Greetings to all potential Berkshire AMC paddlers as we enter another paddling season. We are lucky to live in a part of the country that offers a variety of boating opportunities. This newsletter is the one opportunity each year to summarize all the opportunities offered by the Canoe and Kayak Committee of the Berkshire chapter. Not all of our trips for the year are listed here, but all of the necessary contact information is available here.

Our **Quietwater program** offers opportunities for folks with canoes, open cockpit kayaks, and sea kayaks. The trips run on a variety of lakes, ponds, and smooth rivers. This group of trips is coordinated by **Rudy Julian** ([rudy.julian@comcast.net](mailto:rudy.julian@comcast.net)). Rudy maintains the quietwater email list, which can provide you with reminders about trips throughout the paddling season.

The **Sea Kayaking program** has one trip scheduled at this time. Folks who wish to be added to the Sea Kayaking email list to be informed of later trips should contact **Mike Zabre** ([wwo@valinet.com](mailto:wwo@valinet.com)).

We are fortunate to have two dedicated instructors, **Marjorie Bannish** (413-442-0001) and **Tom Galvagni** (413-447-7698), who offer **Stroke and Rescue Clinics** for beginning and intermediate sea kayakers. These clinics are listed in the Quietwater schedule.

The **Whitewater Canoe and Kayak program** offers a schedule that starts early and ends late in the season. Thus we offer a partial schedule here. Paddlers who wish regular reminders may join the whitewater paddlers email list by contacting **Charlie Camp** ([ccamp@psych.umass.edu](mailto:ccamp@psych.umass.edu)).

The **Whitewater Rafting Trips** are a very special opportunity to experience the best class 4 rafting trip in Massachusetts. In addition, the cost of these trips is very small compared to the regular commercial rates for the trip. The trips are all led by **Al Howcroft** (413-256-1301).

Although the committee does not support summer **Canoe Camping Trips**, we do maintain an extensive file of information about many river trips in Maine, Quebec, and Ontario. This information is available from Charlie Camp (413-665-3750).

**Connie Peterson**  
413-549-9113  
Cpacpsummer@aol.com

**Charlie Camp**  
413-665-3750  
camp@psych.umass.edu
OKEFENOKEE SWAMP AND SUWANNEE RIVER:
Paddlers' Winter Getaway
by Mac Everett

In late Feb. 09 my wife Claudia and I tied the canoe on the car, drove three days and ended up in southern Georgia. To our Yankee-winter senses, the Okefenokee Swamp was an absolute wonderland. Easy to follow canoe trails are maintained. You can either day-trip or overnight. For the latter, reservations are required and are taken up to three months in advance. You sign on for a particular route to ensure campsites on islands or wooden platforms. Fees are quite reasonable at $10 per person per night. This is a popular destination and booking early gives you more choices.

Air temps were mainly in the 50’s and 60’s during the day and 30’s at night. There was one spot where we saw a few mosquitoes, but basically, there were no biting insects about.

Gators? We saw dozens, none of whom exhibited the slightest aggressive behavior. They are cold-blooded and in winter, their metabolisms are slowed way down. Ditto for snakes, of which we saw two non-poisonous varieties.

Highlights included remarkable birds, early spring wildflowers, paddling through old growth cypress, and learning both about the unique ecology and human history.

The Suwannee and St. Mary’s rivers drain the swamp to the Gulf and the Atlantic, respectively. After seeing the swamp we drove about 75 miles to the Canoe Outpost near Suwannee Springs in northern Florida, left our car at what would be our takeout, and had them shuttle us back up to Fargo, Georgia, so we could run 60 miles of the upper Suwannee. This section of river is largely undeveloped. The black water (tannin-stained) is banked with beaches of fine-grained, pure white “sugar” sand. Most of the terrain beyond is piney woods and much of it publicly owned. Most of the land is not posted and camping is allowed with no permits or fees involved. There was one stretch that was posted and we paddled longer than usual to get past it, but eventually found a lovely site.

Almost the entire section was class 1 paddling. There is one class 3 rapid (Big Shoals) easily portaged and some 1-plus riffles below it. We saw very few other paddlers this time of year (early-mid March). It dipped below freezing several nights but often warmed up into the 60’s during the day.

I would strongly recommend this trip for anyone with the late winter blahs! Feel free to call me for more details (413-584-0068).

DEERFIELD RIVER

FLOWCAST AND RELEASE SCHEDULE

Monroe Bridge: http://www.h2oline.com/255122.asp
Fife Brook: http://www.h2oline.com/255123.asp
AN ADIRONDACK LABOR DAY ADVENTURE
by Rudy Julian

Thirty-three members and friends of the Berkshire Chapter Quietwater group ventured into the Adirondacks last Labor Day weekend for our annual trip to the wilds of upstate New York. We stayed in Lake Durant campground, yet another of the many beautiful, well-run New York State Campgrounds that dot the six-million-acre Adirondack Park.

Our first trip was about 12 miles long, from Blue Mountain Lake to Raquette Lake. The two end lakes are very large Adirondack Lakes, surrounded by mountains and beautiful Adirondack camps. The trip between the lakes took us first on the Marion River, a typical meandering Adirondack river. A relatively short ¼ mile carry led us to Lake Utowanna, followed by Eagle Lake. Raquette Lake culminated with a takeout at a landing that just happened to have an ice cream shoppe.

Saturday evening, a number of us journeyed back to Raquette Lake Village to view the end of summer fireworks display and some of us even took a ride on the HMS Durant, a steamship replica, around the lake in the moonlight.

Sunday’s paddle was the Cedar River Flow, an impoundment of the Cedar River deep in the Moose River Plains Wildlife area. The highlight of the paddle was a lunch stop at a lean-to and the adventure of finding our way through the marsh at the south end of the Flow.

Dinner on Saturday night was “Turkey in a Can” as Judy and Pliny Granger once again displayed their magic by roasting a whole turkey in a garbage can – in only about an hour and a half!! Dinner was followed with guitar playing by Ronald Meck and some sing-alongs.

Most folks reluctantly headed home Labor Day morning after having enjoyed another wonderful weekend in the Adirondacks.
Here’s to our Rivers
Their sparkle and their flash
How we glimpse each one’s essence
As we try not to get trashed

Many a couple
Learned the meaning of...strife
In a tandem canoe
On the stretch we call Fife

I remember well hoping
For my first combat roll
While turning upside-down
In the T’ville play hole

The ice is forming now
Soon the rivers will be clogged
We’ll be anxious for breakup
So we can get Quabogged

Some boaters turn their noses up
This run they might delete
But tell me where else can you look up
through an outhouse seat?

The much-defiled lower Ash?
I honestly will confide
Though a magnet for the locals’ trash
Still gives a quality ride

Yet from Surprise
down to Gilsum
the Upper Ash
is quite winsome

When everything’s running
What do YOU prefer?
There are many who would pick
A brook called Otter

If you’re feeling masochistic
And need to take a few hard knocks
New Boston will oblige you
With its battalion of rocks

Something for everyone
Our research has revealed
Can be found on the branches
Of the bucolic Westfield

If you really want something
That’s pristine and feral
Wait for hard rain
And run the Pork Barrel

You should feel a bit nervous
But you’d better stroke bold
When you’re pushing the envelope
And put on the Cold

When opportunity
Happens to knock
Postpone your chores
And enjoy the Rock

The challenge
Will be thorough
When you enter
The Wardsboro

The evolution of boating
Is all manifest
In the autumnal armada
That parades down the West

If White Mountain snowmelt
Turns on the faucet,
We’ll migrate in April
For the Pemigewasset

Don’t gawk at those mountains
This is no time to drift
They’ve left boulders to dodge
On your way down the Swift

You’ll be glad
If there are no hitches...
When you run the Mad
And no one gets stitches
I’m so glad
For my decking
When I go
Kennebecking
Stay upright,
By George,
When you go down deep
In Rip-your-jeans-off Gorge
Stay home and don’t paddle?
Can’t face it! How grim!
What the Millers can offer
Beats a day in the gym
When you finish the Dead,
Simply get yourself fed
And go right to bed
Monroe Bridge is our Mecca
And that is really no hoax
There even are some rapids
Between Dennis’ jokes
On some wave ‘til you’re wasted?
You say that you wanna?
Carve and plane till you drop
When you surf Donnaconna
(with cheesy French accent)
Moi, I will always prefer
Picking lines on ze ‘Took
zan stay home and parlez
Online on Facebooook
Practice your roll
Tune up your ferry
You’ll need all your mojo
Up north in Tewksbury
Here’s to our rivers!

HOW TO RENT A BOAT

General Information
The Berkshire Chapter has a small fleet of quietwater and whitewater boats for rent to club members. Non-members may rent boats for scheduled club trips. All rentals include life jackets (PFD’s) paddles, helmets, and spray skirts as needed. Note helmets are now required on all whitewater trips for covered boats and on all whitewater trips above class 2 for open boats.

Rental Procedures
For the 2010 paddling season, Andrew’s Greenhouse at 1178 Southeast Street in South Amherst will continue to store our boats in their barn. Please note that people reserving or picking up boats should not depend on help from the staff at the greenhouse. If you need help loading a boat, bring a friend to help you with the process.

Reserving Rental Boats
If you are planning to use a rented boat for a scheduled club trip, you should register with the trip leader at least a week in advance to have first priority on the use of a rental boat. Then you or the trip leader should call Al Howcroft (413-256-1301) to reserve the boat for the scheduled date(s). To make late reservations or reserve a boat for a non-AMC scheduled trip you should also call Al Howcroft.

Picking up Your Rental Boat
When you pick up a boat and associated equipment at the barn, there is a clearly posted sign out system you should follow. Please fill out the form completely including the AMC ID number on each item. Anyone who will need help loading the boat(s) or tying it safely on the vehicle, should bring an experienced helper. We can not expect the folks at the greenhouse to provide this help. Boats should be returned promptly. If you need to return a boat late, check with Al Howcroft to see if someone else has signed out the boat for the next day.

Payment of Rental Fees
If you are paddling on a scheduled club trip, you may pay the rental fee to your trip leader along with the registration fee. Folks renting boats for non-AMC scheduled trips may pay the rental fee by leaving a check on the clipboard in the barn or mailing the check to our treasurer Ken Langley whose address is posted in the barn. Any lost or damaged AMC equipment should be reported to your trip leader or to Al Howcroft (256-1301).
# Berkshire Chapter Canoe and Kayak Inventory

## Whitewater Canoes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID#</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Maker</th>
<th>Kind</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Len</th>
<th>$/day AMC</th>
<th>$/day AMC</th>
<th>$/wk AMC</th>
<th>$/wk AMC</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BK-3</td>
<td>ME</td>
<td>Mad River</td>
<td>Tandem or Solo</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>15’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>With triple saddle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-7</td>
<td>Starburst</td>
<td>Blue Hole</td>
<td>Tandem</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>17’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>Kevlar Skid plates needed?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-8</td>
<td>Starburst</td>
<td>Blue Hole</td>
<td>Tandem</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>17’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>New 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-9</td>
<td>Tripper</td>
<td>Old Town</td>
<td>Tandem</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>17’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>QW or Class 2 WW only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-10</td>
<td>Tripper</td>
<td>Old Town</td>
<td>Tandem</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>17’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>QW or Class 2 WW only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-11</td>
<td>C2</td>
<td>Hydra</td>
<td>Tandem</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>15’ 6”</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>With spray skirts</td>
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</table>

## Sea Kayaks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID#</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Maker</th>
<th>Kind</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Len</th>
<th>$/day AMC</th>
<th>$/day AMC</th>
<th>$/wk AMC</th>
<th>$/wk AMC</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSK-1</td>
<td>Heron</td>
<td>Old Town</td>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>16’ 2”</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>Fix foot brace ???</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSK-2</td>
<td>Shadow</td>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>17’</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>Check the bottom ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSK-3</td>
<td>Spectrum</td>
<td>Aquaterra</td>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>16’</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSK-4</td>
<td>Looksha V</td>
<td>Necky</td>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>Lime</td>
<td>17’ 6”</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>With rudder</td>
</tr>
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## Quietwater Boats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID#</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Maker</th>
<th>Kind</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Len</th>
<th>$/day AMC</th>
<th>$/day AMC</th>
<th>$/wk AMC</th>
<th>$/wk AMC</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BK-17</td>
<td>Camper</td>
<td>Old Town</td>
<td>Tandem</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>16’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>QW ONLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-16</td>
<td>Camper</td>
<td>Old Town</td>
<td>Tandem</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>16’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>QW ONLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-19</td>
<td>Keowee</td>
<td>Aquaterra</td>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>9’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>Open Kayak- QW only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-20</td>
<td>Keowee 2</td>
<td>Aquaterra</td>
<td>Tandem or Solo</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>15’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>Open Kayak- QW only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Whitewater Kayaks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID#</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Maker</th>
<th>Kind</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Len</th>
<th>$/day AMC</th>
<th>$/day AMC</th>
<th>$/wk AMC</th>
<th>$/wk AMC</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BK-12</td>
<td>SPARC</td>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>9’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>Max Wt. = 165 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-13</td>
<td>ARC</td>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>Gray/purple</td>
<td>9’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>WL150-210 lbs Fix drain plug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-15</td>
<td>Torrent</td>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>10’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>Sit on top kayak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-16</td>
<td>Torrent</td>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>Gray</td>
<td>10’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>Sit on top kayak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-21</td>
<td>Nomad</td>
<td>Dagger</td>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>7’ 6”</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>Creek Boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK-22</td>
<td>ARC</td>
<td>Perception</td>
<td>Solo</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>9’</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>Wt. 150-210 lbs</td>
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## Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID#</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 RAFTS</td>
<td>AMC Trips (Registration &amp; Rent Members $5, Non-Members $15), Private Trips Rent $25/raft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2010 BERKSHIRE QUIETWATER CANOE AND KAYAK TRIPS

Saturday, Apr. 17. Concord River, Concord, MA. The Berkshire Chapter's annual season-opening quietwater trip is on the Concord River during Patriots' Day Weekend. Meet at the Rte. 117 put-in at 9:30 AM. Birding opportunities at Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge. Optional dinner afterwards. L Rudy Julian (413-283-8294, rudy.julian@comcast.net)

Saturday, May 22. Ox Bow/Manhan/Mill backwaters, Easthampton, MA. Morning paddle. Lunch at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Experienced only. Bernice at 413-532-4464 or at treble13@comcast.net by 8 PM Thurs. prior.

Saturday, June 5. Paddling on the Battenkill River in Vermont and NY. This scenic river can be tricky in spots. Experienced paddlers only. Camping, B&B's, and motels available nearby. Contact leaders by 8 pm June 1st. Leaders: Pete and Sandy Heap, email: sandpheap@gmail.com or phone at: (413) 569-5600.

Sunday, June 20. Stroke and Rescue Clinic for beginner to intermediate kayakers. DAR State Forest, Goshen. Call Tom Galvagni (413) 447-7698 or Marjorie Bannish (413) 442-0001 for time and directions.

Saturday, July 10. Tanglewood/Stockbridge Bowl Lake. Morning BSO "Shed" rehearsal; picnic lunch on lawn; afternoon lake paddle. Experienced only. Elbert at 413-532-4464 or at treble13@comcast.net by 8 PM Thurs. prior.

Saturday, July 17. Paddle the Quinneboag River from Brimfield Lake to Lake Siog. Lunch and swimming option at Lake Siog. Contact leaders by 9pm Thursday before. Leaders: Pete and Sandy Heap, email: sandpheap@gmail.com or phone at: (413) 569-5600.

Sunday, July 24. Stroke and Rescue Clinic for beginner to intermediate kayakers. DAR State Forest, Goshen. Call Tom Galvagni (413) 447-7698 or Marjorie Bannish (413) 442-0001 for time and directions.

Saturday, August 7. Connecticut River from new boat launch at Jones Ferry in Holyoke to Pynchon Point in Agawam. Look for bald eagles and peregrine falcons along the way. Contact leaders by 9 pm Thursday before. Leaders: Pete and Sandy Heap, email sandpheap@gmail.com or phone at: (413) 569-5600.

Tuesday, Aug. 24. Moonlight Paddle, Connecticut River. Upstream paddle until moonrise. Leisure return under moonlight. Experienced only. Bernice at 413-532-4464 or at treble13@comcast.net by 8 PM Thurs. prior.

Friday, Sept. 4–Monday, Sept. 7. Labor Day Weekend in the Adirondacks – an annual event. Car camping at a New York State campground. We will be sharing group meals and going on day trip paddles in the area. Trip is limited to 25 participants. You must register with Rudy Julian (413-283-8294, rudy.julian@comcast.net) to participate.

Saturday, Sept. 11. Swift, Belchertown. Leisurely up/downstream paddle on pristine trout river, through bird/animal sanctuary. Lunch at the dam. Opt. soft-serve stop after. Experienced only. Elbert at 413-532-4464 or at treble13@comcast.net by 8 PM Thurs. prior.

Saturday, Oct. 02. Scantic, Somers, CT. Leisurely up/downstream paddle through meandering heart of this unique ecosystem. Experienced only. Bernice at 413-532-4464 or at treble13@comcast.net by 8 PM Thurs. prior.

2010 BERKSHIRE SEA KAYAKING TRIPS


For info regarding other possible sea kayaking trips or to be included in our sea kayaking e-mail group, contact Michael Zabre (665-1313; wwo@valinet.com).
2010 BERKSHIRE WHITEWATER CANOE AND KAYAK TRIPS


Sat., Apr. 10. Leader's Choice, 4. Possibly the Lower Ash or West Branch of the Westfield. L Dennis Cleary (H:413-774-3510; W:413-772-0521).


Mon., Apr. 19. Leader’s Choice, 3. Patriot's Day Special! For those of us who have the day off or just want to play hooky. L David Windoloski (508-476-9854).


Sat., May 1. Leader's Choice, 3. Possible 2 day trip (Fri-Sat) to NH, Upper Saco and Ammo, if there is enough interest. L David Windoloski (508-476-9854).


Sun., May 23. Deerfield (Fife Brook), 2. L Connie Peterson (413-548-9113; cpacpsummer@aol.com).


Sun., Jun. 13. Deerfield (Fife Brook), 2. L Connie Peterson (413-548-9113; cpacpsummer@aol.com).


Sat. - Sun., Sep. 25-26. West (Farmhouse), 2-3-4. Fall Foliage Special! Good food, friends, fireside chats and fun at the Inn Hoch farmhouse. Paddle on Sat. and hike the nearby AT on Sun. Pray for a release! L Connie Peterson (413-548-9113; cpacpsummer@aol.com).


Sat., Oct. 16. Farmington (New Boston), 3-4. L Connie Peterson (413-548-9113; cpacpsummer@aol.com).


2010 BERKSHIRE WHITEWATER RAFTING TRIPS


Has your address changed?
Contact: Charlie Camp (ccamp@psych.umass.edu)

Submissions for next issue: If you are interested in contributing articles, poetry, experiences, photographs and/or information about your paddling experiences to Ferry Tales, please send your ideas to editor Norma Sims Roche, 42 Laurel Park, Northampton, MA 01060, nroche@crocker.com, or Charles W. Camp, ccamp@psych.umass.edu, 413-665-3750. Thank you!

A special THANKS to:
- Trip schedules by Tad Jackson and Rudy Julian
- Photos by Cynthia Yackenchick
- All of the trip leaders
- Members of the Canoe and Kayak Committee
- Boat storage space provided by Andy Cowles

Don’t forget to check out our website for the very latest information on all aspects of what the Berkshire Chapter has to offer! Go to www.AMCberkshire.org often! You can get the current information on paddling trips, including any new listings that come up!