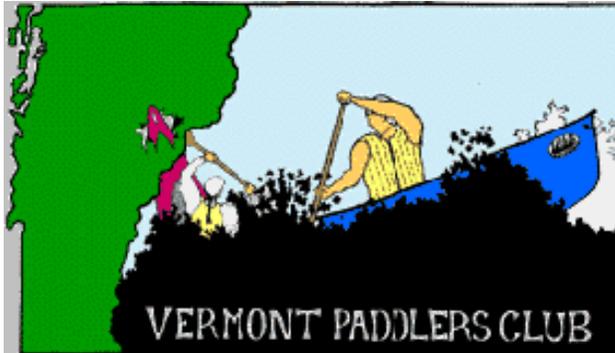


# Bow and Stern

August 19, 2006



The Official Newsletter of the Vermont Paddler's Club  
In partnership with the American Canoe Association



Volume XXXII, No. 2.

<<< Go With the Flow >>>

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Kim Thomas  
Communications Director – VPC  
70 S. Winooski Ave. #260  
Burlington, VT 05401

## **From the President:**

Summer is coming toward a close, hopefully everyone is enjoying the hot weather and having fun. While the late Spring and early Summer rains were frustrating for some, the paddlers were loving the weather. A lot of river trips took place during those great whitewater days, and our annual novice clinic students really saw what whitewater is all about.

The rest of the summer has been dryer, requiring those who wanted to paddle moving water to drive further to find it. My own family plans this summer took priority over paddling, but hopefully we will have a wet Fall and I will see many of you out on the rivers soon.

The club has a new outlook on scheduled river trips! We want to encourage more people to organize trips and want more scheduled trips. We will no longer use the terms "official" and "bootleg" to describe our trips. Instead, all trips will be listed on our events calendar. Any trip organizer who would like the ACA liability insurance in place for their trip can choose to do so by following simple steps listed on our website. Those trips will be highlighted on our event calendar as "ACA Sanctioned Trips".

ACA liability insurance is available to our club members who are also ACA members (American Canoe Association) for river trips and events through our affiliation and membership fee we pay to the ACA. It offers a certain amount of liability protection to the trip organizer and the club in the event of a lawsuit stemming from an accident. It is an option available for our members who organize trips, and requires following the guidelines to be a sanctioned event. We want and encourage a wide variety of river trips for the entire paddling season, whether or not the organizer chooses to make theirs an ACA sanctioned event.

There is still a lot of time left this paddling season! Go on our website and submit a trip you would like to organize. Attend a river trip, and have fun with us!

See you on the river.

James Raboin



## **Spring Clinic Series Wrap Up**

Norm Staunton Safety and Education Dir.

The Vermont Paddlers Club offered two weekend long clinics this past spring. On June 3 and 4, 24 novice paddlers and 12 staff participated in the Annual Novice Clinic. Two weeks later, 14 paddlers and 9 staff ventured down to the Deerfield for the First Annual Class II Clinic.

At the Novice Clinic, Saturday morning started at the Waterbury Reservoir in torrential rains. It rained so hard that one not-to-be named staff person actually bailed on the clinic to go creekin'. Our 24 novices weathered the rain with style and moved on to run the Middlesex Dam to Junkyard section of the Winooski after fueling up on a wonderful lunch provided by Eric Bishop. Significant carnage ensued at Hugo. Instructor and VPC President James Raboin may have actually had his head spin clean around his shoulders trying to keep track of all the people in the water. But, everyone swam or paddled away relatively safely and we prepared for day two.

The rain never really let up over night, and come early Sunday morning, water was coming over the top of Bolton Dam. Our plan had been to run Bolton Dam to the Trestle on day two, but the water levels were almost as high as the anxiety levels of our students. In true Vermont paddler style, we bagged our plan and headed back to the Middlesex reach for another day of paddling. Hugo was in, and grabbed a couple of folks, but otherwise we had a nice constructive paddle down to Waterbury. Several novices even ran the Left Chute on Final Rapid on the Mad. Thanks to all the staff that came out as instructors, safety boaters, helpers and the rest.

Two weekends later, a group of 14 paddlers and 9 instructors met down at the Fife Brook Section of the Deerfield for two more days of instruction in some slightly more difficult water. This was the First Annual Class II Clinic, but it was generated by a trip that Dan Beideck and I ran last year. Our paddlers did great, many having swim free runs, and a couple even braved The Gap, which by all accounts did indeed change last winter making it a bit trickier than before. A bunch of the students were Novice Clinic Graduates and the rest were a group of new friends from around New England. Two great days were had by all, as well as a fun night of campfires and dinner at the Charlemont Inn. Again, many, many thanks go to the instructors, safety boaters, helpers, and everyone who donated gear to make the event happen. Look for both of these events to be on the calendar again next spring, and plan to join us as a student or instructor.

To all the clinic participants: Have you been out on the water since? Well, if you haven't, shame on you. Scrounge some gear and join us for some novice friendly paddling this late summer and fall. Upcoming trips that you should consider include Labor Day on the Deerfield with Dan Beideck and company, Faith Knapp's trip on the Battenkill, the West River release on September 29<sup>th</sup>, and perhaps the Middle Moose during Moose Fest Weekend. As always, you can check the VPC Trips List at <http://www.vtpaddlers.net/paddle/trips/index.php> and keep an eye on the VPC Message Board at <http://www.vtpaddlers.net/talk/mb/index.php> for trips that are just your speed.

Thanks again to all the students and staff who participated in the Spring Clinic Series. Keep your eyes out for the announcement of our Annual Swiftwater Rescue Clinic coming up sometime soon. If you haven't taken a SWR Course yet, or it's been a while, PLEASE, PLEASE come take it. Its not to save your life... its to save mine.

Pray for Rain. We'll See You On The River.

## Letter From the Activities Director

Dan Beideck

Your board of directors has agreed to make some changes in how we handle our trips and other events. The first change you might have already noticed is that we no longer have a “trip calendar”. It is now an “event calendar”. The difference being that all VPC events should now be listed on this one page where previously they were listed on different pages throughout the website. The calendar itself has previously been divided into an “official” calendar and an “unofficial” or “bootleg” calendar. That terminology has gone away and we have just the one unified calendar. We will continue to offer the option to our trip leaders of running an insured trip through the ACA’s insurance program. However, all trips will be listed on the same calendar and uninsured trips will be listed on equal footing with those that are insured. Hopefully, these trips will no longer be considered second tier. The other change to come is that trips submitted online will soon go through an approval process before being posted. There are two reasons for this adjustment. First, it was felt that allowing anyone with internet access to post VPC trips was a potential liability issue. Second, this allows the club to better promote the trips that are posted.

In other news, the Spring trips went well this year. A number of them had to be cancelled due to river conditions etc. However, that’s fairly typical. Nonetheless, we had a good number of trips on a wide variety of rivers that went as scheduled. Many of them were well attended. One trip’s participants even reached into the double digits! Admittedly, it just barely did so, i.e. 10, but a couple of other trips also flirted with double digits.

I wish I had similar good news about the Summer/Fall schedule. To be honest, it’s been a bit disappointing so far. Interest in leading and participating in trips has been fairly minimal. My recent VPC trip on the Salmon/Hole Brothers drove this home. For the second year in a row, the only participants were myself and Ann, my wife. Not all was lost as we joined up with our “other” paddling club, PCC, also holding a trip on the same two rivers. They have approximately the same number of whitewater paddlers in their club as we do and had a slightly longer drive. Yet 25 people managed to show up! Other regional paddle clubs staying in the same campground also had large contingencies. Historically, VPC maybe hasn’t had as much interest in the summer dam releases even though our recent survey has shown that a majority have expressed interest. This seems like a real missed opportunity. It seems to me that a major point of being in a paddle club is so we can go out paddling together. All is not lost as a couple of people have expressed a willingness to lead a trip this Fall. I would encourage everyone to keep an eye on our calendar and give serious consideration to joining one, or more, of those trips. Keep in mind that this is your club and is only as good as we the members decide to make it. Leading and participating in club trips is a fun way to support your club and make it into something we can all enjoy.





**Directors:**

- Activities Dir: Dan Beideck (802) 655-3980
- Communication Dir: Kim Thomas (802) 922-1349
- Safety and Education Dir: Norm Staunton (802) 583-1019

**Appointed/Volunteers:**

- Paddling School: James Raboin (802) 527-8328
- Conservation Chair: Jack Daggitt (802) 253-2524
- Webmaster: Tony Shaw (802) 879-1655
- Publicity Chair: Open

**Officers:**

- President: James Raboin (802) 527-8328
- Vice President: Tony Shaw (802) 879-1655
- Treasurer: Open
- Secretary: Open

**Resources:**

- Website: <http://www.vtpaddlers.net>
- National Weather Service: (802) 862-2475
- USGS Streamflow Table for Vermont:  
<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/vt/nwis/current/?type=flow>

**Trips Schedule for Summer/Fall 2006**

<u>Date</u>	<u>River</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Max Class</u>	<u>ACA Sanctioned</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Aug 19	<b>VPC Picnic</b>	<u>James Raboin</u> 527-8328			
Aug 25- 27	<b>Ottawa River</b>	<u>Jim Poulin</u> 434-2708	int to adv WW		All levels welcome both middle and main trips
Sep 2-3	<b>Deerfield</b>	<u>Dan Beideck</u> 655-3980	nov-int WW		Dryway and Fifebrook sections
Sep 9	<b>Battenkill</b>	<u>Faith Knapp</u> 603 353 4333	nov WW		
Sep 23	<b>West</b>	<u>Dan Beideck</u> 655-3980	nov-int WW	Yes	Upper and lower sections



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



TRIP DIFFICULTY RATINGS ARE ONLY A GUIDE.  
READ THE SAFETY CODE OF AMERICAN WHITEWATER.  
STAY ASHORE WHEN CONDITIONS ON A GIVEN DAY  
EXCEED YOUR COMFORT LEVEL!!!



### **Schedule Notes:**

Asterisked trips (\*) are unofficial trips and as such are neither sanctioned nor insured by the VPC.

nov = max Class II, int = max Class III, adv = max Class IV, exp = Class IV+ See Intl River Rating Scale.

- Contact the trip organizer for information about each trip.
- Listed trips may be changed or canceled as water, weather, or interest dictates.
- Plans for impromptu trips can be relayed thru the trip organizer or online.
- Please give 1-2 weeks notice for overnight trips to have a say in pre-planning.
- Car-pooling on long (and short) trips is encouraged!

### **Disclaimer:**

Danger exists for participants in canoeing, kayaking, tubing, and other activities organized or advertised by the Vermont Paddlers Club. Such participation may result in illness or injury due to accidents, the forces of nature, or other causes not foreseeable. Such illness and injury may include disease, strains, sprains, fractures, dislocations, paralysis, and/or death. Possible injuries may cause serious and permanent disability. By your participation in any Vermont Paddlers Club activity you knowingly assume the risks arising out of that activity. In so doing you release, hold harmless and indemnify the Vermont Paddlers Club and its agents, officers and employees from any and all claims and suits for bodily injury, property damage, wrongful death, loss of services or otherwise which may arise out of your participation in canoeing, kayaking, tubing and other activities, whether or not such claims or suits arise from negligent acts or omissions by the organizers and conductors of this activity, their employees or volunteers, another participant, any other person or from any other cause.



## TREASURERS REPORT – July 2006

Income and Expenses	Year 2004	Year 2005	July 2006
Initial Balance	\$1,556.58	\$1,428.95	\$1,324.18
Dues	\$1,214.00	\$1,056.00	\$1,154.00
Events Sponsorship	-\$450.00	-\$100.00	\$0.00
Website	-\$300.00	-\$327.95	-\$150.00
Interest/Bank Fees	-\$52.85	-\$47.75	-\$22.21
Meetings/Mailings	-\$960.78	-\$815.76	-\$470.79
Rolling Sessions	\$94.00	-\$150.00	\$275.67
Safety Gear	\$0.00	-\$103.52	-\$70.06
Rescue Clinic	\$5.00	\$180.00	\$0.00
Novice Clinic	\$288.00	\$534.21	\$558.00
Class 2 Clinic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$275.00
T-Shirts	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$0.00
Net ACA Cost	\$35.00	-\$110.00	\$10.00
Little River Weir	\$0.00	-\$250.00	\$0.00
<b>Final Balance</b>	<b>\$1,428.95</b>	<b>\$1,324.18</b>	<b>\$2,883.79</b>

As of December 2005, by vote of Executive Committee, the General, Safety & Education, and Weir Funds have been combined, with no further distinction planned.

The club's financial position has been stabilized by minimizing expenses, and adding business processes that avoid uncontrolled losses.

The roll sessions, novice clinic and class 2 clinic were all profitable. The novice clinic income will go up ~\$100 when final checks clear, and class 2 will go down ~\$150 as expenses are paid.

The ACA modified their procedures to allow the net cost to the club to be minimal.

Submitted by Richard Larsen



## **Notices**

### **Thank you and Good Luck Will!**

VPC Secretary Will Bucossi is on his way to Montana to pursue his Masters degree. He has been very active in paddling with the club this year, and his enthusiasm will be missed. Thank you for all the work put into the club as secretary! Good luck with your studies, and have fun paddling out there!

### **VPC Board of Director vacancies:**

With the departure of Will, we need a new secretary for the club. The secretary attends the meetings, takes notes and sends out minutes, votes on issues, and helps shape the direction of the club. It is an excellent way to get involved and input your ideas.

We also will be looking for a treasurer, as Rich Larsen would like to retire soon. Let us know if you are interested.

### **AMC's VT/NH River Guide Revision Help Needed:**

Hello-

Once again I am revising AMC's VT/NH River Guide. I am looking to correspond with people who know the rivers, to provide up-to-date information on river access and changes to the rivers as the result of natural or mad-made actions (floods, dams, bridges, etc.) The River Guide does not address seasonal changes in the rivers, at least not beyond recommending what time o year is best for paddling.

To be as accurate and up-to-date as possible, I need many people contributing their two cents.

Thanks.

John Fiske

### **Last call for paper Bow and Stern!**

Please consider signing up for an E-Copy of the Bow and Stern. Our last edition of the Bow and Stern was sent to a great many people via email in PDF format. It was well received, and we are looking for more folks to sign up to receive VPC's newsletter this way. E-Scribing to the Bow and Stern not only saves the club money, it also saves paper, resources, and time spent collating, stapling, and mailing out paper copies. We are hoping to eventually reduce the number of paper copies that we mail out to zero, or at best a very small number. We know that not everyone is online, but those who are would be doing a great service to the club by E-Scribing today!



## Recent Trip Reports

### Geezers Weekend of Creeking Friday-Sunday Apr 7-9, 2006

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Lisa Egan

Participants: (K1): Lisa, Rowan, Ian, Jon, Anne, Steve, Martha, Felicia, Cheryl.

Friday we paddled the Lower Ashuelot (NH) class II – IV, What a fantastic warm up to my 2006 paddling season.

The river is a decent continuous river, at low level it was running at I don't think it exceeded class 3. The Ashuelot experienced massive flood damage in late 2005. Because of this flood the river is strewn with debris from landslides, buildings and what looks like lots of pool toys.

The river is about 3 miles long and is a great late evening paddle. Although we paddled in our creek boats the river provides plenty of surfing opportunities.

So on to the Main event.(well sort of). Creeking for Geezers (I am a geezer in training). A creek course run by Zoar.

To say the least I was very nervous and scared when I heard on Friday that Bruce was considering putting us on the W.B of the Deerfield (V)..mmmm I think all of us said oh my god we are going to die. Our instructors Bruce and Mo were fantastic. They eased us on to the WB by firstly doing a hardly run section on the upper WB. A nice class III/ III to warm us and practice our basic skills...Nerves were abundant...I think we felt like lemmings being led to our death. The Readsboro falls came all too quickly...This is where the main section starts. Our stomach in our mouths, our knees quaking we began to scout the first drop know as holey, holey, holey...to me and the others it was holy "BLEEP" crap. A technical class IV with a not so easy run out. In my mind I knew if I didn't run this..my nerves would continue to get the better of me. I asked if any one else was running it but I was met with the expressions of deers caught in the headlights.

I was one of the last to run it. I paddled slowly down caught the first eddy ferried across to the bank and stared down at the drop with a huge mass of boily white mass below it ready to swallow me up for breakfast and I wasn't sure whether it would spit me out...right about now I was thinking "why oh why do I do this". With a deep breath I paddled towards the drop and plopped down, with a short praise of my self I tackled the next section cheered on by my fellow geezer. We HAD survived. The group's nerves had disapated and our confidence radiated. Next came a series of IV holey drops, willing to catch any kayaker that even dares to get of line. We all cleaned it again...yehaa!!

The highlight of the course was being taught to boof...did we master it..of sorts. On this section there is a nice little boof about 6ft high it is perfect for boofing. Bruce had us all run it twice but I think we could have stayed there all day. The river continues on with slightly easier class IV.

We were in are element. Our group had no swims, cleaned most of the lines and we were paddling the infamous W.B of the Deerfield. We didn't run Tunnel Vision...but we weren't disappointed. We had learned a whole host of new skills from Bruce and Mo, but more importantly a lot of us had a much needed confidence boost.

Sunday...wow what a day. We did two rivers the Warner (IV) and the Blackwater (IV).

I have to say these rivers are very similar. They lull you into a false sense of security. One minute your paddling class 3 then before you know it your running class IV. The Warner..was amazing. The sluice drop we had to run is a prime place to lose paddles. Remember to turn your paddle before you enter, otherwise your either lose your paddle or worse dislocate your shoulder. Thankfully only one of our group dropped thier paddled but recovered well for the next drop.

One of the significant rapids is pinball and pinball it is. A perfect creek rapid. Unfortunately for one of our group they took a nasty swim but it did allow us to practice our rescue skills when we unpinned the sunken kayak.

If you ever run this you must do the final drop it is actually after the take out, but you can paddle back up stream afterwards. We came to a horizon line which is clearly an unused old dam. Ian paddles hard towards it and disappears...oh my god where did he go. Lisa laughed and said " go on it's safe". Yeah where I have heard that before!!

So I paddle hard and as I go over the edge it like being on slide except this slide has a kicker which threw me in to the air (I am smiling now remembering how much fun it was to run this) and made me land with a huge splash.

The next river was the Blackwater. If you put in at where the guidebook suggests expect a total 2 1/2 miles of flat and 1 mile of whitewater. Of course the flat separates the rapids and the whitewater is definitely worth it...the first rapid (bar an easy class III at the start) is about 1 1/2 miles down stream after lot of flat!! And it sucks and it feels like it is never going to end. .

The first drop is a cracker. A weird little 6ft drop, slide or hole depending on where you run it. We decided even though it was followed by pool we should set up safety...did we need it noooo. Our confidence was soaring!!

The Blackwater is then followed by some easy class 3 and flat. Then be prepared for a huge tumbling mass of

whitewater and rocks this is known as eggbeater (IV). This rapid is a long and very continuous with some ledgy drops that have only one line to run. A couple of our group won the humpty dumpty award for this rapid...the guidebook quotes a swim here would result in a long and bumpy one and any swimmer will win the humpty dumpty award. Two swims and two pinned boats...meant it took us a while to finish this rapid. the eggbeater definitely lived up to its reputation. It also marked the end of the river and the end of a fantastic weekend of paddling.

- Cheryl Robinson

**Lower Lamoille** Saturday Apr 8, 2006

Character: nov-int WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Richard Larsen

Participants: (OC1): Rich Larsen, Len Carpenter

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 6.2 ft.; USGS Flow: 3500 cfs; USGS Station: East Georgia

We cancelled the trip as an 'official' trip, since there were only two boats, and the leader thought ACA required three boats. The trip was held as 'unofficial'. We paddled from just below the dam at Fairfax Falls to the takeout on the north shore of the river, just east of the road bridge and west of the railroad bridge. The day quite cold, so we moved right along, only spending 1:30 actually on the river. (The weatherman said it was 40 degrees in Burlington, but there were big icicles hanging from roots on the banks where shaded from the sun - and they were not melting.) The water level was delightful, with a nice mixture of waves and rocks at Two Island Rapid, and all five chutes well defined at the rapid of that name. We saw the usual Lower Lamoille wildlife - Osprey, Mergansers, and Mallards - but no other paddlers on the river. Everyone else must have been staying warm!

- Richard Larsen

**White River** Saturday Apr 15, 2006

Character: nov-int WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Richard Larsen

Participants: (K1): Eve Soutiere, Ann Smith, Dan Beideck, Tom Franks, Lou Whittier; (OC1): Rich Larsen, Sheri Larsen, Len Carpenter

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 5.4 ft.; USGS Flow: 1900 cfs; USGS Station: West Hartford, VT

The river was fairly low, and the weather was a little uncertain, but a good group of paddlers showed up for the White River trip. The temperature was mostly in the low 60s, but it seemed downright toasty when the sun was out, cool when it was cloudy, and frigid during a short, moderate rainfall. The water was very clear, and the level not as scratchy as I had feared. At the Stoney Brook bridge abutments, we were surprised to see that the rapid had changed significantly in the last year. A few years ago, the channel moved left of the main abutment, and the profile was a constant descent, with some steepening at the abutment. Now, there is a steep, short pitch at the start of the rapid, then a levelling, then the drop at the abutment. Many trees remain in the water along the left shore, dropped in when the bank collapsed, but they at least are now out of the main current. The drops at Gaysville were rumored to have been changed in high water this winter, but at this low level they seemed to be as they had been in the past. One of the boaters tried a little impromptu swimming just above the Gaysville bridge - probably just to spice up some photos that a guy on the bridge was taking - but otherwise there were no problems. We paddled about 9 river miles from the Tweed River put-in to the place on route 107 about 7.5 miles east of the 107-100 intersection. We spent about 3:45 from put-in to take-out, with probably 30 minutes of that being for lunch.

- Richard Larsen

**VT to NY** Saturday-Sunday Apr 15-16, 2006

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: medium low  
Organizer: Si Wiles  
Participants: (K1): Max Koch,  
Cheryl Robinson,  
Si Wiles

With a renewed enthusiasm for creeking, I was eager to get out again and challenge myself. Unfortunately the problem was there wasn't any water.

After reviewing the gauges Friday afternoon. We opted to do the following: Saturday Claredon Gorge (Mill) IV, Poultney III (IV), and the Metawee IV – V. We then would drive to Old Forge and on Sunday run the Lower Moose (IV)

Max Koch decided to join us for our Saturday Paddle.

We started on the Claredon a perfect class IV creek river, which as now become one of my favorite VT runs. The river consists of two gorges with ample class IV drops. The gorges are separated by a short flat section and the second gorge starts with a must portage.

I encountered my first swim on the first gorge...actually we aren't calling it a swim, more of an ejection. Apparently it was quite funny to watch I am bracing on my left when all of a sudden without my hands leaving the paddle I am ejected from the boat...we realize that I need some adjustments to my outfitting!!

Back on the river, Mill drop approaches a beautiful technical class 4 drop. Max runs it several times, while Si and I conserve our energy. We just aren't that young anymore!!

We often see fishermen on this river but to our surprise and my repeated giggles we came across a nudist, who quickly tried to cover up as they were caught unawares...

As we get to the unrunnable drop we carefully make our portage around...only to discover a wide eyed Max eyeing up the last part of the drop while acting out a dry run of running it. Si and I look at each other and can't believe he is considering it...but he is. The narrowness of the drop and the meaty hole gives us cause for concern...but with Safety set and the camera rolling Max does a great job of making it look runnable.

Still for Si and Me we decide the 15ft Otter launch in to the gorge is a much more appealing option...that is until we see we have to launch off a precarious hanging piece of ice. The ice just holds out as we launch off.

On the second gorge there is one drop..that is a bit quirky, hardly scoutable we were told last time you either boof right or you end up deep on the right. Max again shows us a new line left, making it look all too easy. Si and I decide to run it together, me following him (I missed the boof last time and ended up in the pot hole ...not nice). As Si approaches the boof he broaches on a rock. Since I was so close I could either knock him off and he would miss the boof, go round him and I would certainly miss the boof or go left on Max's line. I go left...Hard left and shoot at super speed down a small slide...Who ever said the left wasn't runnable!! Si makes the boof and we paddle out a happy crowd.

After some much needed munchies we hit the Poultney (III -IV). The Poultney is great I love those slides...but the flat sections are just a little too long!!

The level was a little low but not scrapey, we complete the run quickly and without too much excitement.

The river looks like a tornado has ripped right through it. It has suffered a huge flood at some point and trees are down everywhere...some will pose a big risk at higher water.

On to the Metawee. I opt out on this, I have had a great day and I think I would be pushing it a little too much on the Metawee.

Si and Max have a great time and they take off the river just before sunset. What a great days paddling.

Si and I head off to Old Forge. We awake to a chilly Easter Sunday. We arrive at the Lower Moose put in and to our surprise no other paddlers...we hang around for a bit but nobody shows. The shuttle was going to be a nightmare!!

We head down in the car to the take out on a hope that some paddlers on the bottom moose would take pity on us and drive us back to the put in (16 miles back). But there isn't any. We could hardly believe it, it was one of the few rivers at a good med flow and no one was here. We decide to walk back to the put in and hitch when ever we could. At that point a car pulls up with a couple of kayaks on the roof and it is a friend of ours. Despite them running late they drive us back to the top...Thanks Andrew we owe you big time!!

We put on, run the first drop and come to Tannery. The site of my 2005 incident. We take off and scout the river it is slightly lower than last time but not by much. But I can see the hole...just waiting to take me again. The nerves bubble and I start panicking. I get Si to repeatedly tell me the lines...he must of thought I was crazy. But I was determined to conquer the run. I make it through totally elated. From that point on I was fine, we ferry across to the center to run a slight harder line instead of taking the sneak to the end of the rapid. We continued down river taking one drop at a time, Whale Hole (IV), Rooster Tail (IV). Then came froth hole..the name says it all. The only way to run this a high levels is on the left a gnarly looking tongue that takes you so close to the hole that one wrong move and you're in. We make it through, stop for a quick lunch and head on. Next is the Mix Master. A straight forward drop that has two very large holes waiting to eat kayakers the line is pretty straight cut left to hard right...no

problemo.

The run finishes with elevator shaft an easy chute that is so fun, I wish you could carry up and run it again. It was a perfect finish to the perfect weekend...actually the Pulled pork and Burger at Casey's North (North River, Hudson) was the perfect ending.

— Cheryl

Ammonoosuc Saturday Apr 22, 2006

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Richard Larsen

Participants: (K1): Dan Beideck, Norm Staunton, Frank Wells; (OC1): Richard Larsen, Sheri Larsen

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 2.66 ft.; USGS Flow: 300 cfs; USGS Station: Bethlehem, NH

The trip that had been planned for the Moose River needed to be moved, since there was no water in the Moose. And, with rain approaching from the southwest, we were compelled to 'go east', to the Ammo. The Ammo also was low, but was one of the few in the northeast with any water at all, since there was still snowmelt from Mt Washington. (With a gage of 2.66', the American Whitewater website called the river 'too low', but it was actually quite acceptable. Rumors abound that the Ammo is OK down to about 2.5') With the approaching storm, we had strong east winds during the drive, and my double nested canoe tie-down had a lot of trouble on I-89, until a better rope arrangement was achieved. We were about a half-hour late to the put in. Once on the water, there were a few places where we had to stare ahead to make sure there really was a channel, but there always was. At this level, everything upstream of Boat Breaker Rapid was class 2, and Boat Breaker itself was reduced to a rather anemic class 3. One of the boats took out at the Pierce Bridge, and the other four continued on. Below the dam, the water was quite good. Powerhouse Rapid was still a solid class 3, with more rockiness than at higher levels, and the rapids continuing to the first bridge were all good. We continued to the last bridge before we would have reached Alder Brook, and took out there because of folks trying to get back to Burlington.

— Richard Larsen

West: Spring 2006 Saturday-Sunday Apr. 29-30, 2006

Character: nov-int WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Dan Beideck

Participants: (K1): James Raboin, Jim Poulin, Chris Weed, Eve Soutiere, Ann Smith, Kim Thomas, Kristy [non paddlers: Dawn, Linda, Deb, William & Daniel]

Most of us headed down Friday night and stayed in a nearby ski lodge reserved for the weekend. The next morning we met at the school ball field just before the entrance to the Jamaica state Park entrance. We then divided into three groups with some of us headed towards the upper class III section, some towards the lower class II section, and others opting to stay on dry land. Those staying on land enjoyed the warm sunny day while watching those in the river and/or playing on the nearby playground facilities.

No one wanting to paddle the lower section had run it before. I volunteered to make the first run and serve as the "probe". A few of us were a little nervous before getting started for various reasons. It didn't take too long for the excitement to start. The first rapid proved to be fairly continuous class II water that shortly produced a swimmer. Others helped the swimmer make it to shore while I chased the boat. My attempt to shove it into an eddie didn't exactly go as planned. While doing so, one hand came off my paddle and the blade very cleanly slipped under a downed log. I managed to get my hand back on the paddle but ended up flipping. Meanwhile, the current moved the paddle and my now upside down kayak enough so that the paddle was now wedged very firmly under the log. My choice became obvious that I could maintain my death grip (literally) on the paddle or breathe. It was not a difficult decision and I was soon swimming downstream sans paddle well past the rest in my group. Two thoughts ran through my brain as I struggled for what seemed like a long time to get my boat and body two feet left across the eddie line. First, maybe a hands roll is less of a parlor trick than I had thought. Second, It's probably not such a

good confidence builder when the safety boater leading a group of somewhat nervous paddlers swims the first stinking rapid!!

I was happy to find Eve walking downstream with my paddle after I finally managed to collect myself on shore. She reportedly was able to climb out on the log and free it after some effort. We weren't so lucky with the paddle from the other swimmer. The next day we discovered that it made it all the way to Troy, NY, and no the West doesn't go there! Someone had found it later that day and took it home with him after leaving contact information at the park. Owner and paddle are reportedly soon to be reunited.

The gang was a little shaken, but forged on minus one. The rest of the morning's paddle was less eventful. The whole gang then met up again in the school field for lunch before heading on for a second run. Chris opted to paddle the lower this time and I went to the upper. The lower went much smoother the second round with yours truly out of the picture. Ann was rumored to have thrown down her first boof move to the amazement of the rest of the group. The group paddling the upper section had a good run with the river practically to themselves for a good portion of the run.

Once again the gang gathered in the field after the second run. Most of us opted to hit the paddlers dinner held at the local Church in Jamaica. The homemade pies were the highlight of the fare. A few of us, okay all of us, made more than one trip to the dessert area. The rest of the evening was spent back at the ski lodge trying to maintain consciousness after the long day. I think most of us would have been happy to have gone to bed at 8:30 except for the two that actually did, James and Deb's boys!

The next morning we headed back to the river for another day. No trips on the lower this time, however. Those members either opted to go hiking, paddle with another group, or try out the upper. The weather was nearly perfect as it felt like a summer's day with air temps in the 70's. The water temp was a bit more modest! Some opted for one run while others got in a second run before heading home. All in all, it was a great weekend.

— [Dan Beideck](#)

#### [Maine Weekend](#) Thursday-Sunday May 4-7, 2006

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: high

Organizer: Lisa Egan

Participants: (K1): Lisa, Steve, Martha, Anne, John, Jeremy, Cheryl

While the rest of Vermont seemed to be scraping or swimming down rivers, a small group of us headed to where the water was...Maine.

While at first I was apprehensive about doing a 6hr solo drive, the weekend proved to be totally worth it.

While the weather was supposed to be in the low 50's ...mother nature looked favorably on and provided a weekend of sunshine and temps in the 70's...just perfect.

Friday: The Mighty Kennebec. While I wasn't nervous about paddling the Kennebec (IV), walking down the stairs to the gorge put in definitely brought back harrowing memories of two years ago, when I took a nasty swim (I still have the scars) and ended up hiking out (2 miles with a kayak sucked big time).

We put on and it quickly became apparent that certain members of the group were nervous (bitchen eddy comments) and we hadn't even seen the first rapid!

With wide eyes and shaking paddles we slowly eddy hoped to the first big rapid.

An amazing sight of high gorge walls and a foaming mass of big waves and boils lay before us.

It was almost like we were all on a Military mission each making sure we had someone watching our back and a specific group line up. One by one we headed out of the eddy down in to the gorge the rapids were full of huge big waves that couldn't be anything but full of fun, before we even knew it we were at Cathedral eddy. Cathedral is a swirling eddy the captures and keep paddlers who try to enter or leave it. We opt for the nice friendly eddy on the right .

With most of the nerves being lost in alleyway we were ready to face Magic falls a long class IV rapid with two significant holes Magic and Maytag...in any circumstances Maytag is the one to avoid...what about Magic you say...well I hear at lower levels it is nasty too. At the level we had it 5800 CFS you can surf Magic...trust me you can!! I was sweeping up the back when I noticed Anne being surfed at the top of Magic so I paddled across to make sure if anything happened I was there. Anne paddled free just as I descended into the dead center of Magic's pit...mm lots of swearing was going on in my head as I began to front surf, with no real thought of how to get out I flip and roll up on the back side of Magic...giggling like a silly kid, screaming "I have just surfed Magic".

The groups enthusiasm for surfing Magic wasn't quite the same as mine hence we didn't visit that side of Magic falls on our next time down.

We took off for lunch and begin to discuss our 2nd run down when we realize the water is being cut to 325 CFS, not wanting to pinball down we opted to paddle the lower.

While the lower is a beautiful scenic river, it doesn't match the adrenaline rush of the gorge. The Lower rapids are class three and are separated by long sections of flat...I HATE FLAT!! By the end I had almost given up all hope of ever seeing whitewater or land again. I don't think I'll paddle the lower again...

Friday night we had a cozy night in our cabin, with great food, beer and Music. Okay guys so Anne and Me can't sing that well but it must have been an entertaining sight us dancing and signing around the breakfast bar in our PJ's.

Saturday: High release on the Dead 7000CFS. The dead on normal releases is class 3 while on high releases (7000CFS & 5000CFS) it significantly increases to a class IV.

Last year Jim Poulin, Myself and a few other Kayakers set the record for the highest ever run made on the Dead at 20,000 CFS. Our reputations proceed us and we are still talked about in the Forks till this day. Our group found it highly amusing during this weekend when testosterone filled men bragged how they had run it at 9000 cfs and would laugh and ask me if I had run it before. I would reply casually yeah last year. The Guy would then say this level is much harder then the usual releases, are you sure you are up to it. I would start laughing and say "I am not worried I ran it last year at 20,000 CFS and 10,000 CFS". Met with a jaw dropping "I have heard about you, your part of that group that run Enchantment in to the Dead, you guys made history" the dog would then sculk off with its tail between its legs. It happened a few times and it got quite funny towards the end.

We paid our \$15 bucks each for the shuttle...totally worth it. We staged a mutiny when the driver refused to set off before 10am (it takes 45 mins to get to the put in) so at 9.30 we got all the Kayakers together and jumped aboard the bus and began to sing ...much to the dismay of the driver. He relented and drove us to the top (Yep he did it to shut us up...I told you I was a bad singer).

The Dead an amazing river...Large long rapids with a short enough flat to stop me whining endlessly but long enough to refuel and take a breather for the next rapid.

We weren't as organized as the day before and our military precision and co-ordination seemed to be MIA. We had carnage at the first rapid, a long difficult swim followed with nobody in the group to help, the swimmer was rescued by a another Kayaker. Actually the description was a NJ Kayaker very burly and handsome...A beer is owed to you by Ms Dagger RX...Hope you didn't touch the sponge!!

Back on the river and the rapids were just as fun and technical as I remember them, while a little smaller than last year it proved not to be disappointing in any fashion.

The most significant rapid Poplar...saw group disarray. The group was largely spread out and when a couple decided to eddy out. I was faced with the prospect of running it solo, knowing I was tired and the amount of holes that potentially could eat me. I shouted to one to follow me ...After getting flipped at one wave I rolled 3 times consecutively before I could regain balance. I was tired and weary and I was only half way down the rapid, I was also alone on the opposite side of the river to everyone else. I eddied out and noticed, Belinda Blackcurrant had swum and her boat was graciously running the rapid with out her.

We got the boat in after the rapid but it was along long way down from its owner. Belinda had taken a long swim and was slightly beaten up, when along to the rescue came a raft of young men who helped reunite her with her boat. Makes you think it was some sort of ploy to get young men to look after you, sneaky!!

Thankfully it is was just a short paddle to the take out and more beers.

Thanks to NO Umbrella who provided excellent entertainment Saturday night plus Root beer floats...and nice Tee's too

Sunday- Minus one we hit the Kennebec a second time, it was just as fun as the first and we bopped down like little ducks, happy as can be...until Magic that is. Well everyone was happy but me at Magic. Again me playing the sweep we decided to run center. As I came up a huge wave my boat started to face right I tried to correct it, hit a hole sending me even more right. That's when I came face to face with it. Like death staring me in my face (Maytag), I paddled as hard as my arms could take me digging hard with every stroke forcing my boat left...I clipped the far left corner of Maytag!! It was enough to scare the goolies off me ...next time I am going left and surfing Magic!!

- [Cheryl Robinson](#)

**Hudson Gorge** Saturday May 6, 2006

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Rod Wentworth

Participants: (K1): Dan Beideck, Jim Poulin, Eve Soutiere and Rod Wentworth  
Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 3.8 ft.; USGS Station: North Creek

I have been leading a trip on the Hudson on the first Saturday in May for a number of years, and the number of kayakers on the river seems to have diminished. I don't know if this has something to do with downriver races on the same day, or the fact that this is more of a river-running trip (not park and play) or something else. Regardless, it has not been crowded.

A spring trip on the Hudson just wouldn't feel right if it wasn't cold. While the weather has been warm in some years past, this year was average – cold but not very, with just a bit of rain at times. The level was about 3.8 feet without the “bubble” from the Indian...lower than usual for this time of year. However, we stayed with the bubble to make the best of things. This was Eve's first Hudson trip and she did quite well; a combat roll or two with no swims. An enjoyable spring outing was had by all.

– [Rod Wentworth](#)

### [Chasing the flows \(Wells-Pemi trip\)](#) Sunday May 7, 2006

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Norm

Participants: (K1): Norm, Ryan, Dave, John, James, Julie and Paul

While others decided to head to Maine for optimal flows a select few dedicated (or creek running starved) paddlers decided to paint the routes down a couple of rivers with the plastic from their boats.

With not a whole lot of response initially to the trip I was pleasantly surprised to arrive at the Barre double-D to find a much larger than anticipated group of paddlers. Once working out logistics for vehicles, we headed east off to the Wells. We set up in the Fish and Game parking lot a few hundred yards below the first drop. Everyone hiked up and we started the process of running various lines on the first drop. Julie, who didn't have a creek boat decided that she would work the camera for the first river saving it up for when we hit the Pemi later. The first drop was a fun and easy one move drop. The second drop near the fishing access point was an interesting multi-move rapid down the middle - boof- peel left and paddle out or a bump and grind slide down river right or backwards like Paul ran it –upright too. The next couple of drops were read and run with the low water and probably a little to scratchy for most of our tastes. The next significant drop was the Waterfall (Face Smacker). Lots of scouting and contemplating left all of us to walk it but two. Dave went first on the alpine line to river left off the flake and straight into the ledge/rock formed pile in the seam on river left. Good think those Prijons are tough as nails. That all but sealed the deal for anyone else to run it, but Paul was hell bent that the river right line was cleanable...and that is what he did. He cleaned it smooth as can be off the river right flake into the main current feeding out below the seam. After that we ran another couple hundred yards of boogie water to the final drop - a complex rapid that has two routes. One down river right that hugs a spine that sticks out of the river bed and the other that darts left iand drops 2-3 feet into an eddy before a 20-25 (12 ft high) foot slide into a pretty sticky hole and one more curler before the run peters out in the backwater of a dam. John ran river left line and eddied out above the slide to set safety. Dave was next and ran left as well, carrying the momentum from the first drop to the slide and through the hole at the bottom. I ran next and had the same results as Dave. Paul was next and went left as well, but flipped on the first drop and rolled quickly up to be swept into an ill placed root-ball. It was a very fast horizontal pin. John and James were quick into action and Dave was out of his boat fast as well to stabilize the situation. They pulled Paul off the root-ball and he was on his way down the slide. John came down the slide as well and that was the end of the fun on the Wells. A great little short gem with fun drops. Good for multiple laps if you have the time and energy. It is easy to see why the Wells River Rumble is such a success as the short length of the Wells and ease of opportunity to view the drops make it ideal.

Off to NH and the Pemi. Dave had to work so headed back. Now it was Julie's turn to get wet. About a 50 minute drive got us to Lincoln to set shuttle, but a burning desire to get McD's overwhelmed a few of us and so indulged (more on this later). We put in at the Lincoln Woods Center above Loon Mountain Resort. While getting gear on we hooked up with a friendly fellow by the name of Jim (from northern NH). He joined our group and brought the group number back up to the magnificent 7. Running shuttle both John and I were appalled at how low the river was and was pretty sure we'd be wearing a hole through our boats on this run from all of the scraping that I'd be doing. Once on the river it wasn't as bad as it looked.....it was REALLY low though! At this level the river was more or less

a natural slalom course and the significant drops really weren't all that significant. There is really one major drop that is directly below the Loon Mountain access road. It probably drops a total of 25 feet in about a 100 yard run out. John ran both the left and center lines very cleanly and smoothly. The rest of the group that ran it went left and some chose to eddy out and skirt back center and James and I continued down river left through a narrow channel at the bottom...very bumpy! Below this the fun began. One of our group felt the need to count the fish a few times....Understandably so as it was a long day and I can understand how fish are much more interesting when you get to look them in the eye. The group theory is that the McDonalds earlier messed p everything that is pure and good in the world of paddling and said fish counter was feeling the effects of a nasty chicken sandwich and fries thus losing concentration, balance, use of upper extremities (head), and ability to paddle around stationary objects. OUCH - happens to the best of us. Anyways the run wrapped up with out incident on a couple of fun drops right above the take out.

A stop at the "packy"???? for gas and more bad road food and we were on our way back to VT to pick up vehicles at the Barre DD. It was a spectacular spring day on the rivers. The water was a little low, but the company was good and the entertainment was superb.

- [Ryan McCall](#)

### No-Shuttle Boreas Saturday May 13, 2006

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Tony Shaw

Participants: (K1): Martha, Rick, Steve; (Inflatable): Eric Bishop / Tony Shaw (in the shredder)

Gauge Info: Painted Gauge Height: -0.25 ft.; USGS Gauge Height: 5.0 ft.; USGS Flow: 3000 cfs; USGS Station: Hudson - North Creek

Someday when I have lots of free time on my hands I am going to design and build a motorized boat trailer that I can tote over to the Boreas, assemble, and run upstream alongside the river on the abandoned railroad tracks that parallel "the main attraction", a several mile stretch of continuous, bouldery III-IV water. I won't even charge a shuttle fee: the grins on the paddlers faces will be ample reward!!!

As it stands today, to get to this mecca you need to put-in a few miles farther up, at the NY28 bridge, survive a few ledgy drops including "the falls", and be prepared to endure a couple of LONG (but attractive) stretches of flatwater below.

Catching the Boreas at a good level (around zero feet or higher on the Northwoods Club Road bridge abutment) is tricky - it has no USGS gauge. But I watched online as hard rains throughout the preceding week marched northward up the Hudson Valley and boosted the Hudson pre-bubble gauge to 5.0 ft/3000 cfs on this day. Five feet on the Hudson gauge, according to Jamieson, is a good barometer for finding water in the Boreas, and our Boreas level was a satisfying -0.25 on the bridge abutment (just cresting).

We were an experienced group of 5, with well over 100 paddling seasons collectively under our belts. Rick, a local, knows the Boreas well, and claims it is his favorite Adirondack river. Martha kept us entertained with her motherly safety checks and her sense of humor -- "I've been paddling since the day I was born" (well, I hadn't really lived until I took up paddling ;o)

Eric and I brought only the shredder to hedge against the possibility that the Boreas might be a torrent from weeklong rains, and beyond our comfort level in hard open boats. The shredder was over-kill, as it turned out, but still fun, and it is incredibly forgiving. At one point in a class IV rapid we stuck on a rock, spun around backwards, and then bobbed down through 2 or 3 stompin' holes totally out of control...and laughing all the way.

The best part of this day was the shuttle, or the "no shuttle" in this case. Rick, Steve, and Martha appeared out of the blue at the put-in right as we were about to go spot our car downstream, and at the end of their run (the NWCR bridge), they offered to retrieve our car and leave it for us behind Smith's Restaurant in North Creek. So, for the first time, Eric and I got to paddle down the final ~3 miles of the Boreas to the Hudson, which was at a fine level...and deserted. The paddle down the Hudson past North River, through the western-style wavetrain known as Perry Ellis, past a lovely and intricate sidestream cascade on river left, and all the way to North Creek was chilly but relaxed -- a ~15 mile day in total.

- [Tony Shaw](#)

Snagging a few western slope gems on the drop Sunday May 21, 2006

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Ryan McCall

Participants: (K1): Eric H, John B, Paul S, Will B, Brad E, Ryan M

It was a late day affair, after 2:00 pm. We met all met (sans Will) at the corner of routes 100 & 17 for a warm up on Mill Brook, the small rivlet along 17 that drains the slopes of Mad River Glen and Glen Ellen, better known as Sugarbush North. It was a playful, albeit bumpy level. The group was pretty fluid and aware that Brad was cutting his teeth on his first creek. The run went without any incident...one strainer and an unrunable final drop, due to low levels and we were all warmed up to bang out a run on the upper reaches of the White River (or more commonly known as Patterson Brook) to the south in Granville.

Will met up with us as we were taking off of Mill Brook and getting loaded up for the trek down to Granville. Brad decided to assist with shuttle and spectate as Patterson was a notch or two above his skills curenly. So Will brought the number back up to 5 on the river. A good healthy number for such a small run. John (served as our guide) had run Patterson the day before several times and let us know it was a totally different river at a higher level... in someways less technical but more pushy. We were probably on this at the lowest comfortable boatable level (at least for me). Anyways, it was a gem of a run. We got out to scout the two major drops on the river although they probably could have been read and run today. The group was strong and kept a good eye out for the newest member to creeking. Paul was stepping up his limits on creeking and had a few swims. Amazing how nothing shakes Paul though and back in the boat after each swim he went to pick apart the next rapid.

If you have never had an opportunity to run Patterson - put it on your list. It has to be one of the most senic runs going. Have you boat on the vehicle though, because it only runs when the gods really open up and dump the H2O....

— Ryan

Lower Hudson Saturday May 27, 2006

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Richard Larsen

Participants: (OC1): Sheri Larsen, Len Carpenter, Rich Larsen

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 4.3 ft.; USGS Flow: 1900 cfs; USGS Station: North Creek

This was a group of long-time paddlers heading down the river in semi-matching red MEs, Mad River canoes from 20 years ago. We wanted to put in at North Creek and paddle to the Glen Bridge, but there was some sort of event in North Creek that had the put-in blocked, so we started 2 miles upstream. The total paddle was 14-15 miles, but the river moved along OK, and the wind was mostly down-river, so we did it all in about 4 hours paddling, and another hour mixed in for lunch and various breaks to get our old knees functioning again. The only in-water activity was in a flat-water stretch when we passed a pair of discrete skinny dippers, and quickly thereafter one paddler (to be identified only by the initials LC) fell into the river. He claims he shifted his weight onto a thwart, snapped it, and then the boat flipped!

Other wildlife sighted included a great blue heron, mergansers, and geese with goslings.

The weather was great, with the afternoon becoming quite sunny. The water flow was adequate but non-threatening. A few on the rapids were still class 3, but not hard 3. The biggest challenge was at the 'Hook', where a strong downriver wind prevented careful set-up - we just had to make a mad dash through the s-turn moves as we were pushed downriver.

Like last year, we took out river-left above the bridge, as the traditional take-out across from Wildwaters remained closed.

— Richard Larsen

## **Dryway Summer Fun** Thursday-Sunday Jun 1-Jul 9, 2006

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Cheryl

Participants: (K1): Will, Julie, Lisa, Ryan, Eric, Jesse, Mic, Jon, Rowan, Tim, Marc, John. Norm, Chrissie, Anne and many others

The dryway...a classic New England summer run.

After spending most of my 2005 summer down on the Dryway I considered myself a dryway veteran. I think me and my Kingpin are becoming part of the features down there.

I was surprised when I saw fellow VPCer, Will run the dryway in his creek boat most people take playboats. Laugh, oh did I laugh!! A full winter of smack talk began!!

Fast forward to Summer 2006, Will finally succumbed to the smack talk and decided to talk the talk and walk the walk. Will joined me for a weekend on Dryway in his playboat.

What followed was two days of extreme smack talking, no swims, a lot of surfing and hell of a lot of fun. So much fun in fact he decided to join me again the next weekend.

The dryway is based on the Deerfield river and is classic New England run. The rapids rate between class 3 to the infamous Dragon's tooth and Labyrinth 4's. This river can be as hard or as easy as you want it to be. There are a surf waves dotted throughout the river with the big finale at Labyrinth one of the most difficult waves to catch and surf on the river...at least you get plenty of warm up before you get there. There are numerous slot moves raging from easy to hard.

I knew Will had paddled the dryway before but I think we brought him a whole new experience.

The second time there was Demo fest...Will was eager to Demo a new boat in particular the EZG50. Unfortunately due to my coffee & croissant stop and I am sure Will will say my socializing, we arrived a little later than expected and EZG50 had disappeared for the day. So he had to endure another day of the Amp.

At the end of the Dryway we didn't have time for our projected 2nd run so we headed down for some beat downs on the GAP (fife section). At which point Will decided to demo a poorly outfitted RX. A friend of mine described the various lines from the road and we watched as eight boaters came along. They had whole load of personal carnage by either swimming or flipping neither looked a nice way to go down the Gap.

I decided I wanted to surf the Hole at the Bottom of the Gap, while Will opted to go for this strange task of Seven moves along the Gap?? Something that apparently if you can do you know you ready for the Dryway!! A bit late if you ask me..

I don't think we achieved our set goals but we did impress the spectators by running it upright.

We finished the evening by stopping at my favorite food place the Biker Bar then headed to socialize with the rest of the VPCers (Ryan, Norm, Chrissie) I think they were staying in the local state prison, No visitors after 8pm, No alcohol and no over crossing the boundaries on the camps even if you are all friends... Thankfully we were allowed in for a quick hello at 8.10pm. Some beers and a few hello's later we headed out (10pm) to recovery for the next day paddle.

The next day we were joined by Ryan, and 3 of his friends who had never paddled the dryway before.

But first Will and I had to make sure we did two runs...Will when I said we would do a Bomber run I meant it. As soon as the water released we put on. 40 minutes later and no stopping we were back at the top for our second run...Fantastic.

The second run was a lot more entertaining, great surfing, rock splats, to rescuing swimmers. Oh and the quaking of knees at Dragons tooth.

The run was thoroughly enjoyed by all, there was little carnage considering the newbies who did really well.

Again the day was finished at the Biker Bar...Beers and Burgers yummy.

Two weeks later I return with another VPCer Julie Prior, I had talked her into doing a day trip so I could demo a new boat. Bleary eyed and half a sleep we hit my usual coffee and croissant place and Julie experienced the same socializing..Sorry guys it isn't my fault I know so many people...

A friend Marc, kindly agreed to show Julie the lines, as we apparently we going to be in for a fun day, I could just barely roll the demo boat in the flat water.

Julie had a blast she surfed every thing possible like a pro and she even followed Marc to the T, quite hilarious watching them both run Dragons tooth upside down...Okay okay so that's my general line through there too..Thankfully I managed to roll my demo...it was a close call though.

Sadly I didn't get to see Julie run Labyrinth, I heard she did great and even managed to try to surf the wave there. I mentioned the subject of a second run!! But I think the first one had sapped all of Julie's and Marc's energy so instead we enjoyed the sunshine and socialized as per usual.

Tired and Happy we drive home from another excellent paddle at the Dryway..and there is still a whole load of Summer left. Dryway Fest anyone??

- Cheryl

**Laps on the Gihon** Sunday Jun 4, 2006

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Will

Participants: (K1): Will B, Ryan M, Dave P, Bob R, Jim C

You'd think with all of the rain we got on Saturday everything would be pumping high....not such the case. Thankfully the Gihon holds water pretty well and we could score a couple of low boatable laps on it. The first lap consisted of Dave and Bob running every drop like a couple of aces. Will and I passed on the gorge (mustang) consequences still seemed a bit much even at lowish water. All drops went pretty clean though (other than Power House - where one of us managed to spot a brown trout while counting fishies on the way down). We yanked a humungo log out of a smallish drop above Mustang to open up a 2 foot ledge boof move...The second lap Bob and Dave had to take off but we met up with Jim. I am sure the 30ft low head dam for the first drop shook all the jitters of running a new river right out of him. The rest of the run went as smooth as the first drop...that is if you didn't notice all the bumping and scraping we did on the way down. Will chose to run Power House at an even lower level than the previous run...Jim and I walked - just to boney.... All in all it was a good Sunday spent on the Gihon.

- Ryan

**Mill Brook, Jericho** Saturday Jun 10, 2006

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: medium high

Organizer: Tony

Participants: (K1): Dave, Bob, Burlington Bob.; (OC1): Eric; (C1): Tony

Got the call from Tony, meeting a big group at noon. The New Haven was on it's way up thru 1000, the Mad was on it's way up near 2 grand, and Tony informed me that the Mill Brook had popped, and was at a good level.

Put on thanks to Dan, who waited for us and showed us the trail down to the top of the gorge. Bob, Eric, Tony Burlington Bob, Dan, Myself and B.B.'s 2 buddies started down stream. BB's buddies were new to the sport and quickly realized this was not the place to learn. At the first ledge we retrieved their boat, and after B.B. styled the left slot, they hiked out. The rest of us ran this drop w/o real issue. Eric did swamp his OC1, but was able to get it together before the next rapid. Here it got interesting. It was fairly quick water to the old dam above Hydro. Then it was completely continuous below hydro to the log jam that is pretty much a portage. Fortunately the pace slackened a bit right at the log jam, and it's less of a threat then a neusance. With more water, this may not be the case.

So, Eric had some troubles on the lead in to hydro, and his boat ran the drop clean. Washed on down to the Log pile where it was located.

Bob and I look at a left to right line around the small hole at the top of the drop. Bob runs first with me in the eddy below the Dam. He disappears over the horizon significantly more left the we were originally thinking. I wait the standard 8 seconds and start to go, Tony waves me in, but whistles are blowing somewhere downstream. I hit my line mostly, plugged the reaction pillow dead center (wanted to be on the right side to ensure being kicked out, and not back into the hole, or worse, left into the corner) and came up paddling hard with the hole munching on my stern. Barely able to ferry/side surf out right. Ran down around the corner, under the foot bridge (really fun section) to see Bob self arrested, and helped his boat to collect on the debris pile.

Back up to set safety for Dan, who boofed the hole, looked to be on line, but still got surfed in the hole. Hung in for a good long time, but ultimately swam out, Bob hit him with a rope, but dropped it, I hit him with a rope, but it was just out of his reach, Dan disappeared around the bend to collect himself, with his boat on the debris pile. Tony walked it, but had his skirt blow in the boogie water and swam down to the debris pile where we helped him to collect his gear. Feeling more like drift wood then boaters, we continued downstream, the next drop was great, we walked the last one due to time and that fact that it's UGLY! All this and I made it to work on time. Good day. Fun river. View from rt 117 bridge and look for all the rocks to be under enough to paddle it. Put in on Tar Box road

(take first right after rt 117 bridge, and next right on TarBox) shortly after the left fork at the Nature Center. Park at the pull off left, hike up a few hundred feet, trail on left. Now, we need rain.  
JD



**Hudson Gorge** Saturday Jul 8, 2006

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Cheryl

Participants: (K1): Si, Cheryl, Max, Randel, John, Julie, Eric, Mark, Derrick and Bob; (Inflatable): Tina

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 4.7 ft.

What a perfect day!!

We couldn't have asked for more the sun was shining, the water level was good (4.7) and we had a great group of kayakers... 12 to be precise.

The Indian was releasing more than usual due to the recent rains. Si and Max effortlessly ran the Otter slide. The rest of us mere mortals opted out of the potential hole trashing and watched in admiration as Si and Max made it look like a class 2 rapid.

The Indian was fun, really fun. It was a foamy white mass of water. The play was plentiful and we wished it would never end.

After the Indian the group divided in two. The rafters were jumping off the large rock in the flat section and Eric decided to join them...in his kayak.

We stopped for lunch, bathed in sun filled our bellies with all sorts of goodies..particular chocolate MM's for me. We played at the wave first before heading down stream.

The rapids were fun, I never remember all there names in the correct order. I just know on the right day (Hot and Sunny) and the right level the Hudson is a beautiful fun paddle.

One of the last major rapids saw some carnage....I won't name names...because one of the swims was totally unnecessary and we laughed at him for doing so. Especially since he took a rescue from a raft...a raft that's shameful!!

The rest of the river is a just a picturesque paddle out to Greyhound hole. I refuse to play here after learning the hard way it is very shallow. Si and a few of the other showed us how it was done and happily played among the millions of rafts vying for the same spot.

The perfect day ended perfectly, beers and yummy food at Casey's North

Pictures can be found at <http://community.webshots.com/album/552222141AqeHmD>



**Blind leading the Blinder** Saturday Jul 15, 2006

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Ryan

Participants: (K1): Ryan M

Paul S

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 195 cfs; USGS Station: The "El Salto" Falls

There was some left-over flow from a hard rain a couple of nights prior. This time of year you get what you can take and both Paul and I were jonesing to get on the water w/o making an entire day out of road triping it. The Wells seemed the likely suspect since it is boatable to pretty low flow levels. I have been on it now twice below 200 cfs and probably won't make the trip over there to do it a third time below 200cfs. Although, when you are jonesing....you are jonesing.

So the first drop, Brett's Mom, was a simple straight forward bounce along a green finger to the run out. Simple

stuff and a fair warning for how low the river is going to payout.

The second drop, Sweetness, at the level it was running opened up two lines....a scrappy slide to the runout on river right or the slingshot edge of a hole to a boof move. It took both Paul and I several attempts to run it smoothly although all the variations on the line worked none the less too. After some photo ops at Sweetness we headed down stream to Labrynth. Looks a little different at low water and more like a natural slalom course if you take care not to pinball down it. The last hole is a wee bit sticky though if you run into it...Right Paul?

Next is Cafe Yo Boof. We bothched that the first time too sliding down the right side to avoid the tree on river left. Hiking back up we both pulled decent lines the second time though at the boof spot.

On to El Salto falls...Pauly ran it on the right flake again and got pushed into the seam and penciled in pretty deep and corked back up backwards, surfed out and was grinning ear to ear....I think there was a wiseman (Will Bucossi) that once said Kayaking is 90% luck, 5% skill and 5% steel cajones. How right he is and how much luck and cajones Paul brings to the table (river) everytime I paddle with him blows me away! Needless to say, I walked the falls (not enough water to make a clean go of it).

Elevator was pretty much a boulder garden at the low level and that brought us to Tantra - the last drop on the river. What a great drop with a great options to run it. Paul stepped up and decided to hammer out the seam on the right line. He had something against seams that day because I think he ran everyone of them on the river. He piced it clean and banked off the pillow at the bottom to avoid both holes in the runout....I decided to peel left into the eddy and then blast down the slide throught the hole at the bottom...Got a little too close to the wall and scrubbed some speed and almost god sucked in the hole at the bottom of the slide but didn't. Eddied out above the bottome hole and then surfed over to river right to finish out the run. Well worth the drive over and was a great day to be on the river.

- Ryan

