

Highlights

- Essex Town Hall event & directions
- Directions to Clinton Town Beach
- Riversplash!
- Upcoming Trips, etc.



CONN-YAK

The Newsletter of Inspired Kayakers

Volume 4, Issue 4 May, 1996

Note: All paddlers on ConnYak trips must have and wear: 1. The appropriate CG approved Personal Flotation Device, and W. A spray skirt. Their boat and equipment must meet CG requirements, including an appropriate signaling device. Paddlers are responsible for their own safety, including dressing for immersion.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRES...

A big **THANK YOU** is in order for many people in our paddling community who have made **CONN-YAK** welcome at their various rallies and sales this year and previously.

- Thanks to Sue & John at Collinsville for the table setup at their many sales.
- Thanks to Norm & Ed at North Cove Outfitters for their hospitality at Camp Hazen.
- Thanks to FRWA for their continued support at RIVERSPLASH each year in Simsbury.
- Thanks to Mike Falconeri & Desmond Harrington & Terry

Harlow for their invaluable time and teaching resources.

- Thanks to Jay Babina for donation of his incredible talent with signs, shirts & other graphics, as well as boat-building skill demos.
- Thanks to Fern Usen for her great work on the Club Newsletter (ed.: aw shucks.....)

And now for our list of contributors to both the Club Teaching Boat, and the Raffle.

First the Raffle:

- Kokatat Front-entry Drysuit and a Werner one-piece paddle from NickDyslin@NECKY.
- ExtraSport PFD from Collinsville Canoe and Kayak.
- One-day Sea Kayak Rental from Collinsville.
- YAK-Pak from North Cove Outfitters.
- Paddle Leash from Terry Harlow of Sea Paddler Magazine & Conn-Yak.
- Henderson Full Wetsuit from Dave Snyder of Henderson.
- Other donations are in the works from the Small Boat Shop in Norwalk

and Outdoor Sports Center in Wilton.

** Now the Club Teaching Boat **

NECKY KYOOK Plus Donated to CONN-YAK by Nick Dyslin of NECKY.

- Werner Point Paddle donated by Collinsville Canoe & Kayak
- Day Two Sprayskirt donated by North Cove Outfitters
- Bilge Pump donated by the Small Boat Shop
- Paddle Float donated by the Small Boat Shop

The Club boat was Christened by our own Joe & Marjie Lavendier on Clark Bowen's recent Connecticut River Overnight trip. More to follow on this. Remember that the boat is stored at Ingela Helgesson's North Guilford location for easy access to the Sound, and it is a mere donation of only \$12 per day or \$30 for a 3-day week-end. Call 457-0149 for reservations.

RAFFLE UPDATE

Three tickets are enclosed per Club member with this Newsletter. Your

responsibility as an active club member is to either purchase them yourself or sell them to others. The completed stubs are to be mailed with your money to the Club Treasurer, Jim Gass to: 64 St. Francis Woods, Madison, CT. 06443

Tickets & \$\$\$ must arrive by June 12, 1996 at Jim's home or bring to Essex Town Hall the night of the drawing, June 14, 1996, 7:30 p.m. For extra tickets call me, Stan Kegeles at 860-673-6711.

DIRECTIONS to Clinton Town Beach for June 10th evening paddle

Arrive at 5p.m.

Take exit 63 (Route 81 South) off I-95 to Route 1. East (left) to Waterside Lane (2nd right after Town Hall). The launch is at the end of the road. Any questions, please contact Peter Hull at 523-8746.

DIRECTIONS to Essex Town Hall for June 14th raffle & Evening Seminars by Nigel Foster & Linda Legg June 7th & June 14th

Traveling Southbound on Rte 9:

Take exit 3. Make a left turn onto Rte 154 and proceed to the light, then turn left onto West Avenue. Proceed 1/2 mile (library on left. Across the street (not West Ave) is the Town Hall which is an old H.S.

Traveling Northbound on Rte 9:

Take exit 3. Make a left turn onto Rte 154 and proceed to the light, then turn right onto West Avenue. Proceed 1/2 mile (library on left. Across the street (not West Ave) is the Town Hall which is an old H.S.

Parking and the auditorium entrance is located in the rear of the building.

Upcoming Trip/Meeting

June 26th Picnic/Paddle (BYOG)*

*bring your own grub

Dick Gamble has offered his home as the launch site for this 6:30 p.m. evening.

Directions: 767-0610

Traveling Southbound on Rte 9:

Take exit 3. Make a left turn onto Rte 154, for approx 1 mile. Make a left turn onto Mallard Point Rd to the end. #34

Traveling Northbound on Rte 9:

Take exit 3. Make a left turn onto Rte 154, for approx 3/4 mile. Make a left turn onto Mallard Point Rd to the end. #34

BARN ISLAND

Paul Kaijka will lead this trip on 6/23, 10:00 a.m. ...surfs' up!

Inspired Excerpts from Kayak clubs

Excerpted from "Notes on Group Trips", Bruce's Paddling Page, Internet

NOTES ON GROUP TRIPS

A paddle group is two or more kayaks (6-8 seems good). Groups can be loose informal impromptu gatherings of paddling peers, more controlled announced trips, commercial trips, or highly controlled instructional activities.

It is your decision to paddle with a group. By deciding to paddle together you acknowledge a common bond which involves a group decision making process, a concern for the welfare of fellow paddlers, and an acceptance of minimum standards.

Joining a group does not relieve you of personal responsibility. You have the right to say no. If you feel uncomfortable or that the situation is beyond your capabilities, inform the trip leader.

A group trip may have an individual or individuals that because of greater experience or for other reasons can be thought of as the group leader. There are a number of trip leading styles. These styles can vary with conditions.

There is a range of decision making possible. Trip leaders and experienced paddlers may make decisions. There may be a group consensus process. Consultation with less aggressive paddlers is important.

In traveling in a group it is usually a good idea to make sure all paddlers know the destination and route before setting out.

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Distance separation between paddlers varies with conditions. In less demanding conditions greater separation is tolerated. As the situation becomes more challenging it is wise for a group to keep closer for better communication and assistance.

Where there are differences in paddling speed, faster paddlers need to slow down to stay with the group and slower paddlers need to work at keeping up. Sometimes trip leaders may make special arrangements when great differences in paddling speed exist. Trip leaders often assign lead and drag paddlers. Have a plan if separation occurs.

In route, never leave a group with permission or declaration.

The three most common tension incidents on a group paddle are:

1 Paddlers separated from the group

2 Group crossing of high traffic channels

3 Capsize - procedure: one or two boats help - the others depending upon instruction will either raft up, head into the wind, continue or seek shelter.

THE EIGHT MINIMUM STANDARDS

- It is your responsibility to make sure your kayak, skills and equipment are in good working order and available before a trip.
- PFDs and spray skirts are worn at all times while on the water. (Helmets in strong surf conditions).
- You are required to have a PFD, spray skirt, paddle float and pump. Other gear may be required depending on the type of paddle.
- You are required to know and practice individual and group rescues. Rolling is an option.
- Dress for the water temperature.
- Let someone know where you are going.
- Stay with your group.
- Know your capabilities and limits.

Conn-Yak
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Inside: Great trips, tips and workshop info!