

# *The Hoosier Paddler*

December 2014, Vol. 52 Issue 11 <http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/>



## **A note from our new Skipper**

On November 7, the HCC held its annual meeting and end of the year party. As always, it is a time to give thanks for a successful paddling year and to honor the leadership, the board, trip leaders and committee chairs. Their sustaining energy and devotion to recreational paddling and its extensions has provided the membership with many opportunities to enjoy what we love to do: paddle.

Over the past 51 years the club has existed through many incarnations, evolving in new ways, hopefully to satisfy our membership's needs...And to continue to do just that, we need your input: both by word and by action. (action, in this case, could mean just showing up for trips or volunteering to lead your favorite trip). Longevity, as a club, is on our side, but our membership is getting older—no surprise here, when a short survey done at the party revealed that 76% of the attendees were over 50 years of age. So...as your new Skipper, I am immediately initiating the "5 children, 1 family policy" (China: watch out!)...Okay, maybe I shouldn't let this new role go to my head...but I will promise, to work energetically to invigorate the club with new memberships and exciting and desired paddling trips, continue our excellent paddling classes (both in the pool and on the bigger water), and promote our club through interconnecting within the community and with other paddling clubs in our state...and beyond. *And so it is that WATER occupies 76% of this great planet...how about the HCC occupying a little more of it this year.* I would love to see you on the water, Mariann Davis, Skipper 2015

### **In this issue:**

**Front Page: Skipper's Message**

### **Trip Announcements:**

Page 2: New Year's Day  
Page 2: Trip Planning  
Page 6: Upper Missouri

### **Trip Reports:**

Page 3: Soper River  
Page 5: Lake Monroe  
Page 7: Election Results

**Skipper Jim**  
**Thank you for your leadership**  
**in the**  
**Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club**  
**2014**



## **The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club**

**Trip Announcement**  
**Annual New Year's Day Trip**  
**January 1, 2015**  
**Trip Sponsor: Dwayne James**

For the New Year's Paddle we plan to do the White River from Hazel Landing to Sandy Point. We will send out an email with specific put in and take out directions after Christmas. Meet at the put-in at 11 A.M. We will run the shuttle at 11:30 and then paddle and have fun: cold, wind, snow or sleet. If it is raining or high water, forget it. Please be sure to check in with Dwayne since we need to make sure we have enough, but not too much, water for the trip. We will post an update to the bulletin board by 7 pm 12/31/2014 and let you know if it is a go or if the trip will be cancelled due to water or weather.

Please consult our cold water paddling tips for ideas on gear. You need to have a dry bag with at least one change of warm clothing. Dress in layers—an outer, wind and waterproof layer, fleece or silk inner layer, and fleece or silk underlayer for your top and for your pants. Waterproof gloves are a must—I love my chotas with a fleece lining. A warm head covering should also be included with your gear. And wool socks and waterproof, warm boots. Because I am known to swim, I usually brings two changes of extra clothes.

Also bring something to drink and a snack, although we likely will not hang out on the beach long enough to eat lunch. I bring a peanut butter sandwich, a granola bar or two, and some nice iced tea or powerade/Gatorade. If it is really cold, I include a thermos of hot coffee. Some stash a thermos of hot soup as well. Others may bring other hot, spiced drinks to share. Please contact Dwayne James at [dwaynesjamesA1@hotmail.com](mailto:dwaynesjamesA1@hotmail.com) or call 317-956-7691 for further details. I will send out an email on 12/30/2014 with put in and take out directions and will send an email no later than 7 pm 12/31/2014 if any last minute changes need to be made.

**Attention:**

**A trips planning meeting** will be scheduled for the end of January or the beginning of February. (location and date to be determined). Fresh trip ideas are welcomed, appreciated and necessary. I hope to see many new faces at the meeting. If you are unable to attend, please submit your suggestions to [marianndvs@gmail.com](mailto:marianndvs@gmail.com)



**The Skipper: AKA Mariann Davis**

**Please submit  
your pictures  
and reports to  
the editor**

**Celebrating 51 Years of Paddling**

**The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club**

## 51st Annual Meeting Speaker Darlene Patterson

### Adventurist! Art Teacher! Wife! 40-something! and HCC Member!

...and so what do all those labels have in common? Well, they all come together to describe Darlene Patterson, who, with the help of a supporting grant from Eli Lilly (combined with her own supportive grit and adventurer spirit), was able to take on the challenges of canoeing and solo hiking in one of the most

remote reaches of the Canadian arctic tundra. Baffin Island is the 5th largest island in the world located in the northern Canadian territory in eastern Nunavut, Canada, west of Greenland. It is probably not on your bucket list but to Darlene it's one check [on the list] eagerly removed so others can take its place.

Her one month adventure in July 2013 started calmly with a 2 week photo journalist stint working the arts festival in Iqaluit. Becoming part of the local community and working with children during this period, was the proverbial calm before the literal storm of second phase of her trip. She has fond memories of working with the children and becoming part of a community that embraced her wanderlust spirit.



The second leg of her adventure trifecta, solo hiking and camping, began in Auyuittuq National Park (see green shaded area). Flying in by small plane into nearby Pangnirtung was an adventure in itself portending, perhaps the 'oracle of the tundra', which didn't exist until THEN. An important part of planning any adventure trip is planning for the unexpected...REALLY? But in Darlene's case it would have to be "exit

planning": Hiking this magnificent tundra was cut short by 2 days due to horrific wind storms which were clocked at 80-100mph, she later found out. To erect her tent in these cyclonic wind conditions called for creative ballasting with rocks and small boulders becoming her security blanket. Her tent poles soon fell victim to the pummeling wind gusts. After 4 days of remote wilderness and isolation, hiking between cairn mounds, difficult to discern in this rocky terrain, and whistling a happy tune, it became apparent that sensibility and self preservation should prevail. Darlene began implementing the "exit plan:" retracing her footprints out of wilderness and out of these untoward conditions.



Ah! Wonderful leg 3 of this adventurous trifecta is about to begin! Putting behind her the uncompleted solo adventure of the arctic tundra, Darlene found comfort in the companion portion of her 9 day canoe trip down the Soper River. Nothing can compare to a good Wanapiti outfitter guide and the company of 4 Aussies making their maiden wilderness voyage, when the last 6 days were spent in solo adventuring. The six of them along with

SOAR collapsible boats and PakBoats, boarded a small plane headed to their launch site on the Soper river.

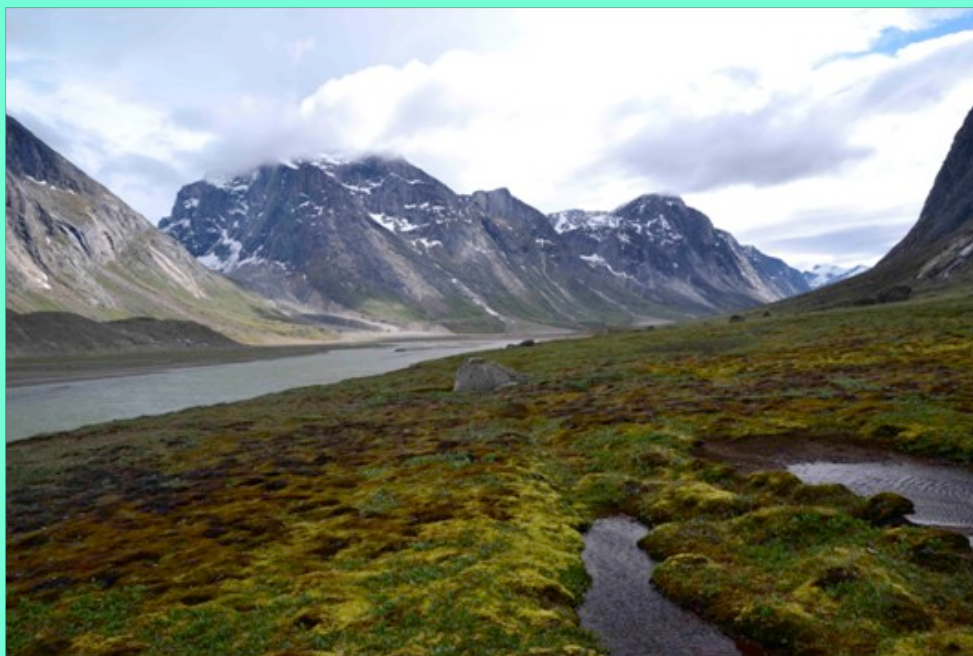


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With the weather cooperating and the paddling conditions as good as they could get in July on the Arctic tundra, Darlene and her 4 new, best, paddling friends—happy and satisfied— completed a journey very few could barely imagine.

Thank you, Darlene, for sharing your adventure with the club during the annual meeting and end of the year party. Your enthusiasm energy and free spirit will inspire many of us paddlers to explore the boundaries of our wonderful sport.

Written by: Mariann Davis





**Trip Report –  
2014 Fall Lake Monroe Overnight Trip  
Sponsor: Jim Sprandel**

Four HCC Sea Kayakers ventured out onto Lake Monroe for our fall overnight kayak/camping trip. The weather forecast was bit intimidating with cooler temperature (a low of 29 Saturday Night) and the possibility of snow. One of our members also alerted us that Lake Monroe's water temperature was in the low 40s.

We dressed for the water in dry suits or heavy wet suits with neoprene gloves. Fortunately, the light winds meant that the lake would be calm so there was a high likelihood that we'd all stay upright.

Winter kayak camping is a touch different than summer camping since our sleeping bags and coats are bulkier and eat up much more hatch space. Surprisingly, my heavy down jacket compressed down into about a 15 liter bag so all was good. It always takes a little time to do the tetris-like kayak packing thing and get everything inside but it always seems to fit. After all, there is usually space for one more bag between your foot pegs and forward bulkhead).

After launching Saturday, we paddled north up to the Pine Grove ramp before heading south again to set up camp on the Deem Wilderness peninsula just east of Cutright (about an 8-mile paddle). We took the campsite on the tip of the peninsula since I had always wanted to camp among the cypress trees on its tip. The site has very little shelter from the wind but the forecast predicted light winds.

After setting up camp and eating lunch, we paddled south towards Patton's Cave. On the way down, we sat and watched an eagle harass a group of coots. The eagle never struck but that was one tightly clustered flock of coots. On that paddle, we saw 2 eagles and heard several loons.

Saturday Night - we ate dinner around a great fire. The temperature did not drop as much as we expected. Robert thought that the cloud cover may kept the temperature from dropping so much. I saw a low temperature of only 35 in my tent early in the morning. However, we heard snow hitting our tents and there was a dusting of snow on our boats in the morning.

Sunday Morning - Not too cold and we paddled back to Cutright and then took off since there was a Winter Travel Advisory for that afternoon. We saw 4-5 loons swimming near Cutright when we paddled in.

An interesting trip and a good test of our winter camping gear. Pictures from our trip are on Flickr at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/merlin...57649273615126>



**The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club**

## **Proposed Trip**

### **Upper Missouri River in June 2015**

#### **Trip Sponsor: Jeff Kuhn**

Back in 1994, I did a 150 mile canoe trip on the Upper Missouri River in Montana. The Upper Missouri is a National Wild and Scenic River and was my first expedition trip. We carried all our gear with us and camped streamside. We spent seven days in Big Sky country enjoying the river, the scenery, the camping, and the wildlife. It is the only place I've ever seen a Golden Eagle in the wild, plus we saw Mule Deer and Bighorn Sheep as well. I'd like to do that trip again in 2015 and am looking for some adventurous souls to join me. Here are the particulars:

The put-in would be at Fort Benton Montana, although I may also look into putting in on the Marias River, which joins the Upper Missouri near Coal Banks Landing about 60 miles downstream of Ft. Benton. The take-out for either trip option would be at Kipp Bridge in the Charles Russell NWR. The trip retraces a portion of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery journey of 1804-5. When I was there, signs identified where the Lewis and Clark entourage camped and the dates they were there.

The shuttle takes all day since it is nearly 400 miles round-trip. I would prefer to use one of the local outfitters to deliver our vehicles to the take-out on the day we specify. The service is not cheap but it saves a lot of driving. After travelling 1,800 miles to get to Ft. Benton in the first place, I for one would be happy to pay to have the vehicles shuttled.

Much of the land along the river is public land although there are some private cattle ranches along the way. Most of the ranches are located within the first half of the trip. In 1994, the BLM had a great set of maps that show where the private and public land segments are. I assume these are still available. Camping is allowed anywhere on BLM land.

The Upper Missouri River is very wide, and for the most part is easy paddling. It is all flatwater, but has a good current (it was 6 mph in '94 at somewhat higher than normal water levels). Making 20+ miles per day is typically no problem. Most of the time we would just float along and watch the scenery. There is, however, a potential hazard with wind. The area is not far to the east of the Rockies, and the winds can really get howling. When that happens, wind-generated waves on the river can get really big (3' or more). In 1994, we were kept off the river for the better part of one full day due to high winds. The river flows west to east so the winds are often from behind, but when they become strong quartering tailwinds, controlling a loaded canoe can be difficult.

The trip is suitable for canoes or touring kayaks and for pretty much any skill level. All you need is a boat with enough space to carry your gear, food, and water. I recommend carrying your water with you since near the ranches there are hundreds of cattle near the river. I don't quite trust a water purifier for providing drinking water in those situations. At Judith Landing, about 90 miles downstream, we can refill our water containers. There has been some development since I was there last so there may be more water stops available now. Rental boats are available at several local outfitters if you prefer to go that route. My plan is to do this trip sometime in mid-June of 2015. I will be taking two full weeks off work so I can visit some or all of the following sites after the river trip concludes: Glacier NP, Yellowstone NP, Grand Tetons NP, Devil's Tower, Mount Rushmore, Badlands NP, and Crazy Horse National Monument. Anyone who wishes to join me on that part of the trip is also more than welcome.

I have 35 mm photos from the 1994 river trip that I can scan and send to you if you are interested in seeing what the river looks like. Just send me an email at [kuhnig@comcast.net](mailto:kuhnig@comcast.net) Jeff Kuhn



## Election of 2015 HCC Officers and Executive Board Members November 8, 2014

At the Annual Meeting on November 8, we elected the following members as our HCC's Officers and Board Members for 2015.

### 2015 List of Officers and Executive Board Members

#### Officers -

Skipper	Mariann Davis
Executive Officer	Natalie Needham
Purser (Treasurer)	Duane Garloch
Yeoman (Secretary)	James Sprandel
Immediate Past Skipper	Jim Clendenin

#### Board Members -

Todd Barrett	Earl King
Jim Eckerty	Theresa Kulczak
Dave Ellis	Konstantin Louganski
Sue Foxx	Greg Rathnow
Shirley Gates	Anna Riley
Dwayne James	John Wainscott

The proposed amendments to the Hoosier Canoe Club By-Laws detailed in the October 2014 Newsletter were also approved by the membership. The By-laws will be updated and posted on our website at the link [HCC By-Laws](#). These amendments involved the *Use of the Latest Edition of Robert's Rules of Order* and new *E-Mail Voting Procedure of HCC Executive Motions*.

### Coming Attractions:

We have a great northern trip report from Worth coming up next month. Also check out our facebook page for postings from John Gates involving kayaks and other gear for sale.

I am always amazed at the breadth of experience we have to draw upon in this club. The adventures we undertake are world class excursions. Take a moment at the next meeting or on your next trip to talk to the paddler next to you—you will be amazed at where they have been and are planning to go next!! See you on the water



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