

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

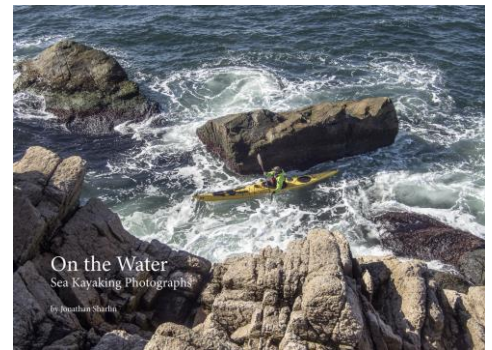
Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Vol. XLVI

No. 4

April 2023

April Annual Meeting On the Water Sea Kayaking Photography with Jonathan Sharlin Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.



At our April Annual Meeting, [Jonathan Sharlin](#) will present his amazing sea kayaking photography, and discuss tips and tricks for taking better pictures on the water.

Jon is a long-time RICKA member who has captured many stunning photos on [RICKA Sea Kayaking](#) trips. He received his BA from Goddard College and his MFA from Visual Studies Workshop. He has taught at numerous colleges and universities, his photography is included in public and private collections around the country, and he has been the recipient of numerous grants from the RI Council for the Arts. His book *On the Water - Sea Kayaking Photographs* is available in print and digital versions from [Magcloud](#)

The meeting will be held on Zoom videoconference – link will be [posted on the website](#) when available. All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting to cast their votes for RICKA's 2023 to 2024 Executive Officers (see below).

Earth Day Cleanup Paddle April 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Partnering with [Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful](#) and [The Great Global Cleanup](#), RICKA will provide some needed environmental stewardship of the Blackstone River.

We will meet at the River's Edge boat ramp abutting River's Edge Recreational Complex at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch. Concentrating mainly on easily captured trash such as bottles, cans, and wrappers we will be part of a global program tracking collected debris on this Earth Day. If anyone prefers to stay on land, there are plenty of opportunities to gather trash with your friends and family within the park itself.

Contact Gary Powers at garpow28@aol.com for additional information.

Vote for 2023 Club Officers April 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of officers for the 2023 to 2024 year:

President: Frank Cortesa
Vice President: Steve Pechie
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.

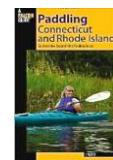
Local Guide Books from the RICKA Library

Padding Southern New England
30 Canoe Trips in MA, RI and CT
 By Ken Webber



This is the original classic guide to paddling the waters of southern New England. Chapters include day trips on flatwater, selected whitewater runs, and suggestions for overnight trips—with 30 trips in all, there's something here for every level of paddler. Each chapter includes information on put-ins and take-outs, distance, water conditions, dams and rapids, portages, what time of year to paddle, and what you'll see along the way. A detailed map and a handy mileage chart for each river make planning easy.

Padding Connecticut and Rhode Island
Southern New England's Best Paddling Routes
 By Jim Cole



This is the NEW classic guide to Southern New England's waterways by our own Jim Cole. From flatwater and tidal rivers to wilderness trips, easy whitewater, and coastal and open water expeditions, this guidebook describes thirty-one trips that encompass Connecticut's greatest watersheds and nearly every river that can be paddled in Rhode Island. Whether you use your canoe or kayak to fish, hunt, bird watch, or just relax and enjoy the outdoors, you'll find plenty of locations in this guide that are just right for you.

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 April 5th at 7:00 p.m. online as a ZOOM videoconference. To participate contact Frank Cortesa at frankcortesa@charter.net and the Zoom link will be sent to you.

Newsletter Editor:

Erik Eckilson
 Email: editor@ricka.org

Newsletter Archive:

<http://ricka.org/paddler/paddler/PaddlerList.HTML>

Membership:

Gary Powers
 Email: rickamembership@gmail.com

Registration Form:

[Join the Fun!](#)

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

PFD's are now required in RI



Wearing a PFD while paddling in Rhode Island is no longer optional; it is required according to new [boating safety regulations](#) announced by the DEM. The mandatory personal flotation device (PFD) for all paddle craft rule goes into effect on April 2nd and requires that all operators and passengers of canoes, kayaks and paddleboards wear a Coast Guard approved PFD at all times regardless of age. **Paddle safe, paddle smart – always wear your PFD.** It's now the law!

Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Executive Board

President: Frank Cortesa.....508-369-8205.....frankcortesa@charter.net
Vice President: Danny O'Shea401-527-3447.....doshea5031@aol.com
Secretary: Skye Pechie401-647-0074.....scitamb.2@juno.com
Treasurer: Sharon Dragon401-225-3942.....shdrag1@gmail.com

Members at Large:

Deb Britt..... 401-413-6841..... botherbird@gmail.com
 Peter Hill508-366-6381..... peter.kayaker@yahoo.com
 Sean Murphy401-206-7829sean026@hotmail.com
 Brenda Rashleighrickaseakayak@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 resq1192@gmail.com

Sea Kayak: Rich Coupland 401-595-1175 rlcoupland@msn.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

Please Renew your Membership Now

It's Easy with Our New On-line Registration Form!

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

For 46 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.

As you register for this year's season you will use our new on-line registration form for the first time. Since RICKA is a web-based club, it was important to create a fresh, efficient, secure, and flexible registration process. So, here's what to expect ...

With the new online form, you will see that we have much less "required" information (name, email, type of membership) and have fields for optional information including being able to add a free household adult to your membership.

The type or membership remains the same with RICKA-only or the combined RICKA/BVPC options.

After entering your info, follow the flow of the new form to enter your payment option. For those choosing the preferred no-hassle



Enjoy the many benefits of RICKA membership

online payment, you will be directed to the very same PayPal-branded online portal used in the past where you can choose to pay with credit or debit card. You do not need to have a PayPal account.

For those who prefer, check payment is available with the address provided when that option is chosen. Note also that because RICKA is run by member volunteers, it may be several weeks before checks are processed.

Upon registering you will be emailed a welcome message with important details related to our club. You will also receive an attachment that includes a pdf of your form, invoice, and membership card (valid upon payment). Utilize either the welcome message or your card for paddles and store discounts.

So please join or renew for the 2023 season here:
[Join the Fun](#)

Finally, if you have any issues or prefer not to utilize the new form, simply email membership at: rickenmembership@gmail.com

Thank you and see you on the water.



Registration is easy with our new on-line form

Interest Group Q&A

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.

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 16th - meet at 10:30 for an 11:00 launch
Hopeville Pond and the Pachaug River – Griswold, CT
Trip coordinator: Sharon Dragon shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942

Hopeville Pond is a widened three mile section of Pachaug that winds through woodland, farmland. Bring a lunch. Wetsuits or dry suits required for this early season trip.

April 22nd – meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch
Earth Day Cleanup Paddle - River's Edge Park, Woonsocket, RI
Trip coordinator: Gary Powers garpow28@aol.com

Concentrating mainly on easily captured trash such as bottles, cans, and wrappers we will be part of a global clean-up on Earth Day. Bags, gloves, and a limited number of reaching tools will be available.

April 23rd - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 shuttle
Great Swamp - Kingston, RI
Trip coordinators: Cindy and Chuck Horbert chorbert13@gmail.com 401-934-9212 and Frank Cortesa. frankcortesa@charter.net

Great Swamp is very scenic, but not a beginner trip. Suitable for kayaks under 15 feet. Wetsuits or dry suits required for this early season trip . Bring a lunch.

April 29th - meet at 12:30 for a 1:00 launch
Hunt River, East Greenwich, RI
Trip coordinators: Cheryl Thompson stonefoxfarm@juno.com 401-497-5887 and Tom Farley

A lazy afternoon float through a wildlife sanctuary. Suitable for all boats and all levels of experience. A change of clothes in a drybag is required for this early season trip.

May 6th- meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch
Quinebaug River – East Brimfield, MA
Trip coordinators: Cheryl Thompson 401-497-5887 stonefoxfarm@juno.com and Frank Cortesa 508-369-8205 frankcortesa@charter.net

The Quinebaug River Canoe Trail winds through marshland filled with wildlife. An up and back trip that is a little over 7 miles. Suitable for all boats and all levels of experience. Bring a lunch. A change of clothes in a drybag is required.

May 7th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch
Ten Mile River and Central Pond
Trip coordinator: Danny O'Shea doshea5031@aol.com 401-527-3447

This site gives you access to Central Pond. The shores are tree-lined, and you can paddle up the Ten Mile River to Slater Park in Pawtucket. Bring a lunch. A change of clothes is required for this early season trip.

May 13th - meet at 9:00 for a 9:30 shuttle
Taunton River - Haywood Street to Summer Street.
Trip coordinators: Roscoe cskurka@cox.net, Skye citamb.2@juno.com and Steve Pechie Resq1192@gmail.com

An 8-mile trip suitable for all lengths of boats. There is a quick water section when we first put-in that is approximately 50

yards long. There is one easy portage and then you may have to carry around a large tree blocking the river. Canoes and sit on tops will find it easier. Bring a lunch

May 14th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 shuttle
Pawcatuck - Lower Shannock to Jay Cronan
Trip Coordinators: Cindy Gianfransisco gleanergardens@gmail.com and Chuck Horbert chorbert13@gmail.com 401-934-9212

This section of the Pawcatuck River feels relatively wild, with only occasional houses visible from the river. The river is mostly quiet and relatively slow-moving, but there are intervals of quickwater. Wetsuits or drysuits are required for this trip. Bring a lunch.

May 20th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 shuttle.
Wood River - Route 165 to Wyoming Dam
Trip coordinator: Sharon Dragon shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942

A 7-mile trip on a pretty section of the Wood River. The beginning of the river may be narrow, shallow and rocky but soon opens up. Bring a lunch.

May 27th - Meet at 10:30 for an 11:00 launch
Charles River - Dedham, MA
Trip coordinator: Steve Norris sirron30@gmail.com

A 6.5 mile trip along a pretty section of the Charles River passing along the VFW Parkway. Bring a lunch

May 29th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch
Big River - Coventry, RI
Trip coordinators - Pat Lardner 401-524-8057 pslardner@gmail.com and Deb Britt

We will put in at Zeke's Bridge, paddle upstream against the current, and then return with the current to the put-in. River is narrow with lots of twist and turns - not suitable for kayaks over 15 feet. Bring a lunch.

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Perception Eclipse Kayak** - 2000 model with a composite Kevlar layup weighing only 45 lbs - length 17' 2", width 22", anodized rudder system. The original seat has been replaced with a foam seat. It has a dealer added Kevlar keel strip - asking \$1300. View photos and more information on this [web page](#)
- **Wilderness System Sealoution 16.6** and **Necky Manitou 14** - both plastic boats are in paddle ready condition, the Sealoution could use a little TLC - \$400 for either boat. Contact mbouley@gmail.com
- **Hullivator loader** - complete set in excellent condition - \$400. Contact aikijerry@gmail.com
- **Necky Kayook** - two sealed compartments, foot-controlled rudder. Includes cockpit cover, spray skirt, some accessories - \$175. Contact Ed Poyer, edpoyer@gmail.com
- **Golden Kevlar Arluk 1.8** - excellent condition, Smart Trak rudder, up to date deck lines, bungees, rudder cables, rudder cord and inner hatch covers. New Brooks neoprene sprayskirt, Snap Dragon neoprene cockpit cover, plus two used repaired Wildwasser neoprene sprayskirts with zippered pockets. Located in New Haven, CT - \$1,250 cash. Contact lovepotent@hotmail.com
- **Full Thule Rack System** - includes Thule 838 Hull-a-Port Aero, 50" Steel Square Bars, Crossroad Feet. Each component set is \$75 - make a reasonable off for the full set! 401-297-9792
- **Ocean Kayak Malibu 2 XL Sit-on-top Tandem Kayak** - length- 13' 4", width- 34 inches, weight- 68 lbs. Color - Envy (Green and White). Condition- very good; a few scratches. Seats included. Paddles can be supplied for extra charge - Price \$629. Contact hozho108@gmail.com
- **Current Designs Tandem Unity Kayak** - 21', excellent shape comes with spray skirts, travel cockpit covers, and two graphite paddles (220cm/210cm) - \$3,000. Contact r.john.davenport.phd@gmail.com
- **Surftech Universal SUP**- length- 11" 6 • inches, width- 32.1 inches, thickness- 5.1 inches, weight- 39 lbs. Color- Green and grey Condition- very good; a few scratches, occasional bubbles on deck pad - \$699. Contact hozho108@gmail.com
- **Eddyline Fathom Touring Kayak** - Sapphire Blue, nearly new pristine condition Specifications: Length: 16'6", Width/Beam: 22", Depth: 13.5", Weight: 50 lbs. Cockpit Size: 31.6" x 16.5". Hatches: 3 Includes: Seals neoprene cockpit cover, Kokatat basic Sea Skirt (XL) - \$2,100. Contact Nicholas 978.621.7935
- **Point 65N Mercury GTX modular kayak** - \$1,600 Please leave message (978) 667-1841
- **Lendal Storm paddle** -215 cm - several years old but lightly used - asking \$190.00. Contact Richard at 401-595-1175
- **Kokatat Women's Odyssey Drysuit** - Medium, "Ice" color, barely used and in excellent condition. Comes with a detachable hood. Asking price \$900. Contact emilkrasich@gmail.com

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.
(March through December)

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

Send for a free sample issue.

Atlantic Coastal Kayaker
224 Argilla Road
Ipswich, MA 01938

Phone: 978-356-6112 (phone and fax)

Email: ackayak@comcast.net

Website: <https://www.acoastalkayaker.com/>

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.