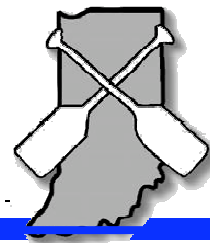


The Hoosier Paddler

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September 2011



Trip Report

Tuck/Nanty Beginner's Trip July 23-24, 2011

Robert Henry

This was one of the most fun beginner's trips that I have been on! Although, I may be partial since I led it. I will let you decide. Camping was arranged at the Turkey Creek campground which is 10-15 minutes from NOC and one hour from the Tuck put-in. The accommodations of the campground are in the top five of any campground where I have ever stayed. Coffee was ready as soon as we woke, but for a small fee, of course. Bathrooms were adorned with tile, overhead showers and the craftsmanship of the owner who does all of the work himself. The deck area above the bathrooms had plenty of seating around a large flat screen TV that lowered from the ceiling, even though it only showed the Tour De France while we were there. The campground provides trash cans and recycling cans at the camp sites. We ended up only using three campsites of the five allotted to us, but that was not an issue since it is pay-per-person camping. The campground is nestled in the side of a hill near Fontana Lake. There is an old logging road that leads to a nice swimming hole on the lake. We arrived in three different groups; The Indy group, and two groups from NW Indiana/SW Michigan.

Saturday we were at the put-in for the Tuck around 10 am. We had two put-in locations (old put-in and new put-in). Those not wishing to run Dillsboro Dam rapid put-in at the old put-in. We had 13 paddlers (Suzi Rapp, Theresa Kulczak, Ken Starrs, Roger Starring, Mike and Michelle Mahaffey, Eddie and Rachel (his daughter), Earl King, James and Dane Stockman, Todd, and myself) on this trip. Theresa (our Skipper) was the only true whitewater beginner on this trip.



Almost the entire group on the Tuck

Three others were just in new play boats. While shuttle was being ran, Earl, Todd and Suzi scouted the Dillsboro Dam rapid and evaluated where we were at as compared to max water level for the day. The dam released 650 cfs which turned out to be a decent beginner level. At higher levels, it would probably make for a better river trip. The Dillsboro Dam Rapid proved to be intimidating for some. Todd, Suzi, Ken, Earl and I ran just left of river center on the green tongue. It was pretty straight forward and turned out to be pretty easy, although it looked tough with the side currents feeding into the hole in the tongue at the bottom of the drop. At the old put-in, we gathered everyone else and headed down river. The weather was hot and sunny, and the water was brown. The sand beaches we saw were covered in vermiculite and coal dust. Thank you, mountain top removal mining! We had two people in a ducky for this trip. We made it through all of the rapids of the Tuck without any swims. I am sure the lower levels helped with that. The lower levels didn't help Earl on this trip. The plastic weld on the bottom of his kayak split about half way down the river.

After kayaking, we took a trip to the NOC store. For me, it was torture going into the store and not buying some piece of equipment. When I am not kayaking, I am looking at gear or looking at new rivers to kayak. Too bad they weren't having a sale on spray skirts. I will definitely need a new one after this season since my current one takes on water. We saw the McLaughlins as we crossed the foot bridge. Apparently they had a great day on the Nanty and we would again meet up with them the next day.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Back at camp, Todd, Suzi and I met up with Earl, Theresa and Ken to cook dinner. I now know why Earl is "campchef" on the BB. He cooked up a dish of shrimp, vegetables and rice that was so mouth watering! I cooked a steak and corn on the cob (some corn was from the Westfield farmers market that was excellent). Ken cooked some hamburgers. Put all of this with the fruit and potato salad to make our buffet style meal. We had some champagne with Chambord along with a variety of beer. Just as we finished eating and started to put everything away, it started to rain. Excellent timing! While waiting out the rain, we enjoyed some more drinks on the deck. Awe finally the rain passed. We grabbed our stuff for swimming and walked to the lake for a nice swim. On the way back, we learned that railroad tracks are not good for opening bottles of beer. They tend to break the glass instead of pulling off the cap. Oh well, there were more back at camp. Yes, I did bring the bottle back to camp for recycling.

Sunday we tore down camp and were at the put-in around 9:45 am after a little bit of a late start. Shuttle was ran and we were on the water ready to go by 10:45 am. We had Earl, Theresa, and Eddie with his daughter in duckys on this trip. After waiting a bit for Eddie and his daughter, we split into two groups; The Indy paddlers and the NW Indiana/SW Michigan paddlers. The two groups ended up merging later. The river was difficult to



Suzi Rapp and Robert Henry on the Tuck

see with the heavy fog and occasional rain. Rafts kept pushing down the river at a fast pace and required us catching eddies to let them go by. We were stuck with one group of rude rafters that I found out later were endangering Ken Starrs by putting their raft on top of the stern of his kayak all the way up to his back, forcing him to brace to stabilize while pushing the raft off of him. Once free, Ken eddied out. The rest of us eddied out waiting for Ken and Suzi to come down the river. The raft passed us as they bounced from rock to rock down the river with no concern for anyone else. After this, we stayed as far behind them as possible. I tried to surf the wave at Whirlpool rapid. It shot me into the eddy on river left that had the whirlpool. Suzi ended up in the eddy with Ken and me.

Ken decided not to tempt the whirlpool. Suzi peeled out and paddled down river, no problem. I peeled out and got pushed back into the whirlpool and flipped. Roll attempt 1, no good. Still in the whirlpool. Roll attempt 2 and I am up, but still in the weakened whirlpool as it moved downriver. A couple of quick strokes and I am free of it. We stopped at surf rapid for a while trying to catch the wave and taking a break. This gave us plenty of distance from the rude group of rafters. The wave was difficult to catch at this level (around 650 cfs) and didn't hold us very long once we did catch it. Once at the falls, most of us scouted. A few of us flipped and I don't think any of us swam. Some portaged the rapid. I followed Todd down to Truck Stop. We picked our lines and then, Todd went over the drop and through the hole, no problems. I peeled out of the eddy, caught the far river left edge of the top hole and two strokes later I was through the Falls without flipping. That puts me at a success rate of 1 of 2 attempts and 0 swims for the Falls. After the Falls, everyone pretty much went their own directions to get food, change and do other things while Todd and I tried to surf under the bridge. Creek boats had the best time staying in the wave. I had a hard time keeping from shooting across the wave or getting blown off of it. After a while, I was going to try the hole down by the river right take out. After boat scouting it from the eddy above it and seeing Todd go through it, I quickly changed my mind. It was monstrous and not very friendly. I am going to need more ER practice time before attempting to surf this one. I peeled out, paddled hard to gain momentum, hit the hole and almost got sucked back in. Many paddle strokes later, I was finally moving downriver again. Todd and I took out just above the road bridge to the parking lot, loaded up, got changed and got some lunch.

We left the NOC for the drive back at around 4:30 pm. This was much later than I had expected. During the drive back, we stopped off for sushi which capped off our non-Mexican food kayaking trip! We arrived back in Indy at around 1:45 am on Monday morning which brought an end to our trip.



Volunteers Needed!

Hoosier Outdoor Experience

September 17-18, 2011

The Hoosier Canoe Club will once again be helping DNR with the river event at the Hoosier Outdoor Experience (HOEx). The popular event is September 17 and 18th, held at Fort Harrison state park, on the NE edge of Indy. We will help at least 500 people to enjoy a short (7/10 mile) trip on Fall Creek, within the boundaries of the park. <http://www.in.gov/dnr/5009.htm>

HCC members can help by loading and unloading the canoes and kayaks, both loading guests into the boats, and then loading the boats onto the trailers. We also need people to drive the little shuttle vehicles, and of course, we supply the best "River Coaches" anywhere, to help the guests get either kayaks or canoes down the stream. If you are feeling more "administrative" there will be a few openings for people who can help with sign ups, as well as handing out PFD's and paddles.

This year we will be using two shifts, either early in the day, or late in the day, roughly 8:30 to 1:45, or 1:30 to 6:30. This isn't set in stone, if you need different hours, talk to me. I will be collecting names, and passing your name along to DNR, do not bother to register on the event web page. Just email me danpaddles@gmail.com or call me (317) 257 9837 to sign up. Just tell me, "early" or "late" Saturday or Sunday. You can help either shift or both, whatever you feel like helping with. We will have munchies, sandwich fixin's and drinks for volunteers.

See you in September! -Dan Valleskey

Editor's Note: While we would love for as many members to help out with this event as possible, even if you cannot volunteer, consider going to the park for a few hours and checking out all HOE has to offer. It is a great event put on by DNR that has lots to offer an outdoors enthusiast.

Ride the Wave Regatta, Michigan City, Indiana

August 23, 2011

The Northwest Indiana Paddling Association is once again excited to welcome kayak and canoe enthusiasts from around the Midwest to the annual Michigan City "Ride The Wave" Regatta, to be held on Lake Michigan and Trail Creek Sept. 24, of this year.

Test your paddling skills against fellow paddlers in the event, which features an 8-mile sea kayak race on the "big lake," and a 6.7 mile canoe and kayak race along Trail Creek. The event also features races for kids.

Morning races begin at 10 a.m. central time while afternoon races begin at 1 p.m. Children don't need to bring their own vessel as the NWIPA will provide equipment.

The "Ride The Wave" Regatta is an official exhibition race on the Indiana division of the United States Canoe Association's 2011 race schedule. Competitive and novice divisions are available. For more information and on-line registration go to www.nwipa.org/ridethewavesignup.html or contact Ken Stelter at ridethewave@nwipa.org, or by phone, at 219.448.1382.



Michigan Paddler's Rendezvous III

September 23-25, 2011

This year's event will be Sept 23 - 25 at Coolwater Campground in Wellston MI. The Friday paddle on the Manistee and Saturday and Sunday on the Pine. Earlybird Special paddle for those who show up before noon Thursday (site TBD). Last year over 70 paddlers attended this great, growing event! Saturday night pot luck featuring Rich Tekulve's Gourmet Bean Soup! Richard has generously donated all material, design, and printing costs. Complete details and registration info @ <http://michiganpaddlersrendezvous.blogspot.com> All t-shirt orders must be received by Sept. 1

Flatwater Trip Announcement

White River

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Trip Sponsor: Mariann Davis

Join us on White River from Waverly down to Henderson Ford Bridge. We promise it won't be nearly as cold as the last paddle the club sponsored on this section last New Year's Day. The paddle is 9.2 miles (3-4 hours depending on the current and lunch) and is a good one for beginning and intermediate paddlers. Plan to look for eagles as they are often sited on this section of the river. The West Fork of the White River is a former Pleistocene glacial sluiceway. Over 70 streams contribute to the White along it's 353 miles.

Meet at the Dairy Queen on SR 37 and SR 144 at 10:30 am and we will run the shuttle, paddle and have fun. Be sure to check in with either of the trip leaders to make sure there is enough water for the trip. Don't forget to bring water, lunch and sunscreen in addition to your gear. Hope to see you on there!

Contact Information: Please be sure to contact Mariann Davis (317-846-6997 or marianndvs@gmail.com) by 5 pm on September 23rd if you plan to paddle.



Touring Trip Announcement

Lake Erie Islands Trip Trips Sponsor: Joel DeLashmit

September 30-October 2, 2011

We will be paddling to Some of the Erie Islands from Catawba State Park in Port Clinton, Ohio. There are many islands that can be explored in the area. Lake Erie is large and shallow which means large waves can arise quickly. It will be cooler during this time of year so bring appropriate clothing for paddling. I hope to be able to paddle around some of the islands during this trip. Contact me by Wednesday September 28 if you wish to attend. There are several campgrounds around the area if you wish to arrive early.

We will plan to explore and camp on South Bass Island on Friday, they have a full service campground

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/parks/lakeerie/sobass/tabid/81/Default.aspx>

We will plan to explore and camp on Middle Bass Island on Saturday, they do not have water or amenities

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/parks/middlebass/tabid/766/Default.aspx>

We will cross back to the mainland on Sunday morning, time will be determined by weather.

Trip Requirements: On this trip, we could have large wave conditions. You should feel comfortable paddling in 2 to 3 foot waves. Self and group rescue skills are also required. Sea or touring boats with spray skirts are a requirement. You will have to carry your camping gear, clothes, and food with you in your kayak.

Contingency Plans: If wave and wind conditions are too severe to make the crossing, we will explore the Sandusky Bay water trail.

Contact Information: For additional information, contact Joel DeLashmit at (317) 656-1597 or joeldelashmit@gmail.com.

Meeting and Put In

Date: September 30

Time: 11:30am

Location: Catawba State Park (4hrs 40min from Indianapolis)

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/parks/lakeerie/tabid/753/Default.aspx>

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Portals/2/parkmaps/lakeerieislandsparkmap.pdf>

Much more information concerning paddling in the area can be found here:

<http://www.southbassrendezvous.com/>





Fall at Eagle Creek

Eagle Creek Thursday Night Paddles through September 29

Eagle Creek Clean-Up—Saturday, September 24, 2011

Jim Sprandel

Thursday Night Paddles: The Thursday night paddles will continue at Eagle Creek through September 29. As we approach the end of the season, be sure to check the closing time posted at the gates since they close the park earlier when the sun starts setting earlier. This is a great time of year to paddle Eagle Creek because a large number of migratory birds are in the north end of the lake as the water level of the lake drops.

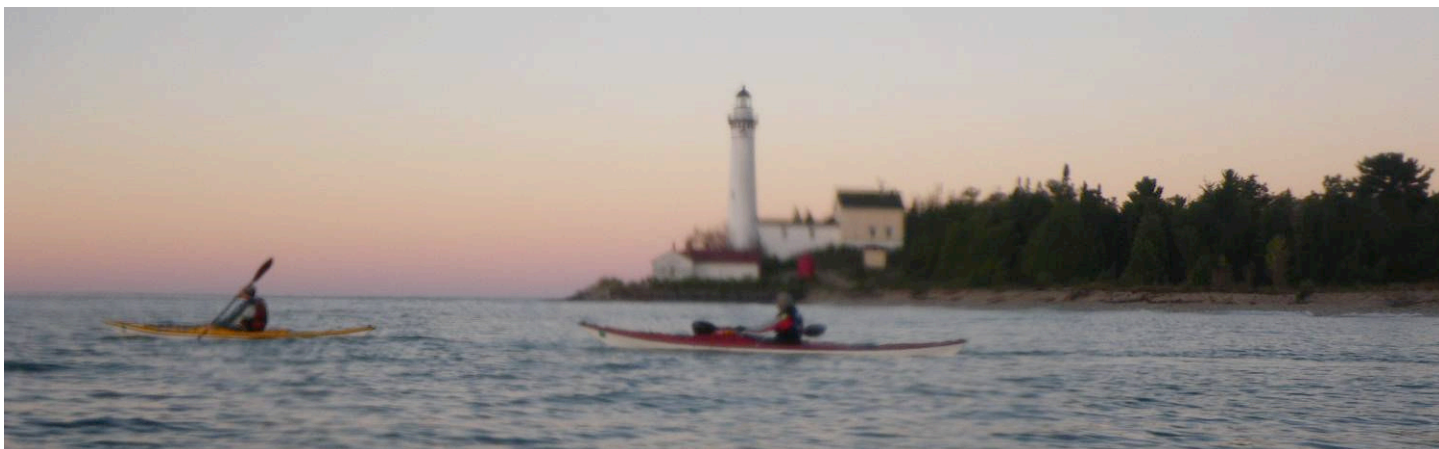
After the September 29 paddle, we will end the series with a “farewell” dinner at a local restaurant. Details for this dinner will be posted to the Touring Kayak Forum of the Bulletin Board and distributed via the IND_TOURING_KAYAK mailing list as we get closer!

Eagle Creek Clean-Up: We will have a shore-line clean-up of Eagle Creek on Saturday, September 24

If you have paddled Eagle Creek, you know that the shoreline becomes litter with “mementos” that have been left by other park guests or that have washed down Eagle Creek. While we do smaller shore clean-ups throughout the year, we will have a concentrated effort on Saturday, September 24 since the water level is typically low enough to let out really clean up the shoreline.

Clean-Up Details: We will meet at Eagle Creek Marina at 9:30 am. We will work until approximately 3:00 pm. Bring a lunch, gloves, good water shoes, water, and your canoe or kayak. I’ll bring trash bags and other supplies that we may need. I’ll borrow a canoe for the heavy hauling.





Manitou Island at Sunrise, Sept. 2010

Sea Kayak Trip Announcement

Manitou Island Trip, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Trips Sponsor: Brad Hughey

Friday-Sunday. Sept 9-11, 2011

We will be paddling out to the Manitou Islands from Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Empire, Michigan. I will leave Indianapolis Thursday afternoon about 4 pm for the 7-hour drive up to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and will camp at the D H Day campgrounds on the mainland. Some people will be driving up on Thursday during the day.

Friday morning: We will leave bright and early for the 8.5-mile open water crossing of Lake Michigan to South Manitou island. This island has everything a paddler could want: beachfront camping, self composting privies, a well for water, a lighthouse, and old growth cedars. There are also shipwrecks you can see from the beach or paddle to if it is calm enough. There are also 300-foot tall sand dunes.

Saturday: We can hike the island or cross the 4-mile channel to day trip to North Manitou Island depending on the lake conditions.

Sunday morning: We will paddle the 8.5 mile open water crossing back to the mainland and we should be back to Indy by 8 pm.

Trip Requirements: On this trip, we could have large wave conditions, also the crossing is through a shipping lane. You should feel comfortable paddling in 2 to 3 foot waves. Self and group rescue skills are also required.

Sea or touring boats with spray skirts are a requirement. You will have to carry your camping gear, clothes, and food with you in your kayak.

Contingency Plans: If wave and wind conditions are too severe to make the crossing, there are plenty of bays, lakes, and rivers to paddle in the area.

Contact Information: For additional information, call Brad Hughey at (317) 848-9410.



Upcoming Events

Wednesdays	Weekly Pool Sessions 7-9PM	Bulletin Board
Sep. 4	Touring Monthly Paddle—Geist Park 9am	Bulletin Board
Sep. 9-11	Touring: Manitou Island Paddle	Page 7
Sep. 10-13	Whitewater: Gauley First Release, WV	Bulletin Board
Sep. 16-18	Whitewater: Gauley Fest, WV	Bulletin Board
Sep. 17	NWIPA Ride the Waves Regatta	Page 3
Sep. 17-18	Hoosier Outdoor Experience, Fort Harrison SP	Page 3
Sep. 24	Flatwater: White River	Page 5
Sep. 24	Eagle Creek Clean-up	Page 6
Sep. 23-25	Michigan Paddler's Rendezvous III	Page 4
Oct. 1-2	Touring: South Bass Island Trip, Lake Erie	Page 5

October Newsletter Deadline: Please submit articles to Kim Henry by September 15, 2011. Please e-mail articles and pictures to editor@hoosiercanoeclub.org.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

The Hoosier Paddler

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