

# The Bow and Stern

In partnership with the American Canoe Association

## Newsletter of the Vermont Paddlers Club



*“Go With the Flow . . .”*

March 2013  
Volume XXXVV

# Who's Who in the VPC



## Officers:

- President: [Ryan McCall](#) 223-5986
- Vice President: [A J Seibel](#) 473-0280
- Treasurer: [Hugh Pritchard](#) 802-522-8403
- Secretary: [Paul Carlile](#) 802-658-6657

## Directors:

- Activities Dir: [Chris Weed](#) 802-264-3141
- Communication Dir: [Alden Bird](#) 301-908-1126
- Safety and Education Dir: [Mark Lienau](#) 822-5291

## Appointed/Volunteers:

- Paddling School: [Mark Lienau](#) 822-5291
- Publicity Chair: [Peggy Pelckmann](#) 802-272-5275
- Conservation Chair: [Ryan McCall](#) 223-5986
- Webmaster: [Tony Shaw](#) 879-1655

## Resources:

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



Here we go folks - 2013 paddling season. Let's get a show of hands - who is jazzed to see the arrival of spring boating? OK, glad to see it is unanimous! I'm sure most of you have been hitting up the pool sessions at UVM to get your roll on and dialed in for the coming season. We just had the club's spring trip scheduling meeting a few weeks ago and like last year the calendar is chock-full of outstanding trips that will be lead by your fellow members, a wild and wooly bunch of first-rate folks! If you don't believe me - read on and check out the schedule posted further along in the Bow & Stern.

As with every spring, there is a lot of anticipation and for lack of any kind of planning

during the winter months....scrambling to get events and clinics set up for the next year. The club will be hosting the Beginner's Clinic June 1st and 2nd and Level one again this year in early summer. We also have put the Creeking Clinic on the calendar (May 19th) again this year and have plans to host both a slalom clinic at a site in Montpelier and a playboating clinic in Quebec. Both the slalom and playboating clinics will have first rate talent teaching for us. It is amazing who comes out of the woods here in VT when you poke around some.

In addition to the scheduled clinics and trip schedule the VPC will be hosting the New Haven Ledges Creek Boat Race again this year with the University of Vermont Kayak Club on Saturday, April 6th. If you haven't had the opportunity to check out the race, plan to this year. It is a good

event to catch some of the best boaters from around the Northeast race against the river and a clock for bragging rights as the "King of the Ledges" or if you are feeling like you are on your game and want to test your mettle against the other competitors sign up for the race and give it a go. As always - we could use volunteers to help with the day of race logistics and facilitation. Please let me know if you are interested in being involved; we can always use more volunteers helping out.

The progress is moving forward, if only in small increments, for securing recreational releases on the Green River in Wolcott. The latest bit of movement was a set of comments that the VPC and American Whitewater Association submitted to FERC in response to Morrisville Water and Light's Preliminary Licensing Proposal. We went on the high side asking for 5 weekends of whitewater releases. Hopefully this sees some daylight. The West River is still a struggle to get our arms around, but there may be light at the end of the tunnel. That tunnel was millions and millions of dollars that the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service pumped into the Connecticut River Salmon restocking program over the past 20+ years. The feds announced that they would be cancelling the program this year due to a number of reasons. What that means for us is that there needs to be a couple of years for the states,

including Vermont, to let the last round of frye get an opportunity to run their course to the sea and then we can start looking in earnest at how the West could ramp back up on the recreational releases . . . especially in the spring. American Whitewater has a huge stake in this as well and is serving as the coordinating entity between the clubs, commercial companies and NGOs that are working together to get our recreational releases back on the calendar for the West River. AW's new Northeast Stewardship Director, Bob Nasdor, has been "jonny on the spot" when it comes to being present at various meetings and negotiations making sure that the boaters' voice is more of a roar as we move closer toward several relicensing projects.

In closing, as always we are all stoked to get out there on the water and get our season under way. Be safe and make good decisions. 2012 was a tough year for boaters around the country; we lost a number of fellow paddlers to the river. 2013 needs to be a good year. Go out and make it a good year, paddle hard and have a ton of fun!

Cheers,

**Ryan McCall**  
Your fellow paddler

## Trip Schedule 2013

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>PLANNED EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>EXPECT</u>
Mar 16th	Sat	Leader's Choice Creeking	<u>Mike Mainer</u>	802-318-5790	adv WW
Mar 16th	Sat	<u>UVM Pool Session</u>	<u>Chris Weed</u>	802-264-3141	pool
Mar 23rd	Sat	Upper Mad River	<u>Paul Carlile</u>	802-658-6657	nov-int WW
Mar 23rd	Sat	<u>UVM Pool Session</u>	<u>Chris Weed</u>	802-264-3141	pool
Mar 30th	Sat	Leader's Choice - Northfield Creeks	<u>Dave Packie</u>	802-371-9339	adv WW
Mar 30th	Sat	White River	<u>Tony Shaw</u>	802-879-1655	nov-int WW
Mar 31st	Sun	Patterson Brook	<u>Ryan McCall</u>	223-5986	adv WW

Apr 3rd	Wed	Upper Mad River	<u>Brock Richardson</u>	802-654-8710	nov-int WW
Apr 6th	Sat	<i>New Haven CREEK RACE</i>	<u>Ryan McCall</u>	802-223-5986	adv WW
Apr 13th	Sat	<i>Wells River CREEK RACE</i>	<u>Ledyard Canoe Club</u>	603-643-6709	adv WW
Apr 13th	Sat	Browns River	<u>Brock Richardson</u>	802-654-8710	nov-int WW
Apr 13th-Apr 14th	Sat-Sun	<i>Creeking Weekend (Leader's Choice)</i>	<u>Ryan McCall</u>	802-223-5986	adv WW
Apr 14th	Sun	Sacandaga - Park and Play	<u>Mike Beers</u>	610-972-6498	int WW
Apr 17th	Wed	Lower New Haven	<u>Alden Bird</u>	301-908-1126	int-adv WW
Apr 20th	Sat	Moose River (NEK VT)	<u>A. J. Seibel</u>	802-473-0280	int WW
Apr 21st	Sun	Huntington River - BRUNCH/BBQ	<u>Jim Poulin</u> w/ <u>Jim Fecteau</u>	802-355-4591	nov-int WW
Apr 24th	Wed	Lower Mad	<u>Ben Schott</u>	617-530-0412	int WW
Apr 27th	Sat	North Branch Lamoille	<u>Chris Ingram</u>	802-595-0280	adv WW
May 1st	Wed	Lower New Haven	<u>Paul Carlile</u>	802-658-6657	int-adv WW
May 4th	Sat	New Haven Ledges	<u>Ed Clark</u>	???-???-????	adv WW
May 4 <sup>th</sup> -5th	Sat-Sun	<i>Weekend - Kennebec R. / Dead R.</i>	<u>Ben Schott</u>	617-530-0412	int-adv WW
May 5th	Sun	Joe's Brook	<u>Alden Bird</u>	301-908-1126	adv WW
May 8th	Wed	Lower Lamoille	<u>Chris Weed</u>	802-264-3141	nov-int WW
May 11th	Sat	Lower Lamoille	<u>Paul Carlile</u>	802-658-6657	nov-int WW
May 11th	Sat	<u><i>Mad Triathlon at Sugarbush</i></u>	<u>Dori Ingalls</u>	802-363-9863	nov WW
May 11th-May 12th	Sat-Sun	<i>Moose Fest + NY Boating</i>	<u>Mike Mainer</u>	802-318-5790	adv WW
May 15th	Wed	Lower Mad	<u>Alden Bird</u>	301-908-1126	int WW
May 18th	Sat	New Haven Ledges	<u>Jamie Dolan</u>	802-453-4658	adv WW
May 19th	Sun	<i>Creeking Clinic</i> (@ Wells River)	<u>A. J. Seibel</u>	802-274-3920	adv WW
May 22nd	Wed	Lower Mad	<u>Tracy Wilson</u>	802-767-3838	int WW

May 25th-May 27th	Sat-Mon	<i>Long Weekend - Maine/Quebec</i>	<u>Mike Mainer</u>	802-318-5790	int-adv WW
May 26th	Sun	Hudson Gorge	<u>Jim Poulin</u>	802-355-4591	int-adv WW
Jun 1st-Jun 2nd	Sat-Sun	<i>Novice Clinic</i>	<u>Paul Carlile</u>	802-658-6657	nov WW
Jun 21st-Jun 23rd	Fri-Sun	<u>Deerfield Demo Fest</u>	Zoar Outdoor Charlemont, MA	800-532-7483	nov-int WW
Jul 13th-Jul 14th	Sat-Sun	<i>Class II Clinic [tentative date]</i>	<u>Paul Carlile</u>	802-658-6657	nov-int WW

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



TRIP DIFFICULTY RATINGS ARE ONLY A GUIDE.

READ THE [SAFETY CODE OF AMERICAN WHITEWATER](#). STAY ASHORE WHEN CONDITIONS ON A GIVEN DAY EXCEED YOUR COMFORT LEVEL!!!

#### SCHEDULE NOTES



Trips/events with the ACA logo at left, , are American Canoe Association sanctioned events. THESE ARE THE ONLY LISTINGS THAT ARE SANCTIONED BY THE ACA AND VPC. Any other events/trips above are listed ONLY as a convenience to paddlers looking for compatible paddle partners.

- nov = max Class II, int = max Class III, adv = max Class IV, exp = Class IV+ See Intl River Rating Scale
- Winter pool sessions begin around the holidays (space limited, fee charged). Sign up online, email Chris Weed, or call him at 802-863-2149.
- Contact the trip organizer for information about each trip.
- Listed events and trips may be changed or canceled as water, weather, or interest dictates.
- Plans for impromptu trips can be relayed thru the trip organizer or online.
- Please give 1-2 weeks notice (if not more) for overnight trips to have a say in pre-planning.
- Car-pooling on long (and short) trips is encouraged!
- The AROUND VERMONT IN 30 RIVERS promotion is underway!!!

#### **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.

# Treasurer's Report 2012

<b>INCOME AND EXPENSES</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Initial Balance</b>	<b>\$2,321</b>	<b>\$3,037</b>	<b>\$2,995</b>	<b>\$3,164</b>	<b>\$2,652</b>
Dues	\$1,230	\$970	\$931	\$818	\$634
Events Sponsorship	-\$200	-\$250	-\$1,150	-\$650	-\$140
Scholarships	-\$100				
Website	-\$360	-\$208	-\$90	-\$42	-\$142
Interest & Bank Fees	-\$35	\$10	\$13	\$5	-\$13
Meetings & Mailings	-\$99	-\$710	-\$500	-\$771	-\$293
Rolling Sessions	\$41	-\$112	\$85	-\$126	-\$317
Equipment					-\$401
Novice Clinic	\$540	\$586	\$995	\$680	\$363
Class 2 Clinic	-\$48			\$5	\$13
Creeking Clinic					\$35
T-Shirts	-\$220				
Banner/Canopy				-\$107	
Net ACA Cost	-\$85	-\$120	-\$205	-\$325	-\$213
Whitewater Fund	\$52				
Reel Paddling Filmfest		-\$207	\$92		
<b>Net Income/Expenditure</b>	<b>\$716</b>	<b>-\$43</b>	<b>\$171</b>	<b>-\$513</b>	<b>-\$473</b>
<b>Final Balance</b>	<b>\$3,037</b>	<b>\$2,995</b>	<b>\$3,166</b>	<b>\$2,652</b>	<b>\$2,180</b>

The club remains solvent but our funds have declined over the last two years. Factors include:

- Declining membership
- Declining surplus from the novice clinic
- Purchase of sprayskirts
- Deficit on the 2012 pool sessions
- Reduction in meeting & mailing costs

The novice clinic continues to generate revenue but the other activities are priced to break even. The creeking clinic was a new activity for 2012.

Hugh Pritchard  
Treasurer  
March 3, 2013

# Trip Reports

**Where's the water?** Wednesday Sep 19, 2012

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Exxon Mobil

Participants: (K1): AJ Seibel, Brandon Alling, Brad C., Jim C

Gauge Info: Painted Gauge Height: 2.40 ft. (old USGS gauge, Route 16)

I was dancing in my truck driving home Tuesday evening, listening to the steady patter of rain on my windshield. The forecast was calling for 1-2" of rain overnight - which meant options were going to be wide open for boating in the North Country the next day. After a dry summer, it seems extra special to be back in a boat.

I woke early, checking rainfall totals across the region, and river gauges via USGS - only to be shocked and generally disappointed. The rain didn't deliver in my neck of the woods, and the river gauges firmly agreed. Time to gas up the car and head somewhere... I got a call from Brad that he'd be boating in the Gorham/Berlin NH area, and that water levels looked good. After seeing that the Upper Moose was too low, and that Joe's Brook somehow avoided nearly all the rainfall, the decision was set and we were off. Brandon and I knew we'd miss the first runs on a nearby creek, and decided to drive a little north of Berlin to see if the Upper Ammonoosuc was running. It was not.

Brad called at just about that time and let us know the first run was low. Frustration began to set in. There was water everywhere, but we couldn't seem to find it! We linked up at the Great Glen Trails at the base of Mount Washington to head into Pinkham Notch and check out the Ellis River. The gauge was at 2.4'. Perfect, we were told, for the harder upper section of the run (dubbed "Crazy Rapids" in Lessels's book). I will 100% agree with that naming! We put on and immediately eddied out

to check out the first drop. a 10' chunky waterfall into a nice pool. This was my first portage of the day as I wasn't feeling it, and didn't want to possibly swim out into the sticky ledge-holes just downstream. Everyone else ran clean and we were off. The next drop is a 3' spill into a cross-current hole which spills over a 5' drop with a hole looking meanest on the right. I dropped into this one cautiously and was pushed a little too far to the left, with my left paddle blade finding a nice slot of air to attempt a boof. Needless to say I plugged, but floated away upright and smiling. The next drop is a twisting slot that paddles cleaner than it looks, but I elected to boof this one from high ground, putting back in just below. By now we were into the flow and grooving through the boogie water, with Brad and Jim showing us excellent lines to follow behind. There's some sweet boofs and combinations to be had through this stretch. Overall very fun. The lower levels we were paddling at were a perfect intro level to this steep section of NH boulder garden and bedrock.

Heading downstream we picked our way through the boulders, and I kept thinking of how long I'd looked at this run and never thought I'd have the skill to get down it. My, how time and practice changes that! The other notable rapids on this run were a 3' auto-boof to a 6' spout into a manky, clogged up runout. Then a great class V sloshing gorge with what can only be described as a "single track" line through the upper chute, then off a sideways waterfall at the bottom. For me, another portage! Brad and Jim cleaned it. The last was another slot/gorge sort of rapid with a great curler/pillow boof halfway through the rapid. Super sweet. The river immediately mellows out at this point, and we took out at the Route 16 Bridge in Pinkham Notch. I hear there's more downstream, and will be excited to check it out in the future.

Google Earth tells me this run averages 216' per mile for the 1.77 miles we paddled. I call Google Earth a liar! The pool drop nature of many of the drops makes them feel much MUCH steeper. I was pretty sure this was the steepest river I'd paddled to date, but I suppose it's all relative in the end.

**The West River Release - Fall 2012** Saturday Sep 29, 2012

Character: intermediate WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Ryan and Paul

Participants: (K1): Paul C, Jamie D, Jim P, Chris W, Justin W, Rob Church, Silas, Ryan M

Gauge Info: USGS Flow: 2000 cfs; USGS Station: Jamaica

And they said it would be a light turnout because of manky weather.

The park officials said they sold 563 day passes - over 200 more than they had anticipated. Long live the West Release!!!!!!!



So Justin and I got moving by 5:30 from Montpelier that morning to get down to Jamaica in time for a front parking spot and so I could get back up to the entry gate and start passing out trash bags

Paddle safe, boof hard, and be well! When it rains again, anyone want to look for some paddling a little CLOSER? We'll see!

- AJ Seibel

for volunteers to snag garbage along the their way while floating down the river....it wasn't but 10 days ealier that a pillar in the boating community and our very own Northeast Stewardship Director for American Whitewater had perished in a paddling accident on the upper Pemi. Alan Panebaker had planned to be at the West to organize a river clean up. But a higher power had other plans for him. To our north there was a memorial service along the banks of the New Haven in his memory...We were making our own peace with it by wrapping up some of his work with American Whitewater. Not much trash was collected but then that is good because this stretch of river is in a state park and there shouldn't be much trash along it.

After the bags were passed out, I joined the crew of VPC boaters and got out after it for a perfect day of three laps. Jamie was the photo boater for the day, I think Chris Weed played sweep most of the day. Jim Poulin was paddle retriever, Paul was boat chaser, Brock and Silas counted ALL of the fish in the river and I am pretty sure Justin enjoyed taking in the shit-show that seemed to take place on each lap....I sure has hell know I did. Here's the thing....There wasn't a single person in the group that couldn't tell you they didn't have a good time, worked on their boating, built a stronger bond between themselves and their paddling compadres.....and were bummed when the day came to an end.

The West Fest (is it really a fest?) is such a fun time in such a beautiful setting that brings

boaters from all over the northeast to our little slice of paradise in New England. I try to get to it every year, but don't....but it always amazes me when I get there that everyone looks familiar - young, old, new and experienced. Maybe they are familiar, maybe it is just a familiar expression that you see on fellow boaters, maybe it is a little bit of both. But I do know this - it is a shame that it is only a one day event and only once a year. We need to do something about that...

Long live West Fest!

- Ryan

**Getting After It - Fall Creeking** Saturday Oct 20, 2012

Character: advanced WW

Water Level: medium

Organizer: Ryan and Dave

Participants: (K1): Dave P, Scott G, Chris I, Noah P, Simone O, Clay M, Andy, Ryan M

Yea - another NBW report from Ryan....sorry folks, but this one includes a Gihon report, a broken boat, a swim by the author (no comments needed), two NBW virgins and a Gihon Virgin.....Sound more interesting now?

Ok - as the texts and emails are buzzing about through cyber space the Friday night prior, I was working the Montpelier Ski Swap getting things set up for their big annual sale. Yea - I am a planner and knew that if I worked and helped with set up that night, I could do the presale after set up was over and then wouldn't have to deal with the insanity on Saturday Morning.....and miss out on BOATING!!!! It also meant I had first dibs on boots for my little 7 year old ripper.... Anyways I got home and looked at the message boards and checked emails to find it oddly quiet. Huh - no one interested in getting out for some fall boating???? The next morning I awoke to a phone call that my

daughters soccer practice was cancelled because the fields were under water. YEA OH YEA - gotta run the trash to the dump - I'll swing by the gauge and check what the NBW reading says....4 and rising. Time to take matters into my own hands here. I started sending out texts to folks around 7:30. Dave was first to respond and said lets get after it. A little while later I received the boating community woke up and I think I received 15 emails asking what the NBW level was..... Yup - by 10:30 we had a solid crew of boaters at the NBW put in, several of us with multiple runs on the river, a couple with only one run and couldn't remember the lines and two virgins.....this is going to be fun!

Those that don't know the NBW it builds with amplitude from a magical float through riffles and small ledges in a tight valley high up on Route 12 in Elmore and ends with some of the cleanest biggest waterfall drops in succession on any river I can think of - anyone, Bueller, Bueller..... So it can either lull you in to a relaxed state before you start into the meat, or maybe it brakes down some of the nerves you are dealing with at the put in with anticipation for what some folks (definitely not me) over hype as one of the primo runs in VT.

Noah and Andy had never been down this run and Chris hadn't been on it in years so it was really fun to watch them style the early drops as they progression built up. Through Broken Falls and The Squeeze Box before the first real drop, the group was really taking everything in. Clay didn't hesitate to bang out the first drop and be in the pool to film. I snagged the eddy above and pulled Andy and Noah in so they could see the line. Ultimately everyone ran a clean line - Scott tossed the biggest boof off of the flake of the group. Next up Manky Mank - It is just a messy pain in the tukkus when you have to run the first ledge on the right. But there is a really fun boof off the left side of the second ledge. That leads to the right hand bend in the river where folks that are portaging Big Bouncy get out and carry....sometimes. Everyone decided to eddy hop down to the top ledges above the meat of

Big Bouncy and then get a look at it. Again, Clay fired up the line right off. Most everyone walked along river right. Chris, myself and Andy were on river left. Chris decided to walk, I was undecided and Andy was confident he was going to fire it up. I knew I'd make a call once I ran the first two ledges and was above the main drop.... Yea - I knew the line, was successful the last time and decided to peel out up high and run for the left side of the prow and ride it out...just don't get too rowdy on the lead in boof. Before I knew it I was at the lip and was out and on my down the slide b-i-g and b-o-u-n-c-y. Andy was next and got rowdy on his boof but it worked out well. Through the tunnel and off to flat falls - everyone got their boof and we moved on down to the Wall Slide. Stay left, but not too far left. I think Noah was on the wall. Simone was a smidge to far right but no one went for a hole ride! Next up - Double Drop. Everyone fired it up with varying degrees of style. Ingram made it look like it was his back yard run with a HUIASS boof and clean run out though. Following DD, we came to Cave Falls. We all ran the slide - it is just way too fun and the hole at the base of the falls looked really hunger that morning. The Last Drop....With everyone looking from different positions and at different lines, I was confident on running the river left line down into the deeper portion of the pool. The lead in slide to the vertical falls didn't look lubed up enough for my liking. Down the middle line Clay went first, Scott next, then Simone, finally Dave....OUCH - Dave's feet of fury drove a crushing blow to the hull of his boat as the stern of the Mystic caught the ledge at the base of the falls his hull smacked down on the non-aerated water at the base of the falls and his heel Kung-fu'd straight through his hull....BUMMER - but it was funny watching Dave Fred-Flintstone his way over to shore to drain his boat and try to get back over to the left shore. I knew there was no way I was going to run the middle. Chris and I discussed again the line and off we went. One, Two and we were bobbing in the pool at the base of the Last Drop. Noah was up next and somewhat hesitant on the line...he was going dancing that night down in

Saratoga Springs and didn't want to miss that with an injury...BS! get back up there and run it. He FIRED IT UP - being a smidge too far right on the left line results in being catapulted sideways off of the current and into space. It was an awesome boof and he came up smiles. Andy proceeded to fire the middle line and clear the ledge. Big hoots all around for the crew. A fantastic run on the NBW in late Fall.

Some of the crew had obligations and needed to get back home. We lost Chris and Scott the Hardwick boys and Noah beaming ear to ear like the Cheshire cat was off to Saratoga to get down...

Now where and what do we do... Head north was the suggestion - check the Gihon on our way through to the NBL. If the Gihon looked good but dropping then we would run it as it holds water better than the NBL. We got to Johnson and the Gihon was at a great level...The call was made - Gihon it would be. Andy would get his Virgin run on the Gihon as well and the hype was on about the first drop down the face of the Dam. Pshaw - the dam is an amusement park ride - just drop in 3 feet off the left side of the center pier and you are fine. Yea - that is the old location....it is more like 1 foot of the left side of the center pier. Needless to say he watched me get munched on and swim (yea that stinking dam got me again) out of the backwash and self rescue my boat and gear - I had to be the first lemming over the drop and I wasn't wearing a dry suit, only dry pants and a top so I was soaked!!! Everyone else ran it cleanly and we were on our way to the first set of ledges above Balls to the Wall. Great succession of drops. The next drop has a couple of lines the left of the top boulder being the regular route. Today there was enough water that the right line where the water piles up along the all and then accelerates you over a ledge seemed like a good idea to me and I was in an eddy set up for that line. I watched Clay and Simone run the regular left line and it looked like a ton of fun so I ferried back left and ran that line instead.....HOLY SHIT it was a good thing...there was a channel wide

hemlock spanning the right channel that would have been sure fire disaster for anyone running that line. Luck of the draw I changed my mind and didn't run over there. No one else did either.... After this drop there is a couple of small slides that lead to the beast, MUSTANG. It looked a little messy with some wood in the run in and then the hole in the gorge at the bottom was pulling back up river. We all seal launched in below it and ran down through the flat water to Bed Head. Simone, Clay and Dave ran it with varying lines. We also at this point caught the kids from UVM and Rogan ran Bed Head with a solid boof over the hole on the second drop. Eldorado was next and a much make ferry to catch the right line was a struggle to make at today's flow, but the left line wasn't in the cards for our group so we all pulled to make the right slide and down. Good and clean. Up next was Spinach....all ran different lines and everyone cleaned it even one with a combat roll in the middle of it. Pin Cushion - new line for me. Instead of far left I ran just left of the rooster tail - Smooth. Finally was Power house. Everyone ran the meat on the left - I went for the boof on the right. Alls good.....Sunshine....I still don't know the line here and pitoned the crap out of it at the bottom but was spent so didn't care - hiked back to the car and called it a day.....

AWESOME - lots of vertical, one broken boat, two rivers and two boaters had their cherries popped on the NBW and Gihon...

Yea - VT Creeking. Go get some!

- Ryan

### **Scoping out new water on the upper Winooski**

Monday Nov 12, 2012

Character: nov-int WW

Water Level: low boatable

Organizer: Ryan

Participants: (K1): John A, Brock R., Jamie D, AJ S, Hugh P, Catharine, George, Will, John B, Sarah, Win T, Justin W, Ryan M; (C1): Alden B; (Inflatable): Dan S

Yup there is yet another section of river in VT that has the potential for a reliable recreational release. With the recent removal of a defunct mill dam the stretch of the Winooski through the town has been on my short list to hit up with a release from GMP.

Last week looking ahead at the weather, the upcoming holiday (VETS Day) and a possibility to pull some boaters out of the woodwork it seemed a grand idea to pull together a mid afternoon outing for some boating.

First thing first, make sure we had flow - Call GMP and ask for a release of Max generation (not quite max but it lubed up the rocks and river bed enough to get down it.)

Next - Dial up the weather man and ask for a 70 degree day in the middle of November....Check

Third - send out emails to anyone I though may be interested in hopping on a new stretch of river that would appeal to a whole raft of paddling levels.....and post to message board.



BINGO - all three came together....flow, weather and folks. For the first run we put in at the power house up Rt 215 toward Cabot. It is a nice access and a pretty float down through the country side to the top end of Marshfield village where the first ledge awaits. With approximately 15 boaters all waiting in the pool above the ledge it was a

testament to the need for this resource to be more available. We had an age range from early 20s to early 60s and a skill range from one of the best boaters in the country (actually the top seed on the USA Wildwater Team) to a rank beginner in a kayak that can barely hit his roll on a good day in a warm pool (yea that probably includes me too).

With a few of the more seasoned vets leading the way the group started to eddy hop from drop, ledge and eddy to the next. It was fun and even a little bit crowded....but here is the thing - there wasn't a single person not smiling, laughing, or really enjoying being part of a new release on a "new" run.

Most folks hiked back up for a second run and a few of us banged down a third run. To be honest - if the flow had held up I'd have gone back up for lap 4, 5 and 6. The walk up through town is short and easy and if we get a true 300 CFS release I really think this stretch will show its true colors as a fun test piece for beginners and a nice spot for experienced boaters to work on improving their moves and skills.

Hopes for the future of this run are we can get a regular release with about an extra 100 cfs, maybe work with the town to set up some slalom gates for practice and who knows.....just maybe we'll get a few more people interested in the sport of whitewater paddling.....

- Ryan

**Patterson Dressed in Whites...** Saturday Dec 22, 2012

Character: advanced WW  
Water Level: low boatable  
Organizer: Ryan  
Participants: (K1): John A  
Ryan M

Yup - it's been a while since I've posted a Patterson report. We'll I couldn't let 2012 go by with out at

least a single run in the slice of whitewater goodness. Time was running out but a little bit of liquid precip. on top of snow is always is a shot in the arm for the boating community. Johnny A was game and I was on a mission - off we went for a run on Patterson.....Hell or Low Water.

I have to be honest - I don't think I've run Patterson this low and those of you that know me, know I'll run pretty much anything that has flow enough to bumble over the cobbles. This was REALLY LOW. That said though - once we got into the gorge the lines were there and it was fluid through the final constriction. So I think the bar has been raised (or lowered) on how low you can scrape down the run if you are really jonesin' for a run.

John and I had a decent run - his first ever on Patterson. We kept warm from the extra exertion of making it through the low water thin sections. Even with the low water conditions, it was beautiful and as always a magical place for a float. The replacement of the mossy green scenery with fluffy white was a nice change and amazing to witness. As always - if you haven't had a chance to check out the Headwaters of the White river....otherwise known to boaters as Patterson.

Hope to get at least one more day on the books for 2012....

- Ryan





It's that time of year again, folks – spring is in the air and that means it's almost time to celebrate one of Vermont's great whitewater rivers: the New Haven Ledges. Come join the Vermont Paddlers Club for the annual New Haven Race, 2013. This race, in its fifth year, celebrates the very best of Vermont's whitewater community.

**Date:** April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (weather dependent)

**Sign in:** 7-9:30

**Start time:** 10:00 am

**Location:** New Haven River, Bristol, Vermont

(Racers must be present for the Racers' Meeting at 9:45.)

**Course and Format:** Racers compete in an individual time trial, starting on a launch ramp above Slide by the Road, continuing to the finish line below Toaster Falls. Course length is approximately .53 miles. Each racer is entitled to two attempts at the course per class, with the faster of the two runs counting toward the final results.

**Classes:**

- Creek Boat (premier class): 7'1" – 9'0"
- Long Boat: 9'1"+
- Tiny Boat: 7'0"-
- Any others that show up and merit a class

"The New Haven Legend" will be the fastest Creek Boat competitor, with the champions in other classes and anyone else we deem worthy receiving recognition.

**Rules:** Don't be a Jerk. Time starts when a racer hits the water and finishes when they touch the buoy below toaster. Racers must yield to other boater approaching from behind. Racers may compete in as many classes as they want.

**Fees and Registration:** Race admission is \$20 plus a \$5 insurance fee for non-ACA members. All racers **MUST PRE-REGISTER ONLINE**. Racer entry is limited to 50 per class.

Shuttle service will be provided and safety will be set at hazardous locations throughout the course.

**For race registration and for additional information, please see the New Haven Race page on Facebook.**

If you are interested in helping out with the event, great! Get in touch with Ryan McCall at [Ryanmtnman@gmail.com](mailto:Ryanmtnman@gmail.com)

See you at the Ledges!

# New Haven Race Results, 2012

1)	Rogan Brown	5:12	Creek Boat (2012 <b>King of the Ledges</b> )
2)	Alden Bird	5:20	Creek Boat (C-1)
3)	Danny Siger	5:23	Long Boat
4)	Justin Crannell	5:34	Creek Boat
4)	Nick Gottlieb	5:34	Creek Boat
5)	Ben Schott	5:35	Creek Boat
6)	Austin Huck	5:39	Creek Boat
7)	Taylor Krammen	5:39	Creek Boat
8)	Dave Packie	5:43	Creek Boat
9)	Mike McDonnell	5:44	Creek Boat
10)	Mike Mainer	5:45	Creek Boat
11)	Jordan Vickers	5:57	Creek Boat
12)	Scott Gilbert	6:05	Creek Boat
13)	Tripp Burwell	6:11	Creek Boat
14)	Kurt Kostyu	6:17	Creek Boat
15)	Daphnee Tuzlak	6:20	Creek Boat (women's)
16)	Simone Orlandi	6:25	Creek Boat
17)	Will Seegers	6:26	Creek Boat
18)	Colby Cook	6:27	Creek Boat
19)	Ford Smith	6:30	Creek Boat
20)	Matt Kingsbury	6:42	Creek Boat
21)	Alex Nikrasov	6:45	Creek Boat
22)	Caleb Clark	6:53	Creek Boat
23)	Tim Marinelli	7:20	Creek Boat
24)	Davis Bartlett	8:04	Creek Boat
25)	Sherm Grant	8:27	Creek Boat
26)	John Desabris	8:38	Creek Boat
27)	Tony Shaw	16:03	Long Boat (OC-1)

## Past Champions, New Haven Race:

2009: Justin Beckwith

2010: Scott Gilbert

2011: Hugh Pritchard

2012: Rogan Brown