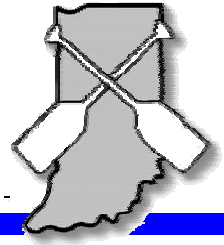


# The Hoosier Paddler



Volume 46, Issue 8

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

September 2008

## Paddlers Pirate Party

Theresa Kulczak

Arrr maties, chart yer course for White River and the Pirate Flotilla and Party on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>! Aye, we be calling all river pirates past and present, as well as you lubbers out there who prefer the land! It's time to throw the net and gather all paddlers, friends and blood relations! Conceived as an outreach event for the central Indiana paddling community, we hope to bring together all HCC members (flatwater, whitewater and bluewater) and other paddlers and buccaneers from far and wide.

### Pirate Flotilla on White River

**Noblesville to Northern Beach (116<sup>th</sup> Street, Carmel)  
Forest Park Public Access Site to Mitchener Creek Takeout**

The day will begin with a paddle trip on White River, with paddlers encouraged to wear pirate-like clothing but not so as to inhibit movement and vision. The meeting time is 12:30 at the put-in at the Forest Park public launch ramp in Noblesville. From SR-32/38 (aka Conner Street) in downtown Noblesville, go north on SR-19. Watch for the entrance to the Forest Park launch ramp area on the east (right) side of the highway, about 100 yards past the railroad overpass. The take-out will be approximately 10.7 miles downstream, at the confluence of White River and Mitchener Creek, just south of the 116<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, on the backside of Northern Beach property where the Pirate Party will be held just a few yards away in Shelter 1. For detailed directions, visit the Hoosier Canoe Club website at [www.hoosiercanoeclub.org](http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org)

You may rent boats through White River Canoe Company (WRCC) that is, located just south from the put-in on SR 19 (Cicero Road). Call WRCC directly at (317) 776-0129 by Thursday, October 2, to reserve your canoe or kayak. Say that you are reserving for the "HCC Pirate Paddle." Renters must arrive 45 minutes early (11:45) in order to be processed through rental paperwork and ready to launch with the main Pirate Flotilla.

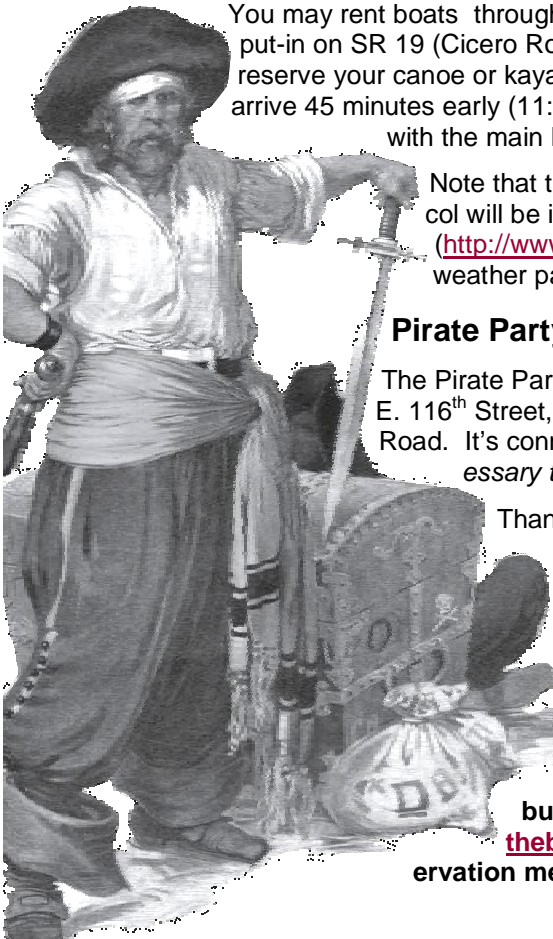
Note that the air and water temperatures may be cold. Cold-weather paddling protocol will be in effect – see page 4 in the February Newsletter (<http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/newslet/feb2008final1.pdf>) for a discussion of cold weather paddling requirements.

### Pirate Party at Northern Beach, Carmel

The Pirate Party will begin at approximately 6:30 p.m. at Northern Beach, located at 5801 E. 116<sup>th</sup> Street, Carmel. (Northern Beach is located between Eller Road and Hazel Del Road. It's connected to the Oak Hill Mansion property (big white mansion). *It's not necessary to paddle to attend the Pirate Party which will be held rain or shine.*

Thanks to the support of corporate sponsors, the admission price for the party is only \$10 per person and includes a fried chicken and BBQ pork dinner, sides, soft drinks, and pirate grog (beer and wine). (If we have an extremely large turnout, we may have to charge a doubloon for drinks). No outside food or beverages allowed.

Because we have to pay for the meals we order, **advance reservations are requested by Wednesday, October 1st**. We know paddlers don't like to plan too far in advance, but we're asking for your support and cooperation in reserving your place early!!!! **Hey, don't be a bilge rat, buck up and make your reservation now!** Email your reservations to: [theblacktoad@lightbound.com](mailto:theblacktoad@lightbound.com) or [danpaddles@gmail.com](mailto:danpaddles@gmail.com) or leave a reservation message for Theresa at (317) 570-0506 or Dan at (317) 257-9837.



*The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club*

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Aye maties, get our yer dancin' shoes! Live music will be provided by the Hoosier Canoe Club's own **legendary musician and white-water paddler, Bob Heckler** who, along with his brother (who dresses like a pirate), are called **The Garbage Men** and perform at whitewater festivals all over the country. Their energetic performance includes covers from Mellencamp, Buffet, Ray Charles, Charlie Daniels, the Blues Brothers and more! Avast, could ye ask for a better foot-stompin' show?!

We be pleased that several other paddling clubs and river organizations will share the good word with their members, and pirate party flyers will be available at local outdoor gear shops in the area. Help spread the word by inviting your paddling maties near and far.....!



*Bob Heckler seen here at Cheat Fest will sing at the Pirate Party*

## HCC Volunteers Needed

We need your help with the following tasks:

- Traffic directors at Forest Park put-in, Noblesville
- HCC waiver signature gatherers at put-in
- Shuttle vehicles
- Additional shuttle drivers (non-paddlers)
- Safety boaters on the river
- Registration and cash takers at party
- Decorations

## Contact Information

Contact Theresa Kulczak, Coordinator of the Paddlers Pirate Party at (317) 570-0506 or email [theblacktoad@lightbound.com](mailto:theblacktoad@lightbound.com) or Dan Valleskey at (317) 257-9837 email: [danpaddles@gmail.com](mailto:danpaddles@gmail.com).

Please make your reservations by Wednesday, October 1st.



*Swimming over Simulated Strainer in East Race*

## Over 40 attend SWR Clinic

Over 40 whitewater and flatwater paddlers from Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois showed up for the 2-day Swift Water Rescue (SWR) clinic at the East Race in South Bend on August 16 and 17.

The clinic covered safety and rescue techniques needed for flatwater and whitewater paddling in moving water. It included general safety considerations, wading in fast water, "safe" swimming, rope throwing, and rescue techniques for pinned boats and stranded paddlers.

A full report on the clinic will be included in the October Newsletter.

## Go Girl Triathlon Support

**Saturday, September 6**  
**Jan Sneddon**

The last triathlon of the year will be on Saturday, September 6! This is the Go Girl Triathlon and it is for women only. To keep in the spirit of the event, we would like to have the safety boaters also be women. So girls, get it in gear and come out for an all-betty event! It'll be a blast!

The event starts at 8:00 am and paddlers should gather by 7:15 to receive instructions and free T-shirts and to get their boats in the water. The HCC receives money for its program when paddlers come out for this event.

We need 8 to 12 kayakers to help with this event. If you would like to volunteer to be a safety boat, please contact Jan Sneddon at 317-257-1740 or [jan\\_hosier@yahoo.com](mailto:jan_hosier@yahoo.com) by Thursday, September 4.



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## Flatwater Trips

### What to Bring on a Flatwater Trip

- PFD (Personal Floatation Device) with attached whistle
  - Spare Paddle: your preference
  - Rescue gear: paddle float, throw rope, first aid kit
  - Bilge pump or bailing device (small bucket, sponge, etc.)
  - Personal medications: Be sure to inform your trip sponsor of medical conditions.
  - Sunglasses, sun/bug spray
  - Lunch, snacks, drinks (hot or cold) plus water!
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### Lake Monroe Fall Paddle and Picnic

**Sunday, September 14, 2008**

### Trip Sponsors: Reggie and Debbie Baker

**Mission** — Reg and Deb (Team Baker) are sponsoring a Lake Monroe paddle and picnic outing for the touring kayak crowd on Sunday September 14. We will be paddling the eastern arm of Lake Monroe that has been off limits since last October for waterfowl resting. After a 2-3 hour paddle, we will gather at a shelter house for a pitch-in picnic. Team Baker will provide the hot dogs, buns and condiments. Other participants can bring their favorite picnic fare to share.

**Logistics** — We will be launching from the east end of the Cutright access area just across the Hwy 446 causeway on Lake Monroe. Participants should plan on arriving at noon. For those coming from Indy, we will meet at the Shell Station at the intersection of County Line Road and SR 37 on the Indy south side at 10:30 and convoy to Monroe.

It is anyone's guess what the weather will be, so come prepared based upon your own assessment of the weather forecast. The water will be warm and there may even be an impromptu rescue session.

**Directions to Cutright** — 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.

**Special Instructions** — **Do not forget to purchase your 2008 DNR lake access stickers.** The stickers may be purchased at the Customer Service Center in the Indiana Government Center South for \$5.00. We will stop by the DNR office on SR446 for those who haven't been able to purchase stickers in advance. *If you don't have a sticker, be sure to bring \$113 to pay your fine.*

This event is open to canoes and kayaks. Canoeists please understand there will be a natural tendency for the canoes and kayaks to split up due to the inherent efficiencies in the touring kayaks.

**Contact Information** — Please RSVP so I will know how much meat to purchase. Also, if anyone has a portable gas grill, it will help with the cooking chores. Reggie and Debby Baker (317) 888-3315

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### Raccoon Creek Clean-Up

**September 20-21, 2008**

### Trip Sponsors: Dwon and Joy Miller

This clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, and Sunday, September 21. However, Roger, wives, and I are running over on August 26 to see what is a problem on the dam-to-Mansfield trip and to see if we can take care of it. I also hope to talk to the canoe rental company and see if there are problems on the Mansfield-to-Bridgeton section.

**Contact Information:** Therefore, a call to me at 765-730-4370 is recommended before Friday the 19th to find out if clean-up is necessary. You can get directions and details at that time. Let's hope there is not much to do.



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## Lost River Mystery Tour

**Sunday, September 28, 2008**

**Trip Sponsors: Sue Foxx, Rick Turney, Linda Smith**

How can a river be lost? Doesn't gravity always show it the way home? And if a river's always heading home, who could name it Lost? There must be a problem with perception—no, not the kayak company, but maybe with out boat's bottoms' orientation to the river.

Members of the Lost River Conservation Association, Dee Slater and Bob Armstrong, have prepared a condensed tour especially for this HCC paddle trip. Realizing our need to get on the water quickly, Bob and Dee will reveal all the mysteries at the National Natural Landmark site of Wesley Chapel Gulf. The Gulf, itself, is an interesting combination of Indiana's largest sink hole, a cave diving entry point, and river. Then, as we drive to our paddling put-in, we'll pass by the historic locations where LOST becomes found!

Sign up now for the Lost River Mystery Tour and paddle this unique three dimensional river as it winds through the Hoosier National Forest on it's way home! For this paddle, minimize the amount and weight of gear you bring to make for quicker shuttles and 'up over' portages.

**Meeting Place:** Wesley Chapel Gulf National Natural Landmark southwest of Orleans, Indiana

**Put-In:** Butler Bridge

**Take-Out:** CR37 Bridge SW of Yenne, Indiana

**Trip Length:** On water 4-5 hours (12-14 miles)

<b>Schedule:</b>	10:00 am	Arrive Wesley Chapel Gulf National Natural Landmark
	11:30 am	Start Paddling
	4:30 pm	Landing at the Take-Out

**Trip Requirements:** Bring your lunch, plenty of water, and sunscreen.

**Driving Directions to Meeting Place:** From Indianapolis take I-465 South to US 37 South to Bloomington (Exit 4). Head south on US 37 through Bloomington, Bedford, Mitchell, and finally, Orleans. From Orleans continue south on US 37 for an additional 2 miles and turn West (right) on CR 500 N. Travel 3.5 miles to the intersection with CR 350 W (Wesley Chapel Church) and turn South (left). Continue roughly .3 miles to the parking area on the left side of the road at the entrance of the Preserve.

**Contact Information:** Contact Sue Foxx by 7 pm Friday, September 27 at 317-363-4074 (cell) or [sufoxx713@aol.com](mailto:sufoxx713@aol.com) if you plan to come.

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## Whitewater Events

**Upper/Lower Gauley (Class IV-V) – First Release**

**September 6–7, 2008**

**Trip Sponsors: Jordan Ross and Sharon Schierling**

Each fall, when the US Army Corps of Engineers starts releasing water through Summersville Dam into the Gauley River (to bring man-made Summersville Lake to winter levels), West Virginia becomes America's undisputed whitewater paddling destination. "Gauley Season" begins the Friday after Labor Day and runs for 6 weekends (2008 dates: Sept 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, 26-28, Oct 3-5, 10-12). In addition, a final one-day Gauley release will take place on Sunday, Oct 19, 2008, the day after "Bridge Day" is held in nearby Fayetteville, WV.

The HCC will kick off Gauley Season the weekend of the first release. We will camp together but will divide into separate groups to run the Lower (Class III-IV) and Upper (Class IV-V) sections of the Gauley River both Saturday and Sunday. As described by American Whitewater (AW), the 11-mile Lower Gauley run is "big water" and "tons of fun." Sometimes overshadowed, but certainly not to be overlooked, the Lower provides a real challenge for intermediate whitewater paddlers and remains a favorite of many seasoned boaters. The Upper Gauley is a 10-mile expert run with world-famous rapids that, AW cautions, "are big, steep, demanding, and can have a serious bite for the paddler in the wrong place." Bomb-proof bracing and rolling on both sides, along with big water skills and precise maneuvering, are required to have reasonable assurance of a safe and an enjoyable run on the Upper Gauley. Jordan is thinking of paddling a "Gauley Marathon" (Upper, Middle & Lower – 26 miles) on Saturday for





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those hardy boater/lazy walker types who are familiar with the Upper (the "marathon" leaves no time for scouting) and who prefer to *paddle* down whitewater rather than *hike* up a mountain.

On Friday night, we will camp at Swiss (the Lower Gauley takeout). The privately owned field at Swiss has primitive camping (port-a-pot only) and no running water (so bring your own). They only charge a few bucks per vehicle to park or camp. Bring small bills. (For those who prefer to stay elsewhere, plan to arrive at Swiss by 9:00 a.m. to meet the group.) There are no breakfast places, gas stations, or convenience stores near the Swiss takeout or Lower Gauley put-in, so bring your own breakfast stuff for Saturday morning, as well as drinks, lunch or snacks for the river trip.

Directions to Swiss (Lower Gauley Takeout): From US 60 at Gauley Bridge, WV, take Rt. 16 towards Belva. At Belva take Rt. 39 towards Summersville, which follows the railroad and the Gauley River on your right. It's about ten miles from Gauley Bridge to Swiss. At Swiss (unincorporated), Rt. 39 turns left sharply and leaves the river. Don't follow the main road to the left; instead continue straight, down onto a narrow two-lane road. Pass a white church on the left, go over a hill past some houses and the road will become gravel. You'll be following alongside the railroad tracks. Go several hundred yards until the first right turn you can make across the railroad tracks (you might scrape a bit). After you cross the tracks, drive down into a grassy field. This is the Swiss takeout. Park/camp along the trees by the railroad embankment or at the back of the field.

On Saturday night, our first choice for camping is Battle Run campground (2981 Summersville Lake Rd., off Rt. 129 just west of the Summersville Dam) if they have sites available. (They don't take reservations after Labor Day; sites are available to "walk-ins" on a first come, first served basis.) If Battle Run is full, we'll head for nearby Mountain Lake campground (1898 Summersville Airport Rd., off US-19 in Summersville). Both are on Summersville Lake and cost \$16 per site per night.

Check the Whitewater forum on the HCC Bulletin Board for more information. Please post there or let us know by email/phone if you're thinking of coming.

**Contact Information:** Jordan Ross, Phone: 317-460-7000, E-mail: [jross@iquest.net](mailto:jross@iquest.net) (please put the word "kayak" in the subject line)

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## **Upper/Lower Gauley (Class IV-V) – Gauley Fest!**

### **Trip Sponsors: Randy Parker and Bob Heckler**

**September 19–21, 2008**

In case you didn't know, Gauley Fest is the paddling world's biggest party. Started in 1983 to celebrate the victory against a hydro-electric project that would have disrupted whitewater flows on the Gauley River, Gauley Fest has grown over the past 25 years to become the largest river festival in the world, with over 5000 people attending in 2007. The 3-day festival — which features live entertainment (including the HCC's own Bob Heckler on the main stage this year!!!) and a large vendor marketplace where you can pick up great deals on paddling and outdoor gear — is also the biggest fundraising event for American Whitewater's national river stewardship work. And it's a great opportunity to paddle some of the biggest and best whitewater east of the Rocky Mountains.

Randy Parker will lead an HCC group on the Lower Gauley (class III-IV) on Friday: meet at 9:00 a.m. at Swiss (the Lower Gauley takeout, see above for directions). On Saturday, Randy will lead a group on the Upper Gauley (class IV-V), while Bob Heckler and Sharon Schierling will lead separate groups on the Lower (splitting up to avoid problems of one large group). Check the Whitewater forum on the Bulletin Board as the date approaches for more details.

The Fest will be held again this year at Nicholas County Veterans Memorial Park on US-19 in Summersville, WV. Camping is available on the festival grounds Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at a rate of \$5 per person/night. Dogs are discouraged but camping is available for dogs at a rate of \$5 per dog/night (no kiddin!). No reservations are taken on camping; first come, first served. Camping has been known to sell out, so plan to get there early.

American Whitewater needs volunteers for Gauley Fest. For more information on volunteering:  
[http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/do-op/id/aw:events\\_gauley\\_volunteer](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/do-op/id/aw:events_gauley_volunteer)

**Contact Information:** E-mail: [Randall.Parker@pepsiamericas.com](mailto:Randall.Parker@pepsiamericas.com) Phone: 219-406-9225





*Dwayne James and Sue Foxx leading a pack down the Wabash*

## Wabash River Trip Report July 13, 2008

**Sue Foxx**

**Trip Sponsors:** Rick Turney, Sue Foxx, Linda Smith

Despite heavy rain the night before, Sunday dawned clear and beautiful so paddlers turned out in record numbers (21) for the trip down the Wabash River from Fort Ouiatenon near West Lafayette to Attica. While some of us formed a caravan from Indianapolis, others arrived independently at the Public Access Site (PAS). For the shuttle, we followed the river road down to Attica and only made one wrong turn on the way back. Guess we were lucky not to get lost in the corn fields although the wildflowers were so bright and profuse that I might not have minded too much.



*Rick Turney in his wood boat*

The river was up and moving swiftly which was a good thing given the 20 mph wind gusts that hit us each time the river turned west. Even veterans like Dwayne James indicated that this stretch of the Wabash was a new adventure. We passed several islands but never did see the 'big black rock' everyone talks about. Since sandbars were non-existent with the high water, we lunched in some lowland where a small stream joined the Wabash. There we feasted on grilled hot dogs and yummy cookies from Jim Clendenin and Mary Keith.

Jim Sprandel kept us on track with his GPS and recorded the trip in pictures which can be viewed on Flickr.com at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/merlin3d/2670552043/sizes/o/>

The group traveled the 20 miles at a rate of about 5 mph and landed at the PAS on the left bank just south of the bridge in Attica at about 4:30 pm. Despite a beautiful sunny day, the wind kept us cool. On the shuttle back, we came upon a car with the doors open... I was just about to offer help when I spotted the reason... a large snapping turtle was crossing the road. Now that's a site you don't see in the big city!

Additional pictures from this trip are available through the HCC Bulletin Board at:

<http://www.hccbulletinboard.org/forums/showthread.php?t=2629>



## White Nile Trip Report

Early this summer, I had the great opportunity to spend 2½ weeks in Africa for work. Our schedule was packed but I managed to beg one Sunday off for a once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience the White Nile — arguably some of the best whitewater on the planet, known both for enormous, powerful, Class 5 rapids as well as for “sick” world-class play waves. Since I’m neither a Class 5 paddler nor a play boater, and since I wouldn’t have boat or gear, I originally thought I’d sign up for a raft trip. But then a former student who’d spent a semester in Uganda told me about an outfitter that offers tandem kayaking with a guide, all equipment provided.

Kayak the Nile (<http://www.kayakthenile.com>) advertises their tandem trips as “the most extreme way to see the Nile,” challenging thrill seekers to “paddle down the Nile’s huge Class 5 rapids taking lines rafts don’t dare!” But then they reassure: “If you go upside down just hold on and our experienced guide will roll you back upright.” Perfect! I fired off an email and made the arrangements.

After two travel days, flying to Entebbe via London and then by bus via Kampala, we arrived in Jinja, the center of Uganda’s thriving but relatively new whitewater rafting industry (the first descent of the White Nile by a paddler was in 1996), which is located at the source of the Nile as it tumbles out of Lake Victoria to begin its 4000-mile journey north to the Mediterranean. The White Nile has sections of rapids in central Uganda below Murchison Falls, but these see few visitors due to crocodiles, hippos, and guerrillas (the kind with guns). In contrast, southern Uganda is comparatively safe and stable; the years of repression under dictator Idi Amin are a distant memory, and there are no crocodiles or hippos in this section of the river.

Taking advantage of the down time we were given to recover from jet lag, our group of university administrators headed for the top tourist attraction in the area, Bujagali Falls, where the mighty Nile awakens into a cauldron of whitewater a few miles from its current source. (In 1954, the dam we drove across when we arrived in Jinja drowned Owen Falls, where the source of the Nile used to be.) Bujagali Falls is a spectacularly scenic spot — a kilometer of thundering rapids surrounded by small islands covered with lush green vegetation and an abundance of bird life — as well as a boon to the Jinja economy. In addition to rafting outfitters, trinket shops and food stands aimed at tourists, a few brave locals make

their living by swimming the rapids for tips with only a plastic jerry can for flotation (YouTube video of a Bujagali Swimmer: <http://tinyurl.com/6hcb9t>). To my delight, just as we arrived a local whitewater kayaker, who had also solicited tips to do so, put on to run the falls, not so much a waterfall as a series of big rapids. He flipped in a gigantic wave-hole but rolled up to cheers from the crowd. Aware of my plans for the next day, one of my colleagues asked, “Are you going to do that tomorrow?” Not knowing where I would be paddling, I shook my head and said, “Surely not.” (Wrong.)

I was saddened to learn that construction of a new dam will destroy Bujagali Falls and other rapids — arguably one of the best 45-minute sections of whitewater in the world and an irreplaceable resource for the country’s growing rafting industry. It will be a tragedy to lose the White Nile’s upper section but in a country where only one in 20 households has electricity, advocates for whatever it takes to solve the chronic power shortage and to spur economic development win the day.

The next day I was picked up and taken to Nile River Explorers’ riverside camp. After breakfast (included), I joined the rafters (I



*Sharon with Nile Paddlers*



*Kayaker on Lower Bujagali*





was the only kayaker) in the back of a truck to the put-in just below Owen Falls Dam, where I met my local guide, Peter. On first sight, neither the battered pink Topo Duo with missing foot braces nor Peter inspired much confidence. Not only was he several inches shorter and quite a few pounds lighter than me but he looked to be about 16 (he's 23) and was holding a paddle with a big chunk out of the blade. "Crocodile," he said, grinning widely and pointing to the paddle. "Ha, ha," I laughed sarcastically, rolling my eyes at the gimmick. My aversion to being treated like an inexperienced raft customer turned to apprehension as I realized he was actually going to use the broken paddle. The safety kayakers teased him but he insisted it was lucky. Having seen a little of what was downstream and knowing that the White Nile consistently runs with more volume than any other commercially run river on the planet, I hoped he was right. But I couldn't help thinking, "This is Africa... no safety standards... no liability.... don't even think about the hospitals...."



*Paddling Nile Class 3 Rapid*

On the river, my butterflies dissipated and excitement built. We started with some rolls as we drifted through a warm pool in the equatorial sunshine. We rolled together —

Nice! I had never paddled tandem in a kayak — and Peter demonstrated that he could roll us both up himself. Next some surfing on little waves as the current picked up and soon we heard the roar of Bujagali Falls ahead. We negotiated a short but intense Class 4 sneak on far river right called "Ribcage" for the dangerous tree roots in mid-current, thereby avoiding the more formidable main channel called "Dead Dutchman," and then the horizon line of Bujagali loomed in front of us. Peter explained our line (which I couldn't see but knew was the kayaker's line the day before) and told me to make sure to keep my weight forward and keep paddling when we hit the big waves. Down the tongue we plunged into a maelstrom of exploding whitewater, surprisingly (to me, anyway) coming through it all upright to ride a mountainous wave train downstream, hooting with exhilaration. Woo hoo!!!

Next came 50-50, a big "easy Class 3" that flipped one of the rafts, followed by "Total Gunga" ("totally crazy" in the local language), a long Class 5 where we flipped and rolled (no help from me), managing to miss a gigantic hole. Soon we saw the dam construction channeling the enormous volume of the Nile into a chaotic rapid where a "big, fun wave train" had once been. "There is no line" Peter said, "you just take your chances." This time when he rolled the kayak up, I wasn't in it, having been knocked/sucked out of the scanty outfitting by the force of the water, popping the sprayskirt with my knee.

The river calmed down and we ate our lunch — fresh pineapple and "biscuits" (more like cookies) — as we floated through lush forested islands, waving at the smiling villagers fishing from traditional wooden canoes. With time to look around and enjoy the scenery, we spotted monkeys, monitor lizards, eagles, and many birds I didn't recognize. When the river picked up again, the rapids were just as impressive but were interspersed with long, wide stretches of flat water.

Finally we came to the biggest, longest rapid I've ever seen with the exception of Niagara Gorge — indeed, it's regarded as one of the longest and biggest volume rapids in the world — the utterly immense and awesomely gnarly Class 6 Itanda Falls, with its companion channels "Hypoxia" and Kalagala Falls. All three are run by elite boaters, but the consequences are brutal and even pros take a pass because of the high risk, which is apparent. For commercial trips, it is a mandatory portage along a well-trodden route, either straight to the take-out or, for intrepid rafters, to the bottom of Itanda to run the last section of this beast. Since kayaking wasn't an option, I joined a raft crew for this last run. The goal is to avoid the big stopper holes "Bad Place" and "Other Place" (also bad) but we took a meaty line ended up in the former. True to form, it flipped the raft, ejecting us to the relative safety of the downstream current, and toyed with it for a while before finally spitting it out too. A rip-roaring end to an unforgettable day and a taste of the Nile that left me wanting more!

If you want the chance to paddle the upper section of the White Nile, you'd better do it soon. The dam is scheduled for completion in 2011. It won't mean an end to the rafting industry but trips will have to start further downstream and use milder sections of the river previously only run on 2-day trips. I feel incredibly lucky to have experienced it before it is gone forever. (Thanks, Peter!)





## Trip Report – Apostle Islands, Lake Superior July 5- 10, 2008

Jim Sprandel

**Participants:** Brad Hughey, Jay Bodkin, Dave Ellis, Duane Gorlach, Gil Morris, Shawn Tressault, Dave Porter, Jim Sprandel

On July 4th, eight Indianapolis kayakers headed north to Bayfield, Wisconsin for a five-day paddle in the Apostle Islands. The Apostle Islands are a set of 22 islands in Lake Superior that form part of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

Day 1 (July 5th) - We paddled about 15 miles from Red Cliff where we left our cars to Stockton Island. Leaving the harbor at Red Cliff, we passed the wreck of the *Fedora* which was a 280-foot steam ship that sunk after a fire in 1901 – part of the ship still can be seen above the water and you can see its keel in 6 to 8 feet of water as you paddle its length. From there, we made a 3-mile open-water crossing to the north shore of Basswood Island and then a shorter crossing to the east side of Hermit Island. The shores of these islands are interesting since they have been shaped by the lake as well as by the mining/lumber operations that used to be active on the islands. The shore is often undercut due to wave erosion and, on some islands, you can paddle into sea caves that have formed. We then crossed from Hermit to Stockton and paddled along the south side of Stockton to our camp at Presque Isle bay. The lake was fairly calm (1-2' seas) most of the day and didn't present any problems. We saw loons, bald eagles, and mergansers along the way.



*GPS Track of Apostles Island Trip*



*Dave Ellis at point on Hermit Island*

This was my first “big water” paddling experience and I quickly realized that I wasn't in Indiana anymore. First, the water was amazingly clear – you can easily see rocks 10 feet under the water. The water was also cold (less than 50 degrees) so that wet suits or dry suits were the fashion of the day (not that we were *planning* on swimming). Second, boats handle differently when they are loaded with 50-70 pounds of gear—they are more stable and plow through waves but take a little more effort to get going. Third, those are real waves – more care is needed when landing, launching, and paddling and they persist for miles. Lastly, the islands offer a large area to explore with exotic wild life, sea caves, and shorelines – much more than we could possibly see in any 5-day trip. .

Day 2 – We were staying at the same campsite again tonight so we paddled our unloaded kayaks east to the lighthouse on Michigan Island. During the 2.5 mile crossing to Michigan Island, we paddled in 2-3 foot waves with a wind out of the southeast. On the island, we visited the old and new lighthouses - the original lighthouse was built in 1880 and used until 1929. When we paddled back, we split into two 4-person groups. I joined those paddling around the north end of Michigan Island so that we could see the east shore of Michigan island and the lighthouse on Gull Island. After we rounded the north end of Michigan Island, the lake was calmer and we easily made the 3.5 mile crossing back to Stockton. Another 15 mile day.

Day 3 –Woke up and broke camp since we were scheduled to paddle to Bear Island today. The waves in Presque Ile bay were relatively calm and the weather radio indicated 2-3 foot waves with wind from the northeast. The paddle was fine until we rounded the south end of Stockton and had full exposure to the wind/waves. Waves were 2-4 feet with up to a 20 mph headwind. We progressed about 2 miles along the east shore of Stockton until we turned toward shore



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since we were making minimal headway. The trip to the shore on Julian Bay was exciting with the wind and waves at our backs.

On shore, we used the radio to locate Dave Ellis since he had paddled high of the group and was lost to sight. He eventually came walking up the beach. He had paddled closer to shore on the initial rounding of the point. When he lost sight of us, he assumed that we had returned to Presque Isle bay where we had camped the night before and he then returned there as well.

While waiting for the lake to calm, we explored Julian Bay for several hours. This bay abuts a wetland that teems with animal and plant life so it was interesting. Dave spotted orchids and two species of carnivorous plants.

We then decided to paddle back to our last camp. The way back was "easier" and faster since we weren't paddling into the waves/winds. As we rounded the point on the south end of the island, we were treated to larger trailing waves and Jay and I were baptized in Lake Superior. Shawn performed t-rescues to get us back in our boats and we continued on our way. After the point, the waves subsided and we got back to Presque Isle bay and camp without further excitement. *Note to Self:* Learn to when to brace, learn to roll, and practice rescues in real waves with loaded boats.

Day 4 – Started out early and paddled along the south edge of Stockton Island before crossing to Oak Island. During the crossing to Oak, the wind picked up to 20 mph out of the NE. We completed the crossing and then headed north along the shore of Oak Island to "Hole in the Wall" which is a rock formation on its northeast corner. The paddle north was interesting since the wind was in our faces again. At the Hole in the Wall, Shawn rounded the point and, not wanting more baptisms, suggested that the north side of Oak was more than we might want to paddle today. At that point, we backtracked and headed to the Sandspit on the southwest corner of Oak Island.

The trip south was scenic and uneventful. However, when we reached the south end of Oak, I was surprised that the wind was in our face from the West – the wind apparently flows around the islands. When we reached the Sandspit, we camped there since we had already paddled 15 miles and since it was closer to Red Cliff—our destination in the morning. The campsite was beautiful and was located on a low cliff overlooking the channel to the mainland. Since Shawn and Dave Porter were staying two extra days, they paddled onto a campsite farther north on the island after dinner.

Day 5 – On our last day, we paddled almost due south to the mainland. The wind was out of the West with 2-3 foot waves. After we made the crossing, we rode trailing waves along the mainland until heading south towards Red Cliff. Once we turned south, we were sheltered and the lake calmed so we had an easy paddle into Red Cliff from there. We loaded up the cars and Duane, Gil, and I headed back to Indianapolis while Dave, Jay, and Brad headed to the Door County Sea Kayak Symposium.

This is what paddling is about - we traveled about 58 miles in 5 days and saw things available no other way. We missed many of the attractions of the Apostles that we had "scheduled" but that's what next year is for (if the lake is willing).

Additional photographs are available at: <http://www.hccbulletinboard.org/forums/showthread.php?t=2625>.

## Door County Sea Kayak Symposium

Kellie Kaneshiro

The fifth annual Door County Sea Kayak Symposium (DCSKS) July 11-13, <http://www.rutabaga.com/everyonepaddles/page.asp?pgid=1016> took place on Rowleys Bay at the Wagon Trail Resort. The symposium is sponsored by Rutabaga, the paddle-sports shop located in Menona (next to Madison), Wisconsin, the same folks responsible for Canoeopia. The symposium offers a variety of activities including on-water classes, on-land workshops, paddling tours and a youth program.

Here's my story. Rescue techniques was my first class on Friday morning, conditions were calm with a gray cloudy sky as we paddled out to deeper water in the middle of the bay. After practicing the standard t-rescue, I hit the water to experience the heel hook rescue and the scoop rescue. We discussed the use of a sling or stirrup for getting back into the boat. The cowboy t-scramble rescue went pretty well until I realized I was sitting on my sprayskirt. Some people were successful with the solo cowboy rescue. We then moved into shallower water and practiced the Eskimo bow rescue before breaking for lunch.



*Brad, Kellie, Jay, and Dave at Door County*

Lunchtime was the opportunity to wiggle out of the drysuit and into dry clothing, buy a box lunch and head over to the big tent for a lunchtime talk. Last year, I'd heard that Ben Lawry's (<http://www.benlawry.net>) "dry land rolling" talk was not to





*Ben Lawry demonstrating Roll*

"Understanding Boat Control" talk.

On Saturday, I went to my forward stroke class and felt the class was a great investment, hopefully this means less pain and more gain on future paddling outings. It was hard to choose the lunchtime seminar, I settled for "Weather" or not to paddle with Dick Silberman. In the afternoon, I'd signed up for a session on "customizing your boat." The course description said the instructor would choose one boat to customize, but he ended up looking at all our boats, making adjustments where possible and offering some advice. My Eddyline lacks perimeter decklines that extend all the way to the bow and stern of the boat. During rescue class, I had found that static decklines are really, really fantastic things to grab onto. I also had trouble securing the paddles on my front deck. The suggestion was to use a whiffle ball or two on the horizontal decklines so the paddle blade will go in smoothly.

I had dinner with HCC members Mike and Jean Miller and Mike's brother Andy. Featured Saturday evening events were the moonlight paddle and the highlights of the DCSKS featuring photos from the Rutabaga photographer, Jim Pippitt. If there was any hope of escaping the camera lens by being too far out in the bay, Jim's telephoto lens destroyed it. He apparently went on a few tours too, so no one was safe.

The wind had died down and the moon was at half a cheek, and so I decided push it and take part in the Moonlight Paddle. There were nine of us and we paddled in Rowleys Bay and then up the Mink River. The paddle highlights were rafting up and looking at the constellations and later playing out on the moonlit bay where our boats skimmed across the water on playful, gently rollicking waves.

When Sunday morning came around, I was so exhausted that I almost didn't go to what turned out to be my favorite class of the symposium Eskimo Rolling. Rolling class is held on one of my favorite little lakes, Europe Lake. I had four rolls there, and I felt comfortable enough with the instructor to show him my attempt at the "rat swim" and to ask him about the balance brace. He coached and supported me so I could feel how a balance brace works, and it's amazing. It's like being one with the boat, water, and sky and the best part is that you get to stretch and breath while you do it!

All good things have to come to an end, the one regret that I had about the symposium was that I didn't stay for the afternoon "Kayak Play" session. Save the dates for next year's Symposium to be held July 10-12, 2009!

be missed. I got to be front and center and in Ben's kayak for a brief demo before donning the drysuit and heading out to the paddle float self rescue class. The wind and waves made the paddle float self-rescue more challenging. I had the most success with securing the paddle under the back deck lines, and no luck trying to hold the paddle with one hand against the back cockpit coaming.

Back on land and before dinner, I decided to scratch Saturday's tour of Europe Bay to Newport Bay and switch into the forward stroke class. In the meantime, there was a traditional rolling demo to catch down by the dock, followed by dinner under the big tent and a chance to talk to fellow HCC members Dave Ellis, Jay Bodkin and Brad Hughey. They had come to the symposium after spending an exciting week kayaking in the Apostle Islands. After dinner, I went to Steve Scherrer's



*Liquid Logic Seneca*

## For Sale — 2003 Liquid Logic Seneca

Fun boat in excellent condition. 15 ft. 6 inches long, 23.5 inches wide, \$800.00.

Contact: Jay Bodkin, 317-353-5524,  
[john.bodkin@comcast.net](mailto:john.bodkin@comcast.net)

**Photo Acknowledgements:** Page 2-top-Rhonda Wright, Pages 2-bottom, 6, 9—Jim Sprandel, Pages 7, 8— Sharon Schierling, Pages 10, 11-top—Kellie Kaneshiro, Page 11-bottom—Jay Bodkin





## Upcoming Events

Tues. Evenings	<b>Paddling at Eagle Creek</b> —Group Paddle at 6:00 pm. Ends September 30	August Newsletter, Page 3
Wednesdays 7 pm	<b>Pool Sessions</b> —Thatcher Pool, Indianapolis, IN	April Newsletter, Page 1
Sat. Sept. 6	<b>Safety Boat Support for Go-Girl Triathlon, Eagle Creek</b>	Page 2
Sat./Sun. Sept. 6, 7	<b>Whitewater Trip—Upper/Lower Gauley, First Release, WV (IV-V)</b>	Page 4
Sat. Sep 13	<b>Flatwater Trip—HCC Picnic and Paddle</b> - Lake Monroe	Page 3
Fri.-Sun. Sept 19-21	<b>Whitewater Trip—Gauley Fest</b> - Gauley River, WV (IV-V)	Page 5
Sat./Sun. Sep 20 -21	<b>Cleanup - Raccoon Creek</b>	Page 3
Sun., Sep 28	<b>Flatwater Trip—Lost River Mystery Tour</b>	Page 4
Sat., Oct 4	<b>Paddlers Pirate Party</b>	Page 1
Sat./Sun. Oct 4-5	<b>Whitewater Trip—Hiwassee &amp; Nantahala, TN &amp; NC (II &amp; II+)—<i>Cancelled</i></b>	

**September Newsletter Deadline:** Please submit articles for the October Newsletter to Jim Sprandel by Monday, September 15. Please E-Mail articles to [merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net) or call him at 317-257-2063.

