



FLOWline



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



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August 2004

Beaver River – Taylorville Section

—by Richard Mauser

The Taylorville section is labeled class III-IV. At the levels I have paddled it (during releases), most of it can be navigated by a good intermediate paddler. Maybe not gracefully, but that is not my style. (Yeah, yeah – a log can do better – blah, blah). The descriptions below are based on experiencing it at the release levels, which are not extreme. (Is extreme a relative term?) All features are followed by sizeable pools, making recovery a piece of cake! If you choose to run it, sign the club waiver form first and then read the AW page on this river (<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2612/>).

The action starts immediately at the first rapid, **Come Home to Jesus**, aptly named, and I do not encourage anyone to run this. I have seen most people sneak it,

—continued on page 4

The State of the Black

—by Andrew Cook

The Black River in Watertown, with its substantial gradient has long attracted industrial interests. Last weekend it featured the US National Freestyle Kayak Team Trials at the famed Route 3 Wave. This event was part of a larger plan to attract the paddling community to Watertown in order to spark a post-industrial boon to tourism. Within the city of Watertown, the Black River has suffered a century of commercial abuse through damming, pollution and modification of the riverbed. The City government is now trying to clean up its riverfront in an effort to make the Black River a draw for tourism. Route 3 Wave has long been known to kayakers as a play spot for intermediate and advanced paddlers. Two years ago, the City announced a controversial proposal to modify the existing feature, making it deeper and more uniform. They also intend to add eddies below the wave for instruction and slalom training. The second phase of renovation would be to construct a put-in and educational area based on Sewal's Island, in downtown Watertown. This area has been targeted by the Environmental Protection Agency as a brown field clean up priority. A bridge to the island is currently being removed, making it a good time to restore the site. This is a large task, however, as

the river in this area is so full of debris that it is dangerous for recreational use. The intention is to make this site the primary location for instruction and slalom training in Watertown. The World Kayak Federation (<http://www.worldkayak.com/consultation/watertown.cfm>) is consulting with the city and Blackwater, Ltd., a local development company that is spearheading the project.

New York State has awarded the City \$185,000 in state grants for, among other things, a feasibility study and preliminary design for a whitewater park for competition and recreational use, economic analysis to determine the viability of environmentally friendly river usage and community visioning to establish consensus on riverfront redevelopment. In June of 2002, the State awarded \$15,000 to Watertown to use a consultant or the SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry Council for Community Design Research to "hold public meetings to gain public input and identify issues, then compile a report that determines the river's role in redevelopment within Watertown" (press release available at http://www.state.ny.us/governor/press/year02/june9_02.htm). In July, 2004, the state awarded an Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) grant of \$50,000 to enable the city to "establish a vision and set its priorities for downtown revitalization." You can see the press release at http://www.dos.state.ny.us/pres/pr2004/728_watertown.htm. The EPF awards matching grants to local governments for preparation and implementation of Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs (LWRP). The EPF has awarded \$68 million to over 700 LWRPs. The City will also use part of the money to create promotional material to highlight its revitalization efforts. Also, \$4.1 million is slated for "streetscape enhancement" to begin later this year. Watertown also has begun construction on a linear park along the river, part of which is already completed downstream of ARO and part of which was constructed in preparation for the Team Trials. As a whole, the LWRP remains in the planning stages. The City was a finalist for the 2005 World Freestyle Championships, but lost out to Perth, Australia. Watertown will bid again in 2007, but will need to create or modify a river feature in order to host the event.

—continued on page 5

2004 FLOW Whitewater Trips

| Date | Level | Trip Description | Class | Coordinator | Contact # |
|-----------|--------------|--|----------|--------------------|----------------|
| Sept.4 | Intermediate | Salmon River, Pulaski (750 cfs) | III | Don Shaw | (585) 223-5077 |
| Sept. 4 | Intermed/Adv | Beaver River, Taylorville section | III-IV | Richard Mauser | (585) 473-2162 |
| Sept. 12 | Intermed/Adv | Beaver River, Taylorville section | III-IV | Ben Bramlage | (518) 792-3277 |
| Sept. 18 | Beginner | Genesee River in Letchworth | II | Andrew Cook | (585) 461-9182 |
| Sept. 25 | Beginner | Genesee River in Letchworth | II | Ed Keidel | (716) 741-3914 |
| Sept. 25 | Intermediate | West River, Vermont | III | Ben Bramlage | (518) 792-3277 |
| Oct. 2 | Beginner | Genesee River in Letchworth | II | Jerry Koehler | (315) 986-4526 |
| Oct. 9 | Beginner | Genesee River in Letchworth | II | Andrew Cook | (585) 461-9182 |
| Oct. 9-10 | Intermed/Adv | Hudson River Gorge. This is a 2-day trip with camping out of the boat. Terry will support the trip by carrying the gear on the raft. | III-IV | Terry Mcnamarra | (315) 339-1447 |
| Oct. 16 | Intermediate | Moose River from Singing Waters to McKeever (Moose Fest) | III | Ed Keidel | (716) 741-3914 |
| Nov. 6 -7 | Intermediate | Tohickon Creek, PA-camp nearby | III-III+ | Steve Kittelberger | (585) 442-6138 |

2004 FLOW Flatwater Trips

| Date | Time | Trip Description | Coordinator | Contact |
|-------------|----------|--|----------------|--|
| Sept. 17-20 | TBA | St. Regis area of Adirondacks; primitive inland camping; minimal portaging | Sheila Wagoner | (585) 224-0672 sheila.wagoner@kodak.com |
| Sept. 16 | 6:30 pm. | Farewell to Summer Surf Classic @ Durand Beach | TBA | Message Board |



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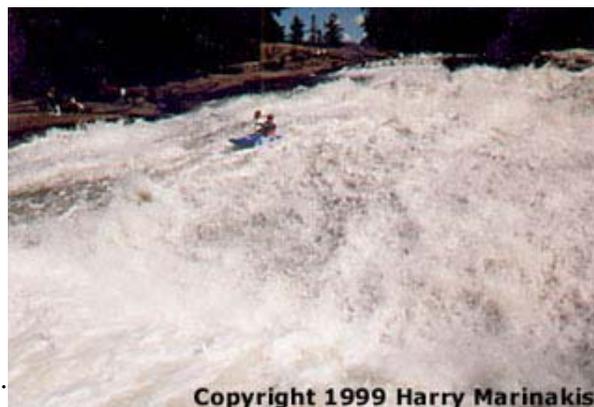
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New 2005 models arriving daily.

Beaver River – Taylorville Section

some people punch it, some scramble for their life and get a major whooping, and some go in just to play. Intermediate first timers are wise to put in below it.

The next drop is **Slip-n-Slide** or the **Big Slide**, a 30 feet high granite slope with a small diagonal ledge drop at the top (and miscellaneous holes that I've yet to find . . . hmmm) and a larger hole (which is now stickier than it was in the past) at the bottom that looks like the wake behind a power boat. Paddle paddle, stay upright and pointing downstream. If you get sideways on the slide, you can correct it before you hit the bottom, which I've done with success. The bottom hole flips most boaters, and if you duck and leave your paddle extended, it nicely flips you back up. It does to me, anyway. Perfect for the lazy paddler. No guarantees.



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Next is a choice – an **S Turn** to the right of an island or a chute on the left side of the island. The S Turn offers more technical thrills, and the chute can be run by portaging up from below. The total drop in this rapid is approximately 20 feet. After the S Turn comes a rock garden. It is always better to try one more roll than to swim, especially in a rock garden (from experience).

Like the first slide? Good, because the next one puts a twist on it – but it is not as tall. The chute is clean, but be careful not to ram the boulder. (hear me? DON'T RAM THE BOULDER!) The left hand side is easier than the right. No boulder.

Next is an easy 6 foot waterfall drop. Boof, baby, boof! The last feature is a surf wave. Someone rigged a pair of water-skis to a chair, on a tow line, permanently attached to a cable that spans the river. I'll stick to kayaking, thank you. The run is short enough to run twice, if you set up shuttle before the release starts and don't dawdle. Given the travel time to get here, its worth doing twice.

Last year, camping was permitted at the reservoir, under the pines. Pine needles make the best cushion under a tent. A local tavern offers breakfast. Take your bath on the river.

–by Richard Mauser

Vacation Idea?

Adirondack Exposure is offering an across the board 10% discount to all ACA affiliated clubs and their members. The discount is good on all services that we offer, including paddlesports instruction, multi-sport Adirondack vacations and guided kayak trips from Canada to Texas. Information on all of our services can be found at www.adirondackexposure.com or 315-335-1681. To get the discount all you have to do is let us know that you are a member of FLOW!

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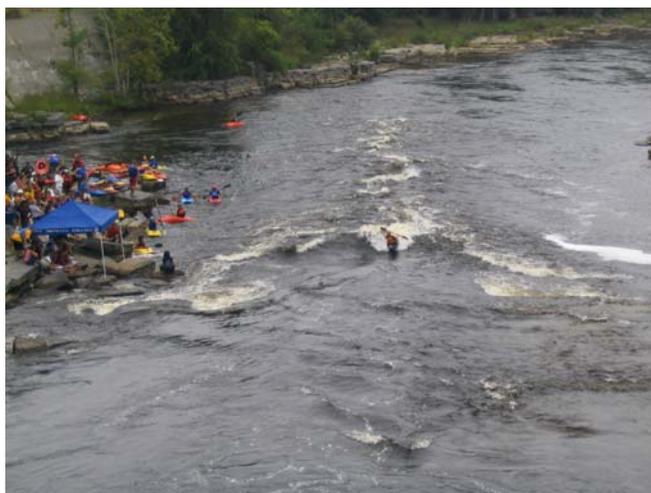
- Located in the Independence Wild Forest Area on the Indy!
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The State of the Black

So, what does this mean for local kayakers? Many have expressed a reluctance to see the already popular 3 Wave modified because of fear of losing an intermediate surf wave. In an open letter to the mayor of Watertown, Steve Kittelberger warned that “design and engineering of whitewater courses and holes is not a science. The only accepted approach to the problem is trial and error, usually much error, sometimes permanent error. In spite of best design engineering and scale model trials, the courses at Dickerson, MD., the Atlanta Olympic Course, and the Rochester, NY, Lock 32 course required numerous modifications and are still regarded as imperfect or incomplete. There is a very real risk that an attempt to modify Route 3 Wave will destroy it altogether!” In June 2003, a delegation from American Whitewater (AW) met with City officials and



Paul Twist relaxing after a practice session.



Dane Jackson backsurfing. Viewed from spectator area on the Rt. 3 bridge.

property adjacent to 3 Wave. Perhaps another reason is that freestyle kayaking is moving away from hole moves and towards wave moves. That is another impetus behind creating a substantial wave feature on the river. At any rate, the competition appeared to be well attended. The Rt. 3 bridge was filled with spectators and the wave was occupied until 1:30 am. On Friday night at midnight there were eight boaters in the eddy at Three Wave. Hole Brothers was also occupied into the morning. A convenient set of stairs were built from a new parking lot on the upstream, river left side of the Rt. 3 bridge to the feature. Unfortunately, spectators were not allowed to enter the riverbed out of fear of injury. Rather, they were limited to watching from the bridge or from a set of bleachers downstream, river left of the wave. The event will bring attention to Watertown from the national kayaking community, but when they come back they won't be headed to 3 Wave, but to Hole Brothers or hopefully, one day, to a new feature on the Black in downtown Watertown.

Adam Horton at Hole Brothers, the other park and play feature on the Black River.

advised them to create a feature somewhere other than 3 Wave (complete article available in *FLOWlines*, August 2003) However, others believe that the feature is washing out and will be gone in a few years anyway. In addition, there is hope that once the modification of one wave is completed and proven successful, state money will be available to create or modify other features. Hole Brothers is also said to be washing out as the mostly demolished dam that creates it decays. Some fear that without modification there will be no solid park and play features in Watertown within the next decade.

As for last weekend's competition, there were mixed opinions. Some local named Marty opined: “Why the (expletive deleted) would I want to go watch? Those boys are used to ten-foot waves. They can't do (expletive deleted) on a three-foot wave.” Many competitors and local paddlers wondered why it wasn't at Hole Brothers and speculated that the reason was that Blackwater Ltd. promoted the site because they own



EMS Kayak Demo

On September 11th EMS will offer one last opportunity, to the public, to try the sport of kayaking for free. Experienced kayakers from EMS will be on hand at Mendon Ponds Park Beach from 11am-2pm. Our seasoned paddlers will assist attendees with a variety of single touring kayaks and tandem kayaks from Perception and Wilderness Systems. This demo is free to the public and designed to introduce people to the sport of kayaking, while offering seasoned paddlers an opportunity to try different styles of kayaks. All ages are welcome. Anyone 17 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Life jackets and paddles are provided free of charge. If you have any further questions, please call EMS at 272.0090. Kayaking is just one of the many informative and instructional clinics EMS offers. Our Summer / Fall Clinic Series consists of nearly 20 clinics designed to get people out-

Plastics Industry News

- ◆ After skyrocketing from 1998-2002, growth of the kayaking industry leveled off last year.
- ◆ Last year, 9.9 million Americans over 16 put their butt in a kayak, down from 10.2 in 2002.
- ◆ Since kayaks are durable goods, the market needs to innovate in order to maintain income. In other words, they need to convince kayakers to buy the latest new design.
- ◆ Industry experts say that thermoforming (pulling hot sheets of plastic over a mold), as opposed to rotational molding (spinning liquid plastic inside a mold) is now the hot tech.
- ◆ There are three major players in the industry: WaterMark (Dagger, Perception, Harmony), Confluence Watersports (Wilderness Systems, Mad River, Voyageur, Wave Sport) and Johnson Outdoors (Old Town, Dimension, Extrasport, Ocean Kayak, Necky, Carlisle). In 2000, Riot formed a parent company, Voodoo that contains Sun and Azul. Liquid Logic, Pyrahna and Jackson Kayaks are independent. Info. Found in (<http://www.theriverchasers.com/Excerpts/FlatHullsShortBoats.pdf>) and *Plastics News*, August 9, 2004.

—by Andrew Cook, with investigative reporting by Adrian Vandenbout

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