



↑PADDLE SPLASHES

Loretta Brady, Editor Marty Plante, Printer's Devil



PaddleSplashes is published by the Canoe and Kayak Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club, New York -North Jersey Chapter. Read prior issues on the Chapter's website.

Send all submissions to canoekayak.newsletter [at] amc-ny.org

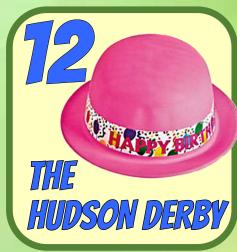
© 2016 Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, MA 02108

Cover: Jake Lewis in Costa Rica. Photo courtesy of Costa Rica Rios.



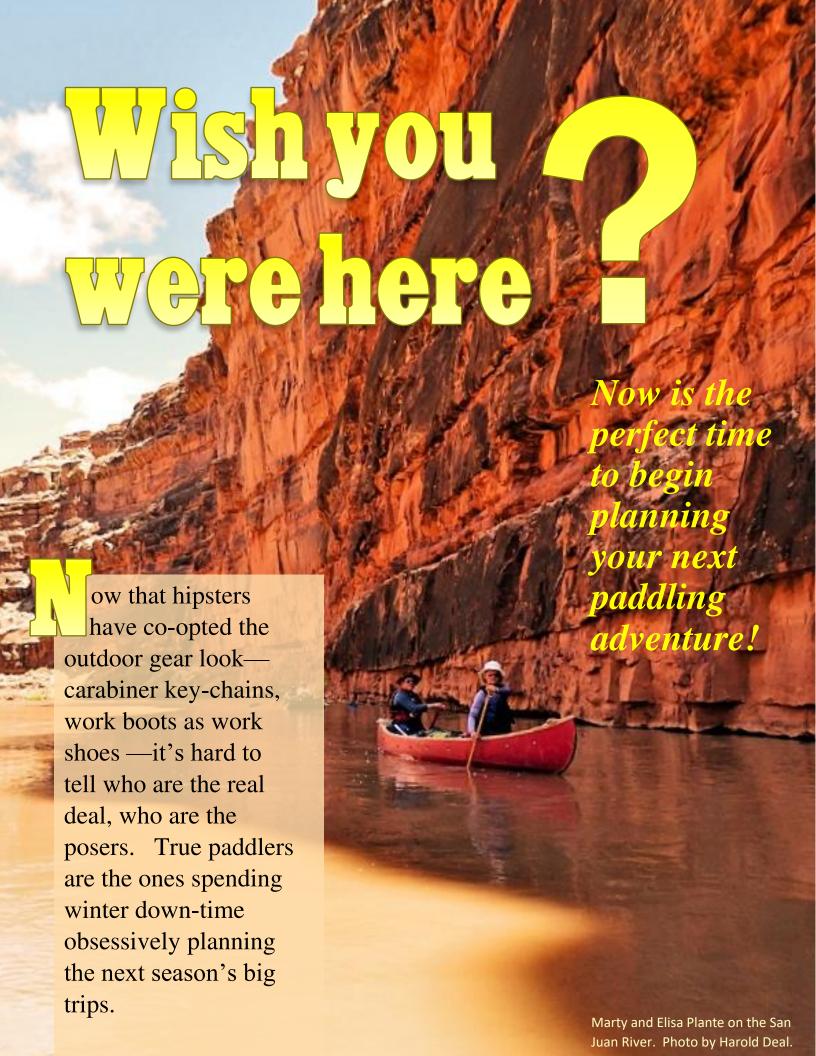












It's Rich Dabal flooding the river permit lotteries for a crack at life-altering destinations like the Middle Fork of the Salmon. Or it's Nathan Baker reviewing which of the latest ultra-light tents or highest tech toys he might scoop up to bring to the wilderness (along with his Kindle, digital compass, and SteriPEN Ultra UV water purifier).

Haven't started your plans? Don't feel bad. Here are some ideas.

Expeditions are a niche specialty of this AMC chapter. So many master leaders launched the traditions of wilderness expeditions paddling in the Pine Barrens, the Adirondacks, but also remote treasures like the Nahanni River.

"You can count on more special wilderness trips again this year, especially in the most remote parts of the Adirondacks," says canoeist-sailor Chris Viani. Chris, on last year's trip, famously rigged five rafted canoes to sail down the Bog River. He saved the day—a 20 mph gusty day.

Ask Curt Gellerman about the annual Wilderness Canoe Symposium in Ontario this February. He's a frequent flyer there. Just 32 years ago, a couple of ordinary paddlers were sharing each other's slides in a living room, but now over 500 participants a year come to exchange information and encouragement.

"It's a gathering of kindred spirits in search of knowledge and a sense of place," says organizer Aleks Gusav. And there's a "Trip/Paddler Wanted" Bulletin Board to hook you up.

Curt Gellerman on a Hood River portage in Nunavut, Canada



Can't get there? No worries. The website has a host of past presenters, on topics from ecology, First Nations, guiding, history, unique trips and more.

Then there's the Wilderness Canoe Association website that similarly posts folks looking for trips, or trips looking for folks, and not just for canoeists.

You could also try Sierra Club expeditions, though they seem to favor sea kayaking lately, and our very own <u>AMC Adventure</u> <u>Travel</u>.

"I've been on about a dozen of them," says Mark Tiernan. Some trips were so perfect, like the St. John's/St. Croix paddling, he signed up more than once. "Depending on the leader, or the location, there are different side trips and behind-the-scenes places they take you, like Secret Beach on Isla Vieques."





Mark Tiernan in the Virgin Islands.

Though when someone wasn't careful, his search for bioluminescence among the wilderness refuge swam them uncomfortably close to U.S. Navy perimeters.

"A good guide is worth every penny," says esteemed club leader and paddling instructor Butch Futrell. He should know.

He and so many others (Monica, Kerri, Cameron, Donna, and, most recently, Jake) have done repeat paddling trips with Costa Rica Ríos in Cental America's aguas bravas.

Curt Gellerman (left) and Elisa & Marty Plante on Utah's San Juan River. Photo by Harold Deal.

Eileen similarly recommends <u>Esprit</u>

<u>Outfitters</u>, who drive a slew of Esquif
play boats down from Canada each year,
to help you raft and paddle through
Mexico or Costa Rico.

True paddlers never really hibernate in the winter.

"I use my time to dream of all the goals I'll reach in the coming season," says new member Susan Porter. First on her list? She's going to our chapter's Instructional Weekend in June. "I need to really get my mind around this whole moving-water thing."



YOU!
TO BE AN
INSTRUCTOR

For AMC members who agree to instruct for our chapter and obtain training as a paddling instructor from the American Canoe Association, the American Red Cross, the British Canoe Union, or other recognized organization, the Canoe & Kayak Committee has a long-standing policy of subsidizing the training/certification fee, subject to the following:

- The Committee will refund 50% of the cost of the course and certification exam fees, up to a \$400 rebate, with prior approval of the CKC Chair. Travel costs, meals, books, membership fees for the sponsoring organization and other incidentals are not reimbursable. Boats may be rented free of charge from the CKC, but boat rental fees for outside rental agencies are not reimbursable.
- The instructor must submit a request to the CKC Chair requesting reimbursement. The request must contain the dates, school and the name of the instructor-trainer teaching the course. There is no time limit applied to this requirement.
- The new instructor need not attain certification to be eligible for the refund.
- The instructor must agree to instruct for the NY-NoJ Chapter and must be an AMC member. The instructor will be reimbursed upon completion of the first instruction workshop taught by the newly certified instructor. The instructor is required to teach, but need not be the trip leader for the instruction. The course taught must be of the same type for which the instructor was trained (e.g., the instructor must teach a sea kayak class if the instructor training course was for sea kayaking). After teaching one course for the CKC, there is no minimum number of additional instructions required for reimbursement.
- Active AMC instructors are eligible for a 50% refund for the fee of any periodic courses to maintain certification, up to a \$200 rebate.

Dont FORGET ABOUT IT

by **ALEKS GUSEV**

This gadget has brought me more smiles and tears then all photographs and films I've shot.

To clarify – although it's an mp3 player (dual role, right!), I don't use it to listen to music, books or other recordings when I'm on a wilderness trip. Its primary use is to capture ambient sounds, campfire conversation and my own comments.

I keep it strapped to my life jacket, so it's always close. If I see a nice stream coming from the river right, or a particularly nice campsite, or a good fishing hole, I simply record the time, read aloud the location from my GPS, and describe what I see.

The alternative would be to stop, get the diary out and write it up on the spot. While romantic, it's not always practical and doesn't serve the same purpose.

I'll never forget the sound of two loons, our welcoming party on Lake Thahikafaluk – headwaters of the Canadian Arctic's Hood River. They sang beautifully, teasing each other to produce even more spectacular cries. Back-and-forth they went to 15 minutes. You guessed it - I have it all recorded.

ALEKS GUSEV

Originally from Serbia, Aleks was introduced to paddling in mid-life and took such delight in this new experience he pursued it with a vengeance. Although Aleks and his mate Tatjana live paddling Toronto, they often escape to their charming log cabin at Bell's Rapids in the Madawaska Valley. Aleks is a man of all seasons - famous for the epic ski trips he organizes in winter and then switching gear paddling or rafting northern rivers throughout the summer. inspires the paddling community through his volunteer efforts as Past Chair of the Wilderness Canoe Association, current Director of the WCA Canoe Symposium and as the current Editor of Nastawgan. A competent chef with a distinctly Serbian flair, Aleks can silence his paddle-mates serving by his specialty, cevapcici, roasted over an open fire.



When my friends and I made a movie about the Hood River trip ("Canoeing to the Arctic", a copy of which is stored at the National Archives of Canada), we used about 10 seconds of that audio clip.

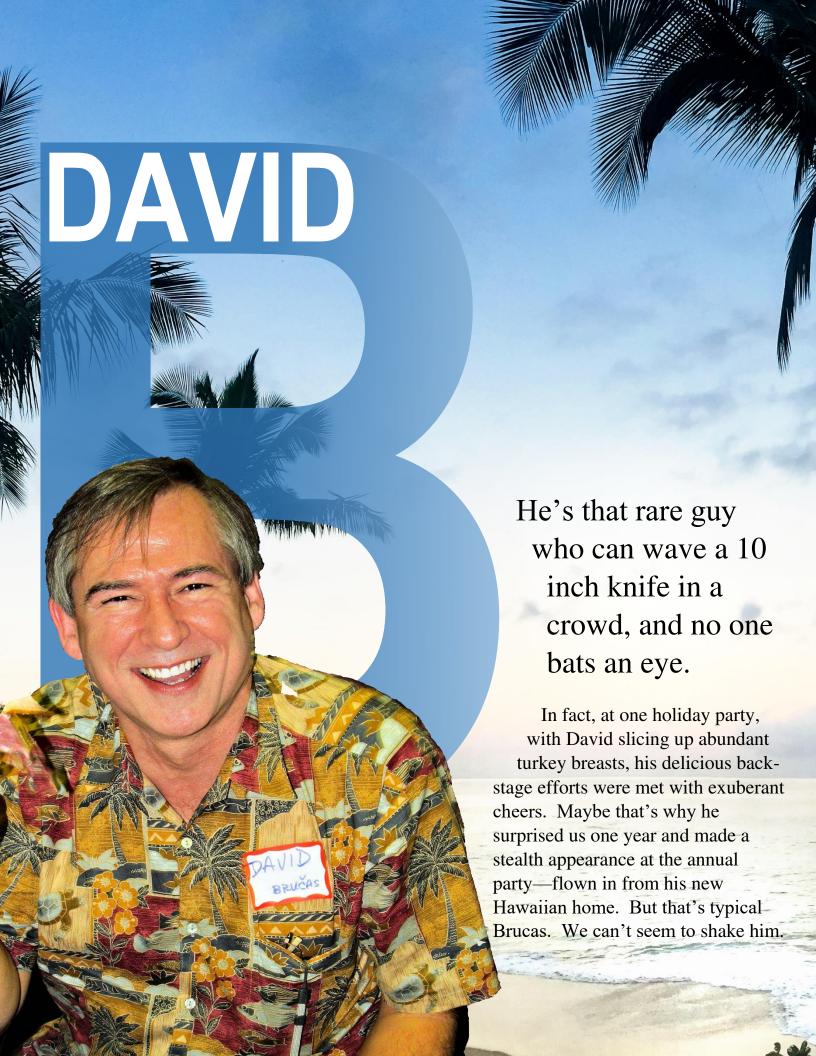
I saved the best for last: another important reason why I favor voice recorder sound bites over video clips or photos is that I can listen to them in the car! I love to drive and listen to the recordings from different trips: gurgling of the water, thunder and patputtering of rain on the tent canvas,

excited yelling as we descended down the Prairie Creek, or "auuhs" and "uuhhs" as I melt in the hot springs below the Splits.

Just warn your friends before you start recording.

Memory fades fast. Recorded descriptions of camp sites, encounters with people and animals, even the shape of that particular cloud – they all bring such vivid memories. I just close my eyes and listen to the sounds of the best days of my life.





Eileen drives about in his old "Brucas-mobile," the 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe. Infamous for rounding steep roads to a put-in while top-heavy with plastic vessels, legend has it he once loaded 20 kayaks for the start of pool sessions.

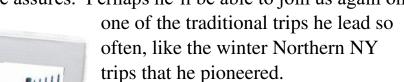
He dispenses great tourist advice—and even, at times, a couch—to members curious about the gorgeous Aloha State.

"Kathy and I absolutely love Honolulu," David says.



Like the indigenous hummingbird, David has enjoyed the nectar of high-skilled labor with contracts from several powerful employers. Most recently, he is linked to Hawaii Blue Cross (HMSA). But he still makes time to paddle.

"I hooked up with an ocean kayaking club so I'm getting a little practice," he assures. Perhaps he'll be able to join us again on



"We're all preparing for the chill of January when average temperatures drop to just below 80 degrees." OK, so if not Northern NY, maybe he'll pop in for another of his drive-by paddles.

Yep, it's hard to shake Brucas. But then again, why would you want to?



LAST YEAR WAS GREAT, LAST YEAR WAS FUN THANK YOU, THANK YOU, EVERYONE WE PADDLED HERE, WE PADDLED THERE WE CANOED AND KAYAKED EVERYWHERE

SO MANY FRIENDS, WHAT A JOYFUL SIGHT BEING WITH YOU WAS SUCH A DELIGHT AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO EACH VOLUNTEER FOR MAKING IT SUCH A WONDROUS YEAR

Thanks to all of our 2016 trip leaders, paddling instructors and other volunteers

Jill Arbuckle Glen Barnes Loretta Brady Rich Breton **David Brucas** Ken Burlew Richard Dabal Paul Edwards Russ Faller Meredith Fabian Andy LoPinto Elana Fine

Butch Futrell Lenny Grefig Neil Grossman Olly Gotel Brian Horowitz Ara Jingirian Monica Juhasz Christian Lazo Jake Lewis Andrew Ludke

Klara Marton Tanya McCabe Dave Michael Charles Michener Donna Morgan Dick Muller Catherine Mur Fd Mur Simon Odou Marty Plante David Rosenfeld

Chris Russo Henry Schreiber **David Shwide** Sozanne Solmaz Vadim Stepaniuk-Mark Tiernan Carin Tinney Chris Viani Suzanne Villegas Tim Watters Eileen Yin



to Hudson Derby

by **MARTY PLANTE**

One of America's Oldest Whitewater Races Celebrates its 60th Birthday!

esidents of Manhattan are accustomed to seeing a somewhat polluted mile-wide Hudson dotted with commuter ferries and cruise ships. Adirondackers see a different face of the Hudson. During spring, as the river swells with crystal-clear snow melt and April showers, the Upper Hudson has some of the best whitewater runs in the East.

Each year since 1958, the Hudson River

Whitewater Derby has been held on the

first full weekend of May from North River to Riparius. This year's event will mark its 60th anniversary, making it one of the oldest continuously run whitewater events in the country.

Prior to its rise as a recreational mecca, the Hudson had a more utilitarian position. Beginning about 1850, logs destined for lumber mills were floated down the Hudson each spring through the same river sections that we now paddle. The logs were corralled at Glens Falls, at one time the lumber capital of the world, to be processed and sent throughout the developing nation.

The log drives lasted a century, ending in 1950, freeing the river for the growing sport of whitewater paddling. The first Derby was held by the Johnsburg Fish and Game Club to commemorate the days of the log drives, drawing 35 boats and 44 paddlers to the one-day event.

The inaugural event started as a downriver race where competitors paddled eight miles through Class III rapids from North Creek to Riparius. Their only objective was to be the first to cross the finish line. The next year, the event was extended to two days to accommodate a new slalom race. Modelled after ski slalom races, the whitewater slalom course has a series of "gates" (poles suspended by cables across the rapids). The racers descend the river, navigating their boats through the gates, some of which must be negotiated upstream against the current. Penalties are assessed if a gate is touched or missed. The onemile slalom race is run in less than 10 minutes, in contrast to the downriver race that takes about an hour.



Logs on the Hudson River at Glens Falls, NY. Photo: courtesy of the Adirondack Museum via North Country Public Radio.

An early Hudson River Whitewater Derby. Photo courtesy of Hudson River Whitewater Derby Inc.



Spectators watching the finish line at the Riparius Bridge. Photo courtesy of visitlakegeorge.com



At the Derby's 10th Anniversary in 1967, Senator Robert F. Kennedy competed in Sunday's downriver race. He paddled in a tandem closed canoe - for the first time, according to an article in the autumn 1967 issue of American White Water Journal - with an experienced paddler from Pennsylvania.

Accompanying Kennedy that weekend was US. Secretary of the Interior Stuart Udall. The two were supporting a river conservation bill in the U.S. Congress and the Derby was a perfect venue to help publicize the proposed legislation. The bill passed a year later, soon after Kennedy's death. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 instituted a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to help protect the environment. It currently protects 208 rivers throughout the US, but the Hudson isn't one of them.

The race course, between the hamlets of North River and Riparius, are a series of Class II and III waves and rock gardens. Between them is North Creek, finish line for the slalom race and starting line for the downriver race. The current North Creek Railroad Station was completed in 1874 and has been restored to its original condition. It's little changed since 1901, when Teddy Roosevelt boarded a train here to assume the presidency after receiving a telegram announcing William McKinley's death.

At its peak of popularity, the race drew thousands of spectators, not all of whom were well-behaved, compelling some of the local residents to leave town for the weekend.

Want to get started in downriver or slalom racing? Here are some upcoming events.

New Haven Ledges

Bristol, VT Apr 1, 2017

Punch Brook Slalom

Farmington River at Burlington, CT Apr 2, 2017

Downriver Racing Instruction

West Hartford REI Apr 4, 2017 (7-8:30pm)

Westfield River Races Knightville Dam, MA

Apr 15, 2017

Manchester Slalom

Canandaigua Outlet at Manchester, NY Apr 30, 2017

<u>Hudson Whitewater Derby</u>

Hudson River at N. Creek, NY May 6-7, 2017



Covered Bridge Slalom

Housatonic River at W. Cornwall, CT May 21, 2017

Toms River Race

Tom's River, NJ Aug 27, 2917

The North Creek

News



Enterprise

VOL XXXV NO. 17

NORTH CREEK, N. Y. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1958

Sunday's downriver race ends at the hamlet of Riparius, the former site of Millbrook Boats. In 1975, whitewater racer John Berry moved his boatbuilding business from Vermont to the former stagecoach sheds at the Riparius rail station. The boats he built there revolutionized the sport and anyone who paddles a whitewater canoe today owes much to his pioneering ideas.

Each time I paddle past the old Millbrook Boat factory, I think of my first whitewater canoe, which had been made there. By a happy coincidence, John had decided to end his whitewater slalom career at the same time mine was beginning. After buying from him the Kevlar canoe that he had built for his personal use, he brought me to his basement and showed me all of the trophies and ribbons he had won with it. I used that boat to compete on the Hudson Derby and other races for the next few years, with much less success than its original owner.

CANOE RACES ON HUDSON RIVER RAPIDS START HERE ON SUNDAY, MAY 11TH

Canoe racing fans will have their first taste of this exciting sport on May 11, when North Creek is host to the first annual white water derby on the turbulent Hudson River.

The derby, a series of individually - timed runs over a sevenmile course from North Greek
to Riparius, has drawn entries
from canoe racers in So. Carolina, Ohio, Canada, New York
and the Northeast Competitors
will be required to prove ability
to handle the frail crafts in the
churning waters of the Hudson,
which should be about four feet

above normal during early May. The Johnsburg Fish & Game Club, which is sponsoring the event, along with North Creek civic organizations, has arranged several viewing spots for spectators. These points are the Route 28N bridge, North Creek, the D&H railroad tracks which follow the river, the Collins and Linehan farms on the east bank, and the bridge at Riparius that marks the finish line.

Historically, the white water derby recalls the days of log drives on the river and the earlier exploits of French "voyageurs", who plied heavily laden canoes three centuries ago. The race course starts about a quarter mile above North Creek, passes under the Route 28N bridge and continues for a mile to Bird Pond Falls. The next stretch of rough water encoun-

Barn Work Day & Pizza Party

Sat, May 13, 2017 12pm-4pm

Whether it's for an hour or the day, your help is needed. We'll be repairing and cleaning boats, taking inventory, and sorting PFDs and skirts. No special skills are needed, just your enthusiasm. And appetite - we'll have free pizza at the end of the day!

We Need Your Help!

To register, contact Andrew at canoekayak.quartermaster <at> amc-ny.org or 570-647-5061



WE NEED YOUR PIX

Please send your trip photos and comments to our Social Media Coordinator, Christian Lazo, for inclusion on our Facebook page.

Send all submissions to:

canoekayak.Publicity <at> amc-ny.org







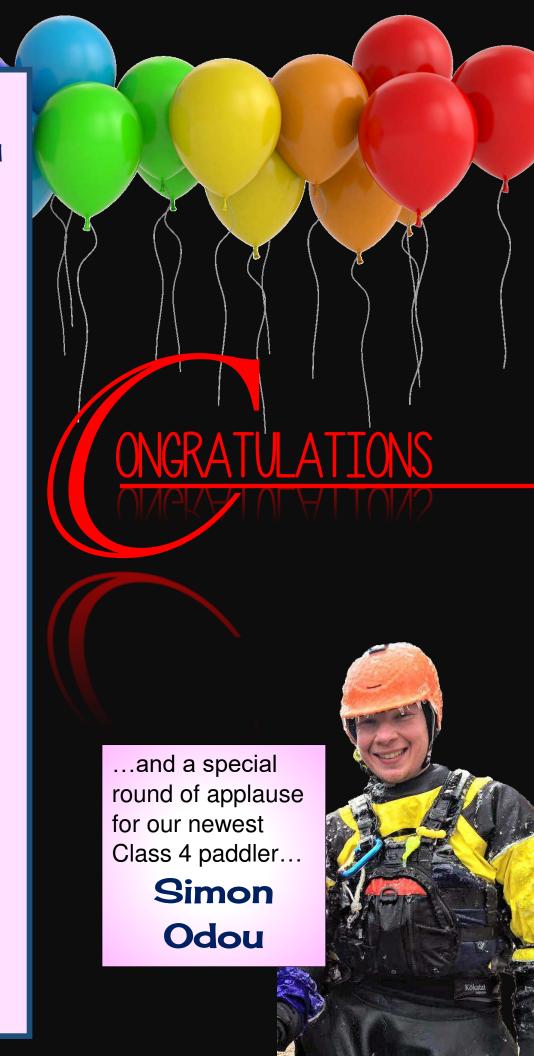


2017 CANOE/KAYAK COMMITTEE

Suzanne Villegas, CKC Chair Marty Plante, Treasurer/Records/Ratings Loretta Brady, Leadership/PaddleSplashes Klara Marton, Trip Scheduler Andrew Ludke, Quartermaster/Equipment Christian Lazo, Social Media Coordinator canoekayak<at>amc-ny.org canoekayak.Treasurer<at>amc-ny.org canoekayak.Newsletter<at>amc-ny.org canoekayak.Scheduler<at>amc-ny.org canoekayak.Quartermaster<at>amc-ny.org canoekayak.Publicity<at>amc-ny.org The Ratings
Committee is
delighted to award
new Quietwater
ratings to the
following Chapter
paddlers.

Congratulations to all:

Naz Ainechi Sean Ainechi Leyre Areizaga Muniain Ann Barber Keith Burlew Ray Clarkson Gigi Copeland Taryn Cunha James Donohue Jacki Gilbert Michael Gilbert Mary Ann Hoag Albert Kwok **Bob Moire** Dan Olson Paul Potochniak Jose Sabater **David Shwide** Lina Shwide Beth Talini Leigh Toth Aura Vargas Peter Vladimir Colin Watters

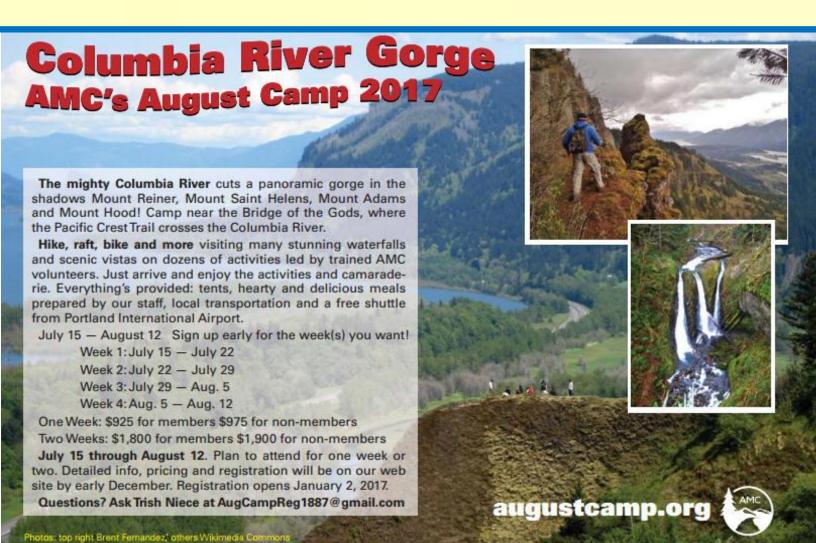


what's your rating?

We encourage paddlers to work towards being rated. A rating gives trip leaders not familiar with your skill level a standardized way to assess your appropriateness for a particular trip. To get rated, BEFORE you put on the water, ask a trip leader or other paddler (who has a rating equal to or greater than the river/body of water) to assess your skill during the trip and submit a rating card to our Ratings Chair, Marty Plante, at

canoekayak.ratings<at>amc-ny.org.

For more information, click <u>here</u>.



Paddlers' 10715 CRAWL

We're getting a makeover.

That was the idea behind this year's innovative Paddler's Holiday Hike and Pub Crawl, a riff on the usual annual Holiday Party.

"If AMC wants to recruit millennials, you have to offer a variety of things to do," wisely advised Klara Marton.

"I mean, this is the multi-task generation," Charles agreed.

Answering the invite of this online registered Holiday Party/Trip, a lively group of members, new and old, met one Sunday afternoon at Fort Tryon Public House.



Resisting the temptation to hang longer at the popular craft brew pub, they set off to hike the ridge of Inwood Hill Park, with a special view overlooking the Hudson River, Palisade Cliffs, and the home of the Inwood Canoe Club.

Collectively, we represented a spectrum of the season's spirit: Christians, Muslims, Jews, agnostics and New Agers. But no matter. The bonding commenced.

Talk ranged from stories of our Manhattan circumnavigations (by kayak and canoes) to the history of the sailing days here at Tubby Hook.

The multi-task party also included crawling into the Lenape Indian Caves. We listened as Chris pointed out glacial rock formations along the ridge.

Did the trip work? Does the AMC NY-NoJ chapter boost their rep for coolness? Just check out our Instagrams snapped as we climbed about the rocks. We look like an indie rock band. Environmentalism is the new cool.

Being the well-rounded group that we are, the multi-tasking also included bird identification. Nuthatches and black capped chickadees followed us on the walk. Then Julie spotted a great blue heron that seemed to walk on water. But sightings always seemed to link back to stories of other fowl paddling experiences.

Then, to completely erase any lingering hint of nerdiness, we headed off to the bars along Broadway for food and grog.

Is this trip worth a repeat?

Just listen to one party-goer, Samira Hassa, who had formally self-identified only as a mere hiker.

"I'm definitely going to come out for your canoe instruction weekend," Samira announced. "I was really impressed by this particular group of people."

Multi-task trips. Not a bad way to poach for new members.

Perhaps we've witnessed the historic launching of a new tradition.



Thank You

Thanks to Pool Session Coordinator Vadim Stepaniuk and all of the other instructors who made our 2017 pool sessions a success:

Don Getzin
Olly Gotel
Ara Jingirian
Christian Lazo
Jake Lewis
Dave Michael
Donna Morgan
Igor Shkapenyuk
Vadim Stepaniuk
Carin Tinney
Suzanne Villegas
Eileen Yin







Basic CPR and First Aid Class Sat, May 13, 2017 9:30 am-4:00 pm ACA Camp @ Lake Sebago in Harriman State Park ACA members only (click here) \$75

		_	Λ				
וכי		/	Δι	CŤ	IV	ΛŢΓ	/
	U	/ /		JL	ΙV	\mathbf{L}	/

		201	7 Activ	ity Eth	OGGIN			
Date		Touring Water	Quiet Water	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	
	8-9		Raritan (Sat, 4/8) <i>Horowitz</i>				1	
	15-16 Easter	Oswego (Sat, 4/15) <i>Watters</i>						
April	22-23		Bantam (Sat, 4/22) Faller Black River (Sun, 4/23) Horowitz					
	29-30		Croton (Sat, 4/29) Schreiber/ Grefig					
	6-7		Wading (Sat, 5/6) Watters Wappinger Clean-up (Sat, 5/6) Faller	Week of Southern Rivers Getzin				
May	13-14		Raritan (Sat, 5/13) <i>Horowitz</i>	Barn Work Day (Sat, 5/13) <i>Ludke</i>				
	20-21		Raritan (Sun, 5/21) <i>Horowitz</i>					
	27-28 Memorial Day				dory =	Yough Futrell		
Jun 3-4		Mullica Family Canoe Trip (Fri, 6/2-4) Watters		Intro to Car (Fri-Sun, 6 <i>Brady</i> <i>Michen</i>	6/2-4) ·/		1	
		Black Creek Clean-Up (Sat, 6/3) Faller		Intro to Kayaking (Fri-Sun, 6/2-4) Futrell On't force				

Leadership Workshop at Harriman Outdoor Center Jun 16-18, 2017 click here?

Western PA Solo Canoe Rendezvous June 3-5, 2017 Slippery Rock, PA

