

The Hoosier Paddler

Month July 2017, Vol. 55 Issue 7

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



From the Skipper:

So far this year has brought high water, which has been great for the white water folks; but not so much for the flat water trips. Along with a lot of rain, this year has unfortunately seen several tragedies on the water. Flood conditions, strainers, and low head dams have all taken a toll on the paddling community this year. I would like to remind everyone to dress for the swim, know the river you're paddling, know the boat you're paddling, have the right safety gear with you and on you, paddle with a group (preferably a group that knows how to get you out of trouble if or when needed), and take classes that make you a better paddler and even an asset to have along on a trip. Wilderness first aid, swift water rescue, and knowing how to self-rescue are all valuable skills to master. Throughout the year, we offer our members either free or discounted classes on all of these skill sets, along with access to a heated pool year-round for practice. Please make sure you take advantage of these resources, you never know if you will ever need it for yourself, for others in your group, or even a complete stranger. Paddle on and paddle safe.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the water at some point!

Natalie

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Using the HCKC Web Site – Web Tutorials

The HCKC rolled in 2017 with a new web site. Most members have used the new site by now. However, several members have had questions. Since January, the club has written tutorials to help people use the web site. These tutorials have been collected on a page on the HCKC Web Site.

To see these tutorials, go the HCKC Web Site (www.hoosiercanoecub.org), move your cursor over "Information" in the top menu, and then select "Members Guide to the HCKC Web Site" in its submenu (<http://www.hoosiercanoecub.org/FAQMember>).

Please consider this page to be a work-in-progress. E-mail suggestions for other topics that you feel should be included on this page to [Jim Sprandel](mailto:Jim.Sprandel).

You can get information on the following topics on this page:

Setting up your Account

- Setting up your Account

- Forgot your Password

- Adding a family member to your Account

Contacting other Members

Events

- Viewing the Calendar

- Registering for an event

Using the Forum (Coming in July)

Newsletter

- Viewing the current newsletter

- Viewing past newsletters

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

HCKC Open House July 8th

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 Saturday, July 8th at Geist Park from 2 pm to 6 pm. 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.

This isn't just for members, so feel free to bring your friends and family.

If you are wanting to get rid of a boat or some equipment, this would probably be a good time to do it too.



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River Clean Up

One of the best ways to clean up a river is to avoid polluting it the first place! With spring cleaning and summer maintenance on vehicles and lawnmowers, remember to properly dispose of unwanted electronics, chemicals, batteries, and any lightbulbs containing mercury.

Indianapolis offers several drop off points for these types of wastes that shouldn't go in your normal trash.

7550 North Lafayette Rd. - Open first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

4925 South Shelby St. - Open the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

9049 East 10th St. - Open the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Additionally, residents can drop off their household hazardous waste during the week at the 1725 West St. location on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Your city and / or county most likely has a similar program for toxic waste, be sure to check with your local government.

Here is a link for helpful resources: <http://www.in.gov/idem/recycle/2351.htm>

Volunteers wanted for Safety Support at Eagle Creek Full Moon Paddles July 7-8, August 4-5, September 8-9, October 6-7

This year, Jeff Coates will again be leading Full Moon paddles sponsored by the Eagle Creek Outfitters located at the Marina in the north part of Eagle Creek Park. People rent canoes and kayaks from the Eagle Creek Outfitters and Jeff guides them on a 2-hour paddle up Eagle Creek Lake and back. Jeff provides background on the park and its plant/animal life while they paddle. For many years, the HCKC volunteers have provided safety support for these paddles since they often get up to 30 new paddlers out for a given full-moon event. Our volunteers typically help adjust boats for paddlers, give advice to new paddlers who are having problems once they get on the water, sweep, keep an eye on the group, and occasionally tow paddlers to the motorized support boats. This is a great opportunity to talk paddling and let people know about the Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club.

Full Moon Paddles will be held on the following dates: Friday June 9, Saturday June 10, Friday July 7, Saturday July 8, Friday August 4, Saturday August 5, Friday Sept. 8, Saturday Sept. 9, Friday Oct. 6, and Saturday Oct. 7

If you would be interested in helping with any of these paddles, send an e-mail to Jeff Coates at truenorth360@comcast.net.

Trip Announcement Twice Cancelled, Thrice Announced!!!!

Driftwood River Trip

Saturday, July 2 2017

Trip Sponsors: Sue Foxx (sufoxx713@aol.com or 317-363-4074) and Dwayne James (dwaynesjamesA1@hotmail.org or text 317-956-7691)

Notify trip sponsors by 7 pm on June 16 to confirm your attendance just in case there are any issues with water level or weather. The Driftwood River, flowing from the confluence of the Big Blue and Sugar Creek, winds through farmland with wooded banks. Our trip will begin in a secluded state wildlife preserve and continue through a part of Camp Atterbury Wilderness Area. Deer, beaver, heron, eagle and osprey have been spotted in this area. It is also not unusual to see aerial maneuvers from the military training ground nearby. We will travel from Furnas Mill Dam on Sugar Creek to the Lowel Bridge PAS 15 miles downriver. This is a long paddle but is appropriate for all skill levels. Be sure to bring water, lunch, sunscreen, hat, paddling gloves and lifejacket in addition to your regular gear.

Meeting Place: Shell Station just off I-65 at EXIT 80 (First Edinburg Exit...the one BEFORE the Edinburg Mall)

Meeting Time: 9:00 am (We will then caravan to the Put In)

9:30 am Shuttle

10:30 am Start paddling

Noonish Lunch

4:30 pm Arrive at Take Out

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Trip Announcement

East Fork White River Sat. July 15

Sponsor: Richard Tekulve

Please join us on Saturday July 15th as we paddle the mid section of one of Indiana's longest rivers. The East Fork White River runs 189.9 miles beginning at Columbus and traveling to its destination with the White River at Petersburg in the far southwestern part of the state. Over nearly the past decade I have offered different sections to paddle from Columbus to Sparksville covering almost one-third of its length along with a 11 mile section of its main feeder stream in the Driftwood River above Columbus. The East Fork was historically called the Driftwood Fork of the White River on older maps as evidenced by Driftwood township near Vallonia in Jackson County. We will paddle a 12.6 mile section from the Lawrenceport DNR access site to the Bedford DNR access site. The river in this section flows through a very hilly part of southern Indiana and is class 1, very wide (200-300 ft.) and has about a 2-3 m.p.h. steady current at normal summer levels with no dragging or portages. Our meeting place is the Bedford DNR access site located on the south side of Bedford on SR 37/US 50. It is approximately 70 miles from the center of Indy via State Road 37. Our meeting time is 1030 AM where we will proceed ten miles through the "back roads" to the put-in @ Lawrenceport. The meeting place is immediately across the 600 ft. long twin bridges on the left side of the four lane divided highway as you are heading south.

Please contact me by 10 PM on Friday July 14th at 812-767-1317 or canoeindiana@yahoo.com. Sincerely, longtime East Fork trip organizer ; Richard Tekulve.

Canoe & Kayak Fleet:

Whitewater River Trip, Laurel to Metamora, July 8

Trip Leader: Brett Thompson, meet at the Laurel Feeder Dam at 9:30 AM.

This is a fun 7 mile trip. We will put in just below the Laurel Feeder Dam <https://www.google.com/search?q=laurel+indiana+feeder+dam&oq=laurel+feeder+da&aqs=chrome.2.69i57j0l2.6416j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8> and yes it is on Dam Road. There is a nice parking area. I have never had a problem leaving my car there. We will take out at the town of Metamora. The take out is a little steep. The town of Metamora is fun. Lots of old stuff. Think Flea Market with stuff from the 30's-60's. I typically go to Grannys Ice Cream. It is great. Tons of old cookie jars for sale. For water this river flows faster than average in Indiana. At normal levels you may find a wave that is around 1 foot. It is open and OK for those with just a little experience. We typically stop and swim at a gravel bar. At higher levels it can move pretty good. So at low levels it is beginner friendly. At mid-level you want a little experience and at high levels we wont run it. We have taken SUP's and kayaks on this stretch many times and they worked great. For the last 4 years we have seen a Bald Eagle. One year we got really close to it as it sat in a tree over the river. Plan to meet at the Gas Station in Laurel IN at 9:30; there is only one gas station. You should be back home in time for dinner. I love this stretch and have done it many times. If the water is low we will welcome beginners to the trip. My plan is to bring snacks and then catch a late lunch in Metamora when we finish, but you may wish to bring your own lunch for the river. Don't forget your PFD, water, sunscreen, etc.

Feel free to call or email with questions. Brett Thompson 3174174287 or brett@fnbft.com

P.S. I can get 6 aluminum canoes for free but I would need someone to pull the trailer. They come from a not-for-profit that I help run that works to get people outdoors. www.outsidementors.org has more info.

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It's July and I'm getting excited about the upcoming August trip to the Apostles followed by our extended trip to North and South Manitou islands near Sleeping Bear Dunes in September.

We just had our planning meeting for our Apostles trip and we'll have 3 group running around Apostles National Lakeshore that week. I'll get a note with more information on the Manitou soon.

Remember that summer is a good time to tune up your roll and cool off at the same time. Be sure to look over Robert Moore's trip report on the club's trip to the Chesapeake – another interesting trip.

Upcoming Trips -

Monroe Lake Day Trip-- Sunday, June 25, 2017

I called Debby Baker and we are going to have a day paddle on Lake Monroe on Sunday, June 25. We will paddle on the East side of the causeway. We will probably paddle into the Middle Fork for a few hours. We will stop for lunch somewhere along the shore so bring something to eat and drink. This will be a laid-back paddle to enjoy Lake Monroe rather than an exercise jaunt. E-mail me at merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net if you are interested.

NWIPA Lake Michigan Paddle – Saturday, Sunday July 1-2, 2017

I spoke with Dan Plath it sounds like he's planning a great event. On Saturday, we will probably paddle south from New Buffalo, MI. Dan has gotten a special use permit to camp near Beverly Shores Saturday night – think campfire on the beach. Sunday morning, we will paddle out-and-back along the shore. This is Lake Michigan – definitely for sea or touring kayaks.

I will get out details to the Sea Kayaking mailing list when I receive. This seems to be happening so save these dates!

"I can't believe its not Cold" Monroe Overnight Trip-- Sat.-Sun., July 22-23, 2017

See the trip announcement in this newsletter.

Sea Kayak Trip Announcement

"I can't believe that it's not Cold" Lake Monroe Overnight Paddle

Saturday-Sunday, July 22-23, 2017

Trip Sponsor: Jim Sprandel



I have never done an overnight trip on Lake Monroe during the summer. We normally start and end our paddling year with overnights to Lake Monroe. Several paddlers have warned me that summer trips have different challenges (e.g., heat, more campers, Yeti, and bugs). Good training for upcoming trips.

Great weather for hammocking. If it's really warm, I could imagine having a group rolling or rescue session.

If you only want to paddle on Saturday, you can day paddle with us on Saturday if don't want to camp out. We will camp near the point of the peninsula in Deem Wilderness so it's only a 2-mile paddle back to our put-in at the Cutright Public Access Site.

Expected Trip Mileage: We will probably paddle 9-11 miles on Saturday. Sunday's mileage depends on the desires of the group.

Meeting Place/Put-In: Cutright Public Access Site. Turn left into Cutright after you cross the causeway going South on 446. We will launch from the first ramp that you come to within Cutright

What to Bring: Bring your paddling gear, spray skirt, camping gear, food for lunch, dinner, and breakfast. You

should also bring drinking water with you.

We will be camping from our boats and you will have to pack all your gear in your boat so plan accordingly.

Be sure to have an Indiana DNR Boat Permit. You can pick one up at the Paynetown SRA gate or the DNR office near Paynetown if you need one.

Schedule: Saturday -10:30 am -Ready to Launch from Cutright PAS

We will probably paddle 3-4 miles, set up camp, and then explore more of the lake.

Sunday: We are flexible here. We could return to Cutright as early as 10:00 am. We'll figure out a plan Saturday night depending on lake conditions, how far people want to paddle on Sunday, and when people want to be home. In the past, the group has gone straight back to Cutright and those people wanting more adventure head back out.

Contact information: Jim Sprandel, merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net

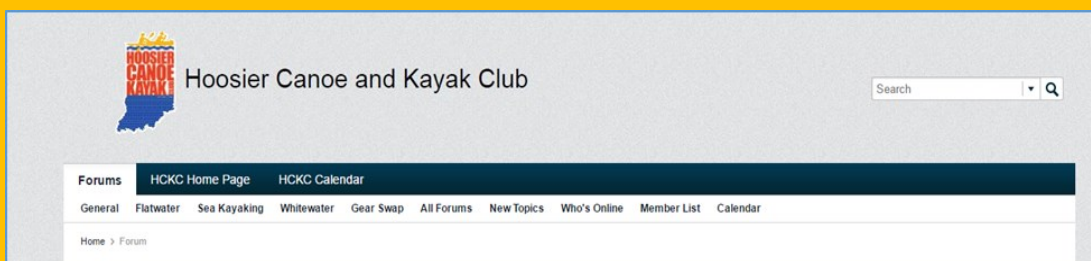
Please contact me by 7:00 pm on the Friday before the trip if you want to come. If the heat becomes too brutal, we may look at making it a day paddle.

Bulletin Board Migration

Jim Sprandel

During the week of July 3, 2017, the bulletin board will be moved to the new Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club (HCKC) web site. The new forum works about the same as the current site. People should continue using the current Bulletin Board until an announcement is sent to the club announcing that the transition has occurred.

During the Migration, I will copy "active" threads from the current Bulletin Board to the new site so that conversations in progress can continue on the new site. Active HCKC members will automatically be able to post and reply to messages on the new forum once they log in to the HCKC web site. However, they will have to use their HCKC login/password rather than their login/password for the current bulletin board. The new forum will continue to be viewable to the public like the current site.



Kayaking Skills Classes – Introductory and Intermediate Classes

Instructors: Dave Ellis, Duane Garloch, Jim Sprandel

Date: Sunday July 16, Saturday August 19, 2017

Our training classes are filling quickly this year. Many people are taking advantage of the Introductory and Intermediate classes that we are offering this year. There are still open slots for the classes coming up in June, July, and August. The class will be held from 9:00 to 3:30 at Eagle Creek.

Introductory Class are intended to ground new paddlers in the fundamental of kayak strokes, maneuvers, and safety issues. The Intermediate class works with more experienced paddlers to refine their technique.

Still Room in June, July & August Classes: There is still room in the upcoming classes in June, July, and August. You can sign up for these classes at:

Sat., June 24, 2017 <http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/event-2527419> Opening for 1 Intermediate Student

Sun. July 16, 2017 - <http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/event-2527422> Opening for 1 Introductory Student

Sat. August 19, 2017 - <http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/event-2525973> Several openings for both Introductory and Intermediate Students

If you have any questions or if you have problems registering, e-mail me at merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net.

**Sea Kayak/Flatwater Trip Announcement –
Cagles Mill Lake - Cataract Falls Fullmoon Paddle
Date: Saturday, July 8, 2017 6:45 pm
Trip Sponsors: Sue Foxx, Jim Sprandel**

On the evening of Saturday, July 8, we will have a full moon paddle on Cagle's Mill Lake. We will launch from Cunot Public Access Site and paddle up to Cataract Falls. The falls are magical in twilight and moonlight. On July 8, the sunset will be at 9:16 pm and the moon will rise at 8:04 pm. The full moon will be the next day so the moon will be almost full.

Paddling Level: We will paddle about 7 miles in the head waters on Cagle's Mill Lake up to the Falls and back. These are head waters so this a paddle rather than a float - there is no current but we will paddle at a moderate rate. The speed of motor boats in this area of the lake is restricted so we should not have any problems with boat wake.

Equipment Required: Kayak or canoe, paddling gear (life jacket, safety equipment). Whistle on your Life Jacket. White light since we will be paddling after dark. Each boat must carry a white light such as head light or flash light. Water to drink since the trip will take 3-4 hours. Bug repellent also recommended.

Safety Procedures: We will paddle as a group with a lead and sweep boat since it is possible to get turned around in the channels to and from the Falls especially after dark. For additional safety, we will implement a "buddy" system where everyone has at least one other boat that they paddle with. Life jackets must be worn at all time while we are paddling.

Schedule:

6:45 pm – Meet at Cunot Ramp

7:30 pm – Start paddling up to the Falls.

By 11:00 pm – Return to Cunot Ramp

Directions: The put-in is about 90 minutes from where I70 and I465 meet on the west side of Indianapolis. Take I70 west from Indianapolis to Exit 37 (SR243 which is one exit past Cloverdale). Travel south on SR 243 until the road dead ends at SR 42. Turn right (west) on SR42 – drive about ½ mile past the bridge and take the right turn (Boat Dock Rd, small store on corner). Follow this road downhill to boat launch.

DNR Sticker Required: Boats will be required to have an Indiana DNR Sticker. These stickers are only \$5/boat/year and you should pick them up before heading down to Cagles Mill since the gate house at Lieber SRA will probably be closed when we will be heading down there.

Contingencies: The ramp at Cunot is only usable if the Cagles Mill Lake Stage (<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?gage=cagi3&wfo=ind>) is below 647.5 feet. It is currently at 645 feet and dropping. We should be fine unless there is a lot of rain between now and then. If the water level gets too high, we will paddle an alternative venue.

Contact Information: Please RSVP by registering at the HCKC Web Site at: }

<https://hoosiercanoeandkayakclub.wildapricot.org/event-2444219>.

Alternatively, you can register for this by e-mailing Jim Sprandel (merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net).

If you have questions about the trip, please e-mail Jim Sprandel (merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net) or Sue Foxx (sufoxx713@aol.com).



Future Newsletters

Do you have any great trip reports or any other interesting stories the rest of us would enjoy? Please submit any articles, stories, or interesting points to Dwayne James for our News Letter. Submittals must be received by Dwayne by the 17th of each month to ensure it makes into the next month's newsletter. Please send any pictures or write-ups to dwaynesjamesA1@hotmail.com. I prefer word documents with very little formatting of the text. Calibri 11 makes a nice font.

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TRIP REPORT
CHESAPEAKE BAY – JUNE 4-10
ROBERT MOORE



Maryland sea kayaking opportunities are numerous. This first HCC trip to the region was a sampler of a few places along the Potomac River; and several sites in the Delmarva region including Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, Pocomoke River and Janes Island area on Tangier Sound of the Chesapeake Bay. Eight club members paddled on the Potomac and seven went on to the Eastern Shore.

The group met at Smallwood State Park near DC on Sunday afternoon. First day of paddling was at Mallows Bay on the Potomac River. It is home to numerous shipwrecks, most of which were WW I era wood hull steamers, a steel hull car ferry and various other vessels. Today the inlet is a marine sanctuary watched over by osprey, eagles and herons.

Second day we launched from the ramp at Smallwood for a windy morning paddle on Mattawoman Creek. Later that afternoon the group paddled up river from Marshall Hall to Mt. Vernon. In George Washington's era, Marshall family would have offered a ferry service across the Potomac.



The group drove to the Eastern Shore (Delmarva region) and stopped at Blackwater Wildlife refuge on the way to Janes Island State Park which was the base camp for the remainder of the trip. First day was cold and windy so we went to the Pocomoke River. The Pocomoke is one of the northern most cypress. We paddled from Shad Landing State park and up Nassawango Creek.



The remaining paddling was launched from Janes Island State Park. The kayak launch ramp was within kayak carrying distance of some of the campsites. The state park campground is separated from Janes Island by a canal.



Paddling trails run through and around the island. The nearby town of Crisfield, Maryland has traditionally made a living off of the water. People were catching blue crabs and an occasional stripe bass. We ran across a couple of dolphin pods on Tangier Sound just off shore from Janes Island.

No trip to the region would be complete without hitting a local seafood market for dinner and a taste of the land of pleasant living. Dave Ellis, Mariann Davis, Deb Wilson, Alan Jung and Karen Kyle joined Jill and I on the trip.

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South Carolina With The HCKC: April 23-29, 2017

Trip Report: Mariann Davis

Beautiful South Carolina: A place of numerous ecosystems, beautiful scenery, armies of no-see-ums, beautiful scenery, menacing currents, unforgiving humidity, beautiful scenery, confusing surf, beautiful



ful scenery, incalculable tides (except if you are Dave, our very own “Prince of Tides” or Sprandel, Romany, or Duane). Lovely Landscapes dominate the litany of exceptional attributes inherent to this Queen of the South and the paddlers of the HCKC paid homage to this elegant and often impetuous Lady.

Our Adventure actually begins when 6 of our 12 paddlers met in James Island Campground (10 miles from Charleston) for the annual East Coast

Sea Kayaking Symposium, April 21-23. Although this piece of the trip was linked only as an unofficial prequel, it shows promise as a regular offering. The prequel will be at the end of this report (as prequels should).

Our paddling group wasn't our usual inbred expected expedition team. This year we were fortunate to enlist 3 new women members to the club: **Linda Decker, Julie Sinclair, and Deb Wilson**, (what a promising triumvirate, who delivered their collective and individual skills formidably both with

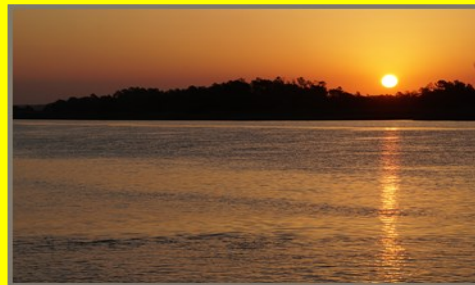


their GLAMPING and kayaking). Also joining us for the first time was **Stephen Lyle**, (from NW Indiana, eager to expand his sea kayaking skills), **Henry Frenchen**, transboatered from the WW section, and **Mel Johnson**, the energizer battery with culinary excellence, and endless enthusiasm. Our Usual Suspects, were **Dave Ellis**, trip leader and tide manager, **Jim Sprandel**, cartographer, Maps 'R' us guy, **Duane Garloch**, associate planner and consultant, **Martha Gitt**, our Cincinnati resident club member with superb paddling skills and navigational ability, **Konstantin Louganski**, our SC operative and “Low Country” resident trip leader, **Earl King**, resident mechanic of boats and cars and sometimes paddler, and **me, Mariann**, co-leader and organizer. It took a Village to pull this off and we the “Village People” like to think we gave a good performance.

Day 1, Sunday, April 23—Buck Hall Campground/Francis Marion Nat'l Forest

By 8PM Sunday all members of the HCKC South Carolina paddling team had arrived and were pleasantly surprised by the beauty of this intracoastal campground

nestled in the Francis Marion Nat'l Forest. We were 21/2 miles by water to the Ocean and a few feet away from the intracoastal waterway.(for a primer on intra vs inter coastal click on "here"): **The winner is Intra: [HERE](#) & [HERE](#)** . The campsites were beautiful. The facilities held promise of expansion and renovation but served the purpose intended...We fell asleep, praying that the predicted rain for tomorrow was fake news.



Day 2, Monday, April 24, Boo-Hoo



The group scattered to go their separate ways: some to Charleston for a photo op, others hung out at the campground. The girls headed for Georgetown to eat and see a Disney movie.

Day 3, Tuesday, April 25—Buck Hall Recreation Area Ramp to Awendaw Creek and back (9 miles)



Tuesday was cloudy but promising and we chose to explore the immediate waterways in the Francis Marion Forest. These brown water rivers and creeks through the National Forest provided a unique view into the Low-country. The "Low Country" originally was all the state below the Fall Line, or the so-called Sandhills which run the width of the state. These Sandhills were the ancient sea coast and the area above the Sandhills was known

as the Up Country. These areas are not only different in geology and geography, but culturally as well. [Just a bit of explanation which provided the curiosity to explore]. We launched from the ramp at our campground and paddled about 1 mile south on the Intracoastal Water way to the mouth of Awendaw Creek. We wrestled a tidal current coming out of Awendaw Creek and we managed some surprisingly strong eddies along





the way to paddle to an observation deck. There we had lunch. Fortunately the current was with us on the return and we made it back to camp in the early afternoon paddling close to 7 miles.

Keeping true to their paddling addiction, Dave, Jim, and Duane announced that they would continue paddling to the ocean; the rest of us took out at the ramp. The threesome continued their bonus

paddle up the Intracoastal and out into Bulls Bay. The trip to Bulls Bay was 2.5 miles and they were soon sitting in their boats with only the ocean between them and Bermuda. Although there were calm waters, they could see and hear the waves breaking. They returned to camp satisfied that the ocean was truly near-by. To quote Jim S: "There is a peace associated with an undeveloped shoreline and open ocean—Nature still is boss." ...The ocean just beyond reach".

Day 4, Wednesday, April 26—Fort Sumter & Fort Moultrie—Leader: Konstantin Louganski



Although a repeatable trip, this paddle through our American history cannot be discounted. With each visit, we learn our Country's legacy of internal strife and survival. (Perhaps, to understand our history is not to repeat it)...To repeat this trip, however, is to paddle beautiful Charleston Harbor from Sunrise Park

which affords a panoramic view of Charleston and Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge.



the

After 2+ miles in calm waters, we landed on the



banks of Fort Sumter and disembarked for a 45 min independent tour. It was a beautiful day to hang out but our "Prince of Tides" knew that we were at the mercy of one of the most predictable and reliable phenomenas in the world: the tide charts needed to direct our itinerary and time table. We knew we had to make the 11/2 mile crossing to Fort Moultrie according to those charts...6 hours is too long a price to pay for dilly-dallying. The crossing was

somewhat challenging as we had to adjust our course to accommodate the push of the tide and the

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ocean currents or we would be forced out into the Atlantic...So adjust, we did, and within the hour we landed on Sullivan's Island, the home of Fort Moultrie. After we toured and played for about 90 minutes, we noticed the weather was starting to change and the wind was beginning to pick up...the tide had started to ebb...Konstantin and his co leaders sounded the clarion call. We were summoned to depart. The sea was becoming agitated and confusing as our team launched into water that some had never encountered.



We paddled hard and steady and with intense focus as we began to cross that same passage where, only 2 hours previously, it lay much calmer. We stayed in close proximity with each paddler focused on our "buddy" and opposite shore. Hallelujah! We all made it... there was not a swimmer among us and we were so proud of our victorious crossing.

We celebrated that evening at Vickery's Restaurant on Shem Creek in Mt. Pleasant and regaled each other with our inner personal story of the crossing.

Day 5, Thursday, April 27—Lake Marion—GhostTowns & Cypress Gardens await—Leaders: Dave Ellis, Jim Sprandel and Konstantin

Fantasy becomes reality on this paddle as we ventured into the mysterious waters of 'other worldly beauty'. Lake Marion comprises 110,600 acres and is the largest lake in South Carolina...(in some areas you could couldn't see across to the opposite shore). A few remnants of buildings remained from the flooding of the town of Ferguson as we paddled through this watery ghost town turned graveyard. Only a giant lumber kiln and a few artifacts remain. Paddling nearby we discovered Church Island where "Rocks Cemetery" still stands. This burial



ground dates from 1804 and we could hear the echoes of a once thriving congregation. Most of us, however, would agree that the *piece de resistance* paddle of that day was the weaving—ducking

and disappearing—through the stately elegance of the cypress forest. Clinging to their assumed watery grave, these magnificent cypress trees appeared immortal and ageless. We celebrated their majesty with a quietude that had



never accompanied this group before.



Day 6, April 28—Bull Island Ferry Launch to Bull Island/Caper Island (12.1 miles)—Trip Leader: Dave Ellis with co- leader, Konstantin

If “Saving the best for last”, is the old popular adage, on this day, I understood how it came

to be. Of course, Lake Marion was an equal contender but I never heard of “saving the best for second to last” ...Anyway, I think you know where I’m going with this...The tide cooperated and it was smooth paddling on this trip to the ocean. The intracoastal waterway is quite the achievement for man...but it’s no match for the glorious achievement of Mother Nature: the Atlantic Ocean. The waterway opened after about 7 miles, and we greeted the

glorious open waters. Very conveniently, and almost purposely placed, was a very generous sandbar about 200 yards from shore. We couldn’t resist the temptation to take up residence for part of the afternoon and we had lunch, waded in the water, and had great photo-ops. Dave and Jim managed a few 2-3’ surfing waves but the conditions were a little confusing for an extended play date so the boys joined the group at the “Bar” after about 10 minutes. Dave led us on a shelling expedition on the way home and we gathered shells for a keepsake treasure that will remain for a long



time. I'm sure we will see shell necklaces and tie clips on these HCKC paddlers as an expression of solidarity and fond remembrances.

It's difficult to end a story that wants to keep giving back through this digital diary of photos...so I will just force these fingers of mine to travel with my paddling buddies.

Thanks to all our leaders, organizers and members who make these trips the places you want to be. Review photo diaries below for more detail by clicking on each URL.

- [Jim Sprandels' photos](#)
- [Dave Ellis shares photos](#)
- [Duane Garloch shares](#)



The Prequel: The East Coast Sea Kayaking Symposium in Charleston SC: April 21-23



Myself, Earl King, Linda Decker, Julie Sinclair, Deb Wilson and Duane Garloch met up at the symposium on James Island on Thursday evening. All paddling classes delivered by many world famous instructors would begin on Friday and we had plenty of time for R&R before we would test our paddling skills.

From camping/cooking classes by Michael Gray to surfing classes on the open ocean by Todd Wright, there is something for everyone here. (Personally, I have been taking cooking classes of 3 years and still haven't learned how to

Surf...Ha?) Seriously, I HAVE been taking surfing classes for 3 years getting the hang of it...there would have been some footage of the class but video packages were too large to send. This is the water we were playing and surfing in. (We had 3 foot waves the following day). Believe me the waves look higher from the cockpit.

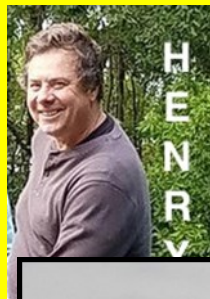
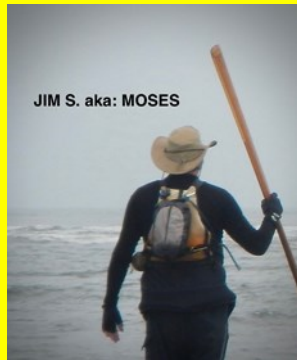
The club has recommended this symposium for the past 3 years as not only a beautiful place to visit, but good symposium for beginner and intermediate paddlers...this area has the nearest ocean to the Midwest just in case you want to try something new.



Wherever the club travels, there is bound to be some excellent water that our paddlers want to explore...we would love to have you join us.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Stay tuned for many more SEA-QUELS!



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