



FLOWlines



Finger Lakes-Ontario Watershed Paddlers' Club Newsletter
Rochester NY

Volume 6, Issue 1

January 2001

January Steering Committee Meeting

There will be a brief steering committee meeting at the beginning of the FLOW party on January 11.

January General Meeting / Party

Date: Thursday, January 11
Time: 6 P.M. until ?????
Place: McGinnity's, 534 West Ridge Road
On the north side of the Ridge
between Dewey Ave. and Mt. Read Blvd.

The annual FLOW party will once again be held at McGinnity's. Bring a paddling video to share, home-grown or commercial, and any pictures and stories you have to share from the 2000 paddling Season. All food and beverage provided...plan to be there!

Help The Youth Of America

WANTED: Safety Boater and companion for 8-10 students from the Norman Howard School for a Canadian Whitewater Wilderness Rafting trip.

QUALIFICATIONS: Ability to read and run class 3-4 whitewater, scout routes, and pick up people who fall over board from raft.

DATE: May 13-18, 01. We will be training with the students on the 12th in Letchworth and then heading to the Salmon on the 13th. The 14th-17th we will be in Canada.

DESTINATION: Rouge River in Quebec (headwater area, called the 21 mile stretch for the non stop of class 3 rapids)

REWARDS: Ask Helen Cherniak who went last year. You will get to run a wilderness river raft supported, great water, great fun. The best though is having the opportunity to be part of the seniors lives as you help guide them on this trip. Free vacation for you.

CONTACT: Rick French at Pack, Paddle, Ski, 346-5597 or info@packpaddleski.com as soon as possible.

February General Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 8
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave.
Mark the date on your new 2001 calendar! "The General" is coming to town! Chris Koll, a director of American Whitewater and one of the major supporters and cheerleaders for Adirondack whitewater sport is scheduled as the major program at FLOW's February meeting. More details will follow in next month's issue of FLOWlines.

Paddling Repair Tips

Submitted by Jerry Hargrave

Traditional wisdom tells us:

You need only two tools.

- 1. If it doesn't move and it should, use WD-40.***
- 2. If it moves and shouldn't, use duct tape.***

But I just came across some new information. Forget the duct tape - or at least duct tape as we know it.

So what's wrong with the soggy rolls of stuff we call "Duct Tape"? It doesn't stick when your boat is wet or cold. After a couple of weeks in the sun or one river trip, the fabric will wear off in thin threads. The gray glue adhesive will harden and crack, being almost impossible to remove. Of course it is not very durable - it is just fabric and glue!

For a better solution try REAL duct tape! I just had a furnace installed. To seal the ducts the installer used a silver heavy duty aluminum foil. It comes with a VERY sticky waterproof glue. The coils are separated with paper peel off. I stuck some on a paddle. I am sure it will be there for many years.

Paul Houndt, who fixes many of our paddles with epoxy, can now be replaced. This foil can be called "Paul on a roll." I bought mine at Chase Pitkin but I also found it in the furnace pipe section of Home Depot. It comes in several different widths. I can't believe any of us paddlers never got wind of this great product. Get in the 20th century and **try it!** Next time you want to fix that splintered paddle don't reach for the same old useless duct tape - go out and get a roll of the real stuff. Don't laugh but now the old rusted Toyota now has some brand new silver patches.

FLOW Organization

President.....	Mike Shafer	227-9291
Vice Presidents.....	Cathy Rague . (315) 926-7890	
James Hopkins	621-2721
Secretary.....	Dorothy Sullivan....	544-9725
Treasurer	Ed Boggs	(315) 926-7890
Facilities Development	Rick Williams.....	381-3418
Membership	James Hopkins	621-2721
Trips & Events	Ivan Rezanka	381-7475
Newsletter	Simon Barnett	899-6803
Education/Instruction	Ardie Shaffer.....	334-4487
Public Relations	Steve Kittelberger...	442-6138
Conservation/Access.	Jerry Hargrave.....	663-3888

Gauge numbers

Genesee River (Letchworth).....	468-2303
Catteragus Creek.....	532-0626
Black Cr. at Churchville... (800) 452-1742 # 361131	
Salmon River	(800) 452-1742 # 365123

Web Pages

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

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 simon.barnett@usa.xerox.com. If you do not have e-mail, send articles to:

Simon Barnett
72 Maple Park Heights
Rochester, NY 14625

Paddling Contacts

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

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 621-2721 for more information.

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

FLOW Decals are now available for \$2 each. Contact Steve Kittelberger if you would like one!

FLOW Hot Line: 234-3893

To access the FLOW Hot Line:

1. Dial 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.

Upcoming trips/events

Whitewater Trips: Contact Ivan Rezanka 381-7475.
Flatwater Trips: Contact James Hopkins 621-2721.

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Steering Committee Minutes

Thursday, December 7

Present: Mike Shafer, Steve Kittelberger, Jim Hopkins, Cathy Rague

Review of last meeting minutes: The steering committee meeting minutes will continue to appear in the newsletter due to favorable response. Mtg. minutes will be sent to Simon via e-mail from minutes taker.

Steering Committee Meetings: Jan mtg to be held pre-party Jan 11 at McGinnity's. Feb 1st mtg to possibly be held at establishment owned by FLOW member. Confirmation pending.

General Meetings: Jan meeting will be preempted by Winter Party at McGinnity's. Same terrific menu as last year. Entertainment will be videos. Mike will spread the word via e-mail. Steve will provide equipment. Feb 8 General Meeting Program will feature Chris Koll presenting Adirondack Rivers. Cathy to follow up on arrangements. Further ideas for General Meeting programs were discussed. Cathy to follow up.

Swap Meet: Boat Repair presentation may be included. Cathy to follow up.

USGS River Gages: Steve to follow up.

Pool Practices: Written approval has been received thanks to Ivan for Wed nights at Barker Rd. Written request has been sent thanks to Doc Pearson for Mon nights at Wheatland Chili. The cost will be \$2 for members and \$5 for non members.

Kayak Polo: Hoppy to follow up.

Newsletter: Simon got some help with stamping, folding and mailing last newsletter from Mike, Helen and Karen. **Thanks to Helen for hosting the stamping party and providing superb, excellent, wonderful food!** Search for Co-editor continues. Steve to follow up possible candidate(s). Stories/info needed from membership for newsletter.

Treasury: Hoppy and Ed to set up system for renewals.

Decals: These will be sent free to new and renewing members. Simon to have last word on how this will be accomplished. Decals will be on sale at Winter Party for \$2 each.

Banner: Proposed for FLOW events. Steve and Mike to follow up.

Constitution for FLOW Paddlers' Club: Steve will present a draft during subsequent meeting.

Relationship with other paddling organizations: Plans for more in-depth interactions to be researched by steering committee.

Website: Simon has updated. Go there!

Rushford Releases: Steve to continue to follow up.

D & C Publicity: Steve to follow up on consistency of the publication of our programs.

Next meeting: Pre Winter Party.

Northeast Rivers Under Siege as the New Year Begins

Submitted By Steve Kittelberger

As the New Year begins, the environmental community is bracing itself for one of its first battles in the effort to prevent rollbacks of important environmental regulations in the 107th Congress.

From January 8 to January 18, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) – the federal agency responsible for regulating private hydropower dams – will hold a series of public meetings as it prepares a report to Congress outlining ways to “reduce the cost and time of obtaining a [hydropower dam] license.” The intentions of this report are very clear – find ways to make it cheaper and faster for hydropower dam operators to exploit the public’s rivers.

We need to make it exceedingly clear to both FERC and Congress that rivers belong to the public. What matters is not regulatory process, but impacts to natural resources and local communities! More efficient government is fine, but only if private hydropower dam operators are held accountable for the harm they inflict on public rivers. We must deliver this message loud and clear to both FERC and Congress.

Attend your regional meeting. Reserve the date today! A meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00am on Wednesday, January 10 at the following location:

Ramada Inn
300 Broadway
Albany, NY
(518) 434-4111

American Rivers and the Hydropower Reform Coalition are preparing talking points and core messages to assist meeting attendees. We will be circulating these the week prior to your meeting. Of course, the most powerful message will come from local individuals and organizations like yourself, who can speak to the impacts of hydropower dams on you and your local river(s).

FERC will also be accepting written comments until February 1, 2001. Please keep an eye out for future updates about how best to voice your concerns through written comments.

If you can attend your regional meeting, please help us better organize by sending an RSVP to the contacts below.

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact: Matt Sicchio, Coordinator, Hydropower Reform Coalition, msicchio@amrivers.org; T: 202-347-7550 x3021; F: 202-347-9240.

Bruce Carpenter, Executive Director, New York Rivers United, nyrubc@aol.com; T: 315-339-2097; F: 315-339-6028.

Lower Yough Safety Report On Dimple Rock

Reprinted with permission from Charlie Walbridge
ccwalbridge@cs.com

Mike Shafer submitted this article (and photographs) based on the fact that many FLOW members paddle the Lower Yough. This article can be found on the AW web site rapids.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/103 and the Coroner's inquest report can be found at rapids.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/111.

Ohiopyle State Park manager Doug Hoehn asked a group of river managers, outfitters, and experienced whitewater paddlers to come together with him on November 11th at the park office. Our purpose was to take a close look at safety on the Lower Yough and issues at Dimple Rock in particular. The group met in an advisory capacity, and gave park managers the benefit of their experience.

Following three deaths at Dimple this past summer, the Fayette County Coroner decided to hold an inquest into all three deaths. The coroner has taken special interest in other drownings on the Yough. This meeting was part of efforts by Mr. Hoehn to prepare in preparation for the inquest, now scheduled for November 28th.

Present at the meeting:

Doug Hoehn, Park Manager at Ohiopyle
Gene Hart, Doug's boss from DCNR
Dan Bickel, Asst. Park manager at Ohiopyle
Brian Culp, Chief Ranger at Ohiopyle
Clyde Braun, from the U.S. Corps of Engineers
Gary Hartley, Chief Ranger, New River Gorge NRA

Rick Brown, Asst. Chief Ranger, New River Gorge NRA

Charlie Walbridge, for the ACA and AW

Jeff Prycl, for Three Rivers Paddling Club

Lynn Martin, from Wilderness Voyageurs

Scott Downs, A veteran river guide on the Yough and elsewhere

Mr. Hoehn and his staff presented an overview of current safety program, including:

1. Their new safety video
2. Waivers
3. Boat sizes vs. river level
4. The current allocation system
5. Outfitter contracts with the state that specify:
 - a. Guide requirements (numbers & training)
 - b. Equipment requirements
 - c. The talk-up for rented and guided guests
 - d. Communications: 1 radio per trip; trips that run at half-hour intervals, plus a radio with the photographer at Cucumber Rapid
6. The group also visited Dimple Rock during the afternoon



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*Slanted hammock, reg. \$85.00 Boats courtesy of Bay Creek Paddling Center

Education efforts were discussed at length, and it is clear that these cannot be 100% effective. Some people are simply not receptive.

Accidents on the Lower Yough

The group then looked at the history of boating accidents at Ohiopyle State Park. Since 1977 roughly 2,000,000 river runners have run the Lower Yough, and there have been 17 deaths. This is .85 per 100,000 users, which is a pretty good record. In 11 of the past 23 years there were no fatalities, including the '80, '81, '83-'86; '88, '91, '97, '98, and '99 seasons. Historical use is roughly 50% guided, 25% rentals, and 25% private.

Drownings At Each Rapid

Location	Thru 1999	Thru 2000
Entrance	3	3
Cucumber	3	3
Dimple ¹	6	9
Rivers End	2	2

¹Includes the 1983 death of Bob Henk not listed in park summary.

Of the 9 drownings at Dimple, two involved swimmers who were not held under the rock and two involved people who became caught in gear attached to pinned rafts. The other 5 were held under water for a time, and while we suspect Dimple Rock, the actual site where they were held is uncertain.

Drownings By Type Of Craft

Type of Craft	Thru 1999	Thru 2000
Guided	4	5
Rental	4	6
Private Hard Boat	2	2
Private Inflatable	3	3

Prior to 2000, Dimple was considered just one of several dangerous places on the river. The three recent fatalities make the 2000 season the worst year in the history of the Yough and increased the total number killed at Dimple by 50%. The number of guided fatals and unguided fatals are close, but because total unguided numbers are roughly 50% of guided, rentals are probably about twice as dangerous. Rangers and guides present at the meeting feel that rental guests are in better physical condition and more self reliant, and there was no consensus on curtailing this activity. Duckes have been rented for over ten years, and therefore the two duckie fatalities this past summer appear to be an anomaly.

A group of rangers, guides, and paddlers inspected the upstream

Rob Blake
716-734-3000

Rick Williams
716-381-3418

GRAVITY RESEARCH INSTRUCTION PERFORMANCE

face of Dimple Rock at low water a few weeks ago. The Corps of Engineers had cut back flows as much as possible. Mr. Hoehn and others examined the undercut using a mask. The area upstream of Dimple is badly undercut. The area under the upstream face of the rock is irregular, but roughly the size of the cargo area of a minivan.

At .8 feet this "room" is under 1' of water; at 2.5 feet the top of the pillow reaches the top of the rock and the undercut area is under 7' of water. Most people who flip here are pushed to the right by the pillow. An unlucky few are pushed deep and MAY emerge in the room. The current in the room is not strong, but disorientation certainly results and most people have only 20-30 seconds worth of air if they flip while paddling. Several people have reported being caught under something, then being released at the last minute. In 1996 several large trees were removed from this spot, reducing the size of the pillow somewhat.

Dimple is not the only rock in this area that is undercut. Scott Downs reported that Washover Rock, to the right of Dimple, is badly undercut, as are several other rocks downstream. It is possible



Nathan Lafratta, Lower Yough, September 2000

that some or all of the victims are were held under by rocks other than Dimple. "Fixing" Dimple may not solve the problem. There are a number of other dangerous rocks just downstream from Dimple. People are washed away from these by water deflected by the rock. removing Dimple Rock would cause people to be washed towards these other rocks with potentially harmful results.

Rapids have been modified for safety on several rivers, with mixed results. Paddlers emphasized to park personnel the difficulty of doing something that works, the possibility of creating an unexpected additional hazard, and the need to do the job right. American Whitewater's White Paper on river modification expresses a strong preference for natural rivers, but modifications for safety can be supported if the river is heavily used, the site has been linked to fatalities, and the work can be done in a way that is not visible. Dimple appears to fit these criteria, but AW has made no decision about supporting this project. Modifying a rapid to make it easier to run, say, by creating a sneak route, is not supported by the White Paper. It may also affect the main chute by lowering the height of the water in the pool with unpredictable results. It is possible that the "room" under Dimple could be filled with concrete, delivered by a tube running down the sides of the gorge from a truck driven the bicycle path on River Left. This would minimize the visual impact of this project on the natural area. The group felt that they did not have the expertise to evaluate this idea, and suggested consultations with experts in this field.

Comments

Emails to Doug Hoehn and myself fall into three categories:

1. People who feel that the area should be undisturbed, saying it is a natural hazard and people should be educated to avoid it, portaging if necessary.
2. People who feel that modification of Dimple Rock is reasonable if it can be done without making a visual impact on the area. This seemed to be a majority view.
3. People who feel that Dimple Rock should be removed, saying that no physical feature is worth a human life.

It should be noted that park rangers have extensive contact with the relatives of victims. There are many phone conversations, and Doug Hoehn has made 2-3 trips following each accident



Bill Kuipers, Lower Yough, September 2000

After discussion, consensus was reached on the following issues:

Improved Education: An improved education program should be initiated, including:

1. Stronger wording of the risks of river running in the park safety video. Possibly building better place for prospective river runners to watch the video than the current site, where there are fewer distractions.
2. Signs warning of danger at dimple at the put in and at the top of the rapid. These would identify the rapid, describe the danger, and recommending scouting and portaging when in doubt. The sign would also indicate that people have died at this location.
3. Handouts on the dangers of Dimple, perhaps based on excellent drawings published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, aimed at the rental customer.
4. Improved safety training, including whether gear can be pre-positioned at known hazardous sites.

Steps to Facilitate Portage

The group supported creation of a portage trail at



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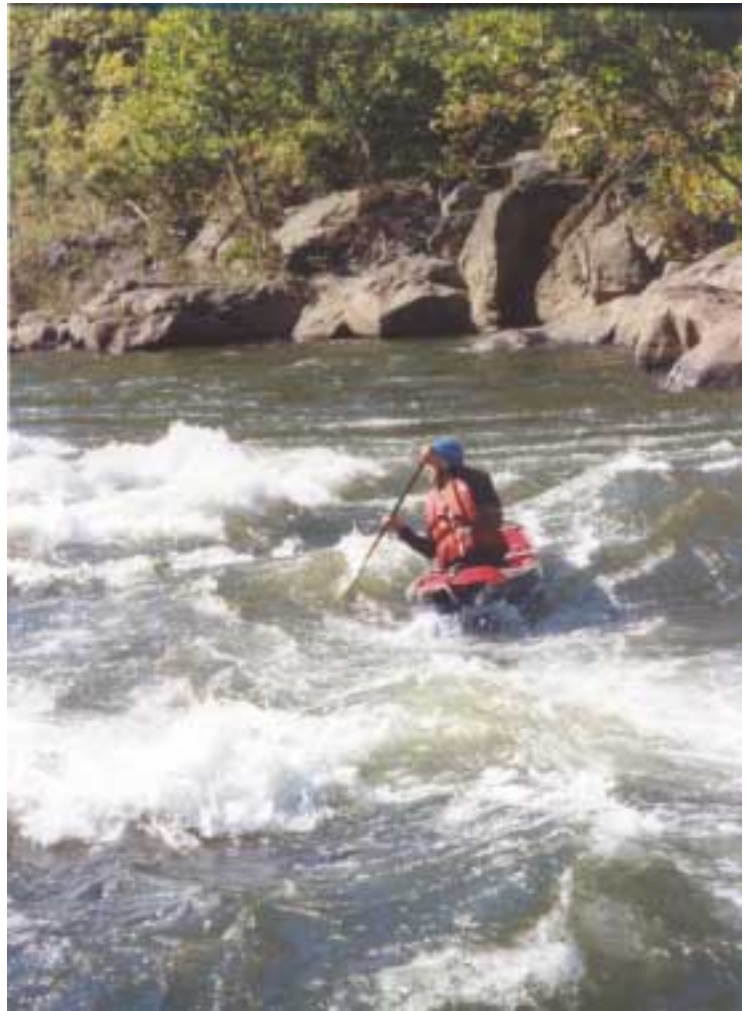
the top of the rapid on River right. Mr. Hoehn reported that there are issues of land ownership and endangered species at the site of the proposed trail, but that these problems should not be insurmountable.

Removing or Modifying Dimple Rock:

1. That the rock should not be removed, both for esthetic reasons and because it may cause people to wash into other dangerous rocks downstream of Dimple. Mr. Hart said, "The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has no interest in destroying Dimple Rock." Furthermore, such action would certainly be opposed in court by a number of environmental groups.
2. That the park should study the feasibility of filling the undercut section of Dimple Rock, using contacts from the Corps of Engineers and the Pa. State Highway Department. If a solution is found, the group may reconvene to discuss it further before a decision is made. It should be noted that even if a solution is found, water levels will not allow anything to be done until the fall of 2001. In the meantime, the safety program should go forward.

Help Wanted

We would like to maintain a list of northeast festivals and release dates. This list would be published in FLOWlines and on the FLOW website. You do not need any computer experience – you could write it in crayon and send it to me via carrier pigeon. I will take care of formatting and publishing. If you are interested in creating the list and updating it monthly, please contact Simon Barnett at 244-3557/Simon.Barnett@usa.xerox.com



Bill Kuipers, Lower Yough, September 2000

“Thank You!” From The Editors

Wow – it’s almost a year since we took over the editorship of FLOWlines, and we just wanted to take a moment to recognize all the people who have made it possible. Thanks to Helen Cherniack and Dan Bogaard for getting us started and continuing to answer questions; George Mermagen, Steve Kittelberger, and Mike Shafer for short notice proofreading, articles, and photographs; Hoppy and Ivan for maintaining the trip lists; Jerry Hargrave, Heather Mummery, Dorothy Sullivan, Art Miller, Mike Marini, Ardie Shaffer, Valerio Villa, Steve & Lisa Benedict, Ken Voytac, Michelle Bull (from CNY), and Dan Weiss for submitting articles; the steering committee for guidance; the folks at the *American Canoe Association* and at *American Whitewater* who have allowed us to reprint their materiel; and everyone else that has given us input!



James Hopkins, Lower Yough, September 2000

Classified Ads

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

Perception Spark Whitewater Kayak \$400. Rail-mount **Yakima rack** with kayak loop \$60. Call Lee 586-5677 (home) or 781-5428 (work)

Wave Sport Godzilla in good condition. Has a PD Deluxe backband installed. The boat is stored indoors when not in use. Located in western NY. Asking \$475 or best offer. email jferrerio@aol.com or call 716-283-0263.

Perception Mr. Clean play boat and **RIOT KIX** creek boat 450.00 each contact Jim at (716)-436-9902 or 370-9585 cell.

Purple and white **New Wave Cruise Control** for \$300. Contact Simon at 899-6803 or Simon.Barnett@usa.xerox.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.

Pool Practice Schedule Announced

Pool practice at Wheatland - Chili High School has been moved to Monday nights this year. The dates are as follows:

February 26

March 5, 12, 19, 26

April 2, 9

Pool practice at Barker Road School continues to be on Wednesday nights this year. The dates were not available at the time of printing. They will be posted on the FLOW web site.

Admission to pool practice is \$2 for FLOW members and \$5 for the general public.

Next newsletter deadline is Jan 18.

FLOW Paddlers Club
43 Whelehan Drive
Rochester, NY 14616

