

PADDLE SPLASHES

AMC NY-NoJ Chapter, Canoe and Kayak Committee

May/June 2006

PaddleSplashes on-line

By: Marty Plante

PaddleSplashes is now available on-line! Each issue will be posted to our Chapter's website at <http://www.amc-ny.org/recreational-activities/canoe/newsletter> as soon as it's available. You can even elect to receive an e-mail notice when each issue is available.

No more disappointing trips to the mailbox, waiting for the paper version to arrive. It's available on your computer 24x7, so there's no need to remember where you put your copy. It has photographs in living color. You can even read it at work, after you've gotten bored of looking at the roof of your house from outer space.

And if that's not enough, those who discontinue their paper copies will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 American Express gift card, redeemable at any store that accepts credit cards (including your favorite paddling-gear outlets).

To be eligible for the drawing, responses must be received via e-mail or snail mail by June 22, 2006 and you must be on the current distribution list for *PaddleSplashes*. Only one entry is permitted for each membership. All entries will receive an e-mail confirmation. The winner will be selected from a random drawing to be held at the June 24th Boat Demo Day and will be published in the next issue of *PaddleSplashes*.

You can register by sending an e-mail to PSonline@amc-ny.org or by mailing the coupon. For e-mail submissions, include your name and state whether you want to receive an e-mail notice when each new issue is ready.

Enter today! Good luck.

Yes! I want to start reading *PaddleSplashes* from the comfort of my own PC. Please discontinue mailing a paper copy to me and enter me in the drawing.

- ☐ I want an e-mail reminder sent to me when each new issue of ***PaddleSplashes*** has been posted to the website.
- ☐ Don't send me an e-mail reminder for each issue, but send me an e-mail confirmation of my entry in the drawing.

Name _____

e-mail _____

Mail to:

PaddleSplashes Drawing
% Marty Plante
162 N. Walnut St.
Ridgewood, NJ 07450-3221

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Paddlesport

March 24, 25, 26, 2006

Pictures by: Tom Trevor & Kurt Navratil



Herb Stermer manning the Booth



Chris Viana and Jill Arbuckle with a booth visitor

Paulins Kill River Clean Up

May 6, 2006

Leader: Tanya McCabe



Barn Work Day

April 1, 2006

By: Tom Trevor and Andrew Douglas

So here it is; April Fool's Day. In this case the joke is that there finally is a forecast for rain, and it is Barn Day. As luck would have it, there wasn't much rain, and it was a very well attended Barn Day. We had eleven volunteers, not including the two quartermasters. Each and every one of them came with a helpful attitude, put up with dirty work and chaos, and got a whole lot done.

We would like to thank each and every one of them for their time, effort, and patience. Herb returned from retirement to work with Butch as they replaced the hatches on the yellow canoe trailer.

Mark Steinhacker and Steve Ferder drove all the way from Long Island to spend over six hours tearing down and rebuilding the white water kayak racks.



Victoria sorted equipment, redesigned the paddle racks, and shuttled to lumber yard to help load materials.



Dot Peters carried every PFD out of the barn, and then back in again while sorting out the equipment shelving.



Stan Klein put his height to work all day as he was constantly lifting, holding and hanging things up by the ceiling. In particular, he worked with Jennifer Koermer rebuilding the PFD racks, and creating a new corner of kayak skirts and throw ropes.



Maureen even flew by dropping off freshly checked and re-filled first aid kits. We had never anticipated starting so many projects, much less finishing them.

Thanks again to all everyone who gave their time and skills. All this remodeling has made more work possible so watch the schedule for the next barn day when we will need your help to make the club fleet ready for your next trip.



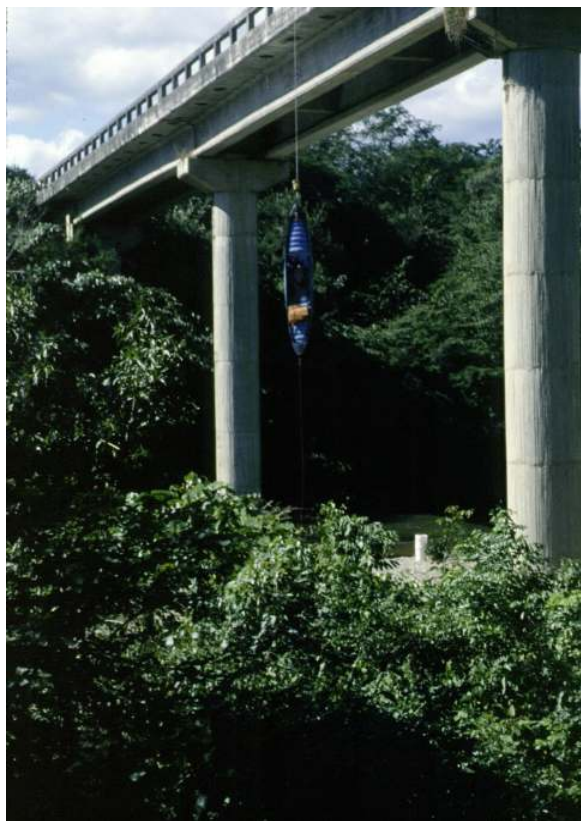


The Inquiring Paddler

Questions and answers may be sent to phyllislindquist@worldlynx.net or by snail mail to the address on last page of this newsletter. Deadline for next issue is September 1, 2006. (If you wish to be included on the e-mail inquiry response list, please send me your e-mail address.)

What was the most unusual put-in or take-out you've used on a trip?

Don Getzin



Put-in for the Rio Sico, Honduras

Paul Edwards

On the Millers—it was an April Class 3 trip in Massachusetts that I co-lead with Steve Ferder. There was still quite a bit of snow on the ground when we arrived at the motel Friday night. Then overnight we got six more inches. We even got the shuttle vehicles stuck in deep snow, but we finally did the run. The put-in wasn't too bad, although we did have to wade through snow up to our knees, but the take-out was even stranger. When we got to the takeout the river bank was a least 10 feet from the water, maybe 20, because the river at this point still had thick ice along the sides that was covered in snow. There were a few precarious moments until one of us managed to get onto this snowy ledge and were able to help the rest of the group. The best part was all this snow made it easier to drag our boats up to where the cars were parked.

And how about the one we missed altogether? I was the trailer hauler, and had to catch a taxi to get back to our cars with the trailer.

Mike Dalton

There was a late snowstorm just before a Nescopeck trip. The river banks had about 18 inches of snow. Instead of dragging canoes down the 15 foot embankments, we just jumped in the boats and sledded down the embankment right into the river.

Of course, Nahanni plane trips up scenic river valleys where you feel you could reach out and touch the mountains and then land on isolated lakes, or maybe a gravel bar in the river bring back fond memories. After landing, you then had about 3 weeks of isolated paddling in spectacular country to enjoy.

Dick Bailey

Put-ins share a common characteristic often overlooked even by experienced paddlers. They are all downhill and therefore rather unremarkable. Take-outs also share a common characteristic never overlooked even by novice paddlers. They are all uphill and some label a river more noteworthy for the takeout than for the river itself. Thebuster take-out I have in mind is under the highway 19 bridge south of Summersville, West Virginia. The Middle Meadow is usually a Class 3 level river, but the take out is always a Class 6.

James Dougherty

One of the most exciting put-ins was when I did the Catoctin in VA with Betsy. There was a long dirt slide and I decided to use my kayak for a sled. At midway, I started to go fast and got belly flies. When I splashed into the water, "I thought I would love to do this with snow on the ground." It's an easy CL 2 at low/medium level near DC. Very scenic and lots of wildlife.

Tom Trevor

The most unusual put-in for me was the side entrance to my previous home just after a record rain storm a few years ago. A drainage easement borders my property with a neighbor. Since the pipe under the street was smaller than the pipe feeding the easement, the depression between the two homes quickly filled with both rain water and runoff. With as much as three feet of water under my boats, my sons and I paddled between trees that had recently shaded a bone dry yard.

Charles Michener

On my recent Wallkill trip, I found both the put-in and take-out interesting. The put-in was in the middle of a farmer's field, down dirt roads. At one point during the shuttle, we got stuck behind a truck spreading pesticide. I'm glad it wasn't manure. The take-out was another adventure. The topless bar had a big parking lot right next to the river with a good place to land. Perfect take-out. Being a good AMCer, I didn't want to presume that we could use the parking lot. This required a visit to the manager. As I approached the front door, I was stopped by one of the entertainers and asked if I was there to party. When I said that I was there to see the manager, I was told to stop there and explain why. Once I explained about paddling and the use of the parking lot, I was told if I wanted to see the manager it was going to cost money, and that I had to party first. At which point I was ushered into the second shakiest adult lounge I have ever seen. Then the bartender extorted cash from me for a bottle of water. No booze if you believe it. The entertainer extorted cash from me before she would tell me that the manager was outside, where I hastily went to get permission to park. What I do for my paddling friends, and write off this cost as a leader's expense.

The Inquiring Paddler *CONTINUED*

Pat McHenry

My most unusual put-in experience was quite a few years back on one of the trips I ran on the Lackawaxen River, Hawley, PA. I was leading a line of about ten cars to look at the Rowlands Bridge put-in below Kimbles to shorten the trip a bit. Everyone thought that this was the put-in and began taking their boats off the cars—I had only meant to stop and take a look—it was all posted “Private Property” on every tree! I couldn’t stop my paddling group in time, so we quickly put the boats down by the bridge, got the cars down to the take out and made a quick launch from the site. I had visions of being pursued by angry homeowners with pick-up trucks and gun racks asking me if I had a problem reading the signs—but that did not ensue. The whole episode just frayed my nerves a bit, but no harm was done.

Jim Rubins

On a raw, rainy Saturday this April, during a trip slowed down by unexpected big strainers, I opted to end the trip early and all paddlers agreed with enthusiasm. It was almost 3 p.m. and we were two miles and three portages away from the expected take-out—and the cars. This was the Bronx River, the early-out takeout was at 219th Street, the subway was just three blocks away. Five drivers climbed on the Number 2 El, rode five stops south to the cars...and we were well on the way home. (If you can spot a subway, you’ll never need to spot a car!)

Phyllis Lindquist

- Bolder size rocks on the path to the put-in on the Pemi in New Hampshire
- Mean dogs and horses in Tennessee
- A hairy plane ride to the Stikine River

MEET OUR PADDLERS



Barbara Seelbach

I’ve been whitewater paddling since 1978. I started in a 17 ft shoe keeled Grumman (that’s when I was strong !). Next, I moved into a generic 13 ft. plastic boat, an ME, then a Viper and then a Rival. Always wanted to paddle a C1, but after 2 knee surgeries, it isn’t going to happen.

I’ve been an AMC member since 1982. I joined because of disenchantment with the Abnaki Canoe Club which I helped start with Barbara and Ned Wade. I quickly wanted to paddle more that Class I and Class II water, but none of the others in the club agreed with me, nor did they wish to lead trips.

When I kept meeting friendly AMCs on the river, I became a guest on various AMC trips, and have been hooked every since! It was a great move.

I’m also involved in other sports such as, downhill skiing, day hiking and sailing, and an occasional golf game.

I have retired from teaching and I’m enjoying traveling. (I’m looking for someone interested in touring all the National Parks...) Since retiring, I started to play in an orchestra again and have taken up water color painting.

Retire! It’s great!

Editor’s remarks: Barbara will be moving from New Jersey to Virginia near Williamsburg in June. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her on our trips.



MEET OUR PADDLERS *CONTINUED*

Cath Kraft

For the love of boating

Years ago I would visit my sister in Maine – she had a big old ‘Old Town’ canoe – and I would compete with my little nephews for paddling time on Lake Sebec and the Stillwater River.



Cath on the Lower Kennebec, Maine

In 1990 I went for a rafting/canoe instruction in Maine....We rafted the Penobscot and Kennebec. WOW! For my instructional we ended up on the Seeboomac a class 3/4 river! Just the instructor and myself in a tandem canoe with no safety. I loved it! I had no clue!

I joined the AMC and started tandem canoe instructions and paddling. It did not take long for me to go solo. I never planned on the level of whitewater boating that I do – it just happened.

I have paddled advanced level rivers throughout the East Coast for 10+ years. I have paddled in Costa Rica, Canada and yes I paddled all 225 miles on the Grand Canyon. Uh, well I swam a lot too! I have lots of river miles to go. Each year I add at least one new river to my growing list of rivers paddled.

I hope to head south this spring as I have each year since 1995.

Just 2 years ago I paddled in North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, and Canada. Two years ago; my new rivers were Warwoman creek, sections of the Penobscot below the cribworks and the Rapid River.

Three years ago I paddled close to 100 days.

My old nemesis The Dryway is almost, can I say a river...nope! Better not jinx myself. Dragon's

Tooth is still a no spit rapid – but I do it! I do it my way! I love Labyrinth but in big water watch out.

Many of my friends are white-water boaters. Whitewater boating runs in the family – my nephews are now kayakers doing first descents!

I was ACA Instructor Certified in 2000 with Tom Foster. I am certified for whitewater instruction. I did not re-Cert as I was in school. I am still in school sigh... very little boating these days.

I have taken instructions with The AMC, NOC, Bob Foote, Tom Foster and Andrew Westwood and Dwayne Smith. Andrew Westwood gave me the gift of river reading. Thank you Andrew Westwood!

I paddle a Shaman designed by Harold Deal (I keep hoping some of his skill will be transferred through my knees). I used to paddle a Viper 12 until I got scared on rivers. I started solo boating in an Impulse. The club Impulse lived in my backyard one summer. I keep bashing into rocks and am constantly in search of a better recipe for boat repairs - Ironing ABS onto my boat is the best so far!

I am a left-handed paddler ONLY!

My special river skill is river memory...once I do a river I usually remember it! I am expert at finding ‘alternate’ routes down a river...I have good balance and am a graceful paddler. I roll in a pool BUT not on the river. I am known for ejecting when I flip in an especially hairy spot!

I went through a period in my paddling career where I was terrified on the river and had to step back. I worked very hard to overcome my fear. This has made me a much better boater.

TAKE A PEEK AT GLORIOUS ANTARTICA!

(part 2)

By: Anne Bailey

First we will follow the start of our travels through the fiords of southwestern Chile, and see a sampling of the "over-the top, mind-blowing to just ordinary spectacular" scenery referred to by the captain as we slowly glided north over smooth, sunny waters.



After leaving Antarctica, we crossed the infamous Drake Passage (known for its winds and rough seas) and were lucky on this return crossing to encounter only rolling swells as we slept. We rounded Cape Horn in the pre-dawn hours and moved into the Beagle Channel west of Tierra del Fuego.

Green hillsides seemed a welcome sight after the unending scenes of snow, ice, rock, and water - and then suddenly the snow-covered peaks and glaciers began appearing, rising straight above us, the steep mountainsides also laced with numerous waterfalls, large and small, alone or in multiples.



There had been a lot of late snow in the Andes this year and the captain announced that there was more water in the falls than he had ever seen before.

Hopefully, you will get a sense of the scale of beauty we encountered. We were awed and humbled. . . . and this was only the first leg of the trip up the fiords!



The temperature warmed as we proceeded north and west, weaving through the islands off the southwestern mountains of Tierra del Fuego. On the previously very cool and drafty upper Sun Deck (where we chose to eat our breakfast and lunch everyday so as to be close to the scenery and viewing decks) we watched as the domed, see-through roof retracted and disappeared. Umbrellas sprouted over the tables like a crop of green mushrooms, and we viewed the surrounding mountaintops and glaciers in the open air, as we lunched.

The AMC is Looking for a Few Good Instructors

By: Marty Plante

You've spent years honing your paddling skills until you can glide arrow-straight across a lake, combat roll in the roughest water and sidesurf the gnarliest hole. Now it's time to share those skills.

The Chapter needs instructors for all activities – whitewater, flatwater and sea kayaking – and at all levels. Even if you're able to spend only a single day a year helping out, we can use your assistance. You needn't have expert paddling skills – just a desire to help others get started on their way to a lifetime of canoeing or kayaking.

One of the best ways to gain confidence as an instructor is to take an instructor certification workshop offered by the American Canoe Association (<http://www.acanet.org/calendars/instructor.lasso>). These start with a review of paddling technique, then cover presentation skills. You'll learn how to evaluate and correct the paddling mistakes of novice boaters, while improving your own skills. After getting your certification (and an impressive patch for your PFD), volunteer to help with one of our Chapter's 12 annual workshops as an assistant instructor. Before you know it, you'll be one of the AMC's veteran instructors.

Members of our Chapter who become certified by the American Canoe Assoc., the British Canoe Union, the Canadian Recreational Canoe Assoc., or other recognized paddling organization,



are eligible for a 50% refund of the workshop fee, up to \$200. The refund is awarded to instructors who agree to teach for our Chapter and is payable upon completion of their first AMC instruction.

Our instructors are the lifeblood of our paddling program. To show its appreciation, the Canoe & Kayak Committee also subsidizes its instructors up to \$35 for the cost of their food and lodging while teaching a 2-day paddling workshop for our chapter.

Join us this year and give back to the sport you love.

Interested? Here are some upcoming workshops to consider:

Jun 9-11. Essentials of River Kayaking Instructor Certification. Stowe, VT. Contact David Su, 802-253-2317, paddle@wmak.com

Jun 12-15. Whitewater River Canoe Instructor Certification. Pemigewasset and Area Lakes (Alton Bay, NH). Contact Chuck Mills, 603-875-3060, kabeyun@mcttelecom.com

Jun 19-20. Intro to Canoe Instructor Certification. Charleston Creek (Newburg, MD). Contact Mike Aronoff, 703-264-8911, mikearonoff@aol.com

Jun 24-26. Open Water Coastal (Sea) Kayak Instructor Certification. Barnegat, NJ. Contact Chris Raab, 609-412-9966, tuktupaddles@verizon.net

Jun 28 – Jul 2. Whitewater Kayak Instructor Certification. Zoar Outdoor, Charlement, MA. Contact Janet Cowie, 800-532-7483, janet@zoaroutdoor.com

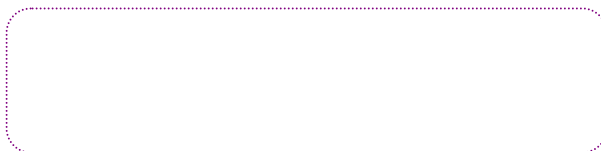
Jul 7-8. Coastal (Sea) Kayak Instructor Certification. Rogers Lake and Long Island Sound, Lyme, CT. Contact Jerry Wylie, 860-391-3837, paddle@ctcoastalkayaking.com

Sep. 23-24. Whitewater Kayak Instructor Certification. Zoar Outdoor, Charlement, MA. Contact Janet Cowie, 800-532-7483, janet@zoaroutdoor.com

Activity Schedule

Date		Sea Kayak	Flatwater/ Brownwater	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Instruction /Misc
June	3-4	L1-2 Sedge Island <i>Collins</i>			Esopus <i>Grefig/ Schreiber</i>			Intro. WW Kayak Instruction <i>Futrell</i>
								Intro WW Solo Canoe (w/ Young Members) <i>Butler/Viani</i>
	10-11			Sat: South Br. Raritan <i>Pylka/ McHenry</i>	Lehigh BBQ <i>Kraft</i>			Basic S&R <i>Schreiber</i>
	17-18 Fathers Day	Sun: L2 Leader's Choice <i>Bland</i>	Sat: Leader's Choice <i>Rubins</i>		Deerfield (Fifebrook) <i>Brucas</i>		Deerfield (Monroe Br) <i>Brucas</i>	Sat: L1 Sea Kayak <i>Bland/Navratil</i>
	24	Boat Demo Day				Boat Demo Day		Boat Demo Day
July	25	Sun: L1 Kingston Harbor & Roundout Crk <i>Navratil</i>			Deerfield (Fifebrook) <i>Brucas</i>		Deerfield (Monroe Bridge) <i>Brucas</i>	
	1-4 Indep. Day	Sun: L4 Hol- gate NJ <i>Raab</i>				Yough <i>Getzin</i>		
	8-9	Canoe/Kayak Workshop at Fire Island <i>Fire Island Committee</i>	Hudson & Schroon <i>Plante/Wiener</i>		Upper Lehigh <i>Olsthoorn</i>			Basic Canoe Breton
			Peconic <i>Sklar</i>					Basic WW Kayak <i>McCauley</i>
	15-16	L2 Adirondacks <i>Bland</i>				Esopus <i>Olsthoorn /Viani</i>		Sat: Carving Turns <i>Getzin</i>
	16-22					Canadian Whitewater Week <i>Arbuckle</i>		
	22-23			Sat: Lower Delaware <i>Pylka/McHenry</i>	Sat: Tariffville <i>Ferder</i>			Sat: Intro to Kayaking <i>Butler/Navratil</i>
	29-30	Monksville Reservoir <i>Pylka/Campuzano</i>			Deerfield (Fifebrook) <i>Koerner</i>		Deerfield (Dryway) <i>Koerner</i>	
Aug.	5-6		Leader's Choice in NJ <i>O'Brien</i>		Salmon River <i>Farley</i>			
	8-9	Tue-Thurs: Midweek Canoe & Kayak Workshop at Fire Isl <i>Fire Island Committee</i>						
	12-13		Sat: Leader's Choice <i>Viani</i>					

Appalachian Mountain Club
NY-NoJ Chapter Canoe & Kayak Committee
Editor: Phyllis Lindquist
396 Potomac Drive
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920



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 Sept 1, 2006. Please send as an e-mail message to: phyllislindquist@worldlynx.net. My sincere thanks to everyone who has submitted articles and information.

Notices



Boat Demo Day
Saturday, June 24, 2006
10 am—4 pm
(rain or shine)
Croton Point Park
Croton-on-Hudson
Westchester County, NY
Cost: Free for the event; fee to park

Directions by Car: Take NY Route 9 to the Croton Point Avenue exit. Drive west over a small bridge into Croton Point Park.

Directions by Train: Take the Metro North Hudson River Line to the Croton Harmon Station. Turn left out of the station, walk about one mile to the park.

For Sale

Dagger Dimension (tandem canoe) ready to go. Good condition. *Call 845-876-4642.*

For Sale

- Woman's wetsuit (L), Farmer John, enlarged armholes for paddling freedom, excellent condition \$40
 - Hi-float vest (L) \$15, 3 Mohawk paddles \$10
 - Neosocks, new women's/kids small \$15
 - Set of foam blocks to cartop canoe (best offer)
 - 2 canoe braces for Yakima racks (best offer)
 - 2 sets thigh straps, good condition (best offer)
 - Neoprene mittens, 2 pair, small for woman or child (best offer)
 - Dry bags, assorted sizes (best offer)
 - Box of assorted D-ring patches and glues \$20
 - Iron Duke 15 inch high rubber boots, men's size 5, (fits women size 6/7) For slogging the bogs \$10
- Call Barbara at 973-697-8143*

We've Been Robbed!

If the Green Fleet has been assigned to your trip and you find that the trailer is missing some gear, not to worry. The PFDs, paddles, first aid kit and cooking gear have all been moved to The Barn. You'll no longer have to remove and replace two heavy canoes to get at the gear you need!