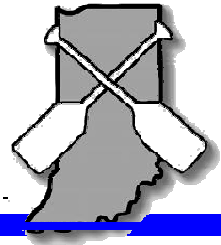


# The Hoosier Paddler



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September 2010

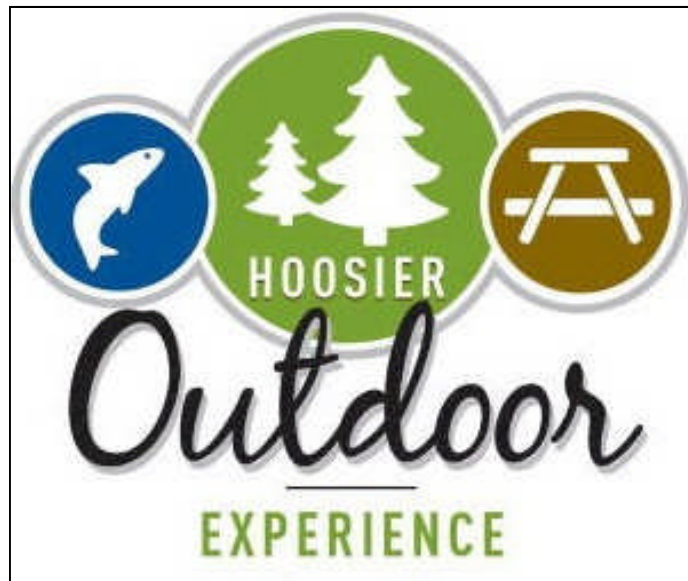
## Hoosier Outdoor Experience—September 18-19, 2010

The Indiana DNR is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Hoosier Outdoor Experience at Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park on Saturday - Sunday, September 18 and 19. This was a tremendous success last year with over 13,000 people attending. About 550 of these attendees took advantage of the Fall Creek paddle that the Hoosier Canoe Club supported. The DNR is planning an even bigger, better event this year.

For complete information on this event, go to:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/5009.htm>

**Plan to Attend:** Everyone should get out to Fort Benjamin Harrison and sample the outdoor opportunities that are available for you in Indiana. There will also be exhibits for shooting, archery, fly fishing, radio controlled boats, bow fishing, horse back riding, hiking, cycling, jet boats, camping, hunting, and wildlife. Most of these exhibits allow you to try their activity so it is a great opportunity to try new things and have some fun.



The event is free but you are encouraged to preregister at the [Hoosier Outdoor Experience site](#) above.

**HCC Participation:** This year, Dan Valleskey has worked with the Indianapolis MeetUp .group to provide paddling opportunities on both Delaware Lake and Fall Creek. The MeetUp group will support paddling on the lake while the HCC will again support a paddle trip on Fall Creek.

We will run a group of canoes or kayaks roughly every half hour. The trip should be much easier this year since the park has created a new put-in near Delaware Lake and will clear out obstacles on the stretch of Fall Creek that we will paddle so we don't have to post people at "tricky" points in the rivers. Participants will enjoy a 0.75 mile trip from the new put-in to the place where we started last year. At the beginning of each trip, trip leaders will spend a few minutes telling participants how to paddle and explaining safety considerations before leading them down the creek. Groups will be either all canoes or all kayaks and should have fewer paddlers (4-7) this year so we will be able to work with the participants more on their paddling .

**Volunteers Needed:** We will need a lot of HCC volunteers to support this activity. Please volunteer to work one or more 4-hour shifts on Saturday or Sunday. The morning shift is from 8:30 am until 1:45 pm while the afternoon shift starts at 1:15 pm and ends at 6:30 pm. The following positions have been identified for volunteers:

- **Greeter/Sign-In Person:** Works with participants to put groups together for trips on the river. You will check people in, maintain waiting lists, and assemble groups before they move to the river to meet their trip leaders. (1 per shift)
- **Boat Loader:** Works at the put-in to help load boats and people into Fall Creek. You will coordinate with the trip leader to get all participants outfitted with PFDs/paddles and then into their boats. You will need to help stabilize boats while paddlers with little or no experience enter them. Expect to get wet and dirty doing this job. (2 per shift)

- *Boat Unloader:* Work at the take out to help unload boats and people from Fall Creek. Coordinate with the trip leader to get everyone safely out of the water and the boats onto the trailer. (2 per shift)
- *Canoe Coach/Trip Leader:* Takes group of 5-7 canoes for a short paddle down Fall Creek within the park. You will equip your participants with paddles and PFDs and then give them a short orientation to paddling. You will work with the Boat Loaders and Unloaders to get people in and out of the river. (2 per shift)
- *Kayak Coach/Trip Leader:* Takes group of 5-7 kayaks for a short paddle down Fall Creek within the park. This is like the Canoe Coach/Trip Leader except for Kayak trips. (2 per shift)

Contact Dan Valleskey at [danpaddles@gmail.com](mailto:danpaddles@gmail.com) or (317) 257-9837 to let him know what shift(s) and roles you would like to work. Don't wait too long since some slots may fill up quickly! Dan will fill you in on parking arrangements for volunteers and other details closer to the event.

Be sure to take the opportunity to visit the other exhibits at this event either before or after your shift. When you show up for your shift, wear river shoes since you may have to wade out a bit to help people. Plan on bringing your lunch.

See you at the Hoosier Outdoor Experience!

## Hello, HCC

Dan Valleskey

We had a nice, but hot, Summer float and meeting. (I guess I thought the burgers and brats would cook faster in the heat). Dale Brier of Indiana DNR talked about the helpers needed for the Hoosier Outdoor Experience at Fort Harrison, September 18 and 19. It sounds like everything will be well managed this year. I would encourage everyone reading this to come out to help! Read Jim's article about the event on Page 1 of this issue, then call me. The best job, as far as I can tell, will be guiding guests down Fall Creek. Life is good! We will also be looking for people to help the public get in and out of canoes and kayaks. We still need a few greeters, although DNR people will take the lead on that job. This is your chance to share your sport with interested people and a great chance to see what it is like to teach paddling.

Also at the Summer meeting, Kevin Hardie of Friends of the White River talked about the work being done to educate people about our White River. River School is an overwhelming success, they are looking at a great way to expand it that might also benefit the Hoosier Canoe Club.

Then we surprised Jim Sprandel with a token of our thanks for the great job he has done with the newsletter. Dave Ellis presented him with a wonderful piece of stained glass art, it was an image of Jim paddling his sea kayak at dawn. Dave crafted the glass himself, working from a photo.



*Stained Glass Paddler by Dave Ellis*

The Safety Outreach Education committee is moving forward with a good plan for materials designed to reach both new boat owners and the rental/livery crowd. The HCC has learned to paddle safely, it is time to share our good practices with everyone.

We are still working on the slate of board members and officers for 2011. Please call me, or email, if you are interested, or if you can think of anyone else that would enjoy being on the board. I've said before, the HCC provides members more than just a chance to paddle. There is a sense of community, and a chance to get to know some great people. (Paddlers are the greatest people, right?) The friendships you will make, especially when you are on the board, can truly enrich your life.

**SYOTR!**

**Dan Valleskey** [danpaddles@gmail.com](mailto:danpaddles@gmail.com)



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## Raccoon Creek Cleanup—October ?, 2010

Dwayne James

We will have a clean up on Raccoon Creek on Saturday, October 2, Saturday, October 9th, or Columbus Day (Monday, October 11), whichever works best for the most people. If we have two or three people volunteer for two different days, we will have clean-ups on both days. Please let me know ASAP if you can help and which day suits you best.

We need to check the creek to make sure Raccoon Creek is clear and ready for the Covered Bridge Festival trip on October 16th.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Dwayne James for details at [kanudreams@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kanudreams@sbcglobal.net) or (317) 834-3649. And thanks for your help.

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## Eagle Creek Thursday Evening Paddles—Payback Time!

Kellie Kaneshiro

Starting in September, the Thursday evening paddles will start at 5:30pm since the days are getting shorter, and the park is closing earlier. Despite the hot weather and high water, it's been a good season with record attendance for Thursday evenings. In return for HCC Thursday evenings, we need to clean a lot of Eagle Creek shoreline.

On Thursdays, September 2, 9, 16, and 23, I'll be cleaning up Eagle Creek's shoreline and everyone is welcome to join me. Trash bags will be provided but bring your own gloves and other protective gear like bug spray. Kayaks aren't very efficient at hauling trash so if you have access to a canoe and can join in, that would be great!



*A Fall Paddle on Eagle Creek*

The Club also provides instruction and assistance with the Eagle Creek Tuesday evening paddles for the public. Dwayne James, Jim Sprandel, Linda Smith, and Brad Hughey have all volunteered their expertise and it is greatly appreciated. This season, only a handful of these paddles have taken place due to a combination of the weather and lack of sign-ups. Eagle Creek Park management is looking into possible reasons for the lack of sign-ups. A price increase, change of day, new online registration system, and the weather are all possible reasons.

September 30th will be the last official Eagle Creek paddle of the season. No trash pick-up is planned, by then we should be enjoying a trash-free view. If there is interest, we'll go out and have some dinner after the paddle.

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## Safety Reminder—Indianapolis Motorcycle hit by Canoe

On August 2, 2010, Billy Napier of Indianapolis was riding his motorcycle on a highway in South Dakota when he was struck by a canoe that fell out of a pick-up truck. He was initially listed in Critical Condition in a South Dakota hospital and [Indianapolis WISH TV](#) indicated that he was still in a coma on August 8. The driver of the pick-up truck was charged with driving under the influence and having an unsecured load.

Several HCC members asked me to include this story in the newsletter since it illustrates how important it is to properly secure your boat to your vehicle. While doing internet searches for information on this case, I came across many "near misses" and cases resulting in vehicular damage when kayaks, canoes, bicycles, and other gear flew off of cars. Bottom Line: Drivers are responsible that boats are securely attached to their car before taking off. Always do a quick check before you head out.





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## Joint Flatwater/Whitewater Trip Announcement

**New River Rendezvous**

**Labor Day Weekend, Friday-Monday Sept. 3-6, 2010**

**Flatwater, Lake Touring, Rafting, and Whitewater, Class I to V near Fayetteville, WV**

**Trip Sponsor: Dan Steely**

This rendezvous includes several paddling groups, though most from the East Coast, all into Whitewater. They range from newbies, to intermediate, and to a large group of excellent paddlers. Open boats, hard boats, several Shredders, rafts and even a couple of duckies usually show up.

Really good paddlers bringing family along often get lesser- or non-experienced family members into a larger raft so they can enjoy the river together. Every effort is made to accommodate everyone's skills/preferences. There are usually several sections to choose from, from Class I to III sections on the New River and then Gorge up to IV+. The Gauley River is close by also, if it happens to be running. Flat water is available on Summerville Lake.

The trip leader, Mike Sawyer, is also a near professional photographer with the equipment to match, and likes to go ahead of the WW groups to catch everyone's photos through the bigger rapids. His hosting site allows free downloads for anyone that wants theirs. Here's last year's crop:

[http://mikesawyer.smugmug.com/Outdoor-Sports/Whitewater/NRR-2009/9583112\\_HZo8s](http://mikesawyer.smugmug.com/Outdoor-Sports/Whitewater/NRR-2009/9583112_HZo8s)

Every day there should be options to do one of the two upper, easier sections of the New River, or the Gorge. The Gorge is most popular, of course. If the levels are a bit higher, however, many more often take advantage of the "lighter" sections. Shuttles are loosely organized but always effective and efficient enough.

We'll camp at Ray's Campground, which is a wonderful, quiet and clean campground run by, you guessed it, Ray and his wife. They're on site most of the time and great people. They really care about their customers and won't tolerate anyone causing trouble or too much noise, which is nice for everyone else. Loud, rowdy partiers should find other accommodations. Camping is \$8/person/night. Cabins are also available (bunk houses only, no baths) for an additional \$30/cabin/night (on top of the \$8/person). The shower house is nice and, well kept.

<http://rayscampground.com/>

There were probably 100+ people camping/paddling last year and probably more like 150 the previous year. It's also a great family get away for Labor Day because non-paddling family have so many other options, like rafting, hiking, biking, sight-seeing, great restaurants in the area, etc.

**Contact Information:** Contact Dan Steely at [yakofsteel@comcast.net](mailto:yakofsteel@comcast.net) for additional info or questions.

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## Touring Kayak Trip Announcement

**Manitou Island Trip, Sleeping Bear Dunes Nat'l Lakeshore**

**Trips Sponsor: Brad Hughey**

**Friday-Sunday. Sept 10-12, 2010**

We will be paddling out to the Manitou Islands from Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Empire, Michigan. We will leave Indianapolis Thursday afternoon about 4 pm for a 7-hour drive up to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and will camp at the D H Day campgrounds on the mainland.

**Friday morning:** We will leave bright and early for the 8.5-mile open water crossing of Lake Michigan to South Manitou island. This island has everything a paddler could want: beachfront camping, self composting privies, a well for water, a lighthouse, and old growth cedars. There are also shipwrecks you can see from the beach or paddle to if it is calm enough. There are also 300-foot tall sand dunes.

**Saturday:** We can hike the island or cross the 4-mile channel to day trip to North Manitou Island depending on the wave conditions.

**Sunday morning:** We will paddle back across the 8.5 mile open water crossing back to the mainland and we should be back to Indy by 8 PM.

**Trip Requirements:** On this trip, we could have fairly large wave conditions, also the crossing is through



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a shipping lane. Sea or touring boats with spray skirts are a requirement. Self and group rescue skills are also required. You will have to carry your camping gear, clothes, and food with you in your kayak.

**Contingency Plans:** If wave and wind conditions are too severe to make the crossing, there are plenty of bays, lakes, and rivers to paddle in the area.

**Contact Information:** For additional information, call Brad Hughey at (317) 848-9410.

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## Patoka Lake Trip —Wickliffe, IN

Sat.-Sun., October 2-3, 2010

**Trips Sponsor: Kellie Kaneshiro, Jim Sprandel**

Lake Patoka is the second largest lake in Indiana with about 8,800 acres of water and over 160 miles of shoreline. Hoosier National Forest surrounds the lake with rolling tree-covered hills and rock outcroppings. There are headwater to explore as well as sections where the lake starts feeling like big water. Hopefully, the rain will be more cooperative on Sunday this year.

Since it takes over 3 hours to get to Patoka, we will camp overnight at Fisherman's Camp on Saturday night and paddle both Saturday and Sunday. This campsite is located near a limited speed section of the lake which is more kayak-friendly.

Patoka Lake Map: [http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/patoka\\_trail.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/patoka_trail.pdf)

Fisherman's Campsite Map: [http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/patoka\\_camp\\_fishermen\\_youth.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/patoka_camp_fishermen_youth.pdf)

**Meeting Place/Put-In:** Boat Ramp in the Fisherman's Camp at Newton-Stewart State Recreation Area or look for my car (silver Taurus) in Fisherman's camp. Newton-Stewart SRA is just north of Wickliffe, Indiana. There is a \$5/car fee to enter the SRA.

**Directions to Meeting Place:** It is about a 3-hour drive from the intersection of I 65 and I 465 on the south side of Indianapolis to Patoka. Drive South on I-65 and get off at Exit 6B (I-265 toward I-64/IN-62/New Albany). Take Exit 0 off of I-265 to merge onto I-64W toward IN-62/St. Louis. Go about 43 miles west on I-64 to Exit 79 and then go 7 miles North on IN-37. Turn slightly left on IN 64/IN 145. Follow IN 145 north 3.6 miles until you reach Indiana 164. Turn left (west) onto IN 164 until you see the sign for Newton-Stewart SRA and then turn right (North) into the SRA. Follow the signs in the SRA to the Fisherman's Camp and look for us there.

**Note:** This is the fastest route. There is a shorter, slower, and more scenic route through West Baden.



Patoka Lake, September 2009

**Camping Information:** Fisherman's Camp is a primitive camp ground with water and vault toilets. One of us will get there on Friday but the ranger indicated that there are 45 sites and they probably won't be full after Labor Day. Try to get on Campsites 37-44 in Fisherman's Camp since they are nearest to the boat ramp. Each campsite costs \$8/night and the park allows 2 tents/cars per campsite so you may be able to share a campsite.

**What to Bring:** Bring your camping gear including food (Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast and any snacks you might need) and paddling gear. Be sure to bring your spray skirt since we will be going over to the open area of the lake near the dam and there may be some waves when the wind picks up. We'll "car camp" so you won't need to carry your gear in your boat.

**Schedule:** Saturday 10:30 am Arrive at Meeting Place. Unload boats and set up camp sites.  
11:15 am Start Paddling

Sunday We will paddle 3-4 hours Sunday Morning and then head back to Indianapolis.

**Contact information:** Contact Kellie or Jim by 8:00 pm on **Thursday, September 30:**

Kellie Kaneshiro (317) 844-3650

E-Mail [knkane@gmail.com](mailto:knkane@gmail.com)

Jim Sprandel (317) 257-2063

E-Mail [merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net)



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## Whitewater Trip Announcements

### Beaver River in New York (IV-V) Trip Sponsor: Randy Parker

Saturday-Monday, September 4-6, 2010

There are three sections of the Beaver that will be run Labor Day weekend.

On Saturday, the Orion Power company will release water on the Taylorsville section of the Beaver. This section is 1.5 miles long and has six class 3-4 drops with one steep 30-foot slide called the Great White Slide. All the rapids are pretty straight forward and lots of fun. The water will be releasing from 10-2 local time. Last year, we made 2-3 trips down without having to run a shuttle each time; because you actually hike back on top of a huge water pipe back to the put-in, it was the coolest thing!!

On Sunday, we will start by doing the Moshier section of the Beaver. This is a 4-mile run that includes 2 runnable waterfalls, a number of easy class 3 rapids and concludes with a long, technical class 4-5 rapid composed of 4 discernable drops with the last drop being Moshier Falls. The Moshier Falls section will be releasing from 10-2 local time. After running this section, we then will head over to the Eagle Section of the Beaver.

The Eagle is short and demanding. Only a mile in length, the run starts off with 4 class 5 drops where the river drops the equivalent of 475 fpm. With one rapid being a really cool looking rapid, a huge slide for about 20-25 feet and only wide enough for a kayak called Eagle Falls. This section will be releasing from 1-5 local time

On Monday, they open the Taylorsville section again from 10-2 and after one quick run we pack it up and leave since for most its 10-12 hours of driving.

Camping will be at Camp O at 9340 Long Pond Road, Croghan, N.Y., 13327. Camping was \$25 per person for the whole weekend. There are hot showers and bathrooms available at the entrance. Last year, there were signs up for us to follow once we got to the campground taking a dirt road to the middle of nowhere, but actually ended up camping at a beautiful lake.

**Contact Information:** Watch the Whitewater Forum on the Bulletin Board or contact me at [randall.parker@pepsiamericas.com](mailto:randall.parker@pepsiamericas.com)

**Editor's Note:** There is a report for this trip on Page 6 of the [October 2009 issue of the Hoosier Paddler](#).

### Upper/Lower Gauley (Class IV-V) - Gauley Fest! Trip Sponsors: Bob Heckler, Randy Parker

Friday-Sunday, September 17-19, 2010

In case you didn't know, Gauley Fest is the paddling world's biggest party. Started in 1983 to celebrate the victory against a hydro-electric project that would have disrupted whitewater flows on the Gauley River, Gauley Fest has grown over the past 26 years to become the largest river festival in the world. The 3-day festival - which features live entertainment (including the HCC's own Bob Heckler at the campsite Friday and Saturday night) and a large vendor marketplace where you can pick up great deals on paddling and outdoor gear - is also the biggest fundraising event for American Whitewater's national river stewardship work. And it's a great opportunity to paddle some of the biggest and best whitewater east of the Rocky Mountains.

No details have been set into place at this time for meeting times and locations for shuttles for the Upper and Lower groups. Bob Heckler will most likely be taking a trip down the Lower Gauley on Friday. In the past, the group usually meets at the Swiss Takeout around 10:00 am local time. Randy Parker will most likely be running an Upper trip on Friday.

On Saturday, there will most likely be several groups planning to run the Upper, Lower, Middle, or all three



*Beaver River—September 2009*





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sections. Please check the Whitewater Forum on the Bulletin Board as the date approaches for more details.

The Fest will be held again this year at Nicholas County Veterans Memorial Park on US-19 in Summersville, WV. Camping is available on the festival grounds Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at a rate of \$5 per person/night. Dogs are discouraged but camping is available for dogs at a rate of \$5 per dog/night. No reservations are taken on camping; first come, first served. Camping has been known to sell out, so plan to get there early.

American Whitewater needs volunteers for Gauley Fest. For more information on volunteering: [http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/do-op/id/aw:events\\_gauley\\_volunteer](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/do-op/id/aw:events_gauley_volunteer)

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## Trip Report—Cataract Falls Trip, July 31, 2010

Jim Sprandel



*Playing near the Falls*

Twenty-seven HCC kayakers and two dogs gathered at Cunot Public Access Site on Cagles Mills Lake to paddle up to the lower falls of Cataract Falls. We all lucked out when rain and storms didn't materialize despite a 40% chance — a welcome contrast to last year's trip. The temperature was also comfortable in the lower 80s.

We started the 3.6 mile paddle up to the lower falls at about 10:30 am and it took just a little over an hour to get up there. Everyone then played in or near the falls— going as close to the falling torrent as they dared. Dave Ellis and Joel Delashmit both managed to slide inside the curtain of the falls.

After playing, we had lunch—featuring a 20-pound water melon that had stowed away in one of the sea kayaks. People then hiked up to the Upper Falls before we paddled back. On the way back to the take out, I spotted two bald eagles so it was a good day.

We were all back to Cunot Public Access Site and heading home by 3:30 pm.

If you are looking for a nice day paddle, think about this trip since you don't need a shuttle, since the falls are spectacular to see and fun to play in, and since the Cunot Public Access Site is only a little over an hour from Indianapolis. Motorboat speeds are also restricted for this entire trip so you don't have to worry about motorboat wake. If you want a slightly longer trip, there are some interesting rock formations along Doe Creek that you can visit on the way back. Sea kayakers may enjoy paddling west from the put-in and exploring the main body of the lake.

If you go, be sure to print out the map that I made up for the trip since there are a few places where the correct channel is not obvious when you are paddling up to the falls. The map is available at:

<http://www.hccbulletinboard.org/forums/attachment.php?attachmentid=554>

Three sets of pictures from trip participants are available at:

<http://www.hccbulletinboard.org/forums/showthread.php?p=14244#post14244>



*HCC Invasion of Cataract Falls*

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**Photo Credits:** Page 6 —Elise Birch, Pages 2, 5, 7, 8—Jim Sprandel, Page 3—Joel DeLashmit





*Devils Island Harbor, Apostle Island National Lakeshore, August 2010*

## Upcoming Events

Wednesday Nights 7-9 pm	<b>Pool Sessions- Thatcher Pool</b>	March Newsletter/ <b>Bulletin Board</b>	
Thursdays 3pm-Dark 3 pm — Dark	<b>Eagle Creek Paddles, Group Paddle 5:30 pm</b>		
Fri.-Mon. Sept. 3-6	<b>New River Rendezvous. New River, WV</b>		Page 3
	<b>Joint Flatwater, Whitewater, Touring Kayak Trip</b>		Page 4
Sat.-Mon. Sept. 4-6	<b>Whitewater Trip: Upstate New York</b>		Page 6
Fri.-Sun. Sept. 10-12	<b>Touring Kayak: Lake Michigan-Manitou Island</b>		Page 4
Sat.-Sun. Sept. 11-12	<b>Whitewater Trip: Gauley First Release, WV (III-V)</b>	See Bulletin Board	
Fri.-Sun. Sept. 17-19	<b>Whitewater Trip: Gauley Fest - Gauley River, WV (III-V)</b>		Page 6
Sat.-Sun. Sept. 18-19,	<b>Hoosier Outdoor Experience, Fort Harrison, IN</b>		Page 1
Sat.-Sun. Oct. 2-3	<b>Whitewater Trip: Gauley Fall Colors, Gauley River WV, (III-V)</b>	See Bulletin Board	
Sat.-Sun. Oct .2-3	<b>Touring Kayak: Lake Patoka Overnight Trip</b>		Page 5

**October Newsletter Deadline:** Please submit articles to Jim Sprandel by Wednesday, September 15, 2010. Please e-mail articles and pictures to [merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net) or call him at 317-257-2063.

