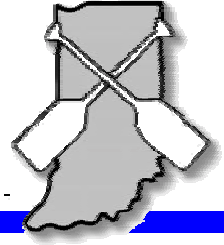


# The Hoosier Paddler



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

June 2008

## Recreational Kayak Moving Water Clinic, April 26, 2008

Reggie Baker

Why in the world would Deb and I want to teach a Recreational Kayak clinic? We were whitewater kayak instructors and introduced literally hundreds of folks to whitewater kayaking over nearly 2 decades. Whitewater rocks and everything else is downright boring, right? Well, hopefully with age has come some wisdom and that newfound wisdom is simply that the very best boat in the world is the one you are paddling and the best waterway is the one you have chosen to spend your valuable time and resources upon. As the Water Rat stated in *The Wind in the Willows*, "Believe me, there is nothing - - - absolutely nothing - - - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." But, there's more to it than that.



*Debbie demonstrating edging at put-in*

The fact is that whitewater kayaks make up a small fraction of the kayak sales in the U.S. Whitewater kayak sales are declining rapidly with the demographic changes and the increased fuel costs. A recent paddlesports business journal reports recreational (rec) kayak sales of \$92M, touring kayak sales of \$45M and whitewater kayak sales of \$10M. The sale of canoes brought in another \$22M. This puts whitewater sales at around 6% of the total. My point here is there are roughly 10 rec kayaks sold for every whitewater kayak and these kayaks are showing up regularly on HCC river trips. Another point is that no whitewater kayaker in their right mind would buy a new boat and paddle away from the Ocoee dam with no instruction. Not so with recreational kayaks. Personal experience has shown me that many rec kayakers are in dire need of instruction not only for their personal safety but to enhance their overall paddling experience. Thus, the idea of a Rec Kayak Moving Water Clinic was born.

Saturday April 26 began chilly and windy with a forecast for reasonable improvement as the day progressed. Eleven intrepid souls met Deb and me at the Dairy Queen at the intersection of SR37 and 144. Attendees were: Wayne Bivins, Jim Sprandel, Sue Foss, Shelly Sturgis, Linda Smith, Dan Evard, Barb Lollar, Kelly Rushing, Mike Lough, Krystal Lewis, and John Cavanaugh.

We began the day with a chalk talk at the picnic tables to present the agenda of boat edging, forward strokes, turning strokes, bracing strokes, draws, ferries, eddy turns and peel-outs. After setting the shuttle, we hit the quiet water at the put-in and began practicing edging, strokes, braces and draws before proceeding down-river. First on the agenda were ferries. With the bow pointed upstream, we learned how to utilize the forces of the current and the forward stroke to easily move the kayaks back and forth across the current. This is such an important maneuver of boat control in moving water and most everyone were amazed how effective and easy the move actually was. Reverse ferries proved to be a bit more difficult but everyone got the hang of them with practice. Next came river reading and getting into and out of eddies. This is where boat edging and the notion of not leaning upstream when entering the current proved their value. River rescue came next

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*The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club*

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due to upstream edging while entering the current. Students saw how the instructors rescued the paddler, kayak and other flotsam using a variety of rescue equipment and techniques. Students assisted in draining the kayak, caring for the rescued paddler and getting the show on the road again. The object lesson here is “if you aren’t swimming, you aren’t training” and we had some good training. I just love when life presents you with “teachable moments.” After a leisurely lunch and some discussion about boats, paddles and other equipment, we did some throw rope practice. Again, the teachable moment was that without practice your ability to effectively deploy a throw bag will be about as effective as Hillary Clinton trying to bowl. It just isn’t a pretty picture.

Deb and I were very pleased with the turnout and performance of the rec kayak students. Our “teachable moment” was there is quite a variety of recreational kayaks being sold and not all are created equal. Some are better for quiet waters and others excel in moving water. What is apparent is that this fact is lost on many kayak retailers who think a kayak is a kayak. NOT! Stay tuned for an article on recreational kayak purchasing considerations.

**Reg & Deb (Team Baker)**

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## **Eagle Creek—Tuesday Evening Paddles**

HCC members have started paddling together at Eagle Creek park on Tuesday evenings. Group paddles start at 6:00 pm at the Eagle Creek marina. Paddlers must leave the park by closing time. When you enter the park, check the sign at the park entrance to see when the park closes.

***Be sure to bring the pass that was published in the May Newsletter that you received in the mail or from the web site.*** This pass allows HCC members to enter the park as early as 3:00 pm on Tuesdays if they want to paddle on their own before the group paddle.

### **Special Event— Moonlight Paddle—Tuesday, June 17 7:00 pm**

We will have a moonlight paddle at Eagle Creek since there is a nearly full moon on this night. Please meet at the Ranger’s Office at 7:00 p.m. We will still be paddling after the park closes so be sure to park in the lot by the Ranger’s Office since it is outside the park gates. The Ranger’s Office is located on 56th street—the entrance to the Ranger’s Office parking lot is on the north side of 56th street about 0.3 mile west of the 56th street park entry.

If you want to attend, please call Shirley Gate at (317) 852-9809 by Monday, June 16.

### **Volunteers Needed—**

In exchange for free park access, the HCC has agreed to provide safety boats for Eagle Creek’s Sunset Trip series which will be held on Wednesday nights starting in mid-June. We will need 1 or 2 canoes or kayaks for each Sunset Trip. If you would like to help, please contact Shirley Gates at (317) 852-9809.

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## **HCC Safety Boaters need for June 21 Eagle Creek Triathlon**

The HCC will provide safety boats for the Eagle Creek Triathlon on Saturday, June 21. The event starts at 8:00 am and paddlers should gather by 7:15 to receive instructions and T-shirts and to get their boats in the water.

Volunteer paddlers will follow waves of swimmers and allow struggling swimmers to hang onto their boats. When helping swimmers, you signal a motorized safety boat which collects exhausted swimmers and takes them to shore. The total swim distance in these events is 500 meters. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.tuxbro.com/triathlon%20updates.htm>

We need 8 to 12 kayakers to help with this event. If you would like to volunteer to be a safety boat for this event, please contact Jan Sneddon at 317-257-1740 or [jan\\_hosier@yahoo.com](mailto:jan_hosier@yahoo.com) by Thursday, June 19. Come on, you know you want to.

Triathlons will also be held at Eagle Creek on July 19 and August 23.



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## East Race Waterway – South Bend, Indiana

Sharon Schierling

If you're interested in some playboating and/or novice-level white-water practice on our great little concrete ditch through town (a.k.a. the South Bend "pool" session), come join us at the East Race Waterway in South Bend.

For those who haven't been there, the East Race Waterway is a ~3/8-mile-long Class II artificial whitewater course (the first in North America, opened in 1984) in a concrete channel (old mill run) through the heart of downtown South Bend. When you get to the bottom, you have to carry your boat back up to the top along a paved sidewalk. (If you don't want to carry your boat, you can set your own shuttle or bring wheels.) Wing-dams and fiberglass obstacles create the water features, including a "rodeo" hole for playboaters, a couple of rollercoaster-like waves for surfing, a few smaller holes and surf spots, numerous eddies (some of which can be pretty squirrely), and, if the St. Joseph River isn't too high, at least one good ferry spot at the bottom, which also happens to be a favorite place for stern squirts (and, coincidentally, perfecting a combat roll).



*Kayakers playing in East Race*

On weekends when it's open to the public, the East Race is staffed by throw-rope-wielding lifeguards stationed all along its length, offering an opportunity for newer paddlers to experience relatively big class II whitewater in a safe environment. Kayakers and canoeists also have to watch out for inexperienced rafts and duckies, and the good play spots can be crowded so if you're planning on playing, be prepared to do some waiting in squirrely eddies.

**Public Schedule:** The public can use the East Race Waterway on Saturdays and Sundays from June 14 through August 10, 2008.

I will be there on **Sunday, June 29** and will be happy to "show the lines" to any newbies to the course.

**Public Hours:** Saturday 12:00-5:00 and Sunday 1:00-5:00. (Saturday from 11:00-noon is in-service training for the lifeguards. They usually let private kayakers on the course during that hour.)

**Cost:** As of last season, an all-day private-boater pass (wrist bracelet) was \$12 if you bring your own boat and gear. Raft and "fun-yak" (duckie) rental (including all equipment) is \$4 per person per ride. I understand that there will continue to be a discount for buying multiple raft tickets but haven't gotten a confirmation on how much (last year it was buy 5, get 1 free).

**Family Info:** Kids under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Minimum height for using the city's rafts and duckies is 4'6". Kids under 4'6" are not restricted from paddling private boats (i.e., their own kayaks, tandem canoes, or private rafts). For kayakers, experience rather than age or size is important. East Race policy states that new or young participants will be given a brief water test before entering the waterway (though I've never seen that happen).

**Directions:** From Indianapolis, take US31 north to South Bend. Coming into South Bend stay on Business 31 (i.e., do not get on the US31/20 by-pass). In downtown South Bend, just past the Century Center complex



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and College Football Hall of Fame, turn right at the light onto Colfax Street. You will immediately cross 2 bridges, one over the St. Joseph River (with a nice view of the dam on your right) and the second over the East Race. Make a right at the first light onto Niles Ave. The main parking lots for the East Race are on both the right and left side of the street just past the first stop sign. (For alternate parking midway down the course, which is where I like to park, turn left onto Niles Ave. and then into the first parking lot on the left.) It's about a 2-1/2 hour drive from Indy.

To use Mapquest to print a map, use the following address: 121 S Niles Ave, South Bend, IN 46617-2786.

**Camping:** For those who want to stay overnight and paddle both Saturday and Sunday, camping is available just south of South Bend at Beaver Ridge Family Campground, 65777 Maple Road in Lakeville, IN 46536 (just off SR 4 near Potato Creek State Park). Phone (574-784-8532), email (reservations@go-camping.com) or go to their website (<http://www.go-camping.com/reserve.asp>) for reservations.

**Contact Information:** Sharon Schierling (contact—E-Mail: [sschierl\(at\)nd.edu](mailto:sschierl@nd.edu))

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## Flatwater Trips

### What to Bring on a Flatwater Trip

- PFD (Personal Floatation Device) with attached whistle
  - Spare Paddle: your preference
  - Rescue gear: paddle float, throw rope, first aid kit
  - Bilge pump or bailing device (small bucket, sponge, etc.)
  - Personal medications: Be sure to inform your trip sponsor of medical conditions.
  - Sunglasses, sun/bug spray
  - Lunch, snacks, drinks (hot or cold) plus water!
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### Driftwood River Trip

**Sunday June 22, 2008**

**Trip Sponsors:** Dan Evard (317-753-1226), Linda Smith (317-251-6631)

The Driftwood River, flowing from the confluence of the Big Blue River and the Sugar Creek, winds through farmland with wooded strips bordering both banks. Our trip will begin in a secluded state wildlife preserve and continue through a part of Camp Atterbury wilderness area. Deer, beaver, heron, osprey, and wild turkeys have been spotted along this area. Die-hard shoppers may want to conclude the paddle with a visit (or meal) at the conveniently located Outlet Mall. Appropriate for all skill levels.

#### Meeting Place/Put In: Furnas Mill Dam on the Sugar Creek

From Indianapolis, take I-65 south to Exit 80 (State Hwy. 252). Take Rt. 252 toward Edinburg to US 31. Cross US 31 continuing straight on Camp Atterbury Road one-half mile to River Road. Turn right onto this winding road and go 2 miles to the Iron Bridge. Cross the Iron Bridge and travel one-half mile to the gravel parking pull off at Furnas Mill Dam. (No restroom here.)

**Take Out:** Heflin Park (8 miles from Put-In). From Put-In, go right onto US 31 South and travel 3 ½ miles to the Marathon station across from the Outlet Mall. Turn right at the Marathon station and then a quick left onto Heflin Road. Go 1 mile to Heflin Park which has plenty of parking, playground and bathrooms.

**Trip Length:** 8 miles (5 hours)

<b>Schedule:</b>	10:00 am	Arrive at Meeting Place
	11:00 am	Start Paddling
		Lunch Break
	4:00 pm	Landing at Take Out



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**Contact Information:** Please contact one of us by Saturday, June 21st to confirm your attendance and to make sure the water level is sufficient for this trip to be a go.  
Dan Evard (317-753-1226, danevard@aol.com) or Linda Smith (317-251-6631, smit063@comcast.net)

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## Whitewater Trips

**Beginner's Trip—Spring River, Arkansas (Class I-II)**  
**Trip Sponsor: Robert Henry**

**June 14-15, 2008**

On June 14 and 15, Paige and I will be kayaking Spring River, Arkansas as we do every year for Father's Day weekend. This year, I am making this a Beginner's Trip for the club. The Spring River is a great place to practice surfing, ferrying, peel outs, stern squirts, and rolling in swift currents. There are only two technical rapids on the river ("deadman's curve" and "horseshoe falls").

Below is a good description that I found online:

"Spring River is characterized by numerous Class I-II rapids that sharpen one's whitewater skills. Starting about 3 miles below the Dam # 3 put-in are three unnamed rapids at 3.0 miles, 3.5 miles and 4.2 miles. Cottonwood Falls is at 5.0 miles, followed by Saddler Falls, a double drop fall with several narrow, swift channels at 5.5 miles. Choose your line carefully and go for it! The first fall is rather small and can be run on the left. Line up just left of center for the second drop over the larger of the two falls. Immediately after the second fall is a small, very technical drop that can be run after careful planning, or portaged along the left bank. At 5.8 miles sits Horseshoe Falls, a moderate drop of about 4-5 feet with a bypass channel on the left where you can avoid the drop altogether if you are so inclined. The take out (Spring River Oaks Campground) is on river left."

**Contact Information:** Anyone wishing to go can call me at 765-894-5186 or email me at [rhenry575@yahoo.com](mailto:rhenry575@yahoo.com) for the itinerary and camp locations.

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**Colorado Week of Rivers**  
**Trip Sponsor: Randy Parker**

**June 14-22, 2008**

Colorado this year will be unpredictable. Years past, we have met in Buena Vista on Sunday and would start out with The Numbers section on the Arkansas and from there over the past years have done some other sections on the Arkansas such as Royal Gorge, Pinnacle Rock, Brown Canyon, and the Fractions. From there, we have done Shoshone on the Colorado, the Narrows and Bogan Canyon on the Crystal, Lower Eagle and Dowd Chute's on the Eagle, Slaughterhouse on the Roaring Fork, and the Foxton and Dumont sections of the South Platte River.

Plans were originally set to meet on Sunday this year on the Cache La Poudre river and run a section of this river then circle around the state back to Clear Creek in Idaho Springs and make that our last run and leave from there since it is right on I-70 interstate. However, we may have to look at things a little different this year. Reports of those that went skiing out there this year say they got a ton of snow and the snow has not even started melting. We could be there at peak snow melt or possibly when it is still rising and not yet at peak level. This may have us looking at other creeks that we would normally not look at. That is, creeks that are normally at the Class I-III level but that may be rated at a higher level with a lot of snow-melt. My suggestion is to keep looking at the HCC Bulletin Board and as time draws near I will talk to Farmer, Big Drop, Tim Ryle and Dave Hulse and see what the plans are.

We have some awesome guides out in Colorado just waiting to take us down whatever we decide to do and we will definitely take their advice on what we should run. Joel Krause and T.J. have taken care of us in the past and they are some awesome paddlers and paddle Colorado rivers every day they can and now Jacob Reeder lives there with them and they have already been paddling. I will get in contact with them



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after Memorial Day Weekend and see what they suggest. My suggestion is to keep watching levels and we will post plans and the meeting place as time draws near on the HCC Bulletin Board. As soon as I find out information, I will post it. Camping is usually right by the river or close by the river we will be running the next day and of course Mexican food every night!!!

**Lower Yough—Advanced Beginner, Intermediate Skills Work (Class III)**

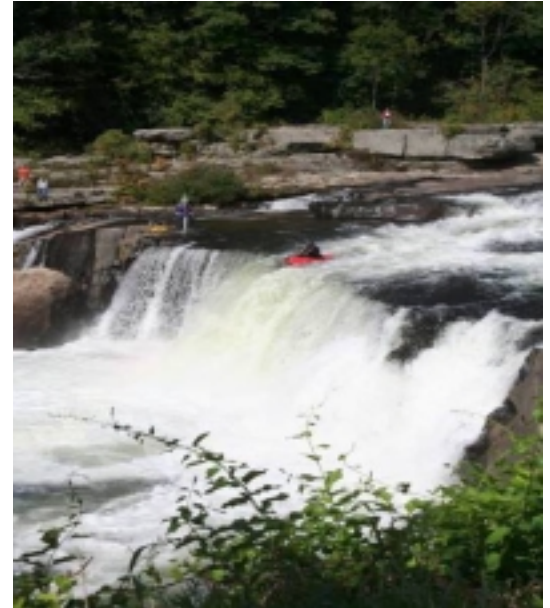
**Trip Sponsors: Nick Ruark, Lesley Stout**

The Lower Yough is a classic East Coast whitewater run in Western Pennsylvania, and it has something for almost anyone. We plan on running the Lower Yough both days, putting on a bit later on Saturday morning to accommodate sleep for the late arrivals. We may do a full run or a shorter Loop run on Sunday depending on paddlers' schedules. While the run is advanced beginner appropriate and is great for learning to read water, the river offers opportunities for beginning playboating and some advanced creeking moves. Nick and I will adapt to fit group interests.

**Contact Information:** Let us know if you are planning on coming and give us some information about yourself, include any specific goals you might have. Nick Ruark: nruark@purdue.edu. Lesley Stout: lstout@abelsontaylor.com . Please put HCC or Kayak in the subject line.

We'll need a final headcount by June 16th so that we can get put on passes and make final arrangements. Watch the White Water Section of the Bulletin Board for information on camping and any final changes. See you on the river!

**June 21-22, 2008**



*Jordan Ross at Ohiophyle Falls—Lower Yough  
These falls are just above the put-in for this trip.*

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**North Carolina Class II Trip**

**Trip Sponsors: Terry Busch, Rob Friedman, Mitch Merritt**

**June 28, 29, 2008**

**For which paddlers:** This trip is intended for our newer boaters – paddlers in the beginner to practiced novice range. At a minimum, paddlers should have taken a Moving Water class preparing for whitewater. All boater should bring “the five essentials” plus gear suitable for running cold water.

**The Plan:** On Saturday, we'll paddle the Tuckasegee (Sec 3 -from the Dilsboro dam to the Tuckasegee rafting company takeout about 5 miles downstream.) This run is a nearly perfect representation of Class II whitewater, similar in difficulty to the Hiwassee, but quite different in character –narrower, warmer, and usually less crowded. This is where several kayak schools teach beginner classes. What we do Sunday depends on the make-up of the group and how everyone performs on the first day. We may return to the Tuck, step up to the nearby Nantahala, or, if we have sufficient support boaters, split into two groups, one on each river. The Nantahala, for those who've never seen it, is considered II+ (and has two Class IIIs that can be considered optional.) It's beautiful and full of action, but not an ideal stream for true beginners. The water is very cold, fairly pushy, and heavily trafficked with all manner of boats, primarily rafts. Whether we paddle the Nan or not, I suggest people make camping arrangements in or near the Nantahala Gorge — I don't know of good facilities near the Tuck. Check the BB for updates as the date approaches. ( If water releases or other circumstances require us to change plans, we will shift to the Hiwassee.)

**Contact Information:** Please contact Terry Busch by June 14. Post on the BB and/or E-mail me at Buschterence@sbcgloabl.net” or call my cell, 317-695-1825.

**Note:** I will be unavailable in the last two weeks of May.



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**Ocoee River Trip (Class III-IV)**  
**Trip Sponsor: Randy Parker**

**Independence Day Weekend, July 4-6, 2008**

On the 4th of July weekend, we will meet at Brian Aubin's cabin on the Nantahala River, Thursday night or early Friday morning. Plans are to take the Pennsylvania group down the Ocoee for their very first time and we will run all three sections that weekend since they have never been there before. Other runs we are looking at for Saturday and Sunday are the Cheoah, Nolichucky or the Ocoee again on Sunday. Highlight of the weekend is the Brian Aubin Fest at his cabin with lots of friends, food, drinks, and entertainment. Entertainment on Saturday night will be our very own Bob "Big Drop" Heckler.

**Directions:** Here are directions to Brian Aubin's cabin and Ridge Fest. South of Highway 129 on Highway 74, approximately 3.5 miles from where Highway 74 goes down to 2 lanes, take a right on Sky Ridge Drive. The cabin is located approx. 0.5 mile down hill on the left called The Ridge. If you get to the Amoco (Bud's Store) or the NOC, you have gone too far south on Highway 74. The phone number to the cabin is 828-488-1942.

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**Special Events**

**2008 Subaru © Paddlefest Canoe & Kayak Races**

**Sunday June 29th, 2008**

This will be our 7th Annual Paddlefest and we are looking forward to another great day of both fun and competitive paddling at St. Patrick's County Park on the St. Joseph River in South Bend, Indiana. As always, we have races for every kind of paddler

- 2 mile "Fluid Fun" Fun Race
- 8 mile "Half Marathon
- 16 mile "Marathon" (with prize money!)
- Memorial Hospital "Duathlon (3 mile run, 2 mile paddle
- South Bend Tribune "Youth Pond Race

While there are serious racers, especially in the marathon, there are many recreational paddlers, families, and whitewater types. There is even a pond race for kids 6-12...so there is something for everyone, plus t-shirts and lunch!



*C1 Racers on St. Joseph River*



*K1 Racer*

Race time is 9:00 am with a mandatory race meeting at 8:30. Racers should get to there by 8:00 am. Park gates will be open by 7:00. Food will be available after the races, with an awards ceremony between 11:30-12:00.

See our website for details ([www.paddlefest.org](http://www.paddlefest.org))

Please spread the word to your friends and family. Please register on-line as early as possible at [www.paddlefest.org](http://www.paddlefest.org).

And if you would prefer to volunteer to help with the event rather than paddle, please be in touch!

**See you on the river,**

**Ted Beatty**

for the Paddlefest Organizing Committee  
([info@paddlefest.org](mailto:info@paddlefest.org))



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## Trip Report—Cheat Fest, May 2-4, 2008

Sharon Schierling



*Bob Heckler at Cheat Fest*

Cheat Fest was great again this year! I have to say up front that Bob Heckler takes the trip leader prize in my book. Not only did he coordinate the usual logistics—including selecting an appropriate run for a very large mixed-experience group on Saturday (while most of our best boaters left to go run the Upper Yough), leading 20 people down a run (Little Sandy/Upper Big Sandy) that most of us had never done before, without a single mishap—but on top of that he put on a great music show both nights and even fed us too! (The ever lovely and supportive Wendi Heckler had a big crock pot full of "Cinco de Mayo" taco meat and all the fixins waiting for us when we got off the river on Saturday. Yum!) If you ask me, THAT'S a great trip leader!

Kudos also to Brian Aubin, an adopted HCCer from North Carolina who regularly meets up with us at festivals, bringing a generator and awning and otherwise pitching in to set the stage for

Bob's campfire concert, which draws large crowds of paddlers – both old friends and newcomers. Among the former are a group from Pennsylvania who paddle with us several times a year, led by the upbeat OR nurse/river guide Jen Brachman. As Brian wrote to me afterward, "Memorable moments off the river were many, most not publishable or of the 'you had to be there' category, but most memorable is the Woodstock nature of this disparate group of road traveling river runners. We come together as a disconnected group and manage to orchestrate fantastic get-togethers with little management or oversight ... it just works!! Enough cannot be said for Big Drop and his music, or for Crush and his energy....both combined set a tone that prevents failure!"

And lest anyone think that it's all about the party, our large and diverse group of Hoosiers paddled a wide variety of whitewater from class II to V during the three-day Cheat Fest weekend.

On Friday, Bob Heckler and Randy Parker led a group on the Lower Yough at 4'8" – a fast moving level that everyone enjoyed and handled well. The only incident was at the usually straightforward (class II+) rapid "Bottle of Wine" where, as Randy described it, "the wave train actually took you into a big hole. Somehow Mitch got off line, ended up in the hole, was able to surf his way out, but led Brett, Paul, Dave, and Jen into the same hole! Other than that the day went well and everyone had a blast!!!"

Friday also found a group of Hoosiers on Big Sandy Creek, a run best known for 18-foot high "Wonder Falls" and an oft-portaged 15-footer with a bad piton rock known as "Big Splat." Matt Thomas, Matt Mattes, and Chris Burkhardt were joined by first-timers Ken Wright, Mark McCrocklin and Mark Sparks who were challenged but exhilarated by Big Sandy's class IV-VI+ rapids. At class 5.1 "Big Splat," Ken and the two Marks portaged and set safety for the other three. The two Matts had clean runs but Chris was turned off line at the wrong moment and pitoned at the base of the falls, resulting in a big dent in his boat (which later popped out in the sun) and two swollen ankles. They finished the run without further incident but I recently learned that Chris is facing surgery to repair a fracture in one of his ankle joints. (Chris, if you're reading this, we all send you best wishes for a speedy and full recovery!)



*Jim Greenwell running a Ledge on Upper Big Sandy*

On Saturday, as mentioned above, Bob Heckler and Bob McCormick led a large group of Hoosiers and Pennsylvania paddlers (including me but there were so many of us that I can't begin to recall or list everyone) on the Little Sandy/Upper Big Sandy. The Little Sandy was low and scrapy but we enjoyed the camaraderie of the group and dubbed it low-volume read-on-the-fly creeking practice (a.k.a. the "find the water" game). When we hit the confluence with the Big Sandy, things picked up and we got a little ledgy action without tak-





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ing on the big stuff that the Big Sandy is famous for. The last rapid before the Rockville bridge (our takeout and the put-in for the Lower Big Sandy) is the most difficult of the run; although we all ran it clean, it gave us a small taste of what lies downstream.

Meanwhile, Jordan Ross, Mark Sparks, Ken Wright, Nick Ruark, Mark McCrocklin, Chris Burkhardt, Matt Thomas, and Matt Mattes met in Friendsville to paddle the Upper Yough. The ample rain had added to the dam release for a total flow of over 1100 cfs, roughly 2.4 on the gauge. That was a lot of water considering that it was Mark Sparks' first time and he was in a playboat. As Jordan described it, "A missed eddy forced Mark into 'Triple Drop' with no guidance and it got the best of him. Then, having a paddle grabbed from him at 'Lost and Found' led to another mishap, but overall he did great on a very pushy day. Ken Wright suffered the irony of swimming in 'Wright's Hole.'" Jordan had his own troubles when he was swept backwards into the "Death Slot" at "Powerful Popper" and pinned upside down. Mark Sparks, who was following him, paddled right over him and could only see an arm coming out of the water. Luckily, Jordan "popped out like a cork out of a champagne bottle" and rolled up safely.

On Sunday two groups ran the Cheat Narrows. Bob McCormick, Ed Ragsdale, Dave Swingley, Rick Conaugh, Jim Greenwell and Mike McKinley were the early birds. Mike wrote: "The water was high with lots of big crashing wave trains and extra swirly water right after 'Calamity'. To boost the adrenaline factor, I opted for hand paddles. Jim and I had so much fun we decided to run it again and the rest of the group got us shuttled in time to run with Crush (Randy Parker) and his crew for the second trip. The weather suddenly took a turn for the better for the second run with lots of sun." Randy said he'd never seen Calamity that big before: "a lot of flips at the bottom with some real squirrely water to try and roll up in but everyone in our group did well. The rest of the rapids were real nice big wave trains. It was another great day on the river and everyone had fun!!!"



*Ed Ragsdale scouting at Calamity Rock (Cheat Narrows)*

Doug McKnight, John Brill, Mark Sparks, Jordan Ross, and I, along with 4 of the Pennsylvania paddlers, opted for the longer Cheat Canyon run. The level was 3' on the bridge, which I would call ideal – pushy but padded. We cruised through the warm-ups and the first 6 named rapids, making good time until the rapid before "High Falls." We were a bit spread out and I was in the lead; when I turned around at the bottom of the rapid I saw two swimmers headed my way. (Yikes!) Fortunately Doug was not far behind and we got them both safely to shore well above High Falls. We took additional time to scout High Falls but it was worth it as everyone had a clean run down a green highway I've never seen there before. We agreed to scout the next big rapid ("Coliseum") as well but whether due to miscommunication or a missed eddy, part of the group continued into the rapid while most of us who had run it before were getting out of our boats to scout. This resulted in some "interesting" lines, a couple of amazing rolls, and one unpleasant swim. Fortunately the swimmer self-rescued but since we were too far back to help, his boat continued through the next rapid, "Pete Morgan," where we had another tense moment when one of the Pennsylvania group was trapped in an unfriendly eddy along a cliff and a group effort was necessary to get her and her boat out. Despite all that, we finished the 10-mile run in well under 4 hours, caught the 2 pm Glen Miller shuttle (a classic West Virginia adventure in itself), stopped on the way home for Chinese buffet, and still made it back to Indy before midnight.

Of those who opted to head for the ASCI play park and found it closed that day, only Nick Ruark and Lesley Stout managed to get in a Sunday paddle by heading for the Lower Yough to run the Loop "on the way" home. Lesley reported that the level had "risen a touch since Friday so it was an interesting run. It was fun to see what happened to the river at that level and a great workout reading lines. Nick made me lead so he could keep an eye on me—plus I think he wanted a probe. Dry hair, (even) when I hit a curler line around Cucumber rock-cum-pourovers-cum-whirlpool. Fun times, wish we could have done the whole river but we did get back at a reasonable hour."

Thanks to all who contributed to this report. It was truly a group effort. As many have said in the emails and posts that followed this trip, I look forward to the next time. Wherever this club is going... count me in!



## Trip Report — Salamonie River Trip — April 27 2008

Sue Foxx

**Trip Sponsors** Rick Turney, Sue Foxx, and Linda Smith

**Other Members** Mel Johnson, Tom & Cathy Thomasino, Jim Clendenin, and Jim Sprandel

**Guests** Stevie Addison and John Hillier

The group met at the DNR Boat launch just east of the bridge on SR 124 just south of Lancaster. This was Mel Johnson's first trip since his back trouble so he was anxious and became our lead boat. It was also the maiden voyage for a wooden kayak Rick Turney built over the winter. Stevie Addison paddled it while Rick paddled another wooden kayak he had built.

With low water and lots of rocks left by the glaciers just under the surface, the river tested our paddling skills. We also ended up pulling ourselves through shallow water on more than one

occasion. At one bend, we encountered a dead pig in a pile of debris that must have been swept away in high water.

About 1 pm, we lunched on a sandbar. While all of us had nice lunches, Cathy and Tom Thomasino had a banquet complete with strawberry shortcake with whipped cream...yum!

As the river entered the reservoir, the water slowed and paddling required much more effort. Eventually, we passed into Salamonie Reservoir which was also low. It looked like a surrealist painting where short tree stumps dotted a barren sand landscape. The take out was at the DNR Boat Ramp at Majenica Creek. The trip covered 10.2 miles according to Jim Sprandel's GPS that recorded our meandering trip.

Additional photos are at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/merlin3d/sets/72157604770350497/>



*Rick Turney's New Kayak*



*Paddling through the Reservoir*



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## Trip Report — Pigeon/ Fawn Fish Fry, May 3-4, 2008

Dan Valleskey

We enjoyed two days of paddling in Northern Indiana. I think everyone had a good time on Saturday, in spite of a lot of carry overs. I have never seen that section of the Pigeon in such poor shape. I'd estimate we had 11 blockages, but some others guessed 21. The weather held off, it was very windy that last mile, and we had some light rain at the campsite in the evening. And yes, we had fish at Turkey Lake tavern. Rough estimate was 28 paddlers in 21 boats. the kayakfw e-group turned out more paddlers than the HCC.

We paddled the Fawn on Sunday, my favorite section in fact. We put in at the fish hatchery at Orland and took out just before Greenfield Mills. The sun shone. We had one mucky portage, everyone was up to the task. No one from the kayakfw e-group showed up, but we still enjoyed a good turnout; 11 adults and 5 kids floated in various combinations of boats.

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## Course Announcement—Safety and Rescue Workshop June 28, 2008

The IU Outdoor Adventure group is offering this workshop to introduce participants to situations and rescues that may be encountered in a coastal kayaking environment. Off water, the class will cover general effects of wind and weather, hypothermia, group awareness, and communication with swimmers and other group members. The class will be on the water to practice.

### Course Outline —

#### Assisted Rescues

- T-rescue
- H-rescue
- Eskimo rescue bow and paddle presentation

#### Solo Rescues

- Paddle float
- Cowboy/scramble
- Re-enter and roll

#### Towing

- Contact tow
- Simple tow using a towline
- Towing an injured or incapacitated paddler

#### Swimmers

- Rescuing a swimmer separated from his boat
- Swimming with and without your boat in tow

Participants must be able to swim and have basic paddling skills. Participants must have a suitable boat (touring/sea kayak), paddle, personal flotation device, appropriate clothing for conditions, spare dry clothing, sunscreen, plenty of water, lunch, and a good attitude. Optional items are anything else you normally take when paddling, such as a spare paddle, signaling device, towline, first aid kit, etc.

Date/Time Saturday, June 28, 2008, 10:00 am to between 5:00 and 6:00 pm

Location: Lake Monroe, Bloomington, Indiana

Cost: \$135, minimum class size is 8 participants, maximum is 17 participants

Registration: Please register by Monday June 21st.

To register on-line: Go to <http://outdoors.indiana.edu> Click on the Adventure Catalog and then click on Skills Courses. In order to proceed through the registration, you will need to fill out a membership form. Membership is free and allows you to register online.

Or send a check made payable to IU Outdoor Adventures (900 E. 7th Street, IMU M086, Bloomington, IN 47405). Be sure to include your name, address, phone, email, the name of the class and class date.

Got registration questions? **Call 812-855-2231**

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## Upcoming Events

Tues. Evenings	<b>Paddling at Eagle Creek</b> —Group Paddle at 6:00 pm.	Page 2
Wednesdays 7 pm	<b>Pool Sessions</b> —Thatcher Pool, Indianapolis, IN	April Newsletter, Page 1
June 14-15	<b>East Race Opening Weekend</b>	Page 3
June 14-15	<b>Whitewater Trip</b> —Beginner's Trip, Spring River, AR (I-II)	Page 5
June 14-22	<b>Whitewater Trip</b> —Colorado Week of Rivers	Page 5
June 17 (Tuesday)	<b>Moonlight Paddle at Eagle Creek</b> (7:00 p.m.)	Page 2
June 21	<b>Eagle Creek Triathlon</b> — Volunteers Needed	Page 2
June 21-22	<b>Whitewater Trip</b> —Lower Yough, PA (III-III+)	Page 6
Sun, June 22	<b>Flatwater Trip</b> —Driftwood Trip	Page 4
Sat, June 28	<b>IU Outdoor Adventure Safety and Rescue Workshop</b> <i>Bloomington, IN</i>	Page 11
June 28-29	<b>Whitewater Trip</b> — North Carolina Class II WW (Tuckaseege, Hiwassee, Nantahala) NC & TN	Page 6
June 29 (Sun. am)	<b>South Bend Paddlefest</b>	Page 7
June 29 (Sun. pm)	<b>Intro to East Race (II+), South Bend, IN</b>	Page 3
July 4-6	<b>Whitewater Trip</b> —Ocoee, TN (III-IV)	Page 7

**July Newsletter Deadline:** Please submit articles for the July Newsletter to Jim Sprandel by Sunday, June 15. Please E-Mail articles to [merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net) or call him at 317-257-2063.

