

# Hoosier Canoe Club December E-News

December 2009

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

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## Hello, HCC—Seasons Greetings!

Dan Valleskey

Our canoe club slows up this time of year. Certainly, the weather has a lot to do with that although it has been a spectacularly warm November this year. And I think most of us understand that while we are always happy to see paddlers on the weekends, this time of year can and should be given over to family. Of course, we can also look forward to a quick paddle trip to welcome in the New Year, if you are so inclined, and if the weather cooperates even a little bit. Details about our New Years trip follow on Page 3.

There are still some things going on in the background that you might want to know about:

- Hoosier Outdoor Experience: There is a meeting scheduled to talk about our part of the Hoosier Outdoor Experience that took place last September. We will be asking for a few changes, but I am sure the HCC will again take part in September of 2010.
- Boy Scout Venture Crew: We are talking with the Boy Scouts to see if we might play some role in one of their programs.
- Safety Outreach: Several board members are working on a Safety Outreach project, to help educate the general public about possible dangers on the river; this was partly driven by the tragedy last Summer on the Driftwood when the little girl drowned.
- Fall Creek Cleanup: I have been getting involved with another organization that might like to help us make next year's Fall Creek cleanup even bigger that it was in 2009.

Terry Busch will be looking to fill out our trips schedule for next year. As soon as you make it through the holidays, take a moment to tell us what trips you might like to see next year. We already know we will be involved in Indiana River Rally 2010, at McCormick's Creek State Park, in June. I think this year we can pull together a super Labor Day weekend trip that will offer something for both flat water and white water paddlers. And look for a few changes that will make the next Pirate Paddle even more fun. Arrrrrrr.....

I'm excited about working with our new board members, and I have been spending some time looking at committee posts. If you have an interest in helping with ANYTHING having to do with the club, talk to me, we can use more people. I am also very happy to report that Jim Sprandel will be newsletter editor for one more year. We are looking forward to transitioning to a primarily electronic newsletter.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, don't eat so much that your spray skirt won't fit. (Whoops—my wet suit has already shrunk!) And with a little luck, maybe you will have a new paddle or PFD under the tree. Enjoy your holidays.

**Dan Valleskey**

[danpaddles@gmail.com](mailto:danpaddles@gmail.com)

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## New HCC Newsletter Policy - You must act to keep getting a Paper Newsletter!

The HCC Board recently changed the newsletter distribution policy. In the past, we sent people a paper newsletter by default and people told Dave Ellis if they only wanted the electronic version. However, starting with the March newsletter, we'll flip this around. That is, we will send an e-mail to everyone who has provided Dave with an e-mail address to let them know when a new issue of the Hoosier Paddler is available on the HCC web site.

We will only send out paper copies of the newsletter if: 1) you have not given Dave Ellis an e-mail address or 2) you tell Dave Ellis that you want a paper copy. We will mail the February Newsletter to everyone who received a paper copy last year and will repeat this notice in that issue. Currently, about 30% of our members read the Hoosier Paddler on-line since the electronic version is greener, is usually distributed earlier than the paper copy, and includes color pictures and embedded hyperlinks to additional information. Printing and mailing the newsletter is also one of the club's largest financial expenses.

*If you want the club to continue mailing you the newsletter after March, please notify Dave Ellis at [RiverPaPaw@aol.com](mailto:RiverPaPaw@aol.com) or indicate this preference to him when you mail him your 2010 dues.*

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Cataract Falls—November 13, 2009

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## Upcoming Events

Saturdays in December 2-4 pm	<b>Pool Sessions—Benjamin Harrison YMCA</b>	Page 3
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009 6:00 pm	<b>December Board Meeting</b>	-
Friday, Jan. 1, 2010	<b>New Year's Day Paddle—White River</b>	Page 3
Friday, Jan. 15, 2010	<b>Deadline for February Hoosier Paddler</b>	-
Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010	<b>2010 Trip Planning Meeting</b>	Page 3

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## 2009 Annual Meeting

Jim Sprandel

On November 15, the HCC held its annual meeting. It was a good meeting with lots of food, an excellent presentation by Jim Anderson on a 20-day canoe trip that he made to the Arctic Ocean, and an active swap meet. We also had a business meeting where we discussed the “state of the club” and elected our 2010 officers and board members.

### 2010 HCC Officers:

Skipper:	Dan Valleskey
Executive Officer:	Terry Busch
Purser:	Jim Clendenin
Yeoman:	Linda Smith

### 2010 Board of Directors:

Mariann Davis	Joel DeLashmit	Dan Evard	Sue Foxx
Dwayne James	Kellie Kaneshiro	Theresa Kulczak	Susi Megathlin
Suzi Rapp	Jordan Ross	Matt Slagel	Jim Sprandel

I would like thank Matt Slagel for keeping us solvent for the past two years and Theresa Kulczak for pulling together a tremendous trip schedule this year as Executive Officer in addition to sponsoring the very successful Pirate Party. I also want to recognize Mary Keith's, John Wainscott's, and Jan Sneddon's help while serving on the board this year.

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## 2010 Dues Reminder

Your 2010 HCC dues are now due. Please mail a check for \$15 to Membership Chairman, Dave Ellis - 7650 Poplar Road, Brownsburg, IN, 46112. Members procrastinating past March 1, 2010 will be stricken from the club rolls as stipulated by our By-Laws.

**Important:** If you want to continue receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, please clearly indicate that when you send Dave your dues. (See Newsletter Policy story on Page 1.)

If you have a question about your membership, contact Dave at [RiverPaPaw@aol.com](mailto:RiverPaPaw@aol.com).

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## New Year's Day Trip Announcement

**New Year's Day Paddle—White River**  
**Trip Sponsor: Dwayne James**

**Friday, January 1, 2010**

Aye matey!! I will do the White River from Waverly down to Henderson Ford Bridge on New Years Day, January 1, 2010. Meet at the Dairy Queen on SR 37 and SR 144 at 10:30 am and we will run the shuttle, paddle and have fun—wind, snow or sleet. If it is raining or high water, forget it.

Please be sure to check in with me since I need to paddle this section to see where and how they put that pipeline across the White River and what that might have done to the creek.

**Contact Information:** Please be sure to contact me by 7 pm on December 29th to let me know if you plan to paddle. Dwayne James, [kanudreams@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kanudreams@sbcglobal.net) or 317-834-3649.

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## 2010 HCC Trip Planning Meeting

Terry Busch

The annual trip planning meeting will be held Sunday, January 24, from 2-5 PM at my house in the far Northeast corner of Marion County, near Geist Reservoir. Look up my address in the membership list and map-quest for directions. Or contact me on my cell at 317-695-1825. (More complete directions will follow in an e-mail closer to date.) There will be some basic refreshments but BYOB and snacks to share would be much appreciated.

We'd like to see all the paddling tribes well represented — whitewater, flat water, blue water and pool water. If you can't make the meeting, get in touch with your paddling buddies, share ideas, and send them along to the meeting. A little bit of pre-planning can really help us put together an exciting full trip schedule for 2010. Once again, let's put some extra thought and effort into some good trips for beginners.

Also, let's try to find a couple of venues that would be attractive for all paddling styles. For instance, the touring boat folks might love the Wolf River area which the whitewater boaters traditionally visit over Memorial Day. The upper Wolf is a beautiful flatwater float and there are several splendid lakes nearby as well. Or how about a trip to the Carolina coast at the end of the season? Miles of inland waterways for the touring boats, ocean surf for the playboaters. Stay tuned.

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## Touring Group Trip Planning—Send us your Trip Ideas

If you own a touring or sea kayak and would like to hang out and paddle with other "long boaters" then the touring group is for you! This year, we took lake trips to Patoka, Monroe, Summit, and Cagle's Mill.

Please let us know where you would like to go in 2010. If you have an idea for a trip, contact Jim Sprandel [merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net) or Kellie Kaneshiro [knkane@gmail.com](mailto:knkane@gmail.com) or plan to attend the Trips Planning Meeting on January 24th.

The touring trips schedule will be posted in the [Touring Forum](#) on the HCC Bulletin Board. There is also a touring groups e-mail list that members used to set up trips this year. If you would like to join this list and be in on upcoming touring events, send an email message to [Jim Sprandel](#).

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## December Pool Sessions

There is good news regarding pool sessions. Jordan Ross has received permission from Ben Harrison YMCA to hold pool sessions there on Saturday afternoons in December. The pool has convenient parking and easy access for boats including touring kayaks. This is a large lap pool but we'll have to keep two lanes open for swimmers. Please check the HCC Bulletin Board for additional details.

Where: Benjamin Harrison YMCA (5736 Lee Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46216)  
When: Saturday Afternoons in December, 2 p.m. to 4 pm  
Fee: \$10/session (Same as Thatcher)

**Note:** The YMCA's rules and HCC's insurance require that all participants be HCC members. Non-members will be able to sign up and pay their \$15 dues on-site.

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*HCC paddling down the Wabash*

## Trip Report—Wabash River, August 23, 2009

**Trip Sponsors:** Sue Foxx, Jim Sprandel

**Participants:** Jim Sprandel, Tom Beckerich, Kellie Kaneshiro, Dan Evard, Sue Foxx, Libby Foxx, Sharon Colht, Bill Erickson, Ellen Popodi, Frank Chiao + Gino, Blair Austin, Bob Kirkland, Michael Niec, Maggie Rohillard, Dave Rohillard. Joan and Steve Briggs

Seventeen paddlers met at France Park in Logansport to paddle a 13.2 mile stretch of the Wabash River. This trip even inspired 3 folks to drive in from Illinois and brought together Hoosiers from Valparaiso, Indianapolis and Bloomington.

The first time Jim Sprandel scouted the river it was pretty shallow in the rapids about a mile below the



*France Park Put-In*



*Paddling into Lockport Bridge*

put in (630 cfs)—probably too shallow for a fun trip. When he scouted during the week before the trip, the Wabash watershed had seen a lot of rain and the river was rocking and was over 6000 cfs. By the time of our trip, it was 'just right'. (2000 cfs).

We ate lunch at French Post Park in Lockport (about 6 miles downstream) where we enjoyed the benefit of 'facilities' and picnic tables as well as a marker indicating it's early role in the early history of Indiana. This would also be a good put-in for people wanting to paddle down to Delphi.

Given the current, we had an easy paddle and were able to enjoy the scenery and companionship. The take out at the Carrollton Road Bridge was important to the Wabash and Erie Canal since it was the only place where the main line of the canal crossed the Wabash. Pictures and information about the lock system used was on a large sign at the actual site where you can still see where it once operated.

More Pictures at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/merlin3d/sets/72157621999982093/>



*The Mississinewa River*

## Trip Report—Mississinewa River, Sat., November 7, 2009

Denise Szocka  
Clarke Kahlo

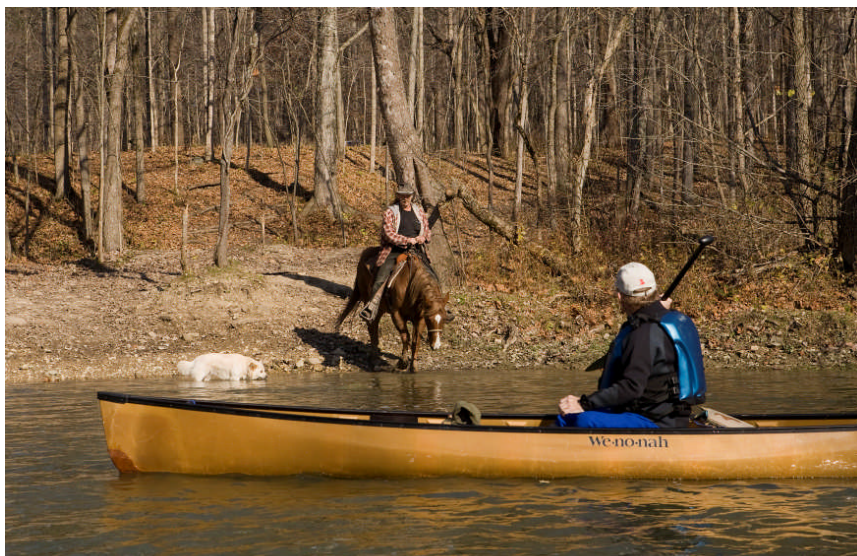
**Trip Sponsor:** Dick Fetty

**Participants:** Dick Fetty, Kelly Rushing, Dennis Stoner, Greg Hecht, Jay Moyer, Gina Moyer, Denise Szocka, Clarke Kahlo, Theresa Kulczak, Frank Wolf, Sara Hare, Frank Chiao, Dave In-skeep, and Gino

Thirteen paddlers and one canine met on a sunny morning to ply the waters of the Mississinewa. At the put-in, we befriended two non-HCC kayakers from Kokomo who, it turned out, knew one of our group. The wind was fortuitously at our backs as we em-



*Hornets 'Nest*



*Horseback Rider on Mississinewa*

barked, and the weather progressed to a balmy 69 degrees. The water level was adequate with a crisp flow and good clarity.

We saw hornets' nests along the way and paddled past a horseback rider at the edge of Francis Slocum Forest who was enjoying a view of the river while his horse and dog drank its clear water. Most of the trees had already lost their leaves, so we had great views of the surrounding landscape.

As we approached our shore-lunch take-out on an inviting spot across from the



*Paddling past the Seven Pillars*

Seven Pillars formation, a canoe tipped as it encountered a tight spot. The inevitable gentle ribbing was received with good-natured aplomb. The kayakers from Kokomo joined us for lunch and everyone introduced themselves. It's good paddling practice to know the names and home places of fellow paddlers—it was surprising to learn the wide range of Indiana geography represented.

During lunch we had a visitor—Chief Brian Buchanan of the sovereign Miami Nation of Indians of Indiana. The Miami Nation is the present-day embodiment of the clans, bands, and divisions historically known as the Miami. They've lived on the lands now known as Wabash County since the tribe's early existence. Brian just wanted to ensure that people using the sacred

Indian land were respecting it and not conducting any unsavory activity. He graciously urged us to enjoy our visit. He spoke with Clarke Kahlo who inquired about the status of the state's Native American Indian Commission upon which Brian had served as chairman until he and four others resigned in April in protest of the impediments and non-cooperation of the state administration.

After lunch, we reached the confluence of the Mississinewa and Wabash rivers upstream from Peru. As we entered the Wabash we encountered a bit of a headwind which prompted us to settle in for a bit of "applied paddling." Despite the extra effort required, the trip ended as a great day in good company on a felicitous stream. And at the take-out, everyone lent a willing hand to help one another with an uphill carry. Many thanks to trip leader Dick Fetty for a perfect day of paddling!



*At the confluence of the Mississinewa and the Wabash rivers*

A closing river reflection:

*"Our history is understood by riverine chapters, and it is impossible to know American life without constant reference to rivers. And it is still to them we look for restoring some poetry to our national life in the face of an increasingly platitudinous present."* Thomas McGuane, 1993

**Photo Credit:** Pages 2,4,7—Jim Sprandel, Pages 5,6—Denise Szocka

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## Lake Monroe – Saturday, October 10, 2009

Jim Sprandel

**Trip Sponsors:** Kevin Dogan, Jim Sprandel

**Participants:** Tom Beckerich, Jay and Chloe Morrison, Erin Hall, Joel DeLashmit, Jim Sprandel, Kevin Dogan, Kellie Kaneshiro, Todd and Cheryl Sullivan, Mark Cowser

What can I say, we lucked out. It rained most of Thursday and Friday but the weather was ideal on Saturday and Sunday when we paddled on Lake Monroe for the last Touring Kayak (Bluewater) trip of the year. During the day, it was dry, the temperature was reasonable, and the leaves were spectacular. This was the first time that many of the people had camped from their kayaks and they quickly learned what their boats act like while carrying an extra 50 pounds of gear.

Eleven sea kayakers showed up to paddle Lake Monroe's wild side – the area west of the Highway 446 causeway. Normally, canoeists and kayakers avoid this area since there is an unlimited boat speed limit and the



*John Cougar Mellencamp's House on Lake Monroe*

wave action can be interesting. However, most motor boats had been removed from for the winter and it was reasonable to paddle on the west side of the causeway.

We met at Cutright PAS and then proceeded under the bridge to the West side. We paddled past John Cougar Mellencamp's house and the Paynestown SRA. It was a beautiful day and the waves were reasonable. We then paddled up Morris Creek where we had lunch. After lunch, we paddled south to the Allen's Creek SRA where we set up camp after 9 miles of paddling. We picked a campsite on the North side of the peninsula where Allen's Creek SRA is located – since



*Tandem Sea Kayak*

it can only be reached by boat and since there was enough room for the 9 campers that we had.

After setting up camp, several kayakers enjoyed a bonus paddle and explored the area around Allen's Creek. That night, everyone sat around the camp fire and traded paddling stories.

Sunday morning, we had slightly larger trailing waves as we paddled about 6 miles back to the Cutright PAS. This was an interesting trip on Indiana's largest lake.

Additional Pictures are available at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/merlin3d/sets/72157622441672309/>



*Rocky banks on the West side of Lake Monroe*