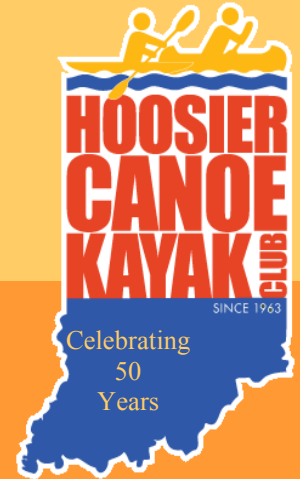


The Hoosier Paddler

September 2013, Vol. 51 Issue 8 <http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/>



Skipper's Message

At board meetings I always get to hear about all the fun trips taken by whitewater, flatwater and sea kayakers but this month the Green River Trip will be one that will be remembered and recounted for all the crazy things that happened. It is a reminder that trip leaders need to be flexible when campsites flood, you discover your dinner restaurant has burned to the ground, and someone ties up to a dead tree that falls...really?!!!! This is also the time of year that we start looking for members who are interested in serving the club. We need people for the board as well as for committee chairs like flatwater or safety. Our club needs a variety of people with different skills so let me hear from you and we'll get you involved. On that same note, Hoosier Outdoor Experience is September 21-22 at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis. It is an opportunity to expose people of all ages to paddling but it takes lots of people to fit life vests, load boats and patrol on the water. Consider volunteering today! Sue Foxx

In this issue:

Front Page: Skipper's Message

Sea Kayak Trip Announcements:

Page 2: Manitou Island

Page 3: Ohio River Paddle and Campout

Flatwater Trip Announcements:

Page 2: Chain O Lakes

Page 3: White River:

Waverly to the Henderson Ford Bridge

Page 4: MICHIGAN PADDLERS RENDEZVOUS V

Trip Reports

Page 4: Green River, Ky

Page 5: Happy Birthday HCC Part 8 of 11

Page 7: Royalex is Dead!! FYI

Volunteers NEEDED!

HOEX: Hoosier Outdoor Experience

September 21-22

Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis

I think this is the 5th year of HOEX so it is our 5th year of providing hundreds of adults and children an opportunity to experience the joy of paddling—at least for 15-20 minutes around the small pond inside Ft. Benjamin Harrison State Park. Last year, we provided canoe experiences to 1882 paddlers and another 736 people tried out kayaks. We had the help of the Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy students to muscle the boats around for about 4 hours each day so us older folks were able to stand up to the pace of getting people into PFD's, handing them a paddle and giving a brief 30 second talk on how to hold it, use it, and to sit still in the canoe. Nothing fancy, no certifications needed. Please contact Sue Foxx to schedule a 3-4 hour block of time on Saturday or Sunday—or both! We provide drinks and lunch. The paddlers supply the smiles. Sufox713@aol.com or 317-363-4074.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Trip Announcement
Chain O'Lakes State Park Saturday, October 5, 2013
Trip Sponsor: Sue Foxx

Nine connecting lakes will be the center of your adventures at Chain O'Lakes. We will paddle through the chain of serene kettle lakes created as the glaciers receded. The eight lakes form a six-mile long east to west chain from Long Lake to Miller Lake. Miami Indian villagers once resided along the north shore bluff of Bowen Lake. If you want to camp and do a second day on your own, you can go to <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/5060.htm> to reserve a site. There is a \$5 park entrance fee. You will also need a 2011 DNR Lake Access sticker for this trip or be ready to pay a fine of about \$113 if stopped by a conservation officer. The trip will be an easy one for beginners but also fun for intermediate and skilled paddlers. Some of the channels at the far end of the can were blocked last year due to beaver activity and low water so we will start in the middle at the swimming pavilion and decide on the best route.

Schedule:

11:00 Arrive at Put-In
11:30 Start Paddling
1:00 Lunch
4:00 Off the water

Meeting Place: Main gate at Chain-O-Lakes State Park (2355 E 75 South, Albion, IN 46701)

Directions to Meeting Place from Indianapolis:

Take I-69 north for 109.7 miles.
Take exit 109B/Goshen Rd onto US-30 W and go .7 miles.
Take the ramp onto US-33 N toward Elkhart and go 17.9 miles .
Turn right on S IN-9 and go 4 miles.
Turn R on E County Road 74S and go 1.9 miles.
Turn L on E County Road 75 S and go .4 miles.
Park entrance should be on the left.

What to Bring: I will bring hot dogs and a grill but plan to bring anything else you want for lunch. Also don't forget water, sunscreen, a dry bag of extra clothes, and paddling gear. Dress for the weather since October can start to get cold.

Sea Kayak Trip Announcement
Manitou Island Trip:
September 13-15
Trip Sponsor: Brad Hughey

A nice trip to Sleeping Bear Dunes park in Michigan. Please contact Brad Hughey for details at 317-564-8041 or email at hughey_brad@yahoo.com



**Sea Kayak Trip Announcement
Ohio River Paddle and Campout
September 28-29
Trip Sponsor: Andy Thieneman**

2013 Ohio River Trip. We will launch on the Ohio River just west of Blue River. Saturday we will paddle out and back downriver thru the "Big Bend". This is a very scenic and isolated area of the river. Sunday we'll paddle upriver, out and back, with the high bluffs of the 26,000 acre Harrison-Crawford state forest on the north bank.

Campsite: Frank O'Bannon state park. If going west on Interstate 64 take the Corydon exit and go about 1.5 miles south on Hwy 135. Turn right, west, on Hwy 66 and go about 7 miles. Turn left on Hwy 462 which goes into the state park. We will be car camping. Showers, flush toilets, and electric hookup for RVs are available. There are several 5 star restaurants in Leavenworth, the Overlook and the Dock, that we could eat at Saturday evening. I will probably go early Friday and do some kayaking.

Meeting Place/ Put In: From the intersection of Hwy 66 and Hwy 462 go 5.5 miles west on Hwy 66 and turn left on Wyandotte Ave. Go 1.2 miles and take a left turn. If you end up in old Leavenworth you have gone too far. Shortly after the left turn you will see the parking lot on the left. This is a public launch, very nice.

What to Bring: Paddling gear, overnight camping gear

Trip Requirements: Sea or touring kayak with spray skirt and fore/aft bulkheads are required.

Schedule: Saturday 10:00AM EDT. Meet at launch site

Sunday Will be negotiable

Contact Information: Andy Thieneman. e-mail. actjr33@gmail.com. Phone. 812-217-0722

**Trip Announcement:
White River: Waverly to the Henderson Ford Bridge
Saturday, September 28, 2012
Trip Sponsor: Mariann Davis**

Once again it's time to spend more time in your boat than on an endless shuttle. Join me on September 8, so I can again prove this fact. This paddle is 9.2 miles long taking approximately 3-4 hours with Lunch –depending on whether you eat in or carry out. Eagles are often sited on this section of the west fork of the White River so be prepared with camera ready. For those of us not geologically challenged, it is worth mentioning that this section of the White River is a former "Pleistocene glacial sluiceway"... I'm very serious. (Do not attempt to repeat this after a few beers)...but for further verification and explanation click on the link below:

<http://igs.indiana.edu/MarionCounty/GlacialGeology.cfm>

Directions and Meeting Place:

Meet at the gas station just off SR 37 and SR 144 (West side of 37) at 10:00 AM. The station is about 20 minutes from the 465 south and SR 37 junction. We will run the 15 min shuttle after unloading our boats at the put-in 5 minutes away. Contact Mariann @ marianndvs@gmail.com if interested and for any other communication call C-317-213-5600.

**Look for a cancellation email Friday, September 27, as weather and water may not cooperate. (No email is a GO email). Hope to see you, then. Mariann

Trip Announcement

MICHIGAN PADDLERS RENDEZVOUS V (September 26-29)

Trip Sponsor: Mark Spurrier

Place: Coolwater on the Pine, Wellston MI

Rivers: Betsie, Manistee, upper Pine, lower Pine

Other activities:

Thursday night Tastefest,

Saturday night potluck,

Sunday night sing along.

Registration: \$5

(covers cost of firewood for community campfire and rain shelter)

Camping: \$12 per person

Souvenir T-shirts available. \$15 (must be ordered by Sept 7)

Full details at:

michiganpaddlersrendezvous.blogspot.com

or call Mark at (574) 300-7864 or Coolwater Campground at (231) 862-3481

Trip Report

Green River, Ky Aug. 9-11, 2013

Natalie Needham

Friday, August 9th, some of us were able to somehow work out a caravan down to Mammoth Cave National Park (MCNP). After driving about 3.5 hours through near perfect weather, we arrived at our group campsite. About ten minutes after our arrival, the skies opened up with the enthusiasm of a spring storm; but lasting over an hour. The group campsite originally planned for Friday was very small, had limited parking, and flooded. Great start! We were able to swap over to a drier and larger campsite(s) in Loop C; sites C74 and C77. Perfect! We were able to string up a makeshift shelter out of a tarp, using a kayak paddle for the center pole. Meanwhile, in the midst of the storm and limited cell phone service, a group member calls from Muncordville, KY to inform us our dinner plans with Big Bubba Bucks Belly Busting BBQ Bliss won't happen because the place had burnt down. Absolutely wonderful start! I'm still laughing at the ridiculousness of it all....how things can totally melt down in a matter of a couple of hours. However, in the midst of the chaos, someone broke out their little propane powered grill and someone else mentioned that they happened to pack 3 pounds of marinated carne asada steak with tortillas. Fantastic! By the time the rain let up, the camp store was closed...so no fire Friday night. However, we had our bellies full, camp was set up, and all were quite content for the night.

Saturday morning brought some more adventurers down to KY, I met them at McDonald's in Cave City. During the rendezvous, another storm popped up. At that moment, plans were scratched for the day and we reserved the campsites for another night. While waiting for the rain to break, some went back to their tents to nap. Now, this is probably the most important lesson learned on the trip: if you use a hammock tent with a fly, make sure you tie up to a tree that's NOT DEAD. One of our group members narrowly escaped his head becoming part of the humus by tying up to a dead tree and it falling a mere 10 inches from his head. This trip is off to an absolutely stellar start!!!!

Continued on next page 6



Mariann Davis**Rick Tekulve—River Guru: “Many are called but few can answer”...**

“I’ve never been in a kayak”...Yep, it’s hard to believe but that is a direct quote from one of our most prominent, long-time members of the club. Richard Tekulve (1985) may have never been in a kayak but—drum roll please—he has paddled over 12,000 river miles on 200 different streams. To give a better perspective: that’s half way around the world and he does all that paddling in one of seven canoes in his fleet stabled at his home in North Vernon, Indiana. He has explored over 3,200 miles (non-repeating miles) in 87 of Indiana’s 92 counties. As a member in eleven paddling clubs throughout five states, it’s no wonder that his canoe has become a permanent ornament atop his truck.

So, why canoe not kayak? He feels that people who paddle kayaks are seeking more the adventure, motivated more by the accomplishment than the journey. [Let’s hear a rebuttal from the white water paddlers]. Richard loves the journey and even while paddling solo (as long as forty miles on one trip) finds that the river is his only needed travelling companion. On the practical side, it’s not so easy to conjure up a shuttle. Therein lays the quandary for most of us. Richard finds no dilemma here and in any remote town, Richard states, there lives a potential shuttle. Stories about searching for shuttles can be the topic for another David Sedaris book.

Like a poet, Richard will describe a river from the river’s point of view, experiencing the water, its color, its temperature, its personality in the action of the flow and the gradient. What makes this river behave the way it does? He calls this the architecture of the river. These points of reference are his personal GPS. He doesn’t bend to technology to deliver that information, he simply paddles by what should be called visual memory of the river...many call it “by the seat of your pants”. Therefore, the absence of other paddlers contributes to and enhances his visual perspective and intimacy of each river. He says, nostalgically, that the past trip reports were more descriptive on these details. I say, I can’t wait for one of your trip reports.

When asked, Richard has no trouble naming his favorite rivers while at the same time making critical judgments about them. He likes Sugar Creek, a stream enjoyed by many HCC members, and he calls the White River at Brookville the impatient one. He says that the Fourteen Mile Creek in Clark County is very fast and scattered with waterfalls. He regards the Pigeon and Fawn, also one of Dan Valleskey’s favorites, fondly. The Blue River ranks very high on the moving water list and is a great overnigher—he has completed the entire Blue River paddle from Salem, Indiana to the Ohio River.

Richard either has undaunted courage (a reference to the historical novel of the Lewis and Clark expedition) or has an insatiable obsessive-compulsive educational yearning when it comes to river trivia. Probably both statements are relevant and true. He would be happy to share his knowledge and his favorite haunts to other paddlers who visit from the tri-state area uncertain of paddle-able rivers and in need of a paddling companion. It would be a big undertaking, but he has a vision of a state-wide web based directory whereby paddlers visiting other areas can link up with those who are familiar with and enjoy paddling like rivers and streams, similar to a “Meet Up” for more serious paddlers with the same skill levels. Another vision is an accessible directory within tri-state clubs that shows a short bio of paddlers with their skill levels and the rivers they enjoy.

Like Garry Hill, Richard enjoys river politics. He challenged the DNR to promote an Indiana river guide to show both the familiar and obscure accesses on numerous Indiana rivers. At first, the DNR consented to the project but later reneged.

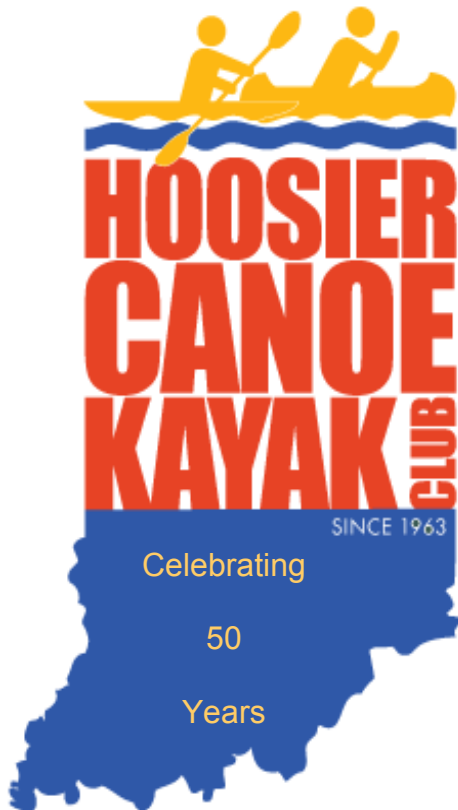
Richard may be the solitary man on many rivers but his paddle whispers: come join him on his Sand Creek trip. Sand Creek is one of his favorites. Join him...he won’t even notice!

Green River continued

We decided to pass the time with a tour of Mammoth Cave. Tours were sold out. At this point, we were able to get the weather radar on someone's phone, and it looked like it was clearing up. So it was decided to do the 8 mile paddle since it was after noon. We put in at Dennison Ferry, with the Green River Ferry being the takeout. The river was running just below 6 feet at the Green River Ferry gage and we were able to paddle into inlets not normally accessible during normal levels. We got to see some beautiful springs. It really turned out to be a fantastic paddle in the late afternoon / early evening. We got back to the campgrounds, showered, made a fire, and everyone made their own dinner to share. It was very similar to a buffet and all of the food was warm and wonderful!

We awoke to a dry Sunday morning, something we had missed the prior two days. We dropped off the boats at Green River Ferry and ran shuttle down to Houchins Ferry. Pickup trucks remain my favorite shuttle vehicle just because you can ride in the bed! The weather report for Sunday was high in the mid 80's with 93% humidity, but no storms. There were 2 caves to explore on this stretch of the river, and we broke for lunch on the far side of Boardcut Island. The island just happened to have a very nice sand bar and a rope swing....

After stopping for almost as long as we paddled, we finally made it to the take out. It ended up being a very late night for most us, getting home around midnight or later; but that day's lazy paddle was very well worth it. We had a great group of people along that truly took "remain flexible due to possible storms" to heart. It's always the trips that go so wrong that have the best memories and stories. I hope this trip resounds around campfires for a long time.



The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

ROYALEX IS DEAD

Wednesday, 07 August 2013

Written by Kaydi Pyette

Material manufacturer PolyOne ceases production of Royalex

PolyOne, the publicly held company who produces the most revolutionary material in canoeing, is closing plants and ceasing production of Royalex.

According to its press release, the plant shutdowns will produce \$25 million in annual savings for the Avon Lake-based company, which ranks as North America's largest compounder and one of the region's largest resin distributors. The closings are expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

Although the PolyOne press release doesn't say specifically that they're stopping the production of Royalex, Bill Kueper of Wenonah Canoe, Inc. told Rapid Media that, "The morning following the press release we received a phone call from PolyOne detailing the termination of the Royalex enterprise." He says that given the relatively small size of the Royalex business worldwide, he's not surprised PolyOne didn't detail this in the press release.

"At this point, we're all hoping someone else will buy the line, but there's no surety of it yet," says Tim Miller of Nova Craft Canoes. Royalex canoes represent a substantial portion of his business.

If the Royalex product isn't bought, what happens next is anyone's guess. According to Miller, there are no reasonable material alternatives to Royalex at this time—the next best option could be a three-layer polyethylene canoe, which would be stronger but also heavier. "There's nothing else like Royalex," he adds.

PolyOne's decision doesn't come as a complete surprise. When PolyOne bought out Royalex-producer Spartech Corp. last year there was discussion among canoe manufacturers that PolyOne may cease manufacturing the material. "For the size of PolyOne, Royalex is a tiny portion of what they do," Miller says. "Still, it'd be a very sad day if they close the plant and Royalex doesn't go anywhere else."

Aluminum was the choice for most canoe trippers until 1978, when Old Town Canoes and Kayaks touted the durability of its Royalex Tripper by tossing one from the roof of its Maine factory—it escaped unscathed. Due to its near-indestructibility, Royalex became the go-to material for whitewater boaters, summer camps and remote expeditions. (Conor Mihell reports on how Royalex was a game-changer in *Canoeroots* article "Royalex Revolution" here: <http://www.rapidmedia.com/departments-canoeing/item/848-royalex.html>)

While canoes come in plenty of materials that suit the needs of flatwater paddlers just fine, whitewater paddlers are particularly worried by the news. "I learned to paddle rivers in Royalex canoes. Without it, we're going to have to change the way we all paddle whitewater," says Scott MacGregor, founder and publisher at Rapid Media. "On the other hand, this may be the kick in the ass the canoeing industry needs to find a material lighter, stronger and even more durable." While MacGregor remains optimistic, he's also ordering spares of his favorite Royalex whitewater canoe models. Source: *Canoeroots*: http://www.rapidmedia.com/canoeing/categories/news/item/1602-royalex-is-dead.html?utm_source=newsletter_22&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=rmi-aug-

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