

The Hoosier Paddler

Month July 2016, Vol. 54 Issue 6

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



From the Skipper:

June brought us summer weather and the HCKC's first open house at Geist park, where members and non-members alike were encouraged to try out all sorts of different boats. Look for the full write up in this month's newsletter. The end of June and the full month of July bring some of the club's most anticipated classic paddling trips: the Nanty in NC and Yough in PA for the whitewater folks, Cataract Falls and the Mammoth Cave overnight trip for the flatwater people, Arcadia National Park in Maine for the sea kayakers, and the Indiana Paddler's Rendezvous for all paddlers from around the state. If you have never been on any of these trips, it's definitely recommended you try at least one of them. Also, please remember we always need volunteers to provide safety boats at Eagle Creek during the Triathlons throughout the summer to help keep the athletes safe during their swim, check out the article in the newsletter for more details. Hope to see you on the water at some point!

Natalie

Triathlon Support John Wainscott

HCC provides safety boats for the swimming portion of the event. City life-guards will be stationed inside the course and we will spread out around the outside of the course. Event starts at 8:00am and is usually done by 9:00am. Usually some stick around for a paddle afterwards. The club has done this for many years and as a reward the club gets a \$1000.00. Volunteers get an event tee shirt for helping.

Please RSVP to John Wainscott at wldleak@sbcglobal.net if you would like to help, along with shirt size. We meet at the park office parking lot on the northeast side of 56th Street bridge. NOT IN THE PARK. Please come early enough to be ready to paddle and get instructions by 7:45. No experience or specific boat required. Just sign the waiver, get your shirt and have fun. The next three will be:

July 16 Sprint
Aug 20 Sprint
Aug 27 Go Girl

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Trip Announcement

Location: Cagles Mill Lake/Cataract Falls

Date: July 9, 2016

Sponsor: Sue Foxx (317-363-4074 or sufoxx713@aol.com)

Calling all recreational kayaks and canoes for a fun paddle to see the falls...beginners welcome! This is an easy 7.2 mile paddle from Cunot PAS up to Lower Cataract Falls. From the lower falls, folks who want to, can take the path along Mill Creek to get to the upper falls (about a mile). Of course we will be paddling in July so seeing the falls will really depend on water flow. Be aware that when we paddle east from Cunot, the lake opens up for a bit and boats are not restricted to idle speed so it can get choppy at times. Hope lots of you will make the 1 hour trip west of Indy to explore this beautiful area which is much bigger and not as built up as Geist or Eagle Creek. We are beginning early to hopefully get a jump on the heat.

Meeting Place: Cunot PAS (From I-70 take exit 37 and go south on IN 243 until you run into IN 42. You will go past the entrance for Lieber State Park and through the little town of Cunot before you reach IN 42. Turn west (right) on IN 42 and go about 1.5 miles. You will cross a large bridge over Cagles Mill Lake. Turn right at the sign for Cunot PAS.)

Schedule: 9:00 am Arrive at Cunot PAS
9:30 am Start paddling
11:30 am Arrive at lower falls
12:00 pm Lunch
12:30 pm Hike to upper falls
1:00 pm Paddle back
3:00 pm Land at take out

Contact Sue Foxx (317-363-4074 or sufoxx713@aol.com) to confirm your participation by 7 pm on Friday, July 8.

Trip Announcement

Green River Overnight, Mammoth Cave National Park, KY; July 15-17

Trip Sponsor: Natalie Needham

If you have ever wanted to try to camp out of your boat, this trip is for you! One of my favorite places to paddle, the Green River runs right through Mammoth Cave National Park and is a great outdoor resource available to all for hiking, fishing, camping, and especially kayaking or canoeing. Wildlife abounds in the park, and it is not uncommon to see deer, wild turkey, bald eagles, raccoons, beaver, or hear the howls of a coyote pack in the distance. Since this is a National Park, fishing is permitted without a license so feel free to bring your pole! If you don't have a pole, let me know and I may have an extra one for you to borrow.

Friday, July 15

I plan on heading down Friday afternoon if anyone would like to carpool/caravan with me. I plan on camping at the Mammoth Cave National Park campground. The campgrounds are nice and clean; have flushing toilets and pay showers. Please let me know if you would be interested in camping as well, as we can share sites, etc. Cost is \$20 per night and up to 8 persons per site.

Campground details: <http://www.nps.gov/macac/planyourvisit/macacacampground.htm>

Saturday, July 16

Meeting Point: Cave City McDonald's Overflow lot.

For those who are not camping Friday night, we will meet in Cave City (Exit 53 on I-65). There is little to no cell phone service in MCNP, so please plan on meeting at the Cave City McDonald's on Saturday at 9:30 am EST (8:30 CST). There is cell phone service in this area, so please call or let me know if you are running late or have to cancel last minute. We will promptly leave at 9:45 am EST to the put-in. Please be aware that this is a dry county, so if you would like a cold one at some point during the trip

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you will need to bring it from elsewhere, there is nowhere to buy it.

Mammoth Cave National Park map: <http://www.nps.gov/macaplanyourvisit/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&PageID=69446>

Put In: Dennison's Ferry

We will caravan to the put-in, which is about a 20 minute drive from the McDonald's, unload and run our shuttle. Shuttles will have to be figured out at the put-in based on vehicles, number of people, and who is going where. Shuttle time will be a little over an hour total.

Some people don't like camping and would rather explore on their own and sleep in a bed, I get that. So, for those of you who opt to sleep off the water you can take out at the Green River Ferry. It will be a nice 8 mile paddle for you on Saturday. For those of us sleeping river side, we will continue to paddle down to our target camping spot of Sand Cave Island; located close to Turn Hole Bend. Camp spots are first come, first serve, so I would like to get to our island in the early evening so we can set up, gather wood, and relax for the night. Campers will paddle a total of approx. 12 miles Saturday. I will be bringing a cooking grate and a percolating coffee maker to share; you will need to bring what you would like to cook, eat, mix, etc.

For those camping, I will get our free camping permits Friday. I will need your vehicle's Make, Model, and plate number, along with emergency contact info. Your vehicle must have this permit displayed if you leave it overnight in the park.

Suggested things to bring for camping:

Although downed wood can be used for firewood, it is always appreciated if you bring along some charcoal in a small ziplock baggie. Other suggested items include: flash light, bug spray, sunscreen, plenty of water, paper plates, paper cups, personal toiletries, tent, a couple of trash bags, sleeping bag, sleeping pad (we usually camp on a gravel bar), change of clothes, a positive attitude, sense of humor and don't forget to pack food for Sunday. One tip I like to adhere to is to freeze my water bottles instead of bringing ice. They stay frozen longer and you will always have ice cold water to drink.

Here are some other tips:

<http://www.paddling.net/guidelines/showArticle.html?317>

Day 2

If you opted to not camp and still want to paddle on Sunday, you can meet us campers on the river. The non-campers will need to run their own shuttle on Sunday. It sounds complicated, but it worked out pretty well last time. Plan to meet on the river no later than 11 am EST, just keep paddling until you see a bunch of happy HCKC campers. J

Campers will have an approx. 8 mile paddle on Sunday, with non-campers paddling 12 miles. Take out will be at Houchins Ferry.

NOTE: if the river conditions are not deemed safe due to a sudden storm or two, we will not paddle, or we may adjust where we paddle based on the river conditions. There are plenty of hiking and biking trails; and also, of course, the caves to visit. Please be flexible.

Paddlers will be required to sign the HCKC Trip Disclaimer before embarking on our adventure. You can review the trip disclaimer in advance here:

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

Please RSVP to me no later than Wednesday, July 13th. If you have any questions or need any more info, please feel free to contact me (Natalie) at natalieHCCkayak@gmail.com

Please put Mammoth Cave in the subject line when emailing me. See you on the River!!

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**Trip Announcement:
The 31st Annual Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous
Wildcat Creek: July 29,30 & 31, 2016
Trip Sponsor: Garry Hill**

Hey Wildcat Paddlers,

The Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous is less than 7 weeks away. This Newsletter should provide all the info you need to make plans and mark your calendar. Make plans to attend the IPR, and enjoy a full weekend of Paddling on Wildcat Creek.

Full events details, times, and locations are included below.

The IPR has proven to be one of the overall best Paddling events in Indiana. If you've never attended, rest assured it is worth your time. Come prepared to enjoy one of the nicest small Streams in Indiana, to relax with old Paddling buddies, and to make new friends.

This event is open to members of Canoe & Kayak Clubs, Internet Paddling Groups, and River Protection Organizations who have their own personal equipment and enough skills for an enjoyable day on a Swift Flowing Natural Stream. Please take this opportunity to pass this Trip Announcement on to any of the above mentioned organizations with which you have connections.

But please avoid wide open public, media, or Facebook announcements.

Muskrat has once again volunteered to be the IPR Trip Leader.

Numerous requests for Volunteers will be posted to the Wildcat Guardians and others within the next few weeks, including a request for "Volunteer Shuttle Drivers", "Registration Team", and an "On-Stream Safety Crew". I'm hoping to hear from many of you who have assisted with these tasks in the past. If you should have questions about volunteer positions, please contact me below:

MUSKRAT'S CONTACT INFO:

Email Screen Name: garryhill@aol.com

Phone Home: 765-628-3155 Cell: 765-432-6782

MUSKRAT's Notes on the IPR:

Here is a basic timetable for the IPR, just in case you receive no further information.

The dates for 2016 are Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, **July 29,30,31.**

Directions to all locations are provided below.

Whenever and where ever you arrive at the IPR, please proceed directly to the Registration Table.

FRIDAY July 29th:

The first activity of the weekend will be a Trip on Wildcat Creek Friday afternoon; Meeting Time is 3:00 PM at Wildcat Park (directions below). Where we will Paddle will be announced at that time, and the Shuttle will begin immediately thereafter; please arrive early.

There will be a BYO **Campfire Cookout** at Wildcat Park following this cruise. The **IPR Paddler's Campsite** will be available at Wildcat Park for both Friday and Saturday nights, thanks to special arrangement with the Tippecanoe County Parks Dept. Camping is strictly "Primitive" with no electricity available. The only utilities are water, pit toilets, and bathing in the Creek.

SATURDAY July 30th:

Saturday's Creek Trip will begin at Knop Lake Public Fishing Area (directions below). This will cover 13.6-miles and end at Wildcat Park. There will be an alternate Takeout for a 9-mile Trip. Lunch at The Gravelbar is BYO.

Shuttle Departure Time is 9:00 AM from Knop Lake. **You should plan to arrive at Knop Lake absolutely no later than 8:30 AM** (8 AM would be better; it really gets crowded with all the people arriving).

Saturday's Traditional **Chili Supper** will begin serving at 6 PM at the Paddler's Campsite in Wildcat Park (directions below).

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>>>>>> **Chili Supper Reservations are the only advance notice you are asked to provide.** Simply provide your name and your number of Chili Eaters, so Muskrat can make sure to cook enough for everyone. **Please make Chili Reservations at garryhill@aol.com.**

The Wildcat Guardians Annual Benefit Auction (one of the most "Laugh-Filled" parts of the entire weekend) will be held immediately after the Chili Supper. If you have any items to offer for sale, please present them at the Registration Table whenever you arrive.

SUNDAY July 31st:

Sunday's Creek Trip will meet at Wildcat Park (directions below). Shuttle departure is 9:00 AM sharp. Please arrive early. Lunch at The Gravelbar is BYO. This Trip varies from year to year, but usually covers the 9-miles from Wildcat Park to the Wabash River. Launch and Takeout locations will be announced to everyone who arrives at Wildcat Park in time for Shuttle Departure at 9:00 AM Sunday morning.

For any questions email garryhill@aol.com, or call Muskrat at 765-628-3155 (home), or 765-432-6782 (cell).

DIRECTIONS.....

Muskrat's Wildcat Creek Expedition Team utilizes the "**Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer**" for accurate directions to River access locations all over Indiana. **This Indiana map book is the absolute best for River People.** The directions below are based on the use of this book. The Gazetteer can be found at Staples, some Meijer's and Wal-Mart stores, bookstores, convenience stores, and others.

Directions To Wildcat Park

Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer Page 31:

Find Monitor on SR-26, east of Lafayette. Go North from Monitor on CR 775-E. Then, at a "T", turn Left on CR 300-N.

Watch for yellow "IPR" marks on the pavement.

Then, Left again onto CR 600-E (not written on map). 600-E will drop steeply down into the Valley and make a sharp right turn. The entrance to Wildcat Park is on the left in about ½-mile after that turn. **Watch for the "IPR" signs.**

Another option: Take SR-26 West from I-65 (toward Lafayette). Turn Right at Creasy Lane. Follow this street around a curve, over the Interstate, and across Wildcat Creek. At the end of the bridge, turn Right onto Eisenhower Road. Wildcat Park will be on the right in about 1-1/2-miles.

Watch for the "IPR" signs.

Directions To Knop Lake Public Access Site

Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer Page 32:

1) From US-31 south of Kokomo, head West on SR-26. About 4-¼ miles west of Rossville, turn North (right) from SR-26 onto CR 900-W; **watch for green sign to "Pyrmont"**. This is just after the town of Edna Mills.

2) From I-65 at Lafayette, head East on SR-26. Approximately 7-½ miles east of the Interstate, turn North (left) from SR-26 onto CR 900-W; **watch for green sign to "Pyrmont"**. This is just after the village of Petit, and 1-mile after the County Line.

Next, in 2-½ miles turn Right (east) on CR 650-S (church on left). The entrance to Knop Lake State Fishing Area is on the left in ½-mile. **Go slow and watch closely; you can easily miss the entrance sign, in a wooded area, going downhill.** **Watch for yellow "IPR" marks on the pavement.**

Follow the gravel road past the pond, keeping to the left at every fork, following the IPR-signs, until you reach the Registration Area. Then follow the directions of the Volunteers, and they will get you to the Launch Site as soon as possible. (On a State Hwy Map, Rossville is located east of Lafayette, south of Delphi, west of Kokomo.) *See You On The River,*

Muskrat

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Sea Kayak Thoughts

Jim Sprandel

June Open Water Rescue Clinic: June was a good month for sea kayakers. We started off with the Open Water Rescue Clinic that Duane Garloch led on Geist Reservoir. We had 15 people attend - a record for our rescue clinic! We practiced various assisted and solo open water rescues as well as towing. Many of these people were preparing for their upcoming trip to Maine and Nova Scotia in August. You want to practice emergency scenarios with the people who you will be paddling big water with since they will be the people pulling you out of the water.

Lake Erie – South Bass Island Rendezvous – Todd Barrett led five of us up to Lake Erie for the South Bass Island Rendezvous where we met up with and paddled with several of the paddlers who we met there last year. An interesting event – there were 60 kayaks stored on the hill over the launch and at least 40 more on cars in the campground. We had one 19-mile day over to Kelley's Island and back where we saw the Glacial Grooves in the State Park there. On Sunday, the wind picked up early and we had 2.5 – 3 foot trailing seas on our way back to our cars. These conditions got more interesting when coupled with the ferry wakes. Pictures are viewable at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/merlin3d/albums/72157670104041385>



The speaker at the event was Tim Galloway with Qajaq USA. Qajaq USA is a group dedicated to preserving and teaching traditional kayaking techniques including paddling-rolling with the traditional Greenland paddle and other sports such as rope exercises and harpooning. Tim was able to work with Andy Thienenam and Doug Jose on their rolls on Saturday. There is a major traditional paddling event coming up in August where I will be going up to work on these skills. Interestingly, four of the five sea kayakers on this trip used a traditional Greenland paddle.

Eagle Creek Tuesday Evening Paddles – We have had 5-6 long boaters out every Tuesday night at Eagle Creek. This is usually a 7-8 mile training paddle where we head from the Discovery center up either going up Fall Creek or down to the dam. Details are in the May newsletter or contact me if interested.

Upcoming Trips – We will be having several interesting trips that you may wish to take advantage of:

Maine/Nova Scotia – About 11 sea kayakers will be going to Maine and then on to Nova Scotia during the 1st two weeks in August.

Sunday July 31, NWIPA New Buffalo-to-Michigan City Paddle

4th Annual Indiana Dunes Surf Play Weekend, Labor Day Weekend

I will get out details on the two Lake Michigan trips via the Sea Kayaking e-mail list as soon as I know more.

Training –

Intermediate Boat Control and Turning Clinic, July 2 – This should be a fun class since Dave and I attended the Charleston Symposium. Both of us were able to work with Nigel Foster at the symposium and he gave us some new teaching methods to try. Currently, only three of ten student positions are open so let me know if you are interested.

Introduction to Kayaking, July 23 and August 20 – Intended for newer flatwater, touring, and sea kayakers. These classes cover the basic strokes and safety considerations that you need to paddle safely. We had 8 people attend these classes in May and 11 in June. These courses are described in the May and June Newsletter and I will publicize them using the HCKC members mailing list if slots are available.

Sea Kayak Mailing List - While many sea kayaking events are listed in the newsletter, some are publicized through a mailing list that we maintain for Indiana and Midwest sea kayakers. If you have a sea or touring kayak and like to be added to this list, send me an e-mail.

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

White River Yacht Club, Broad Ripple, Indianapolis

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Introduction to Kayaking Classes

Instructors: Dave Ellis, Duane Garloch, Jim Sprandel

Dates: Saturdays - 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.



South Carolina Trip

Looks like low tide :))

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Trip Report Driftwood River Sue Foxx

May 21 dawned cloudy and rainy but after having had to cancel the Driftwood River trip twice last year I was determined that it would happen in 2016. Luckily, 15 other paddlers were not daunted and met at the Edinburgh McDonalds for the 9 mile trip. 13 boats (a nice mix of canoes and kayaks) put in at the Tannehill Road PAS and took out at Mill Race Park in Columbus. Despite the threat of rain we didn't even get a drizzle and the sun poked out a couple of times from behind the clouds. The water level was perfect and folks took pictures and enjoyed a leisurely paddle until our gravel bar lunch. Unfortunately, Mark Cowser experienced an unexpected wrinkle when he got back in his boat. He had a separation where the upper and lower portions of his boat joined so he spent the last several miles doing a balancing act with a boat full of water. Luckily he made it...barely...because duct tape would never have worked in this situation! At the takeout several of us headed to Zaharakos Ice Cream Parlor and enjoyed the ambiance, fellowship and great sundaes, shakes and scoops of butter pecan! I highly recommend this section of the Driftwood for beginners because of the easy put in, shuttle and the opportunity to explore historic downtown Columbus at the end of an easy paddle.

Trip Report Hindostan Falls Trip report, June 5 Sponsor: Natalie Needham

A forecast of 80% storms and a longer than normal drive pushed this trip from a Saturday to a Sunday. Eleven paddlers met down at the Shoals, IN put-in to check out the section of the East Fork of White River from Shoals to Hindostan Falls. The storms left behind sunny skies with beautiful white puffy clouds but took away all of the regular sandbars. With steep and muddy banks, most of us ate lunch in our boats. The gage at Shoals read 5.7 feet and 6000 CFS, so the river was moving and made this 13 mile paddle a relatively quick one. Just downstream of the put in we were treated to some standing waves usually reserved for the whitewater trips, all paddlers made it through just fine. Highlights of the trip were seeing a bald eagle and paddling next to the limestone bluffs. The higher water didn't affect any of those sights. Unfortunately, the falls were mostly covered. A few of us stopped by Outback steakhouse in Bloomington on the way home and enjoyed some well-deserved refreshments. This was a great trip, but would be better at a lower level when the sandbars are exposed and you can get out of your boat for a bit.

Photo credit:
Sean Milligan



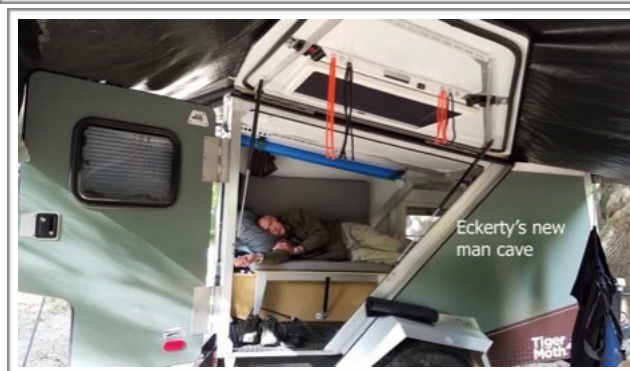
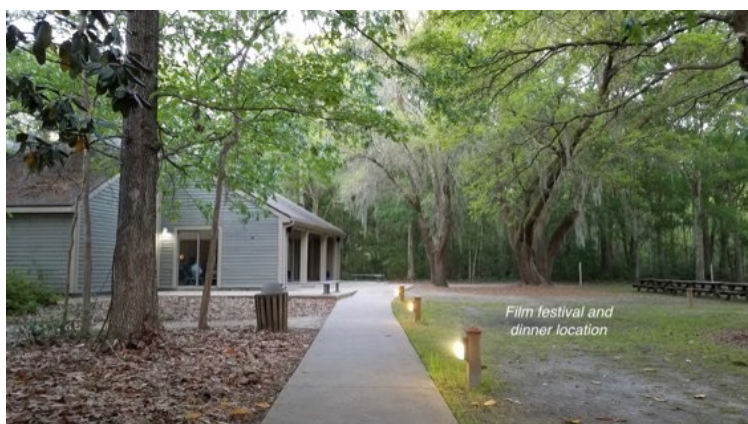


Trip Report HCKC's Search For Big Water....April 15-22 By Mariann Davis

A little bit of this and a little bit of that seems to be a recipe for a great week of paddling in South Carolina with the HCKC. As a particular signature of our club, our trip leaders, Dave Ellis, with a cameo appearance from Konstantin Louganski, A.K.A. Romany, provided a unique week of paddling diversity. They were not afraid to reach beyond the standard

usual fare to bring our adventures to many differing paddling tastes without diminishing any of its flavor. For my taste it was a cornucopia event. I'm sure my paddling partners, Jim Sprandel, Mark Cowser, Duane Garloch, Jim Eckerty, Tom Siddall would all agree.

Our Charleston, SC paddling trip began with the 3 day East Coast Sea Kayaking Symposium on James Island with camping in beautiful James Island County Park, 15 minutes from Charleston. To be sure, this is not the rough tough camping of the Apostles' or even your personal backyard. The 5 star accommodations with beautiful campsites and luxurious landscapes could tempt languid respite from our kayaking mission at hand...But no one suc-



cumbed. As easy as it could have been to retreat from the gloom and rain of our first day out on the water...we braved our first paddling class with every piece of insulation we brought. Our class now changed from the hoped for surfing class on Folly Beach (the ocean) to the Folly River: a churning agitated river with cross wind speed gusts up to 20mph...I can still hear the words: "boat control" echoing in my head...and control, we managed... and survive we did...and the spirit and camaraderie and personal self confidence made for good story telling at the evening dinner and film festival that followed. In fact, 2 evening dinners— one of pulled pork and the other of the area's famous "low country boil" could almost persuade the back country camper in us to recon-



sider the tin cans and beef jerky...and the film festival gave us the educational and adventurous proxy gained by sitting and watching.

Jim S., Jim E., Dave E., Tom S. and I went our separate ways into various classes the next 2 days dependent on our instructional needs and I experienced my first Stand up/ Fall down paddle board class, which after 2 memorable dives achieved my personal best of 20 minutes in an upright position. On our 4th day on James Island we were joined by Mark and Duane as we caravanned to our first non symposium paddle.



Forts R' Us Tour...Day 1

Captain Dave led us on a 7.5 mile paddle from Sunrise Park, across the out skirts of Charleston Harbor, through a 2 mile stretch of semi-protectect water to Fort Sumter (where the first shots of the Civil War were fired). Our mission, should we accept, would be to storm the Fort and claim it for the HCKC before the armada of "tour boats" commenced landing...mission accomplished! However, thirty minutes later the fort was besieged by the unsightly sight seers and we were all taken prisoner from our preferred quietude.

No problem, however, is too big for Dave to handle. He rallied us paddlers to disembark the fort; he had another fort up his proverbial sleeve: Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island. Looks like the "Forts R' Us" tour is now underway. **Fort Moultrie** is a series of fortifications on [Sullivan's Island, South Carolina](#), built to protect the city of [Charleston, South Carolina](#). The first fort, built of [palmetto](#) logs, inspired the [flag](#) and nickname of [South Carolina](#), "The Palmetto State". It is named for the commander in the [Battle of Sullivan's Island](#), General [William Moultrie](#).

Here, we had some photo ops, walked the beach and concluded our "Tour de Fort" afternoon.



As we now paddled back to our takeout through the calm sunlit waters of Charleston Harbor, I had gratitude for being born in a time and place outside that horrific time in American history.

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We headed back to our new campground at Givhan's Ferry on the Edisto River to continued our paddling adventures.

Konstantin, the paddler, becomes Romany the trip leader...Day 2

On this day we launched from Wappoo Cut boat ramp, into the Ashley River and paddled out across the Charleston Harbor. With a brief respite on a small beach near the beautiful "Battery" (The **Battery** is a landmark defensive seawall and promenade in **Charleston, South Carolina**. Named for a civil-war coastal defense artillery **battery** at the site, it stretches along the lower shores of the **Charleston** peninsula, bordered by the Ashley and Cooper Rivers, which meet here to form **Charleston** harbor). Our mile crossing to the south



found the HCKC paddlers at Castle Pinckney, the ruins of a 19th century fort on Shutes Folly Island in the Harbor. Now you're probably thinking that I'm just making up words to fill paper...I swear... these names are beyond even the cleverness of Dr. Seuss...I won't even begin to talk about cacophonous sound of the thousands of laughing loons on this island...could they have been mocking us?



Crossing a main shipping Channel, I learned, takes some patience and calculation, but the bottom line is to know the channel markings and give way to the larger ships as they are not always able to see you as you are them.

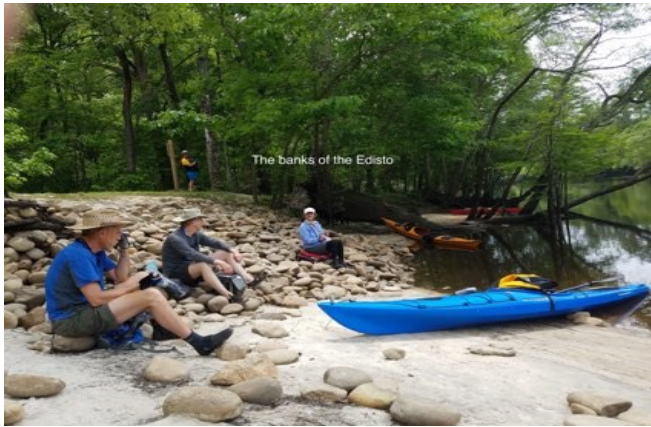
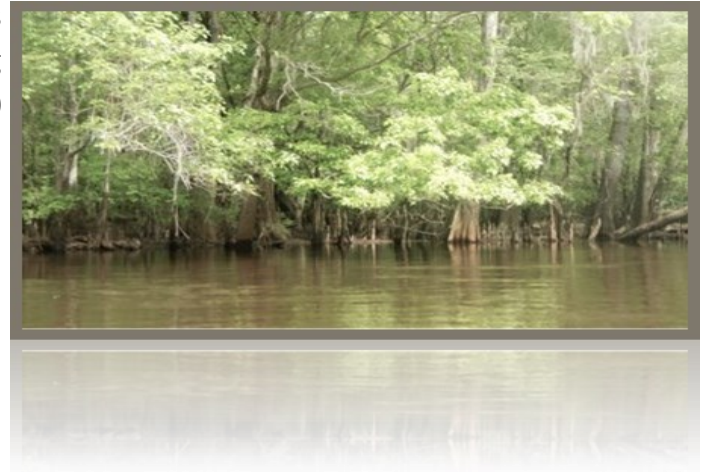


We navigate our way across the channel after about 20 minutes of assessing and waiting for the bigger vessels to pass and headed to Patriots Point where 3 WWII-era ships turned into museums were located: the aircraft carrier, Yorktown; the destroyer, Laffey; and the submarine, Clamagore. Having great fun touring this preserved maritime graveyard, we proceeded north under the Ravenel Bridge across Cooper River, passing the Memorial Waterfront Park Pier, to take out at Remley Point.

And so a memorable 8 mile paddle day ends with a fantastic meal at Vickery's at Shem Creek in Mt Pleasant, where we ate overlooking the pier and the beautiful evening sky.

Edisto River...Day 3: Dave consults his paddling oracle...

Within a quarter mile of our campground flowed the Edisto River. "Why not play and paddle in your own back yard," the oracle declared...and so it was that our group put in and Mars Oldfield Landing about 10 miles from our camp. At more than 250 miles of flow, the eery, black inky Edisto River with



its lush vegetation, reminded us that we weren't in the Midwest anymore. There was something other worldly about this place as we more quietly (than on previous

trips) paddled our 6 kayaks. Under the calm of luscious tree canopies, past the overgrown banks of the Edisto, our personal Avian choir provided our background music on this 14 mile trip. Our take-out at Good Hope Landing seemed appropriately named for this very special trip as there was only one alligator sighting BUT could never be verified. Dave, we really want to believe you...

To Botany Bay on the Atlantic...Day 4

This trip seemed a perfect ending to a great week of paddling as it afforded almost every element of touring kayaking: namely, tide changes, including the grueling or is it (glue-ing) 2 mile slack tide paddling, a surf launching, open water paddling, dolphin sightings, beautiful beaches and a few more—you will just have to wait.





Our trip started from the Cherry point access on Bohicket Creek, down to the North Edisto River, (the end journey for this 250 mile river). We paddled in calm water with warm 73 degree weather. Our goal: get to ocean and arrive within the tide parameters so as to minimize our paddling efforts. We crossed to Deveaux Bank (a barrier island, a sea bird nesting sanctuary). After our modest lunch, we paddled along the coast to Botany Bay Beach, guided by our guiding light: A.K.A., solar flare. Our Beach landing on an almost isolated section gave way to a most unusual "National Geographic" feature. A kind of ghost beach with remnants of an old plantation lay about a quarter mile to the east on the shore. Not re-



sisting the urge to explore, Romany, Tom and I went on this photo shoot, discovering natural areas of such beauty that even in their death, take on life anew. Areas that are poetry to every camera lens.

Sadly this 14 mile trip was coming to an end and we were tuned to the beckoning of the tides for our departure. We paddled back through the North Edisto River and Bohicket Creek where the

slack tide worked my deltoids and core so well that for a fleeting moment in time, I felt I could resurrect that bikini from its fashion grave yard. NOT!

Well, we arrived at the take-out both rejuvenated and spent, knowing that Mother Nature provides the most generous playground there is...where the only rules are enjoy, appreciate and leave no trace.

Our trip completed, we all shared a Mexican meal at a local restaurant, headed back to our campsite and prepared for early departure the following morning.

Many thanks to our trip leaders: Dave Ellis and Konstantin Louganski (AKA: Romany) for a great trip...our club has a valuable resource in all our dedicated trip leaders.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club