

The Hoosier Paddler

Month June 2016, Vol. 54 Issue 5

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



From the Skipper:

June brings the official start of summer, the longest day of the year, marks the half way point of the calendar, and the HCKC open house at Geist! In addition to great trips almost every weekend, be sure to check the calendar and your email for exclusive training sessions offered by the club. If you would like to recommend a trip or be a trip sponsor on your favorite river, please contact the appropriate section chair and we can get that arranged. Not ready for the water yet? Remember, our pool sessions aren't just for the white water section. For a mere ten bucks, you can practice getting back in your boat in the deep end to simulate a capsize in a large lake, practice or learn your roll in a sea kayak, or try out a white water boat and socialize. Pool sessions are on Wednesday nights. I hope you will take full advantage of all the trips, classes, and fun we offer through-out the summer. See you on the water!

Natalie

HCKC Boat Demo and Open House Geist Park Sunday 6/12/16

What kind of boat should I buy? Many of us struggle with this very question; especially if you want to try a different paddling category. The best answer is the boat that you can paddle the best! However, that is hard to determine in a store with no water and not a lot of boats to choose from. Many of our members have multiple vessels; some WW, some flatwater, some sea kayaks, even paddleboards.

Join us on Sunday, June 12th at Geist Park. We will be renting out the pavilion and grilling hot dogs. Please bring a dish to share and as many boats as you can so we can all try out each other's different boats! If you can paddle it, bring it.

This is perfect if you have never paddled a particular type of boat and would like to try it out. Thinking of buying a different type of boat? Paddle it and try it here first.

Curious about becoming a member? Come out and meet some of us, have a hot dog, and try out some different boats. If you are wanting to get rid of a boat or some equipment, this would probably be a good time to do it too.

We'll need a handful of volunteers to help with safety boats and set up, etc. Let me know if you're interested. If you have any questions or comments, please email me (Natalie) at nataliecheckkayak@gmail.com.

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Save The Date!!! Pirate Paddle October 15, 2016

Aye Maties! 'Tis the year when all pirates and scoundrels will be convening for the gatherin' on the Great White River. Set yer courses for . . .

Saturday, October 15, 2016

Pirate Paddle & Party
Indianapolis

White River Yacht Club, Broad Ripple,



Trip Announcement:

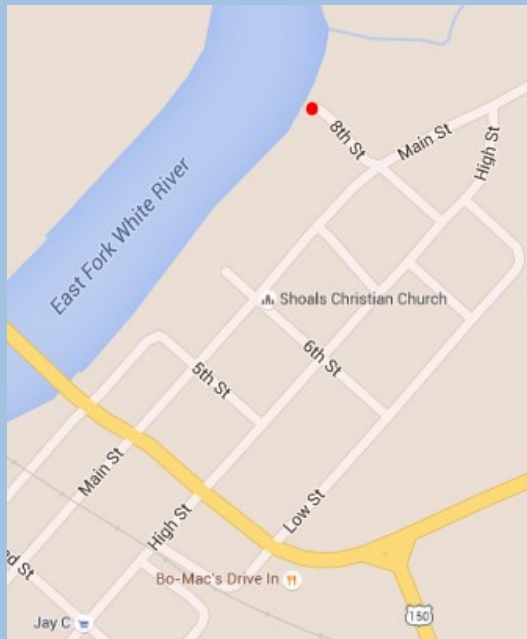
Hindostan Falls Trip, East Fork White River; Shoals, IN June 4th, 2016

Sponsor: Natalie Needham

This is a very scenic trip on the East Fork of the White River, passing by Beaver Bluffs and ending at Hindostan Falls. A few bald eagles are expected to be seen on this trip as well. It is a 13.5 mile trip, so plan on about 6 hours to finish it with a lunch stop. This is a great beginner trip, as there is usually a good flow, few snags and usually no portaging; just make sure you are capable of paddling 6 hours straight. Camping is available at Martin State Forest 2 miles east of Shoals on US 50.

Put-in is at 8th St. and Main St. in Shoals, IN. Meet here at 10 am and then we'll run shuttle to the take out. If you need a GPS address, the Shoals Christian Church is roughly at 6th St. and Main St., use the address 600 Main St, Shoals, IN 47581

Please RSVP to me by June 1st or if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at natalieheckkayak@gmail.com.



Once everyone has dropped off gear at the put-in, we'll run shuttle to the take out. Take US 150 south to State Road 550 and continue to Hindostan Rd, then turn left and proceed to the river. You can use google maps and search Hindostan Falls Public Fishing Area, Shoals, IN 47581 for directions.

The trip will go on rain or shine, so please pack for the weather. If there is a definite threat of thunderstorms and lightning, the trip will get canceled; so please watch your email.

Otherwise, please pack the normal necessities: pfd, paddle, lunch, sunscreen, bugspray, snacks, beverages, water, sunglasses, good sense of humor and a sense of adventure.

SEA KAYAK Thoughts

Jim Sprandel

May has been a good month. We had two trips so far plus the Tuesday Evening paddles on Eagle Creek. We had 6 people paddle on Brookville this month with only about 10 minutes of rain – we had one interesting section where the wind came up and we had 1.5 to 2 foot waves crossing the lake. Mark Cowser led a fun trip on Cagles Mill Lake – the falls are always exciting. The lake level was down for this time of year but there was a lot of flow due to recent rain.

Upcoming Trips – In April and May, we will be having several interesting trips that you may wish to take advantage of:

Lake Erie – South Bass Island Rendezvous – Thursday, June – Information on this trip is in the April Newsletter and was sent out in the Touring mailing list. See you there.

Maine/Nova Scotia – About 10 HCKCers will be going to Maine and then on to Nova Scotia during the 1st two weeks in August.

4th Annual Surf Play Weekend, Labor Day Weekend – Maggie Byrne has reserved the same Indiana Dunes State Park for us again so paddlers from the HCKC, NWIPA, CASKA, and WMCKA can gather and play in Lake Michigan. This is always a low-key event with a tremendous potluck dinner on Saturday Night. Like past events, this will be relatively unstructured so that people can take advantage of what the lake offers us that weekend.

Apostles Islands – Mid September – So far, we have 5 people going on our Lake Superior adventure. I have never paddled this in September and I am really looking forward to it.

Training –

Open Water Rescue Water Clinic and Practice, June 4 - Duane Garloch will have an Open Water Rescue Water Clinic and Practice – a good chance for everyone to practice their rescues that we may need before taking big water trips later this year. These classes are important since they insure that we know how to react when conditions get interesting.

Intermediate Boat Control and Turning Clinic, July 2 - Dave and I have talked about the Intermediate skills clinic that we teach on July 2. We will focus on boat control and turning skills that can be used for either sea kayaking or river/creek paddling. This will include bow/stern rudders, edging, draws strokes, and linked maneuvers. This is a chance to regain that sense of control if you felt nervous when out in pushy water or in fast current. I will get a notification out via the Sea Kayaking e-mail list in a week as well as publishing it in the July Newsletter.

Trip Report Fall Creek May 7, 2016 Natalie Needham

A dozen of us braved the rain on May 7th for a real nice 7.5 mile float down Fall Creek here in Indianapolis. We put in at the 79th St. bridge and paddled down to the Emerson Ave. bridge. The rain came and went but warm temperatures lingered. The Millersville gage read 380 CFS and 3.4 ft. gage height. Happily, at this flow and height, there were no log jams to be portaged. The highlight of the trip was seeing a bald eagle soaring over our heads between Skiles test park and 56th st. We had no swimmers (all cleared “killer falls” easily) and a handful of people made the trek all the way from Illinois to see this urban gem of a creek. I’ll probably hold some weekday evening paddles on Fall Creek in the summer, so watch your email!



The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Sea Kayak Trip Announcement

Lake Erie & South Bass Island Kayak Rendezvous

Saturday-Sunday, June 9-12, 2016

Trip Sponsor: Todd Barrett

This will be the club's second trip on Lake Erie. This trip coincides with the annual South Bass Island Kayak Rendezvous event. We will join the rendezvous paddlers for social activities (Friday traditional potluck dinner and stories, Saturday smores and desert potluck, Sunday morning "paddle to breakfast at Frosty's Bar, the best breakfast on the island"), and a full day of paddling on Saturday. After Sunday morning breakfast, we'll break our camp, cross to the mainland (under human power or ferry power as appropriate for the weather), and drive home.

We will have at least two full days of paddling, weather permitting (Friday and Saturday with the Rendezvous paddlers). Paddling opportunities are numerous and include a circumnavigation of the Bass islands (trips to nearby Middle Bass and North Bass Islands and several small islands in close vicinity).

Trip schedule

Put-in: Thursday, June 9, 11:00 AM at

Catawba Island, OH at the terminal of the ferry to S. Bass Island (5174 East Water Street, Port Clinton, OH 43452, millerferry.com)

Departing from Ohio's north coast, we will make a 3 mile open water crossing to South Bass Island State Park to our base camp (see below). In the event weather conditions do not allow for the crossing, the ferry is available for our transfer to the camp site with our cars/kayaks.

Take out/return: Sunday, June 12, 12:00 PM at Catawba Island

Camping

We will have a base camp in the S. Bass Island State Park (parks.ohiodnr.gov/southbassisland) and make daily trips from there. The club has reserved one camp site that will accommodate 6 persons, from June 9-12. Therefore, space is limited – please contact me as soon as possible if you plan on joining this trip.

Requirements

This is a sea kayak camping trip that requires experience with open water paddling in 2-4 foot waves. A 16-foot or longer sea kayak with waterproof bulkheads is required. All participants should be able to paddle 15 miles on a day trip under normal conditions. All participants should be proficient with self- and assisted rescues and carry appropriate personal safety gear. Kayak camping experience is required, and knowledge of what to bring and what not to bring (like a kitchen sink) on a kayak camping trip. All participants provide their own meals, and please bring something to share for the rendezvous potluck events.

Contact information

Todd Barrett, rtb04336@yahoo.com (404-583-3575).

Contact me by 7:00 pm by **May 27 before the trip** if you want to join this trip.

Trip Report

Cagles Mill Lake and Falls May 14, 2016

Mark Cowser

5 hearty souls ventured out on a 4 hour tour. Weather was always changing. We started out in cloudy, windy, cold weather. Temperature was a balmy 47*, with steady 18-20 mph wind. The trip down lake was a surfing contest, with the wind blowing us along at about 5 mph. Once we got off the open sections, paddling was back to calm waters. The group took a short lunch break at the falls, we where surprised to find a nice sandy landing spot for lunch. The paddle back was pleasant, until the open sections of the lake and the still continuous head winds met us. All arrived safe back at the put in, and the temperature had risen all the way to 49*.

Sea Kayak Clinic and Practice Session - Open Water Rescue

Saturday, June 4, 2016

Event Coordinator: Duane Garloch

Jim Sprandel and I will lead a one-day clinic and practice session on Open Water Rescue for sea kayakers. Most of us have taken rescue classes at symposiums or studied techniques on the internet. This clinic is a chance for new paddlers to learn open water rescue techniques and a chance for more experienced paddlers to compare techniques and practice them in a safe environment.

Jim and I will start off each teaching segment by systematically walking through the steps to complete a rescue so that newer paddlers can learn the tricks associated with performing each rescue. After walking through “one way to do a rescue”, we will compare notes and discuss/demonstrate alternative approaches that people may have seen.

This clinic is important since kayakers need to regularly practice these skills so they are “fresh” when we get into a real rescue situation—you want to know how to do get yourself or someone else back in their boat quickly and on your first attempt.

Course Content: At the course, we will cover the following topics:

- Wet exiting your boat

- Solo Reentries (Paddle Float, Cowboy, Reenter and Roll)

- Assisted Reentries (T-Rescue, Stirrup Rescue, Scoop Rescue)

- Towing - contact tows, short tows, and regular tows. Will discuss when to start towing and when towing may be needed to assist a rescue (I will bring extra tow ropes if you don't have one.)

Course Details

Date: Saturday, June 4, 2016

Location: Geist Park – Contact me if you are not sure how to get there.

Schedule:

9:30 am	Please get to Geist Park early enough to be able launch at this time
9:30 am – 9:45 am	Introductions/Shore-Based Training
9:45 am	On-Water Training
1:30 pm	Return to Geist Park for Wrap-Up

Required Equipment: (Contact [Duane](#) if you want an exception to these requirements since we may have extra equipment that you can borrow):

- Touring Kayak or Sea Kayak (14' or longer) with perimeter deck lines running to the bow and stern of your boat.

- Must have sealed fore and aft bulkheads or fore/aft air float bags.

- Spray Skirt – We will be practicing bracing and Eskimo bow rescues so you will need a spray skirt .

- Life jacket, pump, dry clothes, sun screen.

- Paddle – It is best to bring the paddle that you normally paddle with.

- Snack/Water – We will probably work through to 1:30 pm without stopping for lunch. Please bring a snack and water since boat re-entry really can wear a person out.

Recommended Equipment: (Please bring if you have it – Don't buy it if you don't already have.)

- Paddle Float, tow rope, rescue stirrup

- Wet Suit or Dry Suit—Depending on the weather, you may want at least a wet suit to be comfortable.

- Nose clips—Nose clips are strongly recommended since we will be getting in the water.

Contact Information: If you wish to sign up, contact Duane Garloch at duane.garloch@gmail.com or (317) 796-2865 by Thursday, June 2. Contact Duane or Jim if you have any questions about the course.

Introduction to Kayaking Classes

Instructors: Dave Ellis, Duane Garloch, Jim Sprandel

Dates: Saturdays - June 18, July 23, and August 20

Still have a few openings. Here's a way to jumpstart your paddling! As a new kayaker, you may know how to move your boat around in calm water. We will work with you to make your paddling easier and more effective—to give you more control over your boat. We will work on your basic knowledge, strokes, and other paddling skills that you may need to safely enjoy the sport. This course is based on the American Canoe Association ["Introduction to Kayaking"](#) course. This is also a great opportunity to ask any question that you might have about paddling or the Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club.

The instructors will first talk with you about the basics and then quickly get on the water to teach you how to move your boat forward, backwards, and sideways as well as how to turn and stop. While the water is cool, we will demonstrate rescue skills but you won't *intentionally* be getting into the water at this clinic unless you want to. Thatcher Pool's Wednesday night sessions are a better place to practice rescues and wet exits when it's cool out.

This course is intended for newer HCKC members with recreational, touring, or sea kayaks.

Meeting Place: Eagle Creek Park – The instructor will announce the launch location via e-mail during the week before each course since our location will depend on the weather forecast and the park's event calendar. There may be up to an \$8 park entry fee to bring a kayak into the park if you don't have a park pass.

Class Size: Attendance for each class will be limited to either 10 or 15 students. Enrollees must be registered HCKC Members and will be accepted based on the order that they contact Jim Sprandel.

Please do not sign up unless you can stay for the entire clinic (9:00 am to 3:30 pm).

What to Bring:

Please bring your kayak, life jacket, paddle, paddling jacket, sun screen, lunch, and water.

Safety equipment that you normally carry (e.g., pump, paddle float, stirrup, tow or throw rope ...) so we can demonstrate how to use them. Please don't buy safety equipment just for this class.

Paddling Clothing—Even though you won't *intentionally* be capsizing, be sure to dress appropriately for the weather and water. Bring a wind-proof paddling jacket since it may be cool. We will get out more info on what to wear in the final pre-class e-mail.

Spare clothes in a dry bag! (Just in case)

Questions—Please think about what you want to learn before the class and come with questions.

Schedule:	9:00 am	Meet at Designated Location
	9:30 am	Be dressed to paddle with your boat at the launch area
	9:30 am—3:30 pm	Class
	We will take an hour around Noon for lunch and a safety discussion.	

Registration information: If you would like to register for a class or have any questions, please contact Jim Sprandel at merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net or 317 257-2063. Please send us your name, desired course date, kayak you will be bringing, paddling experience, goals for the class, and contact information (e-mail/phone number) when you sign up.

Registered HCKC members will be accepted on a first come-first served basis. You will receive an acknowledgement as soon as we process your request. Your instructor will send out an e-mail with final instructions to all participants about one week before your course.



Elkhorn Side Trip

Looks runnable :) :)

Trip Announcement

300 Springs: Munfordville, Ky June 18-19 2016

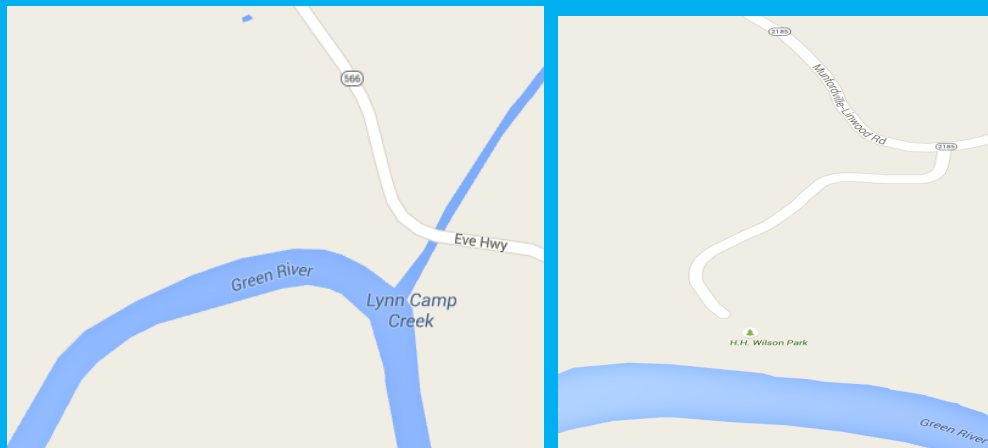
Sponsor: Natalie Needham

Come join us explore a river section the club hasn't done yet!

There are several natural springs and waterfalls along this beautiful stretch of river. Saturday will be a long paddle at about 20 miles, so plan on about a 7 hour paddle.

Saturday, May 18, 9 AM EDT

We will meet at the Five Star Foodmart 1301 Main St, Munfordville, KY 42765 at 9AM eastern time (8AM central) and promptly leave for the put-in at 9:15AM EDT (8:15AM CDT). The put-in is at Lynn Camp Creek, off of State Highway 566.

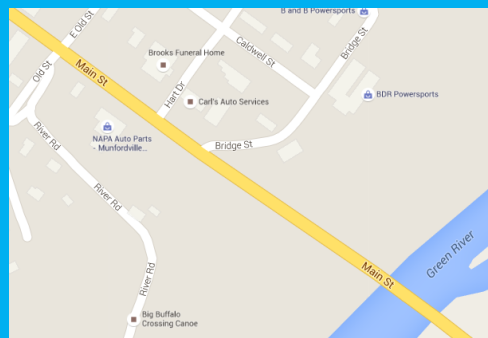


Take out will be H.H.Wilson Park, off state highway 2185 (820 Munfordville-Linwood Rd, Munfordville, KY 42765)

This is a good beginner's paddle as there aren't very many snags to negotiate or any portaging necessary. However, this is a long paddle and there are no easy ways to get off the river. You must determine if your physical shape is up for a long paddle.

This paddle is also very flow dependent. If the flow is low, we will find somewhere else to paddle, so stay flexible. There is no fun in dragging boats for 20 miles. Locals say 3.5 ft. on the Munfordville gage is pretty much the minimum for a good trip.

There are camping grounds nearby at Horse Cave and Mammoth Cave National Park. I'll be staying at MCNP campground beginning on Friday if anyone would like to share sites. Things to bring: pfd, paddle, lunch, beverages, lots of water, sunscreen, sunglasses, snacks, sense of adventure, and a sense of humor



Sunday, May 19

Sunday will be a nice 5 mile paddle on the way home. There are also several springs along this stretch as well. We will meet at the take out from Saturday's trip (H.H. Wilson Park) at 10AM EDT (9AM CDT) and then proceed to the take out at Big Buffalo Crossing Canoe (100 River Rd, Munfordville, KY 42765)

Please email me (Natalie) with your RSVP by June 15 or if you have any questions or comments about the trip. Please put 300 Springs in the subject line. nataliehckkayak@gmail.com

Trip Report

Elkhorn Creek Frankfort Ky

March 12, 2016

Eric Hayes

Wow...talk about a reschedule that turned out right! The Hoosier whitewater paddlers had a great day on the water on the 12th of March on Elkhorn Creek. It's located on the Northeast side of Frankfort KY, just 3 hours from Indy. Originally scheduled for the 5th, which turned out to be rainy and 50°, our trip had partly sunny skies and a high of 70° plus a perfect water level at 1550cfs.

We rendezvoused at the put-in and ran shuttle to the take-out at AW Acres, the land purchased by American Whitewater to solve an epic river access issue (you can read about on their site). Luckily Toni drove her truck and 8 of us made it back to the put-in in record time.

I took stock of our group which included the youngest at 18 (Diet Crush) and most venerated (Ken Jordan) at 62. Incidentally these two were probably the best paddlers of the group. So we had young and venerated and everything in-between, counting 14 in all.

After a short safety speech, mostly about the low-head dam portage at the Jim Beam distillery (it's a killer with a large boil line and a strong eddy line that can suck an unwary paddler back into the hydraulic) and pairing one paddler without a roll with Ken Jordan as kind of a guardian angel to watch over and guide down the river, we put on.

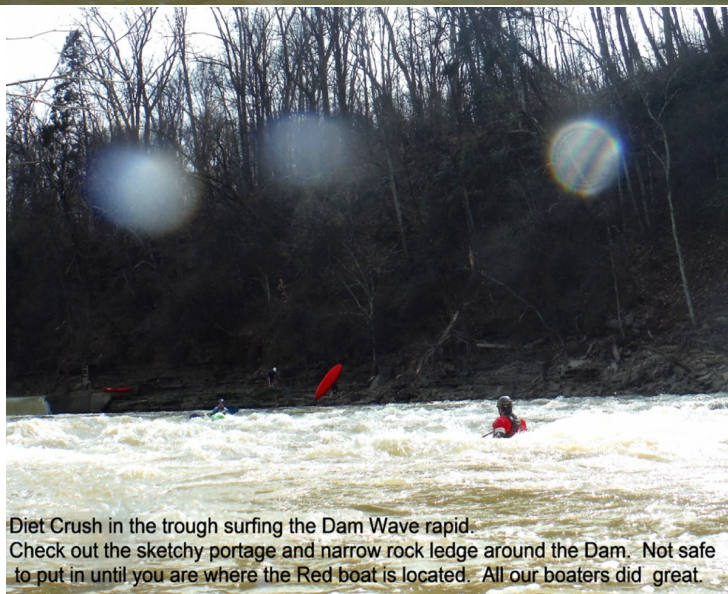
I realized that our less experienced paddlers probably needed a little practice with ferries across the river. The second feature after the big ledge that creates "Church Wave" (yeah, there's a church on the bank) was Dam rapid (yep, just after the dam) requires a ferry to the middle of the river to avoid the rock garden on river-left. So our class II boaters practiced ferries for a bit and then we were off.

We saw what seemed like dozens of turtles sunning themselves on the bank, some of which like those in the photo were at least 2 pounders. We set safety at the Dam with both Mark Krause and I on ropes and we crossed the dam single file such that the person who exited ahead helped the person behind pull their boat up on to the ledge. Then each boater had to carry his or her boat across a wet and narrow rock ledge about 40 feet being careful not to slip and fall into the boil line nearest the dam and then the eddy farther down. By the time everyone had safely traversed the portage and relaunched and run the dam wave, Diet Crush was the only one left of our group still surfing dam wave in the photo below. The other boaters in the pic give an idea of the portage around the dam in the far left of the photo.



The group proceeded through S-turn rapid and Lunch-stop rapid without incident. Since the Creek is above its typical summer level there are very few eddies formed by rocks and the water is in the trees along the bank which makes for poor eddy formation. Thus it was tough to teach or practice eddy turns and peel outs but we took advantage where we could. All the rapids afforded a sneak line but our boater being guided by Ken Jordan found out she would encounter the meat of every rapid and had a dry hair day. Way to go Blair!

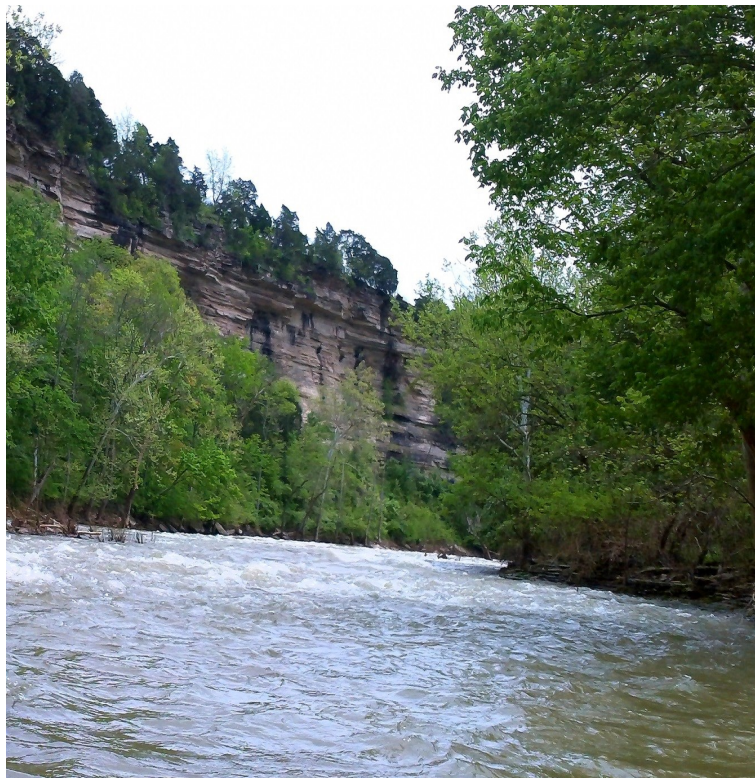
Part of the charm of the Elkhorn is the cliff escarpment on river right about one-third of the way through the paddle. I was so busy with the group I didn't get a picture but here is one from a previous spring trip to give readers an idea of why this is a trip worth making.



Diet Crush in the trough surfing the Dam Wave rapid. Check out the sketchy portage and narrow rock ledge around the Dam. Not safe to put in until you are where the Red boat is located. All our boaters did great.

Elkhorn Trip continued:

There are also a couple of very pretty feeder streams that come into the Elkhorn along the way as in the photo below. Please excuse the water on the camera lens. It's kind of tough to manage the current, paddle and a camera all at once. I figured out after downloading these pictures that my camera didn't realize it was a leap year.



This photo was taken on the 12th of March.

The Elkhorn exists in one of the huge sections of Kentucky that has Karst Geology, characterized by sinks, caverns and underground drainages.



I'm no Moses but this looks like Water from the Rock to me.

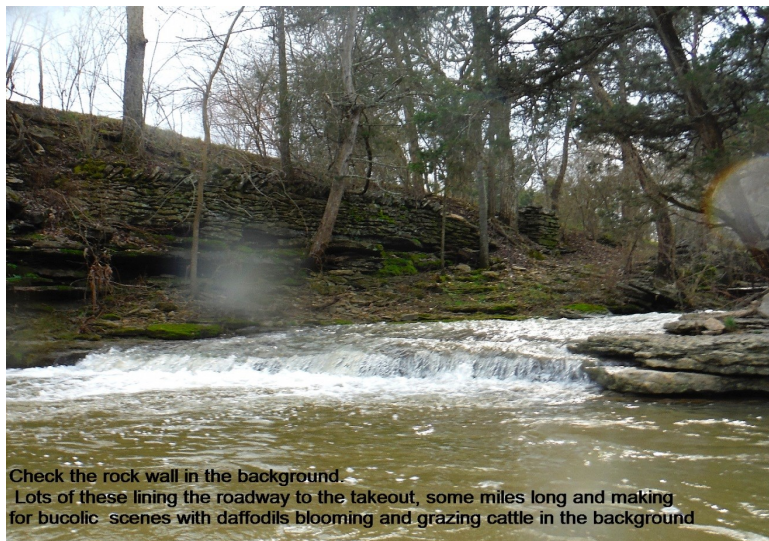
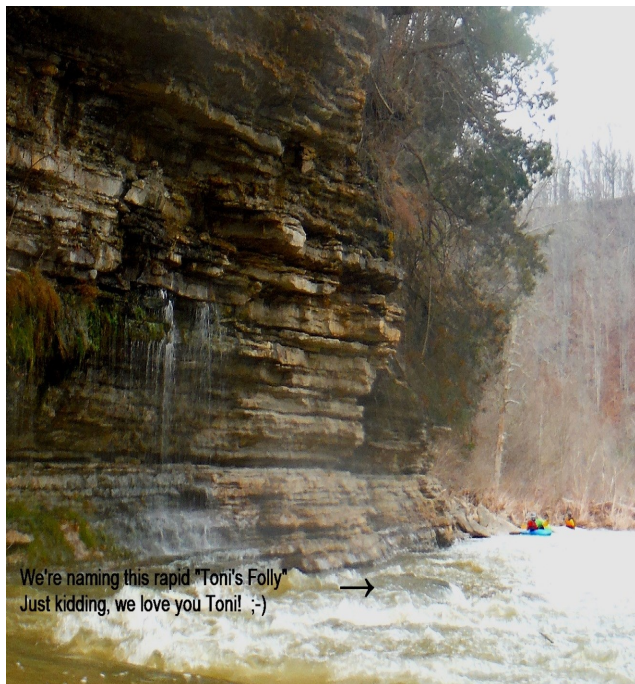
The surrounding countryside is rolling and quite scenic and the drive to the takeout is different from most because of mile after mile of unbroken rock wall fences. The amount of labor to construct those is difficult to contemplate. What is amazing is the continuing integrity of the walls through the years. We even see some of this creekside in the photo below.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Elkhorn Trip continued:

In addition to the turtles we saw Great Blue Herons, Red Tailed Hawks and this turkey buzzard roost in a half dead sycamore tree.

After Lunch-stop rapid comes Island split, Angioplasty and Surf City. All of our class II paddlers did well and we only had one swim all day. In her defense I'll say she easily could have avoided the rock garden line she chose next to the cliff on river left, but challenged herself and got hung up on a rock near a narrow chute. Keep in mind rapids always look smaller from upstream.



Weather and water cooperated all day long for a great outing on the Elkhorn with our class II paddlers getting some experience in a no pressure environment. It was a great start to spring paddling. With a trip or two to the East Race in South Bend, almost all of the class II boaters are ready to step up to the class III Lower Youghiogheny in southern PA this summer. With a beer at the takeout and lots of happy smiles we got a fellow paddler from Cincy to take the group picture. He swam at Angioplasty and was grateful for the group's assistance with his rescue and was more than happy to help us document the moment. Good river Karma is what it is all about.

As is tradition on a Hoosiers whitewater trip, Mexican and Margaritas were the order of the evening (at La Fiesta Grande) for those who could hang for a while in Frankfort with, from left and just out of frame, Robin, Mark, Ken, Dan, Cliff, Blair (observed), Sharon, Diet Crush, and Toni.

The evening wasn't over for Mark and myself as we had tickets to see The Who playing in Louisville. Great show and when we get back to the Still Waters campground at the confluence of the Kentucky River and Elkhorn Creek; it's raining. A lot. As I tuck into bed in the van it's raining and when I wake in the middle of the night, it's raining. Finally about 7am it quits. Sharon, Ken, Robin, Mark and I are hoping to catch another day on the water. We check the Elkhorn gauge. It went from an optimum 1550cfs on Saturday to 5300cfs on Sunday! The dam at the Jim Beam distillery is now unpassable. So we decide to go to breakfast and check American Whitewater for something that might be running.



The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club



Then this happens.

It rained so much that the ground got so soft that Robin's van just spun in the mud. I barely got out throwing mud all over the sides of my van. Luckily Ken had a tow strap and with a little help we are all on our way to break-fast to sort out a whitewater run somewhere. We consult AW and feel excited to have the chance to run something that doesn't normally flow except after a big rain event. We settle on Plum creek which is 45min. to the southwest of Frankfort. There is no gauge but the guide says when there is this much rain it should be running. As we are stopped just before getting on the interstate a car with a kayak pulls alongside me. I motion and he rolls down the window, I say, "Plum Creek?" He says something that I think starts with an L "... is running" and he heads South and with no time to consult my fellow paddlers, we put on I-64 headed West.

We get to Plum creek and it's got water, but it's a foot deep. Class 1. Sh*#! t, No good. We stop to consult as we are in 4 vehicles and decide we have to get somewhere with cell service and reconnoiter. It's now 1pm and Robin calls it and continues West toward home. When we sit down at the convenience mart I realize that Frankfort got the majority of the rain, not environs to the West. We didn't look at the drainage summary on AW. Mistake. So I look at the drainage for the Kentucky River and find a place called Glenn's Creek 15min south of the Elkhorn. Sharon points out that if you miss the G over the traffic noise it might have sounded like it started with an L. So...we head back for an hour to where we just were, but this time we hit the mark. (Lesson 1. Listen to the locals.)

We are in Versailles KY, aptly named because it is the land of old money. Opulent horse farms with beautiful pastures, double fences, lavish barns as big as warehouses and every grassy swale in the pasture is flowing with fast moving water to a creek. When we get to the put-in the creek is cranking. Narrow and out of the bank and into the trees on either side. Just upstream is a fence completely crossing the creek; a kayaker's nightmare. We have no idea what is downstream but we decide it's now or never. We run shuttle and sure enough we see 8 or 10 kayakers on the water so we feel better. However even from the road it's obvious that the creek is full of wood. At the takeout we talk to a woman who says she hung up on a strainer, had to exit her boat and got sucked under it. She came out ok but her day was done. We understood. On the way back upstream we see a channel wide log blocking the left channel, but the middle seems clear so we make a mental note. As it happens there is a whiskey distillery on this creek as well, the oldest one in Kentucky we learn. Woodford Reserve distillery dates to 1797 and is the smallest in Kentucky. We'll have to take the tour another time, we're burning daylight. We put on and Ken leads and Mark runs sweep. We tell each other to stay close, don't go too fast and watch out for wood. The creek is fast so it's hard to go slow and there aren't any good eddies. The waves are surprisingly big but a little unnerving so close to the overhanging bushes and tree growth. (The photos don't depict the how narrow and tree-choked the run actually was.) A little ways down I see Ken have some trouble ahead of me and I realize the creek squeezes down to an 8ft wide hole; weaker on the left and stronger on the right. But there is a large tree on the right and an overhanging sweeper on the left. Can't avoid the hole. I try to stay left but get a blade caught in the sweeper and get sucked to the right and flip. The only thing I think is, "stay in the dam boat!" Fortunately I hit my roll and try to find an eddy to compose myself. I can't see what happens behind me. Sharon of course saw my bobble so tries to punch through the middle of the hole and gets typewritered into the big tree on the right. (For you kids who have never used one, there was a mechanism that flung the paper and top third of the machine violently back to the left after you finished typing a line, ergo the reference). (I can't believe I am so old I have to explain that!) Needless to say, getting typewritered is temporarily disorienting to put it mildly. Sharon basically hugs the tree and pulls herself around it while keeping up a left edge so she doesn't flip. Well done. Mark has a better line on the right side through the meat of the hole. At this point we are able to eddy out a little downstream and we all realize what a sucky situation it'll be if somebody swims. A rescue will not be easy. "Stay in the dam boat", I think again.

After this the creek serves up some big wave trains and Ken is picking good lines and good channels. We're having fun now. Several times there were 3 channels that would bend out of sight so choosing poorly might have ugly consequences. We remembered where the channel wide log was (funny how the mind can focus when you need it). The sun came out and we couldn't believe after the morning's misdirection how this adventure turned out so well.

We met a local at the takeout named Dan and like almost every paddling meet-up, found things in common and enjoyed his company immediately. He said when the Elkhorn is too big the locals hit this and Benson Creek. We took him and his boat back to the put-in to earn some good river karma and headed for home. A call to my wife, Sally, and she agreed to make dinner for the travelling paddlers (Sally is class V in the kitchen so the spicy black bean/chicken enchiladas and red wine hit the spot). Our friends left our place and as Walter Cronkite might say, "That's the way it was on the Hoosier's Spring Elkhorn Creek run". Getting Mark's car stuck, (literally stuck) in the parking garage at The Who concert because we forgot about the kayak on top will have to wait for another time. What a great weekend. SYOTR Elroy



From left: Sharon S., Burnis P., Ben G., Beth G., Blair F., Cliff C., Ted H., Toni H., Dan M., Elroy S., Mark K., Robin Z., Diet Crush, and Ken J.

Class Announcement Hoosier Riverwatch Training

[Hoosier Riverwatch](#) is a program of the [Indiana Department of Environmental Management](#), Office of Water Quality, Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch. The program began in 1996 to increase public awareness of water quality issues and concerns by training volunteers to monitor stream water quality.

The mission of Hoosier Riverwatch is:

To involve the citizens of Indiana in becoming active stewards of Indiana's water resources through watershed education, water monitoring, and clean-up activities. Hoosier Riverwatch is a State-sponsored water quality monitoring initiative. Class are free and paddlers are encouraged to enroll.

We accomplish this mission through the following goals:

- Educate citizens on watersheds and the relationship between land use and water quality.
- Train citizens on the basic principles of water quality monitoring.
- Promote opportunities for involvement in water quality issues.
- Provide water quality information to individuals or groups working to protect water resources.

Support volunteer efforts by providing technical assistance, monitoring equipment, networking opportunities and educational materials. 11 Classes are available throughout the state are free See the Riverwatch website for details http://www.in.gov/idem/riverwatch/files/training_schedule.pdf



Saturday, April 9 Chesterton, IN
 Saturday, April 23 Indianapolis, IN –
 Friday May 6 Bloomington, IN –
 Monday, May 9 Lawrenceburg, IN
 Friday, May 13 Paoli, IN –

Tuesday/Thursday, April 19 & 21 Kokomo, IN –
 Saturday , April 23 & 30 South Bend, IN -
 Saturday May 7 Evansville, IN –
 Friday May 13 Bristol, IN -
 Wednesday, May 18 Princeton, IN Thursday, June 30 North Webster, IN

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club