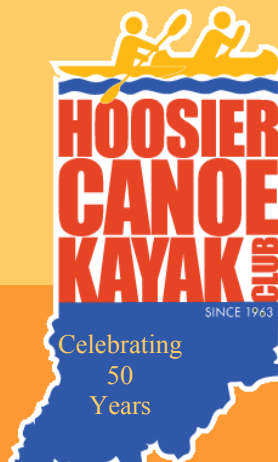


The Hoosier Paddler

October 2013, Vol. 51 Issue 9 <http://www.hoosiercanoecub.org/>



Skipper's Message

This dry spell has had everyone looking for water and has unfortunately caused some trips to be cancelled. Hopefully the rains will arrive as they did last year and permit paddling for late Sept and early October trips. We had a great turnout for the Eagle Creek Clean-up on September 7th. My hat is off to our members who showed that they really care about maintaining our natural environment and to Kellie Kaneshiro for organizing the event. The group cleaned about a fourth of the shoreline from the marina around to the causeway. Interesting items such as a ladder and tire were found along with the usual plastic bottles and cans. This is also the time of year where the nominating committee is looking for individuals interested in serving on the Board. If you are interested or want to nominate someone else, email me or any board member with the name so they can be considered. We are always looking for new talent and leadership. If you don't want to be on the Board but are interested in serving in another capacity like trip leader, trip chair, event coordinator or training just let me know and we'll get you involved. Remember, this is OUR club and operates best when we all do our part. Sue

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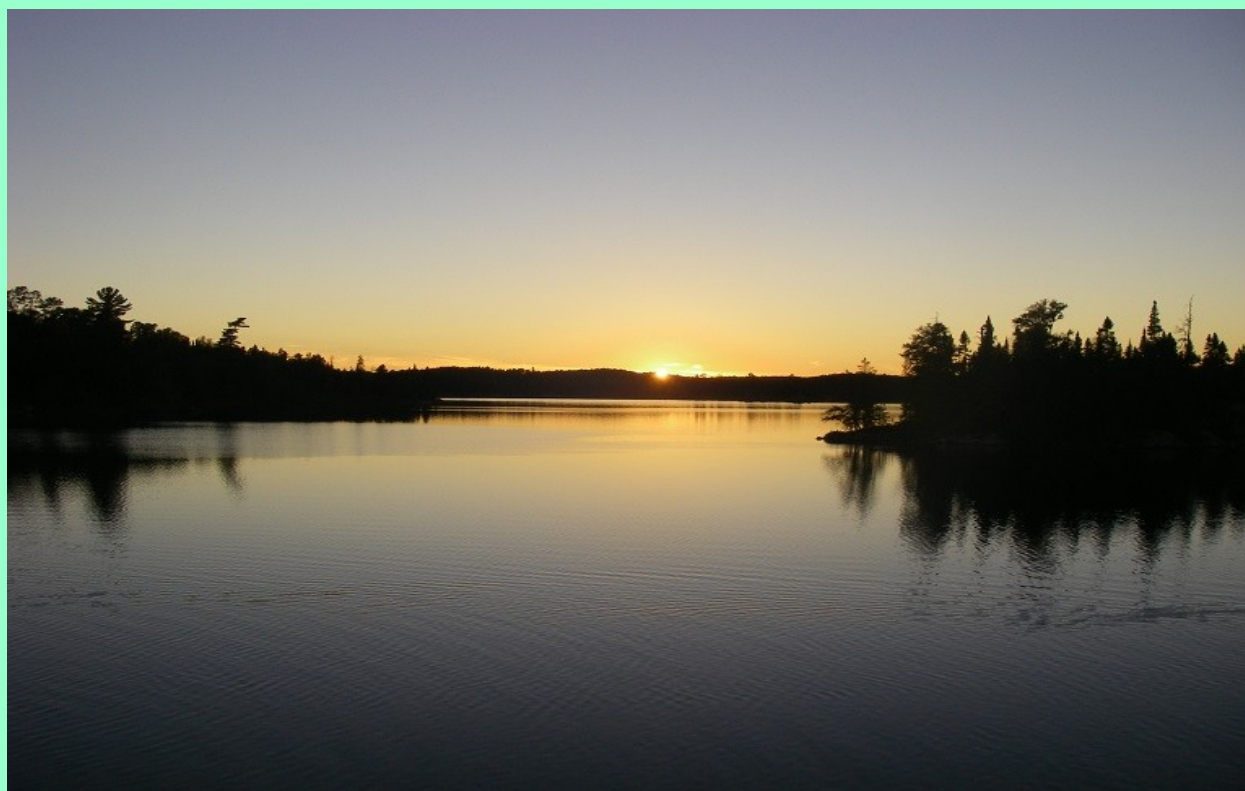
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Sunset from Camp 1 on Saganagons Lake Photo by Jeff Kuhn



Sea Kayak Trip Announcement

Patoka Lake Trip —Wickliffe, IN Sat-Sunday, October 12-13, 2013

Trips Sponsors: Kellie Kaneshiro, Jim Sprandel

Lake Patoka is the second largest lake in Indiana with about 8,800 acres of water and over 160 miles of shoreline. Hoosier National Forest surrounds the lake with rolling tree-covered hills and rock outcroppings. There are headwaters to explore as well as sections where the lake starts feeling like big water. For Sunday, we have planned a 6-8 mile paddle to an interesting and hard-to-find [chain of quarry lakes](#) near the Southeast corner of the lake.

Since it takes over 3 hours to get to Patoka, we will camp overnight at Fisherman's Camp on Saturday night and paddle both Saturday and Sunday. This campsite is located near a limited speed section of the lake which is more kayak-friendly.

Patoka Lake Map: http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/patoka_trail.pdf

Meeting Place/Put-In: Fisherman's Camp at Newton-Stewart State Recreation Area or look for my car (Blue Sonata and an HCC Sign) in Fisherman's camp. We'll try to get as close to the lake as possible. Newton-Stewart SRA is just north of Wickliffe, Indiana. There is a \$5/car fee to enter the SRA.

Directions to Meeting Place: It is about a 3-hour drive from the intersection of I-65 and I-465 on the south side of Indianapolis to Patoka. Drive South on I-65 and get off at Exit 6B (I-265 toward I-64/IN-62/New Albany). Take Exit 0 off of I-265 to merge onto I-64W toward IN-62/St. Louis. Go about 43 miles west on I-64 to Exit 79 and then go 7 miles North on IN-37. Turn slightly left on IN-64 West/IN-145. Follow IN-145 north 3.6 miles until you reach IN-164. Turn left (west) onto IN-164 about 1.3 mile until you see the sign for Newton-Stewart SRA and then turn right (North) into the SRA. Follow the signs in the SRA to the Fisherman's Camp and look for us.
Note: This is the fastest route. There is a shorter, sometimes slower, and more scenic route through West Baden.

Camping Information: Fisherman's Camp is a primitive camp ground with water and vault toilets. Each campsite costs \$10/night and the park allows 2 tents and cars per campsite so you may be able to share a campsite.

What to Bring: Bring your camping gear including food (Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast and any snacks you might need) and paddling gear. Be sure to bring your spray skirt since we will be going over to the open area of the lake near the dam and there may be some waves when the wind picks up. We'll be "car camping" so you won't carry your gear in your boat on this trip.

Note: You need a 2013 DNR sticker (\$5) for your boat. They are available at the park gate if you don't have one.

Schedule:

Friday Night - I will get in relatively early on Friday. We will have a short sunset paddle if people around 5:30 if people get in early and are interested.

Saturday 10:00 am - Arrive at Fisherman's

Sunday - We will paddle 3 hours and then head home.

Contact information: Contact Kellie at knkane@gmail.com or Jim at merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net by 8:00 pm on **Thursday, October 10.**



Thatcher Pool Report

Clan Mac Farewell

The Clan from Scotland (by way of Carmel, IN) bid fond farewell to their HCC friends this past month. Aaron & Louise McLaughlin and their boys Ewan, Callum and Allistair came for a final Thatcher Pool paddling session before setting off on a long road trip across the West to their new home in Seattle, Washington. Even before he brought his family to Indiana Aaron, an executive with Amazon, had been angling for a position in Seattle, in good part because of his family's love of the outdoors, kayaking and mountaineering.

Friends joined them at the pool to reminisce about their time here in Indiana and marvel at how much the boys have grown, not to mention what promising young kayakers they have become. Everyone recalled the boy's charming presentation at the Fall Meeting several years ago describing their adventures learning to paddle whitewater, which their Mom and Dad encouraged at an early age. We paddled and talked for an hour or so, then headed over to El Rodeo for some Mexican eats. It was a school night for the boys and they conked out early. They surely need the sleep to keep growing so quickly.

We will miss Clan Mac but they'll be living in a great place for paddling. They love their HCC family and repeatedly encouraged us to come and visit them in the future. The boys should be about eight feet tall by then... In the words of Scotts poet Robert Burns: "Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne?"



Clan McLaughlin (from R to L): Ewan, Louise, Allistair, Aaron, Callum
Jordan Ross

Trip Report – Quetico Provincial Park, Ontario

September 2'nd – 7'th, 2013

Jeff Kuhn

Tom Siddall and I recently completed a 6-day, 68 mile loop through the southeastern portion of Quetico Provincial Park. There were 20 portages in our loop. I paddled my Hemlock Peregrine solo canoe and Tom had his Wenonah Advantage solo. Both boats are about 32 lbs. and are well suited to this kind of trip.

One of the drawbacks to tripping in solo boats is that there is more gear to portage. We were each completely self-supported; individual boats, tents, food, and other gear. As a result, we had a minimum of two and sometimes three trips over and back in order to move all the gear. This tripled, and sometimes quintupled the portage distances. Quetico portages are often steep, strewn with boulders, and muddy. It is Canadian Shield country with thin soil on granite bedrock. The glaciers of millennia ago ground the bedrock into boulders of various sizes. They are scattered everywhere making footing treacherous much of the time. Triple carrying made for some exhausting portaging.

Two Packs = Too Much



Below is our Route Map - (sorry the names of the lakes, etc. aren't more legible). We ran the loop counterclockwise. The northern section of the route is very remote. We saw no one for two days in that area. The Silver Falls, Sagana-gons Lake, and Falls Chain sections are busier. The Falls Chain is especially popular and we saw numerous groups in that area. The majority of people run the Falls Chain downstream, often trying to get to Kawnipi Lake and the excellent fishing there. However, due to our counterclockwise loop, we ran it upstream. Running upstream is not an issue as the current is only significant immediately above and below each falls. However, there were a couple of places where we had to paddle fairly hard to overcome the current.

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The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club



Day 1 – September 2, 2013

We arrived at Seagull Outfitters at 7:30 AM. Seagull Outfitters is located on the Gunflint Trail about 55 miles north of Grand Marais, MN. Our boat tow out to Hook Island on Saganaga Lake near the park boundary left at 8:00. The weather was cold during the boat ride out – 45 degrees and cloudy. However, off in the distance we could see the sun shining in Quetico, which I took as a good omen. Also, just prior to departing Hook Island we saw a rainbow dipping into Saganaga Lake just ahead of us. Another good omen.

After a one-hour paddle, we reached the Quetico ranger station on an island in Cache Bay and received our permit. Departing the ranger station, the next stop was our first portage; the half-mile carry around Silver Falls which is the largest falls in the park at 70 feet. The reality of how much gear we had hit us then. After three carries, we were pretty tired. However, while on the trail the clouds broke, the skies cleared, and the temperature rose to a comfortable level. Silver Falls is spectacular. Below is a picture of it taken from the trail. Due to the path of the portage trail, it is difficult to get close to the falls except near the brink. You cannot see the falls from below. It is around a bend and a rapids downstream of the falls makes getting close problematic.

We had some trouble locating Dead Man's Portage, a 58 rod (1 rod = 16.5 ft.) portage into the north side of Saganagons Lake. The trail is not readily apparent. Another group caught up with us and found the trail so we followed them. We made camp on an island on Saganagons Lake after eight hours of paddling and portaging. Took some pictures of the sun setting over a ridge and listened to the loons calling. We could hear one of the waterfalls in the Falls Chain 1 ½ miles away. We would pass through the Falls Chain in four days, but tomorrow we would be heading away from it. The skies stayed clear, conditions that were repeated each day of our trip. There were occasionally some high cirrus clouds, but nothing that looked like rain.

The first day always involves establishing a routine. It took us a while longer to set up camp and get organized that first night and a little longer to break camp and re-pack all the gear the morning, but by the end of the trip our routine was well established.

To be continued next month



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 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. Undaunted, however, Bob would serve up a quality safety and education article in the newsletter every other month for almost 5 years, *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 experience in the club, I've found that paddlers are a unique demographic: *they 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 outdoor enthusiast is commensurate with the most 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.

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Training and Thatcher Pool

Bob Kirkman believes that the late 80's and early 90's delivered the second wave of white water 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" was 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.

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.

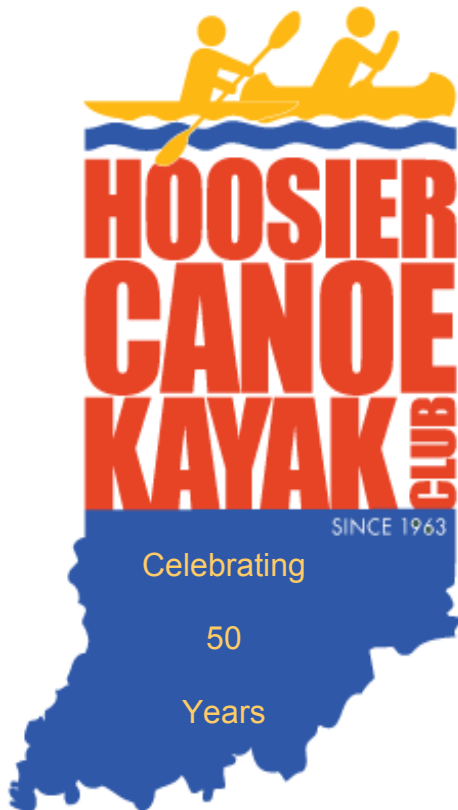
Jordan states that the Bakers did a fantastic job organizing and teaching the classes which continued for many years and which began to include moving water classes later in the Spring. In 1994, it became clear to Jordan that students who graduated from the Bakers' pool classes in February had nowhere 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 come as a real bargain at \$10 for 2 hours of play and instruction.

As we have seen, the club has progressed and prospered with the energy of a small percentage of its membership. Not everyone has to be in a leadership position in the club, but a lot of someones have to show up and paddle the beautiful rivers and streams of Indiana and beyond. The energy you generate by just showing up for a paddle trip is contagious and will go a long way in keeping the Hoosier Canoe and Kayak club afloat for another 50 years to come.

See you on the water.... Mariann Davis

Silver Falls as taken by Jeff Kuhns



Camp 1 on Saganagons Lake by Jeff Kuhns



The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club