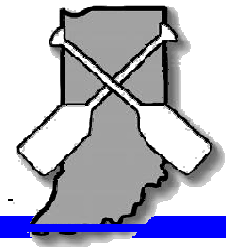


# The Hoosier Paddler



Volume 48, Issue 10

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

November 2010

## Hello, HCC

Dan Valleskey

Or should I say- Goodbye HCC!

I can't help but feel this last installment should be some sort of reflection about what the club has accomplished in the two years while I have been at the helm. But if you have been reading my monthly missives for the last two years, you know what we have been doing.

How about if I tell you what it takes to make a trip stand out for me, a favorite that I will remember for a long time? I've experienced some trips that most anyone would agree were "Grand", either in scope, duration, difficulty, or cost. But there have been some trips, over the past 20 years, that go beyond grand. They have achieved the status of "Great" in my mind.

The Great ones usually involved clear, moving waters. Some were whitewater trips, but classed rapids are certainly not a required component. I'm a river guy, but I know there are also many places where wilderness can be found without current. There was usually some feature of the place we were paddling that was exceptional. Maybe it was the absence of homes or scarcity of bridges. Wilderness is important to me and I hope to all of you. Paddling has taken me so many places that I would otherwise never be able to get to. The best don't have many roads nearby.

There was camping involved on these Great trips; it is nice to get away for a day, but it takes more time to really let a trip sink in. You need that campfire at the end of the day to make a trip fully satisfying. Without the campfire, you seldom get a chance to rehash the trip while still fresh in your mind. You have a chance to hear what other people saw you doing right (or wrong) on the river. You might get to know the folks you have been paddling with a little better. The conversation, that is the thing. Edible icing on a watery cake.

I can't remember a good campfire conversation that had much to do with canoe club finances, liability waivers, pool closures, insurance, newsletters or web pages. Or canoe clubs in general, for that matter. These things seem to make up of most of the HCC board meetings. Turns out, that stuff isn't really all that important to a Great paddle trip. People are important, rivers, lakes, rapids, and even shuttles are, but clubs just don't really matter all that much, once we get out of town.

Of course, I was not alone at those campfires. The people I have met over the years number in the hundreds I am sure. But the ones on those Great trips- almost without exception- I still know, still see from time to time. I've made some good friends while paddling, they have enriched my life. You can bet I don't forget them when it is time to load boats to head out on another (hopefully) Great trip. And yes, there are a few folks I leave off the invitation list. Chances are they were never on a Great trip with me.

My boat worked well on these Great trips. I reached a point, I guess about 14 years ago, where I was finally somewhat consistent in making my canoe behave, whether it was my whitewater canoe or my beloved Blackhawk. Some degree of skill being exhibited goes a long way toward ensuring fond memories. Although I have had plenty of trips where that skill was hiding! I've had a couple of swims I wish I could forget. It happens. It doesn't have to ruin the whole experience though.

My paddle trips the last couple years have been too few, so I have lost some of my edge in the canoe. But I think (hope) the skill is still locked in my paddle, waiting to come back one day. I hope that everyone reading this will do more to increase their skill. It is the reason we offer classes, it is the reason we polish our rolls, and we encourage members to become instructors. It is also one of the things that makes paddling special, that satisfaction from mastery of your craft of choice. Strive toward it, you won't be sorry.

I hope you have some Great canoe trips in the years ahead.

*(continued on Next Page)*

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I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to point out that whatever gains the club has made in the past 2 years, whatever feathers we have in our caps, have only come about because I have had a hard working board of thoughtful, intelligent paddlers to work with. I want to thank my board members and committee chairs for making the HCC great.

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

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## HCC Fall Meeting, Saturday November 13, 2010

The HCC Annual meeting will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2010. We will update you on what the club has done in the last year, talk about upcoming events for 2011, and elect officers for 2011.

There will be a swap meet before the meeting so bring what you want to sell or bring money to spend.

**Pitch-In Dinner:** We will have a pitch-in dinner. The HCC will supply the meat and soft drinks. Other drinks are BYOB. Please bring complementary items such as mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, dressing, salads or desserts.

**Table Decoration Contest:** This year we will be having the first ever HCC Table Decoration Contest!

**Theme:** Paddling! Anything to do with paddling: a trip, club activity, water wildlife, boats or gear.

Prizes will be awarded for entries judged most artistic, most creative, best 3-dimensional photo display, best whitewater, best flatwater, best touring, best edible, and best child's entry.

Entries can be very simple, elaborate, whatever you are inspired to do. The displays will be on the dining tables so they should be no larger than 12x18 inches at the base and can be smaller. Bring your display with you to the Pitch-In.

**When:** Saturday, November 13th, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Where:** Holt Community House (Scout Hut) behind John Strange Elementary School  
3660 East 62nd Street, Indianapolis

John Strange is on 62nd between Keystone and Allisonville. The Holt House is behind John Strange School, drive behind the school, to the North and the East.

### Schedule:

1:00 pm	Swap Meet
2:00 pm	Dinner
3:00 pm	Presentation
3:45 pm	Annual Meeting/Election of Officers

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## 2011 Election of HCC Officers and Board of Directors

The HCC nominating committee met on September 9, 2010 and submitted their slate to the HCC Board of Directors on October 12. The committee members were Rob Friedman, Garry Hill, John Wainscott, Theresa Kulczak, Terry Busch and Dan Valleskey.

The election for the four club officers and the twelve nominees for the Board of Directors listed below will be held at the Fall meeting—Saturday, November 13, 2010 (see above).

### 2011 HCC Nominees:

<b>Skipper:</b>	Theresa Kulczak
<b>Executive Officer:</b>	Dwayne James
<b>Purser:</b>	Jim Clendenin
<b>Yeoman:</b>	Susi Megathlin

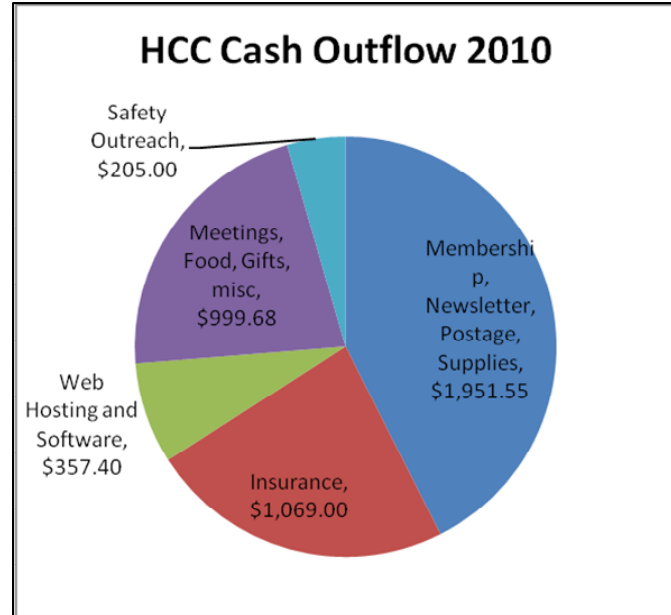
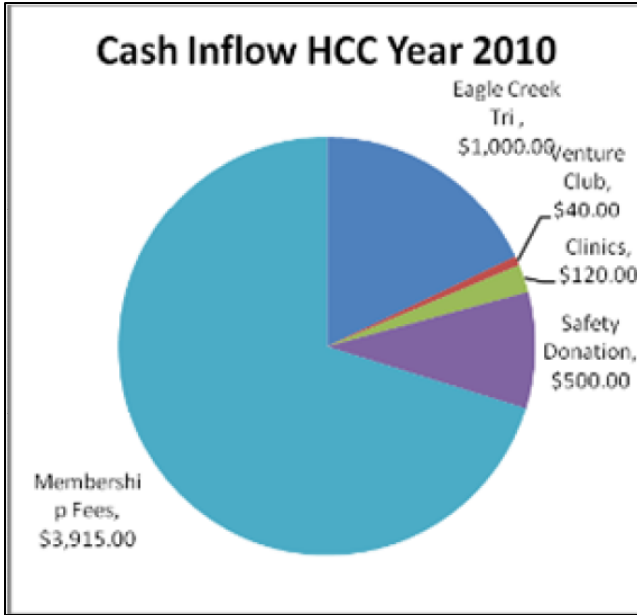
### Board of Directors:

Mariann Davis	Joel DeLashmit	Dan Evard	Sue Foxx
Robert Henry*	Kellie Kaneshiro	Jordan Ross	Matt Slagel
Linda Smith	James Sprandel	Ken Starrs*	Barry Welling*

\* indicates a new board member.

Dan Valleskey will become a member of the board as immediate past Skipper.





For the fiscal year ending November 15, 2010, the Hoosier Canoe Club will have approximately \$13,000 in cash. The board has committed but not yet spent \$3,000 for the Safety Outreach Project. An additional \$500 is being held in trust for Safety Outreach Project. The Board has also set aside \$5,000 as a minimum balance to be retained for perpetuation. After considering restricted cash, we have \$4,500 of unrestricted cash as of November 15, 2010.

The financial activities for the year 2009 and 2010 are substantially the same except for: 1) the non recurrence of the Pirate Party and 2) postage and printing costs were \$1,000 less in 2010. For the past two years, revenues have been about \$5,500 and expenses \$4,500 for a net increase in cash for each year of \$1,000. The 2010 postage savings of \$1,000 was offset by decreased membership fees, increased insurance, and increased miscellaneous costs.

**Jim Clendenin**  
HCC Purser

**HCC Thursday Evenings at Eagle Creek Park**

**Kellie Kaneshiro**

It was great seeing the regulars and some new faces at the Thursday evening paddles at Eagle Creek Park. Thanks to all who took advantage of the HCC - Eagle Creek Park partnership which allows HCC members to enter the park at no charge and paddle on Thursday nights May through September.

In return for the Thursday evening paddling privilege, the HCC provides instruction and safety boating for Eagle Creek Park's weekly canoe/kayak program. Thank you to Dwayne James, Jim Sprandel, Brad Hughey, and Linda Smith for volunteering to lend their expertise and skills to this program

HCC members were responsible for putting in 78 hours of effort to keep the Eagle Creek shoreline clean. Special thanks go to Clark Kahlo for putting in 38 hours towards this effort. Dave Ellis, Jim Sprandel, John Wainscott, Tom Beckerich, Duane Garloch and Kellie Kaneshiro put in the balance of clean-up hours. HCC members pulled out a wide assortment of trash from the reservoir. Jim Sprandel helped park personnel rescue several stray boats and he assisted several sailors with their efforts to get back to shore.

A big thank you goes to Carrie Williams, Supervisor of Nature Centers for Eagle Creek Park, for being great to work with and for playing a key role in making this HCC-Eagle Creek Park partnership a success.

Lastly, get out and visit Eagle Creek Park, it's a fun place to visit fall, winter, spring and summer. And if we didn't see you out on the water this year, we'll see you next year!



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## Flatwater Trip Announcement

**Pigeon and Fawn River Fish Fry Trip, Mongo IN. Saturday-Sunday, October 30-31, 2010**  
**Trip Sponsor: Dan Valleskey**

For a number of years, I've been heading to the Pigeon River and Fawn River in Northern Indiana around Halloween weekend. This year, it works out to be the weekend of Oct 30 and 31. I invite a handful of paddle groups, including the HCC, PSC, IYAK, Wildcat Expeditions, Nick's Boater Bunch, and the Fort Wayne Kayak internet group.

After paddling a nice section (exact trip to be determined with a mid-morning meeting time) on Saturday, we head to a local watering hole for some fish fry. We will camp at the Pigeon River Fish and Game campground on Saturday night near Mongo.

Sunday morning is breakfast at a restaurant, then we head to a different river. We try to take out early enough that the drive home doesn't become a burden. It is easy enough to paddle either day, you do not need to stay for both. (but you don't want to miss the fish fry on Saturday night!)

There are a handful of rivers and lakes to paddle in that area, and each one offers several nice trips. We generally do not do real long trips but we work in a stop for lunch. Both the Pigeon and the Fawn are favorites; small, clear running streams. The terrain varies considerably, you might feel you are on a North woods river, then three bends of the river later, and you think you are in an Alabama wetland. Wildlife is plentiful, shuttles are short.:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/images/fw-PigeonRiverMap.png>

It is late in the year, the water will be cool. Leave the blue jeans in the car—paddling in late Fall requires fleece sweaters, proper paddling pants and a waterproof jacket. A change of clothes packed in a dry bag is a must.

It takes about 2 1/2 to 3 hours drive time from Indy. I may head up Friday night, to grab my favorite campsite at Mongo. Exact put-in (and time) will be announced later. And, we are kid- and dog-friendly, I might have one or two of my own in tow. Kids must have proper padding clothes though, and there would be nothing wrong with a safe costume. After all, it is Halloween!

**Contact Information:** Check the HCC BB for the exact meeting time and place in the [Flatwater Forum of the HCC Bulletin Board](#). Or drop me a note for info or about borrowing a boat at [danpaddles@gmail.com](mailto:danpaddles@gmail.com) or try my cell (317) 413-0324



*Dan V. on Pigeon River, Oct. 2009*

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**Downtown Indianapolis Paddle, White River**  
**Trip Sponsor: Joel DeLashmit**

**Saturday, November 6, 2010**

Many of us may have paddled the White River North or South of Indianapolis, but there is another part of the White River that is often neglected. It may not have as many trees and may not be as secluded as other parts but there is wildlife to be seen and a wonderful view of the downtown Indianapolis skyline from a unique perspective. The HCC participated in a river bridging ceremony for the White and Colorado rivers in 2008 on this section of the river:

<http://www.imax.com/indy/films/grandcanyonriver.htm>

We will be paddling on a section of the river from 16th street down to Oliver Street across from the GM Metal Fabrication building and back. If time and water levels permit, we may head up Fall Creek for a little while past the IUPUI complex.



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**Meeting Place and Put-In:**

Pepper Construction. Off of 16th Street just East of Lafayette Road.  
1850 W 15th St  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2027

**Trip Length:** 5-6 miles

**Schedule:** 10:00 am Gather at the Meeting Place  
10.30 am Start Paddling

**Trip Requirements:** The trip is open to all types of boats and would be good for beginners. There is usually very little current and levees on both sides throughout the trip. Launching will consist of carrying gear up a small hill (the levee) and down the other side. This will be November so dress accordingly.



*Joel on White River—November 2009*

**Contact Information:** Pleased contact me by Friday November 5th if you plan to attend.  
Joel DeLashmit (317) 656-1597, [joeldelashmit@gmail.com](mailto:joeldelashmit@gmail.com)

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**Whitewater Trip Announcements**

**Ocoee Halloween Paddle - Ocoee River, Ocoee, TN. Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 30-31, 2010**  
**Trip Sponsor: Randy Parker**

There will not be a Halloween Fest this year. However, most people show up to paddle in Halloween gear anyways. We will be camping at Adventures Unlimited.

I will be in Tennessee the whole week on vacation with my brother visiting relatives and we will probably drive over Saturday morning. We will paddle with the group on Saturday and will probably leave Sunday morning for home. Those that are paddling the Ocoee on Sunday will be on their own. Our plans could change for Sunday but as for now we will leave it as planned.

**Contact Information:** Check the Bulletin Board or contact me at [Randall.Parker@pepsico.com](mailto:Randall.Parker@pepsico.com).

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**Tohicken Creek, Allentown, PA. Friday-Sunday November 5-7, 2010**  
**Trip Sponsor: Randy Parker**

We will leave Thursday night and will drive to Zac and Elise's home around Uniontown, Pa. We will paddle something locally on Friday whatever is running—options for that day could include the Upper Yough on natural flow, the Cheat, the Lower Yough, Stoneycreek, etc.

After paddling on Friday, we will then drive to Jen's house in Orwigsburg, Pa., and spend the night there. We will leave Jen's house Saturday morning and head over to the Tohicken Creek. We will paddle this creek as many times as you want since it is only 5 miles long. This creek is continuous class II-III whitewater, and with all the rain they have been getting out there lately could raise it up a notch. Then after several runs we will head over to Applejack's where our very own Big Drop will be setting up for a few hours of partying.

Sunday will probably be a drive home day since it could be a 12-13hr drive back for those of us in north-west Indiana. However, the rest of you can stay and paddle with the Pennsylvania folks until 5pm if you like, camping will be at the take out. Last year, there was a buffet of hot soups, oysters, clams, burgers, hotdogs, brats, etc, or you could eat at Applejack's if the weather is cold or raining.

**Contact Information:** Check the Bulletin Board or contact me at [Randall.Parker@pepsico.com](mailto:Randall.Parker@pepsico.com).



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## Whitewater Trip Report: Russell Fork Trip, October 9-10, 2010

Rob Friedman

HCCers from beginners to intermediates to experts took all the Russell Fork has to offer— from Class I to Class V—over the glorious October 9-10 weekend, under blue skies and temperatures in the 80s. Jordan Ross and Bill Mandler took on the easy (Class V) gorge section both days. Henry took Sherrie on the Lower section Sunday. The real adventurers took on the Class II-III+ Upper – Aaron and his incredible oldest two boys – Ewan (12) and Callum (10), who have become competent Class II-III paddlers – Eric, Barry (who river boarded with style Sunday) and your humble narrator. We were joined by Henry Saturday and four paddlers from a group called the Vikings from Louisville – Greg and wife Karen, Paul and Dan – who knew the lines on the Upper. I always knew there was something strange about the Kentucky accent.

The dam-fed Russell Fork releases only in this season and is well worth the trip – about 6½ hours from Indianapolis. The Upper is surrounded by sandstone ledges and hardwoods that were starting to turn. Along with the spectacular setting, it's a great beginner-to-intermediate run with lots of action – a bit like Wolf 2 and 3 – boulders, rocks, small drops and wave trains on moderate gradient, where the right line is more important than strength. There's one exception – 20 Stitches is a long, powerful Class III+/IV rapid with several distinct drops and a couple nasty holes to avoid – with Class III “sneaks” down the right or left sides.

Ewan and Callum were the stars – they handled just about everything thrown at them – including some class III drops, holes and wave trains – with a couple of brief swims between them. On Saturday, we put on at the base of Flanagan Dam, where the release pours out of a massive pipe, to run the 2-mile section of the Pound River, which flows into the Russell Fork. This section is a good warm-up, with 4-5 mostly wave train Class IIs reminiscent of the Elkhorn. It ends with Splashdam, a 4-foot slide under a bridge into a wave hole. We ate lunch at the beach below.

The action picks up on the Russell Fork proper and the boys showed their stuff. There are three Class IIs or II+s – including the long Railroad rapid – before 20 Stitches, which we scouted on river right. (It's easy to do as a line of rocks walls off the entrance to the rapid; you can also portage on the right.) Henry took the main line – busting through a tricky curler in the middle, next to a pour over – then set up in an eddy to watch for the boys. Aaron and I led them down the right, pausing in an eddy about halfway down. It looked tricky from there so we took the boys out and walked the rest, but we saw there was a line they could handle down the right. We returned to our boats and followed Henry and Eric down the middle-left of the rapid, where there was a lot of action.

After 20 Stitches come five or so Class IIs and II+s, including Johnny Rock, a bit like Eddy Turn on the Lower Yough. Ewan donated a paddle to the water gods, but the rest of the day was run without mishap.

Sunday, the same crew put on the Russell Fork after Splashdam, Henry and Sherrie heading to the Lower and Barry trading his kayak for a riverboard. We had more of the same, with Ewan and Callum acing a variety of lines, drops, and wave holes. At 20 Stitches, Eric ran the main line and set up to watch for the boys. I led Ewan and Aaron led Callum down the right. Ewan made it clean down the entire rapid – a solid Class III line with some decent drops – to a lot of whooping (mostly from the guys over 12). Callum eddied out partway down and portaged with Aaron's help. Both boys did the last drop of the rapid, also a Class III, like champs. Barry boarded the meat of 20 Stitches with no problems – in fact, some of the rocks were pleading for mercy.

We had one mishap in the rapid – about halfway down on a left line, Greg, from the Vikings, swam. He held onto his paddle and climbed a rock in mid-rapid, but his boat was pinned on rocks out of reach. But providence favors fools and kayakers, and before we could mount a difficult rescue, two rafts came by – one picked up Greg and the other his boat.

We spent the rest of the perfect day marveling at Ewan and Callum as they easily handled the rest of the river – including some less-than-perfect lines from yours truly. It reinforced to me that the Upper Russell Fork is a perfect place for paddlers with maybe 6-12 months of moving water experience. An alternative to Wolf 2-3, a notch up from the Nantahala, easier than the Lower Yough -- all in an incredible landscape. No doubt Jordan will try to make the Gorge that he ran sound harder -- like Class V, knowing him.



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## Qajaq Training Camp

Qajaq is the Greenlandic word for kayak. Qajaq Training Camp is an annual event held at a beautiful site on a peninsula bordered by Lower Herring Lake and Lake Michigan near Frankfort, Michigan. The camp is sponsored by Qajaq USA, the American Chapter of Qaannat Kattuffiat—the Greenland Kayak Association.

This year, there was a Friday Greenland paddle making workshop which was limited to eight participants. I was lucky enough to secure a place in the workshop, so I opted for the Thursday arrival date. It was a beautiful late August day when I arrived at the camp parking lot. I was greeted by the camp organizers and loaded my gear onto the pontoon boat (there is no car access to the camp) and got into my kayak for the short paddle over to the camp.

On Friday, we met with Don Beale and Joanne Barta for the paddle making workshop. A good Greenland paddle is special and is made to fit its owner. Typically, they are made of wood (some modern ones are made in carbon fiber) and consist of a long and relatively narrow blade and a short, shoulder-width loom (shaft).

These paddles are sometimes affectionately called “sticks,” while “the other” paddles are called European paddles or “spoons.” Why I enjoy paddling with a “stick” could be the subject of another article. Don Beale created a personalized “blank” (roughed out version of the paddle) for each participant. Carving the paddles was hard work using hand tools, but at the end of the day, eight Greenland paddles were born. While we were hard at work, some of the instructors had gone to play in the Lake Michigan surf. After dinner, there was a slideshow of the surf play, talk of spectacular surfing wipe outs and afterwards there was a bonfire on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Saturday morning found Chef Michael Gray (Director of Uncommon Adventures and author of a wilderness cookbook) and his crew busy making blueberry pancakes. After breakfast, more fun ensued. It started with a forward stroke session. After lunch, people gathered on the dock in Lower Herring Lake for the Greenland rolling demo. Greenland style rolls were developed to address a variety of capsizing situations that could occur while hunting marine mammals. These rolls were essential to survival. About ten kayakers demonstrated some of the different rolls (there are 35 capsizing maneuvers in the Greenland Kayaking Championships), and Cheri Perry demonstrated the “no hands” roll also known as the “straight jacket” roll. After being inspired, we went off with our mentors to work on rolls. What surprised me was the gentle but firm insistence on working on both the offside and the onside. I worked on the standard Greenland extended paddle roll and static bracing. It’s important to note that while there is a lot of tradition in Greenland style kayaking, it is still evolving and many of the skills are applicable to the modern kayaker. Saturday evening featured a presentation on life in Greenland (if you’re up for a trip there, ask Chef Michael), raffle, silent auction, and huge wood shaving fueled bonfire (from the previous day’s paddle making session).

To learn more about Greenland kayaking, the Qajaq USA website is a good place to start: <http://www.qajaqusa.org/> Qajaq Training Camp is usually held in late August—they are having some problems with their website (<http://www.qajaqtc.org>). You can also talk to me, I’m not an expert but I’ll be happy to share what I know with you.

Kellie Kaneshiro



*Explaining the Greenland Paddle*



*The Straight Jacket Roll*

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**Photo Credits:** Pages 4, 5, 8—Jim Sprandel, Page 7—Kellie Kaneshiro





Lunch Stop—Raccoon Creek, Mansfield, IN, October 16, 2010

## Upcoming Events

Wednesday Nights 7-9 pm	<b>Pool Sessions- Thatcher Pool</b>	March Newsletter/ <b>Bulletin Board</b>
<i>Halloween Weekend,</i> Sat.-Sun. Oct. 30-31	<b>Flatwater —Pigeon/Fawn Fish Fry, Mongo, IN</b>	Page 4
Sat.-Sun. Oct. 30–31	<b>Whitewater—Ocoee Halloween Paddle - Ocoee , TN</b>	Page 5
Sat. Nov. 6	<b>Flatwater—White River, Downtown Indianapolis, IN</b>	Page 4
Fri.-Sun. Nov. 5-7	<b>Whitewater Trip: Tohicken Creek, Allentown, PA.</b>	Page 5
Sat. Nov. 13, 1 pm—5 pm	<b>HCC Fall Meeting</b>	Page 2

**February Newsletter Deadline:** The next issue of the Hoosier Paddler will be the February 2011 issue. Please submit articles to our new editor, Kim Henry, by Saturday, January 15, 2011. Please e-mail articles and pictures to [editor@hoosiercanoecub.org](mailto:editor@hoosiercanoecub.org).

