



FLOWlines



Finger Lakes-Ontario Watershed Paddlers' Club Newsletter
Rochester NY

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November 2003

November General Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 13
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Community Meeting Room,
Brighton Town Hall Lower Level
2300 Elmwood Ave.

Interested in paddling opportunities in the southern states? Come out and see Tom Congdon's multimedia presentation on Southern Whitewater Paddling, which will include a video. Light refreshments will be served.

November Steering Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 25
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Jack Ryan's
Atlantic Ave. between Culver and Winton
Steering committee meetings are open to all members. Feel free to just show up - your input is welcome. If you are not available but have an idea, send email to info@flowpaddlers.org.

Canoe and Kayak Registration?

The state boating agencies of Connecticut, Maine, Montana and Oregon have introduced legislation that would compel paddlers to register each of their canoes and kayaks. These under-funded agencies are attracted by the potential funds that this move would generate. They argue that paddlers are not "paying their share." In addition to these revenues, the states would receive more federal funding through the Wallop-Breaux fund by increasing the number of registered boats. Paddling, however, does not require the states to invest as much money for boat ramps, enforcement and pollution control that motorized craft demand. The bills now appear dead in Maine and Connecticut, but the ACA calls the Montana bill a "serious threat to become law." The ACA argues that the states should set aside the revenue that paddlers contribute to fund paddling-related issues. The agencies have not been receptive to this proposal.

New Salmon River Gauge Decommissioned



by Steve Kittelberger

--Fantomboater

The new USGS gauge at Pineville on the Salmon River has been abruptly decommissioned. The gauge, Station 04250200, was funded by Niagara Mohawk (NiMo) under the terms of the 1996 relicense issued by FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. After NiMo sold the Altmar hydropower plant to Reliant Energy, the new licensee applied to FERC for relief from the requirement to pay to maintain and operate this gauge. This application was approved by FERC last month. By the terms of the 1996 license, only NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife had veto power in this matter. Salmon River release information is still available from Waterline at 800 452-1742; the Salmon River site code is 365123. The same information is available at Waterline's website: www.h2oline.com. Many of the documents on this project (P-11408) can be accessed electronically at FERC's website: www.ferc.gov.

Sprint Kayaking at GWC

The Genessee Waterways Center (GWC) is now offering a Sprint/Distance Kayaking Program. Sprint kayaking uses one, two or four person boats that *cruise*. GWC hopes to assemble competitive teams of men and women to compete in the Empire State Games and other races. So, if you're sick of doing .37 miles per hour in your playboat, call GWC Instructor Jason Quaglitara at 330-9110 or the GWC Boathouse at 328-3960.

Erie Harbor Whitewater Course

On April 30, 1999, John Anderson submitted a *Feasibility Study for a Whitewater Course at Erie Harbor, Rochester, NY*. This ambitious plan contained a projected budget of from \$6.3 to \$14.1 million to construct a spillway on the City's property at Genesee Gateway Park south of the I-490 bridge. The site would be intended for national and international slalom and rodeo competition, instruction and recreational boating. In addition, the City would provide, or contract for, rentals and concessions.

There are many obstacles to be overcome before this project can become a reality, the most obvious being funding. According to the City's Bureau of Planning, the idea enjoyed a warm reception before larger projects, such as the soccer stadium and the Port of Rochester, overshadowed it. In addition, water rights must be insured in order to guarantee sufficient flow during the summer months, when competitions would be held and most of the instruction and recreational use would take place. RG&E has water rights to 2,000 cfs. in order to produce power at the Court St. dam. However, they are required to pass 125 cfs. in order to "re-water" the riverbed below the dam. In addition, the City diverts 50 cfs. through the Johnson and Seymour Raceway for the cooling system of the library. This would require a modification of the raceway, which may be complicated by the murky status of the building as a protected historical structure. The course would utilize these two sources to maintain a minimum flow of 175 cfs. For competition, the City would purchase additional water from RG&E in order to boost flow to 600 cfs. At times of higher water, Anderson concluded that the most efficient system would be an inverted "V" (sort of the shape of a pup tent placed lengthwise across the inlet) that would be able to move up or down one foot in order to control flow.

Anderson intends the course to be difficult enough to hold national or international competition but also safe for beginners. This could be achieved by constructing two different sections or by alternating flow. It seems that Anderson intends to use a combination of the two options, having two or three more spectacular rapids and also increasing flow for competition or other specialized uses. The course itself would be 311 meters in length, with a fall of 13-15 ft. The gradient is at the low end of the spectrum for international competition, but Anderson concludes that it would be sufficient. An artificial riverbed would be constructed out of concrete, as it would be safer and more durable. The banks would be

made from 18" to 36" rounded rocks from a quarry in Avon, possible set into concrete. According to the report, "the channel will have one or more variable configuration water-filled bladders that will create hydraulics suitable for rodeo competition."

The report envisions a multitude of uses for the site other than kayaking. The most numerous category of users, he points out, are spectators. To that end, Anderson proposes building bleachers to accommodate 1,200 people, a concession stand and restaurant with plenty of outdoor seating with a good view of the course, bathrooms, changing areas (they heard about all of you immodest kayakers) and two bridges over the course to facilitate viewing. In addition, Anderson proposes that a flatwater venue could be constructed adjacent to the whitewater course so that the seating could also be used for the finish line of a regatta. The site could also be used to train fire and police departments in swiftwater rescue, as there are, at present, only two venues in the nation that perform this service. Finally, Anderson suggests that a vendor could rent rafts, duckies or even "boogie boards" to get the untrained into the water.

This would clearly be an extremely exciting opportunity for FLOW and any kayaker in the area. In addition, Anderson has found in several case studies that public investment in whitewater facilities have stimulated a private investment four times the size of the municipal contribution. This project is not outside the realm of possibility, even though the City does not consider it to be a priority at this time.



--The East Riverwall of Erie Harbor was rehabilitated in 2002. The proposed site lies at the south end of this wall.

12 Steps to running the Independence for the first time

by Shifty

- 1) Put your foot down and clearly establish the boundaries. You can't let your friends push you around. You are an independent, strong willed individual. Tell them: "Look, I am *not* going to paddle the Independence. **What word don't you understand?**"
- 2) Put in at Bradish Road. The water is moving swiftly. Don't stare at it for too long. Distract yourself. Talk to whoever will talk back, but not to the paddler who got trashed on the first rapid and decided to carry back out. That would be discouraging.
- 3) Do a nice run down the class II/III rock gardens. Be very pleased with yourself.
- 4) After scouting the first big drop, choose the beefier left route and follow a nice line, punching through the foam and backwash. How's your confidence now?
- 5) Take out at the top of the class V "Big Slide" to scout. It starts with a big hole, then the water makes a big foamy pile onto a low granite boulder that can push you left or right, to your demise. Going left you'll find a river-wide wave that looks like it would be way too intimate for way too long if you don't punch it straight on. If you survive that, you'll run the next slide into the spray off the rock at the bottom, and then eddy out.
- 6) Spend your scouting time chatting up some young hottie spectator. When asked "Are you running this one?", reply with an emphatic "NNOOOO!!!!" and mean it.
- 7) Portage down, put in and eddy out above the next drop, a waterfall. Don't intimidate yourself by scouting. Have someone else point out the line from shore, and then, go!
- 8) Make a nice boof, good landing and give yourself an atta boy! Now figure out how to explain this one to your wife. You promised *never* to run waterfalls. Remember? Ummm, Yeah
- 9) Scout the last rapid, the Fat Lady. Put in and run the first ledge drops in a shaky, tentative way. After all, if you flip, you're in for a good spanking at the bottom. Let that weigh on the back of your mind. Steady yourself - steady now - and at the last moment, make the boof of your life off the last ledge. Land flat and perfect on the foam. Yeah baby, you made it!
- 10) Sink into it and disappear like a submarine. Welcome to your new home for the next few seconds. Foam. Bubbles. More bubbles than Lawrence Welk can muster in a season of reruns. More bubbles than your favorite Don Ho tribute act. Forget trying to paddle through it because you are only wasting your air. When she's through with you, you'll know. Funny how time expands when you're underwater. Did you remember to install the drain plug? Wonder how long you can hold your breath? Was that a *fish*? Is she singing yet? Can you hear her sing? It ain't over until the fat lady sings.
- 11) Your time is up. Rise from the foam like a waterlogged phoenix, now facing the ledge. Raise your paddle over your head and shout "Who's your daddy! Who's your daddy! Yeaahhhh!!!!" When your head clears from the euphoria of the fat lady finale, listen to the other paddlers yelling "BACKPADDLE! BACKPADDLE!!!" and *do* it. They know more than you, and you don't need an encore.
- 12) Remember step 1 and eat crow all the way back to camp.



--Phantomboater testing a Big Gun at Fat Lady.



Norman Deets



Top right: Members of FLOW running Nelson's Falls on the Middle Moose.

Top left: Mark Stevens entering the sluice at the top of Class V "Fat Lady" on the Independence River, Glenfield, New York. Saturday, 10/18 the Bottom Moose was raging, but the Indy was a very enjoyable 390 cfs (+/- 15).

Bottom: Mark Stevens again, seconds later, showing us all how to keep cool and look smooth when it's not "plan A all the way".



Norman Deets

Classified Ads

To have your boat or equipment listed, send email to newsletter@flowpaddlers.org.
Items will be removed after 6 months. Feel free to re-list items that have not sold

Complete Whitewater Kayak Package: Blue / Yellow Perception Method used once; comes with harmony spray skirt (s), 197 cm whetstone paddle, yellow helmet (s), short sleeved amphi top (s), dry top (m), long john wet suit (m), dry socks (s), neoprene gloves (s). Whole package \$895.00. Call Ron 585-721-4090 (Cell), 585-624-1699 (Home, after 9:00pm)

For Sale: Dagger Animas (Blue color) - A whitewater kayak, 10.5ft. long, 24.5in. wide. Great kayak suitable for a larger kayaker. Good condition, asking \$500/BO. Custom-made Kayak Trailer - Holds up to 8 kayaks. Comes with a spare tire. Registered and in good condition. Asking \$450/BO. Call 585-342-7240 or e-mail rthom188@frontiernet.net.

Brand new 14' Rob Roy, handcrafted solo canoe. Ted Moore's design, cedar strips with poplar, walnut and mahogany accents. This canoe is beautiful - it is valued @ 2,500 to 3,000. I am trying to get best offer. Kate 315.789.9262. (Geneva)



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