

NEW SEA KAYAK CLUB FOR CT PADDLERS

First Organizational Meeting Draws 15 Kayakers, Plans Mapped Out

It is, as yet, nameless and homeless. But don't worry unnecessarily. Connecticut's new sea kayaking club is already well on its way toward becoming a major force for kayak touring in the Nutmeg State.

Some 15 sea kayakers from inland and shoreline Connecticut met Wednesday evening, April 20, in Collinsville to explore the potential for an active organization to promote flatwater kayaking in Connecticut. Attendees ranged from highly experienced paddlers to newcomers to the sport. Discussion pointed toward immediate founding of the proposed club with a membership of as many as 75 individuals and families. **Club Mission: FUN!**

The unanimous consensus among attendees was that the sole purpose of the new club will be maximum enjoyment of the sport of sea kayaking in all its many forms. This is *not* a club dedicated to long distance salt water paddling exclusively, although many members will see that as their primary interest. It is *not* going to be a club for casual lake paddling, but there will be enough of that paddling discipline for those who want it. It is *not* a club devoted to member training, although we hope to conduct training seminars and clinics, formal or otherwise, on a regular basis.

In short, this new club is intended to be exactly what the membership, as a whole and individually, want it to be. In three short letters: F-U-N.

2nd Meeting Slated

A second organizing meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 11** at 7:00 PM at the Elmwood Com-

munity Center, Room 17, (1106 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, CT). The agenda will include development of the club structure, election of officers, a meeting schedule, club activities objectives, etc. Information and directions to the meeting are available by calling Stan Kegeles (673-6711 eve.), Bill Pratt (651-4520 days) or Sue Warner (693-6977 days).

What's In A Name?

Okay. So 'whatchamacallit' isn't a worthy name for a club like we all have in mind. (Although 'sea kayaking squadron' has a nice ring to it, don't you think?)

A high priority, very high, on the agenda for our next meeting will be discussion and selection of a fitting name for our new organization. There are already a whole lot of great names out there for sea kayak clubs: MASK, The Roofrack Yacht Club, etc., etc., etc.

Put on your thinking cap, and come to the meeting armed with a real killer of a name for the club. Who knows, you may carve out an enviable niche in history for the right choice of a moniker.

Most Importantly, Be There!

Rest assured that the new club will become a reality. But it is going to take the involvement of sea kayakers, just like you, to make it work the way we all want it.

Mark your calendar. Call your kayaking friends. Make it happen!

CALL FOR MEMBERS!

If the new sea kayaking club is going to work -- and work well -- for all of its members, we need as many active, involved members as possible.

All of us who enjoy touring Connecticut in a sea kayak have met many others who share our addiction. Give them a call, and get them out to the May 11th meeting. Don't stop to think that maybe they already know about it. Call them anyway.

Remember, no club ever got on its feet because 'somebody else' did all the missionary work. This club will work best when we all work for it.

Coming Events:

5/10 & 5/24: Casual Paddling, Farmington River at Collinsville Canoe Store, 5 PM on, **Jon or Sue Warner** (693-6977)

5/21 & 22: CT River Trip, 9³⁰ AM, Hurd State Park to Long Island Sound, 11.5 mi each day, camping at Seldon Island State Park, day trippers welcome both days. **Clark Bowlen** (646-4329) or **Maggie O'Neill** (265-3537).

5/22: Farmington River Cruise, 1 PM, Rte. 4 in Farmington to Rte. 185 in Simsbury, 9 mi., flatwater, cookout follows, shuttle. **Farmington River Watershed Assn.** (658-4442).

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