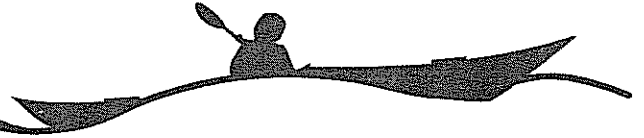


CONNAYAK



CONNECTICUT SEA KAYAKERS

March 2000

SEEING AMERICA BY NORDKAPP

Fall 1999 - by Karen Duffy

For me it was a time of extraordinary experiences, lasting visions, and awesome adventures. From mid September to October 3, 1999 my diary entries became a vivid account of a road trip across the U.S.A. The vacation included kayaking, mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, camping, and playing the role of a tourist (just to mention a few of the activities). The driving totaled 3,800 miles from CT to CA (I later flew home from San Francisco). I crossed through thirteen states, however most of the time was spent in Colorado, Utah and California. I visited seven national parks for a brief exploration and it's where I camped at least 7 nights.

Kayaking during this active vacation is what I'm going to highlight since this story is meant for Connyak Paddlers. I explored four bodies of water by kayak: The Dirty Devil River, Colorado River (Narrow Mile Canyon), and Lake Powell - all in the Glen Canyon National Park region of Utah. Mono Lake, CA was the last. Lake Powell in Utah is rated #1 on my personal list of great places to kayak and it's a trip I'll never forget. The Navajo Sandstone and its deposition of sediments; the views of burnt orange, pink and saffron-tinted canyons were breathtaking. These winding rivers in this desert climate could be a kayaker's dream place! What I saw is explained by an excerpt from *Earth, Sky, & Water*, University of Utah Press - copyright 1999 - "Meanders can become entrapped within rock walls if downcutting oc-

curs faster than the river can adjust its channel. The river and its side channels will still seek equilibrium, but now the rock walls now represent a history that is superimposed upon the other elements that determine the river's course - such as flow, gradient, and sediment load."

Mother Earth's amazing sculpture with geologic time and rock formations is on display for all to admire! I would notice the water's surface becoming choppy when forced gusts of air would activate the lake. Being at this place for the first time was like inhabiting a different world.

The first launch was from a rock slope at an inlet off of Lake Powell. We headed toward the river with plenty of drinking water and other camping requirements packed for travel - the journey of "Kayaking Lake Powell" has begun. Nestled with upright posture inside my kayak, I gently glided upon the surface of calm jade green water. The huge surrounding canyon walls allowed for unique echoes of a variety of sounds that grab my awareness due to the contrast from the deafening silence. My pace was kind of slow motion along with with the tranquil



... at the next meeting
Jeff Dickson
*Collinsville Canoe & Kayak
Guide and Instructor*
**"Outfitting your Kayak
and tow rig discussion"**

Friday March 24, 7:30
Essex Town Hall

Various kayaks will be on display
for discussion.

also, special appearance -
*The Grand Master of carving and
outfitting with closed cell foam -*

Dick Gamble

will share his secrets with
a few demonstrations.

Directions to Essex Town Hall on next page

dripping noises from water shedding off my paddle blade's face. I like how Nordkapps glide far and easily in a straight line for the amount of effort put out. The storage places and neatly functional deck design impress me as well.

I remember the sunshine beating down strongly and the temperature reaching 90 degrees. It was refreshing to Eskimo Roll to keep cool and drench my crisping tan skin and hot head of thick dark hair. It was very

hot but breezes would spontaneously give their reward.

There was plenty of wildlife. I would see swallows flying from one canyon wall to another as they communicate from their minicaves high up in the rocks. After another mile or so it was getting dark. In the twilight, time bats would fly very close to me in search of dinner. I know they're harmless. I just hoped my paddle wouldn't accidentally smack

one. Their fluttery leather-like wings sound creepy as the pitch darkness moves into the canyon. It is important to be aware of snakes and scorpions. The lizards won't bother you. Largemouth bass were actively catching food above these waters as I heard their startling flop and splash echo in the canyon. Glen Canyon has one of the largest concentrations of Peregrine Falcons. I was amazed to have sightings of their soaring mystery.

Paddling along, a semi-flat rock area was discovered as a key place to temporarily have a bite to eat and sleep on. I found it to be an exhilarating experience to use no tent to sleep outdoors, and remain secured among the canyon walls. The moonlight was beaming through the open spaces of rock. You're embraced with the warm, dry, night air kissing your face- all the while breathing in serenity under the bright shooting stars and rising full moon. Although many others have probably kayaked all around here, I feel as if I'm taking on an original expedition.

The hot morning sun cooked up the urge to go for a swim. I dove high off the rocks and plunged into the depth of the cool light green water. While back-stroking and sunning my face, I was imagining that in the next 48 hours I would kayak on the Colorado River and camp again in a another undiscovered place.

Fast forwarding toward the end of the trip, I'd like to briefly describe what it was like on Mono Lake located in Mono Basin, California. Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve is graced

with wonderful contrasts. The lake itself is a majestic body of water covering about 60 square miles. As one of the oldest lakes in North America, it is 2.5 times as salty and 80 times as alkaline as seawater. Salty lake water (carbonates) + fresh water springs (calcium) = Tufa (calcium carbonate). Tufa can also be described as porous stone. Mono Lake's modern landscape has been shaped over millions of years by faulting and volcanic activity. That makes it such a perfect place to record on film - the snow-laden mountains in the distance along with glacier polished surfaces. I loved kayaking through the oddly shaped columns of tufa that shot up through the lake's surface like a bizarre art form. There are a few species that can thrive in this somewhat intolerable "Dead Sea". The food chain: algae, brine shrimp & brine flies, 80 species of migratory birds. The black masses of flies were clumped together bordering the sandy shore. You had to launch on them. It was gross so I hopped in quickly and sprinted fast to keep them far from me. The lake paddle was absolutely incredible.

The voyage home brought many thoughts of the times in the future where I will return to have more new discoveries out west: Yellowstone, AZ, NM etc. I know the time will arrive when I can do this!

I found a noteworthy comment from my diary: 9/27/99- "I remembered feeling no fears, threats, or disappointment throughout the kayaking journey. Kayaking is elegance, serenity, simplicity, invigorating, and youthful. This will always be a true

passion for me to continually fulfill."

I close with a wish for everybody- Evenly exchange in ways of beauty with mother earth.

Yours in Kayaking, Karen Duffy

CONNYAK AND THE ACA

Recently I have gotten quite a few inquiries about the ACA and our status with them. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify our position. In the past we were an affiliate of the ACA in the "Paddle America Program". This meant we had to charge an additional \$15.00 (\$20.00 for families) for new members.

In addition it required that all active members (defined as a member who paddled with the club at least once or twice a year) be members of the ACA. A non member or an inactive member (a member who didn't join the ACA and is not a regular participant in club functions) who wanted to participate in a club run event were required to pay a \$5.00 dollar fee (for insurance) and sign a waiver. An "attendance sheet" had to be circulated and signed, a trip report written and sent to the ACA and all activities had to follow the ACA's guidelines for safety. Because of the additional expense and the other requirements the club voted to reduce our membership rates and relinquish our status as an ACA affiliate. This means if you wish to maintain your ACA membership or if you are a new club member and wish to join the ACA you must do it on your own.

The ACA as an organization is largely concerned with canoeist (touring, white water, marathon, etc.) and white water kayaking. They do however offer training and certification for the sea kayaker and sea kayaking instruction.

The ACA may be contacted at the following address: American Canoe Association 7432 Alban Station Blvd., Suite B-232 Springfield, VA 22150

- Ed Milnes

FREE ATLANTIC COASTAL KAYAKER

For a free issue of Atlantic Coastal Kayaker magazine, fill out and mail this coupon to: Atlantic Coastal Kayaker

P.O. Box 520
Ipswich, MA 01938



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My skin boat frame is just about done if anyone wants to see it before it get's skinned. - Jay 203-481-3221 - Branford

CONNYPAK MOCK T-SHIRTS

Long sleeve Mock T-s are available in dark blue with the ConnYak Logo embroidered on the chest. Yours for our cost of \$15. They will be at all the meetings and pool sessions.

AT THE LAST MEETING...

Gail Ferris made an outstanding presentation with photos and information on various kayak designs that she has recorded as well as the areas in Greenland and Alaska where she's paddled. It's truly a gift to have such a worldwide traveler and explorer in our club - her efforts were very appreciated. Thanks Gail, we hope to have you back!

Gail has many videos of her adventures for sale. gaileferris@hotmail.com

Small Boat Shop Canoe and Kayak Expo Sat. & Sun. March 18 & 19

National Guard Armory- exit 38-
Merritt Pkwy - head a short 1/2
mile toward New Canaan
Armory is on the right.
For Information call 203-254-5223

SELDON ISLAND CAMPING

The Seldon Island camping trip, being led by Dave Hiscocks, is scheduled for May 20th & 21st. The reserved campsite will accommodate 12 tents and prospective campers need to call Dave Hiscocks at 860-278-7440. Day trippers and overnight campers will leave Goodspeed Opera House put-in at 10:00 AM and we will be having lunch up the Salmon River, hopefully at the fancy picnic tables we enjoyed last year. Without the chipper / shredder noise from across the river this time. Anyone bringing enough iced shrimp and horse radish cocktail sauce for everyone will receive a special commendation and will be relieved from doing the dishes. This will be re-announced in the April Newsletter, but don't wait to secure a spot.

- Dick Gamble

CLARK BOWLEN KAYAKING ADVENTURES

Maine - Kennebec Area

Saturday-Monday, June 3-5, 2000. Trip will focus on learning to play in tide currents and on island primitive camping. Play in Little Hellgate in Knubble Bay, then paddle down the lovely Back River to Perkins Island in the lower Kennebec River—approximately 10 miles. Explore the lower Kennebec River with possible stops at Fort Popham, Popham Beach, Bald Head, Todd Bay. Return to Knubble Bay via the Sheepscot River. Primitive camping. Share in community cooking or BYOF. Trip will be geared to intermediate sea kayakers with confident self-rescues. Novice campers welcome. Limited to 7 people, plus leader. Register with leader, Clark Bowlen by Friday, May 19 at 9:30pm.

Cobscook Bay Encampment

Monday July 3 to Friday July 7, 2000
We will sea kayak from a shore-side campsite at Cobscook Bay State Park, and paddle off the Canadian islands of Campobello and Deer Island. This is some of the most interesting tidal water on the Atlantic coast. Tidal range exceeds 20 feet. A low-key, share-the-chores and decisions trip predicated on intermediate sea kayaking skills. Trip limited to 12. Come for as many or as few days as you wish. Wet or dry suit mandatory.

Malpeque Bay Exploratory

Monday July 10 to Friday July 14, 2000
We will sea kayak in Prince Edward Island's Malpeque Bay, which features warm water, barrier beaches and world-famous oysters. We'll camp at Cabot Beach Provincial Park. This will be an exploratory trip predicated on intermediate sea kayaking skills. Trip limited to 12. Come for as many or as few days as you wish.

For information, registration
contact Clark Bowlen
cbowlen@snet.net
(860) 623-6587.
(These are free ConnYak trips.)



PLANNING TRIPS

With the paddling season almost upon us, it's time to start thinking about any trip you would like to organize and lead. Don't forget, leading doesn't mean you're responsible, it just means that it's a location you know (or are interested in) and would like to share. You can even lead a trip in an area that you never paddled. If you get sick or have a conflicting schedule that arises, don't worry about it. Some how through democratic decisions and a little common sense we always enjoy ourself and make it back just fine.

This year we're not going to list a huge amount of trips up front just to fill out a make believe calendar to prove we're active. As people truly want to lead them and come forward they will be added to our trip list.

If there's a member who knows the Downtown Hartford launches, contact us because we want to do a paddle there. - also, we need information about where we can launch on the upper Thames River as well.

MEETING FRI. MARCH 24 7:00 PM - ESSEX TOWN HALL

Jeff Dickson - "Outfitting your Kayak" and
tow rig discussion & Dick Gamble - working
with Closed Cell Foam

DIRECTIONS TO THE ESSEX TOWN HALL

Route 9, take Exit 3. At the end of the exit ramp turn left and go to the light. Turn right at this light on to West Avenue.

The Town Hall is about a third of a mile up the hill on the left at the corner of West Avenue and Grove Street. Turn left on Grove Street - parking is in the back of the building.

CONNYPAK MESSAGE SYSTEM (203) 603-4615

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



CLASSIFIED

Feathercraft K1 Expedition Single (foldable kayak) 15' 11" x 25", costs \$3850.00 sacrifice \$3000.00. Never in the water. 203-772-3174.

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

Wilderness Systems Pamlico: 14'9", red. Double or single seat kayak, skirt. \$700. 860-684-6168 or lynes@uconnvm.uconn.edu. ecky

Aqueterra Sea Lion, granite, 2 hatches, rudder. 2 yr old. Mint condition. Paid \$1,500 will sell for \$850.00 Call 203 847 2090.

Ocean Kayak Frenzy with backrest-1 year old-new \$450-sell \$325 and Ocean Kayak Yak-Board with backrest-new \$350-sell \$250. 203-235-6721 after 6

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

16 1/2' Kevlar Menphremagog OC 1-34#. Excellent condition \$500. will consider trade for Dagger Animas or Outburst kayak. Call 860-666-2571

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cricket Greenland style paddles \$150, storm - \$100, Serratus PFD \$55. Please call 860-529-4612 between 5-9pm, or email: DonPWhite@aol.com

Wilderness Systems Alto with rudder. Yellow. 2 years old, excellent condition. Includes spray skirt and floata-tion bags. \$650/obo. Call (203) 457-9983.

Perception Sea Lion, 2 hatches, 1 yr old. Ex condition. Paid \$1,300 Sell - \$950.00 Call 860-674-3637.

(2) Aqueterra "Whisper" laminated wood kayak paddles, 220 cm. Very good condition. \$30 each. (860) 653-5899.

KLEPPER Aerius I folding Sea Kayak. Expedition hull, khaki deck, rudder. Carefully maintained by Deiter Stiller, Klepper America. Older boat but incredibly seaworthy and strong. \$2400. 212-245-0025 or ABirdson@aol.com

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

Please contact the Newsletter when items are sold.

LESSONS KAYAK SKILLS & ROLLING

Wallingford Sheehan High School
All classes 12:00 - 4:00

Skills: March 11, April 8, May 13

Safety & Rescue: March 12, April 9, May 14 & 21

Rolling: March 18 & 19, April 15 & 16, May 20

Westbrook YMCA Dates:

Jan 9 & 16, Feb 20 & 27, March 5.

Urban Eskimo Kayaking - Mike Falconeri

Call for specifics - Mike at 203-284-9212
or Nancy at 860-228-0105



Check your ConnYak dues date!

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.

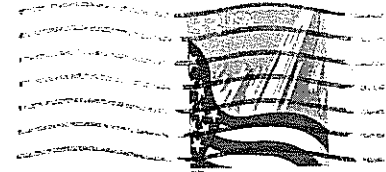
Send inquiries to: Ed Milnes
35 Hampton Park, Branford, CT 06405

e-mail: Connyak@connyak.org

Website: connyak.org



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



Russell Norton Jan-01
PO Box 1070
New Haven CT 06504