

BOW AND STERN

**NEWSLETTER OF THE VERMONT PADDLERS CLUB
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION**

GO WITH THE FLOW

VOLUME XXXVIII NO. 1

MARCH 18, 2012

Who's Who in the VPC



Officers:

- President: [Ryan McCall](#) 223-5986
- Vice President: [A J Seibel](#) 274-3920
- Treasurer: [Hugh Pritchard](#) 734-904-0205
- Secretary: [Paul Carile](#) 658-6657

Directors:

- Activities Dir: [Chris Weed](#) 802-264-3141
- Communication Dir: [Daniel Siger](#) 412-600-4840
- Safety and Education Dir: [Mark Lienau](#) 822-5291

Appointed/Volunteers:

- Paddling School: [Mark Lienau](#) 822-5291
- Publicity Chair: [Peggy Pelckmann](#) 802-272-5275
- Conservation Chair: [Ryan McCall](#) 223-5986
- Webmaster: [Tony Shaw](#) 879-1655

Resources:

- Website: <http://www.vtpaddlers.net>
- National Weather Service: 862-2475

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Howdy folks,

Its been a long, lame winter and that is coming from someone that had a couple of great days on the snow, but, like all of you, I enjoys the out of doors, and this winter has been a drastic let down from years past. That being said I am more than wound up for boating season as a result of not having the opportunity to get after the skiing like we would normally have in VT.

The 2012 season looks to be getting underway early this year. The Club's trip schedule is jam packed starting the 24th of March and running right up through June, with a few later dates thrown in for good measure. This season there are a lot of new trips that have been locked onto the trip schedule from some of our newer members. It's always nice to experience new rivers with new faces, so make sure you touch base with your trip leader if you are unfamiliar with them or the river they will be leading you down.

In addition to an excellent looking trip schedule the club is sponsoring it usual novice and level II clinics, as well as, playing a major role in the New Haven Race again for 2012. If any of you would like to chip in and participate with the clinics or help out at the New Haven Race, by all means contact me or one of the other board members and we can get you pointed in the right direction. Also keep your eyes peeled for further information on scheduled releases for the Green River in Wolcott, hopefully we will see at the very least a scheduled release for the Fall on the West River and don't forget our friends to the west and their daily creek run in the Ausable Chasm when the weather heats up and drains our rivers of their life-blood.

For lack of anything presidential to say.... I hope you get to meet some of your boating goals this season, make some new friends on the water, travel to new places, have a safe season and most of all have a great time doing all of it.

In the words of the great and wise Steve Miller - "Everything's Better When Wet"

Ryan McCall
Your Fellow Paddler

TREASURERS REPORT – YEAR 2011

INCOME AND EXPENSES	YEAR 2008	YEAR 2009	YEAR 2010	YEAR 2011
INITIAL BALANCE	\$2321.26	\$3037.11	\$2994.50	\$3163.93
DUES	\$1230.00	\$970.00	\$931.00	\$818.00
EVENTS SPONSORSHIP	(\$200.00)	(\$250.00)	(\$1150.00)	(\$650.00)
SCHOLARSHIPS	(\$100.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
WEBSITE	(\$360.00)	(\$208.25)	(\$90.00)	(\$41.94)
INTEREST / BANK FEES	(\$35.10)	\$9.50	\$13.28	\$4.72
MEETINGS / MAILINGS	(\$99.05)	(\$709.90)	(\$500.22)	(\$771.00)
ROLLING SESSIONS	\$41.17	(\$112.41)	\$85.00	(\$126.00)
SAFETY GEAR	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RESCUE CLINIC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NOVICE CLINIC	\$540.00	\$585.70	\$995.00	\$679.72
CLASS 2 CLINIC	(\$48.17)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
T-SHIRTS	(\$220.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
BANNER / CANOPY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$106.99)
NET ACA COST	(\$85.00)	(\$120.25)	(\$205.00)	(\$325.00)
BROCHURES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
WHITEWATER FUND (book sale)	\$52.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
REEL PADDLING FILM FEST		(\$207.00)	\$92.37	\$0.00
FINAL BALANCE	\$3037.11	\$2994.50	\$3165.93	\$2652.44

Our finances are very solid. I view our year-end need as \$1500 to avoid cash flow issues, and we are well over that.

ACA cost 'extra' this year, since we paid for 18 months, good thru 6/2012

Memberships, member retention, and a robust set of activities should be the focus of VPC.

Richard Larsen – January 10, 2012



Spring Trip Schedule

SANCTIONED	DATE	DAY	PLANNED EVENT	CONTACT	PHONE	EXPECT	COMMENTS
	Mar 17th	Sat	UVM Pool Session	Chris Weed	802-264-3141	pool	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
	Mar 18th	Sun	VPC Spring Potluck	Tony Shaw	802-879-1655	offwater	Follow link for additional information.
	Mar 24th	Sat	Sugarbush/Mad (ski/paddle)	John Atherton	802-985-9970	nov-int WW	
	Mar 24th	Sat	UVM Pool Session	Chris Weed	802-264-3141	pool	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
	Mar 28th	Wed	Lower New Haven	Jim Poulin	802-355-4591	int-adv WW	
	Mar 31st	Sat	Baker Valley, NH	Jamie Soroachak	603-731-4314	adv WW	
	Apr 1st	Sun	Huntington River	Jamie Dolan	802-453-4658	nov-int WW	
	Apr 4th	Wed	Lower Mad River	Alden Bird	301-908-1126	int WW	
	Apr 7th	Sat	North Branch Winooski	Ryan McCall	802-223-5986	adv WW	
	Apr 8th	Sun	NEK Exploratory trip	Scott Gilbert	802-598-9250	adv WW	
	Apr 11th	Wed	Browns River	John Atherton	802-985-9970	nov-int WW	
	Apr 14th	Sat	North Branch Lamoille or Gihon	Jay Knecht	215-527-1373	adv WW	
	Apr 14th	Sat	Wells River RACE	Ledyard Canoe Club	603-643-6709	adv WW	LCC is the Dartmouth College paddling club.
	Apr 14th-Apr 16th	Sat-Mon	Creeking Weekend (Leader's Choice)	Ryan McCall	802-223-5986	adv WW	
	Apr 15th	Sun	Lower Lamoille	Rich Larsen	802-878-6828	nov-int WW	
	Apr 15th	Sun	Green River (Hyde Park, VT)	Dave Packie	802-371-9339	adv WW	
	Apr 18th	Wed	Lower Mad River	Paul Carlile	802-658-6657	int WW	
	Apr 21st	Sat	New Haven RACE	Ryan McCall	802-223-5986	adv WW	
	Apr 22nd	Sun	White River	Rich Larsen	802-878-6828	nov-int WW	
	Apr 22nd	Sun	Notch Brook / Hazen's Notch	A. J. Seibel	802-274-3920	adv WW	
	Apr 25th	Wed	Lower Lamoille	Chris Weed	802-264-3141	nov-int WW	
	Apr 25th	Wed	Wells River	Brandon Alling w/ Jamie Soroachak	603-991-7332 603-731-4314	int-adv WW	
	Apr 28th	Sat	Leader's Choice - TBD	Danny Siger	412-600-4840	adv WW	
	Apr 29th	Sun	Stark, NH - CI 3/5 creek TBD	Brad Croteau	603-264-8569	adv WW	
	Apr 29th	Sun	Lower New Haven (or TBD)	Eric Hillmuth	802-872-8611	int-adv WW	
	May 2nd	Wed	Lower Mad River	Tom Rogers	802-505-3530	int WW	
	May 5th	Sat	Lower Hudson	Rich Larsen	802-878-6828	int WW	
	May 5th	Sat	Dead River (Maine Weekend)	Ben Schott	617-530-0412	int-adv WW	
	May 5th	Sat	Baker Valley, NH (alt: Wells River)	Brandon Alling	603-991-7332	adv WW	

SANCTIONED	DATE	DAY	PLANNED EVENT	CONTACT	PHONE	EXPECT	COMMENTS
	May 6th	Sun	Moose River (NEK)	A. J. Seibel	802-274-3920	int WW	
	May 9th	Wed	Lower New Haven	Jamie Dolan	802-453-4658	int-adv WW	
	May 12th	Sat	Hudson Gorge	Mike Mainer	802-318-5790	int-adv WW	
	May 12th	Sat	North Branch Lamoille	Chris Ingram	802-595-0280	adv WW	
	May 13th	Sun	Lower Mad River	Eric Hillmuth	802-872-8611	int WW	
	May 13th	Sun	New Haven Ledges	Alden Bird	301-908-1126	adv WW	
	May 16th	Wed	Lower Lamoille	John Atherton	802-985-9970	nov-int WW	
	May 19th	Sat	Saranac (NY)	Tony Shaw	802-879-1655	int-adv WW	
	May 20th	Sun	Gihon	Chris Ingram	802-595-0280	adv WW	
	May 23rd	Wed	Lower Lamoille	Chris Weed	802-264-3141	nov-int WW	
	May 26th	Sat	Swiftwater Rescue Clinic	Mark Lienau	802-822-5291	nov-int WW	
	May 27th	Sun	Poultney River	Jamie Dolan	802-453-4658	int-adv WW	
	Jun 2nd-Jun 3rd	Sat-Sun	Novice Clinic	Mark Lienau	802-822-5291	nov-int WW	
	Jun 9th	Sat	Upper Mad River (for novices)	John Atherton	802-985-9970	nov-int WW	
	Jun 10th	Sun	Hudson Gorge	Jamie Dolan	802-453-4658	int-adv WW	
	Jun 13th	Wed	Upper Mad River (Women's Only??)	Tracy Wilson	802-767-3838	nov-int WW	
	Jun 16th	Sat	Deerfield River - Fife Brook Section	Mike Beers w/ Tracy Wilson	610-972-6498	nov-int WW	
	Jun 16th-Jun 17th	Sat-Sun	Kennebec Weekend (8K / 2.4K cfs)	Ben Schott	617-530-0412	int-adv WW	
	Jun 23rd	Sat	Lachine / Expo 67 - big water playboating	Mags Dale	802-279-5204	int-adv WW	
	Jun 30th-Jul 1st	Sat-Sun	Deerfield Festival	?????		nov-int WW	
	Jul 4th	Wed	Lower Mad River	Kyle Landis-Marinello	802-224-1065	int WW	
	Jul 14th-Jul 15th	Sat-Sun	Class II Clinic	Mark Lienau	802-822-5291	nov-int WW	
	Jul 21st-Jul 22nd	Sat-Sun	Rapid River	Ben Schott	617-530-0412	int-adv WW	
	Aug 12th	Sun	Deerfield Dryway - All Girls Trip	Mags Dale	802-279-5204	int-adv WW	

WW = whitewater // FW = flatwater // Vt area code: 802




TRIP DIFFICULTY RATINGS ARE ONLY A GUIDE.

READ THE [SAFETY CODE OF AMERICAN WHITEWATER](#) . STAY ASHORE WHEN CONDITIONS ON A GIVEN DAY EXCEED YOUR COMFORT LEVEL!!!

SCHEDULE NOTES



Trips/events with the ACA logo at left,  , are American Canoe Association sanctioned events. THESE ARE THE ONLY LISTINGS THAT ARE SANCTIONED BY THE ACA AND VPC. (**Please bring adult and/or minor waivers (signed by an adult) to your first sanctioned trip or pool session of 2012.**) Any other events/trips above are listed *only* as a convenience to paddlers looking for compatible paddle partners.

- nov = max Class II, int = max Class III, adv = max Class IV, exp = Class IV+ See Intl River Rating Scale
- [Winter pool sessions](#) begin around the holidays (space limited, fee charged). Sign up online, email [Chris Weed](#), or call him at 802-863-2149.
- Contact the trip organizer for information about each trip.
- Listed events and trips may be changed or canceled as water, weather, or interest dictates.
- Plans for impromptu trips can be relayed thru the trip organizer or online.
- Please give 1-2 weeks notice (if not more) for overnight trips to have a say in pre-planning.
- Car-pooling on long (and short) trips is encouraged!
- The [AROUND VERMONT IN 30 RIVERS](#) promotion is underway!!!

Disclaimer:

Danger exists for participants in canoeing, kayaking, tubing, and other activities organized or advertised by the Vermont Paddlers Club. Such participation may result in illness or injury due to accidents, the forces of nature, or other causes not foreseeable. Such illness and injury may include disease, strains, sprains, fractures, dislocations, paralysis, and/or death. Possible injuries may cause serious and permanent disability.

By your participation in any Vermont Paddlers Club activity you knowingly assume the risks arising out of that activity. In so doing you release, hold harmless and indemnify the Vermont Paddlers Club and its agents, officers and employees from any and all claims and suits for bodily injury, property damage, wrongful death, loss of services or otherwise which may arise out of your participation in canoeing, kayaking, tubing and other activities, whether or not such claims or suits arise from negligent acts or omissions by the organizers and conductors of this activity, their employees or volunteers, another participant, any other person or from any other cause

Geo

Meet "Geo", 2012's newest interactive mapping/blogging/wiki suite on the VPC website. Check it out at: www.vtpaddlers.net/paddle/geo/. Geo is data and beta rich, and will get better and better over time as paddlers contribute rivers, reaches, photos, and blog posts. In time Geo will supplant the VPC Rivers Almanac and What's Up Doc?, to become the go-to place for reporting notes on strainers, water levels, access, safety, etc. With 4 distinct views and 19 reaches mapped and annotated (so far), Geo has something for every serious river runner, and the casual/vicarious river runner, as well. Geo harnesses the Google Earth elevation service in order to render an elevation profile for each reach/run, and report the average gradient (ft/mi). See a summary of the latest blog posts, browse site-specific photos, and (of course) get driving directions to the put-in!

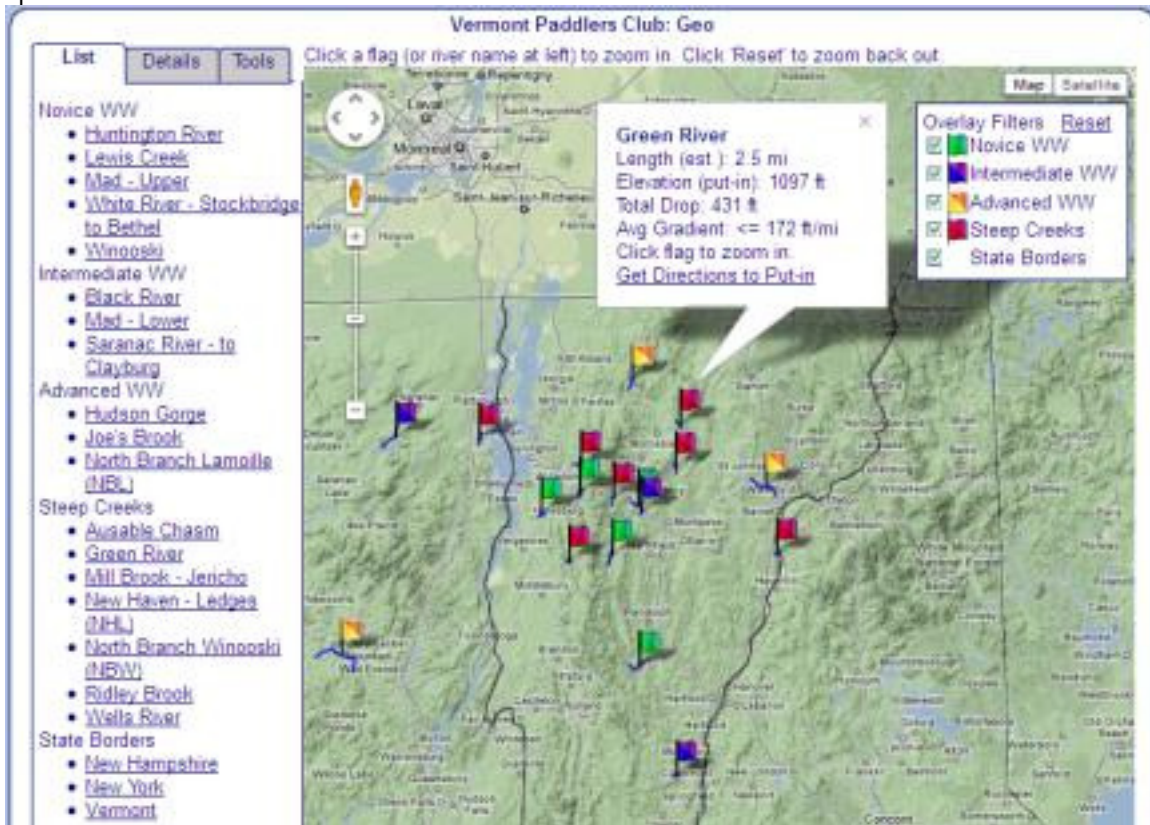


Fig. 1: color coded flags represent each category, or view

Because Geo piggybacks (and extends) the V3 Google Earth platform or API, an up-to-date browser like Firefox 10+ or MSIE 7+ will optimize your viewing experience, and javascript needs to be enabled. Future directions include the addition of flatwater access points and descriptions, and for this we could use the advice of some of the club's more ardent flatwater paddlers to help prioritize. Whether you love creeking, easy whitewater, lake paddling, or all of the above, we invite you to share your ideas and feedback about Geo with a VPC board member, as you may well dream up variations on this theme that we haven't considered...yet

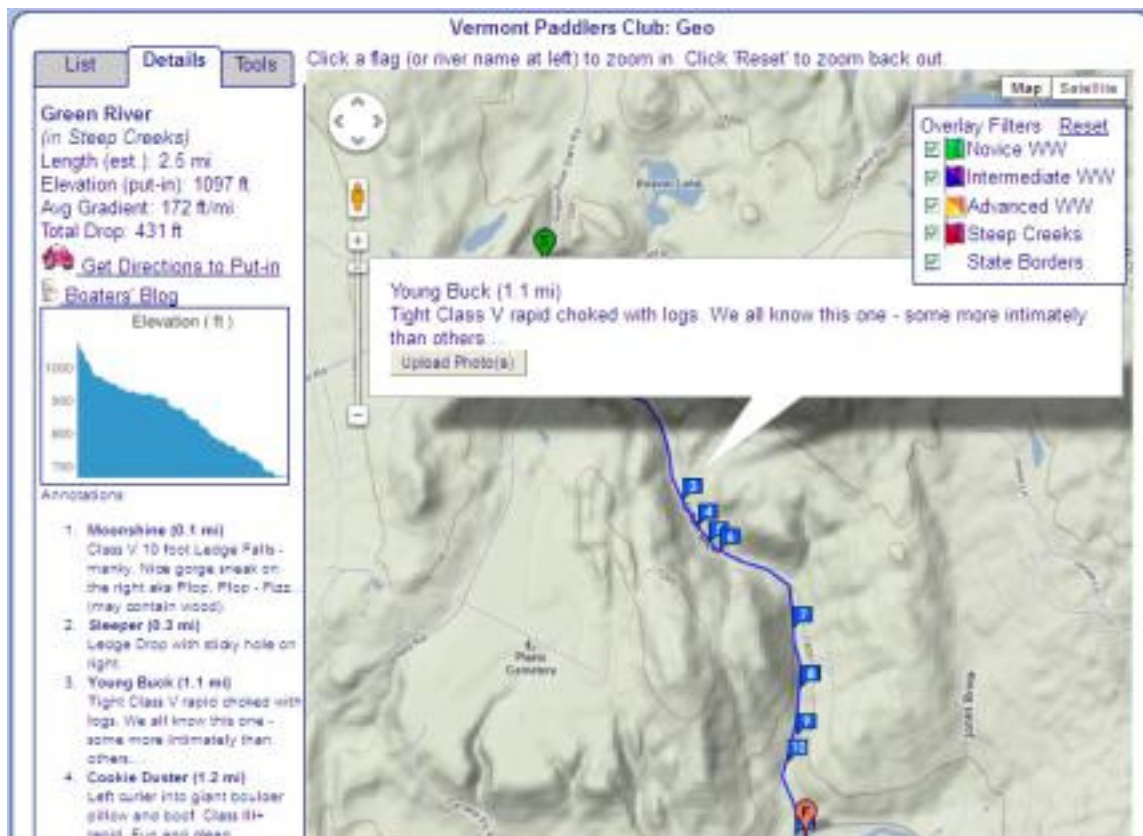


Fig. 2: Waypoint annotations spawn pop-ups when clicked

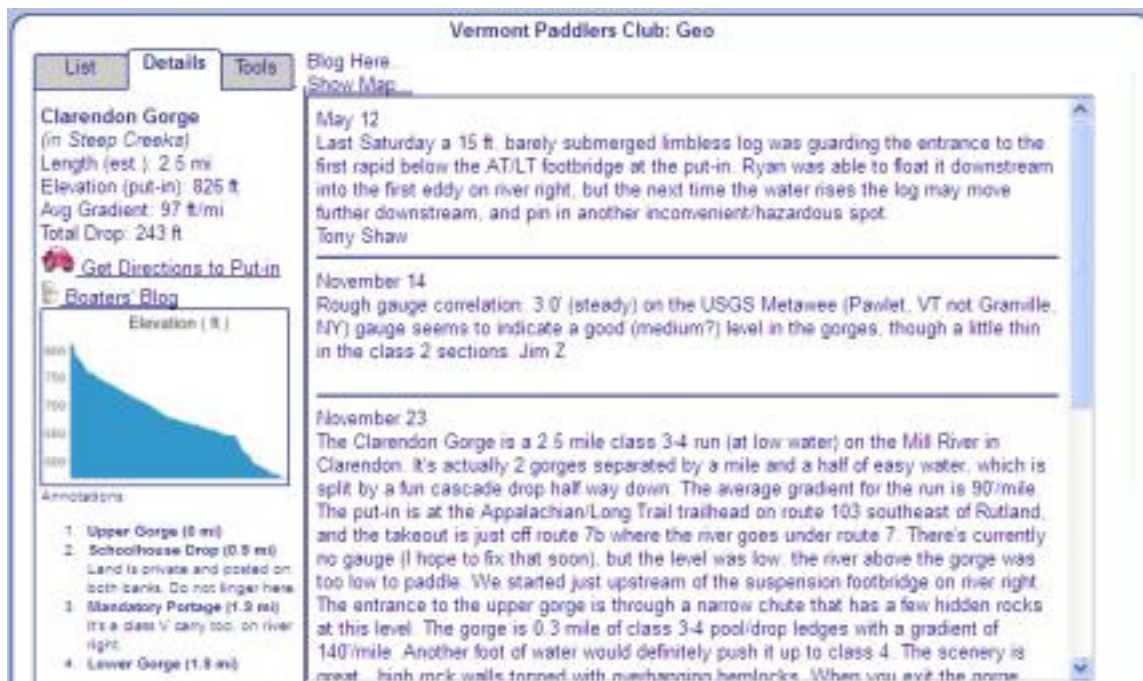


Fig. 3: Blogging and photo upload are the 2 members-only features

**BLACK RIVER ACTION TEAM & VPC:
ADOPT-THE-RIVER PARTNERSHIP**



"It's your river ~ why not show the love?"

The Black River Action Team (BRAT) invites you to participate in the Adopt The River program!"

River clean-up and environmental stewardship are nothing new to the VPC. Green Up Day events on the Winooski, for example, were common in the 1990's thanks to Mark Willett, Eric Bishop, and others (see <http://bit.ly/xuzdDZ>). Hit hard by Tropical Storm Irene 8/28/11, Ludlow and Springfield's Black River needs BRAT (and the VPC) now more than ever. So for the first time the VPC has teamed up with Kelly Stetner and her BRAT to help keep the 1.8 mile whitewater stretch along VT131 from the Cavendish Wood Lot to Downers VT looking (and feeling) good. BRAT expects its Adopt-the-River partners to do a river sweep twice a year, and in doing so the VPC will be in good company (along with businesses, school classrooms, boy/girl scout organizations, and other community service groups) in "showing the love" to the lovely Black River. Please give me a shout (802-879-1655, boatful@comcast.net) if you want to be on the list for a Black River cleanup, once a date and time has been set.

For more information on BRAT initiatives in general, and the Adopt-the-River program in particular, visit: <http://blackriveractionteam.org/wp/adopt-the-river/>

Tony Shaw



TRIP REPORTS...

Dead River (ME) Weekend Friday-

Sunday Aug 12-14, 2011

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Tony Shaw

Participants: (K1): Karl Albert, John Atherton, Jamie Dolan, Ken Emery, Rich Reynolds, Frank Wells; (OC1): Tony Shaw; (Inflatable): Tina Scharf

The ~6 hour ride over to The Forks was half the fun, as usual, with several of us car-pooling, a pair of walkie-talkies to pass the time and keep one of the caravans in sync, and Frank arriving quite late Friday night having gone north of the border and back into ME at Jackman (he has "friends" at all the border crossings). The little one-horse hamlet where the Dead and Kennebec meet truly feels like a place where time stands still, a little (or a lot) like in Ken Kesey's Sometimes a Great Notion.

Most of the group had never paddled the Dead before, and none of us had in recent times. Since it is a scheduled dam release, we knew we would have 2400 CFS on Saturday and 1800 CFS on Sunday, medium and med-low, respectively. The weather was warm and mainly dry while on the river both days, but it offered up a steady light rain Saturday night in the campground. Not enough to spoil dinner cooked over Ken's gas grill, or stop several from a short drive and hike to see the lovely Moxie Falls. Karl was in a hammock overnight, which wasn't the best thing under the circumstances, and the young couple on the site beside us cashed it in in the middle of the night - tossing their brand new tent in the trash and bugging out.

Tony, Frank, Tina, and Jamie earned their keep by helping retrieve the shuttle vehicles from the put-in, and Tony got additional brownie points from the group (ask John) for collecting a bunch of dry firewood on the return trip (with no axe or saw), The hornet's nest Tony

disturbed getting firewood was nothing compared to the "assault" staged by the campground owner/manager, based primarily on her memories of weekends long ago when the private paddling groups at her campground ruffled the feathers of her "bread and butter" raft-going clientele - who like to drink too much and stay up late lighting off fireworks and being generally obnoxious. But even when she came bustling onto our site accusing us of theft of service and threatening to call the cops if we were secretly harboring a dog and with little sympathy that we might actually value getting a good night's sleep, and even though she came with "back up", Frank and Ken and Karl (in particular) joined forces to keep thing from escalating into fisticuffs. It would have gone down differently in a Kesey novel, I'm sure.

Tina went off to Moxie Lake on her own to explore Saturday, but joined us for the run Sunday and paddled with confidence. For Ken the Dead was a good place to practice paddling with less timidity in preparation for the Labor Day weekend on the Ottawa, and Rich was doing the same. Karl had a helmet cam and recorded some video clips that were fun to see afterward (on the www somewhere), and both Jamie and Tony took digital photos (<http://bit.ly/xxs25P>).

The weekend was a "full adventure" (Ken) with "a very convivial group" (Jamie), and such outings should be repeated from one year to the next. Now that the Kennebec minimum flow in the FPL Energy dam license agreement is up from 140 CFS to 300 CFS, a low water run on the Kennebec on Saturday afternoon will be a possibility during the long days of summer, and/or all day Sunday at 4800. - Tony Shaw

The Mad Goes Vert (ical) Sunday Aug 28, 2011

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: very high

Organizer: Tony Shaw

Participants: (K1): Dan Beideck, Jamie Dolan, Chris Weed; (OC1): Cameron, Tony Shaw

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 5.60 ft.; USGS Flow: 2200 cfs; USGS Station: Moretown VT

The USGS Moretown gauge recorded 4 inches of rain in the first 12 hours of the day-long Tropical Storm Irene event, and certain elements of the VPC thought paddling the Lower Mad would be a sensible idea. On a river that is high and obviously rising, when the NWS has issued flash flood warnings, you approach your outings with trepidation. Cameron had some trouble in the first rapid in his ME, and using the "discretion before valor" motto he accepted our help getting his canoe up to the road so that he could head for home and arrive in one piece.

From that point on, the farther downstream we got the more wood the river seemed to be transporting toward Lake Champlain. Jamie did the whole goddam run in a playboat, but always managed to roll back up when one of many diagonal curling waves (dumping into one of many never-before-witnessed holes) flipped him over.

When we arrived at the Horseshoe to scout, the big island in the middle was nowhere to be seen, and the two remaining rocks exposed at the far left (usual carry route) disappeared underwater during the 10 minutes we spent sizing it up and sneaking it left of center (and myself far left). I took dead aim at Washing Machine, and in the maelstrom realized that this was the biggest feature I had ever deliberately paddled into east of the Mississippi. I came out the rinse cycle upright, spic and span!

Except for one hiccup in an eddy, Dan styled every drop, on top of which he rescued Chris from the island on which he found himself stranded at the top of the final rapid before the confluence with the Winooski. Jamie did manage

the boat retrieval at the confluence, which surely took some effort.

A Waterbury Fire and Rescue unit kindly pulled over at the US2 bridge to inquire as to our safety (and sanity?). In all the river claimed one paddle and one wetsuit bootie, but otherwise we came through the afternoon unscathed. I wish I could say the same for the rest of Vermont. Chris, BTW, still had the energy to head out paddling on Lake Champlain in a gale at "sunset".

Time	Flow (cfs)	Comment
Sunrise	68	a trickle
11:15am	665	10x sunrise
12:45pm	2,200	plenty high (we put-in)
2:30pm	5,500	in the trees (we take-out)
3:00pm	6,860	100x sunrise
7:15pm	22,700	and still rising - new all-time record?

- Tony Shaw

Ottawa 2011 Friday-Monday Sep 2-5, 2011

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Jim Poulin

Participants: (K1): John, Rod, Paul, Kerry, The Boyfriend (aka Selby), Dan, Ken, Chris, Frank, Jim; (OC1): Brock, Tony; (Raft): JoAnn, LeeAnn, Dawn-Anne (all non paddlers on this trip)

Gauge Info: Painted Gauge Height: - 1.25 ft. (Owl Gauge)

Fifteen hearty souls headed north for Labor Day weekend to enjoy the beautiful Ottawa River valley in Beachburg, Ontario.

After many carpool e-mails and phone calls all the rides were set and all

participants headed up to Canada at various times on Friday. Ken and LeeAnn win the honors for first arrival and got the pick of where the group would be setting up our base camp. Jim and Dawn were the next to arrive. Last place goes to Paul and Chris.

After a quick camp set up, Ken and Jim headed up to McCoys for a little park and play. It was just starting to get dark but they managed to get in a scout of McCoys for Ken (first time he has seen it) and a few rides on Baby Face for Jim. By the time they got back to camp it was fully dark and a few more folks had arrived.

Tents were set up in the dark and some needed to pull together dinner. After a while we all circled around Tony's lantern filling in nicely as our campfire this evening. Exaggerated stories of past Ottawa trips, jokes and tales of the ride up kept us going well into the evening.

Saturday broke as a beautiful day with sunshine and warm temperatures. It took some time to get everyone moving but we eventually got to the put in with a goal of running the Middle Channel today. As usual, McCoy's rapid is an eyeful for those that had never seen it. Ken had the luxury of seeing it the night before – or maybe not as it might have kept him awake all night. Tony and Chris got their first look this morning. As is the case with the Ottawa, McCoy's was filled with activity – paddlers, rafts, many people on the banks wondering what to do. We scouted and picked our various lines and ran. We spent a bit of time playing around in Baby Face until the traffic got a bit much, including a raft running over Dan in the eddy. Time to move on!

The Middle provides a good warm up to three days of paddling. After a bit of flat water the action picks up with Iron Ring, S-Turn and Butterfly. We all walked around Garvins, an impressive drop. The group was entertained by a couple of boaters running the main chute cleanly.

We then finished off with Little No Name and Big No Name. There was some surfing, scouting, swimming and multiple runs. Then the flat water paddle to camp.

After an appropriate amount of cocktail hour time the majority of the group headed up to Garburator to catch the end of the rodeo being held there. By the time we got there the show was over but there were a few competitors left and some other boaters strutting their stuff. We hung out and watched the show for a bit. This also allowed everyone to pick their line(s) for Sunday's run!

Back to camp to catch the end of the Ontario King of Clubs competition. The remaining alcohol infused events included Kayak Toss and Throw Rope Accuracy. Interspersed was a BBQ which the Vermont Team (completely unregistered for the event) poached salads, burgers and sausages. No sense letting good food go to waste!

Sunday morning broke with a chill and a drizzle. Not exactly the weather to make you jump out of a warm and dry tent! Sunday morning is the time for the traditional early park and play routine. We put on at 7:30 in the freakin' morning! Kerry and Selby opted for Push Button and Garburator. Most of the others headed for Baby Face. After a couple of hours we all managed to make it back to camp for brunch.

After some serious lounge time we headed back for a Main Channel run at 1:00pm. Everyone negotiated McCoy's with various degrees of success. Phil's Hole managed to eat a couple of boaters. Then the ever present Horseshoes (Left and Right) got a couple more. The river was less crowded today. I guess all the locals checked the weather report – Saturday 85 degrees and sunny, Sunday 65 degrees with clouds and rain. I wonder which day I'll paddle??? With less people on the river

we spent a little time on Baby Face before heading downstream.

The trip from McCoy's to Upper Lauren is like lake paddling through many islands. Not something to be attempted by first timers! After about 1.5 miles of flat water we could hear the roar. Since everyone (except Frank) had seen the rapid the prior evening we opted to run without scouting. The "Anns" (LeeAnn, JoAnn and Dawn-Anne) walked up from camp (4.5 miles one way!) to watch the action. As is the case with a large group on the Ottawa there were a couple of different outcomes. Most made it through without issue but there were a couple of swims. Frank, who was tight on Jim's tail at the start of the rapid, ended up losing Jim midway and finding another orange boat to follow. By the time Frank eddied out at the bottom of Lower Lauren he realized his mistake. Oops!

Some of the play boaters dropped into Garburator for a surf. The most memorable ride would be Tony surfing and then ending a canoe. The crowd roared their approval. I have never witnessed an open boat in Garb before!

After Upper Lauren the group proceeded through Lower Lauren and Push Button. Push Button provided yet another play spot for folks to wash out their ears with Canadian whitewater. At this point we lost a couple of paddlers to fatigue and they took off. Nice thing about the Ottawa is that it does provide this mid point take out (and put in!). It was then on through Butcher's Knife and Brain Douche. That brought us on to the next big feature – The Normans (aka Criss Cross). Jim and Paul conferred if we should scout. They agreed to describe the line to the group and if anyone did not feel comfortable we would scout this rapid. The group said "Screw the scout, Let's Fire It Up!" And we did. Everybody nailed it. Then came Coliseum. This one we did scout. There are basically two lines – left and

right. Jim led a small group (Tony, Paul and Dan) down the right slot while the rest of the group watched. As luck would have it another group of paddlers came and ran the left side. The scouting party got to see both lines run! Our group jumped on and ran the left side with some excitement but no swims. Ken, who had an urgent nature call (that frequently happens while scouting Coliseum), ended up at the top of a rapid he had never run and no one to show him the initial line! He headed down the right side solo and styled it! After the adrenaline levels receded to normal levels we headed for Dog Leg. You would think at this point the excitement would be over, but you would be wrong. On the approach, John flips and while protecting his face from the rock ledge he snapped his paddle clean in two! We found him and his boat but the paddle (both pieces) have been offered to the Ottawa river. Luckily, John had a break down paddle in his boat and after a quick assembly we were on our way. Black's was the last rapid and gave no one any problems. Then it was the flat water slog to camp.

We were met on the beach by the "Anns" including Kerry-Anne and Brock. And as much as we liked seeing them we were even more excited to see a cooler full of adult beverages! Cocktail hour #1 started right then and there! We hung for quite a while before getting the boats up to the parking lot and everyone back to camp.

The Big Pasta Feed. Jim had mentioned in his Ottawa logistics post a planned pasta feed for Sunday evening. This post was taken a couple of ways. The first was the way Jim intended, which is to say everyone bring their best camping pasta dish and we'll all sample everyone's creations and vote on the best one. The way most people interpreted the posting was that Jim was providing the Big Pasta Feed and everyone should bring various

accompaniments. Well this was debated well into our second cocktail hour. And this cocktail hour included many munchies, beer, tequila, tattoos and wild turkey liquor. Slowly everyone forgot about the Big Pasta Feed. Much later in the evening, LeeAnn and Kerry fired up some pasta and we all shared. So in the end, there was pasta!

We raided the woods for some firewood and build a nice fire to hang around. Tall stories were told and the day's events relived. Even though Ottawa whitewater is huge, it got even bigger as the night progressed. As the evening went on we were joined by a few PBR drinking Canadians. There were plenty of good natured jabs at paddling styles, national pride, clubbing in Canada and hockey. By the end of the evening everyone's ribs hurt from laughing so hard.

Monday broke cool and damp. 60 degrees and cloudy is not the way to get a bunch of tired and sore paddlers moving. (and maybe still feeling the effects of the night before?) There were three schools of thought: 1) a no scout run of the Main Channel; 2) a park and play at Garb/Push Button; and 3) let's make a run for the border while there is still time. Six paddlers headed for the put in and proceeded through McCoys. After a little play on Baby Face (no one had much left in the tank at this point) it was downstream to meet up with the park and play crowd. The park and players were content with a few more turns on Push Button and calling it a day (there was talk of running the bottom portion). The rest continued to camp via the Main Channel. True to our goal, we did not scout anything to conserve time and energy. Brock, who had not seen Coliseum since last year (having missed it on Sunday) also figured not scouting was a good option. The group split on the lines (left/right). Brock had a bit of trouble with the very last hole at the bottom of the rapid. He was so close to running it clean but still popped out with

a huge grin on his mug.

Then it was the last bit of flat water to go before hitting camp and the realization that this weekend was fast coming to a close. Everyone was packing and reflecting and the mood at camp was quite a bit quieter than the previous three days. Goodbyes were said and promises to repeat this adventure again next year. Then folks filtered out in their fully stuffed cars.

Ottawa FAQs

Q: How far is the Hockey Tape Museum from camp?

A: The Hockey Tape Museum is in Renfrew and is about 36 km from River Run.

Q: Does the Hockey Tape Museum even exist?

A: How would I freakin' know! There are those that have their doubts.

Q: Was Eric Jackson at the Ottawa Rodeo this weekend?

A: Indeed he was. His company's boats were well represented and his daughter won the Women's Division.

Q: Did the Vermont Team enter the Ontario King of Clubs competition?

A: We thought about it but in the end we are just too damn lazy.

Q: How does one win the King of Clubs championship?

A: Not entirely sure but it does involve large amounts of cheating and drinking.

Q: I heard Brock made some new Canadian friends this year. Is that true?

A: Brock meets new Canadian friends every year. This year was no different.

Q: What's a garburator?

A: It is a big freakin' wave/hole in the middle of the Upper Lauren rapid on the Ottawa's Main Channel and host of this year's Ottawa Rodeo. It is also what the Canadians call a kitchen garbage

disposal.

Q: Can the term "Park & Play" be used to describe non paddling activities?

A: Indeed it can! Just use your imagination.

Q: I've heard the outhouses were quite a walk from the campfire.

A: It does seem that way. Luckily the Red Magnum was a close by alternative.

Q: The Ottawa camp is more like an isolated outpost. What do you drink there?

A: Mostly beer, wine, tequila and wild turkey liquor.

Q: Is it true that The Boyfriend and The Situation are teaming up to form a new reality series called "The Ottawa Shore"?

A: Gosh, I sure hope not.

Q: Does it ever rain at the Ottawa?

A: It did this year!

Q: Was Ken and LeeAnn's camper described as a "fish truck" this weekend?

A: One of our Canadian friends commented that if Ken was going for the fish truck look, he nailed it.

Q: What did the "Three Anns" do while the paddlers were on the water?

A: Let's see, there was a 24 mile bike ride in Quebec, yoga on the beach, a long 9 mile walk to watch the Vermont Team navigate Garburator, a dip at the beach, flat water paddling and a bit of shuttle-bunnying.

Q: When will Tony Shaw paddles be available in the States?

A: The marketing team was shooting video this weekend for the big splashy advertising campaign. Keep your eyes peeled...

Q: Speaking of Tony Shaw, have you ever seen hole tricks at Baby Face and

Garberator like those he pulled off in an open canoe?

A: No, I have not.

Q: How did you keep those rowdy Canadians in line around the campfire?

A: We would ask them where the Stanley Cup is.

Q: Is it true you can hold a pasta feed for the entire Vermont crew and actually not serve any pasta?

A: Jim did seem to pull this trick off.

Q: How do you drink tequila in Canada if you don't have any shot glasses?

A: Crocs seem to be a good option.

Q: How does a Canadian answer the question "What do you paddle?"

A: "My balls off".

Q: Who won the Battle of the Ottawa Stand Up Comedians, Brock or his Canadian counterpart?

A: I'll give it to Brock but I'm a biased ugly American.

Q: Who was in the "I punched Phil's Hole" Club this weekend?

A: Pretty much everybody.

Q: How was Ken's front/back/side/upside down surf of Horseshoe?

A: Epic!

Q: How long was the line at the Highgate border crossing.

A: Nada, zip, zero. Not a car in line. Got through in less than a minute.

Q: Is the same true for the Canadians headed home?

A: Not even close. The line stretched down both lanes of I-89 for 1.5 miles.

Q: I heard "The Anns" made all the boys keep camp spic and span.

A: You obviously have not looked at the pictures.

Q: Are you planning on doing this again

next year?
A: You bet!

- Jim Poulin

Lower Mad, early spring run Sunday Mar 11, 2012

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Jamie Dolan

Participants: (K1): Jamie Dolan, Chris Weed

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 3.54 ft.; USGS Flow: 423 cfs; USGS Station: Moretown, VT

The weekend was looking pleasant, albeit with slightly subfreezing temperatures on Saturday, but a high above 50 possible on Sunday (at least in Burlington). An exchange started on the message board, and a plan for a 1:30 pm Sunday meeting at the VRC takeout was settled on.

As it turned out, only Jamie and Chris showed up. (John Atherton had hoped to participate, but Sunday was a no-go for him.)

It was a nice medium flow, and the river was completely free of ice, with just a few slabs perched high on ledge outcroppings near the final drop (from last week's spike over 1,000 cfs). The snow on the banks is patchy at this point, even in the shade—indicative of the lack of snow this winter. We ran the left side of Horseshoe without a scout. All drops are free of wood.

The climb up the bank at the new VRC takeout is mostly free of ice, except for a patch located at a bad spot where the trail steepens just before it attains level ground. Chris spent at least a minute traversing this treacherous little stretch in order to prevent a fall. A bit of work with a small sledgehammer or a garden spade could remove this hazard (hint, hint).

With highs in Burlington pushing 60 for the entire upcoming week, and rain in

the forecast, one can say that the paddling season is officially underway in northern Vermont!

- Chris Weed





It is spring and once again the New Haven Race is just around the corner. This year's race will feature some changes geared towards returning the classic event to its grass roots, a one of a kind competition highlighting the very best of Vermont whitewater and community.

Detailed Race Info Available online at [Facebook.com/NewHavenRace](https://www.facebook.com/NewHavenRace)

Date: April 21st, 10:00 am

Course and Format: This year's event will be a pure time trial race on a lengthened course, putting individual skill and endurance at a premium. Locals will get to pit their knowledge of their backyard run against the some of the very best of the region and further abroad. Each racer is entitled to 2 laps per class. The course will begin with a launch start from above Slide by the Road, drop through the Secret Compartment, and continue down river to the pool below Toaster.

Classes:

- Creek Boat (premier class): 7'1" – 9'0"
- Long Boat: 9'1"+
- Tiny Boat: 7'0"-
- Any others that show up and merit a class

Rules: Don't be a Jerk. Time starts when a racer hits the water and finishes when they touch the buoy below toaster. Racers must yield to other boater approaching from behind. Racers may compete in as many classes as they want.

Fees and Registration: Race admission is \$20 plus a \$5 insurance fee for non-ACA members. All racers **MUST PRE-REGISTER ONLINE**. A link to a paypal account will be available on the race facebook page at [facebook.com/NewHavenRace](https://www.facebook.com/NewHavenRace).

Logistics: Shuttle service will be provided and safety will be set at hazardous locations throughout the course. We hope to have Bristol Bakery selling food riverside on race day.

Volunteers: If you are interested in helping out with the event, Great! Get in touch with Ryan McCall at Ryanmtnman@gmail.com

See you at the Ledges!

Annual Whitewater School
April 13-15 2012
Henniker NH
Friday Evening - Sunday

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Photos:

Cover: Various- Green River, VT

Pg 1: Noah Pollock- Mettawee River,
NY

Pg 2: Ryan McCall-Green River, VT

Pg 3: Mike Mainer- Mettawee River,
NY

Pg 9: Ryan Dwosh- Colorado River,
AZ

Pg 16: Olivia Hale- Mettawee River,
NY

Pg 17: Clay Murphy- New Haven
River, VT (By Curtis Savard)

Pg 19: Taylor Krammen- Ausable
River, NY