

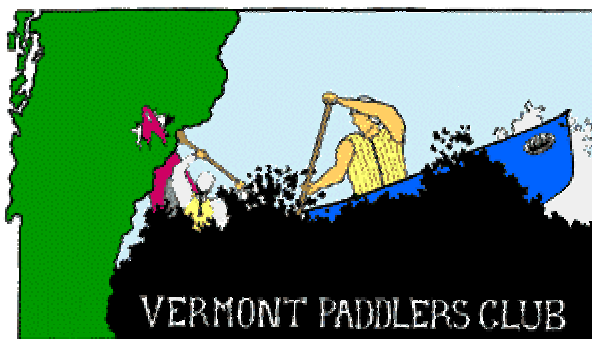
Bow and Stern



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

Volume XXXVI No. 2

August 8, 2010



Go with the flow...

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

Fellow paddlers,

It's been a bit dry this summer for my tastes but hopefully a lot of you have gotten out paddling the rivers that have been flowing and taking in some quiet water as well. We had a great spring schedule with several new trip leaders and some exciting paddling opportunities. The REEL Paddling Film Festival was a success in its second year and we expect to continue that in the future. We had a large group of enthusiastic students at the Novice clinic with a lot of follow up paddling enjoyed by many of them. Special thanks to Craig Carline for stepping in at the last minute to lead that clinic.

There was a special opportunity this spring to help the Vermont Rivers Conservancy secure an official permanent river access on the Winooski River in Middlesex, and the VPC made a sizeable donation. The parcel is below the confluence of the Mad River, and will become the new takeout for the Lower Mad run. Make sure to read about the details below.

As we finish up the summer and head into the fall look for ways to connect with other paddlers and share your passion. Have a great summer and enjoy whatever paddling you like to do. Take advantage of the message board and share your plans and experiences with your friends at VPC.

See you on the water,
Paul Carlile – President, VPC



Who's Who in the VPC



Directors:

- Activities Dir: [Chris Weed](#) 863-2149
- Communication Dir: [A J Seibel](#) 274-3920
- Safety and Education Dir: [Mark Lienau](#) 822-5291
- Agent:

Appointed/Volunteers:

- Paddling School: [Mark Lienau](#) 822-5291
- Conservation Chair: [Ryan McCall](#) 223-5986
- Webmaster: [Tony Shaw](#) 879-1655
- Publicity Chair: open

Resources:

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

Officers:

- President: [Paul Carlile](#) 658-6657
- Vice President: [Brock Richardson](#) 899-5563
- Treasurer: [Richard Larsen](#) 878-6828
- Secretary: [Ryan McCall](#) 223-5986

Around Vermont in 30 Rivers

By Tony Shaw

Congratulations to Ryan McCall on his recent entries in the 30 Rivers promotion! Though there's still a few to fill in to officially have paddled in all 14 counties, it's a great reminder to anyone interested that it can be done, and it will be fun! To read up on the rules and to start entering your 30 rivers, log on to the link below!

For those who've missed it, the 30 Rivers promotion has gotten some publicity over the past year, being written up by Marty Basch for the Caledonian-Record and also by Phyllis Newbeck for the Burlington Free Press. The point of 30 Rivers is to encourage folks to try new places to paddle, seeing more of our lovely state in the process. At the same time, by keeping a record of your exploits on the VPC website, you become a resource (and model) for other paddlers who may some day want to follow in your footsteps.

Get started today: <http://vtpaddlers.net/paddle/30rivers/>

Here is the link to Marty Basch's story:

<http://caledonianrecord.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=2&ArticleID=39645&TM=65503.85>

Didymo for Idiots – (reprinted from July 2009)

By Ryan McCall

What precautions should everyone take to avoid spreading Didymo?

As recreational or professional users of Vermont's aquatic resources, we all have the potential to spread aquatic invasive species and fish and wildlife pathogens from stream to stream and watershed to watershed. Responsible stewards of our state waters take precautions to minimize the spread of these threats.

Follow these 'Best Practices' and Disinfection Procedures to minimize the spread of aquatic invasive species and fish and wildlife pathogens. This approach is modeled after New Zealand's widely-used 'Check, Clean, Dry' strategy. While designed to address the spread of Didymo, these practices will help to minimize the spread of other aquatic invasive species and fish and wildlife pathogens as well.

BEST PRACTICES for minimizing the spread of Didymo, other aquatic invasive species, and fish and wildlife pathogens while using Vermont's waters:

- Disinfect your gear and boat before traveling between different bodies of water or watersheds (see below).
- If you move around to boat construct and use a simple, portable disinfection kit.
- When possible boat in a single waterbody in a single day, rather than traveling between multiple watersheds without appropriate precautions.
- Visually inspect your boat, gear and equipment before entering and leaving the water. Remove all plants, plant fragments, animals, mud or other debris and discard in the trash.
- Always remove drain plug and drain any water prior to leaving boat loading/unloading area. Don't move water between waterbodies.

How can I properly disinfect my recreational equipment?

DISINFECTION PROCEDURES – Disinfect prior to moving to another waterbody, watershed, or upstream site

There are a number of disinfection techniques that will kill most aquatic invasive species and fish and wildlife pathogens, including Didymo. Solutions of bleach, saltwater, various household cleaners with quaternary ammonia (benzalkonium) or dishwashing detergent products are suggested as they provide the best combination of availability, cost AND effectiveness against Didymo as well as other aquatic invasive species and fish and wildlife pathogens, such as whirling disease. Choose the appropriate agent based on the actual items requiring disinfection (i.e. bleach solutions will destroy some items). It is recommended that all disinfected equipment be rinsed on dry land, away from state waters. It is preferable to drain used solutions into treated wastewater (e.g. pour down a sink drain).

Non-absorbent items (boats, canoes, rubber waders, 'hard-sided' objects)

- **Dishwashing Detergent:** soak and scrub for at least one minute in 5% solution (add 6.5oz of detergent with water to make one gallon). 'Green' products are less effective and not recommended for disinfecting.
- **Saltwater:** Soak for 20 minutes in a 5% saltwater solution (2/3 cup per gallon or water)
- **Bleach:** soak or spray all surfaces for at least one minute in 2% household bleach (2.5oz with water added to make one gallon). Bleach solutions must be replaced daily to remain effective.
- **Quaternary Ammonium:** This can be found in common household cleaners and listed as benzalkonium on the label. It has been found that this is less harsh on neoprene items and doesn't become ineffective such as bleach solutions. If using this for disinfection, follow the instruction on the label, especially if it is in a concentrated form.
- **Hot Water:** soak for at least one minute in very hot water (above 140°F – hotter than most tap water) OR for at least 20 minutes in hot water kept above 120°F (hot tap water, uncomfortable to touch).
- **Drying:** Drying will kill Didymo, but slightly moist environments will support some organisms for months. This approach should only be used for gear that can be left in the sun for extended periods of time (i.e. a canoe that's left in the yard for several days between uses).

Absorbent items require longer soaking times to allow thorough penetration into the materials. Felt-soled waders, for example, are difficult and take time to properly disinfect. Other absorbent items include clothing, wetsuits, sandals with fabric straps, or anything else that takes time to dry out. The thicker and denser a material, the longer it will require for adequate disinfection. Err on the side of caution. Bleach solutions are not recommended for absorbent materials.

- **Hot Water:** Soak items for at least 40 minutes in very hot water kept above 140°F (hotter than most tap water).
- **Dishwashing Detergent and hot water:** ('Green' products are less effective and not recommended for disinfecting): soak for 30 minutes in a hot 5% detergent/water solution kept above 120°F.
- **Saltwater:** Soak for 20 minutes in a 5% saltwater solution (2/3 cup per gallon or water)
- **Quaternary Ammonium:** This can be found in common household cleaners and listed as benzalkonium on the label. It has been found that this is less harsh on neoprene items and doesn't become inert such as bleach solutions. If using this for disinfection follow the instruction on the label, especially if it is in a concentrated form.
- **Hot Water:** soak for at least one minute in very hot water (above 140°F – hotter than most tap water) OR for at least 20 minutes in hot water kept above 120°F (hot tap water, uncomfortable to touch).
- **Drying:** Drying will kill Didymo, but slightly moist environments will support some organisms for months. This approach should only be used for gear that can be left in the sun for extended periods of time (i.e. a canoe that's left in the yard for several days between uses).

Fall Dam Releases: West River et al.

AMC and New England F.L.O.W. (website <http://amcbcc.cnc.net/release/index.html#West>) is listing Saturday September 25 as the 2010 fall release date for the West below Ball Mountain Dam. This 1500 CFS release affords paddlers with a delightful warm water ~continuous class II run if Jamaica State Park is your put-in, and a delightful warm water ~continuously challenging class III run if Jamaica State Park is your take-out. And shuttling to the put-in at the base of the dam is WAY easier than in the spring, thanks to the truck shuttle set up by the Parks Department (for a fee, of course).

For some, this is the last big whitewater hoorah of the season, and the VPC should have a contingent. You can check on the status of all the remaining fall releases around New England on the New England F.L.O.W. website above. It appears the NH Department of Environmental Services has not yet released the schedule of annual NH Lake Drawdowns, but this should be coming soon. It also appears that the Dead River (ME) releases originally scheduled for Aug. 14-15 have been canceled.

VRC River Access Donation

The Vermont River Conservancy (<http://www.vermontriverconservancy.org>) approached the VPC board this spring asking our help with an important river access project. From the VRC:

The Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) and the people of Vermont have been offered a gift of an outstanding five-acre parcel on the Winooski River in Moretown just downstream from the confluence with the Mad River, between Route 2 and the Winooski River.

The meadow, its large tree-lined bank along the Winooski River, and tongues of gently-sloping bedrock reaching into the river will provide permanent river access for fishing, swimming and paddle boat take-out and put-in. The Mad River, just upstream from this site, is heavily used by white-water kayakers who need a convenient place to take out their boats, and park their cars and trailers. The Winooski is also used by recreational kayakers and canoeists who could use the proposed site as a destination or a point of departure.

In order to accept this gift we have a series of steps, the most important of which is an environmental assessment. This has been completed by VRC's consultants, and they have given a thumbs-up to move forward toward closing. Legal fees, stewardship funds, staff costs and other closing costs are all part of the \$20,000 project budget. VRC has already received \$15,000 toward the closing costs; this appeal is to close the gap.

As the Mad is one of the most heavily paddled white water runs in our area, the VPC board voted to use a portion of our budget surplus to support this critical project and donated \$1000 toward this effort. We look forward to the completion of the new access and the guarantee of future access. VPC members are encouraged to make additional (private) donations to VRC to help fund this and other **WORTHY** and **PERMANENT** in-state river corridor protection and enhancement projects.

TREASURER'S REPORT – JULY 2010

INCOME AND EXPENSES	YEAR 2007	YEAR 2008	YEAR 2009	Interim 2010
INITIAL BALANCE	\$2012.38	\$2321.26	\$3037.11	\$2994.50
DUES	\$1009.00	\$1230.00	\$970.00	\$931.00
EVENTS SPONSORSHIP	(\$200.00)	(\$200.00)	(\$250.00)	(\$1150.00)
SCHOLARSHIPS	(\$200.00)	(\$100.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
WEBSITE	(\$327.95)	(\$360.00)	(\$208.25)	(\$90.00)
INTEREST / BANK FEES	(\$28.95)	(\$35.10)	\$9.50	\$6.05
MEETINGS / MAILINGS	(\$276.63)	(\$99.05)	(\$709.90)	(\$232.89)
ROLLING SESSIONS	\$204.39	\$41.17	(\$112.41)	\$85.00
SAFETY GEAR	(\$142.98)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RESCUE CLINIC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NOVICE CLINIC	\$255.00	\$540.00	\$585.70	\$995.00
CLASS 2 CLINIC	\$17.00	(\$48.17)	\$0.00	\$0.00
T-SHIRTS	\$0.00	(\$220.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00
BANNER	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NET ACA COST	\$0.00	(\$85.00)	(\$120.25)	(\$200.00)
BROCHURES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
WHITewater FUND (book sale)		\$52.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
REEL PADDLING FILM FEST			(\$207.00)	\$92.37
FINAL BALANCE	\$2321.26	\$3037.11	\$2994.50	\$3431.03

We made a major donation of \$1,000 to Vermont Rivers Conservancy, to help secure Mad River / Winooski River Access.

The \$552 in 'Special Projects' (Whitewater Fund) was used as a portion of this amount.

Our finances are very solid. I view our year-end need as \$1500 to avoid cash flow issues, and we are well over that.

Memberships, member retention, and a robust set of activities should be the focus of VPC.

Richard Larsen – August 1, 2010

Novice Clinic 2010

Thanks to everyone that made the Novice Clinic this weekend a great success by any measure. 20 enthusiastic and capable students were led by 8 great instructors. All of the students made a lot progress and it was a pleasure to work with them. Special thanks to CJ Carline for leading the clinic, Eric Bishop and Barb Frankowski for feeding us both days and Barry at Clearwater Sports for loaning us 6 boats and other equipment.

Saturday morning was spent at the Waterbury Reservoir learning the basics including wet exits, basic strokes, boat leaning and river strategies. In the afternoon, we paddled the Winooski from Moretown Dam to below Junkyard Rapids. There was a bit of action at Junkyard but everyone handled themselves well and we had a great time.

Sunday dawned a little cool but 15 intrepid students continued working their skills on the Winooski below Bolton Dam. By lunchtime most people were paddled out - but a small group took a second run in the afternoon.

Class II Clinic 2010

Although the threat of bad weather may have kept people away we had a nice day for day 1 of the Class II clinic on the Androscoggin near Errol NH. With 4 students and 5 instructors we had a fun day playing in Errol Rapids in the morning and 2 runs on the Pontook Dam section in the afternoon. A few people stayed overnight and took another lap of the Pontook section Sunday morning. It was a fun weekend with a lot of improvement from all participants.

If you would like to be notified when we have details for the 2011 Novice and/or Class II Clinics, please email boatful@comcast.net

Upper Mad season opener Sunday Mar 21, 2010

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Ryan

Participants: (K1): Jamie, Gerard, Dan, Chris, Paul, Jim, Ryan

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 900 cfs; USGS Station: Moretown

It seems fitting for the season opener to be the 2nd day of spring and it snowing in the Mad River Valley...Pretty typical conditions for a typical opener considering we were in sunshine and high 60s both the two days prior.

We put in at the lower bridge in Warren. Gerard, Jim and Paul ran the class 3+ rapid above the bridge while the rest of us did the class 5 scamper down the bedrock to the river below the bridge. From there it was a pretty and pretty uneventful paddle with lots of smiles and eddy hopping and some surfing. Once we got to punch bowl everyone was either warmed up or freezing...or both. Jamie, Gerard and Jim had done the run the day before so they ran the left with out hesitation and the Gerard went back up to hit the right side. He punched the swim ticket for the day and we were on our way...That right side at punch bowl is a sticky bugger - no doubt. Another ledge and then we were to punch bowl. Everyone ran it flawlessly with one lightning quick roll at the bottom.

It was a great way to start the season. Lets hope for lots more water and great days on the water...

- [Ryan](#)



Upper Mad (again) Wednesday Mar 31, 2010

Character: nov-int WW

Water Level: medium high

Organizer: Gerard Ganey

Participants: (K1): Woody, Francis, Eric; (OC1): Brock; (Inflatable): Gerard

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 1500 cfs; USGS Station: Moretown

We put on the river about 5:30. I ran first drop under the Warren Bridge. Francis took a swim in the first rapid below the bridge. That was the extent of the unintentional swimming.

We lived a life of glee. We stopped only a few times to play in the waves. Eventually we reached the Punch Bowl. Some of us stopped and scouted, others just went for it. Everyone ran the left side cleanly, Eric did it twice. I went back up and ran the right side cleanly.

Francis, Woody, and Brock decided it was dark enough not to run the Butternut Rapid. I went first, and Eric followed with a roll to end the day.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlsli8Nh62o>

Enjoy the video... Sorry if you only have dial-up you could always use your iPhone!

- [Gerard](#)

How Low Can You Go...NBW Friday Apr 2, 2010

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Ryan

Participants: (K1): AJ S, Dan B, Francis M, Jamie D, Ryan M & Travis

Gauge Info: Painted Gauge Height: 3.00 ft. (Putnamville)

Whew - I have a lot of runs on the NBW but this may have been the lowest yet. The three bags ones were about as sketchy as they get for low flows and the lesser drops offered up multiple piton potential as well.

That being said the group bucked up and we pointed our boats down into one of the true gems of Vermont. After a handful of warm up

ledges ranging in height from 3-6 feet we came to the first real drop. Broken Drop was showing it's fangs Friday with a very narrow landing zone between two pieces of broken ledge. The whole group ran it cleanly right down the green finger of water and though to the pool below....No problem. The next major drop which is more or less the first of the big'uns was really bony with the right line looking like the only line...at least to me. Jamie however took the path less traveled and worked a right to left move down the face of this drop and made it look very clean. The mank mank in-between this drop and Big Bouncy was almost too damn shallow to run but we banged our way down it with some of us portaging a small segment. We all walked Big Bouncy paddled down through the pipe and then took a look at the 8 footer that is wicked shallow. Some of us ran it with more success than others with only on really ugly piton at the bottom. Next was the sliding board....Stay WAY LEFT on this one. Jamie was kissing the left wall the entire way down. Francis very much the same except for a slight variation at the end and I ran the same line as Francis. We all walked Double drop (WAY TOO LOW). The next drop was Cave Drop - again the nice slide into the mini gorge was out of play as no water was punching over it. We actually had to seal launch in on a thin lubed up slide with some assistance. Our only swim of the day occurred at Cave. A short paddle to the slack water of the Final Drop and we all pulled here.

It was a really long paddle on the NBW at close to 4 hours. No one got hurt. Everyone came away with a big smile. It was a beautiful day to be in a beautiful river valley in Vermont. I was glad to be of the river by the time we pulled up the bank and the ice cold PBR in my truck couldn't have been calling my name any louder.

A great day on a great river....

Video -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mqa8BWFUF9Q&feature=channel>

- [Ryan](#)



North Branch Lamoille Saturday Apr 3, 2010

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Guerilla

Participants: (K1): Dave P, Jay.; (OC1): Tony Shaw; (Raft): Gerard

Gauge Info: Painted Gauge Height: 2.75 ft.

(Covered Bridge North of Waterville); USGS

Gauge Height: 444 ft.; USGS Flow: 4000 cfs;

USGS Station: Fairfax

When the Mill Brook proved too low, Tony and Gerard joined Jay and I on the NBL on a sunny 80-degree April afternoon. We put in above the slide on back road...the left channel was clean for the first time since I've been boating and looks nice. We all ran right with no consequence, and paddled on down thru the next few ledges. Into the gorge past the school we found the level to be really nice. Padded yet technical. Sunny. Warm and friendly. Just above the crux of the Gorge section there is a nasty tree that extends from the right bank essentially across the entire main flow. At higher flows, some folks snuck over on the right, and you could sneak a slot of far left. The far left move required catching an eddy about a boat length above the wood in the heart of the rapid, so we lifted over on the right and were on our way. Beware sneaking over this on the right. There is a lot of room for water to go under this tree and if for some reason you ground out trying to go over, it could be a nasty situation.

We all ran Smash-your-face cleanly and I have to comment on how capable Gerard's pack raft is. At 7 pounds, it is a very capable class 3+ white water tool that could easily be packed long distances. Judging by Gerry's delight as

things steepened down in Waterville, he really needs to be in a real creek boat. The Waterville ledges were at a real nice level too. Makes me feel like 2.5-3 on the painted gauge is really ideal for this run. The gorge is fun and fluid, and the ledges are on the verge of getting meaty w/o becoming one big rapid, making the whole stretch manageable and fun for a class 3+, 4 boater. Much above 3 the ledges start to look like one big class 5. Much lower and the gorge starts to lose some of its continuity.

We scouted the ledges extensively and had a good safety plan. Jay and I ran down thru the first two ledges to the eddy with only a little trouble getting spun making the sneak move at the second ledge, avoiding the ugly hole. Gerry also managed to steer clear of the hazard and was stoked on this section of the river. Tony capsized at the first ledge and snapped a very nice looking roll. From there on river left near the old mill foundation he missed a ferry and was out of shape for the sneak move. The result was him being committed to run the meat w/o much headway. The Hole consumed him and his boat. I had moved from the first ledge down to the second ledge when I saw he was not going to make the ferry and got there just in time to see the action. The hole kicks hard right, and took him into a side surf. His canoe was being chewed on hard. He was upright and I was looking for some eye contact...but quickly realized he needed a rope quick. I threw out in front of him at the far side of the pour-over, making sure the line would find him in the pile. No sooner did I make the toss than his boat window shaded and he was under. He resurfaced and recirculated once very quickly...I wasn't sure he had the rope yet and started to take in line for a re-throw when the line got tight...I backed quickly up the ledge and Tony floated out into the eddy. The hole kept his boat just long enough for us to get him on land then released it to the same eddy. All persons and gear accounted for. For such a nasty hole ride, carnage was minimal.

The rest of the run went down with no worries. There is a tree out in the main channel in the rapid below the big slide. The eddy out move on river left is still there, but the ferry out is in front of some wood that will get worse at 3. Jay and Gerard's personal first descents on the NBL. Cheers. Good to get on the water with those two, and always a pleasure to boat with a legend like Tone!

Here's to a rainy summer with lots of complaining by the land-lubbers! Now how bout some pics Tony!

- [Dave Packie](#)

[Easter on Patterson...](#) Sunday Apr 4, 2010

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Ryan

Participants: (K1): Various cast of characters....
Paul D, Dave P, Sean L, Jim F, Eric C, Ryan M;
(Raft): Gerard G

There really isn't anything I can say here that I haven't said in the past. The headwaters of the White River that start in the Breadloaf Wilderness on the east side of the Green Mountains may be the best continuous stretch of III+/IV- in the state.

This was Paul, Gerard and Eric's first run on this gem and they all came out the other side grinning. Paul found that a couple of the holes are stickier than they look, Gerard came out of his packraft once, Eric stood his Y on end, and Dave did a good job of showing everyone which holes not to enter sideways. I scared the crap out of myself in my new micro creeker/play boat weird thing spending a good portion of the run squirting down it on my stern.

Sean lives on the river and knows it better than anyone so it was nice to have him along showing the newbies down the river....also a great resource to tap into to find out when it is running.

A great day on Patterson for sure...Go get some folks - the spring melt is about through!

Happy Easter

- [Ryan](#)

[A pushy Lower Mad](#) Wednesday Apr 7, 2010

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: high

Organizer: Gerard Ganey

Participants: (K1): John A, Dave H, Dan, Ryan, Francis, Woody, Chris W; (Raft): Gerard
Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 1200 cfs; USGS
Station: Moretown

Well... A 4:00 thunderstorm turned a falling Mad into a rising Mad. The Mad peaked at 1350 cfs at 10:00 p.m. last night, we took off the river a little before 8. It was an evening full of swims

and portages. I apologize if the details are skewed and I will correct them.

Everyone ran the put in rapid cleanly. At these levels double drop had a troublesome curling wave at the bottom. Woody hit the curling wave and swam. John paddled right into the hole on the first drop and swam the second drop.

A few of us scouted the drop below the bridge on river right. Then ferried back to river left. John got up close and personal with the main pillar on the bridge and swam. Class 2 brought us to the calm before Horseshoe Falls.

Everyone portaged the falls, which resembled a hydraulic death trap. Ryan and Francis opted to bounce down the low flow slide on river left. Chris, Ryan, Dan, Woody and I all ran the Washing Machine cleanly.

John had his final swim for the day in the rapid below the beaten down Lovers Lane Bridge. There were no swims on the final drop. We spent a good amount of time surfing the bottom wave which is awesome at these levels. Packraft had the best surf of the day.

Overall a day where the river handed out many lessons.

- [Gerard Ganey](#)

[New England Creeker Weekend](#) Thursday-Sunday

Apr 8-11, 2010

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Ryan

Participants: (K1): Jason, Dan, Brenton, Art, Wayne, Simone

This past weekend was the scheduled annual pilgrimage from PeeYea for a handful of my creek boating buds.

This year Jason, Dan and Brenton headed up on a Wednesday night from Harrisburg to the Glen Falls, NY area. They broke camp early and got on the Mettawee and Furnace Brook to get the weekend started right. The Mettawee was at a good medium flow and there was enough water in Furnace to make a run out of it. From their report when I saw them Friday morning there was a Dead deer in the second tier of Calfee falls.

Friday Jason awoke to a stomach flu and it dogged him

the rest of the weekend...We also picked up two other boaters from PA and Simone (Fastest boat on the NH Ledges). Off we went to the Lamoille drainage only to find the NBL too low to bang down....bummer!!! We did get in a decent run on the Gihon though. All drops were styled including two partial runs of the Mustang. The Dam owners are sending mixed signals as the lady came out and gave us hell and a talk with her husband later was in complete contrast saying he enjoyed watching the boats go down and thought anyone to portage the dam was nuts. Looks like some diplomatic outreach to the owners to clear up the situation would be a good thing. FERC would definitely side with the owners if they decided to get serious about cutting off access there. Anyways the run went well with only one swim in Spinach at the Carpet Factory by the group's esteemed squirt boater.

The next day we all met at the Famous Wayside Diner and beat feet over to NH for a run on the White Mountain Classic...."The Upper Pemi". We ran it from the Basin down though several quality rapids including the parts of the North Pole, Wham Bam, Sentinel, and more or less a couple more miles of quality class 4 read and run in an amazing gorge. The run started in the 20s and a blizzard under the watchful eyes of Cannon and Lafayette and finished with bluebird sunny skies. Once we were off the river we beat feet over to the Wells and got in a speedy dusk run on the regularly run section. Everyone liked the action on one of the VT classics.

Sunday the group broke and Simone took Art and Wayne to Texas Falls and Middlebury Gorge....I took Dan and Brenton to the NH Ledges for a lap. We were a ways behind Tony's group and no one was behind us so we had the river to really take our time and pick down different lines. I was trying out a new creek boat (think I am going to be getting a Bliss Stick Mystic) so was not feeling overly chary any ways...It was a nice mellow end to a pretty action packed weekend.....

Oh if I didn't mention this...if you are feeling your oats and can handle never ending class 4+ water read and run with a couple of really stout

class 5 drops. Go see this river. It is AMAZING!!!!

Here is a video from 4/10's runs...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6Yqb7vYLgU>

Enjoy

- [Ryan](#)

Lower Lamoille Saturday Apr 10, 2010

Character: nov-int WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Richard Larsen

Participants: (K1): John Atherton, Chris Weed; (OC1):

Tom Berry, Richard Larsen

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 4.80 ft.; USGS Flow: 1800 cfs; USGS Station: East Georgia

We delayed the put-in until early afternoon, and that worked out very well. The morning had been cold, but the sun came out around 11 AM, and by 1 PM the sky was totally clear. Of course, when the sky clears this quickly, it means that a front is moving through, and that usually means wind - which is always an upstream wind on the Lower Lamoille.

The water was low for mid-April - 1800 cfs versus a normal of 3000 cfs, but this is well above the minimum boatable of about 1000 cfs.

This was also the first day of trout season, so the two main problems on the river were 1) fighting through the wind and 2) not running into fishing lines. The rapids themselves were reasonably mellow.

We had two canoes and two kayaks. We met just below the dam at Fairfax Falls, unloaded all the gear, and drove to the take-out at 12:30 PM to leave a few cars.

We were able to start down the river just after 1 PM. As planned, the trip down to the top of Arrowhead Mountain Lake took 3 hours. We didn't play much, because the canoes were delayed so much by the wind. At the upstream end of long flat sections there were whitecaps and waves rolling upstream, and sometimes the canoes could make reasonable progress only by paddling right along the shore, where the overhanging tree limbs reduced the wind.

We rested our old knees by getting out of the boats at an island below the first rapids, and were surprised to see a weasel-critter playing along the opposite bank, swimming into the river and getting snacks. We debated among river otter, weasel, or mink, and settled on weasel - but looking at the Vermont Critters website it probably was a mink. There was another one down

near the takeout. The only other notable wildlife was the usual collection of mergansers.

- [Richard Larsen](#)

(Not) Joe's Brook Sunday Apr 11, 2010

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Tony Shaw

Participants: (K1): Eric Carpenter, Jim Fecteau, Jamie Dolan, Pete May; (OC1): Tony Shaw

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 4.35 ft.;

USGS Flow: 375 cfs; USGS Station: USGS

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BROOKSVILLE

A.J. traveled down Rt. 5 from East Burke to East Barnet early Sunday morning to get a visual on Joe's Brook, which was "just a trickle". Plan B options included the Mettawee, the Poultney, and the New Haven Ledges. None of these appealed to A.J., but we agreed we'd run Joe's together - one way or the other - before the end of April. Moving on, I made the call on the message board to meet up in Bristol at 11 am to run the ever-popular NH Ledges.

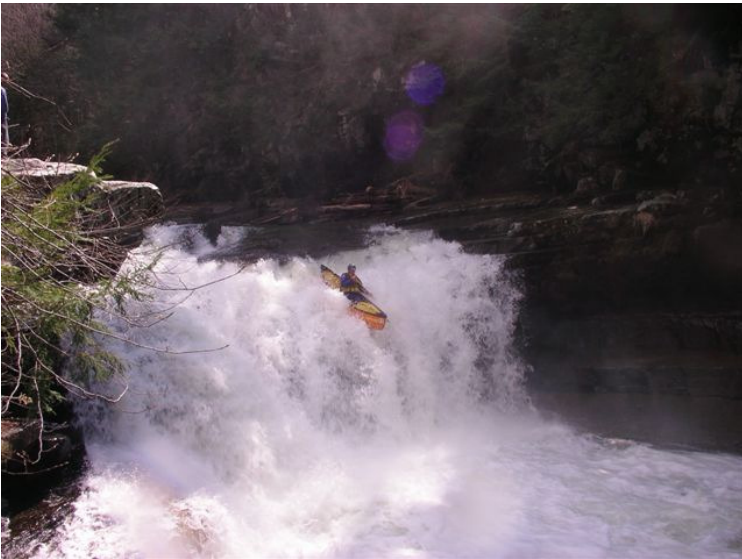
After gearing up at the take-out, we pulled over on the way up to the put-in to examine the best route around the "pin rock" above Play Pen. It was good timing, for us, as another group of boaters was in the middle of a real-life rescue of a kayaker vertically pinned in that exact spot. No one was hurt, but I wish I had taken a couple of pictures to make others aware of this hazard at low water.

The water was sparkling in the sunshine, and the level held steady at ~375 CFS all day - low and technical but definitely boatable. It got above 50 degrees, tempered by a strong/chilly west wind once you were all wet. There were swims at Lost Legs and the Play Pen, but in each case a rope was tossed to keep the swims short. I impressed a father/son spectating at Toaster by attempting it in an open canoe, and moreover hitting the boof/tongue perfectly and landing upright (and virtually dry) in the pile at the bottom - my first completely clean and upright run of Toaster!

I will post a few Paddle Pix for the day.

As kayakers go, Jim, Jamie, Eric, and Pete are good eggs. I'd paddle again with them...any time ;o)

- [Tony](#)



[Board Meeting floatilla...Lower Mad](#) Thursday Apr 15, 2010

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Paul Carlile

Participants: (K1): Paul, AJ and Ryan; (OC1): Brock

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 307 cfs; USGS Station: Moretown

About as mellow as you get for a post work run....

We all joined the club because we like to boat...Being on the board was a choice because we like what the club does and promotes but when there is water flowing the choice is easy - boat or meet? Paddling wins! So why not a float and then meet afterwards????

Anyways - the Lower Mad was at about as low as you want it for a fluid run - the upper rapid has tons of eddies and the lines are a little more narrow. Brock found this out by drifting into the only rock on the first rapid sideways. He broached and pinned losing his paddle and swimming down to the landing below the first rapid (is this thing still called elevator shaft?). Anyways Brock lost his paddle and had to walk out.

The rest of the run AJ, Paul and I eddy hopped and boogied down through the remaining rapids in the upper section and then plopped down over Horseshoe and then more of the same eddy hopping down through

the lower gorge. After the last rapid we surfed up the speedy wave a few times and then headed to the take out to meet Brock, upon which we loaded up and headed to the Reservoir for some Brews, Dinner and the board meeting...Rich Larsen met us there unwilling to huck any meat....

In retrospect Paul, AJ and myself weren't paying attention and were goofing off up stream surfing and eddy hopping. Knowing Brock is a gritty bugger and has a lot of time in the boat this season we were much too lackadaisical about him drifting into the first rapid on his own ahead of us. The situation ended ok with a lost paddle and his OC1 a little over flexed (no gunnel damage). But it could have been a mess if Brock had been pinned between his boat and the rock. As a relatively new paddler it is the responsibility of the stronger more seasoned boaters in the group to pay much closer attention to the rest of the group - even if you aren't the trip leader. I know for one, won't be taking for granted a participant's ability to successfully navigate a river. I have been burnt twice this season.....

Pix posted....

- [Ryan](#)

[A Cold Moose](#) Saturday Apr 17, 2010

Character: nov-int WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: AJ Seibel

Participants: (K1): Jim Poulin, Jamie S., AJ Seibel; (OC1): Brock Richardson

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 5.40 ft.; USGS Flow: 330 cfs; USGS Station: Moose River @ Victory

4 Degrees above freezing really makes the hardest boaters come out. Questionable rain and flows threatened to cancel the trip, but Old Man Winter somehow let out just enough snowmelt from the previous few days of accumulation to bring the Victory stretch of the up to a low 5.4' runnable level.

The trip this day was mostly class 2, and of course it began to rain after we put on. We played and surfed our way down the river,

taking in the scenery and noting an unfortunate broken canoe on the way down during a quick rest and stretch. The low water caused mystery rocks to appear from nowhere, flipping an unsuspecting OC-1 in unusually calm waters. Had to have been a rock. Or one of those darn kayaks darting in and out of his way.

We all had a great time in the cold drizzle of the NEK, adding another river to the list for Brock and Jim. A cold long trail ale closed the day on the back roads of a great lesser paddled run.

Til next time!

- [AJ Seibel](#)

[Lookin' for the Flow](#) Saturday Apr 17, 2010

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Dave Packie

Participants: (K1): Dan Z, Dave P, Ben G, Hal and Ryan M

Lots of precip...mixed up high going into the weekend...

The Mad was up around 1k and the NH was bumping up into the 800cfs so why wouldn't Patterson be at a good level???

So off we went Dave and I met at the Moretown General Store, we met Dan, Ben and Hal in Granville at the take out. HOLY SMOKES it was close to 5 inches low on the gauge rock. Awe what the heck....there was still a channel down through and the major drops were constricted enough to be kind of fun. Well....everything else we'll bang off of rocks. So when we put on I think everyone was freezing. About 200 yards into the run we were all complaining about how hot we were from the constant maneuvering we doing.

We all took turns leading and then getting hung up. The couple of times I was out in front and got hung up - looking back up stream at the beautiful valley we were descending and then each of the friends in our group it sunk in why I boat. All of the guys, even though conditions were less than ideal, were smiling ear to ear. That may have been a grimace on occasion from a good shot to a rock, but for the most part I think everyone was thoroughly enjoying themselves. Patterson has a way of doing that to you though. I've said this before and will probably say it again and again in my reports - This stretch of water transcends a lot of boater ability at

a lot of different levels. I have many other favorite rivers that I enjoy boating in VT some that I will drop everything to go run...Patterson isn't one of them, but once I am down in there and really look around at it - I can really immerse myself in the heart of the Greens! It is a magical place, a beautiful place.

We got to the bottom of the run in about 40 minutes and had the rest of the day to go hit up something else. We were already down that way so why not check out Bingo....It can't be any lower than Patterson. I had never been on Bingo as well as 3 others in the group. Off we went south through Hancock and Rochester down to Brandon Gap. Oh boy it was looking low on the drive up Bingo's watershed. Awe what the heck...off we went.

Bingo seems to run very closely to Patterson, Both are of similar size, and steepness. Where they differ is Bingo is loaded with much bigger ledges and slides and has some pretty seriously sculpted geology where Patterson has some bedrock features there is also a good deal of boulder action.

I really enjoyed my first run on Bingo. It could have used about 5 more inches of water but it was fun. The river valley is really pretty but fairly wide open and has much more development than Patterson. It was also ravaged during the 2008 summer floods putting wood in the river in places. Because of the nature of the bedrock some of the lines come into undercut angled fins. I think the group had a good time because they were all smiling on this run as well. It felt like a much longer run and it may have been. We all paid homage to the plastic gods in the Bingo drainage and owe our boats some luv for the abuse they took between the two low water runs.

After Bingo Dan headed home to parental and marital duties. Dave, Ben Hal and I grabbed a bite at one of the best General Stores in VT (Warren) and then went our ways...Ben and Hal back to B-town and Dave and I got in a really nice lap on the Moretown Gorges. It was up around 900cfs...so really pushy compared to what we just spent the afternoon boating.

I have boated the upper gorge years ago but never ventured into the lower and especially at a level approaching 1k cfs. All I can say is what a fun ride. Never hit a single rock, ledge or anything solid! The eddy hopping was fantastic and the larger more powerful nature of the river in there was a thrill. Dave is right - a great place to do laps and really work on your boat control, crossing pushy eddy lines, and there is some pretty nice surf in there too. I'll be back for more!!!!!!

All in all a good Saturday on the water - wish I had snapped some pix.

- [Ryan](#)

West and East Ausable Rivers, NY Sunday Apr 18, 2010

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Eric Carpenter

Participants: (K1): Eric, Pete; (Inflatable): Gerard

Gauge Info: USGS Gauge Height: 2.80 ft.; USGS Flow: 1300 cfs; USGS Station: Near Ausable Forks

After deciding that the Boreas definitely did not have enough water and the Hudson would be a long, cold day, we decided to head over to the high peaks to take a look at the East Branch and West Branch of the Ausable. We were treated to gorgeous views of the High Peaks shrouded in mist and snow covered. The weather was generally in the low 40's and cloudy/misty/rainy/interspersed with sun.

After hiking a section between High Falls Gorge and The Flume of the West Branch we put on and ran the hardest drop of this stretch, directly under the bridge at Whiteface- a solid Class IV which led into a short class III section before petering out class II the rest of the way to the takeout, above the Class V+/VI Flume under Rt. 86.

On the East Branch we ran from Hulls Falls, on Hulls Falls Road in Keene, down to route 9N-(2.5 miles). Everyone elected to put in below Hulls Falls. Rounding the corner, we were surprised with a class III+/IV- rapid which provided some interesting lines, but no real trouble. The next mile or so was an exercise in finding the deep water as the river opened up before constricting again at a short class III guarding Champagne Falls- class V. With 2 successful runs and 1 walk of Champagne Falls, we all ran the class IV mini gorge that followed which ended with a sweet boof

move (or kiss the left rock wall move, we won't name any names!). The last mile or so was smooth sailing class II+ to the nice warm takeout vehicle. Another successful VPC outing!

Gauge info:

There is a gauge on the East Branch, just upstream of the confluence with the West Branch in Ausable Forks- this gives a gauge height reading in feet. The AW site lists a minimum of 3 feet for running the East Branch- we all felt there was plenty of water for all the drops, between Hulls Falls and Champagne Falls though, you could only go a little bit lower (Maybe 2.5?). The other gauge is after the confluence just downstream of Ausable Forks- this measures the flow in CFS.

- [Eric Carpenter](#)

NH Race 2010 Monday Apr 19, 2010

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: VPC and UVM Kayak Club

Participants: (K1): 23 Racers

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 400 cfs; USGS

Station: New Haven in Brookville

New Haven Race recap...

Results

Finals: 1st Place - Scott Gilbert (King of the Ledges)

2nd Place - Will

3rd Place - Colby

4th Place - Dan Burke

Fastest Qualifiers:

1) Simone Orlandi 8:10

2) Damon Bungard 8:30

3) Hugh Pritchard 8:33

4) Scott Gilbert 8:53

Long Boat Champion- Hugh Pritchard

Golden Goldfish (best/worst swim) - Sherm

Iron Man (Long Boat/Short Boat 5 race laps) - Ben Schott

Day Tripper(Longest Drive): Doug P.

Narrative...

Level proved tricky to predict again this year, and after much planning, we found ourselves on the fence Thursday night about what to do. Thanks to a nice little shot of rain overnight Thursday, and to spite temps dropping to single digits Friday night we found the river to be absolutely bare bones minimum boatable and a chilling 14 degrees Saturday morning at 7:15. We called our first audible and moved the start for all the races to down below the boulder-garden put-on rapid. I got registration set up while the Club Kids dressed out the course with safety and timing apparatus. We quickly registered 20 boaters, most of the mugs I recognized, but some out of towners were present. A Kelty rep showed up from NH and got some tents out, had other various gear to be used for us to create the illusion of organization and professionalism. By about 9:30 folks were feeling the rays of the sun as it crawled over Mt. Abe and boats were lifted to shoulders, helmets were slapped down one last time, and the brace of early spring water on bare skin was felt. The field heated up slowly. The predominant conversation on the walk back up after the first lap was how much gloves sucked and how glad most folks were that they didn't swim or capsize, but some did. In fact I didn't hear many folks really bragging about their first lap at all. Lots of people "got hung up" and in truth, there was a lot of terra firma involved in even the cleanest lines that morning, but collective virtue was working for us, and so was solar gain. Fortunately the sun came thru enough to hold the ledges and even bumped them back up almost 100 cfs for the afternoon head to head action. Fastest qualifying times were put down by experienced ledges paddlers....and Hugh who? The guy that never paddled the ledges before? In the Pirouette? Interesting.

Hugh was chatting with me about race lines on one of his walks back up...one of only 2 long boaters unfortunately, but we really wanted to have a long boat final. The only other long boater there was Ben, and he was competing in both classes. Way to go Ben. We were stoked when Ben said he was into a long boat head to head final. It was nice to get Hugh a final heat and some head to head action. Hugh won the long boat final by a big margin and looking back at the raw footage, was one of the smoothest boaters on the course that day period. Congrats Hugh, I hope Ryan got you the Sleeping Bag. At almost 9 feet long, it is still considerably shorter than your Pirouette.

Hugh was wise to study the race lines because lots of

boaters were figuring these low water lines and smoothing the course out on their second qualifiers. With the start being where it was, the Ledges were pretty much the make or break rapid from what I saw. The Second lap finished, lunch consumed (hope there was enough) ready for the head to head. We would move the start down stream a bit more. Originally we anticipated the first few hundred feet of river would space out the racers before Secret Compartment, but with the start where it was, we were nervous they would still be bunched at the major constriction there. We moved the start line to just below S.C. meaning that after a couple small drops and some quick water, the ledges were the first rapid the racers hit, and it was still close there for almost every Final. Which, IMO was an awesome thing. There are pretty much 3 ways to run every section of that rapid so as the preferred lines inevitably got taken by the leader, the following boaters would peel off to alternate lines, that weren't their regular line. I felt like right all the way was the best line, but it was obvious that if you flubbed it, you would get passed, maybe even by a couple folks...

Scott Gilbert. Perfect example. In his first final goes from third to first at the ledges by running center left, wins and advances to the final where he makes the final pass again at that rapid when Colby momentarily broached after getting the hole shot, and goes on to win. The same Scott Gilbert whose name could often be heard in the parking lot of the church spoken in low tones. The time he put on the ledges alone, at 3000, in an Ace, got his ass kicked and swam for his life, only to find his boat, days later, so broken someone just threw it in the dump. Scott Gilbert who "Discovered" the sieve 2 springs ago and decided to try and fill it with his CFS. Actually fit perfect. Scott Gilbert. King of Lincoln in 2010. Nice Gilbert!

Below the ledges the order rarely changed. At these levels a couple optional lines were not available and it was hard to pick up time. The buoy you had to touch to finish was in the pool, 40 yards from toaster so if you flipped on the waterfall you could get passed in the flat water sprint to the buoy. Scott did go a bit deep there in the race, but stayed cool, and paddled strong

to the finish.

As I mentioned before, Ben was the only guy to race long and short boat. Makes for a busy day Ben...props to you for manning up.

Damon Bungard/Jackson Kayaks and Dan Burke/Kelty showed up. Damon had some great ideas on next years race and they were both in it to win it from the start. Dan was the ONLY C-1...and made it look really fun BTW. Pale Morning Media of Waitsfield was awesome. They got us some really nice Sierra Design and Kelty camping gear and dry bags, various soft goods etc. Doug Piatte (butchered your name Doug, sorry) Drove out from Boston for the race, then he was on his way home to southern NE. 8 hours of driving for our little race. He got him self a tent from Sierra Design for his troubles, next year he can get a camp site up at Maple Hill and make a weekend out of it. My Bro Ken carved the trophies again this year (Spotteddogwf.com). A relief of a boater hucking toaster for first place...and a fat gold fish gulping for air like a carp....that baby went to the one and only Sherm, who in 2 laps managed to swim out of Toaster, get pinned in the sieve in Playpen (nice self rescue) then swim All American...in 2 laps. Hands down winner, best swim(s) 2010. Although there were others....you know who you are.....who decided attempting to swim on the mostly-ankle-deep-water would be fun...we have some of you on tape....which brings me to Immersion Research. Simone got a nice shortie for fastest qualifying lap...they hooked us up with some board shorts and poggies to...Clay I hope you got your stuff...and the Bristol Bakery showed up and hung out all day despite not making any money because they thought the idea of a kayak race was cool. Thanks, make sure you frequent that awesome little bakery right up in Bristol when you go to the ledges.

Thanks to everyone who came out. Turned into a gorgeous day....folks were having fun...and there were some good races. Props to all you who competed. Until next year..

DaveVT

[All alone in the NEK](#) Wednesday Apr 21, 2010

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: AJ Seibel

Participants: (K1): AJ Seibel, Travis Keller

Gauge Info: Painted Gauge Height: 4.20 ft.

(Blocks on takeout bridge); USGS Gauge

Height: 5.40 ft.; USGS Station: Moose River @

Victory

Finally got on lower Paul Stream! This run holds water pretty well as everything else in the area was dropping out, but we had a plenty fluid run on a sunny April Wednesday. On our way over we learned that our third boater and shuttle driver wasn't going to make it. So, we headed up, stashed our boats in the woods, drove to the takeout and walked back to the put in, just shy of 3 miles. The morning sun made it a pleasant walk, though we had hoped for a passing car to pick us up. No such luck!

The drops on this run are fantastic. The first is a slide/falls into a diagonal hole with a fast runout. Being only two we opted to pass on the first payment to the river. The river flows as nice class 2 for about 200 yards before dropping over 3 back to back ledges, all fun and boat scoutable. The last ended Charly (Travis' river persona) and made for some rolling practice in a turbulent boil, but that proved to be the only mishap. The river bounced along playful class II rapids for a while before pitching downstream in a continuous class III section culminating in a class IV three stage drop. The continuous section was a blast, pillow boofs abound, and lots of little 2-3 foot drops were sprinkled in to keep us entertained. The last drop (the class IV) had one heck of a horizon line, so we scouted river left. Next time, we'll scout river right, its a lot friendlier... What we found was a fun lead in drop with some optional harder slots, followed by a manky rock garden with a clean slide down the right, and a fun pillow move at the end in the runout. I nearly explored the whole rock garden in reverse, but a quick correction off a rock on my way down spun my boat in the proper direction just as I began to charge down the slide.



After this adrenaline booster the river once again mellowed out, winding through boreal flats and multiple channels before rounding the bend at the take out on VT-102.

If you don't boat the NEK, you're missing out. Its just you and whoever you bring, and rapids and unexplored creeks everywhere. Come boat the last frontier!

Visit the link below for photos of the run.

http://www.vtpaddlers.net/talk/upload/index.php?directive=show&showVolume=rivers&showAlbum=Paul+Stream&dirAlbum=Paul%20Stream&showEvent=Lower_4_21_10&eventLabel=Lower%2C+4%2F21%2F10&datestamp=2010-04-21%2000:00:00&index=0&date_test=%3C%3D%272010-12-31%27#slideshow

- [AJ Seibel](#)

Browns River to the Lower Lamoille Saturday Apr 24, 2010

Character: nov-int WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Brock Richardson

Participants: (K1): Chris Weed, Guy and Michelle, Mary Kate, Justin; (OC1): Brock Richardson

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 1500 cfs; USGS Station: 5 Chutes - Lower Lamoille

The Browns was at a low runnable level. The Lower Lamoille was at 1500 cfs.

Frank Wells stopped by to say Hi and introduce himself. Although he couldn't do the run he offered his service as shuttle driver, which was great. Thanks a lot Frank!

The Upper section of the Browns seemed promising. We stopped to scout the dam in Westford. Chris and Mary Kate ran the dam river left and I ran it river center. Everyone else elected to portage. Everyone ran the Big Ledge Drop down the center - right of the big rock. Everyone ran it clean. The levels were low but OK until after the last major drop down the left hand turn. After that it became really scrapey and not that fun.

It was a long slog to the Lamoille. Luckily it was a beautiful day so the only whining I heard came from me. The Lamoille was an uneventful run with one quick swim. Everyone left tired and a little disappointed there wasn't more water. The consensus was: 1st third fun, second third awful, final third fun.

Chris , John Atherton, and I ran the Browns a week earlier with the Lamoille at 4000cfs and it was a fairly challenging run - maybe III-. It's a really fun run at that level.

- [Brock Richardson](#)

More NEK action Saturday May 1, 2010

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: AJ

Participants: (K1): Paul D, Gerard G, AJ S, Chris C, Ryan M

So I think our minds were made up long before we ever left in the morning...

Paul and Gerard and I chatted in the morning and made the decision to head to the NEK to meet up with AJ and sample some of his goods in the Kingdom. They received a good bit of snow up that way and it held on for a few days longer than around the Montpelier area so - what the heck - off we went.

On our way up we saw a boat-laden car at the parking area next to Joe's Pond. Chris from CT

was waiting for a crew of boaters to meet up with him. They were dumping a ton of H2O from the Joe's Pond dam but not enough to get the river up and running...Think flood stage for Joe's to go!

So Chris joined our group and we were off to meet up with AJ and head up to Paul Stream.....

Lets just start that this stream is not just a long drive but like on a different planet! It was another hour north of St. J. By the time we got there though the sun came out and it was looking like we had a decent day of flow.

Right off the start is a class 4 bang (read AJ's TR from last week). We all ran it sans AJ (smart man). All that ran it went deep. Out of all that ran it I swam out of the bottom of it. Fun rapid...fast and flushy! I need a better roll.

The rest of the river went w/o incident - lots of fun. We got to the crux of the run and there was a log in the middle of the entry rapid. An hour or so of work and we had it open for business. Totally worth it to get the feel in for that stretch! (See Gerard's Video). There was some more read and run to the take out. At the take out was a father/daughter combo with a sweet rainbow trout on a stick. If you're an angler it looks like Paul Stream is a nice place to work your cold water fishery skills.

Off we went to get in another river down in St J. The Moose. What a fun action packed stretch of ledges. Definitely a big water feel and some holes to be avoided.

All in all I think the group had a great day on the river.

- [Ryan](#)

Huntington River Saturday May 1, 2010

Character: nov-int WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Jim F

Participants: (K1): Chris W, Jamie D, Dan B, Rich R, Frank W, Sue S, Paul C, Marilyn H, Jim P.; (OC1): Jessica (?)

The new put in should always be at my place. ☺ ☺
Okay..... We put on at my place and took out just before the gorge.

The level was lower then I have ever run it and I thought it was quite fun for the last bit before the take out. We had one swim. One tip over, stand up, and start

over again that I thought was done with great grace. ☺

We sat and had happy hour on the deck after the run. A good time was had by all.

JIM

- [James Fecteau](#)

Mad after work.... Wednesday May 5, 2010

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Shayne Jaquith

Participants: (K1): SHayne J, Dave P, Gerard G, Jim P, Paul C, John A, Mary Kate, Chris W, Ryan M

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 320 cfs; USGS

Station: Moretown

Your run-of-the-mill night on the Mad. Frigging spectacular evening to be on the water.

The group played out the river pretty hard. The first rapid everyone caught as many eddies as possible - It may have taken 30 minutes to get through elevator shaft. Everything else was fun down to Z-rapid where a few hit multiple eddies on both sides of the rapid and in both steps. John even caught a great mid rapid eddy! The 100b surf wave was surfed up and then it was off to Horseshoe. Everyone who ran it ran it cleanly and all went down the center avoiding the munchy right side.

Washing machine caused some minor problems but most folks eddy hopped their way down it.

The lower gorge was clean and the last rapid I think every one hiked up for a second shot at it.

Most folks left tired with grins on their faces. Dave, Gerard, Paul and myself stuck around for a speed lap (only catching the "fun eddies") We pulled out in the dark after our race lap and were off for home.

What a great evening to be on water!!!!!!!

Pix posted on the website.

- [Ryan](#)

Sun, Rain & Waterfalls... Thursday May 6, 2010

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: AJ

Participants: (K1): AJ, Gerard; (Raft): Gerard

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 280 cfs; USGS Station: Wells River @ Wells River, VT

Sunshine makes it nice, Rain makes it better...

We met up at the fish and game parking area to find a log in the sweetness. I swear, I'm done cleaning rivers. 2 logs in 1 week, each taking at least an hour to get out!! Anyway, we sawed, pushed, swam, dragged and cursed, and the log was finally free.

With shuttle set, we fired it up. The flow was low, but felt nice and fluid. We both nailed Brett's Mom (haha) down the left center line. On to the Sweetness Gerard had a moment of pause just below the drop, and I finally got the mid-air turn on the first try that has been eluding me for sooo long as you come off the drop in to the channel flowing left towards the runout. Excellent! Labyrinth went smoothly, finding some new lines towards the bottom on the left proved to be fun as well! Gerard took the slide on the next rapid, I went for the small boof falls on the left, but went WAY too far left and took another slide. I noted my mistakes for correction on the next lap. El Salto went really nice today, nice and soft, and surprisingly fluid considering the lower levels the gauge was reporting. Down and out, we both styled Tantra. I took the right chute, Gerard charged the O-Face hole from the river left slide.

On to round two, Gerard deflated the packraft and hopped in to his (new to him) Salto to test his skills. And skills he has!! Great roll, confidence, and ability to just go for it. He cleaned the whole lap with no issues and even managed to demonstrate his low brace on the first drop, and find the spiteful swirling eddy on the second drop after getting pushed left out of the hole at the top. Oh, and piton the small falls, spin off of el salto, and still come out smiling... Once this man learns to boof a hard boat he'll be a force to reckon with!!

All in all, a great morning of sun, rain and fun! Good times...

- [AJ Seibel](#)

Full day in the Greens Saturday May 8, 2010

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Ryan

Participants: (K1): Dave P, AJ S, Jamie, Paul C, Jim F, Sean & Chad

Lots of rain in isolated locations got a crew of us out and about on the river...

For some it was a virgin go of it on Patterson Brook. We found it at a lowish level but relatively fluid considering. First run was fun and we boogied it out in about 36 minutes (at least that is what my head cam said). Second run we hooked up with a few locals and worked it in about the same time frame. Both Paul and I swam with various resulting levels of bodily harm, but still alive and ready to paddle out.

After Patterson a crew of us headed to the Moretown Gorge (Mad River) for a lap. At a fun pushy level those that paddled were treated to the only sunshine of the day. It was nice to get some thermal radiation.

Dave and I not ready to call it quits yet made a race run on the Lower Mad. It was at a fairly meaty level with lots of fun waves and some pushy eddy lines. Horseshoe was munch and Dave tested the squirtability of his creekboat in the entry hole. All ended well with a good boof of the right side of the lip. Never see his eyes that big though!

A finish through washing machine and the final bits of the bottom gorge and we were out and on our way to a couple of quality DogFish Ales...

A good full day on the water!

- [Ryan](#)

South Hero to Valcour Island Saturday May 15, 2010

Character: flatwater

Water Level: medium

Organizer: David Hathaway

Participants: (K1): David Hathaway

I got no takers for the scheduled trip, so I went solo. Started around 11 AM, and met one other

kayaker (Phelps Holloway) around the south end of Providence Island and chatted briefly. Waves were 2 to 3 feet and somewhat disorganized in the open lake on the way over, but came down a bit and got a little more uniform (from NW) on the way back. [This link](#) shows the route and pictures of my kayak on the beach at Smuggler's Cove on Valcour Island. Got back to the launch point around 3:30.

- [David Hathaway](#)

[Plan B, Wells River](#) Sunday May 16, 2010

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: AJ Seibel

Participants: (K1): Jamie D., Chris W., Tanner, Jamie S., Travis K., AJ S.

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 185 cfs; USGS Station: Wells River @ Wells River, VT

The EB Pemi just couldn't deliver, but the short section of the Wells certainly did. Rain showers raised the river and held it steady through the day at a low but boatable 185cfs. Everyone in the group was getting their first taste of the Wells, leaving me as the tour guide for the day. The first run took just over an hour, boat scouting most of the drops and getting out to take a quick look at El Salto and Tantra. All boaters did an exceptional job, no incidents, no mishaps. Tanner styled the center line on El Salto on each of the group's 4 laps, everyone else bounced down the right side and had a great time doing so.

Many lines were explored in each of the drops, and nearly everything goes on this run! If you haven't paddled it, or know someone who is looking to dabble in the creek boating scene, this is certainly a fine introduction.

Hopefully the river will continue to give some water for a few more weeks for some more early summer hucking fun!

- [AJ Seibel](#)

[Green River Reservoir](#) Sunday May 23, 2010

Character: flatwater

Water Level: medium

Organizer: David Hathaway

Participants: (K1): David Hathaway

Marilyn Hackett

We had a last minute cancel due to flu, but a last minute addition as well. We met at the boat launch a little after 10 AM, and were on the water by about 10:30. There were many other boaters out on the lake, but it's big enough with enough islands and coves to keep it from feeling crowded. It was a sunny warm day, with almost enough wind and clouds to keep from getting hot, but water a little too cold to encourage voluntary rolling to cool off (Marilyn didn't have a sprayskirt, so that wasn't really an option for her anyway). We meandered more or less counterclockwise around the reservoir, seeing loons, several beaver lodges (but no beavers) and an otter. We had lunch at the bridge at the entrance to the closed nesting area, then continued to the beaver dam at the north end of the lake, and got back to the boat launch around 3:30 PM. The trip track link is: http://www.spotadventures.com/trip/view?trip_id=200829, and pictures will be attached to that page once I get them uploaded.

- [David Hathaway](#)

[Maquam Shore - Champlain](#) Wednesday Jun 23, 2010

Character: flatwater

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Terry

Participants: (K1): Terry Lovelette; (K2):

Sherry King

6/23 – We put-in at the boat access in swanton on rte 36. The water was mostly calm but there was some chop due to breezy conditions. I kind of like this place. For Lake Champlain it was pretty quiet. We enjoyed a good 4hr paddle along the marsh, around Tabor's point, and then back. Boat traffic was virtually non-existent and we encountered a fair amount of wildlife along the way (Osprey, Heron, Duck's, song birds). I enjoyed paddling through the marsh grasses and saw a number of fish including a rather large northern. This paddle proved to be a good close to home option for a mid-week evening on the water.

- [Terry Lovelette](#)

[Green River Reservoir](#) Monday Jun 28, 2010

Character: flatwater

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Sherry

Participants: (K1): Sherry King; (K2): Terry Lovelette

Wow, this was my first trip here, what a place! Quiet and remote, the green river reservoir is likely the premier quiet paddling location in northern Vermont. It's a huge body of water with nearly 20 miles of shoreline. While there are roughly 20 or so campsites around the reservoir there are no motors or camps on the lake. Thus, it's easy to find quiet which makes this place pleasant to the ears. Sherry and I paddled around most of the reservoir skipping just those inlets that are off-limits to paddlers due to Loon nesting. We stopped a couple of times for a snack, lunch, and a short rest. The scenery here is easy on the eyes and the water was smooth. We were able to see a couple of loon's as the sun started to settle and bumped into a few duck's and ducklings along the way. The weather was nearly perfect until the very end of the day when a few sprinkles kicked up. But, after 6 hours of paddling, we were ready for a beer and a burger at Hoagie's in Morrisville anyway. All the best – Tlove

- [Terry](#)

[Lake Carmi](#) Sunday Jul 4, 2010

Character: flatwater

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Sherry

Participants: (K1): Sherry King; (K2): Terry Lovelette, Mike Haggerty

We took an evening paddle on Lake Carmi on Independence Day. It proved to be the perfect time. Boat and jet ski traffic had all but subsided and the water was tranquil. We enjoyed a good 3 hour paddle along the State Park area of the lake (south end) that included close-up views of a Bald Eagle, an Osprey, numerous ducks, a raccoon, a beaver, and a dozen or so blue heron. The sunset was dramatic and peaceful. One of those that just leaves you shaking your head in amazement. All the best – Tlove

- [Terry Lovelette](#)

[Missisquoi River Sheldon](#) Wednesday Jul 7, 2010

Character: novice WW

Water Level: medium low

Organizer: Terry

Participants: (K1): Terry Lovelette; (K2): Sherry King

Last evening, Sherry and I had an amazingly tranquil paddle on the glass like water of the Missisquoi. We put-in just above the Dam at the Sheldon Paper Mill and headed up the river toward the rapids behind the Abbey. The water was calm and the air was hot (90+). We hit the water at 4:30pm and paddled for a full 4 hours. The first stretch of water (2-3 miles) is very calm and shallow. You have some nice views of farm fields, the bridge on 105 in Sheldon Jct and a couple of old railroad bridges. One of which is now used as a recreation trail and is great for walking or biking. We stopped at the base of the rapids for a short rest and a snack and then played around in the mild rapids for a bit before heading back into the quiet water. Just below the old St. J and LC railroad bridge we took a left and headed up Black Creek toward Sheldon Creek. Although the water was a bit murky in spots, we enjoyed a very nice and quiet paddle. The trees are very close to the water and overhang in many places. The shade provided a nice break from the heat and we were treated to numerous wildlife encounters. It's likely that these critters don't see too many humans and we seemed to peak their curiosity. We saw King Fishers, Wood ducks, Muskrat's, Turtles, and various songbirds. We hit a patch of rocks just below the bridge at Sheldon Creek and turned around to head back to the river. We had a nice paddle back down the river and spotted many other types of wildlife along the way as the sun was starting to set. We enjoyed the beauty of blue heron stalking their prey on the river banks, Two osprey circling above the river searching for an evening meal, and a couple of angry beaver who seemed real annoyed to have us invade their intimate river home. All in all it was a great evening of paddling and one that I would highly recommend for those of you who like quiet water paddling. All the best — Tlove

- [Terry Lovelette](#)

[White from Rovalton to West Hartford](#) Saturday Jul 24, 2010

Character: nov-int WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Peg

Participants: (K1): John Atherton, Rich Renolds, Ken Emery, Peg Pelckmann

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 800 cfs; USGS Station: West Hartford

Nice warm day and we all had fun taking our turns at getting wet either by rolls or swims. Either way it was nice to cool off. Very nice fun drops and rapids on this stretch but long flat paddles between the fun stuff. By the time we got to the end we were tired enough just to play a little in the surf wave at the bridge. It was also great to see so many other people on the river either swimming, boating or fishing. We were going to meet up with CJ and others(Laura finally swam I here) but we did not see them until we were on the road going back. It was a good day and we were done before the rain came.

- [John Atherton](#)

[Rapid River](#) Sunday Jul 25, 2010

Character: int-adv WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: AJ Seibel

Participants: (K1): Gerard Ganey

Travis (Charly) Keller

Brandon Alling

Jamie S

AJ Seibel

A Great day on a remote Maine river...

The adventure began with a 1 hour and 45 minute wait while Travis and Brandon set shuttle, got lost, got lost, got lost, took a wrong turn, and eventually found their way back to the put-in. It continued with some class II flatwater across the 1.5 miles of Pond in the River, with

whitecaps and a strong headwind.

Finally, the current began and things started to look more like a river. Some fun surfing was had in the warm-up class II rapids and then it was game on. First, Second, and Third pitch are big rapids at the 1800cfs level, and all had a great time eddy hopping, ferrying and surfing the big waves in the first few rapids.

Next up: Smooth Ledge. If you like surfing or playboating at all, you NEED to get to this playspot. It started out as a nice 2-3 foot wave with a retentive foam pile, but a non-retentive green tongue between the two holes. As the levels dropped, the hole became more of a hole, and we were all able to get a little play time in, a few spins, and lots of rolls. Spectating was as fun as the play this day as there were a good number of talented boaters at the playspot throwing down, and cheering everyone else on. The place has a magical summer vibe to it!

After that we headed on down through S-turn, finding it to be surprisingly easier in practice than most guidebooks would lead you to believe. Then came some great play in Devil's Hopyard with some great waves and holes to play in, and generally easy and fun class III followed by the darned flatwater. Another half to three-quarters of a mile out brought us to the hidden take-out on Lake Umbagog. To top off the day, you get to go back through all the logging roads to fetch your car and tempt the tire-flattening gods one last time before the commute home...

All in all, a pretty freakin' excellent day on the river!

- [AJ Seibel](#)