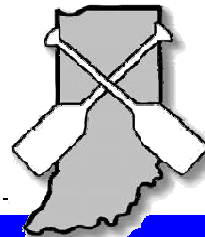


The Hoosier Paddler



Volume 47, Issue 7

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

August 2009

Rolling Clinic, Saturday, August 15, 2009

Debby Baker

We will have some fun and learn a little too. We can chat a bit about boat outfitting, stretch, then get in the boats and work on hip snaps off the bows, braces, and progress onto the C-to-C and sweep roll. We can work on paddling technique too, if the interest is there. Informal and relaxed, that's my style.

MOST OF ALL, COME PREPARED TO HAVE FUN AND WORK YOUR BUNS OFF 'TIL ATTITUDE IMPROVES AND YOUR ROLL IS SPOT ON!!

**Cheers!!
Debby**

When: Saturday, August 15 starting around 2:00 pm

Where: Lake Maxinhall, 3333 East 56th St., Indianapolis, IN
This address is on the East side of Indianapolis between Allisonville and Keystone.



Debby—Lake Monroe, May 2009

MOJO GONE?

*So where, oh where, did my Mojo go?
Where it went I do not know!
I had it once and now it's gone,
Where oh where do I belong?*

*Well stress no more, the 'doc' is here,
Maxinhall's the place, so have no fear!
The water's warm and now's the time,
To hone that roll, no thermocline!*

*Your roll's a mess?
Well don't distress,
It happens ya know,
Refresh your Mojo!*

*Bring the boat you want to roll,
Rolling it will be your goal,
Learn techniques to help you out,
At day's end, we'll hear you shout*

MY MOJO'S BACK IN MY KAYAK!!!!"

IshurdoLuvTaRockNRoll :-D

What to Bring to the Lake:

- Sea Kayak or Whitewater Boat
- Paddle and spare if you have one
- Neoprene Sprayskirt (better than nylon cause it won't leak water!)
- PFD
- Sponge/Pump
- Water Bottle (bring lots of water. You must stay well hydrated!!) Gatorade, etc. (to keep your electrolytes happy)
- Snacks (to keep your energy level high until dinner)
- Sunglasses with Croakies
- Sun Visor or Hat
- Sunscreen
- Swim suit/towel
- Spray Jacket or Vest (if you are a chilly willy like me in any temperature!)
- Foot wear (i.e., booties, sandals, water shoes, etc.)
- Nose Plugs (YES and bring extra in case they drop in the drink!)
- Dry clothes for afterward
- Easy Chairs for relaxation afterwards, and your own adult beverages

We will order out for pizza when we get hungry.

Contact Information: Please RSVP to Dan Valleskey, danpaddles@gmail.com or leave a message at my home: (317) 257-9837 by 6:00 pm Friday, August 14.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Calling all Children! Kid's Paddle, White River, Trip Sponsor: Dan Valleskey

Sunday, August 16, 2009

The HCC would like to invite all kids to a float! On Sunday August 16, we will meet at Hazel Dell Landing on the White River in Carmel at 10:00 in the morning. Moms and Dads can come too, but warn them: there may be some serious splashing going on!

We will stop for lunch, so bring a PBJ. And bring plenty of drinking water. Wear a swim suit and don't forget your PDF and sunscreen. If you have a water cannon or a favorite squirt gun, you can bring that too. We will plan to paddle down to 86th Street, there is a small area to take out down stream river right, basically by the Kohl's parking lot.

This is a short easy section of river, mostly free of obstructions. If a young paddler is looking for a chance to try a trip on his own, this might be the one, especially if they will have a parent nearby.

If you have questions or comments or cries for help- just talk to the Skipper, little buddy- danpaddles@gmail.com, (317) 257-9837. RSVP requested.

HCC Safety Boaters Needed! Saturday, August 22 and 29



Escorting swimmers around the first Buoy, July 18, 2009

Two Triathlons will be held at Eagle Creek during August. The first will be on Saturday, August 22. The second will be the following weekend (August 29) and will be the "Go Girl" Triathlon that is only open to women. I'd like to encourage HCC women to help with this event.

The Triathlons will start at 8:00 am. Safety boaters are asked to gather at Eagle Creek by 7:15 am to receive instructions, complimentary race T-shirts and to get their boats in the water. You will follow swimmers and allow struggling swimmers to hang on to your boats. After helping a swimmer, you signal to a motorized safety boat, which swoops in to collect the exhausted swimmer. Safety boaters are not expected to take swimmers to shore. The total swim distance in this event is 500 meters. For more information about these events, please visit:

<http://www.tuxbro.com/entry%20form%20page.htm>

If you would like to volunteer to safety boat for either of these events, please contact Jan Sneddon at (317) 257-1740 or tri@hoosiercanoecub.org.

Thatcher Pool still Unavailable—Check Bulletin Board for Location

The local media announced this week that repairs on Thatcher pool are taking longer than expected. This creates some questions over where pool sessions will be held until it's ready.

The Club will speak with the Blind School to see if we can continue to use their pool. While it is likely that we can continue to use the Blind School pool at least until the middle of August, **be sure to check the [Whitewater Forum](#) on the HCC Bulletin Board before heading over to the pool** since plans have not been firmed up with the Blind School yet.



Hello HCC!

Dan Valleskey

Every so often I chat with a new acquaintance, and mention that I paddle. Sometimes, they say, "Oh so do I, we paddle a lot!" I ask them where. "Sugar Creek!" Or maybe "The Whitewater River". I might tell them those runs are great if you can go in the off season, when the crowds are gone. To which they might answer-but are the rental places open then?

You see where this is going, don't you. Some folks think they paddle a lot if they go twice in a year. And there are people in this club that feel they are having a bad year if they only get out 30 or 40 times over the course of a year. I know a few guys that keep track, they think 2 days out of 3 (averaged year round) is a good year. Yikes! Over 200 days a year on the water. I can't imagine paddling that much. Well, okay, I can dream about it.

This time of year especially, I think to myself almost every morning, why can't I paddle today? There is a whole list of reasons of course, legitimate reasons, commitments I can not get around. The kids have camp. The kids have a dentist appointment. I have to work (that excuse is gone for now). No one to paddle with. Weekend excuses are more along the lines of—wife has other plans. Or- the weather is too hot/ dry/ cold/ rainy. Those weather issues are influenced by the fact I have to haul kids along with me. Give me a break if I don't buy my growing 8 year old the same kind of Gore-Tex comfort that I have, she would hate a day out in the rain anyway. Then there is- we are getting company later. That one popped up a lot this year.

But I've still managed to get out on average about once per week, so far this year. Some of the trips might find me guiding a raft on the good old Mighty Whitey, from Broad Ripple down to Rocky Ripple, for a 3-mile adventure. It is an educational program called River School, sponsored by the Friends of the White River. We have had great success teaching kids about what should live in a river, and what should not be dumped into the river. I count stream bank work as a day on the water, I've had at least 4 days this year where I kept my boat dry, yet I was well within sight of the water, usually working.

If I had to wake up every morning, ask my favorite question, and then use the excuse "there is no good river within easy drive distance", I'm not sure what I would do. I love paddling rivers. I can cruise on open water, but for some reason, that just doesn't appeal to me much. I'm a river rat, that is where I paddle best, so that is what I want to do. Thank goodness we live where we do, with a lot of good rivers in easy reach. There is a place with virtually no rivers, Southern California is basically desert, you have to drive a long way from San Diego to find moving water. Sure am glad I don't have to live there!

You may be aware that Veolia Water will be building a new dam on Fall Creek, downstream of Keystone. I had a meeting with them, expressing my concern that there needs to be a safe, viable portage. I'm hopeful they will work in plans that will accommodate paddlers. I'm looking forward to having a new section to paddle within a few miles of home.

Terry Busch and I have been working hard on getting a USGS gage on Big Pine. I think we will have good news soon.

See you at the IPR!

Dan

HCC Skipper

Help needed for Raccoon Creek Cleanup

Dwayne James

I want to schedule a Raccoon Creek cleanup for either September 5th or September 12th. I need a few good people with tandem canoes, at least one chain saw that they do not mind getting a bit wet, fuel for it, perhaps a come-along and chain, and a sense of adventure to volunteer to help me with the Raccoon Creek cleanup. Let me know which day works best for you. We need one day to do the upper portion and perhaps a second day to make sure the way is open all the way to Bridgeton.

Contact Dwayne James at kanudreams@sbcglobal.net or at (317) 834-3649.

I would like to meet at the put-in no later than 9:30 am so we can get in a real day's work. Bring your lunch, plenty of water, and gloves. When I know who can help, we will work out the details. Thanks in advance for your service to the club.



Flatwater Trips

What to Bring on a Flatwater Trip

- PFD (Personal Floatation Device) with an attached whistle
- Spare paddle, bilge pump or bailing device (small bucket, sponge, etc.)
- Rescue gear: paddle float, throw rope, first aid kit
- Personal medications: Be sure to inform your trip sponsor of medical conditions.
- Sunglasses, sun screen, bug spray
- Lunch, snacks, drinks plus water!

The 24th Annual Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous Friday, July 31–Sunday August 2, 2009 Trip Sponsor: Garry Hill

Make plans to attend the Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous (IPR), and enjoy a full weekend of paddling on Wildcat Creek. The IPR has proven to be one of the overall best paddling events in Indiana. If you've never attended, rest assured it is worth your time. Come prepared to enjoy one of the nicest small streams in Indiana, to relax with old paddling buddies, and to make new friends.

Since Chuck Weis is no longer with us, Muskrat has agreed to return to the post of IPR Trip Leader. .

IPR Events:

- Friday's Muskrat's Wildcat Creek Expeditions will host a trip on Wildcat Creek Friday afternoon; meeting time is 3:00 pm at Wildcat Park. The stretch to paddle will be decided at that time. There will be a BYO campfire cookout following this cruise. Camping will be available at Wildcat Park (5201 Eisenhower Road, Lafayette, IN) for Friday and Saturday nights by special arrangement with the Tippecanoe County Parks Department.
- Saturday's creek trip will begin at Knop Lake Public Fishing Area. This will cover 13.6 miles and end at Wildcat Park. Lunch on the Gravelbar is BYO. Shuttle departure time is 9:00 am from Knop Lake. You should plan to arrive at Knop Lake absolutely no later than 8:30 am (8 am would be better; it really gets crowded with all the people arriving).
- Saturday's Chili Supper will begin serving at 6 pm (maybe 7). Please make reservations at garryhill@aol.com. The Wildcat Guardians Benefit auction will start after Supper.
- Sunday's creek trip will meet at Wildcat Park. Shuttle departure is 9:00 am sharp. Lunch is BYO. The IPR Sunday trip will be radically different from years past. This trip is being designed as a "Chuck Weis Memorial Cruise". Launch and take out locations will be announced to everyone who arrives in time for Shuttle Departure at 9:00 AM Sunday morning.

Contact Information: If you should have questions, please contact me at: Garry Hill, E-mail garryhill@aol.com, Phone (765) 628-3155

Westwood Lake, New Castle, IN Trip Sponsor: Joel DeLashmit

Saturday, August 8, 2009

Join us on a scenic evening paddle around Westwood Lake. This trip would be good for all boat types and skill levels. I paddled here a few times last year during the daylight hours and saw much wildlife. This paddle will take place in the evening so it's hard to tell what we will see, or not see!

The lake is small at 180 acres but no gas motors are allowed. Camping is available at the park on a first come-first serve basis. Let me know early if you are interested in camping and I could get the site early on Saturday if available. There are also mountain bike trails if anyone is interested during daylight hours.

If you want to paddle more miles come early and paddle before it gets dark and then join the night paddle. Please be familiar with the Indiana navigation lighting requirements before the trip:

<http://www.boat-ed.com/in/handbook/lights.htm>

Note: There is a Gate Fee of \$2.50 per vehicle and a Launch Fee of \$3.50 per boat.

More information and pictures can be found on the parks website. <http://www.visitwestwood.com/>



Meeting Place: Westwood Lake Boat ramp parking lot

Directions from Indy: I-70 East to exit 123 IN-3 towards New Castle. Turn left on IN-38/Central Ave W., then make another left on CR-275 which goes West to South, end at 1900 S. CR-275W on the left. This is about 1 hour from Indianapolis.

Trip Length: 4.5 – 5 miles

Expected Water Conditions: Flatwater

Schedule: 8:30 pm Gather at the Meeting Place
9:00 pm Start Paddling

Contact Information: Joel DeLashmit (317) 656-1597, joeldelashmit@gmail.com. Please contact me by Thursday, August 6 by email or call me by 9 pm Friday August 7 if you plan to attend. Check the bulletin board for updates.

Wabash River—France Park, Logansport , IN

Sunday, August 23, 2009

Trips Sponsor: Sue Foxx, Jim Sprandel

Plan to paddle a 15-miles stretch of the Wabash River starting from France Park in Logansport . This should be a fun trip since there may be some mild rapids near the put-in. Large parts of the trip will be fairly remote with lots of wildlife.

About half way, we can paddle up Burnett Creek near Lockport and see an aqueduct that carried the Wabash and Erie Canal over that creek (it is now a bridge for a local road). This 468-mile-long canal was the longest canal in the country connecting Lake Erie at Toledo with the Ohio River at Evansville from 1853 until 1874. Our take out is also important to the Wabash and Erie Canal since this was the only place where the main line of the canal crossed the Wabash. Lock No. 32 from the old canal is located just across Carrollton Road at our take-out.

Meeting Place/Put-In: Georgetown Road Public Launch Ramp and Shelter, France Park, Logansport, IN.

Take-Out: Carrollton Road Bridge Canoe Launch (Carrollton Road bridge—NE corner of bridge between Burrows and Delphi, Indiana). This is a new access site and we will scout it before the trip.

Direction to Meeting Place: Drive north from Indianapolis on US 31 to US 24 (about 60 miles). Drive west on US 24 and merge with US 35 as they loop under Logansport. Stay on US 24 when US 35 splits to head north (this will be on the west side of Logansport after crossing the Wabash). Continue west on US 24 past this intersection looking for the first road on the left that would be heading South-west...that will be W. Georgetown Road which is marked with a PUBLIC RAMP ACCESS sign. Head SW on Georgetown Rd to the Shelter/Ramp parking lot on the left side.

The driving time is approximately 1h 40m from Meridian (31) and 465 on the North side of Indianapolis.

What to Bring: Be sure to bring water, your lunch, sun screen, and insect repellent.

Paddling Distance: 15 miles

Schedule: 9:00 am Arrive at Meeting Place
9:30 am Start Shuttle
10:45 am: Start Paddling
3:30 pm Arrive at Take Out (Estimate)

Contact information: Contact Sue or Jim by 7:00 pm on Friday, August 21 if you plan on attending.

Sue Foxx (317) 363-4074 (Cell), 317-253-0222 (Home) E-Mail sufoxx@doe.in.gov
Jim Sprandel (317) 257-2063 E-Mail merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net

Whitewater Trips

Upper and Lower Yough

Friday July 31- Sunday August 2, 2009

Trip Sponsor: Jordan Ross

Save a vacation day for the annual 3-day Upper/Lower Yough mid-summer blast. Part of the group will paddle the class IV-V Upper Yough Friday and Saturday. The rest of the group will paddle the class III-IV



Lower Yough and/or Cheat Rivers Friday and Saturday depending on interest, personnel and water levels. Sunday paddling options include Valley Falls of the Tygart (screen saver photo op!), the Cheat Narrows, Cheat Canyon or the Lower Yough again. There is also the nearby ASCI Whitewater course.

Camping will be at Tall Oaks Campground in Farmington, PA on site T-49. This is NOT the site we camped in last year (that site is not available) but the Tall Oaks folks assure me there is ample room for all of us at T-49 plus level parking for those sleeping in vehicles.

Please stop at the campground office when you arrive and pay for your camping individually. Here's the website for more info, directions to Tall Oaks and a map to the campsite: <http://www.talloakscamp.com/>

Contact Information: PLEASE let me know by email, phone, or bulletin board if you are coming, what days you will be there and what you'd like to run. Jordan Ross, (317) 460-7000, jross@iquest.net (please put the word "kayak" in the subject line.)

Ohiopyle Falls Fest

Friday, August 21– August 23, 2009

Trip Sponsor: Barry Welling

Once again, we have the chance to run Ohiopyle Falls on the Youghiogheny River. This opportunity comes but once a year (legally). Join the Hoosiers as we celebrate this fun-filled trip again.

Camping will be at Tall Oaks campground (544 Camp Riamo Rd., Farmington, PA 15437) and is \$10 per night. There should be plenty of room at our group site (Site F-9, the usual) for everyone but please let me know that you're coming. Each person must check-in and pay for camping individually upon arrival.

Kayaking includes: Lower Yough (class 3-4), Middle Yough (class 1-2), Upper Yough (class 4), ASCI course (class 3-4), and Valley falls (class 2-3). I know there are other challenging runs out here, but can't guess all of them.

The Falls Fest costs about \$30 (they haven't updated the site for this year yet).

If you want to run the Lower Yough but not the Falls, you'll need a launch permit (\$3) per person and should be reserved in advance by calling Ohiopyle State Park at 1-888-PA-PARKS. Permits may also be reserved online at <http://www.visitPAparks.com> (click on reservations, search for Ohiopyle, select "whitewater hard boating" then follow directions to check availability and select your permit time). The permit will have a specific launch time (with a 1-hour grace period) and must be presented to the ranger at the State Park put-in. (A permit is not necessary if you put in after 3 PM or before 8 AM.) In addition, you'll need a bus pass (\$3) unless you plan on walking back.

There's almost guaranteed to be a Lower Yough trip on Saturday after the Hoosiers quit falling over that one drop. There may be one on Friday if folks come out early. The party will be in town Saturday evening (with free beer, if it's like last year). Sunday runs often vary depending on skills, weather, and mood. Hope to see you there!

Contact Information: Watch the Whitewater Forum on Bulletin Board or contact me at d_black_se@yahoo.com

Other Events

Riverfest on the White, Noblesville, IN

Saturday, August 29, 2009

Riverfest on the White is a paddling event for everyone from the casual paddler to the endurance athlete. This event is a fundraiser to benefit the Friends of the White River, whose mission is to protect and restore the White River as a valuable resource.

The events will be held on Saturday, August 29, 2009 and will include a 45-mile endurance race, a 5-mile cruise paddle, and a 5-mile sprint race. We expect most paddlers to be finished between 5:00 and 6:00 pm. There is an entry fee for each of these paddles which go to benefit the Friends of the White River. There will be prizes from NURPU awarded for each paddling event as well as for fund raising.

This event is being put on by Tail Wind Events. For those interested, this group is planning a 100-mile endurance event on the Wabash River in 2010.

For more information on the Riverfest event, go to: <http://www.riverfestonthewhite.com/>



Wyoming and Montana Trip Report

Bob Heckler

Sunday, July 5th:

Leaving from Crown Point, the caravan began.... Wendi and myself in one vehicle, and Orange Crush, Nancy, Mike, Henry, and Sherry in the Crush Mobile. Some 14 hours later, we arrived in Sydney, Nebraska and called it a day. Kudos to Nancy, who brought a bunch of left over food from her daughter's wedding. Congratulations and thanks for feeding us that night in the hotel and for the next four days!

Monday, July 6th:

The crew began driving towards Jackson, Wyoming. After several hours, the Wind River Mountains began to appear and from that point, the scenery remained gorgeous for the entire trip. The paddling began that afternoon when we met with the legendary one, Bob McCormick (Aintree) and Anne along the banks of the Hoback River, just south of Jackson. We decided to run this stretch as a bit of a warm-up before venturing into the class IV runs that we'd soon paddle. No one in the group had run it before.

The Hoback was mostly class II with maybe a few spots that jumped into class III... sort-of like a Nantahala with bigger waves. The scenery for the upper half was magnificent and the current remained constant. However there was one fly in the ointment.... a brutal up-

stream wind that at times completely nullified my downstream progress. Five miles downstream, Aintree took out at the mid-point in the run. I considered doing the same since the winds were brutal and the toughest rapid was already behind us, but Crush, Henry, and Mike wanted to continue on for four more miles and so I did. At first, I regretted it. The canyon widened out and the valley showed signs of civilization. Soon we passed a sulfur spring which was very unpleasant to the sense of smell and the wind was nearly unbearable. However, the regret to not take off would soon change.

In the last mile or so, the river got pinched one last time between some granite slabs and the water began to twist and turn. We encountered some straightforward, but rather large wave trains. On one of the left turns, a nearly river wide hole occupied the right side of the river, reminiscent of Big Pine Creek's S-turn at about four feet. Mike did not stay to the inside of the turn and our first debacle of the trip took place here. He self-rescued the inflatable and order was soon restored just in time to navigate through one more long, winding rapid that had the largest waves on the river.

After taking out, we drove North to the Gros Ventre River and campground and got to enjoy stunning views of the Grand Tetons as the sun was setting behind them. At camp, beer was consumed, bottles were passed, food was eaten, while stories were embellished. We set a huge log on a fire and challenged ourselves into figuring out how to get the thing to burn... we eventually did and soon burned out ourselves and called it a day.

Tuesday, July 7th:

The crew woke up to chilly air and drove a few miles to the put-in for the Lower Gros Ventre River. From several hundred feet above, the water looked big. Aintree and I ran this back in 2002 but we were convinced it was higher this time around. The run is less than three miles long, but there is class III and IV action the entire way. We all knew we needed, as Crush would say, an "A game" for this stretch. We started out at the lower slide lake... on a geologic note, the lake was formed back in 1925 when a landslide toppled tons of debris into the river which essentially dammed up the Gros Ventre. A lake formed on the upstream side of the natural dam and eventually the lake overflowed and breached through. The best thing



Group at Teton Mountains



about this geologic event is the awesome whitewater that now exists as the Gros Ventre lowers itself from the lake down to the valley navigating through all the jagged boulders that have recently fallen into the chasm through an alpine/ desert landscape. And once the maelstrom calms, you are rewarded with head-long views of the Tetons downstream for the last half mile.

We soon put in and right off the bat we were engaged in easy, but pushy and continuous class III water. About a half mile in we were finally allowed a small break in a tiny, "leaky" eddy. About a mile in, we came to the steepest pitch... Hermit Rapid. Hermit was an Arkansas Numbers type rapid. It was long, rocky, pour-over infested, and even had a bend in it like all the Numbers rapids do... but the water was predictable. Mike and Henry walked around it. Crush, Aintree, and I decided to ferry to river right and take a good look from shore. The eddy was tiny and required a quick exit from the boats while hanging on to willows and cactus bushes. Each had to go for the leaky eddy one at a time to make room for the next boater. The top move was either going to make or break your run. I went first and hit the seam in between the curler and hole just as I planned and continued down the right. At this level, it felt like solid class IV western water. As the river bent left, I discovered a big pour-over just in enough time to move left and arrive upright in calmer water below. Crush and Aintree both made good lines at the top and got more left at the bottom than I did, which gave both a clean run and no issues with the hidden hole.

But it ain't over till it's over. The following two miles sported pushy class III+/IV continuous water reminiscent of the Numbers around 1800 cfs and the Upper Meadow at a good flow. At the next major rapid below Hermit, we ran into trouble. Mike rammed into a mid-stream boulder and the yellow Sotar began to capsize. I looked up and saw the familiar "tube grab" that usually ensues right before you are about to be dumped by an inflatable. I've executed this move many times over the years. Sotar stands for "State Of The Art Raft", but this time it may as well stand for "Swim Over To Another Raft!" The swim was a bad one... he did not get cheated out of any whitewater. I stayed with Mike and helped him to shore, while the others went after the yard sale of equipment. At one point, Mike almost self-rescued and I tossed him one shaft of my break down paddle to enable him to navigate to the shore. This would be the last time I'd see this paddle. His self-rescue failed and the swim continued through the next series of waves. When he finally got to shore, he had to walk at least a quarter of a mile downstream through rocks and grizzly infested shores (so the guide book warns!) To my surprise, Aintree got the inflatable to the shore in the midst of some big water. Eventually order was restored and Mike was reunited with his boat. There was still one more series of solid water before the calm began. We navigated it flawlessly and the river soon silenced. We finally got the reward to view the world class scenery of the Tetons looming ahead. Everyone lived... the run was a success, but all ended too quickly. I tried to coax another run, but everyone else was satisfied for the day.



Aintree, Crush, and Mike (in Sotar) at Gros Ventre Take Out

That afternoon the ladies went horseback riding in Jackson and that evening we all ate Mexican in town. Wendi and I cheated out of camp and got a hotel while the rest went back to the Gros Ventre Camp. Reports said it was a cold night. According to Mike, temperatures dropped to 38°.... good night for a hotel.

Wednesday, July 8th:

The drive to Yellowstone began early and before long we were staring at a gorgeous lake surrounded by mountains under a clear blue sky. We hit Old Faithful for an eruption and saw many hot springs. Crush was curious as to how hot the water in the Sapphire Hot Spring was and like a curious kid, he stuck his finger into the drink. He shouted an obscenity among a crowd of sightseers. Needless-to-say, he did not do that again. A tour guide was overheard later and confirmed a temp around 200°F! Soon the weather started to cool as menacing clouds appeared. We headed into Montana and toward early evening, we ar-



rived at the Gallatin River. The temp dropped to 50°F and a slight drizzle made it feel even cooler. The Gallatin is a class III+ run with one section, the Mad Mile, that has some low class IV spots... particularly House Rock Rapid. Crush and I could not wait till the morning, so we suited up and hit just the Mad Mile which is slightly longer than the name implies. House Rock was rather easy if you could stay left and fight off the angled curlers trying to disrupt a clean line by pushing you into the meat on the right. Crush got kicked back right off the second to last curler, and he had to deal with the meat of the last hole. He hit a last ditch effort brace and made it through. The following mile or so was big roller coaster like boogie water. There were eddies, small boofs, and a few big holes sprinkled in the wave trains. Mile for mile, this may as well have been one of the best stretches of river I ever had run.... Road side and easy enough to run solo, but had enough obstructions that allowed for one to push the envelope if so desired. This was much like an Ocoee with better scenery and less crowds.

The day ended with a great group dinner at a spot near Big Sky ski resort and the night at camp involved beer, stories, and tequila. We were all soon asleep.



House Rock on the Gallatin

Thursday, July 9th:

This day the entire paddling group ran the Gallatin. We put in right from camp and did the upper 5 miles of easy class II-III water. Everyone did well and soon we passed under the bridge and the river entered the Mad Mile. The entire group had perfect lines through House Rock and the rapids that followed. It was too fun to walk away from, so I ran it one more time. Crush set safety at the bottom of House Rock and ran the remainder of the Mad Mile with me. After reaching the take-out, we loaded up and headed back to Yellowstone. This time we took the eastern road that looped around the park and stopped at the two waterfalls that begin the Yellowstone Canyon. After a few hikes, and some wildlife stops, we began heading towards Cody, Wyoming. A few miles out of town, we peered down into the Shoshone Canyon and got a sight of class IV+/V water. The plan was to run it on Friday with perhaps one walk around a vicious hole. We all ate at a cowboy bar across from the campground and soon went back to camp. We set up "Lonesome Dove" to my car stereo and huddled around a portable DVD player. After about 20 minutes, we passed out and failed to watch the remaining seven and a half hours of the movie.

Friday, July 10th:

The trip to the Shoshone was not in the cards with the Crush Crew. The long drive back mixed in with some sights to see had them pressed for time. Wendi and I went back to the Shoshone and I discovered that the water was much lower. The hole was certainly doable, but the second drop would have to be dealt with head-on through the meat since the higher water provided a sneak that no longer was there. After a bit, I decided to walk away and save it for another day... I felt confident, but needed at least some safety on the shore.

The bad news is we let the Shoshone slip away, the good news is everyone made it back to Indiana safe and sound and filled with memories and experiences that will last a life time. Wendi and I drove straight through and completed the 21 hour drive by 6:00am the next morning. The Crush Mobile drove straight through but stopped at Mount Rushmore, Devils Tower, and over one hundred bathrooms. Aintree and Anne took their time and made it home Saturday evening.... Whoa.. What a great trip! Time to catch up on some sleep.

Bob "Big Drop" Heckler



Trip Report: Blue River , May 16-17, 2009

Trip Sponsors: Sue Foxx, Jim Sprandel

Participants: Jim Sprandel, Sue Foxx, Jim Clendenin, Mariann Davis, Susi Megathlin, Mary Keith, Dan Evard, Linda Smith and Frank Chiao with Gino

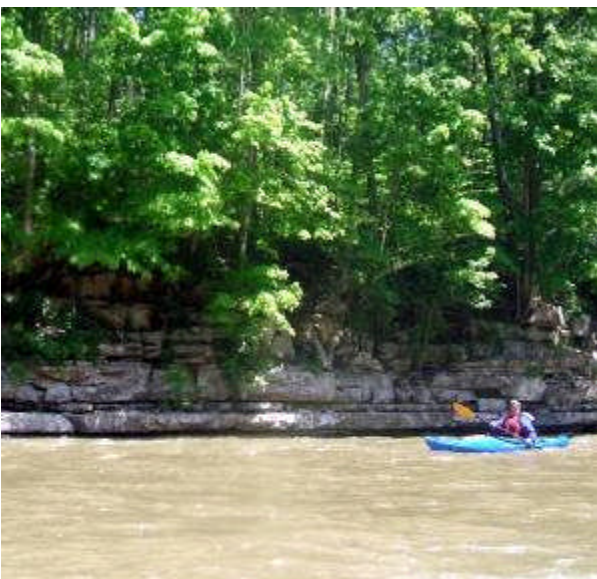
Last year, we had to cancel this trip because the river was way too high and we were very concerned that might happen again. In the week before the trip, Jim Sprandel visited the outfitter who was closed on Monday and frequently checked the Blue River USGS gauges. As the week progressed, we determined that the trip was truly "go" since the rain during the week had fallen primarily North of the Blue's watershed.

Of course, many of us questioned Jim's savvy as we passed flooded fields near Columbus and continued to drive in the drizzle toward Milltown. However, when we arrived at the outfitter in Milltown, we saw groups of Boy Scouts taking off and felt slightly chagrined that we had ever doubted the water levels on the Blue. The water was definitely up and fast but

that just made it more fun as we took off just below the dam at Milltown. With the high water sand bars were hard to come by so we shared a bank with the Boy Scouts for lunch some of whom were swimming despite the cool temperatures. By then, the drizzle had let up and the sun was peeking through the clouds to reveal the beautiful landscape.

After we landed at Rothrock Mill Public Access Site (PAS), it was a quick drive to Stage Stop Campground where we pitched tents in a group camping area away from the Boy Scouts. Snacks and conversation were shared around a common campfire as we prepared dinner. The group had a good laugh when Sue discovered Jim Clendenin had inadvertently been sitting on the buns for her brats...he redeemed himself with cookies!

While we were breaking camp the next morning, Mary Keith stepped in a hole and sprained her ankle ...



Jim Clendenin paddling to Stage Stop Campground



Paddling from Milltown to Rothrock Mill PAS

bummer. As a result, only three of us paddled the section from Rothrock Mill PAS to Stage Stop campground. This section was Jim Sprandel's favorite with the bluffs and pristine landscape. We felt we had the river to ourselves running fast and furious...so fast in fact that we ended up having our lunch at Stage Stop Campground. After such a perfect weekend of paddling, it was hard to imagine that we had ever considered canceling the trip.

Trip Planning Information: The stream flow was about 1000 cfs (4.2-4.6 feet) on the White Cloud gage for both days. An outfitter that we met at Stage Stop Camp Ground indicated that a stage of 2' on the White Cloud gage is ideal for the stretch from Rothrock Mill down to Stage Stop while 1.1' risked persistent bottom scraping. The higher water set up some of the nice standing waves that we got to play in as well as some fun rapids.

More photographs are available on the HCC Bulletin Board at: <http://www.hccbulletinboard.org/forums/showthread.php?t=3084>





Trip Report: Cagles Mill Lake / Cataract Falls Trip, July 11, 2009

Trip Sponsor: Jim Sprandel

Participants: Kellie Kaneshiro, Joel DeLashmit, Duane Garloch, Tom Beckerich, Kathy and Chuck DaVia, Mariann Davis, Frank Chiao and Gino, Michael Miller, Erin Hall, Jim Sprandel



Boats beached below Lower Falls

Eleven paddlers and one dog started paddling at Cunot Public Access Site around 11:00. We waited until the first thunderstorm passed through but that didn't mean that it didn't rain a tad more (okay, quite a bit more than a tad) but you can only get so wet.

We paddled up Mill Creek to Lower Cataract Falls. Everyone played in the falls. Joel even paddled behind the curtain of the Lower Falls (see picture below). After exploring the Lower Falls, we got out and ate lunch before some of us hiked up to the Upper Falls while Erin took advantage of this time to fish below the falls.

On the way back, we paddled around an island just west of the IN 42 bridge and found a number of small but interesting water falls in that bay. In all, we paddled around 8 miles and hiked about 2. An interesting lake - I am planning on coming back and explore the open water on west side of the lake for a Touring Boat Trip.

This is a good place for your paddling list since 1) its only about an hour from Indy, 2) there are lots of interesting places

to explore, 3) it's much bigger than and not built up like Geist or Eagle Creek, and 4) the falls are a fun place to visit.

Trip Planning Information: This trip was canceled last year since the lake level was so high that there was not adequate parking at the Cunot Public Access Site. To save yourself some driving, the parking lot does not become usable until the lake elevations drops below 648 feet on the NOAA [Cagles Mill Lake gage](#).



Joel playing in Lower Falls

Photo Credits: Jim Sprandel—Page 1, 2, Page 10, Page 11-Top; Bob Heckler—Pages 7-9; Duane Garloch—Page 11-Middle/Bottom



Upcoming Events

Tues. Evenings	Paddling at Eagle Creek	June Issue, Page 2
Wed. Evening, 7 pm	Pool Sessions— Be sure to check Bulletin Board for Location!	Page 2
Fri. July 31-Sun, Aug. 2	Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous, Wildcat Creek	Page 4
Fri. July 31-Sun. Aug. 2	Whitewater Trip: Upper (IV-V) & Lower (III) Yough, PA	Page 6
Sat. Aug. 8	Touring/Flatwater Trip: Evening Paddle on Westwood Lake, New Castle, IN	Page 4
Sat. Aug. 15	Mojo Rolling Clinic, Lake Maxinhall, Indianapolis	Page 1
Sun. Aug. 16	Kid's Paddle on the White River, Indianapolis, IN	Page 2
Sat Aug. 22	Triathlon, Eagle Creek, Indianapolis, IN	Page 2
Sat Aug 22-Aug. 23	Whitewater Trip: Ohiopyle Falls Festival (II+-IV)	Page 6
Sun. Aug. 23	Flatwater Trip: Wabash River, France Park, Logansport, IN	Page 5
Sat Aug. 29	Go Girl Triathlon, Eagle Creek, Indianapolis, IN	Page 2
Sat. Aug. 29	<i>Riverfest on the White, Noblesville, IN</i>	Page 6

September Newsletter Deadline: Please submit articles to Jim Sprandel by Saturday, August 15, 2009.
Please e-mail articles to merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net or call him at 317-257-2063.

