

FLOWlines



Newsletter of the Finger Lakes-Ontario Watershed Paddlers Club

Volume 2 Issue 7

August, 1997

Coming Out of the Rubber Room

The truth about rafters revealed

by Kathy Corey

While sitting around the campfire at Hickory Run last weekend surrounded by executive officers and kayak instructors from FLOW, I felt I should come clean with the truth that yes, I was and still am a raft guide, and yet a kayaker. In fact, it was rafting that introduced me to stuff myself into a little space, hide my legs, and yell at myself to paddle harder. Being the “token raft guide” of the club puts me in a unique although not quite enviable position of defending rafters from both perspectives of hard boats and soft, bouncy boats. The old “been there, done that” routine.

The majority of these people in their funny looking PFDs, and who are generally laughing and screaming, are enjoying their first trip on whitewater. They may have no idea how to maneuver their unguided raft (some guides may not either), despite our safety talk. It really isn't a plot of the rafting company to roll over kayakers and scare them off the river (not that I know of)! These “unfortunate rafters” have paid money to go down the river, and our mission is to make it fun for them. We know that most boaters know how to get out of the wave quickly when they hear us coming (at least a mile away). Kayaks can get in and out and go back

to a play wave, but with rafts if you miss it it's gone. We don't stay around and line up to go back again, so once the rafts pass through, the river is for the hard boats again.

When rafters see kayakers, they are in awe of your skills and daring and often express a wish that they could be where you are—and probably someday some of them will be. Rafters are not a different breed, they are just future kayakers without boats. Give them a smile and a wave. You can't be sure that they won't be your future paddling partners someday.

Now that I have blown my cover and revealed my hidden life, smile and wave at me and I'll do my best to get the truck to carry your boats up the hill!!! (Another good reason to carry on my dual personality.)§

Next Meeting - at Lock 32

The FLOW Steering Committee will meet Saturday evening, August 2, at Selkirk Shores State Park, near Pulaski; the meeting is held in conjunction with our summer party (all are invited!).

The regular August meeting will be held Thursday, August 14, at 7 pm at the Lock 32 site on the Erie Canal at Clover Street. Come on out and see what Rick Williams and his crew have done! Bring your boat and test the waters; if you're not a whitewater rat, bring your sea kayak or canoe for an evening paddle on the canal. Park on the north side of the lock and walk around to the south side to the FLOW site.

Thinking ahead: The Steering Committee will meet on Thursday, September 4 at 7 pm at Mike's place. We'll be discussing the budget, membership cards, and no doubt some surprises. All are welcome. Since we are planning a whole month ahead here (a new experience for us), call 288-5232 to confirm.

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FLOW organization

Officers

President	Steve Kittelberger 716 442-6138
Vice President	Harry Weidman 315 524-9295
Secretary	Ann Watts 716 442-8791
Treasurer	Mike Shafer 716 227-9291
Committee chairs	
Facilities	Rick Williams 716 381-3418
Membership	Art Miller 716 334-5810
Programs and Trips	Noreen Wiatrik 716 288-5839
Communications	Heather Mummery Mike Marini 716 288-5232
Education/Instruction	Ardie Shaffer 716 334-4487

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

Contacts

FLOW Paddlers Club	(716) 442-6138
Seayaker Outfitters	(315) 524-9295
Pack, Paddle, and Ski	(716) 346-5597
Endless Adventures	(315) 536-0522
Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK)	(716) 223-5023
Ardie Shaffer	(716) 334-4487
Oak Orchard Canoe	1-800-4-KAYAKS

FLOW HotLine: 716 288-5127

To access the FLOW HotLine:

1. Dial 716 288-5127 from a touch-tone phone.
2. To listen to messages left by other paddlers, press the remote access code (F.L.O.W.) any time during the greeting. After entering the remote access code, listen to instructions for how to access messages.
3. To leave a message for other paddlers, listen to the greeting and leave a brief message after the tone.

The FLOW HotLine is sponsored by FLOW Paddlers Club for FLOW members. The FLOW HotLine is graciously hosted by the Bay Creek Paddling Center.

Membership and Mailing List

To join FLOW, send name, address, paddling interests, and \$20 per individual membership to:

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

Upcoming trips/events

See insert for whitewater and flatwater trips, classes, and clinics scheduled for 1997

Gauge numbers

Genesee River (Letchworth).....	716-468-2303
Cattaraugus River.....	716-532-5454
Salmon River.....	1-900-726-4243 #365123
Keuka Outlet.....	716-234-0090
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

Lucky Dogs TIPS

Here's a request for you new FLOW paddlers, but it applies just as well to seasoned water rats whose brains are held in with duct tape. When signing up for a FLOW-sponsored paddling trip, you are expected to call the listed trip leader in advance. There are several reasons for this, not just courtesy:

- First of all, the trip may have changed or been canceled.
- Second, if you're new, the trip leader will probably want to verify that your paddling skills and health are adequate for the planned trip. Neither the leader nor you want you on a trip which is seriously beyond your paddling ability.
- Finally, the trip leader may want some form of help with the trip. Old timers may be asked to bring a breakdown paddle or an extra throw rope. Rookies are often expected to bring cold beer or firewood.

Leaders of FLOW trips have responsibilities as well. First and foremost:

- **HAVE EVERY PADDLER ON THE TRIP SIGN THE RELEASE FORM.** This is required by our insurance policy, and should be retained by the leader or forwarded to FLOW's secretary after the trip.
- In addition to this requirement, you are asked to insure that everyone you accept onto the trip has adequate skills and has alerted you of any special medical conditions.

I won't attempt to describe how to run a good trip once you get on the water: that's a subject for a future TIPS column. I'll just close by suggesting that you stay on the dry side of the water!

-Lucky Dog

Bay Creek Paddling Center

Conveniently located on Empire Boulevard, next to Irondequoit Creek and the Bay

Kids Paddle Sport Kamp

288-2830

New and improved FLOW HotLine

The FLOW HotLine had gotten off to a good start—I heard messages from many of you every time I called. Then, just as we were really starting to rely on it, forces conspired against us and the answering machine...well, it didn't quite live up to our expectations.

We leapt into action (as soon as there was a day we weren't paddling....) and decided the only recourse we had was to put it out of its apparent misery and upgrade to voice mail. So by the time you receive this newsletter, you'll be able to call the same old HotLine (716 288-5127), listen to the new instructions, and continue to leave messages for other paddlers and hear the latest updates to impending trips. (This time, you'll even be able to understand them.) The new access code is **F.L.O.W.**

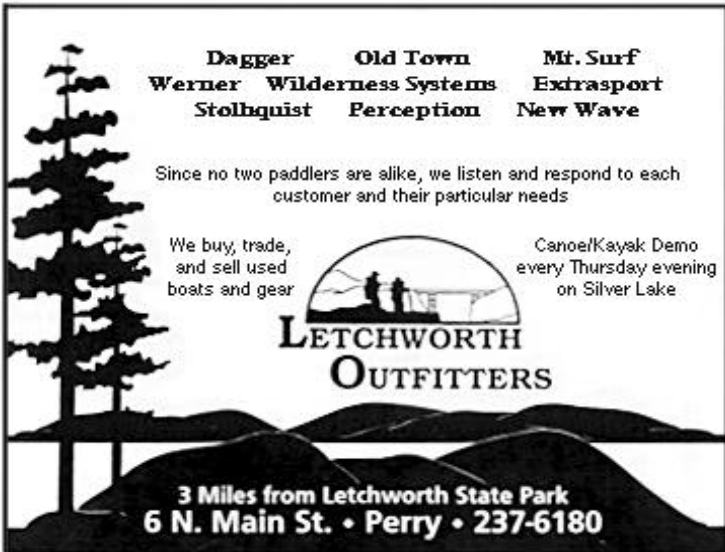
Good karma to all....

-HJM

Melanie Wellington surfing it up at Sylvia's Ledge on the Salmon. Join her (and many others) August 2 for the Tube Race and FLOW's Summer Party (right).

Deadline for next newsletter

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is Monday, July 21, 1997. Submit articles, trip announcements, news of recent or upcoming activities that may be of interest to FLOW members, or anything else that you want to share with our readers. Send submissions to Heather Mummery (address on page 2).



Dagger **Old Town** **Mt. Surf**
Werner **Wilderness Systems** **Exitasport**
Stolbquist **Perception** **New Wave**

Since no two paddlers are alike, we listen and respond to each customer and their particular needs

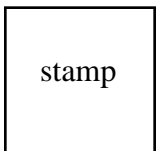
We buy, trade, and sell used boats and gear

Canoe/Kayak Demo every Thursday evening on Silver Lake

**LETCHWORTH
OUTFITTERS**

3 Miles from Letchworth State Park
6 N. Main St. • Perry • 237-6180

FLOW Paddlers Club
89 Dorstwood Drive
Rochester, NY 14612



Classified ads

WANTED:

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

FOR SALE:

Cruise Control, \$450 or best offer. Paul Houndt (716 342-3055)

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

Canoe - Old Town Discovery, 16' 9", Red, \$375. Bryan Schoeffler (607 776-6705)

Touring paddle, like new, Werner SanJuan, 240 cm., \$150. Al Pietzold (716 388-1279)

LOST:

Wet suit and sprayskirt, at the Lehigh on June 15. Contact Roger Vanderlaan (716 887-3587)

To submit advertisements contact Mike Marini at 288-5232.