

PADDLER

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Newsletter of the Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association

Vol. XLVII

No. 7

July 2024

July Meeting on the Water

Fort Wetherill to Jamestown

Monday, July 15, 2024 - meet at 6:00 for a 6:30 launch

This month's trip will be a great opportunity to paddle a beautiful section of Rhode Island's rocky coast. We will put-in at the [Fort Wetherill](#) Scuba Diving Lot and paddle to the [Jamestown Beach](#) by East Ferry Memorial Square – around 4-miles round trip. You will enjoy amazing views of Narraganset Bay and the Newport Bridge as we paddle around Bull Point and head up past the Dumplings into Jamestown Harbor.



Clingstone or the "House on the Rock" in the Dumplings

There could be challenges as well. If it is windy or rough, the exit from Fort Wetherill could be challenging. While we are expecting a neap tide, there will still be an outgoing current as we pass the eastern corner of Jamestown inside Clingstone. Normally the wind dies down in the evening, and a half-moon will be high in the sky, so we are hoping for a beautiful evening paddle.

Please note that this is not a beginner trip. You must be an experienced flatwater or sea kayak paddler to participate. Boats 14-feet or longer are required, and a spray skirt is recommended. You must be able to do a wet exit and assisted rescue. Flatwater paddlers looking to practice these skills can join our **Basic Flatwater Training** on July 6th – see details below. If conditions are too rough we will change the venue. Potter Cove is a likely backup venue. Be sure to check the [Flatwater](#) and [Sea Kayak](#) message boards for updates before leaving.

Contact Erik Eckilson eckilson@cox.net for additional information.

Basic Flatwater Training

Saturday, July 6, 2024 from 1:00 to 3:00

The Flatwater group will be holding a Basic Flatwater Training on Saturday, July 6th at 1:00.

In this 2-hour class, paddlers will learn the basic strokes and maneuvers to control their boats on flatwater. We will also cover basic rescue techniques. The class will take place at [Stump Pond](#) in Smithfield and will be free for RICKA members. All participants must sign an [ACA waiver](#). Participation is limited to 25 paddlers, so register now!

For additional information or to register, please contact Cheryl Thompson stonefoxfarm@juno.com, Erik Eckilson eckilson@cox.net or Bill Luther williamluther058@gmail.com.

RICKA Adirondacks Trip

September 7-14, 2024

The [Flatwater](#) group will return to Lake Eaton Campground in Long Lake Village, NY for the 2024 Adirondacks camping and paddling trip. If you haven't done so already, you should make your 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 ASAP to be added to the list for future organizational emails. Emails will be sent only to those who sign up.

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 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 July 10th at 7:00 p.m. online as a ZOOM videoconference. To participate contact Erik Eckilson at eckilson@cox.net and the Zoom link will be sent to you.

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Registration Form:

[Join the Fun!](#)

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

Your RICKA membership expired on March 31, 2024...

Please renew your RICKA membership now!

Please visit the website at:

[Join the Fun!](#)

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Reviving a RICKA Tradition

The Bastille Day Campout

By Erik Eckilson

I was busy with work this spring, so I missed the spring camping trip with my usual camping buddies. Bill and I did try to get some interest going for a late spring trip on the Connecticut River, but everyone was busy. Rather than skipping camping completely, we decided on an old favorite – an overnight at the [Burlingame Canoe Campsites](#) on the Pawcatuck River.

We are fortunate to have a several very nice campsites on the Pawcatuck River. There is Stoney Point on [Worden Pond](#), the Carolina Canoe Campsite just upstream from the [Richmond Landing](#) and the Burlingame Canoe Campsites upstream from [Bradford Landing](#) in the Burlingame Management Area. There are also several “bootleg” sites, but more about that latter.



Heading upstream from Bradford Landing

The Burlingame Wildlife Management Area extends north from Watchaug Pond in the Burlingame State Park to include a large woodland along the Pawcatuck River. The land is managed for both wildlife protection and recreation with hunting, trails for hikers and mountain bikers, and of course the Burlingame Canoe Campsites.

Back in the old days, RICKA had an annual summer camping trip – the Bastille Day Campout. Bastille Day is the national



The Molson Toast

holiday in France that celebrates the Storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789. Why Bastille Day was chosen as the theme for a RICKA camping trip has been lost to history. The connection to summer is obvious, and maybe it was a simple as that.

The event was originally held on Dutch Island. When the DEM prohibited camping on Dutch Island in 1991, it moved to the Burlingame Canoe Campsites on the Pawcatuck. It was celebrated with an assortment of French and French-Canadian delicacies – mostly wine and beer. A Molson toast around the fire was always the highlight of an evening filled with good food and good friends.

Reviving this RICKA tradition seemed like a worthy challenge, so Bill and I posted a trip on the [flatwater message board](#), and we ended up with a group of six. We met at the Bradford Landing at 2:00 to load up our boats and paddle up to the campsites. There was one small complication - a large group celebrating a bachelor party had already set up camp at the Burlingame sites. Rather than intrude or put up with the noise, we decided to check out the “bootleg” sites along the river.



Chef Dan cooking breakfast

Danny and Bill headed out first, and checked out a site not far from the put-in. It was nice, but a little closed in, so we decided to check out some of the sites further upstream. Aaron suggested a site on river right just past the Burlingame sites. It had plenty of room for boats, a nice fire pit for cooking, and a great view of the river - the decision was made.

We hauled our gear up from the river and set up camp. Once camp was up, Aaron went out for a paddle while the rest of us took a break to enjoy a few cocktails. Before long it was time to light the fire and cook dinner - campfire paella in the Big Daddy skillet. After dinner, Dan, Aaron and I took a moonlight paddle up to the Burdickville Dam. Then we settled in around the campfire for the night. After many tall-tales and war-stories we finally turned in at around 10:00.



Packed up and heading out

Before I knew it, morning light was streaming through my tent. I got up around 6:00, started the fire and got the coffee perking. Dan was up shortly after, so we started on breakfast. I fired up my Dutch oven to make a batch of cinnamon rolls, and Dan fired up his Big Daddy skillet to cook bacon, home fries and eggs. No one ever goes hungry on these trips.

After breakfast we packed up camp for the trip back to Bradford. The sky was cloudy, and we even got a few drops of rain. Once there, we packed up the cars and said our goodbyes after another great tip. We will definitely have to put the Bastille Day Campout back on the RICKA calendar next year.

Pride Day

on the Deerfield

By Erik Eckilson

It was a day to show support for LGBTQ+ folks, and to encourage everyone to get out and paddle – who wouldn't want to do that. Besides, it has been a while since I've done a run on the Fife Brook section of the Deerfield River, so I was glad when Paul posted this trip on the [whitewater message board](#).

Deerfield River arises in southern VT and flows for 76-miles through VT and MA to join with the Connecticut River in Greenfield. There are several sections of the Deerfield that are popular for whitewater paddling. Advanced paddlers often head to "[The Dryway](#)" in Monroe Bridge. This is a class III-IV section of river for experienced whitewater paddlers. RICKA has several paddlers who paddle the Dryway, but I'm not one of them.



The crew at the put-in

We would be paddling the [Fife Brook](#) section, which is named for the Fife Brook Dam that controls its flow. It runs 9-miles from the Fife Brook Dam down to the Shunpike Rest Area in Charlemont. It is mostly class II, with the exception of Zoar Gap in the middle which is class III. Since Pride Day is a popular event, we knew the river would be crowded.

I picked up Paul at 7:00 and we headed off to the river. It takes a couple of hours to get there, so it's always nice to have someone along to share the ride. We



Hangover Helper

arrived at the put-in below the Fife Brook Dam at around 10:00. Craig and Elliot were already there. We arranged the shuttle, and by 11:00 we were on the river.

The day was cloudy and windy with a few drops of rain. Temperatures were in the 60's, so it was tough to know what to wear. I brought my wet suit with a splash top. Paul wore his dry suit. Both were good choices. The Fife Brook Dam was releasing at 800 cfs, and the gage in Charlemont was between 800 and 900 cfs. – a medium low level.

Just downstream from the put-in is the first rapid known as "Hangover Helper". At this level, a ledge extending across most of the river results in a 2-foot drop followed by a long wave train. If you're still asleep, or perhaps a little hung-over, this rapid will wake you up fast. We ran the drop and played in the waves before moving downstream.

The next rapid - "Carbis Bend" - is similar but smaller. A ledge extends out from the left side of the river producing a couple of easy surf waves. Even those too timid to try surfing at Hangover Helper will generally give it a try at Carbis Bend, so



Carbis Bend

it's a popular place to stop.

Just downstream from Carbis Bend is a rapid known as "Freight Train". This rapid starts with a long wave train and ends with a large surf wave. The rapid takes its name from the speed that many people build up running through the waves, and the railroad bridge just downstream that carries freight trains across the river.

After Freight Train is a rock garden known as "Pinball". With scattered rocks and ledges, it's a great place to practice eddy turns, peel outs and ferries. After Pinball is the Island Rapid. As the name describes, the river is split at an island. The usual route is to the left with large waves and fast moving water where the river reconnects at the end.



Island Rapid

After the Island Rapid comes Zoar Gap – the largest rapid on this section of the river. Zoar Gap has changed several times over the years. When I started paddling back in 2006 there was an easy sneak line on the far right. That went away with Tropical Storm Irene in 2012, and I usually eddied out at the top and tried to go right (with mixed success). After last year's flooding the left line got a lot easier. We all went left yesterday, and made it through fine.

After the gap, Craig and Elliot headed home, and Paul and I continued downstream through class I/II rapids to the [Shunpike Rest Area](#). With the wind at our backs it was a quick run.

We stopped for sub's on the way home at Georgio's Pizza in Greenfield. It was a long ride home, but for such a great day, it's worth it!

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.**

Blackstone Valley Paddle Club Trips

Unless otherwise noted, Blackstone Valley Paddle Club trips are suitable for all boats and skill levels. More detailed trip descriptions can be found on the [web site](#)

July 2nd - launching promptly at 6:15
Echo Lake – Gloucester
Trip coordinators: Cheryl Thompson stonefoxfarm@juno.com 401-497-5887 and Tom Farley.

We will paddle around the 325-acre Pascoag Reservoir, which is also known as Echo Lake. The reservoir is large enough that it can easily get windy, even in the summer.

July 9th - launching promptly at 6:15
Wilson Reservoir – Pascoag
Trip Coordinators: Julie at Julierie87@gmail.com and Steve Reindeau steverie154@gmail.com

Wilson Reservoir is a large, 109 acre reservoir with a RI DEM Fishing Access Site on the northeast side. The shoreline of the reservoir is a mix of developed and undeveloped land.

July 16th - launching promptly at 6:15
Rice City Pond and the Blackstone River - Uxbridge, MA
Trip coordinator: Frank Cortesa frankcortesa@charter.net 508-369- 820

Paddle on the canal to Rice City Pond and the historic Goat Hill Lock, or more experienced paddlers can paddle the loop, down the Blackstone River and up the Blackstone Canal.

July 23rd - launching promptly at 6:15
Stump Pond - Smithfield
Trip coordinators Manny egterezakis@gmail.com and Bob Larrive

A pleasant paddle around Stump Pond, also known as the Stillwater or Woonasquatucket Reservoir.

July 30th - launching promptly at 6:15
Blackstone Gorge – Blackstone, MA
Trip coordinators: Earl MacRae patandearl@comcast.net, Jim Crowley crowbird888@msn.com and Bob Larrive

Paddle upstream and then return. We will paddle up to the historic Millville Lock from the Blackstone Canal.

August 6th – launching promptly at 6:15
Wallum Lake – Douglas, MA
Trip coordinators: Cheryl Thompson stonefoxfarm@juno.com 401-497-5887 and Tom Farley.

Wallum Lake is located on the border of RI and MA. It has crystal clear water, and is an easy paddle.

Flatwater Trips

Late changes and cancellations will be posted on the [Flatwater Message Board](#). Please check the board before leaving for any trip. Check [web site](#) for directions and/or GPS coordinates.

July 4th - meet at 9:00 for a 9:30 launch
Providence River - Bold Point, East Providence
Trip coordinator: Erik Eckilson eckilson@cox.net 617-794-0378

We will put in at Bold Point in East Providence, paddle across Providence Harbor, through the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier, and up the Providence and Woonasquatucket Rivers. If you would rather not cross the Washington Bridge, you can launch at South Water Street in Providence (parking is limited).

July 6th at 1:00
Flatwater Training - Stump Pond, Smithfield
Coordinators: Cheryl Thompson stonefoxfarm@juno.com 401-497-5887 and Erik Eckilson eckilson@cox.net 617-794-0378

See page 1.

July 6th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch
Charles River – Waltham, MA
Trip Coordinators: Skye Pechie scitamb.2@juno.com and Steve Pechie Resq1192@gmail.com

We will paddle upstream under the ramps and bridges for the Mass Pike and continue up towards Wellesley and Newton Lower Falls. You will encounter nature's usual and unusual sights including alligator, bison and elk. On the return, you can paddle down to the Moody Street Dam. Bring a lunch, there are good spots to stop along the way.

July 7th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 shuttle
Lower Wood River - Switch Road
Trip coordinators: Cindy Gianfrancesco and Chuck Horbert chorbert13@gmail.com 401-418- 2838.

We will put-in at Switch Road and paddle down to the Alton Dam. The river starts off narrow and winding, but opens up as you get closer to the Woodville Dam, which must be portaged. We will then continue down to the Alton Dam. Bring portage wheels if you have them. Bring a lunch.

July 13th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch
Ninigret Pond – Charlestown
Trip coordinator: Sharon Dragon shdrag1@gmail.com 401-225-3942.

Ninigret Pond is Rhode Island's largest coastal salt pond. Trip is suitable for all but may be windy - most suitable for boats 14-foot and longer. Bring a lunch, sunscreen and plenty of water.

July 15th – meet at 6:00 for a 6:30 launch
**July Meeting on the Water
Fort Wetherill to Jamestown**
Trip Coordinator: Erik Eckilson
eckilson@cox.net 617-794-0378

See page 1.

July 20th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch
Point Judith Pond - South Kingstown
Trip coordinator: Erik Eckilson
eckilson@cox.net 617-794-0378

We will put in at the public boat launch at Marina Park. Trip will be 8-miles if we paddle all the way down to Galilee. You must be a strong paddler as we often have windy conditions and boat traffic. Suitable for boats 14-foot or longer. Bring a lunch.

July 20th - meet at 7:15 for a 7:45 p.m. launch
Full Moon Paddle on Worden Pond - South Kingstown
Trip Coordinators: Jen Stanton
bigredstantons@gmail.com Cindy Gianfrancesco and Chuck Horbert
chorbert13@gmail.com 401-418-2838

Worden Pond is the second-largest freshwater lake in RI. Bring a headlamp or waterproof light.

July 27th - meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 launch
Green Hill Pond - Charlestown
Trip Coordinators: Pat Lardner
pslardner@gmail.com 401-524-8057 and Jen Stanton bigredstantons@gmail.com and Deb Britt

Green Hill Pond is a 439-acre lagoon with lots of small islands, rock outcroppings and interesting shoreline to explore. Suitable for boats 12 feet or longer. Bring a lunch.
Please RSVP to pslardner@gmail.com due to parking.

July 28th – time TBD
Blackstone River Mini Expedition
Trip Coordinators: Frank Cortesa
frankcortesa@charter.net 508-369-820 and Gary Powers garpow28@aol.com

This trip is for paddlers experienced in moving water with good boat control.

August 3rd – time TBD
West River extended trip
Trip Coordinators: Frank Cortesa
frankcortesa@charter.net 508-369-820

Details to come.

August 4th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 shuttle
Sudbury River – Wayland to Concord, MA
Trip coordinator: Erik Eckilson
eckilson@cox.net 617-794-0378

We will put-in at Sherman's Bridge Road in Wayland and paddled down to Lowell Road in Concord - about 8 miles. Those who are interested can continue a short distance past the take out to visit the Old North Bridge in the Minuteman National Historic Park. Bring a lunch.

August 10th - meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 launch
Whitehall Reservoir – Hopkinton, MA
Trip coordinators: Steve and Joanna Norris
siron30@gmail.com

We will explore this former reservoir in Whitehall State Park with its deep coves and dozens of wonderful islands. Bring a lunch.

August 11th - meet at 10:30 in the parking area
Carr Pond - North Kingstown
Trip coordinators: Chuck Horbert
chorbert13@gmail.com 401-418- 2838 and Cindy Gianfrancesco

After we unload and put boats on the carts, it is a 0.3 mile walk down to the launch beach. After a tour of the pond and parts of the Mattatuxet River, we will return to the

beach and walk back to our cars. Bring a lunch.

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.

July 6th at 9:30
Kings Beach, Newport
Level: 3
Coordinator: Cam Mejia

July 13th at TBD
Westport Harbor Boat Ramp
Level: 2
Coordinator: Cat Radcliff
Paddle up the East Branch of the Westport River

July 15th at 6:00
RICKA General Meeting Paddle - Fort Wetherill to Jamestown
Level: 2
Coordinator: TBD
If conditions are challenging this trip will be moved to another venue – see page 1.

July 20th at 7:30
URI Bay Campus - Full Moon Paddle
Level: 2
Coordinator: Bill Fournier

August 3rd – time TBD
Wickford Cove
Level: 2
Coordinator: Rick Brooks
Parking is at the Long Point Boat Ramp behind Wilson Park

August 10th - 10:00
West Island - Fairhaven, MA
Level: 2
Coordinator: Cat Radcliff
Paddle will be over 6 miles

RICKA Classifieds

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

- Dagger Stratos 14.5 L in Cosmic** - 2 years old. Great condition, some cosmetic scratches as expected. All outfitting in like new condition. Comes with an extra pair of the foam knee pads, will include a Seals Surf Skirt and a Seals Coastal Tour Skirt. \$900 OBO. Contact daniel.halperin@outlook.com
- **Swift Saranac 14.6 Kevlar Fusion** - high-end, high-strength, lightweight kayak. Higher volume for larger paddlers. Perfect for RI's ocean, bays, rivers, lakes - \$2,750. Will deliver in RI. Contact Mark at hozho108@gmail.com
 - **Wilderness System Sealoution 16.6** - this plastic boat is in paddle-ready condition, but could use a little TLC in the cockpit. Deck bungees probably would need replacement soon as well - \$100. Contact mbouley@gmail.com
 - **Cedar Strip Night Heron kayak** - \$100 or best offer. The deceased original owner wished the proceeds from the sale of this boat to benefit RICKA. Contact mkrabach@cox.net or 401-333-5350
 - **Necky Looksha** - 17' sea kayak. Gray with rudder. Good condition, stored indoors - \$695. Contact Jay at josephlwade@yahoo.com
 - **Valley Gemini ST composite kayak** - 14' 10 and 45 pounds. Yellow deck with white hull and a keel strip. Kayak is in excellent condition as it has only been very lightly used and stored properly indoors. Asking \$1,750 including a Werner carbon fiber touring paddle and a Seals cockpit cover. Contact Bill Hahn: bhahn02835@yahoo.com or 401524-1612
 - **P&H Aries 155** - 2016, Expedition Layup w/Keel Strip, 70P Compass, Paddle Britches. Pea Green Deck/ White Seam/White Hull/White Kevlar Keel Strip. Foam Block Footrest - \$2,200. **Betsy Bay Recluse Greenland Style Boat** - 19' long and 20 1/2" wide; Weight 30 to 34 lbs. Paddler Weight 175 lbs. & Up; Spray Skirt, laminated Greenland Paddle (Betsy Bay). Adjustable foot pegs. Epoxy protection on bow and stern. Maintained in Excellent Condition - \$1,800. **P&H Cetus MV** - Carbon/Kevlar w/Kevlar Keel Strip, 70P Compass, Paddle Scabbard. Sail mounting system in place. Yellow Deck/White Seam/White Hull/White Kevlar Keel Strip. Foot pegs. Maintained in Excellent Condition: Modest amount of hull gell coat scratches and normal spider cracking - \$2,200 firm. Seller lives in Providence - text 401-654-3168
 - **Boriel Saguana** - 18 feet fiberglass with rudder in red - \$800. **Borial 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. **Borial Paddle** - \$100. **Roof Rack** - Hully rollers and saddles - \$400. Other items on website. Contact Julie at 401-688-7907 or jet14jem@cox.net
 - **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
 - **P&H Code Zero Sail** - for kayak - used only a few times \$200. Contact jonathansharlin@gmail.com

Thanks to Gary Powers and Frank Cortesa for organizing RICKA outreach events at the Rivers Day Celebration and at the [Kayak Centre](#). It's great to support our local partners, and get the word out about RICKA.



RICKA booth at the Rivers Days Celebration

Also thanks to Deb Britt, Peter Hill, Ron Entringer, Erik Eckilson and Paul Leclerc for their help manning the RICKA booth.

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.