

The Hoosier Paddler

December 2022, Volume 60 Issue 8
<http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/>

Skippers Note

If you missed it– we had a great Annual Meeting last month. Thanks to all who organized it, presented information sessions, and brought so much food we had to roll ourselves out to our cars. Look for a write up next month. Of most import, however, we have a newly elected board and officers to lead us through next year. Our 60th year!!!! And, as promised, trip reports for your fireside reading. And Season's Greetings to all!!!! Santa

Trip Announcement

New Year's Day Paddle

Date: January 1, 2023

Location: White River: Waverly Park to Henderson Ford Bridge

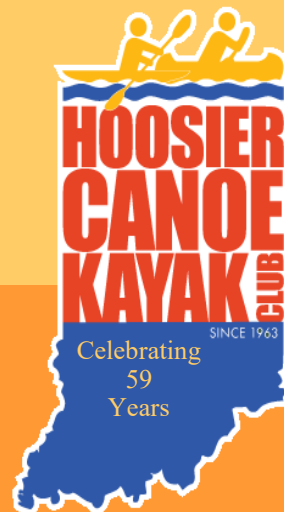
Sponsor: Dwayne James

We will return to an old favorite this year, weather depending, and paddle the White River from Waverly Town Park to Henderson Ford Bridge. This approximately 9 mile paddle is mostly protected from the wind and usually offers a good flow so we can enjoy a 2 hour easy paddle. We meet at 11:00 am and we will shuttle at 11:30.

We have a new boat ramp located in the Waverly Town Park located just south of SR 144 (just West of the SR 31 intersection– they are still working on this but it is open to exit onto SR 144 from the north and south).

Please dress for cold weather paddling. This trip is suitable for all paddlers except sit on tops and SUPs. I will post on Saturday evening if we need to cancel due to weather or lack of water. Look for a go-no go email on December 31 by 8 pm. Questions: dwaynesjamesa1@hotmail.com

Editor's Note: For cold weather paddling tips see our information on the club website at: <http://www.coldwaterbootcamp.com/pages/home.html>
<https://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/resources/Documents/Club%20Documents/PaddlingInTheColdMonths.pdf> <https://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/resources/Documents/Club%20Documents/ColdwaterPaddling.pdf>



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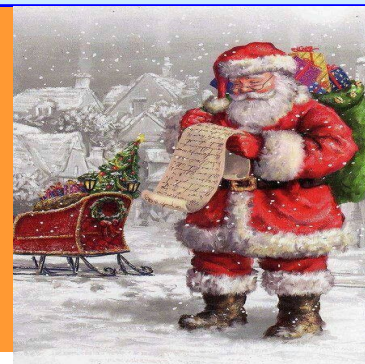
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The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club

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Trip Report

2022 Annual Stonycreek Rendezvous

Sponsor: Sharon Shierling

Friday:

The annual Stonycreek Rendezvous kicked off at Greenhouse Park in Johnstown, PA, on Friday, May 20. Several Hoosier paddlers had arrived Thursday evening to stake out a campsite for our group. Friday morning while we waited for others to arrive, we enjoyed free coffee provided to all festival goers by our own Ben Larson of *Kayak Coffee* in Carmel. (Ben reported that he gave away about 30 gallons of coffee at the festival!) Then we got soaked in a deluge. Fortunately the weather cleared up in time for the afternoon release, although the forecast 80-degree day didn't materialize.

Our group of 13 kayakers — Hoosiers Sharon, Ben, Alfons, Martin, Mark, Elroy, Brent, Kyle, Gary Sr, Rob F, and Sergey, joined by our Pennsylvania friends and honorary Hoosiers Jen and Rick — put on at the ballpark in Hollsopple around 2:30pm. Five in the group were first-timers to this river and one, Martin, is a relatively new whitewater paddler stepping up to run Stonycreek.

Thanks to the combination of the rain and a scheduled release, the level was ideal, about 1.8' at the Carpenter Park gauge, which is enough to cover some of the rocks Stonycreek is named for and also provide excellent surfing opportunities and bouncy wave trains. The run was great fun and uneventful. Everyone paddled well; even newby Martin had a dry hair day following Jen's and Sharon's clean, conservative lines.

Back at the festival, we enjoyed live music, food, and chatting around the campfire, as well as watching Kyle tear it up on the Whitewater Park surf waves, Pennsylvania's first set of constructed rapids, located in the Stonycreek River adjacent to Greenhouse Park.

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Saturday morning was pleasant and the day ended up a sunny, balmy 90 degrees – but pleasant on the water. To the Friday Hoosier group, we added Eric and Chris in a raft, Dan and Katie in a shredder, and Rob H, Jeff, and Doug in kayaks. We put on around 11:30am. Stony was 1.6' at the Carpenter Park gauge – a bit lower than Friday, which made some of the rapids less padded.

The first major rapid – Showers – is also the most likely to munch a Stony paddler. One goes over a horizon line down a green chute, at the end of which is a near-river-wide hole that's deeper on the right with curler wave to upend the unwary. The line is to head down the chute with a left angle, cut left through a V-wave and punch the left side of the hole.

Alfons took a shower and swam, and what follows is about 100 very bony yards in the rock garden downstream. He was banged up a bit but escaped serious injury. Newbie Martin, who had dry hair Friday, got his hair washed and rinsed on the next three rapids – twice when paddlers on the jammed river collided with him. As virtually every Hoosier told him, we've all been there. We reunited with our raft, Eric gave Martin a lift, and Chris styled Martin's kayak the rest of the way down on every hard line. Kyle surfed every wave and hole on the river – all two thousand of them – and Gary got some good surfing in, too.

Before Eric and Chris rescued Martin, they first rescued a dog from the river, which was fortunate, as some-



one put him on the river without a helmet. Later, some in the group came across a teen girl crying inconsolably on the bank. She and her young siblings were rafting with their dad, and she had cut her hand badly. Rick and Jen jumped to the rescue, Rick grabbing bandages (Note to paddlers: bring a small med kit when paddling) and wrapping her hand, which lifted her spirits and those of her family – despite Rob pointing out that the insurance agent was bandaging her hand while the nurse looked on.

We paddled the rest of the river without incident, with part of the group taking out at Carpenter Park, avoiding the last 2 miles of mostly flat paddling. We were off the river around 3:00, which helped pump up beer sales at the fest.

Sunday:

The aftermath of the beer, music, dancing, bbq ribs, jerk chicken and chocolate crepes didn't deter the Hoosiers from jumping back into the Stonycreek Canyon on Sunday. Greeted with sunshine and temps eventually climbing to the low 80's it was perfect weather to counter the chilly water released from the bottom of the dam. The released level 1.6' is standard and necessary on a small watershed creek with so much gradient it drains too quickly to have a festival with boaters coming from across the eastern half of the country. A big thank you to the Benscreek Canoe Club, who organize and pay for the releases! They are also very appreciative of the faithful patronage of the Hoosiers at the fest over the years and went out of their way to express the same.

In the morning Alfons tried out Elroy's half-slice Ripper at the play waves next to camp. Nothing like trying to learn to surf a wave in a boat you've never paddled with 10 friends yelling out "helpful" advice from shore. Lol

It was another great day on Stonycreek with fewer paddlers for the Hoosiers and overall as is typical for a Sunday. Sharon, Rick, Martin, Gary, Sergey, and both Robs had other obligations but we still had 9 paddlers on the water. Kyle borrowed Elroy's half-slice Pyranha Ripper and surfed all day. Elroy broke his backband, took a swim and he and Jen struggled to repair it making multiple stops delaying the group's progress downstream. Jeff finally came to the rescue with a river knife, some paracord and a carabiner which got Elroy to the midway take out at Carpenter Park. The delays aren't bad though on a waterway as playful as the Stony aka "Surfers Paradise," where fun and skill improvement are around every bend. Everyone was off the river by 3pm, even those paddling to the campground takeout. Just in time to pack up before the incoming storm.

The music, food, beer & gear vendors, playboat competition, downriver race and guaranteed Class 3 whitewater, with on-site camping make the Stonycreek Rendezvous a Hoosier favorite. Join us next year!



Trip Report

Sea Kayaking Paddling Topics & Gear Review

by *Tony Pascuzzi, Co-Chair SK Fleet*

South Bass Island Kayak Rendezvous 2022

This past weekend was the 18th South Bass Island Kayak Rendezvous and it was fantastic! Kayakers from all across the Midwest gathered together on South Bass Island for a weekend of paddling and exploring the Lake Erie Islands. The weather was fantastic and the water was unusually calm for a nice weekend. HCKC was well represented with approximately 12 members in attendance.

The Bass Islands along with the many smaller surrounding islands provide lots of paddling and play spots for all skill levels. We saw bald eagles and a few brown water snakes. We paddled past the Benson Ford, the Perry monument and the NOAA research ship Thomas Jefferson. The Jefferson was in the area mapping out the lake bed. This was the first time in 35 years that NOAA had a ship operating in the Great Lakes and the first time since the 1940's that hydrographic survey data has been collected by NOAA around the Cleveland area.

<http://www.sbikayakrendezvous.com/Paddling.html>



Jenn and NOAA Research Ship Thomas Jefferson



Dan and Don playing on some Rocks



Coleen and the NOAA Research Ship Thomas Jefferson

Shelta Hats

I have been wearing the Shelta Seahawk hat for kayaking and other outdoor activities and I love it. I got it in Safety Orange as that's the color they added specifically for kayakers. I bought it in May 2019 and it's still holding up very well, albeit slightly sun-faded.

It stays put in high winds, even if I forget to put the chin strap on. The brim never flips up or down due to the no flop brim even when wet. It's 100% polyester so it's pretty cool and it even floats. It has an adjustment string to do final adjustments. There's even a secret stash pocket inside on the top for burger/beer/ice cream money. What's not to love?!

<https://www.sheltahats.com/collections/sun-hats/products/the-seahawk-performance-sun-hat?variant=22144899088432>

<https://www.mlive.com/galleries/6BEI33C4JFH3DNVUMD7ONNZVQU/>

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Trip Report

Wisconsin River through the Upper and Lower Dells and the Narrows:

Date: June 9-13, 2022

Trip Leaders: Mariann Davis & Suzy McCain

To the uninitiated, this popular vacation area would seem like a cliché from childhood family vacations. The HCKC delivered this successful first time trip following 2 days of scouting in October 2021, conversations with local outfitters, reviewing on-line trip reports of the area, and meticulously gathering GPS coordinates of 5 different put-ins and take-outs. This book was our bible.

We had been so impressed with the beautiful topography of the area that we were sure to make this a combined hiking adventure and so much more. And so it was...

What follows is the report of the 35 mile, 3 days of paddling, and 1 day of beautiful hikes @ Devil's Lake. With the weather so changeable and rain threatening in some part of everyday, we were able to adjust our itinerary's date and time to include every paddle and hike. (The last paddle suggested a serious retraining in weather map skills). *There was no certified meteorologist among us, to be sure).*

Day 1: We paddled the lower Dells. This 13.5 mile trip below the dam provided a peak into the areas to come: (as our featured trip was the 7 mile stretch through the Narrows and we would have to wait for a weekday and the best weather to do this part). [Click on video in photo below.](#)



We launched from a very pretty pristine beach @ the "River's Edge Resort" in Wisconsin Dells and began our paddle. Along the way, we saw many craggy rock formations, stumbled upon sand beaches, entered caves, and, in Jan's case, traded sunglasses for her freedom from a startled beaver. (a story only she could tell). Jan also found some menacing sand bars that seemed to have a magnetic attraction for her. (Her 'boat was made for walking'—became her anthem). It was a beautiful day and we had lunch on one of the many sand beaches. We all soon learned how to navigate around these sand bars by reading the water... BETTER or "booty scooting". Our take out was down town WI Dells where we treated ourselves to ginormous ice cream treats.

Evening campfire followed as we made plans for the next day

Day 2: We knew that most of the mid and late afternoon would be rainy, so we opted for an early hike at Devil's Lake, an area Suzy and I fell in love with on our scouting trip. The weather cooperated and we enjoyed a beautiful trek on the west bluff and lower boulder field around Devil's Lake...only the photos can describe the beauty of this area. It was considered a strenuous hike but our HCKC paddlers, now turned hikers, were undaunted... a light drizzle began as we finished the 2.7 mile trail.

We ate at the spacious concession restaurant at lakeside and afterwards some of us decided to hike the East Bluff—a 3.5 mile other worldly terrain. The area proved equally beautiful as the West Bluff and had some free

boulder climbing as an acrobatic challenge. We returned to Rocky Arbor campground as the light rain began to diminish. (see beautiful photos of this hike in [My Flickr posted below](#)).

Evening campfire followed as we made plans for the next day

Day 3: The Upper Dells and the Narrows-11+ miles: Tah Dah! The “Creme de la creme” of the trip is upon us. At the evening campfire, a group decision was made to paddle the Narrows on Sunday due to the threat of rain on Monday. We were uncertain of the amount of boat traffic on a weekend, but we were to find out that early season planning afforded less competition for the Narrows. Checking the Muscoda river gage also proved that the water and flow was excellent and safe.



We launched from the Wisconsin River boat ramp on a beautiful sunny morning a little nervous about the water that was ahead of us. [we had heard stories of serious boat traffic rebounding waves and confused water]. All the paddlers were experienced in these conditions as our trip guide established the criteria for this trip. BUT none of those conditions prevailed at any risk to our paddlers. So as we paddled from our launch site down the 4-5 miles stretch to the entrance to the Narrows, we came upon some very pretty river topography: there were various narrow channels that split the group purposely for a broader experience. There were sandy beaches occupied by nesting turtles laying their eggs. There were beautiful forested areas. And there was one delightfully inviting beach we couldn't resist landing on where we had our lunch. This beach was 3/4 mile

from the entrance to the Narrows. There we contemplated our next big adventure we were about to embark upon.

The first big feature we came upon was the the huge rock face (at least 100 ft tall) on our left that promised more to come. This “oracle” did not deceive us as we held our breath for more. (I have taken literary license here but I do not exaggerate on the beauty of the area).

Okay, the rest is picture worthy. However, there is one area that we could not enter unless on the river boat cruise, Witch's Gulch,: a spooky, beautiful quarter mile gulch that is worth visiting by river boat. *Cast aside any tourist prejudice and just do it.*

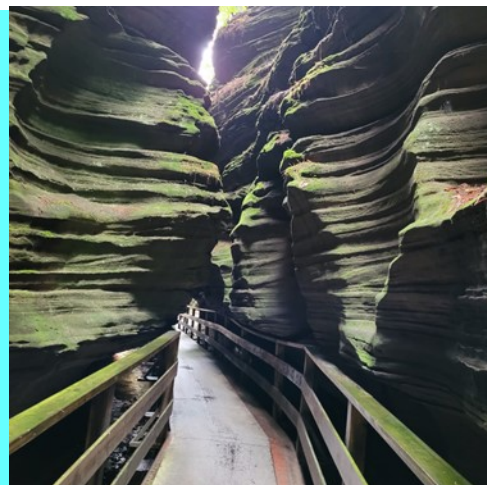
The Almost 5 miles through the Narrows is a trip worth repeating along with the upper dells. The group arrived back at the campground around 5 pm and we had a celebratory dinner in town @ the “River Walk Pub” where we discussed the next day's paddle. We would check the weather in the early AM and text everyone with the “go” or “no go” decision.



No evening campfire tonight

Day 4: Lower Dells—10 mi trip from below Castle Rock Dam to the Wisconsin River Ramp.

If ever a meteorologist were needed on a trip, this would be the day. The group decided after seeing the weather map that the storms would head north of us and that only rain would follow....Well, lots and lots and lots of rain followed our paddlers to the take out about 10 miles away. Only one photo was taken during this trip as the rains started about 1 mile from our launch and is the only evidence of this paddle. This photo was at a rest stop at an outfitter who provided coffee and shelter for a lengthy respite.



Everyone arrived home very damp but NOT their spirits.

Evening campfire followed late into the night as we all said our goodbyes and celebrated our success on this fun trip.

Suzy and I want to thank you all for a memorable trip...so many new friends are connecting through paddling and I hope to see you all on future paddles!

Mariann Davis & Suzy McCain

Paddlers: Mariann Davis, Suzy McCain, Linda Decker, Jim Heichelbach, Ellen Popodi, Phyllis Malpas, Marion Fischer, Jan Rugaber, Stephen Lytle

Click on this link for more fun photos: [WI river trip-June 9-13, 2022](#)



The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Trip Report

Date: July 16, 2022

Location: White River

Put In /Take out: Forest Park, Noblesville IN. to 116th st. off River Rd, Fishers

Trip Leader: Mariann Davis

Distance: 10.3 miles

(21 paddlers signed up for the west fork of the White river trip which had to be diverted to this section due to low water. 17 HCKC members paddled.)

It was hope against hope that a deluge of rain would provide enough water to allow the West Fork of the White Rive paddle as planned. However, the weather gods did not cooperate and plan B was put in place 14 hours before we launched.

It was clear that the 17 paddlers who showed up, were anxious to get out on the water, as so many previous flat water trips had been cancelled due to high water or weather.

We met at Forest Park in Noblesville, In @ 1030 AM and began our shuttle down to the take out at 116th st and River Rd. (2 cars provided shuttle back to the Put in). We launched around 11:30-ish with good weather and more importantly decent water flow at 230cfs.

The group was enthusiastic with 4 new members joining us. Every one showed their paddling skills since it was a considerably long paddle for beginners, There were many small riffles (providing class 0.125 thrills) and some maneuvering around logs and a rock ledge...every one stayed upright in their boats. There were sightings of herons, turtles, and a flock of turkey buzzards circled overhead at one point. After 4.5 miles we stopped for lunch.

All in all the trip was a success with all paddlers returning safely to the take out about 4:30 PM. A few mentioned paddling the West Fork from Anderson to Perkinsville in the Fall. Hopefully that will be possible.



See you on the Water soon: Mariann



The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Trip Report

Qajaq Training Camp August 18-21, 2022

Submitted by: L. Decker

A record 20 Seakayakers from HCKC attended Qajaq Training Camp in August. Two of our members, Tony Pascuzzi and Nikki Robinson are board members for this event and instrumental in making it a great event for the 68 participants from across the Midwest.

The camp is a celebration of traditions and techniques of Greenland Kayaking. It is a fun and friendly event for paddlers of all skill levels and focuses on Greenland paddling and rolling. Traditional skills are explored such as ropes, hunting with harpoons and skin on frame kayaks. Numerous skilled mentors/instructors are available for 1:1 and group practice.

The event is held at Lower Herring Lake near Frankfort Michigan. Participants stay in cabins and gather for provided meals in the central dining hall. Evenings include bonfires on the beach, skill demonstrations and an auction. We left camp with improved skills and new friends!



Trip Report:

Location: Chesapeake Bay Area

Date: September 11 – 18 2022

By: Robert Moore

This year's Chesapeake trip was organized by Judy Thompson and myself. The Bay region offers diverse range of paddling opportunities and I tried to provide a sample of each. This year's trip began at Janes Island Campground on Sunday night, but people took side trips on the way. My side trip included a paddle on the Magothy River with Chesapeake Paddling Association.

Janes Island served as the home base for the first half of the trip. Monday, we paddled south to Crisfield and around the island. The island is no longer inhabited but once had an agriculture and fishing community. Ruins of the menhaden fish processing plant at the southwest corner of the island. An island fox scavenges for leftovers following our lunch stop.

Tuesday's paddle was at Chincoteague National Seashore. Ocean waves were 5ft so we opted not to paddle around the southern end of the peninsula and paddle Tom's cove. The peninsula is closed through the summer as a bird sanctuary, but open after August 31. A lifesaving station had the boat launch on the inside of the island rather than ocean side to insure safe launching during stormy weather.

The group declined the opportunity to round the peninsula to kayak in the 5ft breakers on the ocean side. However, after the paddle they enjoyed opportunity to wade into the ocean surf and play in the breakers.

On Wednesday we paddled the Pocomoke River. The Pocomoke is the northern most Cypress River system in the US. We paddled from Shad's landing and up to the end of navigation on Nassawango Creek. Prior to the Civil War, the creek served as the barge port for the bog iron blast furnace operating upstream from the creek tidewater end.

Thursday was the travel day and people stopped at various sites in Delmarva along the way to Susquehanna State Park.

Friday's paddle was led by Bob Shakeshaft from Chesapeake Paddling Association. We launched from Millard

Tydings Park in Havre de Grace and paddled south to Sand Island and Fishing Battery. This area is a very shallow area of the bay and the shoreline is home to a large population of Bald Eagles.

We stopped for lunch on Sand Island before paddling up into Swan Creek at the north end of Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

Saturday's paddle launched from Lapidum at Susquehanna State Park. We paddled upstream from the end of tidal zone and into the moving water of the Susquehanna. There was only a light release from Conowingo Dam so we could paddle among the islands and rocks of the lower Susquehanna. We returned to the ramp via Port Deposit and crossed just north of the I95 bridge.



Trip report

Raccoon (Cecil M. Harden) Lake

Date: June 26, 2022

Sponsor: Judy Thompson

Ten paddlers launched from the Portland Mills ramp, nine in solo kayaks and one in a solo canoe. From there we traveled up into the lake's headwaters. This was a fairly short trip, so we took our time, and enjoyed the scenery and companionship. A peaceful section, it is narrow and creek-like, with great blue herons, kingfishers, and other birds. We saw a small swimming mammal, but were unsure whether it was a young beaver or a muskrat. There is little cur-



rent, until you reach a stretch of long sandbars, where it is too shallow to go further upstream at normal lake pool level. After a lunch break at the sandbar, we returned to the Portland Mills ramp. Six paddlers decided to take out, while four went on towards the main body of the lake. The lake broadens out, and becomes more of a typical Indiana reservoir trip at that point. There were many docks with pontoon and other boats moored. We continued on to the US 36 bridge, where we turned around and returned to Portland Mills.

Gear Review

By Tony Pascuzzi

Unsinkable Polarized Sunglasses

Great polarized sunglasses at reasonable pricing. And they float! They're very comfortable and the polarization seems to be sufficient as I haven't experienced any headaches due to sun glare.

All sunglasses are \$69 or 2 for \$89. They offer a lifetime + loss warranty for a \$35 processing fee so it's still slightly less expensive than buying a new pair of glasses. I've been using the Vapor 2.0 glasses with charcoal lenses for about five years and so far, so good. I don't baby them and scratches have been minimal.

<https://unsinkablepolarized.com/>



Jim Sprandel Memorial Paddle

September 6, 2022

Submitted by: L. Decker

On September 6th over 40 club members gathered at Eagle Creek to pay tribute to one of our club leaders who passed away during the pandemic. It was amazing to see so many boats launch for a collective paddle. Joining us on the water were Jim's two brothers, who made the trip to attend from St Louis.

The paddle was followed by a meal and time to tell stories and memories about Jim. His wife, Peggy Neill shared the plan to establish a Jim Sprandel Memorial Fund for proceeds from the sale of Jims equipment/ books and donations. This fund will be used by HCKC for training and development of adaptive paddling capabilities. The fund stood at \$1000 thanks to a donation from Peggy Neill with more raised from the silent auction held during the Annual Meeting.

May you have fair winds and following seas our friend and mentor

