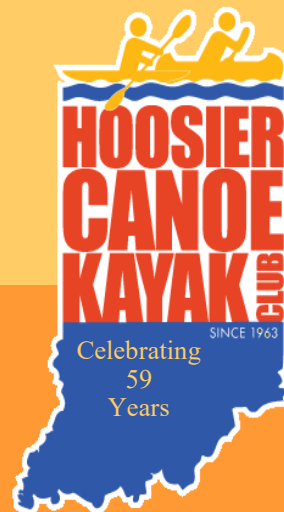


# The Hoosier Paddler

January 2022, Volume 60 Issue 1

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



## Skippers Note

As we finish up the Trips' Planning Meeting and start our 2022 season with training, I sit and wonder what type of year we will have. Will it be dry or wet? Will we have enough training events or trips to keep our membership interested? As I think about all those things, it all boils down to involved membership. If you as a member of this club do not get involved we can't sustain what we have built over the last 50 years. I encourage you to lead a trip or volunteer at one of the many events the club sponsors. I promise you this, the time you spend being involved in the club; the enjoyment you will reap!

Looking out to the future, Linda Decker has once again organized a Wilderness First Aid Class. The last time this was offered it was an outstanding event and I look forward to attending it the first weekend of February. Thank you Linda for organizing this event. Another coming event I'm currently helping organize is one of our biggest outreach programs of the year and that is the Ford 67th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show February 18th – 27th, 2022. This one program showcases the whole club so please be sure to stop by and say, "Hi!" to our volunteers who will be working the booth.

I leave this as my final thought for this month.... I would like to send out a huge "Thank You" to the 2022 HCKC Board Members! I'm so happy and excited to be a part of this board and look forward to the amazing things we as a group can execute! As always, if you have concerns or comments about the club, please call or email me and I would love to hear what you have to say, John.

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## Annual Elections 2021

Rumors have it that the club put forth a slate of candidates and held online elections in December 2021. As of January 30, 2022, the media have yet to advise on the outcome of the elections of new board members. It appears that the officers are trying to assume elected positions, but the continued silence on this issue is concerning. Are the results tied up in litigation? Recounts? Anyone having any information please pass along to me at [whereisjimmyhoffatrumpwon.org](mailto:whereisjimmyhoffatrumpwon.org)

Please check the club website for updates on trip schedules and covid-19 policy.

## **Trip Announcement**

### **Ice Falls Sugar Creek March 5, 2022**

#### **Trip Sponsor: Dwayne James**

Please Note: I have delayed this until the first weekend of March to avoid a conflict with the Boat, Sport and Travel Show at the State Fairgrounds. Let's hope for some snowfall and cold weather to create some nice ice falls for us, but not so cold as to make the water too hard to paddle like last February. Watch for emails for updates.

Please join us for great scenery and a very pretty paddle on Sugar Creek. We will meet at the Deer's Mill covered bridge and paddle down to the Narrows at Turkey Run State Park. It will be cold: dress properly for your level of comfort. We will run a shuttle leaving at 11 am. The trip generally takes until about 3 pm depending on how long we stop for lunch/breaks or to change into dry clothing after taking a swim. Masks will be worn on the shuttle. If you have covid symptoms or are not sure, stay home. Look for a go-no go email on March 4th by 8 pm. Questions: [dwaynesjames1@hotmail.com](mailto:dwaynesjames1@hotmail.com)

This is a cold weather paddling event. Sit on tops and sups are not appropriate for this trip. You must dress properly for your comfort level. A dry bag of extra clothing is required. No cotton, bring neoprene boots/gloves, wool hats for your ears, fleece/wool clothing or drysuits/wetsuits as you see fit.

Editor's Note: For cold weather paddling tips see our information on the club website at: <http://www.coldwaterbootcamp.com/pages/home.html>  
<https://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/resources/Documents/Club%20Documents/PaddlingInTheColdMonths.pdf>  
<https://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/resources/Documents/Club%20Documents/ColdwaterPaddling.pdf>



## **Something of Interest**

### **Contributed by Judy Thompson**

French Post Park – this is the site of the put-in for an upcoming trip. The name seems a bit unusual - conjuring up the idea of a fence post with a decorative fleur-de-lis perched on top. The name is actually due to a man of French descent, Jean Baptiste (John B.) Duret, establishing and running a trading post at this location along the Wabash from 1820-1823. After Duret left, the site continued to be used as a public meeting place. On Aug. 18, 1923, French Post Park was dedicated as a Carroll County historic place. It is currently a Carroll County park, and has a shelter house, picnic tables, playground equipment, water, portable toilet, and a concrete DNR boat ramp. Primitive camping is available by advance reservation by calling 765-412-7090 or 765-490-2417.

## **Volunteers Needed!**

### **Ford 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show**

**February 18<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Event Coordinator: John Gates, Dwayne James**

The Sport Show will be held with a somewhat changed format this year: they've gone to an eight-day event encompassing 2 weekends, February 18 – 20 & 23 – 27, 2022 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds (Monday and Tuesday will be closed to the public).

As in the past the group area booth space will continue to be free of charge to all non-profit groups and organizations. The group area will be available daily during the entire 8 days of the show. HCKC will set-up and leave our displays for the entire eight days of the event. The Show will continue to use a check-in procedure at the main door of the Champions Pavilion to facilitate volunteer admissions and accommodate flexible staffing.

#### **2022 EVENT DATES & HOURS:**

Ford 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show  
February 18<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

30<sup>th</sup> Annual Indiana Motorcycle & Powersports Exposition  
February 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

24<sup>th</sup> Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Exposition  
February 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

#### **SHOW HOURS:**

Friday, February 18	1:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturdays, February 19 & 26	10:00am – 8:00pm
Sundays, February 20 & 27	10:00am – 5:00pm
Monday & Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday & Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup>	12pm to 7pm
Friday, February 21	12:00pm – 8:00pm

Dwayne James sent out an email asking for volunteers. If you have not yet responded, please do so this week so that he can finish organizing the volunteers. If you are interested in coming out and helping spread the word of paddle sports and the HCKC, please check your email for the volunteer schedule. [dwaynesjamesa1@hotmail.com](mailto:dwaynesjamesa1@hotmail.com)

Earl King and I will be out there at different times to help and keep everything running smoothly. If you have any questions or want to suggest something that is presented in our booth that represents the club please reach out to me. Also if you have any videos or pictures from training or trips that the HCKC put on we would love to share them during the event - please send them to me so we can put them on the TV screens at the booth.

Can't wait to see everyone out at the show and Happy Holidays! - John Gates

## **Trip Report Wabash River – French Post Park to Pittsburg PAS**

### **Trip Sponsor Judy Thompson**

Although the days preceding the trip were hot and humid, the weather was nearly perfect for the July 31 Wabash trip. Lower temperatures and humidity, combined with a light southerly breeze made for pleasant paddling conditions. The river flow was also good – although it was shallow enough to sometimes hit the bottom with one's paddle, it was rare for the boats to contact the bottom. One paddler had difficulty finding the put in location due to a new phone without the mapping program set up properly, but fortunately the wayward person was close, and was able to be brought in to make the trip with the rest of the group. There were 12 persons and 10 boats on the trip – 6 solo kayaks, 2 solo canoes, 1 tandem kayak and 1 tandem canoe. This section of the river is rather straight, and would be a lot of work to paddle with a strong southern wind, but we had enough wind that day for comfort without add too much paddling effort. The take out was surprising difficult to see from the water, but one of those “if you go under the bridge, you went too far”. A nice stretch of our State River.



## **It's Saturday Pool Time Once Again!!!**

Greetings HCKC Membership!

Pool Time has moved to Saturday Mornings from 10am to noon and the water is warm - so why aren't you coming out and practicing an old skill or learning a new one? Upcoming Saturday Pools will focus on Deep Water Entries, Throw Bag practice, Forward Stroke, Sweep Strokes, and of course Rolling. We have Instructors in Canoe or Kayak of all disciplines - just let us know how we can work with you on your goals.

The rumor that the pool sessions are just for rolling is false. There is plenty of room to practice other skills that as paddlers we need and should be second nature so come out and practice! As a club we have been so fortunate to have this resource at our fingertips for so many years: most clubs across the nation do not hold sessions year round! In order to keep this amazing benefit, we need to utilize it!

The Pool Instructors look forward to seeing HCKC members and their guests so come and visit the pool this winter! Please visit the schedule of events calendar on our website at Hoosier Canoe and Kayak Club for location and updates on schedules.

# **The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club**

## **Trip Report**

### **Elkhorn River, Kentucky**

#### **Martin Luther King, Jr, Day Paddle 1/17/2022**

#### **Sponsor: Richard Clapham**

A Great day for a paddle when I have JNR with me (Lance, my son, was over from the UK and we could not miss the opportunity to get on the water)!

A cold start to the day, we planned on getting there at midday, to allow things to warm. It did – it made it to 32F. We arrived on time at the new access point, which is in a great location next to the river! The flow was just around 600cfs, the sky was cloudy (with a threat of snow), but the anticipation of a good paddle meant all was right with the world.

Ensuring everyone was appropriately dressed with warm drinks was key to a good day. As a warning – I do NOT recommend gloves when paddling with a skirt (spray deck) as you will find it very difficult to pull the skirt. More on that soon. We shuttled the cars to the get out and did a discussion on safety, hypothermia and working as a team. All critical points as the snow began to fall.

On the water, with the low head dam removed the water moves nicely over a few flat rocks and ledges making for good easy surf waves. However, with cold weather we were not going to be spending the day developing skills, we carried on down, over the newly named “Atlantis Rapids” and to the former dam.

Lance, paddling Canoe stood up to read the rapid (for him). He went left to right, and I took the group right to middle, stopping part way as the others followed through. Andrew had been clearly making sacrifices and he managed to let go of the paddle with one hand, shake it at the sky, and stayed upright.....

We continued, commenting on Andrews good fortune, in the belief he had it all in hand.....

S bend was taken as a group, with no breaking out, meant everyone again managed it safely. When you break out the group you normally get 1 or 2 swimmers as they re-enter the current, so we decided to avoid that. Confidence was building and we were making good time.

Probably ½ a mile after there the river splits, and we went to the river where we could clearly see the route down. Lance, in the canoe, hit the eddy half way down next to a small drop/shoot. The group followed down, and the penultimate paddler was Andrew (with Jeff behind)..... Well he hadn't sacrificed enough. Over he went in the shoot. Lance peeled in behind and I broke in from below as he struggled with his skirt..... remember the comment on gloves. He pulled his skirt and his head appeared next to the canoe. As we got him and kit the the side he was over the moon he had not worn his big gloves. Admitting that even the thin gloves had made it harder! Getting back in quickly and on the way we again spoke, as a group about watching each other and signs of Hypothermia.....

We continued through rapid after rapid, looking at the amazing scenery and many icicles. We watched a young bald eagle launch from a nearby tree and fly above us.

Near the end (less than a mile) there are a couple of small boulder gardens as the river moves to the left and right over shallow ledges..... well you just can't switch off... Lance's canoe (all 16ft of it) had been expertly navigated all the way, and in the last section he clipped a rock and twisted sideways..... I remember shouting “you're being a bit confident aren't you?”, with that he replied “...”(well you can guess), and I turned to watch the group. Then splash. The last rock in the last rapid had hit him in the middle, and propelled him into the water.....



We helped push the canoe to the side where Lance climbed out and laughed at his misfortune.

Continuing the last half mile to the get out I was thoughtful on how fortunate we were to be paddling, on a day which marks the memory of MLK JNR.

Getting out, working as a team, we quickly changed, and loaded the boats. The temperature was dropping and our PFDs were frozen, along with carabiners and other kit. We left the site at 4.30, and collected the shuttle vehicle (swapping kayaks from one vehicle to the other) by 5.

It was a great day out, with a great group of people

Thanks to:

Andrew (1<sup>st</sup> Swim of the year)

Jon

Jeff

Alfons

Lance

If you are interested in paddling moving water, please reach out to the club for more opportunities.

Richard



**The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club**

## Sea Kayaking Paddling Topics & Gear Review

by Tony Pascuzzi, Co-Chair SK Fleet

### C-Tug Kayak Cart

I've owned my C-Tug kayak cart/trolley for about 13 years and can't say enough good things about it. Since I do a lot of solo kayaking and I'm not getting any younger, this cart is a life and back saver.

I've tried several of the kayak carts on the market as well as built my own out of PVC and I have to say that the C-Tug is the easiest to use for most any type of kayak. I've personally used it on sea kayaks, recreational kayaks and white water kayaks (filled w/all my paddling gear). The pads on the cart rotate so it will accommodate all hull shapes and sizes.

The cart breaks down into components small enough to fit into most sea kayak hatches quickly. Most of the time I simply take the cart back to my vehicle after getting my kayak to the water's edge. If it's a long walk to the kayak launch point, I just take a Python cable lock to run thru the major cart components and lock it to a sign, tree, post, etc.

The SandTrakz wheels have worked very well in deep sand, mud, rocks, roots, etc. My cart originally came with the standard plastic wheels that didn't have any give to them and the plastic buckle which didn't cinch down tight enough. Consequently the kayak shifted quite a bit on the cart. When the SandTrakz wheels came out, I bought a pair along with the metal buckle. This combination solved everything. I'm currently on my second pair of SandTrakz wheels as the first pair finally wore out.

I place the cart next to the kayak by the seat area and then lift the stern of the kayak only. This way I'm only lifting half of the weight of the kayak. Then simply move the kayak slightly to rest on the cart and strap down. Place the strap just behind the cockpit coaming. This keeps the strap from shifting when rolling over rough surfaces and is a good balance point.

I can completely load all of my gear into the kayak and then roll the whole package down to the water's edge. This eliminates the hassle and stress of loading and unloading at busy boat ramps. It doesn't get any easier.

The C-Tug kayak cart can be purchased on Amazon as well as other online retailers. Austin Canoe and Kayak always seems to have 10-15% discount coupons available and they typically offer free shipping.

<https://www.railblaza.com/products/c-tug-canoe-and-kayak-cart/>

### Reed Chillcheater Emergency Hatch Covers

Reed Chillcheater manufactures emergency hatch covers for sea kayak hatches out of their Aquatherm Fabric. They're very lightweight and pack down into a very compact size. They come in various shapes and sizes to fit most sea kayak hatches.

I always have one round and one oval hatch cover in my dry bag with my sea cag to fit my Valley sea kayaks hatches in the unlikely event of a lost or damaged hatch cover while paddling.

<https://www.chillcheater.com/hatches/hatch-cover-17>

<https://www.chillcheater.com/hatches>

