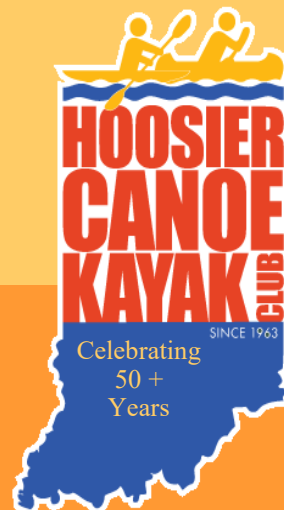


# The Hoosier Paddler

November 2020, Volume 58, Issue 10

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



## Skippers Note:

### Annual Meeting?? November 22

**DID YOU KNOW** that the HCKC Board is a group of elected volunteers that meet once a month (either virtually and quarterly in person) to plan events, handle administrative issues, monitor membership and fleet activities, discuss opportunities to create value to our members, and figure out ways to serve our communities? Our current board represents a wide range of paddling disciplines and abilities as well as a wide range of professional skills and perspectives. Our focus is to provide the best possible experience for our membership.

### We are always looking for new people with fresh perspectives to join our

**board!** Every year the board slate gets presented to the HCKC members one month before the Annual Meeting, this year being held virtually on November 22nd. If you would like to hold an office or be a board member at-large, please reach out to Nominating Committee chair Jim Clendenin via email at [jclendenincpa@gmail.com](mailto:jclendenincpa@gmail.com) and let him know you'd like to be considered. All available positions including Fleet Chairs and Committee Chairs are described in more detail in our by-laws, available for review on our webpage under Club Documents. Deadline to be considered for the 2021 slate is November 7th.

If you ever want to see how the board meetings are run, the meetings are open for members to attend. Board meetings are generally held early every month. If you're interested in attending please reach out to any of your board members via email or directly to me at [tosharri@gmail.com](mailto:tosharri@gmail.com) and I'll send you the information on when and how to participate.

Your Skipper, Toni Harris

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## Remembrances of Wayne Sturtevant

I received a text message from longtime HCKC member Allison Sturtevant of the passing of her dad (also a HCKC member) Wayne Sturtevant on this Thursday after a short battle with lung cancer. Wayne had in the past few years retired from being a Hamilton County Judge and spent a lot of his time doting over his brand new beautiful twin granddaughters. I had the pleasure of paddling with Wayne on several whitewater trips and he was always an absolute pleasure and positive calming spirit to be around. John and I were shocked and saddened to hear of his passing and will send information to everyone regarding a celebration of life as soon as one is planned (likely post-COVID).

Thought I would let you all know if you hadn't already heard the news through Allison. My heart aches for the family because he was such a wonderful and gentle man. Your Skipper Toni Harris

# The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club

## Annual Election of Officers and Board Members November 22?? 2020

We will elect our 2020 HCKC officers and board members during our Annual Meeting in November. The Nominating Committee would like to present the following slate for the 2021 HCKC Officers and Board.

**Skipper (President)** - Toni Harris  
**Executive Officer (Vice President)** - John Gates  
**Purser (Treasurer)** - Jim Clendenin  
**Yeoman (Secretary)** - Mariann Davis

### Board Members at Large:

Current board members are designated with an asterisk.

John Carlson*	Richard Clapham*	Dave Ellis*	Arnaldo Rodriguez
Natalie Needham*	Earl King*	Tim Owens*	Linda Decker
Brent Saucerman*	Judy Thompson*	Jeff Stejskal*	Jon Reneberg*

Duane Garloch will continue to serve on the board as Past President.

Per Article V, Section 3 of the [club by -laws](#), anyone wishing to submit their name or alternative nominees for consideration in the election as an officer or board member can send an alternative slate (partial or complete) to the Yeoman by November 12.

### HCKC Absentee Voting Procedure

If you would like to vote in the election but will not attend the meeting, you may send an absentee ballot to the HKC Yeoman Linda Decker. To submit your Absentee Ballot, you may e-mail your vote to Linda with the subject of "HCKC Absentee Ballot". You must send this information early enough so that she receives it at least one day before the Annual Meeting (11/22??). [lsdecker2018@gmail.com](mailto:lsdecker2018@gmail.com)

## DID YOU KNOW the objectives of the Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club are:

- To bring together people with a mutual interest in paddlesports (canoeing, kayaking, rafting) camping and other family outdoor activities
- To promote skill and safety in paddlesports
- To promote the preservation of natural waterways and natural resources

(ref. *Constitution of the Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club Article II Objectives*)

## Canoe and Kayak Covid 19 Policy

The Canoe & Kayak (Flatwater) Fleet will resume some trips beginning in July. The details have not all been worked out, but we will need to take additional precautions due to Covid-19. Participants must complete a Trip Waiver & COVID-19 Self Screening form prior to the event and send an electronic copy to the Trip Sponsor. Participants will be excluded if fever, symptoms or risk factors are positive. We will add some shuttle-less trips so that we can more easily practice social distancing. On any (mainly river) trips requiring a shuttle, the number of people in each vehicle will be limited, and all people in the vehicle will need to wear face coverings or masks for the duration of the vehicle shuttle. Please bring your own face covering and hand sanitizer if possible – trip leaders or another club representative should bring masks and sanitizer for those that do not have them or have forgotten them. There will be some changes to our schedule, so watch for them and further information on the website or email.

# The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

## Sea Kayaking Forward Strokes

**Submitted By:** *Linda Decker Co-Chair Sea Kayak Fleet*

### Sea/Touring Kayak Trip Announcement

**Annual Fall Lake Monroe Overnight**

**Sat.-Sun. Nov. 7-8, 2020**

**Trip Sponsor:** Jeff Stejskal

We will camp on the peninsula in Deam Wilderness across from Cutright Public Access Site. The North and Middle Forks of Salt Creek will be closed but there is still a lot of Lake Monroe that we can explore such as the lake area down toward Patton Cave or up to the Pine Grove Ramp. On Sunday, we can venture over on to the wild (West) side of the causeway if people are interested and conditions allow.

**If you only want to paddle on Saturday**, join us during the day – it is only a 2-mile paddle back to Cutright from where we will probably camp if you don't want to stay overnight.

**Meeting Place/Put-In:** Cutright Public Access Area. Turn left into Cutright after you cross the causeway across Lake Monroe while going South on 446. We will launch from the first ramp area that you come to in Cutright.

**Driving Note:** There is a home Indiana Football game this weekend and Highway 37 is eternally undergoing construction so factor in a little extra time if you come that way. You can type "Cutright State Recreation Area" into Google Maps to get driving directions or time from your home (it's about 1h40m from the Glendale area).

**Expected Paddling Conditions:** Lake Monroe is a big lake and conditions vary with the weather. Paddlers should feel comfortable paddling in 2-foot waves from all directions and be able to paddle up to 6-8 miles. However, lake conditions are usually not this severe so check Bloomington's weather the week before the trip. If you have a questions about probable conditions, e-mail me.

**What to Bring:** Bring your paddling gear, spray skirt, camping gear, food for lunch, dinner, and breakfast, and appropriately warm dress. You should also bring drinking water with you.

If the air/water temperature drops or the wind/waves kick up, wet or dry suits are recommended. We will be camping from our kayaks and you will have to pack all your gear in your boat so plan accordingly.

**Boat Requirements:** Kayaks with fore/aft bulkheads and perimeter deck lines are required.

**Be sure to have an Indiana DNR Boat Permit before you come.** You can probably get one at the DNR office on the west side off 446 or the Paynetown SRA gate if you need one.

#### **Schedule:**

**Saturday –10:00 am Arrive at Cutright PAS (10:30 am – Packed & ready to launch)**

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

**Sunday:** We are flexible here. We can return to Cutright as early as 10:00 am. We as a group will figure out a plan Saturday night. In the past, some people go straight to Cutright and the rest go on from there for a bonus paddle.

**Contact information:** Jeff Stejskal [jeffs45321@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffs45321@hotmail.com). Please contact me by 10:00 pm on the Thursday before the trip if you want to come. Please contact me since I will monitor weather that week and will notify people if weather is iffy and we need to adjust our plans.

## New Years Day Trip

Dwayne James will be leading a trip on New Years Day 2021. Watch the newsletter for an announcement of location and time. If you have a suggestion for a location, send me a note [dwaynesjamesa1@hotmail.com](mailto:dwaynesjamesa1@hotmail.com) We try for a shorter route protected from wind and without obstacles. Usually Fall Creek or the White River, but we are open to suggestions.

**The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club**

**Trip Report: Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area**  
**October 8-11, 2020**  
**Seakayak and Canoe/Kayak Fleets**  
**Submitted by: Linda Decker**

We had 12 paddlers participate in this event. We explored the colorful shoreline of Kentucky Lake on Thursday and Friday. Friday night we drove through the Elk and Bison Prairie to view some wildlife. Saturday's weather was rainy. Several paddlers departed for home and the rest of us explored the area and then had dinner at the famous Patti's in Grand River. The sun came back on Sunday and we had a morning paddle before breaking camp and heading home.



**The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club**



## **Trip Report Wabash River Aug. 29, 2020**

**Trip Sponsor: Judy Thompson**

This trip went from Davis Ferry Park to Granville Public Access Site, with a shorter, optional take out at Fort Ouiatenon Park. We went right through Lafayette/West Lafayette (the river is the boundary). Even while going through this urban setting, it is still largely tree-lined. The water was shallow, and current low, but there was just enough to keep from getting out of the boat, as long as the deeper channel was chosen. We had 10 paddlers, with only one taking the shorter trip.

There were several eagle sightings, and quite a few great blue herons to be seen. The wind picked up in the afternoon, and unfortunately became a headwind for the last part of our journey. That part of the river is fairly broad and straight, so we definitely had to work for those last miles. I was watching for the ramp at Fort Ouiatenon, since we had one paddler getting out there. If you are not watching, you can go by that ramp since there is no bridge there. I need not have been concerned; the Boy Scout Voyageurs and families were having a reenacting campout at Fort Ouiatenon, and there were several of them by the shore in their white shirts reminiscent of the early French pioneers that founded the Fort, and so you could see the people from quite a distance.

The Wabash from Lafayette downstream just about always has sufficient water to paddle, so is a good place to go during those dry times when so many streams just don't have enough water.



## **Trip Report Mad River Ohio**

**Trip Sponsor: Brent Saucerman**

On July 24, 12 club members, including 3 hearty youth braved the crystal clear and cool spring waters of the Mad River near Urbana, Ohio. It was approximately an 8 mile paddle that lasted 3 hours, and ended with partial removal of a mid stream strainer in a bend about 300 yards from the take out. Trip participants suggested making this a regular mid-summer trip, and considering making it a weekend camping outing.

Hale and hearty club members braving the calm waters included Mariann Davis, Traci Hastings and family, Betsy Jones, Theresa Kulczak, Dwayne James and his son Derak, Margaret O'Connor, Warren and Stephanie Rosenthal, and Brent Saucerman.

The group put-in at the confluence of Kings Creek and the Mad River, and took out at the Highway 55 Public Access Site. The weather was sunny and hot, but this reach of river is largely shaded by trees arching over the stream.

Participants learned the basics of throw bag rescues and practiced to cool off at lunch time. This is a great beginner trip, with only minor maneuvering and a few hazards, such as a low head dam and a low water bridge to portage.



**The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club**

## **Trip Report**

### **October 3-4, Lower Gauley and New Rivers, West Virginia**

#### **Report by Rob Friedman**

Hoosier paddlers hit West Virginia this past weekend for two days of Class III-IV whitewater – including surviving a rapid the equal of any on the Upper Gauley. John Gates, Sharon Schierling, Jordan Ross, Jeff Stejskal, Alan Buxton, and Rob Friedman (your humble narrator) were in hard boats, Toni Harris and Jeremy Giddens in a Shredder.

On Saturday we ran the Lower Gauley. We were joined by Mark McCrocklin – just off 10 straight days of Class IV-V paddling on the Upper Gauley and Upper Yough – and Dan Moeggenberg. Both were Shredding so Mark could learn the beast before bringing his kids into the sport.

We ran through John's coffee and hot chocolate in the 40-degree morning but it was low 60s and sunny by the time we hit the river.

I led, and when we hit the first major rapid, Back Ender I lived up to my responsibilities by demonstrating to the group how the rapid got its name (my only mishap of the weekend). We also had our first (but not last) swim of the weekend.

We proceeded through the first, easier half of LG without incident. Following the group down Koontz Flume, Toni and Jeremy's Shredder was too far right; they seemed intent on seeing how the Shredder would do surfing Five Boat Hole. Whether it was the sight of eight paddlers in the left eddy – or the fact that all of us were screaming "PADDLE!" – they managed to just skirt the hole on the left.

We ran cleanly through rocky Upper Mash. The two Shredders, led by Mark and Dan, had to go right, making it impossible to reach the left eddy above Lower Mash, so they proceeded to run the rapid, Toni and Jeremy behind, followed by the hard boaters, and the entire group cruised through without a problem. Same with Diagonal Ledges and Pearly Gates, and we hooped and hollered down Upper and Lower Stairsteps and the other great wave trains on the Lower Gauley.

The last major rapid is Pure Screaming Hell, a quarter-mile dogleg left with a monster hole at the bottom and sieve on the right, which is why its nickname is "Go Right and Die." I led down a green highway discovered by Sharon into a safe eddy left of Hell Hole, which could be named "Five Aircraft Carrier Hole." Looking into it from the eddy, it's the deepest and scariest hole I know. The hard boaters all made the eddy, with Toni and Jeremy following. Once again, they were a bit right, with the hole looming. Once again, with the crowd in the eddy all offering gentle encouragement at the top of our lungs, they managed to skirt the hole.

After Class III Kevin's Folly and a long paddle out, the group returned to the campground exhilarated by another great day on the river.

The best was yet to come.

The New River has been high for much of the year – while it can be run at 0 and below, it was over 6 feet on Thursday and didn't look like it would be runnable. But on Sunday, it had come down to 3 feet – a favorite level, meaty but doable.

Mark and Dan split to run the tamer Upper Gauley, and we were joined by Eric Hartwell, his son, Jackson, and another great young Hoosier paddler, Tristan – both 13, which helped lower the group's average age and agility. Both were in playboats, both are phenoms.

John knows every inch of the New as a former guide, and took Jackson and Tristan under his wing for guidance and instruction down the river.

The power of the river was evident even in the first rapid, Pinball, Class III. At the second rapid, Upper Railroad, John led the group down a drop through "The Cunard Stripper," one of the major holes on the New. There were some flips – then the hole grabbed the Shredder and "stripped" Jeremy from it. Toni held on gamely and was fighting to paddle out, but the hole wasn't letting go. Ropes were at the ready. After 5 minutes or so of not giving up, the New figured it had sent a message and Toni managed to paddle out. We gathered up Jeremy and assorted gear and continued down river.

Again, even the Class III "warmup" rapids had fun, meaty wave trains. Then Whale Rock came into view, the marker for the three Keeneys.

Upper Keeney is a fun wave train, and at 3 feet, it's got 5-7-foot waves which get your attention but are easy to ride, and the group got through with no problem.

Now came Middle Keeney. At any level, Middle Keeney is a field of exploding waves with no clear line through it. At 3 feet, it has the power of any of the Big 5 on the Upper Gauley, with this exception: for all their power, there are lines through the Upper Gauley rapids. In Middle Keeney at 3 feet, you plunge in and give yourself up to the river gods.

John led, entering left of center to avoid a monster hole. His goal was to cut left – I think – but we angled right – I think. The waves were not only monstrous but coming from every direction. You'd go over one – 10 feet I swear – and the next would come from the left, then the right. Big, powerful, driving you and you're just trying to paddle hard and pray. When I knew I was going to make it, I continued paddling hard through the tail waves until I hit the eddy, just to be sure. From below, the outflow looked like it was shooting from a firehose, if the hose was 10 feet in diameter.

Somehow, the hardboaters all made it through, but Jeremy got thrown from the Shredder. He was swimming on the right, where you don't want to be, because on that side above Lower Keeney is Meat Grinder, an ugly sieve. It was in doubt for a couple of seconds, but we managed to get Jeremy back in the Shredder in time. We were all on a high for having gotten through MK alive. We eddied out on river left to scout Lower Keeney.

Lower Keeney is different than Middle, but nearly as challenging. All the New gets channeled on river left, forming massive V-waves you have to crash through, angling right to avoid an undercut wall on the left. John led again, and the group did well here,



too – some flips but no swims.  
Conquering the Keeney's – especially Middle Keeney – is something most of the group will never forget.

We did the next two fun Class IIIs, and then approached Class IV Double Z. John pointed out the 2 "Z" lines to the young paddlers and they headed off. We ferried right to start the run, then out of an eddy into the main current. One can go left or right – I angle left. The waves at this level are mountainous. Sharon was in front of me on that line, drifted a bit too far right, got clobbered, and swam. The Shredder gave her a lift and she was quickly reunited with her kayak.

Up next was Hook 99 – boulders create several chutes with nice wave trains – but it can surprise you, and it's above Greyhound Bus Stopper – a hole you can avoid far right or left but ugly if you're in it. Allen swam Hook 99 and managed to swim into an eddy on river left – but his playboat went into a slot left of Greyhound and it was stuck for at least 5 minutes. Luckily, it popped free and into an eddy and missed the main hole, or we'd still be in West Virginia. John took the teens on the far right – I line I've never tried. We ran Miller's Folly – a Class IV due to a massive undercut rock – without problems, cruised under the monumental New River Gorge Bridge – 876 feet above the river and rappelled from every Bridge Day by Jordan, Sharon and Ken Jordan – and finished with Fayette Station, a booming wave train that dumps you right at the takeout and is the most fun finishing rapid I know. Again, we all ran clean.



Another great day – and great weekend – for the Hoosiers. Special thanks to John for leading and special awe for Jackson and Tristan at their strong and quickly developing skills.



**The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club**





## I want you!

### **VOLUNTEERING: The hardest job you'll never get paid for!**

(excerpt from an article by Miriam Medina) Contact any club officer to offer your help.

Volunteers are responsible individuals who offer their expert knowledge, talents and services willingly, without remuneration, and reimbursement for their expenses. While some individuals choose to volunteer in their community, there are others that offer their knowledge and usefulness from the comfort of their home via their computer. Whether it is on a large or small scale, somewhere those volunteers are making a positive impact to a worthy cause or on someone's life.

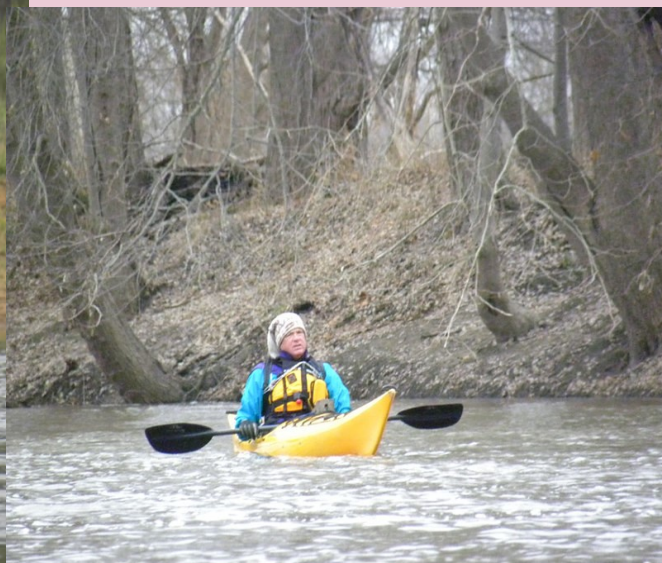
There has always been a need for volunteers, especially now, that we are currently in a severe economic crisis. As a result of Federal cut-backs and lack of funds many charitable organizations are on the brink of closing their doors to those in desperate need. Volunteering requires a lot of hard work, time, and energy and in some cases, money. A volunteer's efforts to a worthy cause will help that particular organization to economize money that would otherwise be spent on labor. Volunteer work is necessary to our American economy.

Unfortunately, there are situations where volunteers are treated with disrespect. Demands are placed upon them to move at a faster pace or to give more of themselves, beyond what was initially required. This reflects a clear message of selfishness and indifference on the part of the administrator that he or she doesn't care much about the quality of the work that is being done, or much about the individual. Whether the volunteer devotes one hour or several hours a week, or a month to a given project, this is only what they are able to do. Volunteering for a cause does not mean, that it should take priority over everything else in their life. Please remember that these individuals have families and situations to tend to outside of their volunteer work..

There are individuals who pursue goals in their volunteer work, and which with all honorable intentions wish to generate the greatest good possible in furthering the cause. Sometimes a person may succeed in some areas, while in others fail to meet the proposed task. It could be possible that the individual may have devoted all his/her considerable energy and time toward fulfilling one goal and falling short of achieving the others. Nevertheless, I feel that whatever was accomplished and benefited by that volunteer's good intention should be judged for the value in itself and not be reprimanded for "taking on too much" and leaving behind a "half assed" project. I find this to be a very offensive statement. If that volunteer did an excellent job in other areas or at other times, then please do remind them of that good performance, congratulate them or they will think less of their volunteer efforts and cease to contribute their free services. Yet, sadly to say, this doesn't always happen.

So please let us not forget to always be appreciative of all free services that we have received from the efforts of volunteers. "Thank you" is one of the most positive words that we can communicate, yet it is the least used. "Thank you" expresses gratitude. Just saying a simple "thank you" each time can make all the difference in the world. It encourages that volunteer to go the extra mile, when he or she is being appreciated. Not only thank the volunteers for their services but also thank the administrators of those organizations and humanitarian causes that make it all possible.

## The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club



Oh no! Sorry to hear this. I first met Jim at Eagle Creek Park in 2013 when a friend & I were practicing kayak rescues. He approached us and gave us some great tips on how to improve and then paddled away. Robin Walden-Jansen



Jim was such a bright light in the paddling community. Dan and I worked closely with him when he was newsletter editor and were in his "beta class" when he was working on his instructor skills. None finer - great guy, will be sorely missed! Linda Smith



**The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club**