

FILM FESTIVAL 8 CONTINUES

PADDLE SPLASHES

Loretta Brady, Editor Marty Plante, Printer's Devil



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

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

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Cover photo: Jim Coffey begins his descent of the 60-foot La Cascada de Truchas, where he set a new canoe waterfall record.



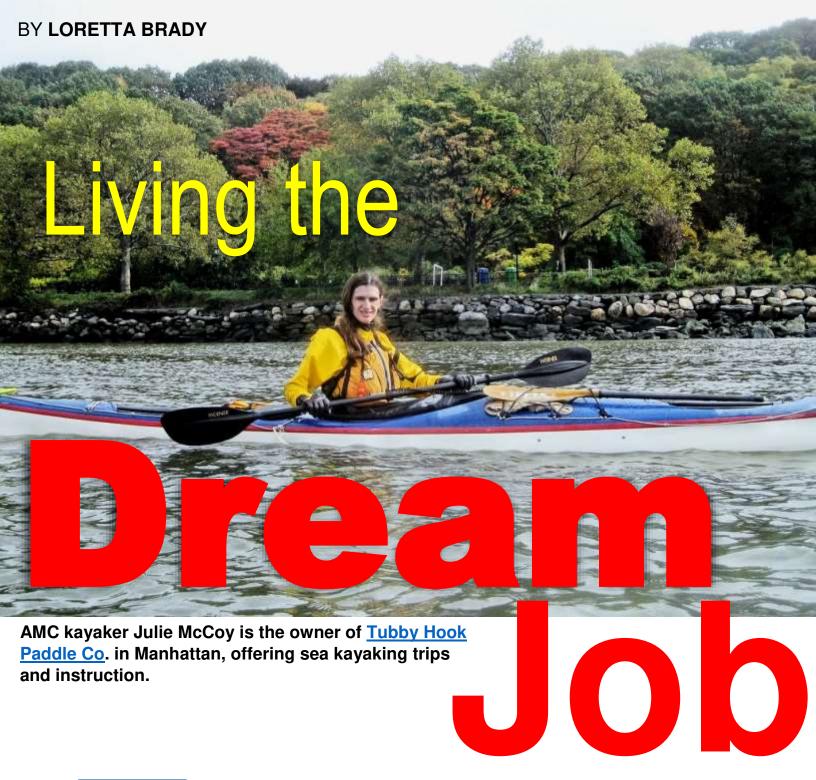












t's just like the website picture.

Boats glide through aqua waters as cascades spill off canyon walls. Brightly colored macaws call greetings from primordial jungles framing the gorge.

This is your workspace.

Well, it *could* be if you made career paddling your business. Data shows more paddlers may be flirting with this idea.

There's a notable bump in the number of boaters seeking professional level qualifications. In 2017, the American Canoe Association certified unprean cedented 1,000+ instructors and hundreds of instructor trainers in the U.S. alone.

Greg Paquin, owner of Kayak Waveology, corroborates. "There's been a surge of interest in grabbing the highest caliber credentials, particularly in this region." Greg, an advanced level assessor who has shaped many an AMC leader, wagered that British Canoeing's new multi-discipline requirement for the 2 Star rating boosted market demand.

Planning trips for others doesn't always translate to an adventurous life for the planner.

Dig if you will this picture.

He stands for the safety talk in elastic-banded Bahamas, a pair of white loungers, and a casino-loud floral shirt that looks and fits like a table cloth.

More pro golfer than pro guide.

"The look didn't exactly scream, 'Trust me on the river,' " recalls AMC pool session coach, Donna Morgan.

Turned out Salvation Army gear cheaply tided him over until the airlines found his luggage. He was actually a world class kayaker, one of the elite cadre of guides who successfully make a living in the adventure industry.

Who among us hasn't fantasized about paddling year-round and getting paid for it?

So we decided to dive deeper and learn what life is really like for those living the dream job full-time.

They surely have something to teach us.

Greg Paquin is the Founder of Kayak Waveology in Connecticut, voted "Best Kayaking School" in the North East by Sea Kayaker Magazine 2012-2015.



Go Pro

All-season guides are a migratory species.

Take the staff at Wilderness Voyagers. Around the time the Yough River dam draws down for the fall, some are readying plans to head west to host multi-sport adventures on the Rio Grande.

Or check out Outward Bound who sends their canoe instructors to winter with flamingos and mangos in the Everglades, then, come spring, returns their employees north to the Nantahala watershed to continue nudging teens beyond the comfort zone.

These pros are like epiphytic Spanish moss. With superhuman flexibility, they land along any riverbank and thrive on thin air.

For them, work-life balance may mean two intense 24-7

weeks—rescuing teens from leaky tents in the middle of the night, writing reports with blood-stained "mosquito-proof" gloves—followed by large chunks of down time.

"Make sure you don't run out of JUICE!" advises international guide Camila Davila. "If you get a day off, happily take it as you never know when the next one will be."

Camila is one of the world-class guides hired by a company National Geographic rated as one of the "Best Outfitters on the Planet." Based on the Ottawa River, Ontario, Jim Coffey and the Esprit staff winter in the jungles of Mexico and Costa Rica, where they coach and run whitewater expeditions as well as Advanced River Rescue certification courses.



Adventure travel guide Jim Coffey, owner and director of Esprit Whitewater, has guided expeditions throughout Asia, Africa and the Americas. He also helped develop India's Flatwater Kayak racing program for the Olympics.

Jim Coffey went to the Alseseca River in Mexico where he canoed the 60-foot La Cascada de Truchas. The successful descent broke the 20year-old whitewater canoe waterfall record. Click to watch the video.

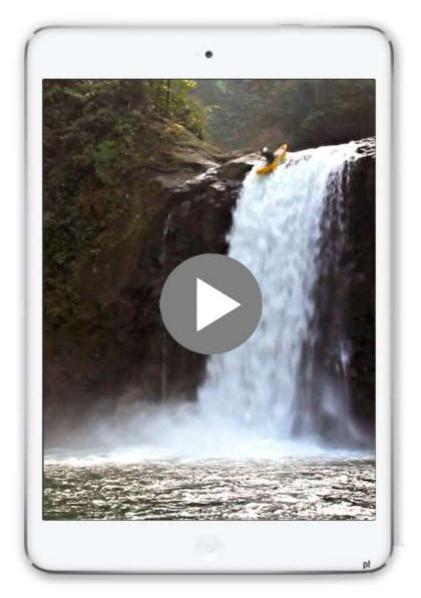
In the interest of full disclosure, several AMC canoeists-including the writer of this article—personally experienced Jim's top-level coaching while attending one of his thrill-of-alifetime trips.

"It's funny, but wherever I go, people recognize me most from my Rescue for River Runners videos," Jim says proudly, referring to the 12 episode series that plainly justifies his international renown as a premier trainer of safety trainers.

Jim busts a misconception about the elite pro attitude. Granted he does look immortally chill while setting up his open boat record for the highest waterfall drop.

Sure. But the laid-back belies demeanor a hyperresponsibility. Top paddling businesses like his demand precision organization and communication, as well as precision paddle placement. For example, his foresight to advise that raft leaders pack a defibrillator has been a life saver more than once.

Going pro is largely about preparation.



Location, Location

Besides the exotic, wild rivers of the Americas, career paddlers enjoy endless behind-the-scenes views of both culture and nature.

Among Camila's top 10 list: sipping freshly made pulque (agave plants) in a 300-year-old Mexican hacienda. Swinging in the breeze on hammocks at El Tunco Beach, El Salvador, while watching colleagues grab their piranhas and get tubed. Rubbing on a full-body mud pack during an indigenous sweat lodge ritual.

"I remember driving the canoe fleet down from Canada one year," Camila explains as she describes her encounter with American Southern culture. "Chattanooga was a very fun stop where Jim's friends warmly welcomed us, touring us on the Scenic City Safari, and of course stopping at the famous Chattanooga train station."

Long distance can also strain a pro-guide's non-paddler relationships. Every job has its sweet and sour, after all. Still, for career guides, the sweet seems to always outweigh—or else they just lack those other taste buds.

"It's amazing how you can develop such intense friendships all over the world in such a short time," remarks Camila. "The best part is going back and seeing these people to reconnect, or meeting up with guests again later on."

Tom Burroughs, who heads Ozark Safety and Rescue Educators, has been teaching Swift Water courses with Jim since 2005. He points out that the leader's tour environment plays a large role in how rewarding the connections become. Warmth of spirit and temperature are equally key.

"Learning in a comfortable environment helps students excel.

Cold has a tendency to be a detractor," advises Tom. "Paddlers and rescuers learn faster and retain more when they are relaxed and comfortable during the learning process."

Path of the Career Paddler

There are certainly downsides to living the dream job.

Less health care coverage in the shoulder season. *Fleur Du Lance* serpents hiding in your gear. Or the sub-par foreign mechanic who rewired the van. (Jim and his family barely fled the mothership before it self-destructed in a ball of flame.)

So it's a good thing AMC has a pathway toward a smaller dose of career paddling: the semi-pro Adventure Travel program (AT). As our own AT guides Jill Arbuckle and Chris Bickford can explain, trip guests underwrite the trip costs for

Ozark Safety & Rescue guides and their superpowers at work on the Ouachita River for a cold water SWR course.



the leader and co-leader. The training and vetting process is rigorous, but well worth it. To get an idea of 2019 AMC AT paddling explorations on offer, check out <u>Janis Stahlut's excursion to Fiji</u>, or Linda Chasen's "Alaska by Land, Sea, and Air."

AMC NY-NoJ clearly benefits from paddling culture's trending ambition to reach pro-level status.

Most recently Carin Tinney earned the gold ring of paddling certification for whitewater kayaking. Julie McCoy now adds BC's advanced 4 Star Sea Leader rating to her many qualifications.

They join the cohort of our chapter's many certified instructor-

volunteers—most famously Rich Breton, Butch Futrell, and Marty Plante, to name but a few—who generously offer comprehensive paddling and safety courses open to members and non-members alike.

Career guides who succeed in the adventure biz possess near superpower skill sets. Yet a common denominator even we amateurs share with them is the "reward bliss" of welcoming new paddlers to our community and seeing them grow.

As Julie puts it, from her perspective as founder of the Tubby Hook Paddle Company, "People surprise me more than the sea."

True that.



Thanks to all of the Canoe/Kayak Trip Leaders and other volunteers that made this a great year.

Thank you!

It is official, my two-year reign of terror as your Chair is OVER! In all seriousness I had a wonderful time, and owe a great deal to the Committee members.

Did you know...

- 1. Marty has been our wonderful **Treasurer**. Since time began, we have maintained a healthy balance through is good solid financial management.
- 2. Meredith was our **Scheduling Guru** for 3 long/dedicated years and kept us going. She graciously trained most of us, including
- 3. Klara starts her 2nd year as our **Scheduler.** If you attended the Paddlers' Party, she was the one following everyone around with a 2018 calendar.
- 4. Andrew is our **Quartermaster**. If you haven't seen the barn in a while, it's a must see. You can (almost) eat off the floor.
- 5. Sir Charles not only kept me sane with my monthly massage, but came back to the committee as the **Equipment Coordinator** and braved the trailer move. And he happens to share my birthday (I'm younger).
- 6. Loretta is our wonderful **PaddleSplashes Editor** and continues to make us all look good.
- 7. Christian, our extremely talented **Social Media Guru**, encourages the masses to join us on/off the rivers.

Please welcome our new **Chair – JAKE LEWIS** who is a class IV kayaker, a gracious pool sessions instructor, an AMC Fire Island Sailing instructor, and all around gentleman.

Thank you all. It's been fun. Much love/respect/devotion/etc etc!

Suzanne Villegas

AMC NY-NoJ CKC Chair, 2016-17



Where to Nov?

a view from the chair

can still recall my first real river trip with AMC - pulling into the campsite up on the Deerfield late on a Friday night, I came upon a large and merry group around the campfire. I was quickly forgiven for dazzling everyone with my headlights, (What a newbie!), and made my way around the circle introducing myself.

There were paddlers of all ages and skill levels, and they presented encouragement and a clear path forward to become a better paddler. The club was tight-knit and intimate, but very welcoming of new blood. It was to become my new watersports family.

Nine years on and, inevitably, things change. The AMC as a

Jake playing at Dragon's Tooth on the Deerfield River.



whole has experienced a modest decline in membership in recent years and with it, the number of NY-NoJ active paddlers may be down a bit-people settle down and start families, take up other sports. emigrate to Hawaii. etc,-but the flames of the AMC campfire still shine brightly.

I'll be focusing my efforts on introducing the AMC to paddlers and to paddlers new to the area. The temporary loss of the pool sessions this year was a bit of

Instructional blow, but the Weekend (June 8-10) will introduce new, keen members.

I've also prioritized the training of new trip leaders and the encouragement and support of the new leaders to undertake new trips.

Looking forward to the upcoming season.

Jake Lewis

NY-NoJ Canoe/Kayak Chair

Kayaking is still growing strong

Participation rates for kayaking of every stripe (rec, sea and whitewater) continue to increase each year, with three-year growth rates of 15-19%. The popularity of canoeing remains stable after hitting a plateau in 2010. But standup paddleboarding is still the fastest growing sport.

Click to read more in the Outdoor Foundation's research report.

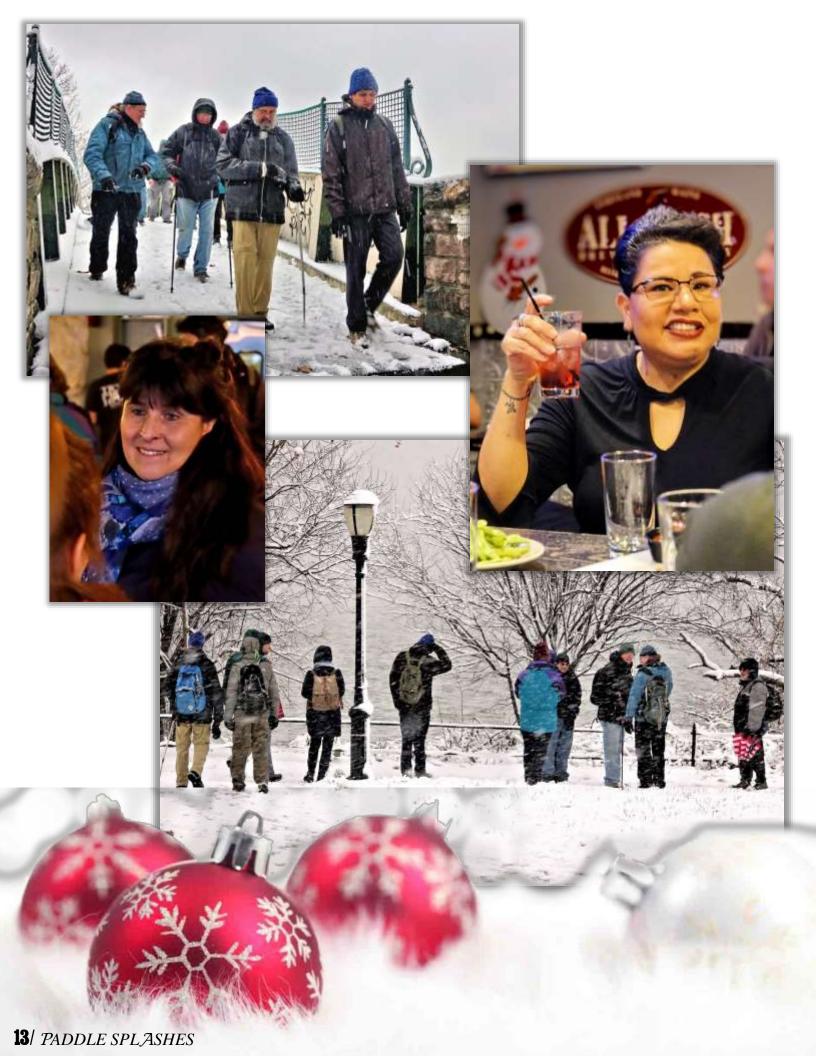




The NY-NoJ Canoe/Kayak Committee is very pleased to welcome our newest Leaders-in-Training.

Sahand Ainechi **Mary Ann Hoag Christian Lazo Anthony Reynolds Ivan Schwartz**





Winter on the MIULL PA

STORY BY LORETTA BRADY
PHOTOS BY EILEEN YIN & MARK TIERNAN

here's a high chance for suck factor," participants agreed.

A predicted temperature plunge. Evening snow likely to switch to all-day freezing rain.

The odds were good that everyone would settle in on a sofa and watch *Blue Planet*.

But when leader Charles Michener offered the participants a chance for an out, there wasn't a "nay" from anyone.



They arrived at put-in noting the swift, sporty current rushing along.

"We'd had a week of rain, so the levels were higher than I'd ever seen," Charles said. On rivers in the scenic Pinelands, that also means more chance of decapitating bridges and capsizing blowdowns.

hese winter challenges have historically made the Mullica trip the stuff of legends.

Three of the participants this year remember some of the standouts.

It was on Don Getzin's trip that a less-travelled member fell out of his boat into the icy waters.

"Don got me to share his tent and told me to prevent hypothermia," said Frank Galla. When a blizzard hit one year, one unseasoned spouse thought she'd seen the last of her husband. Dee Gellerman assuaged her with a cool, "Pshaw, they're fine."

Our fearless troop this year was eminently rewarded. They saw an owl fly overhead then disappear into a tree cavity.

They scooped Charles's meaty beef stew right from the Dutch oven roasting above the campfire, sopped up with Eileen Yin's homemade cornbread. They ate while watching snow layer the branches above the campfire. It helped that Mark Tiernan brought along his REI Big Agnes deluxe gazebo shelter.

"It's a big surprise to see so many new spring green needles sprouting now," observed naturalist-adventurer Curt Gellerman.

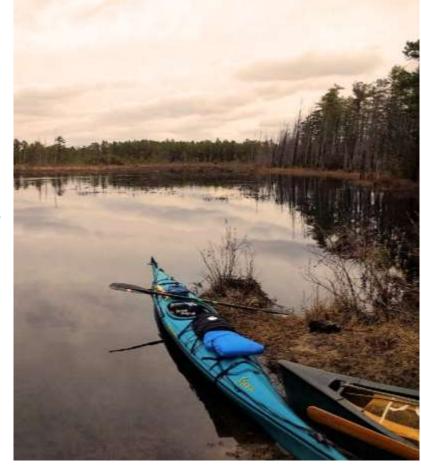


And the blowdowns proved terrific fun. Even without climbing harnesses, boaters hauled themselves up on a log, shoved and pulled a rockered bow under the limbs, then—Daniel Craig style—dropped back into the boat as the stern seat floated by underneath.

"We never saw Mark edge so well," all agreed, as when tree limbs permitted no other means of a passage through. Sideways he dragged himself, quite gracefully, in fact.

No need to wait around for next year's trip. The Pine Barrens surfaces often as a trip destination on the AMC event listings.

Or join Charles again for his May 6 Week of Water, as it is very likely to include this special haven.



Mark found those capoeira classes came in handy as he ducked and swiveled through numerous blowdowns.





A Week of Water

Sun-Sat, May 6-12, 2018

We'll find the best flatwater available. Maybe the NJ Pine Barrens, maybe the Adirondacks.





June 22-24 2018

REGISTER

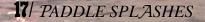
Some call it rehab for cluttered lives.

A spa for the soul. That's the medicinal magic of Sedge Island Wildlife Refuge.

This year our rendezvous in paradise coincides perfectly with peak flyway migration. But also come for the clamming—without even getting out of your boat. Or come for the pot luck gourmet buffet.

Or come for tidal water coaching, since we always feature an elite paddler or two on the guest list. In the past we've had Julie McCoy, Allen Kossover, Olly Gotel and David Michael. This year our experts are provided by Sebago Canoe Club, who traditionally have been invited to share this special weekend with us.

But hurry. We cap at 14, and registrants have already been clicking through their submissions.





Eileen Yin

Volunteer Recognition Award

Eileen is the definition of an outstanding Volunteer Leader. She has served our Chapter at the highest level and done the job with unmatched enthusiasm. She is a longtime trip leader and instructor for our Canoe/Kayak Committee and has served the Chapter as the Hospitality Chair, organizing outstanding Chapter Dinners. Her leadership potential did not go unnoticed and she was nominated to the Executive Committee as Vice Chair, then Chapter Chair. As Chapter Chair, she created new leadership awards, an annual picnic, and a master leader program with a jacket reward.

Most importantly, she convinced the Executive Committee to support the donation of \$500,000 to capital expenses and programming at the Corman Harriman Outdoor Center (CHOC). She was also a member of the Harriman Launch Advisory Committee and after her Chapter Chair position was up, she went on to start a Chapter Harriman Program Committee, where she organized 18 Chapter events at the CHOC. She helped organize an additional 19 Chapter events this year and almost all sold out. Next year promises to be even bigger and better with 20 events organized including family events and an LGBT weekend. This year she also took on the role as head of the Chapter Advisory Committee adding additional responsibilities such as offering

advice on Chapter Financial Policies and taking over the Chapter administration of Volunteer Award Recognition.

Eileen's endless energy and devotion to ensuring of the success Chapter makes her an outstanding volunteer leader and we look forward to what is next.

Eileen receiving the award at the AMC Annual Summit in January, 2018.





INSTRUCTOR

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

The Committee will refund 50% of the cost of the course and certification exam fees, up to a \$400 rebate, with prior approval of the CKC Chair. Travel costs, meals, books, membership fees for the sponsoring organization and other incidentals are not reimbursable. Boats may be rented free of charge from the CKC, but boat rental fees for outside rental agencies are not reimbursable. Not eligible for reimbursement are courses that develop paddling skills, but do not lead to instructor certification.

The new instructor must complete the training session for which he or she is requesting the refund, but need not attain certification to be eligible.

The instructor must agree to instruct for the NY-NoJ Chapter and must be an AMC member. The instructor will be reimbursed upon completion of the first instruction workshop taught by the newly certified instructor. The instructor is required to teach, but need not be the trip leader for the instruction. The course taught must be of the same type for which the instructor was trained (e.g., the instructor must teach a sea kayak class if the instructor training course was for sea kayaking). After teaching one course for the CKC, there is no minimum number of additional instructions required for reimbursement. Within three months of teaching his or her first class, the instructor must submit the reimbursement request to the CKC Chair (canoekayak@amc-ny.org).



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II. Information
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H.M.S/M TUN

1. FORCES TAKING PART.

H.M. SUBMARINE TUNA. Special Military Landing Part

2: OUTLINE OF OPERATION.

A small party of approximatel will be disembarked from the submarine mouth of the Gironde estuary. The parthe Bassen-Bordeaux area in Cockles Macarry out a limpet attack on blockade The party will escape overland to Spai

3. OBJECT OF THE SUBMARINE.

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4. METHOD OF EXECUTION.

- (a) Preliminary Training. P take place in the Clyde area Captsin (S) Third Submarine F not to be proceeded with unlease meets his requirements.
- (b) Preliminary Movements.
 Flotilla is to sail TUNA about in the vicinity of the Girondarouteing instructions will be (Submarines).

The kayak began with a utilitarian purpose, allowing indigenous people to make a living. The 19th century saw new uses as a form of recreation. Less well known is its use in modern warfare.

It was 75 years ago, in Dec 1942, that one of the most daring operations of World War II took place: Operation Frankton, a British commando raid on cargo ships in the German occupied French port of Bordeaux. The raid was carried out by a small unit of Royal Marines in kayaks.

Oil, rubber, copper and other war materiel were flowing from Japan to Germany through the port of Bordeaux. The British decided that this supply line must be disrupted. The plan was to have a submarine surface 10 miles from the mouth of the Gironde estuary and launch six tandem kayaks, each manned by a pair of Special Forces commandos. They were to paddle 78 miles up the Gironde River and attach magnetic mines to the docked cargo ships.

The kayaks needed to be stable enough to withstand the dangerous crossing from the sub to the mouth of the river, but light enough to paddle headlong into the river's fierce tidal race, a wall of water sweeping periodically down the Gironde. The boats had to be collapsible, like a top hat, so that they could fit in the submarine. But most importantly, the boats needed

to have the capacity to carry eight mines each plus the other equipment needed for the mission.

The model chosen was the 16-foot Cockle Mark II folding kayak, nicknamed the "Cockleshell," with flat plywood bottoms and canvas sides and spray decks painted black to camouflage them at night. Internal flotation allowed them to remain buoyant even when fully loaded with gear and completely flooded.

he operation commenced on a moonless night. To paraphrase the old military cliché, a plan survives only until it is put into practice. The canvas hull of one kayak was ripped while it was being taken out of the submarine hatch, reducing the fleet to five boats and 10 men.



Cockle Mark II kayaks. Photo from Wikipedia.

On the the way to mainland, one boat capsized in the 5-foot waves and the two crewmembers swam to shore. Another boat was lost. then another. The remaining boats two completed the four-day

boat was lost, then another.

Another

Of the 10 commandoes that had participated in the raid, only two survived. Two died of hypothermia and the other six were captured and executed.

journey to the port, paddling at night and hiding during the day.

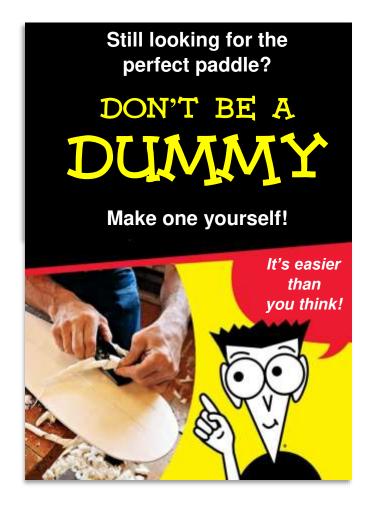
he crew planted their mines, damaging six enemy ships. They paddled downstream until dawn and scuttled their boats. Two commandoes were captured, but the remaining two made contact with the French Resistance and were smuggled across the Pyrenees into neutral Spain using an "underground railroad" for downed Allied aircrews.

The enemy cargo ships were sunk in shallow water and soon back in service, but the strike was a huge propaganda boost for the struggling Allies. Its significance reportedly led Winston Churchill to say that the raid may have shortened the war by six months.

Forty years later, the British used kayaks for reconnaissance missions during the Falklands War. But that's a story for another time.



Major Herbert
'Blondie' Hasler,
right, in training
for Operation
Frankton. Hasler
was the
Commanding
Officer of the raid.
Photo from
www .telegraph.co.uk



Can't find that perfect canoe or kayak paddle? Stop looking and make one yourself! While there are plenty of YouTube videos showing how, nothing beats the guidance of an experienced teacher. Here are a few upcoming workshops. Click a button for more information.

Adirondack Folk School
Lake Luzerne, NY (S. Adirondacks)
Sun, Apr 15, 2018
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The Wild Center
Tupper Lake, NY (N. Adirondacks)
Sat, Jun 30, 2018
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Great Camp Santanoni Raquette Lake, NY (Adirondacks) Fri, Jul 13, 4pm to Sun, Jul 15, 10am

> Antique Boat Museum Clayton, NY (1000 Island) Sat, Jul 21, 2018 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The Adirondack Experience
Blue Mtn Lake, NY (Adirondacks)
Multiple days in Jul and Aug

Hudson River Maritime Museum Kingston, NY Sat & Sun, Sept 15 & 16, 2018 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM





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 facebook Meetup

2018 CANOE/KAYAK COMMITTEE

Jake Lewis, CKC Chair Marty Plante, Treasurer/Records/Ratings Loretta Brady, Leadership/PaddleSplashes Klara Marton, Trip Scheduler **Andrew Ludke**, Quartermaster Charles Michener, Equipment Coordinator Christian Lazo, Social Media Coordinator Suzanne Villegas, Secretary 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.Equipment<at>amc-ny.org canoekayak.Publicity<at>amc-ny.org canoekayak.Secretary<at>amc-ny.org

Saratoga Paddlefest & Outdoor Expo

Apr 28-29, 2018

Fish Creek, Saratoga Springs, NY



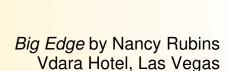
Ī		2018 Activity Schedule					
	Date	Quiet/Touring Water	Class 1	Clas	ss 2	Class 3	
Mar 31- Apr 1 Easter			Ramapo (Sat, 3/31) Plante	(Sat		here in NY i, 3/31) ssman	
I	7-8 14-15	Oswego (Sun, 4/15) <i>Watters</i>		(Sat,	ington 4/14) vards		
\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	21-22	Raritan (Sun, 4/22) <i>Horowitz</i>			V	Vildernes	S
	28-29	Beginners' Boat Demo Day (Sat, 4/28) <i>Brady</i>				First Aid	9
	5-6 12-13	A Week of Water (Sat-Sat, 5/6 to 5/12) <i>Michener</i>			N	Mohican Outdoo Center	or
	Mothers Day	Pine Barrens (Sat, 5/12) Watters			M	Fri-Sun, lay 25-27, 20	18
	19-20	Basha Kill (Sun, 5/20) Barnes/Fine Raritan (Sun, 5/20) Horowitz					
	26-27 Memorial Day						
a	2-3	Mullica (Fri-Sun, 6/1-3) <i>Watters</i>		Esopus (Sat, 6/2) <i>Plante</i>			
•	9-10		Intro to Canoeing (Fri-Sun, 6/8-10) Brady/Michener Beginner Kayaking (Fri-Sun, 6/8-10) Futrell				

PARTING SH©TS

Canoe Fan by Victoria Fuller Gallup Park, Ann Arbor, MI









Canoe Wave by Chris Fennell Lewis and Clark Monument Lewiston, ID

