

# *The Hoosier Paddler*

Volume 44, Issue 8 <http://www.hoosiercanoecub.org> November 2006

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## **FALL GENERAL MEETING Saturday, November 18th, 2006**

Come join us on Saturday, November 18, 2:00 to 6:00 at the Brewster Clubhouse for the November General Meeting and Election of Officers for 2007.

Meat and soft drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish to share of salads, veggies, or desserts.

Location: From 86<sup>th</sup> and Ditch road on the North side of Indianapolis, go north on Ditch for one block, turn west (left) on Brewster Road. The clubhouse is located at 1635 Brewster Road.

### **Agenda:**

**Gear swap** (Bring items to sell or swap)

**Pitch-in-meal**

**Business meeting**

**Election of New Officers and Board** (See the list of nominees on page 5 of this newsletter)

**Entertainment**

Please plan to attend this meeting. Questions or RSVP to Roger Ritchie, 765-358-4059 or [rritchie@iquest.net](mailto:rritchie@iquest.net)

## **TRIATHALON COORDINATOR NEEDED—**

**WANTED:** A coordinator to help organize our participation with Tuxedo Brothers.

**WHAT do you do?** Contact Tuxedo Brothers to coordinate schedules,  
get HCC members to volunteer to be safety boaters at the events.

**WHY?** The HCC earns money from these events to offset costs of this newsletter, annual meetings and insurance.

**Unless we get someone to coordinate this activity, we will discontinue and lose approximately \$1200 per year.**

**Call Shirley Gates to volunteer. 317-852-9809**

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*The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club*

## 2006 HCC White Water Trip Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Nov 3,4,5	Tohickon Creek, PA	(II-III) -	Randy Parker
Nov 4-5	Ocoee Fall Colors/Last Release,	III+) -	Jordan Ross

Please contact the trip leaders for more information. And remember to check the bulletin for pick-up trips and other timely announcements.

**The link to the bulletin board has been changed and you will probably have to register again to get access: <http://www.hccbulletinboard.org/forums/>**

### **Suggested Experience Levels:**

#### **Beginner -**

**Roll optional, safety workshop, moving water, Flatrock, Big Pine, (<3'), East Race, Hiawasee.**

#### **Intermediate -**

**Reliable pool roll, safety workshop, Big Pine (>3'), Elkhorn, Nantahala, Lower Tellico.**

#### **Advanced -**

**Reliable river roll, safety workshop, Lower Yough, New, Ocoee, Cheat Canyon**

**Please be advised: All Canoe trips involve some degree of danger and possibility for injury or loss of property. Please talk with the trip leader about required safety equipment and experience levels for the specific trip you wish to take part in. Do not endanger yourself or others by enlarging upon your skills or experience. Start on easy trips and work your way up to more demanding trips.**

### **Reminder:**

**I am still looking for people to volunteer to write monthly or bi-monthly specialty theme articles for this newsletter. Your help is needed and appreciated.**

**The Editor**

**[dwjames@doe.state.in.us](mailto:dwjames@doe.state.in.us)**

## 2006 HCC Flat Water Trip Schedule

Date	Location	Sponsor	
Nov 25-Dec 3	Florida Rivers	Dick Fetty	765-754-8200
Dec 2	Christmas Party	Need volunteer	
Dec 30	Loxahatchie River Florida	Ken Miller	954-570-9491
January 1, 2007	To be Decided New Year's Day Float	Dwayne James	317-834-3649

### Coastal Sea Kayaking

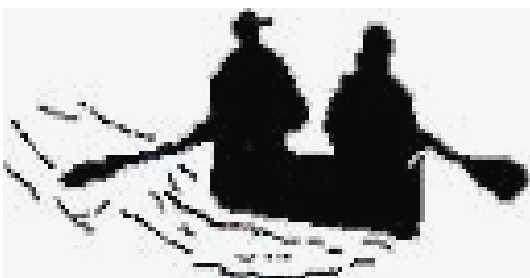
November 4-12	Coastal North Carolina	Reggie Baker	317-888-3315
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Please contact the trip leaders for further information.

And remember to check the bulletin for pick-up trips and other timely announcements.

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**Hey,  
There is  
Still Time to Paddle!!**





*Dan Valleskey, [valleskey@omcast.net](mailto:valleskey@omcast.net)*

**YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU !!!**

If you could,

Hearse would come  
with roof racks.



## **October Board Meeting:**

### **Summary of Board meeting October 9, 2006 ---**

Held at the home of Dave Timm Roger Ritchie led the group in a discussion about the 2007 Insurance Renewal. The cost of the 2007 policy was stated as \$2.00 per club member. There are 322 members at present. The additional cost was \$900. for the Officer Liability Policy. The bill was sent on to the Purser.

The nominating committee presented the following slate for 2007.

**Skipper: Reggie Baker**

**Exc. Officer: Dwon Miller**

**Yeoman: Matt Slagel**

**Purser: Fred Sanders**

**Board Members:** Dan Valleskey, Davis Ellis, Dave Timm, Jan Hosier, Nathan Yoke, Shirley Gates, John Wainscott, Ken Wright, Jordan Ross, Mitch Merrit, Ryan Tragressor, Terry Busch.

Elections will be held at the November General Meeting.

Reported by Shirley Gates

## **Trip Report**

### **French River: September 11 – 15, 2006**

#### **By Worth Donaldson**

I rose early in the morning gathered my gear and got ready for Jim Shaw's early arrival. After waiting for over an hour I gave Jose Joven a call to inform him that Jim must be running late. While speaking with Jose I see Jim drive up. He apologized and told me that the interstate had turned into a parking lot on the south side of Indianapolis. We hastily loaded my packs and canoe and then drove to the north side to pick up Jose. Jose was waiting and in no time we had his packs loaded and a third canoe on top of Jim's van.

Through numerous internet contacts we learned driving to Sault Ste. Marie and southeast along Lake Huron would be less stressful than entering Canada at Sarnia just north of Detroit. Just like Indiana, the urban areas surrounding Toronto are undergoing extensive construction and have become one long narrow parking lot. So instead of driving 700 miles we decided to drive 730 miles and take the more scenic view. It was a long drive to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. This gave us plenty of time to discuss our trip and re-read the chapter, "The French River: A Historic Waterway" in Kevin Callan's book, A Paddler's Guide to Ontario. Supposedly it is an excellent five-day trip through cottage country that includes lining upstream and running some fast-moving whitewater. The majority of portages are approximately 60 meters or less long. However, we do have a 400 meter portage that is challenging. The weather forecast predicts temperatures in the upper 60's with cool nights. We were also told that the water levels are moderate and dropping. For once, we are looking forward to a nice, easy relaxing paddle with plenty of time to fish.

By early evening we arrive at Hotel Patel and old run down looking motel tucked behind and almost hidden by several sparkling, brand new inns that promise a night of pampering and luxury. Jim and I asked Jose if the rooms are rented by the hour? Do we need to worry about cockroaches? He insists that the rooms look much better on the inside than the outside. To clinch the deal he tells us that a continental breakfast is included and there is free internet. Internet, Jim never uses the internet! Jose enters the office loud and boisterous and says, "Hi, remember me? I told you I'd be back. I brought friends this time" while shaking the clerk's hand.

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## **French River continued**

After introductions we each pay the clerk seventeen dollars and go to our room. Jim and I are shocked. The room really is clean and appears to have been recently renovated. For seventeen dollars we each have a queen size bed. There is a television and refrigerator. Free internet is at the office.

We rose early in the morning and ate our continental breakfast consisting of cereal, danish and boiled eggs. Afterwards, Jose checked his email and got a weather report while Jim stood outside waiting to hit the road. We had no problems crossing the border and arrived at the Custom House several minutes prior to their opening to exchange our money and purchase fishing licenses.

Once again it was a long drive. Traffic was light and every now and then we would get a glimpse of Lake Huron. We were making excellent time until I made a hasty decision that took us into Sudbury. By mid-afternoon we had arrived at our destination, Loon's Landing, a resort with cabins, RV's and campsites.

After obtaining our permits we ask a few questions about the river and quickly realized they know little about canoeists. We were told to hang our food and be mindful of hungry bears. I asked about rattlesnakes and get a chuckle out of Jim. Jose sets the record straight. Yes, there are massauga rattlesnakes along Georgian Bay. I spied a map of our route taped to the counter and state that it looks like the one in Kevin Callan's book. We were told that Kevin contacted them and had asked if they could pick him up at the bus stop? They obliged and that was the last they thought they would hear from him. The following year they found themselves siege with canoeists requesting campsites. Apparently, Kevin forgot to mention that he was writing a guide book.

After dinner at the French River Trading Post we returned to the campsite and built a fire and studied the maps I had photocopied. Jose asked if I had entered the GPS coordinates into my GPS. "We might be paddling in fog come tomorrow morning", he said. I told him, "No, I saw no need to. Our route looks easy". By firelight we inputted the coordinates into my GPS with much difficulty. Instead of labeling all the gridlines I had only labeled one on the X and Y axis on the photo-copied maps. Eventually, I had to get out the original map because we were making too many coordinate errors.

## **French River – Lost on Day 1**

It was 45 degrees when we rose and left for breakfast at the trading post. By 10:00 am we were on the river and had arrived at Meshaw Falls although my GPS told me we were somewhere else.

After portaging our gear and canoes above the falls we checked out the swirl hole near the put in. The hole is almost 6 feet across, 16 feet deep and was created by a 150 pound granite ball that looked like a bowling ball.

While sipping on ginger ale we listened to Pete Rysdale talk about the history of the waterfalls and the state of the Canadian health care system. Afterwards, we paddled into Eighteen Mile Bay and passed one cottage after another. We paddled northeast towards a large point and then towards a second smaller point. I confirmed our direction with Jose and we passed more cottages or should I say, nice homes; one after another, after another.

Nearing the islands we searched for the channel that would take us east and can not find it. We paddled along the eastern shoreline thinking we had over shot the channel and still we can not find it. We checked the compass and continued to paddle southeast searching for the quartzite islands and the channel. Eventually, I activated the GPS. It told me we needed to head west. This contradicted the map and what I saw. We needed to head east. Obviously, we had made another error when inputting the coordinates in the dark. Once Jose and I are thoroughly confused and discombobulated, Jim spoke up and said we had been paddling the wrong direction. We needed to head west. Jose insisted he was wrong. I had problems visualizing Jim's explanation. We continued to paddle southeast.

**Continued on Page 7**

Shortly thereafter, I realized we mistook a peninsula for an island because the blue topographical lines on the map failed to photo-copied. Islands and bays appear where they do not exist on our maps. Once we started paddling west, we easily found our way through Eighteen Mile Bay and to the North Channel.

We lined the first rapid and dug hard in the swift beneath the iron bridge. Unfortunately, an hour spent with Pete, another hour lost in the bay, and paddling against the wind and current kept us from reaching our desired destination. Instead, we camp near Caulkins Island.

### **French River – Day 2, A Challenging Portage**

It was 40 degrees and cloudy when we rose. By 8:00 we are on the river and ready to get back on schedule. Instead of having the prevailing winds at our back we found ourselves paddling into the wind and against the current. By 10:00 we are off the river and firing up the stove to cut the chill with some chicken noodle soup.

We lined the first section of Cedar Rapids then paddled up the right side of the island for a lift over. Instead we found ourselves having to portage gear and packs a few meters. Only then do we realized that the lift over was on the left side of the island.

We paddled the narrow channel looking for the 400 meter portage. Instead we found a cliff to our right, a gorge and a small waterfall that prevented us from going further up river. Jim climbed out onto the cliff and tied off onto a rock. Slowly he ascended a cleft in the rock and climbed 50 feet upward. Jose joined him while I paddled deeper into the gorge looking for an alternative route. I returned and tied off. Jose and Jim reported that this was the portage. Forming a fireman's bucket brigade we tossed a pack upward towards a ledge. We tossed a second pack to the ledge. Jim's canoe is passed upward and then carried beyond another ledge to a level spot high on the cliff. Jose's packs and canoe followed then mine. Forming another fireman's bucket brigade, we passed the packs to the second ledge. I found a snake skin lying on top of my pack. Hmmm! We are hot and tired. Upon completing the portage we all agreed that it felt shorter than 400 meters. It was late in the afternoon and we still had a lot of river to paddle to make it to Wolseley Bay; thus, we skipped lunch and kept going. By 5:00 we had a small island campsite just south of Rainy Island to call home. We had traveled 24 kilometers against the wind and the current. Our average speed on the river was 4.6 kilometers per hour.

### **French River – Day 3, Inukshuk**

It sprinkled on and off during the night. During a lull in the early morning showers I packed up and joined Jim for breakfast. Jose eventually rose and said, "I thought we were sleeping in". I responded, "I didn't want to pack in the rain". It begun to mist and I donned my rain wear for I did not want to get my outer layers wet. I have been wearing the same pair of wet, smelly socks and boots since we started the trip and have not been able to get them to completely dry for the days are too short and cool.

We had been looking forward to this day, a day full of rapids and promising fishing opportunities. We quickly arrived at Little Pine Rapids and easily lined the upper section. Standing on a slab of slick, smooth bed rock the bottom section of the rapids tugged hard on our lines while trying to pull us into the river. Lining this last section, I watched my gunnel roll and begin to drop. Call it skill or luck, I was fortunate not to fill my canoe with water.

After studying Big Pine Rapids the decision was made to portage around it. The rapid descends into a small gorge and appeared easy to run if you can avoid a rock in the center of the narrow chute. The rock is located at the very top of the rapid and receives the majority of the water flow; thus, creating a big standing wave. In warmer weather, we probably would have tested our skills and attempted to run it.

**To be Continued**

**For a great time in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area without leaving home, join in the discussions and read the trip reports posted at Canoe Country.Com**

**<http://www.canoecountry.com/bulletinboard/>**

**Please send a card or note to one of our own who is away from his family while serving our country: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. John Gates.**

1LT John E Gates

Headquarters Platoon Co A 1

121st FA BN

APO, AE 09317



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Bill Reed

## Newsletter Editor

Dwayne James is editing the HCC newsletters. Articles for the newsletter will need to be sent to him by the 15th of each month to make it into the next month's newsletter. Dwayne's E-mail address is:

kanudreams@sbcglobal.net Please mark your mailings as HCCNEWSLETTER ITEM. Dwayne can be reached at 317-834-3649 or at 317-232-9043. Please do not format your text. No colors, no graphics, no fancy indenting or lines. Times New Roman is a great font to use—please.



## The Hoosier Paddler



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