



Put-Ins & Paddle Strokes

news from and for the CONNECTICUT SEA KAYAKERS
volume one, number three • july, 1994

JOIN CONNYAK

Paddling trips, PADDLER magazine, this newsletter, American Canoe Association membership, and more.

Join southern New England's newest sea kayaking organization, CONNYAK, and be a charter member of an exciting new club that is paralleling the rapid growth of sea kayaking in our area. Annual membership dues are only \$30. You will get:

- Free participation in all club trips (Non-members will have to pay a \$5 trip fee).
- *Put-ins and Paddle Strokes*, our club newsletter, which includes trip listings, information on where to paddle and where to launch, club news, paddling features, and much more.
- Membership in the American Canoe Association.
- Subscription to PADDLER magazine.

And best of all new paddling companions and new and exciting places to paddle your sea kayak.

See page three of this news letter for application blank and instructions on how to join.

Club News

June Meeting

The June ConnYak meeting was held 6/8/94 at Manchester Community-Technical College. Approximately 35 sea kayak enthusiasts attended. President pro tem Stan Kegeles explained the club's mission, organization and dues structure.

Dues will be \$30 per year. \$15 will be for ACA membership. The other \$15 will cover the cost of 6 newsletters per year, meeting and miscellaneous expenses.

Treasurer Jim Gass explained why we elected to join ACA. Besides the benefits of ACA membership for each ConnYak member (including the free PADDLER subscription) the club will get its trips and events covered under ACA's liability insurance. We will also be part of and support the nation's premier paddling organization.

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Coming Events:

7/13: ConnYak club meeting
7-9pm, Old Main St.
School, Old Saybrook,
~~Old~~ Connecticut.

Directions:

- Rte 9 S to Exit 2 (154)
R off ramp to 4th light
L on to Main, 4/10 mile
to Sheffield, L 1 block to
school
- 95 S to Exit 67 (Elm)
L off ramp, thru light to
stop sign, R on Main 3/10
mile to Sheffield, see
above
- 95 N to Exit 67, bear R
on Ramp, go straight to
3rd light, L on Main,
follow Rte 9 directions
Stan Kegeles (673-6711)

7/21 Mystic/Stonington
A round trip with a stop
at Skipper's Dock for
lunch. Meet at 9:00am.
Sue Warner (693-6977).

7/31 Block Island day trip
We will load a trailer
with our kayaks and take
it out to Block on the
ferry. We'll exploring the
island's many interesting
paddling venues, do a
little surfing, etc.
Sue Warner (693-6977).

Launchings

Clinton-Duck Island-Hammonasset Area

Info supplied by Peter Hull

This area offers many options for various skill levels and weather conditions. The inner harbor, protected by Cedar Island with three rivers feeding it, offers serene paddling and excellent bird watching. Outside of Cedar, you can go southwest to West Rocks, and around Meigs Point to Hammonasset State Park, or southeast around Hammock and Kelsey Points to Grove Beech. Northeast from Kelsey are the entrances to the scenic Menunketesuck and Patchogue Rivers, and off to the east are Duck and Menunketesuck Islands. The round trip from Clinton Harbor to any of these locales is less than ten miles, and some are just a few miles away.

Caution areas: The inner harbor has a water ski area between the main channel and Cedar Island; tide rips run off Meigs and Kelsey Points breakwaters, and south of Duck and Menunketesuck Islands; watch out for boat traffic during the summer especially in the harbor areas; the islands are posted during plover season; and for those allergic to sea food, watch out for Bill's Sea-

food just passed the "Singing Bridge" (Rte 1) on the Patchogue River.

Put-ins:

- Meigs Point at Hammonasset Park (fee after Memorial Day)
- Clinton Town Dock (usually no fee for kayaks, depending on who's on duty)
- Menunketesuck River at the Rte 145 bridge (small parking area)
- Labor day to Memorial Day—launching is possible from town beaches—Clinton and Westbrook are good spots.

Maps: Waterproof chart #7, USGS topos—Clinton, and Essex

Madison Area

Info supplied by Kim Gass

Starting from the East River state ramp in Madison, you can do a ten mile round trip up the East River through an Audubon sanctuary where egrets, herons, osprey, and hermit crabs abound. Catch the in tide up and the out tide back. The river is generally navigable as far as the one lane wooden bridge (Bearhouse Hill Road). After August 30, when the roseate terns are done nesting, an 8 mile open water trip to Faulkner's Island is possible. Sights include the 191

year-old lighthouse and harbor seals in the winter. Other destinations include the Thimbles via the Guilford shore, a 14 mile round trip to Meigs Point at Hammonasset (see above), or a 10 mile round trip along the Madison shore.

Caution areas: There is an east/west current out to Faulkner's. At the north end of the island is a one-mile-long shoal with a strong rip and the potential for 8 foot haystacks in rough conditions. Avoid this area. The north end of the shoal is marked with a green gong.

Put-in: East River state ramp. Take Exit 61 off I 95. Go south on Rte 79, turn right at third light. Go west on Rte 1 about 2 miles and turn left onto Neck Road. Follow Neck Road for 2 miles until it changes names to Ridgewood at a sharp left bend. Follow Ridgewood's twists and turns for about another mile and turn right into launch ramp.

**Don't forget
ConnYak Meeting
July 13, 7-9pm
Old Main St School
Old Saybrook CT**

Yes I want to join southern New England's exciting new sea kayaking organization--CONNAYAK!

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE (HOME): _____ (WORK): _____

My interests are: Day trips _____
Overnight/Camping trips _____
Instructional trips _____

I would be willing to lead a trip _____

Dues

Amount enclosed

Individual membership: \$ _____
• not now an ACA member = \$30.
• current ACA member = \$15.

Family membership (one newsletter): \$ _____
• not now an ACA family member = \$45
• current ACA family membership = \$20

Additional name(s) _____

Current ACA membership number is _____
(You must supply this to receive ACA discount)

Please sign enclosed waiver. Every family member must sign individually. Photocopy as needed. Mail this application form, ACA waiver, and check to our Treasurer, Jim Gass, at address below. Make checks payable to ConnYak. If you have questions, you can call Jim at (203) 421-4476.

Jim Gass
64 St. Francis Woods
Madison CT 06443

Club News Continued

The July *Put-ins & Paddle Strokes* will include a ConnYak membership application and copy of the ACA waiver form members must sign to join ACA.

The business meeting was followed with a talk by long-time sea kayaker Gail Ferris of Stoney Creek Connecticut. Gail did a multi-media presentation on her trips to East and West Greenland that included slides and simultaneous video tape. It was a feast for the eyes and the mind.

Thanks to Bill Pratt

At the June meeting, Stan Kegeles announced the resignation of Bill Pratt as club Secretary. Clark Bowlen and Clay Luce agreed to share the secretarial duties on a pro tem basis.

Bill's help will be missed. Besides publishing our news letters, he developed the newsletter format and the ConnYak paddle logo. Both give our club a very professional image. Thanks Bill.

Want to lead a trip?

The summer paddling season is upon us. We need trips for the August newsletter. Choose a place where you really like to paddle

and one you would like to share with others.

Then call Clark Bowlen at 646-4329. He will help you decide on trip logistics, and help with a write up for the newsletter.

Boats & Stuff:

For Sale -- Necky Kevlar Arluk 1.8. Excellent. \$1500. Fern Usen 529-4612

Wanted -- Used 16'-17' sea kayak for my son. Plastic or fiberglass okay. Reasonable. Clay Luce 877-8493

Wanted -- Short (212-220 cm) paddle for my son. Bill Pratt 658-2383



CONNECTICUT SEA KAYAKERS
131 East Center Street
Manchester CT 06040