

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Vol. XLV

No. 2

March 2022

South County YMCA Pool Practice Sessions

March 13, 2022, March 27, 2022 and April 17, 2022 from 1:00 to 3:00

RICKA will be offering pool practice sessions on March 13th, March 27th and April 17th at the [South County YMCA](#). These sessions are free to RICKA members and are 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](#).



John Davenport at the 2019 session
Photo by Jonathan Sharlin

Access to the pool starts at 1:00 and ends promptly at 3:00. Arrive early to check-in and change. **Boats must be clean and free of sand, seaweed and other debris.** All participants must sign an [ACA waiver](#) for insurance purposes – include your ACA member number if you have one. All participants must also provide a driver's license, which will be copied and retained by the YMCA. This is required since there is a daycare on site. Please contact Rich Coupland at rlcoupland@msn.com to confirm your attendance. Space is limited.

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.

March Club Meeting What's New in Boats, Boards and Gear Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 5:30



For our March Meeting, Matt Bosgraaf, Manager of the [Kayak Centre](#), will talk about trends in the paddlesport industry, and provide tips for buying boats, paddleboards and other gear. If you have questions that you would like answered or gear that you would like demoed, please send your request in advance to [Pat Lardner](#) so it can be addressed in the presentation. With locations in Wickford and Charlestown, the Kayak Centre has been a longtime RICKA partner providing high quality programs and a large selection of boats, paddleboards and other gear.

The meeting will take place on Zoom videoconference. RSVP to Pat Lardner at pslardner@gmail.com and the Zoom link will be sent to you via email.

Flatwater Planning Meeting Saturday, March 26, 2022 at 12:00 (Rain date March 27, 2022)

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.

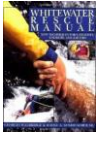
Safety/Rescue Books from the RICKA Library

Sea Kayaker Deep Trouble by Matt Broze and George Gronseth



Sea Kayaker's Deep Trouble offers more than twenty real-life accounts of accidents that will both keep you on the edge of your seat and instruct you with potentially life-saving lessons. These tales are the result of interviews with survivors, witnesses and rescuers. From capsizes and hypothermia to brushes with sharks and entrapment in sea caves, the situations are described in chilling detail and then subjected to expert analysis. Sea Kayaker's Deep Trouble is rounded out by a comprehensive introduction to sea kayaking safety and tips on equipment, techniques, and improving your skills.

Whitewater Rescue Manual by Charles Walbridge and Wayne Sundmacher



In Whitewater Rescue Manual, two paddlers who have long been at the forefront of whitewater safety and rescue present 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; how to coordinate a rescue effort; how to make sure that would-be rescuers don't become victims; how to safely evacuate injured paddlers; and much more.

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.

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The **Paddler** is published monthly except December by the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association, Inc.

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

Executive Board

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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 Whitewater

What is the RICKA Whitewater group?

The [Whitewater](#) group is the smallest of RICKA's four 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 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>

More often, they are posted as "bootleg" trips on the club's message board. 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.



Most RICKA members also paddle with other whitewater groups such as the AMC, MVP or other internet groups.

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.

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 floatation, 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>

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 weather paddling gear is required.

Do you offer training?

RICKA occasionally offers a Class II Kayak Whitewater School – details are posted on the [website](#) and in the [Paddler](#). Contact [Paul Leclerc](#) for additional information.

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 that are evident without scouting. Occasional maneuvering may be required.

Class III - Rapids with high, irregular waves that 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 19, 2022

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 put-in below the Harrisville Dam (access is now at 4 Central Street, Harrisville). This is a 7- mile trip with a couple of short class II rapids depending on water level. 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.

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.

Flatwater Planning Meeting 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. 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.

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.

Pool Practice Sessions March 13th, March 27th and April 17th from 1:00 to 3:00

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Whitewater Trips

Check the [Whitewater Message Board](#) for ad-hoc trips and hikes. Appropriate skills and equipment are required.

Branch River Icebreaker March 19th

We will run the Branch River on the traditional 3rd Saturday in March. 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.

A Cold Water Caution

Exposure to the cold can drain your strength and rob you of the ability to make sound judgments regarding safety. For cold water paddling, please remember:

- Never paddle alone - at least three boats are recommended, four boats are better.
- Keep the trip short, and well within the paddling ability of the group.
- Dress for immersion in a drysuit or wetsuit. Protect the extremities with a hat, neoprene gloves and warm footwear. Always carry a change of cloths in a waterproof bag.
- Know how to recognize and treat the symptoms of hypothermia.
- Always, always, always wear your PFD.

Paddle safe. Paddle smart!

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.*

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Wilderness Systems Tsunami 140** - excellent condition, used 5 hours only. Stored inside barn in cradle. Spray skirt included. \$850.00 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 paberg@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
- **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, Gloucester, 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.