

Newsletter of the NY-NoJ AMC Chapter, Canoe and Kayak Committee

#### January/February, 2007

## First Descent of the Pocantico River

## By: James Dougherty

I recently discovered a new river. Actually, the Native Americans knew about it before me, and so did J. D. Rockefeller.

Last fall, I took my wife for a walk in Rockefeller State Park in Westchester County, N.Y., with the idea of "scouting" the Pocantico River.

http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=60 http://homepage.mac.com/mrogers/PhotoAlbum14.html

This river has a 'creeky' look and feel. In the Algonquin language Pocantico or "po-can-tee-co" means "a dark swift river running between two hills".

Our first view was from a bridge that crosses a fast moving flat section of the river with hopes of finding rapids. A few yards down I saw, a spot I call the "Ledges", the best part of the river, except for the very beginning of the run where it pours out of Pocantico Lake.

I couldn't find anything about this river on the paddle boards, or American Whitewater, nor on the USGS website. I went back three more times to hike the river and gather more info.

I was told by a local who walks the park twice a week that he had never seen anyone paddle it before. I was told this by others as well and I am at a loss why no one, as far as I know, paddles this.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, just before my birthday, I collected a group of interested paddlers to run this untalked about river, including: Tom McIntyre and Buck Webb.

The whitewater section of the river starts as Pocantico Lake discharges in a rushing flow from the lake. This first rapid, I call "Slam Dance". It is at least a CL4, maybe higher, due to the steepness and the way the river slams into rocks through a narrow passage. We decided not to run it, this day.

We put-in further downriver just above where Sleepy Hollow and Old Sleepy Hollow roads intersect. This section starts with a CL2 rapid, a note of caution - you have to duck under a thick tree branch with a vine hanging across.

In the next fast moving flat water section, as the river passed under a pedestrian bridge, we eddied out to scout an upcoming rapid. On the bridge people were watching us, a woman asked, "are you going to do that in a boat?" "I sure am!". Our presence on the river caused a crowd to congregate.

The other paddlers were calculating what line to take, I finally said "I'm going down. You guys set up safety and decide to run it if all goes well". One decided to follow behind me the other set up safety.

As I was eddying out, three ladies yelled, "you doing it now?" I yelled back up, "Damn right!", and they ran downstream to watch.

I paddled through successfully, and when I landed the final drop there was

Slam Dance 200 cfs

clapping and cheers and thumbs-up from the spectators. Buck momentarily stalled on a rock at the bottom, but was in no danger, more cheers.

I got out of my boat, climbed up the bank to run it again with Tom; because I'm a glutton for whitewater and it was a blast! The people viewing us waited for round two. This time I eddied out briefly to better set up for one of the drops. (The quick eddy that I made behind a small rock would not have possible a few months back without the constant instruction from other paddlers and lots of practice.) Again we reached the bottom to much applause and fan-fare. This is a CL3 or 3+ rapid. It will not be fun if you go upside down or swim. It's gonna hurt. It is the hardest section aside from where it comes out of the Lake

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Next Newsletter deadline March 15, 2007

## Phyllis Lindquist hands over Paddle Splashes



Connie accepting PS from Phyllis. Everyone is smiling!

After many long and hard working years as Editor of Paddle Splashes, Phyllis has decided to hand over editorialship of PS. Since 2001 Phyllis has been our story collector, Inquiring Paddler asker and trip reporter. Now she and Bob plan to engage in an even more active leisure time; and spend more time with family and world traveling. Thank you Phyllis for your years of dedication, we love PS! Connie Farley has agreed to become editor. I hope to fill Paddle Splashes with informative paddling news and will be counting on our readers to contribute to the 2007 PS as diligently as you have done in the past. Send me your ideas, comments, questions—I want to know what YOU want! PS. You will notice some changes and perhaps more to come.

View the newsletter on-line at: http://www.amc-ny.org, save a tree and save the club printing costs! Send "I will view newsletter on-line" to: canoekayak.newsletter(at)amc-ny(dot)org

## First Descent of the Pocantico River

# By: Jimmy Dougherty

and it is easily portaged. Tom and I named this rapid "Crowd Pleaser".

After paddling more mostly fast CL1-2 water we got to a tunnel. Immediately before the tunnel there is little margin of error due to some strainers, and a water pipe that crosses the river. Passing under this long tunnel we were now in the Sleepy Hollow cemetery and eddied out since I knew about what I called "Hell Hole". There are a couple of trees that span the river forming unboatable strainers. The bank is steep and not a quick in and out since there is distance between the numerous strainers.

After putting back in there is an excellent CL2 rapid with some obstructions but a lot of fun.

Then we came to a cascade/falls. We all agreed that due to low water it might not be passable and looked like a possible retentive hole at the bottom. This writer is a ww-glutton and decided to run it, the other two paddlers set-up safety lines for rescue.

Again spectators stopped to watch from a car. I did get stuck for a few seconds near the bottom but got free, and made a good landing. More cheers and thumbs-up. (It occurs to me that people like to watch whitewater

paddlers. Something I was unaware of.)

We got out after a CL2 rapid just before the tunnel that goes under Rt. 9. If we parked at the parking lot (free) on the other side of Rt. 9, the take-out would have been easier but on this "First Decent" we didn't want to attract too much attention.

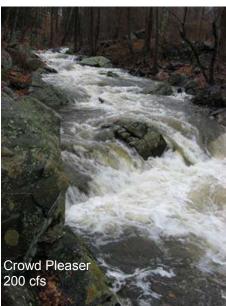
**Below Slam Dance** 

200 cfs

There were no big waves or holes this day but none of the other area rivers reached the minimum suggested level except the Croton. But when other rivers are at a good level the Pocantico might be pumping and I plan to be on it.

It was incredibly scenic and I saw quite a bit of wildlife. Another plus is that early on Sleepy Hollow Road is a good distance from the river and soon there is no road. There is a carriage trail for portages and scouting from where we put-in until you get to the cemetery, in which case there is a paved path. You get the feel you're in the country until you get to the cemetery, which is still quiet and nice. I've been told the cemetery gates close at 4:30 p.m. so be off the river by then if this is your take-out.

The Rt. 9 take-out is very urban and there are plenty of gas stations, banks, restaurants and I saw a spa and wondered if I could get a massage after paddling. For more up-to-date Pocantico River information and directions contact me – I'm always interested and ready to paddle! Be safe out there, live long — you'll have more time to paddle. Hope ta see ya on the Poca, Jimmy Doc



## In Passing We remember...

#### Warren Yeisley and Dennis Squires

We make many friends paddling and recently we lost two very prominent members of our paddling community.

Warren Yeisely 67 of Teaneck, NJ. was know to many "4meter fiberglass boaters. He represented the United States in the 1975 Whitewater World Championships in Yugoslavia, paddling and racing C-1's. More recently he stayed active, canoeing, running New York City Marathons, and volunteering in hike trail maintenance. He also was an long distance bicycle enthusiasts

Dennis Squires 48 of Margaretville, NY. Died while paddling the Waikaia River in New Zealand. aka the "Whitewater Outlaw" Dennis was the author of several river guide books. He showcased the north and south flowing New York state rivers, many of which this club paddles. His wit, charm and outrageous adventures left us laughing and saying 'no way' around evening campfires. A memorial service is planned for May 2007, in Greenville, NY,

Even if you didn't know either man the fact that they were paddlers makes them a part of our large but close knit community. The water brings us together.

We have lost two whitewater pioneers, may they rest in peace.

## Trip a Go-Go? Or A No-No?

Trips a Go-Go or a No-No? Have you ever wondered if scheduled AMC trips really happen? I do. Starting this year I'd like to initiate a column for trip leaders and trip participants to contribute comments, suggestions, stories, misadventures, or new discoveries on trips they have joined.

We will start with the first AMC trip of the year-The New Hampshire New Year's Paddle on the Winnie-trip leader-Jennifer Koermer.

Facts: 10 participants Events: paddling 3 rivers and skiing two days Food: special home cooked meals Weather: snow, ice and cold Notable: first NH snow-fall of the year-many traffic accidents. Firsts: 1st paddle of 2007! After hours: card games, bonfire, champagne!

# 2007 CKC Committee

Committee Chair Marty Plante At Large Co-Equipment Scheduler Rob Holbrook Co-Equipment Scheduler Sarah Francis First Aid Instruction Membership PaddleSplashes Editor Quartermaster Ratings Records Safetv Sea Kayaking Secretary Treasurer Trip Scheduler

Victoria Butler Maureen McCahery Kurt Navratil Mark Tiernan Connie Farley Tom Trevor David Rosenfeld Henry Schreiber **Butch Futrell** Carter Bland Ara Jingarian Lenny Grefig **Bill Canfield** 

#### Next CKC meeting: March 21, 2007

Good-bye and many thanks to our members who are stepping down from the Canoe and Kayak Committee (CKC) after serving so usefully, they include: Andrew Douglas past Quartermaster, Jennifer Koermer past Trip Scheduler, and Si Pae past Membership Chair.

Hello to our new CKC committee: including all the returning chairs and thank you to Rob Holbrook, Sarah Francis Equipment Schedulers, Mark Tiernan Membership Chair, and Bill Canfield Trip scheduler, for volunteering for the 2007 committee. Our club depends on volunteers, please offer to lend a helping hand-before you are asked! We need you.

Each of the above activity chairs are currently seeking members to assist on new projects. Put your skills to work off the water, participate in the club's success!

If you would like to contact us use the emails listed below. Chair: canoekayak.chair(at)amc-ny(dot)org Equipment Scheduler: canoekayak.equipment(at)amc-ny(dot)org First Aid wildernessfirstaid(at)amc-ny(dot)org Instruction canoekavak.instruction(at)amc-nv(dot)org Membership canoekayak.membership(at)amc-ny(dot)org <u>Member-at-large</u> canoekayak.atlarge(at)amc-ny(dot)org Paddle Splashes Editor canoekayak.newsletter(at)amc-ny(dot)org Quartermaster canoekayak.quartermaster(at)amc-ny(dot)org Ratings canoekayak.ratings(at)amc-ny(dot)org Records canoekayak.records(at)amc-ny(dot)org Safety canoekayak.safety(at)amc-ny(dot)org Sea Kayaking canoekayak.seakayaking(at)amc-ny(dot)org Secretary canoekayak.secretary(at)amc-ny(dot)org Treasurer canoekayak.treasurer(at)amc-ny(dot)org Trip Scheduler canoekayak.scheduler(at)amc-ny(dot)org

# PADDLERS

# Paddler's Party 2006



# C ABRAHAN MELOBY Paddler's Party 2006 PADDLERS York North Jersey Kurt Mac, Mimi Barbara & Bruce The state Charlie & Liz Dinner Lein, Jane, Gretchen, Eileen Gail & 🐜 John Lein, Bob Judy & Ken 전문 Alicia & Mark Ellen, Helga, Cath, Eileen, Elisa & Marty Herb, Stephen ANY . Charles Maureen Joe Fiona Jane, Tim 🗊 Sarah & Rob

Michelle, Kerri



Neil, Chris



Editor regrettable missed taking pictures of: Butch, Cameron, Jay

2007 Activity Schedule								
2007	Date	FW	CL1	CL2	CL3	CL4	Tour- ing	Instruction/ Misc
Feb	?			Leader's Choic	e/ Koermer			
	6, 13, 20, 24, 27	NJIT Tuesday Night Pool Sessions 7—9:30 p.m. Jingirian Feb 6, 13, 20, 24, 27						
	11-12	Mullica Butler/ Gellerman						
	24						Leadership Grefig/Schre	Workshop eiber
	3	Sat: Ramapo Ferder						
	6, 20, 27	NJIT Tuesday Night Pool Sessions 7—9:30 p.m. Jingirian March 6, 20, 27						
March	17-18				Tohickon Robson			
	24-25		Sat:Paulinskill McHenry / Pylka		Leader's Choice PA Lindquist	Ice Breaker DePue CL3-4		Fri-Sun PaddleSport
Mar 31- April 1	31—1			Sacadaga Schroon Schreiber/ Grefig				
April	7-8			Sat: Ten Mile Gastrich				
	14		Farmington Bryant / Peters		Miller's Futrell/ Holbrook			Work Day at the AMC Barn. Trevor
	21-22	Sat:Bronx Rubins Sun: Wallkill Arbuckle			Stoncreek Farley Tiernan			
	28-29			Lehigh McHenry	West Holbrook Francis Farley	Sat or Sun: Leader's Choice DePue		
	5-6	Splitrock Gregg						Sat: Rockaway Cleanup McCabe
Мау	12-13		Sat: Pine Barrens Rubins	Lehigh Farley Tiernan				
	19				Week of Sout Likely dates M			
	18-19			Fri-Sun: Beginn	er Kayak Insti	ruction Futrell		

# Workday and Fun at the Barn Saturday, April 14, 2007, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Join us for a fun day of working on the club canoes, recreation kayaks, touring kayaks, equipment and storage facility at The Barn.

We start at 9 AM and will continue until 5 PM (unless we finish earlier). Join us for the day, or an hour. Learn new skills; use the skills you already know. Meet new friends, meet old friends, have a great time.

This is a good opportunity to meet fellow paddlers and start the paddling season off by helping bring the fleet up to readiness for the coming season.

> Register for this work day by e-mail to: <u>TTrevor675(at)aol(dot)com</u> or call Tom Trevor at 845-638-0638 (before 9 p.m.)

#### **Directions from NYC or Points East:**

Palisades Interstate Parkway north to Exit 12. At end of exit ramp make left, drive to traffic light at Route 45, turn left and go a short distance south to Pomona Road, turn right. About one mile down the road you will see McNamara Road on left, take the next left, a private road flanked by two stone pillars. Go about a block, turn right and you will see the Barn on your right and the trailers on your left.

#### **Directions from North:**

Palisades Interstate Parkway south to Exit 12. At end of exit ramp turn right onto Route 45 Southbound, go a short distance south to Pomona Road, turn right. (Follow previous directions)

# Directions from New Jersey or Points West and South:

Take 1-80 to I-287 to NY State Thruway toward New York City and Tappan Zee Bridge. Take Thruway Exit 12 N to Palisades Parkway north. Follow directions from NYC or points East.

## Plan ahead... Upcoming AMC Instruction & Safety Courses

## Instruction

- May 18-20 Basic Whitewater Kayak
- June 1-3 Basic Whitewater Kayak
- June 3 Basic Sea Kayak
- July 6-8 Basic Canoe
- July 21-23 Basic Whitewater Kayak
- Sep 7-9 Basic Canoe

#### **Safety**

June 8-10	Basic Safety and Rescue
Aug 18-19	Basic Safety and Rescue
Sep 15-16	Advanced Safety and Rescue

Each instructional will have follow-up trips which will be tailored to the needs and skill level of the students. Contact instruction leaders for details. Additional instruction and safety classes will be listed on club website.

These boating classes fill-up quickly... So send in your registration promptly.

Go to our website for the latest in club information. Whether you are looking for a flatwater, whitewater or touring trip we have it all! We have a vast resource of skilled paddlers in our NY-NoJ AMC chapter, there is something for everyone! Don't see what you want—let us know.

# Put-Ins and Take-Outs—For Sale

Thanks to the efforts of our unofficial Purchasing Agent, Victoria Butler, we've added three Pyranha Ina Zones to our collection of whitewater kayaks. Purchased from the Boston chapter, these are great beginner boats. Friendly and predictable, with a perfect blend of performance and stability, they're terrific for paddlers looking to develop their whitewater skills. But to make room for the new, some of the old must go. The Barn in bursting at the seams, so we're offering some of our more mature kayaks at fire sale prices. The Chapter is selling the following boats:

Kayak	Length	Suggested Paddler Wt.	Color	Best For
Pyranha Acrobat 270	8' 10"	90-190 lbs	Red	wide variety
Pyranha Acrobat 275	9' 1"	140-220 lbs	Yellow & Orange	Large Paddlers
Pyranha Acrobat 275	9' 1"	140-220 l bs	Red	Large Paddlers
Perception ARC	9' 3"	165-250 lbs	Green & Purple	Large paddlers with long legs

Many a beginner has learned in these tried and true kayaks which still have plenty of life in them. The kayaks have displacement hulls (round on the bottom), making them forgiving on the river and easy to roll. These classic river runners have added length to help them travel in a straight line (your results may vary).

The boats are being offered to those on our Active Paddlers List for only <u>\$125</u> each on a first-come-first-served basis. All are available for inspection at The Barn and there's a limit of one boat per paddler. This bargain price is for the boat only (spray skirts and other accessories are not included). To order one of these classic boats, send a request by e-mail to **CanoeKayak(at)amc-ny(dot)org**. *Marty Plante* 

# Wouldn't be a Paddler's Party Without YOU! 2006

The smiling faces on pages 4 & 5 know what makes them happy—the December 6, 2006 Annual Paddler's Party! It was another club success. We extend our sincere thanks to the Event Committee, without your energetic efforts the party wouldn't have been so much fun! Thank you to:

Party Organizers:	Ellen Campuzano, Jane Bottner and Maureen McCaherty
Door Manager:	Marcia Strean
Appetizer Managers:	Sarah Francis and Rob Holbrook
Entree Manager:	Diann Connell
Dessert Manager:	Tim Timko
Beverage Manager:	Kerry O'Brian
<u>Clean Up Manager</u> :	Ara Jingirian
Decoration Manager:	Helga Trocha and her crew

Additional thanks to: Kurt Brummund who not only brought a ton of stuff (incl. champagne) but helped all-round. And to Charles Ferrigni, as he really helped set up the place together with Charles Michener (and Sozanne Solzman). All the managers were new this year (and had no idea how much stress was involved!) Sara and Rob and Diann and Kurt took care of the brunt of the kitchen drama of reheating all that food (with difficult stoves!)

It was like a good old AMC weekend camping trip – lots of team spirit, with everybody lending a helping hand when it was needed. Harv Kunz was our melody maker DJ again. We had about 85 attendees this year.

Welcome to the paddlers who attended the Leaders Training Workshop in 2006. David Alexander, Ann Barry, Kurt Brumund, Ellen Campuzano, Diann Connell, Gerard Dunne, Sarah Francis, Robert Fritz, Phillip Geller, Jeff Gregg, Jerry Griebel, Rob Holbrook, David Kiljanowicz, Stevie McAllister, Tony Pignatello, Arthur Russo, Martin Small, Tim Timko, and Helga Trocha.

The Canoe and Kayak Committee recognized the 2006 trip leaders and presented them with a sturdy canvas travel bag emblazoned with the AMC logo, for their efforts. **Thank you, everyone!** 

## Be a Leader

#### By: Marty Plante

First they come in a trickle. Then it becomes a flood as the trip deadline approaches. Each day, your e-mail box contains a new registration or two, along with an occasional request for more information about your trip. You've already reserved a campsite, bought the food (or found a suitable restaurant) and sent out the dope sheet. All that's left is to enjoy the trip and file a trip report when it's over.

The quality and quantity of our paddling trips is determined by the AMC members who are willing to devote the time and effort to lead them. Their job has become much easier since Al Gore invented the Internet and e-mail - no more schlepping to the mailbox or spending long evenings on the phone but the leaders' job is no less important.

A trip can be as ambitious or as laid-back as the leader wishes it to be. Some of our leaders organize nearby day trips with no camping or food preparation, meeting at the putin for a relaxing lake cruise. Others plan week-long paddling adventures through multiple states. All are valuable additions to our paddling schedule and are greatly appreciated by our members. You needn't be an expert paddler to lead a trip just have the desire to share your favorite paddling spot with like-minded people and to reciprocate for the fun you've had on someone else's trip.

It's easier than you think to become a leader. To get started, just sign up for one of our Leaders Training Workshops. In an informal classroom setting, experienced trip leaders will show you the ins and outs of running an AMC trip.

After the workshop, you'll apprentice with one of our veteran leaders for your first trip or two. As a leader-in-training, you'll be coached and supported by the leader through all phases of the trip, giving you the confidence to lead trips on your own. Before you know it, you'll be an expert.

The next workshop will be held at the AMC's midtown Manhattan office on **Sat., Feb 24**. Register on-line at

www.amc-ny.org/recreational-activities/canoe/schedule, by email to Lenny Grefig at <u>grefig(at)bestweb(dot)net</u> or by phone (before 8:45pm) at 914-643-2527. There's no cost for this workshop. Register today. Be a leader.



Leading an early-season trip on the Delaware



The Ratings Subcommittee is delighted to announce the following new ratings for our

The Ratings Subcommittee is delighted to a Chapter's paddlers. 0	
Ansel Barnum	2+ K1
Casey Bentz	2+ K1
Kurt Brummund	BW
Ken Burlew	BW
Diann Connell	BW
Kenneth Cunningham	2+ K1
Cristiano Degiorgis	2+ K1
James Dougherty	2 K1
Glenn Ericksen	BW
Sarah Francis	2+ K1
Kendall Harousseun	1+ K1
Lukas Herbert	BW
Rob Holbrook	2+ K1
Ara Jingirian	3 K1
Michael Kalman	1+ K1
Adia Keegstra	1+ K1
Stan Kline	2 K1
Kerri Klinger	2 K1
Cameron Klinger	2+ K1
Avinash Koul	BW
Joe Lee	BW
Shu Chin Li	BW
Karissa Marcello	BW
Charles Michener	2+ OC1
JD Murphy	BW
Kurt Navratil	2 K1
Marilyn Neiman	2 K1
Natalie Pisarcik	BW
Mona Rowe	1+ K1
Lidya Sanchez	BW
Joe Sklar	2+OC1
Sozanne Solmaz	1+ K1
Tim Timko	1 K1
Courtney Tompkins	BW
Phyllis Tompkins	BW
Helga Trocha	2 K1
Jane Wang	BW
Sarah Zajicek	BW
Dick Bailey	1 SK
Robin Jormark-Bland	2+ SK
Walter Bonilla	2+ SK
Kurt Brummund	1 SK
Victoria Butler	2+ SK
Jeannette Davies	2+ SK
John DeChristofano	2 SK
Peter Fink	1+ SK
Eric Girardi	2 SK
Soo Goy	1 SK
Lenny Grefig	1 SK
Jeff Gregg	2+ SK
Patricia Hessing	2+ SK
Ann Klepner	1 SK
Joe McBride	2+ SK
Si Pae	1 SK
Tony Pignatelo	2 SK
Konstantine Popdimitrov	2 SK
Robert Sandberg	2 SK
Dale Schlein	1 SK
Nes Young	1 SK
Mimi Zucker	2 SK
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Appalachian Mountain Club NY-NoJ Canoe & Kayak Committee Editor: Connie Farley 354 Ridgedale Avenue East Hanover, NJ 07936

Mailing Address

**Submission for next issue**: Send in your articles, and share your canoeing/kayaking experiences and information in the next issue of *Paddle Splashes* due on March 15, 2007. Please send as an e-mail message to: <u>canoekayak.newsletter(at)amc-ny(dot)org</u>. My sincere thanks to everyone who has submitted articles and information.

## Just in: Appie of the Year

Appie of the Year :::: David Brucas our webmaster and trip leader!

## Don't Forget! - Coming up Events

**PaddleSport 2007** Volunteers needed to work the AMC booth—contact Marty Plante for details. March 23, (Friday),12:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.; March 24, (Saturday) 9:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.; March 25, (Sunday) 9:00 – 4:30 P.M.

AMC <u>Barn Workday</u>-Saturday, April 14, 2007, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Register for this work day by email to <u>TTrevor675(at)aol(dot)com</u> or call Tom Trevor at 845-638-0638 (before 9 p.m.)

AMC <u>Spring Gathering</u> April 21-22. Hike, bike, paddle, nature workshops. Explore AMC diversity. Greenville Conference Center, near Port Jervis, NY

Beginner's Kayak Instruction May 18-20. Class fills quickly, sign-up today!

Leader's Social date to be announced—April or May

<u>New this summer</u>: Flatwater practice sessions Thursday afternoons, on the Monksville Reservoir. All boats and paddlers welcome. More details soon.

<u>Safety Instruction</u>: Take time for safety—our chapter requires every paddler to take the Basic Safety & Rescue course prior to moving up in the rating classification. Safety courses will be held this summer—make them part of your schedule

Next CKC meeting: March 21, 2007

Come-out and join-in we need you!