
NARROW RIVER NOTES

Newsletter of the Narrow River Preservation Association

Spring 2002

15TH ANNUAL NARROW RIVER RUN

The Narrow River Run, presented by Citizens Bank to benefit the Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA), is the first 10-kilometer road race of the season in Rhode Island. This event attracts runners from all over Rhode Island and greater New England. NRPA has also organized a 5K run and a 5K walk for the same day, Saturday, May 11, 2002. More than 400 participants are expected. Proceeds from the Narrow River Run will be used to fund NRPA's preservation, education and water quality monitoring programs.

Citizens Bank will again be the presenting sponsor for the Narrow River Run, their fifth year in a row, marking their commitment to community and environmental efforts. We thank them for their generous sustained support!

The racecourse follows the River's winding path, beginning at URI's Narragansett Bay Campus against a backdrop of Narragansett Bay for the 10K start. Runners then head west toward Tower Hill, down into the Narrow River valley and south along scenic Middlebridge Road. Finally they will pass the mouth of Narrow River and go on to the finish



Runners during last years race.

line at Narragansett Town Beach.

The 10K run, 5K run and a 5K walk will all be timed and prizes will be awarded to first place finishers in each age category for each run and to first place overall for the walk. All junior entrants will receive a prize. Following the race, a raffle will be held and prizes distributed; refreshments will be available for all.

Registration is \$12 if postmarked by May 3 and \$15 after May 3 and on the day of the race. Registration will be at Mosby's on the URI Bay Campus, located 500 yards east of the main entrance to the Bay Campus on the north side of South Ferry Road. Registration

will begin at 8:00 AM.

The 5K events for runners and walkers will begin at 9:30 AM and the 10K race at 10:00 AM. Because 5K runners and walkers must be bused to their start, they should plan on registering at least 45 minutes prior to their event. **The first 400 registered entrants will receive a 2002 Narrow River Run T-shirt.**

The 5K Run and Walk will begin at Pettaquamscutt Park on Middlebridge Road. The 10K runners will start at the Bay Campus main parking lot. All races will finish at the Narragansett Town Beach, North Pavilion parking lot. A vehicle will be available to carry clothing and gear to the finish line and there will be shuttle buses available, at the completion of each phase, to transport race participants back to the URI Bay Campus.

REGISTER NOW! Pick up a form at NRPA's office (750 Boston Neck Road, Narragansett) or Citizens Bank branch offices or download it from the NRPA web site: www.narrowriver.org. For further information, please call NRPA's office at (401) 783-6277. Whether you like to run or walk, come and enjoy the scenic beauty of the Narrow River!

—Tony Lachowicz

RIVERS DAY 2002

South County Rivers Day is scheduled for Saturday June 15th this year and it promises to be one of the best ever. It is a time for all Rhode Islanders to honor and celebrate their rivers.

Here in South County, we are fortunate to live close to both coastal and inland waters. June 15th will be a special day to appreciate the treasure that winds its way through your backyard, at the end of your street or next to the local park. It's a short drive to the beach or a short walk to your favorite pond or river. You can learn to kayak on the Narrow River, learn all about the URI women's varsity rowing program, help to mark storm drains, explore historical sites, listen to music and, at the end of the day, attend a block party with music in downtown Wakefield where you can watch the

lighting of fires in the water, called "Saugatucket River Lights."

This is the fifth year the South County watershed organizations are sponsoring a full day of community events for all ages. Throughout South County—from Narragansett to Hope Valley, from North Kingstown to Westerly—there will be wonderful ways to enjoy and become more familiar with our area's waters. In addition to the Narrow River, special happenings have been scheduled for the Saugatucket River and the Wood-Pawcatuck River watersheds to allow you and your family to enjoy a variety of events in different areas. Planning for South County Rivers Day was coordinated by NRPA, the Saugatucket River Heritage Corri-

dor Coalition and the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, with assistance from the Rhode Island DEM. Rivers Day is an example of efforts by these groups to work together to build appreciation of and protection for all the waters of South County.

For a complete list of Rivers Day activities please refer to the flyer in this newsletter.

In a separate event, the Umzinyath Rhode Island Paddlers will sponsor a kayak demonstration and race which is co-sponsored by Narrow River Kayaks on Middlebridge Road. It begins with a "Fun Paddle" at 11:00 AM. This activity is especially designed for kids under the age of 12 (who must be accompanied by an adult) and is free of charge. At 12:00

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The President's Cave



Nobody likes to be asked for money but continuous fund-raising is a fact of life for non-profit organizations. Each year NRPA supports a long list of education, stewardship and advocacy programs. Fund-raising is a necessity to support these programs and the costs of running the organization. I am appealing to all of our members, past members and friends of the River to find a way to contribute to our mission.

The first way to support NRPA is to send in your membership donation. This is perhaps the most important item, since it not only goes a long way to supporting our operation, it also gives us a way to keep our membership records current. For your convenience we have included your last year of contribution to NRPA to the right of ~~your name on the address label of this newsletter. If you have not renewed your NRPA membership within the last year, why not send a check today? If your membership is current, a donation would still be much appreciated.~~

At this time we are in the middle of planning the 15th NRPA Road Race. Donations supporting this event are at a record level. This tells me that there is great interest in assisting our goal of protecting the environment in the Watershed. More support is always needed and welcomed; please consider donating a check, or something we can give as a Road Race prize or both.

Tickets for the annual kayak raffle soon will be mailed to all of our members. Tickets will also be on sale at the North Kingstown Environmental Fair on May 4th, the Kingston Village Fair on May 11th, Rivers Day on June 15th and the Wickford Art Festival. Buying tickets supports NRPA and gives you a chance to win a new kayak; the drawing will be held at our annual meeting on Monday, September 9, 2002.

Each of us participates in a different way. If donating your time as a Science Fair judge or a River monitor, helping out with a clean-up or with storm drain stenciling, or participating in Rivers Day or another NRPA activity is your way of contributing, your assistance will be greatly appreciated. If donating money in the form of a membership contribution or other donation is your preference, that will also be gratefully accepted. The organization comes out ahead either way.

—Richard Grant

PLEASE JOIN US OR RENEW!

We welcome your support
Narrow River Preservation Association

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10.00
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$ _____

Mail to: NRPA - P.O. Box 8 - Saunderstown, RI 02874

*The Narrow River Preservation Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
The mission of NRPA is to preserve the quality of the communities and natural environment within the Narrow River Watershed.*

6239

NRPA is part of the United Way Workplace Campaign. This is our donor option number

If you plan to make a United Way donation, please consider designating a portion of your gift to NRPA.

NARROW RIVER PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

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Narrow River Notes

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BOATING SAFETY

The following reminder list about boating safety for the Narrow River comes to us courtesy of the South Kingstown Marine Patrol and the Narragansett Harbor Commission. If you see boaters operating in an unsafe or reckless manner, we encourage you to report it immediately to the proper authorities:

•South Kingstown: Police—783-3341; Harbormaster—783-3321

•Narragansett: Police—789-1011; Harbormaster—789-7653

•North Kingstown: Police—294-3311; Harbormaster—294-3316 x-689

The harbormasters can also be contacted via marine radio on channel 16. The police departments are the best choice to call, since their phones are staffed around the clock.

Most importantly, a new state law went into effect January 1st which requires that all boaters born after January 1, 1986 must complete a DEM-approved boating safety education program to operate any vessel with an engine larger than 10 horsepower. The new rule also applies to all personal watercraft (PWC) operators, regardless of age. Boating safety courses are available from several sources; for lists of them visit www.usps.org (U.S. Power Squadron), www.cgaux.org (U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary), www.

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RIVERS DAY 2002

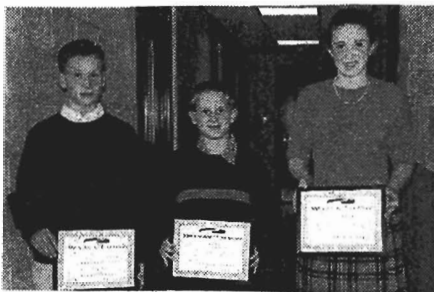
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PM a 6-mile race will begin, followed by a 9-mile race starting at 1:00 PM. All events will be staged at the Narrow River Kayak parking area. Anyone interested in either race should call Bob Wright at 423-2208 or Tim Dwyer at 423-0145. There is a \$15 entrance fee for this event; proceeds will cover the cost of refreshments and benefit NRPA.

For more information on regional events, or to work with a watershed organization in your area, contact NRPA at 783-6277, or the Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition at 789-7033 or the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association at 539-9017.

—Tony Lachowicz

2002 SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS



Science Fair Award Winners

In order to encourage the curiosity of young scientists and help them gain respect for the environment, NRPA Board members judge high school and middle school science fairs in North Kingstown, South Kingstown and Narragansett for NRPA Science Fair Awards. One Award and up to four Honorable Mentions are given to students in each school in recognition of the quality of their research and its relevance to NRPA's goal of protecting the Narrow River, its Watershed and its communities as a unique, dynamic and fragile ecosystem. Board members also visit elementary school science fairs to give out NRPA Science Fair Participant Award certificates.

Each recipient of a 2002 NRPA Science Fair Award received a certificate, a \$50 U.S. Saving Bond and membership in NRPA. These students also took part in a reception at NRPA's

Board of Directors' meeting on April 2nd and will be recognized at the NRPA Annual Meeting in the fall. Honorable Mention recipients will also be honored at a Board meeting and at the Annual Meeting.

Only two Watershed schools held Science Fairs this year. At the new Broad Rock Middle School in Wakefield, Jacob DeMesquita and Ross McWilliams won for their joint project: "The Effects of Horizon Soils on the Growth and Biomass of Grass Seed." There was also one honorable mention given to Casuarina Echo Hart for the project "Insulating Your Home with Garbage." At Monsignor Matthew Clarke School in Wakefield, Ellen Boyle won for her project called: "Are Residents Who Live Near the Narrow River More Aware of Pollutants than Those Who Live Farther Away? A Survey." There were two honorable mentions: to Samuel Brown for his project "Does Water Temperature Affect a Fisherman's Catch?" and to Lexi Bottone for her project "How Does an Oyster Make Its Pearl?"

If you know of other schools in the Watershed that are planning science fairs or if you'd like to know more about our judging criteria, contact NRPA's office or call 783-8437 for Veronica Berounsky, Science Fair Awards Coordinator.

—Veronica Berounsky

REVISED NRPA HANDBOOK

NRPA recently announced the publication of its newly revised *Narrow River Handbook—A Guide to Living in the Watershed 2002*. This 28-page booklet provides information about the River and the impacts people can have on its water quality, its wildlife and its scenic beauty.

We were given an award by the American Planning Association for the first edition in 1998 and the Handbook has proven to be so popular that all copies of the original edition have been exhausted. NRPA has updated the document and has sent copies to all of its members. If you are a current member and have not already received your copy, please call our office. Copies have also been sent to public officials and libraries in the three Watershed

towns and we were very happy to distribute over 500 copies to students in Watershed schools where NRPA's Active Watershed Education (AWESome) program is taught.

Richard B. Grant, President of the Association said, "This Handbook can be used by average citizens as a guide to what they can do to prevent pollution of the River. It is timely that the Handbook is published just months after the State released a report on its plan for restoration of the water quality of the River."

Additional copies of the Handbook are available for a \$2.00 donation per copy, plus \$2.00 postage & handling. Anyone wanting more information or a copy can call the office at 401-783-6277, or e-mail us at: nrpa@netsense.net.

—Tony Lachowicz

NARROW RIVER BOATING SAFETY REMINDERS

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boatus.com/courseline, or www.narragansettri.com/townhall/harbor/htm, or call the DEM Division of Law Enforcement at 222-2284 or any of the town harbormasters.

Here is a list of other safe boating rules for the Narrow River:

- No vessel should be operated in a reckless manner which could endanger the life, limb or property of another.

- There is a no-wake zone with a 5 mph speed limit in the middle section of the River, from Mitchell Drive to 400 feet north of Radial Drive. It is marked by buoys from June 1 to October 1.

- Water skiing is prohibited in the Narrows or within designated channels.

- Water skiers or their tow-boats shall not approach any other object closer than 200 feet except incidental to starting or finishing a run.

- All motorized vessels must be registered and numbered in accordance with state law.

The following set of regulations are specific to PWCs:

- No person may operate a PWC between the hours of one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise.

- PWCs must at all times be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner. Maneuvers which unnecessarily endanger life, limb or property, including but not limited to weaving through congested

traffic or jumping the wake of another vessel, shall constitute reckless operation of a vessel and are prohibited.

- It is unlawful for the owner of any PWC to authorize or knowingly permit it to be operated by a person under 16 years of age who does not have the required boating safety course certificate.

- No person shall operate a PWC within 200 feet of swimmers, divers, the shore or moored vessels except at a headway speed.

- PWCs, when launched from shore or returning to shore, must proceed directly to the area where operation is allowed in a direction as near perpendicular to the shore as possible and not in excess of headway speed.

- No person shall operate a PWC unless he or she and any passenger is wearing a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device.

- No person shall operate a PWC unless it is equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cut-off switch which must be attached to the operator of the PWC.

We would like to remind all canoeists and kayakers that they are considered vessels and are bound by certain rules, as are powerboats. Under Rhode Island law, no vessel may block, anchor

or hinder navigation in a designated channel.

On the Narrow River there are no designated channels, but channels do exist in the physical sense. These are the areas on both sides of Lacey Bridge and Middle Bridge where the River is constricted. In addition, the area from the "Red Cottage" south under Sprague Bridge and all the way out to the mouth of the River at Narragansett Beach is a "navigable waterway." Powerboats must follow the narrow channels which exist in these areas, so people in canoes and kayaks are cautioned not to travel in these areas in such a way as to block powerboats from navigating the channel. In particular, we would ask those people in canoes or kayaks to stay away from the channel, especially when traveling two or three abreast.

In areas designated to be channels, the "Rules of the Road" must be followed by ALL. By following these simple rules, we hope everyone will have a safe and enjoyable boating season.

Last year the South Kingstown Police Department received a grand total of one complaint regarding the operation of PWC's on Narrow River. If you don't report a violation, it may send the message that no one cares. Please cooperate with NRPA and the harbormasters in our efforts to encourage safe boating on Narrow River. —Jim Beck



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