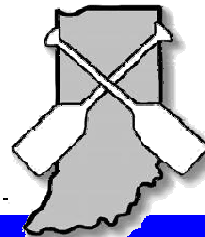


The Hoosier Paddler



Volume 48, Issue 2

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

March 2010

Hello, HCC

Dan Valleskey

Your board delayed our last meeting a week, partly because of weather and partly because we were putting the finishing touches on the 2010 Trips Schedule. I have not seen it completely pulled together yet, I'll see it when you see it. But I have seen a lot of the trips, this may be one of the best years yet for the HCC!

There are a few trips I want to bring special attention to.

- In early July, we have scheduled a whitewater trip for **all** boaters—whitewater, flatwater, and bluewater! We will head to the Southeast, there will be hard trips for our whitewater folks, and we will also work in some raft trips or ducky trips on rivers that most any of us can enjoy. There are still some details to work out, but this trip should be a lot of fun for the usual flatwater folks and it will give them a safe way to see what real whitewater is like. The whitewater people will hang out with us (off the river) giving everyone a chance to get to know people they may have only known by name previously. There is also great mountain biking in the area and other tourist attractions that would appeal to non-paddling spouses. I expect some sort of covered accommodation will be arranged. There will be restaurants and motels in the area. Look for more information later.
- Labor Day, we have scheduled a trip to the New River area in West Virginia. HCC member, Dan Steely, has done this trip several times. We will car camp with an established group. There will be chances to raft the New Gorge, paddle an upper Class 2 section, or maybe borrow or rent a ducky on some intermediate runs. The group has several rafts, including a shredder, a high performance two man raft. They will also have a great photographer along, he shoots hundreds of images. Meals will be more of a pitch-in thing, sounds like easy car camping to me. Life is good! This will be another chance to see what real whitewater is like. I wouldn't be surprised if a lot of the folks on the July trip decide they want to do the Labor day trip as well. I am planning to work this into my personal schedule—this will be a great trip.

I have seen the HCC history article that runs in this newsletter. I had seen a similar article from another club and thought it would be fun to have our own history chronicled. Thanks to Mariann Davis for writing it, she has produced not just a history of the HCC, not just a history of paddlesport development in Indiana, but really, she touches on river running history as it would have happened throughout North America. It gave me an interesting view of some of the old paddlers (many names which are still on our roster) but more important, I was able to learn a lot about how skills progressed in the club. Sit down and read it when you have time to fully enjoy it. I hope it will make you feel good about being part of an organization with such a wonderful background. And I stand in awe of the quality of the article. Thank you Mariann.

This week I am in the middle of studying some changes being made to Indiana's log jam removal permitting process. Turns out there is a log jam of mis-information floating around the Indiana State House. I and several HCC members testified before a Senate committee Monday, asking to keep the present IDNR permitting process in place. We didn't change anyone's mind, they still want to remove most of the permitting. If you are asked to write a letter to your state Senator about log jam removal, please do not hesitate to do so; time will be short. If you have questions about the changes being proposed, give me a shout, I'll point you at the information- it is complicated. It may turn out that the good old Hoosier Canoe Club can make a real difference in the protection of our rivers this time!

Feature Article: Please be sure to read *"From Here to Modernity (Part I)—A 46-Year Paddle Trip with no Take Out in Site"* starting on Page 7 of this issue. In this article, Mariann Davis recounts a history of the HCC from 1963 through the early 80's.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

I better warn you all that I am starting to enjoy cross country skiing almost as much as I like to paddle. My skis have taken up a place in the rack right over top of my favorite carbon paddle. And it is not just me. Are we to become the Hoosier Canoe and Kayak and Ski Club? Good thing this snow will melt one day. (it will melt, right??)

Dan Valleskey

danpaddles@gmail.com

Thatcher Pool Kayak Sessions restart March 3!

Between 10 and 20 boats have been showing up for the Saturday pool sessions at the Fort Harrison YMCA and these sessions will continue through the end of February. This has included sea kayakers as well as whitewater paddlers. These sessions are important since you have to practice capsizing and rescue/recovery/rolling in a "friendly" environment before you can hope to succeed in conditions that will actually cause you to capsize.

The great news is that we will be back into a renovated Thatcher Pool starting on Wednesday, March 3, 2010. The pool sessions will last from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm and have a \$10 fee per session. If you have never been to the Thatcher Pool sessions, it is located at 4649 West Vermont Street, Indianapolis.

As always, check the White Water section of the Bulletin Board before heading over to the pool.

5th Annual HCC / Whitewater Warehouse Boat Demo—

The club is still planning on holding the Whitewater Warehouse Boat Demo this year. However, the pool where we were going to have this event is not available and we are currently working on arranging another facility at this time.

Stay tuned and we will send an e-mail out to the club membership with the date, location, and full details when they are available. We will also post updates in the [Whitewater section](#) of the HCC Bulletin Board.

If you have questions, please contact Jordan Ross at jross@lquest.net.

HCC Fishing and Paddling

John Wainscott

On my first trip with the HCC down Raccoon Creek during the Covered Bridge Festival, I donned my favorite ultra light rod. Before we got started, the swift current and a tree branch decided to pluck me out of the boat and capsize my kayak. I recovered all but an aluminum hand paddle and my favorite rod and reel. The rest of the trip was wet, cold and fast.

I learned very quickly that there is no time to fish on HCC paddling trips. It is very hard for me to paddle by a log jam and not cast into that eddy that may be holding a 4-pound small mouth. I have been on several trips since and my desires to make a cast here and there do not change. Occasionally I'll throw in a two piece fly rod or ultra light just in case that opportunity happens.

One thing I have found that I am not alone in my obsession for paddle fishing. I have talked with many members who share my same passion. Jay and Gina Moyer are one such couple who share the fishing bug. The Moyers take many fishing trips on their own as I do. All the while, wishing HCC had some trips planned just for fishing.

Well, now is the time I think we fisherman and fisherwomen come out of the closet and admit our obsession and start paddle fishing together. One suggestion is to all meet at day break on one of the already scheduled trips that may have fish appeal. By early, we can get out fishing during prime time and by the time the rest of the group catches up we can all paddle together. Jay has suggested a fishing/camping trip to Lake Waveland this spring. Jay and I can act as co-chair persons on this for HCC. Any and all suggestions on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

You can contact me at wldleak@sbcglobal.net, Cell: (317) 250-8107 or Jay at moyer_farm@sbcglobal.net, Phone (765) 376-6316.



Flatwater Trip Announcements

Big Walnut Creek

Saturday, March 6, 2010

Trip Leader: Dave Ellis

Over the last 40 years, I've paddled all sections of Big Walnut from North Salem to the confluence with Eel River just below the dam for Cataract Lake. Well, almost. I haven't done the section through Greencastle which includes a 4-foot dam. Ninety-five percent of the floatable mileage is in Putnam County. My favorite section is near Bainbridge from north of US 36 to south of that highway. It flows through a Nature Conservancy property. North of US 36 this is a woodland stream; south it alternates between woodland and cropland.

In 2008, we had a nearly perfect trip from McCloud Nature Park to the second bridge above US36. This year, I'll have a bias for doing the next section down stream ... from 2 bridges above US36 to 2 bridges below it. In 2009, we did Sugar Creek from Deer's Mill to Cox Ford due to low water on Big Walnut.

Although we'll see a rock outcropping or two, the main hazard will be fallen trees and perhaps a log jam or two. I'll scout the trip before the 5th and share specific worry spots with participants at the put-in. I'll have chosen the specific section for us to paddle at that time depending on water levels and weather. Cold weather paddling protocol will still be in effect (i.e., no cotton plus a change of clothes.)

Here are two web links referring to this area:

<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/indiana/work/art7796.html>

http://www.indianaoutfitters.com/big_walnut_creek.htm.

Meeting Place/Time: The Hardee's on the east edge of Danville—9:30 am

Trip Length: 7-8 miles

Contact Information: Call me at 317-858-0963, (Cell 317-374-4956) or e-mail me at RiverPaPaw@aol.com by 6:00 pm Friday if you are going to join us as there may be last minute changes in plans.

Upper Sand Creek Trip

Saturday, April 3, 2010

Trip Sponsor: Richard Tekulve

Venture Southeast to Decatur County to paddle one of Indiana's premier float streams. We will experience a 10.6 mile trip on the upper part of Sand Creek that is referred to as the "Canyon Section". A sand/gravel bottom, steep limestone bluffs, and clear flowing water traditionally characterize this creek. This will be a different trip from past years as the creek will be narrower and more challenging averaging 40-80 ft. wide with a decent gradient of 8.1 feet per mile. Our put-in will be at a new Decatur Co. Park and Rec. site with a small paved parking lot.

Note: Upper Sand Creek like all Southeast Indiana streams is mood stricken with low water and can be totally unpredictable even at the Springtime levels. Several area streams can be substituted if proper flow patterns do not exist. I will scout Sand Creek and other nearby streams such as Vernon Fork Muscatatuck, Laughery, Otter, Graham, Clifty, Big, Flatrock, Driftwood, and East Fork White on Friday April 2nd.

Meeting Time: 9:30 A.M.

Shuttle: 19 miles (round trip)

Tentative meeting place: Iron Bridge Park at County Road 500 S., bridge over Sand Creek.

Directions: From the junction of SR3 and SR 46 (West of Greensburg), take SR 3 South 3 miles to CR 500 S. Turn left (East) onto County Road 500 S. and go 1 ¾ miles to the Iron Bridge Park put-in. The take out will be at the Westport dam (public access site) just downstream from the Westport covered bridge.

Trip length: 10.6 miles

Contact information: Richard Tekulve. Please email me at canoeindiana@yahoo.com or call (812) 346-7921 (home) or (812)592-0661 (cell) by 10 PM Friday night to see if an alternative route is to be put into effect. If you need to contact me on the day of the trip, please call my cell (812) 592-0661.



Flatwater/Touring Kayak Trip Announcement

First Day of Spring Paddle at Summit Lake

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Trip Sponsor: Joel DeLashmit

Summit lake is an 800-acre lake with four islands and many coves along it's shore. The lake is amazingly clear and usually your paddle can be seen at least 3 feet under water. There is lots of wildlife. Last year, we saw an osprey, great blue heron, green heron, cormorants as well as ducks, geese, red wing black birds, and bryozoa. Motors are only allowed to operate at idle speed so we can feel a bit safer.

Just a word of caution, if conditions are windy waves can become moderate (1-2 feet) and may prove challenging depending on your boat and skills. Boats can be launched from a dock, concrete ramp or the shore line.

Note: You will need a 2010 State Park boat permit which can be obtained for \$5.00 but must be purchased before the trip. I spoke with the staff and they said there would be no gate fee this early in the season and that they would not be their on the weekends until May. Thunder or lightning will result in a canceled or delayed trip.

Meeting Place: We will meet at the main boat ramp. Turn right at the first T past the gate house. Summit Lake is about 1 hour and 10 minutes from Indianapolis.

Trip Length: 2-3 hours, 6-10 miles

Contact Information: Contact me by 8:30 pm March 19th if you plan to join us.

Joel DeLashmit (317-656-1597, joeldelashmit@gmail.com)

For Directions and More Information: Please visit: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2967.htm>

Last Year's Pictures: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/merlin3d/sets/72157620786019117/>
<http://picasaweb.google.com/JoelDeLashmit/SummitLake07032009#>

Whitewater Trip

Big Drop and Orange Crush's Week of Rivers (TN, NC, & KY)

Sat. March 27 – Sun. April 4, 2010

Trip Sponsors: Randy Parker, Bob Heckler

This will be an all week trip of rivers in the Tennessee, North Carolina, and Kentucky area which will include the Tellico, Ocoee, Watuga, Doe, etc., whatever is running and how many of these streams we can get to in a weeks time.

Paddling options include:

Watuga, Nolichucky (III-IV), Cumberland Plateau - Obed, Clear Creek, and Daddy's Creek (II-IV+), Piney River of Island Creek (III-IV), Tellico, Ocoee (III+), Rockcastle River in Kentucky (III-IV)

Check the Whitewater Section of the HCC Bulletin Board for details or contact the trip sponsors.

Eagle Creek Triathlons

John Wainscott

The 2010 Triathlons at Eagle Creek will be coordinated by me. Jan Sneddon did a great job last year so I have a lot to look up to. If you didn't know, the HCC provides safety boats (canoes and kayaks) for the swimming portion of the race. In return, HCC gets a healthy check at the end of the year which goes into the general fund.

This is a great time to get out and paddle with members and not have to drive very far or do any shuttles. Typically, some paddlers venture out onto Eagle Creek's northern section after the event. This area is full of wildlife and provides some beautiful scenery and bird watching. I usually arrive at day light, donned with a fishing pole and try my "luck" until it's time to start the Triathlon.

This is not a hard thing to do nor do you need to be a life guard or experienced. Just bring your boat, a smile and have a great time. My contact info is: wldleak@sbcglobal.net, cell 317-250-8107. I'll be sending out calls for volunteers closer to each event, but feel free to sign up now! Looking forward to seeing you out there at Eagle Creek.

Keep in mind the following dates for this event: June 19th, July 17th, August 21st, and 28th. We have included these dates in the General Club calendar on the web and in this newsletter.



2010 HCC Schedule

Please look through the schedules below. Terry Busch, Trips Chairman, has worked with the Whitewater, Flatwater, and Touring Kayak (Bluewater) chairmen to come up with what may be the best calendar that we've had in years. Be sure to look at the trip to the Nantahala Outdoor Center (July 9-11) and the Labor Day trip to the New River since these trips have been designed to be fun for both Flatwater, Bluewater, and Whitewater paddlers.

General Schedule (Meetings, Clean Up, Triathlons, ...)

Note: *Italicized entries* are not HCC sponsored events.

Date	Trip	Trip Sponsor(s)
March	Whitewater Warehouse Pool Demo (<i>See Article—Page 2</i>)	Jordan Ross
<i>Mar. 12-14</i>	<i>Canoecopia, Madison, WI</i>	-
June 5	Fall Creek Clean Up	Dan Evard
June 19	Sprint Triathlon, Eagle Creek	John Wainscott
July 17	Sprint Triathlon, Eagle Creek	John Wainscott
July 24	Summer Meeting – Paddle / Lake Monroe	Jim Sprandel, Kevin Dogan
Aug. 21	Sprint Triathlon, Eagle Creek	John Wainscott
Aug. 28	Go Girl Triathlon, Eagle Creek	John Wainscott
Sept. 18-19	Hoosier Outdoor Experience	Dan Valleskey
Nov. 13	HCC Annual Meeting	Dan Valleskey

Flatwater Schedule

Note: *Italicized entries* are not HCC sponsored events.

Date	Trip	Trip Sponsor(s)
Jan. 1, 2010	New Year's Day Paddle, White River	Dwayne James
Feb. 27	Ice Falls on Sugar Creek	Dwayne James
Mar. 6	Big Walnut Creek	Dave Ellis
Mar 20	First Day of Spring Trip – Summit Lake, New Castle IN	Joel DeLashmit
Apr. 3	Upper Sand Creek – Canyon Trip	Richard Tekulve
Apr. 10	April Fools Trip on Big Pine	Garry Hill
Apr. 17	Big Blue, Shelbyville	Joel DeLashmit
May 8	Intermediate Moving Water Clinic	-
May 9	Upper Whitewater River	Richard Tekulve, Garry Hill
May 15	South Fork of Wildcat Creek	Jeff Matthews
May 22	Driftwood River, Columbus, IN	Linda Smith, Dan Evard
May 28-31	Memorial Day Trip—New River/Gauley River Area Whitewater Kayaking and Rafting	John and Shirley Gates
June 5	Fall Creek Clean Up	Dan Evard
June 19-20	Blue River, Milltown, IN	Jim Sprandel, Sue Foxx
<i>June 25-26</i>	<i>Ohio Riverway Paddlefest, Cincinnati, OH</i>	-
<i>June 27</i>	<i>South Bend Paddlefest</i>	-
July 9-11	Combined WW/FW Trip - Nantahala Outdoor Center	Jim Clendenin
July 17-19	White River – East Fork (Overnight)	Richard Tekulve, Garry Hill, Earl King
July 24	Summer Meeting – Lake Monroe	-
July 31	Cataract Falls/Cagles Mill Lake Trip	Jim Sprandel
<i>Aug. 6-8</i>	<i>Indiana Paddler's Rendezvous</i>	<i>Garry Hill</i>
Aug. 14	Whitewater River/Metamora Ice Cream	Brett Thompson
Aug. 14-15	ERWWCK Safety Clinic	Jordan Ross
Aug. 21	Kids Back-to-School Paddle, White River	Dan Valleskey
Sept 4-6	Combined FW/WW Trip: New River (NC)	Dan Steely
Oct 16	Covered Bridge Festival, Raccoon Creek	Dwayne James, Jim Clendenin
Oct. 30	Pigeon/Fawn Fish Fry	Dan Valleskey
Nov. 6	White River, Downtown Indianapolis	Joel DeLashmit



Touring Kayak (Bluewater) Schedule

Note: *Italicized entries* are not HCC sponsored events.

Date	Trip	Trip Sponsor(s)
Mar. 20	First Day of Spring Paddle, Summit Lake, New Castle, IN	Joel DeLashmit
Apr. 17-18	Lake Monroe Overnight Trip	Kevin Dogan
May 22-23	Grayson Lake, Kentucky A joint event with Cincinnati Paddling Group	Todd and Cheryl Sullivan
May 29	Touring Kayak Open Water Rescue Training	Joel DeLashmit, Jim Sprandel
<i>June 5</i>	<i>NWIPA Dunes State Park Paddle</i>	-
June 10-13	Carlisle Lake 3-Day Paddle, Carlisle, IL	Joel DeLashmit
July 24	HCC Summer Meeting, Lake Monroe Paddle/Picnic/Meeting	Kevin Dogan, Jim Sprandel
July 31	Cataract Falls/Cagles Mill Lake Trip	Jim Sprandel
<i>Aug. 21-22</i>	<i>NWIPA Michigan City – South Haven Paddle (2-day, 50 mile paddle)</i>	-
Sept. 10-12	Lake Michigan, Manitou Island	Brad Hughey
Oct. 2-3	Lake Patoka Overnight Trip	Kellie Kaneshiro, Jim Sprandel
Oct. 23-24	Lake Monroe Overnight Trip	Jim Sprandel

Whitewater Schedule

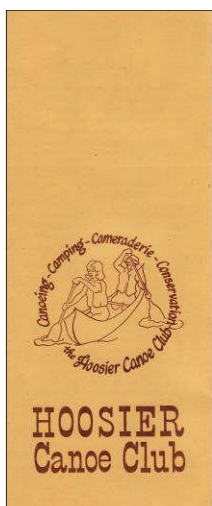
Note: *Italicized entries* are not HCC sponsored events.

Date	Trip	Trip Sponsor(s)
Feb. 27-28	National Paddling Film Festival (Frankfort, KY), Big South Fork (III-IV - Oneida, TN)	Jordan Ross
Mar.	Whitewater Warehouse Pool Demo, Watch Bulletin Board	Jordan Ross
Mar. 27-Apr. 4	Week of Rivers - Southern Waters (III-IV+ - KY, TN, and NC)	Randy Parker, Bob Heckler
Apr. 10	April's Fool Trip, Big Pine Creek (IN)	Garry Hill
Apr. 10-11	Webster Wildwater Festival (II-IV - Webster, WV;)	Jordan Ross
Apr. 16-17	M.A.C.K. Fest; Marmora, Canada	Randy Parker, Bob Heckler
Apr. 17	Elkhorn Beginners Icebreaker (Frankfort, KY)	Rob Friedman
Apr. 23-25	Clear Creek ((II –Wartburg, TN)	Dan Valleskey
Apr.30-May 2	Cheat Fest, Albright W.V.	Jordan Ross .Sharon Schierling
May 8-9	Boater Chick Fest, Ocoee and Cheoah (TN)	Sharon Schierling, Monica Davis
May 14-16	Ridge Fest, Bryson City NC (II, Nantahala)	-
May 14-16	Class II Trip on Nantahala	Barry Welling
May 29-31	Wisconsin Memorial Day Trip (II-IV, Wolf, Red, Pestigo and Menominee)	Jordan Ross
<i>June 19-20</i>	<i>East Race Opening Week-End</i>	-
July 9-11	Combined HCC WW/FW Trip—Nantahala Outdoor Center	Jim Clendenin
July 9-17	Maine Rivers Trip (Kennebec, Dead, Penobscot)	Bob Heckler, Randy Parker
<i>July 17-20</i>	<i>Bear Paw Women's WW Clinic (Wolf River, WI)</i>	-
July 24-25	New River, WV (III-IV)	Jordan Ross
July 31-Aug. 1	Hiwassee (II) & Ocoee (III+)	Sharon Schierling , Jordan Ross
Aug. 6-8	Upper (IV-V) and Lower (III) Yough, PA	Sharon Schierling , Jordan Ross
Aug. 14-15	ERWWCK Safety Clinic	Jordan Ross
Aug. 21-22	Over The Falls Fest - Lower Yough, PA	Matt Slagel
Sept 4-6	Combined HCC FW/WW Trip: New River (NC)	Dan Steely
Sept 11-12	Gauley First Release, WV (III-V)	Sharon Schierling, Jordan Ross
Sept 17-19	Gauley Fest - Gauley River, WV, (III-V)	Randy Parker, Bob Heckler
Oct. 2-3	Gauley Fall Colors, Gauley River, WV, (III-V)	Jordan Ross
Oct 16-17	Bridge Day (New River Gorge)/Gauley Last Release	Jordan Ross
Oct. 23-24	Russell Fork (II-III, VA)	Suzi Rapp
Oct. 30-31	Ocoee Halloween Paddle	Randy Parker, Bob Heckler
Nov. 5-8	Tohicken Creek, Allentown PA, (III-IV)	Randy Parker

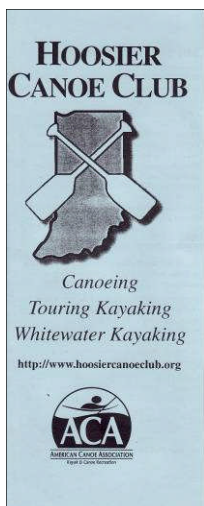




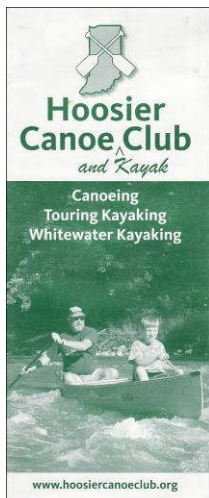
1966 Postcard



1975 Brochure



1990 Brochure



2009 Brochure

From Here to Modernity (Part I) A 46-Year Paddle Trip with no Take Out in Site

Mariann Davis

Editor's Note: The year that a member joined the club is italicized and shown in parentheses after the first appearance of a member's name

In 1845 John MacGregor, a Scottish lawyer, introduced canoeing as a recreational sport across "the pond." Twenty-one years later, he founded the first recorded canoe club and in 1871 the New York Canoe Club was founded. Little did he know that his recreational club would become the model for the Hoosier Canoe Club and the beginning of recreational canoeing that we have come to enjoy today.

If our HCC history were to write itself purely without benefit of the observer, story-teller, and historian, it would read with all the inelegance of a blah calendar of events. As I see it, a living viable history does not give birth to itself without the labor of many hours of research. When I consented to this ambitious project at the June 2009 board meeting, I was one of the newest members of the club and the newest member of the HCC Board. With that impulsive response, I embarked on an eight-month mystery trip upstream, to bring home our history.

This is what I found

1963-1967: Pre-history (before the written word – folklore and interviews)

On November 3, 1963, sixteen paddlers met at the home of Dick and Mary Lou McClammy to discuss plans for the creation of a canoe club. We raise our paddles in great homage to: Mrs. Walter Pippert, Walter and Lora Palmer, Al and Mary Gulliver, Robert and Jerry Miller, Sam and Edna McKinney, Howard Hill, Dean and Gertrude Wilested, Max and Lovella Forsyth, Dick and Mary Lou McClammy.

Unimpressed by the historic significance of this event, the secretary logged only one more entry: the details of the food and refreshments served.

And so 9 months after conception, the Hoosier Canoe Club was viably born and baptized with the name we carry today on July 26, 1964 in Yellowwood State Forest. As the club gathered that day for one of its many canoe safety lectures, members tacitly vowed to support safety and education as mainstream fare. The club recommended these classes be taught by competent instructors and *Howard Hill (1963)* stepped forward as one of the early (if not the first) paddle and safety instructors in the club.

In July 2009, I met with *Maxine Hill (1963)*, Howard's 91 year old widow and one of the founding members. Maxine praised her husband as an important contributor since he taught numerous safety classes through the Dolphin Club in Indianapolis (possibly the first teaching pool used by the HCC). The Westside Krannert YMCA and the Indiana University pool were to follow.

Maxine and I spoke on a delightfully divergent topic about family values and the important role canoeing has in family cohesion and entertainment. Their first "Old Town" wooden canoe still maintains historic family significance (and possibly some use) with her grandson, a Yellowstone National Park ranger. There were joyful remembrances of overnight canoe/camping trips where 50% of the members participated. "It is so peaceful on the water" she said, and I nodded in confirmation, unwilling to lose the moment to superficial commentary.



Maxine Hill 2009



Prior to February 1967, there was very little recorded history. And so as the river flows, so flows our history with all its deposits. The secretarial minutes consisted mostly of trip reports and maybe a cursory mention of an approved member. I had to scramble to find those club members who had not yet “crossed over” to the other side. We would not know where our club was headed before its arrival..

1967 -1970: It's a family affair

In 1967, members were still being approved by club vote and membership remained secure between 20 and 25 families. There is no evidence of a formal newsletter yet and members were notified by phone, at monthly meetings, or through an occasional mailing. Paddling trips were planned and led by each family approximately every weekend, and there was no evidence of a long range trip schedule as we enjoy today.

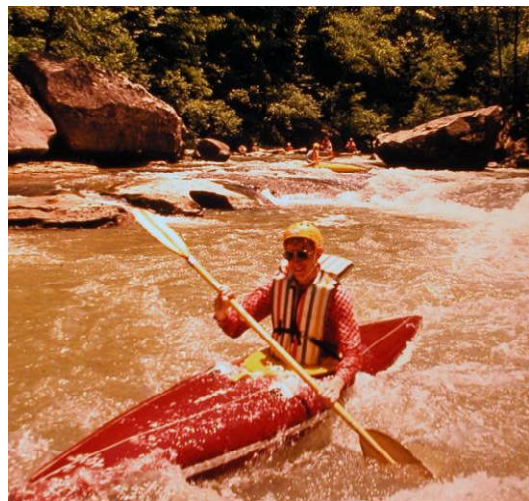
In January 1968, 30 members comprising multiple families met for a monthly meeting in Bradford Woods. Where have all the families gone? This was the question I posed to veteran club members, *George and Juanita Flexman (1969)*.

With a collective age of around 175+ years, both George and Juanita were able to summon many dusty memories with enthusiastic recall. “It was an article in the Indianapolis Star” that prodded their inquiry into the club as they had already attacked the Boundary Waters in their 17-foot Grumman. They were looking for further adventure and family recreation. As for “where have all the families gone”, a consensus opinion of the early HCC paddlers, including the Flexman's, points to the unintentional consequences of the kayak. (perhaps, an article for debate at another time).

George, a former cellist with the Indianapolis symphony, was proud of his 10-year contribution to the HCC as editor, retiring at 80 after producing over 80 issues of the newsletter. While both were able to contribute first hand commentary with their paddling adventures, George regaled me with his fish ladder kayak jumping (which I hear is still a regular treat) off the Raccoon Creek



George and Juanita Flexman—1970



*George Flexman Jr. in home-made Kayak—
Circa 19972*

Dam and Juanita with her rubber ducky experience on the Youghiogheny River. The Flexman's were fearless, states their son, George, and the HCC honored them in the 1970 awards banquet with a plaque stating: “The most consistent participation in spite of numerous dumpings and disappearing acts while canoeing ... and unflagging spirit.” For many years, the annual New Year's Day trip after-party was held at their house.

“I rode garbage”, *George Flexman, Jr's (1969)* said. I am not speaking disparagingly of this 41-year long time HCC member, only quoting him in the canoeing vernacular. This was his way of earning his own right to paddle. Apparently, a non contributing member of a paddling trio sits in the middle of the canoe (like flotation), earning his own right to paddle, pretending to enjoy this non-participatory contribution in this otherwise participatory sport. Somehow from that undignified position (being excess baggage), he became a very good white water paddler. I guess it can be a very motivational experience.

1969-1972: Along came a Kayak

For those who long for the “way we were” days, the HCC archives finds *Charlie Moore*, who on July 3, 1969, dared be different and arrived on the Embarras River (east central Illinois) trip with a kayak. This



inaugural event may have started the club in the direction it's now going, even begging the question: will you be having a kayak (or that other type of boat) with your paddle?

A note from history tells us that Charlie could explain the kayak in terms of Darwinian evolution: adaptation. Although canoes have been around for thousands of years with closed decks only in the past 300 years has the kayak become their obvious progeny. The Freudian observation could be that a kayak is strong statement in favor of independence and self-sufficiency...a lesser psychological construct may determine that "sometimes a kayak is just a kayak". No matter, Charlie's name echoes throughout the



Bob Frederick in 1st Generation Whitewater Kayak—1974

early days as he delivers the future direction of the HCC in the form of his own hand crafted fiberglass kayak in 1969 ... as you will later read, a few other creative souls did follow.

George Flexman, Jr. remembers *Bob Frederick's* (1969) successful ambitious effort of designing and building the mold for the early kayaks in the club in the early 70's. George built his own fiberglass kayak in about 1972 from this mold becoming one of the first generation kayakers in the white water section of the club. Bob Frederick is given much credit—as are some others who haven't been identified yet—for being the impetus for the kayak evolution in the HCC.

George became very introspective when asked about how the community benefits from the club. He remembers the early mantra to be "come

learn to paddle"—that getting the word out was a conflict between recruiting members and crowding the rivers with unskilled paddlers and that working as a team in canoeing was replaced by individual separation with the kayak.

A moment in history: the honor of the first club member to roll his kayak is believed to belong to Dick Tileston. I'm always sure that truth is history agreed upon. So for now, the truth is spoken. And in a 1984 HCC newsletter, it was proudly documented that 40 people have mastered the art (and controlled terror) of rolling.

1969-present: Hiding in plain sight

Understated but omnipresent throughout the years, *Dave Ellis* (1969) emerges with quiet consistency in almost every aspect of the Club's history since 1969: holding board and executive board positions, two separate terms as president, membership chairman, newsletter editor, purser, education/safety contributor. Almost every board position has had a Dave Ellis signature.

I don't believe in profiling but I do believe that the "granola" side of Dave emerged with political crunch when we spoke of river conservation efforts. On a personal and club level, river clean-ups provide an immediate short term solution to long-term ecological damage.

Bill Lawless (1971) suggests that the HCC



Dave and Cindy Ellis—1974



was green before it was posh. After you see the junk thrown in our beloved White River up close, you can understand the position one has to take. Bill said . “Canoes and kayaks leave no carbon foot print after they are built. It becomes apparent that when you paddle a river of any size, you cannot look at any stream in the same way again.” Streams in Indiana change because the river bed is soft limestone and will change naturally over many years. I presume he is saying that we should let Mother Nature not human nature make the changes.

But Dave has a practical partial solution to the junked up rivers. He feels that an Indiana bottle law might provide the immediate deterrent to the trashing of our rivers and streams. Political debates are necessary but public education at the point of purchase, sponsored by companies who produce the end product of litter, might make a bigger impact...this is an article for another time.

To serve our own members better is a way to keep membership vibrant and consistent, he says. It seems that the younger paddlers, not surprisingly, are gravitating to the white water group of the club, where more specialized skills are needed. Surely there is a psychological profile out there of those who are willing to engage in the most challenging (yet most thrilling aspect of any sport). You only have to surf the upper channels of the cable networks to find the *extreme* extension of any sport or activity. (Anyone curious about what extreme chess would look like?) Dave states that currently the club has around 290 members from which approximately 100 members participate in one or more trips/events a year. In 2006, membership swelled to above 350 members before it retreated.

But as any living organism changes and grows within itself, so the club is seen as an organization never fighting to be still. Our lack of inertia causes our movement in many directions. Some of our initiatives are self-serving like entertainment and recreation—going back to the original mission of the club and some are community serving and outreach. We are multifaceted, for sure.

So, as Dave quietly walks among us trying only to call attention to the club, to grow membership, not position, we wonder what his next job will be. He might not recall the promise he made, in some by-gone HCC minutes, so long ago, of returning to his skipper-ing in 2024. In those 1999 minutes, he is quoted, on the record, as saying: “I can do this job about every 24 years.” I’m sure we won’t let him forget it.

What the HCC does for the community

With 40+ flatwater trips a year including other miscellaneous, water events and numerous bluewater trips, the HCC provides a lot of interconnectivity and play, while at the same time focusing on conservation issues and service in the community.

Almost every year since 1964, the club has provided an annual Fall Creek or river clean- up crew (beginning 1970); worked the Hoosier Regatta through sponsorship and our affiliation with the USCA; or provided safety at a triathlon. Promoting safety is a continual mission for the club.

The HCC, also contributed to 3-4 marriages among its club members—at that rate we’ll never revert to a family club in this century, nor is that a goal. In addition to 75 planned trips (including white water) and other events in 2009, the club provided educational classes at the Blind School pool and Thatcher pool and paddle experience for interested and underserved kids. We also provide paddle experience to the kids, and safety/educational classes to the membership and community. Often times, we can be the club that just can’t say “no.”

The Highlights List at the end of this article includes other club service activities.

Finally, a point of order...

Dave Ellis and Bill Lawless created an 11-page Long Range Planning report over 15 years ago to provide a guide for the officers and board in carrying out the important functions of the HCC. I found it very helpful in understanding the functions of each board and executive member. Clearly, Dave said that it is only a guide for each office and chair as officers and members bring their own skills and personality to bear on the club’s growth and development.



Kayaking in the HCC

Build it and they will come – The Kayak: a homebrew

It was not until 1972 that white water kayaking even became a recognized sport in the Summer Olympics. So it's no wonder that it took a few years and some do-it-yourself ingenuity to initiate and grow this specialty group in the club. We must give some credit to *Charlie Moore (1964; skipper 1967)* while, through his early membership in the USCA and interest in the racing and competitive side of paddling, he teased the group in the direction of kayaking and encouraged the affiliation with the USCA. In 1965, probably exercising some of his competitive muscle, Charlie crafted the first fiberglass racing canoe in the club. Little else is mentioned except that he would be selling the plug to interested members. Playing on his entrepreneurial spirit, Charlie, through his own retail canoe business, modeled some of his canoe/kayak line from famous European boats of the time (namely, the Encleff from England). Although Charlie is credited with introducing the first commercially made kayak to the club in August 1969, there is no more mention of kayaks until 1972. So with limited availability of white water kayaks, it made sense to figure it out yourself.

So let's build it and they will come to the whitewater side of paddling. For a beginner or low intermediate level paddler, white water was not a hard sell to the club's members at this time. It was love at first sight on the Youghiogheny River in 1971. A few HCC paddlers met the father of their new love child: the rubber ducky—an 8 foot inflatable, French-made kayak. The paddler sits deep inside the air chamber to experience a ride down the rapids. After observing the fun, speed, and presumed safety of these alien watercrafts, those members—not usually found canoeing the class II-III rapids of the popular rivers—lined up en masse to rent the experience of a new adventure. All the early members especially the women that I interviewed agreed that in some part those little inflatable one-person boats seduced them into the uncharted territory of white water for either a brief love affair or long-term commitment. Successors [of the duckies] grew to covet these single manned, forgiving crafts.

On that day on the Yough (1971), they also witnessed the performance and challenge of a few hard shell kayaks overtaking the duckies. Charlie Moore had kayaked with the club on a few other occasions but kayaks were still, for all intents and purposes, absent. These boats were difficult to find and virtually unavailable. Undaunted, a few members took this matter – limited kayak supply vs. growing demand – literally, in their own hands.

Bob Frederick (1969) credits his ability to inhale the Club's share of toxic resins and layers of epoxy to the indomitable spirit and relentless endurance of building the first kayak of the HCC. Elmer Mackison, a high school shop teacher, provided his own hand-made drawings to build the frame that provided the mold that produced the boat that Fred built...now that may sound like a children's nursery rhyme but the creation is far from child's play. Fred remembers packing up his family in the middle of the night for immediate evacuation to a hotel to escape the fumes of the chemical reaction. From that event, all subsequent boat building took place in a rental garage near the Mt. Comfort airport. At this point, the boat building became a group event with 2-3 club members participating in the process (which has to take place in about 3 hours due to the fast setup time of the chemical materials used). Early club member, *Walter Palmer (1963)*, remembers participating in boatbuilding at the Broad Ripple park boat house in the early 70's, also.

Early Whitewater Contributors and Organizers (from canoe to kayak)

One early skipper, board member, and newsletter editor, credits scouting as his entry point into canoeing. (This very fertile group of potential paddlers suggests a very interesting recruiting strategy for sus-



Rubber Ducky



tainable membership). *Chuck Conklin (1968)*, learned his basic paddling skills in the boy scouts, taught canoeing and was director of aquatics at the Boy Scouts National Jamboree. He had also done a lot of white water canoeing on the Potomac River. Coming to the Midwest from the DC area, portaging a 17-foot Grumman, shu keel, he was anxious to continue his interest in paddling. In the middle 60's everything was open (open deck) at the time and Chuck was looking for paddling partners in his new location, having already paddled many favorite white water rivers including the Yough. Joining the club in late 1968, he found it was an ideal directory for new, potential white water paddling partners. Chuck remembers meeting Walt Citron and Dick Tileston and taking them to the upper section of the Yough probably in 1970. This early group returned with a new interest for the club: white water. He remembers selling the program easily as the white water pot was already being stirred but not regularly sampled. The rest is another piece of history in the birthing of white water.

From there, Chuck became white water chairman and attended the Red River College of River Knowledge in 1974 where he further developed his safety and trip leadership skills. This was to add to his resume in becoming a highly qualified trip leader. It is no wonder that for all his white water paddling on the East Coast and his commensurate teaching ability that, in 1975, Chuck received Paddler of the Year award.

Chuck recalls his family canoeing almost every weekend with other HCC club member families. His daughter, at 6 months, even joined in on one trip. Some trips *were organized and some were "pick up" trips planned outside the club schedule*. One memorable trip involved a few families and two military rafts acquired from his days in the military.



Chuck gives a lot of credit to Dave Ellis, who for a lack of only five years, is the only constant in the club from inception: the living bridge connecting past and present. One significant contribution that Chuck shared with Dave Ellis and Chuck Lunsford was the authorship of the *Indiana Canoe Guide*, published in the mid 70's by the Department of Natural Resources. This pamphlet evolved from the early trip formatting Chuck and Dave developed to ensure that safe and rewarding trips were conducted by each trip leader. Additionally, the pamphlet contained a thorough description of some of the better rivers and streams featuring put-ins and take outs, important geo features and overall personality of these waterways. This 40-page pamphlet seemed to be a very worthwhile and necessary contribution of the club and was used by the DNR for many years. At least two editions were available.

Chuck claims that the trip leaders were the heart of the club, working hard to provide its paddlers with safe and unforgettable paddling experiences. I believe he has a strong basis for this claim.

As the whitewater section of the club began to evolve more formally in the early 1970s, the equipment evolved as well—slowly, however. Frequently, throughout the year, Bob Frederick would make equipment runs to a dealer in Fort Wayne for paddling basics. But he recalls with a smile, using inner tubes or bags of peanuts (probably the shells) as flotation while donning hockey helmets for head protection. Although he was frustrated with the tedium of the organizational structure developing within the HCC (a frustration which inspired him to create the Wild American Paddlers, where one could paddle without the bureaucracy of a governing body or litigious concerns), his ingenuity and improvisation in providing equipment to the HCC leaves no doubt to where his loyalty lies.

About white water in general, Bill Lawless says that "there is a relationally proportionate connection between white water paddles and the difficulty of the water that is more than friendship. Be you novice or expert, you have to trust your peers."

I believe that probably no one knows that better than our own current white water aficionado and devo-



tee, *Jordan Ross (1984)*, who estimates that there are approximately 60 full, part, or former white water paddlers in the club. Currently, 6-12 paddlers will make the long distance treks 3-4 times a month in search of the whitest of water. Often, over 400 miles separates these fearless paddlers from their warm cozy digs and, otherwise, normal day-to-day lives.

Women of the Whitewater

One-fifth of the club's white water paddlers are women and, candidly, that's what it would take for me to attempt the sport...about one fifth. Gender specificity ruled the sport in the early days since the gear was male-centric with too large of boats while other gear provided little gender crossover. The situation has completely changed today. The boats and gear are now appropriately sized for women and they now come to the sport independently (not as a date or partner). Women excel at whitewater paddling, Jordan thinks, because of their better balance, flexibility and dance instincts as muscle is less important on the river. Women paddlers gravitate to every level of this group and are very supportive of each other enjoying a collective community of clinics and festivals such as the popular "Boater Chick Fest".

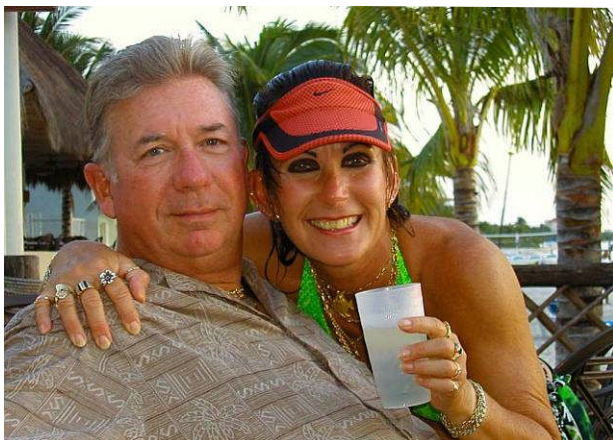
In recent years, the rollick and frolic of the whitewater group has become increasingly well known in paddling circles. Because of the club's ambitious paddling schedule, friendly and inclusive nature, and an energetic cast of characters making music and dancing late into the night, the HCC has become a magnet for many out of state paddlers. Our sought after Hoosier whitewater paddling club has become one the liveliest, most cohesive clubs in the country. As for me, coming from the "other, quieter side of the water," it looks like the white water women might have to share their fifths to gain more membership.

Sally forth, white water...slog on, flat and blue. Only kidding, of course!

Whitewater as an Institution

Every year, the HCC group paddles a variety of class III-IV whitewater in Pennsylvania, (the Lower Yough and Stonycreek, West Virginia (Cheat, New and Gauley, Tennessee, (Ocoee, Tellico, and Big South Fork), and Wisconsin (Wolf and Peshtigo). A number of class II trips also come together for training and fun such as the Big Pine in Indiana and the Elkhorn in Kentucky. The class II man-made white-water course in South Bend is a valuable asset for training beginning and experienced paddlers. The weekly pool sessions provide year round paddling education and practice opportunities.

Reggie Baker—"Everyone has to believe in something: I believe I will go kayaking today"



Team Baker

So, who might have said this often quoted statement (aka bumper sticker)? Maybe, Henry David Thoreau? Anyone of us on a beautiful seventy degree day with a promise of a balmy gentle wind at our backs? In the minds of many HCC members, no one deserves its rightful claim, on a daily basis, as much as *Reggie Baker (1983)*. As the club's skipper for 6 terms, Reggie logged more time than any other. Always the servant leader, he would deliver this non-renewable personal resource without fail over his 26 year membership: loving what he did; always doing what he loved. After joining the club in January of 1983, the newsletter reports his "jumping right in" and leading trips within 8 weeks. His teaching skills were superb and his interpersonal skills without measure. He crossed all the paddling groups and showed proficiency in all, allow-



Jordan Ross at Ohiopyle Falls



ing his patience to teach the most difficult paddling skills. He initiated many of the educational programs, often with Debbie, his wife. They together created the powerfully knowledgeable "Team Baker". His grace coupled with warm sincere personality drew many paddlers to his avuncular style and his great ability to design and build the better mousetrap. (Okay, paddle gear).

It is fact, that many club members coveted his paddling gear so much that they waited for years to get a cast off of Reggie's refurbished equipment since he made every piece better for having passed through his hands. The HCC history refers to Reggie as the club's second generation of excellent white water paddlers. He carried the dream forward with grace and dignity.

His death in February, 2009 was too early and his paddling time too short. Since everyone has to believe in something, I believe Reggie's gone kayaking today.

A Pause in the Eddy.— More to Come

Through this history, many of you have been introduced to our paddling ancestors, and what we know, for sure, is that our genetics have created more similarities than differences. That we have grown horizontally, to a greater extent—developing their goals (because they were good) and keeping the important mission of the club alive, especially on the conservation front. It appears, by their own admission, that the majority of our early relatives were whitewater paddlers before they were flat or blue water paddlers; that they were educators wanting to be students; that they knew the importance of exercise, recreation and friendships. And in looking back, what we see might just be a reflection of who we have already become, and that sometimes change isn't always progress.

This article will be following by Part II in the fall which will cover our middle and current history. In this article, we will meet the newer members that have helped grow or sustain our club from the early 1980s through 2010.

Some Interesting Highlights of the Early Years.

Membership Time Line:

1963—16 members, **1975**—125 members, **1986**—95 members, **1997**—190 members, **2006**—300 members, **2010**—292 members

- 11/3/1963** The Hoosier Canoe Club was conceived.
- 11/1964** The club's legislative governing body was formed with the development of the HCC constitution and by-laws.
- 2/1965** Charlie Moore began building racing canoes for the club as owner of the Moore's Canoes.
- 2/1965** The first training and safety chairman, Don Woodworth, was elected. He was followed by Jerry Miller in 1968.
- 1966** The HCC became member of the American Canoe Association
- 1967** HCC became member of the Western Paddling Union.
- 1967** Minutes established that the Secretary should serve as the designated historian of the Club. Hence, the beginning of some recorded history with more detailed minutes.
- 7/1969** The first midnight trip down the White river, led by Charlie Moore. 22 people (11 couples) attended plus 1 reporter from the Indianapolis Star.
- 1969** The club had the largest voting membership within the USCA of over 1000 affiliated clubs
- 1970** HCC sponsored an adventure for about 30 un-chaperoned boys from the Plainfield Boys School. The boys were well behaved and were extremely grateful
- 1970** Charles Moore became the first conservation chairman
- 12/1970** The first rumblings of a newsletter were beginning to spread and finally the HCC work will be spread as ad packets and other info are given to the incoming members. A long range trip calendar is beginning to form.
- 1971** Began teaching paddling to the partially sighted at the blind school pool.
- 1973** The DNR solicited HCC to offer suggestions on what river and streams should hold the des-



ignation of the most recreational and scenic streams and rivers in Indiana. The HCC was honored to participate in this huge conservation effort.

- 1975** The State of Indiana canoe guide was published for the state of Indiana with the help of club members, Chuck Conklin and Dave Ellis.
- 1976** Participated in drafting a “river rights bill” to be presented to the state legislature ensuring that the public right to use the public water resources, including the right to paddle through private property without interference or prosecution. The bill would secure the right to paddle through private land giving the public access to their own rivers and streams.
- 1976** Developed an ambitious Historic Bicentennial Wabash River Cruise from April 24-July 4 with state-wide participation. Canoeists retraced a portion of the 71-day winter trip made by British Colonel Hamilton and 200 men and 500 Indians who captured Fort Vincennes. Later, George Rogers Clark made his famous march, recapturing the territory for the struggling colonies. The River was divided into 11 sections and was run on 11 consecutive, 2-day weekends, beginning in Fort Wayne on April 24 and ending in Vincennes, July 4. What an incredibly successful event! This is a testimony to Bob Annis’ organization skills and the club’s ability to conceive and deliver a masterful, educational and recreational event.
- 1977** It was still necessary that a potential member show proficiency in order to be accepted for membership. Minutes did not say how they imposed this but it does point to the ideal for canoe safety and education.
- 1977** Safety posters published by the ACA were distributed by the club for educational purposes to all the liveries.
- 1978** The HCC joined the American Rivers Conservation Association whereby we were able to participate the selection of significant rivers and streams in Indiana for conservation purposes.
- 1982** The first New Year’s day trip
- 1983** The HCC was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation.
- 1983** The HCC demonstrated its political clout with big business by being instrumental in removing a locally aired commercial on TV tacitly supporting canoeing without a PFD. Let’s hear it for canoe safety!

HCC Skippers

1963	No named president	1977	Jerry Schoditsch	1996	Shirley Gates
1964,65	Robert Miller		(2nd half)	1997,98	Andrew Ritterman
1966,67	Al Gulliver	1978	Bill Bucher	1999	Dave Ellis
1968	Charles Moore	1979	Jerry Schoditsch	2000,01	Reggie Baker
1969	Sam McKinney	1980	Bill Lawless	2002	Shirley Gates
1970	Dick Tileston	1981,82	John Kriener	2003,04	Dwon Miller
1971	Walt Citron	1983, 84	Tom Baker	2005,06	Roger Ritchie
1972	Bob Annis	1985,86	Chuck Lunsford	2007,08	Reggie Baker
1973	Chuck Conklin	1987,88	Dennis Kirkman	2008,09	Reggie Baker
1974	Dave Ellis	1988,89	Kenny Hammel	2009,10	Dan Valleskey
1975	Sue Conklin	1990,91	Reggie Baker		
1976	Bill Lawless	1992,93	Shirley Gates		
1977	Don Helper (1st half)	1994,95	Chuck Webb		

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 Pages 8 bottom,9,11—Bob Fredericks, Page 13—Courtesy of Jordan Ross,
 Page 13 Bottom—Courtesy of Debby Baker.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday Nights 7-9 pm	Pool Sessions- Thatcher Pool The first session is Wednesday March 3.	Page 2
Time/Date to be Announced	5th Annual Whitewater Warehouse Demo , Indianapolis, IN Check the Bulletin Board	Page 2
Sat. Feb 26-Sun. Feb. 27	National Paddling Film Festival , Frankfort, KY Big South Fork, Clear Creek, Elkhorn Paddle	Feb. Newsletter
Sat. Feb. 27	Flatwater Trip: Sugar Creek Ice Falls Trip	Feb. Newsletter
Sat. Mar. 6	Flatwater Trip: Big Walnut Creek	Page 3
Fri. Mar. 12– Sun. Mar.14	Canoecopia , Madison, WI	Feb. Newsletter
Sat. Mar. 20	Touring Kayak/Flatwater Trip: 1st Day of Spring Paddle at Summit Lake	Page 4
Sat. Mar. 27—Sat. Apr. 3	Whitewater Trip: Big Drop and Orange Crush's Week of Rivers (TN, NC, & KY)	Page 4
Sat. Apr. 3	Flatwater Trip: Upper Sand Creek Trip	Page 3

March Newsletter Deadline: Please submit articles to Jim Sprandel by Tuesday, March 15, 2010. Please e-mail articles and pictures to merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net or call him at 317-257-2063.

