
PADDLING AND LAUNCHING ETIQUETTE

Due to the increased amount of paddlesports using launch facilities, please double up cars (one in front of the other) in areas where cars and trailers park whenever possible. This reduces our parking usage to 50%. In other areas park tight so other launch site users have a spot.

We share the launch sites with others who need much more space than us. Park efficiently and launch to the side of launch ramps that are in use whenever possible. Shove off and fasten your spray skirt on the water if possible to make way for others during group launches and to not hold up any waiting trailer boats. Please stay out of channels and be aware of boating traffic especially around launch areas. Paddle boats do not have right of way - it's our responsibility to stay clear of larger craft.

Please watch wildlife from a distance - do your best to avoid chasing down wildlife - driving animals off their resting sites.

These are the major launch sites in CT. There are many small sites that can handle several cars. These sites are networked through the club and through friends who paddle together. Although many of these sites are public, we do not use them as a club due to the amount of paddlers as well as our desire to have them remain available to the paddlers who use them or live near them.



ConnYak

CONNECTICUT SEA KAYAKERS

P.O. Box 197, Ellington, CT 06029

THAMES RIVER/ POQUETANUK COVE LEDYARD

Paddle sports only launch - 6-8 cars max.

DIRECTIONS - Exit 86 off I-95. Groton Rt 12 to bridge that crosses the cove. Turn west towards the Thames River on the last street in Ledyard before the state highway bridge crosses into Preston. Looks like a private driveway, but is a town-maintained road that ends at a small paved parking lot serving the boat ramp.

TO JOIN CONNYPAK...

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.

Membership includes monthly newsletter, paddles, functions, etc.

Send inquiries to:

ConnYak, P.O. Box 197, Ellington, CT 06029

E-MAIL: CONNYPAK@CONNYPAK.ORG

WEBSITE / BULLETIN BOARD: WWW.CONNYPAK.ORG

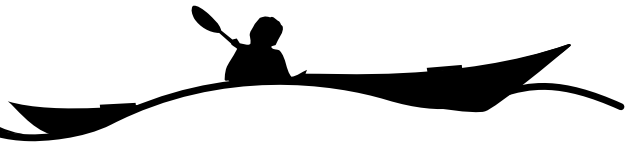
Send newsletter articles or classifieds to:

Jay Babina e-mail: jbabina@snet.net

7 Jeffrey Lane, Branford, CT 06405

203-481-3221 Fax 203-481-1136

CONNYPAK



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

LAUNCH SITE DIRECTIONS

CONNYPAK TRIP RATINGS

Any trip can change dramatically due to conditions - as in all sea kayaking. (I) is generally longer and more off shore with greater chance of rough conditions. Novice trips can easily become intermediate on windy days with rough sea conditions.

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

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

(A) Advanced: A dependable roll, able to rescue others, strong, experienced paddler with at least 2 yrs experience.

Note: ConnYak is not an instructional service or guide service. We are a social club where paddlers get together to enjoy each other's companionship while paddling.

Beginners must have taken a basic course and be proficient in performing a wet exit, paddle float re-entry and carry a pump. 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. 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 during paddles.

Please notify someone if you're going to break away and go off on your own or turn back etc.

Paddlers who can't keep up with the leisurely pace of the group will be advised to turn back. ConnYak cannot supervise or chaperone new paddlers who are unaccustomed to paddling for a few hours at a time or do not have the skills for the conditions.

ConnYak is not responsible for anyone's safety. We make the best decisions we can and watch out for each other, however when you paddle with the group you take full responsibility for yourself.

KEEP THIS PUBLICATION

You can also download and print launch directions from our web site at: WWW.CONNYAK.ORG

Paddle times listed in the newsletter are the "in the water" ready to paddle off time. Please arrive with enough time to park, unpack and launch without holding up the group.

CONNYPAKWEB SITE www.connyak.org

You can check the bulletin board for other impromptu trips listed by members or list one yourself. Trip cancellations will also be listed on the board.

CONNYPAK MEETINGS

GENERALLY, WE HAVE MEETINGS IN THE COLD MONTHS AND CEASE THEM IN THE WARM PADDLING SEASON.

MEETINGS ARE USUALLY IN WALLINGFORD, CT

DIRECTIONS TO WALLINGFORD PARK & REC.

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

PRESENTATIONS ARE IN WALLINGFORD OR IN ESSEX

DIRECTIONS TO THE 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.

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 on Grove Street - parking is in the back of the building.

Almost alphabetical

BRANFORD RIVER / HARBOR

QUIET INTER-COASTAL RIVER OR OUT TO THE SOUND (OPEN WATER).

DIRECTIONS - I-95 to exit 54-Branford.

South to Rt 1. Cross Rt 1 - through the light to the stop sign (library on the left). Take a Rt. proceed to the light. Left on Monroe St. Thru stop sign, over RR tracks (bridge) to next stop sign. Left on Harbor to stop sign. Left on Goodsell Point Rd. Launch site is on the left 200 yards.

BRANFORD-THIMBLE ISLANDS

ON-STREET PARKING - VERY CONGESTED IN THE SUMMER - WEEK-DAYS AND EVENINGS ARE BEST - A GREAT ISLAND CHAIN

Directions- - Exit 56 off Rt. 95. Head (south) toward water. Go straight across at the stop sign, under RR bridge into Stoney Creek. Launch ramp is after small beach on right.

BARN ISLAND - STONNINGTON

NAPATREE POINT, WATCH HILL & STONNINGTON HARBOR

Directions- - I-95 to exit 91 in Stonnington. At the end of the exit ramp, continue straight across on to Rt 234 E. (the road in front of the ramp). Take your 3rd right (.4 m) on to Farmholme Rd. and continue until you hit Rt 1. Take a rt. and a left at the light. Take your first immediate rt. (launch sign) off that to the Barn Island Launch.

BLUFF POINT - GROTON

THERE'S A LARGE POND AND PROTECTED BAY AS WELL AS TWO ISLANDS RIGHT OFF SHORE IN THE GROTON HARBOR. (SOMETIMES A GENTLE OFFSHORE BREEZE)

Directions -I-95 to exit 88 in Groton. Head towards water (south on Rt. 117) to 2nd. light at the junction of Rt. 1. Right on Rt. 1. Left at first light (Depot Road). Continue on to Bluff Point State Park.

CONNECTICUT RIVER ESSEX - HAMBURG COVE

A BEAUTIFUL QUIET PADLING AREA 1/2 MILE UP THE CT RIVER FROM THE LAUNCH AREA.

Directions

From Exit 3 off route 9, go to stop light and go east on West Avenue in to Essex Center - to the rotary at the head of Main Street and then go north (left) on North Main Street for 1 short block and turn right onto Bushnell Street. Just before entering the Dauntless Boat Yard there is a dirt road to the left, leading a short distance to the boat launch and parking area.

CT RIVER - HADDAM MEADOWS

CT RIVER LAUNCH - HADDAM

Directions - Northbound on Rt.9, - Exit 7 off Rt. 9 - go to the end. left on 154. 3 miles to Haddam Meadows - watch for entrance to park on right.

Southbound on Rt.9, take exit 10 to southbound Rt. 154 to Haddam -watch for entrance to park on left.

Inland from East Hampton side of the river - cross bridge at the Goodspeed - 1 mile to junction and a right on 154. Haddam Meadow State Park has no admission fee.

CONNECTICUT RIVER HARTFORD

CHARTER OAK BRIDGE - CT RIVER

Directions- I-91 Northbound - exit 27. When you come to the traffic light, go straight through onto Murphy Road for about 1.2 miles to the next light - go straight through onto Reserve Road for 1/2 mile to Charter Oak Landing which is directly under the Charter Oak Bridge and is marked by a large masonry arch - go 0.4 mile to the boat launch and parking.

CONNECTICUT RIVER MIDDLETOWN

MATTABESSETT RIVER INTO WILDLIFE REFUGE - HEAD LEFT FROM LAUNCH

Directions - From Rt. 9 south: Bow St exit (12). left on Bow Lane, bear rt onto Saybrook Rd. Continue straight (name changes several times) app. 1 mile, right on Union St at YMCA, pass under Rt. 9, left on Harbor Dr.

From Rt 9 north: DeKoven Dr exit (14). Left on DeKoven Dr., left on Union St (2 blocks) at Middletown Glass, pass under Rt. 9, left on Harbor Drive. or call Nora 860-342-1605.

CT RIVER - SELDON ISLAND

E. HADDAM - GOODSPEED LAUNCH DOWN RIVER TO GILLETES CASTLE, WHALE BONE CREEK AND SELDON ISL.

Directions Exit 7 off of Route 9. At the end of the mile long exit ramp turn left on to Route 154. 1/2 mile turn rt. on to route 82. Go over the bridge (CT River)- Airport and Goodspeed is on the right. Launch is behind the Goodspeed- before airport.

CT & SALMON RIVERS - HADDAM

THE SALMON RIVER IS ON THE RIGHT A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE LAUNCH

DirectionsExit 7 off of Route 9. At the end of the mile long exit ramp turn left on to Route 154. 1/2 mile turn rt. on to route 82. Go over the bridge. Go left just pass Goodspeed Opera House on Rt 149 north, 1.1 miles turn left. parking for 40 cars.

EAST RIVER MADISON

THE EAST RIVER RUNS INLAND FROM THE LAUNCH RAMP IN MADISON - ALSO ACCESS TO OPEN WATER L.I. SOUND.

Directions- Rt. 95 - Exit 59 Goose Lane-Guilford. End of exit head south (towards water) 50 yards to light. Take a left on Rt. 1 - proceed 1 mile under RR bridge. Continue until you go over a small bridge (Neck river) take your 1st right on Neck Rd. (bear right) Follow Neck Road to the end and you'll be forced left on to Ridgewood Ave. Continue on to the Madison Boat Launch.

EAST RIVER - GUILFORD

SAME RIVER AS ABOVE. GUILFORD LAUNCH IS TOWN OWNED, SOMETIMES WE GET PERMISSION.

Directions- Exit 58 off Rt. 95. Head (south) toward water on Rt. 77. Take a right and left around the Town Green and continue on Rt 77 to the end of the Green. Continue Straight ahead on Whitfield street to the end where there's a launch ramp.

MESSERSCHMIDT'S POND, WESTBROOK

BEAUTIFUL 100 ACRE SCENIC FRESH WATER POND.

Directions - Exit 64, Horse Hill Rd. off I95. Head North on Rt. 145. 4 to 5 miles on right is State car top boat launch with parking for dozen cars.

FARMINGTON RIVER

PADDLE UP RIVER, AGAINST (ALMOST NON-EXISTANT) CURRENT HAVE LUNCH AND BACK. APPROX. 1 1/2 -2 HR. EACH WAY. (CHECK WATER CONDITIONS AND WATER LEVEL)

Directions-The put-in on the Farmington River at Weatogue "Silver Bridge" on route 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 route 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 route 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.

FARMINGTON RIVER - WINDSOR

CT RIVER AND / OR UP THE FARMINGTON RIVER ON LEFT

Directions- I-91 take exit 35B and follow Rt 128 east 0.4miles Turn left on RT 159 south (Windsor Ave) for 0.3 miles At 3rd signal light turn left onto Barber St. Watch for boat launch signs.

FOUR MILE RIVER - LYME

COASTAL PADDLE ROCKY AREA WITH ISLANDS - YOU CAN GO UP THE SMALL RIVER FOR A BOUT A MILE AT H. TIDE.

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.

GREAT ISLAND - LYME

INTER COASTAL WATERWAYS, LT. RIVER, BACK HALL RIVER & OPEN WATER TO L.I. SOUND & CT RIVER

Directions I-95 to exit 70. go south on rt. 156 (Shore Road) approx. 2 miles to (boat launch sign on the Rt.) Smith's Neck Road. Follow it to the end - to the launch ramp.



GROTON - BAYBERRY LANE

DUMPLINGS, BLUFF POINT OR TOWARDS THAMES RIVER NEW LONDON

Directions- Avery Point - Take Exit 87 off east-bound I-95 and follow the signs (Rt. 349) to the University of Connecticut Avery Point Campus. After you pass the campus, Bayberry Lane is the second right. Look for the boat launch ramp sign.

LT. RIVER - LYME

Morning paddle on the Lt. River.

Directions- I-95 to exit 70. go south on rt. 156 (Shore Road) approx. 1 mile there's a bridge over the Lt. River. The launch area is to the right and before the bridge.

MILFORD / STRATFORD

HOUSTONIC RIVER

HOUSTONIC RIVER - OUT TO LI SOUND

Directions - Exit 34 off of I-95. Right at end of exit on Rt 1. Three lights go right on Naugatuck Ave. 1/2 mile, launch is under I-95 Bridge.

NOTE: Plan with the tide. Housatonic can travel at 3-4+ knots at peak (center). Go left out to the sound and / or intercoastal marsh paddling. Go right up the river and or across the river into marshes.

MENBUNKETESUCK R. - WESTBROOK

SMALL LAUNCH SITE - OUT TO SOUND
IN NICE WILDLIFE AREA - AVOID LOW TIDE - TOO LITTLE WATER. 5 OR 6 CARS MAX.

Directions - exit 64 off I95. S.(1/2 block) on Rt. 145 to blinking light. Right turn and proceed 1/4 mile to put-in on left just before bridge.

MYSTIC

MYSTIC RIVER- YOU CAN GO UP RIVER
QUITE FAR OR OUT TO LI SOUND.

Directions - 2 launch sites
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.

Or... Under I-95 Bridge Launch
Eastbound on I95 -- Take exit 89 and go across Allyn Street onto Sandy Hollow Road -- when you come to High Street, go left a short distance to the first right turn onto side street with a boat launch sign (don't know the name) -- continue to a left turn onto River Road -- continue on River Road and just after you go under I95, the boat launch is on your right.

LAKE LILLINONAH /

HOUSTONIC RIVER

BROOKFIELD, CT

Directions - Take Rt. 25 north to Brookfield Center. Take a right onto Rt. 133. Stay On Rt. 133 for about three miles Take a right onto Obtuse Rocks Road (there will be a boat launch sign) The Road turns into Dingle Brook Road At the intersection take a right onto Hanover Road. Boat launch will be on the left.

NOTE: More boaters prefer to use the Rt. 133 launch. Pond Brook is less hectic and more peaceful. You need to paddle a small stretch of river before you get to Lake Lillinonah.

NARRANANSETT BAY, RI

Explore the west passage of Narragansett Bay below the Jamestown Bridge, with a lunch stop on either Dutch Island or Conanicut Island, depending on conditions. Launch will be from URI Bay Campus in Narragansett.

DIRECTIONS - From New Haven, take Rt 95 to RI exit 3 (Route 138). Follow Rt 138 east to the intersection with Rt 1. Go straight across Rt 1, and follow road to Rt 1A. Go straight across again, and boat launch is at end of road.

From Hartford, take Rt 2 east to Rt 395 North. Take exit 85 (Rt 138), follow signs to Rt 138 east. Follow Rt 138 east to intersection with Rt 1, and then as above.

Rain and/or small craft advisories postpone
Info: Wayne Smith (860) 875-0642 or email:
wsmith16@snet.net
In the water by 10:30 a.m. (pack a lunch)

NORWALK ISLANDS - (N)

Norwalk, CT.
Open ocean paddling, route determined by conditions- Sheffield Island and others. Return about 3:00

DIRECTIONS - take Exit 16 off I-95 East Norwalk. Go south on East Ave. .05 mile to small cemetery on left. Go left at south end of cemetery then make a quick right on to Gregory Blvd. Follow Gregory through traffic light. Take a right on Second St. (first street after the light). Follow to end of street. Launch on beach at end of street. Park on surrounding streets.

PATTACONK RESERVOIR CHESTER

Small, beautiful lake to paddle, picnic, practice skills, swim and have fun.

DIRECTIONS -
From Rt-9 -exit 6, 148 south. Take the 1st right after Cedar Lake - proceed to reservoir.
From I-95- exit 64, 145 to 80, a right and left back on 145. Right on 148. Take left before cedar lake - proceed to reservoir.

NORWALK ISLANDS - WESTPORT

SAUGATUCK RIVER

DIRECTIONS -
Boat ramp in under the I-95 bridge on the Saugatuck River in Westport

From the North: I-95 South to Exit 18. Stay right on ramp. Turn left at second light, Greens Farms Road. Go through two stop signs. Turn left at first light, Rte 136. Go under thruway and take first right. Boat ramp is past the sewage treatment plant.

From the South: I-95 North to Exit 17. Straight at end of ramp. Through stop light. Turn left at stop sign. Turn right at first light, Bridge St. Turn right at next light, Rte 136. Go under thruway and take first right. Boat ramp is past the sewage treatment plant.

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

DOCK RD. ST LAUNCH WATERFORD

Good State boat launch West of Harkness Memorial Park with adequate parking.

DIRECTIONS - Exit 75 off I-95. South on Rt. 1 for 3.7 mi. to traffic light, intersection Avery Lane. Right turn and straight 1 3/4 mi. (road changes to Great Neck Rd.) to Goshen Road. Right turn and straight 1/2 mi. to launch site.

FORT WETHERILL, JAMESTOWN, RI

DIRECTIONS - From New Haven, Take Rt 95 north to Rt 138 East. Cross Jamestown Bridge and take Downtown Jamestown exit near the Newport Bridge Tolls on the Eastside of the island. Follow the main road heading South through the center of town. Then turn LEFT at the sign for Ft. Wetherill. Follow this road to the park, turn Right into the park then take a quick Left to the boat launch parking area. Ft. Wetherill is on the East side of the island, south of the Newport Bridge and north of Mackerel Cove.

From Hartford, Take Rt 384 to Rt 6 East. Follow to Johnston, RI, and then take Rt 295 south to Rt 95 south to Rt 138 East. Then as above.

WILSON PARK LAUNCH, WICKFORD HARBOR, RI

DIRECTIONS - From New Haven, Take Rt 95 north to Rt 138 East to Rt 1 North. Follow to intersection for Rt 1A, and continue north. Turn onto Intrepid St., just north of the junction of RT 1 & 1A, near the fire & Police stations. Follow to the launch and the parking lot at the very end.

From Hartford, Take Rt 384 to Rt 6 East. Follow to Johnston, RI, and then take Rt 295 south to Rt 95 south to Rt 138 East. Then as above.
