

FLOWlines



Finger Lakes-Ontario Watershed Paddlers' Club Newsletter Rochester NY

Volume 7, Issue 2

February 2002

February General Meeting

The meeting is on the third Thursday of the month since the second Thursday is Valnetine's Day.

Date: Thursday, February 21

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Brighton Town Hall,

2300 Elmwood Avenue

Bob Pierson will present a program on the Clearwater River. As one of Saskatchewan's most outstanding wild rivers, it rises in far North Central Saskatchewan and flows south and west past the Northen end of historic Methye Portage into Alberta. The lower Clearwater River was a vital link in historic exploration and was the fur trade voyageur route to the Athabasca country. The upper Clearwater River, rising from Lloyd Lake, was rarely traversed until 1972. The river is now a Canadian Heritage River.

March General Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 14

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: 141-149 Elmwood Avenue

Genesee Water Center Open House

Presentation will include an overview of GWC's rowing, outrigger canoe, sprint kayak, and canoe and kayak rental programs; a tour of the facility and history of the area. GWC is an exciting place, with a lot to offer the community. Come and take a look! And if you have questions about the potential FLOW/GWC merger, come and ask!

Membership Renewals Are Due

Just in case you ignored the mailing which was sent out in December, this is a friendly reminder to send in your renewal form.



Constitution Carried By Wide Margin

In a ballot conducted at FLOW's winter party on January 29th, the proposed Constitution was voted in by a 79% plurality. About 45 FLOW members attended the party, and most of them cast ballots. The new Constitution, drafted by Steve Kittelberger, requires a quorum of 10% of the membership to ratify or change the Constitution by a 2/3 majority. One voter opposed to the ratification stated "I am opposed to ANY constitution," and two comments received during the open comment period last month opposed the rule requiring term limits for club officers. Asked to comment, Kittelberger said "Without a constitution, eventually anarchy sets in. And without turnover among officers, there's no fresh blood, no fresh ideas. In time, you'd have a monarchy. I've always wanted FLOW to be run by democratic rules."

FLOW / GWC Merger Not Decided

We only received eleven responses to the survey question which was posted at the FLOW party. Of the responses, five were in favor of merging, three were opposed, and three were undecided. Here are the comments which were written in.

- Sure. Anything that brings together paddling resources in Rochester is good for the groups involved.
- No freakin' way!
- I would want a detailed presentation with a Q&A session in order to decide. What is the existing vs. proposed insurance coverage? Any downside to it?
- Great deal for WW lock rats; good deal for occasional lock users; only a bad deal if you don't use any GWC facilities or programs.
- What do we have to gain? More importantly...what do we stand to lose?

If you have an opinion, send a letter to the editor at newsletter@flowpaddlers.org. And come to the March meeting and ask questions!

FLOW Pool Practice Schedule

Admission to pool practice is \$2 for FLOW members and \$5 for the general public. Boats Must Be Clean!

Place	Pittsford Middle School	
	75 Barker Road, Pittsford	
Time	Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9:30 PM	
Dates	February 13, 27	
	March 6, 13, 20, 27	
	April 3, 10	

Place	Wheatland-Chili High School
	Corner of North Rd. and Rt. 386, Scottsville
Time	Mondays, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Dates	February 25
	March 4, 11, 18, 25
	April 1

FLOW Organization

Newsletter Submissions

Send us trip reports, articles, letters to the editor, rants, photographs, ads for our classified section, or anything else that you would like to see in FLOWlings. Send items to newsletter@flowpaddlers.org. If you do not have e-mail, send items to:

Simon Barnett 72 Maple Park Heights Rochester, NY 14625

Membership / Address Changes

To join FLOW, download the membership form from the "How To Join" page on www.flowpaddlers.org, fill it out and send it with \$30 (\$35 family rate) to:

FLOW Paddlers' Club C/O James "Hoppy"Hopkins 43 Whelehan Drive

Rochester, NY 14616

If you don't have access to the web, contact Hoppy at the above address, hoppyski@yahoo.com or 621-2721. Send address changes to Hoppy too.

FLOW Hot Line: 234-3893

To access the FLOW Hot Line:

- 1. Dial 234-3893 from a touch-tone phone.
- 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.

Paddling Contacts

FLOW Corporate Sponsors
BayCreek Paddling Center 288-2830
Boat/gear sales & rental, instruction, kids camp
8% off stocked accessories
www.BayCreek.com
<i>G.R.I.P</i> 381-3418
ACA Certified whitewater instruction
Oak Orchard Canoe & Kayak (800)-4-KAYAKS
1000 Boats, car & truck racks, parts, repair, ½ day river tours
10% off accessories; 22% off plastic WW boats (in stock only)
www.oakorchardcanoe.com
Snow Country 586-6460
10% off paddling gear and accessories
www.snowcountrysports.com

Businesses Offering FLOW Discounts

Colorado Kayak Supply (www.coloradokayak.com) 15% off accessories (Must Supply AWA Number)

Nantahala Outdoor Center (www.noc.com) 10% off all goods

Northern Outfitters (www.noh20.com) 10% off all retail items

Zoar Outdoor (www.zoaroutdoor.com) 10% off accessories and \$50 off boat prices

Local Businesses & Instruction

Regional & National Organizations

American Canoe Association www.acanet.org
American Whitewater www.americanwhitewater.org
Adirondack Mountain Clubwww.adk.org Genesee Waterways Center. www.geneseewaterways.com

River Gauges

Genesee River (Letchworth)	468-2303
Catteragus Creek	532-0626
Black Cr. at Churchville (&	800) 452-1742 #361131
Salmon River (8	800) 452-1742 #365123
Waterline Site Codes	www.h20line.com

FLOW Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, January, 2002

- I. Newsletter
 - A. Review of upcoming articles in FLOWlines
 - 1. Discussions/opinions regarding merging with GWC
 - 2. Goals for FLOW in 2002
 - B. Deadline for next newsletter is Jan. 28.
- II. Surrounding Kayaking Clubs' Activities
 - A. Three Rivers Paddling Club offers their newsletter, "The Paddlers' Gauge" through e-mail
 - B. Central New York Paddlers' Club had their last meeting recently. They will continue to exist as a website. Those in attendance discussed FLOW's offer to send CNY members FLOWlines for three months, then a membership application. There was a variable response. Mike will continue discussions with CNY regarding whether it is agreeable to send FLOWlines to their membership one time, with a membership application. The Salmon Fest will take place in 2002.
 - C. Links to additional websites from FLOW's website have been requested, Simon to research.
 - D. Motion made by Ed to continue FLOW as a sustaining member of NYRU and AWA. \$100 will be sent to each. Steve has draft of cover letters, which he will send to Ed to be included with the checks. Motion seconded by Steve. All in favor.
- III. Pool Practice Ivan
 - A. Reservations are in place.
 - B. Lifeguard has been hired.
 - C. Iinsurance is in place as per ACA provisions.
 - D. Rent for pool at Wheatland Chili has increased by \$1.
- IV. Winter Party Mike
 - A. Location changed to Johnny's due to fire at McGinity's, after several other suggestions

- were entertained. Thanks, Mike for pulling this together!
- B. Computer slide show put together by Ed, Mike, Simon and Rob.
- C. Membership applications and decals to be available.
- D. Constitution to be voted on. A discussion ensued regarding proper procedure for vote counting. Procedure was agreed upon and will be followed.
- E. GWC merger information to be available for members review.
- V. GWC Integration

Discussions of the pros and cons continued. Articles in FLOWlines to outline discussions. Survey to be available to general membership for input before decision is made.

VI. Trip List for 2002

Trip Coordinators are needed to lead trips down the Salmon and Letchworth. Call Ivan if interested. All participants must be FLOW members.

- VII. Upcoming General Meetings
 - A. March 14 7:00
 Genesee Water Center Open House, 141149 Elmwood Avenue. Presentation will include an overview of GWC's rowing, outrigger canoe, sprint kayak, and canoe and kayak rental programs; a tour of the facility and history of the area. GWC is an exciting place, with a lot to offer the community. Come and take a look!
 - B. April 11 7:00
 Southern Rivers; including a history of the infamous "Southern Trip". More details to come.

VIII. River Conservation - Steve

Discussion regarding Three Wave on the Black and the Toheaken River in PA.

Next Steering Committee Meeting will be Feb. 7 at 7:00 at Barnes and Noble in the coffee shop.



2002 Releases and Festivals

The Lehigh Valley Canoe Club has put together a web page with all of the releases and festivals in the northeast. Check it out at

http://www.enter.net/~lvcc/2002release.html

Paddling In The French Alps

Tired of paddling the same old rivers? The folks at Alpine Whitewater Francaise are planning three paddling trips in the French Alps this summer that will explore some of the world's most scenic and delightful white water. (6/13 - 6/21, 6/22 - 6/30, 7/1 - 7/9) Each trip will last nine days and include at least six days of paddling. For more info check out their website:

http://alpinewhitewaterfrancaise.com/



Creek Week: April 25-28, Old Forge, NY

Submitted by Chris Koll

Creek Week, a four day celebration of Adirondack whitewater, will be hosted in Old Forge, NY April 25-28, 2002. Sponsored by the Central Adirondack Association and American Whitewater, Creek Week is scheduled for the final week of April when Adirondack rivers and creeks are historically flush with snowmelt. During periods of optimal run-off, boaters can choose from over 30 whitewater runs within a 10-90 minute radius of Old Forge. Whitewater paddlers may already be familiar with Old Forge as the site of the popular Moose River Festival held annually in the fall. But Creek Week promises to be a different kind of event.

Unlike the fall Moose Festival weekend, Creek Week will not feature a traditional large Saturday night gathering. Instead, a series of boater-friendly events have been scheduled throughout the week including special "paddler nights" at local bars and restaurants, the first annual Old Forge Whitewater Film Festival at the village's Strand theater on Saturday night, and the Bottom Moose Extreme Games to be contested Saturday afternoon.

And while the fall event primarily attracts boaters interested in paddling the Bottom Moose, Creek Week participants will probably want to branch out to experience the dozens other spectacular whitewater runs available in the Old Forge vicinity.

Old Forge was chosen as the base camp for Creek Week because of its proximity to a large variety whitewater runs, but the village also features attractions that create a boater-friendly environment.

In the summer months, Old Forge is a popular resort community that features a selection of restaurants, bars, hotels, campgrounds, funky shops and even a first run movie theater. During paddling season, however, the village is virtually deserted allowing boaters to take advantage of the amenities at off-season rates.

A large selection of rivers and creeks with over 30 different whitewater runs are within a 90 minute drive of Old Forge making it New York's epicenter of whitewater boating during the spring season.

Optimal water levels vary with the amount of snowpack and spring rain, but the last week of April usually offers a variety of paddling opportunities. When rain combines with snowmelt producing high spring water levels, seldom run creeks like Johns Brook, Boquet River, the Branch, Boreas River, Otter Creek, Independence River, Roaring Brook, Mill Creek, Cincinnati Creek, and 13th Lake Brook all provide class 4-5 action. The widest variety of Adirondack runs are runnable when area streams feature medium spring levels. Boaters can choose from class 4-5 runs on the

Oswegatchie system as well as the Grass, Cedar, Sacandaga, and Racquette Rivers, and class 4 boating on Fish Creek and Lower Moose River.

Even during the driest spring when levels are unusually low, there is still class 4-5 boating to be found close to Old Forge during the final week of April on the Bottom Moose and plenty of playboating on the Hudson and Black Rivers.

Old Forge Whitewater Film Festival

Scheduled for Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 pm, the Old Forge Whitewater Film Festival will include screenings from the Teva Liquid Lifestyles Tour featuring videos of extreme steep descents and outrageous playboating. With videos produced by Scott Lindgren's Driftwood Productions, the Teva Lifestyles Tour makes a stop in Old Forge after dates on college campuses across the country.

The second feature will be Riversense, a documentary about the people and culture of the whitewater community by filmmaker Kate Geis. The film follows the lives of Katie and B.J. Johnson, T.R. Yon, Dunbar Hardy and the late William Nealy and illustrates their relationships to rivers and kayaking lifestyle.

The Film Festival will be staged at the Strand Theater, a traditional old-style 400 seat movie house in the middle of downtown Old Forge. Admission will be charged.

Moose River Extreme Games

American Whitewater will host a series of three extreme events on Saturday, April 27 starting at 1 pm on the section of the Bottom Moose from Agers Falls to Crystal.

The Extreme Games commence with a freewheel competition over the 18-foot Agers Falls followed by a downriver sprint from Agers through Crystal before concluding with a freestyle through a rapid event at Crystal. The sequence of events will allow competitors and spectators to move downstream through the afternoon. For additional event and



registration information, contact Mike Phelan at americanwhitewater.org.

Hotel/restaurant information

The CAA has prepared a list of local campgrounds and hotels offering special discounts for paddlers during Creek Week. For information-call the Old Forge Visitor Information Center at (315) 369-6983 or access its web site at oldforgeny.com.

Slickers, the Old Forge restaurant/tavern that has become a traditional gathering spot for boaters to eat and drink, will welcome boaters for a Happy Hour celebration on Friday afternoon into the evening and will schedule entertainment for the after-the-movie Saturday night party.

The TOW Bar (TOW stands for Town of Web) is slated to welcome boaters on Thursday for an informal after-the-river gathering. The TOW Bar doesn't feature much of a food menu, but it does boast the most economical draughts in town and four televisions with non-stop sports.

Here are a few of the possible runs:

Bottom Moose (class 4-5) Put-in is at Fowlersville Bridge. Takeout is at Shibley Road near Lyons Falls. Appropriate levels range from 2.5' to 5' on the McKeever gauge. Releases below Agers Falls are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday only. Sufficient water will be spilling if the river is near 5'. Bottom always has water (sometimes too much) on the last week of April.

Independence River (class 4-5) Put-in off Chases Lake Road. Takeout is at Pine Grove Road bridge. Needs 4.5'-6' on Independence gauge reading. Even bet to have water final week of April.

Otter Creek (class 4) Put-in off Eatonville Road. Takeout us at Pine Grove Road bridge. No gauge but Independence and Lower Moose should be high. Often runs final week of April.

Roaring Brook (class 4-5) Small trib with put-in above Martinsburg and takeout at Route 12. Sometimes runs last week of April if there is rain.

Mill Creek (class 4-5) Small trib with put-in above Lowville and takeout in center of Lowville. Sometimes runs last week of April if there is rain.

Upper Black (class 2-3 two 4s) Put-in at Atwell and takeout at Enos. No gauge but other rivers should be high. Even bet to have water final week of April.

Hawkinsville Black (class 2-3) Put-in at Hawkinsville and take-out at next convenient bridge. No gauge but the Black usually has water final week of April.

For additional information regarding Creek Week and Adirondack Rivers, contact Chris Koll at ckoll1234@aol.com or (315) 652-8397(evenings).

FLOW's Newest Member



Sara Judith Bramlage

Congratulations to Ben and Melissa! Sara Judith Bramlage was born at 9:17 on the morning of Friday, January 4. She was a couple of weeks early, weighed 5 lbs, 12 ½ oz, and measured 18" long. Sara and Melissa came home Sunday morning and are both doing just fine.

Banff Film Festival Date

Submitted by Don Cochran
Once again Snow Country is sponsoring the Banff
film festival and this year it is going to be on
Tuesday, April 30th at the Pittsford Plaza Theater.
Get your tickets in advance (at Snow Country —
586-6460) because it always sells out!





BayCreek Paddling Center 1099 Empire Blvd Rochester NY (585) 288-2830 http://www.baycreek.com

The NEW 2002 Wave Sport boats are here.

See the Ace Series, the Siren, the Super EZ and the Mutant.
All have the new F.A.T. 2.0 Outfitting.

All 2001 and older boats 25% and more off (Flat and White Water)

Kayak Polo

Submitted by Robert Blake and Dan Weiss

For many years local paddlers have been talking about organizing a Kayak Polo program in order to stay active during the winter months. This year we are fortunate to have Dan Weiss, a post-doc at the University of Rochester and USA Kayak Polo team player, help the Genesee Waterways Center coordinate a Rochester club.

A typical kayak polo team consists of five to eight players. A match takes place in an swimming pool which is either indoors or outdoors when the weather permits. Our club plays with four people on each team due to the smaller size of the MCC pool. Just like basketball or lacrosse, the object of the game is to outscore the other team by throwing a ball into a goal. In kayak polo one uses a water polo ball and the goal is suspended two meters above the water. Scoring a goal takes an astonishing amount of teamwork, strategy and patience.

During the game, players can pass or dribble the ball either with their hands or the paddle blades. Players are not allowed to place the ball on the spray skirt and travel with it; they must dribble or pass within five seconds. Away from the ball, offensive teammates attempt to break through the

defense or create an opening. The defense can check the person who has the ball by "pushing" their arm between the elbow and the shoulder in hopes to roll them over, prevent a clean pass, or avoid a shot on the goal. In addition players can use their kayak to bump, push or steer opponents. Players will draw a penalty if they strike a person with a paddle or kayak, hit the goalkeeper, or hold a kayak with their hands.

Like many sports, kayak polo requires specialized equipment. However, we utilize normal whitewater kayaks, PFD's to protect the body, paddles (with blade edges taped to eliminate any sharp spots), helmets (preferably with a faceguard), and a water polo ball. The goals are one meter tall by one and half meters wide and are made of PVC with a mesh backing. Kayak Polo is a fast-paced, action-packed sport that will definitely improve your paddling skills and conditioning. It is also an exciting spectator sport.

The GWC is currently working on forming another session towards the end of the winter to allow you the opportunity to try it. If you are interested please call Rob Blake at (585) 315-3000 or visit the GWC web site www.geneseewaterways.com.



Hoppy taking a shot through Scott Conley (defense) and Phil Menhard (goalkeeper)

Letchworth High Water Evaluation

The following letter was sent to Rich Parker, Letchworth State Park Superintendent

On April 8th I had the privilege of kayaking Letchworth gorge. The level 15.6 as stated by the Portageville gauge. I was accompanied by Ted Van Zandt and Dave Meyers.

Let me start by saying my colleagues and I had a great time on Letchworth at this level. With continuous wave trains peaking 8 to 10 feet, this is the kind of water kayakers like myself truly enjoy.

It is my belief that this and all waters should be kept free. (I'm pretty sure you knew that, but I had to throw it in anyway.) However, an uneducated decision can many times be a foolish one. I feel that if presented with the proper information, people will choose what s right for them.

The Genesee River in Letchworth Gorge at 15.6 feet is formidable. At the put in at Lee's Landing you ave two choices. The river splits just below the put in. The left branch of this split is easily accessible, consisting of little ore than wave trains, three feet at best. The right branch presents some challenges. The first of these is getting there. It is no easy task — the water is pushy and fast. We all made this move without complication. The island that separates the two branches concerned me at first, but for now the water pushes to one side or the other well before the island.

Extreme river right across from the tip of the island begins the section known as Red Ball or The Loop. I ran the heart of the wave train and eddied out half way down on river right. This is no place for a beginner and an intermediate may be more than challenged. The eddies here are tumultuous, fluctuating up and down as much as three feet. The eddy lines are two to four feet wide, making this a difficult place to get in or out. Ted ran river left of Red Ball rapid. He stated that the eddies were much less aggressive. The wave train could easily be circumvented by staying to the left.

I feel that Red Ball may be the only place in the river that floating debris may be a factor. All kayakers are aware of floating debris. But because of the height and pitch of the waves in Red Ball, it is difficult to see an approaching problem. However, these waves are extremely difficult to surf, so the chance of collision is slight, but it does exist. If a kayaker is moving at the flow of the river, in theory, that kayayker would not be overtaken by something moving at the same speed.

The left channel of Red Ball, as stated earlier, poses none of these problems.

Below Red Ball, the river curves to the left, and at this level a small amount of water goes into a channel on the right. This split may collect logs or strainers. This is the only place on the river that a person could inadvertently be swept into a strainer. I do not feel that this will happen if a person is in their boat. A swimmer may find it difficult to avoid if hugging the right bank. This split can be spotted from 75 to 100 yards away. It is easily avoided river center or any place left of center.

Past The Loop, the river is wide with wave trains that pose no immediate danger. At this level, at this time, there are no keeper holes at all. The only anomaly is a small island in the vicinity of Wolf Creek. This island has young trees growing on it. It is easily seen from a long distance away, and poses more of a problem for unguided rafters than for kayakers. It is extremely easy to avoid by going on the left or right side.

The Genesee River in Letchworth is great fun at 15.6 feet. I believe at this level it rates a class III+, but not a IV. There are no difficult navigational judgments to be made while running the river. I would recommend a good river roll if a person chooses to run the right channel of Red Ball, but all major features can be avoided.

A sign signifying the take out at St. Helena may save someone a very long paddle, as well as search and rescue's time and money. I would say that it is well worth the investment.

I do not feel that Letchworth needs to be run at this level many times to determine its status. Opinions vary, but the facts will remain the same.

I hope we have helped you in our combined efforts to free the river. It seems that freedom of any kind must always be fought for. The moment we have forgotten it, we have lost it.

As always, if we can be of any assistance to you, please let us know.

Sincerely Dave, Ted, & Marty.



Classified Ads / Lost & Found

I need four Y-30 clips to attach a Yakima rack to a gutterless, aero-style roof on a 4-door 1992 Honda Accord LX. If you have some, please call Emily at (585) 346-5597 or email her at epleger@hotmail.com.

Perception Mr. Clean play boat and **RIOT KIX** creek boat 450.00 each. Contact Jim at (585) 436-9902 or (585) 370-9585 cell.

Violet **Perception Dancer-XS** for persons 120 lbs. or less. Great for kids! Includes airbags and sprayskirt \$350. Yellow **Perception Dancer**, includes airbags, sprayskirt and paddle \$350. Call Pam (585) 785-0515.

White **Perception Mirage** with flotation, medium ExtraSport PFD., skirt, and Mohawk paddle. Very retro. \$300 Don Valerio donval@frontiernet.net (585) 526-5561

For Sale: **Dagger Centrifuge**: Color — Blue marble and some other things happening in there. Purpose — River running playboat, great for surfing, flat spins and vertical moves. Very loose hull. 52 gallons, used a dozen times \$450. Call Rob 315-3000.



Large Float Bag for sale - EPI 21" x 37". **Wanted**: Large spray skirt. Willing to pay squat. Call me, we'll do business. Richard (585) 473-2162.

Purple and white **New Wave Cruise Control** for sale \$250 OBO. Contact Simon at (585) 899-6803 or barnett@bluefrognet.net.

Riot Slice \$325, 1½ years old, Super Surfer, Carves and Squirts like the devil. A great price to try an awesome hard chined playboat. **Thule Model 1050/33** Ski Racks (Mount on Thule Cross bars), 2 sets, each holds 3 pairs of skis. \$12 per set. Call Doug at 734-9026.

Orange **Wavesport Forplay** \$550. Well outfitted and bumped out for big feet and comfort. Call Rick Williams at (585) 381-3418.

Nice **RPM** for sale \$400.00. As always my boats come with good karma at no extra charge. e-mail Dave Meyers at wwrpm5@aol.com.

For Sale: great condition **Dagger Ultrafuge**, blue and black, Bomber backband, \$490 Contact Randy French at Scodese@juno.com.

2002 Salmon River Release Dates

Submitted by Jerry Hargrave

Dates	FLOW
6/22,23	400 cfs
7/13,14	750 cfs
7/27,28	750 cfs
8/10,11	750 cfs
9/7,8	750 cfs

Mark your calendars for these warm summer releases!

