

PADDLER

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Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

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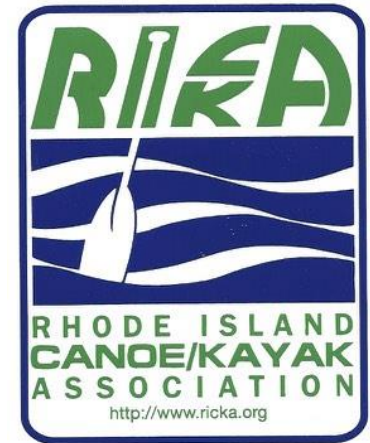
March Club Meeting Spring Soiree at the Patio on Main

Thursday, March 30th at 6:00 p.m.

We will start off RICKA's 46th year with our annual Spring Soiree. 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, so we will receive a somewhat limited menu. 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.

The Patio on Main is located at 431 Main Street in East Greenwich. Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 22nd if you plan to attend: [Soiree RSVP](#)



Flatwater Planning Meeting March 18th at 12:00 p.m.

Join us at [River Bend Farm](#) in Uxbridge for our annual Flatwater Planning Meeting.

At this meeting, we will set up our calendar for the 2023 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.

We will have party pizza, soda and water. Feel free to bring a dish or snack to share. All are welcome!

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

Final Pool Practice Session March 25th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This will be our final Pool Practice Session at the [South County YMCA](#). There are 10 sign-up slots available for the session, and we do our best to give everyone an opportunity to attend at least once. Contact Rich Coupland at rlcoupland@msn.com to be put on the sign-up list. If you sign up and cannot attend, PLEASE contact Rich before the day of event so he can find an alternate.

Please arrive by 12:30 to unload boats and fill out forms. Boats must be clean and free of sand and seaweed. All participants must sign an [ACA insurance/waiver form](#). Also, since the YMCA has a daycare on site, all participants must provide a driver's license to the YMCA and they will retain a copy.

Contact Rich Coupland at rlcoupland@msn.com for additional information.

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:

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.

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

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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

A Chilly Run on the Willimantic River

The Return of the Three Amigo's

By Erik Eckilson

It was an unusual January in southern New England. To the north and west it was cold and snowy, but here in southern New England it was warm and rainy. Great if you can get out and paddle, but kind of depressing if you can't.

Family obligations kept me close to home this winter, so most of my trips were short and local. That changed when I got out with Jeff and Paul for a run on the [Willimantic](#) - the return of the "three amigos".

I've been paddling with Jeff and Paul for years. I'm pretty sure my first trip with Paul was a [2008 Icebreaker trip](#) on the Branch River.



The three amigos at the put-in

I'm not sure when I started paddling with Jeff, but he is mentioned frequently in the early posts of my blog, which I started in 2009. His [video of our Crystal trip](#) in July of 2009 is one of my favorites. Along with Andy, Jeff, Paul and I would become the four amigos of the [RICKA Whitewater](#) group.

The first video I can find of the four of us (along with Eric D.) is at the [Millville Rapid](#) in 2009. One of our more memorable trips was the fall dam release on the [West in 2010](#). A lot of water under the bridge, or over the dam between us –



Paul running the broker dam

and I mean that literally.

With another warm weekend in the forecast, I put out the word to see who would be interested in paddling on Saturday. I was glad when Paul and Jeff signed on – it would be like the old days. We had lots of choices, but decided to do a run on the Willimantic.

The Willimantic River arises in Stafford Springs and flows south for 25-miles to Willimantic where it joins the Natchaug River to form the Shetucket River. There has been talk of building a whitewater park in the class III/IV section below [Bridge Street in Willimantic](#), but nothing has happened. I'd also like to try the class I/II section from the [Eagleville Dam to Bridge Street](#) sometime.

We would be running the 6-mile section



Jeff running the broken dam

from the Municipal Parking Lot on River Road in Stafford Springs to [Nye-Holman State Forest](#) in Willington. We met at 9:00 at the Dunkin Donuts in Willington to run the shuttle. After leaving Jeff's car at the take-out, we headed up to the put-in.

The river was at a nice level – 5-feet, 800 cfs on the [Coventry gage](#) and 2.7-feet, 500 cfs on the [Merrow Road gage](#). To be honest, it would have been even better with another foot of water, but 5 feet is my new minimum for this run.



Jeff approaching the take-out

The easy rapids start right at the put-in and continue for a mile down to an old broken dam that includes a small low-head dam at the top. We ran the dam to the left and made it through fine. From there, the river is mostly quickwater as it twists and turns along Route 32 and then I-84 to the Nye-Holman State Forest.

We could have continued another 5-miles down to Merrow Road, or another 8-miles down to the Eagleville Dam, but for today 6-miles was enough – it was a little chilly.

Erik is a [Flatwater](#), [Whitewater](#) and [Blackstone Valley Paddle Club](#) leader, and the Editor of the [Paddler Newsletter](#). You can read his blog at [Open Boat Moving Water](#).

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 18th at 12:00

Join us at [River Bend Farm](#) in Uxbridge for our annual Flatwater Planning Meeting. At this meeting, we will set up our calendar for the 2023 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. We will have party pizza, soda and water. Feel free to bring a dish or snack to share. All are welcome!

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

Earth Day Cleanup Paddle River's Edge Park, Woonsocket April 22nd at 9:30

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. This year's Earth Day theme is '[Invest In Our Planet](#)'. Bags, gloves, and a limited number of reaching tools will be available however, please feel free to bring your own gloves/tools. Also, if anyone prefers to stay on land, there are plenty of opportunities to gather trash with your friends and family within the park itself.

The [River's Edge Recreational Complex](#) is located down an access road, the entrance of which is located at 135 Davison Ave., Woonsocket RI. Use the [Location Link](#) provided for directions and follow the access road for ¼-mile to the boat ramp.

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

Adirondacks Trip August 5th to 12th

The Flatwater group will return to Lake Eaton Campground in Long Lake Village, NY for the 2023 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 Paddles section of the [Sea Kayak Message Board](#). Appropriate skills and equipment are required.

Final RICKA Pool Practice Session March 25th from 1:00 to 3:00

This will be our final Pool Practice Session at the [South County YMCA](#). There are 10 sign-up slots available for the session, and we do our best to give everyone an opportunity to attend at least once. Contact Rich Coupland at rlcoupland@msn.com to be put on the sign-up list. If you sign up and subsequently cannot attend, PLEASE contact Rich before the day of event so he can find an alternate.

The South County YMCA is located at [165 Broad Rock Road, Peace Dale, RI 02883](#). Please arrive by 12:30 to unload boats and fill out forms. Boats can enter the building at 12:45 and we must be out of the pool building by 3:00. Boats must be clean and free of sand and seaweed. All participants must sign an [ACA insurance/waiver form](#). Please bring your ACA member number if you have one. Also, since the YMCA has a daycare on site, all participants must provide a driver's license to the YMCA and they will retain a copy.

Contact Rich Coupland at rlcoupland@msn.com for additional information

Whitewater Trips

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

Branch River Icebreaker March 25th

We will run the traditional race course route – not a beginner trip. 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.

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
- **P&H Code Zero Sail for kayak** (with mast [here is the link](#)) Used only a few times- \$200. Contact jonathansharlin@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

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.