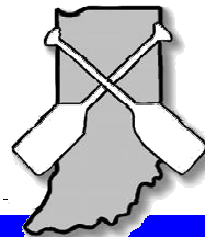


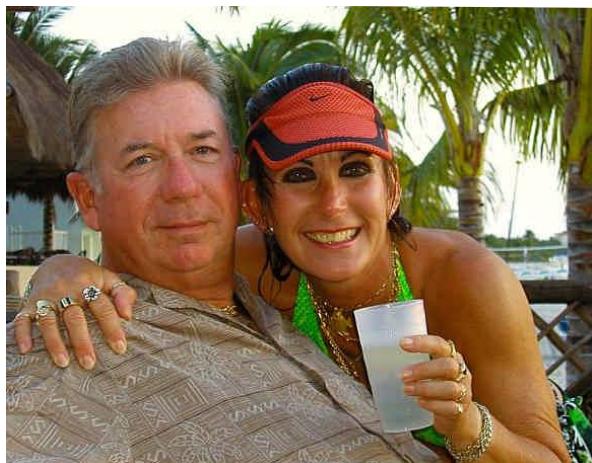
The Hoosier Paddler



Volume 47, Issue 4

<http://www.hoosiercanoecub.org/>

May 2009



Remembering Reggie

So May 30th is THE day!
For all of us to meet and play.
It will be special, as you know,
Remembering Reggie, hoping you go!

See the newsletter for more details,
Or call me at home or try e-mails.
Monroe's the place to paddle and eat,
See you all then, this will be a treat!!!

Happy New Year to all our paddling buddies,
in memory of my husband and best friend, Reggie Baker.

Love, Debby

“Remembering Reggie” Paddle and Cookout

Saturday, May 30, 2009

The HCC is sponsoring a Commemorative Lake Monroe Paddle and Cookout on Saturday, May 30th in honor of past Skipper Reggie Baker, which will also serve as the HCC Summer Meeting. We'll paddle the eastern arm of Lake Monroe in the afternoon, followed by a pitch-in cookout in the shelter house FOR ALL, including paddlers, HCC members, and other friends of Team Baker. The Club will provide the Main Dish and condiments, and participants are asked to bring a favorite dish to share as well as your own beverages. The paddling portion of the gathering is open to both canoes and kayaks. [Note: there may be a natural tendency for the canoes and kayaks to split up due to the inherent differences in boat types.] It is anyone's guess what the weather will be. The open water may still be chilly, so bring some extra clothes in a dry bag.

Logistics — We will be launching from the east end of the Cutright Access Area roadway just south of the Hwy 446 causeway on Lake Monroe at 12:30 and paddle for three and a half hours or so, depending on paddlers' interests and ambient conditions. Paddlers should plan on arriving by Noon. For those coming from Indy wishing to caravan, we will meet at the Shell Station at the intersection of County Line Road and SR 37 on the south side of Indianapolis at 11:00 a.m. and convoy to Monroe. **For those attending the cookout only, plan to arrive at the shelter around 4:30 p.m.**

Special Instructions — Do not forget to purchase your 2009 DNR Lake Access Sticker.

The stickers may be purchased at the Customer Service Center in the Indiana Government Center South for \$5.00. Dave Ellis, Membership Chairman, can purchase a DNR Lake sticker for you in advance but if you reserve a sticker you must be prepared to pay because we don't want to get stuck out-of-pocket on the money. Finally, if you don't have a sticker, be sure to bring \$113 to pay your DNR fine.

Camping Option — For those wishing to camp on Saturday evening, please notify Kevin Dogan so that he can assist with arrangements.

Directions to the Cutright Put-in and the Shelter cookout site — From SR37, take the SR46 exit east into Bloomington. Stay on SR46 past the IU Stadium. Turn left at the light at 3rd Ave. at the Bloomington Mall and continue east on SR46 towards Nashville. Turn south on SR446 to Lake Monroe. Immediately after crossing the causeway/bridge, turn left into the Cutright Access Area. Continue to the end of the road back by the marina.

Please RSVP in advance so that we'll know how much meat to purchase. Also, if anyone has a portable gas grill, it will help with the cooking tasks.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Rain Plan: Check the HCC Bulletin Board or with the contacts below.

Contact Information:

Dan Valleskey	danpaddles@gmail.com	(317) 413-0324 (cell)
Theresa Kulczak	theblacktoad@lightbound.com	(317) 409-6771 (cell)
Kevin Dogan	kdogan@sbcglobal.net	(317) 908-9627
Debby Baker	dbaker@idem.in.gov	(317) 888-3315

Hello HCC!

Dan Valleskey

I've found that since being elected Skipper, I am asked all sorts of questions. All of a sudden, I am an expert! I thought it might be fun to share some of these with you. **I reserve the right to embellish or alter as I see fit, to increase any possible chance for a chuckle.** And if you think you see one of your questions here- nope, wasn't your question, someone else asked that one. But we all might be able to learn a little.

I'll start with the one asked most often.

1. *Where can I do an (overnight, week long, all Summer long) paddle trip in Indiana?*

Short answer: If you really want to- think Wabash. Eel or the White is okay for a day or two. Personally, if I have a week free, I'm heading out-of-state. One person asking that question admitted he had never paddled, but he was sure he could cover 30 to 40 miles a day. He was about to retire. Okay, if you say so. Another fellow wanted to know who to hire to shuttle him when he ends his trip a long way from home, but gosh, he won't know where he will end up, after only a week of paddling.

2. *Can I use your club's insurance waiver? I want to take a group of kids from a camp out paddling.*

Short answer: No. *Long answer:* Hell no.

3. *Where can I take my Boy Scout troop on an overnight canoe trip?*

Short answer: Monroe Reservoir. *Reply question-* how many dry bags does your troop own?

4. Here is a popular one- *Do I have to be a member to go on a trip?*

Short answer: No. *Long answer:* Aw shucks, it is only \$15!

5. *Hey, why don't we list trips on xxx.com paddle e-list board? -or-*

Can I list this trip for you on xxx.com paddle list e-board?

Well, if it is an HCC trip, thanks but no thanks. If the sponsor wants to list it in a few different places, he can. It is okay for a sponsor to list a trip with more than one club, if he is prepared for a big turnout. But that is his call to make, not yours. Some of our events need more promoting than others. The Pirate Party last year was a good one to promote far and wide, as is the Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous. Most whitewater trips don't need any outside promotion at all.

On smaller, difficult trips, the sponsor may want to screen paddlers. I can recall one fellow that was having bad dreams about inexperienced people showing up at the put in for his Upper Tellico (Class 3-4) trip with an inadequate boat. (Of course, "someone" did call his answer machine, telling of their intent to paddle that trip in a new Walmart canoe. Even offered to unbolt the winch from his truck to mount on the canoe, in place of having a throw rope. Best prank I've heard of in a long time.) On some trips, we need to keep the ratio of newbies to old timers favorable. Darn near anyone can get down the Hiwassee, as long as there is someone nearby to help rescue if needed. Unfettered outside promotion could wreck havoc for a sponsor trying to balance trip attendees.

One important reason for joining the HCC is to have access to all the great trips we do. If all those trips get promoted on a lot of different boards, paid membership will fall off. We continually walk a line between promoting trips, protecting sponsor's private info, and still making club membership worthwhile, if not actually required. Don't rock our boat too much, okay?

Theresa and Deb have posted elsewhere in this issue about the memorial float for Reggie. I'd like to add my pitch for this event. I am going to do everything I can to cancel a previous commitment. I hope you will also make an effort to join us on May 30 at Lake Monroe. That will be our Summer gathering for 2009.



HCC Fall Creek Clean up—Volunteers Needed

Kellie Kaneshiro

Plans are underway for a HCC Fall Creek Clean Up for Saturday, June 6th, 2009. The HCC Conservation committee is busy planning this event. Committee members will scout the section that runs along the Fall Creek Trail, Indy Greenways from Skiles Test Park down to the take out above Keystone Avenue to determine the perfect clean-up site. Friends of the White River (FOWR) will also be participating in this event. Plan on spending the morning with us and we'll end the event by early afternoon. We plan on having a lot of fun while making Fall Creek and its banks a more pleasant place to paddle.

If you are not familiar with Fall Creek as it runs from Pendleton above Geist Reservoir, and below the reservoir to the Indianapolis Keystone Avenue take out, some good websites are: <http://www.fallcreekindiana.com> and the Fall Creek Trail, Indy Greenways website at <http://www.indygreenways.org/fallcreek/fallcreek.htm>.

There will be plenty of volunteer opportunities (besides the clean up part), such as paddling the lead boat, the sweep boat, first aid (just in case), organizing the shuttle, distributing supplies (trash bags, gloves, drinking water, etc), photographer, and festivity planning. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering.

Conservation committee: Kellie Kaneshiro, Dan Valleskey, Mary Keith, Joel Delashmit, and Theresa Kulczak

Eagle Creek Tuesday Evening Paddles

Kellie Kaneshiro

HCC members will be able to paddle together at Eagle Creek Park on Tuesday evenings this year. Group paddles will start at 6:00pm and meet at the Eagle Creek marina. Paddlers must leave the park by closing time and need to check the sign at the park entrance to see when the park closes. The pass allows HCC members to enter the park as early as 3:00pm if they want to paddle on their own before the group paddle.

The first Tuesday paddle will be on May 5 and the paddles will continue through the end of September (September 29).

In exchange for this privilege, the HCC will provide safety boating for Eagle Creek's Sunset Trip series, and help clean up Eagle Creek's shoreline. We may also be asked to provide informal training (canoe/kayak). If you would like to help with these activities, contact Kellie Kaneshiro, the best way to reach me is by e-mail: conserv@hoosiercanoeclub.org or call: (317) 844-3650.

A big HCC thank you to Shirley Gates, who coordinated the Eagle Creek Tuesday Evening paddles for many years.

To access the 2009 Eagle Creek Park Pass, go to:

<http://www.hccbulletinboard.org/forums/attachment.php?attachmentid=510>

IMPORTANT: New this year—The Eagle Creek Park Pass is password protected on the Hoosier Canoe Club Website. Before you can display or print the pass, you will be asked to type in a password. Enter the same password that Dave Ellis sent you last year to access the HCC Membership List.

If you have forgotten this password, please e-mail Dave Ellis (riverpapaw@aol.com) or Jim Sprandel (editor@hoosiercanoeclub.org). Please include both your full name and e-mail address when requesting this information.



Calling HCC Safety Boaters!

Jan Sneddon

The HCC will again supply safety boaters to Eagle Creek Triathlons this summer. The Club receives financial compensation for out provision of boats and boaters. But in order to get the money, we need the volunteers!

Below are the dates for the Eagle Creek events this summer:

Saturday, June 20

Saturday, July 18

Saturday, August 22

Saturday, August 29 Go Girl Triathlon

All events start at 8:00 am Eastern Daylight Time.

Safety boaters are asked to gather at Eagle Creek by 7:15 am to receive instructions, complimentary race T-shirts and to get boats in the water.

Volunteers will follow waves of swimmers and allow struggling swimmers to hang on to their boats. You would then signal to the motorized safety boat, which would swoop in to collect the exhausted swimmer. Safety boaters are not expected to take swimmers to shore. Total swim distance in this event is 500 meters.

For more information about these events, please visit: <http://www.tuxbro.com/entry%20form%20page.htm>

This is a great opportunity to get in an early morning paddle and watch amazing athletes compete and regular people tackle a challenge!

If you would like to volunteer to safety boat for one of these events, please contact Jan Sneddon at (317) 257-1740 or tri@hoosiercanoecub.org. You might even get inspired to do a triathlon yourself!

HCC Touring Kayak Group

Jim Sprandel, Kellie Kaneshiro

If you own a touring or sea kayak and would like to hang out and paddle with other "long boaters", please look at the newly created "Touring" Forum on the HCC Bulletin Board at:

<http://www.hccbulletinboard.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=19>

So far, the group has had an overnight trip on Lake Monroe and several day paddles on Geist and Eagle Creek. In addition to "spontaneous" trips, there is a [schedule of six "official" club trips](#) that are oriented towards touring boats. The first club touring boat trip will be on Versailles Lake in June. We are also planning a training session to work on assisted and solo (paddle float) reentry this summer as well as a session on Lake Michigan to practice paddling in *real* waves.

We have also set up an E-mail list to notify touring boaters of upcoming events or to help you answer those nagging touring questions. If you would like to join this list and be notified of upcoming events, please send an E-mail to Jim Sprandel at editor@hoosiercanoecub.org.

Thatcher Pool Closing

Jordan Ross indicated that Thatcher Pool will be closing for the summer on Saturday, May 23 to have its heating/air conditioning unit replaced. It is anticipated that the repair will take 1-2 month. This will impact our Wednesday pool sessions starting on Wednesday, May 27 until the pool reopened.

While Thatcher is unavailable, the city will allow us to use the Krannert pool starting at 8:30 pm. However, this is less desirable than our current 7-9 pm time window. Jordan will start a Bulletin Board thread to discuss whether people would prefer either to use this later time slot, practice elsewhere, or just wait until the pool reopened to resume pool sessions.

Please watch the HCC Bulletin Board for this discussion and current pool status.



Moving Water Clinic for Canoes and Kayaks — Saturday, May 9, 2009

So far, nine kayakers and canoeists have signed up for this class. There are still several positions open for paddlers so e-mail or call Jim Sprandel as soon as possible.

Clinic Goals: To help beginning and intermediate paddlers learn to safely paddle more challenging Indiana river and streams. This course is open to both kayakers and canoeists (tandem or solo). Garry Hill, Dan Valleskey, and Dave Ellis will teach on-the-water sessions for each boat type.

Target Students: Paddlers with a minimum of three months paddling experience. Students must have their own kayaks or canoes and should feel comfortable paddling on slow rivers or lakes.

Course Description: This clinic will start with a talk but will spend most of the day on the water. During this talk, the instructors will explain river features, moving water dynamics, and then how to use this knowledge while paddling the river. They will also discuss aspects of river/stream trips such as safety considerations and setting up a shuttle.

On the water, students will work on:

- Refining their power and turning strokes.
- Edging their boat to expedite turns and keep from capsizing in moving water.
- “Reading the river” – that is, figuring out where to paddle when approaching a fast section.
- Entering/exiting the current and moving across the current. These are boat control moves known as “peel-outs,” “eddy turns”, and “ferrying”

Equipment needed:

- Closed-cockpit kayak with spray skirt. **Note:** Each kayaker must bring a spray skirt and must know how to wet exit from their kayak.
or
Tandem or Solo Canoe
- PFD (must be worn)
- Paddle(s), water shoes, water bottle(s), sunscreen, and lunch.
- Appropriate Dress – The weather may be warm but dress for cold water since the water will probably be in the 50s. Wear paddle-specific top and pants if you have them. Be sure to carry a spare set of clothing since you will be working with new boat maneuvers so you just might get wet.

Course Plans:

- Time:** Meet at Meeting Place at 9:30 am and finish paddling around 4:30 pm.
- Meeting Place:** Dairy Queen at the intersection of SR37 and R144 about 9 miles south of I-465.
- Put-In:** Waverly Public Access White River
- Take-Out:** Henderson Ford Public Access White River
- Course Size:** 12 Boats – Students will be accepted on a first come – first served basis.
- Course Fee:** \$10/student - Please mail your course fee to Jim Sprandel (6505 Dean Road, Indianapolis, IN, 46220) prior to the course. Make checks payable to “Hoosier Canoe Club”.

Course Enrollment:

To enroll, please contact Jim Sprandel at (317) 257-2063 or merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net by Wednesday, May 6. When contacting Jim, please be sure to let him know: a) what type of boat you will be using (canoe/kayak, tandem/solo, maker-model, length), b) your paddling experience, and c) how to contact you. The \$10 course fee should be mailed to Jim (6505 Dean Road, Indianapolis, IN, 46220) before the course.

Note: When you enroll be sure to leave contact information since we may need to change the course venue at the last minute due to water conditions.



2009 HCC Membership List Available

Dave Ellis has posted the 2009 HCC Membership Lists on the Club Information page of the HCC web site at: <http://www.hoosiercanooclub.org/info.htm>

The membership list is located under "Other" near the bottom of this page.

Since Dave will update the Membership List on this web page several times each year, we will not automatically mail out paper copies of the Membership List to members. Please contact Dave Ellis at (317) 858-0963, riverpapaw@aol.com, or 7650 Poplar Rd, Brownsburg, IN, 46112 to request a paper copy of this list.

Important: To protect your privacy, the Membership List is password protected. Before viewing the list, you will be asked to type in a password. Dave Ellis notified everyone of this password last year. However, if you have forgotten it, please e-mail Dave Ellis (riverpapaw@aol.com). Please include both your full name and e-mail address when requesting this information.

Flatwater Trips

What to Bring on a Flatwater Trip

- PFD (Personal Flootation Device) with an attached whistle
 - Spare paddle, bilge pump or bailing device (small bucket, sponge, etc.)
 - Rescue gear: paddle float, throw rope, first aid kit
 - Personal medications: Be sure to inform your trip sponsor of medical conditions.
 - Sunglasses, sun/bug spray
 - Lunch, snacks, drinks (hot or cold) plus water!
 - **Cold Weather Protocol:** Change of clothes, gloves, and hat in a dry bag. No cotton clothing. (See "[Cool Paddling](#)" in the February 2008 HCC Newsletter)
-

Friends of Muscatatuck Paddle, Camp, and Race

Sat.-Sun. May 2-3, 2009

Trip Sponsor: Theresa Kulczak

I've been hearing what a great time the Friends of Muscatatuck River Society (FOMRS) have on their annual spring paddle weekend, originally called the "Spring Tonic," now renamed as memorials for three early leaders of the Indiana paddling community: Wayne Durbin, Dan Shade and Orlo Blomquist. After kicking myself a couple of years for not going, this year I plan to check it out. Experienced HCC paddlers who are up for adventure are encouraged to participate.

The Friends of Muscatatuck paddle two rivers on Saturday, one in the morning and one in the afternoon with lunch in between. The rivers aren't determined until close to the weekend, potentially even that morning depending on water levels. It's a beautiful area of the state with many good streams, some of them challenging, and part of the fun is that you don't know where you'll put in until that day. In the evening, there's a campfire, a pitch-in cookout, a silent auction, and music around the fire. Rumor has it there may be some good fried fish.

On Sunday the Friends of Muscatatuck organize a casual, just-for-fun canoe race starting at noon at the Commons Park in Old Vernon.

Saturday, May

Breakfast from 7:00 to 8:00 at Log Cabin Inn in Vernon.

First shuttle from campground at 9:30

Return to camp for lunch 12:00 to 12:45

Second shuttle starts approximately 1:00 p.m.

Campsites 14 & 15 have been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights at Muscatatuck State Park. Additional sites can be reserved by calling 1-800-928-3667 or 1-812-346-2953.

Sunday, May 3

The race begins at 1:00. Canoe race contestants meet at noon at Vernon Commons. The course will probably be the Muscatatuck River but may be altered due to water level. \$10 entry fee to benefit FOMRS



Contact Information: Contact me at theblacktoad@lightbound.com. I've offered to coordinate communications for HCC paddlers who are interested in any or all of the events or feel free to contact the local organizers directly. Local FOMRS contacts are: Bill Suhre (812) 346-7253 and Roger Robinette (812) 392-3091 or visit www.fomrs.org.

Two on the Blue – Blue River Paddle

Sat.– Sun. , May 16 - 17, 2009

Trip Sponsors: Sue Fox, Jim Sprandel

Come for one or two days of beautiful paddling. Bends, rapids, bluffs, canyons, and springs comprise what you'll see along this scenic part of the Blue River.

We plan to camp at the Stage-Stop Campground in O'Bannon State Park (Harrison Crawford State Forest) on Saturday Night. State Park entry fee is \$5 per vehicle and each campsite is \$8. For information on camping facilities, call 812-738-8232.

Meeting Place: The meeting place for both Saturday and Sunday is Milltown Public Access site by the Cave Country Canoe and Kayak Livery, 112 Main Street, Milltown, IN 47145 (812-365-2705).

Driving Directions from Indianapolis- Go south on I-65 to Clarksville. Then go west on I-265 (Exit 6B). Take I-265 west (I-265 becomes I-64) to IN State Road 65 (Exit 118). Go west about 20 miles on SR 64 to Milltown into downtown and look for the public access site by the Cave County Canoe and Kayak Livery. **Drive time:** Approximately 2 ½ hours—About 140 miles

Put-In:	Saturday	Milltown Public Access Site
	Sunday	Rothrock Mill Dam Public Access Site
Take-Out:	Saturday	Rothrock Mill Dam Public Access Site
	Sunday	Old Iron Bridge Public Access Site in Wyandotte Woods by the Ohio River
Length:	Saturday	14 miles— 6 hours including lunch break
	Sunday	15 miles — 6 hours including lunch break

Note: Be sure to contact either Sue or Jim prior to the trip since it may be necessary to change venues due to water conditions. Last year, we canceled this trip since the Blue was near flood level.

Schedule (Saturday and Sunday)

10:00 am	Gather at meeting place in Milltown
10:15 am	Shuttle leaves
11:00 am	Start Paddling
5:00 pm	Landing at the Take-Out

Trip Requirements: No special skills, equipment, or physical conditioning required for this trip. Bring your own lunch and drinks. Bring your own camping equipment and food if you are going to camp with us Saturday evening.

Contact information: Be sure to contact Sue or Jim by 8:00 pm on Friday May 15 if you plan to attend either day:

Sue Foxx	(317) 363-4074 (Cell), 317-253-0222 (Home)	E-Mail sufoxx@doe.in.gov
Jim Sprandel	(317) 257-2063	E-Mail merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net

Eagle Creek Paddle-to-Dinner, Zionsville / Indianapolis

Sunday, June 7

Trip Sponsor: Mike Miller

I paddle on Eagle Creek pretty often, so when I heard that there was interest in a paddle-to-dinner trip, this seemed like a natural. This trip will be a mixture of paddling on the creek and on the open water of the reservoir. We'll start on Eagle Creek at Lion's Park in Zionsville, paddle down the creek to the top of Eagle Creek Reservoir, and then along the reservoir to Rick's Boatyard Cafe at the south end.

We'll have dinner on the deck at Rick's at the take-out. If you have family and friends who don't want to paddle, they're welcome to join us at the restaurant. Please note that the club is not buying - you'll have to pay for what you eat.

Full details will be included in the June newsletter.

Contact Information: Mike Miller, 317-443-0087, mike@bigস্যcamore.net



Whitewater Trips

Cheat River Festival, Albright, WV

Friday-Sunday May 1-3, 2009

Trip Sponsors: Jordan Ross, Bob Heckler

Aaaah, Cheat Fest... springtime "yin" to the autumn Gauley Fest "yang". This classic festival is as popular for its music as its whitewater. Saturday night, the main stage will feature rock and bluegrass bands and a rousing finale. The festival also offers food, many gear vendors and a silent auction benefiting WV river conservation.

Not enough music? "Piano Bob" will crank up his keyboard and entertain the paddlers at Teeter's Campground Friday and Saturday nights. We will party to the wee hours.

Paddling Friday and Saturday usually breaks into two groups - the main group going to the Cheat Canyon or Lower Yough (III-IV) and another group going to the Big Sandy or Upper Yough (IV-V). The few paddlers still standing Sunday usually run the Cheat Canyon again. For less experienced paddlers, there is a nearby class II-III roadside run on the Cheat Narrows.

Camping will be at Teeters Campground but be warned it will be very crowded and loud there. Those driving down Thursday evening will try to grab decent camping space for all interested near the Piano Bob venue.

We can coordinate our camping and paddling plans on the HCC Bulletin Board the week before. We'll need a "body count" in advance for camping and if we wish to use the Glenn Miller shuttle again this year. Let us know if you are coming and please follow the HCC Bulletin Board for updates.

Contact Information: Jordan Ross, (317) 460-7000, jross@iquest.net (put "HCCBB" in the subject line)

Wisconsin Whitewater - Memorial Day Weekend

May 23-25, 2009

Trip Sponsor: Jordan Ross

This is a very popular trip for neophyte and experienced whitewater paddlers alike. For eager beginners, there is a daily progression of paddling skill from II to III to IV. The shuttles are short and we usually manage five river sections in three days:

- Saturday Wolf River, Section III or IV plus Red River (Monastery Falls)
 - Sunday Peshtigo River plus Piers Gorge
 - Monday Wolf River, Section IV or Gillmore's Mistake
- Often folks go up early and paddle Friday at the Wolf or Peshtigo.

Camping will be at Bear Paw Resort, which continues to bravely rebuild from the devastating F4 tornado of June 7, 2007. The restaurant and outfitting store have reopened this year. Campsites on the ridge are \$18 per night and accommodate six campers. There are convenient cabins as well. Four campsites remain as of this writing, so act quickly to reserve one for yourself and friends. Reservations can be made online:

<http://www.bearpawoutdoors.com/about.htm>

"Big Drop" Bob Heckler usually plays at least one night at Kosirs Resort and the hard core won't miss that party. Other gigs and locations will be announced on the bulletin board.

Contact Information: Please follow the thread on the HCC Bulletin Board for up-to-date news about this trip. Contact Jordan Ross for more information (317-460-7000 or jross@iquest.net. Please include HCC in Subject Line).



Wisconsin Memorial Day Weekend- 2008





Jan Sneddon, Dan Evard, Sue Foxx, Jim Clendenin, and Joel DeLashmit on Summit Lake

Trip Report—Summit Lake Trip

Saturday, March 28, 2009

Trip Sponsor Joel DeLashmit

Participants Jim Clendenin, Erin Hall, Sue Foxx, Joel DeLashmit, Jim Sprandel, Jan Sneddon, Tom Beckerick, Dan Evard

When water conditions were too low on upper Fall Creek, Joel DeLashmit moved the March 28 club trip to Summit Lake. Summit Lake is an 800-acre lake near New Castle, IN—only about 80 minutes from Indianapolis. The lake has 3 islands and over 100 species of birds live in the park. The lake is also “kayaker-friendly” since motorboats are only allowed to operate at idle speed.

The weather forecast was for rain and thunderstorms in the afternoon and that fortunately didn't materialize until after we had gotten off the water. However, we did enjoy 15+ mph winds after lunch which kicked up 1 foot waves. The winds and waves made paddling interesting but everyone had spray skirts and handled the chop without any problems.



Boats beached for lunch in front of Perch Island



Cormorant taking Flight

everyone had spray skirts and handled the chop without any problems.

We saw lots of bird life, We were particularly interested in the migratory water fowl—cormorants, mergansers, coots, and buffleheads in addition to the herons, geese, and ducks which are there most of the year. We were hoping to see loons but did not.

Additional pictures and videos from this trip are at the following sites:

- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/merlin3d/sets/72157615955484961/>
- <http://picasaweb.google.com/JoelDeLashmit/SummitLakeMarch2009#>

Information on Summit Lake is available at:

<http://www.cyberindiana.com/outdoors/summit.shtml>



Trip Report—Webster Wildwater Weekend, April 3-5, 2009

Bob Heckler

Friday Night: I play in the pole barn for the early arrivals... good time, great people! ...

Saturday: Get breakfast from Camp Caesar. Anticipate Aintree (Bob McCormick) to rally up the troops for the Back Fork of the Elk. For the first time in four years, Aintree does not persuade. Ironically, the water is actually at a good level, but Aintree donates his time to guiding a shepherd novice down the lower Elk. Meanwhile, the rest of us break into two groups: Crush's group goes to the Back Fork, my group goes to the Williams.

The Williams... Oh the Williams! Been on it twice before, never with great water, but this time the water was around a G... 1000cfs. Great boogie water with some solid III+/IV- Western style water. The water was frigid. Group members included paddlers Lesley and Nick, Monica and Rob, Susie Q, Sponge Bob Mark, and Josh. And a special thanks to our shuttle bunnies who picked up cold paddlers along the way



HCC Paddlers ready for the Williams

before the take-out... (me included), Wendi, Lacey, and Liz.

Saturday night was more of the same. Partying in the pole barn to blue grass and some fire jumping. The night ended for me around 2am again.

Sunday: Get to the Cranberry river by late morning. Weather is absolutely gorgeous. Sunny skies and temps in the upper 60's. Start off with eleven paddlers... but only eight go the entire length due to debacles, aborted trips, fatigue, and time restraints. Those that left the put-in include Sharon, Jordan, Crush, Josh, Rob, Monica, Ken Wright, Chris, Erik, and Nick. Afterwards, several leave for Indiana, but Crush, Chris, Erik and me stick around and head to



Mark Sparks on Williams

Bernie's over by the Meadow River. We camp on his property for the night.

Editor's Note: This article was excerpted from "Big Drops recollection of Webster Spring's/a week of rivers in Tennessee trip" on the HCC Bulletin Board. For a full description of this event and the week they spent on the Upper Meadow, Maury River, Daddy's Creek, Clear Creek, and the Obed, go to: <http://www.hccbulletinboard.org/forums/showthread.php?t=2990> in the Trip Reports Forum. Pictures were taken by Suzi Rapp.



Monica Davis in Class III water on Williams



Trip Report, Big Walnut, March 21, 2009

Dave Ellis

... which became the Classic Sugar Creek trip due to low water on the Walnut. The [Crawfordsville gauge](#) was about 292 cfs for our trip. There were a few draggy spots for the tandem canoes and kayaks, but that flow made for a very pleasant trip as did the bright sun and temperatures in the 60's. The day brought out Spring Beauties, Phlox, False Rue Anemone, and true sun worshipers on the trails in the two state parks: Shades and Turkey Run.

The participants included 5 folks I've paddled with for hundreds of miles and 5 that I'd never paddled with before and another 5 which fall somewhere between. Chuck Lunsford and I paddled my big blue whale, a Blue Hole Starburst. We taught each other to paddle whitewater in the 70's, but have hardly paddled together since 1988 or so. Also on the long time friends list are Dale and Joan Perry, George, the Taller, Flexman, and Bob Burkhardt. Thanks to Bob for leading our flotilla and to The Taller for running sweep. The fresh faces include Glen Hecht, John Hilliar, Frank Chiao & dog, and Chuck and Kathy DaVia. Thanks also to Chuck who ran us all back to Deer's Mill after we left out cars at Cox Ford. The between group includes Sue Foux, Linda Smith, Jeff Matthews (now a reinstated HCC member), Mary Keith, and Rich Howard. That's 15 people, but there were 13 boats with 16 total paddlers ... ??? Oh, DOH! And ME.

There was absolutely no carnage to report. The closest we had was when Creek Freak and The Kayak Kid in the Big Blue Whale eddied out behind a trash can sized boulder and confused Mary who momentarily broached on the same boulder. Every one arrived at the Hardee's on time and even the drive from Brownsburg and the shuttle went smoothly.

By the way: The Big Walnut gauge at Roachdale is no longer included in the USGS online system. 5.0 feet on the [Big Walnut gauge at Reelsville](#) would be really scrappy above US 36.

Dave Ellis, Trip Sponsor

Livery Boats and Trailers for Sale

HCC member, Dave Gahimer, has been running a livery on Raccoon Creek and is now selling off all the equipment. He is offering the equipment listed below to other HCC members.

	Retail Price	Firm Sale Price (includes Tax)
Alumacraft Tandem Canoe 17'	\$1330.00	\$ 489.20
Old Town Guide Canoe—15.7'	\$ 525.00	\$ 295.32
Dimension Sit-on-Top Poly Kayaks		
Tandem Spirit 15' (Red)	\$ 625.00	\$ 330.63
One Person Spirit 11' (Yellow-Adult)	\$ 385.00	\$ 217.80
One-Person Cricket 9'6" (Blue-Child)	\$ 260.00	\$ 159.86
Daytripper Kayak Paddles	\$ 47.00	\$ 25.39
Carlisle Economy Paddles	\$ 15.95	\$ 8.56
Orange cloth life jackets (3 sizes)		\$ 2.00
Canoe Trailers (2 Available)		
8 canoes/kayaks per trailer	\$ 1495.00 each	\$ 588.50 each
Ford 18-Passenger Bus (White)		
Very Clean / runs good	\$ 7,500	\$2675.00

If you are interested, please contact Dave Gahimer, Raccoon Creek Voyageurs, LLC at (765) 592-3723 or dqahimer@dishmail.net. You may-mail him for images of all equipment. All equipment may be viewed in Parke County by HCC members by appointment. All boats and trailers will be provided with proof of ownership papers and/or BMV titles.

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Upcoming Events

Tuesday Evenings	Paddling at Eagle Creek —Group Paddle start at 6:00 pm. First Tuesday Paddle: May 5	Page 3
Wednesdays 7 pm	Pool Sessions —Thatcher Pool, Indianapolis, IN Note: Thatcher Pool will be closed after May 23—check the Bulletin Board to see if and where pool sessions will be held.	Page 4
Fri.-Sun. May 1-3	Whitewater Trip: Cheat Fest, Cheat River, WV (II-IV)	Page 8
Sat.-Sun. May 2 - 3	Flatwater Trip: Friends of Muscatatuck Paddle, Camp and Canoe Race, Vernon, IN	Page 6
Sat. May 9	Moving Water Clinic for Canoes and Kayaks, Waverly, IN	Page 5
Sat-Sun. May 16-17	Flatwater Trip: Blue River Paddle and Camp, Milltown, IN	Page 7
Sat.-Mon. May 23-25	Whitewater Trip: Memorial Day Weekend—Wisconsin WW Weekend	Page 8
Sat; May 30	Reggie Baker Memorial Paddle, Lake Monroe, Bloomington, IN	Page 1
Sat. May 30	Flatwater Trip—Driftwood River	Canceled
Sunday, June 7	Flatwater Trip: Eagle Creek Paddle to Dinner, Zionsville IN	Page 7

June Newsletter Deadline: Please submit articles to Jim Sprandel by Friday, May15, 2009. Please E-Mail articles to merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net or call him at 317-257-2063

