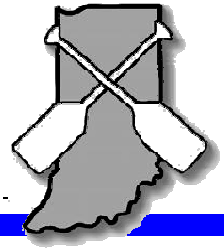


# The Hoosier Paddler

Volume 48, Issue 6

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

July 2010



## Hello, HCC—Summer Meeting, Saturday, July 24, 2010

Dan Valleskey

**HCC Summer Meeting/Paddle:** Our Summer meeting will be held on Saturday July 24, 2010. The board decided our original plans to do a Monroe Reservoir float were overly ambitious. We will instead float a very nice, short section of the White River. This is as easy and pretty a paddle trip as you could hope for this close to home. By all means, come out to meet other club members.

We will meet just behind the Indianapolis Art Center in Broad Ripple, where the Monon Trail meets the White River, 820 East 67th St.. The actual put-in is at 68th and Cornell (at the very end of Cornell. (68th does not go through.) We will float down to the Rocky Ripple Town Hall for a pitch-in dinner. As usual, the club will buy the burgers, brats, hotdogs and soft drinks. Y'all can bring your favorite sides and deserts.

[http://www.river-school.org/resources/riverschool\\_map.pdf](http://www.river-school.org/resources/riverschool_map.pdf)

We will start signing waivers at noon and run shuttle by 12:30 pm. If you are running late, we can shuttle you afterwards, there is plenty of parking at the Art Center. If a few folks do not want to float, that would be fine, as I will need helpers to set up at Rocky Ripple. I expect we will get there by 2:00. You do know where Rocky Ripple Town Hall is, don't you? I'll give you a hint—930 W. 52nd St. I'll try to have maps handy. We expect to wrap up at Rocky Ripple by 6:00. Then, if the weather is still nice, we can have an evening float down to Riverside Park.

**Fall Creek Clean-Up:** The HCC once again worked on Fall Creek as part of the National Trail Day. We picked up trash from Woolen Gardens down to Emerson. We had shore-based workers this year, thanks to the new Fall Creek/ Millersville Association. I enjoyed hearing several people comment on what a nice stretch of river we have right in the middle of Indianapolis. Next year, we may need to work further down, there just wasn't enough trash to keep Dave Ellis happy in spite of the fact that he came in with 4 tires in his boat.

**Hoosier Outdoor Experience:** I've already been to several meetings about the Hoosier Outdoor Experience coming September 18 and 19 to Fort Harrison. There will be boats available on the lake; we will not have to work with those. We will again be doing a river tour, but we will restrict it by only filling half the trailers, cutting the number of floaters on each trip in half. That should enable us to spend some time actually giving paddle instruction, and maybe even make it easier to keep the groups together. DNR is very committed to making the river experience a quality component of the whole exposition. They will be helping us out with signage, and manpower. I will be recruiting from our ranks again for easy jobs. I think most everyone had a blast helping last year.

**2010 Newsletter Help Still Needed:** We are still looking for some newsletter help. We have it worked out so that the new editor will not have to spend time formatting for fit and appearance; our great printers (Morris Printing Company, i.e., Dan Evard and Linda Smith) will handle that. The task now is to find someone to gather and coordinate articles, trip announcements, and trip reports. We now have, on the board, positions for Whitewater chair, Flatwater chair, and Touring Kayak chair. I believe a function of those positions needs to include nudging trip sponsors to have all trips announced in the newsletter. None of us are professionals when it comes to running canoe clubs. We have jobs, families, and other interests all clamoring for our attention. But the time spent by sponsors documenting is most likely not very significant compared to the time spent on the water (thank goodness!). The next editor will have an easier job, with these three Chairs helping. So we can continue to work towards a great newsletter, even after Jim hands over the reins.

SYOTRI!

Dan Valleskey ([danpaddles@gmail.com](mailto:danpaddles@gmail.com))

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## *The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club*

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## Thursday Evenings at Eagle Creek Park

Kellie Kaneshiro

The HCC Eagle Creek Park Pass allows you to enter Eagle Creek park and paddle starting at 3pm. Please see the May newsletter for details on how to obtain the Thursday Evening Eagle Creek pass.

Enter the park from either the 56th or 71st street entrance and follow the signs to the Marina. The launch site is on the northwest side where the rental canoes and kayaks are located. You'll see a small white house and a shelter—the launch site is just beyond that. There is a gravel road that goes down to the shelter where people often unload boats and then move their car to the main parking lot.

Some of us meet at 6:00 pm at the launch site and decide where to paddle. Everyone is welcome to come and it has been great to see longtime members and some new faces. Sometimes, the group will split into a fast paced group and a more leisurely one.

The Indianapolis Rowing Center is located in the park, and the course lanes are marked by buoys. Please keep an eye out for the rowers.

Maps of the park are at:

<http://www.indygov.org/eGov/City/DPR/PDF/EAGLECREEKPARKNORTH.pdf>

<http://www.indygov.org/eGov/City/DPR/PDF/EAGLECREEKPARKSOUTH.pdf>

The north route in the lake is more sheltered and scenic once you get past the causeway. The park closes at dusk, usually the closing time is posted at the gate. If you leave too late, the 71st street gate may be closed and you'll have to exit using the 56th street gate.

If you have questions, contact Kellie Kaneshiro at [ecreek@hoosiercanoecub.org](mailto:ecreek@hoosiercanoecub.org).

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## Triathlon Help Needed! Saturday, July 17, 2010

The next Eagle Creek Triathlon will be Saturday, July 17. The HCC has been supporting these triathlons for several years and the money that we receive from them helps support projects within the HCC. Since we're usually done supporting the triathletes by 8:45 am, you can get a paddle in on Eagle Creek after we're done.

The swimming portion of this event starts at 8:00 am Eastern Daylight Time. Safety boaters are asked to be ready and in the water at Eagle Creek by 7:30 am to receive instructions and complimentary race T-shirts. Please meet at the Ranger's Office on 56th street—the entrance to the Ranger's Office parking lot is on the north side of 56th street about 0.3 mile west of the 56th street entrance to Eagle Creek park.

Volunteers will follow swimmers and allow struggling swimmers to hang onto their boats. You would then signal a motorized safety boat, which would swoop in to collect the exhausted swimmer. Paddlers are not expected to take swimmers to shore. The total swim distance for these events is 500 meters.

We also support two triathlons next month on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, August 28th (Go Girl Triathlon). For more information about these events, please visit: <http://www.tuxbro.com/triathlons.html>

If you would like to volunteer to be a safety boat for one of these events, please contact John Wainscott at (317) 250-8107 or [wldleak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wldleak@sbcglobal.net).



*HCC Support of July 2009 Eagle Creek Triathlon*



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## Seven Safety Tips for Hoosier Paddlers

Jordan Ross

**Editor's Note:** Jordan Ross wrote this article for the HCC's Safety Outreach Committee to increase public paddling safety awareness in an effort to bring down paddling fatalities. Our Publicity Chairman, Mariann Davis, has circulated this article to papers throughout the state and it has currently been published in the Bloomington and South Bend papers. The Safety Outreach Program is also planning a poster and brochures to help increase public awareness.

On May 12, Dennis Houck, an experienced South Bend kayaker, set off alone for a run on the St. Joe River. When he didn't return that night, local fire rescue crews began searching the river but his body was not found until May 19. Such tragedies are rare but hardly isolated incidents. In 2009, there were half a dozen reports of drownings of recreational paddlers on Indiana streams and lakes. Among the more newsworthy were the deaths of Ethan Runnel, an experienced outdoorsman who perished in the frigid waters of the White River in Indianapolis in mid-February, and three-year old Megan McNair, who drowned on the Driftwood River on a hot August day when the rental canoe her family was paddling was swept into a log jam and capsized. The circumstances were different in each case, but there was one common thread among these three: none of the victims were wearing a life vest.

Statistically paddle sports are very safe, but sadly every year we read of such accidents. Almost all of them could be prevented by taking a few basic safety precautions. As Memorial Day launches the start of the outdoor activity season, the Hoosier Canoe Club would like to offer a brief list of the most important do's and don'ts for inexperienced paddlers.

1. **DO wear a PFD (Personal Flotation Device)** . A life jacket or vest will float you high in the water so it's easier to breath and swim to safety. PFDs also provide warmth and protection. A PFD must be properly fitted and snug so it won't ride up or come off in the water.
2. **DON'T drink alcohol while paddling.** This may be the original "no brainer." Accident reviews show that alcohol is a contributing factor in many boating accidents, on all craft, in all waters.
3. **DON'T paddle alone.** Solo paddling is for experts. A party of two boats is good, three or more boats ideal. In the event of a mishap, one or more paddlers can stay with a victim while a companion goes for help. Better yet, paddle with experienced partners and avoid mishaps in the first place!
4. **DO dress for a swim.** Is the water cold? You may have no plans to swim but you must prepare for the possibility. If the air plus water temperatures add up to less than 100 degrees, hypothermia is a real danger. If you don't have protective paddling clothing (wet suit, paddle jackets and pants, etc.) wear a waterproof jacket or rain parka over layers of clothing—synthetics like fleece are much better than natural fibers especially cotton. And bring a change of dry clothing in a waterproof bag.
5. **DON'T get caught in deadly strainers and dams.** Without question, these are the biggest killers in Indiana rivers and streams.

Strainers are fallen trees, logs and branches in moving water that allow water to flow past but snag boats and paddlers and trap them underwater. Even on a "lazy" river paddlers caught in a strainer can die of drowning or hypothermia. Strainers may be easy to see or hidden below the surface. They often occur on the outside of a turn where the current is fastest, sweeping inexperienced paddlers into a trap.

With experience, strainers are easy to avoid. Paddle to the inside of turns where the current is slower. Stop and scout if you can't see an easy route around a strainer.

The turbulent currents below dams are often called "drowning machines". They are much, much more dangerous than they look. Boats flip in the currents and paddlers are recirculated helplessly below the dam until they drown. It's not unusual for rescuers to drown trying to save the victims. No matter how small the dam, carry your boat around it and put in well below the currents at the base.



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6. **DON'T paddle flooded rivers.** Even experts avoid flooded rivers. A river above it's banks and flowing in the trees is a death trap. Strainers of man-made debris, fencing and cables, log jams and raging currents add to the danger. Fatalities often occur within a hundred yards of the put-in.
  7. **DO join a paddling club.** There is no better way to learn to paddle safely than to join a club and paddle with experts who will show you the simple skills for risk-free paddling. Paddling with a club provides great camaraderie, recreation and exercise. Clubs offer trips to beautiful locations you might never see on your own, expose you to different kinds of boats and paddling experiences and will help you get the most out of your new sport.
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## Flatwater Trip Announcement

**East Fork, White River Overnighter**  
**Trip Sponsor: Richard Tekulve**

**Saturday–Sunday , July 17-18, 2010**

For nearly four decades (since 1972), I have been paddling the East Fork of the White River on an annual basis. My many journeys have taken me from the start at Mill Race Park in Columbus to its termination 189.9 miles downstream near Petersburg. Having covered every inch of the river, it is my opinion that the best “stretch” of river is from Columbus to Lawrenceport.

This section contains some of Indiana’s longest “camp out” sandbars and flows under some of the state’s longest and oldest bridges. Many of the over one hundred sandbars in this stretch are between ¼ to ½ mile in length. Firewood is usually plentiful on each bend. To add to this, the East Fork of the White River is one of the few 24/7/365 streams that exist in the Hoosier state. Even in drought-like conditions, the river can be paddled. An easy, steady flow of 2-2 ½ mph can be expected with Class I conditions provide for a leisurely and pleasant float.

The East Fork’s source is provided by the joining of the Driftwood River (1165 sq. mi.) and the Flatrock River (542 sq. mi) at Columbus. With a total of 1707 square miles of drainage area from its start, the East Fork always has water to float. The river drains from 25 of Indiana’s 92 counties and at its confluence has drained 5,746 square miles near Petersburg. Add to this the fact that it is served by 19 different DNR boat ramps spaced out evenly throughout its travels.

Also of significance, we will pass under three historical and lengthy bridges. The Shieldstown Covered Bridge (built 1875 and 353 ft), Vallonia Iron Bridge (built 1887 and 279 feet), and the second longest standing covered bridge in the World – the Medora Covered Bridge built in 1875 and an astonishing 453 feet long.

This trip is intended to be part of a two-day event with a camp out on a secluded sandbar, somewhere upstream from the U.S. 50 bridge. I will provide a one-day trip also for those interested from our put-in at Seymour (SR 258) to Brownstown (US 50) of 16.3 miles. The two-day overnighter will be from SR 258 in Seymour to SR 235 in Medora a total distance of 25.7 miles. The campout is optional and a Sunday paddle could be arranged from US 50 Brownstown to SR 235 Medora – a trip of 9.4 miles.

**Trip Dates:** Saturday July 17 and Sunday July 18

### **Trip Options:**

- Saturday Only: State Road 258 DNR Access – 2 mi. west of Seymour (Delorme Atlas page 51-E10) to US 50 DNR Access – 2 mi. west of Brownstown (Delorme Atlas page 51 – G9)  
Trip Distance: 16.3 miles. Shuttle Total: 27 miles.
- Saturday and Sunday: State Road (SR) 258 DNR Access – 2 mi. west of Seymour (Delorme Atlas page 51 – E10) to SR 235 DNR Access – 1 mile East of Medora (Delorme Atlas Page 51 – H8)  
Trip Distance: 25.7 miles. Shuttle Total: 44 miles
- Sunday Only: US 50 Brownstown to Medora (meet group at US 50 Access). Trip Distance: 9.4 miles

**Meeting Time::** 9:30 am, Saturday, July 17

**Meeting Place (Put-In):** SR 258 Bridge (DNR Access Ramp) 2 miles west of Seymour (Delorme Atlas Page 51 – E10)





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**Best route from Indianapolis:** Interstate 65 South to Exit 55 (ST RD 11) – take St Rd 11 south 5 miles into Seymour and take SR 258 west 2 miles to our put-in (DNR Sign) at bridge Northeast corner - parking.

**Note:** Approximately. 62 miles from Downtown Indy.

**Contact Information:** Please let me know by Friday, July 16th before 10 PM.

Richard Tekulve. Home (812) 346-7921, Cell (812) 592-0661, E-Mail: [canoeindiana@yahoo.com](mailto:canoeindiana@yahoo.com)

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**HCC Summer Meeting/Paddle—White River, Indianapolis**

**Saturday, July 24, 2010**

See *Hello, HCC* on Page 1 of this Newsletter.

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**Joint Touring Kayak/Flatwater Trip Announcement**

**Cataract Falls on Cagles Mill Lake—Lieber SRA**

**Saturday, July 31, 2010**

**Trips Sponsor: Jim Sprandel**

Cataract Falls is a series of stair-step falls where Mill Creek enters and forms Cagles Mill Lake in Lieber State Recreation Area near Cloverdale, IN. We put in on Cagles Mill Lake and paddle up the headwaters of the lake to the base of Lower Cataract falls. At that point, we will have lunch, look around the Lower Falls, and then hike about one mile up to see the Upper Falls. If you've never seen the Upper Falls, you should.

This section of the lake is mostly protected and will be suitable for all types of boats (canoes, sea kayaks, recreational kayaks).

**Meeting Place:** Marathon Station just south of I-70 on SR 243. From I-70 and I-465 on the Indianapolis West side, drive west on I-70 towards Terre Haute. Go past the Cloverdale SR 231 exit approximately 4 miles to the SR 243 exit (Exit 37). Turn south on SR243 and the Marathon station is on the right just after passing over I-70. (Approximately 40 minutes from I-465 and I-70 on the West Side)

**Access Site:** Cunot Public Access Site (PAS) on Lieber Lake. Be sure to meet at the Meeting Place since there is currently construction on SR 243 on the way to the Cunot that I'll scout during the week before the trip.

**What to Bring:** Be sure to bring water, your lunch, sun screen, and insect repellent. You might bring walking shoes since you will want to climb around Cataract Falls.

**Paddling Distance:** 6 miles. It is 3 miles from Cunot PAS up to the Lower Falls and then back. If anyone wants to paddle a little more after we get back, there are some interesting areas to explore just west of Cunot PAS.

**Schedule:**

9:30 am	Arrive at Marathon station Meeting Place
9:45 am	Drive to Put-In
10:15 am:	Start Paddling

**Note:** A current DNR Lake permit is required for this trip. If necessary, you can pick this up at the Lieber Park entrance on the way to the put-in.

**Contact Information:** Please call Jim Sprandel (317) 257-2063 by 6:00 pm Friday, July 30 or e-mail me at [merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net).



*Playing below Lower Cataract Falls, July 2009*



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## Discount American Whitewater Memberships Available

Jordan Ross has registered the Hoosier Canoe Club as an Affiliate Club with American Whitewater (AW). Paddlers across the nation can now get information about the Hoosier Canoe Club from the AW web site—<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/>. One perk of being an Affiliate Club is that HCC members can now join AW for only \$25 (a \$10 saving) by signing up for a “Club Member 1-Year Membership”.

Members may be interested in joining AW since they can then receive the AW Journal, read and post in the AW Forums, receive AW Beta, and receive selective vendor discounts as well as a 10% discount from the AW store.

Jim Sprandel has enrolled the HCC as a Paddle America Club with the American Canoe Association (ACA). After this application has been processed, HCC members will also be able to get discounted ACA memberships. This processing should be completed within the next month so watch the Bulletin Board and the August Issue of the Hoosier Paddler.

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### Trip Report: Driftwood River, Saturday, May 21, 2010

Linda Smith

**Trip Sponsors:** Dan Evard, Linda Smith

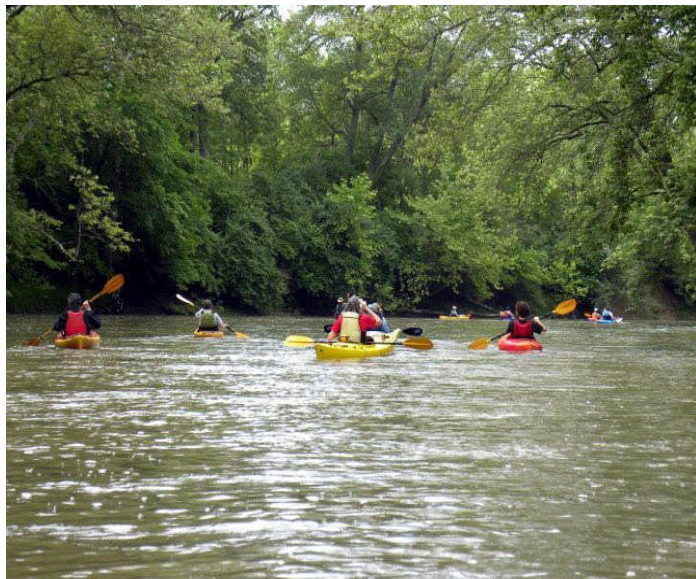
Saturday May 22 found twenty-one (21) HCC members and friends wetting a paddle directly below the scenic Furnas Mill Dam on the Sugar Creek. Yes, I said Sugar Creek! Many in the group were surprised to find that they had paddled 4 miles on Sugar Creek before it connected with the Big Blue to officially become the Driftwood.

We had a fast run—doing 15 miles in 4 hours. The big challenge was the lengthy section of standing waves right before the take out. All managed beautifully under the guidance of trip leader, Dan Evard, who led off. He directed the group to stagger their runs and was then poised at the somewhat tricky take out to grab boats before they could be swept down river in the fast current.

Celebrating her birthday with us was Brenda Baun



*Linda Smith paddling towards Iron Bridge just below Put-In*



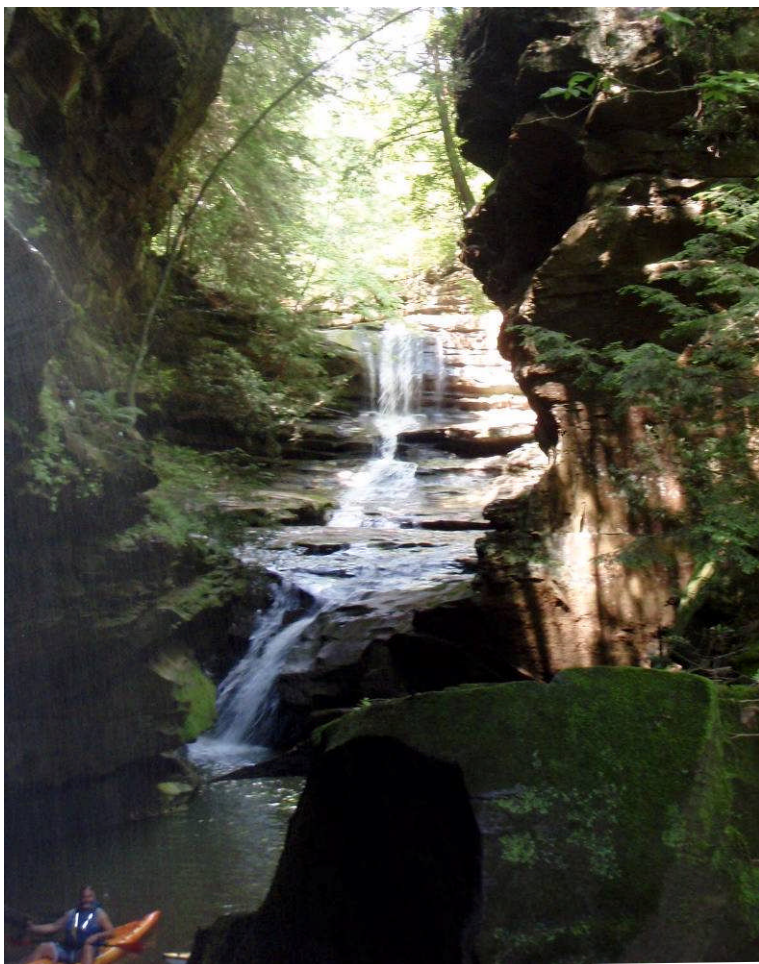
*Paddling down the Driftwood*

and husband Michael in their new tandem canoe! Ellen Popodi had two friends along, Henry Hoyle and Tom Orr. Welcome! And welcome to new member Greg Rathnow whose lighter work/travel schedule may now allow him to join us on a few more trips. John and Sharon Cannaday got a chance to try out their new inflatable tandem kayak and, by golly, it works pretty good. LTNS (Long Time No See) members, Robert and Karen Kirkman, were our other canoeists along with Richard Tekulve. Rounding out our group were kayakers Susi Megathlin, Mariann Davis, Mary Keith, Sue Foxx, Frank Chiao (with Gino as co-pilot), Mike Miller, yours truly, and first timer Julie Evard who was celebrating a wedding anniversary on the river with hubby Dan. Special thanks to Tom Beckerich for running sweep.



## Trip Report—Grayson Lake, May 21-23, 2010

Todd Sullivan



HCCer's accounted for a third of the 34 boats taking part of an outstanding weekend on Grayson Lake, KY. This venture was a collaboration including kayakers from several regional clubs, allowing everyone to meet, greet and share their old stories with some new folks. Forecasted weather had scared off a third of the registrants, but those who took the chance were treated to a near perfect weekend.

Grayson Lake is a dammed lake that is about 1.5 hours drive east of Red River Gorge, just off of I-64. The main body of the lake appears to be a typical reservoir, attracting powered recreational and fishing craft. The feeder tributaries, however, are another story. They're comprised of tall (+100'), expansive, colorful sheer exposed stones walls, that just seem endless. Water in these channels is broad and deep, but the few powered boats in these areas were fisherman who were all very respectful of kayaks.

Saturday's 12-miler down Caney Creek and Little Sandy River was a shuttled point-to-point paddle. Clifty Creek on Sunday was a 6-mile out-and-back. Both paddles were highlighted by numerous waterfalls that seemed to greet you around every bend. The prior day's rainfall and many tall overhangs made for quite a display, and made for much fun. Effectiveness of spray-skirts

and hatches were tested out as anyone could paddle beneath and often behind most all of the falls.

Tall tales abounded at Saturday night's group camp. A deer taking a 100' dive (...tumble) into the creek, just barely missing a paddler. A large turtle taking a vertical swim down one of the taller falls, under which several kayaks were playing. The medi-vac of a squirrel, whom we could alone assume ignored Mom's advice and swam shortly after eating, on an extended paddle blade, resulting in a paddle-less paddler being brought ashore via tow-line. I'd have been highly skeptical of it all, as usual, had I not been right next to the boat just about taken out by the kamikaze deer, with pictures to prove it.

**Todd**



**Photo Credits:** Page 2, 5, 8—Jim Sprandel, Page 6—Tom Beckerich, Page 7—Todd Sullivan





NWIPA Gary—Michigan City National Trail Day  
Paddle on Lake Michigan, June 5, 2010

## Upcoming Events

Wednesday Nights 7-9 pm

Thursday Evenings

3 pm — dark

Fri.-Sat. July 9-17

Sat. July 17

Sun. July 17-18

Sat.-Tue. July 17-20

Sat. July 24

Sat.-Sun. July 24-25

Sat. July 31

Sat.-Sun. July 31-Aug. 1

**Pool Sessions- Thatcher Pool**

**Eagle Creek Paddles,**

Through Sept. 30, 2010

**Whitewater Trip: Maine Rivers Trip.**

Kennebec, Dead, Penobscot

**Eagle Creek Triathlon—Volunteers Needed**

**Flatwater Trip: East Fork White River**

**Bear Paw Women's WW Clinic**

**HCC Summer Meeting and Paddle, White River**

**Whitewater Trip: New River, WV (III-IV)**

**Flatwater/Touring: Cataract Falls/Cagles Mill Lake Trip**

**Whitewater Trip: Hiwassee (II) & Ocoee (III+)**

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**August Newsletter Deadline:** Please submit articles to Jim Sprandel by Thursday, July 15, 2010. Please e-mail articles and pictures to [merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net) or call him at 317-257-2063.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

**The Hoosier Paddler**  
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