

# main stream

canoes & kayaks





## About Main Stream

Since 1975 Main Stream Canoes and Kayaks has served outdoor enthusiasts on Connecticut's rivers, lakes and waterways. Main Stream was started as a canoe and kayak outfitter and instructional service; and we are continuing our original mission, introducing people to the sport and making it affordable.

We have an ideal location on the banks of the Farmington River in New Hartford. Our retail store carries full lines of canoes, kayaks and accessories. We also buy, sell, and repair used canoes and kayaks.

Since part of our mission is introducing people to the joys of paddling and the outdoors, we have an exceptional instructional staff that teaches everything from the basics to advanced techniques.

Our rental fleet is expansive, well-maintained, and mobile, ready to serve both large groups and individual customers. We provide full service rentals, which include paddles, lifejackets, and a licensed van service up-stream. We also provide van services to paddlers with their own equipment. Creating a stress-free experience where all the paddlers need to worry about is sun-screen, lunch, and wishing the trip would never end.

## River Trips

Our location on the Farmington River is ideally situated for river trips. We provide everything you will need, including a van service up stream. Our most popular trip starts in Riverton next to the Route 20 Bridge, and is about a 12 mile paddle back to New Hartford. There are also shorter trips down the same section of river, from put-in points closer to the shop. These trips will take you through People's State Forest, Pleasant Valley, ending at our on river location in New Hartford. This section of river includes some class I and II rapids, which are enough to make the trip exciting, but aren't very powerful or dangerous (except during high water periods). This stretch of the Farmington is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River, offering breathtaking scenery of the Berkshire foothills, and some of the cleanest water in the Northeast.

We pioneered and continue to offer flat water trips on the Farmington, through the Farmington Valley. It's a gentle glide along Talcott Mountain ending at the Pinchot Sycamore in Simsbury. The lower Farmington is a slow relaxing ride, great for all ages and abilities. Depending on where you put in (the most popular place is Route 4), this trip can range from four to 15 miles. This trip requires an advance reservation.

## Guides/Lessons

Canoe and Kayak instruction has been a fundamental part of Main Stream since its conception. For those who want to learn how to paddle, or want to improve their paddling abilities, we offer guided trips and lessons for canoeing and kayaking. These programs can range from basic starter courses to advanced technique and Eskimo Rolling courses.

Our basic lessons do not only teach how to properly paddle, and get in and out of a boat, but also how to read the river currents and predict trouble spots. It is our goal not only to teach you how to paddle, but also proper safety procedures and technique.

We also offer advanced lessons, which can range from teaching the Eskimo Roll to helping people refine their stroke for efficiency and speed.

All guides and lessons require a reservation and a pre-trip consultation.

### References available on request.



Kevin Estela, Director of Instruction

## Lake Trips

Another option is going to a near-by lake. Paddlers who prefer a lake can have a rented boat dropped off and picked up from one of many near-by lakes, or you can put it on your vehicle and take it wherever you need to go. Whether it is for the day or for a couple weeks at a summer cottage, we are happy to make everyone's paddling experience convenient and carefree.

## Group Trips

Group trips are our specialty. We made our name by serving park and recreation departments, schools, churches, scout troops, clubs and old friends. We have experienced guides and instructors, available as needed. Groups also benefit from being able to *customize* their trips. We often take our boats and equipment all over the state to on-site clinics, at different rivers, lakes and pools. Group trips are a great team building experience, and can be fun for all ages and abilities. If you think a group you're involved with would be interested in a trip, please talk to us about it. We will provide you all the options and information needed. We have over thirty years experience working with groups.

## History

Main Stream Canoes and Kayaks was founded by "Joltin'" Joe Casey in 1975. He started Main Stream with the help of his younger brother Jack Casey, and the two were partners for many years. They started out with three canoes. After eight weeks of no income, a reservation for 10 canoes had to be filled, and Main Stream was born.

*Sport* magazine,

September of 1979,

described them as the

renegade outfitters of

New England, "two crazy bears in human suits." Before Main

Stream there were only a few outfitters in New England, and

most of them catered to an up-scale crowd looking for a

quaint rustic adventure. The brothers saw canoeing and

kayaking as an elitist sport, but they had an idea to make it

affordable for everyone.

Both Joe and Jack paddled competitively, winning state and national titles.

A lot has changed at Main Stream since the '70s. We have a building we call home and a much larger fleet of canoes and kayaks. However, our mission is still the same: we're here so everyone can be introduced to and enjoy the great sport of paddling.



Jack and Joe Casey: from sleeping on the floor to a \$7,000 birchbark canoe hanging over the paneled bar.