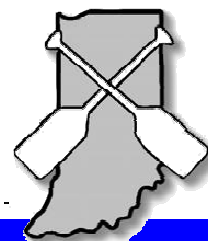


# The Hoosier Paddler

Volume 47, Issue 1

<http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/>

Jan./Feb. 2009



## Hello HCC!



## Dan Valleskey

We have a few new things in mind for 2009. It is still early, I can not say for sure just how these things will work out. But I'd like to tell you a little about what is on our radar screen for the coming year.

I am presently looking at a trip to Western North Carolina that would be great for both the whitewater folk as well as the flat-water and blue water people. Years back, the now defunct Wildcat Canoe Club of Kokomo sponsored such a trip, it was always very popular. We hope to be able to offer raft trips for the flat-water people, maybe some chances to try a duckie or inflatable kayak, and of course, the area is rife with more challenging whitewater for the experienced WW boaters. We will in all likelihood be doing this in the area of Fontana Lake, a wonderful destination for touring kayaks. I can't say too much yet, I'm going to be working on details for this trip over the next few weeks, but I am leaning toward Labor Day weekend. My first choice for lodging will be the world famous Nantahala Outdoor Center.

Indiana DNR will be offering a first time event at Fort Harrison in late September. I think many members of the HCC would like to participate, both as instructors and helpers as well as participants. The DNR already has funding and a name—Hoosier

Outdoor Expo. This will be large event, some estimates run as high as 30,000 participants. I'm staying involved in the planning, to find out how this event can benefit the HCC.

We will still have our annual favorite trips. I'm sure Garry Hill will be on Big Pine (Aprils Fools!). Dwon and Joy Miller are ready to step back from their involvement with the Raccoon Creek trip in the late Fall, we are looking for someone to step in and fill their shoes. We have been very lucky to have had them running that trip for many years, they certainly deserve a break from Sponsor duties as well as our thanks for adding to the great history of quality HCC offerings. I think almost everyone in the club has done that trip at one time or another. We are also looking forward to another great Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous. I'm pretty sure I'll sponsor another Fish Fry trip to Northern Indiana. And we have had some requests for a kids trip. (And here I thought ALL trips were great to take kids on!)

Theresa will be filling in dates on the club trip calendar. Please plan on attending the Trip Planning Meeting which will be held on January 31 (see Page 3). If you want a sneak preview of what to expect in 2009, come to the meeting! We hope to have the final schedule up by the end of February. I predict February to be a hectic month for Ms. Kulczak. I'm sure we will have many other trips for you to choose from. HCC is the biggest canoe club in the state. We will try hard to continue to offer some trips that appeal to most everyone.

It is my fervent hope that we not dwell on administrative issues this year. The HCC owes much to Reggie Baker for the great job he has done over the past two years. Things are in great shape right now, my job is much easier as a result. But I do want to work on a couple small administrative items this year. We need to fine tune our use of the email list. If you need to be added to the list, send an email to Dave Ellis ([hcc\\_creek\\_freak@yahoo.com](mailto:hcc_creek_freak@yahoo.com)). The nature of paddling cries out for increased use of email to coordinate trips, handle last minutes changes, and eliminate confusion. Water levels and weather can change in hours, the internet offers the timeliness paddlers need. Please remember that our email list is a one-way deal, when you hit your "reply" button, you are only sending an email to Dave or Jim Sprandel or myself. We could post for you, but I would encourage everyone to check the bulletin board from time to time, that is the place where all members can post. If you need help posting there, drop me a note or call—(317) 413 0324 or [danpaddles@gmail.com](mailto:danpaddles@gmail.com).

Dan

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## The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

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## New Life Members—2009 Membership Dues

Dave Ellis

I'm beginning to commence to start to prepare to send out HCC dues statements for 2009. In this process, I find that another 7 members have met our traditional qualification for Life Time Membership. For some time, we have awarded Life Time Membership to folks who have been members for 25 continuous years. Listed below is the complete list of Lifers:

### HCC Life Members (\* indicates a new life member)

Virginia Baker	Reggie & Debby Baker*	Roger & Nancy Beach
Donald & Judy Berkey*	Don Boelter	Charles Conklin
Dave Ellis	Robert & Rose Frederick	Shirley Gates
Fletcher Graham	Richard & Kay Greene*	Howard & Maxine Hill
Garry Hill	Max Kidwell	Robert Kirkman*
Bill & Martha Lawless	Chuck & Karen Lunsford	Turk Mahrling
George Merchant	Ken & Aileen & Cal Miller*	Dwon & Joy Miller
Ken & Roselle Partridge	Jeff & Jodie Pensinger*	Dale & Joan Perry
Jerry & Rose Schoditsch	Chuck & Joni Webb*	

We apparently need an additional rule for children of Lifers. George Flexman the Taller, John and Lori Gates, and Chris Burkhart are those effected. I'm thinking 25 continuous years after they turn 18. Any other suggestions?

I'll have your dues statements in the mail in the next week or two if you are one of the 269 of our total 329 members who are not yet covered for 2009. Or you might catch me at the Wednesday pool sessions or at the next Board Meeting.

Dave Ellis, HCC Membership

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## 2009 HCC Officers and Board

On November 16, the HCC held its annual meeting. At the meeting, we elected 2009 officers and board members. Since you may not know the new officers, a short padding biography for each new officer is available on the Bulletin Board at:

<http://www.hccbulletinboard.org/forums/showthread.php?t=2796>

This year's club officers, board members, and chairs are:

<b>Skipper:</b>	Dan Valleskey
<b>Executive Officer (Trips Chairman)</b>	Theresa Kulczak
<b>Purser</b>	Matt Slagel
<b>Yeoman</b>	Linda Smith

### 2009 Board Members:

Reggie Baker	Terry Busch	Mariann Davis	Dan Evard
Sue Foxx	Dwayne James	Kellie Kaneshiro	Mary Keith
Suzi Rapp	Jordan Ross	Jan Sneddon	Jim Sprandel
John Wainscott			

### 2009 Committee Chairpersons:

Blue Water Trips	Reggie Baker
Big Pine Gauge	Terry Busch
Cheer	Joy Miller
Conservation	Kellie Kaneshiro
Flatwater Trips	Linda Smith
Membership	Dave Ellis
Newsletter Editor	Jim Sprandel
Publicity	Mariann Davis
Safety and Training, Thatcher Pool	Jordan Ross
Triathlons	Jan Sneddon
Web Master	Roger Kugler
Whitewater Trips	Suzi Rapp

Contact information for the officers, board members, and chairmen is available in the HCC Member's List on the HCC web site (<http://www.hoosiercanooclub.org/2008MemberList.pdf>).



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## Trips Planning Meeting 2009

Theresa Kulczak

The annual Trips Planning meeting will take place on Saturday, January 31st, at 3:00 p.m. (Yes, we moved the meeting to Saturday this year so that all you paddlers who enjoy football will have your Sunday free to watch a certain big game.) Bring your calendars, trip ideas, and a favorite snack to share! We hear our new Skipper Dan Valleskey may bring an ample supply of his favorite beverage..... but bring your own just in case. We're encouraging all of our paddling branches to attend – flatwater, whitewater, sea kayaking, (and poolies).

If you can't attend the meeting, feel free to share your suggestions for trips beforehand. Where would you like to paddle? Where have you paddled that you think others might enjoy? Overnight trips? Kids trips? Dinner trips? Moonlight trips? Out-of-state trips? Let's be creative and adventurous and have another GREAT year!

**Location:** The meeting will be at Executive Officer Theresa Kulczak's home on the north side of Indy in Castleton. You can find her address on the protected membership list or email her for directions at [theblacktoad@lightbound.com](mailto:theblacktoad@lightbound.com) or call her at (317) 570-0506. An additional contact is Dan Valleskey—[danpaddles@gmail.com](mailto:danpaddles@gmail.com) or (317) 413-0324.

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## 4th Annual HCC / Whitewater Warehouse Boat Demo

Saturday, March 7, 2009

**Location:** Indianapolis (Time and Location to be Announced)

**Cost:** \$10

Keep this Saturday open for a really fun event. Bernie and Jeryl from Whitewater Warehouse in Dayton will bring a nice assortment of 2009 model boats for us to play with in a warm indoor pool. They also carry recreational and touring boats so give them a call if there is a particular model you'd like to try out. We're hoping again to have one or more team pro boaters there to talk about the new boats and put on expert paddling clinics. Afterwards, we'll go out for Mexican food, cervezas and videos.

Please check the HCC Bulletin Board or the March newsletter for pool location, event time and updates. See you all there!

**Contacts:** Jordan Ross, (317) 460-7000  
Whitewater Warehouse, (937) 222-7020

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## Flatwater Trips

### What to Bring on a Flatwater Trip

- PFD (Personal Floatation Device) with attached whistle
  - Spare Paddle
  - Rescue gear: paddle float, throw rope, first aid kit
  - Bilge pump or bailing device (small bucket, sponge, etc.)
  - Personal medications: Be sure to inform your trip sponsor of medical conditions.
  - Sunglasses, sun/bug spray
  - Lunch, snacks, drinks (hot or cold) plus water!
  - **Cold Weather Protocol:** Change of clothes, gloves, and hat in a dry bag. No cotton clothing. (See "[Cool Paddling](#)" in the February 2008 HCC Newsletter)
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### Sugar Creek Ice Falls Trip

Saturday, February 28, 2009

**Trip Sponsor:** Dwayne James

Get your early paddling fix with the annual (open water permitting) Ice Falls Trip on Sugar Creek. This is a fun trip where you'll see big ice cascades, rock formations, two covered bridges, eagles, Great Blue Herons, robins, and red-winged black birds returning. This trip is **very** weather dependent for open water and temperature. Appropriate dress can vary. In some years, we wore only sweatshirts. In others, we wore snowsuits and needed paddles to clear snow from our cars at the take out. This is not a deterrent but an unexpected thrill.

We will meet at Deers Mill Covered Bridge on Indiana 234. Try to arrive around 10:00 am as the shuttle will run at 10:30 a.m. The put-in is at Deers Mill bridge at the east end of Shades State Park on Indiana 234. You must pass the entrance to Shades to get to the bridge. The take out is at Cox's Ford that is at the west edge of Turkey Run State Park. For those of you not familiar with the Shades State Park area, I will be at the McDonalds on SR 231 at the I-74 interstate exchange in Crawfordsville and will leave there at 9:30 am. Look for a big dark red



Bring a lunch and drinks for the trip as there are no other provisions along the way. Dress accordingly (see our cold weather paddling tips above or on the web in the [February 2008 newsletter](#)) and be sure to bring a dry bag with extra clothes in case you get wet. Layers of fleece or wool work well. An after trip dinner can be had at the Turkey Run Inn if desired.

**Contact Information:** Please watch the weather and be sure to contact Dwayne James at (317) 834-3649 or [kanudreams@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kanudreams@sbcglobal.net) on or before Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 pm since this trip may be cancelled due to frozen water or bad weather.

**Big South Fork, Tennessee (II-IV) / Elkhorn, Kentucky (Class II)      February 21-22, 2009**  
**Trip Sponsor: Jordan Ross**

Over the past several years, this weekend has become more of a season-inaugural paddling event and less of a National Paddling Film Festival trip (see NPFF below) depending on weather and water levels. If we run the Big South Fork in Tennessee on Saturday, it is difficult to make it back to Frankfort to attend the Film Festival activities Saturday evening. Alternatively, if we run the Elkhorn Creek or Benson Creek in Frankfort on Saturday, we'll be a lot closer to the Festival. Watch the HCC bulletin board for updates:

If you are primarily interested in the Film Festival activities Friday and/or Saturday and less inclined to paddle, post a note to the Bulletin Board to see if others are similarly inclined. On Sunday, you can paddle the Elkhorn on your way home if it running. Perhaps, we can all connect for that trip.

**Contact Information:** Jordan Ross, (317) 460-7000 or [jross@iquest.net](mailto:jross@iquest.net) (Put “kayak” in Subject Line)

**2009 National Paddling Film Festival (NPFF)**  
**Frankfort, Kentucky**

On February 20 and 21, the Annual National Paddling Film Festival will be held at Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort, Kentucky. This event promotes river conservation through "the Best in Paddlesport Video and Image Competition". This is an opportunity to view exciting kayaking videos from across the country. The videos include sea kayaking as well as whitewater kayaking.

Some HCC paddlers are planning to attend—coupling the trip with the Big South Fork/Elkhorn trip described above. Check the HCC Bulletin Board for people going down to the NPFF or the associated whitewater trip.

NFPP information is available at: <http://www.surfky-bwa.org/NPFF/>

**Canoecopia 2009** **March 13 –15. 2009**  
**Madison, Wisconsin**

Canoecon is one of the largest canoe and kayak expositions in the world. This exposition runs from Friday through Sunday (March 13-15 ). If you're looking for gear, you will be able to see the latest in canoes, kayaks, paddling gear, camping equipment, and clothing from about 100 vendors in the Exposition Hall. If you're looking for a bargain, merchandise is typically 15% off and some vendors may have even better deals on close-out items. It's a great chance to look over and evaluate the equipment you've read about on the web and in magazines.

In addition to cool boats and gear, there will be presentations and clinics on paddling techniques, trip experiences, places to paddle, and instructional information. Canoeopia provides over 50 different educational sessions that you can choose from.

The cost of the show for the weekend is \$15. Watch the Bulletin Board for notices on car pooling up to Madison for this event.

Event Web Site: <http://www.rutabaga.com/canoecopia/page.asp?pgid=1001>







## Trip Report—Raccoon Creek, October. 18-19, 2008

**Dwon Miller**

Once again, the weather was beautiful both days of the trip down Raccoon Creek. What a great two days to take my final trips as a sponsor of this event. I have been involved with this trip since the mid-1970's and it is time someone else took over. I will be available to assist the needs of whoever steps up to the challenge.

On Saturday, there were 21 craft on the river, and Sunday had 6. Both days had wonderful water flow, thanks to the Army Corps and the water release we had requested through Louisville, Ky

Both days, we did the first half of the trip which ran from below the dam to Bridgeton with a stop for lunch in Mansfield. Everyone had time to shop and eat at the noon-time break. The sun was out and the air warm. The water temperature was not bad either.

If you want information about any swimmers, ask Linda Ritchie. She was in charge of that area on Saturday. John Wainscott's daughter's friend was in charge of swimmers on Sunday.

It is extremely important to have a cleanup next season. There were numerous downfalls, which created some major hazards for paddlers, due to the flooding this past spring and some high winds both autumns. We have not run a cleanup for two seasons and it shows. On Sunday, we put in below the first curve just to miss a large snag that was passable only to a few on Saturday. Problems exist both above and below Mansfield. I will try to plan a cleanup, perhaps on a Monday/Tuesday in late July or early August next summer, as has been suggested by several members. The weekend cleanups just have not gotten much response for the past two years. This cleanup is not safe for just one or two boaters.

Thanks to everyone who has helped me do the cleanups and the trips on the Raccoon. It has been fun, but I am not getting any younger. I will probably paddle at least one day if the trip gets picked up by someone else.



*Lunch at Mansfield*





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## Trip Report: Ocoee Fall Colors & Last Release November 1-2, 2008

Jordan Ross

Add one more to the string of perfect paddling weekends we enjoyed this fall. Every Gauley trip this year offered perfect weather plus excellent foliage for the final releases. The Ocoee season finale likewise did not disappoint. The fall colors in Tennessee were at peak, superb not only for paddling but for scenic mountain driving as well.

We've done this trip in the past when the leaves were already gone from the trees and the weather was frigid but the calendar this year was favorable - the last release and Halloween are normally not the same weekend. The fall foliage was very sustained this year due the unusually mild days. Thank you, global warming.

Our nights there were clear, moonless and cold, with the dew freezing on the kayaks. The mornings warmed up surprisingly quickly to a balmy mid-70s and brilliant, cloudless sunshine. Camping at Adventures Unlimited was perfect—no hassles, inexpensive, uncrowded, lots of shaded, level grass to spread the group out in, breakfast places within a half mile, a pristine bath house with hot showers and a laundry room with - oh joy! - clothes dryers for comfort.

Paddlers this weekend were Sharon Schierling, Jordan Ross, Suzi Rapp, Monica Davis, Vaughn Corum, Cory Lefebre, Eric Hartwell, Chris Bischoff and Mike McKinley. Monica's friend Rob from North Carolina paddled the last Cheoah release on Saturday and joined us that evening for dinner and to paddle the Ocoee Sunday.

At the put-in Saturday, we were surprised by unusually cold water caused by a snap deep freeze the week before that finished off the vegetation and briefly dusted the mountains in snow. Chris and Eric had visions of making two runs using Chris's nifty hand-made hand paddles for the second run, but the cold water nixed that plan. Only Cory and Jordan managed a second run Saturday. The 4 pm shadows on the river brought on a chill despite the unseasonably warm air.

Most of us had not paddled with Vaughn since this same trip last year. He was now coming off a summer working and teaching kayaking at the Whitewater Center in Charlotte, NC. Paddling the man-made course every day, he's developed impressive paddling skills and play moves. He spent much of the weekend launching towering flips and loops at several Ocoee play spots, in particular a new hangout called "Chopped Broccoli".

Dinner that evening was at "Las Margaritas" in Cleveland, discovered by Chris and Eric and well recommended with tangy salsa and massive entrees. Faithful to it's name, the margaritas were - how did I put it in my gathering stupor? - "v-v-very effective".

Back at camp the chilly evening demanded a blazing campfire to huddle around. Firewood was conveniently delivered right to our campsite. A redneck drove up in a pickup offering wood at "five dollars fer all you kin hold". Eric jumped at that and we loaded his outstretched arms with a massive mound of wood until the logs started to tumble and thud dangerously around his toes. When the blaze died down, everyone retired and we were rewarded with an extra hour of sleep due the fall time change.

Sunday morning with the extra hour felt like lounging around but we still got to the 10am release with ample time to have a good paddle before heading home. The long drive home featured the all-you-kin-eat "feed trough" experience at the Golden Corral (aka "The Hungry Heifer" ) in London, KY. My stomach hurt the rest of the way home

No doubt there will be pickup trips before the year's end and it would be nice to take Cory to paddle the New River before he returns to France at the end of December, but for now the official 2008 HCC Whitewater Schedule has been put well to rest. Weather-wise it would be hard to imagine a more beautiful end to the season.

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## Snow—The Other Whitewater

On Sunday, December 21, nine HCC paddlers hit the slopes at Perfect North near Lawrenceburg, Indiana. The slopes were busy but we managed to get enough runs in. Barry acted as instructor and guru for those wanting to learn the Zen of parallel skiing.

Perfect North is about 90 miles southeast of Indianapolis and has 22 trails and 5 lifts. While in not Colorado, it beats not skiing and is a great place to learn.

Pictured (Left to Right): Ken Wright, Cory Lefebre, Sharon Schierling, Barry Welling, Abed Borsa, and Jordan Ross. Not Pictured: Nick Rapp, Suzi Rapp, and Jim Sprandel.



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## Trip Report—White River (Waverly-Henderson Ford)

November 9, 2008

**Trip Sponsors:** Sue Foxx, Linda Smith,  
Jim Sprandel

**Trip Participants:** Sue and Libby Foxx, Linda Smith,  
Jim Sprandel, Frank Chiao, Mike  
Lough, and Dwayne James

A cold and windy day greeted the stout-hearted paddlers that gathered at the Dairy Queen for the final club trip of the season. Jim Sprandel filled in for Rick Turney as trip leader and did a great job. Rick was all set to lead on Saturday when we discovered the schedule mix-up. A big thanks to him for being initially willing and for securing Jim as a replacement.

All paddlers bundled up as we set out with the wind-driven waves making it look like the current flowed north at the

put-in.

Hats,

gloves, and wetsuits were the order of the day. Frank, a new member, who arrived with his dog, Gino, did well especially for only having paddled about 3 times before. His Hershey Kiss chocolates were a tasty treat at lunch and the take out.

The water level on the White River was low but passable. One new tree had fallen across the river just above Henderson Ford but the river has created a small opening to the far right so all got through safely. (Ed. Note: That tree had been washed away by the club's-January 1 trip). The trip distance was about 9 miles rather than the 5 miles indicated in the write-up.

Despite the gray day, it was wonderful to be 'on the river' even if we only saw the eagle nest and not the eagle. The White River provided a good end to a fun season of paddling.



*Paddling through channel formed by Fallen Tree*



*Frank and Gino on the White River*

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## Learn to Roll — Pool Sessions

**Every Wednesday Nights, 7:00—9:00 pm**  
**Thatcher Recreation Center, 4649 Vermont St.**  
**Indianapolis**

Cost: \$10/Session

The Hoosier Canoe Club sponsors year-round, weekly pool sessions at Thatcher Recreation Center. The pool sessions focus on skill refinement and individual practice for all paddlers— whitewater kayakers, canoeists, and recreational and sea kayakers. You can practice strokes, bracing, Eskimo rolls, deep water re-entry, and play boating moves. There are no formal classes at these pool sessions, but experienced volunteer instructors will be happy to assist you with rolling and basic paddle technique.

Check the HCC before coming over since Jordan posts notices there if the pool is closed.

**Contact:** Jordan Ross, (317) 460-7000, [jross@iquest.net](mailto:jross@iquest.net)  
(Put "kayak" in Subject Line)



*Thatcher Pool*

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**Photo Credits:** Page 1— Courtesy of Dan Valleskey, Page 5,8—Joel DeLashmit, .Page 6,7-Top, Page 7-Bottom—Club Photo



*Pipe Creek near Metamora—December 26th, 2008*

# Upcoming Events

Wednesdays 7 pm	<b>Pool Sessions</b> —Thatcher Pool, Indianapolis, IN	Page 7
Saturday, Jan. 31	<b>2009 Trip Planning Meeting</b>	Page 3
Fri., Sat Feb. 20-21	<b>National Paddling Film Festival, Frankfort, KY</b>	Page4
Sat., Sun Feb. 21-22	<b>Whitewater Trip</b> —Big South Fork (TN), Elkhorn (Frankfort, KY)	Page 4
Saturday, Feb. 27	<b>Flatwater Trip</b> —Ice Falls Trip, Sugar Creek	Page 3
Saturday, March 7 5-8 pm	<b>HCC/Whitewater Warehouse Pool Demo</b>	Page 3
March 13-15	<b>Canoecopia, Madison WI</b>	Page 4

**March Newsletter Deadline:** Please submit articles to Jim Sprandel by Sunday, February 15, 2009. Please E-Mail articles to [merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net) or call Jim at 317-257-2063.