

Cambridge River Festival – June 14, 2003

Everything You Need to Know About The Cambridge River Festival's *SplashDance*

Timing for the Day

- 10am** Arrive at Herter Park – Charles River Canoe & Kayak Kiosk (see directions below) to sign-in
- 10-11:15** Final construction and decoration of boats
- 11:30-12:00** Put-in of ALL boats participating in flotilla
- 12:15** Start paddling down the river – not in formation – but pretty much together. We will paddle to the west side of the Anderson Bridge (about 1 mile); This is the bridge between Harvard Square and the Business School. **Travel time may widely vary – allow plenty of time.**
- 1:20** Organize into formation on West side of Anderson Bridge (see first attached diagram)
- 1:40** Procession begins under Anderson Bridge, proceeds eastward towards the Weeks Footbridge, turns left, and stops to face the Cambridge river bank, where the festival is taking place. MDC will close river to all motorboats during the procession (1:40-1:55).
- Throwing of Ropes.** 2 ropes will be thrown to 2 people on the shore to help control drift. **We need two chevron paddlers with strong throwing arms to volunteer to do this.** Please contact us ASAP if interested.
 Kayakers and canoers not in the Chevron will use their paddles to control drift.
- 2:00** **Call and Response/Performance Kayaks** At this point we will be facing the on-shore percussion group. They will start a call and we – lead by the Dragon Boat - will respond, imitating their rhythm either on our boats or on homemade instruments (see info. at bottom.) This will go back and forth –they call out a rhythm and we answer with a copy of it. Finally it will become one big improvisational jam, where everyone plays together.
- During this time the **Performance Kayakers** will move to the rhythm in a series of wobble/shimmies to create ripples and waves while waving their paddles.
- 2:11** **Follow Dragon Boat to Boston Shore.** The Dragon Boat heads left (as you face the Cambridge shore) and we follow, circling back over to the Boston side (see second attached diagram) where there is a long low bank for easy take-out of your boats. You are then free to enjoy the festivities on shore, keep paddling, or go back to Herter Park.

IMPORTANT FOR CHEVRON PADDLERS: All Chevron paddlers will take-out on Boston shore after the performance. Chevron rigs will be dismantled by volunteers after they are brought up on the Boston shore. Then you will be free to paddle single canoes

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back to Herter Park after participating in the River Festivities. **All canoes must be returned to the Charles River Canoe and Kayak kiosk by 7:00 pm.** Please give your name when returning canoe and designate beforehand which paddler of your boat will return the canoe to the CRC&K Kiosk.

(Continued on the next page...)

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IMPORTANT THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- ❖ **Please be on time** We only have **10 minutes** for the call and response before the stage Musicians begin playing again, so the call and response **must** start precisely at 2pm and end at 2:10. Ample time needs to be allowed for putting in at Herter, traveling downriver and for formation of the group at Anderson Bridge.

- ❖ **Make sure you are aware of whether you're in the Chevron, the Performance Kayaks, or General Fleet** **All performance kayakers and general fleet must provide their own boats.** Need to borrow? Unsure of what group you're in? Contact us! Charles River Canoe and Kayak will be open for canoe/kayak rentals at their Kiosk at Herter Park, where we are meeting. You can browse their website at:
<http://www.ski-paddle.com/cano/canoe.htm>

- ❖ **When you sign in** at 10 am at Herter, you will be given a festival T-shirt to wear (This is how the MDC will know you are part of the festival), a bandana with a CD for you to wear (Reflect theme), and we will adorn your kayak or canoe with a string of CD's. **All CD's need to be returned to us after you're done paddling for recycling.** Please put them in the recycling bins that will be at the Boston side of the festival where you can take-out, or back at Herter Park.

- ❖ **Percussion Instruments** The point is to have fun- you do not need to be an expert. You will have people to follow. We encourage you to join in the fun! Hard plastic juice bottles (like for Apple Juice), yogurt containers (anything hard, hollow and plastic) make great sounds hit with a stick or kitchen utensils like wooden cooking spoons. Large plastic buckets and bowls are great too! Non-destructive ways to use your boat as a drum are by hitting it with a whiffle ball bat. Canoeists can use the triangle at the bow as a good spot too. We were ALL born with rhythm (feel your pulse)!

- ❖ **No boats will be allowed to put-in or take-out on the Cambridge side of the festival site**

- ❖ **The First Aid Tent is located by the Weeks Footbridge on the Cambridge side.**

- ❖ **Contact Information on Day of Festival:**

For SplashDance questions all day Saturday: 617-680-6873 (Lillian's cell)

Between 10:00 and 12:00, Cambridge Arts Council Main Line: 617-349-4380

General River Festival Contact for TRUE EMERGENCIES only: 617-967-8755

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GENERAL CHARLES RIVER INFORMATION

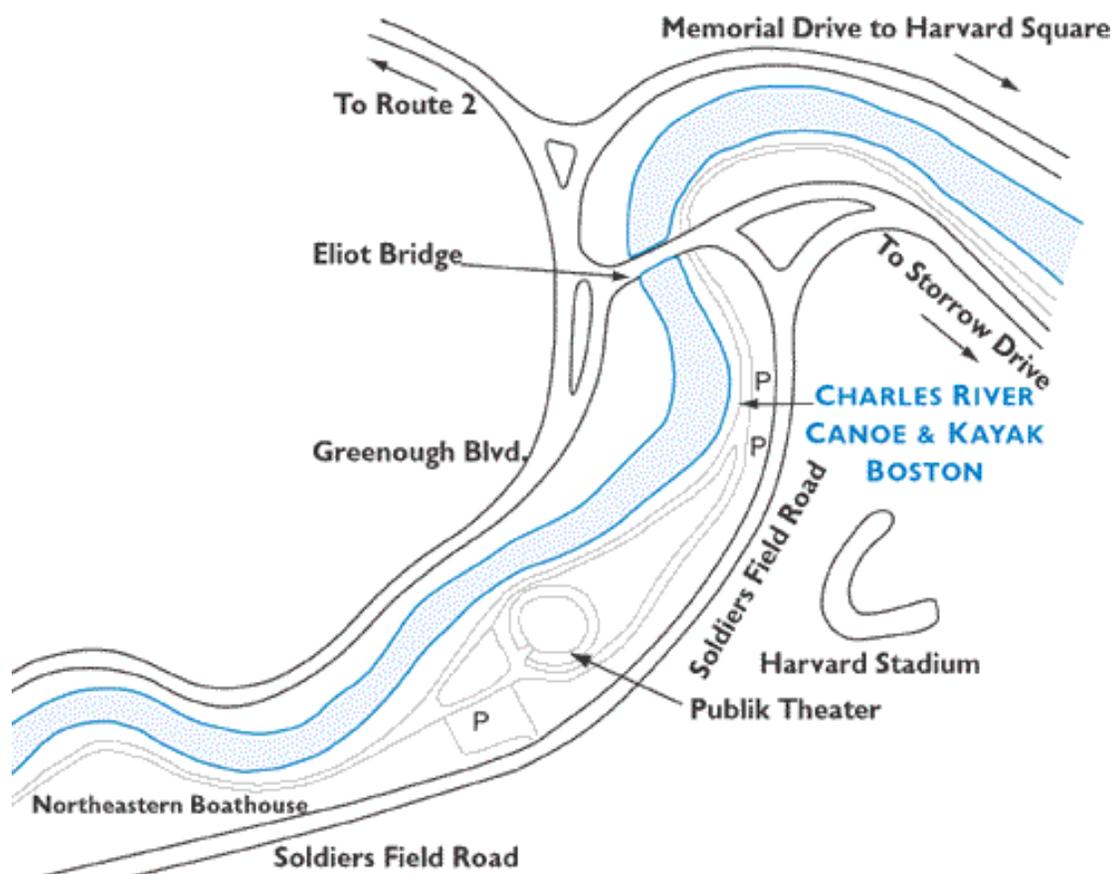
Herter Park (Parking & Directions):

Charles River Canoe & Kayak Kiosk is located along the Bike path on the Boston side of the Charles River. The Green Roofed Kiosk is located upstream of the Eliot Bridge and downstream of the Northeastern Boathouse and the Public Theater.

On Foot From Harvard Square: Cross the river on JFK St. and turn right on Soldier's Field Rd. Follow sidewalk along river for 1 mile. The Green-Roofed Kiosk is located 200 yards past the Eliot Bridge.

By MBTA: Take the Red line to Harvard. Take #86 (Sullivan Sq.- Cleveland Circle) to Smith Playground. Walk across playground toward Harvard Stadium and out onto Soldier's Field Rd. The Green-Roofed Kiosk is across the street, 100 yds. to your right.

By Car - From Boston: Take Storrow Drive West and bear left onto Soldier's Field Rd before crossing the Eliot Bridge. Park at the first or second parking lot on the right. Look for the Green-Roofed Kiosk. Free parking is available.



General Parking – A very large parking lot is also located by the Publik Theater

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CANOEING/KAYAKING SAFETY GUIDELINES

Wear your PFD!

Federal law requires every boater to have a life jacket in the boat. For the festival, paddlers must wear their PFD. If you are not wearing your PFD, you will be unable to participate in the organized activities.

The river may be cold – Hypothermia

Cold shock upon sudden emersion in cold water can render you unconscious in seconds. Hypothermia develops rapidly in cold water. Signs of hypothermia include; slurred speech, uncontrolled shivering, a failure to respond to questions, illogical reasoning and deteriorating reflexes. Get the person into dry clothes and seek medical aid.

Keep in mind that the banks of the Charles River are shallow, so if in the case of a capsized boat, you may be able to stand and walk to shore versus swim.

Paddling on the Charles

Paddle Defensively – due to the size of canoes/kayaks it is more difficult for the motorboat traffic to see/hear you. By avoiding the center channel and maintaining a safe distance from motorboats, you will ensure a more pleasurable experience on the water.

Boat traffic – Stay close to the right shore in the direction you are paddling. By doing this you can avoid potential collisions with motorboat traffic.

Wake and Waves - Please note that wake and waves bounce off the shore from the boat traffic, so be careful when paddling along the banks.

Bridges – be sure that no oncoming traffic is coming before paddling through the bridges.

Wind – the wind on the Charles can be quite strong at times. If in the case of a strong wind, please be aware that it will take you longer than expected to traverse up/down the river.

Safety Boats - MDC will be monitoring this entire event and will have safety boats on the river from 11am –7pm.

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GENERAL CANOEING SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- 1) Be a good swimmer
- 2) Wear a Coast Guard approved life vest
- 3) Never paddle alone
- 4) Always paddle on opposite sides
- 5) Learn how to stop and steer your boat
- 6) Stay low. Sit with legs relaxed or kneel.
- 7) Trim your boat properly (i.e. load it balanced in all directions with gear and people).
- 8) Approach waves at an angle. Do not remain broadside.
- 9) Before your outing:
 - a. Find out about the area and weather conditions you will be boating – Dress for the weather.
 - b. Be prepared for changing conditions
 - c. Be prepared for emergencies
- 10) Get off the water if severe weather threatens
- 11) Boat defensively! Though small craft may have the right of way, the rule is always “**Avoid Collision**”
- 12) Cross channels (and under bridges) quickly and in groups in areas of good visibility. (Note: here larger boats have the right of way)
- 13) Be prepared to signal with whistles, horns or voice.
- 14) If you capsize use self or assisted rescue:
 - a. Stay calm. Make sure each person is afloat and conscious
 - b. Have everyone hold on to *but not climb on top* of capsized craft. Collect paddles and gear.
 - c. If another small craft is near, pull capsized boat upside down over their craft while your members hang on to and stabilize the upright boat.
 - d. Once water drains, flip it over, slide it off and alongside of second craft.
 - e. While “pinching” boats together, have members re-enter from outside one at a time.
 - f. If this does not succeed, kick boat to shore, empty and re-enter.