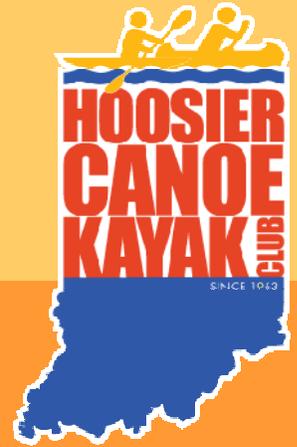


The Hoosier Paddler

February 2017, Volume 55, Issue 2
<http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/>



Skipper's Note

February is probably the most calm month for paddling for the Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club, but you can be sure to whet your appetite for the paddling and camping season in at least a couple of ways!

- The Boat, Sport, and Travel Show is always a great event to go and check out the latest gear and we have a booth. Be sure to stop by and say hello!
- Also, the National Paddling Film Festival is going to take place in Kentucky—be sure to check out the details on Page 3 in this newsletter.

We had a successful trip planning meeting, so be sure to keep an eye out on the [club's calendar](#) and full schedule coming soon. 2017 promises to be a banner year for trips and training!

Also, I hope you all have had an opportunity to explore our new website at www.hoosiercanoeclub.org. Special thanks goes out to our new website committee and Jon Reneberg for putting it all together. I hope you all enjoy the new website and I wish nothing but a prosperous paddling year full of excitement and trips all year round.

Hope to see you all on the water at some point.

Natalie

In this issue:

Page 1: From Your Skipper

Page 1: Boat Show

Page 2– CanoeCopia

Page 3. Nat'l Paddling Film Festival

Page 4 Sea Kayak Thoughts

Page 5. DNR Stickers

Page 5: Trip Report—Big Pine



Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show February 17 – 26, 2017

<http://indianapolisboatsportandtravelshow.com>

The Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club will once again be participating in the Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show..

We might even be able to experience a brief sampling of Spring at this year's Boat, Sport and Travel Show. As in the past, the club will sponsor a booth in the "Quiet Sports" area and will be representing our organization on weekends during the show — February 17, 18 & 19th and again on February 24, 25 & 26th.

E-mail Mariann Davis at marianndvs@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering for a shift. The time slots are going fast following the first wave of emails. So contact me ASAP to volunteer.

****Free Admission to all who volunteer.****

Canoecopia 2017 Madison, Wisconsin Friday-Sunday, March 10–12, 2017

Canoecopia is one of the largest paddle sport expositions in the world – definitely, the largest in the Midwest. This exposition runs from Friday through Sunday, March 10-12, 2017.

If you're looking for gear, you will be able to see the latest in canoes, kayaks, paddling gear, camping equipment, and clothing from about 100 vendors in the Exposition Hall. If you're looking for a bargain, merchandise is typically 15% off and some vendors may have even better deals on close-out items. It's a great chance to look over and evaluate the equipment you've read about on the web and in magazines. The event is sponsored by Rutabaga in Madison and features the vendors that they carry in their store.

In addition, outfitters and regional travel organizations in the exhibition hall can provide you with information on interesting trip venues so you can research future adventures.

The exhibition hall is interesting but there are presentations and clinics on paddling skills, camping skill, first aid, and places to paddle. Look over the presentations in the 2016 [program at the Canoecopia web site](#). (The 2017 program will not be available until mid-February.)

If you attend the show, look over the "Getting the Most out of Canoecopia" on Page 5 of the 2016 program guide. What I learned at the show was that I had to plan what presentations I attend. There are up to 5 presentations at any time so you have to pick your favorites. One saving grace is that many presentations are given more than once so you can usually see everything that you are interested in by planning.

I don't know who will be speaking this year. But in the past, major names in the paddle sports such as Greg Barton, Ben Lawry, Rob Keselring, Shawna Franklin and Leon Sommé, Kevin Callan, and Steve Scherrer have spoken there.

The cost of the show is \$25 for a week-end pass or \$15 for a one-day pass (there is also a \$7 daily parking fee at the event if you don't stay near the site.)

Get your Hotel Rooms Now! Rooms near Madison fill up quickly so think about registering and getting a place to stay as soon as possible.

For additional information:

Event Web Site: www.canoecopia.com



National Paddling Film Festival - February 17-18, 2017

Mark your calendars for February 17-18, 2017 and join the National Paddling Film Festival (NPFF) at the beautiful grounds of Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort, KY. For 35 years, the NPFF has been hosting an annual competition to determine the best paddle sport videos and images and to support American Whitewater Association (AWA) and river conservation. Since 1981, they have raised over \$158,000 in donations. There is also a chili cook-off, great guest speakers, silent auctions for a TON of gear (all proceeds go to AWA), bourbon tours, and an unofficial race on the Elkhorn.



It's a great time to see some great paddling footage and to meet famous and not so famous paddlers from around the country. For more information, please go to: <http://npff.org/>



WFYI Video on the Danger of Low Head Dams

In paddling safety classes, we always emphasize the danger of low head dams. When you are paddling downstream towards one, it simply appears to be a horizon line. However, the turbulence below a dam can recirculate a tree, boat, or you so that many paddlers refer to these as “drowning machines”.

WFYI, the Indianapolis public TV station, aired the following show on low head dams:

<https://vimeo.com/192003847>

<http://www.wfyi.org/programs/over-under-gone/television/over-under-gone-the-killer-in-our-rivers>

The show indicated that there are about 150 low dams in Indiana and that they have resulted in several deaths in recent years. The picture above shows the low head dam across Williams Creek near College and near 73rd and Westfield just north of Broad Ripple and you can watch how it traps large logs below it. These can be particularly deceptive since the risk increases greatly when the flow increases—a place where people were able to play safely on one day can become fatal the next.

The video said that there are groups attempting to mitigate deaths due to these dams. These efforts include education of the public about their risks, better signage near the dams, dam removal, and replacement of older dams with safer stair step designs that reduce how much the water recirculates below the dams.

Sea Kayak Thoughts

Jim Sprandel

The water is frozen in many places but we're planning some interesting sea kayaking trips for 2017. We will probably go to the East Coast again this spring and Robert Moore is planning a first-time club trip to Chesapeake Bay in June. I am studying an extended trip to South and North Manitou Island near Sleeping Bear Dunes later in the year. I will also plan at least one trip to Lake Superior for stronger paddlers.

I've posted Sea Kayaking events on the club's calendar so give them a peek by clicking on Events after you go to www.hoosiercanoecub.org.



Eagle Creek - Jan. 11, 2017

Sea Kayak Co-Chairs for 2017: I am excited that Mariann Davis has volunteered to co-chair the Sea Kayak fleet with me this year. More ideas lead to better trips so please to contact either Mariann or myself with ideas for sea kayak trips.

Cold Water Paddling: Be careful. While the temperature may warm up for a day or two, the old maxim is to dress for the water. That is, assume that you are going to capsize and dress to survive a swim and reentry if you are paddling open water. This time of year you want to always wear a wet suit and preferably a dry suit - a dry suit is recommended if the water temperature is under 50 degrees.

For creek and river paddling, people can usually get to the edge and then change into the spare clothes that they have brought with them in a dry bag. However, it's not always that fast on open water. Whether paddling creeks or lakes, be sure to wear your life jacket since that the initial cold water shock can knock the wind out of you.

Roll Training: Winter is a good time to work on your roll. In sea kayaking, a "bomb-proof" roll gives you the confidence to play in waves or surf on bigger water since you know that you won't have to leave your boat. Rolling also helps you beef up your bracing skills so it will take bigger conditions to flip you. Dave Ellis is an excellent rolling instructor and has taught many of the Whitewater and Sea Kayak paddlers within the HCKC to roll.

Pool Sessions are held at Thatcher Pool between 10:00 am and Noon on Saturdays. For more information, go to the Pool Training Page on the new HCKC web site: <https://hoosiercanoeandkayakclub.wildapricot.org/Pool-Sessions>

New Sea Kayak Web Page: The HCKC has transitioned over to a new website and I have updated the Sea Kayak page at: <https://hoosiercanoeandkayakclub.wildapricot.org/page-18157>

The new page includes a calendar isolating sea kayaking/touring events and a blog space at the bottom of the page where I am hoping that Trip Sponsors create trip reports (with pictures) after events. I will create a page that lists links to sea kayak-related web sites for sea kayakers as well as planning information for different trips that our fleet has taken. If you have suggestions for interesting web sites, send them to me at merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net and I'll see what I can make happen.

Sea Kayak Mailing List: I would encourage sea and touring kayakers to sign up for my Sea Kayak mailing list. This is an unmoderated mailing list of long boaters in and around Indiana that we use for event announcements, spontaneous trips when the weather is just too good to stay indoors, and general sea kayak discussions. While most sea kayaking events appear in the newsletter and the calendar, we use this mailing list to pre-announce events to help with your planning. In addition, some advanced trips are only announced through this list. If you have a sea or touring kayak, send me an e-mail (merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net) and I will add you to my mailing list.

Reminder—2017 DNR Non-Motorized Lake Permit

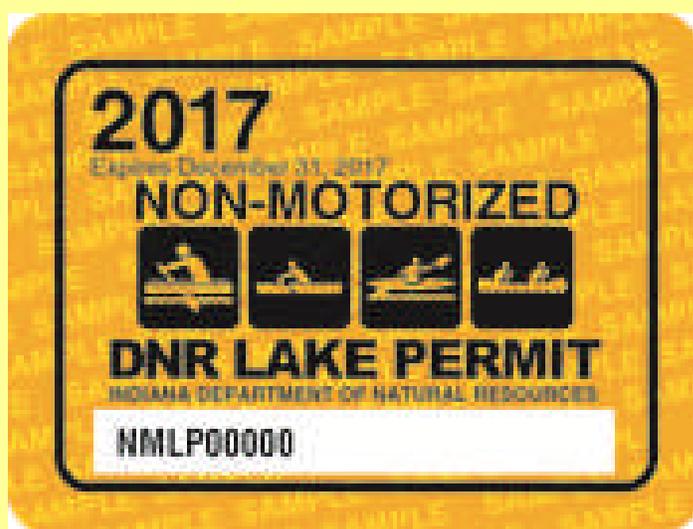
You must have a 2017 DNR Lake Permit if you want to paddle your boat in Indiana state parks, state-managed reservoirs, or state forests. This includes Lake Monroe, Summit Lake, and Cagles Mill. Annual permits are still only \$5 per boat and it's valid for all 2017. The fine for paddling without a sticker is over \$100 and this is enforced by the state's conservation officers.

Permits may be bought at the Indiana Government Center in Indianapolis as well as at the property of-ices or entrance gates of state parks, reservoirs, and forests when they are staffed. Alternatively, you can buy stickers on-line at:

<http://stores.innsqifts.com/>

If you go to the Boat, Sport and Travel Show at the Fairground in February, you can buy these permits at the DNR booth.

Note: Early in the season, attendants will be available at some launch ramps. However, they may not be at every ramp or gateway every day so be sure to check at the park you are going to make sure that the



Trip Report—Wassup? Big Pine was Up!

Natalie Needham

One of the few true white water rivers in Indiana, the Big Pine, never ceases to amaze or surprise when it's running.

On January 22, the weather was about 60°F, sunny, and the Big Pine was rocking. The USGS gage read about 10.5 feet, with the Rainsville Bridge reading 3 feet; and water temperature was hovering in the mid-40's. About 10 of us braved the chilly water and warm air and went for a run. It was a beautiful day, with only 3 swims and a few rolls.

After the run, we enjoyed a short hike to observe the Potholes of Fall Creek Gorge close to the take out, and Indiana's highest water fall (90 feet) in Williamsport, followed by some great Mexican food in Attica while reflecting on the day. We were also fortunate to get our first swimmer of the year on this trip...who shall remain un-named until the awards in November!

Click [here](#) to see a video from this paddle.

