



NICK & ERIC SCHADE

## Wooden Boats



Nick with his  
19' Expedition



Eric with  
the 17'  
Custom

Carving out a living making wooden boats is truly a labor of love. A year ago, *Sea Kayaker Magazine* ran an article describing the fallacy of "Dream Kayaking Jobs". Charlie Reeves, a wood kayak builder was profiled, describing his part-time employment: waiting on tables to make ends meet.

To describe the wood kayak market as "elite" would be an understatement. Yet throughout the world, many craftspeople choose to build their own boat for the experience as well as the outcome. After all, this intimacy with the vessel parallels the origin of our sport.

Nick and Eric Schade have been building wood boats for over 20 years. Nick started Guillemot Kayaks in 1992 after he designed his first 18 ft single kayak. Building the Guillemot 18 was inspired by the lack of funds to purchase a commercially manufactured boat. Because of their background, they had the will and skill to attempt the building project.

The brothers started strip-building 12 years ago working together on a canoe. After this, Nick had a good idea of the strip-building methodology. His basic kayak design was conceived on the living room floor with a lot of educated guess-work, trying for the stability and paddling characteristics he desired. Like all boat designers, the infatuation is short-lived and soon you're building a second one - correcting a few disappointments and creating a few new ones.

Since that time, Nick has designed 8 different models including two doubles. He is one of the first to truly violate the traditional building philosophy of running all strips parallel to the boat and uses his strips in very ornate patterns.

*Sea Kayaker*, October 1995 ran a full "How To" article on building his 16' 10" Sea Kayak including the offset tables to draw plans. Back issues are available from *Sea Kayaker* and fully lofted plans

can be obtained from Nick.

Nick has currently written a book "The Strip Built Sea Kayak" which is published by Ragged Mountain Press and is expected out by late summer.

Guillemot Kayaks is located in Glastonbury and is currently a full time operation going through the growing pains that all businesses encounter. His product line includes various kayaks and paddles, plus plans and building instructions for all models.

Eric's boat building business "Shearwater Boats" is located in Stamford and has been in existence since 1994. Although the beginnings of his interest and development in the wood working skills parallel Nick's, Eric still maintains his self-employed engineering endeavors to supplement his income. One of Eric's doubles is described in the March 1997 issue of Atlantic Coastal Kayaker.

Eric has built 19 hand-crafted boats including canoes and kayaks and also has a line of paddles and wood accessories for kayakers. Like Nick, Eric has a selection of models and can custom fit or design a boat to meet your needs.

When paddling with Nick or Eric, you soon find that these beautiful boats don't have to be babied. They're extremely strong and can take a lot of punishment. These boats are totally encapsulated in epoxy and fiberglass cloth with many layers of varnish to bring out the beauty of the wood. Unlike the fiberglass boat, the bottom can easily be refreshed with a 45 minute sanding and a coat of varnish. Most wood kayakers will do this as general maintenance every two years or so.

Both Shearwater and Guillemot have boats available for trial and test and will be displaying their boats and accessories at the Wood Boat Show in Mystic on June 27, 28 & 29.

#### Nick Schade / Guillemot Kayaks

(860) 659-8847

Web Site at: <http://www.mindport.net/~schade/Kayak.html>.

#### Eric Schade / Shearwater Boats

(203) 359-6431

Web Site at: <http://www.connix.com/~shearwtr>.

## ACA LIABILITY INSURANCE AND CONNYAK MEMBERS

As you no doubt know, a portion of your annual dues paid to ConnYak goes to pay for a membership in the American Canoe Association (\$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family). Some of our members have asked about the benefits of this related membership in the ACA.

Before proceeding with the answer to this important question, I should point out that the remainder of your dues (\$15 for individual memberships and \$25 for family memberships) goes into ConnYak's bank account to cover the costs of publishing and mailing our monthly Newsletter, paying the monthly service charge for our Web Home Page, mailing out responses to prospective new members when requested, and any other club expense as approved by the membership from time to time.

The May 30, 1997 Fleet Bank statement for our club's account shows a balance of \$5,267.92.

To summarize the Insurance coverage provided by our memberships in the ACA:

The ACA General Liability Policy is Commercial General Liability Insurance providing coverage for liability imposed by law. The liability must stem from bodily injury to club members, the public, or damage to their property, caused by an occurrence.

Underwritten by: St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company.

**Named Insured:** American Canoe Association and its Member Clubs.

**Covered Activities:** All duly sanctioned

events of the insured organization.

#### Limits of Insurance:

**General Total Limit** \$5,000,000

**Products and Completed Work** \$5,000,000

#### Personal Injury

**Limit Per Person** \$1,000,000

#### Advertising Injury

**Limit Per Person** \$1,000,000

**Each Occurrence Limit** \$1,000,000

**Participant Legal Liability** \$1,000,000

#### Premise Damage Limit

(Any one fire)

\$100,000

#### Medical Expense Limit

\$5,000

We have had some prospective club members question the requirement to sign the ACA supplied waiver form when joining or participating in a club activity. You should know that by signing the waiver you are simply certifying that you are aware that there are risks associated with our sport. **It does not affect your legal rights in any way.** In an actual law suit, the waiver would "tell the court" that you realized that there were risks when you decided to join or take part in kayaking activity.

In addition to the insurance coverage, a subscription to Paddler Magazine is provided which is published bi-monthly. The majority of the members of the club pay their dues on or about January 1st each year so their ACA dues are submitted on January 15th for the coming year's membership, insurance and subscription to Paddler Magazine. Others join the club as the year progresses so we have adopted a policy of accumulating and sending new membership dues in batches each quarter on April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th so their full year starts when the dues are submitted.

- Dick Gamble



Eric Schade (Shearwater Boats) also builds beautiful wood models. This Baidarka with steam-bent ribs is 24 inches long and was modeled after drawings shown in Sea Kayaker Magazine. These models are bought for gifts, presentations and personal artifacts.

# EVENTS

## NIGEL FOSTER LECTURE & WORKSHOPS

*"Circumnavigation of Iceland  
Crossing The Hudson Strait"*

FRIDAY, JUNE 27 - 7:30 PM  
ESSEX TOWN HALL - ESSEX, CT

Paddling Workshops, Stony Creek  
Sat. & Sun. June 28th & 29th  
Workshop Information - (860) 659-1223

### DIRECTIONS - ESSEX TOWN HALL

Approaching from the North on Route 9, take Exit 3. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left and go under the Route 9 bridge to the light. Turn left 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 onto Grove Street for parking at the rear of the building.

Approaching from the South on 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 onto Grove Street for parking at the rear of the building.



## ANTIQUE BOAT PARADE

SUNDAY JULY 27 - MYSTIC

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. If we want, we can watch the parade from along the river. Jay Babina 203-481-3221

### 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.*

## BLESSING OF THE FLEET

SUNDAY, JULY 6, 1997 - 1:00 PM

The first annual "Blessing of the Fleet" will be held by the Stony Creek Church of Christ on Sunday July 6, 1997. All Sea Kayakers including other vessels are invited to attend this unique experience.

A brief ecumenical service of worship, to be held outdoors at Madeira Park, next to the public boat launch at 12:30 which will be followed by a blessing in the harbor of all public, work, and recreational vessels at 1:00.

A parade led by the Stony Creek fire and rescue boat, will be followed by a procession of vessels. Kayaks in a group, and all other small vessels will follow last.

A decorating contest of vessels will be held, where participants are encouraged to be creative, colorful, and patriotic.

Kayakers are asked to launch promptly by 11:15 or before, and park cars at the West Point Baseball Field for this one day. The field is located on the right as you enter Stony Creek. Someone will be available to watch equipment during parking.

Since this event is being held on the most congested week-end in Stony Creek, it is important that kayakers make every effort to not overwhelm the in-town parking.

For further information, please call Chris Hauge at Stony Creek Kayak. (203) 481-6401.

## CONNECTICUT RIVER - MA FRENCH KING GORGE TO BARTON COVE

SUNDAY JULY 20  
TURNERS FALLS, MA

Paddle 6 miles on the CT River through the spectacular, 250 foot-deep French King Gorge and into two beautiful grotto-like plunge pools on Barton Cove. Learn about the post-glacial geology that created these scenic wonders. Possible Eagle sightings.

I am writing an article, probably for ACK on this trip and need photos. Bring your camera and possibly get a photo publishing credit. Clark Bowlen (860) 623-6587

### DIRECTIONS -

*10:30 am at Barton Cove Launch Ramp, off Rte 2 in Turners Falls, MA. I-91 N. to Rte 2 East. ramp is on Rt. 2 on the left, about 4.5 miles from I 91, a quarter mile past the traffic light at the end of the Turners Falls Bridge. About 75 miles from Hartford.*

**Note: All paddlers on ConnYak trips**

**must wear the appropriate CG**

**approved Personal Flotation Device**

**and wear a spray skirt. The boat and**

**equipment must meet CG require-**

**ments, including an appropriate signal-**

**ing device. All paddlers are responsi-**

**ble for their own safety, including**

**dressng for immersion. Beginners**

**must have taken a basic course and be**

**proficient in performing a wet exit.**

**(always carry extra dry clothes)**

## CLASSIFIED

Kevlar Necky Tornak, 3 mos. old  
Red & White \$1600 203-426-8286

Wilderness System Sealution XL  
w/Werner paddle \$900. 1996 Necky  
Looksha, 1 mo. old \$1000. Accessories:  
nylon & neo spray skirts, Kayak sailing  
kit, kayak counsel, portage cart. Best offer  
on accessories. 860-346-6224

Necky Kyook, 3 yrs old, used little  
last 2 years- w/ rudder. \$750.  
860-379-0454

Necky Narpa - Granite color,  
Deck lines, thigh braces, hip pads.  
Bending Branches paddle and spray skirt  
\$950. 860-623-6587

Kevlar Seda Gypsy (single Kayak) 15'3" x  
24" - 36 lbs. Eddyline composite paddle.  
\$1500. 860- 667-9305

Necky Double - roto-molded, Granite  
color excellent cond. \$850.  
(860) 659-1223

Current Design Solstice ST -white on  
white, rudder, spray skirt \$1200.  
(860) 613-0622

Thule Saddles - 2 pairs avail. \$55 ea. pair.  
860-529-4612

*Please contact the newsletter when items are sold.  
ConnYak classifieds are free.*



## TO JOIN CONNYAK...

ConnYak is a non profit club that is  
open to all paddlers interested in sea  
kayaking from any location.

Meetings are usually on the 3rd  
Wednesday of each month. Yearly  
dues are \$30. which include Paddler  
Magazine subs. and membership in  
the ACA.

Send inquiries to:

Stan Kegeles  
P.O. Box 2006  
Branford, CT 06405

## CONNYAK WEB PAGE

Our Homepage is located at:

[www.mindspring.com/~connyak/index.htm](http://www.mindspring.com/~connyak/index.htm)  
Webmaster - Fern Usen - 860-529-4612  
E-mail [Inukshuk@mindspring.com](mailto:Inukshuk@mindspring.com)

Send newsletter articles and photos to:

Jay Babina c/o Jason Design Associates  
230 East Main Street, Branford, CT 06405  
203-481-6815 Fax 203-481-0786



**ConnYak**  
CONNECTICUT SEA KAYAKERS

c/o Stan Kegeles  
P.O. Box 2006  
Branford, CT 06405