

CONNAYAK



CONNECTICUT SEA KAYAKERS

December 2001

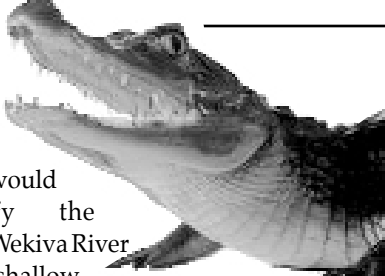
THE REAL ORLANDO

MAGIC Kingdom

by Brooks Martyn

There's a fantastic escape for CONNAYAKers who are visiting the Orlando area and find themselves tiring of the virtual world. Just hop in the rental car and head 22 miles north on the I-4 expressway, take exit 51 at Sanford, proceed 4.5 miles west on State Road 46, and you'll find yourself at Katie's World. You'll be treated to a choice of reality trips in an environment that many of us Easterners have never experienced.

Katie's World is a campground, located on the Wekiva River, that offers canoe and kayak rentals and shuttle service for five different river trips. These trips vary in length from a 6-mile run down the Wekiva to a 19-mile overnight trip on the Rock Springs Run and the Wekiva River. I chose to do a 9-mile run down the Little Wekiva to the Wekiva and thence to Katie's Landing. Put in was from a launch ramp behind the proprietor's residence where I had my choice of boats from new plastic canoes, sit on top kayaks, or two sea kayaks. Forgetting my gorgeous Outer Island kayak back home, I chose an abused sea kayak with missing hatch covers and a cracked deck.

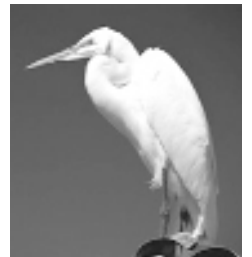


I would classify the Little Wekiva River as a shallow, fast-flowing stream which meanders through a dense jungle. Although the first mile of the run was not far from civilization I might as well have been in the middle of the Amazon River Basin. Pileated woodpeckers squawked from the foliage, herons shrieked, and small, brown swamp deer spooked from the banks a few feet away as I paddled by. And then I was really alone. The sounds of lawnmowers and cars fell silent and the what-ifs started. What if a fat water moccasin dropped into the cockpit as I pushed through one of the many blowdowns that blocked the river? What if an alligator lunged at me from the dense growth on the banks? What if I got hurt or sick? I didn't have any kind of emergency gear, not even a whistle.

When none of these evils occurred I began to recall scenes from the movie Deliverance. After four miles of this jungle adventure I emerged onto the wider Wekiva River. Here the wildlife really got intense. The drought in Florida has significantly lowered the water table and wading birds were present in mob force.

I'm not a birder, but I easily identified egrets, herons of every size & description, ibis, gallinules, ospreys, and wood ducks. A pair of otters frolicked in the shallows.

I chose not to investigate the alligators that grunted and bellowed from the tall grass and only saw one, a five footer that was laying on a muddy bank. My choice of the venerable kayak proved to be a wise one, as the river was very low and my boat drew but little water and responded well to edging so that I was able to follow the winding channels. I knew that my trip was over when I saw two small boys in kayaks playing in the river.



Within a few minutes my four hour immersion into the jungle experience was over I was back at Katie's Landing and civilization. Katie's Landing has a well-stocked convenience store and three new rental trailers disguised as log cabins for short-term stays. With the exception of the two old sea kayaks, their equipment is top notch and their service is first-rate and reasonably priced. The beauty of the river and the scare factor for this timid Yankee could not be excelled. Contact them at www.ktland.com, katie@ktland.com, or call (407)628-1482. This is real magic!



Hamburg Cove paddle in October. Photo - Tom Maziarz

Paddlers & Friends:

Next month a new president will take the helm of our organization, I would like to take this opportunity to wish him luck and offer my support. I would also like to take a moment to thank some people with out whose support the job would have been much harder and much less enjoyable.

Jay Babina, not only does he do an outstanding job with our newsletter, making it a quality monthly publication, his dedication to the sport has made a difference in the overall level of skills of all our paddlers.

Dick Gamble, trip leader, elder statesman (sorry Dick), and treasurer. It is due to his efforts that ConnYak is an economically sound organization. One of the reasons we are able to secure the quality guest speakers that we do is the availability of funds.

Phil Warner, I don't know if I have ever met a more energetic paddler. He is always watching out for paddlers in "distress" on our trips and always willing to help improve paddling skills and lead groups.

Jon Sweeton. When we started with the idea of a club library I didn't think it would amount to more than a few books and a handful of tapes. How wrong I was, our collection continues to grow and cataloguing it has become a chore in itself.

Bobby Curtis, The original website was perfectly serviceable but eventually fell by the wayside. In time Don Milnes made some changes and got it up and running and then turned it over to Bobby. We now have one of the best websites of any paddling club bar none. Constant changes, and active and well-used bulletin board, photo display, events page, we got it all! Bobbies efforts go largely unsung, but our success as a club and growing roster are largely due to the website.

Tom Maziars. See all the nice photos in the newsletter? Tom is the generous club "shutter-bug" Nice job!

Joe Totta, Joe has been instrumental in securing the beach we use for the picnic, I'm not sure but he might also have had a hand in getting the nice picnic weather we've had.

Patti Kliendienst, Has been our contact for the November launch at the Guilford town docks.

Don Milnes. As well as being my brother he is also my friend. He has helped man the club table at the paddling demos we set up at. Folded and

stamped newsletters. Carried my boat around when I was recovering from my injury and just beginning to paddle again.

Cheryl Barnaba for helping with the stamping each month and Dean Bertoldi who gets our meeting room and the pool for the winter.

Group Leaders - someone has to come forward to not only lead but initiate a group paddle. Dave Hiscocks and his yearly Seldon Island Camp, Wayne Smith for his energetic 3-club paddle, Sheldon Penn, Paul Donski and any others who ran or offered to run paddles. Much thanks!

I would also like to acknowledge the many many guest speakers, some club members, some professionals in the sport; they have made the club meetings entertaining as well as educational.

Thanks to our friends and members of Tues. Night Paddlers and the Paddlers Network.

And lastly I would like to thank the club and it's members, I have had a wonderful time serving and I've learned things about the sport and about myself as well. I have made some good friends and been inspired by more than a few club members.

Our club is a successful, vital organization because of and due to its members. A more dedicated and passionate group I have never met, (I've never met a paddler I didn't like!). It has been an honor to be associated with such a fine group of people.

Thank you all, from the bottom of my heart, and Happy Holidays!

- Ed Milnes

Jan. ConnYak Elections

Club elections will take place on our January meeting. The Current club officers have intentions to remain other than the President. Wayne Smith has agreed to take the office of the President.

This is a democracy - anybody can run for any office. We ask people up front so we have a president and officers who are willing to serve for the upcoming year. ConnYak can always use help and anybody can volunteer or run for any office. Our situation is that we usually don't have people who want to commit for 12 months, therefore we do our homework up front.

CONNYPAK MESSAGE SYSTEM (203) 603-4615

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



ConnYak Finances

for the Period
1/1/01 -
11/15/01

Cash on deposit at Fleet Bank (checking and savings accounts) on January 1, 2001 was \$5,434 and on November 15, 2001 it was \$5,805 representing an increase of \$371 so far this year. ConnYak currently has 375 members in good standing. The January and February (2001) pool sessions are prepaid to Wallingford Park and Rec. The charge to club members will be \$10 for each 4 hour pool session and there are 6 sessions scheduled with no limit on attendance. We have on hand a good inventory of hats at \$8 and T-shirts at \$5. The detailed cashflow report and checking account activity is available to all club members at:

richard.f.gamble@snet.net
or (860) 767-0610.

OPENING ACCOUNTS BALANCE
1/1/2001 \$5,434.

INCOME - YEAR TO DATE 11/15/01

Club Dues received	\$5,166.
Savings Account Interest Received	44.
Total Income	5,210.

Net Expenses - Year to Date 11/15/01:

Pool Sessions.....	76.
Hats, Mock Turtle, Vests & T-shirts.....	492.
Speakers	1,062.
Newsletter	2,397.
Home Page & Messaging Service.....	651.
Club Picnic.....	212.
Donations.....	357.
Bank Charge.....	103.
Miscellaneous	132.
Total Expenses.....	4,839.
Accounts Balance 11/15/2001	5,805.

Reinstate Classifieds

Classifieds that are not reinstated will be dropped. It's unfortunate we have to do this, but we get reports from readers of non active phone numbers, items that have been sold etc. Email the newsletter at jbabina@snet.net and refer to the item and phone number in the ad to keep it active. Or, you can call 203-481-3221 Fax 203-481-1136.

Disregard this notice if you called in your classified within the last month.

Dear Santa

*He knows when you've been good,
He knows when you've been bad
He knows when you've been
skipping work, so be good for
goodness sake.*

This year you may want to try a different strategy with St. Nick. Rather than being humble and asking for a paddle leash, ConnYak hat, paddling gloves or a "1st Roll" Video, go for the gold. Leave the stocking stuffers for someone else and ask for a Gortex Drysuit. Rumor has it that Santa is being fairly generous to "good" paddlers this year. (mention ConnYak membership on your request letter) He knows that "good" paddlers all want the Gortex Drysuit.

If you intend on staying with the sport for more than a few years, the Gortex Drysuit is the major item of high priority - and rightfully so. It's the one item that protects you from frigid water and really does what it's supposed to, unlike the the wetsuit placebo. It also allows you to paddle in total comfort and confidence without sweating to death. Knowing that you're protected is a tremendous psychological advantage in the winter. The drysuit is also a great asset in the early spring when the weather warms up and the water is still frigid.

Yes, they are expensive but not as much as your health policy or a vacation - but they seem to cause considerable financial anxiety to most paddlers - even those who think nothing of buying a new car or heading off on a paddling vacation. My brothers suit is 10 years old with no signs of retirement - that's \$60 a year and dropping. Most paddlers find it very easy to part with the money after their first frigid water capsizes. However, it's best to have someone give it to you as a gift.

Start laying on the cold water concerns, safety issues and subtle hints now. Catalogues left open with the dry suit circled also works however be subtle about it - you can cause a backlash if you're too aggressive or obvious.

For those paddlers new to the sport: we've all gone the wetsuit route and eventually got the Gortex Drysuit. The wetsuit will protect your life (for a while), however you will be absolutely miserable and panic stricken if you ever capsizes in frigid water. The wetsuit will protect you from cold shock for a while but you'll have to get into dry clothes

ASAP. And, you won't be paddling any more that day to say the least, ...and, you won't be going for ice cream after that paddle.

Many paddlers actually float in their drysuits in the winter to test them. With your head dry, they offer an amazing amount of comfort in almost impossible conditions. Most winter paddlers carry divers hoods just in case. If your head gets wet, the hood will warm it up fairly quickly. The drysuit is also a wonderful cold day apparel since it does a nice job on protecting you from the wind as well.

One of the best ways to avoid those holiday disappointments is to buy it for yourself. After all, you deserve it and it's a necessity. It's winter clothing. It's for safety and health - not pleasure - honest!

If you think you can pull this off with Santa, get your holiday list ready early and if you've been "good", who knows what Santa will bring. It's the one indispensable paddling item that all paddlers never regretted purchasing when Santa doesn't come through. - Jay Babina

CONNYPAD WINTER PADDLING

Winter paddling is dangerous, even if you're fully dressed for immersion. Hypothermia is always a reality and should never be taken for granted. Utmost caution should always be taken not only for the water but because of the greater adverse wind conditions that exist during the winter. Remember to keep plenty of body reserves to get back. Paddle shorter and safer!

Note: 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.

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

Derek Returns (maby)

We are in discussions with Derek Hutchinson for an April talk and possible classes for interested parties.

GREENLAND STYLE INSTRUCTION

Paddling and rescue techniques, hand rolls, paddle stick rolls, and many other traditional rolling techniques taught by Donald White and Fern Usen, BCU Coach and ACA Certified Instructor. Call 860-643-8303 for appointment, or email: fernusen@aol.com. Free consultation for safety questions.

EVENTS/ PADDLES



connYak Meeting Wed. December 19

Discussions on paddles for next year.

7:00 WALLINGFORD PARK AND RECREATION

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.

LT. RIVER - LYME

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

IN THE WATER AT 10:00

Morning paddle on the Lt. River back by lunch time - eat at the launch site etc.

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.

Brave paddlers needed

It seems easier to find paddlers to go out in a hurricane than ones who will list a paddle with the club. Next year, more than ever, we will need people to come forth and lead (or initiate) paddles. We will be having several paddles on weekends to break up our overcrowding. Paddlers who have a favorite destination of just the desire to paddle somewhere would do the club a favor by listing the paddle. Anyone can list a paddle - you are not required to be a 5-star chaperone. You are just inviting people to paddle with you and sharing the day.

T-SHIRTS FOR ARTICLES

T-shirts for articles - If you haven't received you T's, they will be at all meetings along with hats for sale. Please speak up if we owe you a T for an article.



Check the bulletin board for other impromptu trips listed by members - www.connyak.org

CLASSIFIED

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

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

Diriego, 17.5' Sea Kayak, Kevlar/Fiberglass w/wood trim & rudder. \$1,200.00 203-734-4452 kck@ashcreek.net

Touring/Surfing Sea Kayak: Sun Maximum Velocity 13' x, 25" in Xytec \$675. SurfKayakers@aol.com

Wilderness Systems Pamlico double-2 person \$500. Jim 203-345-0090

2 Walden Vista Expedition 12.5' kayaks (lime, grape) \$600 ea. (203)389-1230 email ensign@southernct.edu

13' Mad River Compatriot; light green with wood trim, 42 lbs., mint condition., \$500, Clark 203/271-2484

Werner Kauai 1 pc. paddle 220cm. Feathered maybe 10X; \$150. 203 457-9772 or andyb@asan.com

Valley Anas Acuta, Ex cond., Day hatch, \$2500.

Vyneck - Nigel Foster, 19" beam, \$1200.
860-441-8416W or jonandlisa@msn.com

Wilderness Systems Tchaika, fiberglass w/rudder, neoprene sprayskirt \$1,500 (203)483-7705.

Perception Carolina Expedition, Green w/rudder, spray skirt \$500
860-623-5598, Terry962@aol.com

Cricket Greenland paddles. Has a well done splint \$50. Will never ever break.
203-481-3221

Current Design - Caribou, fiberglass. Ye./yel. 45 lbs. hard chine \$1895
203-985-9288 areimann@snet.net.

Heritage Nomad 16' fiberglass open-deck kayak. 42 lbs., Ex cond:\$1350.
Mens 3 mm farmer-john wetsuit, small \$20. Jeff 860-267-9563 - jbrooks@wesleyan.edu.

Ocean Kayak-17'9"—Valley Aquila - Blue and white 1800 - 203 226-6926 — pascale@earthlink.net

Kokatat , Gore-Tex, front entry, dry suit, never used. Size-Medium. \$400.
Call 860 767-0696.

Wilderness System Tchaika, glass with float bags, (no hatches - no rudder) excellent condition, \$750.00 - 860-444-6950 9-5 or riley@uconnect.net.

Perception Pirouette: Includes float bags, bow & stern. \$450 B/O. Call Bob 860-613-0622 or Email Bkahuna@snet.net

Old Town Touring Canoe: Penobscot 16 16'-2" long x 34" wide, 58 lbs, 860 lb capacity. Virtually indestructible Royalex construction. \$600 B/O Call Bob 860-613-0622 or Email Bkahuna@snet.net

Perception Carolina Expedition, Blue w/o rudder \$650
Valley Skerray (fiberglass) Blue over White with Chimp Pump,
Compass, Skeg \$1600 203-866-3410 h 203-854-9713, brianenichols@aol.com

Derek Hutchinson Toksook paddle. 230 w/90 degree feather. \$300 or best offer bob efron 860-561-4415

Prijon Sea Gull 16' 6" x 24" Fiber glass touring kayak. Compass and deck-mounted bilge pump, Rudder.\$1,350.00 / OBO. 860.767.1728.
Email: Kayaker@KayakForFun.com

INSTRUCTION

Urban Eskimo Kayaking Classes
Mike Falconeri Nancy Lovelace
203-284-9212 860-228-0105
www.uekayaking.com

SEA KAYAK SKILLS WORKSHOPS
Saturdays - Noon to 4
12/1 - 12/15

ESKIMO ROLLING
Sundays - 9:00 am to Noon
12/2 - 12/16

SAFETY AND RESCUE
Sundays - Noon - 4
12/2 - 12/16

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. Membership includes monthly newsletter, paddles, functions, etc.

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

E-MAIL: CONNYAK@CONNYAK.ORG

WEBSITE / BULLETIN BOARD: WWW.CONNYAK.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



Please contact the Newsletter when items are sold.



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