

CONNAYAK

CONNECTICUT SEA KAYAKERS

November 2001

In the end of June my wife, Janice and I rented a cottage for a week in Tenant's Harbor. It was not a researched vacation site but a spur of the moment when friends who once lived in Maine told us about a cottage that was available just 100 steps from the water. It was too good to pass up. Tenant's Harbor is at the Southern end of the Muscle Ridge Archipelago of 15 small islands off South Thomaston. It is only about 9 miles off Route 1 on 131 South. At the entrance to the harbor is Southern Island which has a deactivated lighthouse. Currently the lighthouse is the Summer home of the Wyth Family who are the descendants of the famous Maine artists N.C. and his son Andrew. In fact we used one day to tour the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland which has a extensive collection of Wyth paintings and artworks. I am not a great art fan but this stop was well worth the _ day it took. There are plenty of neat places for lunch in Rockland. Several miles North on Route 1 will bring you to Maine Sports which is one of the most extensive kayak stores I have seen. In fact we bought Jan a new kayak there. That is a separate story in itself.

Tenants Harbor was once one of the largest schooner building ports on the Maine coast. Several ship companies operated out of the harbor sailing up and down the East Coast with cargoes of lumber, cobble stone and lime for New York and further South. Some of the old buildings still used along the harbor

were once part of this ship building. In fact the family who we rented our cottage from go back to the Colonial ship building days. Local Tenants Harbor history books list the family as one of the major ship builders and even a few of the ships carried their name. There are still the remains of two of the last schooners built along the shore at low tide. I was told they never left the dock when the owners went bankrupt and the banks took over.

TENANT'S HARBOR MAINE

by Paul Donoski

In no more than a two hour paddle from our put-in across from the cottage we could reach Southern Island and the other five islands which make up Long Cove. As you paddle North from Southern Island there is Northern, High, Spectacle, Seavey and Clark Islands. Clark Island is closest to the coastline and twice the size of the other five islands put together. The other islands are only about _ square mile and _ mile across Long Cove. Boat traffic is principally lobster boats and some pleasure craft. Paddling at low tide can add sub-

stantial distance to your course since high and low water marks have a 8 to 10 foot difference. At low tide the once clear bay has rocky outcrops everywhere. In fact at low tide it didn't appear that the narrow channel between Northern and High Islands was even passable.

Two of our days were foggy with a 1/8 mile visibility. The locals told these conditions were not unusual. In fact we were told the week before was foggy every day. Jan didn't like these conditions but I paddled anyway. I stayed within sight of shore most of the time. Unfortunately at one point I came up on a harbor seal on some rocks. It hauled out in hurry once it sensed my closeness. It was a thrill to see but not good practice as we all know. I also had another wildlife encounter when I reached the shore of Clark Island. I had stepped ashore to recycle the morning's coffee when I saw a deer watching me a 100 yards off. It began to snort and paw the ground letting me know I was on private property. This kept up for several minutes until I returned to my kayak and paddled from shore. Once I was on the water the deer no longer saw me as a threat. I always consider these wildlife interactions a highlight.

I didn't check but I believe camping is prohibited on the islands. In fact most of the islands have no trespassing signs. There is a public launch with parking right in Tenant's Harbor. We used a small launch across from the cottage that some of the local kayakers used. In fact

Continued



Marlene Fortgang on the Conecticut River in her newly acquired P & H Series. Photo - Tom Maziarz

they left their kayaks at this site all summer long. That is a luxury we don't have at our busy Connecticut launches. There are two exceptional restaurants in the center of town. The Cod's End is an excellent sit outside sea food restaurant open for lunch and dinner. Farmers Restaurant on Route 131 in the center of town was our favorite. It is open at 7:00 am for breakfast and serves an excellent lunch & dinner menu as well. Check it out if you decide to give Tenant's Harbor a try some time

friends of Outer Island Formed

A start-up support group met in Branford with further plans for more organization and meetings. Possibilities include (minimal) landing opportunities, maintaining the island and monitoring the facilities. Full access of the island would not be permitted. There was mention of a toilet facility and other amenities available to the public. All of this will gradually develop as the "friends" group meets in the future.

2 Capsize in Stratford

By KATE RAMUNNI- CT POST

Monday, October 01, 2001

Two men were able to swim to shore after their kayaks capsized about two miles off Stratford Point Sunday afternoon.

The two brothers, whose identities were not released, were suffering from mild hypothermia but were otherwise uninjured, according to Coast Guard Petty Officer Anthony Palmer. After the kayaks capsized, the two were able to swim to shore, one to Stratford Point, and the other down the beach a bit, he said. When the one brother made it to Stratford Point, he reported the incident to police, Palmer said, and since he was unaware his brother had also made it safely to shore, police, fire and Coast Guard personnel began to search for him. One of the men suffered cuts to the palm of his hand sustained while swimming, and both were taken to the hospital for observation. Their kayaks were recovered a short time later and towed to the Birdseye Boat Launch. The two men were not wearing wet suits or protective clothing, Palmer said, but had on street clothing and life jackets. "It was not so much that the water was so cold, but it was very windy," he said.

The water temperature was in the mid to upper 60s, he said, only a few degrees below the air temperature. But there were gale warnings in effect for the 35 mph winds, he said, and the waves were as high as 6 feet. "It is conditions like that that brings out the daredevil in people," Palmer said. It's not unusual for there to be activity on the water at this time of year, he said. "It tapers off at this point from the summer traffic," he said, "but there are still quite a few individuals who will risk the elements."

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As we approach the colder months, it's important to realize that capsizes do sometimes occur - mostly to the overly courageous, but sometimes conditions can change for the worse on your paddle back to your car. Remember to have adequate cold water protection and adequate cold wind protection. Back-up hats and dry clothes are a must and hot drinks can warm your body internally. Avoid caffeine drinks. Ice Cream after paddles is OK and recommended.

We will probably discuss cold water/weather strategies in a future meeting.

A Moment of Silence

A few weeks ago, a fellow avid kayaker, father, poet, and artist departed to quiet waters. Some of you may have known Rob Osit. He paddled a Sirius among the Thimble Islands, frequently landing on Horse Island and capturing the awesome tranquility of the moment in poetry...or just exchanging the beauty of the day through each breath. He often paddled with his two sons.

He had a wonderful laugh, his sparkling eyes, and a deep resonating voice. He was my traveling companion to British Columbia twice...he loved to camp on the islands and paddle amid the Orcas and sea lions. He was an true artist and a warm, compassionate human being. He will be greatly missed.

Although he left no footprints amid the sand, he left his imprint and memory in our hearts forever.

Fern Usen

We sent a fruit basket and card to his family - ConnYak

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.

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

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

(A) Advanced: A dependable roll, able to rescue others, strong, experienced paddler.

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.

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.

Thoughts on large groups-

Here are some of my thoughts on some the current issues you and the club have raised:

Too many in a group paddle - we need to develop a schedule that would offer 2 or more paddles at different launch points on the same Sat. or split between Sat. & Sun. - in either case the same paddle would re-appear on the schedule at a latter time so all could participate. We need to develop a plan to enlist more leaders and should try to develop a multi-month seasonal schedule so people might better plan ahead and have a range of choices.

Public relations - we need to develop a better pro-active profile i.e.: beginning & end of season cleanups at our more frequented launch sites and destinations; stewardship programs for environmentally sensitive areas (Griswold Point !); develop a pamphlet on kayak (and canoe) safety, etiquette, boating rules & navigation, "leave no trace" guidelines etc. and distribute to new and current kayakers.

As a sub-topic, we (kayakers in general) are on a collision course with wildlife groups, both DEP and private. Note the recently published brochure on "Sharing the Waterways: A Code of Ethics for Wildlife Watching Along the Connecticut Coast" which is available at many state launch sites. We should invite representatives to speak to us and seek ways for the club to help.

- Bill Anthony

Sorry:

**some pieces
unretrievable on this
issue in trying to
convert it to a PDF
file.**

Reinstate your Classified

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.

T-SHIRTS FOR ARTICLES

T-shirts for articles - If you haven't received your 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.

CONNYPAK MESSAGE SYSTEM (203) 603-4615

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

EVENTS/ PADDLES



EAST RIVER - GUILFORD

SATURDAY, NOV 3 - GUILFORD

Inland waterway paddling - pack lunch.

In the water by 10. We want to depart at 10 to keep the tide in our favor!

NOTE: NEW LAUNCH SITE ...DIRECTIONS

Patty Klindienst - a Guilford resident, got us permission to launch at Guilford.

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.

GREAT ISLAND - LYME

SATURDAY, NOV 24 - 10 AM

Paddle around Great Island.

DIRECTIONS - GREAT ISLAND

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

connYak Meeting

"Light tackle and flyfishing from a kayak"

Ever wonder what fishing from your kayak would be like? Manufacturers rep. Jerry Sparks will demonstrate techniques and display products for Kayak fishing. Some items will be raffled off at the meeting.

Also, discussions on up-coming events, controlling paddles, groups, and other business.

Wednesday, Oct. 21 - 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.



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. Surf kayakers@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

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

Necky Looksha kayak-poly. 17 ft. two neoprene hatches, bulkheads, rudder, skirt. \$700. 914-967-3164

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

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

11/3 - 11/17 12/1 - 12/15

ESKIMO ROLLING

Sundays - 9:00 am to Noon

11/4 - 11/18, 12/2 - 12/16

SAFETY AND RESCUE

Sundays - Noon - 4

11/4 - 11/18, 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