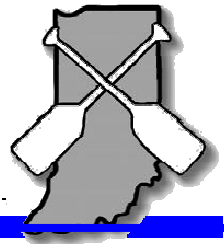


# The Hoosier Paddler



Volume 49, Issue 3

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

April 2011

## Hello, HCC

Theresa Kulczak

I am so ready for spring and paddling! For new members reading the newsletter, I'm excited for you! There's nothing like a day on the river (especially when the weather is great) to provide a great mental health day: the beauty of nature, peace and rejuvenation, camaraderie, laughter (hopefully *lots* of laughter), adventure (hopefully *lots* of adventure) and, in short, the very best thing you can do with your day or weekend. And the season is HERE!

There are two trips that I'm especially looking forward to in April. A perfect start to the month is the annual **April Fool's on Big Pine** on April 2. It's *The Event* for paddlers in the Spring -- a combination of whitewater and flatwater depending on river flow. Be sure to check in with trip leader Garry Muskrat Hill about water levels, skill, and gear in advance. Second, as long as I've paddled with the HCC, I've always hoped that Dave Ellis's trip on **Big Walnut** would be held in **April** (rather than in muddy-grey March) so that we can enjoy the beauty of this naturally scenic area at the peak of spring. This year, Dave's trip is on April 16 and we'll paddle a section taking us through two nature preserves. (Dave shared that this trip was one of Reggie's favorites). It should be a glorious day and I can't wait!



Earl King and Robert Henry

But let's go back upstream! If you're a new member, I bet there's a good chance you connected with the Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club at the Boat, Sport and Travel Show. We thank the directors of the show, in particular BSTS Director Mark Kaley, as well as Indiana Outfitters, the sponsors of the Quiet Sports Expo, for welcoming local clubs. Even though I'm Skipper, I think the HCC gave one of the best first efforts at the show with our booth display, boat-rolling demos, and volunteer presence. Special thanks goes to Dwayne James for serving as the HCC's lead representative and volunteer coordinator, and to Earl King for organizing our whitewater rolling demos in the scuba pool, building a boat rack, and showing up every day to support our volunteers. Our heartfelt thanks goes to the many volunteers who dedicated their time, especially those who hauled their own boats to the show. It was more fun than we thought it would be, at least for those of us who dunked in the pool, thanks to the friendly challenge set forth by Fluid Fun. And our appreciation to Garry Hill for the special presentations he put together on "Paddling Opportunities in Indiana." Who would have thought that 500 photos could be presented in one hour in such an entertaining and inspiring way?



Doug McKnight

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## The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

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Abed and Matt Slagel

(Hello, HCC—continued from first page)

Very soon you'll see the launch of the "Paddle Safe Indiana" campaign sponsored by the Hoosier Canoe & Kayak Club, headed up by Terry Busch and his committee comprised of Mariann Davis, Jordan Ross, and Dan Valleskey. This important safety campaign has been over a year in development. The goal is to create public awareness of the safety considerations for paddling on moving water, hopefully preventing unnecessary injury and loss of life.

I know everyone will enjoy reading this special edition of the newsletter. Board member Mariann Davis has dedicated a great amount of time to researching the history, legends and achievements of the HCC. This issue features the second half of her writing. It captures the broad reach of the organization as well as the story of the paddlers who have made it happen.

Who's Reggie? Reggie Baker was one of our past Skippers and one of the most accomplished paddlers anywhere, a mentor and a friend. He's who reeled me onto the HCC Board five years ago. I'm dedicating this year to him.

Cheers!

The Black Toad  
(Theresa Kulczak)

## Membership Report

Dave Ellis

It is an HCC tradition to award Life membership to those who have paid dues continuously (or at least mostly so) for 25 years. 5 members join our list of LIFERS this year. All 36 Lifers are listed below with the 5 newbies so flagged:

Last	First	Joined	
Baker	Debby	01/07/1983	
Baker	Virginia	05/04/1977	
Beach	Roger & Nancy	01/18/1980	
Berkey	Donald & Judy	01/08/1983	
Boelter	Don	01/21/1980	
Burkhardt	Robert	02/19/1983	
Clark	Dan	01/01/1986	New
Conklin	Charles	05/21/1968	
Dogan	Kevin & Martha	01/18/1985	
Ellis	Dave	09/15/1969	
Frederick	Robert & Rose	07/16/1989	
Gates	Lori	09/21/1979	
Gates	Shirley	09/21/1979	
Graham	Fletcher	02/13/1974	
Greene	Richard & Kay	11/06/1980	
Hill	Garry	02/02/1980	
Hill	Howard & Maxine	12/15/1964	
Jordan	Kenneth	03/16/1986	New
Kidwell	Max	01/01/1978	
Kirkman	Robert	07/31/1983	
Lawless	Bill & Martha	10/27/1971	
Lunsford	Chuck & Karen	05/29/1974	
Mahling	Turk	12/11/1975	
Mansfield	Richard & Beverly	11/24/1985	New
Merchant	George	05/03/1977	
Miller	Dwon & Joy	05/27/1977	
Miller	Ken & Aileen & Cal	01/01/1982	
Partridge	Ken & Roselle	02/23/1975	
Pensinger	Jeff & Jodie	01/01/1982	
Perry	Dale & Joan	12/03/1975	
Ranstead	Mike & Nancy	08/29/1983	
Ross	Jordan	02/17/1985	
Schoditsch	Jerry & Rose	11/04/1973	
Stoner	Dennis	05/27/1982	New
Tekulve	Richard	04/13/1985	New
Webb	Chuck & Joni	04/11/1984	

We thank all these paddlers for their years of support and service.



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## Flatwater/Whitewater Trip Announcement

**Muskrat's 34th Annual April Fools On Big Pine Cruise**  
**Trip Sponsor: Garry Hill**

**Saturday, April 2, 2011**

Muskrat's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual April Fools on Big Pine Cruise is Saturday April 2, 2011. The meeting time is 9:30 AM at our traditional gathering location, in downtown Pine Village. **Please, Don't go to the Putin! Go to Pine Village!!!** Sometimes we don't know where the Putin will be until we meet in Pine Village. There are several possibilities, with the selection based on water levels.

**There are 3 Meeting Locations:** In addition to Pine Village, this event has two other meeting locations available, one in Kokomo and another in Lafayette. All 3 locations and meeting times are described below:

1) The west-side McDonalds in Kokomo, corner of Sycamore & Dixon.

Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer Page 33. From US-31 Bypass, go west on Sycamore Street (first street north of Wildcat Creek). Follow Sycamore all the way thru the city. Micky-D's is on the left just before the light at Dixon Road.

This is the site of the April Fool's Traditional "Trip Leader's Breakfast", which has been held every year since the beginning in 1978. Muskrat will arrive at 7AM if you would like to eat, sip some coffee, and listen to some "pitifully old and raucous River Tales".

We will leave from there promptly at 8:00 AM.

2) The Lafayette McDonalds just west of the Jct of I-65 & SR-26.

Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer Page 31. Be there NO LATER than 8:30 AM. The group from Kokomo will arrive at 8:45 and leave ASAP, hopefully by 9:00 AM, or as soon as all the potty-stops have been accomplished.

3) Downtown Pine Village, on SR-26, about 20-miles west of Lafayette.

Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer Page 30, at the Jct of SR-26 & SR-55, in beautiful, downtown Pine Village.

The boat-laden auto caravan from Kokomo & Lafayette will arrive in Pine Village at, about, around, or somewhat after, 9:30 AM. **Be there early!!!!!!** Park anywhere downtown. Expect to see Paddler-people wandering around in the middle of the highway. The locals just ignore us. They know we're harmless, and that we'll soon be gone.

**Expected Paddling Conditions:** I know there may be some members who are not familiar with Big Pine Creek, so let me pass on a few words of caution: My April Fools Trip is a bit different from the normal trip, so I think it's prudent to describe this event a bit more in detail.

Big Pine Creek is the best Whitewater Stream in Indiana, but it's nearly dry and not Paddleable most of the time. Enough water to make the rapids enjoyable (0" or more on the Rainsville Gauge), which happens maybe 30-40 days per year. Good water on a warm comfortable day, and you're down to about 10-15 days. When the water is up and the Sun is shining, the Whitewater rapids of Big Pine Creek draws Paddlers like "flies to roadkill".

Here's a look at what the Creek is like. At normal water levels ("0" or less on the Rainsville gauge) Big Pine is very shallow and rocky (much more so than a Summertime Wildcat or Sugar), still with many rapids that are equal to the best Wildcat Creek has to offer.

However, if the water level is up (anything above "0"), Big Pine has several good Class I+ rapids. In addition, if it's up, we will also be running Rocky Ford, which is 3/4-mile of continuous Class II, with some of the best Whitewater in Indiana, easily able to swamp Open Canoes. The most fun level for this event is about 1-2 feet.

(continued on next page)



Big Pine is a beautiful and fun Stream loved by Paddlers all over Indiana. Its difficulty varies greatly with flow level; ranging from a "boat-beater" in dry times, to huge waves and hydraulics in high flows. However, Big Pine could be considered appropriate for Novice Paddlers at levels under 2-ft on the Chuck Weis Gauge, as long as their equipment is appropriate and they are part of a more experienced group.

If you're interested in attending this Cruise, but have concerns about your abilities or equipment, please feel free to contact Garry Hill.

Last Minute Updates: Each year I make a scouting run thru the Big Pine Valley on the day before my April Fools Cruise. I check the water level (on the Chuck Weis Gauge in Rainsville) immediately upon arrive. Then I visit all possible Put-ins and Takeouts, visit with the Landowners at each location, dropping off a copy of a letter if no one is home. When I'm ready to leave, I check the water level again and note any changes. My plan for that day includes being home no later than 6PM, so I can prepare my email update which I promise to have available to my Expedition Team Members after 7PM. For everyone else, I will be sitting next to both phones all evening, beginning at 7. Feel free to call me any time after 7PM to see about the water level and the expected level of difficulty. The Launch Site, however, will not be announced until we meet in Pine Village.

Contact info: Garry Hill: [garryhill@aol.com](mailto:garryhill@aol.com), [765-628-3155](tel:765-628-3155) home

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## Flatwater Trip Announcements

### BWCA Gunflint Trail

**May 21st to May 27, 2011**

**Trip sponsors: Jay and Gina Moyer**

Last year we took a trip in late May and we are planning to do so again this year. We are opening this trip up to the club and will take 2 or 4 others with us (must be pairs). The weather during the trip can be unpredictable (40's to 60's typically). Last year it was unseasonably warm in the low 70's but some years there can be snow flurries. Bugs are usually a sent this early in the year as are the people. The first three days we saw no one else last year and many of the camp sights we were the first to use for the year.

However the wildlife is abundant in including turtles, loons, eagles, moose, wolf, and the brave and feisty piney squirrels (AKA little bears). We bring a rod and reel and will get our lines wet when time allows and possibly catch a fresh tasty dinner.

We plan entering on the Gunflint trail and will decide on travel times and routes with those individuals who decide to accompany us.

Due to the nature of the portages we would prefer only individuals with previous canoe expedition type experience or multiple day back packing experience. We are traveling light with single portages most of the time so don't plan on bringing the kitchen sink or cast iron along. No electronics on this trip except your camera, this is our week to get away from the world. We rent a Kevlar canoe from an outfitter there and they can provide much of the other necessary gear. Individuals must be 16+.

**Trip Length:** 7 days. May 21-27

We plan to meet early the 21st and spend the day driving to the BWCA. We will the spend the night at the outfitters cabin/bunk house and the next morning enter the BWCA. We will spend 5 days/ 4 nights and exit the 26th. May 27th we will travel home but keep the 28th open so we have leeway to stay an extra day in the BWCA if weather or difficulties present themselves.

**Contact info:** Jay Moyer (if interested, contact no later than May 1st.)

[Moyer\\_farm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Moyer_farm@sbcglobal.net) [765-376-6316](tel:765-376-6316)





**HCC Flatwater Doubleheader**  
**Sand Creek/Whitewater River**  
**Trip Sponsor: Richard Tekulve**

**Saturday—Sunday April 9-10, 2011**

Mark your calendar and journey to southeastern Indiana to paddle two of the state's premier waterways: Sand Creek and the Whitewater River. Both of these streams usually rank in the top ten of Indiana's paddling elite.

Once again we will try to explore the upper part of Sand Creek and pursue a different stretch of the Whitewater. Sand Creek is a mood stricken creek that might create a change of direction or movement to a different location. We have ran two different sections of Sand Creek in the past: Westport to Brewersville and Brewersville to Scipio.

As attempted last year, the Upper "Canyon Section" will be given first priority with the other two routes used as a backup plan. As for the Whitewater trip, this will not change any from this notice.

**Upper Sand Creek**

**Saturday, April 9, 2011**

**Meeting Time:** 9:30 A.M.

**Trip Length:** 10.6 miles

**Gradient:** 8.1 F.P.M

**Stream Width:** 40' – 80'

**Shuttle:** 19 miles total

**Take out:** River Left @ Westport Dam (2 miles east of Westport)

**Tentative Meeting Place and Put-In:** Robbins Ford Iron Bridge Park over Sand Creek

**Directions:** From the junction of SR3 and SR46 (West of Greensburg) take SR 3 South 3 miles to CR 500S. turn left (East) onto CR 500S and go 1 ¾ miles to the Iron Bridge Park put-in with a small paved parking lot.

**Characteristics:** The creek is narrower and somewhat more challenging for the first few miles. Mostly sand/gravel bottom with some steep limestone bluffs and clear flowing water. The put-in is at the Robbins Ford Iron Bridge restored and built in 1908. The take-out is just downstream of the 1880 Westport Covered Bridge (restored in 2004).

NOTE: If low water exists, the following plans will be put into effect:

**Option 1:** Put-in at Westport Covered Bridge/Dam (2 miles east of SR 3 flasher – go East through town of Westport on Main Street to two adjacent bridges (one concrete and one covered), hang to right and cross the concrete bridge over Sand Creek. The dam will be 500 feet to the right downstream with a parking lot. The take-out will be at the Brewersville Bridge. Distance: 12.0 miles.

**Option 2:** Put-in at Brewersville Bridge and take-out at the Scipio Covered Bridge. The distance is 10.4 miles. This trip will require a meeting place of the Jennings County Fairgrounds (same as the 2010 trip). The Fairgrounds are located 3 miles North of North Vernon on SR 3 and the junction of CR 500N. There is an illuminated sign on the East side of the highway.

**Option 3:** If Sand Creek has inadequate water levels the trip will be moved to another local stream in the area. Friday 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 to make a decision.

**Contact Information:** Please email me (Richard Tekulve) at [canoeindiana@yahoo.com](mailto:canoeindiana@yahoo.com) and also leave a phone number for any last minute changes in directions – Call 812-592-0661 up to 10pm Friday night April 8<sup>th</sup>. If you need to contact me on the day of the trip (either Saturday or Sunday), call my cell 812-592-0661.



## Whitewater River

Sunday April 9, 2011

**Meeting Time:** 10 AM

**Trip Length:** 10.6 miles with option of 4.1 more miles to US 52 Bridge near Metamora

**Gradient:** 7.4 F.P.M.

**Stream Width:** 90' – 180'

**Shuttle:** 25 miles total to Laurel Dam.....33 miles total to US 52 Bridge near Metamora

**Take-Out:** River left above Laurel Feeder Dam or River right downstream of US 52 Bridge near Metamora This year we will run a section from Mahan Park Canoe launch (south of Connersville) to the Laurel Feeder Dam. Also, an option for a longer trip will be offered to US 52 near Metamora.

This river generally has a current of 3-4 mph.

**Meeting Place and Put-In (Permanent):** Mahan Park Canoe launch. Located on the East side of SR 121 (with sign) 3 miles South of Connersville. Best directions from Indy area is US52 East to Rushville Courthouse to SR 44. Take SR 44 into Connersville down steep hill and junction of SR 121. Turn right (South) onto SR 121 and go 3 miles to Mahan park (sign on left) next to Williams Creek Bridge.

**Characteristics:** Traveling 96.9, draining 13 different counties and 1,474 square miles, the White-water River is one of the state's finest paddling streams. With a gradient of over seven feet per mile, the river could be titled the "Impatient One". Always moving and never one to stand still, the stream is characterized by easy, continuous Class I rapids, challenging side currents and numerous washed rock and sand/gravel bars. It is obviously one of the better rivers to test a person's moving water skills. Clear, fast free-flowing water with several gravel/sand bars, colored washed rock and shifting side currents. Canoe Livery traffic is non-existent in this area. A good, steady current exists throughout. Historical Laurel Feeder Dam has an overflow that starts the Whitewater Canal on its way to Metamora. Don't miss this trip if you like moving water with less risks than most streams that have this type of flow pattern.

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## South Fork of the Wildcat

Saturday, April 23, 2011

**Trip Sponsor:** Jeff Matthews

Come paddle the slightly smaller brother of the Wildcat. The South Fork drains Clinton and Tippecanoe counties as it runs west, then north to meet the main branch of the Wildcat trio. Running through farm and forest landscapes, it gathers considerable volume picking up water from several feeders—Prairie, Kilmore, and the Middle Fork along with smaller streams. Always good wildlife viewing, including sightings of great horned owls hunting during the day. Plus, eagle sightings are up from previous years.

The South Fork is a flat stream, but frequent tight turns and timber that seems to have legs require basic maneuvering skills. It may be May, but the water will still think it's March. Dress for the weather, but carry extra clothing packed in water tight bags just in case. All other club safety requirements apply. I have paddled the creek down to 75 cfs. High water is always relative to the skill levels of the individual paddler. I will run the creek during the week prior to the trip (again ) and make a determination regarding high water if it is an issue.

**Trip Length:** 9.5 miles.

**Meeting and Launch Location:** We will meet at the access site on St Rd 38 east of Dayton. The take out will be Wildcat Park at the confluence with the Wildcat (North Fork).

**Directions to Meeting Location:** The Dayton PAS is located on Tippecanoe county road 800 E, just north of Hwy 38, at the bridge. The easiest route is I 65 to St Rd 38 (Dayton exit), then east on 38, 1.5 miles. Cross the creek and immediately turn left on 800 E. You will see the PAS at that point. Turn left on the first drive off 800 E. If coming from the east or northeast, using U.S. 31 as a reference, take St Rd 26 west to U.S. 421 at Rossville, then south to St Rd 38, and west through Mulberry into Tippecanoe County, and on to the bridge. Turn right on 800 E, then left at the PAS. Arrive by 10:00 am.

**Contact Information:** Contact me by telephone or E-mail anytime for questions, and within 5 days prior to the trip to confirm your intent to be there. I can be reached at [riverdog\\_46041@yahoo.com](mailto:riverdog_46041@yahoo.com) or [765-427-8499](tel:765-427-8499). If water conditions dictate a change I will post on the Club site Friday prior, and be at the putin regardless, on the day of the trip. Thanks, see you there.



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 two bridges above US36 to 2 bridges below. In 2009, we did Sugar Creek from Deer's Mill to Cox Ford due to low water on Big Walnut. The 2010 trip was good too!

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](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:** Dave Ellis- 317-858-0963 or cell: 317-374-4956) or e-mail [RiverPaPaw@aol.com](mailto:RiverPaPaw@aol.com)> by 6:00 pm Friday if you are going to join us as there may be last minute changes in plans.

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## **Whitewater Trip Announcements**

### **Elkhorn Creek, (Class II) , Frankfort, KY**

**Trip Leader: Terry Busch**

**April 23, 2011**

Assuming sufficient water level, we will be paddling the Elkhorn Creek on Saturday, April 23. This is a 7 mile run through pretty woods, farm fields and striking sandstone bluffs. The trip features lots of class I and class II rapids and is suitable for novices with basic river skills and moving water kayak experience. Dress appropriately for the weather. Water will still be cold, so paddling pants and a drytop are strongly recommended. Bring extra layers of clothing and something to eat and drink on the river. This is a one day trip. From downtown Indianapolis, it's about a 3-hour drive. Our old meeting place ,the McDonalds on Rt 60, has been demolished so we will meet at the put-in **at 11:00 AM.**

**Directions:** Take I-65 South to Louisville, then I-64 East from Louisville to Frankfort KY. Take Exit 58 North, and go north on Highway 60 to Highway 460- (Georgetown Road). Go right on 460 to the bridge in Forks of Elkhorn. The put-in and meeting site is on the right, just over the bridge. First, drive up to Elkhorn Campground, pay the \$3 parking fee, then come back and drop gear, dress and (drivers) get ready to run shuttle to the take-out.

**Take Note:** Water or weather conditions can require us to reschedule or cancel the trip on short notice. Please make sure I have your contact information and check the club bulletin board for updates as we get closer. Descriptions of the Elkhorn can be found and water levels can be checked at the following sites :<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/661/> and <http://www.canoeky.com>. Runable levels are from 700 cfs up to 1800 cfs ..

**Contact:** Terry Busch ([buschterence@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buschterence@sbcglobal.net)) cell 317-695-1825.



The Hoosier Canoe Club is going international.... M.A.C.K. Fest will be held the weekend of April 8-10th. This festival features rivers and creeks in Ontario, Canada ranging from Class III, III-IV, and IV-V and has become a growing event over the past few years. The plan is to hit several rivers on both Friday and Saturday. These rivers are featured on the M.A.C.K. Fest website at [www.mackfest.ca](http://www.mackfest.ca). Looking to hit the Beaver and the Black and probably something else that's running and recommended by the locals. Camping and hotel accommodations are available near/at the festival site.

**Contact Information:** Check the message board when it gets closer for more details and post there if you are interested in attending.

**Note:** Passport Required: You must have a passport to reenter the US, so please keep this in mind when

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**Southern Rivers Weekend, Tennessee**  
**Randy Parker/Bob Heckler**

**April 16-18, 2011**

Our trip to Tennessee will be April 16-18, which will start out at Nemo bridge in Wartsville, Tennessee. Meet Bob Heckler and I at Nemo bridge by 9:00am local time, we are looking at running Daddy's Creek on Saturday, then on Sunday and Monday options are for whatever is running. There is a release on the Cheoah that Sunday and other options will be the Little River, Tellico, and the Ocoee. Please review the Bulletin Board for more information on this trip.

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**Touring Trip Announcements**  
**Grayson Lake Trip**

**Saturday-Sunday, May 21-22, 2011**

Cincypaddlers is partnering with CAKA (OH), Elkhorn Paddlers (KY) and Hoosier Canoe & Kayak Club (IN), some of the friendliest and fun paddlers you'll find, to enjoy some of the most scenic paddling east of the Mississippi. Enjoy the magnificent cliffs and waterfalls of Grayson Lake (KY). A sampling of the spectacular views from last year's trip: <http://tinyurl.com/65xe348>

It's the weekend of May 21-22, but you have the option of adding Friday. Sat., May 21 we launch for a 12-mile flatwater paddle. That evening, we group-camp and party nearby. It's tent camping with facilities. You won't have to carry your gear in your boat. Sun. morning, we do a 7-mile paddle on the most beautiful stretch. It's more canyon paddling than open water, so little concern about rough water. There's some distance to cover, so I'd strongly recommend a boat of 12' or more. The optional Fri. paddle will be on another part of Grayson Lake or one of its feeders. We'll have camping available at Grayson that night (add the extra night to deposit below) whether or not you paddle on Fri.

**RSVP:** send \$8/person/night (your option is just Sat. or Fri. and Sat.) to Henry Dorfman, 1409 Amesbury Dr., Cincinnati 45231 for the camp fee. (Unrefundable after May 10th). RSVP must include names of people in your party, number of vehicles (contact me before mailing if you contemplate RV, boat trailer or anything else that takes up extra space, or if you'd prefer a cabin), email address and phone #. Incomplete RSVPs not accepted, so please include the requested information.

**What you need:** boat (at least 12' long), paddle, PFD (must be worn when on the water), camping gear, food for on the water and off, and rain gear (you never know). **LIABILITY DISCLAIMER:** As with all events posted on the Cincypaddlers board, in behalf of you, your family and all your other stakeholders, you understand the risks of such an event and accept entire responsibility and liability for your safety, welfare and losses, as well as those you register, indemnifying and holding all others harmless. Your RSVP signifies you agree – if you don't, don't participate.

For more information please visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cincypaddlers/message/27479>





## Lake Monroe Overnight Paddle, Bloomington, IN Trip Sponsors: Jim Sprandel, Tom Beckerich

Saturday-Sunday, April 9-10, 2011

Join us on Lake Monroe for the first touring kayak/sea kayak overnighter of the year. Monroe is the largest lake in Indiana and most of it lies within the boundaries of the Hoosier National Forest. Monroe affords paddlers a lot of room for exploration of its remote woodland scenery.

We will paddle out Saturday morning with our camping gear for Saturday night. We will pitch our tents at one of the designated primitive camp sites in the Deam Wilderness Area before paddling back to Cutright the Sunday morning. We'll paddle in the main lake area near Cutright since the bird resting areas will still be closed on this weekend. Lake Monroe Information is available at [http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/monroe\\_trail.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/monroe_trail.pdf) Our campsite won't be too far from Cutright so you could come out and paddle with us just on Saturday if you want.

**Meeting Place/Put-In:** Cutright SRA. We will meet at the first boat ramp after you enter Cutright (not the marina) and we will head east from there.

**Directions to Meeting Place:** Take Hwy. 446 south from Bloomington to the causeway. Cutright SRA is on your left immediately after you cross the causeway when driving south from Bloomington. This is about 1 hour 40 minutes from the intersection of 37 and I-465 on the southeast side of Indianapolis .

**Camping Information:** Be prepared to load your gear into your kayaks and paddle to our campsite where we will stay Saturday night. There is no charge for camping at these sites. These are primitive camping facilities so you will need to bring potable water (the DNR ranger did not recommend filtering lake water).

**What to Bring:** Bring your camping gear including food and water (Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast and any snacks you might need) plus your paddling gear. You will need to buy a DNR Sticker to launch at Cutright. I'll bring a few extras or you can pick one up at the DNR office on the right side of 446 as you are driving to the put-in.

**Notes:** Due to possible lake conditions on Monroe, a sea kayak or touring kayak with spray skirt and fore/aft flotation (bulkheads) is strongly recommended. You will be carrying your camping gear in your boat so plan accordingly.

**Schedule:** Saturday 10:30 am Arrive at Put-In.

11:15 am Start Paddling

Sunday After breakfast trip, participants have the option of paddling directly back to the launch site (less than an hour) or spending more time exploring the area by land or lake.

**Contact information:** Please be sure to contact one of the trip sponsors since we may have to change plans in case of bad weather. If there is a change, we'll let everyone know via the Bulletin Board or directly (phone or e-mail) on the Friday before the trip.

Jim Sprandel	<a href="mailto:merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net">merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net</a>	(317) 257-2063
Tom Beckerich	<a href="mailto:tjbeckerich@msn.com">tjbeckerich@msn.com</a>	(317) 442-3008

## Kayak Paddling Clinic—Introduction to Kayaking Instructors: Jim Sprandel, Joel DeLashmit

Saturday, April 16, 2011

If you're a relatively new kayaker, you probably know how to move your boat around the lake. This class will be a chance to work on your forward and turning strokes and to develop your understanding as well as other paddling skills that you need to safely enjoy the sport. This course will be based on the ACA ["Introduction to Kayaking"](#) course.

At first, we'll talk about the basics that you need to know before kayaking and then get on the water to teach you the right way to move your boat forward, backwards, and sideways as well as how to turn and stop. After that, we'll combine these strokes into several maneuvers that you'll be able to use when you paddle. Since the water may be cool, we will demonstrate all of the rescue skills and have you practice the T-rescue but you won't intentionally be getting into the water at this clinic.

(continued on next page)



This course is intended for longer kayaks (12 foot and longer) since getting a paddling rhythm is more difficult for these boats in the pool. (Beginning instruction is available for shorter boat at the pool.) If paddlers with a wide range of skill levels show up, we may split the class.

**Meeting Place:** Eagle Creek Park –Marina (Once in the park, follow the signs to the Marina.)

**Note:** There is a park fee of \$8 to bring a kayak into Eagle Creek.

**Class Size:** Attendance will be limited to 15 paddlers.

**What to Bring:**

- Kayak - 12 feet or longer. All kayaks must have both fore and aft flotation (either bulkheads or flotation bags).
- Paddle, Personal Flotation Device, sun screen
- Paddling Clothing—Even though you won't intentionally be capsizing, be sure to dress appropriately for the weather and bring a wind-proof paddling jacket since it may be cool.
- Spare clothes in a dry bag (just in case)
- Spray skirt if you have one.
- Lunch and something to drink since we'll break for lunch.

<b>Schedule:</b>	9:30 am	Meet at Marina Parking Lot
	9:45 am	Boats down to the beach
	9:45 am—12:30 pm	Clinic
	12:30-1:15 pm	Lunch on the point
	1:15—3:00 pm	Clinic

**Registration information:** If you are would like to register for this class or have any questions, please contact Jim Srandel at (317) 257-2063 or [merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net).

Since attendance is limited to 15 people, please call me or e-mail if you would like to attend. Please send me your name, kayak you will be bringing, paddling experience, and contact information. HCC members will be accepted for the class on a first come-first served basis.

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## Reminder—Get your 2011 DNR Lake Permits

You must have a 2011 DNR Lake Permit if you want to paddle your boat in Indiana state parks, state-managed reservoirs, or state forests. Annual permits are still only \$5 per boat. Permits may be bought at the property offices or entrance gates at state parks, reservoirs, and forests **when they are staffed**. Alternatively, you may buy a pass at the Customer Service Center in the 1Indiana Government Center or on-line at: <http://stores.innsgifts.com/-strse-50/2011-Non--dsh--Motorized/Detail.bok>

The permit should be affixed to the left, front side of any boat that you will be using at Indiana state parks, state-managed reservoirs, and all lakes in state forests. This includes the main bodies of water and all fishing ponds/lakes at Patoka Lake, Brookville Lake, Hardy Lake, Monroe Lake, Salamonie Lake, Mississinewa Lake, Roush (Huntington) Lake, Cagles Mill (Lieber) Lake, Cecil M. Harden (Raccoon) Lake. It also includes all lakes at Potato Creek State Park, Ouabache State Park, Summit Lake State Park, Versailles State Park, Ogle and Brown County State Park, Shakamak State Park, Chain O'Lakes State Park, Spring Mill State Park, Whitewater State Park, and Lincoln State Park.

Public access sites maintained by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and Indiana streams do not require this permit.

**Note:** Early in the recreation season, attendants will be available at some launching ramps but not every ramp and not every day. State forest property offices may not be open on weekends and some weekdays.



## From Here to Modernity Part II— A History of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Mariann Davis

**Ed. Notes:** The first half of this history of the HCC covers from 1963 to 1985 and is available on-line in the [March 2010 Hoosier Paddler](#). In this article, the year shown in parentheses after a person's name is the year when that person joined the HCC.

### Forward

Samuel Johnson (probably, never—a kayaker) argued with the great historians that an impartial history could be written in the lifetime of those who have experienced the events. He reasoned that a person, by talking with those of different sides who were the actors, and by putting down all that he hears, may in time collect the materials of a good and accurate narrative. I must say that four hundred years later, Sam's recipe lends credibility to this writing. After spending many months sifting through hundreds of dusty newsletters and club minutes, I found that the oral history of the Hoosier Canoe Club members provided an element to the historical record that the archives could not. Hopefully, I was able to weave both the oral and written history creatively together so as to blur the difference.

It was fourteen months ago that I first paddled into this eddy, awaiting the perfect peel-out. You could say that it took me that long to learn this kayaking maneuver and you would be only partially correct. The other seven months were dedicated to putting form to the amorphous story oozing from the HCC archives and transcribing and editing the numerous interviews and emails. This descriptive metaphor gives playful narration to a history that, if I were to give a number, is about 85% accurate. Fifteen percent of this project, as I said in Part I, is history agreed upon. So, sit back and relax with a bottle of visine on the ready as I return you to an earlier period while, at the same time, introduce you some current members of the HCC.

### Heading Towards Modernity—(Middle 1980s)

The time is right and it comes as the transfer of leadership passes from gavel to paddle and from **he** to **she**. I make this gender distinction only as a lead into one very prominent **she** of the HCC. Shirley Gates (1979) was not only one of only four female skippers in our club, (the fourth being our current skipper, Theresa Kulczak (2005)), but she was also inexhaustible in her talents. Shirley was one of very few club members that could be comfortable in a multitude of administrative hats. She could be seen everywhere in the HCC ranks, spanning 25 years as if she were the progenitor of every office in the club, holding at least 3 different executive positions including three terms as skipper, three as club secretary, and multiple board positions. Shirley offered her home as the location for many Christmas parties, HCC meetings and after trip parties. It seemed that she carried the annual awards ceremony chairmanship many times and was the impetus for its rebirth. This piece of the club's itinerary started around 1969 had survived extinction on a few occasions until finally succumbing around 2007. She continued, for many years, organizing and sustaining the Eagle Creek weekday evening paddles until passing it on to Kellie Kaneshiro (2004).

She has led as many as six trips per season and her last mystery trip was in 2007— *members are still unsure of their destination*. For Shirley and her three young children, canoeing/kayaking was a family affair which began quite precipitously. Her first instructional class and introduction to kayaking just happened to be a roll class. No, she didn't roll on that first day, although she did eventually accomplish the feat. She credits her young son, John Gates, as having enough desire to be upside-down in a kayak for the both of them. John is now in the Army National Guard, living in Maine...still kayaking.

Incredibly, as a young child, Shirley was never allowed around water as her mother had a very strong



Shirley Gate on Missisniewa—1985





phobia regarding water sports. Consequently, after leaving home, Shirley couldn't wait to repudiate that restriction, and she took a survival swimming class. Later, she would find that canoeing and eventually kayaking were a natural extension of parental overprotection.

During her first five years with the club, Shirley canoed and rafted. In 1984, she bought her first kayak from a man who possessed high international intrigue: Vladimir, a defector, she said, (from a Soviet Bloc country, I presume)... *The night was starless and a heavy mist obscured the identity of wannabe kayaker and international arms boat dealer...* That kayak remains semi-retired in storage on her far west-side Indianapolis home. As for Shirley, who is still practicing nursing as a Hospice nurse, she is reluctant to give up paddling completely.

The *nostalgia* for a family adventure in paddling is all that remains in the club today as individual memberships are the rule. Shirley remembers many family trips with her daughter, Lori and son, John, and remarks how different paddling skill levels could commingle even on whitewater trips. While the fearless whitewater paddlers were daring Class 4-5 rapids, the other flatwater paddlers found more manageable water in rafts or duckies or paddled on tamer rivers nearby.

Shirley credits Jerry Schoditsch (1973), Chuck Lunsford (1974), and the omni-present Dave Ellis (1969) as gifted paddlers and par-excellent instructors who contributed not only to her and her family's paddling skills but to many HCC members'. Bob Kirkman (1983 ) dubbed this trio the paddling "trifecta" and praises their indomitable spirit and ability in the sport.

Shirley was always available, manufacturing *time* for volunteering in endless quantities. Fortunately, for the HCC, Shirley provided both service and leadership with an organizational aptitude that was so apparent on my visit. The diaries that she kept of her 25-year paddling timeline were chronicled beautifully and annotated with numerous pictures that delivered a quarter century of history, seamlessly. I'm sure her life long career as a registered nurse afforded those qualities of service most enviable in her character. Much to the surprise of an HCC source, Shirley was sighted 2 years ago on Raccoon Creek with the club, but as far as kayaking on a regular basis, she defers to some medical issues to determine her future sightings on the river.

## Plural Marriages: Club Members outside the HCC share their DNA



Garry Hill

Just as Shirley's dedication to the HCC's sustainability was monogamous, there were members coming aboard who had memberships in multiple paddle clubs throughout the state. Now, as many paddle clubs commingle with other clubs these days,; it wasn't always the case.

### Garry Hill—Muskrat's Wildcat Creek Expedition Team

One HCC member stands out as an early cross-over club paddler. After paddling many decades "clubless", it became an imperative that Garry Hill (1980) found his own paddling club, and in 1975 the Wildcat Creek Canoe club was born in the Lafayette area. However, It wasn't until 1980 that Garry began cross pollinating his political, environmental and entrepreneurial skills with the HCC. As an experienced whitewater and flatwater paddler and certified instructor, Garry gave back to the paddling community as do many others through teaching newbies.

Through his political efforts—both with and without the HCC—he was able to educate and guide the public and the legislature towards projects of river sustainability. As a loud, often raucous political voice in this area, Garry has worked hard to help maintain the Wildcat Valley as a beautiful, paddleable landscape. He has championed against flood control dams that would "essentially take our rivers away" by challenging





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such onerous deals and legislation conceived to do just that. Garry spells dam “D-A-M-N”, and regards them with disdain, calling them a death sentence for any river. A river flows naturally according to its own personality, its own nature. Using this reasoning Garry launched a 10-year campaign against the city of Kokomo to remove an unsightly dam on Wildcat Creek. His perseverance prevailed and the dam was removed in 2010.

Garry loves the river as a wellspring of joy and tranquility and, when I asked him of the many rivers he has paddled over the decades which one is his favorite, he stated unhesitatingly: “the one that I’m on at the moment”.

Garry holds memberships in four national paddling organizations: ACA, AWA, USCA, and American Rivers and in nine local organizations, but his primary focus, locally, is his own Internet paddling group, known as “Muskrat’s Wildcat Creek Expedition Team”, a group which attempts to visit every stream in Indiana. Currently, a paddler is invited to join his group as a purely recreational adjunct to any structured paddling organization. I believe he enjoys the divestment from structure to increased uninterrupted paddling time on the river. Garry can show us that paddling clubs can interconnect for the benefit of the entire paddling community.

Undoubtedly, many clubs have come and gone as goals are reached and interests change. Also, clubs morph or coalesce into new entities breathing new life into their basic mission statements. Thus so with Garry’s Wildcat Creek Canoe Club (WCC) giving way to the Wildcat Guardians –preservation club-, siphoning, redirecting, and channeling energies toward a new focus. Death is not always extinction, philosophically speaking, and vestiges of the WCC, drawing its last breath in 1998, remain a part of the HCC today with participation in some of the WCC’s outstanding trips. Muskrat’s (Garry’s moniker) April Fool’s on the Big Pine, and Wrap-a-Round’s Current River Trip in October are WCC trips that began in October 1976 and continue today. Many HCC members participate in the two-day Indiana Paddlers’ Rendezvous not only to sample Garry’s famous chili but to paddle and party with as many as 100+ members of various paddle clubs. Garry’s leadership, organizational abilities and his sensitivity to our rivers’ sustainability offer a hopeful future to any paddling club of which he is a member. Recently, Garry attended an HCC board meeting to provide his expert advice on the HCC annual October “Pirate’s Paddle”.

As you will read, the middle and later years (I don’t think I am giving away the ending) of the club seemed to float on the sustained current of its early forefathers. A worthwhile, club has its individual members as the capital for future investment. With more diverse interests and personal talents in the membership, the club becomes vibrant, interesting and self-perpetuating. Hence, drawing in enthusiastic members is a fact of longevity. Every member can contribute to the infrastructure of the club just by showing up for the trips.



*Richard Tekulve Sand Creek-2009*

### **Rick Tekulve—River Guru: Many are called but few know the answer...**

“I’ve never been in a kayak”...Yep, it’s hard to believe but that is a direct quote from one of our most prominent, long-time members of the club. Richard Tekulve (1985) may have never been in a kayak but—drum roll please—he has paddled over 12,000 river miles on 200 different streams. To give a better perspective: that’s half way around the world and he does all that paddling in one of seven canoes in his fleet stabled at his home in North Vernon, Indiana. He has explored over 3,200 miles (non-repeating miles) in 87 of Indiana’s 92 counties. As a member in eleven paddling clubs throughout five states, it’s no wonder that his canoe has become a permanent ornament atop his truck.



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So, why canoe, not kayak? He feels that people who paddle kayaks are seeking more the adventure, motivated more by the accomplishment than the journey. [Let's hear a rebuttal from the whitewater paddlers]. Richard loves the journey and even while paddling solo (as long as forty miles on one trip) finds that the river is his only needed travelling companion. On the practical side, it's not so easy to conjure up a shuttle. Therein lies the quandary for most of us. Richard finds no dilemma here and in any remote town, Richard states, there lives a potential shuttle. Stories about searching for shuttles can be the topic for another David Sedaris book.

Like a poet, Richard will describe a river from the river's point of view, experiencing the water, its color, its temperature, its personality in the action of the flow and the gradient. What makes this river behave the way it does? He calls this the architecture of the river. These points of reference are his personal GPS. He doesn't bend to technology to deliver that information, he simply paddles by what should be called visual memory of the river—many call it “by the seat of your pants”. Therefore, the absence of other paddlers contributes to and enhances his visual perspective and intimacy of each river. He says, nostalgically, that the past trip reports were more descriptive on these details. I say, I can't wait for one of your trip reports.

When asked, Richard has no trouble naming his favorite rivers while at the same time making critical judgments about them. He likes Sugar Creek, a stream enjoyed by many HCC members, and he calls the White River at Brookville the impatient one. He says that Fourteen Mile Creek in Clark County is very fast and scattered with waterfalls. He regards the Pigeon and Fawn, also one of Dan Valleskey's favorites, fondly. The Blue River ranks very high on the moving water list and is a great overnighter—he has completed the entire Blue River paddle from Salem, Indiana to the Ohio River.

Richard either has undaunted courage (a reference to the historical novel of the Lewis and Clark expedition) or has an insatiable obsessive-compulsive educational yearning when it comes to river trivia. Probably both statements are relevant and true. He would be happy to share his knowledge and his favorite haunts to other paddlers who visit from the tri-state area uncertain of paddleable rivers and in need of a paddling companion. It would be a big undertaking, but he has a vision of a state-wide web based directory whereby paddlers visiting other areas can link up with those who are familiar with and enjoy paddling like rivers and streams, similar to a “Meet Up” for more serious paddlers with the same skill levels. Another vision is an accessible directory within tri-state clubs, that shows a short bio of paddlers with their skill levels and the rivers they enjoy.

Like Garry Hill, Richard enjoys river politics. He challenged the DNR to promote an Indiana river guide to show both the familiar and obscure accesses on numerous Indiana rivers. At first, the DNR consented to the project but later reneged. Richard may be the solitary man on many rivers but his paddle whispers: come join him on his Sand Creek trip. Sand Creek is one of his favorites. This year, this trip is on Saturday, April 9 and details are in the Trip Announcement section of this newsletter.

## **Bob Kirkman**

After 25 years, the club continues in the direction of its founders where recreation and camaraderie are the prevailing tenets in the club. It was noted in a 1989 board meeting that the club re-established what was thought to be the founding mission of the club. The five C's of canoeing were stated as 1) cruising (paddling trips), 2) conservation, 3) competition (clarified to involve sponsorship of competitive events), 4) camaraderie, and 5) camping. Between the late 80's and early 90's, the club made great strides in the safety and education offerings.

Bob Kirkman (1983, Executive Officer '90-'91, Safety Chairman '87-'92) learned about the Hoosier Canoe Club when he and his ex-wife, Donnis, (HCC skipper '88-'89) were on the Small Craft Committee with the Red Cross. Soon after, they took a moving water class from Chuck Lunsford and Dave Ellis in the near Northside AFNB building pool! *I guess in land-locked Indiana, a Divining Rod can lead you to even the most obscure water hole.* Bob claimed fuzzy remembrances of the Belzer canoe camp where boy scouts and other interested paddlers, including himself, learned skills from Chuck Lunsford, Dave Ellis and Jerry Schoditsch. (Of course, Dave Ellis, is still among us as visible as ever).

Roger Beach encouraged Bob Kirkman to take on the safety chairmanship in the club, a position Bob took





Bob Kirkman on Bodhran

very seriously. As preparation, Bob availed himself to many types of water safety education: a river rescue class with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources at the East Race, the National Canoe Safety Patrol river rescue course on the Delaware River, and the river rescue course on the Red River. He felt that his enthusiasm for safety classes was not shared at the same level by the club membership during this time. Every other month for almost 5 years, Bob Kirkman would serve up a quality safety and education article in the newsletter. *"I'm sure he reached many club paddlers with his safety advocacy programs and education."*

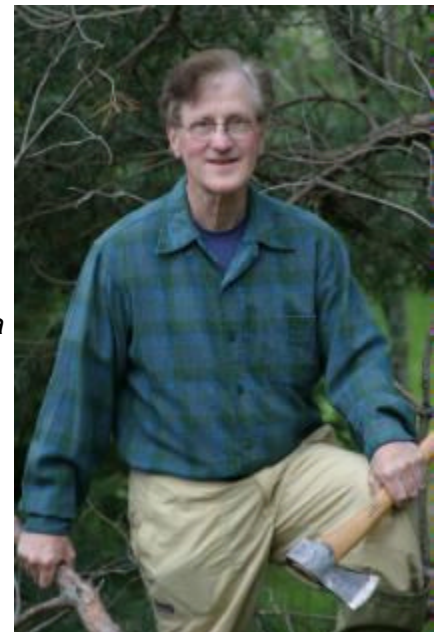
Now marching to the beat of a different drummer, Bob has recently traded his paddle for a Bodhran frame drum that he plays in an Irish pick-up band every Tuesday night. I met up with him at the Brockway House Pub in Carmel, and if you are wondering where semi-retired paddlers go for a change of venue, you can look no more. Not many would find drumming on this hand-held instrument the obvious partner to kayaking, but, from my four-year experience in the club, I've found that the paddling demographic is a surprising and unsuspecting bunch. *Paddlers have no trouble missing the Super Bowl for a winter paddle.*

## Cliff Jacobson

Through Bob's lead, I was fortunate to have an email correspondence with a very notable, nationally famous, early member, and once student at the Belzer canoe camp. Cliff Jacobson is one of North America's most respected outdoors writers and wilderness canoe guides. His experience as a professional outfitter and outdoors enthusiast is commensurate with the most notable Thoreau-ians but more importantly, he claims partial DNA with the Hoosier Canoe Club. When prodding him to remember his training classes at Camp Belzer and two years with the Hoosier Canoe Club, this is what he said in an excerpt from a 2010 email:

*"Yes indeed. I remember the event vividly. I don't remember the people, but I do remember the event. If I recall, it was an overnight affair and we camped out. That evening a man came to talk about canoeing in the BWCA. The following morning (Saturday) we canoed on some flat water then portaged into a river. It was a fun time. I think I also recall another canoe class I took. But this was a long time ago. My wife, Sharon, and I were pretty active in the Hoosier Canoe Club for two years. We went on nearly all the river trips. I remember there was a guy that had a cute little dog that would jump out of the canoe, swim ashore and explore then swim back out to the canoe to be picked up. I believe his name was Elmer. One of my favorite HCC trips was on a local river that ran through the little town of Bridgeton. I remember that they were having a fall event there. We put ashore and had a delightful time chatting with the residents and buying trinkets. In those days, I owned a bright blue Sawyer Cruiser and a 16-foot, Royalex "Warsaw Rocket". My, how things have changed. Charlie Moore was the club president then. His wife was a wonderful lady. It was fun hearing from you, Mariann. It's great to know that the club is still going strong. Best to you and the gang, Cliff."*

Well, personally, I can't help but smile at that little bit of revealed history; who doesn't like to have a celebrity connection and thanks to Bob Kirkman we can hitch-hike on some "star power" for our 15 minutes of fame.



Cliff Jacobson





## Training and Thatcher Pool

Bob Kirkman believes that the late 80's and early 90's delivered the second wave of whitewater paddlers by adding the Thatcher pool classes. Prior to that, the club offered roll classes primarily at the IU Natatorium. Now, not only were paddlers learning to roll, they could learn paddling techniques and safety. Reggie and Debby Baker turned that teaching opportunity practically into a life's work that has continued into this new millennium under Jordan Ross.

Some members feel that the gateway to membership in the HCC is through the pre-membership offerings of these paddling and roll classes.

When Jordan Ross joined the club in 1985, there were already roll sessions held in the Krannert Pool and for a few years in the IU Natatorium. These were scheduled for several weekends each winter on Saturday afternoons. Roll "instructors" were all volunteers from the club which included Dave Ellis, Chuck Lunsford, Reggie and Debby Baker, Bob Kirkman, Jordan Ross and many others. Kenny Hammill was a canoeist and didn't roll but he was a great roll instructor. Reggie Baker with his connections and extensive lifeguard background became the pool rental guru and initially orchestrated the sessions.



*Thatcher Pool*

In the late '80s or early '90s, Reggie and Debbie became certified ACA whitewater instructors after training at the East Race. History states that they both wanted to offer a stronger training class to the membership. Subsequently, Debby and Reggie designed an ACA-approved curriculum and over the winter months implemented a multi-week paddling course and roll classes for a limited number of paying students. With Team Baker as certified instructors, all previous instructors provided support to this new educational, ACA-designed education.

Jordan states that the Bakers did a fantastic job organizing and teaching the classes which continued for many years and which began to include moving water classes later in the Spring. In 1994, it became clear to Jordan that students who graduated from the Bakers' pool classes in February had nowhere to practice their skills during the cold winter and early spring months. The club was retaining very few as active club paddlers. It was also apparent that Jordan was running out of whitewater paddling partners. Jordan proposed to the Board that the club offer year-round Wednesday evening pool sessions to give these paddlers, and the rest of the HCC'ers, a place to practice, socialize and organize paddle trips. This was several years before the Internet revolutionized trip planning and communication. In order to guarantee board approval for this new project, Jordan agreed to subsidize 3 months of pool rental until the classes took off. The board approved Jordan's request with the added financial support of up to \$250 for non-covered expenses.

These new Wednesday Night roll classes were an immediate success and are thriving today. Reggie and Debby continued their skills classes at Thatcher Pool until 2005 when they began their new relationship with sea kayaking. Thanks to Jordan who has promoted and developed these classes through the years. The rest is the history that members enjoy today at Thatcher Pool every Wednesday or Saturday depending on the time of year. The archives reveal that the cost of those early roll classes and education were unbelievably cheap at \$5.00 per person. Even now, pool sessions are only \$10 per family.





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## The Perry's—Paddle or Perish



*Joan and Dale Perry*

If you have any doubt how long your kayaking career could possibly last, just turn to Joan and Dale Perry for the answer. They will serve it up with a big dose of optimism for paddling longevity. The Perry's now in their late seventies show no signs of throwing in the paddle unless it is to buy a new one. Surprisingly, taking up the sport in their 40's, their interest in all things paddling only gets stronger. Over the past 30+ years they have reinvented their paddling interests to include inflatable rafts and kayaks which, they say, have extended their whitewater life. Still travelling in search of new paddling adventures, the Perry's recently hauled their two canoes down to Florida with their RV and moped, for shuttle, to continue a year-round sport. Initially, paddling in duo and sometimes with other couples, Joan and Dale discovered the

camaraderie of the sport when they found the Hoosier Canoe Club mentioned in the "Let's Go" Section of the Indianapolis Star. At that time, the HCC offered sign-on trips directly from a newspaper ad (something the club has been reluctant to do again). Bill Lawless was their first trip leader. After joining in 1975, they became one of the biggest ambassadors for the sport, introducing canoeing and kayaking to every extended family member that was in range of their personal marketing and advertising campaign. Grandchildren as young as two years old were among some of memorable family paddling trips which, at times, included greater than 20 participating family members. Their paddling photo journalism is seen throughout the house with one museum-like room carefully displaying pictures of possibly 15-20 different flatwater and whitewater adventures.

They both became such good paddlers that Dale claims he hardly knew the difference between white and flatwater up to a Class 3. In the 80's, the distinction between white and flatwater paddlers was not so great within the club. Dale was an HCC board member for a few years in the eighties and Joan was newsletter editor in 1982 working her design/journalism talents in spite of using a stencil for page layouts.

Although the Perry's got some of their canoe training through the Nantahala Outdoor Center, they also credit club members including the Flexmans, Dave Ellis, and Reggie and Debbie Baker with good leadership and training expertise.

When pressed, Joan revealed her favorite river trips were the five-day Current River trip in Missouri (club trip), the Big Walnut, and Deer Creek by Delphi. But her sweetest love is the Moscow section of the Flatrock which affords both beauty and thrills with its covered bridge and famous Class 1 ledges section that allowed even those beginners with inflated courage a huge accomplishment.

The Perry's have their four canoes and three inflatables on the ready awaiting another HCC trip or a quiet duo paddle down one of Indiana's beautiful streams. Somewhere in their home is an empty picture frame awaiting another unforgettable memory on the water. Like the Flexmans, the Perry's will be inspirational to all paddlers contemplating early retirement from the sport to choose the canoe for a little longer over the couch.

### Leadership Then and Now

The club has had twenty-six different skippers from 1963 through 2010; fourteen accepted two-year terms and only two, Shirley Gates and Reggie Baker, had more than two terms with the gavel: Shirley Gates with three terms and Reggie Baker holding the all-time record with eight years of skippering.

Successful leadership has many qualities: Clarity of vision, creativity, fairness and magnanimity are es-



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sential, but dedication seems to be a primary trait. The club leadership flows with seamless transition as many executive officers stay on to become skippers and many previous skippers maintain positions on the board. These skippers articulate the mission of the club and provide leadership in sustaining membership and defining and promoting the club's agenda. A good leader will correct for a fragmented course that can swamp any organization. Sometimes unpopular decisions are made in favor of the whole and sometimes personal agendas become popular agendas. All is done thankfully for the future success of an organization without reimbursement of time or compensation.

Dan Valleskey (1992) recent past skipper (2009-2010) has been a large presence in the club for almost 20 years. In the late 80's, after meeting his wife, Julie, he moved to Indianapolis from Fort Wayne. Surprisingly, Dan joined the Wildcat Canoe Club, Garry's Lafayette-based club, years before joining the HCC. He was a member of the WCC board for a few years, became a trip leader, and subsequently became their newsletter editor. Apparently, Dan, was establishing a strong base (with the WCC); from that early leadership experience, he would begin to build a healthy resume for the HCC. Dan has held executive positions in the HCC on three occasions: publicity chairman in 1995, safety chairman ('96), and skipper ('09-'10).

His vision for the club consistently brought members to focus on many challenging projects: The Hoosier Outdoor Experience, a huge organizational project, proved that the HCC can support a state-wide effort that encourages water sports to a large part of the community. Because of the HCC, the two-day event introduced hundreds of Hoosiers to paddling one of Indiana's beautiful streams. Dan organized the volunteers within the HCC and encouraged the IYAK meet up group to volunteer their own members. Personally, Dan continues to work with the Friends of the White River, through their "River School" to lead paddling trips and provide teaching to interested kids. He encouraged the techno-advanced method of on-line membership payment through PayPal, which was achieved through the tireless efforts of Jim Sprandel (2005), our past newsletter editor.



*Theresa Kulczak—Dan Valleskey November, 2010*

The reduction of our instructor base, with the loss of Reggie Baker and the semi-retirement of Debby Baker, brings concern to Dan. He understands the dedicated effort involved in the ACA certification necessary to develop quality safety paddling classes. Currently, the club has three certified paddling instructors, Joel DeLashmit (2008), Dave Ellis (1969) and Jim Sprandel (2005). The club certainly commends them on their important contribution through their advanced training.

He reminds us often that this is a recreational paddle club and that we're here to have fun and paddle with friends. However, many trips have few paddlers or the same paddlers. Dan has repeatedly raised the question: "How do we get more of our members on the water?" Dan hopes that by providing more educational opportunities and by advertising Jordan Ross's roll classes at the Thatcher Pool we may encourage more people to get out. Of course, other advertising efforts, at the point of sale, need to be investigated.

Under Dan's skippering, a safety education task force was also established in 2009 and continues with solid effort to develop a safety outreach educational program to help reduce the number of accidents and drownings on the rivers. The project will consist of intelligently humorous and educational signage placed at river access sites, liveries and retailers. Theresa Kulczak, Terry Busch, Dan Valleskey, Mariann Davis and Jordan Ross have worked to produce a campaign which will bear fruit this coming Spring.



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## Moving Ahead

Through the efforts of countless members, the HCC has survived and prospered over 47 years. Today, the club enjoys a membership of 241 paid members and from that number, many talented and creative people will be recruited to the executive, board, and committee positions necessary to sustain and grow the club. As members understand their personal connections to the sport of paddling, I'm sure they will contribute their talents accordingly and generously. Without you, the paddler, the club would not exist. The club's best insurance against extinction is members showing up on the river to paddle. Besides, the small membership dues, the only price an HCC member has to pay to keep the club vibrant is doing what paddlers already love doing—Paddle!

So as they say in the paddling world: See you on the Water!

## Acknowledgements

Many thanks to those members I interviewed who allowed me and my digital recorder into their personal space and to those I bugged with phone calls and emails continuously throughout the writing: Shirley Gates, Dan Valleskey, Garry Hill, Richard Tekulve, Bob Kirkman, Dale and Joan Perry, Jordan Ross, Debby Baker, Gerry Schoditsch, Dave Ellis, Jim Sprandel, and Cliff Jacobson.

Thanks to my son, Adam, who endured the task of proof reader without complaining and to Jim Sprandel who, not only accepted but suggested the job of page editor and designer for this project.

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## Time Line Events

**1969 through 2006**—With a few interruptions, the HCC provided the end-of-year the awards banquet.

**1986**—HCC hosted the first flat-water national championships at Eagle Creek Reservoir sponsored by the ACA.

**1987**—HCC had volunteers at the Pan AM games in Indianapolis.

**1988**—Olympic team trials were held on Eagle Creek Reservoir prior to the Seoul Olympics—many club members volunteered.

**1988**—The DNR contacted the HCC for recommendations on which rivers and streams to monitor by gauges.

**1989**—Multiple drowning on Indiana rivers prompted Bob Kirkman to strengthen his education to liveries on educating the paddling public.

**2000**—There were 250 paid member in the HCC.

**2008**—The 1st annual Pirate Paddle on the White River was held inviting club member and the community at large to participate; a very big success through the efforts of Theresa Kulczak.

**2009**—In November, we began to develop a huge state wide safety campaign involving placement of safety signage and literature in liveries and retailers.

**2009/2010**—Participated as large presence in the first and second Hoosier Outdoor Experience, a state-wide event, to introduce Hoosiers to the kayaking experience. HCC Volunteers lead hundreds of first-time paddlers down Fall Creek.

**February 2010**— Dan Valleskey and several HCC members have testified before a Senate committee on House Bill 1232 – Log Jam Removal to keep the present IDNR permitting process in place. Without this there is the potential for inappropriate dredging and mudslides. Flood control concerns could be exacerbated.

**2011**—One of the largest (if not the largest) trip calendars, offering 82 different trips: 25 flatwater, 27 touring, and 30 whitewater events. The HCC continues to support the triathlons at Eagle Creek

**2011**—The HCC had a very successful 9-day participation at the Boat and Travel Show with many displays and multiple roll demonstrations and other educative talks.

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**Photo Credits:** Page 1, 2—Theresa Kulczak, Page 11—Courtesy of Shirley Gate, Page 12—Courtesy of Garry Hill, Page 13—Jim Sprandel, Page 15-Top—Courtesy of Bob Kirkman, Page 15-Bottom—Cliff Jacobson, Page 16—Jordan Ross, Page 17—Courtesy of Dale Perry, Page 16—Mariann Davis



## Upcoming Events

Wednesday evenings, 7-9PM	<b>Pool Sessions- Thatcher Pool</b>	Bulletin Board
Sunday, April 3	<b>Monthly Paddle, Geist Park, 9:30am</b>	BB/March Issue
Saturday, April 2	<b>Annual April Fools Big Pine Trip</b>	Page 3
Fri-Sun, April 8-10	<b>MACK Fest, Marmora, Canada</b>	Page 8
Saturday, April 9	<b>Sand Creek</b>	Page 5
Sunday, April 10	<b>Whitewater River</b>	Page 6
Sat-Sun, April 9-10	<b>Lake Monroe Overnight</b>	Page 9
Saturday, April 16	<b>Big Walnut Creek</b>	Page 7
Saturday, April 16	<b>Kayak Paddling Clinic</b>	Page 9
Fri-Sun, April 15-17	<b>Southern Rivers Weekend</b>	Page 8
Saturday, April 23	<b>Elkhorn Creek, KY</b>	Page 7
Saturday, April 23	<b>South Fork of Wildcat</b>	Page 6
Sat-Sun, May 21-22	<b>Grayson Lake</b>	Page 8
May 21-27	<b>BWCA Gunflint Trail</b>	Page 4

**April Newsletter Deadline:** Please submit articles to Kim Henry by April 15, 2011. Please e-mail articles and pictures to [editor@hoosiercanoeclub.org](mailto:editor@hoosiercanoeclub.org).

*The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club*

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