

# FLOWlines



Newsletter of the Finger Lakes-Ontario Watershed Paddlers Club

Volume 2 Issue 9

October, 1997

## Membership renewals

We're just over a year old now, so membership renewal time is coming up. A brief reminder on FLOW membership policy: FLOW memberships are annual, to be renewed on January 1 of each year. Memberships received after October 1 are valid for the following year.

Things to look forward to in the coming year:

- FLOW decals and T-shirts
- Membership cards, issued upon joining or renewal
- As always, whitewater and flatwater trips, more weekend excursions, and more. Let us know what you'd like!

Send membership renewals (\$20) and any updated address information to:

Art Miller  
264 Vollmer Pkwy  
Rochester, NY 14623



*Steve Chopan, recent Georgian Bay sea-kayaking trip. Look for the article in November's FLOWlines.*

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## FLOW T-shirt/decals graphic contest

**Nature of contest:** Submit a graphic for use on a boat decal, or a T-shirt design, or both. For the decal, please limit design to three colors. No limit to the number of entries per person.

**Submission requirements:** camera-ready art or Macintosh-compatible graphic format (readable by Photoshop)

### Send submissions to:

Mike Marini  
c/o FLOW graphic contest  
221 McKinley St.  
Rochester NY, 14609

**Deadline:** November 17, 1997

Winner receives a free membership for 1998, plus T-shirt.

FLOW reserves the rights to the use of the winning submission.

## Next Meeting - Kayak Packing 101, or "27 clowns in a VW"

The October general meeting will be held Thursday, October 9, 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.

This month's program will feature Harry Weidman, FLOW Vice-President and sea kayaker-extraordinaire, who will present a basic lesson in packing a sea kayak.

Thinking ahead: The Steering Committee will meet on Thursday, November 6 at 7 pm at Steve Kittelberger's house (160 Penarrow, off of Winton near 12 corners). As the date approaches, call the FLOW HotLine at (716) 234-3893 (pass code: \*FLOW) for potential updates.

## 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 news, poetry, trip reports, photos, articles, 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:

Art Miller  
Re: FLOW Paddlers Club  
264 Vollmer Pkwy  
Rochester, NY 14623

## 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

## Running Beaver

by *Dog Paddler*

It was a perfect late summer day at the edge of the Adirondacks; a brilliant, silver blue sky, the sun shimmering on the lake that lapped the shore where we stood. The geese passing above us and the scattering of red-tinged trees were the only signs that this was September and not early June. We were here for one of the new rites of fall in New York State; the Beaver River release. From where we stood the sound of the water pouring riotously over the top of the dam, into the still unseen river bed, was enticing and threatening all at once. It was the first time in seven years that a water release had restored this section of the river to something approaching "natural flow" and made it runnable. Another example, as if one is needed, of your AWA membership dues at work (Why any WW boater would not support the AWA is beyond this dog's comprehension.). This was a special weekend.

The releases took place on two sections of the river. The one we were running today, Taylorville and another further upstream, the Eagle section. The Eagle section ran only on Saturday, bringing close to sixty boaters who longed for bragging rights to a first descent there. But after seeing this horrendous section only six paddlers took the plunge, while the rest just looked on dubiously. It is a plunge: only a quarter mile long, the Eagle falls over two hundred feet in that space. Super narrow and steep, it made for great viewing even if you didn't have the stomach for running it.

This was Sunday, the second day of water, and the cold mist and rain of the day before seemed a remote memory at best. We were ready to hunt beaver or let the Beaver hunt us. The FLOW contingent consisted of Ed Boggs, Marty Murphy, Doug Caine, and myself. We were fortunate to be joined by Chris and Karen Koll. My hyper-ventilating slowed to a manageable level when they finally arrived at the put in. Add to that Mike, the Perception rep. from Vermont, and Fred from Saranac Lake, and we were good to go.

I was anxious to get started, as Doug and I had missed out on the paddling the day before (Are there really other obligations in life?). I hoisted my boat and headed toward the put in hoping to generate a mass movement. When I got there Marty and Mike were already in the eddy across from the

put in with Ed about to join them. As soon as they saw Doug and me sliding into our boats they peeled out and disappeared over the first drop. Ed waited on the other side for us. Doug was the first one to the eddy, and as I made the ferry across Ed peeled out and headed for the eddy on river right just above the first drop, then disappeared over the edge before Doug or I saw any of the move. Since neither of us had any idea what was down there we did the eddy 'bump and grind' for a bit, furtively trying to force the other to be the probe. Then came Doug's polite utterance, "You can go first if you want." "Damn!", he beat me, now I had to go, or risk looking like a cowardly dog. "Oh well what the hell." I looked over my shoulder at the top of the drop, detecting a depression in the middle of the current and a telltale bulge to river right. I peeled out, moved left and dove over the edge. "Wow! There's a hole down here!" I got a nice stroke off the back of the pourover, and after a little stern squirt I'm in the eddy. Ed was there to greet me, "Watch out for that hole in there." "Thanks for the warning," I thought. We looked up to see Doug on his way down. He wasn't so lucky...

### Drop 1 (Cain's House)

The first and the only named drop on the Taylorville section is a nasty, greedy hole formed by a pourover on the river right bank that extends more than halfway across the channel. Pouring into it from about mid-stream is a tongue of water that hits the back of the pourover and causes a diagonal wave, that runs down into the hole formed by the intersection of the tongue and the pourover. This doesn't actually look like much of a hole, but don't be fooled! It's deep and it will keep you, in your boat or out. Against the river left side of the channel the remaining current flows thinly over a small ledge and a boulder, making for a rocky ride if you venture too far that way. The move that seemed to work (most of the time) was to surf out of the eddy on river right above the drop to the middle of the channel, then peel out downstream, get a few good aggressive strokes for position and momentum and hit the narrow window of open current just above the hole with your bow pointing river left toward the eddy there, paddle hard to shoot into the eddy. If you suffer from "deer in the headlights syndrome" you won't have a good time here.

After Doug, and then finally his boat, came out of the hole we regrouped for a few minutes on the side of the river. That was not a good way for anyone to start the day, but no one got hurt, so after he was back in his Diablo we continued on.

It's a short paddle down stream to the aptly named second drop, "Drop 2." This is a river wide slide about fifty feet long. Run it down the left and stay upright as you bounce down the rocks at about twenty miles an hour. When the water starts to deepen paddle hard to make the eddy on the left or across the current into another eddy on the right. Why? Because in the middle at the bottom is another nice, big, fat hole. You really want to miss this one unless you're one of those miscreants, skulking among us, who enjoys survival surfing. That's just what you'll be doing if you stumble in there. If you don't believe me just ask Perception Mike who was getting ends with his big OverFlow after he was sucked in. His only words after he finally emerged? "I was just trying to get out!"

Immediately after the slide, around a small bend, the river splits in two and disappears into channels on either side of an island. The right channel only becomes visible once you're fairly close to it. It starts out as a crack in the bedrock of the river about six or eight feet across. About twenty feet in, a frothed up, diagonal reaction wave forms where the current careens off of the left wall and shoots to the right onto a bunch of barely hidden boulders. You want to hit that wave with your bow pointing a bit to the right. Get a stroke on the wave and, if all goes well, punch through it and into an eddy below it on the left. Or ride it further right and into an eddy below the rocks mentioned above. Just downstream in mid-current a large boulder sticks up forming a trashy eddy behind it. A quick ferry behind this boulder and you peel out into the main current against the left bank again and maneuver down through several smaller holes to the pool below. This is where the two channels reunite. This second channel is a narrower chute through the granite, beginning with a small slide and then a straight down pinball ride through reaction waves shooting alternately off either side. It's fun, just don't get sideways!

Only a short paddle again and you're at the top of the fourth drop. This one is a slide on river left, becoming a slot against the river right wall. A

large boulder right in the middle separates the slide from the slot, with the current being split to either side by the boulder. The current off the right side of the boulder forms a diagonal wave that shoots toward the right wall. Its interaction with the current ripping straight down the slot creates a nice, deep, "disappearing paddler" wave hole. The water going over the slide seemed a little thin and the curve made for a funky looking hole at the bottom so we opted to run this slot. The ride is much smoother tight against the wall so long as you don't hit it with your paddle. The most fun was had if you didn't carry a ton of speed down the slot. That diagonal would launch your bow up onto the wall and spin you down stream on your stern. Even the Rockits and Mongoose were getting vertical on the wall and they are fat-assed boats! No matter what you paddle, every time you drop over that edge and the bottom falls out it's good for a nice A-rush.

Immediately after the slot you paddle into a longish stretch of intersecting ledges and rocks, which require boofing, ferrying and good eddy turns. It's a fun stretch and great boof practice! There's really nothing more to say about it, but that it's also the end of the run. So aside from two nice, but shallow, wave holes it's time to paddle to the take out and do it again!

The Taylorville section is about two miles long and is a solid class IV run. The short length is offset by the easy shuttle. We ran it three times that Sunday. Believe me everyone was feeling it by the end of number three and from the look of some of the moves during the run as well. I think Ed summed it up best in a conversation he was having with Karen, which I eavesdropped on. His feeling was that this was a good bridge to the Bottom Moose. With slides and chutes and must-make moves it preps you for the kind of things you'll be dealing with there, but without most of the brutal consequences.

Sounds good to me! I'm chomping at the bit for the Moshier section which I'm told is bigger, longer and more technical than Taylorville. Who would have thought a running beaver was this much fun!

Birth. Paddle. Death. Paddle. Rebirth. Paddle,

—DogPaddler

## FLOW Cardboard Boat Race Results

The July FLOW Paddlers meeting ended with the attempted construction of a cardboard boat. It was entered in the *Great Cardboard Boat Challenge* to represent our club. That race event was one of several activities that took place on the canal near Palmyra-Macedon during the recent *Derby Day on the Canal* celebration. It's a community family event to promote a drug-free environment using the Erie canal as a backdrop for water activity, entertainment, fun and laughs. Over thirty non-profit organizations, including FLOW Paddlers, had table space to draw public awareness to their cause, present demonstrations, or solicit membership.

A dozen members offered advice, theories and helping hands to produce our mighty looking 8 ft. long cardboard ship big enough for an intrepid crew of two. It was a conventional rowboat design: a pointed bow, square stern, armpit high freeboard and seats. The rules stipulated only cardboard, tape and optional painting could be used to fabricate the crafts. Ours used that with some heavy-duty construction cardboard material. Things didn't look too good by the end of the meeting and we figured another work session would be needed to keep it afloat. A small reconstruction crew met the day before the race armed with several cardboard core tubes that were utilized for additional structural strength. A black hull paint job made it look mean but primarily provided greater waterproofing for the cardboard.

*Derby Day on the Canal* found several FLOW club members participating in sea kayaks during the *Lock #60 Basin Tour*, the *Canal Water Parade* (we tied balloons on ours), and a *Water Dice Run* where everyone was a prize winner.

The *Great Cardboard Boat Challenge* was a big hit taking place next to the floating entertainment barge. All you had to do was man your cardboard boat, paddle across the canal to the opposite bank and return ahead of the others to win. FLOW had a boat but no crew so I gave the honor to two young girls. There were five competing boats in several classes including "Duct Tails," belonging to the mayor, Luke's "Untouchable," and "69 Mobile" by team Screwballs. It proved to be a wet start for some as all adapted to their new rigs for the first time. Our boat found crew member Amberly Rounds climbing back on board after tipping over at the dock but then got off, er- stayed on, for a good start. Approaching the rounding buoy it appeared that an abandon ship drill was in effect as several crews practiced diligently, ours included. From then on, it turned into a swimming spree as crews pushed and pulled their crafts along to the finish line. There were paddles floating everywhere. FLOW finished in 4th place with great showmanship, enthusiasm and routing supporters. A hardy "Thanks" to the crew- Amberly & Kati, designers, builders and the FLOW on-water support staff. We got some good public exposure. "Just wait till next year," was the departing cry.

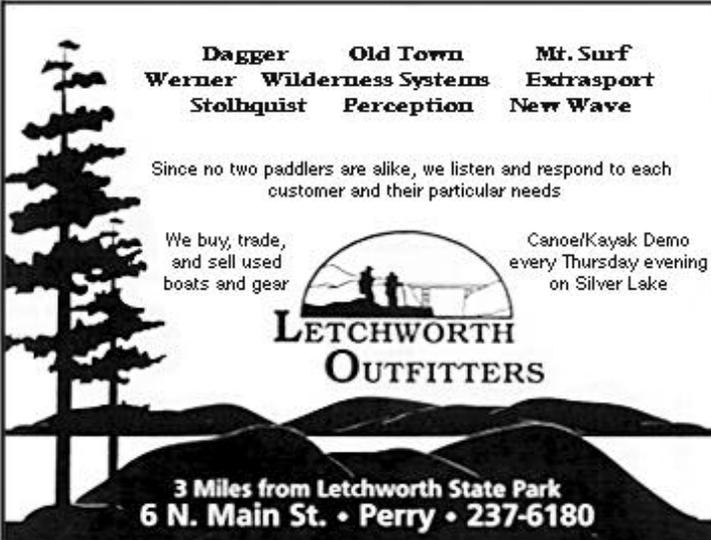
- Harry Weidman -



*The FLOW boat, with Amberly and Kati*

*The Mayor in Duct Tales*





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## Deadline for next newsletter

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is Monday, October 20, 1997. Submit articles, 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). Please send trip list updates to Noreen Wiatrak.

**FLOW Paddlers Club**  
 264 Vollmer Pkwy  
 Rochester, NY 14623

## Bay Creek Paddling Center

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

**Kids Paddle Sport  
 Kamp**  
 288-2830

### Classified ads

FOR SALE:

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

**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.*

stamp