



FLOWlines



Finger Lakes-Ontario Watershed Paddlers' Club Newsletter
Rochester NY

Volume 5, Issue 11

November 2000

November Steering Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 2
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Steve Kittelberger's Leather Lounge
160 Penarrow Rd.
Call for directions 442-6138

November General Meeting And Slide Show

Date: Thursday, November 9
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Brighton Town Hall
2300 Elmwood Avenue

Rick French of Pack, Paddle and Ski will present a program and slide show entitled *From the Oatka to Thailand: 25 Years of Paddling*.

November Whitewater Trip

Steve Kittelberger will be leading the last FLOW sponsored trip of the year to Tohickon Creek in Pennsylvania on Nov. 3-5. This is a class III-IV river and the trip is for intermediate or better paddlers (no beginners, please). If you are interested in going on the trip, please call Steve at (716) 442-6138.



↑↑↑ **See this Blank Space?** ↑↑↑
You're going to see more of it if no one volunteers to take the open FLOWlines co-editor position! If you can help out, please call Simon at 244-3557!

Salmon River Notes

Submitted By Jerry Hargrave
Adirondack Mountain Club Representative
Salmon River Flow Management Committee

The following are a few of the items which were discussed which may be of interest to paddlers.

The whitewater release dates are set for next year (and you can calculate them for the next 10 years because they will be on the same weekends):

| | |
|---------------|---|
| June 23-24 | 4 th weekend in June |
| July 7-8 | 2 nd weekend in July |
| July 21-22 | 4 th weekend in July |
| August 4-5 | 1 st full weekend in August |
| September 1-2 | 1 st full weekend in September |

A proposal to save 16 million gallons of water by changing the way that the release was done was put forth. After some discussion the proposal was withdrawn because the water savings were minimal, it would require renegotiating the FERC license, and it would put more wear and tear on the power generating turbines.

Lamprey are small parasitic eels which attach themselves to fish and suck out their fluids, often killing them. The US - Canada Fish and Wildlife treaty mandates periodic lamprey poisoning. In order to reach all of the lamprey, it requires an 18 hour 700-750 cfs release. The lamprey kill releases are not announced to the general public so if you notice that the Salmon is running on an unannounced date do not go paddling: if it's toxic to the lamprey, it's toxic to humans.

Although it is out of the scope of the advisory committee, there was some discussion about the fisherman - boaters conflict which occurred during this year's September release. It was reported that some fishermen were throwing lead sinkers at paddlers in Titanic. And a few fishermen got wiped out by boaters and took extended swims. Several ideas were put forth, including taking ads out in fishing magazines indicating when the "whitewater" releases were going to take place and instructing boaters how to paddle courteously when there are fishermen around.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on May 15, 2001 at the NYS Fish Hatchery in Pulaski NY.

FLOW Organization

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| President | Mike Shafer..... | 716 227-9291 |
| Vice Presidents | Cathy Rague..... | 315 926-7890 |
| | James Hopkins | 716 621-2721 |
| Secretary | Dorothy Sullivan . | 716 544-9725 |
| Treasurer | Ed Boggs | 315 926-7890 |
| Facilities Development . | Rick Williams..... | 716 381-3418 |
| Membership | James Hopkins | 716 621-2721 |
| Trips & Events | Ivan Rezanka..... | 716 381-7475 |
| Newsletter | Karen Alexander . | 716-461-1513 |
| | Simon Barnett..... | 716 244-3557 |
| Education/Instruction | Ardie Shaffer..... | 716 334-4487 |
| Public Relations | Steve Kittelberger. | 716 442-6138 |
| Conservation/Access/AW. | Jerry Hargrave..... | 716-663-3888 |

FLOW Hot Line: 716 234-3893

To access the FLOW Hot Line:

1. Dial 716 234-3893 from a touch-tone phone.
2. To listen to messages left by other paddlers, press the remote access 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.

Newsletter Submissions

Send us trip reports, articles, letters to the editor, photographs, ads for our classified section, or anything else that you would like to see in FLOWlines.

If you have e-mail, send articles in the form of a text file to wave@rochester.rr.com

If you do not have e-mail, send articles to:
Karen Alexander
220 Mt Vernon Ave.
Rochester, NY 14620

For those of you still living in the dark ages (i.e. without typewriter or computer) handwritten submissions are acceptable, but they must be reasonably legible, or great editorial license may be invoked.

Membership and Mailing List

To join FLOW, send name, address, telephone, paddling interests, and \$30 (\$35 family rate). Membership papers and updated member lists will be sent to you. Call (716) 621-2721 for more information.

James Hopkins
Re: FLOW Paddlers' Club
43 Whelehan Drive
Rochester, NY 14616

Upcoming trips/events

Contact Ivan Rezanka (716) 381-7475 for Whitewater Trips. Contact James Hopkins (716) 621-2721 for Flatwater Trips.

Gauge numbers

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Genesee River (Letchworth) | 716-468-2303 |
| Cattaraugus River..... | 716-532-5454 |
| Salmon River..... | 1-800-452-1742 #365123 |
| Keuka Outlet | 716-234-0090 |

Paddling Contacts

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Adirondack MountainClub(ADK) ... | (716) 987-1717 |
| Adventure Calls..... | (888) 270-2410 |
| Ardie Shaffer..... | (716) 334-4487 |
| BayCreek Paddling Center | (716) 288-2830 |
| G.R.I.P..... | (716) 381-3418 |
| Lock 32 Project (Art Miller) | 377-1994 |
| Oak Orchard Canoe..... | (800)-4-KAYAKS |
| Pack, Paddle, and Ski | (716) 346-5597 |
| Seayaker Outfitters..... | (315) 524-9295 |

Web Pages

| | |
|-----------|---|
| AWA | http://www.awa.org |
| Bay Creek | http://www.BayCreek.com |
| FLOW | http://flowpaddlers.org |
| Seayaker | http://www.seayaker.com |
| Waterline | http://h2oline.com |

Whitewater Boating is Safer than You Think (really!)

Reprinted With Permission From American Whitewater

The complete text can be found on the web at http://www.awa.org/hotnews/wwboatingSafety_09_00.html

Apparently whitewater tragedies make good press; after all, most kayaking, rafting, and canoeing accidents are widely reported in local papers and on the evening news. This creates an illusion that the sport is extremely unsafe. Reality, however, paints a different picture of risk. In fact, a new study by American Whitewater finds that the fatality rate for whitewater recreation is 15 times lower than driving and twice as safe as bicycling. It is also much safer than recreational boating as a whole.

The good news is that the risks of whitewater paddling are quite manageable and are mitigated through training, use of a personal floatation device (PFD), and development of good personal judgement. The drive to the river is probably the most dangerous part of any whitewater trip.

American Whitewater has just completed a five-year study to determine the risk of drowning from whitewater boating. We collected use data from 30 whitewater rivers of various difficulties from across the country. The result: less than 1 fatality per 100,000 whitewater participants. The complete study will be printed in the September/October issue of American Whitewater.

As Jason Robertson, Access Director, observed, "While whitewater drownings are tragedies of a very personal nature for the victim's family and friends, these accidents, fortunately, are rare. Most paddlers will never encounter a serious accident at any time in their boating career."

Among whitewater kayakers, who have a higher accident rate compared to canoers and rafters, the fatality rate is only 2.9 per 100,000 participants. When compared to other active outdoor sports, kayaking is safer than scuba diving (3.5) and climbing on rock, snow, or ice (3.2).

7,420,563 whitewater boaters visited the 30 rivers in our 5-year study period between 1994 and 1998. Of these, there were 5,732,683 commercial boaters and 1,687,880 private boaters. During this same period there were 64 whitewater boating fatalities, including 26 commercial passenger deaths and 38 private boater deaths. We calculated that there were 0.86 whitewater fatalities per 100,000 participants, or 2.25 private boater deaths per 100,000 and 0.45 commercial boater deaths per 100,000. The river with the most whitewater

fatalities was the Arkansas in Colorado, with 17 drownings over five years.

The overall whitewater fatality rate based on user days would be even lower if we could obtain more accurate data on the number of private boaters. Whereas commercial rafting companies were required to turn in passenger manifests each season, private use counts were collected by river management agencies via a wide variety of registration systems over different monitoring seasons, and private use counts often included self-guided trips in rented boats as private visitors.

Lee Belknap, Chair of American Whitewater's Safety Committee, observed that "Safety in the sport is related to experience, training, and personal judgement. However, the ONE item that makes the single greatest contribution to personal safety on the water is the use of a life jacket or personal floatation device (PFD)."

Although not really a problem among experienced whitewater paddlers or passengers on professionally guided raft trips, American Whitewater has found that improper use of a PFD (including the failure to wear one on the water) is responsible for at least half of all fatalities in both flat and moving water.

Charlie Walbridge, another American Whitewater Safety Committee member and author of many swiftwater safety books, agreed with Belknap, saying "Life jackets truly save lives. Whether you are kayaking across a lake, floating your canoe on a pond, or rafting the Class V Gauley River, you can cut your chances of drowning in half by properly wearing your PFD."

Conflict On West Canada Creek Uncovers Little Known Access Rules

Submitted by Jerry Hargrave, Regional Coordinator, American Whitewater

Back in August, after the West Canada Creek festival, a DEC officer was called by an irate landowner because there was a sign posted at one of the West Canada Creek DEC fishing access site indicating that boaters could put in there. The officer contacted a local boater and told her to remove the sign and get the word out that the site is not supposed to be used by boaters – it is to be used for fishing only.

As boaters commonly use the site as a put in, this caused quite a stir in the paddling community. Several paddlers tried to contact the DEC to get a clarification on the rules governing fishing sites. A registered letter was sent to the NYS Region Six Director, which resulted in a telephone call from Mr. Al Schiavone, Natural Resource Supervisor for DEC Region 6. He noted that this is probably one of the few fishermen access sites in NY where boater access would be a problem because the landowner has taken it upon himself to patrol the stream and complain to the DEC.

The DEC leases this fishing access site from the landowner, and upon close inspection of the lease, it was discovered that the landowner is legally correct. Here is an excerpt from the lease. “...*the sole and exclusive right, privilege and easement of occupying and using at all times as a fishing ground and for no other purpose for the use and benefit of the public.*” The state paid \$270 for this easement on November 2, 1949. Furthermore, DEC rules specify, “*No person shall erect of post any sign or notice, except as permitted by the department.*” This is from §190.24 ¶ f of the DEC Environmental Conservation Rules and Regulations. The complete text can be found on the web at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/regs>.

There are two different types of fishing access sites in NY state. *Fisherman Access Sites* are generally built on large bodies of water to provide boat or canoe access. They are typically acquired with a fee title (New York State owns the land) and are usually more lenient in their uses. But these access sites are still specifically designated as Fishing Access Site.

Fisherman Parking Areas are usually acquired in conjunction with Public Fishing rights to provide anglers with parking facilities adjacent to streams or rivers. Parking areas are typically permanent easement and the acquisition documents specify that they are to be used by the general public for the purpose of fishing only.

This is an uncomfortable revelation to many boaters who thought that they were allowed to use these access sites. And what it really comes down to is money. These areas are developed and

maintained with money that comes from a tax on hunting and fishing supplies and licenses. When the NYS DOT does construction at one of these sites, they are paid from this fund. And since boaters do not have to purchase licenses for their boats or pay this tax on their supplies, they do not have any pull when it comes to writing the regulations or selecting the sites.

To avoid problems in the future, it would be a good idea for event organizers to contact the appropriate DEC regional office to get specific information about planned access sites. And until the rules are changed, paddlers should use NY Fishing access sites and Fishing Parking areas judiciously. Consider yourself as a guest and use shuttle time to pick up litter. Make sure you buy local gas and local meals. Frequent local roadside stands.

What can boaters do to gain “legal” access to these sites?

- Maintaining memberships in organizations such as like CNY Whitewater, FLOW, ADK, AW, and NYRU will give us clout when dealing with officials – it’s no longer a few disgruntled paddlers, but a significant, organized “block” of people that they have to deal with.
- Work to change the laws to get river access sites purchased in different ways. Bruce Carpenter of New York Rivers United is trying to get changes implemented on how future sites are identified, purchased, and labeled.
- Work cooperatively with all parties involved to find win – win solutions. NYRU’s strength is derived from including the interests of boating, fishing, and resource advocacy groups.

Many thanks to Mr. Schiavone from the DEC for taking time to give us clear and concise explanations, Bruce Carpenter for his attempts to change future access easements, Bob Glanville of AW legal for help researching this issue, and Peter Skinner / Jason Robertson from AW for their support.

The views expressed in this report are those of the author and neither condoned nor rejected by the directors of the FLOW Paddlers’ Club and its newsletter.

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FLOW Paddlers' Club Steering Committee Minutes

Submitted By Mike Shafer
Wednesday, October 4, 2000

In an effort to keep the general membership informed, we are publishing the steering committee minutes. As always, any member is encouraged to come to the steering committee meetings. We welcome your input.

Newsletter

FLOWLINES Co-editor wanted (Karen retiring)

WebPages

Add newsletter to web page; omit current month and hotline passcode. Encourage people to send pictures to Simon!

Treasury

Same financial position as 1 year ago. Agreed to maintain current membership rates for next year.

Membership:

We currently have 216 members (167 member applications + family members). Family membership seen as a success. Simon will create renewal mailing to be reviewed at the November meeting and mailed in late Nov. Steve Kittelberger to procure new club decal for including with 2001 renewal.



BayCreek Paddling Center
1099 Empire Blvd
Rochester NY
(716) 288-2830
<http://www.baycreek.com>

The new **WAVE SPORT** boats will
be in at the end of November.
Come in and check out the
Score, EZ, and Big EZ!

Meetings:

Summer format ("on the water") was good. We should do it again in Jun, Jul, and Aug next year.

Pool rentals

Repeat both pools this year. Same evenings and pricing. Details still to be worked.

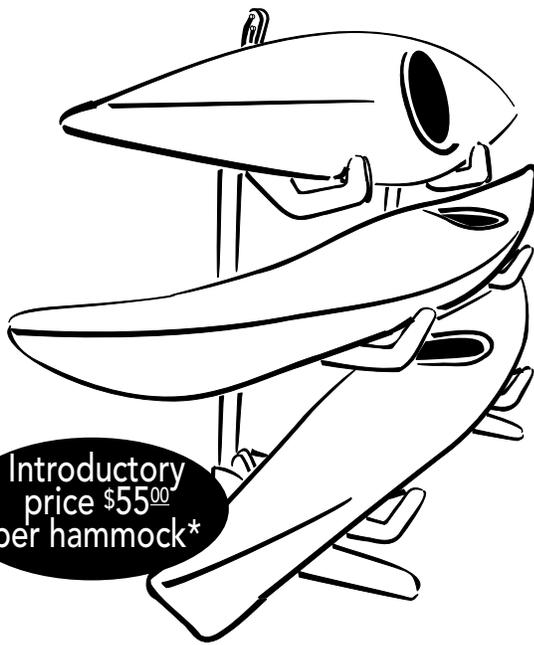
Access

Harry Marinakis to draft a letter to campground owner along Canaseraga Creek to seek club access.

Misc

Cathy Rague will act as programs director, along with VP position.

Trip List & WW trip rating system...began discussion on how to format for next year. More input needed and tabled for further discussion.



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Wave Sport Kinetic, New in Sept. 99, Great beginner kayak for a small paddler, \$400. **Rhode Gear Super Shuttle** Trunk Mount Bicycle rack. Holds 2 bikes very securely, \$55. Call Doug 716-734-9026 or droode@ulbi.com

Do you have extra gear sitting in your basement, garage, or under you deck? Someone may want it and just think what you can do with the extra cash! Send your adds to the newsletter editors. See page 2 for contact information.

Next newsletter deadline is Nov. 23



What We Do Without A Boat And River

FLOW Paddlers Club
43 Whelehan Drive
Rochester, NY 14616

