

PADDLE SPLASHES

Canoe & Kayak Committee
Appalachian Mountain Club
NY-NoJ Chapter

JULY 2017

LIVE &
LEARN



Contents

JULY 2017



3 *live & learn*



8 *al braley*

11 *spring fling*

15 *yellow trailer*



16 *allen kossover*



LIVE & LEARN

We've been noticing something. The caliber of paddling club members is steadily increasing. While quantity has plateaued for a time, the quality still sharply rises.



Members across all paddling clubs seem to view becoming a qualified instructor as a natural step in their sports-life. All over, those member-instructors are giving back, raising the level of all boats in the water.

Just take a look at what's been happening in the North East.

Sea Kayakers

From Sebago to Inwood, and at other amateur boathouses along the shores of Yonkers to Queens, racking up instructor certifications is a spreading contagion. There's an epidemic to keep reaching for your next instructional level.

Carin Tinney, instructor for the upcoming Kayak Creeking Clinic.

Events calendars track a full complement of courses to ramp up skills—by American or British criteria.

“We need a host of members to teach the safety courses at Lake Sebago, or paddling in conditions,” says John Wright, a former Sebago Commodore.

Our own Julie McCoy has taught at AMC Fire Island Sea Kayak weekends and on our Sedge Island expedition. Now she hangs a shingle online, <http://www.tubbyhook.com>, leading her own side company of guided trips and lessons. Balancing business with volunteer pleasures keeps her a happy tubby hooker.

Whitewater Kayak

Now we’re not even going to mention the growing popularity of kayak polo and all the member coaches, teachers, and international competitors aligned to *that* activity.

In the realm of whitewater kayak river running, instructor-members from all chapters are holding strong and stepping up. Massachusetts still hosts their sought-after Step-Up Boot Camp, a clinic where club members drive paddlers relentlessly to jump from Class 2 to Class 3 proficiency all in one weekend.

“That’s really an intense program they have,” says Butch Futrell who has helped instruct with them in the past. He advises that you don’t even think about joining unless you’re ready for teachers who work you till you drop.

And he doesn’t mean a ledge drop.

Connecticut’s program may be small, but still steady and effective. Their chapter instructors host instructionals after work on weekdays.



Connecticut instructor Jo-Ann Durdock at Tariffville Gorge. Photo by Steve Silk.

“Most serious students take the day off to give it all they’ve got,” say the AMC CT instructors, including Patti Vaughn, Jo-Ann Durdock, and “Dynamic Eddy” Yiznitsky.

They told us all about their long-standing instructional program when we joined them on the Mongaup this May. They had brought along some of their well-schooled mentees, who nailed every move.

Then there’s AMC NY-NoJ’s Carin Tinney and Jordan Yaruss, who both hold the highest level of whitewater instruction certification obtainable.

This year, Carin and Jordan will launch an [Introduction to Creeking Class 3 Clinic](#) on the Lower Yough. This takes the chapter’s instructional program up a notch for progress after the traditional Beginners’ Instructional Weekend. This year Carin assisted instructor Butch Futrell, training 9 new kayakers.

Eileen on a southern river.
Photo by Marty Plante.

“**...don’t even think about joining unless you’re ready for teachers who work you till you drop.**”

A Creeking Clinic, as Carin says, shows you “rocks are your friends.” With their level of instructional skill, Carin and Jordan are teaching how to use slots, boofs, and holes to an

advantage. They teach “how to play with the natural toys the river gives to us.”

Better still, whenever they hold the trips to Southern Rivers, or the imminent [Canadian Rivers](#), they can’t help passing on river-reading skills and, as they put it, “how to manage your mental game.”

We’re lucky to have such member-led opportunities.

Canoe Trends

There’s always something to learn with canoeing.



Wilderness Skills expeditions are the most enjoyable to teach, according to Dan Olson, joint member of AMC and Sebago, and an expedition and paddling instructor for the Boy Scouts of America, too!

We learn by doing. Mistakes are made.

It's fun to see the group solve problems while instructor Chris Viani looks on grinningly as the rain tarp collapses, again.

The New Hampshire Chapter adds their own styling as their member-instructors revive the great tradition of canoe poling. It's a skill still taught all the time in Canada that AMC members are passing on.

Marshall Moore of AMC's New Hampshire Chapter gives instruction in traditional and modern canoe poling techniques. Photo by Tom Wahle.



Eileen Yin has set her sights on reviving another canoe skill tradition of the chapter. With the unusual number of skilled solo canoe students in this year's instructional weekend, she has in mind a clinic to boost solo and tandem paddlers to work more forceful waters at a Class 2 Clinic.

"I love starting new programs and seeing them take off," says Eileen, who not only teaches solo and tandem moving water canoeing for us, but has in the works a whole raft of instructional paddling weekends up at the new Corman AMC Harriman Center.

With all this quality instruction, it's no wonder participants sometimes view us as professional outfitters.

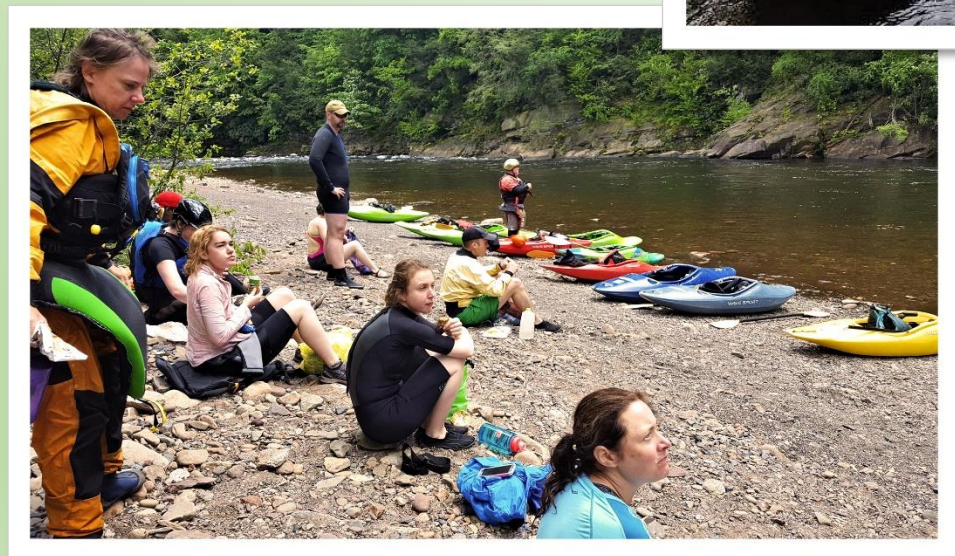
Aw, let 'em. As long as they carry their own boats.

WELCOME

...to this year's contingent of new canoeists and kayakers...



Heather Arendt	Geoff MacDougall
Emma Dolhai	Brian Mintey
Mary Ann Hoag	Peter Nolan
Olga Karpova	Lauren Overman
Michael Koch	Jennifer Powell
Allen Kossover	Rafael Rogoza
Anne Larrivee	Nathalia Thompson



...and Thanks! to the instructors:

Loretta Brady
Stephen Ferder
Butch Futrell
Leenny Grefig
Christian Lazo
Charles Michener
Carin Tinney
Chris Viani

Remembering Al Braley

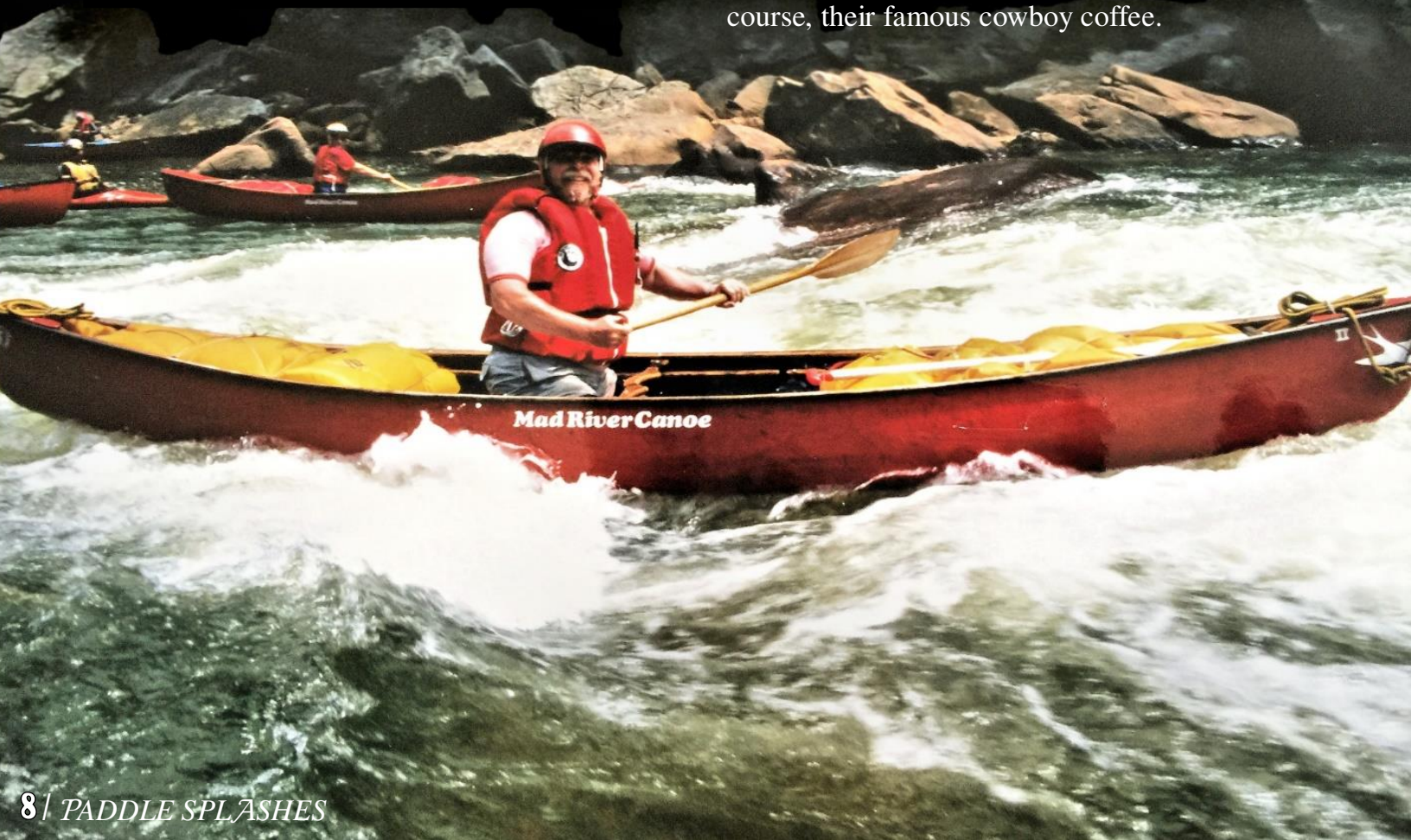
by DON GETZIN

The first time I met Al was on an AMC Neversink River canoe trip that he and his wife Fran were leading. Two other relatively new AMC canoers whom you might know, Henry Schreiber and John Humbach, were also on the trip. The river was quite high and it was drizzling.

Almost all of us swam at least once. Al was so disappointed—he thought the trip was a disaster. What he came to learn only later was that we all thought the trip was quite an adventure, and it hooked us on canoeing and the AMC. We have Al to thank for his inspiration, for encouraging

us and for introducing us to the lifetime sport of canoeing.

The next time I met Al (and Fran) was on their annual February Mullica River Canoe Expedition. They provided delicious food, a campfire, much comradery, and, of course, their famous cowboy coffee.



Al and Fran were Canoe Committee (as the CKC was then called) co-chairs in 1984 and '85. That entire period was, in my opinion, the high point of our chapter's paddling program. Our Active Paddlers List had over 300 names—almost all canoers—and most attended the annual Paddlers Party, begun by Al and Fran.

Al was also a past Interchapter Canoe Committee (now the Interchapter Paddling Committee) chair and usually attended the annual meetings. I remember him speaking at length—extemporaneously and highly articulately. I was so impressed!

Most of the Canoe Committee publications, some still used today, were created by Al and Fran: trip report forms, rating cards, *The Feathers*, trip leaders' manual, and trailer-haulers manual, to name a few. They brought our newsletter, *Paddle Splashes*, to a higher, more professional level. In several *PaddleSplashes* issues, Al and I argued in print about the forces (or lack of them) involved in ferrying. I don't think I ever convinced him that he was wrong!

For me, Al was “Mr. AMC.” Thank you, Al, for everything you did for the AMC. You have left behind many grateful Appies. I am chief among them!



Al Braley

Alson (Al) Deming Braley, 80, passed away on Saturday, April 1, 2017 from complications of Alzheimer's disease.

Al was born December 11, 1936 in Iowa City, IA. He was a mechanical engineer who worked in the telecommunications industry. Upon his retirement, Al and his wife Fran moved to Wingdale NY to be closer to their favorite New England rivers and streams.

Al was a life member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and enjoyed the outdoors, especially paddling a canoe down a river. He and his wife lead numerous canoe trips for the New York – North Jersey Chapter of the AMC. They were Co-Chairs of the Chapter's Canoe Committee in 1984-85. They wrote a booklet on how to get started paddling with the AMC called *The Feathers*. They also developed leadership workshops helping new members to develop the skills necessary to lead canoe trips. Al and Fran will probably be best remembered for organizing and leading overnight camping trips in February on the Mullica River in NJ and their New Years Day trips on Cedar Creek in NJ or the Ten Mile River in Dover, NY. Al was past Chair of the NY – NoJ Chapter of the AMC, past Chair of the AMC Interchapter Canoe Committee, and past Regional Director of the AMC. Al became interested in genealogy and spent many hours tracing his heritage, traveling to various court houses and cemeteries documenting his ancestors' lives. His greatest discovery was that he was related to the Wings who established Wingdale.

There will be a Celebration of his Life at a later date. Memorials may be made to the Appalachian Mountain Club; the Town of Dover Historical Society; The Alzheimer's Association or the charity of your choice.



*Celebration
of
Life*



A memorial service and celebration of life will be held on Aug 26, 2017, 2-4 PM at the VFW Hall, 3422 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY 12522. Please RSVP to Fran Braley at alfranb@optonline.net by July 31. If you would like to send a remembrance to be shared at the memorial, send it to Fran at this email address.

First Annual SPRING FLING

Apr 30, 2017 Brooklyn

Paddlers Party



Never stagnant waters, the NY-NoJ Chapter hosted a first-ever Spring Fling annual party at Brooklyn's The Shanty.

The space was donated for free by The New York Distilling Company.

Craft cocktails. Cozy saloon. And thou.

"It was really great to catch up with old friends and meet some new ones," remarked sailor David Rosenfeld, with his date, sea kayaker Julie McCoy.

New members Sean Ainechi and his wife Naz made the trip all the way from Washington Heights.

"Naz and I have been cycling a lot lately," they commented, "But we are still really serious about canoeing. Don't forget us!"





Not a chance. In fact, surrounded by advisors, the conversation turned on guiding their new purchase of an ultra-light Kevlar tandem.

It's hard to say what the guests enjoyed most: Suzanne's heart-warming spicy salsa, the inventive Happy Hour drinks, or the "back-stage" look at a real gin distillery.



Most memorable, however, were the words of thanks from our party-planner and assiduous chair, Suzanne Villegas.

Suzanne had artfully engraved wooden paddle/cheeseboards to award each committee member, deploying them with fond words about each member's strong contributions.



From Christian Lazo, who has been supplying consistent media presence of our activities, to Klara Morton, who has already broken scheduling records, and everyone in between, the chair and her squad reflect the power of community, where we are all stronger than any one of us could be on our own.

Which is not to forget that behind every incredible group stands a strong leader, like Suzanne.

When you add up all the activities in her past two year term—the surge in pool sessions, the ramped up instructional program, the extended media outreach, the revamped trailers, the momentum of Southern Rivers and expedition trips, and the expansion of leaders-in-training and leader mentors— there’s really quite a legacy of accomplishment by our chair.

Thank you so much, Suzanne, for giving back and giving beyond the call of duty!

We must also thank all the donors of our generous door prizes, which nearly everyone won! Abundant swag and branded gear overflowed the raffle table.

Thanks to all for a great party.

SYOR (See you on the river)!



Thanks!

Thanks to [The Cliffs of LIC](#) climbing gym for their generous donation of free climbing instruction and to [Nantahala Outdoor Center](#) for providing a rafting trip.

Freestyle Canoeing

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Excellent instruction in a quiet water venue for canoeists of all skill levels, both solo and tandem. Click for more information.

**Adirondack Canoe Symposium
Paul Smith's College
July 13-16, 2017**

**Pine Barrens Freestyle Workshop
Camp Ockanickon, Medford, NJ
October 13-15, 2017**



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EXTREME MAKEOVER

TRAILER EDITION

Our Yellow Fleet trailer has suffered years of neglect and was long overdue for a make-over.

The adventure started with Charles' struggle to tow the trailer from Mohican Outdoor Center to Andrew's house. A flat tire was encountered. Locating the spare tire was a challenge. Installing it was a bigger challenge. The wheel studs and a rim were damaged. More challenges to replace them.

The electrical wiring had dry rot and was shorted in multiple locations. At some time in the past, the electric plug that connects the trailer to the tow vehicle had become loose and had dragged on the road, destroying

it. Some of the light bulbs were burned out. The trailer's electric system needed a complete overhaul.

And the bungee cords that secure the canoes to the trailer needed to be replaced.

Then the trailer had to be re-registered with the State of NJ, involving a small mountain of paperwork.

The refurbished trailer will be towed to the Barn for the winter, then returned to Mohican in the spring.

A big thanks to Andrew Ludke, Arnold Ludke and Charles Michener for making it all happen.

Allen Kossover

A new leader joins the pack

It just goes to show you it isn't true that there are separate paddling camps. Allen Kossover, new leader-to-be, shows that the more versatile, the better.

Allen is an avid outdoor sportsman: sea kayak touring and tide racing, flat water canoeing, and Telemark skiing are his greatest passions.

He currently holds an ACA Level 1 kayak instructor certification.

"If all goes well with my next certification, I hope to add value to the sea kayak group with skills training."

He recently challenged himself with the wily whitewater solo canoe, completing our Moving Water Instructional river run upright and smiling.

"This is one of the hardest things I've ever done," he was heard to say at the beginning.



Allen getting ready for a day on the water.

Later, he did nothing but flash his signature smile, grinning from ear to ear in a way that makes you laugh at your own mis-strokes. That's a really important trait in a leader: a sense of humor just when things get to be non-sense.

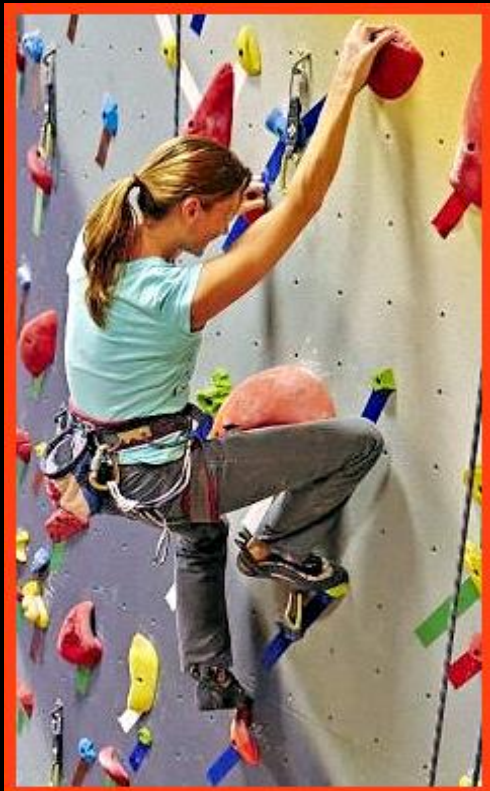
Allen has been paddling seriously for about eight years. Introduced to the sport by friends, he found a way to enjoy another play-ground. He enjoys a nice day paddle or playing in tide races and rock hopping. His best times are island camping in the bays of Maine with his paddling friends.

He is continually advancing his sea kayaking skills with rough water training as there is always more to learn.

In the winter months, he continues playing on water with Telemark skiing. "It's challenging and feels like dancing," he says.

Allen will be co-leading and giving some sea kayak pointers on the Sedge Island trip in September this year. As per Allen's record, this is yet another popular trip-it's already all booked up.

Stay tuned for his future trips.



THE CLIFFS

AT LONG ISLAND CITY

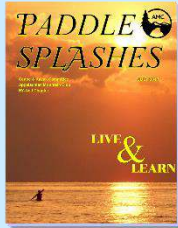
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PADDLE SPLASHES

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.

Guidelines for Submissions

Photos are preferred as high resolution color jpeg files attached to email. Please do not crop, compress, resize or otherwise interfere with them. Contact the editor if you need assistance sending large files. Current and prior issues of PaddleSplashes are available on the Chapter's website at <http://www.amc-ny.org/paddle-splashes>

Send all submissions to:
canoekayak.Newsletter <at> amc-ny.org

Keep in Touch!





CANOE/KAYAK COMMITTEE

Suzanne Villegas, CKC Chair
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Loretta Brady, Leadership/PaddleSplashes
Klara Marton, Trip Scheduler
Andrew Ludke, Quartermaster
Christian Lazo, Social Media Coordinator
Charles Michener, Equipment 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
canoekayak.Equipment<at>amc-ny.org

2017 Activity Schedule

Date	Touring Water	Quiet Water	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	
July	1-2	Gilded Age Mansions of the Hudson (Sat, Jul 1) <i>Faller</i>			Intro. to Creeking on the Lower Yough (Sun, Jul 2) <i>Tinney/Yarus</i>		
					Lower Yough (Fri-Mon, Jun 30-Jul 3) <i>Futrell</i>		
	8-9			Lehigh (Sun, 7/9) <i>Futrell</i>			
	15-16	Wappinger Cr. & Hudson (Sat, Jul 15) <i>Faller</i>			Esopus <i>Brady</i>		
23-24				Delaware (Sun, 7/24) <i>Brady/Marton</i>			
August	5-6	Learn to Kayak at Fire Island <i>Villegas</i>		Fifebrook (Wed-Sun, Aug 2-6) <i>Solmaz</i>		Dryway (Wed-Sun, Aug 2-6) <i>Solmaz</i>	
				Salmon <i>Koermer/Brady</i>			
	12-13	Midweek Kayaking at Fire Island (Tue-Thu, Aug 8-10) <i>Barcia</i>					
	19-20	Expedition on the Connecticut R. (VT & NH) (Sat-Fri, Aug 12-18) <i>Faller</i>				Ottawa (Sat-Fri, Aug 12-18) <i>Gotel/Michael/Tinney</i>	
		Ladies' Canoe/Kayak Weekend at Harriman <i>Yin</i>					
26-27	Wilderness Skills in the Adirondacks (Wed-Sat, Aug 23-26) <i>Brady</i>			Fifebrook (Thu-Sun, Aug 24-27) <i>Lewis/Villegas</i>		Dryway (Thu-Sun, Aug 24-27) <i>Lewis/Villegas</i>	

*Adirondack
Wilderness
Expedition
Sep 1-4, 2017*

PARTING SHOT



The AMC NY-NoJ paddling webpage as designed by Al Braley in 1998 and as it now appears.

