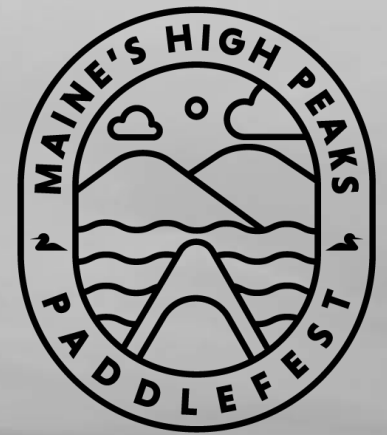


Rangeley Oquossoc Adventure Rendezvous

2025 Paddlers' Guide





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For the latest news & events: www.saddlebackmaine.com



Welcome to the Second Annual

Rangeley Oquossoc Adventure Rendezvous

Welcome to the second Rangeley Oquossoc Adventure Rendezvous! We are honored that you are joining us in the celebration of the Rangeley Lakes, the landscape that cradles them and the communities that call this remarkable place home. It is water, the mountains, the history and the people that inspired this race in the first place and we hope you connect with it all.

During this race, you will paddle across the lakes that first carried Abenaki and Penobscot paddlers, then sportsmen and eventually settlers through the valleys. During this event, you will pass through inspiring scenery, experience friendly competition and find friendships along the route. The Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) is pleased to work with the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands, the Town of Rangeley, business owners and an amazing army of volunteers to provide paddlers with a memorable experience.

You will be on the water with many boats. You will either pass or be passed by other paddlers. Please be mindful and respectful of others. In the interest of good sportsmanship, when passing other boats the approaching team must communicate its intent to pass, and only pass when it is safe to do so. Paddlers being passed are asked to yield the right of way without compromising safety or negatively impeding forward progress. In all, there are many competitive classes — be courteous, communicate and play fair. Unsportsmanlike conduct is grounds for disqualification. Please follow directions provided by race officials. We're all in this together. Should the need arise, please come to the aid of fellow paddlers. When heeding "nature's call," please be discreet and out of view of others. Use the portable toilets when available. Do not litter. Please keep our waterways clean. Bring garbage to portages where we can deal with it responsibly.

Day 1

***Sponsored by the
Rangeley Inn & Tavern***

Start Time for Wave 1:
8 am

Cutoff Time, Oquossoc Carry:
11 am (6.5 miles)

Cutoff Time, Upper Dam:
2:30 pm (16.7 miles)

Day 2

***Sponsored by the
Rangeley Adventure
Company***

Start Time for Wave 1:
8:30 am

Cutoff Time, Beginning of
Oquossoc Carry:
1 pm (12.5 miles)

Rangeley Oquossoc Adventure Rendezvous Start Order

Wave 1

SUP

C-1

C-2 Recreation

C-2 Stock

Wave 2

Solo Recreation

Solo Kayak

Two-Person Kayak

C-4



**Thank you to the Town of Rangeley
Rangeley Fire & Rescue
Parks Department
Highway Department
for providing necessary support.
We couldn't have done it without you.
Thanks!**

Key Info for Racers: Safety, Pit Crews, Walk Zones

Cut-off times are established to ensure that all racers are off the water before dark. Paddlers failing to make the cut-offs will be required to pull out of the race for that day. Racers will receive a “did not finish” (DNF) on the timesheet for that day, but will be able to paddle the following day in Wave 1.

Tips for basic first aid. Common first-aid problems include blisters, cuts, insect bites, dehydration, sunburn and hypothermia. We recommend that all racers wear light, drainable protective footwear; carry one-inch regular cloth tape to wrap palms, fingers and toes; and use Moleskin or band-aids, kept in a waterproof bag, to prevent blisters. Sun protection and synthetic long sleeve shirts and hats are helpful. Weather depending, layers for wind, rain and cold may also be needed. If any health problems arise during the race, let an official or emergency personnel know.



If you must leave the race for any reason, please notify an official with a radio immediately and tell them your boat number. We track every racer participating in this event; we will keep looking for you until we know your whereabouts. Please save us the time and worry by informing us if you must leave the race.

All racers must wear a Coast Guard-approved life vest at all times. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Inflatable PFDs are acceptable.

Upgrading equipment during the race is not permitted. Only broken or malfunctioning gear may be replaced. Racers should bring just the gear and clothes they need for the day. Wheels are highly recommended. Paddlers in competitive classes who opt to use wheels must carry the wheels and all associated equipment with them during the entire race.

Pit Crews are wonderful. They may provide food, fluids and psychological support at any point. They may not carry the racer's boat or gear, or upgrade equipment during the course of a day's racing. Pit crews should come with their own supplies; do not raid the official water stations. Pit Crews will need to stay in contact with their teams. A list of boats that did not make cut-off times will be posted at the finish line each day so pit crews can attend to them.

Mandatory walk zones. We require your cooperation to maintain a safe course. Each day, you will see areas designated with traffic cones, signage and volunteers imploring you to take it easy in those specific sections of the course. All participants will be asked to walk through these areas — not run. Failure to do so is grounds for disqualification. The specific locations are as follows:

Oquossoc Road crossing — when crossing Rte 4 stop, look both ways and walk across.

Kennebago River access trail — the entire trail between Rte 16 and the Kennebago River.

All aquatic invasive inspection stations — at the 1-mile mark of the carry in Oquossoc; on the carry at Upper Dam.

Friday: Registration Day

CHECK-IN: 4-8 pm at Haley Pond Park on Pond Street next to Rangeley Adventure Co. You will receive your t-shirts, boat numbers, meal tickets, a printed copy of our paddlers guide, and have your boat inspected for aquatic invasives.

AQUATIC INVASIVES INSPECTION: The waterways that make up the ROAR route are critical for this region's environmental health, recreational access and economy. **There are no known aquatic invasive plants in the Rangeley Lakes region.** We will make every effort to prevent ROAR participants from starting an infestation of non-native species that can be harmful to native ecosystems. Boats will be inspected at registration by Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust inspectors during registration. Inspectors are there to recognize and remove aquatic invasives if and when they see them. Once your boat has been inspected, you will receive a tag signifying that you are cleared to participate. We thank the RLHT crew for their involvement in ROAR and request the cooperation and support of participants. ***YOU MUST HAVE AN INSPECTION TAG TO RACE.***

DINNER: There are many fantastic places to eat in Rangeley and Oquossoc. Check them out!

BOAT NUMBERS: Attach the numbers to both sides of the bow. The numbers stick, so no need to use tape!



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7 Pond Street, Rangeley.207.864.2771
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Saturday: Race Day 1

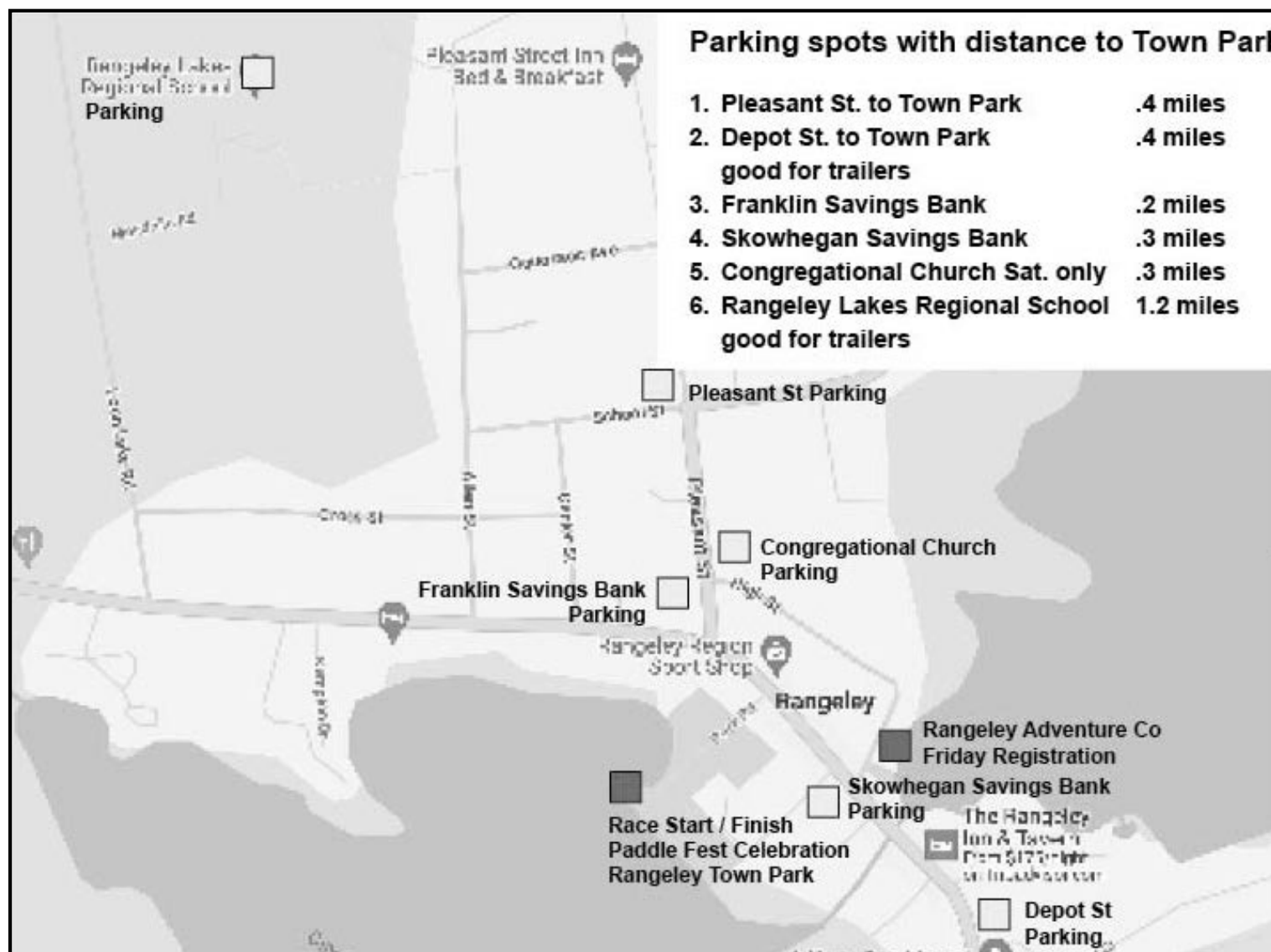
LATE CHECK-IN: Rangeley Town Park, 6-6:30 am.

PARKING: Please park in one of the designated parking areas on the map provided. Many people will want to use the parking immediately around the Town Park while you are on the water. We need to do our best to accommodate the variety of different users in the area.

FINISH LINE BAG CHECK: Each racer may send a small backpack or duffel bag with clothes, food and other items they might need at the finish line. A tent will be set up at the Rangeley Town Park where you can “check your bag” and it will be shuttled to the finish line where you can pick it up upon your arrival.

PADDLERS’ MEETING: 7:30 am at the Start Line at the Rangeley Town Park. All racers must attend. Course descriptions, last minute announcements, safety procedures and special considerations for the day will be presented.

RACE START: First wave will start at 8 am, barring weather-related delays. All published start times are estimated. Please pay attention to the on-deck call and start order. *(Continued next page.)*



Saturday: Race Day 1 (continued)

PIT STOP: Water will be available at the one mile mark on the carry from Rangeley Lake to Mooselookmeguntic.

PIT CREW NOTE: Do not drive into the portage at Upper Dam. This is a private community with a locked gate part-way in. The road is 4.5 miles long and not maintained for public use.

SAFETY: If there is any question as to whether the race can continue safely, the Race Officials will make the call at the carry between Rangeley and Mooselookmeguntic Lakes. In the event of thunder and lightning at any point during the two days of the race, paddlers must exit the water and wait out the storm at the safest available spot.

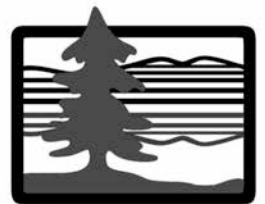
FINISH: The Finish Line for Day 1 is at the Mill Brook public boat launch off of Rte 16. Race organizers will provide water and a small quantity of recovery food. Spectator and racer vehicles will not be permitted to drive into Mill Brook. The road is about a mile long and is too narrow for two vehicles to pass in most places. Additionally, parking is insufficient to accommodate a large number of vehicles. Shuttle buses will run between Mill Brook, Oquossoc and Rangeley until 4 pm or until the last paddler has returned to Rangeley.

CANOE STORAGE: Paddlers should leave their boats, paddles and PFDs at the finish line as it will be the start on Day 2. A guard will remain with equipment overnight.

DINNER: Please enjoy the hospitality of the fine establishments in Rangeley and Oquossoc.

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Sunday: Race Day 2

PARKING: Please park in one of the designated parking areas on the map provided. Many people will want to use the parking immediately around the Town Park while you are on the water. We need to do our best to accommodate the variety of different users in the area.

SHUTTLE TO MILL BROOK:

Shuttles will leave Rangeley Town Park at 7:15 am on Sunday. Please plan to arrive and park before 7 am in order to get in the shuttle on time.

PADDLERS' MEETING: 8 am at the start line at Mill Brook Boat Launch. All racers must attend.

Last minute announcements, course descriptions, safety procedures and special considerations for the day will be presented.

RACE START: 8:30 am. Boats will mass start in waves by class. Please pay attention to the on-deck call and start order. We will check to make sure all boats start at the appropriate time. We will check in boats with a paddle wave.

PIT STOP: Water will be available again at the beginning of the carry from Mooselookmeguntic to Rangeley Lake.

PIT CREWS NOTE: Do not drive into the portage at Upper Dam. This is a private community with a locked gate part way in. The road is 4.5 miles long and not maintained for public use.

FINISH LINE: Day 2 Finish Line is at Rangeley Town Park. We will have a celebration including food, music libations and an awards ceremony hosted by Rangeley Adventure Company at the finish line.

FINISH & AWARDS CEREMONY: Rangeley Town Park. The Awards Ceremony will be held here as soon as results are available.

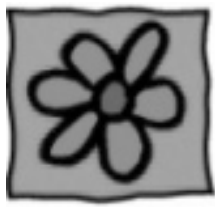
POST RACE MEALS & DRINKS: Racer meals are included with registration at Haley Park; a beer garden will also be on-site.

PROTESTS: Protests may be lodged any of the two days of the race, within one hour of the protester's boat crossing the Finish Line. There is a \$25 fee to file an official protest. Official protests must be in writing and must be turned in at the Race Command Headquarters at the Finish Line. Judges will investigate the matter and attempt to render expedient decisions. All decisions are final and may not be appealed.



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Sunday: High Peaks PaddleFest

Maine High Peaks PaddleFest is a celebration of paddling and the region's lakes and mountains in Rangeley Town Park with local nonprofits, a Kids Paddle, food, libations and music for everyone.

Schedule

10:30: Kids Paddle

Noon: Live music by Jason Mancine

Noon: Beer garden

Noon: Food by Saddleback Youth Ski Patrol



Kids Paddle: More Info

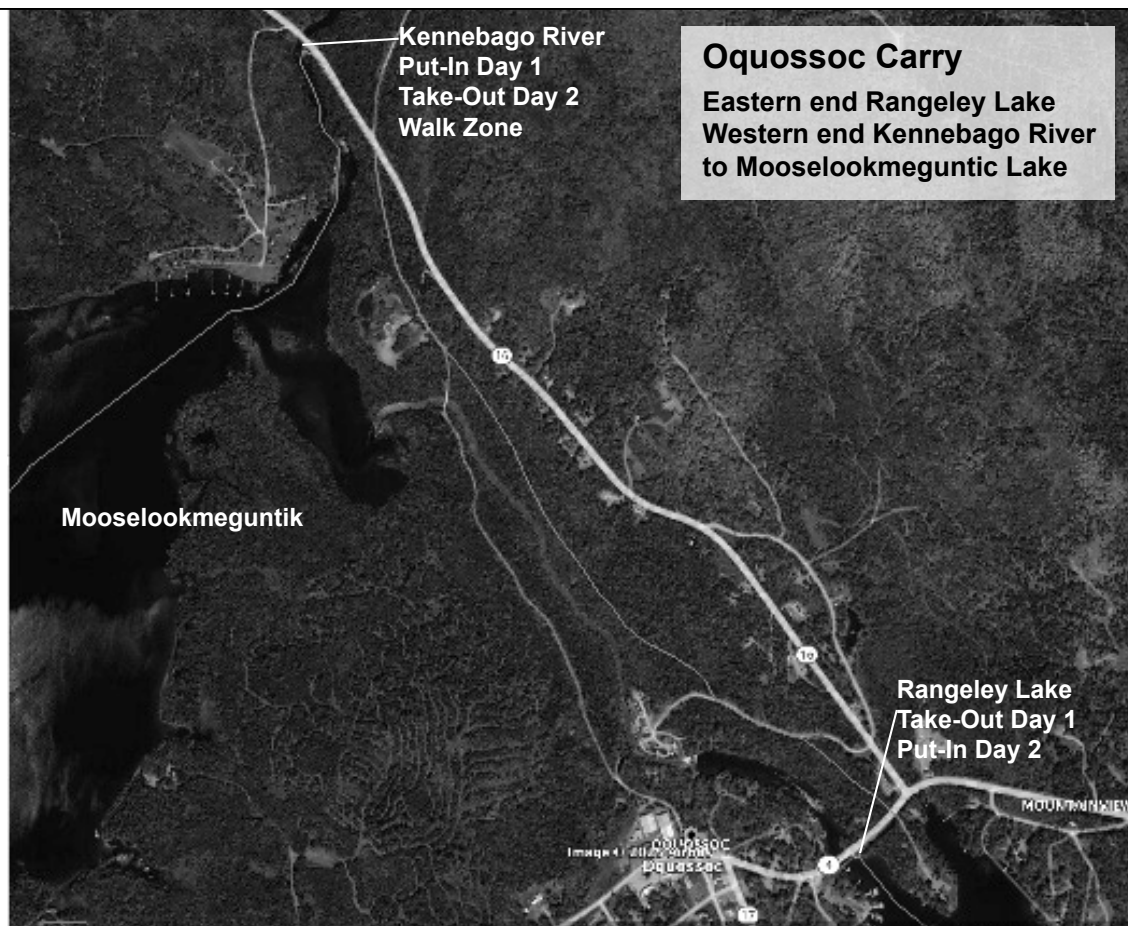
A fun paddle for ages 10-14 exploring Town Cove on Rangeley Lake. While we are waiting for our first racers to come in on Sunday, we will be running the kids' paddle starting at 10:30. The tour will be led by Registered Maine Guides and be approximately 1.5-2 miles, and we will be on the water a little over an hour. The Rangeley Adventure Company will have a limited number of kayaks available, but paddlers are welcome to bring their own. Please register at the Rangeley Adventure Company at 7 Pond Street by 5 pm on Saturday if you want your child to participate in this activity. Boats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and will include PFDs and paddles.



**NICK LEADLEY
NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY**

**TOUCH THE WILD ART GALLERY
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RANGELEY, MAINE
(207) 864-3846**

TOUCHTHEWILDPHOTOS.COM



From east to west, carry through Oquossoc Town Launch to Rte. 4. Travel along the south side of Rte. 4 and cross the road to the trail leading into the woods before Rte. 16. Follow trail to Salmo Rd. Turn left and follow to right turn onto the snowmobile trail, which is an old railroad bed. Follow to Indian Rock Rd. Continue straight to Rte. 16. follow along the south side of Rte. 16 to the Kennebago River put-in trail on the left. The entire portage is good for wheels until the water access trail.

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At Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust (RLHT), we have been working since 1991 to conserve, restore and steward one of the most ecologically significant landscapes in North America. Since our inception, we've collaborated with private and public partners to conserve well over 100,000 acres in the Rangeley Region, and are currently responsible for stewarding more than 22,000 acres. This work includes habitat restoration, water quality monitoring and invasive species protection programs.

Our mission is to preserve one of the Rangeley Region's most precious resources: pristine waterways. Join us by becoming a member and help protect our rivers, lakes, ponds and streams.

Become A Member Today



rlht.org



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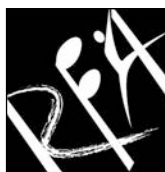
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Best wishes to paddlers at the 2025 ROAR!

Thank you for the collaboration by community partners to host
this exciting, impactful event for the Rangeley region.

Maine Sports Commission

Sheila Brennan Nee & Amanda Royce

sheila@mainesportscommission.com • amanda@sportscommission.com



Learn more: mainesportscommission.com



MISSISQUOI RIVER PADDLE - PEDAL & RICHFORD RIVER FEST

**SATURDAY - JULY 12th
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RIVER FEST: 11 - 2

\$10 BOAT RENTALS • BIKE/BOAT SHUTTLES

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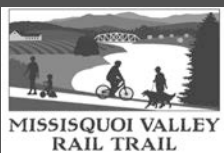
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THANK YOU KELLY
For helping us out.



The team at the NFCT loves getting together with paddlers across the Northeast for races, community paddles, guided trips and other events and activities — but the heart and soul of our work as an organization will always be stewardship. It takes a big effort and an army of staff, volunteers, trail stewards, business and corporate sponsors, state agencies and other partners to maintain the 740-mile waterway trail that begins in Old Forge and ends in Fort Kent, Maine. The NFCT will use revenue generated by ROAR to help fund our stewardship work. In short, simply by paddling in ROAR, you're creating a ripple effect that ensures safe and environmentally responsible access to the woods and waters of the entire Northern Forest region. We hope you take pride in this.



Celebrating
25 Years

This year, our stewardship crew will again work on Umbagog, Haley Pond, the South Dead River, and spend eight weeks rehabilitating campsites in the Allagash Wilderness Waterway — and that's just in Maine! To learn more, visit northernforestcanoetrail.org.



Win a Northstar Opal BlackLite w/Aluminum Trim!

To help the Northern Forest Canoe Trail celebrate its 25th anniversary and raise funds for our stewardship work and community programming, our partners at Northstar Canoes have donated an Opal BlackLite canoe with aluminum trim to our second raffle of the year.

A smaller, more stable Pearl, Northstar designed the Opal for pleasure paddling. An ideally sized canoe for two people to explore small lakes and streams, the small size also works great for parents paddling with kids. Paddle it backwards from the bow seat to freight large loads or big dogs

- 1 ticket for \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20
- Drawing date: July 16, 2025
- Winner will pick up from NFCT headquarters in Waitsfield, VT

All proceeds support the NFCT's stewardship work and programming across the Northern Forest region. Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/northstaropal2025 to buy tickets and learn more.



Learn more: bit.ly/northstaropal2025