



PADDLE SPLASHES

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

September-October 2007

I am a paddler by Charles Michener

First I am a paddler, then I am an open boater, and white-water is my addiction.

These things have brought me so much; a deeper understanding of myself and how I want to live my life, good friends and a community to embrace me and to embrace.

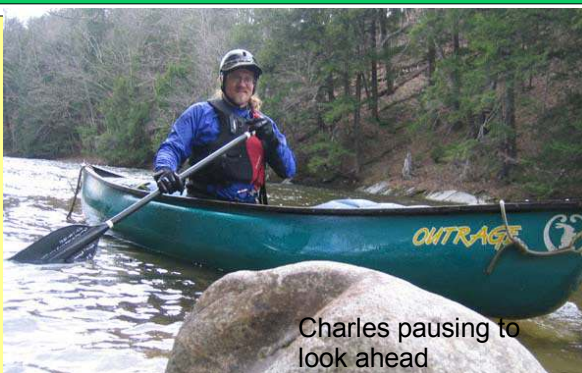
Also the river provides countless opportunities to focus my energies and attention to the world of the river and clear my mind of the weights, responsibilities and distractions that the rest of modern life is filled with.

On the river stroke placement and timing become so critical to successfully navigation that if you allow those other things to clutter your mind you will miss your timing or perhaps make the wrong decision about which control stroke to use. When this happens the river dishes you up a wet and often cold serving of humility. A reminder of where you stand in the wide universe before the power of nature.

On the other hand, when your mind is clear and your choice right it all works and **feels like nothing else in the world...**

Paddling down a drop and pulling into an eddy the boat swings around like some invisible hand is snapping it into place and under complete control. This happens when I catch the correct line to cross the stream on a jet-ferry just in front of a frothing hungry hole with an appetite for boats and people.

I cannot begin to describe how it feels to catch the wave at a surf spot. Motion and speed — while sitting in the same spot. Fear and joy combined like vanilla and chocolate ice cream swirled together, just amazing! **And this feeling has not changed in the five years I have been paddling.** It's no different from the first time I felt surfing some wave for a second and a half on a Class I river to today when I have been know to be knocked off a spot by someone who has gotten tired of waiting for me to fall off. And I assume that this will not change anytime soon as there are plenty of play spots I look at today and say: "Not on your life, I don't want a beating!" But I



Charles pausing to look ahead

hope that one day my skills will be up to the challenge.

There is so much room for personal growth in this sport.

As for the paddling community, what can a person say? As soon as I showed up at an AMC pool session I **knew that these were people that liked to have fun.** A warm welcome and a generous out-pouring of advice and knowledge came my way.

I jokingly started calling the AMC

a cult to myself, but if it is a cult, I am fully cultivated. I also quickly realized that the trips had two types of people on them. Casual paddlers and hardcore paddlers - who were out every weekend. I admit I was a little wary at first. Was this a group of people that I wanted to get closely involved with???

Now, of course, **I am proud to call myself a hardcore paddler** and whether we are standing in a parking lot before a day-trip or sitting around the campfire during an over-nighter, each trip strengthens and deepens the friendships I have formed on the river.

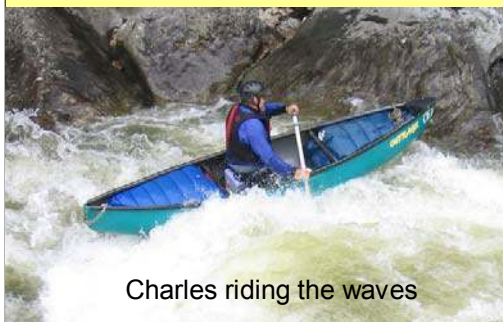
But **hardcore or once a year excursion the river and its community always has a welcome.**

Each Monday when I start my work week after the river I carry a little portion of the river with me. I feel its buoyancy when the world is pressing down on me. It gives me strength and reminds me that with skill and determination we can get through the trials that get put in front of us and this might be the most important thing that paddling has given me. SYOTR

Contents

I am a paddler	p. 1
2007 CKC Committee Notes	p. 2
Ratings Update / Deerfield River	p. 3
Trip a Go-Go or a No-No?	p. 4-6
Southern Rivers	p. 5-13
AMC Photos	p. 7-8
Pelham Park; Rockaway River	p. 9
Merrill Creek; Thimble Island	p. 10
Monksville Reservoir	p. 11
Trip Schedule	p. 12
Don't Forget—Paddler's Party	p. 14

Next Newsletter deadline November 15, 2007



Charles riding the waves

Canoe & Kayak Committee (CKC) Notes

The Great Kayak Floatation Experiment

Not that you can tell from the condition of our floatation bags, but the club spends a lot of money on kayak floatation.

It seems that we can't buy float bags fast enough to keep up with the incessant leaks.

Therefore, we have decided to try an experiment. We are purchasing two sets of floatation from each of the following manufactures: NRS new Infinity bags (lifetime guarantee), Gaia and Harmony. We will mark the bags in indelible ink with the purchase date and price and insert them into 6 kayaks in the Red Fleet (3 Pyranha Inazone's and 3 Dagger GT's). We will check on the bags periodically to see how they are doing.

In the interim, below are some guidelines concerning floatation bags:

Never inflate a floatation bag completely. There should always be a little room in the bag for expansion when the air inside in bag heats up.

Check the floatation bags at the beginning of each trip to ensure the valves are closed.

Do not place sharp objects near floatation bags.

If you need to store gear behind the seat, deflate the floatation bag slightly to make room for your gear.

Check the inflation of the bags throughout the day. A bag that is perfectly inflated in the morning may be close to bursting after a few hours in the hot sun.

Please do not transfer club floatation bags from any of the Inazone or GT kayaks. If you notice that a bag is not holding air, please tell your trip leader and e-mail Victoria Butler [v-a-b\(at\)rcn\(dot\)com](mailto:v-a-b(at)rcn(dot)com).

Thank you for your help in this highly unscientific experiment.

May the best bag win!

With remembrance...

Tom Sedgwick

Sadly we remember our friend Tom Sedgwick who passed away on May 19, 2007.

Tom was "a pillar of chapter paddling activities in the 80's & 90's" writes Jill Arbuckle.

He will be miss by many of his paddling friends.

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PSonline@amc-ny.org

Next CKC meeting: Nov 14, 2007

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PADDLE SPLASHES

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Tanya McCabe
Pinar Ayatar
Connie Farley

All contributions are welcome! I know
you have a camera! Thank you all!

Deerfield River by Gretchen Tardell

Deerfield River, August 25-26, 2007. The Fifebrook ran both days though a disappointing short release from 12 noon to 3 p.m., but heck it still is water. Our paddling group was larger on Saturday—11 folks. Sunday there were only 5 boaters.



Gretchen

The Dryway only had enough paddlers for one day. Neval ran the D'way for her first time! She was so excited on Saturday morning—she was as happy as a kid waiting for Santa! Chris, Cameron and the rest showed her the lines down and set safety. Everyone said Neval did a great job! Three boaters paddled it on Sunday as a bootleg; there was no CL4 leader.

The weather was hot, very hot! On Saturday we had tremendous thunderstorms starting in the evening and going throughout the night. Good thing we voted to put up the large AMC tarp. Even with the tarp, we were having a tough time! The rain was blowing in sideways! And it wasn't long before we were sitting in a small lake. Chris braved the downpour to save the fire, he shielded it and himself (sorta) with an umbrella. Sunday the skies cleared and it was sunny by the time the people put on.



Paul



Breakfast under the tarp

I didn't paddle because of various injuries, some due to paddling. I think I see a custom paddle in my future—ouch that sounds expensive! I didn't take my kayak because I didn't want to be tempted to paddle. I felt pretty good Saturday afternoon, so was trying to figure out if I could use the GT-7.5 Frances brought up but wasn't going to use on Sunday. **This sport is an addiction!**

Fortunately Diane Edwards was coming up and we had planned to hike. I was saved from myself! After everyone finished the river on Sunday, we had a late Happy Hour. This eating has got to STOP! It is so good!

The 4 hour drive home was the usual traffic problem—the Thruway isn't the way to go.



Rocco

Trip participants Gretchen Tardell (trip leader, R), Cath Kraft (AL), Helga Trocha, Diann Connell, Paul & Diane Edwards, Frances Ennis, Sarah Francis, Rob Holbrook, Violaine Haeringer, Stan Kline, Rocco Lavascio, Megan O'Reilly, Neval Ozturk, Chris Viani, Sarah Zajicek, Pinar Ayata, Cameron Klinger, Matt Theisz, and Jon Olendorf.



Violaine

Special thanks to Paul Edwards and Rob Holbrook who supported the Fife paddlers.

Pinar and her camera!
Photo credits for Deerfield trip.



CKC is delighted to announce the following new ratings for our Chapter's paddlers.

Whitewater

Pinar Ayata	1
Ken Burlew	1+
Kayla Burlew	1
Frances Ennis	1
April Gentile-Miserandino	1
Bill Handworth	1
Rob Holbrook	3 (K1)
Cameron Klinger	3 (K1)
Kerri Klinger	2+ (K1)
Mark Leenouts	1+
Charles Michener	3 (OC1)
Carole Mueller	QW
Barry Rosolen	1
Mona Rowe	2 (K1)
Sozanne Solmaz	2 (K1)
Matt Theisz	2 (K1)
Courtney Tompkins	1
Meghan Van Horn	QW
Jordan Yaruss	2 (K1)

Sea / Touring Kayaking

Nathan Baker	QW
James Barber	QW
Vicky Basil	QW
Tricia Boyer	QW
Sumi Chong	QW
Lisa Clarke	QW
Joe Daley	QW
Pat Daly	QW
Russ Faller	1
Robin Geller	QW
Anshu Goyal	QW
David Grupper	QW
Ellyn Ihrig	QW
Alexandra Jansco	QW
Betty Kennedy	QW
Suzi Levas	QW
Norbert Ligeti	QW
Theresa Monaco	QW
Art Portmore	1
Bennett Ram	QW
Joe Sterphone	QW
Meghan Van Horn	QW
Rachel Zarodnansky	QW

Congratulations to all—keep paddling and participating in AMC trips!

Trip a Go-Go? Or A No-No? By Kurt Brummund

Hackensack Meadowlands Tidal Water Trip. Sunday, June 3rd, 2007.

Trip a Go-Go or No-No: Yes-Yes Go-Go.

Trip Leader: Tanya McCabe & Jo-Anne Chasnow

Put-in: Hackensack RIVERKEEPER's Paddling Center @ Laurel Hill Park in Secaucus, NJ.

Trip length: 8.4–11 miles.

Group size: 23 paddlers.

Weather: Cloudy. The temperature was in the upper 70's.

River conditions: Overall were good. It was a little windy & choppy at the end of the trip.

Boats Used: 4 OC-2's, 1 RK-2, 10 RK-1's & 3 SK-1's.

We split up into two groups. One group with paddlers who wanted a faster pace, the other group with paddlers who wanted a more leisurely pace. Luckily, with our two fabulous leaders and such a large group we could do this. We paddled up-river to Mill Creek Point with the incoming tide.

The lead group paddled up Mill Creek a ways then back to the boat ramp/park at Mill Creek Point. We stopped for lunch there along with the sweeper group. On the return trip (with the outgoing tide) six boats from the lead group left ahead of the rest to explore a couple of channels in the Meadowlands west of the Hackensack. When we reached the location where the channels are, the paddlers in two boats decided to head straight back to Laurel Hill Park. Being that the tide was getting lower we couldn't explore too far into the meadowlands, least we get stuck in the mud (literally). We had to stay in the main channels.

Everyone met again at the take-out. Nick, who works for RiverKeeper, joined the sweeper group and provided some great history. So, they got an extra special treat. On the last half of the return trip down the Hackensack the wind was kicking up quite a fetch and the river was a bit choppy. The paddlers in the canoes had a rougher time of it since they were more affected by the headwind. We were all able to take out before it started to rain. Our leaders not only timed the tides right, they timed the weather as well. Thank you Tanya and Jo-Anne!

Afterwards about a dozen paddlers got together for dinner.

Anyone interested in paddling this area can contact Hackensack Riverkeeper at www.hackensackriverkeep.org. They offer canoe & kayak rentals, guided tours, maps, and lots of great information. KB.

South Branch Raritan River Day Trip. Saturday, June 9th

Trip a Go-Go or No-No: Definitely a Go-Go.

Trip Leader: Joe Pylka & Pat McHenry (who was still sidelined with a shoulder injury). Pat handled the registration and was kind enough to shuttle most of the group back to the put-in at the beginning of the trip.

Put-in: Clinton, NJ.

Take-out: Flemington, NJ (by the Lipton Tee Ball).

Trip length: 11 miles.

Group size: 11 people.

Weather: Beautiful. The temperature was in the upper 70's to low 80's.

River conditions: A little scratchy in spots but nice for the most part.

Joe pointed out that the river had been changed considerably by recent floods. There has been a buildup of gravel bars in certain areas. What would have been a good water level last year was a little scratchy this time. However the river was really beautiful.

Boats Used: 1 OC-2, 3 OC-1's, 2 RK-2's, 1 RK-1 & 1 WW K-1

Once again, Joe led the trip in a confident and easy goin' manner. He was a wealth of information about the river, the history & geography of the surrounding area. Even though the river wasn't the most challenging we had a few swimmers, myself included. Ahhh, but that water did feel good. Everyone was able to self-rescue. It was another nice trip. Thank you Joe and Pat! Si Pae also provided valuable experience out there as well. KB

Mullica River BW Canoe/Kayak Trip. Saturday, June 23rd.

On the schedule as Sat. June 23, BW, Pine Barrens.

Trip a Go-Go or No-No: Oh yes! Go-Go.

Trip Leader: Jim Rubins

Put-in: Old Mullica River Campsite

Take-out: Pleasant Mills

Trip length: 5-6 miles.

Group size: 14 people.

Weather: Perfect. Sunny, the temperature was in the upper 70's with low humidity.

River conditions: We were told it was low but we found it to be a good water level. We had a couple of pullovers over big logs but we were able to paddle right over beaver dams and under sweepers.

Boats Used: 3 OC-2's, 1 OC-1, 1 RK-2 & 5 RK-1's.

It was an enjoyable and leisurely paddle. There were no swimmers, except at the beach where we stopped for lunch. The river was beautiful and fairly remote. Our whole trip was inside Wharton State Forest. It was the first time I saw it other than in February (check out the March/April 2006 Paddle Splashes on the AMC CKC website). Jim was great and we had a nice group. Thank you Jim! KB

Southern Rivers by Victoria Butler and others

I ran my first Southern Rivers trip this year (June 30 – July 5, 2007). We headed to the North Carolina area to paddle, but my fellow sojourners can tell it better than I. . .

Herb Stermer: This trip started off with big dreams. The dope-sheet listed the Nantahala, Chattooga, Ocoee, Pigeon, French Broad and Nolichucky. These were indeed big dreams, because this region was in the arms of a very long drought. After running the dam release and misty cold Nantahala on Saturday we were forced to drop the Chattooga and spend the next two days on another dam release river, the Ocoee.

Lord! Force me to paddle the Ocoee, twist my arm, punish me, please, please! If this river was only up north! It's definitely a southern classic worth doing again and again and ag.....



Michelle Sholtis: There is sooo much that could be told but here is my quick summary.

The Nantahala is very pretty with fog on it; who needs to see what's coming up anyway.

The Ocoee has nice warm water and a lot of rocks, since I was under-water for the most part, that is pretty much all I can tell you.

The Pigeon, aka The Dirty Bird, a bit on the smelly side (once I got home: I soaked the clothes and the booties in the freezer for 3 days, now they don't smell so bad...), a couple good squirt lines, a nice big boof rock into a hole at Lost Guide rapid to practice your combat rolls, and a rooster tail just to keep you awake.

The Lower Yough, no longer my nemesis (now it's the Ocoee). It is not so scary at 1.8 feet as it is at 2.9 feet. Beautiful squirt lines, nice rocks to brace yourself on with your knuckles, friendly water to swim in and a fabulous path less traveled around Dimple Rock.



ASCI - McHenry, MD., WW park (picture on left). The rapids looked a bit scary at first glance then you realize they are actually fun, it was the non-eddies-eddys that were the problem and the whirlpools. The water was so shallow that any rolls meant it was highly likely you could/would scrape your body somewhere and have to brace so low some might say you pushed off the bottom.

Did I forget to mention the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum? (Victoria's car broke down and we were towed to a repair shop near the museum).

Cath Kraft: Nothing Could be Finer than to be in Carolina in the mornin'

(Cath had knee problems but drove all the way south not knowing whether she would be able to kneel in a canoe).

Yippee; 4 days of paddling – yippee; What a great group – yippee; A good mix of kayaks and canoes-yippee!

I was able to paddle the Nantahala (Nannie), Ocoee and the Pigeon (dirty bird 2 xs). The Nannie was beautiful, cold and shrouded in mist. It was nice to paddle the Ocoee again. The Ocoee was running higher than the usual release because the upper section was running. The locals talk about the Ocoee like we do about the Dryway. We paddled with the locals: Dorothy and Dave Vezzetti! They know that river and all of its alternate routes...my ears perked up upon hearing (sneak uh alternate route) especially Broken Nose Rapid...I was happy with my alternate route around Broken Nose - not all of my fellow boaters were as pleased OOOwwheee Ocoooooe!

Trip a Go-Go? Or A No-No? By Kurt Brummund

Northern NJ Quiet Water August 4-5, 2007 (Wawayanda Lake & Monksville Reservoir).

A Go-Go! Even though there was a small turnout, the trip was on. Thanks to Kerry! This is a great trip for beginners or anyone else desiring a nice quiet water paddle.

Group size: 5. Kerry O'Brien, Mike Dalton & Tanya McCabe, Jo-Anne Chasnow, and me!

Weather: Sunny, the temperature was in the upper 80's during the day, and cool at night (60's) for a comfortable sleep.

Boats: 1 OC-2, 1 OC-1 and 1 SK-1.

We camped out at the group site in Wawayanda State Park. There are only 3 sites, no individual sites. Camping was optional but one of the best parts!

I arrived Friday night around 7:30 pm. Close to 8:30 pm the skies opened and it hailed & rained heavily, along with thunder and lightning. It didn't last too long and luckily I had my favorite shelter (a Hennessey Hammock) set-up already. After the storm, the fireflies came out and provided an additional light show. About 10:15pm Mike & Tanya arrived. The local authorities had misdirected them several times, after some trees that were blown down blocked their original route. Fortunately, setting-up camp went quickly as they camped in their van. They've got a great home-away-from-home arrangement in the van! Saturday morning Kerry and Jo-Anne arrived.

We put-in at the Wawayanda Lake boat ramp around 10 am. There are boat rental available on-site. We paddled for a leisurely two hours then stopped for lunch.

Kerry was terrific, giving us lots of options for the remainder of the day (hiking, visit historical sites, botanical gardens, more paddling or just relaxing!) as well as what to do on Sunday. We decided to paddle some more. This time I paddled tandem with Tanya. Near the far end of the lake we stopped at a small island and swam for about a half hour. The air and water temperature were perfect for swimming. There is a real beach about a thousand yards from the boat ramp. A beach house is located there with outdoor showered and indoor bathrooms. The beach was fairly crowded.

Once you paddle about a third of the way across the lake you're pretty much away from the crowd, including most of the rental boaters. This lake is a real gem. There are several islands, a couple of small coves and a fair amount of bird life. If you're lucky and paddle at the right time, you may see some bears, deer or other critters along the shores. On the way back from our second paddle of the day Tanya spotted a capsized canoe and four swimmers. We paddled over to them and did a boat-over-boat rescue. After we emptied



the water from the boat and put it back in the water two members of the Wawayanda Safety Patrol showed up in SOT kayaks. By this time we had drifted close enough to an island and some rock outcroppings so that the swimmers' feet could touch bottom. The safety patrol helped them back into their boat while we held onto the SOT kayaks.

Sunday morning we broke camp, went out for breakfast then went to Monksville Reservoir. Another good lake for beginners, as long as the wind isn't blowing hard. Monksville is not as sheltered as Wawayanda. But the wind was very calm. We ran into

Tom Trevor (in his new kayak, see photo) and we all paddled together for 2 hours.

After that, we went to Ringwood Manor (toured the manor house and blacksmith shop), and the art gallery. There was a really fabulous exhibit (and I have a knack for understatement) of the best photographs submitted by local photographers for a contest. Some of it was traditional, some of it digital, all really stunning work! Wait a minute! I thought this was about paddling! Well...it was a different and enjoyable weekend. Another group may have chosen to paddle more, hike or whatever. Or, if a group is large enough maybe split-up for a couple of preferences. I was surprised that only 3 people signed up for this trip, there was certainly room for more.

Check it out next time! Kerry, thank you for a great weekend! KB

Pelham Bay Park Cleanup May 19th by Tanya McCabe

It was a cloudy, rainy day upon leaving the house, a perfect paddling day. This was the first cleanup of Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx, for AMC paddlers. There's always an excitement that comes over me when river cleaning and I was looking forward to a great day. We met at the Pell Mansion. Don Getzin and Liz Purcelli were already there. I introduced myself to the bay cleanup leaders, Ken West and Katie Whitney-Bukofzer and a few other participants. That included Kurt Brummund, who would also be my partner for the day.

Those paddling would go over to the Orchard Beach parking lot to get canoes, provided by the park, and to meet with the rangers with whom we would be working. It turns out that today is a city wide volunteer park cleanup. Not just Pelham Bay, but all the parks in the city. Isn't that a wonderful concept?!!

Our principal job, for the paddlers that is, would be to ferry bagged litter from the west shore across Pelham Bay to the east shore and the dumpster. Kinda' routine nondescript stuff. Then someone mentioned bright blue 50 gallon drums further north on the west side of the bay. We headed over, wow, now this was something to sink our teeth and gloves into.

In a shallow cove was 'tons' (a bit of hyperbole here) of debris, tires, bottles, foil wraps and a treasure trove of 50 gallon drums. Liz and Don had already taken 2, another boat, Friends of Pelham Bay, had taken 2. Kurt and I took 3. While emptying our boats the park service indicated that we couldn't get and move any more drums as they were too heavy and anyway it was 1:30 time to quit. I 'suggested' that quitting time was listed as 2:30 and we had time for another trip to the cove. In going back, Kurt and I determined that we could get a couple more drums out by moving them out from under the raft they had supported, lifting them onto the raft and emptying them. Got to admit while I helped, it was Kurt who was the primary mover. Anyway it was with elation that we carted 3 more drums over to the pick up area.

The trip leaders were happy with all that had been accomplished and plans were made to come back next year to finish cleaning up the cove that held 4-6 more drums. I was determined that next year we would finish the job. It was then the realization hit me, besides a few more drums there was a 12 foot square wooden raft that the drums supported that would also have to be taken out. Ah, to get the raft out we would need 50 gallon drums to support it while we towed it across the bay!! Duh!! Talk about 'not seeing the forest for the trees'.

Our thanks to Ken West and Katie Whitney-Bukofzer for organizing this day and making us a part of it. See you next year!

Rockaway River by Tanya McCabe

Rockaway River Sept 8.

Hurray! Jo-Anne Chasnow was off on her first solo as a leader and she did a great job!

Jo revived a trip, probably not done in about 20 years! - The Rockaway River, NJ. It was really a wonderful day!

The Rockaway is a beautiful little urban river, flat water and deserves to be on the roster of rivers we paddle. When we mentioned what river we paddled—everyone had the same reaction "was there enough water?"

On August 17th when it was scouted, it couldn't be any lower. We never got out of our boats but did scrape a bit. When Jo actually ran the trip it was 6" lower and yes we did walk a little in the first 1/3 then had plenty of water the rest of the way. However it was worth not having to cancel.

We had 5 paddlers, Nathan Baker (our photographer), Patrick Daly, David Grupper, Mark Laub, and Sheri Silverstein. Add to that Tom Trevor, myself and leader Jo-Anne. We had a total of 6 kayaks and 1 tandem canoe.

Hopefully this trip will be repeated in the spring, with more water, the trailer in use and New York City people (without cars) taking the bus from Port Authority to the put-in. How perfect does that sound?

Our thanks to Jo-Anne for going the extra mile to become a leader. It is work, but very rewarding ... and it does get easier!

From Touring & Quiet Water



Areas we paddle:

Hudson River, Merrill Creek, Wawayanda / Monksville, Thimble Islands, Rockaway River...

See trip reports and come join us! Photos by Nathan Baker, Kurt Brummund, Jeff Gregg and Kurt Navratil.

... To Whitewater ... AMC has it all!



Merrill Creek by Jeff Gregg

Trip: Merrill Creek Reservoir on 8/11/07

Rating: Sea Kayak Level 1 / QW

Leader: Jeff Gregg

Perhaps the weather gods felt guilty and wanted to make up for the difficult winds on my previous trip to Splitrock Reservoir. We couldn't have asked for better weather at Merrill Creek. It was sunny, but not too hot, and the air was striking clear, with none of the haze or humidity typical of August in New Jersey. All this made for a picture perfect sky and showcased this beautiful lake in the mountains of Warren County. And the paddlers, you couldn't have asked for a nicer or more congenial group, fourteen in all.



We cruised the shore, exploring each cove and point. There were several areas of timber to paddle through, forests of dead trees sticking up from the water with their own haunting beauty. Our lunch stop was graced by a magnificent bald eagle who flew by so closely that we could clearly see the distinctive white head and tail.

We completed our close to 6 mile circumnavigation of the lake, enjoying the marvelous weather and comradely the whole way. After returning to the put in, some of us wanted to paddle a little longer, so we completed a deep water crossing across the widest section of the lake and back.

The Thimble Islands by Kurt Navratil

On August 19 a group of AMC paddlers, some whitewater, some canoers and sea kayakers met in Stony Creek, CT to paddle the Thimble Islands. This day we all paddled sea kayaks. We met at the Stony Creek town dock at 10:30. The days plan was to paddle out to Outer Island, where we would explore the island and have lunch. On the way to Outer Island we would paddle around the other islands.

We set out in calm seas and perfect weather. I'll add here that when we left NJ the skies were dark and the rain was beginning to fall. Driving up RT 95 we could see the line in the sky between dark and blue. When we entered Connecticut the sky was blue with a few clouds. The day before the wind had been blowing and if the trip was on Saturday it would have been canceled or moved. Needless to say, the weather god was with us.

Jeff my Co-Leader and river (sea) leader took the lead. Jeff is the guy you want to be with when he has a map and a GPS. He took us on a tour of the islands, such as Roger's Island, Governor's Island, High Island, Pot Island and then lunch at Outer Island. Before we landed on Outer Island we circled it and paddled into the Long Island Sound. Our new sea kayakers had a blast. The swells were not that bad, in fact they were perfect. We

surfing the swells back to Outer Island and landed for lunch. Outer Island is the only Island you can land on. Outer Island is a National Park and run by volunteers. We landed there and explored the island and had lunch. If you do this trip on your own make sure you sign in. It helps with their funding.

We left Outer Island and toured Horse Island, Money Island, Davis Island and Bear Island. We came back to the launch site and a couple had to leave so we waited for them and then headed upstream into the marshes. This side trip is well worth the time. We saw a pair of ospreys and a pair of hawks. When I do this side trip I always think of the movie African Queen. We went in as far as we could and turned around and headed back to our launch site.

The trip was over and we all had a great time. The weather was perfect. The sea was perfect as was the wind. I have led many trips with the AMC and other clubs. This had to be the best. We had a great group of paddlers and perfect sea conditions. The paddlers were Lyle Allan, Mimi Zucker, Meghan Van Horn, Rob Mason, Betsy Ho, Nick Reitter, Joe McBride. Jeanette Davies, April Tam, Priscilla Petite, Mark and Alicia McDonough, Moe Fridlich and trip leaders Jeff Gregg (Sea leader) and Kurt Navratil.

Monksville Reservoir



Mark and kayak-Gretchen



Alex and Kurt B.



Dave



Lois and Open boaters



Richard



Steve and Kurt N



Tim

New this summer, and something different—Thursday's at Monksville.

The Thursday evening Water Skill Practice at the Monksville Reservoir, Ringwood, NJ was an exciting experiment initiated by Mark Tiernan. From the end of July to end of August AMC members and the general paddling public was invited to bring their boat(s) and come learn new techniques. The focus was on “what do YOU want to do”!

Whether attempting your first “wet-exit”, or trying your “re-entry”, or learning to roll or practicing your paddling strokes Monksville was the place to practice.

As weekly event coordinator Mark, expressed delight at the large attendance level. Each session had 12 to 20 participants, who consistently show their enthusiasm.

Pictures tell the story: we had boats of every assortment! Recreational, touring, plastic, fiberglass, wooden!

Several ACA trained instructors helped including: Victoria Butler, Butch Futrell, David Pawlyk, Richard Dabal, Lois Gesner, Kurt Navratil, Connie Farley, Mark Tiernan, special thanks to Alex Crane—a former British Junior Squirt Boat Champ, who enjoys sharing his paddling knowledge with others. Alex paddles and provided instruction for: touring boats, whitewater boats, open-boats and squirt craft—he is an all around super skilled guy!

Thank you all—see you next summer!



James and Butch working on the roll



Many different boats



Victoria and Hillary

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE – SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2007

View schedule online at: <http://www.amc-ny.org/recreation.activities/canoe/schedule>

SK = Sea/Touring; **DVC** = Delaware Valley Chapter; **BC** = Berkshire Chapter; **CT** = Connecticut

Quiet Water (QW)

- Sat., Sep. 29. Wallkill River Day-Trip. *Arbuckle / Kline*
- Sat. Sep. 29. Manhasset Bay L1 *Ihrig*
- Sun., Sep 30. Pine Barrens. *Navratil / Zucker*
- Fri.-Mon. Oct. 5-8. Adirondack Fall Foliage Canoe Camping. *Breton*
- Fri.-Mon. Oct. 5-8. Columbus Day Wknd Canoe & Camping, Maurice River. *McCabe / Connell*

SK L1/QW

- Fri.-Mon. Oct. 5-8. Paddle/Backpack 5 Ponds Wilderness in NW Adirondacks *Faller*
- Sat.-Sun. Oct. 20-21. Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs. *Gregg*
- Sun. Oct. 28. Haunted Cruise on the **Eerie** Canal. *Plante*

SK L1-L2

- Fri.-Sun. Sep. 28-30. Sedge Island. *Collins*
- Nov. 17. Hudson River *Bland*

SK L2

- Sun. Nov. 18. Hudson River Leader's Choice. *Bland*

CL1 WW

- Sat. Sep. 29. Brandywine. *DVC*
- Sun. Oct. 6-7. Upper Delaware. *Dougherty*

CL 2 WW

Sat.-Sun. Oct. 6-7. Deerfield River Fifebrook. *Butler*

CL 2-3 WW

- Sat.-Sun. Oct. 13-14. Lehigh River. *Lindquist*

CL 2-3+ WW

- Sat.-Sun. Oct. 13-14. Farmington River, New Boston MA.
- Sat.-Sun. Oct. 20-21. Farmington River, New Boston MA. *Rosenfeld*

CL3 WW

- Sat. Sep. 22. West River, Jamaica VT. *Bailey*
- Sat.-Sun. Nov. 3-4. Tohickon. *Stermer*

CL4 WW

- Sat-Sun. Oct 6-7 Gauley River. *Gellerman*
- Sat-Sun. Oct 6-7 Deerfield River Monroe. *Butler*

Instruction / Workshop

- Oct 27. Trip Leaders Workshop *Grefig*

Other

Dec 8. Paddler's Party! (see below and last page)

Our trip schedule now includes selected trips offered by our neighbors in other chapters. If you can't join one of ours, consider one of theirs. To register for a trip from other chapters, see their website or *AMC Outdoors*

You Talked! We Listened!

Due to popular demand, this year's Paddlers' Party will be professionally catered. We'll use the same location as last year, but call in the experts to provide the food so that all of our paddlers can enjoy each others' company without being confined to KP duty in the kitchen. As always, bring your own liquid refreshments.

We'll need to give the caterer a firm headcount before the party, so you **ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY** must register with full payment by Nov 20. Sorry, but we can't accommodate registrations at the door this year.

See you there!

[Driving Directions \(continued from last page\)](#)

Passaic St. just after Outback Steakhouse). Turn left at bottom of ramp. Post is on left side just after the first traffic light.

From Rt 17 S: Immediately after the Garden State Plaza

(shopping mall) take the first exit for Fairview Avenue. At second traffic light turn right onto W. Passaic St. Post 170 is on left.

From Route 4/Route 208 Eastbound:

Exit onto Route 17 South. Follow directions for Rt. 17 Southbound.

From Route 4 Westbound:

Exit onto Route 17 South. Follow directions for Rt. 17 Southbound

Southern Rivers (cont. from p. 5)



Rey Ordiales and the Accommodations at the Overhill Lodge and Cabin:

After the 1st day of paddling the Ocoee River, the whole gang paraded to the best lodging accommodations of the trip - Overhill Lodge and Cabin.

By "paraded", I mean – starting the journey with the leader's vehicle breaking down and needing to be towed, then conducting the group rituals at the town Piggly Wiggly shopping center – then taking a short scenic trip to CopperHill, Tennessee and back – and finally taking a painfully slow, meandering bee line to the cabins.

At first sight, the lodge and cabin were not impressive. They looked like two dilapidated buildings surrounded by overgrown trees. But once inside, we were surprised to see nicely decorated homes, 4 full bedrooms, screened patios, garage, and two abnormal looking dogs (one pregnant). Who knew that our fearless leader could've found such a gem in the middle of the sticks?

One thing unusual about the lodge is that the laundry room seemed to run for 2 days straight. It didn't matter if it had a full load of clothes or a pair of socks in it - the washer/ dryer kept running the whole stay.

Regarding the stay at the lodge, the entire group owes a huge debt of gratitude to Rey. He seemed to help out in every way: when the group needed to test out the Mojitos – there was Rey; when the group needed to wash all the dishes for the night - there was Rey (please see picture, above); at breakfast time.... who made the french toast (with Herb) – yep, Rey again. Thank you, Rey.

Kerri Klinger: Nantahala...a pretty river and great place to demo boats for free.

Pigeon . . . a smelly river. Maybe I called it "smelly" one too many times because the Lost Guide rapid beat me up on the second day. Loved hanging out with Amy Hansen and Rich Bergl again!

Camping along the French Broad River was so peaceful.

Ocoee . . . scary on the first day and a blast on the second. Loved the big waves on Double Trouble and Tablesaw! A wonderful vacation with good people!!!!

Victoria Butler: This was my first time paddling in the southeast and there is so much to tell: good rivers + great folk = wonderful time. (Discretion requires that we not discuss the Paul Bunyan sandal wearing wood chopping contest.) Much thanks to Don Getzin for sharing his years of experience running this trip and to Herb Stermer just for being himself.

Other trip participants who went but didn't write... Connie Farley, Mark Tiernan, Butch Futrell, John Robson, Steven Ferder, Cameron Klinger, Dorothy & David Vezzetti, Rich & Amy & Geoffrey Bergl, Samantha R, PA Jim, LA Eric.



Appalachian Mountain Club
NY-NoJ Canoe & Kayak Committee
Editor: Connie Farley
354 Ridgedale Avenue
East Hanover, NJ 07936

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 November 15, 2007. Please send as an e-mail message to: [canoe kayak.newsletter\(at\)amc-nj\(dot\)org](mailto:canoe kayak.newsletter(at)amc-nj(dot)org). My sincere thanks to everyone who has submitted articles and information.

Don't Forget! - Dec 8, 2007 Paddlers' Party

Driving Directions

From GSP Northbound:
Exit 160. At bottom of ramp turn right. Continue through 3 traffic lights. Post 170 will be on the right before the next light.

From GSP Southbound: Exit 163, Route 17 south. Follow directions for Rt 17 Southbound.

From Rt 80 Eastbound:
Exit at Garden State Parkway North. Follow directions for GSP Northbound.

From Rt 80 Westbound:
Exit at Route 17 North. Follow directions for Rt 17 Northbound.

From Rt 17 Northbound:
Exit at Maywood/Rochelle Park (E. Passaic St/W.

The honor of your presence is requested at the annual
AMC Paddlers' Party
Sat., Dec 8
at 2 o'clock in the afternoon

33 West Passaic Street,
Rochelle Park, NJ 07662
(201) 843-1610
\$30 p.p.

RSVP to:
AMC Paddlers' Party
% Marty Plante
162 N. Walnut Street
Ridgewood, NJ 07450-3221

Paddlers' Party Registration

I have enclosed _____ for ticket(s)
for _____ person(s).

The name(s) to appear on the name tag
(s) are: _____

My phone number is _____

My email address is _____

Don't forget to enclose a check for \$30
per person, payable to
"Martin Plante"

I want to help and can be available
_____ before the party
_____ during the party
_____ at the end of the party