

FLOWlines

Newsletter of the Finger Lakes-Ontario
Watershed Paddlers' Club, Rochester NY

Volume 4 Issue 5

May 1999



Ch,ch,ch,changes...

Well, the steering committee has been at it again and unsupervised at that. It seems that we have had some personnel turnover. At the beginning of this month, several members tendered their resignations and we are sorry to see them go; Art Miller, Harry Weidman, and Joel Chastek have left us (the steering committee not the paddling community). In a frenzied late evening meeting, the remaining members shifted responsibility, beer and dragooned some hapless passersby's to fill the vacancies. The results are as follows:

Mike Shaffer will be the membership chair
Ed Boggs will be the new treasurer
Cathy Rague and **James "Hoppie" Hopkins** will be co-vice presidents
Ivan Rezanka will be responsible for coercing people into leading trips and up-dating the trip list.

Still Open

Newsletter production: responsible for stuffing envelopes, applying stamps, and mailing them

On Going

All members of FLOW or just interested parties are welcome at any and all steering committee meetings. There is always beer and sometimes food.

May 13th General Meeting

The May general meeting will be held Thursday, May 13 at the **Rochester Watersport Center in Genesee Valley Park**, starting at 7 pm. The program will consist of an open discussion of paddling access on the Genesee River. Over the past several years several access issues of interest to FLOW members have come up: below Lower Falls, at Beebee Station, and near Black Creek Outlet. In addition, there will be an opportunity for open discussion of the club insurance issue.

May Steering Committee Meeting

Time: May 6th, 7 p.m.
Place: Helen's house - 480 Benton St.
Call Helen for directions at (716)461-3233

Rochester River Challenge

Mark your calendars for the Third Annual Rochester River Challenge. This year it will be held on June 19-20th on the Genesee River at the South Wedge Landing. There will be canoe and outrigger races, a 5K-road race and a volleyball tournament. Get your teams ready and call 256-1740

FLOW organization

President	Steve Kittelberger 716 442-6138
Vice Presidents	Kathy Rague 315 926-7890 James Hopkins 716 621-2721
Secretary	Dorothy Sullivan 716 359-4710
Treasurer	Ed Boggs 315 926-7890
Facilities Development	Rick Williams 716 381-3418
Membership	Mike Shafer 716 227-9291
Trips & Events	Ivan Rezanka 716 381-7475
Communications	Dan Bogaard 716 442-6634 Helen Cherniack 716 461-3233
Education/Instruction	Ardie Shaffer 716 334-4487

Newsletter submissions

Send us trip reports, articles, letters to the editor, 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:
Helen.Cherniack@usa.xerox.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:

Helen Cherniack
480 Benton St.
Rochester, NY 14620

Contacts

FLOW Paddlers' Club(716) 442-6138
Seayaker Outfitters(315) 524-9295
.....<http://www.netacc.net/~seayaker>
Pack, Paddle, and Ski(716) 346-5597
Endless Adventures(315) 536-0522
Adirondack MountainClub(ADK)(716) 223-5023
Ardie Shaffer(716) 334-4487
Oak Orchard Canoe1-800-4-KAYAKS
BayCreek Paddling Center (716) 288-2830
..... baycreek@cwix.com

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 Shafer
Re: FLOW Paddlers' Club
89 Dorsetwood Dr
Rochester, NY 14612

Upcoming trips/events

Contact Ivan Rezanka (716)381-7475 with trips and events for 1998. Refer to the insert for the latest version of the trip list.

Gauge numbers

Genesee River (Letchworth)716-468-2303
Cattaragus River716-532-5454
Salmon River1-800-452-1742 #365123
Keuka Outlet716-234-0090

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 River304-872-5809
Southern WV rivers304-529-5127

Rochester Creekin'

by Harry A. Marinakis

This winter's thaw and subsequent flooding that occurred during late January provided Rochester paddlers with a heavenly opportunity for some winter creeking. After a week of storms that deposited nearly 40 inches of snow, rising temperatures and rain led to a meltdown that inundated local waterways with dirty brown water, ice floes, and strainers. It was a creeker's paradise. During the weekend of January 23-24, the Genesee peaked at 17 feet, the Moose flooded to 15 feet, and the Black River rose to over 8 feet. Anticipating a wild ride, we headed down to the Genesee on Saturday, January 23rd, when the river was at 11 feet and rising. However, we found the Genesee was still entombed in ice so we returned home. Desperate for some paddling, we scouted swollen creeks in the Rochester area.

While many of the surrounding creeks were still clogged with ice floes, we discovered that Irondequoit Creek was high, free-flowing, and fast. Who could have predicted that Upper Falls on Irondequoit Creek would become a frightening cataract? We donned numerous layers of Capilene, neoprene, and dry tops, and jumped into our boats for some hole action, surfing, squirting, and cruising. On Sunday, January 24th, Upper Falls was a screaming rapid with boat-eating holes, curling waves, and an occasional strainer.

The water level at Irondequoit Creek dropped almost as quickly as it had risen. Just two days later the creek was again a docile trickle, too shallow even to float an empty kayak. The fun was over, for now. Thankful for our experiences on the creek, we hung up our soggy paddling gear. But in this new light we wonder: What will the spring runoff bring to us here in Rochester?



- Harry surf'n the big one on Irondequoit Creek - photo by Jim Albano

The FLOW Insurance Dilemma

Steve Kittelberger

FLOW has been in existence since fall, 1996. In the spring of 1997, the club began carrying a third-party liability insurance policy which covers damages the club or its members may cause to non-members or their property. The present policy provides no coverage for members, officers or trip leaders in case of liabilities arising, for example, from injuries suffered during FLOW-sanctioned events. This situation is the cause for concern to some members. The Steering Committee has not been able to reach consensus on a course of action. We present it to the general membership, therefore, for a vote. Consider three approaches.

First, FLOW could continue with the present plan of not taking out any insurance covering members against liability from bodily injury or property damage.

Second, FLOW could move to a plan pioneered by Three Rivers Paddling Club in Pittsburgh. Under this plan, the club becomes an affiliate member of the American Canoe Association for a modest annual fee. ACA insurance covers non-TRPC members who join up with TRPC for special events, such as paddling clinics. Part of the fee for these events goes to purchase event insurance from ACA for these one-time events. TRPC . Instead, the members sign an annual waiver indemnifying the Club from liability as a condition of becoming a member. The TRPC plan has been examined by lawyers, and found reasonable. Since there is no insurance or other source of "deep pockets," there is nothing to attract potential lawsuits. A number of other paddling clubs have adopted the TRPC Plan. Typical event fees for non-members are \$10. The annual club affiliation fee to ACA is \$85. The club must become a corporate entity, and non-members cannot join club trips

without a fee and some paperwork.

Finally, each FLOW member could become a member of ACA, thereby coming under their general liability policy totaling as much as \$5M per event. This would cost each member \$15. The FLOW steering committee believes this would result in raising our dues from \$20 to \$30 annually. Paperwork and hassle associated with special events is believed to be minimal.

Most Steering Committee members believe it is unfair and unreasonable to try to effect a change at this point in the 1999 membership year. Whatever course of action the Club chooses, we will move to institute that plan at the start of the next membership year in January 2000.

An opportunity for detailed discussion of this issue will occur at the May general meeting on May 13. You will be provided a ballot to be submitted with your choice by the end of May.

WWW stands for Wet Web Wonderland...

Dan Bogaard has prepared a really meaty website. Dan has recently found a better server for hosting the site - but as of now you can view it at <http://www.rit.edu/~dsbpph/flow/>



Are you interested in a nimble and sleek all around kayak?

Come check out the NEW Velocity, by Sun (aka Riot) Kayak! We have a 'fresh off the mold' demo model at the shop.

BayCreek Paddling Center
1099 Empire Blvd.
(716)288-2830

ATTENTION HARDBOATERS!



Letchworth State Park Hard Boat Shuttle

Adventure Calls (in Letchworth State Park) will provide a shuttle service for the paddling community on weekends when we are operating in the park. We will transport equipment only from the river to the adjacent parking area on the following schedule; Lee's Landing - 12:00pm and St. Helena - 12:30pm and 4:00pm. Times are dependent upon availability of personnel. Tokens must be purchased at the rafting office prior to launching. Paddler's will be notified of schedule changes at this time. The cost of this service will be \$2.00 per boat per day. Contact Adventure Calls at 1-888-270-2410 with any questions.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE:

Yellow and White **Dagger Crossfire** (W/Bags) \$450 - also for sale paddle and sprayskirt. Margit Brazda W: (716)274-8440 H: (716)624-4888

Blue & White **Dagger Crossfire** \$450 - Purple **Perception Pirouette** \$450. Dave Meyer (716)937-9652

Rick Harrington is selling a Purple & White **Cruise Control** for \$325. (716)346-0772

Wanted to Buy: Perception

'Dancer's'. Beaver Camp, a non-profit children's camp in the Adirondacks, is looking for old style 'dancers' for children's instruction. Boats should be functional and moderately priced (\$100-\$300). Please contact the camp at (315)-376-2640 or a representative at (716) 288-4417. For questions, please call Aaron Buzzell (288-4417).

15-1/2 ft **Blue Hole** Whitewater canoe, 70 lbs. Roylex, \$300. In Avon until May 15th. **X Par Missile** 23' stern rudder racing boat, used twice \$1800. In Denville NJ. Contact Ben Jones @ (973) 361-2785.

Laurie Clemency is selling her **Pirouette S** (purple) - \$375.00. Also on the market is her **Hydra Dragon Fly** for \$150.00 (such a deal!!!) Her number is (716)695-9238.

Deadline for next newsletter

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter is Monday, May 18th. Send submissions to Helen Cherniack .

FLOW Paddlers' Club
264 Vollmer Pkwy
Rochester, NY 14623

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