

# ATLANTIC

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## Coastal Kayaker



November/December 2010  
Volume 19, No. 8



**Snowbirds Issue**

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# ATLANTIC

## Coastal Kayaker

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On The Cover:

Cacti on the shore of Isla Culebra.  
Photo by Jerry Wylie.

**Subscribers may go to our website atlanticcoastalkayaker.com, to see the full-color version of this issue! Email us at ackayak@comcast.net or dweden@atlanticcoastalkayaker.com for the password.**

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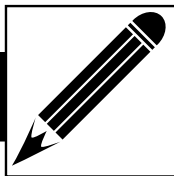
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*10/10/10 volunteers pose on the Morning Meeting Rock. Photo by*

On 10/10/10 we traveled to Hurricane Island off Vinalhaven in Maine to help in a work day that was part of the 350.org 10/10/10 global work party. People at 7,347 events in 188 countries got to work on the climate crisis – the single largest day of carbon-cutting action in the planet’s history, digging community gardens, installing solar panels, planting trees. In Auckland, New Zealand, they had a giant bike fix-up day, to get every bicycle in the city back on the road. In the Maldives, they put up solar panels on the President’s office. In Uganda, they planted thousands of trees, and in Bolivia they used solar stoves to throw a massive carbon-neutral picnic. On Hurricane Island, we did what all good island volunteers have over the years – picked up beach trash.

In addition, about 50 people headed out to the island to work on the buildings, and clear trails, coordinated by Peg Willauer-Tobey. Enthusiastic volunteers were HIOBS alumni, Chewonki Foundation teachers and students, and Apprenticeship boat builders who sailed over from Rockland.

The mission of 350.org is to reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere from its current level of 390 parts per million to below 350 ppm, the safe upper limit

according to leading scientists (hence the name). If we can’t get below that, scientists say the damage we’re already seeing from global warming will continue and speed up.

Vermont author Bill McKibben, who wrote *End of Nature*, one of the first books on global warming for the general public, helped found the group in 2008. 350.org has quickly expanded to include hundreds of thousands of members in 20 countries. 10/10/10 was coordinated using email, Skype, and social networks with nearly all 7,000 plus events organized by volunteers.

The projects were designed to send a message to political leaders: We’re getting to work, what about you?

I had stopped by Hurricane Island once when circumnavigating Vinalhaven by kayak several years ago, but I had never really visited the island. It is truly magnificent, with several buildings, a dock, a quarry, and a bold shore facing south. I saw two mink, a Great blue heron, and countless sea birds. The island’s owner has his futuristic house located at the south end of the island, off limits to the public, but you can walk the perimeter path, getting a sense of the island’s character.

Many kayakers are familiar with

HIOBS, mostly for the white-flag-hanging soloists making our camping adventures off limits. Sailors are familiar with youthful pleas for food and drink and a chat, from friend-starved teenagers.

In 2005 HIOBS lost its year-to-year lease, and moved operations to the mainland. The place became a ghost island. Since everyone expected to come back the next year, much was left behind.

But there is a happy ending. In December 2009 the Board of Trustees of Hurricane Island signed a 40-year lease and charted a future for the island. The core program, Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership, will teach scientific research skills to high school students and provide resources and continuing education for teachers and will also open the island to other organizations. Think fisheries research, environmental science, and sustainability education.

Until 1914, the island was the site of a major granite quarry run by Hurricane Island Granite Company with a community of nearly 1200 residents. In 1964, Peter Willauer founded the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School (HIOBS) which for the next 40 years used the island for experiential education programs.

The next generation has moved up to the plate. Willauer’s son, Ben, is chairman of the Board for the Hurricane Island Foundation. The Board is currently seeking an executive director to take the helm.

Hurricane Island is one of the best resources on the Maine Coast for learners and adventure seekers, and let’s hope this valuable resource can be transformed into a new entity. 350.org and the rest of the global community would appreciate it.

Visit [www.hurricaneisland.net](http://www.hurricaneisland.net).

# Letters From You



## Ongoing Debate: Online vs. On Print

Very interesting to read your comments re going on-line with ACK.

In our last KASK paddler survey, most were still keen to receive the newsletter in a hard copy. I recall the English Canoeist magazine went totally on-line four or five years ago now, but went belly up after some three or four on-line issues. Sad as it was a brilliant all round magazine.

*Paul Caffyn*

*Newsletter Editor,*

*Kiwi Assn. of Sea Kayakers*

*New Zealand*

I'm so glad to learn you will resume printing ACK this month! It's nice to access everything online, and have a good browse around the different issues. But ACK is one of my favorite magazines of the several I receive - and I love to take it on the Metro to read.

Hope this means that things are looking up at ACK, and that the economy is improving.

We're looking forward to doing some good paddling later this fall, when there are fewer loud boats...and it's too cold for those extremely annoying jetskiers! Thanks for making a great magazine for our passion.

*Diana McFadden*

*Greenbelt, MD*

I am so glad you are going to be providing a print version of the magazine. I look forward to getting your magazine in my mailbox and reading from the printed page.

*Margaret Elligett*

*Tallahassee, FL*

Since ACK went online, I have not seen any of it. I realize this may mean I am getting old and not keeping up with the technology. So be it! Sitting at a screen to read ACK does not fit my lifestyle. I appreciate the work you put into this and I will support it a bit longer. But I cannot afford to without benefit. OK, there is one benefit - one less magazine to deal with.

*Jonathan Henken*

*Brewster, NY*

Sea Kayaker continues interesting but I am a Maine boyo and want to read more about our NE coast. All the stropohes and dithyrhambes devoted to the San Juans wear me down after awhile and I need a change to where we have foghorns and radar (but never use 'em)

*John Willey*

*Waterville, ME*

## ACK Replies:

*We hope you enjoy the photo essay, then, on the 10/10/10 environmental work day on Hurricane Island. The trip back to Rockland was ideal Maine autumn boating weather:*

*high winds, scudding clouds, rolling the scuppers under, and buckets of frigid water pouring over the cabin and into the waist!*

## Kudos for October Issue

I just went through the entire October issue and thought it looked great and read well. There were several good articles with lots of good photos.

*Eric Soares*

*www.tsunamirangers.com*

## New Directions

Mostly doing lots of environmental work with Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, Maine, these days - recently filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue four dams on the Kennebec for Clean Water Act violations with regards to Atlantic salmon - but yes, Dragonworks still exists, but mostly selling replacement parts for worn out VCP hatches, etc. Still farming, welding, and now helicoptering.

*Ed Friedman*

*Bowdoinham, ME*

*www.dragonworkskayaks.com*

## Our 24th Year

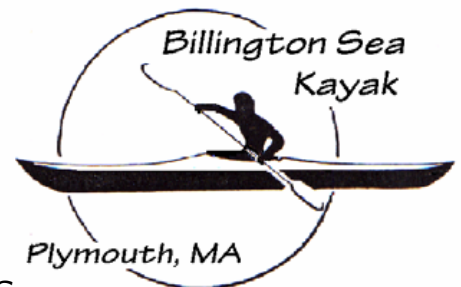
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## New Coalition

At the conclusion of a national symposium here in Portland, Maine last week, representatives from federal, state, and local governments and organizations announced the formation of a National Working Waterways & Waterfronts Coalition.

Sea Grant programs from around the country, including Maine Sea Grant and Virginia Sea Grant, which were lead hosts of the symposium, and Florida Sea Grant, will partner with the Rockland-based Island Institute, Coastal Enterprises, Inc., and the Urban Harbors Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston to form an initial steering committee that will explore funding mechanisms and organizational structure.

Rob Snyder of the Island Institute said that



his organization identified working waterways in Maine and around the country as a priority area in their 33-year strategic plan. “It’s a key component to ensuring access to diverse, sustainable fisheries that are at the heart of traditional, marine resource-based communities,” said Snyder.

The primary focus of the coalition is education and awareness of the value of working waterways and waterfronts to local economies. The term “working waterfront” means different things in different parts of the US, but everyone attending the symposium last week agreed that water-dependent commercial uses are at the heart of working harbors, ports, villages, and riverfronts. A national hub will identify data, research and information needed to enhance and preserve the nation’s working waterfronts. “We need to highlight successful models from around the country,” said Tom Murray of Virginia Sea Grant, “and we can already identify some ‘best practices’ for working waterways and waterfronts planning and protection.”

A second objective of the coalition will be to serve as a resource to policymakers at the national level. For example, symposium

keynote speaker and NOAA Deputy Administrator Dr. Larry Robinson highlighted opportunities for the 220 people gathered at the symposium to engage in the new National Ocean Policy. The upcoming reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act also was identified as an ideal opportunity to secure support for water-dependent economies. Coalition members hope that an organized presence will leverage support for several bills under consideration in both the House and Senate that would provide funding to keep working waterfronts and waterways intact.

More information about the symposium and follow-up activities can be found at [www.wateraccessus.com](http://www.wateraccessus.com).

*Natalie Springuel*

*Maine Sea Grant*

*Bar Harbor, ME*

## Learn to Strip-Plank

After the great success of the woodstrip canoe class at the WoodenBoat School, Brooklin, Maine this summer, I’ve decided to offer a class with a kayak as well as a canoe. In this class we will build the strip-built version of the Night Heron as well as the lightweight Nymph canoe. Students will team up to build one of each. This will give everyone excellent hands on experience with fitting strips, fiberglass, and all the fitting out work required to make a woodstrip boat. At the end of the class the two boats will be raffled off to a lucky builder to take home and do the final finish work at home. The class is in the workshop of the Connecticut Valley School of Woodworking, Manchester, Ct., starting Jan. 15.

*Nick Schade*

*Guillemot Kayaks*

*Groton, CT*

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# News & Notes



## Dennis Sends Lendal Back to UK

Last summer British sea kayaker Nigel Dennis moved Lendal Paddles back to its original home in the UK, to his company Sea Kayaking UK in Anglesey, Wales. In 2006 Johnson Outdoors bought Lendal from Scottish Olympic sprint paddler Alistair Wilson. The sale followed a business reorganization by Johnson Outdoors, including a move from Ferndale, Wash., to Old Town, Maine last year. Dennis is well known in the kayaking world. He completed the first ever sea kayak circumnavigation of Great Britain together with Paul Caffyn. Since then he has carried out expeditions in Antarctica, Easter Island, and a televised expedition around Cape Horn. His annual symposium each May in Anglesey is still one of the most popular venues in kayaking.

## Online Auction Action

Looking for some early holiday shopping items for your friends, family, or yourself? The Northern Forest Canoe Trail annual auction currently has more than 200 items listed that would interest paddlers. Those include a Surftech 14-foot Bark Expedition Standup Paddleboard (\$2,150 value), an Alite monarch Butterfly superlight outdoors chair (\$60 value), Backpacker's Pantry two-person two-day meal kit (\$75 value), SPOT Satellite GPS Messenger 2 (\$170 value), Chota mukluks (\$180 value) plus many

other paddler items including books, gear, guides, and hotels, thanks to many generous donors. Do some holiday shopping and support a worthy cause. The auction runs through Dec. 3. Go to [www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org](http://www.NorthernForestCanoeTrail.org)



## Arctic Museum Has New Exhibit

The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum at

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine re-opens Nov. 19 with a new exhibit, "Imagination Takes Shape: Canadian Inuit Art from the Collection of Robert and Judith Toll." The exhibit features stonecut, stencil, and silkscreen prints and soapstone, antler, and bone sculptures by renowned Canadian Inuit artists. Works focus on themes of family and community, traditional activities, and all the wonders of the Inuit natural and spiritual world.

Exhibits in the Hubbard Hall foyer include North Pole Personalities, which highlights the many people who supported Robert E. Peary's efforts to reach the North Pole. One of the five sledges that survived the round-trip to the North Pole is on view, as well as rare film footage of Matthew



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Also on display is a piece of ice from the Greenland ice cap, part of an ice core drilled to help scientists study past climate as a way of improving understanding of current and future climate. For more information, [www.bowdoin.edu/arctic-museum](http://www.bowdoin.edu/arctic-museum).

## Vitamin D and Kayakers

In one new health-alert area, kayakers stand to benefit. Most people have lifestyles that prevent them from getting adequate amounts of Vitamin D – the best way is directly from the sun. Based on our evolution, people need Vitamin D to build bone and prevent bone loss; it turns out they also need it to avoid certain types of cancer, high

blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, osteoarthritis, diabetes and more. Most people don't get enough sun exposure, and dietary sources of Vitamin D are minimal. (Previtamin D forms in sun-exposed skin and is converted to Vitamin D, the form found in supplements.) Experts say it is rarely possible to consume adequate amounts through foods – the main food sources are wild-caught oily fish (salmon, mackerel, bluefish, and canned tuna) and fortified milk and baby formula, cereal and orange juice.

Experts have found it difficult to establish a universal public health recommendation for the amount of sun exposure needed, but one doctor suggests going outside in summer unprotected by sunscreen (except for the face, which should always be protected) wearing minimal clothing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., two or three times a week for five to ten minutes. If you make enough Vitamin D in summer, it will meet the body's need for the rest of the year. By spending a day on the water, you probably will meet your supplement for the year! But next time you're out kayaking, remember to catch a few rays

you wondered if it's safe to take your children into rock gardens? Need a refresher course on sea cave safety? Click right on over to Eric Soares' website, [www.tsunamirangers.com](http://www.tsunamirangers.com). Soares has been kayaking on the exposed coastlines of northern California and southern Oregon since 1983. In 1985, Eric and best friend Jim Kakuk formed the Tsunami Rangers ocean adventure kayak team to play in surf, negotiate complex ocean rock gardens, and explore mysterious sea caves. You will find much Tsunami-related info here. You can also order Eric's new book, *Confessions Of A Wave Warrior* (reviewed last month in ACK).



## California Dreaming

California Kayaker is a new magazine that started out covering just northern California but now covers the whole state. Based in San Francisco, it is edited by Paul Donohue. The current Fall issue, its third, includes articles on how to paddle with moving water by Bryant Burkhardt using very effective overhead photo angles, Leopard sharks by Matthew Krizan, Kayaking the Channel Islands by Chuck Graham, an interview with Sean Morley, one of the founders of the Golden Gate Sea Kayak Symposium (see ACK April 2010), New Products from the Summer Outdoor Retailer Show in Salt Lake City, and more. The magazine has great photography, is superbly entertaining, and is available either online or in various retail outlets in California, Nevada, and Oregon. Best of all? It's free. Go to [www.calkayakermag.com](http://www.calkayakermag.com)

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# Expedition Watch

## Solo Circumnavigation of Great Britain Complete! 2,540 Miles in 80 Days

By Marcus Demuth



Marcus in a rare relaxed pose.

In May 2010 I set out from Skegness, on Great Britain's East Coast, to attempt to circumnavigate Great Britain. Since 2005, all attempts to do so ended unsuccessfully, mainly due to bad weather and unfavorable winds.

After 80 days of paddling I am happy to be back in Skegness, becoming the 16th kayaker to successfully circumnavigate Great Britain. I paddled most of the 2,468 Miles and 80 days in fair weather, except on the East Coast, where the winds seemed to be from the South exclusively, which created both a fair amount of headwinds (due to the clockwise nature of the circumnavigation), and some cursing during the last 600 miles.

It has been a long trip, the distance equally to going four times around the Falklands Islands, two-and-a-half times around Ireland, or paddling 88 times the 28-mile loop around Manhattan.

The circumnavigation should be the fastest solo circumnavigation of the UK, and overall tying the previous 80-day record of the kayak trio consisting of Barry Shaw, Phil Clegg, and Harry Whelan in 2005. In 1980 Nigel Dennis and Paul Caffyn completed the second fastest circumnavigation in 85 days.

My warmest "thank you" to all the kind English, Welsh and Scotch people who helped me during this trip. More than on any other trip, people opened their homes and whiskey vaults for me during my almost three months around the British Isles.

For more about the Around the UK expedition, go to [marcusdemuth.com/GreatBritain2010](http://marcusdemuth.com/GreatBritain2010)

### Marcus' UK Top 10:

**1. Fish & Chips:** Ray Fusco's Fish & Chips, Whitby. Ray is also UK's youngest Fish & Ship shop owner. Ray is not related to the New York Mayor's Cup Ray Fusco.

**2. Summer Hit 2010:** Lady Gaga's "Alejandro." Kind of a dumb song, but Lady Gaga shows here she has a great voice, and my recycled summer hit from 1987: "Rain go away, go away!"

**3. Quote: "You must be hungry!"** Mentioned approximately 35 times during the trip by UK residents who usually appeared magically and in Iron-Man alike speed with a full plate of food approximately ten seconds after I landed in the middle of nowhere, such as on deserted beaches, in most isolated bays, or on the most inaccessible and/or un-inhabited islands.

**4. Village/Sub Category "Cute":** Pennan, a 20-house village built into the cliffs, way too close to the ocean, the place where my favorite movie "Local Hero" was filmed. The (working!) phone box is right there where it is in the movie.

**5. Landscape:** Vicinity of Danna Island (about 40 Miles South of Oban). So beautiful, I thought I was dreaming. No offense to the other great places I was able to visit so far, but the waterway in between Jura Island and the Scottish mainland is the most beautiful spot in the UK.

**6. Town:** Oban, gateway to the Wild North West. A town where every car has a kayak, a canoe, or at least a kayak or canoe carrier, on its roof. If you do see a car without a kayak on its roof, it probably tows a fully packed kayak trailer. Strange town. Kayaks everywhere.

**7. Village/Sub Category "Vibe":** Dunbeath, North Scotland.

**8. Beer:** Tennents Lager (lighter, blonde, beers are referred to as lager in the UK).

**9. Pub:** The bar in the "Old Hotel" Bettyhill, Scotland, North Coast. The "Old Hotel" was old indeed. Beautifully old. And yes, 80 people do fit in a 250 square-foot room and some are still able to play pool.

**10. Coast Guard Station:** Wells-Next-The-Sea. For providing warmth, coffee, tea, good company, and for keeping my spirits up for the first two-and-a-half days of my trip during a northeasterly gale.

## Birders Flock to Watershed's Shores, Ridges to See Raptors' Fall Migration

By Kathy Reshetiloff



*The sharp-shinned hawk, one of the most common accipiters, is often seen flying in large numbers along ridges during migration. Photo by Colleen Dewhurst/U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.*

As the days grow shorter and cooler, the skies fill with birds migrating to warmer, more temperate climates for the winter.

The Chesapeake Bay watershed lies within a major migration path known as the Atlantic Flyway, where coastal shorelines and mountain chains to the west channel millions of migrating birds through the Bay region.

Among these travelers are hawks and falcons, commonly known as raptors.

Raptors begin their annual southward migration just before the fall foliage color change. The earlier migrants are generally

not noticed. Juvenile birds lead the way, beginning to move in September. Adults generally wait until late November to join the southbound flight

As they approach the Chesapeake Bay, the land formation changes, causing some migrants to funnel along the coast while the others are steered along the mountains.

Mountain ridges are great spots to see raptors. The best viewing days are those that occur when a cold front pushes a north, northwest or westerly wind eastward against the face of the mountain ridge. The combination of cooler air and strong wind allows the bird an effortless "ride" southward.

The most common group of hawks noticed on the ridge are the accipiters. Characterized by their long tails and short rounded wings, accipiters, such as the sharp-shinned hawk, northern goshawk and Cooper's hawk, can be seen gliding along the mountain treetops. These hawks dominate the sky during most of the month of October.

The buteos, or soaring hawks, include species such as the broad-winged hawk, red-shouldered hawk and red-tailed hawk. Broad-winged hawks congregate in groups of 100 birds or more called "kettles," migrating in September.

The rest of the buteos peak during the month of November at the coldest part of the season. Red-tailed hawks are the most common migrant during this period. These large robust hawks are seen hesitating along the ridge, making sudden stops into the trees in an attempt to capture squirrels.

On occasion, a golden eagle will make a showing, usually during late October after a strong cold front. Wind conditions that peak at 25 miles per hour will increase one's chances of witnessing such an event.

To observe the hawk flights along a

mountain passage, travel toward the Appalachian or Blue Ridge mountain ranges. The west-facing ridges in Pennsylvania, western Maryland and Virginia provide excellent opportunities to see the southbound migration.

The coastal migration route is even more singular than the ridge. As the land mass narrows toward the end of the New Jersey peninsula, raptors begin to congregate at the southern end of Cape May. The uncertainty of crossing a large body of water turns the raptors northward until they feel secure that conditions are just right.

Falcons are one group of raptors that migrate along the coastline. These birds are characterized by long, pointed wings and long, narrow tails. The American kestrel, merlin and peregrine falcon favor the wide open spaces of the coast. The northern harrier, also known as the marsh hawk, can also be seen along the coastline.

The coast is extremely important for migration because of the tremendous quantity of bird life found along salt marshes, fields and forest edges, many of which serve as a critical food source to these migrant hawks and falcons.

The migration is nearing the end when adults begin to join in the southbound flight, usually near the end of November. To observe a coastal fall flight, visit the southern end of peninsulas such as Cape May, NJ; Cape Henlopen, DE; the barrier islands of Assateague, MD and Chincoteague, VA; and all points south along the beaches to Cape Charles, VA.

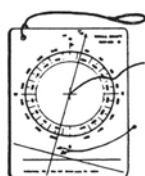
*Kathryn Reshetiloff is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Chesapeake Bay Field Office in Annapolis, MD*

*From the Chesapeake Bay Journal, September 2010, reprinted by permission. Shark*

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# Environment



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## Shark Sanctuaries on the Rise

Recently the presidents of Palau and Honduras joined to urge the rest of the world to create shark sanctuaries to preserve the ocean's top predator and the balance of the marine food chain. All shark fishing would be banned in such waters.

In September 2009 Palau became the first country in the world to establish a national shark sanctuary. Since then Maldives and Honduras have banned all commercial shark fishing in their country's waters.

Sharks have a profound affect on the ocean's ecosystems. On the U.S. Atlantic coast, when sharks don't prey on rays, the rays feed on bay scallops, wiping out that particular industry. They prevent coral reefs from being dominated by algae. Overfishing for sharks in the Caribbean has led to more groupers, which feed off the parrotfish, which in turn eat the algae on living coral reefs. Sharks also affect the distribution of sea grass in Australia.

Biologists have labeled a third of all shark species threatened or near threatened, and some populations, such as the hammerhead and tiger, have been reduced by as much as 99 percent.

Surveys show that people kill about 73 million sharks a year. Most of that is due to the Asian markets where shark fin soup is popular, and shark fins command hundreds of dollars a pound. The fin itself is tasteless, but adds a special texture to the soup, and is considered a sign of wealth and celebration. Recently the Hawaii legislature voted to ban shark fins in that country.



*Seafood again tonight, dear?*

## Puffins Have Romantic Summer

Puffins had an exceptionally good year on Maine's North Atlantic, islands, according to Project Puffin, run by Cornell ornithologist Stephen Kress. The number of nesting pairs increased at Eastern Egg Rock and Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge to record numbers. However, their food supply was limited resulting in slower than usual development of young.

Project Puffin interns shared the highlights of their summer at the 26th annual meeting of the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group held on Hog Island, Maine, Aug. 12

Interns found 123 active puffin burrows, up 15 percent from the 107 burrows last year on Eastern Egg Rock. Ten pair bred for the first time, and a 33-year-old female (Y33) successfully raised a chick, her 25th in 26 years of nesting in the same burrow. She is now the oldest known puffin in North America.

On Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge puffins exceeded 500 pairs - a notable increase over last year's estimate of 425 pairs.

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Interns banded a total of 112 puffin chicks.

“This year’s count of nesting pairs is certainly an underestimate as the birds are rapidly founding new sub-colonies around the 65-acre refuge. Their crevice nesting habits make it difficult to know with precision how many puffins are actually nesting,” notes Project Puffin.

Matinicus Rock surveys resulted in a record number of 177 puffin chicks in underground burrows. Although most were in excellent condition, many of the youngest chicks were growing slowly, evidence of lower food supplies, partly due to lack of herring.

The project has yet to discover the puffins’ winter home.

An Australian scientist studies puffins that make a nearly 40,000-mile circle every year between New Zealand to Japan, Russia, Alaska, Chile in what is called the “longest-ever electronically recorded migration.”

Don’t have a chance to paddle out to see the puffins? The Project Puffin Visitor Center, 311 Main St., Rockland, Maine, run by the National Audubon Society, is now open daily from 10-5 and Wednesday until 7 p.m. For more information, [www.projectpuffin.org](http://www.projectpuffin.org)

### Right Whales Get New Sanctuaries



NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) has created three

new critical habitat areas for right whales off the East Coast. Those three areas include a calving area off the coast of Georgia and Florida and two feeding grounds off Massachusetts. In those areas certain types of fishing gear are banned to prevent the whales from getting entangled and vessel speeds are restricted when right whales are present to prevent collisions.



### First European Shrimp Found on East Coast

When researchers hired by the Office of Coastal Zone Management and an MIT program inspected permanent floating docks and rocky shores in Massachusetts recently, they came up with an amazing discovery: the first European shrimp to appear in North American waters. The rock pool shrimp, *Palaemon elegans*, which is edible and can grow to 2 1/2 inches, is considered an invasive species. They eat any number of smaller species and, according to Swedish research, can have such a devastating effect on herbivore organisms that uncontrolled algal blooms may occur. The shrimp were found in Salem in the course of a seven-day REapid Assessment Survey. Researchers also inspected areas in Westport, New Bedford, Sandwich, Bourne, Plymouth, Boston, and Gloucester in an effort to collect, identify, and catalog organisms in coastal waters.

### Atlantic Landlocked Salmon On the Run



*Landlocked Atlantic Salmon (adult male). Photo from NYDEC.*

Landlocked Atlantic salmon head from Lake Champlain into tributaries to spawn during the fall. The main run of salmon usually extends from early September into mid-November with the heaviest runs in early October to early November according to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Native runs of Atlantic salmon disappeared from Lake Champlain in the 1800s. Fish found today are mostly stocked individuals. Vermont and New York environmental agencies stock about 240,000 salmon smolts (2-3 year olds) and 450,000 salmon fry (young of about one inch length) annually. Young salmon live in streams and look similar to brown trout until they’re about six inches long. Then they turn silver and move into Lake Champlain. It can take up to three years for this transition to occur. These individuals may survive several spawning runs before completing their life cycle and dying.

- From Lake Champlain Committee Lake Ripples September 2010





## Exploring Culebra, The Last Virgin

### A Small Caribbean Island with Big Potential for Sea Kayaking

Story and Photos by Jerry Wylie

Huge deep-blue swells rolled past and smashed into the cliff behind us, producing confused seas that tossed us around like we were in some crazy marine rodeo. “This is insane,” I muttered to myself as we struggled ahead; this was supposed to be our “easy” day of paddling.

The swells were coming from St. Johns, 12 miles to the east, its green hills dotted with white houses briefly visible as we bounced up. This was clearly the roughest water we’d seen all week. Most of our paddling had been in calm, bathtub-warm water, where we didn’t even bother with PFDs or spray skirts.

We were in Puerto Rico exploring Isla Culebra and its unique archipelago of some two dozen sun-drenched islands and rocky

cays. Seventeen miles east of Puerto Rico, Culebra is actually closer to the Virgin Islands, thus its nickname: “The Last Virgin.”

The island is seven miles long and three miles wide and shaped something like a lobster claw, with Ensenada Honda (Deep Cove) separating the upper and lower pinchers and the sleepy village of Dewey at the narrow part of the lower jaw near the hinge.

Our paddling team, me, my wife, Sue, and her 16-year old nephew Matt came with three folding kayaks and immediately assembled them on the dock behind our hotel on the south side of Ensenada Honda. Our goal: see as much of the island and visit as many beaches as possible, which we did in several short trips and one long circumnaviga-

tion.

This was our second trip to Culebra. The first time, Sue and I had rented sit-on-top kayaks for two short tours. We returned with better boats to do some serious paddling because it was clear the island had great potential for sea kayaking.

#### Why Visit Culebra?

First and foremost, if you’re an island junkie, this is islands to the third power. It’s an island off the big island of Puerto Rico with three smaller islands of its own conveniently located less than a mile offshore. And these are surrounded by more than a dozen smaller islets.

But these are not just naked, rocky is-



*Playa Flamenco is frequently rated one of the best in the Caribbean.*

lands. Culebra and her three smaller sisters are blessed with some of the most beautiful white sand beaches in the Caribbean. And because of the lack of large resorts and limited road access, these beaches are seldom crowded.

In addition to having the eye-popping beaches, there's the water, beautiful clear

blue water full of colorful fish, coral reefs, sea fans and four species of sea turtles, including the majestic Leatherbacks. (Turtles nest year-round but primarily April through early June.)

If you're a birder, be sure to pack your binoculars. Established in 1909 and one of the oldest in the United States, the Culebra National Wildlife Refuge is home to about 85 species of birds, including terns, red-billed tropic birds, and boobies. The smaller outer islets can only be accessed with special permission, but landings are permitted on Cayo Luis Peña and Culebrita.

Islands with pretty beaches, good snorkeling, and wildlife is a great combination, but what about the kayaking? The good news is that Culebra has a very convoluted and kayak-friendly coastline punctuated by numerous bays, some fringed with mangroves, and rocky headlands backed by cliffs. This serpentine shoreline is where it got its name, which is Spanish for "snake." (There are none on the island.) In addition, all of the islands have some elevation and lots of interesting rock formations right up to the water's edge.



*A busy day on Playa Culebrita.*

If you only have a few days to spend, the "must-see" attractions include the famous Playa Flamenco, Luis Peña Cay, and Isla Culebrita. If you rent a 4x4, be sure to visit the old observation bunker at Punta Flamenco for stunning views of not only Playa Flamenco but, with a short walk, Playa Resaca on Culebra's remote northern coast.

There are a variety of easy six-mile tour routes (see below), as well the option of a full-day 20-mile circumnavigation of the main island. Plus, there are several inexpensive places to stay right on the water, where you can launch your kayaks and even paddle to a waterside restaurant for dinner.

### **Choose from Four Easy Kayak Trips**

**Cayo Luise Peña.** About a mile square and somewhat resembling a beaver swimming south, this attractive island off the west side of Culebra is a popular destination for kayakers. Commercial tours start on Tamarindo Beach and paddle a couple of miles around the northern end to visit the white sand beaches and snorkel the reefs.

There are also small sandy beaches on both sides of the southern "neck," with very nice reef and fish on the west side but storm-damaged coral on the east, and dramatic cliffs on the southern tip. If you circumnavigate the island, stop at the postcard-perfect sandy beach on the north end on the western base of the "tail" and fantastic reefs full of sea life along the eastern shore.

### **Ensenada Honda and Punta del Soldado.**

The rocky peninsula forming Culebra's smaller "lower jaw" begins at the village and ends at Punta del Soldado. All along the southwestern shore are attractive cliffs decorated with several different kinds of cacti and a few small sections of reef. The best for snorkeling is on the west side of the point.

After admiring the very dramatic rocks

at the southern tip, reenter the bay through one of the three openings in the extensive barrier reef, continue along the convoluted shoreline back to town and enjoy the acrobatics of the dive-bombing pelicans.

**Isla Culebrita.** Rent a car (select one with a pre-dented roof) and drive your kayaks to Zoni Beach directly across the channel from Isla Culebrita. This launching point gives you the entire day to explore the most enchanting of the three major gems in Culebra's crown.

**Playa Tortuga,** with its brilliant white sand spread in a perfect arc at the foot of a hill, is the quintessential pristine Caribbean beach. Nestled in a small bay opening to the northwest, it is well protected by the prevailing winds and big ocean swells just around the corner.

Don't miss the rocky "baths," a series of fish-filled pools located against the cliff on the northeast side of the bay. There is a lower main pool and a smaller upper pool, and a narrow channel flanked by cliffs leading to the open ocean. Locals jump off the cliffs here, but it looks pretty crazy.

For an alternative adrenaline rush, paddle around this rocky headland to enjoy the big water mentioned earlier. Then dodge the surf and through the small opening in the reef to quieter waters on the south side of the island where you can land and take a short hike to the oldest lighthouse in the Caribbean.

**Isla Culebrita to Ensenada Honda.** For a change of pace, transport your kayaks by water taxi to the eastern end of Isla Culebrita. After a little beachcombing and snorkeling, paddle back along the eastern shore of Culebra, stopping to rest in the shady mangroves of Bahia Almodovar and take a late afternoon dip in Bahia Mosquito. Old bomb craters clearly visible in the shallow water here are stark reminders of the island's past



*The baths at Isla Culebrita are on the "must-see" list.*

life as a Navy bombing range.

### **Circumnavigate Isla Culebra (20 miles)**

During the four short trips we had explored the well-developed southern third of the island, and we were eager to see the "wild" northern shore. We decided to go counter clockwise so that the last leg, when we were tired, would be on the easy leeward side and close to roads if we had any trouble. Plus we could stop at the village and celebrate with a cold one.

Heading to the north shore of Ensenada Honda to avoid the wind, we left the bay and followed much the same route around the eastern end of the island as on the trip back from Isla Culebrita.

After passing Zoni Beach there were no more roads and very little evidence of people. Cayo Norte gave this section some protection from prevailing winds and swells, but the farther west we went the rougher it got.

This part of the island has steep ridges plunging straight into the surf and large bays with broad sandy beaches backed by



*The north end of Cayo Peña has stunning beaches and reefs.*



*The village of Dewey.*



*Matt and Sue show twenty-mile smiles after the circumnavigation of Culebra.*

inhospitable slopes. Unfortunately, we were unable to land on Culebra's two largest and most remote beaches here, Playa Brava and Playa Resaca, because of high surf, so we continued on to Bahía Flamenco.

Nestled in a deep bay flanked by green hills, Playa Flamenco consistently ranks as one of the world's best beaches, not only for its beautiful setting, but also its pure white, talcum powder-like sand and clear waters. We landed by a rusted Sherman tank on the western side, an old target for the Navy's bombing practice, and enjoyed an extended lunch break and some of the best snorkeling so far.

Well rested, we began the second half of our journey, departing through a narrow channel in the reef. We punched through 3-foot surf and headed toward the north-

western end of the island. Swells from both the southeast and northeast were reflecting off cliffs and causing very confused seas, so we decided to dodge inside two small islets at the point to find quieter water.

Ironically, this led to the week's only capsized. A wave refracted perfectly around the largest cay from both directions and came together, like clapping hands, exactly beneath Matt's boat, quickly flipping him over. But before I could move in for a rescue, he immediately rolled back up and we were on our way again.

The last four miles along the northwestern shore was easy paddling. We stopped to swim at Playa Carlos Rosario and enjoyed the friendly fish on the snorkeling trail. And although they had nice beaches, we paddled past the next three bays without stopping.

We'll save them for the next trip.

### **So What Are You Waiting For?**

Whether you're a novice or an experienced kayaker, beach-bum, avid snorkeler, scuba diver, bird-watcher, or just want to relax and soak your tired old bones in tropical waters, Culebra has something for you!

### **If You Go...**

Kayak rentals are available and there is an outfitter offering kayak day trips, but only with sit-on-top kayaks.

### **Getting There**

Daily ferries depart from Fajardo 787-863-0705.

Regular scheduled flights and charters are available from San Juan.

Day Trips from Fajardo and Guided Kayak Tours of Cayo Luis Peña

Kayaking Puerto Rico:

[www.kayakingpuertorico.com](http://www.kayakingpuertorico.com)

### **Kayak Rentals**

Ocean Safari Kayaks (787) 379-1973

Culebra Bike Shop (787) 742-0589

### **Our favorite on-water hotels:**

Villa Boheme (787) 742-3508 (kayaks available for guests)

Villa Fulladoza (787) 742-3576

### **Nautical Charts for NOAA #25653 Isla de Culebra**

Paper copy \$27 plus shipping and handling at [www.nauticalchartsonline.com](http://www.nauticalchartsonline.com)

Free charts and maps available at: [www.theculebracalendaronline.com](http://www.theculebracalendaronline.com)

*Jerry Wylie is an international ecotourism consultant and owner of Connecticut Coastal Kayaking. He lives in Lyme, CT and can be reached at [paddle@ctcoastalkayaking.com](mailto:paddle@ctcoastalkayaking.com). This article is based primarily on a 2004 trip.*





*Ace Basin landing in December.*

## **A Break from the Bleak: A Winter Trip to Charleston, S.C**

*Story and Photos by Ralph Earhart*

When ice crystals form in your hair and your lake freezes over, it is time to think about heading south. During the northern winter when it is cold and the sky is bleak, make a decision to take a break in Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston has plenty of places to paddle, whether it be behind the barrier islands, on the harbor, or inland along tidal rivers and creeks. Charleston provides more than just opportunities for paddling, the city is charming, history abounds, and great dining is abundant.

If I wanted break from the bleak, I would plan a multi-day trip, with half-day paddles, sampling the variety of paddling environments within an hour of the city. I would spend the remainder of the day touring, enjoying the history, visiting the city market, and dining. (You've got to order the shrimp and grits for at least one meal!)

Out-of-towners can bring their own boats and take these paddles themselves or rent boats from local establishments. Various local outfitters and guides stand ready to provide services. Resources are listed at the end of this article.

During the winter, I tend to paddle inland, away from open water where the wind chill can make fingers cold. My favorite trip is Horseshoe Creek, a tributary of the Ashpoo River in the heart of the ACE Basin. Launch from Price Bridge Landing, a well-maintained landing, and proceed downriver with the tide. Take a peak into the numerous openings in the rice field on the right side. Then explore the rice field canal just across from the intersection of Chessey Creek. Paddlers can go about a mile down that canal and take another creek to the right doing a loop and ending back on Horseshoe

Creek. That is a nice 5.5-mile paddle that is sheltered and off the beaten path.

A handful of days produce a temperature below 50 degrees and a similar number of days reach a temperature in the upper 70's. Paddlers here on one of those warm days should drop all plans and head down to the ACE Basin during low tide and watch the alligators warming themselves. Alligators are cold blooded and on these warm days they lie on mud banks soaking in the rays, just as you might like to. 'Gators in the wild in South Carolina are timid and paddlers need not fear them, as long as they treat them with respect and view them from a distance. Humans are not on their food chain! On a warm day, paddle from Dawhoo Landing on the Intracoastal Waterway, up the Dawhoo River, through "Alligator Alley" on the rising tide. Then, if you have



*Fort Sumter on Charleston Harbor.*

arranged shuttle, continue up to Willtown Bluff. Otherwise, pull off at a wilderness landing, take a break, and head back.

In South Carolina's winter, as long as one is paddling along rivers, creeks, and close to the shore behind barrier islands, the clothing theme is, "Cotton is rotten, nothing but nylon." Paddling jackets are useful, depending on the day. Yes, one should always dress for immersion, but the time in the water from the recommended trips would be minimal. Nothing but nylon, a paddling jacket, and a change of clothes should suffice.

The best resource for planning multi-day paddling trips to Charleston is the guidebook, *Kayak Charleston: Trips Within 1 Hour of Charleston* by yours truly. A past president of the Lowcountry Paddlers, the largest paddling club in South Carolina says, "Whether you are new to the Lowcountry or have lived here your whole life, *Kayak Charleston* will show you somewhere new to paddle.

Members of our paddling club always have a copy nearby, ready to plan their next trip into the swamp, through a rice field, or along a wilderness creek. You can order the book from Barnes and Noble (it is available at the Charleston area Barnes and Noble stores as well as many of the local

retail stores and outfitters), or from the author. Go to the Lowcountry Paddlers home page, and look at the bottom right part of the page for a link to an order form. <http://www.lowcountrypaddlers.net/> The book will assist you in planning trips. It provides detailed directions to more than 60 landings and throw-ins and suggests more than 100 trips within an hour of Charleston. It provides tidal calculations for each landing.

Kayaking takes place all year in the Charleston area. Winter is especially unique because one can see deep into the forests and wildlife such as dolphins and shorebirds still need to eat.

A major advantage of Charleston is that if one's "significant other" is not into kayaking, there is plenty to do, besides relaxing with a book, while the paddler is out exploring. Take these short daily trips and spend some quality time with your "other," whether it be on the water or on the streets of the city.

#### **If You Go...**

Before coming to Charleston, check out the paddle schedule and "show and goes" listed for the Lowcountry Paddlers. Non-members are always welcome; non ACA

members must sign a waiver and pay \$5 for insurance for official club trips. Trips for the first six months of 2011 should be listed on the web page before the end of 2010.

If you don't want to hassle with your boat and gear, use a local outfitter. The South Carolina Paddle Sports Industry Association provides a list of them. <http://www.paddlesouthcarolina.org/index.html>. My recommendation if you want to use an outfitter and I can only pick one for each area:

- \* Wambaw Creek in the Francis Marion Forest: Nature Adventures Outfitters
- \* Charleston Harbor or behind Folly Beach: Sea Kayak Carolina

ACE Basin (Including the Dawhoo River and "Alligator Alley"): Kayak Charleston  
 Edisto River above the tidal influence: Kayak Charleston.

#### **Suggested Paddles for a Four Day Trip:**

Day 1: Paddle Wambaw Creek in Francis Marion Forest. This is a freshwater water creek running through a deep forest.

Day 2: Paddle Charleston Harbor, perhaps even paddling out to Fort Sumter or behind Folly Beach, a barrier island that is known locally as "The Edge of America."

Day 3: Paddle in the ACE (Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto Rivers) Basin, one of the largest undeveloped estuaries on the East Coast.

Day 4: Paddle the Edisto River, above the tidal influence line. This is the longest free flowing black water river in America.

*Ralph Earhart is Chairman of the trip Planning Committee for the Lowcountry Paddlers and the author of the guidebook *Kayak Charleston: Trips Within 1 Hour of Charleston*. He operates a tour service specializing in families and small groups. Visit his web page at [www.kayakcharleston.net/](http://www.kayakcharleston.net/)*



## Exploring Rivers That Don't Freeze Winter Paddling in Florida

*Story and Photos by Chuck Horbert*

It is hard for a boater to get along with Old Man Winter in New England. He throws all the rivers and lakes into the freezer, and scatters snow all over perfectly good roadways. We are fortunate in my home state of Rhode Island to have many miles of coast, and Narragansett Bay, at our disposal, but sometimes Mr. Winter will even pave the upper bay with ice. And I confess...when it comes to sea kayaking, I am a poser; I prefer freshwater venues. So the boats usually go into hibernation along with the local chipmunks and saber-toothed rabbits in late November and don't start spawning on the rivers again until March, except for a short trip during our occasional "January Thaw."

Now I'm not sure what it is like in other northern states, but I'd estimate that approximately 70 percent of all retired folks from Rhode Island end up in Florida for some

portion of the winter, where they congregate in small groups to talk about the Red Sox and complain about all the traffic. As it happens, three of these retirees include my two parents, and my mother-in-law. This results in opportunities for occasional visits, and these visits always occur in the winter, because you'd have to be crazier than a bag of weasels under the Christmas Tree to visit in the summer. And amidst the usual plans for visits to the beaches, museums, theme parks, and roadside gator jerky stands, my wife and I usually cook up a scheme to get away and paddle.

Our first experience in Florida paddling was on the east coast, near my mother-in-law's place in Stuart. Some in-depth research (we looked at a state road map) revealed the existence of nearby Jonathan Dickinson State Park. There was a thin

*A great blue heron fishing in the crystal water..*

blue line running through the small green square on the map, indicating that we might find water. So we called a number from the phone book and discovered that rental canoes and kayaks were available right in the park! This is how, with nothing more than a cheap map, sketchy rental car, and pure dumb luck, we stumbled onto one of South Florida's gems: The Loxahatchee River.

You see, it turns out that the Loxahatchee was the first river in Florida to be nationally designated as "Wild and Scenic," and is one of only two that are so designated in the state (the other is the Wekiva River). It is a short river, roughly 7.5 miles long, which was fortunate because we did not have a lot of time on the day we visited.

We rented a couple kayaks at a concessionaire's stand within the state park, and



*An alligator lurks in the water weeds on the Silver River.*

set out upstream. Here, the Loxahatchee is a wide, tidal river lined by thick mangrove swamps. We shared the water with a number of other kayakers and canoeists, as well as a smattering of motorboats which all seemed generally on their best behavior. Unfamiliar bird calls emanated from the adjacent swamps. We both kept binoculars at the ready to help spot one of Florida's hundreds of species of birds, many of which have really long legs, and bills that could second as an alleged murder weapon.

We stayed pretty close to the edge of the river on the way upstream, but not so close that a snake could drop on us. Our native paddling habitat back in Rhode Island contains no poisonous snakes, and is also distinctly lacking in alligators, aside from the occasional escaped pet, so it was somewhat unnerving to us to think of ourselves as part of the food chain. Cute colorful birds are one thing, but we didn't want to have any close encounters of the toothy kind.

A few bends of the river upstream, almost a mile from where we started, we came upon Kitching Creek, a small tributary that flows in from the north. Neither of us can

successfully resist the siren call of a narrow, twisty stream, even if it meant that we might have to keep a sharper eye out for snakes, or large hairy spiders. A canopy of mangroves and old cypress trees closed in over us as we made our way up the narrow creek. No snakes dropped out of the trees. We became more comfortable in the foreign jungle-like environment, and spotted many birds, including tri-colored herons, snowy egrets, and anhingas, also known as "snake birds" for their habit of submersing their entire bodies below water except their long, thin neck and head. We both came down from full red-alert status to the all-clear as we eased our way around the next bend, gliding up the tea colored water.

And there it was. The biggest alligator I'd ever seen, bigger even than some of the ones we'd seen in Shark Alley in the Everglades. It was just sitting up on the bank, about ten feet in from the edge of the river. It didn't acknowledge our presence whatsoever. In fact, closer inspection with binoculars indicated that it was missing an eye, the one facing us. It appeared to be scarred over. I couldn't detect any breathing, and

we began to wonder if maybe this was a stuffed alligator that the Park Service had planted here to give tourists a little thrill. At any rate, it didn't exhibit any worrisome behavior, such as rearing up and charging us. So we continued on, and continued to debate whether this thing was actually alive or not.

The Sunshine State continued to accommodate our journey upstream with plenty of sunlight, and we enjoyed paddling our way up the narrow alleyways and bends of this nice little creek. The flow was easy to paddle against, and every bend seemed to reveal a new bird: great blue herons, great egrets, wood ducks, little blue herons, not-so-great blue herons, etc. We also occasionally caught a glimpse of some fish, but nothing bigger than a few inches along.

After another half hour, it was time to turn around to head back to the main river. On the way back, we stopped again at the eyeless 'gator. It hadn't moved. I slapped the bank with the paddle about eight feet away from it...no reaction. By now I was convinced that this was either a stuffed alligator or a dead alligator that had perhaps been run over by a boat and crawled here to die. But before I could walk over to prove my theory, my sixth sense kicked in. You know that sense...it's the one that stops you from running a rapid with a blind corner, around which you later find a fallen tree across the river. This sense ran a headline across my mind: "Foolish Tourist Attacked by Alligator he Thought was Dead." That, plus my wife was screaming at me to Get Back in the Damn Boat NOW. So I left him unmolested.

Time constraints prevented us from exploring further upstream on the Loxahatchee, which we now know can be accessed on its upstream end by Riverband Park in Palm Beach County, and which makes a nice downstream paddle, past cen-

turies old cypress trees, two log dams, and an old trapper's camp. Back at the state park, we tracked down a ranger and told her about the possibly deceased alligator we found up on Kitchings Creek. She assured us that it was quite alive, but that as a result of his missing eye this alligator was particularly ornery, and we had done well to leave it alone. A sixth sense success story.

A couple years later, when visiting my folks near the Gulf Coast, we had an opportunity to paddle on another river, the Silver River in Ocala. We accessed it through Silver River State Park, where we were again able to rent boats. It required a bit of a hike...the boat ramp is a little over a half mile from the parking lot, but fortunately the rental boats are all at the river-end of the path. If you plan on taking your own boat, be sure to bring along a cart! As we walked along, we encountered an armadillo, which was an odd experience for us since all of the four-legged creatures we normally see on hikes are furry. It seemed a bit short in the perception department, since it nearly walked right into us as it foraged its way across the path.

At the end of the path, we found our boats and carried them to the ramp. The river has amazingly clear water, and it flows by the ramp at a good rate, so we could tell that we would have some work ahead of us to paddle upstream. This river, in fact, flows out of the ground at the famed Silver Springs, site of a popular tourist park, located only two miles upstream from the boat ramp. It flows out of the ground at a clip of 550 million gallons per day. That is an astounding amount of water to just appear out of the ground. For perspective, back home in Rhode Island the 5.3 square-mile-large Scituate Reservoir provides water for 60 percent of the entire state's population, and does it with a little less than 70 million gallons per day.

So away we went, paddling against water that could supply over five times the population of our home state, and right away we saw an alligator. This one was small, and could almost be called "cute." And it wasn't alone. We saw many of them as we paddled upstream, most of which appeared to be the equivalent of toddlers, or sullen teenagers. Some of them were actually swimming.

A unique group of animals one has a good chance to encounter here are monkeys. Evidently some entrepreneur imported a group of Rhesus monkeys and placed them on an island in the river to provide some entertainment on his river tours, not imagining that they might just swim away. Well, they did; in fact, they went forth and multiplied, and are now found all along the Silver River as well as the Ocklawaha River downstream. And sure enough, we observed one group of about 15 monkeys hanging out in the canopy near the river.

After a good hour-and-a-half of paddling, staying to the inside of bends and taking advantage of every eddy we could, we reached Silver Springs, where we encountered mul-

tiple glass bottom boats packed with tourists taking a "Jungle River Tour." There were many buildings and concessions along the river here, and we could see the main part of the park upstream of us. That, and the tacky music emanating from the speakers hidden somewhere in the forest, made our choice to head back downstream an easy one.

The ride back was quick. We basically let the current take us along, as we passed by dozens of colorful birds. On one sand bar, we spotted white ibis, American coots, and a little blue heron all hanging out together. Cormorants laid claim to dead branches sticking up through the current. An osprey whistled from a tree. And in the shrubs as we neared the boat launch area, a stately wood stork was perched.

I look forward to more winter trips. The aforementioned Ocklawaha River, which offers dozens of wild river miles to explore, is a good bet. And of course, the best part about these trips is sitting in boats in short sleeves in January while our house sitters back home are shoveling snow off the walkways.



*An aninga drying its wings...*



*The short ships gather at the Apprenticeshop's pier for the start of the race.*

## Fast, Fun Short Ships Race

Sept. 18, 28 racers rowed, paddled, and sculled their way around Rockland Harbor, Maine, in The Apprenticeshop's 2010 Short Ships Rowing Regatta.

The race included all manner of watercraft completing the three-mile triangular course. Twenty-three boats hit the start line at 9:33 am under sunny skies, 8-10 knot northerly winds and slightly choppy waters.

First overall was Don Seales, Searsmont, crossing the finish line in 32 minutes and 34 seconds rowing his sleek, sliding-seat Stampfli racing shell. However, the racer getting the most cheers from the crowd was the persevering Thad Danielson, Marblehead, Mass., rowing an eight-foot tender designed by W. Starling Burgess in 1925 and built by Danielson in 2009. Danielson garnered the final finish position at 70 minutes and 9 seconds with a broad smile and a wave.

Along with Seales, other top finishers by class were Reinhard Zollitsch, Orono, 1st in outrigger canoes and 3rd overall at 34:27, Ben Fuller, Cushing, 1st in kayaks and 4th overall at 35:24, Clint Chase, Portland, 1st in fixed seat singles and 5th overall at 36:05, and Justin McAnaney, Union, with

Hobbs White, Rockland, in "Team Lower Left Hand Corner", 1st in fixed seat doubles and 9th overall at 42:48.

Additional unique awards highlighted the post-race festivities. "Team Piper" won the "Terrific Trio Award," finishing 19th overall with a time of 59:08. Coxswain Eliot drove his crew hard with encouraging comments like, "Come on Mom and Dad, pull harder - what do you think I'm paying you for!"

The father/son team of Joe and Michael McGeady finished in 20th place with a time of 57:07 and garnered the "Dynamic Duo Award." The senior McGeady provided the oar-power while the junior McGeady held the course steady with a smooth hand on the tiller.

"Team Benchdogs" brought a triple threat to the kayak division. A near photo finish saw eight-year-old Caellan (66:32) edge out grandpa Michael (66:34) while dad Weber (66:28) managed to slip across the line ahead of both. For their 20th, 21st, and 22nd overall finishes they won the "Three Generation Sensation Award."

The Short Ships race has been run for more than 30 years and always draws an interesting group of craft. This year was

no exception. The 2010 Regatta included dories, Whitehalls, pulling boats, outrigger canoes, skiffs, wherries, kayaks, tenders, and a faering. The race had 19 singles, 3 doubles and one triple oared vessel.

Special thanks to the Black Point Inn and The Inn at Ocean's Edge for sponsoring this event and WoodenBoat for media sponsorship. On the water, thanks to safety boat drivers Alan Athearn, Tom Goettel, and Dale Young, and to the Rockland Yacht Club and Jesse Henry for race buoys. Thanks also to photographer Brooke Holland, event co-organizer and trophy builder Don Seales, and all the volunteers.



*Eldon Bennett and Patrick Kane rowing the faering, a Norwegian-style utility boat.*



## Klepper Mania A Kayak Log from the Past

Story by Jim Hayward

My mother bought a Klepper Aerius as a 50th birthday present for my father and the first use, recorded in my father's handwriting, was July 27, 1957. Although the Aerius stayed in the family until 2010, only two summers were recorded: 1957 and 1958.

My parents lived in land-locked Montclair, N.J., and would not otherwise have owned a boat. The beauty of the Klepper was the convenience of carrying it in the back of the car - and the novelty and sport. It had a bow pennant, which my mother copied on the cover of the logbook.

They used the Klepper those first two summers at "Upper Farm" in Lakeville, Con-

necticut, the summer home of my father's sister and her husband and my mother's sister and her husband. The big Lakeville lake is Wononscopomuc, and our relatives' property had shorefront was on Long Pond (accessible by "bouncy" Jeep ride).

Other bodies of water mentioned include the Miles River at Easton, Md., where my father grew up and the Eggemoggin Reach in Sargentville, Maine. That is where I went to camp, at Robin Hood, located on an isthmus between the Reach and Walker Pond. (The good old days, when boys as young as five were sent away for two months - with no visitors until the end of season - to learn

important life skills.)

While the recorded story here ends in 1958, my parents continued to use the boat regularly, and I have photos of my mother and friends putting in at the lake (Cream Hill Pond) in Cornwall, Ct. In the late '80s I built a rack for the Klepper on my pickup truck, and my wife, Martha, and I used the boat in Cornwall and at least once from Pavilion Beach, Ipswich, Mass. Some time in the '90s the boat was retired to the old-car garage. It is now looking for a new home.

**Here is my father's log:**  
Saturday July 27, 1957

*"Pete" Hayward in the stern with family friend Claribel Van Alstyne in the bow, from the mid-70s.*

Klepper Folding Boats are assembled... or... disassembled and stored—in about 15–30 minutes. Need minimal storage space.

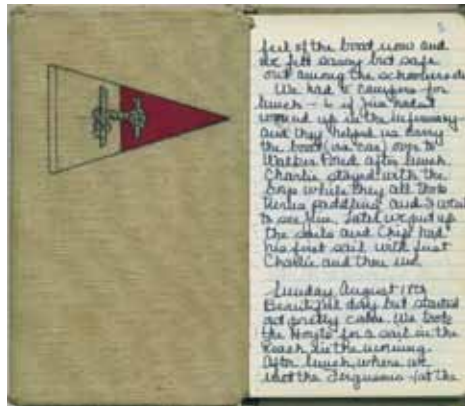


When the fun is over, never a care or cost for mooring or hauling. Patented snap-lock fittings speed the foldaway process. All parts and sails are folded compactly, fit into easily handled packs.

All carry-packs fit into any car (no trouble even with small models, like Volkswagen).



Your Klepper Foldaway can be stored in a corner of a closet in your house or apartment.

The log book, found in June, 2010.

Pete and I take our new Klepper folding boat down to the lake and assemble it near where we used to swim with boys when we stayed at Salisbury (on Lake Wononscopomuc).

“Launching” a success and our first paddle a thrill. Even better when we rigged the sail for the first time and were able to handle it in spite of the rather strong and puffy wind.

Sailed again in p.m. Boat doesn’t come about too well – we may have to make some adjustments. Good fun, anyway!

Quite a 50th birthday present Pete has given me!

Monday July 29

Had a fine sail this p.m. Called on our relatives across lake but they weren’t there. Boat sail, much better after we moved lee boards farther forward and laced mainsail to mast. Still, doesn’t come about quickly, though.

Tuesday July 30

AM Pete and I had a nice little sail but breeze very light. In the afternoon, weather not good so we decided to pack up the boat as we are leaving tomorrow a.m. for home.

Monday Aug. 5

Pete and I drive to Maryland just for the day and take along the boat. A friend wants to see it – all excuse needed to put together and into the Miles River (Easton, Md). “The Commodore” sails and paddles with friends

this a.m. and again after we come back from lunch. LJ. pleased with boat – think she’s

OK.

Friday Aug. 16

Sargentville, Maine. We arrived in the middle of the afternoon but we still had plenty of time to put the boat together and launch it in Eggmoggin Reach. We paddled up the shore quite a distance and were happy to note that the rather rough water meant nothing to the boat. We got the boys from camp for dinner and they had a chance to see and try our yacht both together and alone.

Sturday Aug. 17

Charlie and I sailed around the Reach in a nice breeze in the morning and even went over to Little Deer Island, but not ashore. Charlie really has the feel of the boat now and we felt sassy but safe out among the schooners, etc.

We had five campers for lunch – six if Jim hadn’t wound up in the infirmary – and they helped us carry the boat (via car) over to Walker Pond after lunch. Charlie stayed with the boys while they all took turns paddling.

Sunday, Aug. 18

Johnny and I went forth in the Reach. A right smart breeze had come up and we really whistled up the shore. Coming back the tide was against us and the water was pretty rough.

It was interesting to see how we felt the waves all the way to the shore. We absorb the motion as the boat is not rigid. We felt very steady though.

When we returned to the dock I asked Johnny if he wanted to try it alone. He did, but it was a poor time to try to get used to it. He had no sooner cleared the dock than he capsized – in fact the boat turned upside down! Happily it was high tide and plenty of room for the mast...we all had great fun and hysterics fishing the boat and Johnny out.

Mnday, Aug. 19

It was beautiful... We introduced Polly and Kelly to the boat by way of paddling and



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then sailing. In the afternoon we took the boat over to the lake and Charlie and Chip had a fine sail. Poor Jim – still laid up.

Wednesday, Aug. 21

This was as beautiful a day as I ever saw and much too pretty to dismantle the boat. It was time to depart however so apart it came. Too bad!

Thursday, Aug. 22

We left Concord, N.H., at 10:20 a.m and head for Lakeville, Ct. With the help of the Massachusetts Turnpike we had the boat together and in the lake by 4 p.m. The boys paddled across the lake and were out for quite a long time. They brought back many Japanese beetles which they caught on the water.

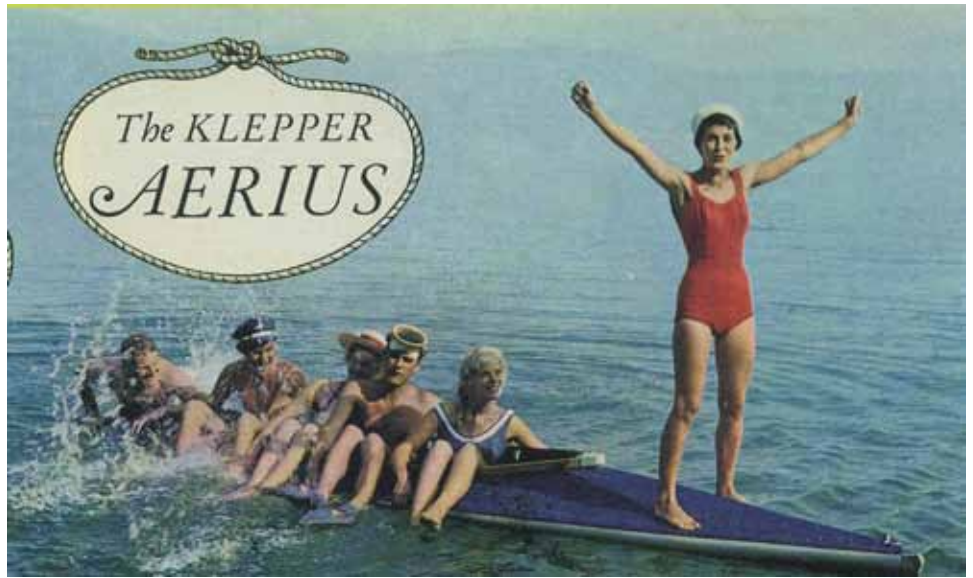


Photo from a Klepper brochure, 1960s.



Page from a Klepper brochure, 1960s, showing Hans Lindemann on the Atlantic.

Friday, Aug. 23

We got to the lake quite early. We put the sails up and what wind we had died completely and we had to end up paddling. We explored the shore...and used the boat to swim from. Great fun. Then again we folded “der Klepper ship” and left for home after a wonderful cookout.

1958

Saturday, Aug. 2

The season was opened on Long Pond at the Sextons. Ronnie and I bounced through the woods in the jeep and put the boat together down by the lake (Long Pond in Connecti-

cut). We paddled around exploring...A slight breeze came up so we broke out the sails but it wasn't too good. We had a set back because the rudder yoke broke with too much sculling.

Sunday, Aug. 3

We managed to fix the rudder temporarily and progressed to the lake. There wasn't much air stirring so the sailing wasn't much.

Monday, Aug. 4

We carried the boat to the Lakeville Lake where we gave Johnny and Jay a try at paddling. There was a medium breeze all day and we had a fine sail.

Tuesday, Aug. 5

There was almost no breeze but we decided to sail anyway. I took the helm when we went to the our neighbors for a swim as it was so calm we took our cameras and I don't know what all. As we got almost to the shore and going before the wind, an enormous puff of air came from nowhere and we almost took off. After almost mowing down the float and doing a fancy jibe or two, over we went. Never was I so mortified! The cameras got mighty wet but I think we'll recover from it. Later in the afternoon again in a calm, we paddled to the Rudds and had a drink with them.

Wednesday, Aug. 6

The breeze was good and fresh and we were full of caution. In fact later in the afternoon, we found it more to our liking to paddle. We took the boat back to Upper Farm to take it apart and back into its bags.

Saturday, Aug. 16

Back to Maine and the Oakland House. The boys came for lunch and afterwards they put the boat together down by the Reach. There wasn't time for them to do anything more than paddle around for awhile.

Sunday, Aug. 17

Charlie and I sailed in the lake in the morning. It was a good breeze but too cool for a swim for our tastes.

Monday, Aug. 18

Rain!

Tuesday, Aug. 19

It was a real gale but sunny so it was paddles all day. We took the boys and seven friends to lunch and they all took turns in the boat later. We spent the afternoon with the Fergusons and it was pretty chilly. (Last entry).

*Note: In the summer of 2010, ACK acquired this historic vessel from Jim. Anyone interested in restoring it should contact Tamsin Venn c/o ACK.*

## Going With The Floe

By Jack Izzo

The ocean was 28 degrees Fahrenheit, the air about 18. Cohasset Harbor had frozen, and the ebb and flow of the tides had broken the six-inch-thick ice cover into ragged floes the size of grand pianos. Those ice floes fit together like pieces of a puzzle nuzzling each other in a rhythmic, undulating dance, orchestrated by the wind, the currents, and the waves. From shore, it was beautiful to watch, mesmerizing, awesome to contemplate: this wonder of nature - frozen salt-water rippling like a giant sheet floating on the waves. It was even spectacular from my vantage.

However, at the moment I was more interested in breathing than seeing. I was upside down, in a kayak, under the ice and underwater - looking through the floes at the gray sky hoping I could hold my breath 'till I found an opening.

I had been paddling through the floes, something I had never tried, and I was alone. With ice covering the harbor, there were not the usual fishing and lobster boats plying the channel. The fishermen were home in front of open fires waiting for a better day. I do not know if the Harbormaster was in, but if he were, he could not have seen me on the far side of the harbor, hidden from view by the long jetty separating the inner harbor from the outer. I was out there by myself, on adventure, imagining myself

Nanook of the North - the Inuk kayaker Robert Flaherty immortalized in his famous 1922 documentary on Inuit life in the frozen Canadian Arctic.

Unlike Nanook, I was not in a sleek skin-covered kayak. I was paddling a molded plastic Necky recreational craft. Before launching I had sealed myself into the boat with a waterproof nylon skirt. My goal, when I left shore, was to paddle through the floes out to the open sea where there was no ice, about a quarter-mile away. I had figured I would return the same way after paddling in the ocean an hour or so, a good workout.

Cohasset is home to an active fishing fleet, and the largest squadron of lobster boats south of Maine. This is because of a well-protected harbor that opens directly onto the open ocean. The water outside Cohasset Harbor, and around Minot's Light a mile offshore, is icy cold and full of rocky ledges - favorite haunts for lobsters and the cold water fish New Englanders love. The Jesuit Community at Boston College had a waterfront home on the outer harbor for recreation and retreats.

Shortly after joining the B.C. Jesuit Community in August, 1995, I began taking a day a week at Cohasset, writing, walking, rowing, swimming, fishing, and kayaking. Bellarmine House, as the house was called, became my refuge and salvation. When

I discovered the two kayaks I was elated. I had been away from kayaking since my neck injury in the California surf six years before, and missed it. I wanted to be able to join my West Coast friends, summers - when I envisioned vacationing in California.

I had never learned to roll a kayak before my accident, but was feeling fine now, and was bound and determined to roll these kayaks. I knew if I could roll these boats, I could roll the Tsunami boats my friends paddled on the west coast. To this end I purchased skirts, floatation bladders, a waterproof paddle jacket, and a long enough paddle for my arm reach. "You'll never roll that kayak," a California friend told me when we spoke by telephone, But I refused to believe him and kept trying. Until now I had not succeeded, and I was not going to this day, on the ice, but that was no reason not to go paddling.

The dock, sailboats, outboard motor boat and rowboats were all put away for the winter; but the kayaks were in the boathouse, atop a 20-foot rock overlooking the main channel, and it was easy to drag one out and launch it on the rocky shore. The other Jesuits were at first amazed that I would go out in a kayak in the winter, even in a wetsuit. But they had already determined I was a bit of an oddball - a Californian. Even now, while pushing through the ice floes, I anticipated telling them of this latest adventure and imagining their reactions.

But the adventure soon became more arduous than exciting. Close to shore there had been four- to six-inch spaces between floes. And as the kayak moved forward it pushed them apart creating barely sufficient paddle space. The going was slow, but easy. The kayak was only pushing ten or 20 floes to either side as it bulled forward. But by the time I was 20 feet from shore the boat was pushing 50 or a 100 floes to either side; and the spacing between the floes



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Suzanne Hutchinson, Kokatat New England Sales Rep and Team Paddler for P & H Sea Kayaks, near Sames Sound (ME). Photo: © Werner Maas

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had shrunk to an inch or two. And to make matters worse, all these floes were pushing against the kayak; and not along the gunwales, but under the waterline where they destabilized the craft.

Soon there was no water-space for the paddle. It became useless. I started pushing with my hands, inching the kayak between the floes. The more I pushed, the harder they jammed. I was in a scrum. The kayak was the ball, and the floes were the ruggers pushing, kicking and shoving their way in on all sides. We were locked in battle. It felt as if I were being attacked by a pack of faceless ghoulish beasts.

By the time I reached the channel and turned toward the ocean, 30 feet from shore, the floes had locked me in on all sides. The jigsaw puzzle had come together. I tried forcing my way as an Ice Breaker might - sliding my bow on top of the ice and using my weight to break a channel, but I could not. The floes were too big. They were heavier than the combination of the 50-pound kayak and my wetsuit-clad 200-pound body.

I tried knifing a channel between them, but again I could not. No sooner would I wedge a tiny crack than they would close, lifting bow and stern above the water.

I was on the ice. What to do? I tried sliding across as an Eskimo might, hoping to reach open sea 400 yards ahead. At first I tried balancing half on one floe and half on another, thinking I could create a skidway to slide through; but one floe would always have a little more of the boat than the other. The floe that had more of the boat would tilt it toward the other and I would go tipping in that direction. It was hard to keep balance.

I tried sliding the kayak across the middle of the floes, but again could never stay perfectly balanced. The floes were too small to afford a stable platform. I would always be a little more to one side than the other, and go sliding in that direction. The closer I got to the edge, the more the floe would tilt, accelerating my slide and making it harder not to capsize. I was broaching, or trying, as if on a wave - but had never learned to broach very well.

Then, when the kayak would slide off the edge of one floe, and onto its neighbor, the neighbor would tilt in the opposite direction forcing me to reverse my broach. This was more like Class-3 river action; but I had never learned to navigate Class-3 rivers. Also, as the floes tilted steeply, like boat-launching ramps, they opened momentary spaces in the water. I did not want to capsize into one of those crevasses.

So I kept moving, foot by foot - until before I could react the floe I was on suddenly tipped steeply, spilling me over and dumping me upside down in the channel. And then, just as quickly, the floes closed, mating with each other. I was like a fish in a frozen pond without gills. I fumbled for the skirt handle, hard to feel with the thick neoprene gloves, but found it and yanked the skirt off the cockpit rim. Then I kicked myself out of the cockpit into the water and looked for an escape. The tide was high, and the channel about 20 feet deep. No bottom to stand on. The kayak and I were both floated against the underside of the ice floe - I thanked God I had installed flotation bags in the bow and stern - but even with the kayak and myself together, we did not have the buoyancy to lift the heavy floe. Between the mass-density ratio of the ice floe to the kayak-and-paddler, the specific gravity of each, and Archimedes' Principle, we were stuck.

I was covered from head to foot in heavy neoprene and my upper body was also encased in a waterproof paddling jacket, so I was not cold and not worried about hypothermia. The only part of my body that felt cold was my face, especially my eyes. But I had to keep them open to look for an opening. I saw where two floes met, and tried to force the kayak prow between them, but could not. The ice was too heavy.

I stuck the tip of a paddle blade into the juncture and worked it between the floes slowly. I had to be careful not to break the blade. Eventually I got the thin blade through and jammed the handle between the floes and levered enough space to reach through and grab an upper edge. Slowly, I pulled the edge down until I could grab it

with both hands. This was like doing pull-ups in an anti-gravity chamber. I forced the edge down until the space was large enough to lift my head and shoulders and breathe. From this point I knew I would live.

As I swam, holding paddle and kayak painter, and pushing the floes apart, I thought of a drysuit. A good drysuit could keep someone alive in the Arctic. But they were expensive, more than my budget allowed. I thought of a better kayak, one safer in rough water, and conditions like this. But where would I find the money? Somehow the swim to shore did not seem that bad. Hard work, perhaps more than I had counted on, but I was thinking more of how to prevent a repeat.

The first thing I did was call Dr. George Ruta, a contributor to *Atlantic Coastal Kayaker* and experienced cold water paddler. George convinced me to buy a full-body drysuit with built-in booties and zipper - and made it possible for my skimpy Jesuit allowance. I don't think he wanted to read that a crazy priest had frozen in the North Atlantic.

The ice on Cohasset Harbor melted but I continued paddling in the 30- to 40-degree water throughout the winter and early spring - and swimming in the drysuit I felt like a walrus. It was great fun. I never did roll that kayak; but I bought a used 16-foot Hop-on-Top that spring. This was the closest thing New England had to Jim Kakuk's Tsunami boats my California friends were paddling. The Hop-on-Top was a fiberglass and composite sit-on-top designed by naval architect Paul Cronin for surfing and ocean paddling. It was rugged, handled waves well, and was pretty fast - and I did not have to roll it. But I never did paddle it in ice. Once was enough - in that little Necky.

When I had started out that winter day in Cohasset I thought all I would have to do would be go with the floes. But like so many things, what had seemed clear became cloudy awfully quickly. I had tried doing it my way, but the floes had their way.

# New Products



## What hath God Wrought?

All these new gadgets on the trail are starting to get us fuhklempt (Google it). Now DeLorme and SPOT are crowing about emerging technology that provides the ability to post to Facebook from anywhere in the world, far from the nearest cell tower. In fact, the two companies are sharing a 2010 Popular Mechanics Breakthrough Award next month for the first handheld GPS navigation system that can post to the social network and send text messages via satellite.

The new DeLorme Earthmate PN-60w with SPOT Satellite Communicator was described by Popular Mechanics editors as “a valuable tool on any trip that extends well outside of cell phone range. It not only provides detailed topographical maps and GPS guidance in the backcountry, it also lets explorers send SOS messages with embedded coordinates via satellite if they’re in trouble - or Facebook updates if they’re not.” In addition, family and friends can track the user’s progress via Google online maps.

The award winners are highlighted in the November issue of Popular Mechanics with winner profiles currently online at [www.popularmechanics.com/breakthrough10](http://www.popularmechanics.com/breakthrough10).

The Earthmate PN-60w with SPOT Satellite Communicator is now widely available for purchase at retail stores and online, from major sporting goods and electronics resellers. SPOT communication

and tracking services are activated via low-cost subscriptions.

For additional information:

[www.findmeSPOT.com](http://www.findmeSPOT.com)

[www.delorme.com](http://www.delorme.com)

*From Expedition News, October 2010,  
[www.expeditionnews.com](http://www.expeditionnews.com)*



## West Systems Six10

The Six10 thickened epoxy adhesive is a two-part epoxy adhesive in a small, convenient, self metering cartridge. Instead of a two-part system, this relies on one convenient part. You dispense it out of a standard caulking gun, but the benefit is a non-sagging epoxy that you can place exactly where it’s needed in less time with no mess, good for emergency repairs while underway. The only drawback is you need a new tip every time you use it. Price is about \$20. For more information, [www.westsystem.com](http://www.westsystem.com)



## Inov-8 Ltd. Evoskin shoes

Why go barefoot when you can wear Evoskins? Evoskins are the latest

development of footwear for the barefoot running fanatics, but we can see these for kayaking use. The Evoskins have a single layer of silicone that will stick like glue (think foot glove Croc). They weigh only 3.5 ounces – the only way to take off any more weight is to go barefoot. They don’t provide much foot protection, no support, and you will feel pebbles and sharp rocks. But they do stick. The Evoskins will be for sale in February, 2011 for about \$65 per pair.



## Vibram FiveFingers Series

Vibram offers several somewhat beefier models that include Vibram soles for more protection and traction. The KSO Multisport also features a snug fit around the ankle to help keep out gravel and grit. Visit their site [www.youarethetechnology.com](http://www.youarethetechnology.com), recently named a “Site of the Day” by Favorite Website Awards project.



## Ikkuma 17 by Seda

Inspired by the Inuit word for fire, the Ikkuma 17 is a modified Greenland design



that will ignite new energy into your touring adventures! This kayak is a blend of Greenland and British design, sleek and light. It is 17 feet long, 22 inch beam, and weighs 47 pounds in fiberglass, and 41 pounds in carbon (the day hatch option adds two pounds).

Designed by Stuart Mounsey and James Mole of Copper Cove Boatworks, the Ikkuma 17 carries an aggressive chine and moderate rocker that deliver comfortable handling in chop and currents, says Seda.

A foil skeg delivers a deeper bite into the water flow for surfboard-like control in the swells. The lightweight carbon blade offers stiffer resistance than plastic skegs, thereby increasing the kayak's responsiveness to leans and carved turns. The deck includes flush fittings, Kajak Sport rubber hatches, Immersion Research LoungeBand seatback, and a day-hatch option. The boat is also available in a 15-foot length.

For more information, [www.seda.com](http://www.seda.com)



### Bear Grylls Knife

If you are the sort of boater who wears a knife strapped to your PFD, or just are in the market for a rugged survival knife for your camping kit, you might consider this

new survival knife designed by the popular TV survivalist personality Bear Grylls with Gerber Knives.

The knife's features are designed for durability and comfort and include a serrated high carbon stainless steel drop point blade, an ergonomic textured rubber grip to maximize comfort and reduce slippage, a flat stainless steel pommel so that the knife can be used as a hammer, and a small emergency whistle integrated into lanyard cord. There are also two reinforced holes in the guard, so you can lash the knife to a pole to make a spear or harpoon, in case your campsite is overrun with rampaging rabbits.

The sheath is made of plastic and military grade nylon, for mildew resistance and quick drying. The sheath also include a fire starter, a ferrocerium rod which locks into the sheath and is used with thestriker notch incorporated into back of knife blade. There is a diamon sharpener integrated into the sheath for on-the-go sharpening and surface to air rescue instructions, in case you have to call in the Coast Guard. Finally, it also includes Bear's Priorities of Survival pocket guide.

Scheduled for release in mid-November, 2010, the knife is currently available for 25% off the manufacturer's suggested retail price at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), with free shipping. If you are an inveterate survival gear freak, keep an eye out for more Bear Gryll knives, tools and gear in the future.

### The North Face Kishtwar

Engineered to help keep athletes moving through the most challenging of weathers, the Men's Kishtwar Jacket is the ultimate soft shell. It's constructed using Polartec® Power Shield® Pro, combining outstanding breathability with high levels of resistance to wind and water. It blocks 99% of the wind to prevent chill and repels rain and snow, yet enjoys exceptional air permeability



to keep athletes cool as they clock up the miles. An abrasion-resistant face makes it highly durable too, shrugging off the bumps and scrapes inevitably encountered on challenging alpine assignments, and there's a good element of stretch for a comfy, secure fit. Other features on this Summit Series™ jacket include an adjustable fixed hood, hand and chest pockets and out-of-sight cinchcord.

The jacket has received "Gear of the Year" awards from both *Outside* and *National Geographic Adventure* magazines. Stephen Regenold, founder of the website [gearjunkie.com](http://gearjunkie.com), states that, "Polartec's new Power Shield Pro, a softshell fabric used on the Kishtwar...gets about as close as anything available to making the 'waterproof-breathable' theory really work. After a lot of use, I am a solid fan. Power Shield Pro breathes dang well — better than any hardshell you will find."

Visit [northface.com](http://northface.com) for more information.

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## 350.org 10/10/10 Work Weekend on Hurricane Island, Maine

*Photos By Erich Soares*

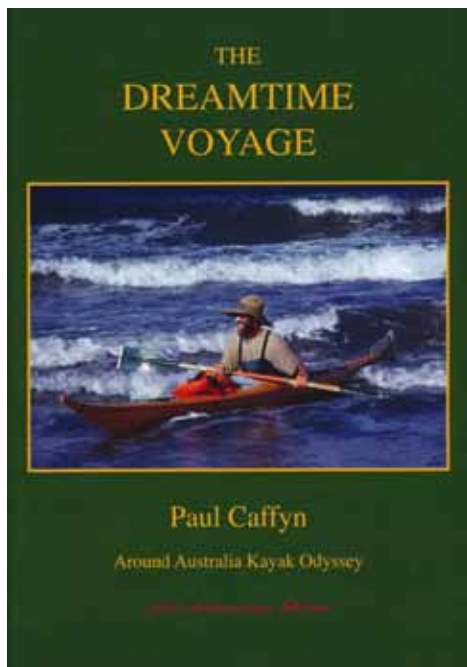
Over 50 people converged on Hurricane Island the weekend of 10/10/10 to take part in the carbon-reduction work day sponsored by 350.org to help raise governmental awareness of excess CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Besides cleaning up the shores of hundreds of pieces of trash, volunteers also worked to repair the infrastructure the Hurricane Island Foundation will need to realize its dream. See Eddy-lines in this issue for more information.





# 25th Anniversary Reprint of The Dreamtime Voyage

By Erich Soares



It's not too soon to think of Christmas, for two reasons. First, what do you get the kayaker who has everything? How about an autographed copy of Paul Caffyn's *The Dreamtime Voyage: Around Australia Kayak Odyssey*, 25th anniversary edition, published in 2010?

The other reason to think of Christmas is Paul set out on his incredible expedition just a couple of days after Christmas 1981. He tried but could not get major sponsors. He courted filmmakers, but that didn't work because they wanted to stage a crocodile attack to make it more exciting. Finally, he determined to finance the voyage himself and just go for it.

After much dreaming, visualizing, and planning, Paul and a paddling partner launched from Port Phillip Bay on December 28th and headed counter-clockwise around Australia in the Round

Australia Kayaking Expedition (RAKE). They soon squabbled and broke up their partnership a few days later. Paul continued on, undaunted. Fortunately, he had a little help from his friends, who did food drops, and camped and paddled with him when possible. Other than two-way radios, Paul did not use a GPS or other electronic gadgets on his trip. He used gumption, not gizmos to complete his circumnavigation.

It was a rigorous, vigorous journey. Paul kept a diary and recounted every important detail, which he inserts into the book. To show the reader how it really was, Paul includes a slew of beautiful and exciting photographs, with over five dozen in full color. The glossy pictures alone made me want the book, but it was his sharp and colorful writing that kept my interest.

Here is an excerpt from the early part of the book, when Paul was embarking through surf, alone:

"The surf was heavy and dumping with great force. At 2:30p.m. I launched into the calm water of a small creek and began punching into the inshore break. Nearing the back of this line of breakers, a big mother dropped right on top of me. Its force popped the sprayskirt in. The kayak stood on its stern briefly, but I braced hard and the kayak hurtled backwards for the beach on the face of the wave. With a cockpit half full of water, I paddled back to the sand and emptied out." What an ordeal! But that was nothing, compared to a failed trip through the surf late in his journey. Want to know more? Get the book.

On page 114, Paul recounts feeling sleepy while making one of many long crossings,

when suddenly "...a black object caught my eye which hadn't been there minutes before. A huge triangular-shaped fin was weaving in behind the stern. I could see a smaller tail fin 10 feet behind the dorsal fin. It was an enormous shark. My sleepiness was instantly shed." What happened next? You'll have to read the book to find out.

These excerpts let us savor the flavor of the expedition and his writing style. He is matter of fact throughout as he describes his daily tribulations, and inserts his dry downunder humor throughout the narrative to keep us laughing through his pain. Truly, his writing is so good it should be considered literature.

For those of you who have not yet read the book, your primary question may be "did the rake finish the RAKE?" (spoiler alert!) Yes, he did. On December 23rd, Paul finished at the start of his circumnavigation. After thrills and spills, and many long days of grueling paddling in dangerous and beautiful waters, *The Dreamtime Voyage* was over.

Paul wrote in the epilogue: "The ability to daydream lies within all of us. All that is involved is setting your sights on a goal that is achievable, then steadfastly working towards fulfilling that dream." As a daydreamer myself, I really connected with his words. Paul inspires us to live the dream, to imagine what can be, to figure a way to make it happen, and then do it.

*Dreamtime* is a book you will cherish. Get it for the kayaker who has everything, or get it just for yourself. The bad news is the book is not widely available, especially in the States. The good news is you can obtain a copy by ordering directly from Paul at [kayakpc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kayakpc@xtra.co.nz). It will be worth it.

*Reprinted with permission from Erich Soares' blog of 10/20/2010 on [tsunamirtangers.com](http://tsunamirtangers.com).*



# Five Good Reasons to Give *Atlantic Coastal Kayaker* this Holiday Season:



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Send calendar listings to [ackayak@comcast.net](mailto:ackayak@comcast.net) or ACK Calendar, P.O. Box 520, Ipswich, MA 01938, or enter them online at [www.atlanticcoastalkayaker.com](http://www.atlanticcoastalkayaker.com).

## NORTH ATLANTIC

### SYMPOSIA AND SHOWS

**March 25-27:** Paddlesport 2010 Show, Somerset, N.J.

A kayak, canoe, and outdoor show, Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, N.J. Sponsored by The Jersey Paddler. Exhibits include manufacturers of kayaks, canoes, accessories, sportswear, paddling clubs, professional instruction and expeditions. Lectures and video/slide shows of trips and expeditions. Film festival. For more information, call (888) 22-KAYAK or visit [www.jersey paddler.com](http://www.jersey paddler.com)

### RACES

**November 7:** The Great Potato Race, Connecticut River, Hadley, Mass. New England Canoe & Kayak Racing Assn. annual banquet follows the event. [www.neckra.org](http://www.neckra.org)

### CLUBS

For a complete list of clubs, go to our website at [www.atlanticcoastalkayaker.com](http://www.atlanticcoastalkayaker.com)

### CLASSES

For a complete list of outfitters, go to our website at [www.atlanticcoastalkayaker.com](http://www.atlanticcoastalkayaker.com)

## MID ATLANTIC

### RACES

**November 21: D&R Canal Canoe & Kayak Race.**

10.5 miles with three short portages. Sunday before Thanksgiving. For more info, [www.hicom.net/~danmar/](http://www.hicom.net/~danmar/)

## SOUTH ATLANTIC

**October 29-Nov. 7: Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival**

Southwest Florida's Gulf Coast. Ten-day festival with speakers and instruction, races and tournaments, paddlers get-togethers, and green activities. Guided tours, fishing

tournaments, photo contests, and more. Many events at public parks, resorts, campgrounds along the 190-mile Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail. Festival details are available at [www.CalusaBluewayPaddlingFestival.com](http://www.CalusaBluewayPaddlingFestival.com), including entry forms; listings of other activities, hotel packages and national ride-share options. For trail information, check out [www.CalsuaBlueway.com](http://www.CalsuaBlueway.com). Online interactive maps, suggested routes, outfitter and put-in locations, wildlife tips, and a social media site are included at the web site.

### November 6: PaddleFest 2010

Hunting Island State Park, Hunting Island, Beaufort, S.C. 3 and 6 mile kayak and canoe races begin and finish in the Lagoon at Parking Lot J. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. at Parking Lot J. Cookout and Awards Ceremony will follow the races. Register in person at Higher Ground, 2121 Boundary Street, Beaufort, or online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). Contact Ashley or Shelby at Higher Ground of the Lowcountry, 843-379-4327, or Dinah at 843-252-4820. Email [higherground@hargray.com](mailto:higherground@hargray.com) or [dinahbrock@me.com](mailto:dinahbrock@me.com). Or [www.HigherGroundBeaufort.com](http://www.HigherGroundBeaufort.com).

### November 7-10: Paddlesports Pro 2010

Conference and trade show sponsored by The Paddlesports Industry Association and the Trade Association of Paddlesports, Paris Landing State Park, Buchanan, Tenn. [www.paddlesportsindustry.org](http://www.paddlesportsindustry.org)

### November 12-13: Paradise Coast Kayak Symposium

Naples, Fla. Includes tours, instruction, kayak fishing, skin on frame building instruction, nature talks, handmade boat show, Marco race, reggae beach party. [www.saltwatersportsflorida.com](http://www.saltwatersportsflorida.com)

### February 17-27: 15th Annual Sweetwater Kayaks Symposium

ACA IDW/ICE Level 1-3: Feb. 17-20  
BCU and Greenland Week: Feb. 21-25  
Kayak Symposium Weekend: Feb. 25-27  
Ft. Desoto Park, Tampa Bay area. Classes: with world class coaches. Evenings: dinner & slide shows. Kayak: sheltered lagoon or the Gulf of Mexico. Geared to the beginner to the experienced. Coaches confirmed include John Carmody, Nigel Foster, Don Thompson, Tom Nickels, Jen Kleck, Lamar Hudgens, Phil Hadley, Russell Farrow, Josh Hall. More TBA. For details and registration go to [www.sweetwaterkayaks.com](http://www.sweetwaterkayaks.com); email [jean@sweetwaterkayaks.com](mailto:jean@sweetwaterkayaks.com)

### April 15-17: 21st Annual East Coast Canoe & Kayak Festival

James Island County Park, Charleston, S.C. One of the premier kayak events of the year. Lectures, on-water classes, and demonstrations for the novice to experienced. Four classes run at the same time throughout the three-day event. Refine your skills in a master class presented by leading experts. Learn new strokes, rescues, or rolls. Meet other paddlers. Test boats, paddles, accessories. For more information [www.ccrprcevents.com](http://www.ccrprcevents.com)


## EVENTS

### March 5: WaterTribe Everglades Challenge

Unsupported expedition of 260-300 nautical miles depending on your course. It follows the southwest Florida coast from Fort Desoto, Tampa Bay, to Key Largo. Time limit of eight days but winners will do it in two to four days. This challenge is a qualifier for the Ultimate Florida Challenge.

### March 5: WaterTribe Ultra Marathon


A 68-mile course from Fort Desoto, Tampa Bay, to Boca Grande, 35-hour limit. Winners can usually finish in 24 hours. Weekend warriors, take note! Registration for both events at [www.watertribe.com](http://www.watertribe.com)



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THREE RUSSIAN BAIDARKAS - circa 1984; collector's item

Folding double baidarkas direct from the Soviet Union - brought here by members of Physicians for Social Responsibility who bought and sold them to help pay for their trips. We bought 3 - now there may be 2 with spare parts. They are not really salt water worthy and it's shows - although we had a great week-long paddle in the Sea of Cortez in them! We had spray skirts made for them (which cost nearly as much as the boats!). If interested, let's talk.

DRYBAG MATERIAL: Seattle Fabrics (www.seattlefabrics.com) item # 6830. Ultratex: 100% supplex nylon; microporous coated back. Recommended for dry bags, 60" x 20 yards. \$20. Call 207 255-0532 or email beegrant@gmail.com (10)

VALLEY CANOE PINTAIL. 'C' cockpit, blue over white, rope skeg, compass, cockpit pump. Exc. condition. Great playboat for experienced paddler. 100% dry hatches even playing in the gardens or rolling all day. 207-787-3620 or email to suap@roadrunner.com. \$1500.00 (9)

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Call Charlie @ 518-234-9235 or hac58@hughes.net (9)

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*Check out our recently revamped website with up to date calendar, classifieds, and Atlantic Coast resources for kayakers. You can submit a classified ad online or email to ackayak@comcast.net.*

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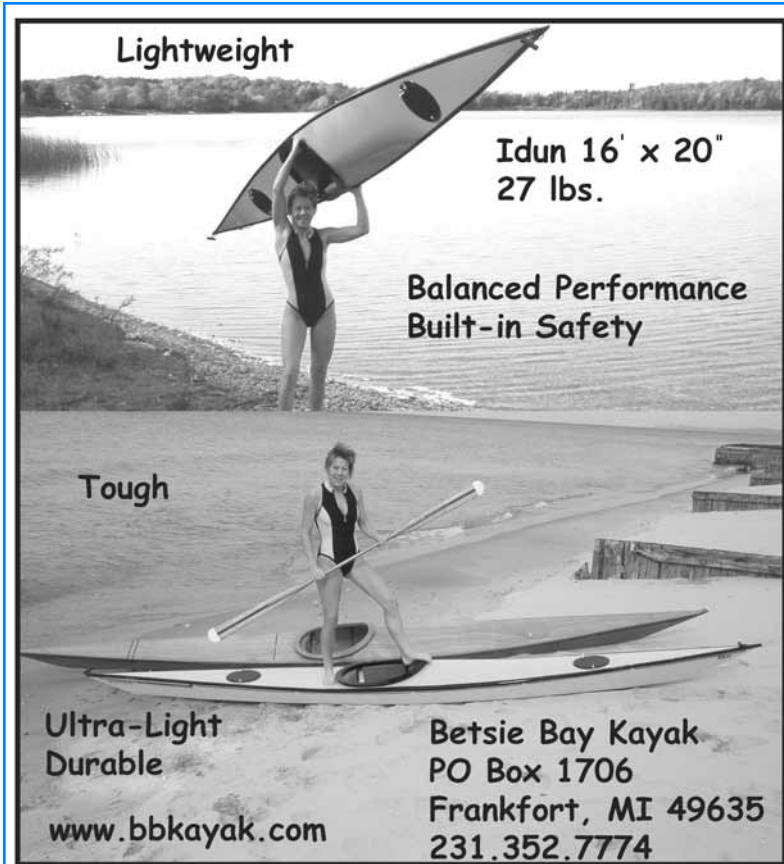
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