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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. Our membership supports our website, the ConnYak library, lecturers, paddles, pool sessions and various functions which require permits, etc.
Wayne Smith - President
Please send checks to:

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PADDLING STONINGTON MAINE

by Wayne Smith

U ntil this past summer, I've never made it out to Isle au Haut. Last time I tried, the group of us got hit by fog, and we could barely see our own bows. We turned back halfway & navigated our way back to Stonington by GPS, and paddled near shore for the day. The sound of a diesel lobster boat motor coming through the fog is enough to make you want to be on shore, especially when you realize that the lobstermen in Maine are the ones who coined the phrase "speed bumps" with regard to kayaks.

I finally made it there in July of 2004. Judith and I launched from Old Quarry Kayak Adventures? launch site in Stonington, and found a calm wind, calm sea, and clear sky. And, we could see the island: 6 miles distant and the biggest object on the horizon. Still, I left nothing to chance: I plotted a bearing to the island, entered waypoints for the launch and the landing area on the island into my GPS, brought a hand compass for taking sight bearings, and made sure Judith had a deck compass on her boat for comparison's sake in case we got fogged in (I hadn't installed a compass mount on the Recluse by this point). I had a GPS & chart on my deck, a Nav-aid for plotting new bearings (And old-fashioned dividers and parallel ruler in my hatch as well), and my VHF radio turned on.

Photo by Wayne Smith

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And of course, none of it was necessary. It was a beautiful day, and we could navigate by sight all day long if the weather held.

We crossed Deer Isle Thoroughfare heading south into the archipelago. We wove in and out of numerous beautiful islands around our main heading until we got to Merchant's Row, which splits the main body of islands into northern and southern sections. After a quick course adjustment at Wreck Island, we crossed Merchant's row, and landed on Kimball Island, 100 yards from downtown Isle au Haut for lunch. Quite a nice spot!

After lunch, it was further south to the lighthouse for a few snapshots. We headed back north, and came across a kayak tour group headed to the lighthouse. One of the customers told me he wished that he had brought his "eskimo paddle", referring to our Greenland paddles.

We headed to Pell Island, and then took a sight bearing on downtown Stonington: 5 miles due north, and a clear line of sight to the cell phone tower in town, which we used as a visual range. There were several charter schooners in the area, including the Victory Chimes, the last 3 masted

schooner on the east coast. I have seen her anchored in Bar Harbor in the past, and she's quite a sight.

We got to Steves Island, and took a break. We explored the island a bit, and stretched our legs. Once we were back under way, a pod of harbor porpoises swam by about 25 yards off our bows, and then dove & surfaced behind us. They swam around for about 5 minutes, and then they were gone. A few seals popped up nearby, too. Fun!

We paddled across Deer Isle Thoroughfare again into downtown Stonington, and along the shore through moored lobster boats back to the cove. Still warm, clear, and sunny 17 miles later.



Kokatat donates seal repair kit

Nick Deslyn, who gave a gasket repair demonstration last year sent the Kokatat repair kit. The kit contains all the jigs and fixtures needed to do neck and wrist/ ankle seal replacement. You will need Aquaseal and latex gloves. In the ConnYak library is a video of Nick Deslyn demonstrating seal replacement. Most kayak stores carry the gaskets, however call first because some stores may not have them. Dive shops also carry drysuit seals. Remember, there are two sizes in gaskets - small and medium suits come with the small neck seals and other gaskets. Large and ex-large suits come with the larger gaskets. Be aware of this when purchasing gaskets especially the neck seal.

Kokatat is a Native American word meaning "into the water".

Zipper Care Instructions

- Pull zipper in line with the teeth in a smooth, even motion. Avoid yanking or pulling to the side. Have

another person help you if you cannot easily reach any part of the zipper. Be especially gentle in colder temperatures because the zipper tape will be stiffer.

- Never force a jammed zipper. Unzip, examine the jammed point for obstruction or damage, then carefully try again. Zipping over a piece of dirt or underclothes can derail the teeth and ruin the zipper.

- The zipper is most vulnerable to damage when you are getting into and out of your suit. Be sure the zipper is open completely, and try not to put force on the ends that could tear the zipper apart.

- Keep sand and dirt out of the teeth and the closing end of the zipper. Clean the zipper occasionally with mild soap and water and a toothbrush.

- Store your suit with the zipper completely open except the last four inches. This will help alleviate pressure on the sealing elements. Protect the zipper from being folded sharply, creased or crimped. If hanging the suit, use a thick armed hanger, or hang by the waist, like trousers.

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Kokatat continued ...

- Lubricate the zipper occasionally with a light coat of paraffin, beeswax, or a zip lube product, applied to a zipper that has been cleaned first. A dab of Vaseline in the closing end improves sealing.

Kokatat Latex Gaskets

Latex gaskets provide the most waterproof seal available for technical watersports apparel. However, they do break down over time, and you can expect to replace the gaskets during the life of the garment. Gasket replacement is generally not covered by warranty. Following these care and use instructions will extend the life of your gaskets.

- Remove sharp rings, watches or jewelry. When putting the garment on, carefully stretch the gasket open with your hands and slowly ease over your head, feet and wrists. Use the same care when removing the garment.
- Latex gaskets are intended to fit snug; they will stretch a little with use. If they are too tight, stretch them onto some kind of form a couple of inches larger than your neck, overnight or longer. If they are still too tight, they may be carefully trimmed, but only trim 1/16" at a time. Avoid nicks or cutting down into the gasket.
- Sunscreen, insect repellents, lotions, high heat and humidity, extreme dryness, and exhaust fumes from cars or gas appliances can destroy or shorten the life of gaskets.
- The best way to protect your gaskets is with regular use of "303 Protectant" brand protectant. Apply "303" several times during the season, and occasionally when in storage.
- Keep the garment clean, rinsing as needed, and hang dry. Store either hanging or loosely rolled, out of direct sunlight.
- Small tears or holes in the gasket may be repaired with Aquaseal.

Anyone can repair their own seals especially considering that we now have the kit and the step-by-step video to show you how. The video is in the club library available to all members at no charge. The Kokatat repair fixtures kit will be with Jay Babina (jbabina@snet.net) or circulated and pick-up arrangements can be made.

Authorized Kokatat Outerwear Repair in CT

Seals, zippers & boot installation and all Kokatat additions and alterations as well. Will also repair or alter any other brand.

604 Opening Hill Road, Madison, CT 06443

(800) 595-8552 Phone/Fax • (203) 421-8485 Phone/Fax

Email: outerwearrepair@sbcglobal.net

Many dive stores and kayak stores also replace drysuit gaskets.

EVENTS

Watch the bulletin board for impromptu paddles and events posted by paddlers.

CONNYAK POOL SESSIONS

People have been asking about winter pools sessions. As usual, we will have our pool sessions on every Sunday in January and the first two in February. \$10 for members. 9 - 1 at Shehan High School Pool in Wallingford.

Send them to Greenland Calendars

Proceeds from the sale of these calendars will be used exclusively to provide financial assistance to US competitors to attend next year's event.

Calendars are \$25. They are available at ConYak meetings / Jay or from Cheri Perry.

CONNYAK MEETING

DEC 15 - 6:30

DIRECTIONS TO: WALLINGFORD PARK & RECREATION

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.

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Terry Gowler
1120 Crow Lane
Mount Vernon, WA 98273



It still amazes me when I see the photo!

I live in near Anacortes in Washington State in an area called the San Juan Islands on the Puget Sound. I was considering taking up Kayaking and decided before I lay down the cash to buy a boat I'd take a class to see if I wanted to get into it. This was the very first time I was in a kayak. During the class there was a seal bobbing around the area while we were getting instruction. The instructor said the seal was somewhat tame and may come by your boat and to feel free to scratch its belly as it cruises by but watch your fingers.

We were all a little surprised as the seal did just that. We were told that when the seal was pup its mom was killed by a boat prop while cruising thru the marina we left from. The folks at the marina would feed the orphaned pup and it became used to people very quickly. The seal was nicknamed "Eddweena" for the Eddyline kayaks made in the area and the folks who were sponsoring the class.

The instructor mentioned that on occasion the seal had been known to try to jump up on boats and to be careful as you may be doing a wet exit you weren't planning on. Well the class ended and we were all heading back into the marina, 4 people went ahead and Chris, who just

happened to have a camera with 3 pictures left and I hung back to let a boat pass as it entered the marina. At that moment Chris told me to look behind me and before I could look around I felt my boat tip, I did the low brace I had just learned and before I knew it I was staring eye to eye with the seal for about 30 seconds. Chris had taken his remaining 3 pictures as the event

I was lucky to have him right next to me to capture the event. The class was already up on the dock and didn't see it. They all thought we were pulling their leg but when the pictures were developed I went straight to the kayak shop and they put the picture on the wall and in their brochure. This happened 4 years ago and needless to say I immediately took up kayaking, built my own boat, a pigmy Osprey and now am president of our local kayak club *The Hole in the Wall Paddling Club*.

I've had a lot of fun with this picture, I have been accused of having fish breath but feel free to use it in your news letter.

Seal Watch

Seal sitings in Connecticut have been at Mystic, Fishers Island & Norwalk Islands. None are climbing on to kayaks as of yet.

TERRORISM PROTOCOL

by Tamsin Venn

Editor, *Atlantic Coastal Kayaker*

In these times of homeland security, we kayakers will have to be increasingly sensitive to certain areas where we paddle. Here's one example. Subscriber George Schnabel, Rochester, N.Y., sent us an item that appeared in his local paper. The Coast Guard arrested a kayaker who paddled too close to the Spirit of Ontario, a new high speed catamaran ferry, while it was docked in the Port of Rochester. He got away with a written warning, instead of having the case forwarded to officials in Cleveland where he could have faced a hefty fine of up to \$32,500 and a prison sentence.

When the ferry is docked at the port, boaters are not allowed within a 25-yard security zone around the boat. The security measure expands to 100 yards when the ferry is on Lake Ontario traveling between Rochester and Toronto.

If the violation was considered willful, the kayaker could have faced up to \$250,000 in fines and six years in prison.

"Despite the amount of publicity over the security zone, the kayaker apparently was unaware initially that he was violating federal regulations... A ferry is a target and we take the security of it very seriously," said William Mosgrober, the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in Buffalo.

Here's another gloomy incident, as reported by Bob Hicks in *Messing About in Boats*. One of his readers, Chuck Sutherland from Pennsylvania (and ACK contributor) was planning a paddling trip out to a historic fort on the Delaware River and called the Park Service to get more information about the visit. The nice Park Service official told him that if he and his friends landed on that island, they would be arrested.

Obviously, we kayakers, especially those paddling in urban harbors, will have to take these measures a little more seriously than we have and curtail some of our on-water wanderings. I went onto the Coast Guard's site and picked up this advice from its brochure on homeland security.

Specific Ways You Can Help:

Keep your distance from all military, cruise-line, or commercial shipping vessels! Do not approach within 100 yards. Slow to minimum speed within 500 yards of

any large U.S. naval vessel, including any U.S. military or military supply vessel over 100 feet. Violators of the Naval Vessel Protection Zone face up to 6 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, not to mention a quick and severe response. Approaching certain other commercial vessels may result in an immediate boarding, so keep well away of shipping or cruise-line traffic.

Observe and avoid all security zones. Avoid port operations areas, especially those that involve military, cruise-line, or petroleum facilities. Observe and avoid other restricted areas near dams, power plants, etc. Violators will be seen as a threat, and will face a quick and severe response. For information on special restrictions in port areas, call 1.800.682.1796 or go www.uscg.mil/safeports/, or check with local authorities.

Do not stop or anchor beneath bridges or in the channel. If you do, then expect to be boarded by law enforcement officials.

Report activities that seem suspicious to local authorities, the Coast Guard, or port or marina security officials. Or call the National Response Center's Terrorist Hotline at 1.800.424.8802. Do not approach or challenge those acting in a suspicious manner.

Always secure and lock your boat when not on board. This includes while visiting marina restaurants, or a friend's dock or other piers. Never leave your boat accessible to others. Always take the keys to the boat with you.

When storing your boat, make sure it is secure and its engine is disabled. If it is on a trailer, make the trailer as immovable as possible.

Obviously, many of these rules apply to larger vessels and motorboats. I like the image of officials boarding the vessel – they will all have to have good balance; and taking your paddle with you into the restaurant to disable your engine.

Meanwhile, some are managing to outdistance the authorities. In May, a kayaker successfully paddled underneath the aforementioned twin-hulled catamaran and scooted away before the Coast Guard could catch him.

Notes from the meeting ...

November 17, 2004

Nigel Foster contacted Wayne and is planning to be in New England in the summer. The plan is to have him do his slide show on Labrador and some on-the-water demonstrations and clinics.

The **Library** is now getting too large for Claudine to carry everything to all the meetings. In the future, videos and select books will be brought to functions. If you have a particular request contact Claudine / ConnYak library (on the web page) prior to events.

Doug Downey is going to schedule a **navigation course** with Adam Bolonski which should happen during the winter. Further notice will be announced as it materializes.

ConnYak Membership Cards? It was brought up with many varying opinions about the format and printing / distribution issues. We will be investigating various options and opinions as well as it's actual need.

Recreational Boats - We discussed the option of scheduling events for recreational boat paddlers. The consensus of opinion was that if somebody wants to do that, it would be great. However, nobody has volunteered to come forward to do it. Everyone agreed that rec. boat paddlers need to do this for themselves and can use our club as a base. It was also felt that it would be reckless for ConnYak to just schedule events like that with no thought or concern about what happens on the paddles. If events like that are scheduled, someone should want to be there.

Financial decision making was also discussed. All large financial decisions will always be posted on the board for opinions. However, everyone agreed that the way we are doing things is fine and unnecessary delays only stop things from getting done.

Cold Water Apparel - Members gave informative discussions and displays of various cold paddling gear. The wide array of apparel that people use was quite interesting. Rusty also showed his tent and discussed it's use as a wind breaker on lunch stops during winter paddles.



TO JOIN CONNYAK...

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ConnYak Dues

ConnYak annual dues are due yearly to the month when you joined. Email notices will be sent when your dues are due. Some people will get a post card until our data base is current.

Newsletter Editor / Design
Jay Babina

Send newsletter articles or photos to:
jbabina@snet.net
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T-shirts for Articles

Authors of articles for the newsletter get a free T-shirt.

Visit our web site for the Bulletin Board, Library Information and more information on ConnYak

www.connyak.org