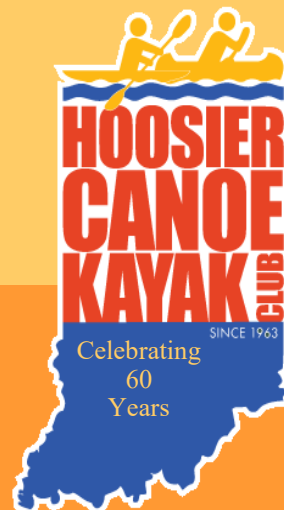


The Hoosier Paddler

March 2023, Volume 61 Issue 1

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



Skippers Note

Thanks to the volunteers who made our booth at the Boat, Sport and Travel show a success. We had the opportunity to talk about our club and share stories with people from around the state. Now that spring has arrived we will get a chance to paddle with many of our new members. Look for announcements of training opportunities and great trips as they are posted in this newsletter. BTW We are going into our 60th year as a club.

Help Wanted!

Eagle Creek Triathlon Even Coordinator

HCKC is seeking a new Eagle Creek Triathlon Coordinator. John Wainscott is retiring from the position. I have sold my Business and am still recovering from an accident which may leave me somewhat limited in my physical abilities. I have done this since at least 2010. Or at least that is how far back my paperwork goes. I would like to mention one individual who has been on the volunteer list since 2010 at almost every Triathlon. And that is Bob Shaw. He needs to be recognized as HKCK most valuable volunteer. Thanks Bob.

The job is simple. Set up the events through our website (I get help with this every year), Make a list of attendees and their shirt sizes. Show up early the day of the event and collect the shirts. I then return to the put-in and have all the participants sign the waiver and give them their shirt. Once on the water I give the boaters their assignments. The event starts at 8:00am and usually ends at 9:00am. We then gather for a group photo then we're done. There are 4 events, June 10, July 8, and August 19 and Go Girl on the 28th. For our efforts the club gets \$1200. If you're interested in taking over this event, please contact me. John Wainscott
John2sea56@gmail.com 317-250-8107

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Trip Announcement

WW: Ocoee Middle Section Class III+

Date: March 18th thru 19th 2023

Trip Sponsor: Jeff Stejskal

Come join the HCKC for the first release weekend on the Middle Ocoee in TN.

This is a early season paddle so the water and air temperature will be cold. **Dress for the swim.** Plan on wearing neoprene, dry suits, dry tops etc. Along with proper layering (poly/wool) no cotton.

Required Equipment: Helmet, Spray Skirt, Paddle, PFD, Dry suit/Wetsuit and Whitewater boat.

Required Skill: Be able to perform a **Combat Roll in Class III rapids**. This is a step up from the Lower Yough. The river is shallower and more continuous. [Progression of Rivers](#)

Camping: Adventure Unlimited, 522 US-64, Ocoee, TN 37361 [AU Info](#) Loop A is the HCKC's preferred campsite area. \$10 per person a night pay online or on-site.

River description: The Middle Ocoee's numerous rapids and river formations offer a wealth of currents and surf for creative and skilled paddlers. Class III for its entirety, the Ocoee requires at least **strong intermediate skills and a solid river roll** for a successful run. The action is fairly continuous from top to bottom, letting up only for a half-mile known as the Doldrums. The top section (from the dam to the Doldrums) is a little harder than the lower section (from the Doldrums to the lake). Many first-timers opt to put in halfway down at Goforth Creek to get a good taste for the river before tackling the full run. (from American Whitewater) [Middle Ocoee Info AW](#)

lease register on the clubs website and for more info Email: jeffs45321@hotmail.com

Formal trip details will be sent out to the registrants before the event.

Trees will look different from the last release 2022 but the rapids will be the same.



Trip Announcement:

SK: Lake Monroe Overnight March 25th and 26th

Trip Sponsor: Jeff Stejskal

THIS is a LEVEL 2 HCKC Sea Kayaking Trip (with possible Level 3 conditions) Please review trip level chart before signing up. [Trip Level Guide 1-2021.docx](#)

Join us for an overnight paddling trip on Lake Monroe. Lake Monroe lets us camp from our boats along the shore in Deem Wilderness. This is our spring pilgrimage and we will camp out on the peninsula across from Cutright Public Access Site.

If you only want to paddle on Saturday, our campsite should be only be about 3-4 miles from the Cutright put-in so that people are welcome to come out and day-paddle with us without camping.

Registration: Please register on the club web site or by email if necessary

Meeting Place/Put-In: Cutright Public Access Site. This is about 2 hours from the intersection of Hwy 37 and I-465 on the southeast side of Indianapolis. ([Google Map](#)) Note: Hwy 37 / 69 has construction

Directions to Meeting Place: Take Hwy 446 south from Hwy 46 on the east side of Bloomington to the Lake Monroe causeway. Cutright is the first turn on your left immediately after you cross the causeway. Go to the first boat ramp that you come to after leaving Hwy 446.

What to Bring: Bring your paddling gear, spray skirt, camping gear, food for lunch, dinner, and breakfast, and warm clothes. You should also bring drinking water with you. We will be camping from our boats and you will have to pack all of your gear and food in your boat, so plan accordingly.

Be sure to have a **2023 Indiana DNR Nonmotorized Boat Permit**. *You should be able to pick one up on the way to the meeting place, either at the DNR headquarter on Hwy 446 on the north side of the entrance to the Paynetown SRA or at the gate for the Paynetown SRA.*

Required Equipment: Because of early season water temperatures, wet suits or dry suits are required. Due to potentially rough lake conditions, spray skirts, safety equipment, and sea/touring kayaks with fore and aft bulkheads are also required.

Schedule: **Saturday** - 10:00 am is the recommended time for arrival at the put-In. We will launch at 10:45 am. We will probably paddle about 4-5 miles and then set up camp and have lunch. After lunch, we will go out and explore more of the lake.

Sunday: We are flexible here. We could return to Cutright as early as 10:00 am and drop off people who have to take off. We'll talk and figure this out Saturday night depending on how far people want to paddle on Sunday and when people have get home.

Contact information: Jeff Stejskal jeffs45321@hotmail.com Please contact me by 7:00 pm on the Thursday before the trip if you want to come. Be sure to register or contact me since I will monitor weather forecasts prior to the trip and I will let the people who have contacted me know if there will be changes to or cancelation of the trip due to the expected conditions.



Trip Announcement

Lake Michigan Training Paddle – South Haven, Michigan

Dates: July 20 – 23, 2023

Camping: Van Buren State Park, 23960 Ruggles Road, South Haven, MI 49090

*** If you are interested in Camping for this weekend, you will need to make reservations soon as possible, campsites fill up quickly**

Description: Lake Michigan offers the opportunity to kayak on an inland sea where conditions like wind, waves and surf are common. This is an opportunity for paddlers to get experience paddling on a large, open body of water and in (limited) conditions that may be common there.

During paddles we will take advantage of opportunities for training and getting experience in paddling in whatever conditions we find. This may include launching and landing in small waves/surf, paddling in wind/waves and paddling in (limited) breaking surf. If conditions are appropriate, we will also work on boat control, bracing in waves/surf and rough water rescues.

We will limit paddles on Lake Michigan to conditions of 1-2 foot waves and winds up to 15-20knots. Should conditions on Lake Michigan exceed our limits; paddles will be moved to the Black River in South Haven, or the Paw Paw River or St. Joseph River in Benton Harbor. We may also do some on land training in the evenings covering various topics related to paddling and safety.

The goal of this trip is to primarily focus on training and skills development for HCKC Level 3+trips. Participants should have some paddling experience and be comfortable in their kayaks. Paddlers should expect to spend at least an hour in their kayaks at a time and be able to keep up with the group. Spray skirts are required for paddling in surf, preferably neoprene, and helmets are recommended. This is a great opportunity for paddlers to advance their skills and confidence in rougher conditions and prepare themselves for more advanced kayaking trips. The goal is to take advantage of safe conditions to learn in and maybe find some more advanced conditions to practice in.

We will not be launching from Van Buren State Park as the carry is significant. Our primary launch site on Lake Michigan will likely be at South or North Beach in South Haven. We also have options of launching at Deerlick Creek Park, a short drive North of Van Buren State Park, or Black River Park in South Haven, or on the St. Joseph River in Benton Harbor.

What to bring: This is an open water paddle. Sea kayaks, kayaks 14' or longer with fore and aft bulkheads and sealed hatches. PFD, spray skirt (neoprene preferred), safety equipment (pump), and helmets are recommended for paddling in surf. Also, drinking water, snacks, lunch, sunscreen for paddling trips.

Register on the

Questions contact Nate

Strong strong.nathan@att.net

Linda Decker Sea Kayak Co-Chair HCKC



Trip Report

Chesapeake Bay trip Sept. 11-17 2022

Sponsor: Robert Moore

Trip sponsor Robert Moore treated the group to a wide variety of paddling environments on this trip. Although the original plan was to split into two groups part of the time, we only had a total of eight paddlers, so we all paddled as one group. Sunday was an arrival day (no scheduled paddling) at Janes Island State Park, which was just as well, because it was very rainy that day. The rain cleared out by launch time Monday, but was forecast to return late afternoon or evening, so we launched from the park, paddled around most of Janes Island, and cut back to the launch on the trails through the salt marsh area.

Tuesday the group drove to Chincoteague Island to paddle Tom's Cove. We paddled down the eastern side of the cove, and did not quite make it to the Atlantic. There was interesting marine life, included mating horseshoe crabs. We crossed the cove and returned paddling up the western side.

Wednesday we paddled the Pocomoke River and Nassawango Creek. We explored near cypress trees and water lilies. The creek became quite narrow, and was interesting to navigate. Thursday was a car travel day up to Susquehanna State Park, and most of us also spend some time that day checking out other Maryland attractions.

Friday one of the Chesapeake Paddling Association members graciously led us on a trip out of Havre de Grace. The water was very calm that day. We paddled out to Fishing Battery Island. There is the remains of a lighthouse there, but it is a wildlife refuge, so we did not land, and stayed in our kayaks. We made a short crossing to an island to the



east where there was a nice beach, landed, and had lunch. We went up Swan Creek and saw lots of lotus, and returned to Havre de Grace following the west shore.

Saturday was a short but nice paddle on the Susquehanna River. There was not much water being released from the dam upstream, so the water was fairly low and slow. As we paddled upstream, we came to a section where we were navigating through the huge rocks that make up the river bottom.

Trip Report

Location: Big Pine 2/25/23

Trip Leader: Jeff Stejskal



We had our makeup trip for the Elkhorn trip which was cancelled the week before because of high water. With the rain during the week which brought the Big Pine up to a crest of 2300 cfs early Friday Feb. 24. I moved the trip to the Big Pine Creek near Attica, IN.

We had 3 HCKC paddler meet at what the locals call the car wash put-in which is at the beginning of Rocky Ford rapid section. The water level was about 1000 CFS at 1:30 PM when we put on.

We met and paddled with a group of 4 paddlers from Chasing Midwest Whitewater Facebook group 1 from Indiana (HCKC), 2 from Illinois and 1 from Wisconsin.

We paddled and played on all waves we could catch while shaking off any rust since our last time whitewater paddling. In Rocky Ford section there was one tree on river right near end of the rapid.

After regrouping at the bottom of Rocky Ford we headed down to S-Curve rapid. We stayed at S-Curve for a while playing since they're great play waves and eddy service. We had several flips/ rolls, roll with a skirt implosion and one swim.

After people were done playing, draining boats and stretching legs we head down stream. The beaver dam that had been reported earlier in the season was gone. We played at all typical surf ledges and two paddlers were working on stern squirts on two different strong deep eddy lines.

We did have a couple of more swims at All Day Wave rapid. We then paddled down and played only short time at Hawaii Five-0. Then took a speeder pace to get to the take out about 1/4 mile downstream from Twin Bridges. We had got permission from the local land owner before hand to takeout on their land.

For several of paddlers it was their first visit to the Big Pine and even one HCKC members had not paddled the lower section. The thermos of hot water I had was popular at the take out. Temps were in the mid 40's. We were on the water for little over 3 hours. Level at Twin Bridges painted gauge was little below 3 feet.

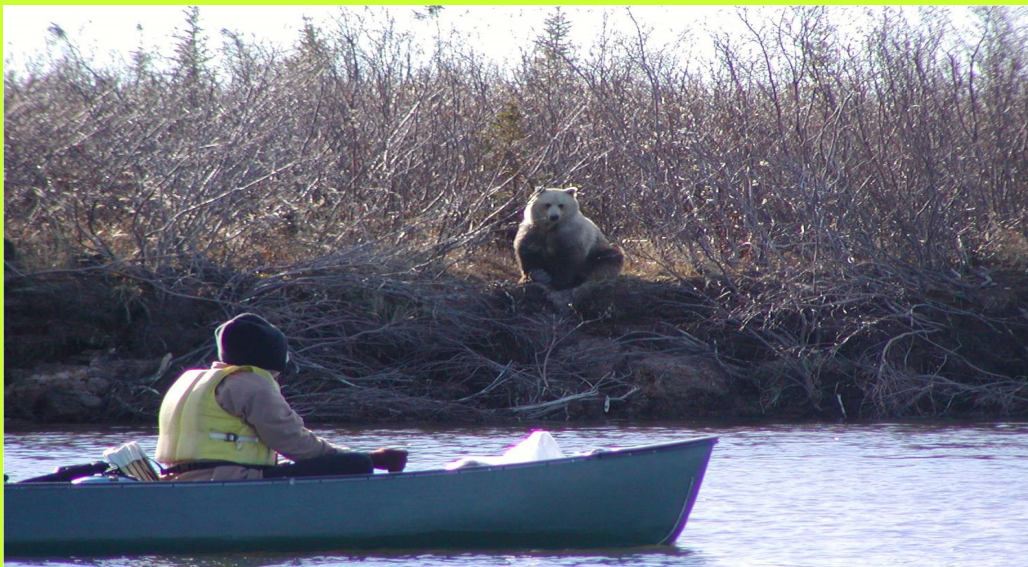
Maybe the next trip to the Big Pine will try Mud Pine creek if its running. Drove over Mud Pine while running shuttle. I have heard it pretty with a few surf waves.

Trip Idea

Adventures in Paddling

John Wainscott

The purpose of this article is to motivate members who want to try something different. The club is structured around four groups, Canoe & Kayak (Flatwater), whitewater, Sea Kayaking and Paddle fishing. All groups are very active in their discipline except Paddle fishing. I would like to help promote a new paddling group called, "Adventure Paddling" I do not necessary want to be the head chair on this but will like to help all I can. The intent of this group is to plan Paddling trips with a hobby or sport while paddling. i.e., Fishing, gold prospecting, geocaching, paddling with dogs, camping, paddling/biking, photography and the list can go on based on your interest. Most all trips currently are paddle only while on the water and have a pace to keep with specific types of boats and training in order to achieve their goal of distance for the day. With adventure paddling we would concentrate on a task with paddling as the vehicle to take us somewhere on the water you would not normally be able to get to. Distance paddled would be much shorter. You can use about any type of paddling vessel and be family friendly to bring our kids and grandkids (or furry kids). Another benefit is, you don't have to travel very far as there are plenty of places to go locally.



Let's have an adventure!!!

Want to share ideas? Make plans? Contact John Wainscott

John2sea56@gmail.com 317-250-8107

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club