

The Hoosier Paddler

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NEW TRIPS SCHEDULE

-by Dan Valleskey, Executive Officer

Enclosed you will find the 2007 HCC Trips Schedule. I am very excited about the offerings this year. We have some cool new trips, as well as continuing with the popular traditional trips like April Fools on the Big Pine, and the Raccoon Creek Covered Bridge float.

We went out of our way this year to include some offerings from other organizations. Be sure to look at the Central Indiana Wilderness Club trips, this group has been active in our area for a long time. Their trips are structured a little different than ours, they may have something that will appeal to you. I'm leading a favorite of mine, the Pigeon/ Fawn trip to Mongo. Stick around to find out why I call it the "fish" trip. Look to meet folks from other paddle groups on that trip, as well as when I take the HCC up to the Little Manistee over Labor Day. We will also be joining up with the Prairie State Canoeists on the Dowagiac in July.

Note the extra "boxes" on the schedule. These highlight Reggies' Bluewater (sea kayak) trips, as well as other local events where you are likely to see fellow HCC members. I have listed the Triathalons we will work. If you've never done this, come out and try it! It only takes a few hours, we earn tons of money for the club, and the water is warm and clear. And you get a T-shirt. Works for me!

You will be hearing a lot about the first ever Indiana Rivers Rally. It will be in the West Lafayette area, look for paddle trips, talks, a special dinner, booths, featured speakers, and lots of opportunities to meet like minded river rats from all around Indiana. I hope the HCC takes a large roll in this new event.

The Indiana Paddlers Rendezvous will again be the first weekend in August, if you have never been, you really need to do this trip! Garry Hill is making the chili again.

Some members have put together a special series of trips, I have just listed first names, the people behind these wonderful new trips are Sue Foxx, Rick Turney, and Linda Smith. Guessing from the way they have described these trips, I think they will have people stacked three deep at the putins. These should be great trips!

Continued on page 6

Trip Announcement

Big Walnut Creek

March 24, 2007

Sponsor: Dave Ellis, aka *Creek Freak*

Over the last 30 years, I've paddled all sections of Big Walnut from North Salem to the confluence with Eel River just below the dam for Cataract Lake. Well, almost. I haven't done the section through Greencastle which includes a 4 foot dam. Ninety five percent of the floatable mileage is in Putnam County. My favorite section is near Bainbridge from north of US 36 to south of that highway. It flows through a Nature Conservancy property. North of US 36 this is a woodland stream; south it alternates between woodland and cropland.

Although we'll see a rock outcropping or two, the main hazard will be fallen trees and perhaps a log jam or two. I'll scout the trip before the 24th and share specific worry spots with participants at the put-in. Let's meet at the Hardee's on the east edge of Danville at 9:30. I'll have chosen the specific section for us to paddle at that time depending on water levels and weather. Cold weather paddling protocol will still be in effect; i.e. no cotton plus a change of clothes. Call me or e-mail by 6pm Friday if you are going to join us as there may be last minute changes in plans. Here are two web links referring to this area-

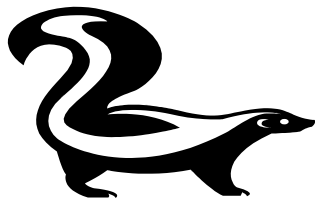
<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/indiana/work/art7796.html>

http://www.indianaoutfitters.com/big_walnut_creek.html

Annual Dues are Due!

Membership Dues are Due Now! Send Money!!

2007 dues for HCC are now due. So, go NOW! Get your check book and mail a check for \$15 to Membership Chairman Dave Ellis - 7650 Poplar Road, Brownsburg, IN 46112. Those procrastinating past March 1, 2007 will (as stipulated by our By-Laws) be stricken from the rolls. By the Way, the second line of your newsletter address label shows the year your are paid through. Any one with "2006" showing need to send me money. Not clear? Contact Dave at 317-858-0963 or RiverPaPaw@aol.com. Or, save yourself a stamp and enclose your \$15 check with my Valentine's Card or catch me at the pool some Wednesday. All are welcome at the pool. We can accommodate white water kayaks, open canoes, or 18 foot sea kayaks. You just have to remain a paid-up member.



**Don't Be a Skunk!
Help Clean Up
and smell like a Rose!**



Wilderness First Aid Training Classes

As for a WFA class, I think there are advantages to setting up a class for our club. For those of you not familiar with the training, it's an intensive two-day course that teaches accident prevention and first aid for a wilderness setting. Most of the paddlers I've talked to think it would be very useful to hold the class in a streamside location. There are several organizations that specialize in this training, and I've sent out inquires to see if any might be willing to work with us on a custom clinic. In the meantime, there are a few WFA classes scheduled in our area, or near enough to perhaps work for a weekend trip.

(The closest –and best – option is the SOLO class, taught through IU Outdoor Adventures on three different weekends -- March 24&25, April 27 &28, and June 23-24. The regular charge for this class is \$150 (a good deal – most seem to be about \$200) and the instructor will offer a further reduction to \$130 if we send a group of 4 or more. There are currently 15 enrolled in both the March and April classes – max for each is 30. For more information, and to enroll, contact David Calvin, dcalvin@indiana.edu or at 821-855-2231. David also sent me an electronic info sheet and sign-up form that I can forward to anyone interested.

Another good WFA course (taught by the well-regarded Wilderness Medicine Institute) will be offered in Columbus, OH, through Columbus Outdoor Pursuits on March 10 & 11, 8:00 AM to 6:PM both days. (Thanks to Barry Adams for this tip – Barry took the class at Columbus and speaks highly of it.) Get more information and/or a registration form at www.outdoor-pursuits.org/main/schedule/schedule.htm. Fee is \$200 for non-members. Contact Toni Hartley at 614-523-3191 or e-mail her at Toni-hartley@hotmail.com

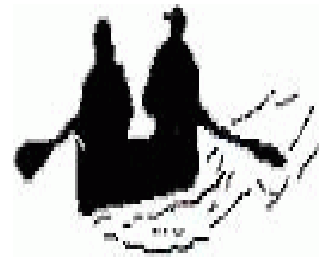
Finally, for our Northern contingent, there is a nice looking WFA and CPR combination being offered at Kalamazoo College Land & Sea Program, May 4, 5 & 6, (yep – looks like a 3-day commitment.) Contact Kris-tin.McBarnes03@kzoo.edu. Phone is 269-337-7357.

I have more options, but they're all far away. Numerous ones in North Carolina, Virginia, Pa and other places that one might visit in conjunction with a paddling trip. Let me now if you need further details. Happy hunting.

Meanwhile, I'm trying to contact an instructor in Wisconsin, Mandy Buckner, who used to run a paddling school (Watertrail Adventures) and is a certified WFA instructor with many years of teaching experience. She might be willing to create a paddler-specific clinic for us. Anyone out there know her and her work?

---Terry Busch

2007 Chair for Training and Safety



Hey, It's Time to Paddle!!!!

Newsletter Editor

Dwayne James is editing the HCC newsletters. Articles for the newsletter will need to be sent to him by the 15th of each month to make it into the next newsletter.

Dwayne's E-mail address is:
dwxjames@doe.state.in.us

Please mark your mailings as HCCNEWSLETTER ITEM.

Dwayne can be reached at 317-834-3649 or at 317-232-9043.

Please do not format your text. No colors, no graphics, no fancy indenting or lines.

**-Be a
Contributing
Editor-**

Trip Announcement

EASTER PADDLE AND PICNIC

APRIL 7, 2007

Mission

Reg & Deb (Team Baker) are sponsoring a Lake Monroe paddle and picnic outing for the touring kayak crowd on Saturday, April 7, the day before Easter Sunday. We will be paddling the eastern arm of Lake Monroe that has been off limits since last October for waterfowl resting. After a 2-3 hour paddle, we will gather at a shelter house for a pitch-in picnic. Team Baker will provide the hotdogs, buns and condiments. Other participants can bring their favorite picnic fare to share.

Logistics

We will be launching from the east end of the Cutright access area just across the Hwy 446 causeway on Lake Monroe. Participants should plan on arriving at noon. For those coming from Indy, we will meet at the Shell Station at the intersection of County Line Road and SR 37 on the Indy southside at 10:30 and convoy to Monroe.

It is anyone's guess what the weather will be, so come prepared based upon your own assessment of the weather forecast. The water will still be cold, so dress appropriately for your skill level and conditions.

Directions to Cutright

From SR37, take the SR46 exit east into Bloomington. Stay on SR46 past the IU Stadium. Turn left at the light at 3rd Ave. at the Bloomington Mall and continue east on SR46 towards Nashville. Turn south on SR446 to Lake Monroe. Immediately after crossing the causeway/bridge, turn left into the Cutright Access Area. Continue to the end of the road back by the marina.

Special Instructions

DO NOT FORGET TO PURCHASE YOUR 2007 DNR LAKE ACCESS STICKER.

The stickers may be purchased at the Customer Service Center in the Indiana Government Center South for \$5.00. We will stop by the DNR office on SR446 for those who haven't been able to purchase stickers in advance. *If you don't have a sticker, be sure to bring \$113 to pay your fine.*

This event is open to canoes and kayaks. Canoeists please understand there will be a natural tendency for the canoes and kayaks to split up due to the inherent efficiencies in the touring kayaks.

Please RSVP so I will know how much meat to purchase. Also, if anyone has a portable gas grill, it will help with the cooking chores. Reggie and Debby Baker, 317/888-3315

National (Make Yer Own) Paddling Film Festival - A Trip Report

February 24-25, 2007

By: Jordan Ross

OK, let's start out with the confession that NONE of us went to the National Paddling Film Festival. No, we were seduced by an early winter thaw and the Big South Fork, and made the theme of the weekend "paddling" instead of "film festival". We did, however, shoot some videos of our own. Natch'.

For a February paddling trip, only a week after a crippling snowstorm and sub zero temperatures, we had a great turnout of boaters. Emblematic of the wide draw of the HCC whitewater section these days, we had boaters from the Indianapolis area (Tom Siddal, Forrest Zerbe, Ken Wright and Jordan Ross), southern Indiana (Eric Hartwell, Chris Bischoff), South Bend, Indiana (Sharon Schierling, Jake Vos, Zach Sipe) Chicago, Illinois (Brandon Fritzsche, Kevin Mayfield) and Madison, Wisconsin (Jim Pearce) for a total of twelve.

We really had good intentions about going to the film festival in Lexington, KY, but first and foremost this is a paddling weekend for the Hoosiers and the Big South Fork was the only thing running Saturday. The NPPF events are in the evening so we planned to paddle in Tennessee and drive to Lexington afterwards, but a long day on the river scotched those plans.

We all met in Oneida, Tennessee at the woefully overcrowded and slow McDonalds for breakfast Saturday morning. The air temp was 24 degrees when we went in and 45 degrees when we came out. Riding to the river it dropped to 35 and felt like it. It never got to the promised 60 and was 49 when we took off.

Arranging and running the shuttle involves long stretches of dirt road and is very time consuming for this river, especially without shuttle bunnies (they're hibernating at this time of the year). After a long carry down to the river, we put on at noon at the confluence of the New and Clear Fork rivers which form the BSF. The level was about 1200 cfs.

This was a first time run for Tom, Jake and Jim. Several others had only run the river one time. After a few warm-up rapids we were out of our boats to scout, set safety and shoot video at the short and unpredictable Double Drop. At this level the two drops are quite distinct and the water as always squirrely below them, taking down many boaters. It occurred to me that a better name for this rapid would be Double Boil, since the boiling currents below the drops cause most of the mayhem.

Amazingly there were relatively few flips and NO swims among the group, practically a record for a group this size. Tom avoided this drop by running a shallow shore-side channel with Ken Wright leading him. We all ran the steep Washing Machine drop then gathered a few yards downstream at top of the next rapid, The Ell.

The Ell is well known for its strong side curler, powerful currents and shallow reef at the bottom. The side curler is particularly infamous. If you line up with it the wrong way it is absolutely impossible to keep from being violently corkscrewed over and under. Despite the number of boater who flip and the shallow reef downstream, injuries here are rare. Swims are not so rare. We beat the odds again with lots of clutch rolls on 2nd and 3rd attempts and no swims. Tom carried this one, an arduous task.

With the Big Three behind us, the mood relaxed noticeably. The river quiets down for a while and meanders through a maze of huge boulders with odd textures and shapes, including the amazing "Left Hand of God".

Continued on page 7

Trip Schedule (continued)

The Whitewater side of the page also looks good this year. I want to thank Jordan Ross and Ryan Tragesor, they did a lot of the work on this, all I did was cut-n-paste into Excel. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all the ww trip leaders. It's been so long since I've paddled much whitewater, I knew I was a little out of touch. Okay, maybe a LOT out of touch. But the core group of HCC whitewater people that have stepped up in 2007 show what a great bunch of paddlers we have.

I'm open to comments, what do you see as the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly on this schedule? Email is great- danpaddles@gmail.com. or call me- 317-257-9837. And remember, we can always add trips (or heaven forbid- cancel them) later, so keep an eye on the bulletin board and the newsletters.

Dan

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a
Trip
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White Water Trip Announcement:

We will be traveling to the Webster Wildwater Weekend March 30 thru April 1 (Webster Springs, WV). I plan to paddle Fri-Sun. Drive time is about 8 hours. Paddling opportunities include several class II-III sections on the Elk River, as well as more difficult options on the Back Fork of the Elk, Cherry, Cranberry, Meadow and Williams rivers. The festival is held at 4H Camp Caesar in Cowen, WV, where music, ramps dinners and bonfire will be held Saturday evening. We will camp on the way Thurs night and have reserved a 17 bed bunkhouse. Please contact me to get your bed reserved (\$30 for Fri & Sat nights). Individual beds may also be available at Camp Caesar (304-226-3888).

The festival includes a fun 5 mile down river race and slalom event on Saturday. I'd strongly encourage HCC members to participate in the race this year. Proceeds cover shuttle, help cover rising insurance costs, and provide plentiful awards and refreshments on Saturday evening. Assuming good weather, an abundance of safety boaters make the race suitable for novice white water paddlers. The weather can be hit or miss. We have seen 70 degrees and sun, but freezing temperatures and snow have been more likely of late. This is a great festival to start off the season in a real paddler friendly location. Additional details are found online at: <http://www.websterwv.com/whitewater.html>.

Contact me for reservations or additional information.

Dave Timm (317-298-9048; d-timm@sbcglobal.net)



National (Make Yer Own) Paddling Film Festival (contintued)

The first swim of the day came when Forrest flipped at a play spot. He was back in his boat in short order.

The next swim was much uglier.

The group had eddied river-right and was peering down a tricky rapid, Ryan's Eddy. Coming from behind the group, I drifted past them to the lip of the rapid to show them how to run it. I know this rapid well and was quite aware there is a bad pourover ledge on the right to avoid.

Without stopping I spotted a foot-wide green tongue threading its way to the center of the river and a safe line. I rode this tongue but went deep at the bottom and stalled. Suddenly I was typewritered ten feet to the right and fed into the pourover sideways.

Uh oh.

It flipped me in the ice cold water. I rolled up, brace, brace, brace hoping to ender out and escape its clutches. From the eddy above, the others could just see a paddle, then a helmet, then nothing, paddle again, end of a boat, then the other end. This went on for, if you ask me, ever. I reached down deep while upside down for the current to drag me out. No luck. Out of air. Time to bail.

Whoosh! A deep push and I felt myself propelled backwards away from the hole. Then in front of me salvation, Ken Wright in his orange boat just a few feet away. I had been stuck long enough for Jake and Ken to run the drop and get below me. AKA "Humble Servant" gave humbled me an escort to shore.

The last part of the run is the Canyon section with long, continuous rapids. Many winter trips with cold, out-of-shape boaters lead to long swims here, but this group did fantastic. Everyone was cold but in their boats when the take out came into view.

Despite being bone-tired we had to cram eleven boats and eleven paddlers into two vehicles, then drive all the way back to the put-in. By then it was too late and we were too hungry to make the three hour drive to Lexington for the Festival. A big Mexican dinner with video of the day's runs polished off any energy we had left. We all retired to the only motel in town and were in bed at an hour when most grade-school kids are still up.

Sunday we were met by Zach who had driven solo overnight all the way from South Bend just for one day of paddling. That's Hoosier hardcore. Ken had planned not to paddle Sunday but was cheerfully ready to assist with the shuttle.

The day was warmer (55 degrees) and heavy overnight showers had brought the river level up a bit to 1400 cfs and rising slowly. Zach's first-ever run at Double Drop ended abruptly with a hole feeding and a swim, but his runs at the El and the rest of the river were stellar. Tom felt ready to try the big rapids, and rolled FOUR times in Double Drop but did not swim. His first roll attempt in the drop was so powerful he threw himself back over. Undeterred, his run at The Ell was clean, and he logged two river days without a swim.

With the sun breaking through the clouds we surfed a perfect trio of waves near the take-out, nearly everyone giving it a try and Brandon learning to dial it in. Thanks to Ken all the cars were at the take-out, saving us an hour for an early drive home.

It may have been more a river trip than a film festival but it was a memorable start to the 2007 HCC white-water paddling season and it's fair to say the BEST paddling films are the ones in your head.

Jordan Ross

For Sale!

Blue Dagger Medieval 4 sale
I guess the title says it all.

\$300 If you would like more
info, feel free to email me at

riverjunky@rapidrenegades.com

CHEER!

I sent cards to two folks yesterday. The first was to Heidi Gates. That foot did not heal, despite all the time in the cast and she had surgery to reattach the tendon and take out some bone fragments. The second was to Max Kidwell for his recent marriage. Just wanted you both to know about it.

For a great time in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area without leaving home, join in the discussions and read the trip reports posted at Canoe Country.Com

<http://www.canocountry.com/bulletinboard/>

Please send a card or note to one of our own who is away from his family while serving our country: 1st Lt. John Gates.

1LT John E Gates

Headquarters Platoon Co A 1

121st FA BN

APO, AE 09317



The Hoosier Paddler



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