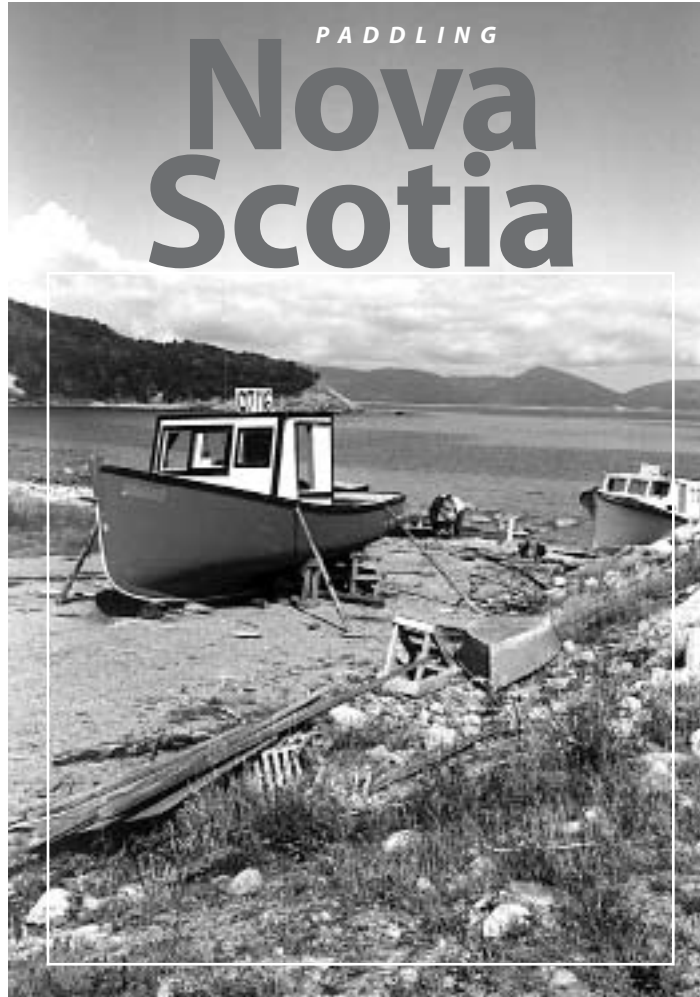




If you like pristine paddling, camping on uninhabited islands, and having the whole place to yourselves, you might trek on up to Nova Scotia. Trek is the operative word as it is a bit of a hike - around 1200 miles one way, but well worth it. My wife Lou, and I enjoyed some of the best paddling and scenery we have ever encountered this summer and met some of the nicest people in the process. We found that the name of Stan Kegeles ranks right up there with John Cabot who discovered the place. Stan has spent a lot of time there and was a great help in planning our trip. Another good source which covers every conceivable paddling location is a book called *Sea Kayaking In Nova Scotia*, by Scott Cunningham. He and his partner Gayle Wilson run

kayak trips all over the islands. They are located in Tangier - just up the road from Murphy's Campground.

Our first night was spent at a lovely bed and breakfast in Sussex, New Brunswick called the Apohaqui Inn. From there we went to Murphy's Cove Campground on the eastern shore of Nova Scotia - a couple of miles west of Tangier. The campground has very modest facilities, but offers great hospitality, and most importantly, access to the archipelago of islands which stretches up the coast. These islands are uninhabited for the most part and are in the public



Smelt Brook Fisherman's Haulway, Aspy Bay.

domain, so one may camp pretty much at will. We are not kayak campers so we took day trips and returned to the comfort of our pop-up camper at night. While paddling, we saw no one except one fisherman, a few seals, and an occasional eagle. A lot more eagles and some whales were to come later in the trip. If the wind picked up there was always an island to scoot behind and get into the lee. Overall, this area is one of the loveliest on the eastern shore. There was even talk of making it the marine adjunct to one of the inland parks.

After six days on the eastern shore, we headed north up to Dingwall on Cape Breton Island and a campground called the Hideaway which overlooks Aspy Bay. Our hosts were Susan and Alex Dunphy, and their four sons. Alex goes under water to harvest oysters one at a time - by hand. Since the depth is only 7-10 feet, he breathes air through a hose from a special compressor on his pontoon boat. While Alex is down below, Susan is up top running the campground which we found to be excellent. In the mornings, Lou and I would get up, have some hazelnut coffee and walk 100 feet to the edge of the cliff and take in the view of the bay with the Cape Breton Highlands peering out of the morning mist. The only thing missing

was the bagpiper, and I'm sure I heard one - and yes, I have a lot of Scottish ancestors. There were a couple of times on this trip when Lou and I would turn to each other and say, "It doesn't get any better than this" and this was one of them.

Back to paddling. Aspy Bay is much different than the eastern shore in that there are no islands for protection and careful planning is required prior to any extended open water trips up the coast. For the most part, we were able to choose our days and enjoyed two wonderful paddles one from Smelt Brook to White Point, and



Gypsum Cliffs, North Harbor at Dingwall.

the other to Neils Harbor. The cliffs are awesome, and are owned by the eagles, who seemingly for sport, will swoop down out of nowhere and grab some unsuspecting seagull for dinner. There were few places to land easily, but each one had a lobster pot or two tossed up above the high water mark, reminding us that the flat calm day we were enjoying was not always the case. In fact, two days later, we had gale force winds out of the east for two days and the words of one of the locals came to mind - "Yep - it can pick up a bit". I thought we were back in Maine.

Speaking of the local people, everyone was very friendly and helpful - especially the fishermen. They gave us good information and were very interested in the kayaks. We in turn told them where we were going and our estimated return. Most of them were working on their boats which were hauled out, since the lobster season runs from May to July. They helped carry our boats down the launch ramp and waved goodbye. I chuckled to myself as they were probably thinking we were two sandwiches shy of a picnic lunch to be heading out in those strange-looking craft. However, they were somewhat more impressed (and relieved) when we safely returned six hours later in two foot seas. At least we think they were impressed.

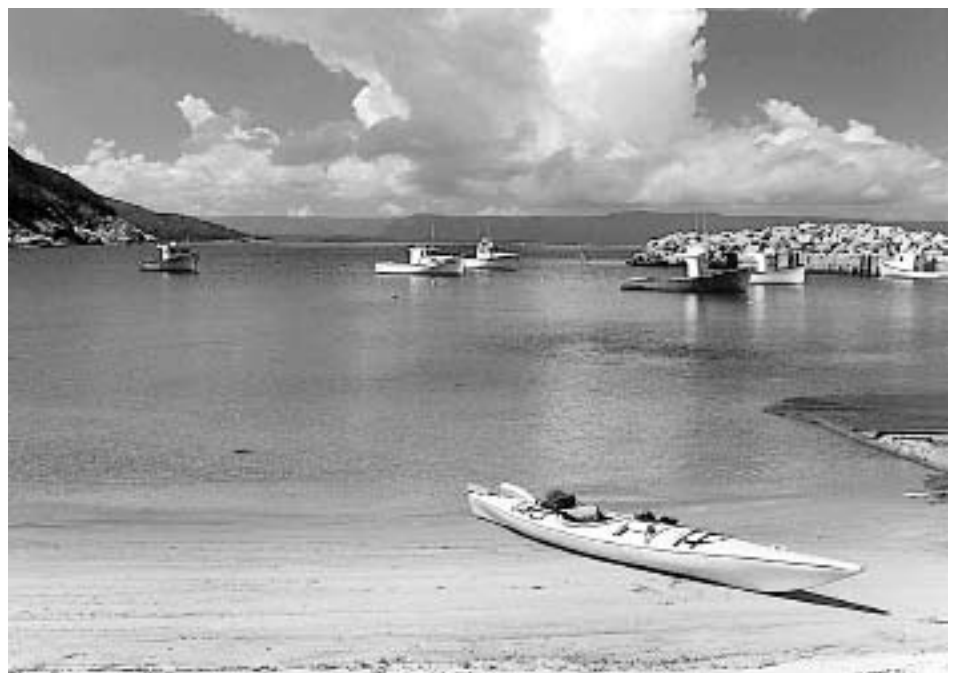
Dingwall is located between two large, protected harbors so we had alternatives to open water paddling. Even these harbors had steep cliffs with beautiful rock formations, but in addition, there were long barrier beaches with a single inlet which was sometimes blocked by storm-deposited sand. This was the case in South Harbor where Alex was farming oysters, and the lack of tidal flow began to affect the salinity of the water which in turn was starting to affect the oysters. He had just applied for a permit to reopen the inlet when the aforementioned gale did it for him,

creating a very wide and deep channel. The South Harbor beach is particularly lovely - a true haven for collecting driftwood and lobster pots. We were the only ones there, which was true of almost every place we paddled. The only exception was a couple we met in the campground who were sailing a folding Nautiraid kayak - a really slick rig with two masts (schooner type rig), two lee boards, and a dual outrigger. Initially, I thought it was a lot of work to put that thing together, but when I saw it under sail, there was no work, ie, like paddling, left to do, and boy did that thing zip along. Far be it for me to think about sailing my kayak.

After a wonderful week at the Hideaway Campground, we headed back to Connecticut via an island on Ebeemee Lake in Maine where some friends have a home, but that is another chapter.

Thanks again to Stan Kegeles for all his input, for this vacation has to be one of the best we have ever had. If anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to call us.

*- Bart and Lou Jeffery
860-875-8946*



White Point Harbor, Aspy Bay

LEDYARD OPENS A NEW (CAR-TOP-ONLY) LAUNCH RAMP

Poquetanuck Cove is a narrow 2-mile long tidal embayment extending northeast from the Thames River, forming the town line between Ledyard and Preston. A new car-top boat ramp has just opened, offering paddlers an opportunity to visit coastal habitat that many species of birds and fish rely on for their survival. In the Cove's upper reaches there is an extensive cattail marsh. Wild rice can also be found. Salt and brackish marsh vegetation intermingle with cordgrass, bulrush and reedgrass along portions of the Cove fringing the upland forest. Open estuarine waters near this boat ramp provide fish spawning and wintering grounds.

Poquetanuck Cove's tidal marshlands and open waters have been set aside as a state bird sanctuary, and by paddling north of the Route 12 bridge crossing the Cove, one can escape all views of modern civilization. In 1995, the General Assembly enacted legislation conveying about 35 acres and three-quarters of a mile of shoreline to the Dept. of Environmental Protection. A decision to designate this a wildlife

management area is currently pending with the agency. In total, nearly 300 acres of uplands directly abutting both sides of Poquetanuck Cove has been preserved by DEP, the CT Nature Conservancy and Avelonia Land Conservancy.

The new ramp is located in Ledyard on the southwest side of the Route 12 bridge, and is accessible by turning west towards the Thames River on the last street in Ledyard before the state highway bridge crosses into Preston. This street looks like a private driveway, but is actually a narrow town-maintained road that ends at a small paved parking lot serving the boat ramp. A steel guard rail prevents use of the gently sloping 8-foot wide crushed-stone ramp by towed boats or jet-skiers. This new car-top boat ramp is maintained by the town of Ledyard. Funding for this \$18,000 project was provided by Dow Chemical, the Town of Ledyard, and through sale of Long Island Sound license plates.

-Bill Haase

Planning Director, Town of Ledyard

Note: Since the parking lot holds approx. 6 cars, it is not suitable for a full club paddle but offers a nice opportunity for small groups.

COLLINSVILLE CANOE AND KAYAK DEMO DAY AND SALE

Saturday and Sunday Oct. 4 & 5

Kayak & Canoe Trials and Sale. Sea Kayaking rescue and rolling demos - Beginning Kayaking - Rolling Contest - Canoe Demos

Call for further info. (860) 693-6977

FREE "TEVA" SANDALS

Two pairs of "TEVAS" sandals will be given away at our next ConnYak meeting on Oct. 15. Coupons for free sandals (your size) were donated to ConnYak by TEVA.

THE KAYAK CENTRE DEMO DAY AND SALE

Saturday and Sunday Oct. 25 & 26

Wickford, RI

Call for info. (888) SEA-KAYAK

COMING IN NOVEMBER KEN FINK

Ken Fink - noted lecturer and kayak instructor will give a presentation on Wind and Waves.

ROLLING & SKILLS LESSONS

Oct. 18 & 19 - Wallingford, CT
Urban Eskimo Kayaking
Mike Falconeri - 203-284-9212

CONNECTICUT RIVER ENFIELD TO HARTFORD

SATURDAY, OCT. 25 ENFIELD

Last of four trips planned to paddle the entire Connecticut River..

Meet at Kings Island State Launch Ramp in Enfield at 9 AM. take out will be at Hartford's Charter Oak Landing (aprox. 16 river miles). Leaves on the river should still be colorful! Bring spare warm clothing, lunch and beverages. If weather looks doubtful (rain), call (860-521-8897 after 8 PM on Fri, Oct 24 for instructions. Doug Murray

DIRECTIONS -

King St (Exit 46) off I-91 and go .2 miles N. on RT. 5. Following Boat Launch sign, take 1st. left turn onto Old King Rd. .2 miles take 2nd left on Parson Rd. .4 miles across railroad track to launch. We unload and shuttle a few cars to Wethersfield Cove (take out). Bring lunch and cold water paddling gear (wet/dry suit) Trip ends mid-afternoon. Rain cancels the trip. Info. Doug Murray (860) 521-8897

Meet at launch site at 9 AM

BLUFF POINT PADDLE/PICNIC

SATURDAY, OCT 11 - GROTON

RAIN DATE OCT. 12

TOTAL WASH-OUT-FOL. WEEKEND

There are large pond and protected bay as well as two islands right off shore in the Groton Harbor.

Jay Babina 203-481-3221

DIRECTIONS -

I-95 to exit 88 in Groton. Head towards water (south) thru two lights to the junction of Rt. 1. Right on Rt. 1. Left at first light (Depot Road). Continue on to Bluff Point State Park..

In the water by 10:30 a.m. (pack a lunch)

Note: All paddlers on ConnYak trips must wear the appropriate CG approved Personal Flotation Device and wear a spray skirt. The boat and equipment must meet CG requirements, including an appropriate signaling device. All paddlers are responsible for their own safety, including dressing for immersion. Beginners must have taken a basic course and be proficient in performing a wet exit. (always carry extra dry clothes)

CLASSIFIED

Wilderness System Sealution XL w/ Werner paddle \$900. 1996 Necky Looksha, 1 mo. old \$1000. Accessories: nylon & neo spray skirts, Kayak sailing kit, kayak counsel, portage cart. Best offer on accessories. 860-346-6224

Necky Kyook, 3 yrs old, used little last 2 years- w/ rudder. \$650. 860-379-0454

Necky Narpa - Granite color, Bending Branches paddle and spray skirt \$950. 860-623-6587

Necky Double - roto-molded, Granite color excellent cond. \$850. (860) 659-1223

Wilderness System Pamlico lite, w/ rudder. Double that paddles great as a single. 1997, 54 lbs. 15', skirt & cockpit cover \$950, Wilderness System Seacret 15'6" Sea Kayak with hatch, rudder, and bulkhead. 1997 \$750. 860-621-0796

Necky Nootka double. Yellow/robbins egg blue. Used 10 times. Like New. \$2400. 860-653-4239

Necky Arluk II, Kevlar, Teal w/ blue trim, Excellent Cond. \$1600. 860-521-9054

Two Kokatat dry suits, \$150 ea. (new - \$300.) both size large, one is one piece, one is bib overall with paddle jacket. 203-481-1912

Women's Feet Heaters (booties w/ dry seals) size 5, \$15. 203-481-1912

Women's Seal Marine Wet Suit, small, Farmer John W/ matching jacket \$100 for the set. 203-481-1912

NEXT CONNYAK MEETING

WED. OCT. 15 - 7:30 PM
WALLINGFORD PARK & REC.

*** NOTE - NEW LOCATION!
WALLINGFORD PARK & REC. HAS MOVED**

*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). Take your first Rt. off Barnes on to Fairfield Blvd.
Wallingford Park & Rec. is the 2nd building on the left.*

INSTALLING A DRY SUIT SEAL

Nick Dyslin of Kokatat will demonstrate the replacement of neck and wrist/foot seals at our next ConnYak Meeting. Wed. Oct. 15.

TO JOIN CONNYAK...

ConnYak is a non profit club that is open to all paddlers interested in sea kayaking from any location.

Send inquiries to:

Stan Kegeles
P.O. Box 2006
Branford, CT 06405

CONNYAK WEB PAGE

Our Homepage is located at:
www.mindspring.com/~connyak
Webmaster - Fern Usen - 860-529-4612
E-mail Inukshuk@mindspring.com

Send newsletter articles and photos to:
Jay Babina c/o Jason Design Associates
230 East Main Street, Branford, CT 06405
203-481-6815 Fax 203-481-0786



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