

CHANGES IN CONN YAK

Club dues will now be collected each January

Many members have inquired about their dues and membership status. To simplify the large bookkeeping chore of logging and filing members dues, we have now switched to a yearly one-time collection date, which is this January. Please fill out and mail in the application page on the last page along with you dues. Your support allows us to do the many diversified things as described in this newsletter.

New members who join after June 30 will roll over to the following year and pay the \$15 contribution in January. We ask so little to keep our club going that trying to do things on a month by month basis is futile and creates more work than it's worth along with added confusion about membership for the members.

Photography Show

Our scheduled meeting and photo show for December was cancelled because of the snow storm. We will be moving this to January with the date and location to be announced - watch the bulletin board. This show is a collection of kayaking photos contributed by members. Bring any camera equipment you would like to show or discuss at the meeting.

New President and Vice President

Phil Warner is the new ConnYak President and Kate Powers is going to be the Vice President. The other officers remain in their same positions.

A NEW PRESIDENT

A message from past President - Wayne Smith

As I look back at the last four years, all I can think is "how did it go by so fast?". It seems like just yesterday, that we were sitting at Wallingford Park & Rec, and I was trying to figure out how on earth I was going to be the president of ConnYak.

And now, when I think of all the stuff that we did in those four years, I realize we did a lot. We fought forced registration of our boats two years in a row. We Brought in Greg Stamer, Nigel Foster, and others for visits and clinics. We ran several clinics of our own, including our annual rescue clinic. We supported Cheri Perry's initial trip to the Greenland National Championships. We adopted a leaderless paddle format & expanded our schedule and encouraged people to post their own paddles to make smaller groups. We went all-electronic in our everyday business. We solidified relationships with the DEP boating division and the US Coast Guard. We ran pool sessions and rescue clinics. And, we did some paddling.

There was a lot of other stuff that went on behind the scenes as well. I was asked to speak on a panel as a representative of paddlers in general in a public forum that was run by the CT river estuary regional planning authority. I took a reporter from the New Haven Register paddling for an article he was writing. We as a group were asked for design ideas for a new launch area in Clinton. The club partnered with the DEP to write the new safe paddling guide, and help set up and run the new annual "Paddle Smart" exhibition. We provided safety and rescue for several outfitters at their demo days. We as a club were mentioned in several newspaper and magazine articles, and members were interviewed for them.

We do a lot, when you think about it. And it was definitely a group effort.

Organizations like ConnYak live and die by the availability of volunteers. If nobody steps up, nothing happens. Fortunately, we have over the past few years had a lot of volunteers:

Phil Warner, Vice President
Jay Babina, club Secretary and newsletter editor
Claudine Smith, our Librarian
Jim "Sarge" Michlewski, our Treasurer
Bobby Curtis, our Webmaster
Oliver Bloch, our Classifieds Editor & backup webmaster
Brian Cooper, our Schedule Administrator & backup webmaster

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Thanks... from Wayne Smith cont.

And also Dick Gamble, our past treasurer, Kate Powers, who started the e-classifieds, Jon Sweeton, who created the club library, Doug Downey, who sets up educational opportunities, and let me drown him repeatedly at the Paddle Smart demo, Sheldon Penn, who supplies club clothing and runs trips to fun places, Dean Bertoldi, who gets us the pool and meeting rooms in Wallingford, Dave Fasulo, who gets the Essex Town Hall for presentations, Carl Tjerandsen, who inspires us with his photography and also does informal rough water sessions with people who are new to it, Bill Anthony, who co-wrote the paddlers etiquette publication with Jay and myself, Nick Schade, who gives away tons of free paddling and boatbuilding advice, and many others who have contributed in ways both large and small. They are who make us the club we have become over time & continue to keep things going strong. I hope that spirit continues, and I plan to keep volunteering my time as well.

This is not a goodbye, it's a "see you at the next paddle". I look forward to the future of the club, and hope it continues to follow a path that people enjoy, because it's all about having fun. See you all on the water!

Greenland rolling lessons

Cheri Perry and Turner Wilson are offering rolling lessons at our pool sessions. The rolling lessons are one hour, 80 dollars for Connyak members, 100 dollars for non-Connyak members. Tuiliq and low-volume rolling kayak included. Regular rolling lessons are available as well.

Please contact by e-mail
mailto:turner@kayakways.net.

Special thanks to Cheri and Turner who got us the pool this year! Greenland calendars are available at pool sessions for \$25. Proceeds go to "Send them to Greenland" organization.



Digital Projector

This year we purchased an Optima Technology Digital Projector and a DVD player so we can always have one on hand for presentations and club meetings. (we were borrowing one and began to wear out our welcome)

Nigel Foster

ConnYak brought in noted trainer and author Nigel Foster for a free clinic and demonstration and conducted a group paddling clinic the following day. These events are always posted numerous times on our bulletin board at www.connyak.org.

Newsletter

Our newsletter went on-line for a year and now will be published as information and articles demand. This will be an on-line publication which you can download as a PDF file. We will publish two paper newsletters - one which you have now and one in the early Spring with paddling updates and a preliminary paddling and events schedule

If you would like to contribute an article for our newsletter, please contact Jay Babina at: jbabina@snet.net) Articles on anything kayaking are always welcome.

Bulletin Board

On our website, is the forum / bulletin board which is active every day with messages and listings on paddles, equipment and a wide array of kayak related postings.



Events & Paddles

If you would like to post a paddle please do so on our bulletin board or contact the club and we will include it in our spring newsletter which will go out in the mail. Paddles are posted by paddlers who just want to share an event. It does not mean you are leading a group or responsible in any way. Our club is just about sharing opportunities, friendship and paddling.

We also need events. If you have an idea for a speaker or clinic etc. please contact the club. Or if you would like to organize an event yourself, just let us know and we will support in any way we can.

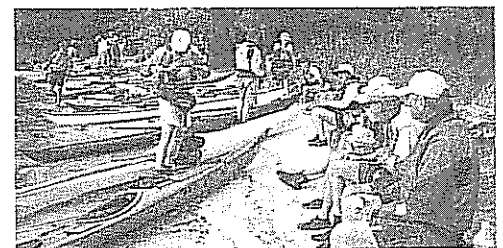
Visit our Bulletin board regularly for events and paddles.

www.connyak.org

Pool Sessions 2006...

This years pools sessions are scheduled for Sundays in January 4, 11, 18, 25 and the first Sunday in February - 1

Pool fee is \$15 for members, non-members \$20. Sheehan High School Pool in Wallingford, 9 am to 1 pm. These are practice sessions for the paddlers.



CONNECTICUT SEA KAYAKERS

Membership Form

ConnYak trips are listed by members who want to paddle in certain areas that they know. Our trip leaders are neither experts nor instructors. You are the captain of your own craft and you alone are responsible for your own safety and well being. No one can force you to launch your kayak from shore. This is your decision and your responsibility.

This sport can be dangerous. You can be injured and possibly die from kayak related accidents. That is why we continue to disseminate information on safety, safety equipment, self rescues, group rescues, hypothermia, navigation, rules of the road, tidal currents and weather related hazards. Members are alerted to the many skill elements that make up a good paddler and are encouraged to obtain formal training from a qualified instructor.

We urge our members to beware of so-called experts, who may put the inexperienced paddler in a dangerous situation. Know your limitations and remember that it is safer to paddle in a group rather than alone. Always be aware of your surroundings and the conditions.

We urge you to paddle and have fun. Learn as much as you can about our sport and share your knowledge. It will make us all better and safer paddlers.

Date: _____ New [] Renewal []

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

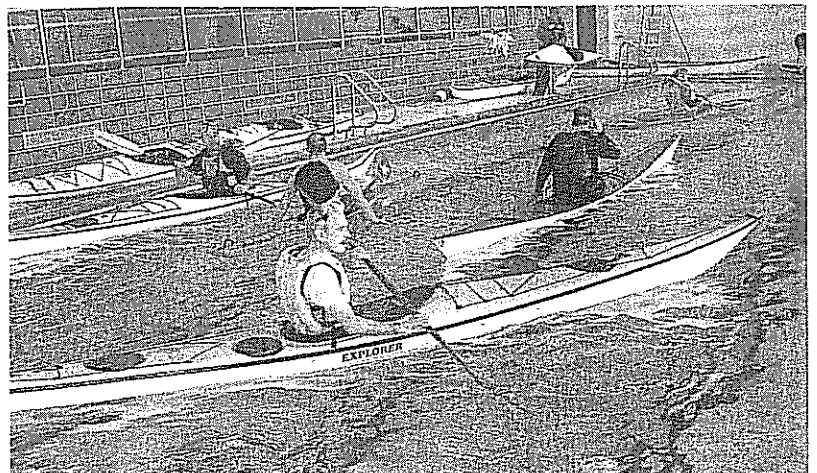
Tel. Work _____ Tel. Home _____ E-Mail _____

I paddle the following boats: _____

Please send your check for \$15.00 payable to ConnYak and send to:

CONNYPAK
PO BOX 571
Plantsville, CT 06479

Amount Enclosed _____



Library

ConnYak has a library with almost every video and book related to paddling available to the members at no costs. On our web site you can see the full listing.

Clinics / Speakers

We often have guest lecturers at our meetings as well as paddling clinics by traveling guest paddlers. We have brought in instructors from all over the US and abroad.

Rescue Clinic

Safety is a prime issue with the club and education & training are the key to achieving safety on the water. Every August we have our annual rescue clinic at Bluff Point State Park in Groton which is open (free) to all paddlers.

Picnic

Every September we have our annual picnic which is a paddling/social event.

Paddles

Almost every weekend throughout the warmer season, paddles are announced on our bulletin board or posted in the newsletter. Paddles are labeled as to the level of difficulty - from beginner, intermediate and advanced.

All open water paddles are (N/I) Novice/Intermediate because the sea conditions can drastically change in an hour. Novice paddles are inter-coastal and river paddles. Advanced paddles will always be marked on the listing and encompass offshore crossings, and usually rougher conditions and longer distances.

Any paddle can change dramatically which is the nature of our sport and something we should always be aware of. Although paddlers will always help one another, ultimately, you are always responsible for your own safety when paddling on any trip.

Please try paddling for a few hours before attempting a ConnYak trip even on a novice paddle. The other paddlers as well as you will be happy you did that.

To Join ConnYak or continue membership:

You can fill out the membership application on the back of this brochure or download it from our website at: www.connnyak.org.

We are a non-profit club and the \$15 dues allows us to provide the paddling opportunities / website / library and other benefits that ConnYak members use.

Paddle safe, always wear a PFD and please join us for an enjoyable and educational paddling experience.



Thank You

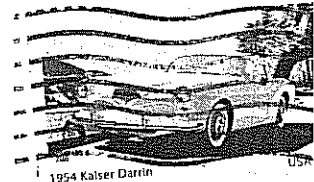
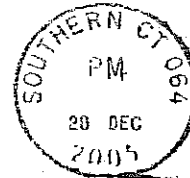
If you have been a member
and continue to support us,
we sincerely appreciate your
involvement.

ConnYak has 393 members.



ConnYak
CONNECTICUT SEA KAYAKERS

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1/1/2007
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