

CONN YAK

C O N N E C T I C U T S E A K A Y A K E R S

July 2000

I'm glad I trusted my instincts. The weather forecast was getting better every day for my planned Narragansett Bay paddle on June 10th, and when I checked at midnight the night before, it was even favorable. Wind from the southwest at 10 - 15 knots, and seas 1 - 3 feet inside the bay. A normal day there. A definite "go". I had no doubts about it.

Just as I was about to leave in the morning, I got a call from Bobby Curtis, asking me if I was going to

I decided to go anyway, because the new forecast sounded like fun paddling to me: 15 - 25 knot winds and 2 - 4 foot seas in the bay. I was definitely in the mood to do it. If anyone else showed, I would just tell them that the paddle was officially cancelled, but if they wanted to join me for a paddle anyway, it was up to them. I figured that considering the lateness of my cancelling the paddle, I should go regardless. I called the message center and cancelled the paddle, and

4th Annual ConnYak Picnic

Brodie Park, West Hill Pond
New Hartford
Sunday, July 30th

uation.

We launched, and paddled north to the Jamestown bridge, across the bay, and back to the south. So far, the only

Narragansett Bay

by Wayne Smith

cancel the paddle. I must have sounded a little dumbfounded on the phone, because I had no reason to believe I should. He then told me that the weather service had just changed the forecast, and issued a small craft advisory from the Merrimack River in Massachusetts to Watch Hill, Rhode Island. Great - it's 7:15 AM, and I told everyone to be there by 10:00, so it was a safe assumption that many of the people who were planning to paddle were already on the road, or were in the process of packing their boats. My gut told me that the weather service might be hedging a bit on the forecast for it to have changed so drastically in so short a period.

also posted the cancellation on the club website message board. I got to the launch at the URI Bay Campus to find a slight breeze, no appreciable waves, bright sun, and several folks already waiting to launch. I discussed the situation with everyone who showed (We had 11 boats in all), and we all decided to paddle. The conditions did not resemble anything that had been predicted earlier in the morning. The beauty of paddling from URI is that if the conditions turn bad, you have plenty of places to land, and even if you do a long paddle, you're never really far from the launch. Lots of ways out of a bad sit-

thing we encountered was the tide current, which creates an interesting pocket of turbulence on the southern side of the old bridge. No wind of any note, and no big swells or waves. We continued down the west side of Conanicut Island, and crossed over to Dutch Island for lunch, and some boat demos. While we were there, the current picked up considerably in the main channel (Not unexpected), and the wind came up to about 10 -12 knots. Still a normal day. We hadn't seen as much as a 2 foot wave all morning. After lunch, we went around the leeward side of the island, past the lighthouse on the southern



ConnYak paddlers have never really mastered the art of posing for a group picture - as shown on the CT River trip in June. A great day paddling into the Mattabessett River.

tip, and crossed the bay back to our launch site. I guess a lot of other boaters had stayed home this day, because the boat traffic was shockingly light for a June weekend. A real easy crossing. We got back to the launch and several folks worked on their rolls, or found assistance in learning how to roll. A fine end to the paddle. Several of us then decided that since the weather service blew the forecast, and it was only 2:30, that we might go down the bay a bit, and see what it was like there. There is a slight narrows that gets really turbulent on the west shore about a mile and a half below the launch, and the biggest wave I saw there was only about 4 feet, which is normal for that area. In fact, I've seen them much larger there in comparable winds. We proceeded down as far as Narragansett town beach, and then surfed back along the narrows, and paddled back to the launch. I later heard that the marine forecast had been changed yet again back to what it was the night before, which turned out to be the correct forecast all along. Given the forecast, I did the right thing by cancelling, but I'm glad we went anyhow.

- Wayne Smith

Frozen in Time

A sea kayak has very few moving parts. Excluding rudders and skegs, kayaks are shells of fiberglass, plastic or wood. As part of my after-paddle routine, I rinse all my gear with fresh water. The wetsuit, sprayskirt, sunglasses, hat, water bottle, hatch covers, spare paddle, anything and everything that touches saltwater gets a shot of the hose. What have I forgot to flush? One very important moving part that I use on every paddle stroke -- the footrest or footbrace or footpeg, whatever you want to call them.

I have a twelve year old Anas Acuta by Valley Canoe Products. I never moved the foot pegs so I never thought of the slow corrosive action of saltwater and sand on them. When I wanted to get a little more leg room for some heavier winter boots, I couldn't budge the pegs. I asked advice from other kayakers who recommended flushing with hot water and lubricating with WD40 -- still no dice. The foot pegs were frozen in place and impossible to move. The only thing I could do was to

replace them. Oh boy what a job!

The old screw heads were shot so I had to drill them out. The new Yakima foot braces I wanted to install used a different spacing between screws so I had to drill two new holes in the hull and patch up the old holes. I bought a set of cobalt drill bits and started with a smaller diameter bit to make a pilot hole. I tried to go slow with light pressure on the drill but I snapped three bits anyway. At least I swept up the sharp metal shavings avoiding future slivers.

When installing the new braces, measure very carefully; I didn't and had to make the new holes wider to fit the new screws. Now comes the real fun part -- I could reach into the hull as far as the first set of bolts but not the second. I had to prop up and brace the foot pegs in place in order for the screw to go through the hull and into the channel that holds the pegs. Using an old paddle, styrofoam, a wood cross plus some swearing and finally praying, I got them in. A little waterproof silicone also helps to keep the seal -inside the hull a foam sleeve provided by Yakima seals out the saltwater.

The moral of my tale is: save yourself a nasty replacement job by keeping your footpegs clean and lubed and occasionally move them around. Rinse out the inside of you boat often.

Just a sidebar: the fiberglass patches I put on the old holes needed to cure in 65-75 degree temperatures, not found in my unheated garage in November. So with the help and permission of my girlfriend Amy, we brought the kayak into the living room and balanced it on top of the TV. Sure was fun looking at it from the couch at night, but a bummer to duck under the 17 foot bridge to get around the house. I just had to take a photo of my kayak on top of the TV for a Christmas card. So remember, flush now or pay later!

(sorry, no room to run the photo - JB)

By: Ernie Daraka

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4th Annual ConnYak Picnic

Paddling / Food / Swimming etc.

Brodie Park, West Hill Pond, New Hartford
Sunday July 30th - Lunch 12:00 - on
Group paddle around the lake 2:00

This year our West Hill Pond-ConnYak picnic is being held 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Sunday, July 30th at Brodie Park at the southeast corner of this beautiful, clear water lake. We need to have an estimate of the approximate number of attendees for food and logistics planning - we will not hold you to this. **Please e-mail (connyak@connyak.org) or call your intentions to the ConnYak Message System (203) 603-4615 as soon as possible.** The club treasury will supply the meat, (shrimp on skewers for grilling, hamburgers, turkey burgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs), rolls, tomatoes, onions, pasta salad, watermelon, corn-on-the-cob, butter, mustard, ketchup, salt, pepper, ice cubes, etc. Please bring your own beverage. If you have a favorite food item you would like to bring, please do so. Shairing things (chips, salads, deserts etc.) makes it a more enjoyable event. We will need some small tables (card or the like) to put stuff on and a couple of propane grills and some folding lawn chairs, so let us know what you can do in that department also. We will pay for a gas refill for the grills.

Don't miss out, it's always a good time and an opportunity to meet your fellow ConnYak members as well as a beautiful lake to paddle, swim and play on.

- Directions to Brodie Park -

Go to the center of New Hartford, Route 44, and turn south onto Route 219 at the stoplight. Go 0.8 mile and turn right onto West Hill Road. Be careful to stay on this twisty, climbing road for 2.5 miles to Niles Road and turn right. Just 0.1 mile on the left is the entrance to Brodie Park. As you enter the park bare left and go past camp buildings on your right to an open field and turn right along several cabins to our parking area. There is a logging trail leading a short distance down to the lake where we will have our picnic on a nice grassy area at the water's edge. If you want a chair, bring one.

If you are coming up Route 8, take exit 46 to Route 183 and go left a short distance to West Hill Road and turn right. Stay on West Hill Road for about 1.5 miles to Niles Road and turn left.

- Dick Gamble

Aug. 19 & 20 - Derek Hutchinson

Sat. is sold out - Sun. a few spots left

The lessons with Derek Hutchinson at a cost of \$60.00, can be reserved for \$30.00 per person per day with the balance due (\$30.00) before the day of the lesson. Remember class size is limited. Most likely, the lessons will be in Old Lyme at the Great Island boat launch (Smiths Neck) with the actual class taking place at Griswold Point or in the bay on August 19th and 20th. For more information call Ed Milnes at 203-488-0894. (checks made payable to ConnYak can be mailed to: ConnYak C/O Ed Milnes, 35 Hampton Park Branford, CT 06405

Lunch stop in Branford

Thanks to Eric and Carol Carlson who allowed us to have lunch on their beach in Granite Bay and extended an offer to return again. Eric is a relative of Jack Kling one of the paddlers on the ConnYak Branford Trip who made us the contact. We sent them a few T-shirts for our appreciation.

FOR SALE - SKIN BOAT

Handmade Greenland style skin boat. Does nothing well. Very tippy, uncomfortable, hard to get in and out of, weather cocks, broaches in a following sea, decent to fair speed, skin loosens in cold water, average to poor roller - however, extremely photogenic and cool.

I now know why I always see huge rudders fastened to Greenland skin boats in videos - they need them. I'm spoiled and so are you.

With all due respect to the culture of the Intuits, they did fantastic things with crude boats and their building methodology, and I know this will probably offend historically minded purists.

I added a gentle keel to my kayak to stiffen up it's tracking. It was miserable in a following sea and weather cocked like crazy in the wind. Mind you, I did not make any mistakes in the building. I actually reduced the rocker while building anticipating this on-the-water behavior. I made it more comfortable and I still have a love for it. However, my Outer Island just blows it away in every category. Just kidding about the "For Sale". I wouldn't part with it for any amount of money.

I thought I would be very protective about people trying it. Now that I know how tippy and entrapping it is, I'm encouraging all the "can I try it" paddlers with fair warning - if you can fit in. - Jay

Connyak t's

\$5 will get you the best T-shirt of any kayaking club in CT. We also have more ConnYak hats slowly arriving. They are \$8. - have an embroidered logo and are available in three colors. One size fits all. Both will be at all the paddles and events.

T-SHIRTS FOR ARTICLES WORKS

My Mac G-4 is smoking from the e-mail downloads. Thanks - and keep them coming. - Jay

KEEP THE GROUP TOGETHER

Please make an attempt to collect the group if we get spread out. We try to cross channels, bays and traffic areas as a group not only for safety but as respect to the boating community.

KAYAK DEMO SYMPOSIUM

Collinsville Canoe and Kayak

Sat. & Sun. July 29 & 30th.

Collinsville, CT - Factory reps only on Sat. Call for further info. 860-693-6977

Tuesday Night paddlers

The Tues. Night Paddlers is a group of Recreational Boat paddlers who meet to paddle in the evenings in calm conditions. Paddles are in the Mystic/Groton area.

Call Bill 860-535-4473 or Russ 860-621-0796 for Info. and a full schedule.

CONNYPAC TRIP RATINGS

Any trip can change dramatically due to conditions - as in all sea kayaking.

(N) Novice: Novice paddlers are expected to be able to keep up with the leisurely group pace or will be turned back.

(I) Intermediate: Fully capable of self rescue, confident paddling stroke and braces.

(A) Advanced: A dependable roll, able to rescue others, strong, experienced paddler.

Note: All paddlers are responsible for their own safety, including dressing for immersion. You must wear a CG approved PFD and a spray skirt. The boat and equipment must meet CG requirements, including an appropriate signaling device. Beginners must have taken a basic course and be proficient in performing a wet exit, paddle float re-entry and carry a pump. Kayaks without bulkheads should have floatation installed. (always carry extra dry clothes, food and water) Paddlers are expected to show a sense of awareness as far as staying with the group.



JULY TRIPS

FOUR MILE RIVER - LYME (N)

SAT, JULY 8 - COASTAL PADDLE

Rocky shoreline area with islands.

DIRECTIONS -

I-95 to exit 71, go south on Four Mile River Road (about 0.7 mile) to Rt. 156, turn right, short distance to the sign for boat launch (Oakridge Drive) to the left, take next right to the launch area.

In the water by 10:30 a.m. (pack a lunch)

TALL SHIPS - NEW LONDON - (N-I)

WED. JULY 12 9:00 AM (N-I)?

SAT. JULY 15 10:00 AM (N-I)?

Wed. is the parade from Niantic.

Sat. the ships are docked on the Thames River.

All Tall Ships paddles are experiments. No guarantees - we could be stopped by Coast Guard, Police etc. We'll do our best to view what we can and hope for the best. (Novice. - Intermed. Paddle) Thames river could be very choppy due to boat traffic on Sat.

BOTH PADDLES LAUNCH FROM BLUFF POINT

DIRECTIONS - I-95 to exit 88 in Groton. Head towards water (south) thru two lights to the junction of Rt. 1. Right on Rt. 1. Left at first light (Depot Road). Continue on to Bluff Point State Park. (pack a lunch)

ANTIQUÉ BOAT PARADE

SUNDAY JULY 23 - MYSTIC (N)

In the water by 10:00. We visit the old boats and paddle the loop out the Mystic river and have lunch at the mouth of the river. We watch the parade from along the river on the return trip.

DIRECTIONS -

Go past Mystic Seaport on the right. Take your first right on Isham Street. Launch is at the end of the street. Street parking is available. Worst case: Drop off the boat and gear and park in the Mystic Lot which is free.

CONNYPAC PICNIC

SUNDAY JULY 30

Check the bulletin board for other impromptu trips listed by members - www.connyak.org



CLASSIFIED

Wilderness Systems Alto with rudder. Yellow Skirt and floatation bags. \$650/obo. Call (203) 457-9983.

Kayook plus with rudder. 8 months old, like new, \$900.00. 860-526-1410, 860-663-2069

Ocean Kayak Frenzy with backrest-1 year old \$325 and Ocean Kayak Yak-Board \$250. 203-235-6721 after 6

Current Designs Slipstream 16' X 22", Glass, one year old. Day hatch, skeg-spray skirt. \$2,000. Men's XL Gore-Tex drytop, one year old, \$250. Call 203-256-1913

Diriego, 17.5' Sea Kayak, hand made in Blue Hill Maine. Kevlar/Fiberglass w/wood trim & rudder. Like new condition, \$1,200.00 203-734-4452 or kck@ashcreek.net

Recreational Rowing Skull - 17' x 22" hand-crafted okume marine mahogany only 43 lbs, mahogany sliding seat, basswood skulls - \$1,300 (860) 873-3854.

Nautraid One Expedition (foldable) 15'3" red & black \$1800. or best offer. 860-521-6070

1999 Necky Looksha Sport, 14' 4" X 22.5" beam, poly, teal (green) rudder, like new, good novice or intermediate boat, \$850, Paul 860-669-8125

Wanted: Rack for a '96 4-door Jetta 1-860-3550.

Solstice GT, Current Designs. Fiberglass, red over white. Excellent condition, used 2 seasons. Norwalk, (203) 855-9707, \$1700.

KAYAK 16 ft. kevlar-sit on top-ex. cond. with paddle \$1250.00. Yakama kayak racks-gutter towers-with 2 saddles 1-860-5994133 or whitedagobrat@cs.com

Arctic Hawk - Wilderness Systems, Kevlar- 38 lbs., tan w/green trim, mahogany inlay. \$1950. 860-450-1026

Necky Santa Cruz, bulkheads, spray skirt, very stable, paid \$700. sell for \$495. 860-827-1111

Sealution, Wilderness System-fiberglass, orange on top with fixed compass - \$1200 Please call 860-693-0211.

NRS Black Rock dry pants, mens large. Never used. \$85. Call (860) 653-5899.

KLEPPER Aerius I folding Sea Kayak. Expedition hull, rudder. \$2400. 212-245-0025 or ABirdson@aol.com

Riot Sledge Hammer Surf Kayak- yellow Fern Usen 860-529-4612, or fernusen@aol.com

Wold Ski Custom Terminator, Surf Kayak, Kevlar, 29 lbs, green over yellow, will do fantastic things in the waves. \$500 W (860) 441-8416 H (860) 535-8416

Wanted- used Pungo (203) 481-1881

Extreme - new, Green & White, Fbg, Rudder, Compass, \$2300, Futura II - Excellent, White, Fbg, sit-on-top, fast, highly rated, \$950, 914 698 8354

Kokatat nylon drysuit - women's \$150 203-248-6051 or hs15@connix.com

Necky Arluk 1.9 kevlar 17"x22" 45lbs new in 1996 ex. condition. call 203 656-0946. mmarkb@juno.com

Wilderness Systems Pamlico double-2 person \$500. Jim 203- 345-0090

Feathercraft K-light- 5 yr. old w/rudder - sea sock, cover, with instructional video . \$700. 203-259-1903

Wilderness Systems Tchaika, fiberglass w/rudder, neoprene sprayskirt yellow/white used 4 times. \$1,500 (203)483-7705.

CONNYPAK MESSAGE SYSTEM (203) 603-4615

Information regarding events, trip schedule updates, cancellations, changes etc. will be heard at this number.

PHOTOS WANTED

Photos for the web site needed. Send to Bobby Curtis, PO Box 108, Woodbury, CT 06798 Indicate if you if you want the photos returned wit a return address and they will be returned. All photos may or may not be used.

Please contact the Newsletter when items are sold.

Send newsletter articles or classifieds to:
Jay Babina e-mail: jbabina@snet.net
7 Jeffrey Lane, N. Branford, CT 06471
203-481-3221 Fax 203-481-1136

TO JOIN CONNYAK...

ConnYak is a non profit club that is open to all paddlers interested in sea kayaking from any location. ConnYak annual membership fee is \$15. Send inquiries to: Ed Milnes
35 Hampton Park, Branford, CT 06405

E-MAIL: CONNYAK@CONNYAK.ORG

WEBSITE / BULLETIN BOARD: WWW.CONNYAK.ORG



c/o Ed Milnes
35 Hampton Park
Branford, CT 06405