

The Hoosier Paddler

May 2013, Vol. 51 Issue 4 <http://www.hoosiercanoecub.org/>



A note from our skipper, Sue Foxx:

We've really been experiencing Spring swings in temperature but soon things will really warm up and everyone will want to be on the water. Garry Hill's trip on Big Pine was beautiful despite low water, but the Kayak Training Session at Eagle Creek had to contend with a pretty cool day. As things warm up, I hope you will consider attending many of the trips planned for May! Also, put June 15th on your calendar for the Hoosier Canoe & Kayak Club's 50th Anniversary Party at Eagle Creek Sailing Club in Indianapolis. There will be a triathlon early that morning if you want to help out and then at 4 pm we will gather to celebrate and honor our living legends followed by an evening paddle. More information about the party and how you can help us identify these people will be sent by email soon. We hope to see lots of old timers as well as newer club members at the event to share memories and their hopes for the future of the Club. It is a chance for everyone to come together...flatwater, whitewater, and sea kayaking...to share our passion for paddling and thank those who have guided our club so successfully for 50 years.

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Geist Women's Paddle Saturday, June 8, 2013

Trip sponsors: Kellie Kaneshiro & Anna Riley

Sea, Flatwater and Whitewater Women Paddlers welcome for this social paddle. We will meet at Geist Park (10979 Florida Rd., Fortville, IN 46040) at 9:30AM. Be ready to launch at 10:00AM, finishing approximately 12:00PM. What to bring: boat, paddle, PFD, whistle, bilge pump or bailing device (small bucket, sponge), sun protection (your choice), bug spray. If you have rescue gear such as a paddle float, throw rope, first aid kit that would be great to bring as well. Bring your lunch (don't forget to bring water too) and eat with us at the park following the paddle, some snacks provided.

Vero Beach Paddling

Brad Hughey

Every year for the past 10 years, my family has spent spring break in [Vero Beach, Florida](#). My mother-in-law has a place there so the rent is cheap (as in free) that way I have more money to spend on gear! Those of you that know me will get that joke! This year I had several interesting encounters with the local wild life.

Day One—Saturday: This was my first day to paddle. I launched from underneath the North Bridge and paddled to Orchid Island in the Indian River. There is a nice place to park and launch in the park there. I paddled north in the Mangrove Islands which provide great shelter from the winds, just take the leeward side. I did see one big manatee surface in front of me and one dolphin.

Day Two—Sunday: I paddled from Round Island Park about 5 miles south of Vero Beach on A1A. This is a great place to see manatees. When I launched, I saw two dolphins in the cove and went out to watch them. They were moving slow and stayed extremely close together—it might be mating season! Then I headed out into the Indian River where I saw several osprey, pelicans, ibis, blue herons and green herons. I paddled out to several small islands including one of my favorites where I would do a solo overnight later in the week. When I returned to Round Island, the two dolphin were still in the same small cove. I moved towards them and the bigger of the two came straight for my kayak, dove, and swam under it. The water was only about 5 foot deep here so I could see him pass under my kayak!

Day Three—Monday: I drove 10 miles north to the Wabasso Bridge and launched from a small park on the causeway there. I paddled about 3 miles north into the [Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge](#) (PINWR). This was the first wildlife refuge in the United States! Pelican Island itself is very small and is a roosting place for guess what? Pelicans and other birds. You are not allowed within 500 feet of the island and the distance is marked with buoys. Try to stay upwind of the Island if possible because it smells like bird poop! Many of the birds were on their nests tending to their eggs. There is a small island about 1/4 mile away where you can land and stretch your legs. PINWR is a wonderful place—you can access the park by car. There are several miles of hiking trails and a wooden elevated platform to see the actual Island.

Day Three—Monday Evening: I loaded up my kayak and paddle out of Round Island to my favorite island in the Indian River to camp. It is about a two-mile paddle and camping is legal and free (more money for gear)! There is a very nice beach to land on and there are about three campsites on the island with picnic tables. It is possible to see the sunset and then walk about 75 yards to the other side and watch the sunrise in the morning. The island is rather



Dolphin

small and on a week night is empty. On weekends, it is crowded mostly with power boaters. This night, I had the island to myself and set my hammock up 20 feet from shore. The weather was perfect—warm but breezy enough to keep the bugs down. I had packed a few cold Stella's to drink and listened to music on my iPod through a Goal Zero rechargeable speaker (more new gear). One of the power boaters had left a very nice plastic high back chair for me to use. God bless the people who leave stuff at backcountry campsites! I also found a gas grill out there minus the propane tank but in good shape! I could of have had steak for dinner but I don't think I could have fit the propane tank in my boat! Watched a great sunset, drank some Woodford Reserve Kentucky Bourbon and sent the picture to all my friends from my iPhone. Yes, there is phone service out there! Did I mention I am a drinker with a gear problem!

I slept great in my hammock and did not even put the rain



Camp on Island in Indian River

fly up—it was nice to star gaze. My hammock is much more comfortable than my Mother-In-Laws fold out couch in the spare bedroom, that thing is so lumpy that I pitched my hammock on the back porch on Wednesday night just to get a good night's sleep!

Day Four—Tuesday Morning: My wife picked me up at Round Island because you can not leave a car there overnight. When I landed, we watched the manatees in the cove. I could of sworn that I recognized one of the manatees faces—I think it was the one that turned my kayak upside down last year! (This really did happen last year and actually happens often at this park due to the numbers of manatee that hang out here! I have seen some almost every time I have been there.)

Day 5—Wednesday Morning: I had a paddle board lesson and tour with [Eco Adventures Paddle Board Tours](#) out of Melbourne Beach about a 30-mile drive up A1A north of Vero Beach. Antonio and Denise did a great job with the pre-paddle instructions on how to launch, kneel, stand up and paddle. I was able to do it on my first try. These boards are very stable on the water and were very easy to paddle. They are a lot slower than a kayak but the view of the water is much better. We saw dolphin and manatee very well from 5 foot 8 inches above the water. We took a snack break in the middle of the tour and went from a standing position to a kneeling stance to sitting. This was very easy to do and sitting on the boards is very comfortable. One of the girls on the tour did a headstand on it and this was her first time on the a paddle board—what a show off! We then continued on, ran into some other dolphin, and I know you won't believe this but the dolphin swan directly under my board and turned sideways to get a better look at me as he swam underneath! I can't believe it myself. I had a dolphin swim under my kayak and paddle board the same week at two different locations. Maybe it was the same dolphin—they all look alike to me! We then headed downwind with some speed. As I was about to land (maybe 30 yards offshore of the beach), the water under my board started to BOIL! My board was moving up and down and something very large swam off in a hurry. I was lucky to stay on my board. The guide behind me was yelling "THAT WAS AWSOME!" I don't know what it was, but it was moving way too fast for a manatee. The guide did not know what it was either but it could of been a bull shark or a gator (at least that makes the story better)! I loved the tour and I may have to get a Stand Up Paddle Board (SUP).



Sunset on the Beach

Did I mention I have a gear addiction?



Day 6—Thursday: We went to [Sebastian Inlet State Park](#) for the day. There is an inlet there that goes out to the Atlantic Ocean. I could not resist and I had to paddle out in the big water. There was an incoming tide matched with the incoming waves—the current was running about 4 knots and it took some effort to make it out the Atlantic. I paddled down the coast about 200 yards from shore for about 15 minutes and then turned back. There is something creepy about paddling in the ocean by yourself and not knowing what lurks in the deep water under the swells. It could be an A.M. (Attack Manatee) or worse yet a bull shark. I would probably be a lot more at ease if I were with someone else since a T-rescue takes me about 2 minutes. I have a good paddle float re-entry but it takes about 5 minutes. I was within clear view of my wife who

was out on the breakwater and others on the beach. I highly recommend paddling big water with another person! But I could not resist paddling out there once during the trip.

Day 7—Friday morning: I paddled at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge and launched from the park itself. It is only about 1/2 mile paddle out to Pelican Island. I then continued to the other side of the Indian River to the town of Sebastian. There are several more small islands that you can camp on but are far less remote than the island I camped on. Since they are about 200 yards from the shore, they get used a lot. There are several good restaurants in Sebastian including Captain Hirems. I did not stop to eat there because I did not have the time and I did not want to spend the money (need for more gear!)



Eagle Creek Park in October

Eagle Creek Tuesday Evening Paddles

Jim Sprandel

Our Eagle Creek paddles will be on Tuesday Night again this year. This program gives HCC members a chance to get out and explore Eagle Creek. If you have never paddled Eagle Creek, it is an interesting and fun area with open water which can get “playful” (1-2 foot waves) for long boaters when the wind is up. Flat-water paddlers can feel at home on Eagle Creek above the Lafayette Road bridge or on Fishback creek. There is a lot of wildlife around the lake—it’s common to see deer, ducks, geese, cormorants, sea gulls, kingfishers, egrets, herons, and even bald eagles on our paddles plus an occasional beaver or osprey.

These Tuesday Evening paddles are provided through a Partnership Agreement between the Eagle Creek Discovery Center and the HCC. Eagle Creek grants us admission to the park for no charge after 1:00 pm on Tuesday afternoons and we repay them by cleaning up the shore of the Eagle Creek Lake.

Kellie Kaneshiro and Dan Evard have adopted the Eagle Creek Shoreline for the club’s conservation project this year and are coordinating shoreline clean ups in June and September.

When: Tuesday Afternoons/Evenings - May 7, 2012 through September 24, 2012.— HCC members may enter the park for no charge any time after 1:00 pm on these days by showing *2013 HCC-Eagle Creek pass* at the entrance gate.

Note: Be sure to look at the park closing time that is posted at the park gates. It changes throughout the year and you can be ticketed if you stay in the park after that time.

Starting Time: These are not organized paddles so that there is no “official” starting time. However, several sea kayakers often met up last year and paddled together after they get off work around 5:00 pm.

If you want to paddle with other people, I would recommend that you set up a Bulletin Board thread when you want to paddle or that you phone/e-mail the people you want paddle with.

Where: Eagle Creek Park Marina—Enter the park at either the 56th Street entrance or 71st Street entrance and follow the signs within the park to the marina. This pass is **not** valid at the ramp at the south end of the lake near Rick’s Boat Yard restaurant.

Park Admittance: To enter the park without paying, you must be an HCC member and you must show the *2013 HCC-Eagle Creek Pass* at the park entrance. Park admittance is normally \$8 for a car with one boat.

Directions to print the *2013 HCC Eagle Creek Pass*:

To access the 2013 HCC Pass for Eagle Creek, go to:

<https://sites.google.com/site/indianatouringkayaks/2013EagleCreekPass.pdf>

IMPORTANT: The Eagle Creek Park Pass is password protected so that it is only accessible by HCC members. Before you can display or print the pass, you will be asked to type in a password. Enter the same password that use to access the HCC Membership List. Dave Ellis e-mailed you on March 15, 2012 or mailed to you with your membership packet if you are a new member.

If you have forgotten this password, please e-mail Dave Ellis (riverpapaw@aol.com) and Jim Sprandel (merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net). **Please allow one day to get the password** and be sure to include both your full name and e-mail address since we will check your name against the current HCC membership list.



Edging and Turning Class for Sea Kayaks

Saturday, May 11, 2013

Instructors: Dave Ellis, Jim Sprandel

As you begin paddling sea kayaks in more challenging conditions, you will want to improve your boat handling. This class is about learning to use your body, boat and blade to play and explore in a highly dynamic environment using dynamic techniques. This course will teach you techniques for turning your kayaks more quickly and precisely and for paddling in a wider range of water conditions.

We'll start by tuning up your basic strokes, work on bracing, and then show you how to edge your kayak to make them turn more quickly as well as to help them go straight in windy conditions. At that point, we'll teach you several maneuvers that will let you bring your boat around faster in different conditions.

Course Details

Date: Saturday, May 11, 2013

Location: Geist Park - Geist Park is located on Fall Creek in the headwaters of Geist Reservoir and the entrance is located just south of the intersection of 113th and Florida Road. If you have a car GPS, the address is: 10979 Florida Road, Fortville, IN. Map to Park:

<http://g.co/maps/kdpff>

Schedule:

9:00 am	Meet at Geist Park—Get boats to water
9:30 am	Introduction/Shore-Based Training
10:00 am	Start On-the-Water training
12:30 pm	Lunch – Questions/Answers
1:15 pm	Afternoon Session
3:45 pm	Off the Water

Recommended Skill Level for this Class: Before taking this class, you should be comfortable using all of the basic kayak strokes (i.e., forward, forward sweep, reverse, reverse sweep, and draws) as well as bracing. If you are unsure, check with one of the instructors.

Class Size: The class will be limited to 10 students. HCC members will be accepted on a first come-first served basis.

Required Equipment:

- Kayak—Sea or touring kayak with water-tight fore and aft bulkheads.
- Spray Skirt
- PFD, pump, paddle float, water, lunch, dry clothes in a dry bag.
- Paddle—These techniques work equally well with European (Standard) paddles or Greenland paddles so bring the paddle that you are most comfortable with.
- Recommended: Wet Suit or Dry Suit—People often capsize while working on edging so it's good to dress for the water.

Contact Information: If you wish to sign up, contact Jim Sprandel at merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net or (317) 257-2063 by Thursday, May 9, 2013.

Save that Date—Open Water Rescue Clinic , Saturday, June 1

The Sea Kayak Fleet repeats this clinic every spring before our big open water trips. If you have never attended this class, you will learn different solo and assisted open water rescue techniques.

If you have attended this class before, these are skills that you need to keep fresh before you start paddling big water. You need these skills to be sharp if someone capsizes in real conditions where you are likely to need them.

I will mail out full details in May to the IND_TOURING_KAYAKS e-mail list.

Flatwater Trip Announcements

Two on the Blue – Blue River Paddle, Milltown, IN Saturday–Sunday , June 1-2, 2013

Trip Sponsors: Jeff McConnell

Come for one or two days of beautiful paddling. Bends, rapids, bluffs, canyons, and springs comprise what you'll see along this scenic part of the Blue River. The second day is particularly beautiful.

We plan to camp at the Stage-Stop Campground in O'Bannon State Park (Harrison Crawford State Forest) on Saturday Night. The state park entry fee is \$5 per vehicle and each campsite is \$8. For information on camping facilities, call 812-738-8232. We can all pitch in a couple of bucks for firewood and have a community fire. Remember to throw in a chair of some type. [Stage Stop address is 7201 – 7999, State Hi Way 62, Corydon, Indiana 47112. GPS coordinates are 38.2175, -86.2677](#)

Note: Looking for a co-leader for this trip. Please contact Jeff if available.

Meeting Place: The meeting place for Saturday is Milltown Public Access site by the Cave Country Canoe and Kayak Livery, 112 Main Street, Milltown, IN 47145 (812-365-2705). Contact us for the meeting place if you only want to paddle on Sunday.

Driving Directions from Indianapolis- Go south on I-65 to Clarksville. Then go west on I-265 (Exit 6B). Take I-265 west (I-265 becomes I-64) to Indiana State Road 64 (Exit 118). Go west about 20 miles on SR-64 to downtown Milltown and look for the public access site by the Cave Country Canoe and Kayak Livery. If anyone is interested, carpooling is an option. Jeff can haul 6 kayaks and 5 or 6 people along with a truck bed full of camping gear to help save on driving costs. If anyone needs a tent or other camping gear, check with Jeff as some spare tents, sleeping bags, etc. are available (rental rate is in the form of a cold beverage). If anyone is interested in going down Friday night instead of making the early morning Saturday trek, contact Jeff as this may be an option.

Drive time: Approximately 2 ½ hours—About 140 miles

Trip Plan: Saturday: Milltown Public Access Site to Rothrock Mill Dam PAS (14 miles)

Sunday: Rothrock Mill Dam Public Access Site to Stage-Stop Camp (10 miles)

Note: Be sure to contact Jeff prior to the trip since it may be necessary to change venues due to water conditions. We will confirm water levels and river conditions before the trip.

Schedule (Saturday and Sunday)

10:00 am Gather at meeting place in Milltown

10:15 am Shuttle leaves

11:00 am Start Paddling

5:00 pm Land at the Take Out

http://www.indianaoutfitters.com/blue_river.html (launch points and mileage) http://www.indianaoutfitters.com/Maps/RiverMaps/maps_to_blue_river.htm

Trip Requirements: This is a relatively easy run. At several points, you must be able to control your boat in moving riffles and current. Bring your own lunch and drinks. Bring your own camping equipment and food if you are going to camp with us Saturday evening.

If people are interested, we can do a pitch in dinner Saturday night. Jeff will have a Weber gas grill along with a big camp chef stove so we can do brats, steaks, hot dogs, etc and some simple sides. We'll bring the marshmallows.

Contact information: Be sure to contact Jeff by 8:00 pm on Friday June 22nd if you plan to attend either Saturday or Sunday:

Jeff McConnell (317) 281-7078 cell

E-Mail ecoindy@sbcglobal.net

Wildcat Creek—Adams Mill to Knop Lake Trip Leader: Garry Hill

Saturday, May 25, 2013

A holiday trip shared between the Hoosier Canoe Club and Muskrat's Wildcat Creek Expeditions. Over 40-miles of Wildcat Creek is included in Indiana's Natural & Scenic Rivers System. Our trip to Wildcat Creek on May 25th will visit what many Paddlers believe is the most Natural portion of the included part of Our Wildcat. We'll travel 13.6-miles from Adams Mill to Knop Lake on that day. Our Meeting Location, and Launch Site, will be the Adams Mill Public Access Site (directions below). The meeting time will be 9:00 AM.



Wildcat Creek at the Adams Mill PAS I will be preparing a more detailed Trip Announcement for my Wildcat Creek Expedition Team. That Announcement will be emailed to those folks about 2 weeks before the Trip. HCC Officers will be encouraged to forward that TA to all HCC members. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about this upcoming Trip to one of Indiana's Premier Paddling Streams. My contact info is at the bottom of this announcement. In addition, there is no need to let me know that you plan to attend.....just show up no later than the meeting time, and enjoy the day. For last minute questions or concerns, just call my Cell phone. I will have it on when I pull out of my "Boat Shed" at 7:30 that morning.

Garry Hill

[765-628-3155](tel:765-628-3155) Home

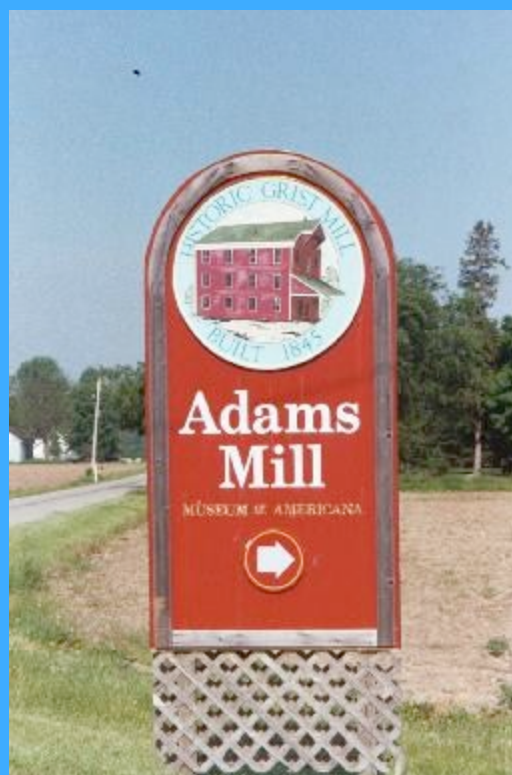
[765-432-6782](tel:765-432-6782) Cell

garryhill@aol.com

Directions To Adams Mill Public Access Site [Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer Page 32](#) Find the jct of SR-26 & SR-75, 3-½ miles east of Rossville. Turn North on SR-75. At about 3.5 miles, SR-75 makes a slight curve to the left. At the start of this curve, go straight onto a county road. In 1/2-mile, follow a curve to the right, which leads you onto CR 500-S. You will come to a stop sign in about 100-yards (this is in the town of Cutler). Continue Straight on 500-S for 3/4-mile. Watch for the Adams Mill sign at CR 75-E. Turn Left and go 1/2-mile to Adams Mill. The Public Access parking lot will be on the right, after crossing a small bridge, across the road from the Mill.

[If coming from Kokomo this might be better for you \(via SR-22\):](#)

Take SR-22 West from Kokomo, to SR-29 in Burlington. Turn Left (South) onto SR-29. In one block, turn Right (West) at the first street (The Dinner Bell Restaurant is on the corner). Follow this winding road west for approx 6.5 miles. Watch for the Adams Mill sign at CR 75-E. Turn Right (North) onto 75-E, and go 1/2-mile to Adams Mill. The Public Access parking lot will be on the right, after crossing a small bridge, across the road from the Mill.



Happy Birthday, Again? HCC (History, part 4 of 11)

Hello, again, HCC paddlers...I'm here to affirm once more that, but for the sake of recorded history, no reader of the Hoosier Paddler can escape another epoch *epic-sode* of the "History of the HCC". Leaving you languishing in whitewater in the last newsletter, I felt the need to return to rescue all my few readers from the unfinished history on this section of the club: Enter...Jordan Ross our white water leader, aficionado and "devotee of danger"... a man who has never looked at his birth certificate (so age is irrelevant to his personal sense of adventure). Jordan, who joined the HCC in 1984, estimates that there are around 60 full, part, or former white water paddlers who hold membership in the club. Usually 6-12 paddlers will make the long distance treks 3-4 times a month in search of the whitest of water. Often, over 400 miles separates these fearless paddlers from their warm, safe, cozy digs and their otherwise normal day-to-day lives.

Women of the whitewater (taken from my history article, 2010)

'One fifth of the club's white water paddlers are women and, candidly, that's what it would take for me to attempt the sport...about one "fifth". Gender specificity ruled the sport in the early days since the gear was male-centric with too large of boats while the other gear provided little gender crossover. The situation has completely changed today. Boats and equipment and clothing are now appropriately sized for women who now come to the sport independently (not as a date or a partner). Women excel at white water paddling, Jordan thinks, because of their better balance and flexibility as muscle strength is less important on the river. Women paddlers gravitate to every level of this group and are very supportive of each other in this collective community.'

In recent years, the rollick and frolic of the white water group has become increasingly well known in many paddling circles. Because of the club's ambitious paddling schedule, friendly and inclusive nature, and an energetic cast of characters making music and dancing late into the night, the HCC has become a magnet for many out of state paddlers.

Whitewater as an institution

Every year the HCC group paddles a variety of class III-IV whitewater in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Tennessee and Wisconsin. A number of class II trips also come together for training and fun such as the Big Pine in Indiana and the Elkhorn in Kentucky.

But just as events lay claim to the overall prestige of a club so does it dedicated leaders...and none more so than our beloved servant leader, Reggie Baker. As the club's skipper for six terms, Reggie logged more time as an officer than any other. Always the teacher and a friend, he would deliver this precious resource without fail over his 26 year membership: loving what he did; always doing what he loved. After joining the club in 1983, the newsletter reports his "jumping right in" and leading trips within 8 weeks. His teaching skills were superb and his interpersonal skills without measure. He crossed over all the paddling groups and showed proficiency in all, allowing his patience to teach the most difficult paddling skills. He initiated many of the educational programs, often with Debbie Baker, his wife. Together they created the powerfully knowledgeable "Team Baker". His grace coupled with his warm sincere personality drew many paddlers not only to his avuncular style of teaching but to his great ability to design and build a better mousetrap... (Okay, paddling gear).

It is fact, that many club members coveted his paddling gear so much that they waited for years to get a cast off of Reggie's refurbished equipment. Every piece was made better passing through his hands. The HCC refers to Reggie as the club's second generation of excellent white water paddlers and he carried the title forward with grace and dignity.

His death in February, 2009 was too early and his paddling time too short...we still miss you, Reggie.

A Pause in the Eddy—More to Come

