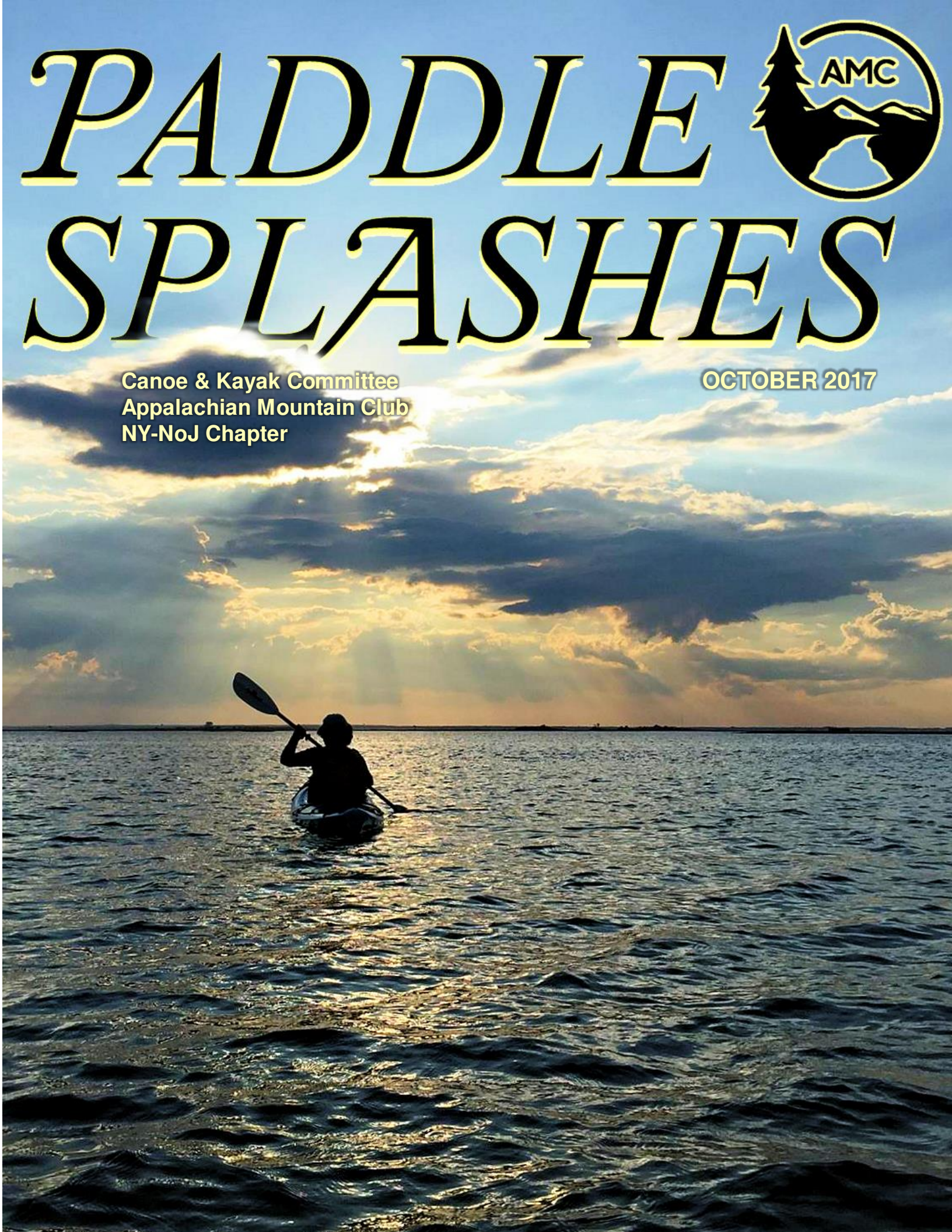


PADDLE SPLASHES



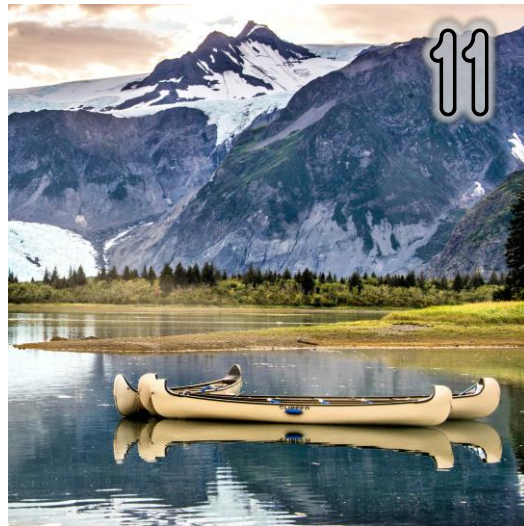
Canoe & Kayak Committee
Appalachian Mountain Club
NY-NoJ Chapter

OCTOBER 2017



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SEDGE ISLAND IS FOR *bird* LO♥ERS

Yet another weekend in paradise. Canoes and sea kayakers surf the standing waves by the lighthouse.

A silent ‘V’ of pelicans skim the sea’s surface. Fresh clams roast on the grill. Yellow-green grasses glow neon in the sun.

Yes, a flock of merry boaters from both AMC and our Sebago Canoe Club partners hail another magical sunset.

What’s not to love?!

Every year is a little different, but the paddler’s refrain unchanged: *It doesn’t get better than this.* One special difference this year was to visit during fall—

not spring—migration. Gone were the fledglings. The sturdier species remained.

Lingering osprey suspiciously surveilled us as we dug for clams. Ducks gaze unimpressed by our paddle splashing.

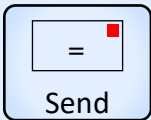
Then one character caught our attention. Donna Morgan snapped a lone oystercatcher eyeing us warily from Gull Island beach. It seemed used to the attention. It was banded, after all.

With a sparse population in 2001, the American Oystercatcher became a priority species to scientists and advocates.

As we learned, the American Oystercatcher (AMOY) Working Group has laid much of the groundwork to track the population and initiate projects for tender loving care.

And they’re on their game. Here’s how we know:





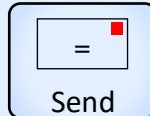
From: Donna Morgan
To: Loretta Brady
Subject: American Oystercatcher

Hi Loretta,

I posted four of the weekend bird photos in a Facebook group I belong to—Birding in Ocean County New Jersey—where someone noticed the bands on the bird's legs.

He then told me about a reporting program and off I went. I was able to zoom in and snip a closeup of the banding code. We'll see if it works.

--Donna

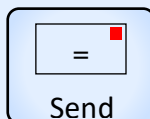


From: Lindsay Addison
To: Donna Morgan
Subject: American Oystercatcher

On behalf of the American Oystercatcher Working Group, thank you for submitting your sighting of a banded American Oystercatcher. The observation has been reviewed and the band combination has been verified, so the record has been added to the database.

You will be able to view all records of this bird, Black JH, by clicking on this [link](#). The information gathered through banding and re-sighting will aid in our understanding of oystercatchers.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Addison, Coastal Biologist



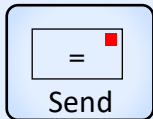
From: Loretta Brady
To: Lindsay Addison
Subject: American Oystercatcher

Hi Lindsay,

We were thrilled to see “our” American Oystercatcher bird’s history. This bird has gotten around.

Is that first sighting in Virginia its natal home, then? And this makes JH an 8-year-old? We are also curious if “JH” is a he or a she?

Thank you,
Loretta



From: Lindsay Addison
To: Loretta Brady
Subject: American Oystercatcher

Hi Loretta,

Many thanks for your interest in telling Black JH's story.

Yes, JH was banded when it was a chick. We don't know if it's a male or female. Males and females are very similar—their plumage is the same—but females average a little larger than males.

Your bird was non-breeding, which means there was no nest observed at the re-sighting. AMOY usually don't begin nesting until 3-5 years of age and can live to be over 20!

Please encourage your kayaking group to be careful about approaching birds at any time of year, and take care not to flush flocks (cause them to fly). Birds like AMOY are sensitive to disturbance (we look like big, scary predators to birds) and nest in all kinds of coastal habitats, making them great wildlife to observe but also easy to inadvertently stress.

During fall and winter, migrating and wintering birds need to conserve energy for their long flights and cold nights, so avoiding causing them to fly or interrupting foraging is a huge help to them.

Thanks again,
Lindsay



Send

From: Loretta Brady
To: Lindsay Addison
Subject: American Oystercatcher

Dear Lindsay.

Thank you so much!

So JH has hopped among the sand dunes of Long Beach, NY, the eel grass of Barnegat Bay, NJ, the tidal pools of GA, and the shorelines of NC? All in a quest for weather-sensitive fast food?

Hmmm. Not ready to settle down. Eager for eateries. Takes lots of road trips.

JH, my feathered friend, you've got quite a bit in common with this boat club.

Best,
Loretta and Donna



TRIPPING

on tripping

by **DAN OLSON** with **LORETTA BRADY**

Backcountry boating. It's what a paddle club lives for.

Leaving behind the comforts of car camping or pack rafting has never been easier. Dagger's new Katana whitewater kayak, improved GPS trackers, and ultra-lite tandems now set us free to carve our way through currents and carries.

We asked veteran trip leader Dan Olson to reflect on the ways paddling clubs turn weekend warriors into trailblazers. He puts aside the usual competitive binaries to explain how both tripping styles — base camping and expedition travel — can exceed our adventure expectations.

Base camp or expedition. Why choose?

Base camping paddle trips are about experiencing a place. It's staying in London or Paris for a week and exploring the city on foot. It's the fishing, the food, the fellowship, not just the quest.

Expeditions are about tracking a territory. You're grasping the watershed, connecting trees, lakes and mountains. You're tracing a region's geological story. It's seeing 10 European cities in 10 days. It's more about the journey than the destination.

Each trip can be enjoyable for what it is. Choose one of each.





SNEAKING UP ON ANIMALS

While you're more likely to see a bear or moose while expeditioning, this season's base camp trips near the Adirondack's Whitney Wilderness and at St. Regis saw diving ducks and dancing loons.

Base camping lets you take the time to work on patience and other skills that help you sneak up on animals: bushwack hiking, orienteering, or even canoe sailing.

Indisputably, though, this season's leaders noted much wider varieties of wild animal scat on their scouting journey, a remote expedition from Little Tupper to Lilah. Black bears? Coyotes? Coywolves?

YOUR INNER WILD CHILD

Expeditions create a challenge for food selection, gear options, and shaming attitudes on weight issues. Nevertheless, careful leader planning reaps the triumph of weathering every storm. The whims of wind or fog, or surprise August frost, or the risks of shelter-hunting and meeting arrival deadlines—all these factors heighten the suspense for the expeditioner.

You get deeper into a remote region for true silence and disconnection from other travelers. There is satisfaction in achieving your goals and tagging another territory.

FIRESIDE CHATS

Neither trip style needs to sacrifice the *raison d'être* of wilderness living: a roaring campfire.

Base camping certainly makes that easier. Easier to carry in wood. More time to collect branches. More chance to relax and get to know the crew.

Still, sharing a communal hatchet, pack saw, and a few petroleum smeared cotton balls launched fires nightly on expeditions this summer. One paddler even rigged an aluminum foil-wrapped grill to shelter a fire as it burned on through the rainy night! No need to sacrifice the warmth of the hearth during a quest. *

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH

If your trip's itinerary changes, take a breath before you cancel. Ask how you can enjoy the trip in a different way. By reframing your expectations, you will enjoy the trip rather than complaining about missed expectations.

Better to love the trip you're with, than wish for the love trip you lost.

Why choose? With careful planning, base camps and expeditions yield unique rewards from remote beauty immersion.

Right: Early morning start on the Adirondacks' Lake Lila.

Below: Portage from Shanty Brook to Lily Pad Pond.

** [Editor's note: Caveat: Zane Reinard, our friend at Wilderness Voyagers, chose February to self-support through the Grand Canyon to enjoy legal driftwood campfires. However, use of garbage bags to pack out the ashes voids their warranty. Ashy sludge sloshed between their legs for half the trip!]*



SCOUTING: an adventure all its own

by EILEEN YIN

What's most surprising about scouting is how much fun failure can be.

Noting the shortage of beginner whitewater rivers for training—and the thrill of reviving past rivers—we accomplished quite a bit of scouting this season. Some of it led to dead ends, but the challenges were still surprisingly exciting.

It's the joy of discovery. Every bend is a wondrous exploration.

With a group of adventurous scouting buddies, even a long day slogging through a marsh where a creek was supposed to be flowing was adventurous. Spotting the new take-out poses another challenge. After dragging boats all day over blowdowns and logs, we capped it off with a five-mile jog in booties back to the cars.

Still, the day ends with smiles, and pride.

“We bonded like the crew of Lewis and Clark,” was the way one crew put it on a scout along the daunting Whitney Traverse.

It helps to have a great friend who is willing to go back a second day (argh!) and find the actual river.

Every new or rediscovered river is a rare opportunity for scouting fun.





You're Invited to Our Annual

HOLIDAY HIKE & PADDLERS' PARTY

Saturday, December 9, 2017

Buddha Beer Bar
4476 Broadway, New York, NY
(near 192nd St)
buddhabeerbar.com

Hikers meet at 1pm, Fort Tryon Pub
Happy Hour from 4-5pm at Buddha Beer Bar
(free food; cash bar)
Dinner at 5pm (pay-as-you-go)
Home-made gourmet desserts (free)

Price: \$4 pp at the door, \$2 pp in advance
Click [here](#) for details and to register

How I Spent My Summer Vacation



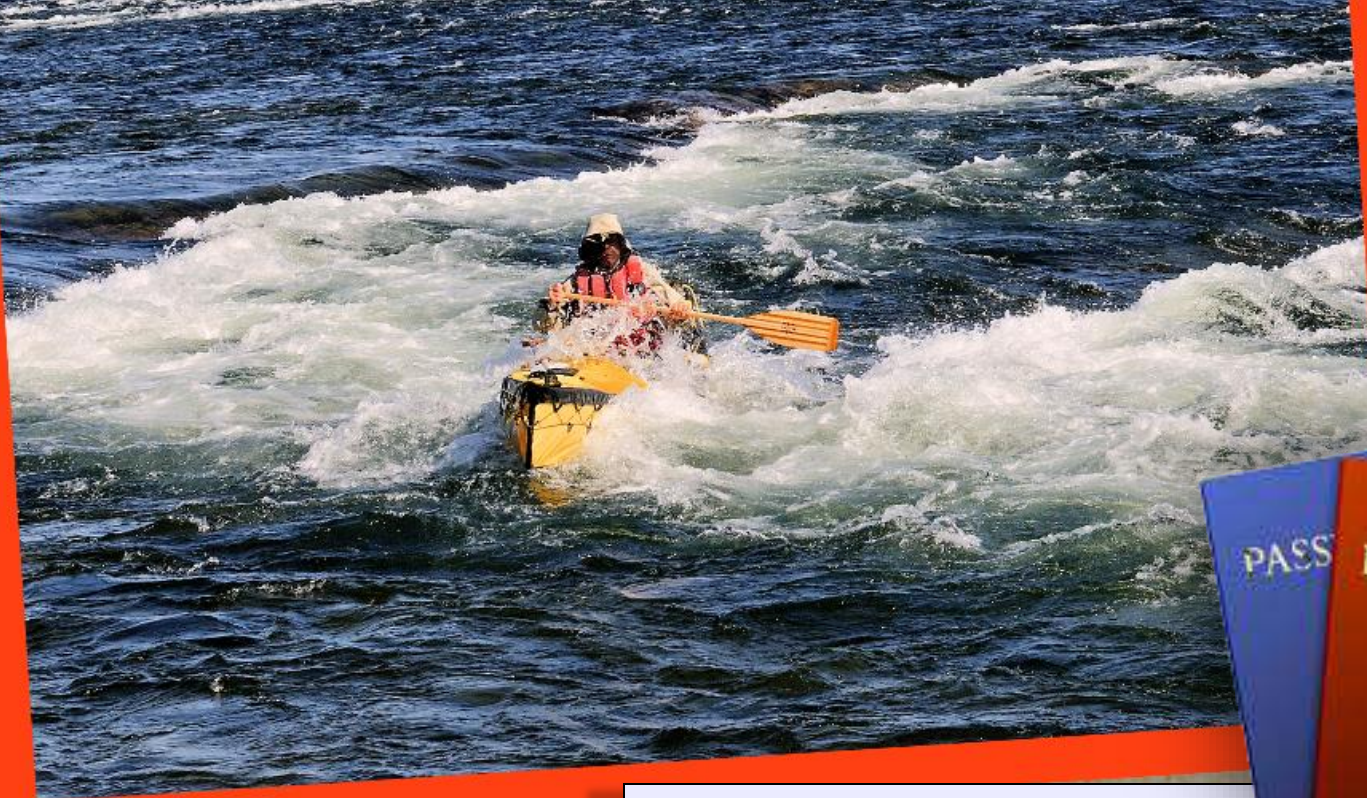
Gotham Rapids

Zack, Luke, Adelene, Carin, Olly and Dave represented whitewater paddlers at the New England Kayak Polo Summer tournament, held in June in Boston. They came in 2nd out of seven teams, losing only to the mighty Canadian team in a close final.

Carin Tinney

Circumnavigating Manhattan with Curt, Olly & Dave.





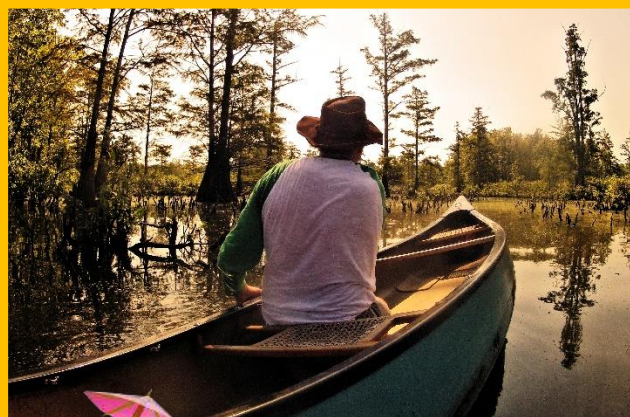
Curt Gellerman

Three and a half weeks, and over 200 miles, of paddling on the Thlewiaza River in Nunavut.

Loretta Brady

A week of expedition tripping on the Dumoine River. Nearly five rapids a day, and a bit of walking with a boat on my head, on one of the last undammed rivers in Ontario.





Marty & Elisa Plante

We spent a week paddling in the Ozarks, then headed to Illinois to watch the eclipse from the Cache River Wetlands, a bald cypress swamp that looks just like a Louisiana bayou, but without the pesky alligators.



Nat Hookway

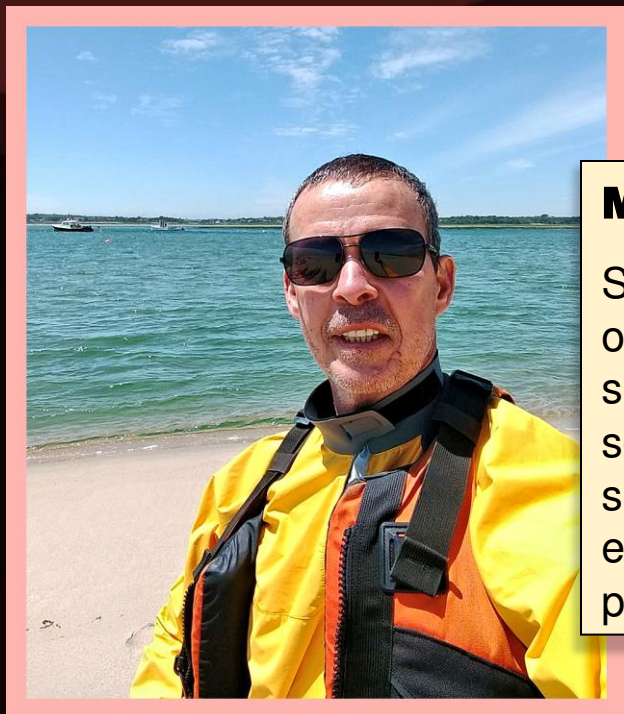
Hanging out on the second pitch of the Upper Refuse route on the White Mountain's Cathedral Ledge. I spent two days learning how to lead Trad and build anchors.





Butch & Monica

Paddling some southern rivers with David Brucas, Curt Gellerman, John Hense and Olly Gotel.



Mark Tiernan

Sea kayaking off of Cape Cod! The seals attracted some great white sharks, which ended our rolling practice.





Olly & Dave

Paddling the Ottawa and Gaineau Rivers in Ontario with Carin, David Brucas, Suzanne, Sozanne, Jake and Jordan. Jake gotten beaten up by Colisium Rapids, but he came back for more.

photos by **JOHN GUETTER**





Sneak Preview of the Chapter's 2018 Season at the Corman AMC Harriman Outdoor Center

New York-North Jersey Chapter will host a record 25 Events in the coming year! Our volunteer-led programs at The Corman AMC Harriman Outdoor Center start Opening Weekend May 18-20 and continue with a wide variety of offerings almost every week until Closing Weekend, Oct 14, 2018.

The chapter's Harriman Program Committee, along with 17 new and experienced leaders, bring you a wide spectrum of social, instruction and activity-based events to ensure you have a fabulous outdoors experience.

New programs include Road Cycling, Photography, Wilderness Skills, Writing, LGBT and Inter-Chapter Events. Popular returning programs

include Bird-watching, Yoga, Ladies Canoe & Kayak, New Member Sampler, Family Midweek, Hike-Swim-Camp,

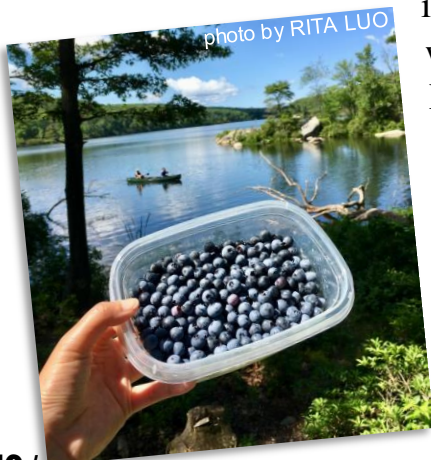
Fine Dining, Trail Maintenance, and Wilderness First Aid Events.

The Executive Committee will host the 4th Annual Chapter Picnic (& Pig Roast!), as well as the Leadership Weekend, at The Corman AMC Harriman Outdoor Center.

Most events will offer a mix of cabin and tenting accommodations with scaled pricing.

Many events sold out this year. So keep your eyes open in early spring when the full 2018 HPC Program Schedule is published online ... and register early!

See you in 2018!



HAPPY 200th BIRTHDAY

The Erie Canal, New York's Most Underappreciated Paddling Destination, has a Bicentennial.

It was 200 years ago, on July 4, 1817, that construction began on the [Erie Canal](#). Built for cargo barges, it transformed Western and Central New York from wilderness to metropolis and New York City into the biggest port in America. It's now one of the best—and most underutilized—paddle-camping routes in the East. Canoes and kayakers are allowed to travel the entire 363 miles free of charge and without permits. Passing through the locks is also free, allowing you to run a 40-foot drop without paddling any whitewater. There are over 100 free public launch points and, in many spots, [free camping](#). And did I mention that it's all free?

The easy access to pizza and ice cream is an added bonus.



Canoeing the Erie Canal in 1905 (above) and
Marty Plante exiting Lock 7 in 2017.



Esopus Creek

2017



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
AMC NY-NOJ CHAPTER'S
**Annual Meeting
and Dinner**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 2018

4:30 TO 8:30 PM

DINOSAUR BAR-B-QUE

700 W. 125TH STREET

NEW YORK

\$55 - 65 PER PERSON

DINOSAUR BAR-B-QUE HAS BEEN NAMED NUMBER ONE BBQ BY GOOD MORNING
AMERICA AND FEATURED ON THE FOOD CHANNEL AND TRAVEL NETWORK.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO RSVP

CANOE/KAYAK COMMITTEE

Suzanne Villegas, CKC Chair

Marty Plante, Treasurer/Records/Ratings

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

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canoekayak.Quartermaster<at>amc-ny.org

canoekayak.Publicity<at>amc-ny.org

canoekayak.Equipment<at>amc-ny.org



Volunteer Recognition Awards

Show how much you love our volunteers! Nominate a special volunteer for one of our four Volunteer Recognition Awards, including the crown jewel – Appie of the Year! Click [here](#) for more details about the awards.

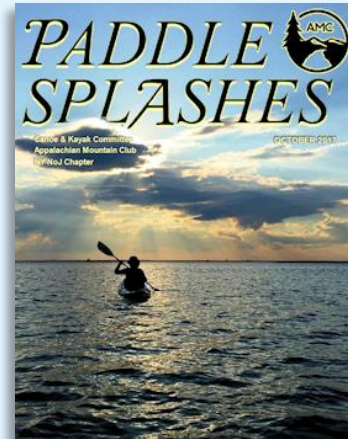
Thank the folks who quietly do all those little things that make our chapter work.

The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2017.

PADDLE SPLASHES

Loretta Brady, Editor

Marty Plante, Format & Layout



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

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

KEEP IN TOUCH



Al Braley's Memorial Service. Top row: Randy Braley (Al's son), Rudi Markl, Dick Muller. Second: Mac McCauley, Dawn Braley (Al's daughter), Bernie Gastrich, Ann Gastrich, Paul Edwards, Henry Schreiber, Noel Cotter, Don Getzin. Third: Fran Braley, Jill Arbuckle, Linda Polstein, Lenny Grefig, Mike Dalton. Bottom: Susan Johnson, Tanya McCabe.

Parting Shot

Each year the American Society of Civil Engineers holds a series of regional competitions, followed by a national competition, that challenges college students to build a concrete canoe. This year's contest was the 30th.

30th Annual CONCRETE Canoe Competition

The Metropolitan Region competition was won in June by NYU. The team's 20-foot boat beat competitors from Rutgers, the City College of New York, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Manhattan College, Fairleigh Dickinson and others. Following the regional race, the NYU paddlers received race training from Sebago Canoe Club, but lost at the national competition to Université Laval of Quebec.



Above: National winner Université Laval
Left: Metropolitan Region winner NYU

