

In search of the perfect wave in a desert

Hello to everyone from Kuwait/ Iraq! I would like to thank everyone for writing me and all your support. It makes the time go quicker and the distance from home not so far away.

So what is 1LT John Gates, aka: John John doing back in the desert? Well, I'm the Executive Officer for a Gun Truck Convoy Security Company based in Kuwait. Our mission is to provide security to convoys that start in Kuwait and go all over Iraq. I have been to every base South of Bagdad now and I can tell you it is not Kansas! Wow, I think I got time warped back to Bible Times. Unless you have been here it is very hard to describe what Iraq is like and what is going on here. Buy me a beer when I come home and I will chat about some of the things I have seen and done here. Be prepared to laugh because they are funny!

I hope everyone has a great Spring and early Summer paddling Season. I should be back in Indiana around the middle to late August and wanting to paddle so anyone interested in going to the Ocoee or down in that area just let Momma Gates know and she can schedule my paddling for me. John

Missouri Memorial Day Trip May 24-30 ,2007

The Current and Jacks Fork Rivers are about 2.5 Hrs west and south of I-44 west of St Louis . Come for all or part of the trip . Each day is packed with fun . The activities include paddling cool clean water and Hikeing to see the origin of a lot of the springs. This a great place to study the history of the area and have a look at different rocks. There are great places to eat in Salem, Emmence, or Moutouck St. Park. We will camp at the Shannondale Community Church Campground along St. Road 19 south of Salem. It is clean, private and inexpensive. There are primitive and electric sites. RSVP to Shirley soon for campground scheduling and planning. Shirley Gates 317-852-9809 or *S.J.GATES.2005@AOL*. I didn't mention that there is a huge campfire ring and shelter house with eletricty which I set up for a big cooking area and we can use the Church basement for refrigerators and freezers. Luxury!!!!!!!