

FLOWlines



Newsletter of the Finger Lakes-Ontario Watershed Paddlers Club

Volume 1 Issue 3

November, 1996

Notes from the Underside

By Bo (Fish Belly) White

“Hey, let’s go do the Black!”

“Cool, what’s the level?”

“I heard it was about 3500.”

“Sorry, I’m out, I don’t do the Black under 10,000.”

Long pause, then, “Huh?”

“I don’t want to scratch my boat.”

Another long pause, then, “Huh?”

Has this ever happened to you? Or maybe you returned from a great cruise around the tip of Long Island only to find that annoying semi-circle of tooth marks arching across the bottom of your brand new Greenland (I hate it when that happens!).

You ask everyone, “How do you fix plastic boats?” If you’re lucky someone will tell you they heard of someone out in Colorado who can weld plastic. Weld plastic? “Yeah, I’ll get right on the bus.” What about the mythical Prijon repair sticks...? “Heard of ‘em, never seen ‘em.” If you have, let me know, I’ll send da boys around to check it out.

In the meantime, here’s another idea: P-Tex. Skiers have used it for years for repairing rock and stone damage. If you’ve ever read the label on the stick (label?) you’d know that P-Tex is polyethylene (that’s what the “P” is for) just like your plastic boat. My test mule of a boat is loaded with it and it’s done the job fairly well so far.

But, I think I’ve found something better and it’s all thanks to the old plumbing in my house. It’s constantly in need of repairs and I don’t know where to get bailing wire, so I’m always looking for other solutions to hold it all together. This is what brought me to the hardware store that fateful day. What I wanted wasn’t on display, so because I’m a good customer I was allowed in the store room. (This was almost as big as the time I was allowed up to the bell tower of my elementary school to look at all the dead pigeons as a reward for crossing guard service “above

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Kayak Rescue Clinic at Chimney Bluffs

By Harry Weidman

Chimney Bluffs, Sodus Bay,
October 5, 1996: Lake Ontario, 9 Miles

It started out as a bright crisp morning. As I loaded the sea kayaks up for another adventure I noted the first Fall frost had seeded white velvet on my lawn overnight. The marine weather forecast called for blue skies, 5 knot SE winds, waves at 1-2 foot, water at 62° and air temperature of 65°.

A total of 19 sea kayakers from 3 groups descended upon the sandy shores of Lake Ontario at Sodus Bay. They drove in across the state from Hilton, Bath, Syracuse, and Hamburg. Two young gals stated they were from England and wanted to try sea kayaking in friendlier waters than back home while they were here for a year.

Chimney Bluffs is an undeveloped coastal state park 3.5 miles east of Sodus Bay on Lake Ontario. Magnificent sharp-peaked 400+ foot mountains have formed over the ages of time due to soil erosion from wind and water. Each trip here presents a ever-changing panoramic view from the water due to the constant landscape transformations and variable lighting conditions. Ever-moving shadows paint totally different pictures with every snap of the camera.

We broke out the lunch goodies. I cut up a
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Next Meeting-Dress Warm!

The next FLOW meeting will be held Thursday, November 14, 1996 at 7 p.m. in the Rochester Watersports Center at Genesee Valley Park. The building is unheated, so dress appropriately (fleece, wool, thermal underwear...).

The topic of this month’s program is home boat repair. Canvas boat repair techniques, a method of repairing plastic boats using readily available plumbing supplies, and more will be presented.

The next Steering Committee meeting is Thursday, November 7, 1996 at 7 p.m. at 221 McKinley St. (at the corner of Merchants Rd. between Culver and Winton). All interested parties are invited to attend. Call Mike at 288-5232.

FLOW organization

The Steering Committee has begun to reflect on the infrastructure needed to govern FLOW, and has offered the following suggestions (unless otherwise noted, positions are open and welcome filling and/or nominations):

President, Vice President, Secretary,
Treasurer—required offices; Mike Shafer is currently Treasurer
Membership—responsible for soliciting new members and managing Paddlers' List and Mailing List; currently surprisingly well staffed

Programs—responsible for scheduling meeting programs and other activities (possibly combined with organizing trips)

Facilities and Equipment—responsible for locating a site for winter meetings and pool practices. Once we acquire equipment this position will, naturally, expand.

Newsletter—responsible for producing monthly newsletter, including production, labeling and mailing; currently struggling along but would dearly appreciate assistance

Education and Instruction—needs volunteers to become Associate Instructors (you know you've always wanted to teach!)

We need your help! Please contact any of the people listed below, or attend the Steering Committee meeting on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. (call for location). Steering Committee meetings are open to all.

FLOW contact list

For general information, contact:

Steve Kittelberger	716-442-6138
Rick Williams	716-381-3418
Ann Watts	716-442-8791
Noreen Wiatrak	716-288-5839
Melanie Wellington	716-461-0767

For paying dues, contact:

Mike Shafer (Treasurer) 716-227-9291

For membership information and the FLOWlines mailing list, contact:

Art Miller 716-334-5810

For white water racing information, contact:

Art Miller 716-334-5810

For questions about instruction, contact:

Ardie Shaffer 716-334-4487

For information about marathon canoe racing, contact:

Bob Pierson 716-889-4174

For information about sea kayaking, contact:

Harry Weidman 315-524-9295

For information about white water paddling, contact:

Perry Vayo 716-256-3930

For information about the newsletter, contact:

Heather Mummery 716-256-3465

Mike Marini 716-288-5232

Upcoming trips/events

Flatwater trips

Contact Harry Weidman.....315-524-9295

Full moon flatwater paddles

Contact Canoe Country, Hemlock NY...716-367-3040

Paddling under a full moon on Hemlock Lake.

Must have own equipment.

Contact Pack, Paddle & Ski.....716-346-5597

Paddling under a full moon on Hemlock Lake and Canadice Lake. Equipment rentals available.

Gauge numbers

Genesee River (Letchworth).....716-468-2303

Cattaragus River.....716-532-5454

Pennsylvania rivers:

Philadelphia (Lehigh and others).....1-800-431-4721

Harrisburg (Loyalsock, Susquehanna, Pine Creek)

.....1-800-362-0335

Pittsburgh (Yough, Slippery Rock Creek, and others)

.....412-262-5290

West Virginia rivers:

Gauley River.....304-872-5809

Southern WV rivers.....304-529-5127

We apologize for the incompleteness of this list, which we are currently in the process of compiling. If you have any additions or corrections, please let us know.

Newsletter Submissions

Send us trip reports, ideas, articles, information about upcoming trips and releases, poetry, jokes, ads for our classified section, or anything else you'd like to share with readers of FLOWlines.

We are not particularly picky; input for the newsletter will be accepted on anything from parchment to CD ROM. However, we would prefer:

If you have e-mail:

- Send articles in the form of a text file to: heather.mummery.0506846@nt.com

Written submissions:

- Preferably typed in a 10-point font or larger, double-spaced.
- Hand-written submissions must be reasonably legible, or great editorial license may be invoked.

Mail to:

Heather Mummery
50 Oxford St.
Rochester, NY 14607

Kayak Etiquette and Good Karma

By Rick Williams

Sitting around at a steering committee meeting one evening, the topic of River Etiquette Guidelines was mentioned as a potentially interesting article. These informal guidelines have been established over the years by playboaters; as we all know, karma has a way of coming back to you. These are not hard fast rules, but they are based on common sense and the idea of treating your fellow paddler as you would want to be treated. For more river guidelines, refer to Tom Foster's book "Catch Every Eddy...Surf Every Wave."

- ◊ Yield right-of-way to those with less maneuverability (e.g. swimmers, rafters, fishermen, and beginners). You have control, hopefully; they don't—so make use of your skills to give these river users room. Remember, we were all beginners once.
- ◊ Show respect for other river users. This courtesy allows for less conflict, hopefully creates good karma between all river users, and promotes our sport.
- ◊ Maintain adequate space between boats. Allow boaters the time and space to make decisions as they are traversing a rapid. Paddlers need river features to maneuver safely; the last thing they need is a boat to T-bone them off course.
- ◊ Don't pass other craft in narrow sections of the river where navigability is restricted. These sites are best played one at a time—but don't hog the narrows, either.
- ◊ Do not execute a move that would force other boaters off course. For example, don't peel out or jump on a surf wave until an approaching craft has passed or stopped.
- ◊ Always look upstream before entering the current. Know where people are on the river, and be aware of their position and movement before entering the stream.
- ◊ Learn control and be aware of the room you have and need in order to move. The river gets crowded at times; know how to control your paddle and its relationship to the person next to you.
- ◊ Yield right-of-way to paddlers who wish to run straight through a play site. At the same time, share the site with others. Some play areas are large enough for multiple boats, so learn how to control your boat so you can share.
- ◊ Identify and give wide berth to instructional programs being conducted on the river.

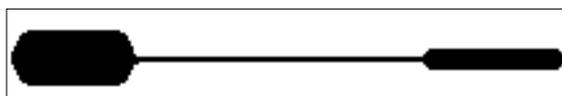
Remember, what goes around comes around....so make sure it's good karma. See you on the river. Peace, Rick.

Kayak Rescue Clinic - continued from page 1

fresh baked loaf of raisin bread and all basked in the warm sunshine. Next, the exploration of the high chiseled peaks and deeply eroded canyons leading up to the tree-lined rim. Balancing on and behind one of the peaks, I tossed pebbles into the water below as unsuspecting members of our party beach walked below. On the beach some swapped kayaks to try other styles and designs out before venturing back along the shoreline.

The afternoon sea kayak rescue clinic was conducted inside the bay on the sandbar by five hardy enthusiasts. All but one got wet while learning various techniques to sharpen their paddling skills useful in those "just in case" situations. We practiced bracing in order to prevent from going over, and we practiced wet exits for when you pushed the limits and actually did. After draining the boat using a T-rescue, I demonstrated several reentry techniques to try so each individual could determine what worked best for them. Paddle float and stirrup assist reentries were also performed for self-rescue situations.

Each realized it requires a little patience and more than one practice session to feel comfortable performing these life saving techniques. At the clinic's conclusion, all agreed the effort put forth provided valuable insight into what to look out for, how-to knowledge, and confidence-building experiences leading towards an intermediate skill level sea kayaker. The time spent with an ACA Certified Coastal Sea Kayak Instructor was free to the group and well spent to help "keep your bottom down". - *Harry Weidman - ACA Coastal Kayak Instructor (Article edited for space—Editor's apologies)*



Underside—continued from page 1

and beyond”—Big!)

Well, we found the Fershlugganer bolt I needed, but more importantly, I saw a dusty roll of tubing sitting on the back of the shelf. I was drawn to it inexorably, steered by forces larger than myself or politics or even Microsoft. I picked it up.

“What’s this?”

“Tubing,” accompanied by a blank stare.

“But what is it?”

“I don’t know, what’s it say?”

I rolled it over. The label appeared.

“Translucent polyethylene. 1/8” o.d.”

“Hmm.” Those scary peripheral processes started processing somewhere up there alone in the darkness. Somebody stop me! The plumbing will have to wait. I’ve got to get home and light this stuff on fire!

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A Midsummer Days Dream

Good old Brucie, old Brucie's soaked,
Sucked into a hole, never paddled a stroke.

Flailing about like a whale in a pond,
His new Scott Shipleys stick waving like a magic wand.

Casting a spell to set him free,
Outburst his boat, and the man to be.

Through the air he flew, with elegance and grace,
Only when he landed, the truth shown on his face.

Swimming to shore, humble at the time,
Now he's a hero, but it's all in his mind.

He tells the story and he tells it well,
About how he rode that hole straight down to Hell.

A moment of time, thirty seconds, no more,
He was held by the maelstrom, then swam into shore.

His boat went one way and he went the other
When he saw us again, we were like long lost brothers.

But we realize now, just as all things must pass,
That Tannery on the Moose just kicked his ass.

Marty Murphy, Copyright 1996

Membership and Mailing List

To receive a complimentary three-month subscription to FLOWlines, call Art Miller at 716-334-5810. To join FLOW, send name, address, paddling interests, and \$20 per individual membership to:

Mike Shaffer
Re: FLOW Paddlers Club
89 Dorstwood Drive
Rochester, NY 14612

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I checked out with two feet of the stuff. It set me back all of twenty-four cents. I like it so far.

Now, this is how sick I am: I went home and pulled my trusted boat down from the ceiling and took a screwdriver to it! I could feel the test mule's pain, but science must be dispassionate. The gash looked real good when I was done. I scraped off any ragged plastic with a razor and cleaned out the wound with some Acetone on a cotton swab, then waited for it to dry. With about a foot of tubing in hand, I pulled out a lighter and wondered if the stuff would melt. I probably should have tested it before hacking my boat...

Does it melt? Does the test mule survive? Tune in next month, or come to the meeting on November 14th to see how this captivating story concludes.

Classified ads

LOOKING TO BUY:

Helmet (Large); Wet suit top (Medium)
John Griffiths (716 247-3510)

FOR SALE:

Seal Sprayskirt, Medium.....\$50
Mike Marini (716 288-5232)

Contact Rick Williams (716 381-3418) for:

Aquaterra Prism sit-on-top touring kayak w/
thigh braces\$350
Dagger Vortex w/ bulkhead (used 8 times)
.....\$450
SnapDragon Spray Skirt (L) for Medium
cockpit (NEW)\$65
Black Diamond graphite kayak paddle (NEW)
.....\$75

To submit advertisements contact Mike Marini at 288-5232.

FLOW Paddlers Club
89 Dorstwood Drive
Rochester, NY 14612

stamp

Mailing Label