



Are you a member? Important information about Paddlers List, coming in 1997

Many of you have been receiving FLOWlines courtesy of our "3-month introductory offer," by which I mean, your name has made it onto our Mailing List but you have not yet paid the \$20 membership fee that would add your name to our elite-but-growing Membership List.

If nothing we have said so far has convinced you to send in your membership, then we have one more enticement. In March we will be publishing a Paddlers List, which is a list of local paddlers and their addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. This list will consist of all names on our Mailing List, and will be distributed only to those on our Membership List (an important distinction).

A few things worth noting:

- ◊ The Paddlers List is available to paid members only, and cannot be used for commercial purposes.
- ◊ The Paddlers List will be compiled from all names on our Mailing List. (Quick check: Is your name on the back page, above your address? Then you are on our Mailing List). If you are on the Mailing List, and we do not hear from you before **March 1st, 1997**, then *your name and address will be on the Paddlers List*. You must notify us no later than 3/1/97 if you do not want your name distributed to paid members of FLOW.
- ◊ If you would like to receive the Paddlers List, for a list of paddling contacts in this vicinity and a way to get in touch with others who are interested in your brand of paddling, you must be a paid member of FLOW by March 1st, 1997.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who are already paid members: without you, we wouldn't be here. Thanks!

Heather J. Mummery
FLOWlines Editor

Remember the March 1, 1997
deadline for the Paddlers List

A Kayak for Christmas

We're sorry we couldn't have told you ahead,
We know you'd expected a sweater instead.
It seemed like a good enough thought at the time
But we must not have been in our very right minds

To load up your kayak on top of the truck,
With minutes to spare and the last of our luck.
You should have seen us on 590 South
And heard the new words coming out of Mike's mouth

As the plastic with which we had wrapped up your gift
Went sailing away with a rent and a rift
Of the ribbon with which we had tied it up tight—
Our luck, with the plastic, had just taken flight.

With me in hysterics, we pulled in to Wegmans,
A race against time to salvage the remnants
Of our first canvas kayak with dreams of escape—
Till Mike saved the day with a roll of duct tape.

It began in the basement, as most projects do,
Inspired by Christmas and our thoughts of you,
And how happy you'd be for your own wooden boat
(Provided you don't really need it to float).

I know that you really do hate getting wet
And that you have never been kayaking, yet
It seemed like you needed a kayak for Christmas—
Please, let me know if you'll ever forgive us!

From Heather and Mike, to Heather's parents, 12/95

Next Meeting-Distillery!

The next FLOW meeting will be held Thursday, January 9th, 1997 at 7 p.m. at the Distillery, 1142 Mt. Hope Ave, Rochester. The conventional format will be abandoned in favor of a NEW YEAR'S VIDEO PARTY. Bring your favorite video of recreational canoeing or kayaking, and we'll queue it up on the Distillery's wide-screen monitor! We have the upstairs room reserved. Bring a friend, bring your appetite, and plan to have dinner while watching the videos.

The Steering Committee will meet on January 9th, 1997 at 6 pm at the Distillery before the general meeting. In order to get started by 6, I think we all know that means we need to get there by 5:45.

Any questions? Call Steve Kittelberger (716-442-6138)

FLOW organization

NEWS! Elections will be held soon, so take this opportunity to review the currently proposed organization and consider nominations:

President, Vice President, Secretary,
Treasurer—required offices

Membership—responsible for soliciting new members and managing Paddlers List and Mailing List

Programs—responsible for scheduling meeting programs and other activities

Trips—a committee responsible for organizing flatwater and whitewater trips

Communications—a committee responsible for producing monthly newsletter, including production, labeling and mailing

Education and Instruction—a committee responsible for organizing instructional events for members and the paddling community

Upcoming trips/events

Pool practices will be beginning soon. Look in the next issue of FLOWlines for current information and schedules.

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	716-288-5232
Mike Marini	716-288-5232

Gauge numbers

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

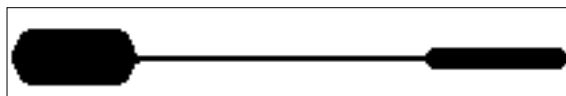
.....412-262-5290

West Virginia rivers:

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

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

IMPORTANT: If you have any additions or corrections, please let us know so that we can provide an up-to-date list to our members in 1997!



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
221 McKinley St.
Rochester, NY 14609

Away in a Kayak: An Accountant Accounts

By Steven G. Schwartz

When I tell people that I like to go kayaking, I invariably get funny looks that predictably say the same thing—that's not normal, it doesn't fit in the life of a 40 year-old accountant. I know someone else who's having a mid-life crisis, too. He bought a motorcycle.

It is dangerous—even world-class kayakers have been paralyzed in accidents. Unlike golf, which suits the image of a 40 year-old accountant, kayaking will never help me solicit even a nickel of new business. I do not like to swim in Class III rapids, or even Class II rapids. I do not like nasal enemas. I do not like to bounce off rocks. The best water for kayaking is the high, cold waters of spring or fall; summertime, when it would be refreshing fun, there's too little water. I do not like carrying my 45-lb. kayak on my head for a quarter mile uphill—or even downhill. I do not like being scared. I do not like feeling that my life depends on a paddle whose left and right sides look the same to me.

I admit that it was scary at first. It still is.

My first moving water experience took place on a weekend trip last September on the Esopus Creek, a Class II-III river near Woodstock, NY. I will never forget the excitement of approaching one Class III drop. The spot where races were taking place. The place where at least 200 people were intently watching each canoe and kayak skillfully run the chute wedged between the rocks and then blast through the lateral wave to the calm water below. I never made it to that calm water beyond—in my kayak, that is. I was, however, eye-lifting entertainment for the crowd gathered to watch the races. I could have impressed them with a snappy Eskimo roll—turning my kayak back upright as I had practiced so many times at Mendon Pond and on Lake Ontario. Fat chance. I swam, and in front of those 200 people, I committed one of the most dangerous sins that swimmers can commit—I stood up in the rapids. That's really dumb, because the current can bowl you over, and if your foot is trapped between rocks, you're sleeping with the fish in no time. "Get down!" all 200 people shouted in unison. I thought that was really cool of them. What they meant was "Get THE HELL down!"

This year it has been different—so far. I think about running the Genesee River through Letchworth Gorge. No swimming. No Class III rapids. None of the fear that blurs my ability to see, hear, feel, taste, and smell the naturalness of what I am doing. I suppose people participate in this sport for different reasons. Most of my friends seem to like the playfulness of the water. They like to seek out "play waves" and test their skills against the river by surfing, doing enders (something akin to letting the river spit your boat up into the air), or by riding a hole (a kayak-sized whirlpool). My interest is a bit more naturalistic.

Kayaking creates a unique relationship among the mind, the body, and the river. When you sit in a kayak, your body is braced into the hull. In water, the boat becomes an extension of the body. When the mind signals the body to move or shift weight, the kayak responds as quickly as the lower body is able to respond. When the river signals the kayak to move or shift, the body responds just as obediently. The double-bladed paddle that kayakers use enables the arms to make contact with the water and become part of the kinetics.

On the current, the river, the kayak, and the mind unite. The river shares its most intimate secrets with the mind. The mind sees not only the route, but experiences the river's personality and texture—the personality and texture of the earth beneath the river—where river and earth are difficult, where the river and the earth are mean and dangerous. The river and earth always try to be in control. As my mind and body become part of the river current, a bonding process begins with others who are sharing the river current. Each person must be aware of and concerned for every other person involved in his own game of river chess. The motion and change are constant, non-stopping. The river tries constantly—over and over again—to invade the boundaries that I draw and redraw between the waters beneath my boat and myself, my body.

My attention span runs from eddy to eddy. An eddy is a protected area on the river that has no current, or very little. It is a point of safety, a place to relax. But some of the trickiest water on the river surrounds eddies. It is an irony that one must earn the right to the safety of the eddy by crossing something as unpredictable and whimsical as the eddy line, a place so chaotic that the water flows upstream.

The river takes me places that I could never otherwise go. Places that others cannot go. Places others can only look at from above, on maps, through binoculars, in pictures. Like Wolf Creek Falls in Letchworth State Park. Shaggy, hair-like moss grows at the base of the falls. It waves in the moving water, almost as if it is waving me toward the falls. Only through the graceful tenacity of the path cut by this river am I privileged to enjoy this wild garden. It is private here, protected by a natural gate that uses water and boulders as its raw material. It is far away from my life as an accountant.

It is difficult to fit kayaking into the rest of my life. Very possibly, I do it because it does not fit more snugly in my life. If it fit better, it would be less of an escape, less of a challenge, less of an eye- and mind-opener. If it fit better, it would lose its purpose to me.

Notes from the Underside, continued from v.1, i.3 ("Did the test mule survive?")

When last we left you, Bo "Fish Belly" White was in the middle of a harrowing story about repairing his plastic kayak with polyethylene tubing. We continue with the breath-taking tale...

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... (Details.) Anyway, it lit. The tubing acted like a chimney and funneled most of the smoke up away from the melting end. This also helped it burn hotter and faster than P-Tex (That's good!) Holding the tubing close over the cut, the melted polyethylene flowed in smoothly, filling it completely. After it hardened again, I scraped off the excess with the razor and it was good as new. (Now, if you're really anal retentive, I've heard that you can then wet sand lightly with fine paper.)

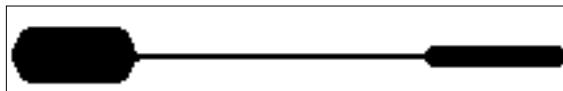
To date, the polyethylene tubing repairs have held up better than the P-Tex. I've smashed into as many rocks as possible to test the repairs (they'll believe that, sure they will), and none of them has lost adhesion—they are actually harder than the rest of the boat!

This stuff would also make kick *** [*Editor's note: we would prefer "excellent"*] edging for paddles! But that's another story for another day.

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



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
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Rochester, NY 14612

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