

FLOWlines



Newsletter of the Finger Lakes-Ontario Watershed Paddlers Club

Volume 2 Issue 1

February, 1997

Last issue for non-members

If you are not a member, send in your membership by March 1, 1997 in order to continue receiving FLOWlines.

Are we well-balanced?

In the October issue of FLOWlines, I introduced FLOW as a group that "aims to support and serve the needs of the entire paddling community, which includes a wide variety of people with a multitude of paddling interests...including flatwater, whitewater, and racing paddlers of canoes and kayaks."

In order to support this claim, we have gone back to our original survey of paddling interests and compiled the following data from our 60 paid members:

Interest	Number responding
Open Canoe	24
Whitewater Kayak or Canoe	41
Sea Kayak	29
Racing	10
Recreational	25

Not only are a diversity of interests well-represented, but obviously many members have listed interests in multiple areas. This diversity bodes well for the growth of this club, which is only 6 months old. As we grow, we will be actively working to keep a balance between flat and white water paddlers. Participation from all types of paddlers in planning trips, contributing to the newsletter, and attending steering committee meetings will be essential to maintaining this balance.

If any aspect of what we try to do for this club (such as the newsletter topics or our choice of programs) does not appear to reflect our balance of interests, please help us support and increase our efforts in the areas that seem neglected. Our club can only reflect the energy we give to it.

Thanks to Mike Shafer for providing the information for this article!

Heather J. Mummery

Pittsford approves Lock 32!

The Lock 32 project gained approval from the Pittsford Town Board in January, which enables the project to progress towards its goal of converting the Lock 32 by-pass in Pittsford, N.Y., into a moving water area accessible to paddlers. Contrary to reports overheard on certain radio stations, the facility is not designed as a "whitewater rafting" area; rather, it will be a recreational area used by all types of paddlers on flat and moving water.

The project has already won approval from the New York State Department of Transportation for access to the Lock 32 site. The final approval from the New York State Thruway Association was contingent upon the permit recently granted by the town of Pittsford.

The Lock 32 project is phased over a five to six year period. When the facility is completed, it will provide this area with a consistent recreational paddling facility during canal operation.

Remember the March 1, 1997 deadline for the Paddlers List

Next Meeting

The next FLOW meeting will be held Thursday, February 13, 1997 at 7 p.m. at Tent City in Webster (located at the corner of Ridge Rd. and Hard Rd. in Webster Square plaza). Meet in the back of the store in the canoe/kayak area. This month's program will be on cold water paddling. Warm beverages and other snacks will be available in the adjacent coffee shop, which is open until 9 p.m.

The Steering Committee will meet on February 6, 1997 at 7 pm at Steve Kittelberger's house, 160 Penarrow Rd., Brighton (near Twelve Corners). For directions call Steve Kittelberger (716-442-6138).

FLOW organization

Elections will be held at an upcoming meeting, so take this opportunity to review the currently proposed nominations and consider additions:

Offices:

President	Steve Kittelberger
Vice President	Harry Weidman
Secretary	Ann Watts
Treasurer	Mike Shafer
<i>Committees (nominations are for chair positions):</i>	
Facilities	Rick Williams
Membership	Art Miller
Programs and Trips	<i>currently seeking</i>
Communications	Heather Mummery Mike Marini

Education/Instruction Ardie Shaffer

Newsletter Submissions

Send us trip reports, articles, information about upcoming trips and releases, ads for our classified section, or anything else you'd like to see in FLOWlines.

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

FLOW contact list

For general information, contact:

Steve Kittelberger 716-442-6138

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

Upcoming trips/events

Pool Practices

Pack, Paddle & Ski (716-344-5597):

Feb. 8, Saturday 12-3 pm, Lavonia High School

Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK):

Feb. 11 – Mar. 25, Tuesdays 7-9 pm,
Wheatland-Chili High School

Feb. 13 – Mar. 27, Thursdays 7:30-9:30 pm,
Pittsford Sutherland High School
Contact Gretchen Schauss (716-223-5023)

Ardie Shaffer, certified instructor (supervised practices):

Jan. 21 – Feb. 11, Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 pm

Feb. 25 – Mar. 18, Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 pm

Register through Pittsford Recreation Department
(248-6280), 32\$ per four week session.

Classes

Seayaker Outfitters:

Sea Kayaking BASICS series

Feb. 25 and **Mar. 4**, Tuesdays 7:30-9:30,
Palmyra-Macedon High School

Sea Kayaking INTERMEDIATE SKILLS

Mar. 11 – Apr. 1, Tuesdays 7:30-9:30,
Palmyra-Macedon High School

Sea Kayak Tours

Pack, Paddle & Ski (716-344-5597):

Feb. 10-17, *Everglades by Sea Kayak*

Endless Adventures (315-536-0522):

Mar. 22-29, *Assateague Island, MD*

Whitewater Kayak Tour

Pack, Paddle & Ski (716-344-5597):

Apr. 18-20, *Lehigh River Weekend, PA*

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!

Reading Whitewater: Tips for the Novice

Is it a rock or a wave? And how can I tell? Novice paddlers are forever asking this question. And for good reason: it's one of the most important aspects of "reading" white water. I'll try to give a simple explanation here, but the "lab exam" will be held next spring on the river!

A wave train is a succession of stationary waves in a river, or on a tidal flat in the ocean. In a river, the waves are rarely exactly equal in height and appearance from upstream. Sometimes...often...one train will be interrupted by a barely-covered rock which is followed by another wave train. This is the source of the confusion.

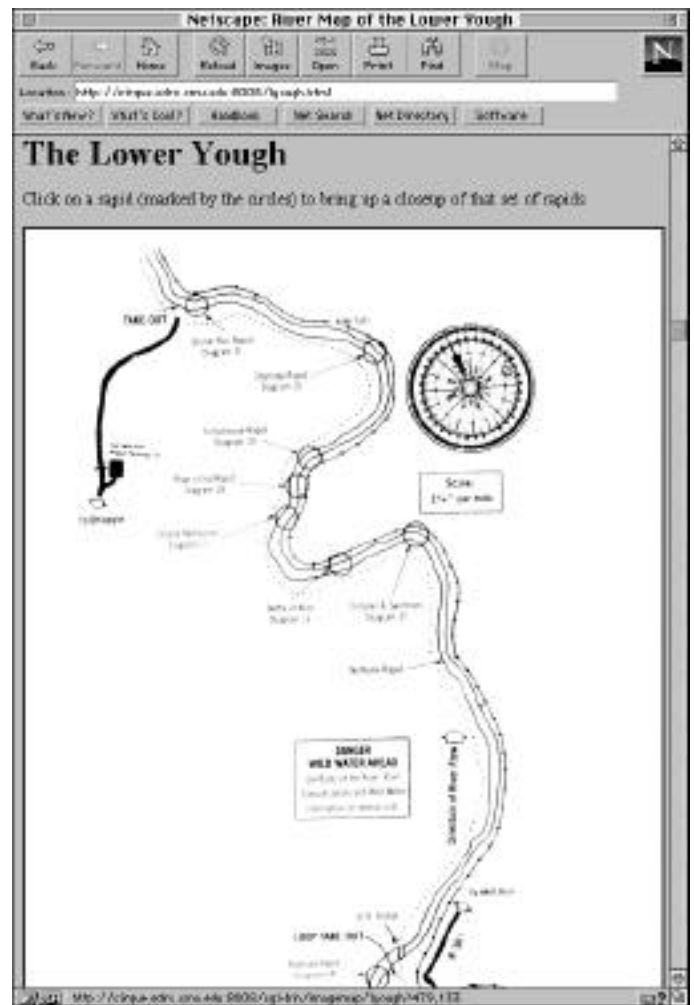
So is it a rock or a wave? The secret is to **LOOK BEYOND** the feature in question. What is the water doing immediately beyond that suspicious-looking wave? If there are waves beyond the one in question, more or less regular with no sign of a slow-down in velocity, then it's probably just an irregular- sized wave. But if the water beyond seems slower, the waves smaller or nonexistent, then this could be a barely-covered rock which is dividing the current and slowing the water immediately below it. If there is a distinct horizon line with noticeably slower water beyond it, then this may be a pour-over. Look to either side of the suspicious feature: Are there little wave trains continuing below and on both sides? Is there calmer and slower water in between? Avoid it and take the route on either side.

But what if the river is so choked with rubber rafts that you can't see the waves? This condition occurs on the first warm, sunny day with abundant water after school is out in the spring on rivers such as the Lehigh or the Youghiogheny. Now you can forget everything I told you above. Now you're not trying to **READ THE WATER**; you're trying to **READ THE RUBBER!** I've never been very good at this, but I'll tell you what little I know in the next column!

Lucky Dog

Paddling-related WWW sites

Rick Williams has compiled a list of useful and interesting paddling- and river-related web sites. Many sites, such as the Lower Yough paddling site above, have maps of local rivers, stream conditions, or local weather forecasts. Other sites are national centers of information about their sport, such as www.rover.com. Many manufacturers have Web sites, such as Dagger and Perception, where you can browse their latest



A site for Pittsburgh rivers maps the rapids on the Lower Yough (above); a national site for rowers (right)



Surfing the World Wide Web

product line. The following list is obviously incomplete; use it as a starting point, and happy surfing!

www.aca-paddler.org	American Canoe Association
www.awa.org	American Whitewater Association
www.dagger.com	Dagger Canoe Company
www.kayaker.com	Perception
www.cao.com/~zeppi/savage.html	Savage Designs
www.nocweb.com	Nantahala Outdoor Center
www.nws.noaa.gov	Northeast River Forecast
www.usgs.gov/public	US Geological Survey (Maps)
www.viewit.com/wtr/TASK.html	Trade Association of Kayaking
www.prairienet.org/paddling	Illinois Canoeing Association
www.rover.com	Rowing site
pubweb.ucdavis.edu/Documents/OA/watersites.html	Index of paddling and river sites

Congratulations and thanks

Congratulations are due to **Jan Whitaker**, who is officially in the **Guinness Book of World Records** for being part of the "largest number of canoes and kayaks joined together to form a free-floating raft." A total of 649 paddlers of all types literally joined together on August 17, 1996, on the Rock river in Byron, Illinois. The event took place at the United States Canoe Association National Championships. Jan participated in a racing canoe.

Congratulations also to Joel and Elijah Chastek and Dave Meyer, who recently paddled a previously "virgin" stretch of Cayuga Creek in Cowlesville, NY. Never heard of it? You are not alone—I grew up 3 miles from this creek and know of no one who has ever even considered putting a kayak into it, much less in December. It just goes to show you that there are more opportunities for paddling out there than we probably imagine.

Special thanks go out to **Dave Bojanowski** of **Letchworth Outfitters** for making a recent business donation to FLOW (our first!). Thanks, Dave!

Membership and Mailing List

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

Last word on Paddlers List (worth repeating)

In March we will publish the long-awaited Paddlers List of local paddlers, their interests, and contact information. 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).

If you are on the Mailing List, and we do not hear from you before **March 1, 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.

Classified ads

WANTED:

Canoe, wilderness tripper. Prefer Mad River Explorer or Dagger Legend. Call Steve Kittelberger (716-442-6138 or 716-422-4195)

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.

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