



L. L. BEAN SEMINAR AND SYMPOSIUM

I attended a couple of L. L. Bean-sponsored sea kayaking events in Maine this summer.

The **Atlantic Coastal Kayak Symposium** is held at the Maine Maritime Academy in Castine. It is two days of classes and talks on sea kayaking, and an indoor and outdoor trade show.

I attended classes on electronic navigation, weather forecasting, packing your boat for trips, paddling in wind and waves, boat design, and the night sky (we tried to see the comets hit Jupiter). Others I didn't get to included kayak cookery, travelling cheap, and women's paddling issues. The classes were aimed at novice/intermediate paddlers. While some instructors were more interesting than others, the material in all the sessions was valuable and to the point.

The talks included Lee Moyers on paddling in the Seattle area and Audrey Sutherland on the Inside Passage. Derek Hutchinson gave an account, both hair-raising and funny, of his crossing of the North Sea, and Mike Perry did a whimsical slide show on his piece-meal trip from Portland ME to New York City.

The indoor trade show had booths from boat and gear manufacturers, local distributors, clubs and organizations like the Maine Island Trail Association, and publishers.

The outdoor show is at the beach where you can try out boats and paddles. I paddled Neckys and Current Designs, and talked with the boat's designer/manufacturers, both of whom travelled from the Seattle/Vancouver area to personally demo their products. I also tried a couple of Wilderness System boats and the new rubber Skerray—a great little play boat.

You can stay in an Academy dorm and eat in the cafeteria or camp in an apple orchard, which I did. The symposium was very well-run, the Saturday night lobster feed terrific, and the whole thing worth the trip, especially if combined with a few days paddling in the nearby Deer Isle Archipelago.

Several weeks later I attended the **Kayak Seminar** held at New England College in Kennebunkport. The seminar is a weekend of five intensive, in the water instruction sessions—self rescue, group

rescue, rolling, surfing, assertive paddling (rotate, rotate)—one hands-on classroom session on navigation, and a couple of evening talks. It's aimed at intermediate paddlers who have their own boats. The seminar is a class act. It was well and thoughtfully organized. The instruction was good—2 to 4 instructors for each subject, and only 12 students in each session—and the instructors themselves were knowledgeable, fun, and enthusiastic. Like the symposium, you can eat at the cafeteria and sleep in a dorm, or camp. And like the symposium the Saturday night lobster was excellent. Others from ConnYak—Ingela Helgesson, with whom I attended this year, and Fern Usen who was there last year—share my endorsement.

Clark Bowlen

*[blind note --file copy only]
to: Mike Perry, L. L. Bean, Inc.,
Freeport ME 04033
Mike—here is the newsletter
article I promised. Please send the
check to my mother's house, at
enclosed address, in a plain white
envelope. Thanks, Clark*

Coming Events:

Weds., September 14, 7:30pm
CONNAYAK Meeting at
 Manchester Community Col-
 lege, classroom A-1. Take I 384
 off I 84. Take Exit 1 off I 384
 (Spencer St.), and follow signs.
 Look for Parking Lot B—past
 large cement building (Lowe).
 Go to NE corner of B lot, follow
 stairs to bottom of hill. A-1 is at
 bottom of stairs—in same build-
 ing as May meeting.

Sun., Sept. 25, Faulker's Island
 10 mile round trip/open water
 crossing to uninhabited island
 with historic lighthouse. Lunch
 on island, possible sidetrip to
 Goose Island. Limited to
 experienced boaters with

reliable self-rescue, PFD, spray
 skirt, flares, whistle, floatation.
 No open or creek boats please.
 Wind, seas, currents likely.
 Meet 9:30AM, commuter lot,
 Exit 61 of I-95 in Madison. Kim
 and Jim Gass, 421-4476

Thurs-Sat., Sept 29-Oct 1

Join Lake Champlain paddlers
 on trip from Woods Hole to
 Cuttyhunk to Martha's Vinyard
 to Woods Hole. Call Jay
 Monahan, (802) 658-1795--H
 (800) 639-1800--W

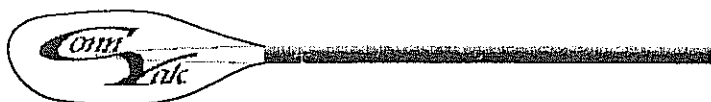
Club News

Interested in GROUP RESCUE
 training? Rumor has it that
 Stan Kegeles is working on
 that. Call him after Labor Day,
 673-6711.

How about a ConnYak
 PICNIC/PADDLE at a central
 location (lake?) where we
 could eat, try each other's
 boats, paddle, practice rescues,
 bring family and non-members
 (and not have to charge the \$5).
 Not a trip, just fun on the
 water. Jay Babina will lead the
 discussion at the September
 meeting. Call him if you want
 to help, have ideas. 481-6815.

For Sale

- 16' Daggger Legend W/W
 tandem canoe. Excellent cond.
 with floatation bag. \$800.
- 16' Prijon Seayak, rotomolded
 sea kayak with rudder. Ready
 for trips, 3 years old. \$ 875.
 Kim or Jim Gass, (203) 421-4476



CONNECTICUT SEA KAYAKERS
 131 East Center Street
 Manchester CT 06040

