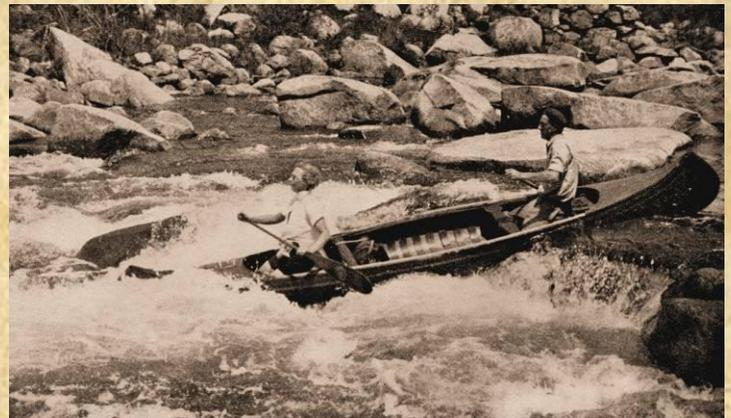




AMC NY-NoJ Celebrates Centennial

The AMC's New York Chapter, later christened the New York-North Jersey Chapter, was founded in 1912. While the Boston chapter had conducted paddling trips since the 1920s, it wasn't until the '30s



AMC Trip on the Ammonoosuc River, May 31, 1937.
Photo by Christine Reid, Courtesy of AMC Archives.

that the New York Chapter began to develop a paddling program of its own.

It was Ken Henderson – climber, mountaineer, canoeist – who was approached by several of the New York paddlers to purchase or rent for them enough wood-and-canvas canoes in the Boston area to accommodate the New Yorkers who were interested in participating in a Boston trip on the Housatonic in the Spring of 1934. Ken purchased seven canoes and trucked them to the banks of the Housatonic, where James Dunning, the New York Leader, paid the bill. Some twenty canoeists with perhaps more enthusiasm than skill spent the weekend on what was undoubtedly the first Interchapter Canoe trip.

Throughout this issue, we present a retrospective view of paddling history in and out of the AMC.

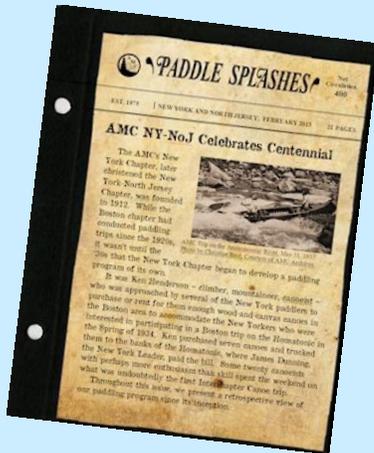
Betty Manning and former Canoe Committee Chair (1956-58) Corny King at Skinners Falls, Delaware River, May, 1949. Photo by Paul Rittenhouse. Courtesy of AMC Archives.



PADDLE SPLASHES

Loretta Brady, Editor

Marty Plante, Typesetter & Copyboy



PaddleSplashes is published by the Canoe and Kayak Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club, New York - North Jersey Chapter.

Guidelines for Submissions

Photos are preferred as high resolution color jpeg files attached to email. Please do not crop, compress or resize them. Contact the editor if you need assistance sending large files. Current and prior issues of *PaddleSplashes* are available on the Chapter's website at <http://www.amc-ny.org/ckc/newsletter>

Send all submissions to:

canoekayak.newsletter[at] amc-ny.org

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS APR 15, 2013

In This Issue

- 1 AMC NY-NoJ Chapter Centennial
- 3 Remember the Ladies
- 7 New QW Paddlers
- 8 Meet the Committee
- 8 New Trip Leaders
- 9 Early Days of Chapter Paddling
- 11 In the Beginning
- 12 Now and Then
- 13 Open Secrets about Closed Boating
- 14 Reel Paddling Film Festival
- 15 Thanks!
- 16 Remembrance of Trips Past
- 19 The Mullica
- 22 High and Low Points
- 23 Do the Math
- 24 Chronicles of PaddleSplashes
- 25 Winter, Fall, in Love with the Adirondacks
- 31 Heavy Metal Canoeing
- 33 Canoeing on the Offside

Remember the Ladies!

Elana Fine Joins a Formidable Feminine NY-NoJ Legacy

By Jill Arbuckle and
Loretta Brady

Picture this: two women stand on a marshy shore, the two boats at their feet completely coated in milk chocolatey mud.

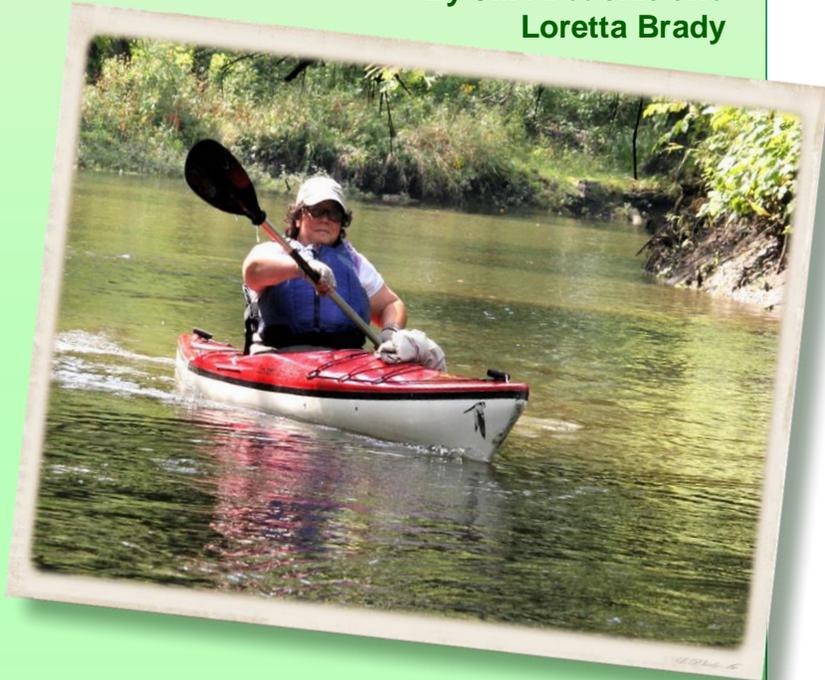
The pair, new trip leader Elana Fine and lifetime AMC member Jill Arbuckle, raise their muddy manicures to the camera lens, proud of their dripping limbs.

As well they should be. After all, they'd just rescued these vessels from the mucky jaws the Hackensack.

"Launching was okay—an otter entrance across a fairly narrow strip of dirt, but when we returned, alas, the tide had gone out some, the strip was wider, and we had to haul our boats up it," said Jill. It was the kind of mud that "fights you for your shoes," Elana recalled.

If John Adams underestimated Abigail and the ladies, AMC certainly has not. In the story of Elana's new leadership role, as in so many stories from our chapter's past, influential women members fundamentally shaped the heart of this chapter. From the earliest history to now, NY-NoJ paddling culture carved out its own oasis of gender blindness.

"I know all those women's lib notions were about to come along," says Elizabeth Davis, a chapter paddler back in the late 1940s, "but we really didn't see gender on the trips. We didn't think, 'Was it a man or woman?' We were all just paddlers."



*Elana on the Mullica.
Photo by Kurt Navratil.*

Seems you could also say that behind many a great AMC woman is a male paddler encouraging her to take the stern seat and steer. For Elana Fine, it was not only Kurt Navratil—coaching and recording her Kodak moments like that tidal mud wrestling—but also Jeff Gregg, who recognized her natural talent to support her along AMC's path to higher training.

Well-accustomed to wilderness leading, Elana teaches and guides "suburban

Continued on next page



Remember the Ladies!

Continued from previous page

foraging” excursions. Not to be mistaken for the dumpster-diving activities of “urban foragers,” Elana saunters through the Rockland woods picking out spring onions, crab apples, wild garlic, mustard seeds and loads of other overlooked treasures. She can find ‘em, and she can tell you what to do with ‘em. “Nettles,” she says, “have numerous uses in tinctures and oils.” Wild plants morph into “pestos, soups, apple butter and more.”

Elana has already formed a list of trips she has planned – or hopes to offer – with club classics like Monksville Reservoir, Merrill Creek, and the Hackensack River. She draws on experience from childhood summers in the Catskills, plus training with Outward Bound. A lot of what she’s learned about expedition organizing came from watching the pros: our own Jeff Gregg, of course, but also commercial adventure outfitters. She’s made a mental list of guiding “dos and don’ts” gleaned from kayak vacations she’s tagged around the globe. Whether it’s Yellowstone Lake, or the Amazon, Honduras or Mexico’s Baja, the greatest guides, she notes, “have a self-confidence that relaxes you with their patience, expertise, experience, and safety.” The not-so-great outfitters are the inverse.

“They are up-tight, over-controlling, and scream.”

Just like these outfitters, Elana enjoys the chance to make trips possible for those who wouldn’t risk going it alone. For her, it’s also a great way to increase her own skill set. The biggest challenges have always been weather,” she said. “In Yellowstone, it was the winds; in the San Juan Islands, it was the rip tides. Most of all, I learned you gotta’ keep paddling,” she advised.

How things have changed for women.

Early issues of *Appalachia* contain articles that try to convince the gentler sex to get out there camping with the men! In her 1878 article “Camplife for Ladies,” M.F. Whitman urged them to overlook “a tear in a dress” or “brown shading” on their faces to enjoy the “indescribable charm of rock and rill, ravine and ridge...the delicious sleep on fragrant hemlock lulled by the murmur of mountain streams.” Roughing it, she argued, *doesn’t* mean going without many “comforts and decencies as is possible and reasonable” to still gain an “intimate acquaintance with nature.”





Remember the Ladies!

Continued from previous page

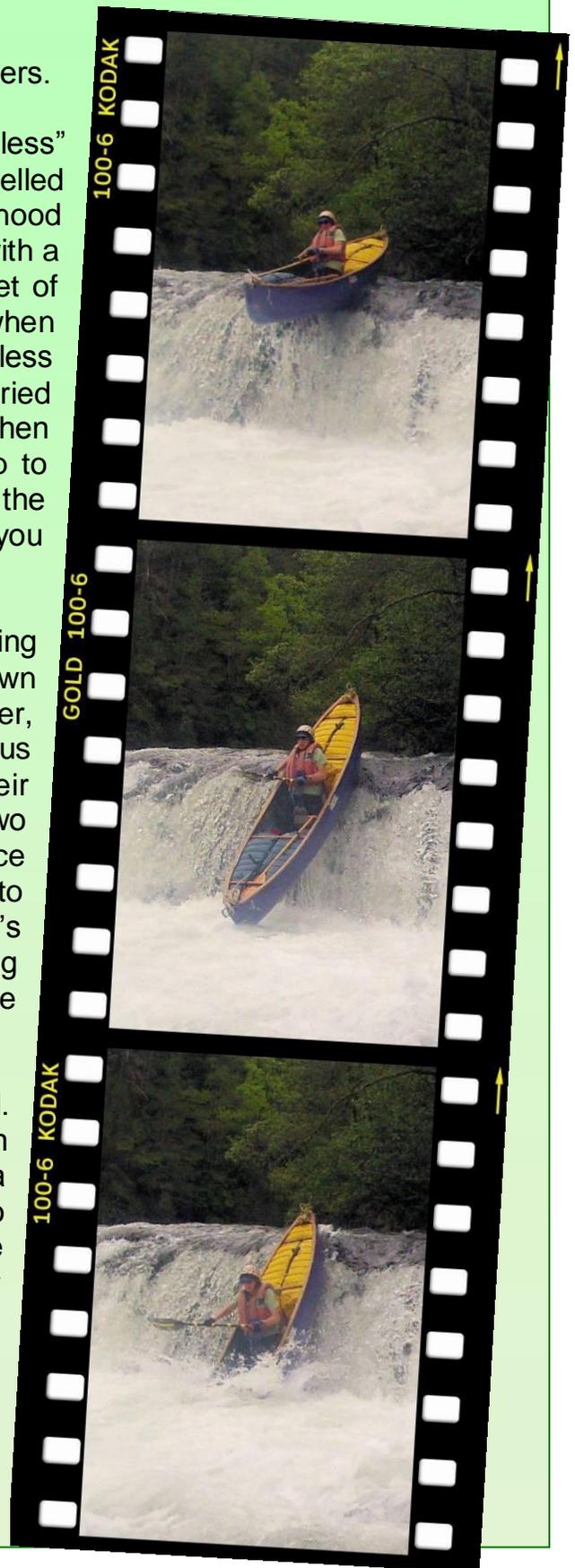
Our own girls might've mocked such pampered campers.

Like the four New Yorkers who made the first “manless” trip to Ontario’s remote Timagami Lake (today spelled Temagami). Ruth Teborg writes of that sisterhood adventure in the 1936 issue of *Appalachia*. Armed with a copy of *Woodcraft for Women*, they faced a gauntlet of Indian guides, shaking their heads disapprovingly when they heard the ladies planned to go “guideless.” Skirtless female paddling was a bit daring. Outfitters carried essential flannel leggings only in men’s size 36. When they asked Hudson Bay Outfitters how long the trip to Bear Island usually takes, “Twelve days,” came the reply, “but we bet you’ll be back before that. Unless you get lost.”

But they were determined. They’d spent sweltering July city nights in their apartment stitching their own tenalite (paraffin cloth) for a tent. One of their number, a food chemist, prepared the meals with meticulous nutrition and caloric calculation. Admittedly, their canoes “weighed eighty pounds on the ground and two hundred in the air.” Nevertheless, their confidence grew throughout the trip, along with their desire to share “the fullness of grandeur in this he-man’s country” and to teach others the fun of navigating remote lakes, making fires, and rigging tarps in future women-only trips.

“It’s one of my favorite stories of the AMC,” says Jill. “They managed to keep dry and cheerful despite rain most of the week.” Early on in her club career, a member proposed a whitewater women-only trip so they could learn to load the trailer and work the Coleman stoves, Jill recalls, “at which the other women present stared and said, ‘but we already do that?!’” If you look back, Jill points out, women had a

Linda Polstein runs a drop on the Chattooga.
Photo by Marty Plante.





Remember the Ladies!

Continued from previous page

full voice in club affairs from the beginning. "At least 2 of the original NY Chapter Executive Committee members were women." The 1913 NY Executive Committee was: Chairman Mr. Charles Bullard, Secretary Miss Abby Barstow Bates, Treasurer Mr. R.R. Miller, plus members Dr. Mary Potter, Dr. Francis McCrudden, Miss Katherine Van Allen. Assuming Francis is male, that's half female!" observes Jill. "And if Dr. Mary Potter was a medical doctor, she was a peer of the first women physicians in the country, along with Elizabeth Blackwell."

In 1959, AMC meeting records congratulate "Alma and Lore, for recognizing the gravity of the encephalitis outbreak and taking quick action to reroute activities to New York." Newspapers reported people "dropping dead on the Atlantic Boardwalk," with numerous deaths just 2-5 days after being bitten by New Jersey's swampland mosquitoes.

"There were always at least a third women on our canoe trips," reports Louise Davis, now 98, Executive Canoe Committee Chair from 1960 to 1962, and paddler Dave Rosenfeld's great aunt. She was a participant on one of the first commercial descents down the Salmon River, Idaho. She and other AMC members enlisted the famous Hatch expedition group to support them with rafts for the 12 days. "When we were first at the Salmon, there was nobody. It was total remote wilderness. Just beautiful. We went back years later, after the Yampa, the Green, and I don't remember how many other rivers, when we'd see so many more people there now," she said. Louise was one of few participants who waived the portages, doing the whole run via solo canoe, from the Little Fork to Riggins.



**Former Canoe Committee Chair (1960-62)
Louise Davis on the West Fork of the
Salmon River. 1955.**

Considering the trends in society outside AMC culture, these are facts a girl can be proud of! Read through the paddling club minutes, and see how often women of the Executive Canoe Committee hosted dinner and typed up the chapter notes. You start to wonder if, like Ginger Rogers with Fred Astaire, the women had to do everything the men do, and backwards

"She was an engineer, so she'd figured out a way to build a partial deck on her canoe to get through the really big water," says fellow tripper Elizabeth Davis. In fact, she had designed all kinds of gear herself. Like a portage bag sewed exactly the length of her tent poles. "She took me under her wing when I was 16 and taught me how to handle white water. She did that for so many," Elizabeth said.



Remember the Ladies!

Continued from previous page

“Some of the most beautiful things in the world I saw paddling,” Louise reminisced, “the Rainbow Bridge on the Colorado River.”

Why is it the most beautiful thing in the world?

“Hah,” she answers, with a spicy tone you earn in your 90s. “Now if you’d have seen it, you wouldn’t be asking me that.” In her case, it’s easy to imagine her current feistiness flourished throughout her years. Maybe camplife even fueled it.

What makes the big picture story even greater is that it’s not women alone, but numerous club couples and equal

partnerships of male and female. Avid husbands, brothers, or in Louise’s case, fathers lure women to the sport to share the incredible experience. Logically, the most active paddlers then and now are single—either independent all their lives, like Louise, or newly-so after the loss of (or emancipation from?!) a spouse. “It was my husband who got me interested in paddling,” says trip leader Elinor Hoffman, “but once he was gone, it was either I go follow him, or I best get myself active. So I volunteered with AMC.”

Common to all is a true grit, passion and outspokenness that guided and continues to shape the club today. If Darwin were around, perhaps he’d say it’s the natural selection of this AMC species.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Ratings Committee is pleased to award a Quietwater rating to the following paddlers. Congratulations to all.

Kiran Adhikary
Prabhat Adhikary
Anthony Buysse
Mario Castro
Thad Demos
Liz Donathan
Chris Dubetsky
Meredith Fabian
Jerome Faitrop
Katie Frusti
Thomas George
Peter Gotlieb

Miriam Jochnowitz
Katherine Johnson
Jeffrey Kaplan
Sean Kelly
Charli Kerns
Bob Krisak
Tim Kundro
William Leavitt
Geesun Lee
Sheldon Luberoff
Thomas McArdle
Vincent Meyer

Alexander Morris
Bob Muster
Colleen O’Neill
Priscilla Petitti Flores
Konstatine Popdimitrov
Igor Shkapenyuk
Vladislav Shkapenyuk
Caroline Shoemith
Suzanne Villegas
Rachel Wile

Meet the Committee

Get a seat next to Sozanne around the next campfire. She's the kind of girl you can talk to about anything... *anything*. She can tell you how Southern Rivers compare to those back home in Germany, or how many protease inhibitors are in that serving of your lasagna. Never making you feel stupid.

Since she's as expert at Turkish-infused cooking as she is at running rivers, she's a great choice to have in charge of boating and galley equipment. Back in the chapter's early days, trips were often capped due to the limited number of plates and forks, *not* a lack of vessels. That'll never happen under Sozanne's watch. And there's always her husband's Quartermasterly skills in Charles Michener to lend supportive advice.



Sozanne Solmatz
Equipment Coordinator

Don't hesitate to reach out to Sozanne to enjoy any of our well-kept, burgeoning supply of canoes and kayaks for calm, white, and sea water. There are also PFDs, paddles, spray skirts, and helmets in all shapes and sizes. And full kitchen kits ready for any size group leaders may attract. "I want everyone to see how easy it is to borrow boats and equipment," Sozanne says. "Borrow something you're not usually paddling—maybe a sea kayak, or tandem canoe!" She should know. She's paddled them all.



Congratulations to our
newest trip leaders:

Kafi Adams
Matt Theisz

Early Days of Chapter Canoeing

By Palmer Langdon

Reprinted from the May 1996 issue of PaddleSplashes

On a midsummer evening in 1936, I went aboard a train at Grand Central heading off to Maine for a canoe trip starting at Moosehead Lake. Going immediately to the dining car, I was seated with one other person who by fortunate chance was a very friendly man, Johnston Mali, a member of AMC. When I told him I had joined the club, he explained in detail the plans for the canoe program to commence with regular scheduled trips in 1937. A number of wood canvas-covered canoes had been acquired and Mali was storing them at his weekend place Carolcliff, locally known as The Castle, on top of the hill in Tarrytown, still prominently visible from the Tappan Zee Bridge. It was here that we met to repair and paint the well used second hand canoes and eat lunch. Another meeting place was his city residence, 11 East 86th Street. At that time, nearly all the canoe group lived in Manhattan and a custom started of having the leaders of trips invite all those registered to his or her home for a cocktail party at which time bow and stern paddlers were matched and the plans for the trip explained in detail.

Some of the rivers we did are not often seen on today's schedule, such as the Moodna, Neversink, Wallkill, Schawangunk, Wappinger, Ten Mile and Beaverkill, but we also did the Delaware, Housatonic, Farminton and Ramapo. All of these were done in the high water season of April and May. In the Fall, we had trips in the Hudson, Connecticut and the "brown waters" of south Jersey.

(continued on next page)

NY-NoJ Canoe/Kayak Committee Chairs

Pre-1939	James Dunning
1939	Lawrence C. Moore
1941-43	Arnold Knauth
1943-46	Paul Rittenhouse
1946-49	Chapin Jackson
1949-52	Helen Fair
1953-54	Henry Francis
1955-56	Walter Meseck
1956-58	Corny King
1958-60	Bob Bliss
1960-62	Louise Davis
1962-63	Woody Hedden
1963-64	Ark Tillson
1964-65	Ruth Walker
1965-67	John Nankivell
1968-69	George & Claire Barth
1970-71	George Thomas
1972-73	John Meirs
1974-75	Helen Marie Chapman
1976-77	Emilie Pentz
1978-79	Jim & Mary Lou Rideout
1980-81	Drew & Bobbie Reynolds
1982-83	Tom & Joan Sanders
1984-85	Fran & Al Braley
1986-87	David & Liz Pratt
1988-89	Brenda Steele & Bruce Lichtenberg
1990-91	Don Getzin
1992-93	Henry Schreiber
1994	Dave Schneider
1995	Dick Bailey
1996-98	Walter Bonilla
1999-00	Bob Zazzera
2001-02	Ken & Gretchen Tardell
2003-04	Lenny Grefig
2005	Herb Stermer
2006-07	Martin Plante
2008-09	Victoria Butler
2010-11	Ara Jingirian
2012-13	Carin Tinney

Murray DeCamp Spear
Running Lover's Leap,
Housatonic River,
1942. Photo by Paul
Rittenhouse.

(continued from previous page)

Little attention was paid to safety. Life preservers were never worn and many canoes were smashed and abandoned. A charge of \$15 was made for a wrecked club canoe, just a little less than the cost of replacement. Aluminum and fiberglass had not yet appeared, but in the private fleet there were a few foldboats then new from Germany.

On one occasion, we used the swimming pool on the twelfth floor of the Downtown Athletic Club for an instructional demonstration and party.

Mali, whose normal job was being the Belgian Consul General in New York, designed and built a trailer that carried 9 sixteen footers. Sometimes this was stored at a gas station or a member friend's house if the next trip was in the same area. Mali allowed privately owned canoes to be kept without charge at Carrolcliff.



In the beginning...

Popular Mechanics Magazine

REGISTERED IN U. S. PATENT OFFICE AND CANADA

WRITTEN SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND IT

Vol. 67

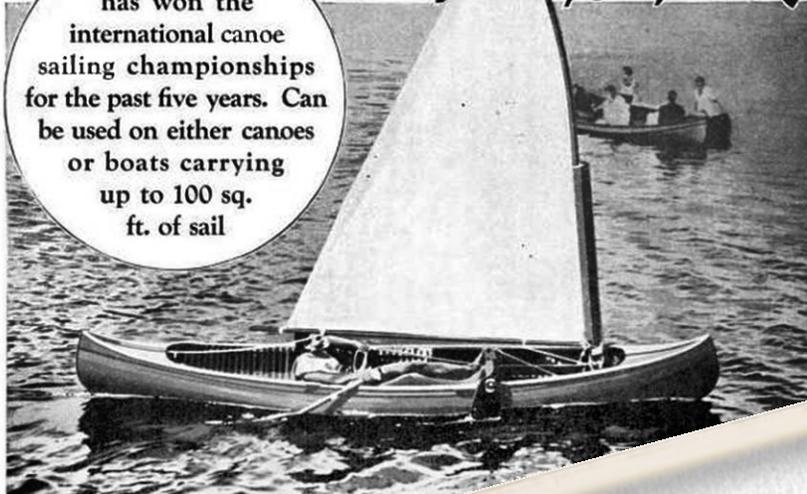
JUNE, 1937

No. 6

"AIRSTREAM" SAIL RIG

steps up speed

This rig has won the international canoe sailing championships for the past five years. Can be used on either canoes or boats carrying up to 100 sq. ft. of sail



The history of canoeing is littered with some ideas that, like Krispy Kreme cheeseburgers, never quite caught on. Early canoeists have propelled their boats with sails, oars, double-bladed paddles, and poles. The somewhat odd competition of canoe jousting was developed. All still have their devotees, but perhaps none is as popular as sailing. It's not surprising that sailing has crept into the hearts and weekends of many a chapter paddler. Looking back in AMC and world history, "canoe cruising" was a popular option. Don't let the docile name fool you. Until the invention of the planing dinghy in 1927, canoes were the fastest sailing boats around. Dick Bailey, himself, now regularly instructs new sailors at AMC's Fire Island cabins.



**N
O
W
&
T
H
E
N**

Photo by Rich Breton



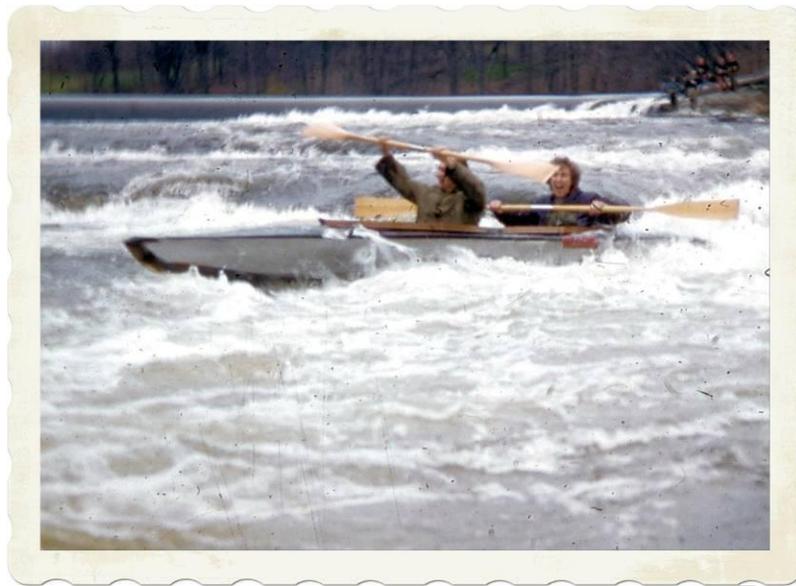
Lenny Grefig and Henry Schreiber, above, teach a canoe workshop at the AMC's Mohican Outdoor Center. The same lake, below, is shown from a more genteel era.



BOATING AND CANOEING. CAMP MOHICAN. BLAIRSTOWN, N. J.

Open Secrets about *Closed Boating*

With AMC NY-NoJ



1950

AMC kayakers on the Housatonic. Photo by Paul Rittenhouse, Courtesy of AMC Archives

1936

The NY Canoe Committee buys 5 wood-and-canvas canoes, but no kayaks.

1988

The Committee buys its first two kayaks. There are 24 open canoes.

1988

Closed Boat Demo Day held to help open boaters get acquainted with closed boats.

1992

All paddling trips are now listed as *Canoe/Kayak*

1992

Letter from Walter Meseck (1955-56 Canoe Committee Chair) to Palmer Langdon, dated April 3, 1996. Printed in the July 1996 issue of *PaddleSplashes*.

1997

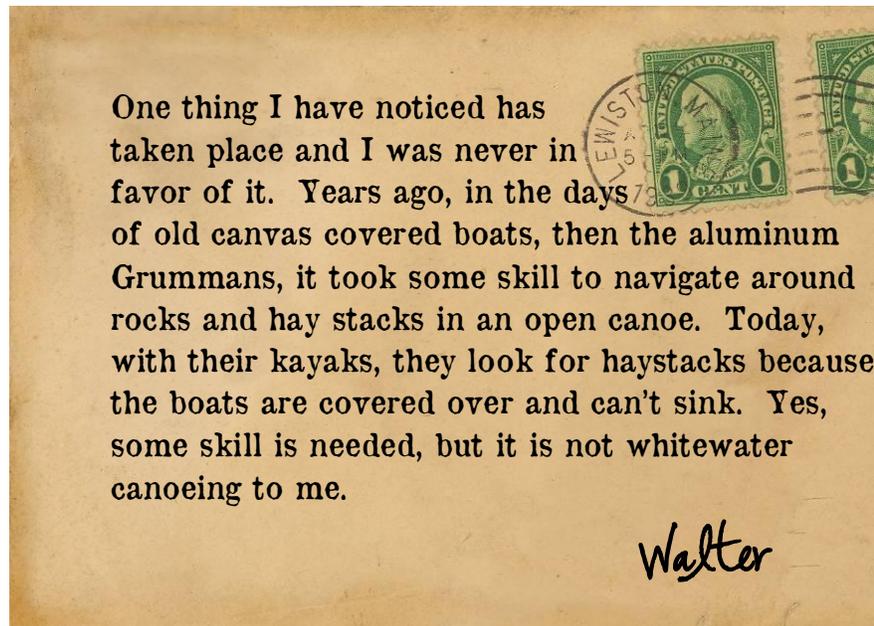
The 6th edition of the Canoe Committee's *Paddlers' Manual* is published. It includes guidelines for kayakers for the first time.

2013

The NY fleet contains 37 kayaks, 20 open canoes.

2005

The Committee buys its most recent canoe.



One thing I have noticed has taken place and I was never in favor of it. Years ago, in the days of old canvas covered boats, then the aluminum Grumman's, it took some skill to navigate around rocks and hay stacks in an open canoe. Today, with their kayaks, they look for haystacks because the boats are covered over and can't sink. Yes, some skill is needed, but it is not whitewater canoeing to me.

Walter



THE BEST PADDLING FILMS OF THE YEAR

WORLD TOUR

REEL PADDLING

FILM FESTIVAL

www.reelpaddlingfilmfestival.com

**Sponsored by the NY-NoJ Canoe/Kayak Committee
of the Appalachian Mountain Club**

Majorie S. Deane Little Theater (at the Westside YMCA)
10 West 64th St. (at Central Park West)
New York, NY

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Doors open at 6:30 pm

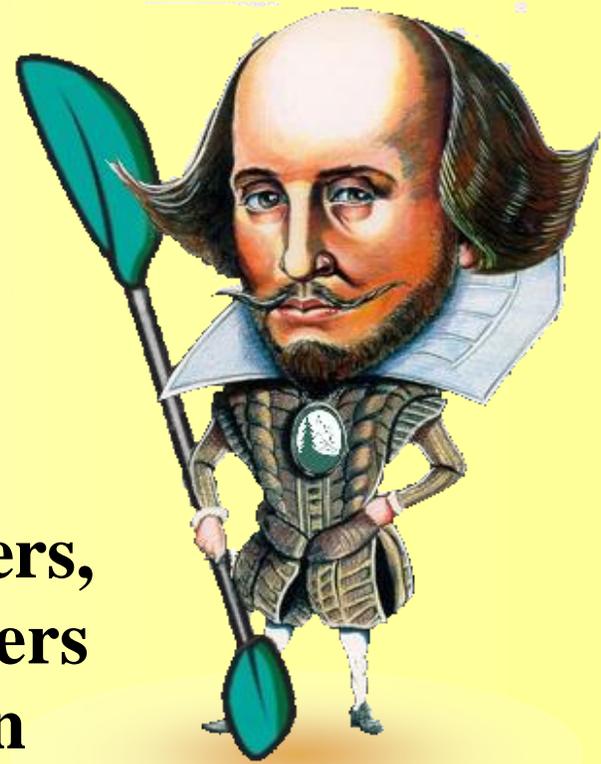
\$18 in Advance; \$20 at the door

Save
The
Date

I can think of no other answer
except thanks, and thanks, and
ever thanks.

~ Twelfth Night, Scene 3, Act 3

**A big *Thanks!* to all trip leaders,
instructors, committee members
and others who volunteered in
2012. You made a difference!**



Jill Arbuckle
Glen Barnes
Loretta Brady
Victoria Butler
Andrew Douglas
Russ Faller
Elana Fine
Lenny Grefig
Ruby Hoffman
Mike Hyman
Jennifer Koermer
Andy LoPinto
Maureen McCahery
Marty Plante
Matt Schaeffer
Fran Schultz
Vadim Stepaniuk
Matt Theisz
Thomas Trevor
Patrick Watters

Nathan Baker
Arnold Bauer
Richard Breton
Brant Collins
Paul Edwards
Constance Farley
Butch Futrell
Jeffrey Gregg
Rob Holbrook
Ara Jingirian
Cath Kraft
Andrew Ludke
Charles Michener
Art Portmore
Hanno Schop
Michelle Sholtis
Clare Tattersall
Mark Tiernan
Chris Viani
Jordan Yaruss

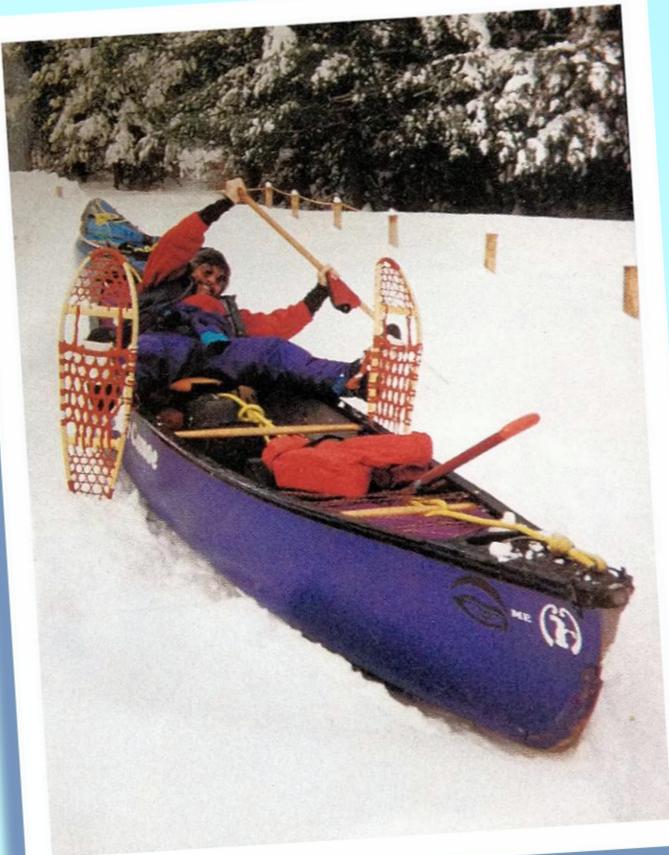
Asya Bakhtina
Kathy Bayne
David Brucas
Betsy Collins
Meredith Fabian
Steve Ferder
Donald Getzin
Sharon Guarino
Zachary Hvizdak
Cameron Klinger
Mark Leenhouts
Tanya McCabe
Kurt Navratil
Erin Schaefer
Henry Schreiber
Sozanne Solmaz
Radu Teodorescu
Carin Tinney
Tim Watters
Eileen Yin

REMEMBRANCE OF TRIPS PAST

By Tanya McCabe

Looking back over 25 years of paddling experiences has resurrected some wonderful and scary and sad and dumb occurrences.

Don't ask me exactly when or where these things happened. Others might even remember things slightly differently. Still, these little AMC vignettes may be the reason I've loved paddling so.



Former Canoe Committee Chair (1992-93) Henry Schreiber at the Black River (VT) Put-In, November 1997. Photo by Lenny Grefig

Riverton section of the Farmington: Michael (Mike Dalton) usually runs the shuttle with the van. On his return, we pried out all the drivers, reminiscent of the circus clowns packed in a tiny car—and in

paddling gear, looking even funnier. As they squeezed out, we laughed and counted and laughed again: 16 people. An all-time record.

On another Riverton trip, it was cold. We were in wet suits and hats and gloves and fleece. As Michael went to run the shuttle, the sky got grayer and darker as snowflakes sprinkled down. The woods were beautiful, but we grew fearful as the flakes got thicker and thicker. Michael wasn't even back yet, and the ground was covered. Man, what were we thinking? Thankfully, the drivers had realized what was happening. They had started dropping off cars shortly after starting, all along the way to the take out. We started down the river when it was snowing so heavily, so hit the first car drop off and we were gone. The snow covered the bottom of our boats. How wonderful to know that we would be warm and protected in moments.

Deerfield River: Walter Bonilla asked us to set up at what was then a new destination for the club. It was beautiful! Michael and I were setting up in T-shirts and shorts. We awoke the next morning to snow, lots of it, the tarp hanging down to the ground. What a surprise!

Continued on next page

REMEMBRANCE OF TRIPS PAST

Continued from previous page

Again at the Deerfield, Avi Maor let his boat slide down the snow into the river, but couldn't travel fast enough to catch it before it went sailing down the river with Avi running after it.

On another Deerfield trip, Molly Elliot and Tom Sedgewick stood at the foot of some rapids. It was a drop and pool, but needless to say, the two carried their throw ropes, just in case.

Betty Palmer wiped out. Both Molly and Tom threw their ropes, spot on. Betty grabbed one, when Molly dropped hers to grab Tom by the waist to help him haul Betty in. Seconds later, whoops of laughter emerged when it was realized that Betty was holding Molly's line, and not Tom's—so wasn't connected to anyone.

The Crosswicks: The “rubber rapids” await us. “Rubber Rapids” was the huge pile of tires put in the river that actually caused rapids. Wonder if they are still there or some environmental group has taken them away?

The team of Tom McSherry and Noel Cotter led three trips a year down in south Jersey since the early '80s. Our trips to southern Jersey were brown water (due to the tanic acid in the water) and flatwater trips. Now it's called quiet water. It was

the Maurice River in the fall. Crosswicks in the spring, July brought the Mullica. Tom McSherry has since passed. A group of his paddling buddies paddled down the Crosswicks spreading his ashes. A fitting place for Tom to remain.



*An AMC Expedition on the Bonaventure River. 1998.
Photo by Rich Breton.*

Esopus: At our Class III training there, Michael and I dumped. Who knew! In reviewing the videos that evening, we saw our dump and the throw ropes and Michael getting out quickly

without a backward glance as to what was happening to me. I exclaimed, “Michael, you left me,” and lots of laughter followed.

Doing Class III Rivers with my heart in my stomach all the way. Never did make a Three.

Joking to Michael, “When I get my Class 2, I'm going to get myself a knife just like the 2 and 3 paddlers have,” Only to find that the only thing I used it for was to cut cheese at lunch time. However, there was the time that Michael needed it to cut the flotation bag in order to get his leg out from under it when he and another paddler were pinned.

Continued on next page

REMEMBRANCE OF TRIPS PAST

Continued from previous page

It was on the Esopus, we were heading for Elmer's bend, a Class III, only my first or second time through, and I was nervous enough, only to find an older couple calmly and gently paddling without a care in the world into Elmer's Bend. I even think she was carrying a sun umbrella. Someone called to them to get off. I had to make my own way down the bend, so I hadn't a clue as to what happened to them. It couldn't have ended well.

On one occasion, the Esopus was raging too much for us, but non-AMC boaters had tried it. Currents left one boater wrapped

around a bridge piling. Rescuers were on the bridge trying to help, but his legs were pinned under thwarts. He wasn't saved. Our first river loss, even though he wasn't from our group, hit home for all of us back at camp.

Pequest: It must have been opening day of fishing season or shortly thereafter, when a fisherman called to me and said, "Doesn't your canoe club president know that this is a fishing stream?" I smiled in return thinking, "Does your fishing club president know that this is also a paddling stream?"

The Flat Brook. Don't go in early April – opening season for fisherman. Too many lines!

On another trip there, we had a couple with their teen-age son. As is wont to happen with couple in a tandem, I found the need to separate them. The son's response to me, "I'm not responsible for my parents' actions." The teen was also impressed

when we sawed our way through a river blockage.

The Dead River, Maine:

Every Labor Day it was the Dead River. My first time on the river, a Class III. I remember going past a hydraulic

and feel it sucking me in. Ugh!! A bit later when I dumped, Lien Olsten came to my rescue in a kayak. I grabbed for the boat, instead of the boat loop, but Lien said no. I grabbed a second time, so she left. It was the right thing to do. I had put her in the position of getting dumped herself. Lien, here's my apology. I still had my paddle, so I turned myself into a canoe and angled toward shore. Jill Arbuckle found my boat. Just my luck, though, my unsinkable painter had sunk and caught under water. Jill deftly freed my boat. I was back on the water.



Former Canoe Committee Chair (1990-91) Don Getzin on the Grand Canyon, 1998. Photo by Liz Purcellly.

Our chapter has kicked off the paddling season with a Mullica expedition each winter since 1986. Our most recent leader to take over this tradition is Jeff Gregg, who has run the trip continuously since 2009. Here are some reminiscences from the 2nd trip, published in the July 1987 issue of PaddleSplashes.

PADDLE SPLASHES

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, NY-NOJ CHAPTER, CANOE COMMITTEE

JULY 1987

SECOND ANNUAL MULLICA RIVER
WINTER CANOE EXPEDITION
FEBRUARY 21-22, 1987
LEADERS: FRAN AND AL BRALEY

With the previous week's temperature hovering near 0 degrees, we were concerned that this year's Mullica River Canoe Expedition trip was not to be. But by Saturday morning, forecasters' promises of mild weather brought our 14 paddlers, eager for a "cabin fever cure." ...Benefitting from this year's unusually heavy snowfall in South Jersey, the river was fast and moderately high for this trip.

We reached the Mullica River Wilderness Campground at 3:00 PM.. At precisely 5:00 PM the campfire was lit and the Cream of Tomato soup was served. The stove blew out while warming the Swedish meatballs, but dinner, including cooked noodles and broccoli, was served promptly at 6:00 PM as we watched the sun set behind the trees... Soon water was heated, lanterns were lit, and, reluctantly, the clean-up crew got busy with the dishes... About 10:00 PM we stopped Dick Bailey from burning our morning firewood, and everybody went to their tents to snuggle into chilly sleeping bags.

Continued on the next page

**Canoe Committee Co-
Chairs (1984-85) Al
and Fran Braley on
the Mullica, Jan 1989**



Surely normal people
Stay in warm and comfy beds.
Why must we do the Mullica?
Have we quite lost our heads?

I do not like winter's chill
I do not like to paddle then.
Cold nights in tents don't thrill me
And I think it's all a sin.

Why then, do I now find myself
Compelled to do this deal?
Alas, I've succumbed to the siren call
Of another Braley meal!

So sign me up, if you will,
SASE and check enclosed, by golly.
I'll need a boat, I'll need a ride,
I'll see you on the February Folly.

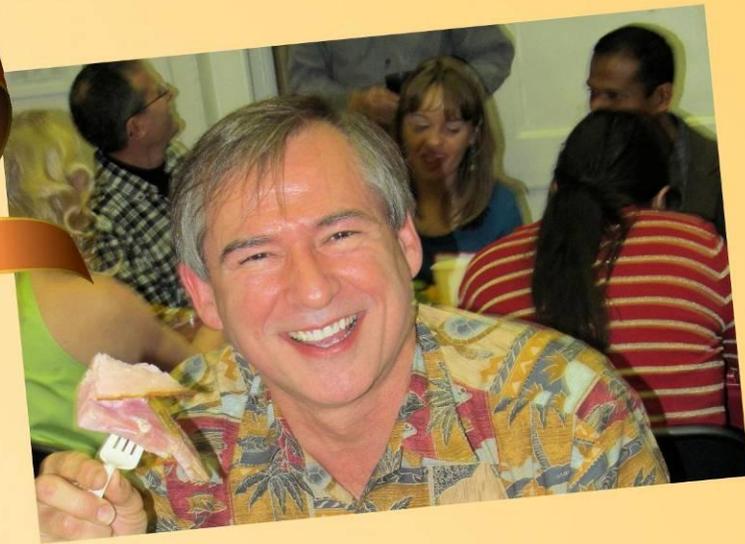
- An Uncouth Paddler
PaddleSplashes, Mar 1992

Sunday morning dawned bright and cold. While there were few complaints about the cold, numerous complaints were registered about the loud sleeping noises. One tent got moved to a more remote area, out of earshot, in the middle of the cold night.

The breakfast prep crew had to force themselves out of their tents and break the ice in the coffee pot and the water jug to get started... The orange juice had to be warmed on the stove, because as soon as it was mixed with the supercool water, it froze!

By 10:00 AM the tents were struck, all the gear was packed and loaded in the boats, and on the second day of beautiful weather we launched for the paddle to the take-out...

Paddlers on this trip were the leaders Fran & Al Braley, Dave & Liz Pratt, Elizabeth Purcell, Don Getzin, Christine Insler, John Syvarth, Dick Bailey, Bruce Rosar, and solo paddlers Judie Stark and Dick Muller...



Paddlers Party Dec 15, 2012

**Hartley House
New York, NY**





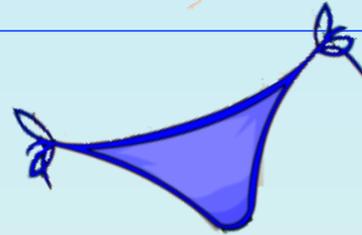
High & Low Points in AMC Paddling History

Ripped from the pages of PaddleSplashes



1933

Prohibition ends on Dec 5.
AMC NY's first Happy Hour
takes place three months
later.



1989

Severe damage to the Club's good
name was narrowly averted when a
lust-crazed Class 3 paddler was
restrained from performing
perverted acts with a dollar bill at
Friendly's Go-Go bar after a
January bootleg on the Ramapo.



1992

After four alcohol-related
fatalities on the Delaware
(non-AMC trips), a local livery
imposed a 3-beer limit on
anyone renting their canoes. A
bar a few miles downstream of
the Mongaup Rift immediately
changed its riverfront sign from
"No Trespassing" to "Cold Beer."



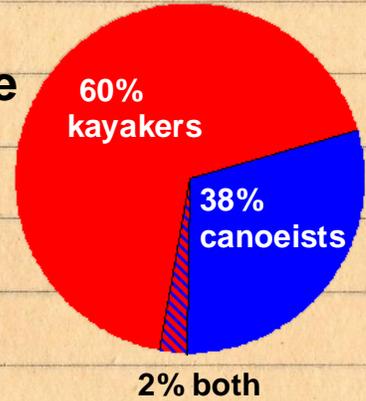
1993

A trip leader serves Spam, earning
the wrath of everyone on the trip.
She is nicknamed The Spam
Queen for her lack of culinary
judgment. She retaliates by
bringing *Mousse au Spam* and
Tricolor Pasta avec Spam to the
Paddlers Party.

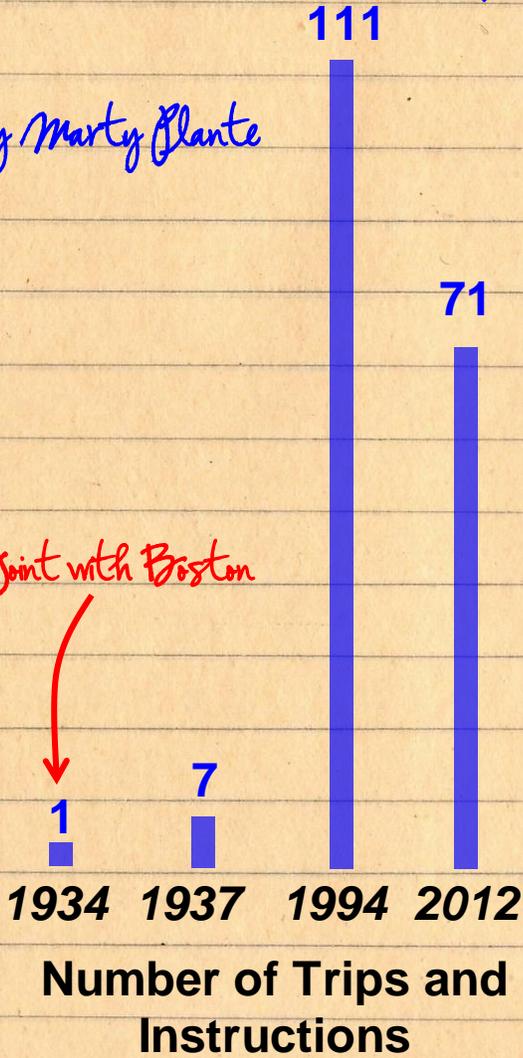
DO THE MATH

by Marty Plante

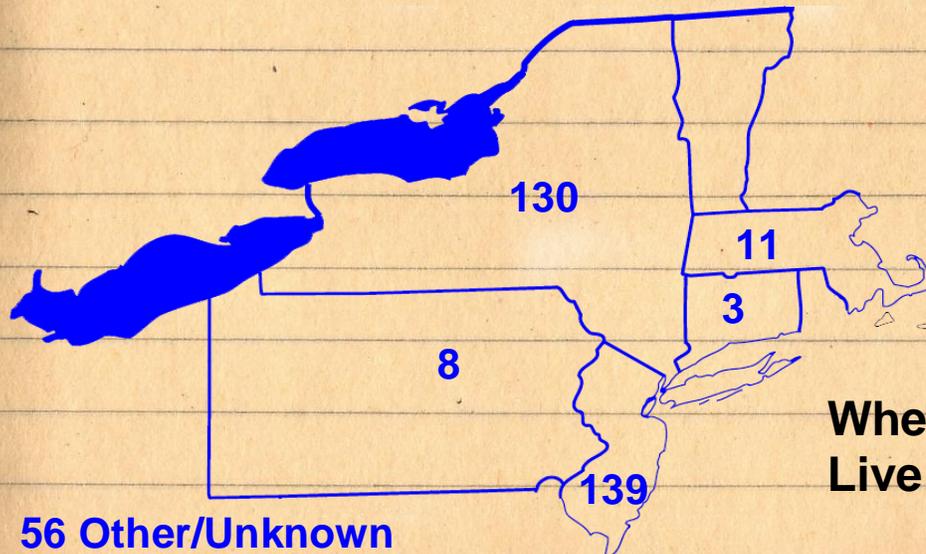
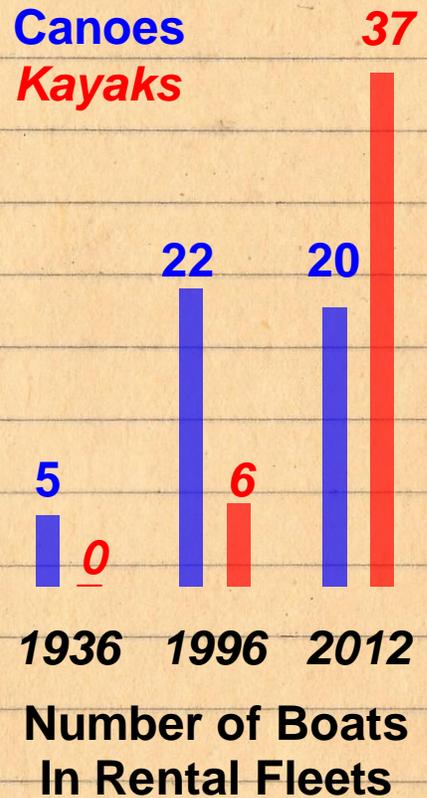
Boat Preference



Joint with Boston



Canoes Kayaks



Where Our Paddlers Live in 2012

PADDLE SPLASHES

*From the Desk of
Fran Braley*

THE CHRONICLES OF 'PADDLESPLASHES'

Started in 1972, PaddleSplashes was written by the Chapter Chair on a typewriter and distributed only to leaders and potential leaders. Eleven years later, the Canoe Committee Chairs asked Jan Palmer for assistance, so she edited the July 1983 issue. Being an illustrator for books, she also designed the Paddle-Splashes logo. The next issue, October 1983, was edited by my husband Al Braley and me on our newly purchased home computer.

When Al and I became Canoe Committee Co-Chairs in 1984, we started keeping paddler's records - name address, phone, paddler rating, and what rivers the person had paddled - on a computer. Previous to this, the records were kept on index cards. We decided that once a person had been on a couple of trips, their name was added to the PaddleSplashes mailing list.

When Bruce Lichtenberg and Brenda Steele became Chairs in 1988, they decided to add 'Newsletter Editor' as a position on the Canoe Committee and asked me to be the editor. Canoe Committee positions are for 2 years, thus, for the next 10 years or so, at the request of the CC chair, Al and I alternated the newsletter editor position on the committee while collaborating on editing the newsletter.

Winter, Fall, in Love with The Adirondacks

and the rivers of Southern New Jersey

By Loretta Brady with
Rich Breton, and Elinor Hoffman

As club trips go, it's one of the Hall-of-Famers.

Not because it's the longest running trip in club history. That longevity award goes to Tom McSherry and Noel Cotter's annual fall weekend on the Maurice River. "We called it Morris, like the locals did," points out life-member Tanya McCabe. Mike Dalton and Tanya expertly assumed that trip's leadership, drawing crowds for 30 years until dams in the Pine Barren region made the flow too shallow on the Maurice.

Or the honor for the longest *currently* running consecutive trip goes to the austere beauty of winter on the Mullica, hosted variously over 26 years by the likes of Victoria Butler, Eileen Yin, Jeff Gregg, and others.

No, this Adirondack Columbus Day weekend trip pleases so many members largely because they never do the same river twice. Repetition irks them.

"The trips first began back in 1995 on the lower lakes," said trip founder Rich Breton. "And for 16 years, we've never repeated the same river or lake route."

It was modeled somewhat after the Paul Smith week of rivers, where each day a different route and habitat is explored. "But our AMC trips are more accessible for people to schedule and join," said Rich. Sure, with all the good maps and guides to the Adirondacks now available, you could do it yourself. But that spoils all the fun of campfire club culture.

Winter, Fall, in Love with The Adirondacks

Continued from previous page



“That’s the great thing about having a recurring trip,” says Elinor Hoffman, who co-founded the weekends with Richard. “There are always good friends who return, and new folks as well.” They come back for the mountains and streams, but also for the festiveness. The OctoBEERfest-iveness. The seafood bouillabaisse. The apple pancakes. “We’ve gotten to work like one unit on the tarps, the knot-making, the communal mealtime routines,” Elinor said.

Elinor had only just joined AMC when Richard tapped her for her clear gifts of leadership. “I met Rich on the first few trips, looking for a way to stay busy and volunteer.” AMC had her from hello. In fact, Rich is to NY-NoJ AMC what a strawberry plant is to a garden: his encouragement shoots out like invisible underground runners sprouting fruit all over your lawn! The more you probe club history, it’s usually Rich behind new ideas and new leaders. Bruce Lichtenberg, Committee Co-chair 1988-1989 notes, “It was Rich who said to me, ‘Hey, why don’t we try going up north for some whitewater?’” Thus, along with Ann and Keech LeClare, was born the club’s Crazy Canadian week of rivers.

But it is the Fall Foliage weekend that is Rich’s greatest love. “We alternate base-camp car camping and expedition style. As

camping.” This fall, the group enjoyed the typical range of options. There was the Santa Clara flow, from the Saint Regis River, an extensive marsh, along a meandering grassy stream, ending at a small waterfall. Or there was Jones Pond to Church Pond, via the Osgood River where it disappears underground, then comes through a labyrinth of canals. Finally, there was the north branch of the Saranac River, paddling through the Kushaqua and Rainbow Narrows.

Even in those three days, the diversity was stunning. Herons flying up in wide open

Continued on next page



***Rich Breton on the Adirondacks’
Beaver River, 2009.***

Winter, Fall, in Love with The Adirondacks

Continued from previous page

blue skies, then tight beaver-dammed channels. Tamaracks. Two kinds of birch. Five kinds of pine. Carnivorous bug-eating pitcher plants. Then there was the coyote swimming over to shore who must have wondered, “Now what’s that mismatched flock of Hornbecks, rec kayaks, tandem and whitewater—*whitewater?!?*—boats all doing here?”

The rich diversity of participants is part of what makes the experience sparkle. Bumper stickers at the campsite parking lot read “Go Army” and “Grateful Dead.” Some participants remember their teen years like it was yesterday, while others leave behind grandkids in their teens. One year a participant had a full-size futon transported out on a canoe to adjust

better to a first time camping. That was Rich’s wife. “For the companionship and camaraderie, there’s nothing like it,” says Elinor.

“We pick the fall time because it’s so quiet up in the Adirondacks then. Tourism dies down. Fewer jet skis or motor boats. No bugs. No snow.

Well, actually...

One year, some nighttime snow dusted the mountains with white confection amid flaming leaves. “Tom Gilmore and I heard this rattling in the trees. Crashing. We had no idea what it could be. No animal sound. Then we were hit with huge pieces of hail,” Rich said.



Little Tupper Lake, 2006. Photo by Rich Breton.

Winter, Fall, in Love with The Adirondacks

Continued from previous page

Another time the wind was so strong, there were white caps and swells. “Two of us went ahead, telling the others to follow if we signaled that we’d made it. Hugging the leeward shores, we struggled and landed safely with the gear. But then when we gave the ‘OK,’ no one would budge from the sheltered cove. We had to cross back again and camp where we were,” Rich recalls.

The club has seen an astounding number of destinations and types of trips throughout its history. Early on, minutes record the high popularity of canoe cruising, or sailing with a canoe craft. Some members have done *repeats* on classic southern rivers like the Chattooga, or the Grand Canyon’s Colorado River. Early trips had a 10% boat loss. That meant *total* loss. Chapter records tabulate the fees charged for rental *and* replacement fees for pinned and sunken boats! Bruce Lichtenberg even launched inter-chapter slalom events. “There’s no better way to improve your skills than having to make those gates,” he said. Bruce, a multi-winning slalom runner, wrote a regular column in *Paddlesplashes* called “The Diary of a Non-Competitive Slalom Paddler.”

But no matter how far we roam, throughout our chapter’s history, we’ve stayed passionate about NY-NoJ waters. “I kept loving the little rivers of New Jersey more and more!” says lifetime member Tanya McCabe.

“This chapter is so lucky to have the beauty of the Adirondacks so close,” Richard Breton reminds us.

Let the record state, our infatuation with local waters withstands the test of time.



Looking for a way to be more involved with the club and help others discover the wonderful sport of paddling? Here is your opportunity! Volunteer to (wo)man the AMC table at this year’s **Paddlesport Exhibit!!!**

When: March 22, 2013- March 24, 2013

Where: The Garden State Exhibit and Convention Center, in Somerset NJ

Why: Aside from the two great reasons listed above, volunteers receive a FREE entry to the event.

Please let us know the **date** and **time of day** you are interested in participating. Send your email to Kafi at AMC_CKCMembership411@yahoo.com as soon as possible.



Ben Lawry Kayak Rolling Clinic Dec 2, 2012

The Canoe & Kayak Committee conducted a "Teach the Teacher" rolling session at the NJIT pool for our kayak instructors. Ben Lawry from Kayak Camp, who conducted this class for us in 2008, was invited back to lead the session. Olly Gotel and David Michaels hosted Ben and chauffeured him to and from the pool session.

Ben provided our instructors with a solid base of skill, including a consistent way for them to teach rolling and instill confidence in their students. The instructors learned basic teaching and modeling techniques as well as a how to teach both the sweep and C-to-C rolls.

Participants were:

**David Brucas
Olly Gotel
Rob Hollbrook
Andrew LoPinto
David Michael**

**Vadim Stepaniuk
Clare Tatterstall
Carin Tinney
Jordan Yaruss**



*A big
Thank
You*

*to all of our Paddlers Party
volunteers. Your efforts
made it a great success!*

Jill Arbuckle
Kathy Bayne and David Brucas
Loretta Brady
Brant & Betsy Collins
Don Getzin
Rob Holbrook
Cath Kraft
Hanno Schopp
Elisa & Marty Plante
Mark Tiernan
Carin Tinney
Jordan Yaruss

and especially our Special Events Coordinator,
Kafi Adams

"...I am sure I shall enjoy the ruggedness of the new (aluminum) canoe and shall ever after thank my friend...for having introduced me to this ideal craft..."

Thomas Cabot,
"Tin" Canoes,
Appalachia, 1936

HEAVY METAL CANOEING



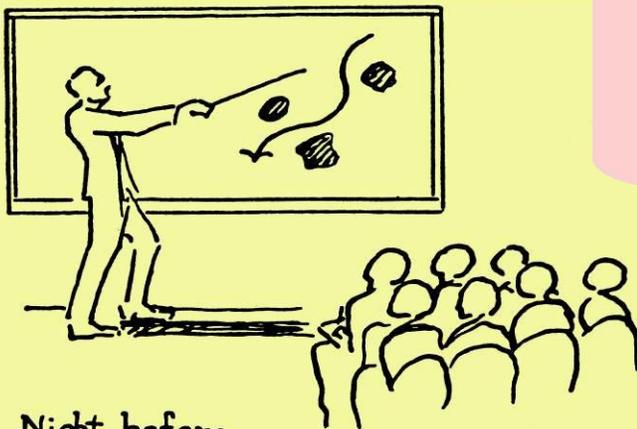
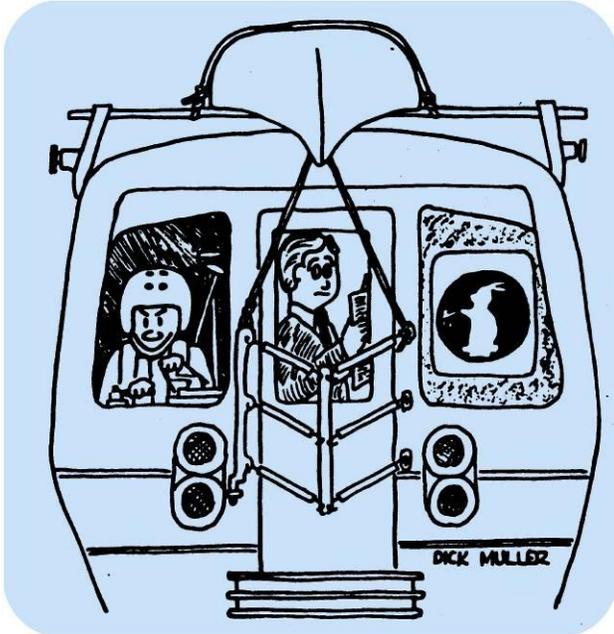
Corny King and Betty Manning on Skinners Falls, Delaware River, Spring 1950.
Photo by Paul Rittenhouse. Courtesy of AMC Archives



- 1951: 5 new aluminum canoes are purchased
- 1959: Rental fleet now has 15 canoes, all aluminum
- 1989: Rental fleet has 9 aluminum and 16 polyethelene/ABS canoes
- 1991: Remaining 8 aluminum canoes are removed from the rental fleet

AMC Funny Pages

Appalachia (the former name of AMC Outdoors) and Paddle-Splashes have a long history of publishing members' cartoons. Thanks to Mae Dunning, Dick Muller, Karl Schuman and Paul Edwards for making us smile.



^k
Traditionally, the white-water sportsman ...considers that so much as a glancing tick on a submerged rock is a disgrace and a mark of poor watermanship ...Working a canoe downstream slowly and in perfect control with a setting pole - a job that requires highly skilled technique - is the hallmark of excellence for this school of thought.

- Appalachia,
Dec 1940

Canoeing on the Offside

"For security, accuracy and quickness in controlling and maneuvering the canoe, the setting-pole far exceeds the paddle. ...In all quick-water streams worthy of the name, the pole is essential for careful and accurate work.

- Quick-Water Canoeing,
John W. Worthington,
AMC Bulletin,
June 1929



Photo by Sinclair Kennedy.
From Quick-Water Canoeing by
John Worthington, AMC
Bulletin, June 1929.

thank
you!

Thanks to everyone whose
contributions made this issue
possible:

Jill Arbuckle

Dick Baily

Al & Fran Braley

Rich Breton

Tom Davis

Don Getzin

Rob Holbrook

Elinor Hoffman

Tanya McCabe

And AMC Archivist Becky Fullerton

Canoe & **K**ayak **C**ommittee

Carin Tinney, Chair

Loretta Brady, PaddleSplashes Editor

Butch Futrell, Instruction & Safety

Marty Plante, Treasurer and Records

Kafi Adams, Special Events Coordinator

Matt Theisz, First Aid

Charles Michener, Quartermaster

Chris Viani, Class 4 Coordinator

Jeff Gregg, Quiet & Tidal Water Coordinator

Andy LoPinto, Trip Coordinator/Scheduler

Sozanne Solmaz, Equipment Coordinator

Rob Holbrook, Ratings

Mark Tiernan, Member at Large

canoekayak.chair@amc-ny.org

canoekayak.newslette@amc-ny.org

canoekayak.Instruction@amc-ny.org

canoekayak.Treasurer@amc-ny.org

canoekayak.Membership@amc-ny.org

canoekayak.FirstAid@amc-ny.org

canoekayak.Quartermaster@amc-ny.org

cwviani@comcast.net

canoekayak.QW@amc-ny.org

canoekayak.Scheduler@amc-ny.org

canoekayak.Equipment@amc-ny.org

canoekayak.Ratings@amc-ny.org