

# FLOWlines



Newsletter of the Finger Lakes-Ontario Watershed Paddlers Club

Volume 2 Issue 8

September, 1997

## Outrigger canoe demo at BayCreek

Have you ever wanted to ride the waves in an outrigger canoe? Stop by BayCreek Paddling Center on Empire Blvd. on Sunday, September 14 at 1 pm. One-man and four-man crafts will be available. Everyone is welcome at this free event. For details, contact Bob Pierson at (716) 889-4174.

## New FLOW "please don't give up on us" HotLine

To all those who have become frustrated with the series of difficulties we've had with the FLOW HotLine, I express my sympathy and apologies. Though the original answering machine was not as reliable as we needed it to be, we have finally found a more reliable, long-term alternative.

The new HotLine, at (716) 234-3893, is a voice mailbox, which means that accessing the HotLine will be slightly different. There are *two* most important things to remember when accessing stored messages:

1. Enter the pass code  
BEFORE the greeting ends, or you will be leaving a message instead of accessing voice mail.
2. DO NOT DELETE the messages you have listened to.

I hope that the HotLine will prove to be a reliable way for club members to communicate. If you have any problems accessing the HotLine, please call me at (716) 288-5232.

-Heather

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Use the HotLine for:

- ◇ *checking weekly updates to trips and events*
- ◇ *checking for the latest meeting times and locations (general meeting or steering committee)*
- ◇ *announcing spontaneous trips*
- ◇ *leaving any paddling-related message for club members*

Please **do not** perform any of the following functions, even though voice mail will happily let you:

- ◇ *deleting messages*
- ◇ *changing the greeting*
- ◇ *changing the pass code*

We will be monitoring the HotLine and deleting old messages on a weekly basis.



## Next Meeting - "Cree Rivers Expedition"

The September general meeting will be held Thursday, September 11, at 7 pm in the Rochester Watersports Center at Genesee Valley Park. The Rochester Watersports Center is the green frame building next to the Canoe Livery.

Don Cochrane will be presenting a slide show of his 1993 whitewater trip on the Rupert River in northern Quebec. Don is a kayaker and freelance photographer.

Thinking ahead: The Steering Committee will meet on Thursday, October 4 at 7 pm at a location to be determined. As the date approaches, call the FLOW HotLine at (716) 234-3893 (pass code: \*FLOW) for meeting location and details.

## FLOW organization

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Steve Kittelberger 716 442-6138
<b>Vice President</b>	Harry Weidman 315 524-9295
<b>Secretary</b>	Ann Watts 716 442-8791
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Shafer 716 227-9291
<i>Committee chairs</i>	
<b>Facilities</b>	Rick Williams 716 381-3418
<b>Membership</b>	Art Miller 716 334-5810
<b>Programs and Trips</b>	Noreen Wiatrak 716 288-5839
<b>Communications</b>	Heather Mummery Mike Marini 716 288-5232
<b>Education/Instruction</b>	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: 716 234-3893

### To access the FLOW HotLine:

1. Dial 716 234-3893 from a touch-tone phone.
2. To listen to messages left by other paddlers, press the remote access code 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 hosted by Bay Creek Paddling Center.*

## 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

## 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

**What is there to do on Wednesday evenings?**

Why, paddle, of course. Thanks to Steve Chopan and Harry Weidman's series of Wednesday evening paddles—on the canal, the river, the bay, the lake, and other local bodies of water—FLOW members have been able to paddle just about every Wednesday since the beginning of June.

The Wednesday evening paddles have been a wild success so far, and they will be continuing at least through September. Check the HotLine (716 234-3893, pass code \*FLOW) every week for Steve's latest announcement of upcoming trips. Hope to see you there!



*Rick Williams at Lock 32, June 1997*



*Art Miller waist deep at Lock 32, June 1997*



*Rob Blake on the Lehigh River, PA, June 1997*



*Steve Chopan, some Wednesday evening*

## The Truth about River Gods

*by Hathor, Egyptian goddess of Love and Fertility*

You found out how to roll at pool practice in the winter. In the spring you took your first river trip, and as you began to learn the subtleties of river etiquette, you finally felt like you understood this whole paddling phenomenon. Then, just when you had a grip on concepts like eddy-hopping, low bracing, and shuttle protocol, you started noticing some truly unexplainable things.

A swimmer sends a blessing after his paddle as it floats downstream away from him. Everyone else in your trip unquestioningly and without verbal acknowledgment runs a particular slot...backwards. A small but growing number of paddlers flamboyantly bedeck themselves and their boats with utter disregard for current fashions or time-honored practicality.

What you've stumbled on is a complicated tapestry of myth and ritual more ancient than the rivers themselves. You have encountered the modern veneration of the River Gods.

We all know they're out there....it doesn't take long before we pray to them at every put in and thank them at the take out. We make sacrifices of time, money, sleep, common sense, and adrenaline, not to mention the occasional paddle, pair of nose clips, or unfortunate dry bag. We are slaves to their whims and servants of their fancy.

But who are they? A search through modern literature on mythology confirms that the gods of water are many and varied. One can only presume that whether the waves we ride come from wind or from rocks, the gods receive our offerings and hear our prayers:

**Poseidon**—Greek god of the sea, horses, and earthquakes. The sea is his kingdom.

**Susanowo**—Shinto god of sea or storms. (The name Susanowo means impetuous.)

**Aphrodite**—Greece goddess born from the foam of the sea. Goddess of beauty, love, and fertility.

**Njord**—Norse god of the sea and winds, and protector of sailors. Married to Skadi, a great huntress who lives in the forest. She lives apart from her husband, who cannot bear to live away from the sea.

**Ea**—Sumerian and Babylonian creator of humankind, patron of the arts, and dual god of wisdom and fresh water.

**Yurlunggur**—the Australian Great Rainbow Snake, a creator of landscape features, particularly rivers and water holes.

**Qat** and **Marawa**—Melanesian pair of tricksters, bringers of life and death. Associated with seafaring and canoe-building.

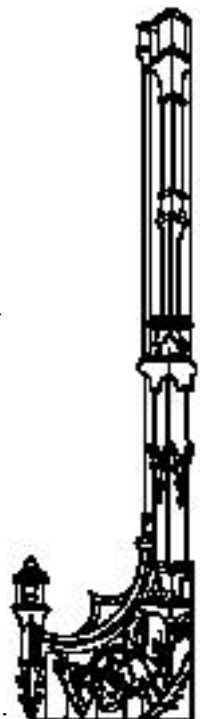
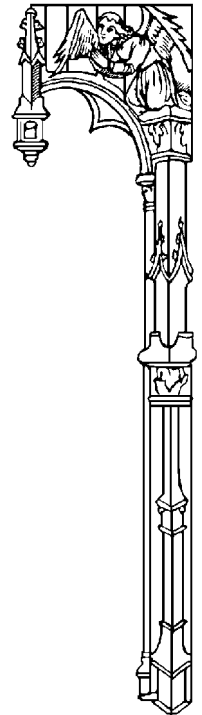
**Pahmuri-Mahse**—Amazonian hero who was ordered by the Sun god to paddle a huge, anaconda-shaped canoe upriver. A community was founded at every place the canoe stopped.

**Khnum**—Egyptian “Lord of the Cool Water” and god of the First Cataract of the Nile. He controlled the splitting of the waters, and therefore the fertility of the land.

**Thetis**—Greek water nymph, pursued by a mortal who fell in love with and eventually won her.

**Sebek**—Egyptian crocodile god of rivers and lakes. Rules by terror; his followers make many sacrifices to keep him happy.

The River Gods are out there, and they're on the rivers, lakes, and seas with us. The next time you see something outrageous you truly can't explain (like sequins on a PFD?), remember that in return for their protection, we must pay homage to the masters of the waters we call home.



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(originally published with  
calendar of events)**

## Deadline for next newsletter

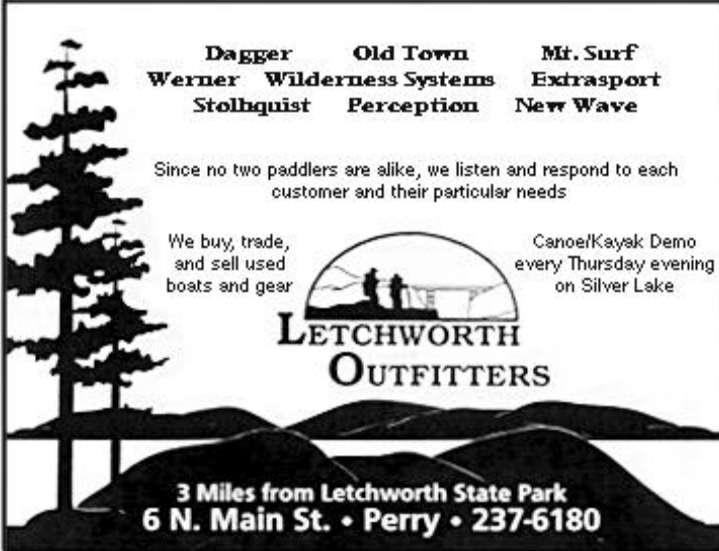
The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is Monday, September 22, 1997 (autumnal equinox). Submit articles, trip announcements, news of recent or upcoming activities that may be of interest to FLOW members, or anything else that you want to share with our readers. Send submissions to Heather Mummery (address on page 2).

## Bay Creek Paddling Center

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

# Kids Paddle Sport Kamp

288-2830



**Dagger**      **Old Town**      **Mt. Surf**  
**Werner**   **Wilderness Systems**   **Extrasport**  
**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

## Classified ads

FOR SALE:

**1997 Dagger Outburst** w/float bags and paddle, ~1 month old, \$600. Lee Gassler (716 586-5677)

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

**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)

*To submit advertisements contact Mike Marini at 288-5232. Please notify us if your ad is no longer needed.*

**FLOW Paddlers Club**  
89 Dorstwood Drive  
Rochester, NY 14612

*If you have not already done so, please return the annual survey enclosed with last month's newsletter by October 31.*

stamp