

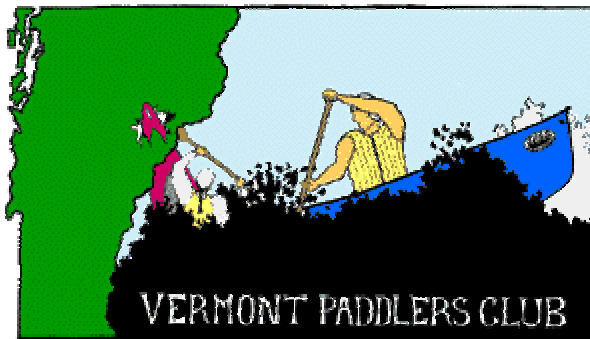
# Bow and Stern



**Newsletter of the Vermont Paddlers Club  
in Partnership with the American Canoe Association**

Volume XXXV No. 1

March 15, 2009



Go with the flow...

VPC c/o Rich Larsen  
11 Discovery Road  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

## From the President

Fellow paddlers,

The thing that I love about paddling is that it gives us the chance to connect with so many parts of our world. We spend time in the beautiful outdoors enjoying scenery, observing wildlife and being part of our environment in all kinds of weather. It also gives us a chance to connect with other people and learn about ourselves.

The spring paddling season is upon us and we have a great line up of trips ranging from novice to expert. There are the regular rivers, which are a must for every paddling season with a few new opportunities thrown in. Planning is underway for the Novice and Class II Whitewater Clinics, and this year promises to be another great success.

As we head into the paddling season we could all use a reminder to be safe in our paddling. Make sure your equipment is in good shape and that you have all you need. Be sure to scout what you can't see or are unsure of, remembering that rapids can change dramatically at different water levels. Use good judgment in your own abilities and help your paddling partners make good choices.

This fall we will be electing new club officers. While we have an active group in the club leadership there is always room for a fresh look. There is an immediate need for someone who would be willing to edit the June edition of the Bow and Stern. If you are interested in helping please contact me or any of the other VPC Board members.

I look forward to talking and paddling with many of you this year. I hope you all have a safe and active paddling season.

See you on the river,  
Paul Carlile

### West River Outlook – Seen Better Days

Currently the Army Core of Engineers (ACoE) has closed the link on their web page for future releases. This is a sure sign that there will not be a scheduled release that is usable for paddlers in conjunction with the State park access. So in short the spring West Fest is effectively “game over” for 2009.

The Friends of the West River (FOWR) and American Whitewater (AW) have been working as a team on this, and are planning another conference call hopefully with ACoE. To jump start the effort FOWR's recommendation is an all out media blitz highlighting the negative economic impact on the region caused by canceling the release. AW is doing a decent job as moderator between the user groups and ACoE, but from FOWR's perspective there is a need for a “bigger hammer” at the table to talk about late May/early June releases – a time of year when local snowmelt creeks are typically starting to dry up. Without support and a strong voice from the paddling community the fall 2009 release will also become a thing of the past, thus marking the first year in the history of the West River recreational releases from Ball Mountain Dam that there would not be a single scheduled recreational release. For further information on what the FOWR is doing to protect this paddling resource (and to find out how you can speak out) please visit their website - <http://friendsofthewestriver.org/wb/>

It would be a travesty to lose Vermont's only scheduled recreation release river. If there was a time for the VPC to band together and support something...this is it!

- Ryan McCall

## Treasurer's Report – Calendar Year 2008

INCOME AND EXPENSES	YEAR 2005	YEAR 2006	YEAR 2007	YEAR 2008
<b>INITIAL BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,428.95</b>	<b>\$1,324.18</b>	<b>\$2,012.38</b>	<b>\$2321.26</b>
DUES	\$1,056.00	\$1,253.00	\$1009.00	\$1230.00
EVENTS SPONSORSHIP	(\$100.00)	(\$200.00)	(\$200.00)	(\$200.00)
SCHOLARSHIPS	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$200.00)	(\$100.00)
WEBSITE	(\$327.95)	(\$300.00)	(\$327.95)	(\$360.00)
INTEREST / BANK FEES	(\$47.75)	(\$36.25)	(\$28.95)	(\$35.10)
MEETINGS / MAILINGS	(\$815.76)	(\$847.39)	(\$276.63)	(\$99.05)
ROLLING SESSIONS	(\$150.00)	\$275.67	\$204.39	\$41.17
SAFETY GEAR	(\$103.52)	(\$35.06)	(\$142.98)	\$0.00
RESCUE CLINIC	\$180.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NOVICE CLINIC	\$534.21	\$678.00	\$255.00	\$540.00
CLASS 2 CLINIC	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$17.00	(\$48.17)
T-SHIRTS	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$220.00)
BANNER	\$0.00	(\$180.20)	\$0.00	\$0.00
NET ACA COST	(\$110.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$85.00)
BROCHURES	\$0.00	(\$44.57)	\$0.00	\$0.00
LITTLE RIVER WEIR FUND	(\$250.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
WHITEWATER FUND (book sale)				\$52.00
<b>FINAL BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,324.18</b>	<b>\$2,012.38</b>	<b>\$2,321.26</b>	<b>\$3037.11</b>

- We do not have financial problems. I view our year-end need as \$1500 to avoid cash flow issues. Memberships, member retention, and a robust set of activities should be the focus – not finances.
- We have T-shirts for sale – see the website!
- The Little River Fund is closed - we are not currently involved with any such weir removal activity.
- There is a Special Projects (Whitewater) fund of \$552, with \$500 from the general treasury and \$52 as above.

Richard Larsen – January 13, 2009

< For Sale: Wavesport EZ \$400 OBO >  
 For sale: Wavesport EZ \$400 OBO  
 802-492-3406 Becki Bates

< For Sale: Transformer T3 - \$300 OBO >  
 For sale: Wavesport Transformer T3 - \$300  
 OBO  
 Jon ClaireHenniker NH  
 603-494-3190

< For Sale: Mad River Explorer >  
 For Sale: Mad River Explorer CanoeRoyalex, red.  
 Excellent wood work, yoke, bang plates, caned seats, end caps.  
 Great for camping, family outings, whitewater or flatwater. 16 ft long, 37 inches wide. 14 inches deep. \$990.00 Richard Allen

< ADDITIONAL 'For Sale' Listings.>  
 See the recently added items on the 'For Sale/Wanted' message board!

## Instructional Clinics for 2009

The Vermont Paddlers Club will be hosting its annual series of instructional whitewater canoe and kayak clinics this June. The Novice Clinic will be held the first weekend of June (June 6-7) and no prior paddling experience is necessary! We will begin with a morning of flatwater training. Students will learn about the basic equipment used in whitewater paddling and get comfortable with the essential strokes used to maneuver through the water. Additionally, students will practice the proper technique for exiting the boat in the event of a capsize. Known as the "Wet Exit", this skill often comes in very handy later in the afternoon and the following day when the class moves to the river. The remainder of the Novice Clinic will focus on boat control in moving water. We will split up into small groups and navigate class I-II rapids on the mighty Winooski River. Students will begin to recognize river features such as eddies and waves and learn to successfully navigate themselves from one feature to the next.

The VPC's Class II Clinic will be held the final weekend of June (June 27-28). Graduates of our Novice Clinic are encouraged to participate as well any paddler looking to further develop their class II whitewater skills. Instruction will focus on progressing the students' confidence so that they feel comfortable joining a class II river running trip. We will work on entering and exiting eddies, ferrying and surfing. The finer details scouting rapids and reading water will be practiced and we will impart a sense of river etiquette upon the students.

NOVICE CLINIC – June 6-7, 2009 - \$75 – Waterbury Reservoir, VT – Lunch is provided.

CLASS II CLINIC – June 27-28, 2009 - \$25 – Location TBD – Camping is likely.

\*The VPC works hard to provide all the necessary gear to students (boat, paddle, PFD, etc.) but cannot guarantee availability. If you have your own kayak or canoe gear, please bring it. Also, you will be getting wet! Be sure to dress appropriately and have a spare set of dry clothing available. Advanced registration is required. Please go to [www.vtpaddlers.net](http://www.vtpaddlers.net) or contact Brent Osborne - [bosborne@uvm.edu](mailto:bosborne@uvm.edu) - for additional information. SYOTR!



2008



2007

REEL Paddling Film Festival – April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

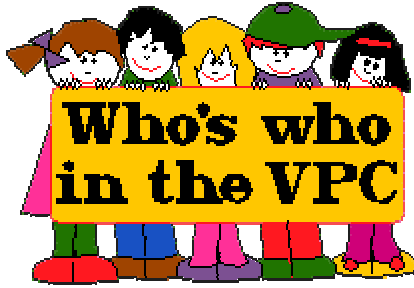


**Saturday, April 4, 2009**  
**8:00 – 10:30 PM**  
**(doors at 7:30)**

Sponsors:	<b>Vermont Paddlers Club St. Michael's College Wilderness Program</b>	<a href="http://www.vtpaddlers.net">www.vtpaddlers.net</a> <a href="http://www.smcvt.edu/wilderness/">www.smcvt.edu/wilderness/</a>
Location:	<b>McCarthy Recital Hall St. Michael's College</b>	<a href="http://www.smcvt.edu/campusmap/">www.smcvt.edu/campusmap/</a>
Tickets: \$10 advance \$12 at door \$8 for students	<b>Canoe Imports Purchase at the shop, call, or purchase at the show</b>	<a href="http://www.CanoelImports.com">www.CanoelImports.com</a> 802-651-8760

The VPC is delighted to be bringing the RPF to the Burlington VT area this April! Please spread the word, help us pack the house, and put this not-to-be-missed event on your own calendar. If attendance is good, we will commit to hosting the film festival year after year!

Rapid Media's 3rd Annual Reel Paddling Film Festival World Tour brings the world's best paddling films to paddlers in Canada, the United States and around the world. The festival inspires more people to explore rivers, lakes and oceans, push physical and emotional extremes, embrace the lifestyle and appreciate the heritage of the places we paddle.



## 2008-2009

### Officers:

- President: [Paul Carlile](#) 658-6657
- Vice President: [James Poulin](#) 434-2708
- Treasurer: [Richard Larsen](#) 878-6828
- Secretary: [Ryan McCall](#) 223-5986

### Directors:

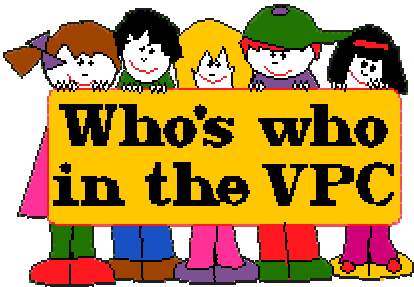
- Activities Dir: [Chris Weed](#) 863-2149
- Communication Dir: vacant
- Safety and Education Dir: [Mark Lienau](#) 822-5291
- Agent:

### Appointed/Volunteers:

- Paddling School: [Brent Osborne](#) 654-8678
- Conservation Chair: Jack Daggitt 253-2524
- Webmaster: [Tony Shaw](#) 879-1655
- Publicity Chair: vacant

### Resources:

- Website: <http://www.vtpaddlers.net>
- National Weather Service: 862-2475



## 2010-2011

### Officers:

?

### Directors:

?

### Appointed/Volunteers:

?

### Resources:

Please speak up if you are able/willing to help out in some substantive way in the years ahead...as a trip organizer, instructional clinic volunteer, director, officer, or any combination thereof.

## 2008 Instructional Clinic Reports

### Swiftwater Rescue Clinic Saturday May 10, 2008

Character: novice WW

Water Level: too low

Organizer: Mark Lienau

Participants: (K1): Brent Osborne, KC Whitely, Jim Poulin, Paul Savard, Dave Gurtman, Dan Beideck, Ryan McCall, Rich Larsen, Chris Weed, Ann Smith, Tracey Hart.

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 200 cfs; USGS Station: USGS 04285500 NORTH BRANCH WINOOSKI RIVER AT WRIGHTSVILLE, VT

The course was held at the North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier. They loaned us the facility, a classroom, a lawn for throwing ropes and a little stretch of the North Branch Winooski...Not as much current as we would have liked, but enough to get the job done.

It was really fun to teach this class to a bunch of knowledgeable whitewater enthusiasts, the information and war stories that people shared were really helpful.

The morning session was spent in the classroom for some chalk talk, and then out on the lawn for rope throwing...

We got into the water by 11, wading rescues, and swimming after lunch.

In mid afternoon, we had a tag line set up across the river, and someone noticed a pair of kayaks heading down river towards us.

We immediately pulled the rope out of the water, and watched as they floated on by. The poor guys, floating by a hypercritical group of safety conscious expert paddlers and instructors.

They had rec boats with no skirts, jeans and cotton tee shirts, no helmets and one fellow had his PFD unzipped. As he passed, he asked what we were doing, we told him and he said, "I hope we don't need your services!" Famous last words. Downstream from us there was a strainer, almost river wide, with just a few feet on river right to sneak through. Anyone reading this could get around it no problem, and would also understand the danger that it posed. They didn't.

We were talking on the bank when we heard a loud hollow whump...we all knew the sound and looked down to see one of those guys hanging onto the strainer and being pulled out of his boat.

We sprang into action, running down the bank with ropes ready. Dan was first to get there and recovered the paddle, the paddler was already on shore. Tracey, Paul and Dave went down and performed a newly learned "Live Bait Rescue" to retrieve the boat...Great job, guys!

The excitement over, we finished up with a Zip Line (tying off to a hawthorn bush, careful not to poke holes in our drysuits!) and a Z-Drum, called it a day and got out of there by 4.

Thanks to all the participants, and especially the North Branch Nature Center for the use of their facility.

- [Mark Lienau](#)

### Class II Clinic Saturday-Sunday Jun 28-29, 2008

Water Level: medium

Organizer: CJ Carline

Participants: (K1): CJ, Jim, Paul, Kristy, Brian, Debbie, Alex, Shane, John; (OC1): Alan

I was not quite prepared for the first question out of the participants of the clinic, "What is your motivation for doing this?" I gave a quick novelty answer, but it was an interesting question that I pondered over for the rest of the weekend.

Following on the heels of a very successful Novice Clinic, I already knew this was going to be a great weekend. It started with everyone rolling into camp Friday evening. We stayed at Woodford State Park in Vermont, as the parks in Massachusetts near the river were pretty solidly booked. This turned out to be a great thing as the sites are twice as large, the sites aren't right on top of each other, the grounds are cleaner, the staff is much friendlier, and there aren't so many ridiculous rules. For \$6.50/night at 3 people per site, you just can't beat it.

Saturday morning we headed to the usual paddler put-in on Fife Brook. Two of Zoar Outdoor's buses completely blocked access to the put-in road much to the dismay of a lot of private boaters, but they moved about 10 minutes later. Good thing, there were a lot of angry canoeists impatiently waiting behind us in line! Thanks to Dawn, we were able to drive all the vehicles to the take-out. The first rapid, Hangover Helper, really worked our fledgling crew over. Most of them swam at least once; some of them appeared to be there for swimming lessons as much as paddling! To their credit they worked very hard and really pushed themselves. If I had one word to describe this crew it would be "determined". That first rapid's current and eddies are very tricky for new paddlers. Yet, they kept going back for more.

We proceeded downstream through Carbis Bend and Upper Railroad without incident and quite a bit of surfing. Then along comes Lower Railroad which served up more entertainment. Some found out what a seam is the hard way (they were warned at the top). Others discovered what exactly a hole is and how quickly it can flip you when you jump in there.

Then came Pinball and everyone really enjoyed the maze of eddies, waves, and small holes. There were a few upsets, but already you could begin seeing improvement in their paddling. Attitudes were positive through the whole thing. The evening

before we had discussed the pros and cons of learning to roll too soon, and I really emphasized that swimming is very much a part of paddling and learning. The next day Kristy and Paul would help reinforce that idea.

We arrived at the Gap and I explained to all that the Class 2 Clinic ended above the Gap. We walked up to take a look at it and noticed the water was dropping fast. There was probably only 400-500 cfs in there. A couple of the novices went with the other instructors. I stayed behind with the others and set safety with a rope. I was really looking forward to a little practice but everyone made it through upright.

Exhausted from a long day we headed back to camp. A few people went into town for food while the rest stayed at camp to cook. Once we gathered back together, the excitement of the day spilled forth over the campfire.

Sunday morning the other instructors, Jim, Kristy, and Paul, headed to the Dryway for a quick run. I took the class down to Dragon's Tooth to watch. This provided a great lesson to learn! The river was mostly empty when we got there, and I was able to warn them the river was going to rise several feet. Sure enough, once the bubble arrived it took less than a minute or two for the river to pulse to full strength. Besides learning about rising rivers, they got to watch rocks form eddies, the eddies become holes, and some of the holes become waves.

Our Dryway heroes arrived and scouted from the opposite shore. After a lot of whooping and hollering back and forth off they went. This was Kristy's first Dryway attempt and I have to say she styled it. She did swim at the bottom of Dragon's Tooth and washed into the top of Labyrinth. Her would be savior, Paul, also cooled off with a short swim in Labyrinth. She was reunited with her boat and cleaned the rest of Labyrinth.

Off to Fife Brook we went again. This time, Hangover Helper had met its match! There was an immediate improvement noticeable in the way the class was paddling. Not that there weren't a couple swims, but they proved they belonged there. We didn't stay long and blasted through the rest of the rapids with hopes of making it to Pinball with lots of time to play. Unfortunately, Zoar Outdoor was running a river rescue class blocking a good 2/3 of the river in the top portion of Pinball. It was a good chance to revisit river signals as one of the Zoar instructors was signaling people to go right.

I wasn't feeling well Sunday, but by the time we got to the rapid above the Gap I started feeling better. While I would say Shane is a playboating superstar to be, Alex is going to be a creeking maniac. Alex was boofing rocks in that last rapid left and right, one time completely clearing the water. Intentional? Maybe not but he made it look that way!

So here comes the Gap and everyone decides to ante up and go for it. While bouncing down through the Gap was the highlight of their day, I think they probably overlooked the most important thing they did over the weekend. They caught the eddy right above the Gap. No one missed it! Then they all peeled out without incident. Those two things alone is a testament to how far they have come.

Jim looked graceful as ever. Kristy popped off a couple rolls on her way down. Alex, Shane, and John all repeated their runs from the day before. Paul set a great line for Debbie and Brian to follow. Debbie went off line slightly, making it all the way to the bottom hole and went deep before swimming. Having half as much experience as her classmates and considering this her first time through the Gap, it was an amazing accomplishment. Brian, who just a few months ago thought paddlers must be nuts, made it through with some fancy bracing. Me? Well, I was running sweep and was a little too entertained by the happenings downstream. I completely missed my line and hit the first hole at an odd angle. Nailed my very first Class 3 combat roll though!

"What is your motivation for doing this?" I had all the answer I needed back at the take-out. The grinning ear to ear, the laughs, the commotion, and the stares from other people wondering what the fuss was all about makes it so worth while. There is definitely something lost as we gain experience and move on to bigger and greater things. Helping new paddlers get into the sport has a very addictive quality to it and renews the experience. If you haven't tried it I highly recommend it. I hope down the line a few of these graduates from our clinics will come out to volunteer to pay it forward.

I would really enjoy receiving any feedback anyone has. I recently achieved ACA Instructor Certification and one doesn't do strive for it if they can't handle criticism. So let me have it! While we all had a great time we should strive to make it better next time. I already know we need more canoes out there! Allan was alone paddling OC-1. It would have been much more enjoyable for him if he had company.

I would really like to thank Jim, Paul, and Kristy for coming out to help with the trip. Our success can largely be credited to you. It is great for new paddlers to see different styles and get different opinions. I would like to thank Dawn for all her efforts with shuttling logistics. Last but not least, I would like to thank the participants for making it such an enjoyable weekend. Your enthusiasm made it that much better for us instructors.

[CJ Carline](#)

Apologies – Cannot seem to locate the Novice Clinic Report from 2008. It was upbeat, well attended, and a springboard for the Class II Clinic.



## Trip Reports

### [Mascoma River \(Lebanon, NH\)](#) Sunday Mar 30, 2008

Character: nov-int WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Tony Shaw

Participants: (K1): Bridie Napier, Patrick Thurman; (OC1):

Tony Shaw

Gauge Info: Painted Gauge Height: 4.10 ft. (Mascoma Lake dam); USGS Gauge Height: 3.40 ft.; USGS Flow: 375 cfs; USGS Station: Mascoma Lake Dam

As we loaded the boats for the drive home I had to chuckle when Patrick proudly announced he had finally bagged his first Vermont river. "Yeah", I said, "except for the fact that we're in New Hampshire!!".

It gives me a lot of satisfaction to introduce paddlers to rivers they've not run before. Patrick is a 2008 newcomer to Vermont, and wants to paddle as much as he can before he leaves to lead a lengthy Boundary Waters expedition with Outward Bound in Minnesota this summer. But Bridie, too, had never paddled the Mascoma, and she has lived in this area for a decade.

For my part, I've paddled and innertubed the Mascoma close to a dozen times. The USGS real-time gauge fell victim to budget shortfalls in 2004 and was decommissioned, but we've discovered the NH DES webpage that now publishes Mascoma flows. I've added the link to the [Mascoma River Gauge Correlation table](#). The leaning wooden gauge stick at the put-in on Payne Road on river right no longer correlates with the online gauge. At 400->350 cfs only 2 of the rapids exceeded class II, and the water clarity was the best I have ever seen it. We saw an equal number of anglers and snowmobilers traveling up and down the rail trail that crisscrosses the river for the entire distance (~4 miles). It was a quintessential spring day, calm but brisk (mid-40's) and not-a-single-cloud-in-the-sky sunny. The sap buckets everywhere must have been overflowing...

The below normal temperatures of the previous week kept us from running the planned Ompompanoosuc River in South Strafford (which WOULD have been Patrick's first Vermont river), but it is nice to know that the Mascoma (with its dam-controlled flow from Mascoma Lake just above) can provide a fun alternative when everything in Vermont at the end of March is still just trickling.

There were no unscheduled fish counts, and the sun (and layers) kept everyone toasty.

- [Tony Shaw](#)

### [Upper Mad](#) Wednesday Apr 2, 2008

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Ryan McCall

Participants: (K1): Brent, Grayson, Jim, Dave, Tyler and Ryan

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 1100 cfs; USGS Station: Mad River

Not a bad turnout for an April 2nd evening paddle in sub32 degrees....

We all met at the Lower Mad take out at 5:30 and the decision was quickly made that the Lower Mad was still pumping pretty good for most of us looking to just get on the river to knock some rust off the skills for the start of the season. So we high-tailed it down 100 to Warren to get a late run on the Upper Mad from the lower bridge in Warren through the rapid on Butternut Road.

After a quick email from one of the folks that was to join us stating that he got "stuffed" in the rapid just before the Warren bridge and was not going to join us, we all decided to NOT start off with a bang and put in right below this rapid. The following bit of water is a nice wake up rapid that is short and sweet but splashes that sub 35 degree water on your face..."WAKEUP you are now on the river". The rapid below that is a fun playful hole and is moderately sticky. A few of the fellas played in the hole and one of them thought that this was a prime spot to pull his best AQUAMAN impression. It would be the only swim of the evening and thank goodness he was wearing a dry suit!!!! Below this rapid there are several more class II+ rapids at the level we were on the river at. Another sticky hole had Grayson playing it up and surfing around in it. And the smallish ledges along the way let everyone pick their own lines. Once we passed the Sugarbush Ponds you come up on Punch Bowl. It is an easy class III drop on the left and a IV slide into a very retentive hole on the right. Not to many people make it out of the right side upright and a good number of the ones that flip swim out of that hole. Long story short we all ran the left side of Punchbowl with varying lines, styles and attempts at boofs. The following rapid is a simple ledge that has good outflow and great eddy lines. At this point it was getting dark really fast and no one was game for play with ice starting to form on paddles, skirts and pfd's. This was followed by a river wide strainer (the beavers have been very busy along the Upper Mad this early spring) which we could skirt to the right. This brings you to the last rapid of the Upper Mad....Butternut! Butternut is a fun rapid that has two parts to it. The first is a substantial river wide ledge that runs out into a squirrely pool and then the rest of it is a right to left move as the river banks off of a rock wall, over several boulders and small ledges - then squeezes through two large boulders in a space of about 6 feet wide. It makes for a fun and interesting rapid that can be pointed at from a number of different ways but it always plays out right to left. Everyone made it though unscathed and upright.

It was a good run – the levels were decent...A little more flow would have been nice but what we had was sufficient. A turnout of 6 paddlers on a late in the day cold April paddle was admirable. Everyone was happy to be getting the season underway and to be back in their boats. The Upper Mad Valley put on a beautiful showing with blue skies and a pretty sunset behind the Greens. We timed the run just about perfect...as I was sitting in the eddy below Butternut I couldn't make out details on folks faces as they popped through the rapid – so I'd say we eked out every bit of available light for our season

opener on the Mad.

It's nice to be back on the water.....

- [Ryan](#)

[Lower New Haven](#) Saturday Apr 5, 2008

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Jamie Dolan

Participants: (K1): Shawn Enterline, Chris Weed, Dave Hurlley, Jamie Dolan; (OC1): Eric Bishop, Tony Shaw; (OC2): Anya Schwartz & Guen Gifford

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 780 cfs; USGS Station: NEW HAVEN RIVER @ BROOKSVILLE, NR MIDDLEBURY, VT

Though the water was low(ish) the boaters were willing. As usual, the start is an attention getter. The cold water face splashes give better adrenaline than coffee. After boat scouting for wood on the second rapid (there was none) we continued on to where the New Haven meets Baldwin Creek. Just above the first bridge one of the kayakers developed a split on the bottom of his boat. Though an on river repair was effected he ended pulling out. Duct tape really doesn't keep out the water too well. Things continued uneventfully as we all made it under the second iron bridge just above the mill. After road scouting, Anya lead Tony down in the tandem very smoothly. All boaters made it down with a smile. Gwen and Anya were having a great day but got caught up in conversation and found their boat full of water just above the last rapid. They said the water wasn't too cold. After getting their boat back to shore they continued on smiling, if not a bit cooler. All in all, a very good time.

- [Jamie Dolan](#)

[Lower Lamoille](#) Sunday Apr 6, 2008

Character: nov-int WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Richard Larsen

Participants: (K1): Dan Beideck, Dan Ott, Brent Osborne, Gregg Puchar, Dave Hathaway, Jamie Dolan; (OC1): Mike Smorgens, Jack Daggitt, Len Carpenter, Richard Larsen

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 5.80 ft.; USGS Flow: 3100 cfs; USGS Station: East Georgia

The river gods decided to smile on us this day, and everything was just about perfect. The day was sunny, and relatively warm, up into the 50s. The water level was 'just right' for a novice / intermediate trip, at 3100 cfs, right near the average flow for this date. The power company (or someone else) had significantly improved the access on the north side below the Fairfax dam, such that even passenger cars could cruise down to river level. We met at the take out, consolidated cars, and headed to the put-in for a start at 1 PM. We had a nice float through the flatter sections, with no substantial headwind. We had a least one first-time-on-a-river boater, but with Dan Beideck helping him out he did fine. No one swam, which was good, given that the water was extremely cold. At the main rapids, we ran into a couple of other VPC folks, including James Raboin, who paddled a ways down the

river with us. After a short stop at the island, a few folks heading down quickly to get in some time on 'Smiley', which had a well-formed hydraulic. We continued down through five chutes, and were off the river about 3:45. The trip did provide a study in paddling demographics. Without getting into detailed numbers, it is safe to say that the average age of the open boaters was 'substantially greater' than that of the kayakers - very substantially - and that each open boater was probably older than any of the kayakers. As we know, there are indications that the open-boat community is going the way of the dinosaurs!

- [Richard Larsen](#)

[Upper Mad River](#) Wednesday Apr 9, 2008

Character: novice WW

Water Level: medium high

Organizer: Tony Shaw

Participants: (K1): Jamie Dolan, Woody Dugan, Jim Fecteau, Jack Lee, Dave Packie, Gregg Puchar; (OC1): Eric Bishop, Tony Shaw

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 4.75 ft.; USGS Flow: 1400 cfs; USGS Station: Moretown Gorge

The flow at Moretown Gorge more than doubled this day, from 1000cfs early to over 2000cfs when it crested around midnight, making for a lively fluid flow on our late day run from Warren to Waitsfield. 8 people showed up for the fun. We spent 2 hours on the water, ending in the waning light of day around 7:45pm, with plenty of time to surf where it was irresistible, and time for a quick scout of the two toughest drops (Punchbowl and Butternut). A throng of adoring women interrupted their book group (or was it a wine tasting?) to come out on their back deck to encourage us above Butternut, and we LOVE to perform!

Although the afternoon temperature in the valley exceeded 60 degrees for the first time in 2008, this point may have been lost on those who participated in the "swim-fest" from Punchbowl (where everyone ran river left) to the take-out. The "repeat offenders" were chilled by the end, but OK. Thank goodness for neoprene and Gore-Tex! Still plenty of snow up there in the woods, yet to melt...

- [Tony Shaw](#)

[Patterson Brook - padded out.](#) Wednesday Apr 23, 2008

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: medium high

Organizer: Ryan McCall

Participants: (K1): Woody, Jim, Karl, Dave, Ryan

When its up its up.

The group started 6 strong at the Warren General Store...After 5 creek boats showed up the playboater headed back north to an impromptu Lower Mad trip. Now down to 5 we headed south over Granville Gulf to the headwaters of the White where the confluence of Patterson Brook joins and boaters hop in the creek. The level was probably 4 inches over the gauge rock and rising as everything seems to do this time of year with

snow still melting off. This made for a very lubed up run, padding out the standard slalom run through the boulders down the creek. For what it padded out though, it also generated several sticky holes that really needed to be avoided. There are three significant rapids on the creek at lower levels but at this level two of them became more flushy and the other one just got faster. Eddies were abundant to catch your breath.

It was an amazing night to be on the run and another group was also enjoying the higher than usual flows on the creek. With three swims and gear retrieval our group got in only one lap, but what a fun lap it was. All ended up safe and sound reunited with gear smiling none the less at the take out.

As I have said before - when there is a chance that Patterson is up and running - go get some of it...What a gem in the heart of the Green Mountains

- [Ryan](#)

#### [Warner River](#) Sunday May 4, 2008

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Dave Packie

Participants: (K1): Paul Savard, Ryan McCall, Dave Packie

Gauge Info: Painted Gauge Height: 2.60 ft. (Under the first bridge); USGS Flow: 750 cfs; USGS Station: Warner River

Headed over to the Warner River, Just outside of Warner NH for a Sunday afternoon paddle. It holds water really well, and most things around here were low. I had fond memories of this river, but hadn't run it for a couple years. I remembered it being about an hour from Montpelier...it ended up being closer to 2. I remembered the run being a 4...it's more of a 3. I remembered the run being long and busy. It's short...but it did have some fun stuff on it. It's a pretty little stream that would be a nice warm up for some of the harder runs in the area. There were no mishaps and we got 2 laps in, On the last lap we ran down to the final rapid that was a fun breeched dam...about 4 miles downstream from the last significant White Water...it was alot of flat water, but good company. The run of choice would be from Melvin Mills road down to the first take out, on a dirt road where the flat water obviously starts, proly a mile and a half. It would be a great first creek for someone, and is close to the Sugar, which is a step easier.

- [Dave Packie](#)

#### [Memorial Weekend in Maine \(Dead River\)](#) Saturday-

Sunday May 24-25, 2008

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Dave Stanley

Participants: (K1): Frank Wells, Dan Beideck; (C1): Dave Stanley (Sat); (Inflatable): Dave Stanley & Ann Smith (Sun)

GRATEFUL FOR THE DEAD

American Whitewater describes the Dead as follows, "There is simply too many features and rapids to describe." Amen!

The release Saturday was 2400 cfs. It was a bit overcast and the black flies were out in force, but we were soon on the river and happy. Early in the day we were greeted by a bald eagle that seemed to traveling along with us for a stretch. I kept trying to get the camera out to snap a photo, but my best opportunities were either when the camera was away or I was running something that needed my attention. So, no photo to show for it. On we paddled for a total of 16 miles. There are breaks between the rapids, which sometimes are quite lengthy themselves. The in-between stuff was always moving water and it never seemed a burden to get to the next rapid. In fact, I'm not sure there's ever a time until the very end when there's not a rapid within sight. It's mile after mile after mile of river runnin' bliss!

Once off the water, the black flies were back to welcome us. Those of us that forgot our netting, spent \$3 for some headgear to keep them at bay. A 6-pack of "black fly beer" also helped us cope. We discovered the Kennebec was (re)releasing from 4-9 pm as we headed back to camp. It was decided to postpone dinner a bit and hike out to take a look at magic falls. Quite nice, but it would have to wait for another trip. The Dead was releasing 5500 cfs on Sunday and everyone was very eager to go again with the additional water.

Ann joined us for Sunday's release and she and Dave 'shredded the Dead'. Frank and I spent another day in our kayaks. The extra water added to the excitement and moved things along at a brisker pace. Dave described the difference as follows. "5500 cfs was a nice intermediate, medium level, a very busy, continuous low 4, have to be able to 'scramble to avoid the pourovers' and the 2400 cfs was technical, not pushy low 3." All I know is that today was even more fun than Saturday!

Dave and Frank headed home after the paddle Sunday. Ann and I found an Inn overlooking the Kennebec just downstream of where the Dead joins it. We enjoyed the sun, view and a peaceful dinner before returning to camp. The next day we did a short hike to see an impressive 80 foot waterfall on the Moxie, a nearby creek run. We took the scenic route home and seemed to encounter a moose every few miles for one stretch. All in all, a great trip! If you're looking for playboating or creeking, you'll probably find the Dead lacking. But if you like pure river running with lots and lots of rapids, the Dead is a real gem!

- [Dan Beideck](#)

#### [Juniper Island Paddle](#) Saturday Jul 12, 2008

Character: flatwater

Water Level: medium

Organizer: David Hathaway

Participants: (K1): David Hathaway, Roger Carroll

After a last minute cancellation from a third prospective participant, Roger and David met at the Shelburne Bay boat launch a little before 10:30 AM. David was paddling

his Wilderness Systems Tempest 170 kayak and Roger was paddling his home made (from kit) wooden / fiberglass kayak. The day was sunny, warm, and the water was extremely calm, with virtually no waves except for the occasional power boat wake. We went up Shelburne Bay, around Shelburne Point, and reached the west end of Juniper Island after about 1.5 hour. We then continued around the island and paddled back. After getting back to the boat launch, we wandered up the La Platte River a ways (very weedy), then went back to the boat launch and ended the trip at about 2 PM. This trip was actually a GMC (Green Mountain Club) trip cross-posted to the VPC.

- [David Hathaway](#)

#### [White R. to West Hartford](#) Saturday Aug 9, 2008

Character: novice WW

Water Level: medium high

Organizers: Tony and Emily Shaw

Participants: (K1): David Hathaway, Chris Weed; (OC2): Tony and Emily Shaw

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 7.20 ft.; USGS Flow: 4400 cfs; USGS Station: W. Hartford

On account of Thursday's devastating flash floods in the upper reaches of the White and Middlebury Rivers near Hancock, the White through Sharon and West Hartford remained at a record high level (for the date), when we met Saturday to paddle it under a warm sunny sky. It dropped from 4400 cfs to 3600 cfs as the day progressed, but the change was barely noticeable, as all the short class II rapids had numerous routes to choose from and there were multiple easy surfing waves at each of the river-wide ledges that become more numerous as you near the take-out. The canoe took on a little water in a few of the bigger waves, but Emily in the stern managed to keep us square enough to stay upright. It took 2 1/2 hours to do the 7 mile trip, with a short lunch stop below the breached dam in Sharon (and with the help of a gentle tailwind).

- [Tony Shaw](#)

#### [Midnight Safari on Little Averill Lake](#) Thursday Sep 25, 2008

Character: flatwater

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Mark Lienau

Participants: (OC1): Mark Lienau

Last night I took my boat for a ride up on Little Averill Lake in the Northeast Kingdom. I live about three miles from the boat launch, in fact, my house is the closest year round residence to it. I paddle up there 3-4 times a week, usually in the evening. Last night I got there around 8:00. The surface was glass as I set out, and as I paddled across the Milky Way was my only light source, shining brightly against the velvet sky. Brousseau Mountain rose to the west, and as I approached the other side, Sable Mountain blotted out some stars to the east. My circuit around this lake is almost always the same. I paddle straight out across the lake from the boat launch to a small bay on the south side with a rock that looks like Jabba the Hutt. Behind the rock is a small marsh. We call

this "Hutt Cove," and from there I paddle counter clockwise to the southeast corner, then along the shore to my favorite swimming hole, "Pyramid Rock." From there, I shoot out to "Pete's Point," and then back to the boat launch.

I paddled hard and fast across the lake, and I coasted into Hutt Cove quietly, leaning into a skid in front of Jabba Rock. I was about to open a beverage that I had brought, when I heard a grunt at the edge of the woods on the other side of the marsh. The grunt was followed by a loud splashing, and I knew immediately it was a moose splashing around.

Luckily, I had not popped open my container! This is the rut, a time when the bulls act unpredictably. One definitely wants to keep one's distance this time of year. It was when I remembered this that I heard him charging me.

I turned my boat and pulled hard for deep water. I know he can swim faster than me, but at least in deep water only his head would be above water!

I stopped about fifty feet out and I turned to listen. He was still in the marsh, I could hear him grunting and stomping and splashing... Then I realized that I was hearing two of them! Battling it out for the cows that I soon heard bleating over to my left. The titans pushed and shook each other for ten minutes or so, back and forth until one scrambled into the woods.

That was when I remembered that I had a flashlight with me.

I pulled it out, but they were gone, one chasing the other up the hill and into the woods. I never even saw them. Shaken, but not stirred, I continued on my way around the southeast corner of the lake. As I approached Pyramid Rock, I heard a loon across the lake. It was answered by another about a hundred yards in front of me. And that one was answered by about 25 geese (I thought) sitting in a mob between me and Pyramid Rock. They drifted out as they honked, effectively blocking me into the little bay.

I slowly and quietly paddled along, they continued to honk, then they stopped. I stopped paddling and the only sound I made was breathing. But I was drifting closer into the mob, and then, after about two minutes of silence, they broke.

There had to be a hundred of them, I whipped out my light again to keep them from flying into me... I never saw them but I sure did hear them, wings flapping, water splashing and frantic honks.

They flew across the lake, over past Pete's Point, and they split into two groups, one landing over by the Nature Conservancy Land, the other flying into the outlet and circling, gaining altitude for their departure.

Five minutes later, depart they did leaving me looking up (with my mouth closed), still listening to the racket made by their cohorts left behind.

As I headed to the boat launch, I could hear the flock getting smaller as they left by groups of a few up to a dozen or more.

And then the owls started.

That was one of the coolest time I've ever had not seeing any wildlife.

- [Mark Lienau](#)

Ed: More Trip Reports can be found on the VPC website!

TRIPS /EVENTS LIST (continued on the next page...)

MARCH / APRIL 2009						
ACA SANCTIONED	WHEN		PLANNED EVENT	CONTACT	PHONE	EXPECT
Y	Sat	Mar 21st	<a href="#">UVM Pool Session</a> 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<a href="#">Chris Weed</a>	863-2149	pool
Y	Sat	Mar 28th	<a href="#">UVM Pool Session</a> 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	<a href="#">Chris Weed</a>	863-2149	pool
	Wed	Apr 1st	<b>Mad River (Upper)</b>	<a href="#">Tony Shaw</a>	658-6657	nov-int WW
	Sat	Apr 4th	<b>Huntington River (above gorge)</b>	<a href="#">Jamie Dolan</a>	453-4658	nov WW
	Sat	Apr 4th doors: 7:30pm show: 8pm	<a href="#">REEL PADDLING FILM FESTIVAL</a> McCarthy Recital Hall, St. Michael's College, Colchester VT	<a href="#">Chris Weed</a>	802-264-3141	offwater
	Sun	Apr 5th	<b>North Branch Winooski and/or Tribs.</b>	<a href="#">Ryan McCall</a>	223-5986	adv WW
Y	Sun	Apr 5th	<b>White River (Stockbridge)</b>	<a href="#">Craig Carline</a>	802-236-7459	nov-int WW
	Wed	Apr 8th	<b>Lamoille River (Lower)</b>	<a href="#">Kristy Hart</a>	999-8188	nov-int WW
Y	Sat	Apr 11th	<b>Lamoille River (Lower)</b>	<a href="#">Richard Larsen</a>	878-6828	nov-int WW
	Sun	Apr 12th	<b>Stoney Brook</b>	<a href="#">Ryan McCall</a>	223-5986	adv WW
	Wed	Apr 15th	<b>New Haven River (Lower)</b>	<a href="#">Paul Carlile</a>	658-6657	int WW
Y	Sun	Apr 19th	<b>White River (Stockbridge)</b>	<a href="#">Craig Carline</a>	802-236-7459	nov-int WW
	Sun	Apr 19th	<b>Joe's Brook</b>	<a href="#">Tony Shaw</a>	802-879-1655	adv WW
	Tue	Apr 21st	<b>Patterson Brook</b>	<a href="#">Ryan McCall</a>	223-5986	adv WW
	Wed	Apr 22nd	<b>Mad River (Lower)</b>	<a href="#">Paul Savard</a>	476-6873	int WW
	Sat	Apr 25th	<b>** LEADER'S CHOICE **</b>	<a href="#">James Poulin</a>	434-2708	int WW
	Sun	Apr 26th	<b>Upper Lamoille (Hardwick)</b>	<a href="#">Brent Osborne</a>	654-8678	int WW
	Wed	Apr 29th	<b>Lamoille River (Lower)</b>	<a href="#">David Gurtman</a>	503-936-0014	nov-int WW

WW = whitewater // FW = flatwater // VT area code: 802  
 nov = max Class II, int = max Class III, adv = max Class IV, exp = Class IV+



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 - EVENTS LIST SUBJECT TO CHANGE SEE WEBSITE: [vtpaddlers.net/paddle/trips/](http://vtpaddlers.net/paddle/trips/)

- Trips/events with a "Y" at left are American Canoe Association sanctioned events, which means we must charge an ACA event fee if you are not an ACA member.
- Contact the trip organizer for information about each trip.
- Please bring adult and/or minor waivers (signed by an adult) to your first trip of 2009.
- Plans for impromptu trips can be relayed thru the trip organizer or online.
- Car-pooling on long (and short) trips is encouraged!

**TRIPS / EVENTS LIST (continued)**

<b>MAY / JUNE 2009</b>						
<b>ACA SANCTIONED</b>	<b>WHEN</b>		<b>PLANNED EVENT</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EXPECT</b>
	Sat	May 2nd	North Branch Lamoille	<a href="#">David Gurtman</a>	503-936-0014	adv WW
	Wed	May 6th	New Haven River (Lower)	<a href="#">James Poulin</a>	434-2708	int WW
	Sat	May 9th	Hudson Gorge	<a href="#">Rod Wentworth</a>	498-3896	adv WW
Y	Sat	May 9th	Hudson River (Lower)	<a href="#">Richard Larsen</a>	878-6828	int WW
	Sun	May 10th	Gihon River	<a href="#">Ryan McCall</a>	223-5986	adv WW
Y	Sun	May 10th	White River (Stockbridge)	<a href="#">Craig Carline</a>	802-236-7459	nov WW
	Wed	May 13th	Mad River (Lower)	<a href="#">Paul Savard</a>	476-6873	int WW
	Sat	May 16th	Wells River	<a href="#">Paul Savard</a>	476-6873	adv WW
	Sun	May 17th	Hudson Gorge	<a href="#">Dave Stanley</a>	849-2949	int-adv WW
	Wed	May 20th	Lamoille River (Lower)	<a href="#">Chris Weed</a>	863-2149	nov-int WW
Y	Sun	May 24th	White River (Stockbridge)	<a href="#">Craig Carline</a>	802-236-7459	nov WW
	Wed	May 27th	New Haven River (Lower)	<a href="#">Kristy Hart</a>	999-8188	int WW
	Sat	May 30th	Hudson Gorge	<a href="#">Eric Bishop</a>	899-1865	int-adv WW
	Sun	May 31st	<b>** LEADER'S CHOICE **</b>	<a href="#">Paul Carlile</a>	658-6657	int WW
Y	Sat-Sun	Jun 6th-7th	<b>NOVICE CLINIC</b>	<a href="#">Brent Osborne</a>	654-8678	nov WW
	Sun	Jun 14th	Hartland Rapid (Conn. River)	<a href="#">James Poulin</a>	434-2708	int WW
				<a href="#">w/ Kristy Hart</a>	999-8188	
	Sun	Jun 21st	<b>** LEADER'S CHOICE **</b>	<a href="#">Eric Bishop</a>	899-1865	nov WW
Y	Sat-Sun	Jun 27th-28th	<b>CLASS II CLINIC</b>	<a href="#">Brent Osborne</a>	654-8678	nov WW
	Sat	Jul 18th	Hudson Gorge	<a href="#">James Poulin</a>	434-2708	int-adv WW
				<a href="#">w/ Kristy Hart</a>	999-8188	

WW = whitewater // FW = flatwater // VT area code: 802  
 nov = max Class II, int = max Class III, adv = max Class IV, exp = Class IV+

**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.