

PADDLER

www.ricka.org

Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Vol. XLVI

No. 9

September 2023

16th Annual RICKA Family Picnic

Cold Spring Community Center
at the North Kingstown Town Beach
Sunday, September 24, 2023

The 16th Annual [RICKA Family Picnic](#) will be held on Sunday, September 24th at the Cold Spring Community Center at the North Kingstown Town Beach – a great location with gorgeous views of Narragansett Bay. The Cold Spring Community Center is located at 36 Beach Street, North Kingstown, RI 02852.



Pat with the Volunteer of the Year Award
at the 2022 RICKA Family Picnic

In the morning a flatwater trip will leave from [Wilson Park in Wickford](#), and a sea kayak trip will leave from [North Kingstown Town Beach](#). See the Flatwater and Sea Kayak calendars for details.

Lunch will be served starting at 1:00 at the Cold Spring Community Center. Options are available for vegan and gluten free. The cost will be \$15.50 per person. The 2023 RICKA Awards Ceremony will follow lunch.

Register now for this fun event - your registration is due by September 10, 2023. See page 3 for registration details.

October Club Meeting Broken Skull and Nahanni to Rabbitkettle Lake

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 7:00

Join us for our next Club Meeting on October 17th at 7:00. Bob Latshaw will talk about his 22 day trip down the Broken Skull and Nahanni Rivers in Canada's Northwest Territories.

The Broken Skull starts high in the Mackenzie Mountains and flows southwest to join the Nahanni River above Rabbitkettle Lake.

The meeting will be held on Zoom video conference. Link will be posted on the website.

Register now for Autumn Gales

October 27 to 29, 2023

Registration is now open for [Kayak Wavologies' Autumn Gales](#).

Autumn Gales is a rough water sea kayak training event geared to intermediate and advanced paddlers. It brings world renowned coaches from the UK and Europe together with local guides to create a fun and exciting experience. Training takes place in the dynamic waters and tide races of Fishers Island Sound. While not a RICKA event, RICKA has always had a strong presence with RICKA members as guides and participants.

Registration information is available here:

<https://www.autumngales.com/registrationcontact-info.html>

AMC Paddle Guides from the RICKA Library

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 September 6th 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

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

Vice President: Steve Pechie resq1192@gmail.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 Murphy401-206-7829 sean026@hotmail.com

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

Brenda Rashleigh rickaseakayak@gmail.com

Jenifer Stanton bigredstantons@gmail.com

Conservation: Ron Entringer rentringer42@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 401-568-1103 paul.leclerc@hotmail.com

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



16th Annual RICKA Family Picnic

**Cold Spring Community Center at the North Kingstown Town Beach
Sunday, September 24, 2022**

The 16th annual RICKA Family Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 24th at the Cold Spring Community Center at the North Kingstown Town Beach – a great location with gorgeous views of Narragansett Bay.

The Cold Spring Community Center is located at 36 Beach Street, North Kingstown, RI 02852. In the morning, there will be flatwater and sea kayak trips. Details will be posted on the flatwater and sea kayak websites.

Lunch will be available starting at 1:00 at the Cold Spring Community Center. Options will be available for vegan and gluten-free. The cost will be \$15.50 per



Pat receives the Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2022 RICKA Awards Ceremony

person. The 2023 RICKA Awards Ceremony will follow lunch.

Because this is a catered event we must have your reservation no later than **September 10, 2023**. You can register by mail or online using PayPal at:

http://www.ricka.org/Payments/ricka_picnic.html

If you register by mail, please print out the form below and return it with your check payable to RICKA to:

Sharon Dragon
124 Highview Avenue
Hope Valley, RI 02832

All are welcome to attend including members, their families, significant others, and friends.

Register now for this fun event. Rain or Shine. Who knows, you may be receiving an award. Hope to see you all there!



2023 RICKA Family Picnic

Registration due by September 10, 2023

Member Name: _____

Number of Meals (same price for all): _____ X \$15.50 per meal = \$ _____

Type of Meal (include number):

Italian Bread: Vegan _____ Turkey _____ Chicken Salad _____ Ham _____
Gluten Free Roll: Vegan _____ Turkey _____ Chicken Salad _____ Ham _____
Wrap: Vegan _____ Chicken Salad _____

Make check payable to RICKA and mail to:

Sharon Dragon
124 Highview Avenue
Hope Valley, RI 02832

You can also register on line at https://ricka.org/Payments/ricka_picnic.html

One Man's Adirondack Adventure

By Bill Luther

I've been in RICKA for 44 years now, so I may be the club historian. I was also one of the members of the first Adirondack exploratory trip back in June 1983 - a 110 mile, 7 day trip on Fulton Chain of Lakes. Seven of us discovered the virtues of mile-long portages and lighting fires in heavy downpours. By consensus, future leaders insisted on doing day trips only with minimum gear requirements. Gone were the days of making seven portage trips complete with hair dryers and several cases of beer. I've gone on these summer paddling trips for no more than six times since then. This year's trip was August 5 - 12, 2023 at Lake Eaton campground, Long Lake Village, NY.



Great view for the night

RICKA has improved the quality of these paddling trips considerably since then. The popularity has grown as well as the numbers. Where we once set up pup tents, now people tow trailers and drive RV motor homes with all the conveniences of home. No matter your level of camping comfort, I say that the guidance and skill of directing people has made this a hallmark of excellence for RICKA as an outdoor organization. I will not claim any credit for this. I'll applaud Henry Dziadosz and Chuck Horbert who have



Big crew for Sunday night dinner

stepped forward in the past to daily lead people on river and lake excursions. Without them, RICKA would have been boats without rudders.

Adirondack Park is one fifth the size of the entire state of New York and has 3,000 lakes. There were 34 of us who reserved campsites at Lake Eaton. On any given day there were as many as three paddles going on with other private trips as well. This was best for the entire group as groups of more than six boats tend to test safety guidelines and clog up parking lots.

I was up at 3:30 a.m. on our first day that began with a five hour drive to the campground. I teamed up with Danny O'Shea and we both carried two boats on our rooftops. Danny is a great contributor who helps to make others happy. At 5:00 a.m. we were on the road. Traffic moved. We were almost into NY state by 7:00 a.m.

We thought that we could meet the first day's paddle that Chuck scheduled at 10:00 a.m., but wisely decided to skip. Instead, we drove into Lake Lewey and paddled



Beaver dam on the Miami River

into the Miami River for about a 4-mile distance. On the river we paddled to a large beaver dam that was two-feet high and turned around. We arrived at the campgrounds before 2:00 p.m. that day. The following Sunday night we had a pot luck dinner on the lakefront that exceeded expectations. Not one of the 30 of us walked away hungry.

Danny liked the Lake Lewey paddle so much that he re-scheduled another trip there on Monday. People again marveled at the complexity of this beaver dam that held back so much water. We have paddled over dams before and breached them and disrupted the beaver way of life. We were not breaching this one. This was our third day of sunny fair weather. That evening Chuck announced the next two day forecast that included winds, rain, hail, sleet and a tornado advisory. Even the postman was taking time off.



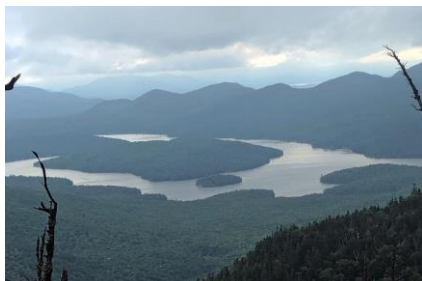
Chuck and Cindy on Lake Lewey

On the fourth day, rain started off as a pitter-patter on the tent roof, and we decided to go to some of the tourist attractions. We visited the Olympic Village Museum at Lake Placid where the big event was held in 1932 and 1980. There was private practice at one of the rinks and history of past games. Much fanfare was paid to the US Olympic hockey "Miracle on Ice" team's victory over the USSR team in 1980. This was an amazing comeback win over a heavily favored Soviet team, perhaps one that most Americans alive at the time will never forget.

Continued on page 5.

Continued from page 4.

We later went to the Olympic ski jump and decided on a gondola ride on Whiteface Mountain over a zip line ride. We returned to camp and the next day started with the pitter-patter of rain again. We visited Old Forge, a heavily traveled tourist town, and got some great bargains on some gear. The one retail store had more boats on sale in racks than any outfitter that I have ever seen.



View from the top of Whiteface Mountain

Back to the campsite, we took a late day boat ride around the lake and got wet again. There were, however, no tornados.

On the fifth day, we decided to do a river trip on the Raquette River from Axton down to the Crusher. The launch had six feet more water than in previous years, and the river volume was probably equivalent to the water levels in April. If someone had capsized, they would have become separated from their boats in the swift current.

There was a crowd of other young men from a camp, and cars at the launch that would have made you cranky. There was a lot of cooperation as the entire body of paddlers helped each other out without incidence or confrontation. Later we went to the Raquette River Brewery and toasted a few cold ones. Smooth Sailing, Sailor.

On the sixth day, about ten of us went to Tupper Lake and paddled the Rollins Pond-Fish Creek Loop. This was interesting since we went through about seven bodies of interconnected



Jim and Chuck on Round Pond

waterways with one portage. At lunch, Dan found a bear carcass with a disconnected skull. Immediately the crime squad put out theories on the animal's demise. Big Foot was a plausible winner. It was windy and a little cooler, perhaps my favorite paddle of the week.

On the seventh day, as many were leaving the next day, we did a nearby paddle on Blue Mountain Lake. We covered about 7 miles in three hours just before the rain hit again. It had started off sunny and quickly turned wet.

Later that day we decided to hike to Castle Rock above the lake. We started off around 4:30 p.m. in what many of us called an unprepared state. We splashed thru puddles and walked around mud and just before we reached the top the skies opened up in downpour again. The view in overcast mist was spectacular. I became concerned that it was getting too dark and we reached the bottom at 7:30 p.m. just in the nick of time. I'm going to file that under the "things that may go wrong" tab.

There were four of us left on Sunday and Monday. We were a little somber but



Peter, Carole and Bill at Castle Rock

continued to paddle on Lake Eaton and Round Lake. Round Lake was a windy paddle and there wasn't a motorized craft on this lake. We wanted to scout out some other nearby streams.

There have been bear incidents at this campground in previous years. This year they had one central enclosed building where you left your trash and washed your dishes. There was an electric bear fence lit at night. If the rangers found any kitchen unattended, they would issue a warning and the second time they would ask you to leave your site. With this in mind, I was opening car doors all the time to store food and the result was that my car battery remained dead for a week. Yes, bears are scary. Raccoons are even more bold and raided a member's site of bread once.



Jen on Forked Lake

In retrospect, I would like to thank Chuck Horbert and Cindy for being co-Scoutmasters and leading daily trips, Dan Foster for cooking some fabulous meals on the Big Daddy fry pan, Pat and Terri Lardner for hosting us at "Party Central" headquarters, Steve Harberck for bringing and housing Jim Cole, and to my two roommates Peter Hill and Danny O'Shea for doing so much to keep the group happy and together. There were many others who were there and I did not mention them. I hope that it was as fun for you as it was for me.

Long Live the Sailor!

Bill is a long-time RICKA member, past RICKA President, and a [Flatwater](#) and [Wilderness](#) Leader.

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 trip changes. Appropriate skills and equipment are required.

September 2nd - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch

Blackstone River - Sycamore Landing
Trip Coordinator: Gary Powers
garpow28@aol.com

We will put-in at [Sycamore Landing](#) for an up-and-back trip.

September 3rd – meet at 10:30 for a 11:00 launch

Great Salt Pond – Narragansett
Trip Coordinators: Sharon Dragon shdrag1@gmail.com and Cheryl Thompson stonefoxfarm@juno.com 401-497-5887

Launch at [Marina Park](#) – may encounter wind, waves and boat traffic. Boats must be 14 feet or longer. Bring a lunch.

September 9th – meet at 10:30 for an 11:00 launch

Pawcatuck River at the Bradford Landing
Trip coordinators: Cheryl Thompson stonefoxfarm@juno.com 401-497-5887 and Tom Farley

We will paddle 4-miles upstream to a broken dam and then return – 8-mile trip. Bring a lunch.

September 10th – launching at 5:00
Connecticut River – Essex, CT
Contact Cheryl Thompson at stonefoxfarm@juno.com 401-497-5887.

Joint paddle for sea kayakers and flatwater paddlers. Watch a half-million birds as part of the annual tree swallow migration.

September 17th – launch at 3:00 (Rain date September 18th)
Pawcatuck River Overnight
Coordinator: Sandy Spekman 973-885-7545 spekman@gmail.com

We will paddle out for one night, camping out along the river. Rains cancel.

September 24th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch

RICKA Picnic Flatwater Paddle at Wickford Harbor
Trip Coordinators: Cheryl Thompson stonefoxfarm@juno.com or 401-497-5887 and Sharon Dragon shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942

We will put in at the [Wilson Park](#) boat ramp and paddle in the calm, protected waters of Wickford Harbor.

September 30th - meet at 6:00 for a 6:30 launch

Full Moon Paddle on Worden Pond - South Kingstown
Trip Coordinators: Jen Stanton bigredstantons@gmail.com and Cindy Gianfransisco gleanergardens@gmail.com and Chuck Horbert chorbert13@gmail.com

Bring a headlamp or waterproof light.

Sea Kayak Trips

Before choosing to participate in a trip, check the marine forecast and consider the trip. Cancellations due to weather or other conditions will be posted on the [Message Board](#) by 8:00 a.m. the day of the trip.

September 2nd - TBD
Stonington, CT - Level: 4
Coordinator: TBD
Paddle out Wicopesst Island and play in the races

September 9th - 9:30 launch
Weaver Cove - Level: 3
Coordinator: Cat Radcliff

September 23rd - 9:30 launch
Narragansett State Pier 5 - Level: 3
Coordinator: Rich Coupland
Crossing to Castle Island

Blackstone Valley Paddle Club is recognized for rescue efforts



Blackstone Valley Paddle Club members receive special citation for service

The [Blackstone Valley Paddle Club](#) held its annual end-of-season celebration at [Spring Lake](#) in Burrillville, and they had a little something extra to celebrate.

Harrisville Fire Chief Michael Gingell (pictured in the center of the photo) presented members of the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club with a special citation recognizing their rescue efforts of a missing and injured resident along the Nipmuc River during one of their paddles earlier this summer.

In addition, the Rhode Island Canoe/Kayak Association presented Blackstone Valley Paddle Club members who were involved in the search and rescue with special medals for Outstanding Volunteer Service. Congratulations on a job well done, and on another great season!

RICKA Classifieds

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

- **Boriel Saguana** - 18 feet fiberglass with rudder in red - \$800. **Boriel Inukshuk** - 17 feet with rudder in yellow - \$500. **Futura Surf Ski** - 19 feet in blue fiberglass with a rudder - \$1,000. **Kayak Cart** - \$60. **Lendal Paddle** - \$200. **Boriel Paddle** - \$100. **Roof Rack** - Hull rollers and saddles - \$400. Other items on website. Contact Julie at 401-688-7907 or jet14jem@cox.net
- **SKUK Romany Excel Expedition** - fiberglass sea kayak for extra large paddler, all white with red trim and white keel strip, compass, custom foam bulkhead and sacral block, all new deck rigging, has only been used for light touring, 2021 hull - \$3,200. Contact timothyjmotte@gmail.com
- **Necky Manitou II** - 14'6" tandem kayak - like new condition. Yellow. Spray skirt for the stern paddler available. Rudder is controlled by stern paddler. Aft seat can be adjusted for solo paddling - \$845. **Necky Looksha** - 17' sea kayak. Gray with rudder. Good condition, stored indoors - \$695. Contact Jay at josephlwade@yahoo.com
- **Thule Kayak Rooftop Rack** - dock glide system and 2 J-racks - \$225. **Greenland Style Carbon fiber paddle (black) 220 cm** - \$215. **Gear Lab 2-piece Aukaneck paddle** - 210 cm - \$250. **Kokatat Semi-dry Suit** - large, with XL fleece dry suit liner. Good condition, but needs wrist gasket replaced - \$100.00. **Kokatat Farmer John Wetsuit** - large, shorty and **Kokatat Paddle Jacket** - \$75.00. **Pro Tec Helmet** - \$25.00. **NRS Booties** - size 11 - \$25. Contact Fred at g33zr2@gmail.com or text 401-569-6038
- **Carbon Werner Shuna paddle** - 205cm, used only a couple of times, as a spare paddle. in like new condition. 2 piece, straight shaft - asking \$225. Contact rcruelles@gmail.com
- **Skin on frame kayak made by Seawolf** - the model is the Kurki. 17 feet long, 29 lbs, rolls easily, I easily maintain 4-5 mph in the open ocean. Spray skirt and float bags included. Delivery within the RI-CT-MA area can be negotiated. Contact 443-974-0814
- **NDK Explorer HV** - touring, expeditioning and active water play boat. About 10 years, modest gel coat scratches and cracking, Yellow over white with black deck seam and cockpit coaming. Hatch covers are in good shape. Includes a deck mounted Bruton compass and recessed deck fittings - \$1,450. Contact Gerry@seasheerpakayak.com
- **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
- **Necky Kayook** - 15 foot, 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** - this was the last Arluk 1.8 ever made - excellent condition, 'Ocean Cockpit', always garaged. 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 spray skirts with zippered pockets - \$1,250. Contact lovepotent@hotmail.com
- **Point 65N Mercury GTX Modular Kayak** - still in box - \$1,600 Please leave message 978-667-1841

Paddle for Progress

Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 10:00

A paddle to support Breast Cancer Research at Rhode Island Hospital

Event will start and finish at the boat launch area at [Wilson Park](#), Roosevelt Avenue, North Kingstown

Join for this two-mile paddle in Wickford Harbor for fun and to support Breast Cancer Research at Rhode Island Hospital. Let's get on the water together to benefit this very important cause!

Donate and register here:

<https://giving.lifespan.org/RIH/paddle-for-progress>

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.