.com

Treasurer: Andy Viera.....774-218-5731.....andyv51@hotmail.com

Members at Large:

Peter Hill508-366-6381..... peter.kayaker@yahoo.com

Sean Murphy401-206-7829 sean026@hotmail.com

Frank Cortesa.....508-369-8205.....frankcortesa@charter.net

Rich Coupland

Deb Britt..... 401-413-6841..... botherbird@gmail.com

Jenifer Stantonbigredstantons@gmail.com

Conservation: Ron Entringerrentringer42@gmail.com

Pat (Mayhew) Lardner.....401-524-8057..... pslardner@gmail.com

Flatwater: Cheryl Thompson401-497-5887.....stonefoxfarm@juno.com

Librarian: Bill Hahn..... 401-524-1612.....librarian@ricka.org

Safety & Education: Steve Pechie

Sea Kayak: Brenda Rashleighrickaseakayak@gmail.com

Webmaster: Cheryl Thompson401-497-5887.....stonefoxfarm@juno.com

Whitewater: Paul Leclerc 401-568-1103paul_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 today.**

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>

Interest Group Q&A

Paddling with RICKA Wilderness

What is the RICKA Wilderness group?

The [Wilderness](#) group is the newest of RICKA's four interest groups. The Wilderness group organizes trips that involve paddling, camping and other wilderness skills.

What types of trips do you do?

Wilderness trips run the gamut from easy overnight trips on rivers like the Pawcatuck, to weeklong excursions in the Adirondacks, the North Maine Woods or Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

How do I find out about trips?

On occasion, RICKA Wilderness trips are posted on the trip calendar on our website.

<http://www.ricka-flatwater.org/wilderness1.htm>

More often, they are posted as "bootleg" trips on the Flatwater message board.

<http://members.boardhost.com/FLATWATER/>

Please note that 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?

Whether it is an official RICKA Wilderness trip or a bootleg trip, you should contact the leader by email or at the phone number listed. If you are new to Wilderness Tripping start off with easy



trips, and build up to longer more ambitious trips as your skills improve.

What equipment do I need?

Every paddler will need a canoe or kayak that is appropriate for the conditions, paddles and a personal flotation device (PFD). You will also need drybags and camping equipment including a tent, sleeping bag and cooking gear. You can find a list of other equipment on our website.

<http://www.ricka-flatwater.org/news/wilderness/GearList.pdf>

What about clothing?

Wilderness 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 the better insulator, and splash jackets and dry wear are good investments to keep you warm.

What will I eat?

Once again, it depends on the trip. On trips where portages are few and weight is not an issue, we may bring coolers filled with fresh food and arrange group meals. On trips with long and frequent portages every ounce counts. For these trips most of the food will be freeze dried and everyone will arrange their own meals.

For a additional information on the RICKA Wilderness group, please contact Chuck Horbert at chorbert13@gmail.com.

Amendment to the RICKA Bylaws to include the RICKA Wilderness as a Standing Committee

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.*

2022 RICKA 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.

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Necky 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. **Necky 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

Your Help is Needed to Review Water Trail Maps

The Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council is developing a series of on-line, interactive water trail maps. The draft site is here:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/347cdd5ac18044c2a2bd89d9350dfd15>

As experienced paddlers, your advice on improving this resource would be appreciated. Is there incorrect information? Is additional information needed? Are the icons and descriptions useful? How would you use this site in your trip planning?

Please send your feedback to Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinator Kassi Donnelly at Kassi@wpwa.org by March 31, 2022.

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.