

The Hoosier Paddler

Month February 2019, Vol. 57 Issue 2

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



From the Skipper:

We had a successful planning meeting on 1/26 and have a wide variety of trips planned for 2019. The trip details will be posted in the next few weeks on the [Events](#) page of the HCKC website. Remember that you will need to login to see all trips we are offering. Also, we will have a booth at the Boat, Sport, and Travel show February 15 thru 24. If you have something you'd like to share in the newsletter, send it to Dwayne James (dwaynesjames1@hotmail.com) by the 17th of the month. Pictures are always a nice touch to send for inclusion in the newsletter.

See you on the water! Duane

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Now in our 57th year

HCKC Membership Renewal Changes

Jim Sprandel, HCKC Treasurer

When you go to renew your dues this year, you may notice two changes:

Auto Renewal Membership Option – Members may now elect to have a membership that automatically renews itself every year. No fuss and no reminder e-mails – your membership takes care of itself.

If this appeals to you, switch to this option when you renew. Instructions for switching from our current payment plan (where you manually pay each year) to the Autorenewal membership type are included in the e-mail reminding you to renew your membership.

Credit Card Payment Only – We had previously used PayPal to process our on-line transactions. However, we just switched to the on-line processing service that is linked with our website tool (Affinipay). All you need is a credit card and you're good to go. You no longer can use your PayPal account.

You still have the option of mailing a check to Dave Ellis if you do not select Autorenewal and if you select "Invoice Me" after the web site asks you to confirm your registration information.

If you have problems, please let me know by e-mail. (merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net).

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Reminder—Get your 2019 Non-Motorized DNR Lake Permit

You must have a 2019 DNR Lake Permit if you want to paddle your boat in Indiana state parks, state-managed reservoirs, or state forests. Annual permits are still only \$5 per boat per year. The fine for paddling on Lake Monroe without a sticker is over \$100 and is enforced by the state's conservation officers.

Permits may be bought at the Indiana Government Center (402 W. Washington St., Room W160) in Indianapolis or at the property offices or entrance gates at state parks, reservoirs, and forests when they are staffed. If you go to the Boat, Sport, and Travel Show, you can also buy them at the DNR booth there. Alternatively, you can buy stickers on-line at: <http://stores.innsgifts.com/watercraft-exp-12-31-15/>



You can also buy your 2019 Annual State Park Entrance Pass from this site or at the Boat Show.

Note: Early in the season, attendants will be available at some launch ramps. However, not every ramp and not every day so be sure to check at the park you are going to before you head out.

Trip Announcement Annual Ice Falls

Location: Sugar Creek Shades to Turkey Run State Park

Date: March 2, 2019

Trip Leader: Dwayne James

We will be holding our annual Ice Falls trip down Sugar Creek on Saturday, March 2, 2019. Meet at Deers Mill covered Bridge on SR 234 at 10:00 am to unload your boat and gear and form up for the shuttle. Please read the article on cold weather gear and paddling included in this newsletter. This trip is very weather dependent== the last few years we had no snow or ice, very high water, or frozen water. The forecast for next week looks iffy with predicted temps on Saturday of below 30 degrees and more rain. Project good thoughts for snow and then a warmer day so that we get to see the ice formations as we paddle down beautiful Sugar Creek through Shades State Park and Turkey Run State Park.

All paddlers have to bring a dry bag with extra clothing, proper gloves, boots, and jackets and should bring a lunch. Look for an email at 7 pm on March 1 with last minute details. Contact Dwayne James with any questions about the trip. dwaynesjamesa1@hotmail.com As long as it is not raining, temps are at least 32F, the winds are not wailing, and the water is not frozen or above 3ft on the Crawfordsville gauge we will run this trip. Join in the fun. Here is a link to our website for further information on hypothermia and cold weather paddling: <https://hoosiercanoeandkayakclub.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Club%20Documents/ColdwaterPaddling.pdf>

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The Sea Kayak Schedule is now available on the HCKC Web Site ([2019 Sea Kayak schedule](#)). Linda Decker has done a great job of recruiting trip sponsors for several new, exciting trips – Pictured Rocks (Lake Superior), Beaver Island (Lake Michigan), and several weekend trips on Lake Michigan's Sunset Shore. We have also scheduled a lot of local day and overnight trips for people wanting to paddle Indiana or to ease their way into open water paddling.

Our first trip will be Jim Eckerty's Summit Lake Paddle on Saturday, March 23 and its trip announcement is in this newsletter.

2019 Trip Planning Information

Reserve your Campsites Now! - For some overnight trips, we will be camping in state parks. Unfortunately, these parks often fill up quickly for weekends during the summer. Given this, people interested in these trips should reserve campsites ASAP! Linda Decker has sent out a note listing these trips to the Sea Kayak mailing list earlier in the year but I have listed them below to remind people. You might send an e-mail to [Linda Decker](#) before reserving a site. If you make a reservation and then find out that you can share with someone else, you can get a lot of your reservation fee back if you cancel several weeks before an event. (On February 16, I checked and sites are available at all of these parks.)

Summit Lake Full Moon Paddle and Optional Weekend Camping – May 17-19, 2019

(Summit Lake State Park) <https://hoosiercanoeandkayakclub.wildapricot.org/event-3174322>

South Bass Rendezvous (Lake Erie), June 7-9, 2019

<https://hoosiercanoeandkayakclub.wildapricot.org/event-3158715>

Grand Haven, MI Paddle & Optional Surf Play Lake Michigan Trip, June 21-23 2019 (Hoffmaster State

Park) <https://hoosiercanoeandkayakclub.wildapricot.org/event-3213338>

Warren Dunes Paddle & Optional Surf Play/Training Day, July 12-14, 2019

(Warren Dunes State Park), <https://hoosiercanoeandkayakclub.wildapricot.org/event-3213342>

Pictured Rocks Trip (August 11-17) – This year, the club will be going to Picture Rocks National Lakeshore on Lake Superior instead of the Apostles. Pictured Rocks and Grand Island near Munising are dramatic and beautiful paddling destinations worthy of anyone's bucket list. If you have extra time, we are working on an option for 2-3 days of bonus paddling in the Sault Ste. Marie area from the August 18 to August 20.

We will get out preliminary details to people by the first of April via the Sea Kayak mailing list.

Beaver Island (September 15-21) – This will be the club's first trip to Beaver Island. This is an island in Lake Michigan that is about 20 miles north of North Manitou Island. Paddlers will take a ferry from Charlevoix, MI out to the island and then circumnavigate the island (about 50 miles).

Roll Training – Rolling training is available on Saturdays (10 am – Noon) at Thatcher Pool through the end of March. Check the [roll training](#) on the HCKC Web Site. This is a good time to learn or bomb-proof your roll.

2019 Training Events – This year, we will again offer Introductory (ACA L1) and Intermediate (ACA L2-L3) sea kayak classes. Some of this instruction will be held on Eagle Creek and some may be taught "in conditions" on Lake Michigan. We will also have our annual Open Water Rescue Clinic and Practice on Saturday, June 1.

Information will be published on these classes in the May Newsletter, the HCKC events calendar, and the Sea Kayak mailing list.

Join the Sea Kayak Mailing List – The Sea Kayak fleet uses a peer-to-peer mailing list (Google lists) to let HCKC and area long boaters know about upcoming sea/touring kayak paddling and training events. If you have a sea or touring kayak and would like to be added to the list, please e-mail me at merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net and I will add you to this list.

While we publish most events to the club calendar and the newsletter as well as the mailing list, we usually release information sooner through our mailing list.

Announcing The Annual Summit Lake Spring Solstice Celebration Trip: Saturday, March 23, 2019

The annual spring paddle at Summit Lake is fast approaching.
Please come and join this group of hearty paddlers celebrating SPRING !

Sponsor: Jim Eckerty rentbsu@comcast.net

Schedule: Launch time: 11:00 AM From Main Boat Ramp (read on) Length: 2-3 hours, 6-8 miles
Go / No-Go decision will be made & posted 24 hours prior to launch.

Registration: Please register on the club web site or email if necessary.
<https://hoosiercanoeandkayakclub.wildapricot.org/event-3240444>

Equipment Requirement: ≥14' Boat recommended. Wet or Dry suit and spray skirt STRONGLY recommended. Appropriate clothing plus Dry clothing in water tight bag.
Sit on top boats, SUP's are not appropriate for this trip.

Skill Requirement: Experience with Cold Weather paddling. Please review Hypothermia Charts, getting wet could be lethal (see chart below). Many past trips have seen the ice dissipate just days before our arrival and sometimes we have encountered "HARD" water.

Hypothermia:

Water Temp	Index	Unconsciousness	Survival Time
32.5 to 40 degrees	SEVERE	15 to 30 minutes	30 to 90 minutes

GENERAL: Rest rooms at the dock/put-in have been open for this trip in the past and we assume they will be available again this year. Since we are meeting at the main boat ramp (pass the gate house and turn right at the first "T") you will be able to launch your ship from the concrete ramp or shoreline. This early in the season there should be no gate fee but you will need a 2019 State Park Boat Permit, sometimes available at the park office but I would not depend on that. We will probably stop about half way a brief lunch. So dust off your gear and hope for a good day.

SUMMIT LAKE: Summit Lake is the major feature of Indiana's 19th state park. Established in 1988, 800 acre Summit Lake was formed by damming Big Blue River and other smaller tributaries. Summit Lake is very near the highest point in the state (hence the name Summit) so please be aware that wind and waves can be moderate...1-2 ft depending on the weather so a spray skirt is required.

Directions: Summit Lake State park is located northeast of New Castle and southeast of Muncie. From Mt Summit, IN (Highway 3 and 36 intersect here) travel 4 miles east on Highway 36 to Messick Road and then north 1 mile to the park.

Getting There: GPS Info. (Latitude, Longitude): 40.02097, -85.30126 40°1'15"N, 85°18'5"W

Mailing Address: Summit Lake State Park 5993 N Messick Road New Castle, IN 47362

Paddling in the "Cool Months"

Reprinted from Muskrat's Wildcat Creek Expeditions Newsletter by permission of Garry Hill

Clothing for cold-weather paddling can be most anything, with the exception of what you put on the feet and the hands. Some people wear the same clothes they would wear on a cold-weather hike. They wear just enough to keep warm in the expected temperatures, with some form of waterproof shoes that would be okay for a wet day on the trail. Think about it; you probably already have that type of clothing in your closet. Add a windbreaker, hat, and gloves. Simple!

There are all sorts of specialty cold-weather paddling clothes available if you want them. However, if you make sure your cold-weather paddling is on days of good weather, you probably won't need them. On the other hand, you may just "WANT" them, like I do.



Ice Falls On Deer Creek
Trip #45 February 29th 2004



Drying Out After Cold-Water Rescue
Trip #97 March 5th 2005

Some cold-weather paddlers, like myself, wear completely waterproof outer-layers for two reasons:

- 1) If someone has trouble on the creek, I want to be able to go in after them without putting myself in danger because of cold water exposure. From the waist down, I wear dry-suit pants with knee-high, waterproof boots (Chota Mukluks). Under those, I wear insulating layers; again, just enough for the expected temperatures. This setup gives me the ability to go into super-cold water, up to 3 feet or so, for short periods of time.

Note: On Trip #97—March 5th 2005, Doug McKnight and I spent nearly 30 minutes waist deep in 37-degree swift flowing water to extract a pair of paddlers and their canoe from a logjam that had cap-sized and trapped them on the Wildcat's South Fork. When finished, we were cold, wet, and glad to run into the woods and change into dry clothes. Without the extra clothing described above, our situation could have been perilous. The two rescued paddlers were wearing normal cold-weather clothing, not the high-tech gear worn by Doug and me. After only a few minutes in the water, they were shivering beyond control and needed aid from the rest of the group. Doug and I had worked in the frigid water for nearly half an hour and then laughed at each other as we stripped naked in the woods.

- 2) I don't want to be too particular about where I get in and out of the boat. The knee-high waterproof boots allow me to step out of the boat in 18" of water at any time. If your boots are not completely waterproof or not tall enough, you must search for the perfect spot before you get out of the boat. That is not always easy, and sometimes impossible.

My Chota Mukluks are totally waterproof, 18" tall, with a cinch-strap at the top that seals tightly against the Dry Pants and allow me to step into water deeper than the boots. The seal is not perfect, but will suffice for a short while.

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Are Your Boots Tall Enough?



Many Times The River Will Decide Where Your Feet Will Go.

The "feet and hands" are the crux of the entire situation. You must keep your feet and hands warm and dry, or even a nice weather day in the "Cool Months" can be miserable.

Footwear: There are four things to consider about footwear:

- 1) Waterproof—There are no exceptions if you want to be comfortable and safe. Otherwise, you must carry a dry pair of shoes and socks.
- 2) As tall as possible—Mine are knee-high. This allows you more variables when it comes time to step out of the boat.
- 3) Oversize—This makes room for plenty of insulating socks without constricting blood flow in the feet. My boots are one-size larger than my normal size.
- 4) Socks—These should be thick and fluffy; wool, fleece, etc. I wear thin polypro liner socks against the skin. Always carry an extra pair of socks, or 2, or.....

Gloves: Gloves should be waterproof ("must be" for kayakers), with enough insulation for the temperatures you have, and loose enough so they won't constrict blood flow. If the gloves are big enough to allow thin liner gloves, they will be much easier to get on and off, and even warmer. Some people prefer mittens.

The big deal for both gloves and boots is "Oversize". Make sure they are big enough to allow plenty of insulating layers and "still not fit tight". A tight fit with boots or gloves causes a blood-flow restriction and is a guarantee of cool feet and fingers even though you have plenty of insulation. Cold feet and fingers can turn a great day into a bad day.

Next is a waterproof gear bag, but you need that for summer trips, too, right? Into it, for cold-weather trips, go a complete change of equally warm clothes with socks, a rain jacket (or waterproof windbreaker), a very warm and cozy sock hat, very warm gloves (again, big enough that they won't constrict blood flow), and some high-carb snacks for lunch. Remember, all this stuff is **EXTRA** clothes. These are in addition to what you are wearing. That means "extra" gloves, "extra" hats—a double of everything.

How About A Fire Kit? A little fire at a lunch stop has taken the chill away from many paddlers on our trips. Usually just a fun and casual idea, but a few were a functional part of cold water rescues. Can you build a fire under any conditions? You can, if you have the right stuff packed into your dry bag. Someday, when you get wet and cold, are you going to be wondering if anyone else has a Fire Kit?

Eventually, you will need all of that gear. We are just now entering our 4th "Cool Months" season since the Expedition Team began. During that time, a total of 17 paddlers have been forced to change into their spare clothes while on the Creek in cold weather.

Next, (and many paddlers don't do this), you need a set of warm street clothes "left in your vehicle" to change into when you get to the end of the trip. I change out of the river-duds ASAP after the boats are loaded. It's just a thing I do that most folks don't bother with. I do it year round, even in fair weather. For me, this is a refreshing and fulfilling way to end a great trip, or a satisfying way to finish a trip that had some problems. If someday you arrive at the takeout cold and wet, those dry duds may just make your day.

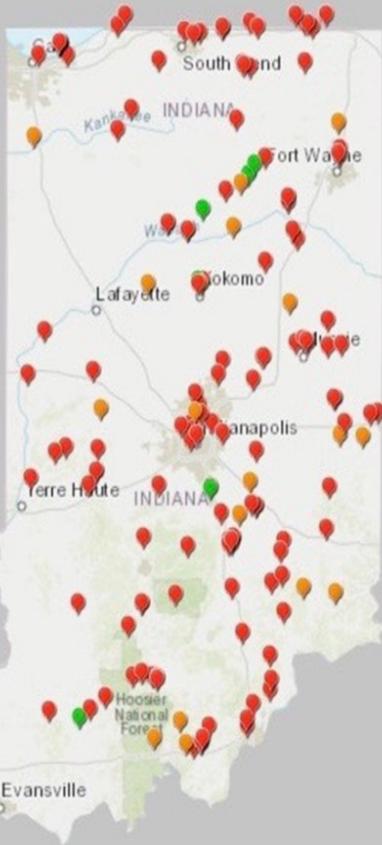
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HOOSIER CANOE & KAYAK CLUB LAUNCHES LOW HEAD DAM REMOVAL AND SAFETY INITIATIVE

LOW HEAD DAMS ARE:



OVER 150 DAMS IN INDIANA



LOCATION OF LOW HEAD DAMS

MISSION STATEMENT: Initiate the removal of Low Head Dams in Indiana through public education and working directly with and engaging those organizations, clubs, schools, and public officials/legislature that can influence such results. River and water safety education is paramount in accomplishing this goal.

CURRENT WORKING INFORMATION REGARDING LOW HEAD DAMS IN INDIANA:

Over 150 low head dams in Indiana. (the public is uninformed)
Inadequate signage signaling the approaching dam.
Little or no information available regarding the location of these dams to unsuspecting paddlers...and the dangers of encountering them.
DNR has designed an interactive app showing location of all known low head dams in Indiana
Many of the LHD are on private property requiring education and diplomatic negotiations with the owners...(maybe, offer incentives)
Many Indiana legislators may be uninformed regarding this issue: educate
Average age of drowning in a low head dam accident is 20.5 years.(youth education is paramount)

24 incidents in Indiana LHDs in 2017: 6 deaths and 18 recovered rescues

THE HOOSIER CANOE AND KAYAK CLUB'S GOALS IN THIS PROJECT

Outreach to the paddling and on-water recreational clubs, organizations, liveries, etc, in Indiana by: working independently but cooperatively with the DNR & Silver Jackets.
Developing an interactive platform in order that information on the issues and initiatives can be accessed readily...*Currently, we are in communication with the Pelorus Project (Fort Wayne) regarding re-development of the Pelorus website, with a name change and enhanced mission...Pelorus has decided to give the club administrative rights and this will happen very soon.*
enabling all clubs to link to this site to access materials and information on the project
The Over, Under, Gone video in a 10 minute version will be available as a teaching tool for educational

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programs in schools and in other events. Link to the video: [\(click\) Over, Under, Gone video](#)

encouraging other Indiana clubs to carve out, in their organization, LHD education & safety on their website and Fb page and link directly to our platform

designing and building a Low Head Dam model—currently in process—as a working demonstration in educational venues. **Earl King, our project designer on this model is almost at completion: See model below.**

*[**Our club's website is completely independent of the DNR website and will function as a singular voice for recreational clubs and its associate organizations and membership. We are not part of any governmental agency when performing club activities including outreach and education].*



Follow Progress in the newsletter or on Fb until our website is up and running

Direct any questions to **Mariann Davis**, marianndv@gmail.com, Subject: Low head dams



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