

S.N.C.K.C.

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THE WET EXIT

A Monthly Newsletter for The Sierra Nevada Canoe and Kayak Club

IN THIS ISSUE

- P. 4 SNCKC Annual Rescue Clinic
Aug 22, 4:30-LWW, Vista Park
- P. 5-10 PHOTOS:
- Fuller Lake Catch
- Lake Valley Reservoir
- Lake Spaulding
- Folsom Lake—Anderson island
- Twin Lakes
- P. 11-12 Kayaking The Los Angeles River

DEPARTMENTS

- P. 1 Link to the 2024 Schedule
including the Latest Paddle Trip
Info
- P. 2 Trip Schedule Update
- P. 3 Scheduled Club Meetings and
Events.
- P. 13 Lost & Found
- P. 14-15 Classifieds
- P. 16 Where's the Kayak?

SNCKC 2024
Season Schedule
AUG.—OCT. OUTLOOK

[CLICK HERE](#)

Trips Schedule

AUGUST Thru OCTOBER

Aug 22 Rescue clinic – lake Wildwood – 4:30 at Vista Park

September 16th – September 20th – MacKerricher State Park

October 10th thru October 14th – Point Reyes National Seashore/Olema CG



NEED MORE DAY PADDLE TRIP IDEAS FOR 2024 – IF YOU HAVE ANY

Contact Rachel Finson rasatsuki@gmail.com

CLUB MEETINGS and EVENTS

Monthly club meetings are typically held at 6:00 pm the
fourth Thursday of every month at

*Seaman's Lodge in Pioneer Park,
427 Nimrod Street, Nevada City.*

Upcoming Meetings

August 22nd - Lake Wildwood

Annual Rescue Clinic — See Next page

Thursday, September 26th:

TBD

Thursday, October 24th:

QUIZ Night

**Come and strut your knowledge of Kayaking
Science, Culture, and History**

!!!PRIZES GALORE!!!



Thursday, November 21st(?):

Thanksgiving Pot Luck

Thursday, December 13th(?):

SNCKC Christmas Party

Link to Website List of Events



It's Clinic Time

Thursday, August 22 - Chris Crain

Annual Rescue Clinic with Thomas Schuebel

Lake Wild Wood – 4:30 at Vista Park

Thomas is a certified Kayak Instructor and honorary SNCKC member, who will instruct us in **assisted and self-rescue techniques**. All members are encouraged to attend the clinic for this important annual refresher of rescue skills. Visit Rescue Clinic under the Resources tab on the website.



The Fuller Catch

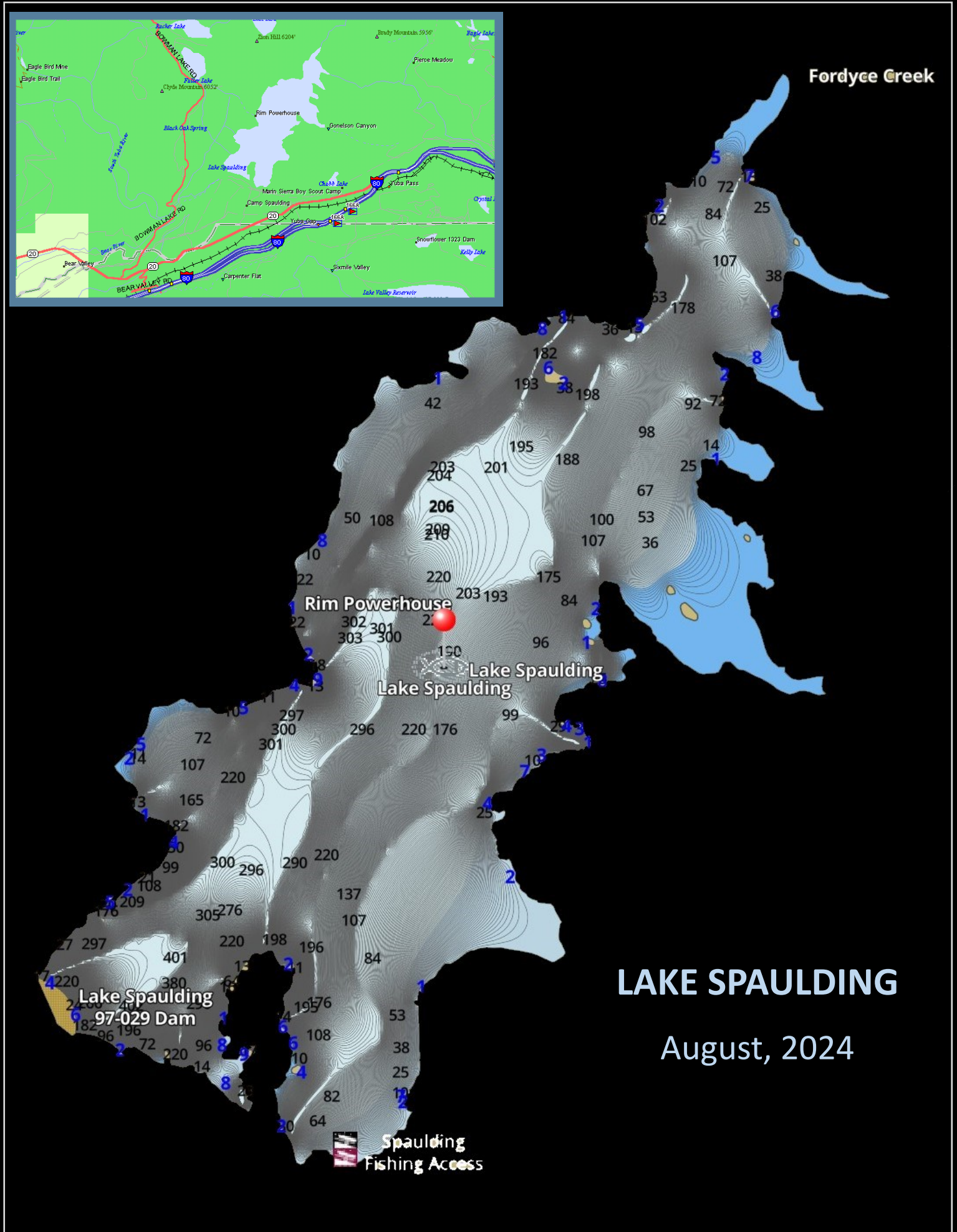
July 20th, 2024



Lake Valley Reservoir

July, 2024



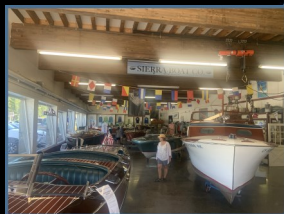


-Chuck Kastenholz

Rattlesnake
Bar

Rattlesnake to Anderson Island

August 7th, 2024

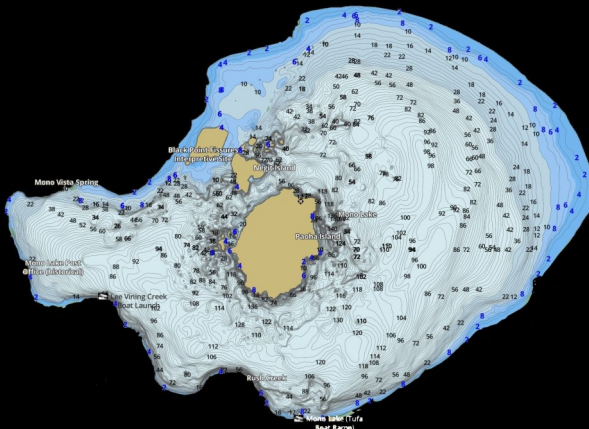


TWIN LAKES

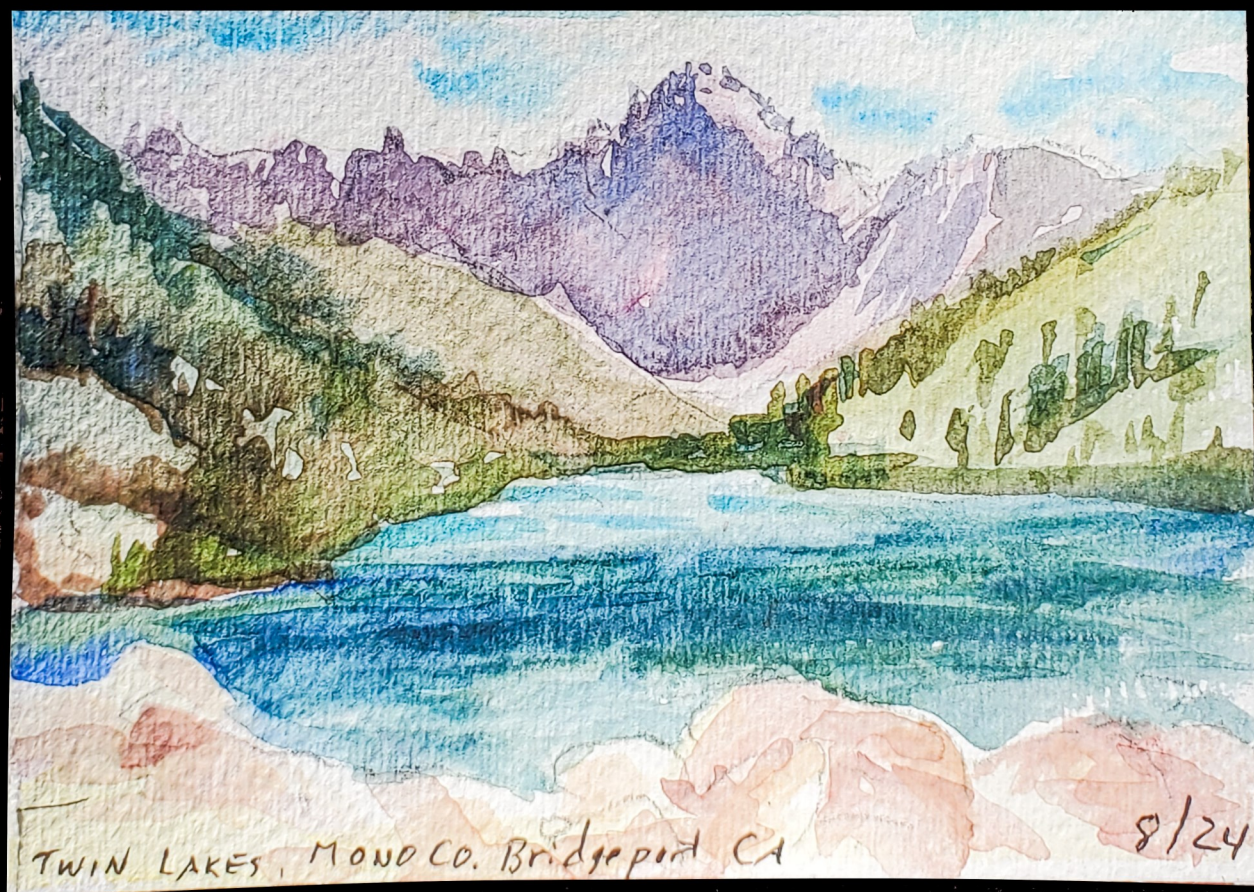
August 15, 2024

Thru

August 19, 2024



TWIN LAKES — Continued



A Vestige of Simpler Times

I grew up in the San Fernando Valley and mostly in Canoga Park (a suburb of LA) and unlike kids today, I was free to roam around with my friends on Stingray bikes and go wherever I liked as long as my homework was done and I was not late for dinner... No cell phones and no constant texting my location to my parents. After school, the day was mine all the way up to dinnertime.

I've never paddled the LA river in a kayak, but I have floated parts of it in an old inner-tube with my friends. We would jump on home-made skim boards in the shallows to zoom across to the other side of the river.

Canoga Park is at the west end of the San Fernando Valley near the river's headwaters, so the water is more shallow and moves pretty slow. The channels there (we called them washes) were not well defined by sharp concrete or cavernous canals, wide catchment dams, or flood control basins that the river eventually courses through as it flows through the valley and out around Los Feliz. Flowing by Griffith park it takes on a bucolic feel that belies the surrounding freeways, Dodger Stadium, and the nearness of downtown before rolling by East LA, and on to the ocean at Long Beach.

I came across this article online and it brought back some terrific memories of being a kid with the freedom to create my own adventures, explore where I wanted to, and discover the whole world in front of me..... As long as it was in Canoga Park and it was before dinnertime.

Cheers, Keith

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Yes, LA Has a River. Yes, You Can Kayak it!

By James Bartlett

Whenver I tell people I'm going to kayak the LA River, I get blank stares and raised eyebrows.

"LA has a river?" some ask, assuming that the graffitied concrete channels they've seen in movies like Grease, Point Blank, Terminator 2, and Drive were movie magic or filmed somewhere far, far away.

The answer is, indeed, yes. The esoteric river, which stretches 51 miles from Canoga Park to Long Beach, was once the site of the Tongva tribe's settlements as well as the city's main water source. After a series of devastating floods in the early 20th century, however, the city implemented structured channels and dams to get it under control. With the city's focus on flood management, the area began to urbanize, and the river's flora and fauna were neglected. The river became polluted with trash and toxic chemicals and was even named one of America's most endangered rivers in 2022.



All of this changed, though, in 2008, when George Wolfe organized a group of environmental enthusiasts to illegally kayak and canoe along the river to prove it was navigable. The three-day journey caught the attention of the National Environment Agency, and the river earned protection under the Clean Water Act.

On my most recent trip with LA River Expeditions, a kayaking tour group founded by Wolfe, around 15 people ranging from families to excited seniors assembled at the Sepulveda Basin Dam for the first expedition of the season, which runs from Labor Day to late September. After putting on blue lifejackets and selecting one of the vibrant kayaks clumped together in the ankle-deep water, we launched off.



Within only a few minutes the drone of cars on the 101 and 405 freeways faded away and were replaced by birdsong and the splashes of water. Trees, bushes, and reeds surrounded us, and a mallard with her newborn ducklings trailed ahead. Several royal blue herons perched silently near us before flying away, and an osprey circled above. Egrets, kingfishers, and a gray heron our tour guide Gary nicknamed Doug rested nearby. After kayaking the LA River for over a decade, I've learned the early morning trips are particularly special, with owls, deer, and coyotes still meandering in the cool air.

As he ate from the river's walnut and fig trees, Gary pointed out mustard plants and California sunflowers, occasionally pulling into the riverbank to show us the leaves of various plants that can be used as a salve or a poultice.



Indigenous tribes and the Spanish pobladores valued the river and its surroundings as a vital source of food and water, he explained, and every kayaking trip aims to highlight these natural factors and dispel the idea that the river is just a concrete wasteland.

While the river is more lush than rookies must have expected, evidence of climate change was visible. As we glided into the "Grand Canyon," a long, 20-foot-high cliff that's the result of erosion caused by non-native plants, we saw that more recently-fallen earth had created a new island, which forced us to get out and walk our kayaks around. Gary pointed out the scraps of plastic bags that hung from the trees overhead, revealing

how high the water level can get when there are heavy rains, a sobering reminder that the trash we discard travels directly from the streets into the river, and then to the ocean. There were also shopping carts sticking out from the sandy river bottom like bizarre urban art.

When we reached the boulders that block the waterway, we waved to several fishermen who were casting for catfish, carp, and tilapia, despite the fish not being necessarily suitable to take home for dinner due to pollution. We then embarked on the second, shorter part of the kayaking journey at Glendale Narrows. Rowing into an area called Rattlesnake Rapids, we kayaked through "boulder gardens," which gave us fun little bumps up and down the water. While it's hardly white water rafting, this section was trickier and less serene than the first; nonetheless, we ended the journey slightly wet and invigorated. Before we turned to go back, I spent as much time as I could wading in the water, soaking in the natural ambient sounds, already looking forward to my next expedition.

- James Bartlett



LOST & FOUND

FOUND:

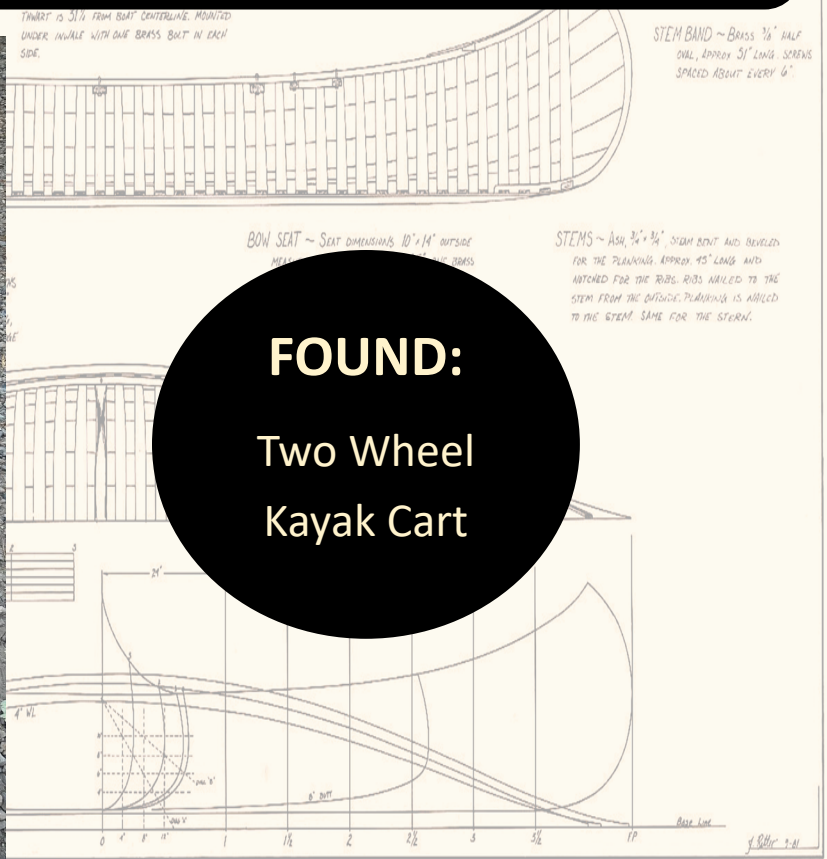
Stainless Steel
Bowl and
Platter



To claim either of these Items, please contact Chris Crain
with our Lost & Found Department at cgcrain@gmail.com

FOUND:

Two Wheel
Kayak Cart



CLASSIFIEDS

**For
SALE****Hurricane Santee Sport 116**

I have a **Hurricane Santee Sport 116** for sale. Only on the water about 6 times and rinsed after every paddle, and then stored on rack in the garage.

This beautiful blue thermoformed kayak weighs only **36.5 lbs.**, has a 300 lbs. capacity, and tracks beautifully. It's super easy to load on your car and it has a built-in paddle holder and a "pinch & pull" foot-brace system.

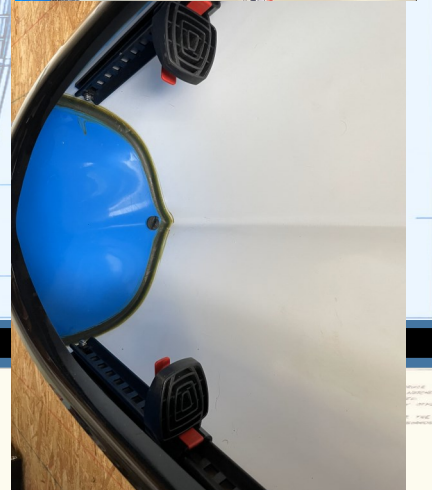
SPECS

- Length 11'-6"
- Width 28"
- The cockpit: 55"x24".
- Weight: 36.5 lbs.
- Capacity: 300 lbs.

At the dealer a Santee Sport 116 sells for close to \$1200....

I am willing to sell it to a **SNCKC** club member for only **\$600**, which is 50% less than buying it new from a dealer.

Contact **Margaret Arroyo** 530-802-1466 call or text.



CLASSIFIEDS

**For
SALE**

2023 Stellar SOT Kayak, Model S165 – Multisport

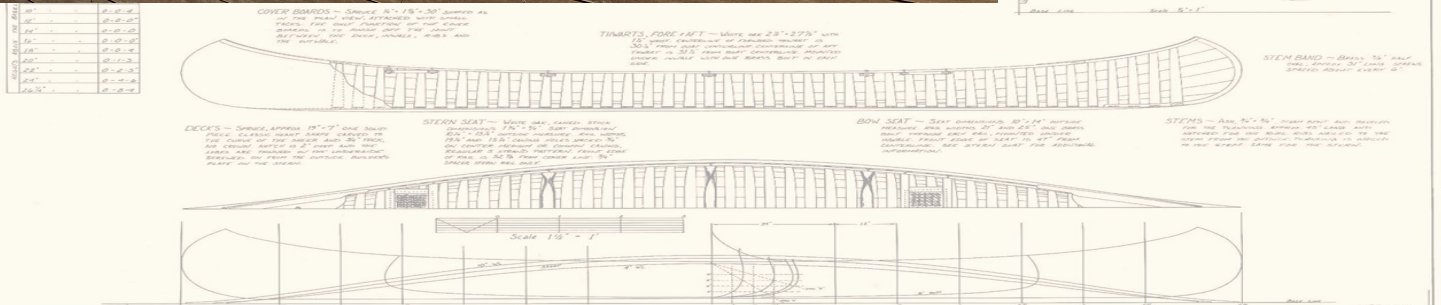
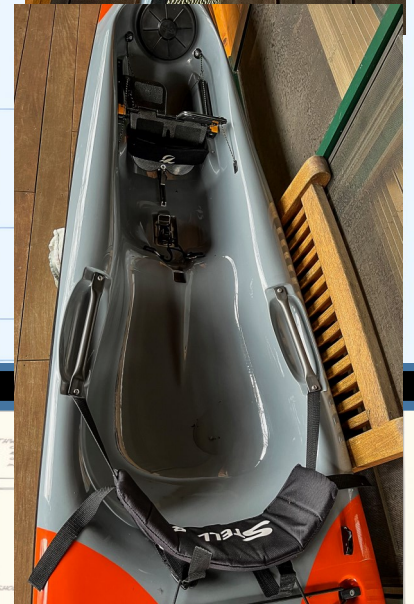
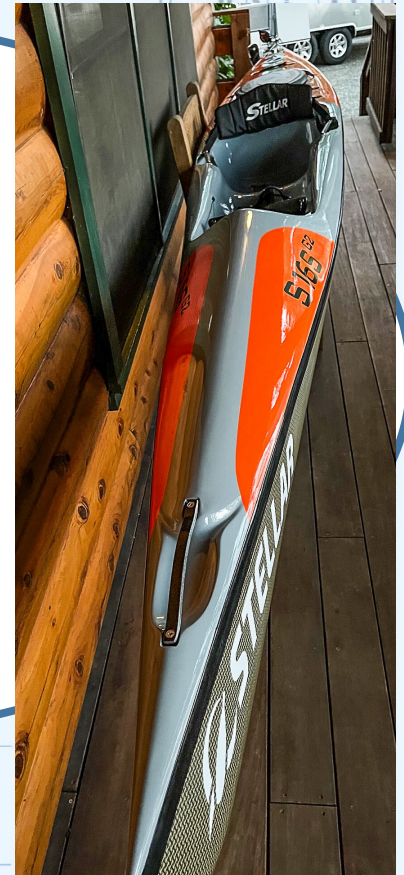
Paddled 4 times briefly

No Dings, No dents, only a few minor scratches on the hull.

- Drop-down rudder
- Adjustable footpegs
- Adjustable seat
- 2 storage hatches; 1 in the back and 1 in the front
- 16'5" long and 23" Beam
- Total Weight is 33 lbs.

Sold New for \$5,249 – **Asking \$4200**

Contact: Keith Schoendoerfer
(530) 205-6305
keith@zwrvr.net



WHERE'S THE KAYAK?

Alan Cary correctly named Wright's Lake as last month's location

First member to send me the correct name of the venue below receives a newly designed and minted, 3-inch in diameter, SNCKC sticker (shown below on the lower left).

Send your answers to keith@zwrvr.net



2024-2025 SNCKC Officers



- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| • President: | Chris Crain | • Treasurer: | Marna Duncan |
| • Trips/VP: | Rachel Finson | • Membership: | Gwen Huff |
| • Programs: | Debi Savoy | • Communications: | Keith Schoendoerfer |
| • Secretary: | Chuck Kastenholz | • Honorary (Founder): | Kit Wegman |

FIND OUR WEBSITE AT

[**mysnckc.org**](https://mysnckc.org)

