

# *The Hoosier Paddler*

Volume 45, Issue 6 <http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org> September 2007



## **End of the Summer—**

### **But time to get out on the water for the Fall and Winter!!!**

It has been a real busy summer this year with our annual summer meeting, trips with the Sue Foxx paddling group, Muskrat's many White River explorations, triathlons, and the first annual Indiana Rivers Rally.

As for myself, I was able to get up to the Boundary Waters for two trips this year. The first, in early May, my son and I joined some fellows for our annual portage clearing trip during which we help the forest service maintain trails and campsites and get them ready for campers for the coming year. A trip report will follow, but I wanted to mention that I had some problems with heat exhaustion on this trip. So make sure you keep plenty of drinking water on hand and use it. The second trip was just last week with my brother Ray. We did the loop from Sawbill Lake down to Kawishiwi Lake. Nice fishing and weather except for one day of very heavy rain-nearly 11 inches in nearby Tofte and around 9 or 10 in the Ely area. The tent held up nicely, thank you.

Muskrat has been exploring the many trip possibilities of the White River, Tippecanoe River and the Eel. If you have not joined in one of his trips, please contact him and do so. Always a fun time and an opportunity to get out and see areas we do not usually travel.

Please make plans to join us for our Raccoon Creek Trip in October. Dwon Miller has provided a nice trip announcement (page 2). Try to camp out with him and the others if you can.

And we will need a new newsletter editor. I need more time to paddle and work around the house, so please contact me if you wish to take this on.

I look forward to seeing you on the water!

Dwayne James



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*The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club*

## Trip Announcement

### Raccoon Creek, October 20/21, 2007

Here is your invitation to the flat water premier trip of the fall. It is the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival time and the colors are at their peak. We Millers, Dwon and Joy, have been part of the trip leadership since 1974 and HCC has been taking this annual trip longer than that. If you have not joined us before, you are in for a treat.

The paddling days are Saturday and/or Sunday. You can go one or both days as you want.

Some of us have made reservations to camp on Friday and Saturday nights at Raccoon State Recreation Area on IN 36, east of Rockville. We are permitted to put a tent on a site with a camper for a small fee. Check with us if you are interested in that, first come, first served.

The put-in directions from Indy: off 465 west, take IN 36 west to IN 59. This is in the town of Bellmore. Turn left, south, and continue about 2 1/2 miles to a brown sign that indicates a left turn only to the Hardin Lake Dam on Raccoon Creek. Follow this road until it goes along the river and continue to the first bridge. Turn in just before the bridge and unload. DO NOT take the turnoff to the dam itself. When all are unloaded, we will run the shuttle to the takeout. Plan to meet at 9am so we can get the shuttle started by 9:30. We park in a parking lot by the river at the takeout. There is a \$3 charge for the day, as of last year. Your car will be right there when we arrive!

These instructions are for Saturday's trip. You may pack a lunch or take some cash along. The lunch stop is in Mansfield where the festival is in full swing. You can buy just about anything you want to eat right there. After lunch, we continue downstream to Bridgeton. The expected time off the river is around 4pm. At the takeout, Bridgeton is also part of the festival. There is more food as well as craft and shopping at these and many towns in Parke County this weekend

You will paddle under several covered bridges, and old iron bridge. There are some "play" places along the way and lots of color and wildlife. Some of it is human and with us on the trip.

Instructions for Sunday: Meet on IN 36 just west, across the street from Raccoon SRA, at the Marathon Station. (It was a Shell station until last year.) When you cross the lake and start up the hill, the SRA is on the south, the station is on the north side. Please be there by 9am. The group will decide just what trip to take that day. Choices are, repeat day one because some folks only come one day, or see about going from Bridgeton down to Rosedale. The Rosedale trip requires a lunch as there are no towns with food along that part of the river.

This trip can be weather "iffy" so watch your tv for the details. We have taken this trip in swimsuits, sweats, foul weather gear, and light snow over the years. Dress appropriately. Too much can be layered off, too little can be cold with your clothes at the takeout. It is October! Things can change.

Please feel free to contact us for any other information you need. An rsvp is not required, but we like to have an idea who to expect so we do not leave anyone behind on the shuttle Saturday, or after the meeting Sunday.

There will be a campfire both Friday and Saturday evenings at the campground. Feel free to join us. It takes an entrance fee or a park card to get in to the SRA. Ask where HCC is located. There will be several of us there both nights.

Contact Dwon Miller 765-288-1404 or [dwon\\_joy@iquest.net](mailto:dwon_joy@iquest.net) by Thursday evening.



## TRIP REPORT

### SUMMER PADDLE-PICNIC-MEETING

The morning of August 25 presented gray rainy skies in beautiful downtown Greenwood and fears yet another HCC event might be cancelled. But the national weather chart and radar summaries presented another possible picture to this once upon a time Navy meteorologist. The phone rang several times with paddlers looking for assurances they wouldn't get wet. My response was as it has always been, "paddling is an outdoor experience so grab some rain gear and come paddle." Besides, the temperature forecast is for the high 80s, so what if you get wet. As Deb and I drove north though Noblesville it was still raining but there were some "sucker holes" of blue sky to the west. This ole weather guesser knew it wouldn't dare rain on our picnic.

For the 13 paddlers in 12 boats of a pleasant mix of solo canoes, recreational kayaks, 1 sea kayak and a token tandem canoe we were treated to a delightful day on my favorite stretch of the White River from the Strawtown DNR access area down to the White River Campground. The rainfall of the past days had brought the river up a bit and provided more than adequate flow in all but a couple of shoals where there was only one way thorough. The water quality was excellent and the Green Egrets were enjoying bountiful fish lunches. There were no incidents of significance other than your Skipper nearly doing a butt plant exiting a solo canoe on fussy over-extended ankles resulting from extended kneeling. But hey, that's the price that must be paid for paddling a solo sport canoe. There was quite a bit of solo canoe swapping just to try a different boats. Only a couple of raindrops had to be dodged and it was just a good old fashioned day on the river.

When we landed at the White River Campground we were greeted by a few more members who had fired up the grill and provided a convenient shuttle back to the put-in. Tasty dogs and burgers and pitch-in fare capped off the paddle. A motion was made that the general meeting be scrapped and was enthusiastically approved. Instead we had a nice discussion about the direction of the HCC and what we envision for the future. All agreed that a focus on paddling local rivers and lakes should be the priority given the cost of gasoline. It was recognized that the sale of recreational kayaks dominates the paddlesport market and the HCC needs to be engaged in identifying these buyers and provide training and paddling opportunities. The notion of a large paddlesport event next spring driven by the HCC was presented. The concept is to have local paddlesport dealers have their manufacturer reps bring boats for demo, conduct flatwater training, have canoe/kayak camping clinics, have a cookout and possibly even a band in the evening. This will be a huge task but with the help of HCC members it is all doable.

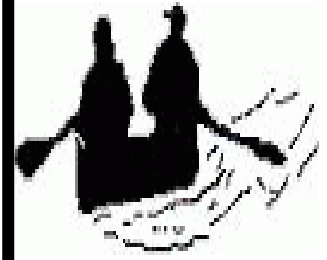
Thanks to all who braved the potentially wet weather and wound up having an excellent paddling day. For those who listened to Angela Buckman instead of me or their inner child who really wanted to go paddling remember, "paddling is an outdoor experience, sp grab the rain gear and come paddling" the next time.

Reggie Baker, Skipper

## HCC Triathlons

Thanks to all who helped with these events this summer.

We will be sending out information on next year's dates as soon as we get them. **We Will Need Volunteers for this!!!!**



**Hey, It's  
Time to  
Paddle!!!!**

### 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 newsletter.

Dwayne's E-mail address is: [dwxjames@doe.state.in.us](mailto:dwxjames@doe.state.in.us)

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.



## Flatwater Trip Schedule

9/22	Upper White River	Leader needed	317-257-9837
9/29-30	Upper Tippicanoe	Reggie Baker	317-888-3315
10/13	Upper Wabash River	Sue, Rick, Linda	317-543-0222
10/20	Raccoon Creek	Dwon Miller	765-288-1404
11/3	Mississinewa River	Dick Fetty	765-754-8200

And an announcement will be forthcoming concerning our winter meeting and the New Year's Day float. Any suggestions on where we should go on New Year's Day are welcome.

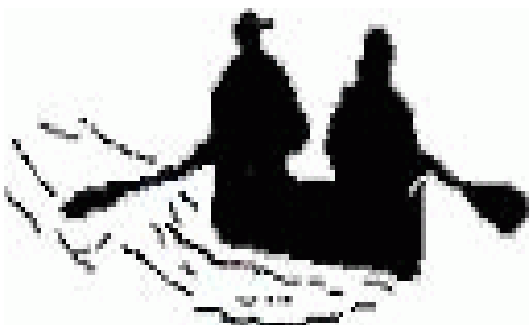
Please contact the trip leader for details and meeting place. Bring warmer clothes and a change of dry clothes now that it is colder outside. And lots of water to drink.

**Be  
a  
Trip  
Sponsor  
!!**

## White Water Trip Schedule

9/1-9	Canadian Road Trip	Sharon Schierling,	
9/8,9	Gauley First Release	leader needed	
9/21-23	Gauley Fest III-IV	leader needed	
10/13,1	Gauley Fall Colors/ last	Jordan Ross	317-293-3949
10/13,1	Wisc. Fall Colors Wolf/	Bob Heckler	219-662-6330

**Please contact the trip leader for information on these trips.  
And encourage them to submit trip reports!  
No idea if any of these trips have occurred.**



**Thanks for all the great trip announcements and reports. If I have not used yours yet, I will. Please keep them coming!!**



## ERROR COR- RECTION

This is the correct url  
for our bulletin board:

[http://  
www.hccbulletinboar  
d.org/forums/](http://www.hccbulletinboard.org/forums/)

## NOTE:

Please send change of  
address to:  
Dave Ellis,  
Membership Chair  
7650 Poplar Road.  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

## Trip Report for The Lakes of Grassy Creek Sunday, August 12, 2007

An initial Indy group met and formed a small caravan that arrived in about 2 1/2 hours at the Grassy Creek Public Access Boat Ramp. Stevie directed us up the scenic route through Huntington with only 2 minor glitches. We were joined by Theresa who had come from a paddle in Michigan, Garry, Mitch, Lisa, Barb and Bruno. The group set out through a wetlands canal filled with white and yellow lilies, pink hibiscus, and brilliant purple flowers (ok...I have already forgotten the name of the invasive species). We paddled across Tippecanoe Lake through a channel into James Lake. Garry had fun riding the wakes of all the boats and jet skis that churned the water and that were a challenge for first time kayaker, Leo. Jim was a wonderful grill master and had hot dogs ready in no time when we broke for lunch at the Ball Wetlands and Nature Preserve shelter. Mitch and Garry were great at helping everyone navigate the dock without incident.

The paddle back was leisurely and about 4 pm, we used the lock system to head up into the next lake. Missy, Mitch & Lisa's dog, was a willing passenger through it all. She got lots of attention from the group and from going back and forth between boats. The group loaded up and headed home about 5:30 pm happy from a day on the water with old and new friends. Sue Foxx

## The Hoosier Paddler



Dwayne James, Editor  
247 N. Monroe  
Mooresville, IN 46158