



I had been thinking about building a kayak for some time. Deciding on what type of kayak to build was easy for me. I have been paddling a West Greenland style kayak for three years now. I have found that a hard chine kayak is the most suitable kayak to my mind and body. The West Greenland kayak is rich in history, simple but elegant in design, very capable in rough water, and just plain fun to paddle. I have been paddling a fiberglass Betsie Bay Recluse for two years now and was looking to build a kayak as superb as this one.

Chesapeake Light Craft (CLC) introduced the North Bay in early 1998, just the kind of craft I have been looking to build - a low volume Greenland style kayak. Since this would be my first kayak building experience, I opted for the kit instead of building just from the plans. The North Bay is one inch narrower at the beam and one foot shorter than the Recluse. The finished boat is 20" wide x 18'6" long. The North Bay would also weigh a lot less than the 60lb fiberglass Recluse. On the Recluse I had in-

During construction I got a lot of help from the people at CLC, and their website at <http://www.clcboats.com/>. The kit included an assembly manual and a publication "Stitch and Glue Construction." I also found a lot of help on Nick Schade's kayak building bulletin board at <http://www.guillemot-kayaks.com>. It was a rewarding experience, and I think I caught the kayak building bug. I'm already thinking about building another one. All tolled, it took me 335 hours from July 4, 1998 to Sept. 30, 1998 when I launched my finished kayak. I spent around \$700 on some good tools and equipment in anticipation that I would use them many times on future kayaks. The materials costs around \$1200, but now I have a lot of epoxy, paint, varnish and sand paper that I didn't use.

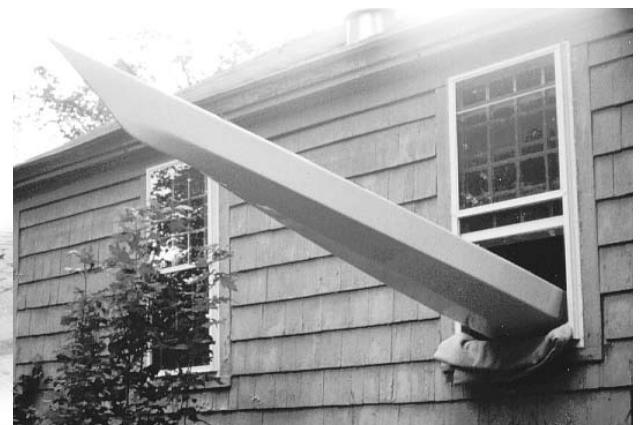
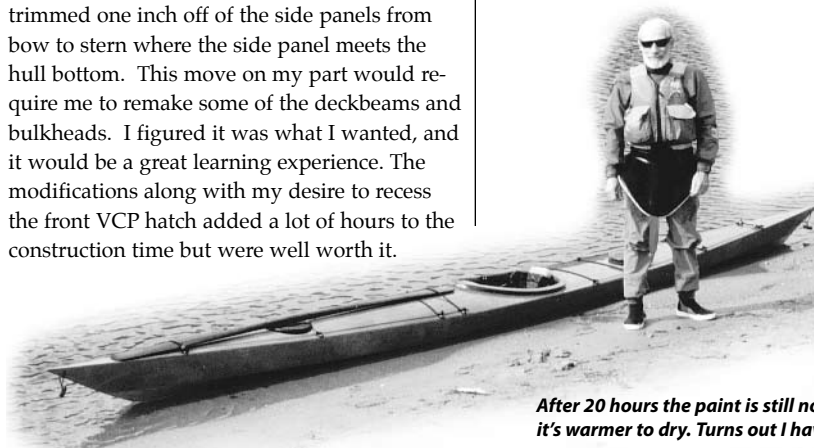
I created and published a web site <http://pages.cthome.net/bobbycurtis/index.htm> that depicts the steps in more detail, and includes many photographs. For this article, I have summarized the 11 steps.

Building the North Bay

stalled VCP hatch covers and a day hatch which added to the original weight. I would install VCP hatches on the North Bay also. If I wanted to retain the eight inch height of the coaming aft like it is on the Recluse, I would have to modify the North Bay, as its height at coaming aft was nine inches. The eight inch height is what I need in order to get a good lay-back on the rear deck. I decided I would modify the North Bay, but only after I had already glued the sheer clamps to the side panels. I trimmed one inch off of the side panels from bow to stern where the side panel meets the hull bottom. This move on my part would require me to remake some of the deckbeams and bulkheads. I figured it was what I wanted, and it would be a great learning experience. The modifications along with my desire to recess the front VCP hatch added a lot of hours to the construction time but were well worth it.

1. Scarfs and Sheer Clamps
2. Wiring the hull together
3. Filleting the inside
4. Filleting the outside
5. Glassing the hull
6. Installing the rear deck
7. Installing the front deck
8. Installing the coaming

by Bobby Curtis



After 20 hours the paint is still not adhering to the hull. Decided to bring the kayak inside the house where it's warmer to dry. Turns out I have a problem. Residue (blush) from the epoxy is conflicting with the paint. It won't dry. I finally scrape and sand off all the paint.

9. Finishing
10. Outfitting
11. Launching

Scarfs and Sheer Clamps

The side and bottom panels are comprised of pieces cut from a standard 4ft x 8ft sheet of (1/8" approx.) okoume plywood. They have to be joined together, as the kayak will be over

- continued on next page -

Ken Fink

Author • Lecturer • Instructor • Paddler

Lecture & Slide Show

"PADDLING UP NORTH"

A Paddler's Perspective on Labrador, Hudson Bay, Newfoundland, and Iceland

Friday, March 26 pm - Essex Town Hall

Ken has been paddling since 1965 and teaching since 1979. Throughout his paddling career he has won almost every kayaking race in Maine and most of New England and is very much involved in ocean ecology as well as land and ocean management. His writings have appeared in almost every outdoor publication as well as in Government and private manuscripts. Ken originated the concept of the symposium and started it's first with L.L.Bean and is president of Poseidon Kayak Imports.

Directions: From Route 9, take Exit 3. Head into town. Essex Town Hall is at the corner of West Avenue and Grove Street.

18ft long. First, I made a 2ft x 19ft workbench with 4 saw horses and 1/2" plywood.

Each set of panels are aligned in reference to a string is stretched the entire length of the workbench. A scarf joint (overlapping) for each panel section is glued with thickened epoxy, and the long panels are formed. A shear clamp (a 3/4" x 3/4" lip) is then glued along the top edge of each side panel.

Wiring the Hull

Holes for stitching (with twisted copper wire) are drilled along each edge of the side panels and the keel edge of the bottom panels. The side panels are joined at the bow and stern with copper wires, and the bottom panels stitched together at the keel line. With the bottom edges facing up the panels are spread at the widest point and used as a guide to mark the holes needed in the bottom panels.

Bulkheads and deckbeams are also wired in to act as a form for the hull. The side and bottom panels are then stitched together with the wires forming the hull.

Filleting The Inside. The stitched hull is then turned right side up and thickened epoxy is used as a fillet to glue the stitched seams on the inside. The fillets are then covered with 3" wide fiberglass cloth tape and epoxy. Then all inside surfaces, hull, deckbeams, bulkheads are coated with epoxy. During this process the hull has to be restrained from moving.

Filleting The Outside. After the inside seams are cured, the wire twists are removed. Any gaps in the seams are filled with thickened epoxy.

Glassing The Hull. Prior to applying the fiberglass cloth, the hull is sanded smooth. Fiberglass cloth is draped over the entire length of the hull. The cloth is then saturated with two or more coats of epoxy.

Installing The Rear Deck. The sheer clamps are planned to match the contour of the deck. The underside of the rear deck is coated with unthickened epoxy. Epoxy thickened with Cab-O-Sil is spread on the sheer clamps and deckbeams. The deck panel is nailed to the sheer clamps with 3/4" bronze ring nails. Weights are distributed to hold the deck down while the glue is drying.

Installing The Front Deck. The main deck-beam is trimmed to make more room for my knees. The VCP hatch is installed by mounting a wood cylinder on a platform between the sheer clamps, then shaping the cylinder to con-

form to the curvature of the deck. The deck is trimmed to overhang the sides by only 1 in. All the contacting surfaces are coated with epoxy thickened with Cab-O-Sil. The underside of the deck is coated with unthickened epoxy. The deck is aligned with the sides using the reference lines. Ring nails (bronze) are then driven into the sheer clamps at the marked intervals



"Curry" is in charge of quality control.

Installing the

Coaming. The coaming is comprised of two spacers and a rim. The spacers are glued over the cutout in the deck. Then the rim is glued to the spacers. I trimmed off the hip braces, as I found them to confining.

Finishing. The deck is sanded with 220 grit paper and cleaned with paint thinner. The hull is masked with plastic

sheet. Three coats of marine varnish are applied to the deck. Between coats the deck is sanded with 220 and 400 grit paper and wiped clean with paint thinner. A coat of polyurethane white paint is applied to the hull bottom. The temperature dropped below 40°F overnight. The paint didn't appear to be drying properly. It was dry on the surface, but not adhering to the hull. After 20 hours the paint was still not adhering to the hull. I decided to bring the kayak inside the house to dry. Even with the temperature at 80° F, it wasn't drying. I decided to remove the paint. The paint was removed with razor blades, wood chisels and paint scrapers. I sanded the hull with 60 grit paper to remove all traces of paint. It's a 10 hour job. A coat of epoxy was applied to the hull, ...then I applied four coats of marine varnish instead of painting again.

Outfitting. Tie down loops are made from nylon webbing, and screwed into the sheer clamps. A backband, and foam seat, knee and hip braces are fitted and installed in the cockpit.

Launching in a lake close to home was my first try of the boat. It was a great feeling to launch the first kayak that I built. The Chesapeake Light Craft people have designed a superb kayak.

- Bobby Curtis

"Kayaks Rule - Canoes Drool"

This was the title of a personal web page a kayak builder had on his page.

CONNYPAK DONATES \$250

Hi folks! Thanks to everyone who attended Joel Healnde's presentation on Faulknors Island. It's heartening to know that a few people with a lot of determination can have the positive effect that both he and The Faulknors Island Light Brigade have had.

The pool sessions have been so successful that we are discussing adding two additional sessions next year. In fact, we made enough money to become Patron's of Faulknors Island in the amount of \$250.00 dollars!

Spring is just around the corner and the outfitter demos are beginning, starting with, The Small Boat Shop in March. We hope to have a booth there this year, so stop by and say hello. Special thanks to Collinsville Canoe for donating a pump for our door prize which was won by Jim Mathews. I also want to say thanks to Stan for his help in the transition from his presidency to my taking the post. It is an honor for me to have the chance to serve the club in this way. As always, if you have any suggestions, comments, or questions, feel free to contact me. See you at the March meeting.

- Ed Milnes

Ever Dreamed of Kayaking in Alaska?

Remember last year's trip report by Wayne Smith on kayaking in Alaska? Spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife and glaciers. Paddling for days without seeing any other humans. I couldn't get it out of my mind, and finally decided to make the trip myself. After much research on outfitters, and exchanging e-mails with Wayne, I ended up booking the same trip he took. And this is where all of you come in. There are still a few spaces available on the trip (maximum of five clients). If anyone is interested in joining a fellow ConnYak member in Alaska, call me at home at 203-256-1913. Or e-mail me at tdittrich@homeatm.com. The dates are June 15 - 19. The cost is \$1,050 plus airfare to Anchorage. You can find out more about the trip on the outfitter's web site:

- Tom Detrich

<http://www.alaskakayak.com/alaska-kayak/nellie.html>.

Kayaking in Nova Scotia

I will be making a trip to Cape Breton this summer, last week of July to 2nd week of August. Part camping and part renting a house. Anyone wishing to visit during that time is welcome.

- Stan Kegeles

PADDLING GREENWICH?

This summer we have an opportunity to paddle in the Greenwich area. The launching ramp at Grassy Island in Greenwich has been open to anyone last season and it is a great area to paddle. The sticking point is that there are not many places to go ashore unless you are a resident. In the last two summers, different sailing groups which I am part of rented part of Calf Island for picnics. Calf Island is owned by the Greenwich YMCA, and is rented out for big bucks to groups, or per head for small groups or individuals. However, it has still been on the expensive side.

Last year I negotiated a deal to use a little grassy picnic area on one side of the island along with rest rooms for one group to have a late afternoon picnic. Because we used a small area with a small group we got a good rate. I propose that Connyak rent the space for \$75, assuming I can still get the same deal, and we have a paddle/picnic there. The advantage is that we can explore some of the beautiful shoreline and coves and islands, stop and have lunch, then do some more paddling. We need to know before planning this- are people interested? Do people think it is OK for the club to spend the money on this? Bring your opinions to the March meeting or call Lenny Lipton at (203) 778-3745, e-mail xenetia@concentric.net.

Cobscook Bay Sea Kayaking

Encampment, Monday July 12 to Friday July 16, 1998. We will day trip from a shore-side campsite at Cobscook Bay State Park, which combines a near wilderness setting with the most interesting tidal water on the Atlantic coast. We'll also paddle the Canadian islands of Campobello and Deer Isle. This is a share-the-chores-and-decisions trip predicated on intermediate sea kayaking skills. Come for as many or as few days as you wish. Wet or dry suit mandatory. Trip is the week after the L.L. Bean Sea Kayak Symposium, so you can combine the two. For information, registration - contact: Clark Bowlen, 860-623-6587, MA_Bowlen@commnet.edu



CONNYAK MEETING - MARCH

SLIDES OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS - BRITISH COLUMBIA BY FERN USEN.

ALSO... SURFING AND WHITEWATER VIDEO AND LECTURE

Home video and lecture on surfing and Whitewater kayaking experiences. Fern Usen and Don White Jr. will discuss the techniques, the boats, their differences and experiences of surfing and white water with various boats brought for display. White water river boats and Surf boats will be compared.

WED. MARCH 17, 7:30 PM
WALLINGFORD PARK & REC.

DIRECTIONS - Exit 15 (Rt 68) off I-91 in Wallingford. West on Rte. 68. (toward Wallingford) Approx. 3/4 mile take a right at the Fire Station (Barnes Road) - at the light. Take your first right off Barnes on to Fairfield Blvd. Wallingford Park & Rec. is the 2nd building on the left.

NORDCAPP OWNERS CLUB

nordkapclub@aol.com.

I'm finally starting up N.O.C.A. The Nordkapp Owner's Club of America now that I have the ability to do desk top publishing. The E-mail address is nordkapclub@aol.com. I'm sure the many new & old Nordkapp owner's in ConnYak would be interested.

- Don Gorski

CONNYAK MESSAGE SYSTEM

(203) 603-4615

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

CONNYAK DIRECTORY UPDATE

The annual ConnYak Membership Directory will be mailed out soon. Contact Dick Gamble for any changes in address, phone etc, as well as adding your e-mail to the listing.
email: richard.f.gamble@snet.net

BRING BOOKS AND VIDEOS

...to the meeting that you wish to donate to the ConnYak Library.

PADDLE SCHEDULE

APRIL

10th - Bluff Point Park
17th - Farmington River
24th - Barn Island
(Stonington - Blessing of the Fleet)

BLUFF POINT PADDLE / PICNIC

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

There's a large pond and protected bay as well as two islands right off shore in the Groton Harbor. (Sometimes there's a gentle offshore breeze)

DIRECTIONS -

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

FARMINGTON RIVER

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Paddle up river, against (almost non-existent) current have lunch and back. Approx. 1 1/2 - 2 hr. each way. 10 a.m. launch.

DIRECTIONS - The put-in on the Farmington River at Weatogue "Silver Bridge" on Rte. 185, is just a couple hundred yards east of the intersection with routes 10 & 202 (College Highway).

From the south, get on route 10 anywhere you find convenient (including interstate 84) and go north through Avon center to the Weatogue section of Simsbury and turn right onto Rte. 185. Almost immediately cross a bridge and turn right to the put-in. There is a large Sycamore tree at the end of the bridge.

From West Hartford / Bloomfield area, get onto Rte. 185 (Simsbury Road) and proceed over Talcott Mountain to Weatogue's "Silver Bridge" with the large Sycamore tree to the right and the put-in just to the left of the bridge.

BARN ISLAND - STONINGTON HARBOR

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

SATURDAY, APRIL 24 - STONINGTON

Paddle to Stonington Harbor and enjoy the event. ??? Parade of decorated ships? etc. Pack lunch. Launch at 10 a.m.

DIRECTIONS -

I-95 to exit 91 in Stonington. Right at the end of the ramp - proceed to Stop sign. Take a right and first left heading toward downtown Stonington. At first junction go left on Rt 1. Approx 2 miles is a light with the sign for the Barn Island Launch. Take a right and another immediate right to the launch ramp. In the water by 10:00 a.m.

All itineraries subject to change due to conditions.

CLASSIFIED

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

2 Woman's Kokatat drysuits, med & small - Bib style, boots incl. New \$275. 860-693-9625

Women's feet heaters, size 5 - \$15. Women's wet suit, sm. farmer John & Jacket \$100. 203-481-1912

Necky Sea Kayak, Looksha IV S, 16'4", like new, used one season. White & turquoise \$1600.00 860-228-0105

Wanted, used double Kayak Call 203-426-2414

Wilderness Systems 3yr old Sealution—Kevlar w/rudder, blue/white. Includes Werner 2-piece Camano paddle, Spray Skirt, Bilge pump, Paddle float, Yakima saddles. \$1500. 860-485-9173

Thule rack system, complete with 2-58" bars, 4 saddles without straps, 4 gutter feet with locks. \$150. Call 860-613-0622

Betsie Bay Manitou - fiberglass 22" x 18', excellent cond. \$1400. 203-269-0569

Kayak Trailer - holds 16 boats \$500. 203-265-4147

Nigel Dennis "Greenlander" Kayak. \$1400 203-265-4147

Patuxent 17'6"x22", 35 lb. sea kayak by Ches. Light Craft. Low volume, hard chine stitch-n-glue, varnish / off-white. Strong tracker, fast, excellent condition. \$925. (860) 653-5899.

Reiver - Derek Hutchinson design, 17' 1 1/2" x 22" - fiberglass, Day hatch, spray skirt. ex. cond. \$1600.00 (203) 457-0149.

Nigel Dennis Greenlander kayak, white over white with skeg \$1350. 860 659-1223

P&H Capella, poly, blue, \$1000 860 659-1223

Orca, Royalex 16' with rudder, demo red over white, \$1400 860 659-1223

Primex kayak cart. Paid \$119, asking \$80. Used twice. 203 426-8286

Aquaterra Chinook, 16' plastic, good beginner boat, \$495. 203 481-1881

Tokook demo paddle, 2 piece, \$150. Ainsworth 1 piece paddle, \$50 860 659-1223

Wanted: Lightweight folding kayak in good condition: \$500 or less, please call 860-872-0812. Also looking for used Keowee or Otter.

Nordkapp HM Loaded; day hatch, foot pump, compass, knee tube, large cockpit, yellow over white. \$1600.00 Day (860)441-8416 Evening (860)535-8087

P&H Capella, yellow, new Oct.98, 17' x 22" stable, fun boat. \$1,250. 401-596-4482 anytime.

Necky Looksha Sport, 14' 4" x 22.5", rudder, bulkheads, hatches, granite color. \$800. 860-537-1157

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

KAYAK SKILLS & ROLLING

Urban Eskimo Kayaking - Mike Falconeri

Skills Workshops March 13, May 18

Eskimo Rolling - Mar. 21, April 18, May 16 Safety & Rescue - Mar. 20, April 17, May 15

Sheehan High School pool in Wallingford Call for specifics - Mike at 203-284-9212

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. Members can join the ACA with a club discount for \$15 which entitles you to full insurance coverage on trips as well as a full subscription to PADDLER Magazine. (a \$15 subscription) Send inquiries to: Stan Kegeles P.O. Box 2006, Branford, CT 06405 e-mail Connyak@mindspring.com

Website: mindspring.com/~connyak



ConnYak
CONNECTICUT SEA KAYAKERS

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