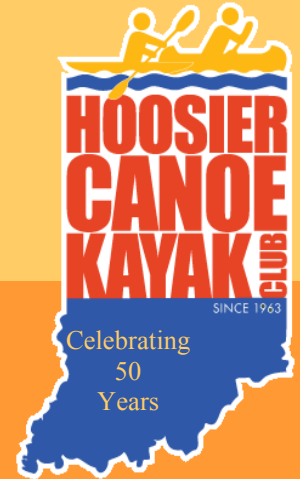


The Hoosier Paddler

March 2014, Vol. 52 Issue 3 <http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/>



Skipper's Message

I hope all of you enjoyed the new schedule and have it posted on your fridge or wall. If your copy arrived mangled let us know and we will post you a new one, or just download it from our webpage: <https://sites.google.com/site/hcctripscalendar/> We have also reworded our trip waiver form to include water related activities other than paddling, so make sure you download the newest copy and use it for your trips. I hope to see all of you on the water soon! Check out our extensive White Water trips schedule for April and May and please watch the bulletin board, emails and trips calendar as we will post more trips as they are arranged. We should have a surprise Flatwater trip on April 13. More to follow.

Jim Clendenin
Skipper

In this issue:

Front Page: Skipper's Message
DNR Permit Requirement

Trip Announcements:

Page 2: Muskrat's 37th Annual April Fools
Page 4: Sea Kayak Trips Lake Monroe
Page 5: Sea Kayak Trips Cagles Mill
Page 6: Sand Creek
Page 7: Arkansas/Missouri Canoe trip
Page 8: Sea Kayak Thoughts

Trip Reports

Page 3: Sugar Creek Ice Falls 3/1/2014

Reminder—2014 DNR Lake Permits

You must have a 2014 DNR Lake Permit if you want to paddle your boat in Indiana state parks, state managed reservoirs, or state forests. Annual permits are only \$5 per boat per year. I spoke with a DNR official at Paynetown and the fine for paddling on Monroe without a sticker is \$122.50.

The sticker should be displayed on the bow of your boat. Permits may be bought at the property offices or entrance gates at state parks, reservoirs, and forests when they are staffed. They are also available at the DNR Office on the West side of 446 just North of the entrance to Paynetown SRA. Alternatively, you may buy a pass at the Customer Service Center in the Indiana Government Center or on-line at <http://stores.intuitwebsites.com/IndianaStateParks/-strse-State-Park-Permits-cln-Watercraft/Categories.bok> .

Note: Early in the recreation season, attendants will be available at some launch ramps but not every ramp and not every day. State forest property offices may not be open on weekends and some weekdays.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Trip Announcement

April Fools on Big Pine April 5, 2014

Trip Leader: Garry Hill

Muskrat's 37th Annual April Fools on Big Pine Cruise

Meeting time: 9:30 am at our traditional gathering location in downtown Pine Village. Please do not go to the Putin! Go to Pine Village!!!. Sometimes we have to change our putin at the last minute due to water level.

There are 3 Meeting Locations: In addition to Pine Village, this event has two other meeting locations avail-able—one in Kokomo and another in Lafayette. All 3 locations and meeting times are described below:

1) The west-side McDonalds in Kokomo, corner of Sycamore & Dixon.

Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer Page 33. From US-31 Bypass, go west on Sycamore Street (first street north of Wildcat Creek). Follow Sycamore all the way thru the city. Micky-D's is on the left just before the light at Dixon Road. This is the site of the April Fool's traditional "Trip Leader's Breakfast", which has been held every year since the beginning in 1978. Muskrat will arrive at 7AM if you would like to eat, sip some coffee, and listen to some "pitifully old and raucous River Tales". We will leave from there promptly at 8:00 AM.

2) The Lafayette McDonalds just west of the Jct of I-65 & SR-26. Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer Page 31. Be there NO LATER than 8:30 AM. The group from Kokomo will arrive at 8:45 and leave ASAP, hopefully by 9:00 AM, or as soon as all the potty-stops have been accomplished.

3) Downtown Pine Village, on SR-26, about 20-miles west of Lafayette. Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer Page 30, at the Jct of SR-26 & SR-55, in beautiful, downtown Pine Village. The boat-laden auto caravan from Kokomo & Lafayette will arrive in Pine Village at, about, around, or somewhat after, 9:30 AM. Be there early!!!!!! Park anywhere downtown. Expect to see Paddler-people wandering around in the middle of the highway. The locals just ignore us. They know we're harmless, and that we'll soon be gone.

Expected Paddling Conditions: I know there may be some members who are not familiar with Big Pine Creek, so let me pass on a few words of caution: My April Fools Trip is a bit different from the normal trip, so I think it's prudent to describe this event a bit more in detail. Big Pine Creek is the best Whitewater Stream in Indiana, but it's nearly dry and not Paddleable most of the time. Enough water to make the rapids enjoyable (0" or more on the Rainsville Gauge), which happens maybe 30-40 days per year. Good water on a warm comfortable day, and you're down to about 10-15 days. When the water is up and the Sun is shining, the Whitewater rapids of Big Pine Creek draws Paddlers like "flies to road kill".

Here's an idea of what the Creek is like. At normal water levels ("0" or less on the Rainsville gauge) Big Pine is very shallow and rocky (much more so than a Summertime Wildcat or Sugar), still with many rapids that are equal to the best Wildcat Creek has to offer. However, if the water level is up (anything above "0"), Big Pine has several good Class I+ rapids. In addition, if it's up, we will also be running Rocky Ford, which is 3/4-mile of continuous Class II, with some of the best Whitewater in Indiana, easily able to swamp Open Canoes. The most fun level for this event is about 1-2 feet. Big Pine is a beautiful and fun Stream loved by Paddlers all over Indiana. Its difficulty varies greatly with flow level; ranging from a "boat-beater" in dry times, to huge waves and hydraulics in high flows.

Continued on page 3:

April Fools on Big Pine (cont)

However, Big Pine could be considered appropriate for Novice Paddlers at levels under 2-ft on the Chuck Weis Gauge, as long as their equipment is appropriate and they are part of a more experienced group.

Last Minute Updates: Each year I make a scouting run thru the Big Pine Valley on the day before my April Fools Cruise. I check the water level (on the Chuck Weis Gauge in Rainsville) immediately upon arrival. Then I visit all possible Put-ins and Takeouts, visit with the Landowners at each location, dropping off a copy of a letter if no one is home. When I'm ready to leave, I check the water level again and note any changes. My plan for that day includes being home no later than 6PM, so I can prepare my email update which I promise to have available to my Expedition Team Members after 7PM. For everyone else, I will be sitting next to both phones all evening, beginning at 7. Feel free to call me any time after 7PM to see about the water level and the expected level of difficulty. The Launch Site, however, will not be announced until we meet in Pine Village. If you're interested in attending this Cruise, but have concerns, please feel free to contact Garry Hill. **Contact info:** Garry Hill: garryhill@aol.com, 765-628-3155 home 765-432-6782 cell.

Trip Report

Sugar Creek Ice Falls Trip 3/15/2014

Trip Leader Dwayne James

Third time's the charm. What a beautiful day! Temps climbed into the mid-50's, water level was 3.2 and flow was around 1600 cfs, or as those with GPS devices measured-4.2 mph. 12 of us met to paddle Sugar Creek. However, after encountering yet another DNR roadblock to Hoosier's using our great outdoor facilities, one paddler bailed and decided to go elsewhere for the day. The parking lot at the lot next to Narrows Bridge was posted, barred and locked thus taking away all parking for the area. No longer can people enjoy the day fishing and picnicking at the Narrows Bridge area. We were able to take advantage of some non-posted private space and were thus able to get our trip underway.

We put-in at 12:30, stopped for a half hour midway at 2 pm and were off the water by 3:30 pm. The Great Blue Heron Rookery was about half full this year; it has been empty for the last several years. No eagles were seen, but many red-tailed hawks and other hawks were spotted as well as one early season turtle. A rough take out awaited us at the Narrows Bridge due to the steep climb, soft ground, high water and old bones, but we worked together and all made it off the water with no loss of gear or dignity.

I posted some video to my facebook page of people running the big wave train just past our lunch site. The self video I tried to take of me running the wave train came out mostly sky and trees and too much blue language as I peered down into the abyss created by the waves and questioned my abilities to stay upright and miss the big rock while taking on waves. My favorite part of the trip!! As always, we had a great day, saw lots of ice formations, enjoyed great conversations with fellow paddlers, and cannot wait to do the trip again next year!!!



The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Sea Kayak Trip Announcements—



Lake Monroe Overnight Paddle Saturday-Sunday, April 5-6, 2014

Trip Sponsors: Jim Sprandel

Please join us on Lake Monroe to enjoy an early season paddle. Monroe is the largest lake in Indiana and it is my favorite Indiana destinations. We will paddle on the east side of the 446 Causeway and camp overnight at one of the shoreline campsites in Deem Wilderness. There is nothing like a warm campfire in the evening during the Spring.

If you only want to Paddle on Saturday, our campsite will only be about 2-3 miles from the Cutright put-in so that people are welcome to come out and day paddle with us if they do not want to stay overnight.

Meeting Place/Put-In: Cutright SRA. Go to the first boat ramp that you come to after leaving 446.

Directions to Meeting Place: Take Highway 446 south from Bloomington to the causeway. Cutright SRA is the first turn on your left immediately after you cross the causeway when driving south from Bloomington. This is about 2 hours from the intersection of 37 and I-465 on the southeast side of Indianapolis. ([Google Map](#))

What to Bring: Bring your paddling gear, spray skirt, camping gear, food for lunch, dinner, and breakfast, and warm dress. You should also bring drinking water with you. We will be camping from our boats and you will have to pack all your gear in your boat so plan accordingly.

Be sure to have an Indiana DNR Boat Permit. You *may* be able to pick one up at the DNR headquarter on 446 just North of the entrance to Paynetown SRA on the west side of the road while heading to the put-in or the gate at Paynetown SRA.

Notes: Wet suits or dry suits are strongly recommended. Due to possible lake conditions, spray skirts are required and boats must have fore and aft bulk heads.

Schedule: Saturday -10:00 am Arrive at Put-In. We will launch at 11:00 am.

We will probably paddle about 4-5 miles and then set up camp and have lunch. After lunch, we will go out and explore more of the lake.

Sunday: We are flexible here. We could return to Cutright as early as 10:00 am and drop off people who have to take off. We'll figure this out Saturday night depending on how far people want to paddle on Sunday and when people have to be home

Contact information: Jim Sprandel, merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net, 317-257-2063

Please contact me by 7:00 pm on the Friday before the trip if you want to come. Be sure to contact me since I will be monitoring weather forecasts prior to the trip and will notify people if we need to change the trip.



The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Cagles Mill Lake Paddle from Lieber SRA Beach

Saturday, April 19, 2014

Trips Sponsor: Jim Sprandel

This year, we are going to paddle Cagles Mill Lake paddler much earlier in the season so that the lake level should be significantly higher than usual. The lake has a different feel when the water level is closer to winter stage. One time, Dave Ellis and I paddled the lake at a Lake Stage of 690 feet and went all of the way to the foot of the upper falls. We only knew when we had reached the lower falls because we saw a bit of the roof of the picnic pavilion there. Right now, the lake stage is at about 640 feet and normal summer levels are around 630 feet.

We will launch from the beach at Lieber State Recreation Area. If the beach is still underwater, we can launch from the road down to the beach and park at the top of the hill. We will then paddle down the lake past Cunot PAS and up to the falls.

The trip from the Lieber SRA Ramp up to the falls is about 6.5 miles and the first 2.5 miles cross open portions of Cagles Mills Lake which can get choppy and windy.

We will probably have lunch up at the lower falls. Shore conditions at the falls are very dependent on water level. ***I'll check out the lake and launch site during the week before the trip and mail a note out to people attending.***

Meeting Place: If the [lake stage](#) is below 629, we will meet at the East end of the Swimming Beach at Lieber SRA. If the lake is above 630, we will either have to unload our boats on the road down to beach or we may be able to use the ramp parking area at the west end of the beach which is a few feet higher than the beach. Watch the e-mail that I send out before the trip or check the Bulletin Board.

Directions: From I-70 and I-465 on the Indianapolis West side, drive west on I-70 to the SR 243 exit (Exit 37). Drive about 3 miles south on SR 243 to the Lieber SRA Entrance and follow the signs to the beach within the park. (The SRA is approximately 45 minutes from I-465 and I-70 on the Indy West Side.)

Note: There is a \$5 fee to enter the park and you must have a DNR Sticker for you boat—these stickers are usually available at the SRA gate.

What to Bring: Be sure to bring your boat, paddling gear, water, your lunch, sun screen, and insect repellent. I strongly recommend a spray skirt since we may be dealing with wind and boat chop in the first 3 miles.

Due to the mileage and possible lake conditions, sea kayaks or touring kayaks with spray skirts are recommended

Paddling Distance: 13-15 miles.

Schedule: Plan on being at the put-in and ready to launch at 9:45 am—we should get off the water around 3:00 pm.

Contact Information: Please e-mail me at merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net by 6:00 pm Thursday, April 17 if you plan to attend so I can get latest conditions to you.



The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Trip Announcement

Sand Creek April 12, 2014

Trip Leader: Richard Tekulve

Please mark your calendar for Saturday April 12th for a journey to SE Indiana for one of the state's premier streams. For the fifth consecutive year I will once again make an attempt to do the "Upper Canyon Section" which is usually too low to paddle. In years past we have floated from Westport to Brewersville and Brewersville to Scipio. but never from Robbins Iron Bridge Park to Westport. This section is a little faster (8.1 gradient) and a little narrower (40-80 feet) than the downstream sections which makes it somewhat more challenging for the first half of the trip. The distance is 10.6 miles and total shuttle 19 miles.

Our put-in will be @ Robbins Ford Iron Bridge (built 1908) Park Access @ 10 am. This is located South of Greensburg in Decatur County . From the jct. of highways 3 & 46 (west of Greensburg) take SR 3 South for 3 miles to CR 500 South (sign). Turn left (East) onto CR 500 South and proceed for 1 3/4 miles to the small park (on the left) with two adjacent bridges and a small parking lot (Delorme Atlas page 52- A3).Our take-out will be just below the Westport Covered Bridge (built 1880). This section of the creek goes through several rock canyons with its usual clear flowing water.

Option #2 will be our "regular trip" @ 10 am from the Westport Covered Bridge to Brewersville 12.0 miles and a gradient of 4.8 fpm. Delorme page 52- B3. From SR 3 in Westport turn left (East) @ the flashing light onto Main Street/ CR 1100 South and proceed through the town for two miles to two adjacent bridges, take the concrete bridge to the right and the access is immediately to the right above the Westport Dam with an open grassy parking lot. Our take-out for this will be @ the Brewersville Bridge.

Option # 3 we will run from the Brewersville Bridge to the Scipio Covered Bridge a distance of 10.4 miles and a gradient of 4.5 fpm. Our meeting place will be @ the Jennings County Fairgrounds located at the jct. of SR3 and CR 500 North at 10 am. Delorme page 52-D2. From the jct. of highways 3 and 7 on the northside of North Vernon proceed onto SR 3 for 3 miles to the Jennings County Fairgrounds (illuminated sign) located on the right at the jct of CR 500 North with a parking lot. We will go to Brewersville Bridge from here and run the shuttle.

Option # 4 will be another stream in SE Indiana if low water levels exist. There are several streams (Flatrock, East Fork White, Vernon Fork Muscatatuck, Graham, Big, Laughery, Driftwood, Clifty and Otter) that can be utilized. I will scout streams on Friday afternoon and talk to landowners, I also have hand painted gauges on several bridges in SE Indiana that do not have USGS gauges so I can "prognosticate" Saturday's estimated water levels. Please try to understand that the streams in this part of the state run out quickly and will "dry up" in a short matter of time therefore creating the need for a "backup' plan. I have sponsored a Sand Creek trip for nearly a decade and before me Shirley Gates hosted it for several years. It has been one of the longest-continuous sponsored trips along with Muskrat's Big Pine in early April. A "staple" on the HCC trip list for perhaps a quarter of a century, but it has also been cancelled a few times because of lack of water.

Please call me 812-767-1317(cell) 812-346-7921(home) or e-mail canoeindiana@yahoo.com by 9pm on Friday April 11th. Please leave a cell phone # in case of last minute changes on the put-in or if you are lost (one year some women missed the turn @ Greensburg and ended up in Cincinnati). I will try and post on the HCC Bulletin Board the exact location of the put-in on Friday when I get done scouting. In past trips on Sand Creek I've had anywhere from three to twenty one different paddlers from Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana as you never know who will show up. Richard Tekulve: annual Sand Creek trip sponsor.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Flatwater Trip Announcement

Arkansas/Missouri Canoe Trip April 26 -- May 4 2014

Trip Sponsor: Prairie State Canoeist (Gary Konecny)

Gary Konecny with the Prairie State Canoeists has invited kayak and canoe paddlers from the Hoosier Canoe Club to join their club for 3 days on the Current River/Jack's Fork River in southeast Missouri followed by a short trip down to northwest Arkansas for 3 days on the Buffalo River.

Note: This trip is dependent on getting sufficient participation to provide for safety of paddlers and shuttle runs. People may choose to participate in either or both parts of the trip. This trip is a Prairie State Canoeist Club sponsored trip and participants must sign a liability waiver for the PSC.

If you are interested, please contact Gary Konecny at gary.konecny@comcast.net 331-223-6343

Saturday – Travel to Current River camp site

Geneva IL to Montauk State Park 439 miles 7-8 hours driving time. Camp at Pulltite campground

Sunday – Paddle the Current River

Cedargrove Access to Akers Ferry, 7.7 miles, 3 hours

Akers Ferry to Pulltite Springs, 9.5 miles, 5 hours

17.2 miles total, 8 hours

Car shuttle to put-in on north side of river

Low Water Bridge at Cedargrove access: visible on Google Map

Put-in and parking on south side river right at Cedargrove access

Leave a car at intermediate access point at Akers Ferry

Take out near our campground at Pulltite Springs

Monday - Paddle the Current River

Pulltite Springs to Round Spring, 9 miles, 4 hours

Round Spring access to Jerktail Landing access, 9 miles, 4 hours

18 miles total, 8 hours

Depart from campground

Leave a car at intermediate access point at Round Springs

Tuesday –Options:

Paddle Jack's Fork River: upper stretch from Buck Hollow to Rymers 11.6 miles, 5.5 hours,

Paddle Jack's Fork River: lower stretch fAlley Spring access to Two Rivers Access, 15.3 miles, 8 hours, or Eleven Point River

Wednesday – Travel to Buffalo River camp site Dogwood Springs Campground Resort in Jasper AR or other camp

Montauk State Park to Jasper AR 194 miles 3 ½ to 4 hours driving time

Thursday – Paddle Buffalo River, Ponca to Kyles Landing 10.6 miles 4-6 hours, sight see Hemmed in Hollow

Friday – Paddle Buffalo River, Kyles Landing to Pruitt Landing 13.3 miles 8 hours

Saturday – Paddle Buffalo River, 1) Pruitt Landing to Carver 11.5 miles 6-8 hours or 2) if water level permits Class II Boxley to Ponca low water bridge 6 miles

Sunday – Travel home

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Sea Kayak Thoughts

It's paddling season! I got an e-mail this morning saying that Lake Monroe is now open. It's warmer (not very difficult after the January that we had). This is a great time of year to paddle on Geist and Eagle Creek because you will see migratory loons, grebes, and terns and hear Sandhill Cranes overhead.

Please look over the Sea Kayak schedule for this year – there are several interesting and different trips. In particular, Dave Ellis is sponsoring a week-long trip to Beaufort, NC from April 26 through May 6. In addition, we will also have a one-week trip to the Apostle Islands in August. Over Labor Day, we will have our 3rd Annual Surf Play Week-End at Indiana Dunes State Park and we will return trip to the Ohio River later in September. In October, join us to see Grayson Lake in its Fall splendor.

We will also offer an Open Water Rescue Clinic and a Strokes Refinement Class for sea kayakers as well as Introduction to Paddling Classes for all new paddlers. I will discuss upcoming training classes in the May newsletter.

However, I've done enough talking for now and it's time to get out and hit the water. If you are a Sea Kayaker, be sure to contact me so I can add you to the Sea Kayak Mailing list (ind_touring_kayaks@googlegroups.com) since we will use this to coordinate some of our upcoming events.

I will get an e-mail out to the touring mailing list for our first Sunday Geist Paddle on April 13.

Jim Sprandel



Celebrating 50 Years of Paddling

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club