

Bow and Stern



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

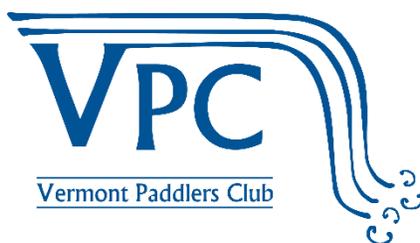
Volume XLV No. 1

March 24, 2019



Go with the flow...

VPC c/o Tony Shaw
259 Pleasant Acres Dr
Williston, VT 05495



Dear Paddlers,

The spring paddling season is approaching! This year we have an exceptionally deep snowpack at higher elevations, with about 9 feet at the stake on Mt. Mansfield, down from about 10 feet before the most recent thaw. The spring thaw has been gradual so far. Hopefully that will continue, keeping the flows at good runnable levels during the next 6-8 weeks. Aside from that, we have several pieces of news about VPC and the upcoming season:

2019 Pool Sessions

We had excellent attendance (and just a few cancellations) at the 4 pool sessions at UVM (1/26, 2/16, 3/3, 3/16). We also held 5 evening sessions at Mt. Abraham Union High School in Bristol (2/1 through 2/15). (The last time we had sessions at Mt. Abe was in 2006.) The venue is exceptionally affordable, with easy access to the pool. UVM is planning to start major construction on their athletic complex this year, so alternative pool session venues are needed.

Two upcoming sessions at Northern Vermont University in Johnson have been scheduled, on **March 28** and **April 18**. For more information and our enhanced signup form go to www.vtpaddlers.net/index.php?id=9. (Many thanks are due to webmaster Tony Shaw for redesigning and enhancing the signup page.)

Trip Planning Meeting

The planning meeting for spring and summer trips was held on Thursday, February 21, at Jim Poulin's house in Richmond. Several events were added to the Events Calendar before the meeting, and we worked out a full schedule of upcoming trips and other events. For details see <http://www.vtpaddlers.net/index.php?id=7>.

Spring Meeting and Potluck

The annual spring meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, March 24**, at **6:00 pm**. As usual we'll be meeting at the Williston Federated Church. After dinner, participants in a February/March trip to Costa Rica will be giving a presentation on their experience.

New Haven Ledges Race

This spring marks the 11th running of the race, which is being held on **Saturday, April 13** (with a make-up date of April 20). For more information on the race, and a pre-registration link (on the About page), see www.facebook.com/NewHavenRace/.

2018's 10th anniversary race had 57 registered entrants, very close to the maximum of 60. We're hoping for comparable participation this year!

NFCT Paddling Film Festival at Outdoor Gear Exchange

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail's film fest is being held on **Thursday, April 25**, in Burlington. NFCT always includes a mix of whitewater and flatwater films—canoeing and sea kayaking—with something else occasionally thrown in. The selections are from Rapid Media's [Reel Paddling Film Festival](#). On the NFCT website, go to Get Involved > NFCT Events.

Upcoming Clinics

Our whitewater clinics are now on the [VPC Events Calendar](#). The **Novice Clinic** is scheduled for **June 1-2**, the weekend of FWR's [Onion River Race](#), and the **Class II Clinic** is scheduled for the weekend of **July 13-14**.

We had good participation in the Novice Clinic last year. With relatively low water levels, our moving water sessions on Saturday and Sunday were spent on the Winooski River, below Middlesex Dam and below Bolton Dam (on Sunday). We're hoping for more water this year so we can return to the Mad (as in 2017). We'll see if the weather cooperates.

Access and Stewardship

On February 4 we received this message from Noah Pollock, representing the Vermont River Conservancy:

*FYI: GMP is starting a process to relicense the dam below the **Wells River run in Newbury**. Looks like the traditional take-out is w/n the property boundary; GMP is claiming no rec purposes. Looks like ANR is requesting some sort of rec assessment. It's a pretty awful take-out, steep hillside, no parking. And the put-in is on private land. At the minimum I wonder if we should file a comment to clarify existing uses?*

Noah also included Ryan McCall and Bob Nasdor of AW as recipients. Ryan and the VPC board strongly agreed that a comment should be filed.

As many of you know, the Moretown Dam, just above the **Lower Mad River** put-in, has entered the relicensing process. Some of us attended meetings last year. The prospects look good for representation of paddlers' interests. A particular concern has been securing access on river left below the dam.

Many of you are aware of the issues involved and the progress made in the ongoing **Green River** dam relicensing process. Our appeal in Environmental Court has gone well so far. See this February 12 update from AW's Bob Nasdor:

[Green River Appeal Heads to the VT Supreme Court](#)

American Whitewater has by and large fought this for us, but needs support in this resource-intensive fight, or in their other dozen or so projects in the northeast. See <https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Membership/>.

Also regarding the Green, see [this article](#) by Andrew Martin on StoweToday.com, published on September 27, 2018.

Some other news from 2018 on ongoing relicensing proceedings:

The Wrightsville Dam on the North Branch of the Winooski just outside of Montpelier has entered the relicensing process. Members of the local paddling community have provided some very useful information about this river. We'll need more help as the process unfolds, including some dedicated local paddlers to help manage the process.

We also were dealt a tough hand at Sheldon Springs on the Missisquoi, with all releases between April 1 and June 15 cancelled for the foreseeable future, severely reducing opportunities to paddle this section of whitewater. We are still formulating a response, but this is yet another reminder of the threat that whitewater paddling opportunities are under in Vermont.

VPC Membership

Please be sure to renew your membership for 2019. (As most of you know it can be done [online](#) via PayPal.) Completely aside from the support your dues provide, our role in the paddling community is dependent on a large and dedicated membership. Lastly, officer elections will take place – for a two year term – at the end of 2019. Please consider taking a leadership role in the club, which has been serving the VT paddling community now for 55 years!

I am looking forward to a great paddling season in 2019 and seeing you all on the river. *Let it rain (and snow)!*

Sincerely,



Chris Weed
President

Home » Get Involved » Leadership Opportunities »

Who's Who in the VPC

Officers

President

Chris Weed

802-863-2149

Chace.Rapid@Gmail.com

Vice President

Tony Shaw

802-324-8497

boatful@comcast.net

Treasurer

Hugh Pritchard

802-522-8403

Hugh.Pritchard@gmail.com

Secretary

James Poulin

802-355-4591

jimpoulin1958@yahoo.com

Directors

Activities Director

John Atherton

802-985-9970

johnjatherton@comcast.net

Communication Director

Andrew Wagner

231-357-3406

awskitc@gmail.com

Director At-Large

Sarah Cunningham

802-688-3913

scunning121@yahoo.com

Director At-Large

Ben Schott

617-530-0412

benjaminjamesschott@gmail.com

Agent

Hugh Pritchard

802-522-8403

Hugh.Pritchard@gmail.com

Education Chair

Paul Carlile

802-318-3279

kanuboy@gsp.org

Conservation Chair

Michael Mainer

802-318-5790

mainer.michael@gmail.com

Webmaster

Tony Shaw

802-324-8497

boatful@comcast.net

Website

<http://www.vtpaddlers.net>

National Weather Service

802-862-2475

<http://www.weather.gov/btv/>

TREASURER'S REPORT – DECEMBER 31, 2018

INCOME AND EXPENSES	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Initial Balance	\$2,180	\$2,524	\$2,950	\$2,402	\$3,178	\$4,339
Dues	\$861	\$814	\$828	\$980	\$1,348	\$1,215
Subscriptions, Event Sponsorship, Donations	(\$525)	(\$395)	(\$888)	(\$445)	(\$295)	(\$562)
Scholarships		(\$100)				
Website		(\$153)				(\$173)
Interest & Bank Fees		\$11	(\$100)	(\$36)	(\$58)	(\$60)
Meetings & Mailings	(\$361)	(\$124)	(\$366)	(\$98)	(\$146)	(\$145)
Miscellaneous				\$162		(\$13)
Rolling Sessions	(\$81)	(\$260)	(\$669)	\$73	(\$195)	\$56
Equipment	(\$40)	\$0	(\$160)			
Novice Clinic	\$407	\$644	\$767	\$135	\$506	\$275
Class 2 Clinic	\$103	\$225	\$45	\$5		(\$55)
Net ACA Insurance Cost	(\$20)	(\$235)	(\$5)			
Net Income (Expenditure)	\$344	\$427	(\$548)	\$776	\$1,160	\$538
Final Balance	\$2,524	\$2,950	\$2,402	\$3,178	\$4,339	\$4,877

\$2,999	\$2,938	Northfield Savings Bank
\$1,340	\$1,939	PayPal
\$4,339	\$4,877	Cash Balance 12/31

The club has a very healthy fund balance at the moment. Club revenue from membership dues has grown well, probably in part due to the use of PayPal. The club's other major revenue source is the novice clinic, the financial success of which varies from year to year. Surpluses from these two sources allow us to run rolling sessions (which usually make a loss), buy equipment, make donations to American Whitewater and the New Haven race, etc.

Hugh Pritchard
Treasurer, VPC

2018 New Haven Ledges Race — 10th Year Anniversary

Ryan McCall
May 3, 2018

2018 was the 10th anniversary for the New Haven Ledges Race. That makes this race kind of a fixture amongst the whitewater races in the northeast. You might even be able to say old. It's funny to think about it that way. When I think about old, I think about irrelevant, passé, stale, etc.... You get the drift.



However, whitewater boaters are young by their inherent nature. They are a curious, playful, excitable and energetic bunch, that are young at heart and in mind. After the event I write up these race recaps and I always say it's the racers that make this race so special. Our racers young and old have kept this event relevant, exciting and above all, fun. That is saying something because when you look at

the field last year the racer's age bracket a 30+ year span. Everyone of the men and women that competed got up on the start ramp with that wild look of excited nervousness in their eyes that only the young know. So, my hat is off to every one of you, winners, swimmers and those in between that got up on the ramp and fired off the best lap you had in you that day. In the end, you have to be in it to win it.



It was a record year of participants at 57 registered racers. From year to year we see outliers where racers come up from the Mid-Atlantic States or further away, but the core of our racers come in from around New England and New York. They always have. The last few years we have seen our racer numbers increase from our northern neighbors participating. However, in 2018 we had 24 racers from Quebec. In a word....AWESOME. The Quebecois brought their game and they brought it in numbers!

We ran the short race course again for 2018. It is becoming the norm. It works well for low water and high-water days. This location also allows us to provide really thorough safety and we can run racers through the course faster. The short course also is considerably more stacked than the full-length course, so racers are in the meat of it from start to finish. The start ramp drops folks directly into the lead-in for the name-sake of the race, *The Ledges*.

If you dial your line in the Ledges you are set up for a great lap, unless *Oh By The Way* nabs you as you exit The Ledges.

Getting through the first two rapids cleanly is a luxury but shouldn't be squandered because racers charge



into a section of class 3–4 boogie that can scrub time or build a lead quickly heading into the last progression before the finish. The racer drops into the lead-in to *Rooster-tail* and must be on line or lose time before actually making the move to avoid the massive Rooster Tail.



A quick sprint to the lip of *Toaster* and you are in for a 14-foot free fall into the pool and a charge at the finish line.

Writing that down makes it sound easy. Not a minute and forty-three seconds easy though. Any of the 57 racers on April 14th will tell you that the course wasn't nearly as easy as I just described.

The tenth year for an event of any kind is kind of momentous. Having competitors show up from the first year to race 10 years later is pretty darn cool. It was awesome to see Justin Beckwith and Colby Cook from our first race in 2009 jumping in and firing off a race lap or

two. Both were relatively new dad's (try 15 days new for Beckwith), so they both were winning whether they brought home the fastest time or not. Although not the champ for 2018, Justin has won 3 of the last 10 years. Impressive considering the competition we get at this race year in and year out.

Speaking of past winners, here is a list of the champs, the LEDGENDS...

2009—Justin Beckwith, 2010—Scott Gilbert, 2011—Hugh Pritchard, 2012—Rogan Brown, 2013—Justin Beckwith, 2014—Tino Specht, 2015—Justin Beckwith, 2016—Cully Brown, 2017—Billy Thibault, and 2018....

We had a first in 2018! A tie at 1st between fellow country-men Charles Arsenault and Emrick Blanchette.

These guys have been in the hunt for a while. In 2017 they both came in just behind their speedy QC counterpart Billy Thibault. However that fired these guys up for 2018 and Charles and Emrick hammered out an impressive time of 1:43 through the course. With our flows and how strong these guys are its no surprise they ripped that kind of time. Ryan Mooney pulled down our First Runner-

Up, coming in 1 second behind Arsenault/Blanchette for a 1:44. If you look at the standings over the years, Moony has pulled down a spot on the podium almost as much as Beckwith and he is only 21. Look out folks, he is a phenom and always in the mix. 2017's winner, Billy Thibault brought home the bacon too at 3rd with a 1:47, 2 seconds faster than his winning pace in 2017. Well done boys. The women killed it in 2018 too. It was one of our thinner field of women, but all three stomped their runs. Completing the sweep by the Quebecois, Genevieve Royer lead the field of women with a time of 2:09.





Leanne Bernier, a perennial favorite for the women's class and past winner, was hot on Gen's heels with a time of 2:13, earning her 2nd place. Carli Beisel brought home the bacon with a third best women's time of 2:49, out paddling a number of the men in the open class—way to go Carli. Hats off to the competitors that placed.

MEN'S OVERALL RESULTS

PLACE	RACER	TIME	PLACE	RACER	TIME
1	Charles Arsenault	0:01:43	27	Jean Fecteau	0:02:04
1	Emrick Blanchette	0:01:43	29	Colby Cook	0:02:07
3	Ryan Mooney	0:01:44	29	Kevin Trottier	0:02:07
4	Billy Thibault	0:01:45	31	Francis Corman	0:02:08
5	Culley Brown	0:01:47	31	Gabriel Desbiens	0:02:08
6	Mike Roy	0:01:48	31	Reed Hutton	0:02:08
7	Frank Tremblay	0:01:50	34	Taylor Krammen	0:02:10
7	Frederick Gendron	0:01:50	35	Sebastien Monette	0:02:11
7	Dylan Updike	0:01:50	36	Conor McCarthy	0:02:12
10	Nick Gilbert	0:01:52	37	Chris Ingram	0:02:14
11	Culley Thomas	0:01:53	38	Tanner Kadleck	0:02:15
11	Ben Schott	0:01:53	39	Scott Gilbert	0:02:17
11	Justin Beckwith	0:01:53	40	Ryan Hutton	0:02:18
14	Mike McVey	0:01:54	41	Mike Beanregard	0:02:20
14	Jordan Vickers	0:01:54	42	Chuck Etaine	0:02:22
14	Corey Thibodeau	0:01:54	43	Dylan Wallace	0:02:24
14	Alex Gauron	0:01:54	44	Jeff Belanger	0:02:25
18	Joel Villeneuve	0:01:56	45	Brent Meixell	0:02:26
18	Tom Neilson	0:01:56	46	Greg Dunleavy	0:02:27
20	Phillipe Naud	0:01:57	47	Emrick Beaulieu	0:02:44
20	JR Jennings	0:01:57	48	Matt Broderick	0:02:45
22	Adam Frey	0:01:59	49	Neal Sanford	0:02:49
23	Francis Savard	0:02:00	50	Alex Buntin	0:02:50
24	Andrew Wagner	0:02:01	51	Justin Meehan	0:03:11
25	Mike Flynn	0:02:03	52	Mike 'Carnage' Mainer	DNF
25	Kyle Landis-Marinello	0:02:03	53	Ryan Szczerbinski	DNR
27	Corey Barber	0:02:04	53	Julien Bayard	DNR

WOMEN'S OVERALL RESULTS

PLACE	RACER	TIME	PLACE	RACER	TIME
1	Genevieve Royar	0:02:09	3	Carli Beisel	0:02:49
2	Leanne Bernier	0:02:13			

I make a pretty big deal about this race being a grass-roots race. This race started as a race for bragging rights. We've grown it some, but at its heart, its still about being able to say you were the fastest boater on the Ledges that day. You see it the day of the race when the first heat times come out. Friends are jabbing each other over times and amping up their competition.

I tell our sponsors this and they get it. Really, boating is about as grass-roots as it gets for the adventure sports I can think of. Our sponsors are the best in the industry. They support our race without batting an eye, they outfit our safety team, they hook us up with gifts for our volunteers and obviously set us up with prizes for the racers and our annual raffle. Some of them have been with us since 2010 and will probably be with us the next 10 years. They really stand behind the Ledges Race and provide us with some amazing gear. Their generosity really legitimizes our event. We were flush with prizes, so like in 2017 we ran the raffle for AW again. The raffle did well and we will be contributing a chunk of cash to the organization that really puts it on the line to protect our rivers and access to those rivers—Thanks American Whitewater! A huge thank you to our sponsors is warranted. Below is a list of our sponsors.

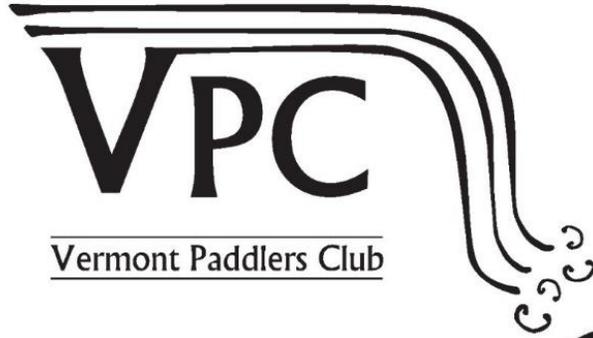
Closing out our 10th Annual New Haven Ledges Race is bitter sweet. There is a lot of time wrapped up in getting it off the ground, talking with friends, time on the river, hanging out with and conversing with racers and spectators the day of the race. It is amazing how quiet the site is about an hour after the race is over and everything is broken down and packed up. The positive twist on this is that the Ledges Race is always a season opener of sorts and I have the opportunity to boat with all of these amazing folks over the course of the year instead of standing on the ramp and saying Ready Set Go!

Congratulation to the entire field for suiting up, jumping in your boat and firing it off the ramp on a day of tough conditions. We had stout flows for race laps and the weather was raw at best. You should all be proud of your efforts! We are extremely grateful to the work that all the volunteers help with and the product that the sponsors provide. Myself and the rest of the race committee are very thankful for each and every one of the racers showing up and making this race what it is. This wouldn't happen if the racers weren't "**In It to Win It**"

See you on April 13th, 2019—Ryan

Photo Credits— Kyle Cahn







"The Vermont River Conservancy needs to raise \$23,000 by Christmas time in order to finalize the \$100,000 purchase of shore lands along lower Clarendon Gorge near Rutland. They are asking anyone and everyone to GIVE GENEROUSLY to protect public access to this dramatic natural landmark...in perpetuity."

So began the first of over 18,000 VPC message board posts submitted by paddlers like you since our website first became interactive, in December 2003. The website has evolved since that time, as much as a website can evolve on a tight budget with a volunteer webmaster and no 24/7 tech support in Bangalore. Not surprisingly, the message board still remains the most heavily-used area.

The most recent enhancement, still not fully implemented, is a mobile-friendly user interface for several important website features, including the message board.

On March 25th, the VPC website will become SSL encrypted, to shield member data including usernames and passwords from the prying eyes of nefarious hackers. Pages up-to-now called using the http://... prefix will be found at https://... starting 3/25. Search engine optimization will also benefit.

Admittedly the VPC has not promoted itself on social media platforms like FaceBook, Twitter, or Instagram to the same extent that some other paddling clubs have been doing in recent years, though we do have a FaceBook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Vermont-Paddlers-Club-179111072106948/>) where we advertise our high-profile events. We also have a Vermont Paddlers FaceBook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/127907827908496/>), which we invite you to join if you like. Finally, it's super easy to "Share" a VPC website page or post on your FB timeline or to Twitter, etc.

Personally, I still kinda like the small-town feel of our home-grown message board, and for this reason alone I hope that a big social media platform does not render obsolete the VPC website – at least not anytime soon. But surely the club could leverage both of these options at once, especially if we have a club member who is social media savvy and eager to take this on as a project.

In a 2006, while Mark Zuckerberg was still potty-training, I commemorated the 10th anniversary of the VPC website in the Bow and Stern, thanking power-users who offered suggestions and ideas for making it better, and went on to say:

"As webmaster, I provide the packaging, that is, a consistent look and feel as well as a navigation scheme that is meant to be intuitive and user-friendly... But people don't return again and again to the website for its PACKAGING. Instead, they are interested in its CONTENT. And EVERY user of the website can (and should) contribute to its content... Let (other members and) the world know you are out there, and dialed in..."

There is really nothing that the VPC website cannot aspire to do...or be. My hope over the next 10 years is to find someone who shares my passion for "doing it right", and to pass the torch, so to speak. But whoever the webmaster happens to be, the staying power of the VPC website will forever hinge on members like yourself, willing to dream, create, compose, and (most importantly) POST. Thanks for a great (first) decade!"

White River Watershed Not So Micros

Friday Mar 30, 2018

Organizer: Noah Pollock

Difficulty: int-adv WW

Level: medium

Author: [Noah Pollock](#)

With spring finally starting to emerge from the snow drifts, Anders and I made a plan for some Friday afternoon paddling. With the demands of law school, Anders's paddling is basically limited to the White River watershed on most days, so we chose two rarely run runs - the West Branch of the Tweed and Locust Creek. Mike McDonnell had given me beta and Anders was eager for some obscure boat bashing paddling. We drove to Pittsburg, and left a car at the bridge over the West Branch of the Tweed - the White River Partnership and FEMA had conveniently purchased and removed a house here, and its a great public access point now. The water level looked great! We drove east until the road ended at a snowmobile trail, and then proceeded to drive a little further, Anders testing his 4x4 truck capabilities on the snow covered road. Eventually we stopped and walking our boats through the woods, following the sound of the river. Behold, there is was! For good measure we hiked upstream, putting in above a snowmobile bridge. The river here is like a mini Patterson - clear, bouldery water, ledgy rock walls, fun little drops. Good stuff. After the obligatory sneak around a strainer we carried on for ~5 miles? There are several distinct drops in this section, which is great for a micro, including a set of ledges right above and below a bridge. What a fun river!

Next stop, Locust Creek, which is visible on Rt 107 between Bethel and Stockbridge near Rt 12. We parked at the gas station to scout the drop below the bridge. Left side looked chocked with wood, but right side was clear, first time in a couple years. Leaving a car here we proceeded to drive west toward Barnard. Gradually the river became smaller and smaller, so before we ran out of water we stopped at a side bridge and set off

downstream. The river here was mostly quickwater with occasional Class II drops, made more challenging by a badly leaking boat on my end. Soon we came to a more intense rapid with a horizon line beneath a side bridge, and pulled over to scout. The river here descended a jumble of boulders and through a narrow slot - probably only 5' wide. Class IV+ with pinning potential? We elected to portage and seal launched into the mini gorge. Carrying on to Rt 107, we descended the final drop, which was bigger and more fun then it looked from above. Anders rolled twice here, more times then his entire Grand Canyon trip the week prior. We took out by an old road above the confluence and walked back to the gas station, happy to have explored two, close to home, not so micro creeks!

Mascoma River (NH) - from Mascoma Lake

Saturday Apr 7, 2018

Organizer: Tony Shaw

Difficulty: nov-int WW

Level: medium low

Author: [Tony Shaw](#)

I put an early April Mascoma River trip on the VPC spring schedule hoping for a 70 degree day. Instead we got barely more than half that, topping out at just 40 degrees. The sun shone brightly all day, which helped a great deal, and the wet snow that had fallen overnight clung to the trees prettily during our first run. The rail trail that parallels the river and crosses it several times was covered with enough snow that a x-c ski shuttle would have been possible, though we weren't prepared for that. The Mascoma here is maybe 25 feet wide on average - free of river-wide strainers (today). There were 4 kayakers for each of our 2 runs (Chris F., John, Sarah, and Tony in the AM, with Chris W. subbing in for Sarah in the PM). The state of NH funds the real-time river gauge (de-funded years ago by the USGS) which looked **plenty** fluid online throughout the week. But then **mysteriously** Saturday morning the dam operator lowered the flow from 700+ CFS to approximately 475 CFS - still fluid but rather tame from start to finish. The paddle through

the woods is attractive and we enjoyed the many read-and-run II-III rapids, the most technical of which is the final one - Excelsior. Be sure to scout the low head dam (a mandatory portage) from the take-out, whether you choose to park on river right in the posted "lot" near the rail-trail bridge or on river left in the swimming pool parking lot a couple hundred yards downstream. Dartmouth holds a slalom race on this stretch of the Mascoma each April - the same weekend as the Wells River Rumble.

Patterson Brook (and people to boat with)

Wednesday-Sunday Apr 25-29, 2018

Organizer: Late snowmelt

Difficulty: int-adv WW

Level: medium

Author: [Mike](#)

Heading back from field work in Montpelier on Wednesday, I noticed that all the little creeks in the Mad River Valley were starting to fill up. I made a slight detour to check Patterson, finding it at a pretty much perfect level... with no one to paddle with of course. Sort of the story of spring 2018... not really much of anyone out boating, despite the extended, late, healthy snowmelt season we enjoyed. Fortunately, a few emails later Chandler was heading over.

With one to two inches of water running over the gauge rock this run is amazing! Things are not too big but everything is nice and fluid... a true perfect medium. We did two efficient laps on this wonderful creek, stopping to check for wood in a few places. Things are actually in good shape wood-wise, though there is some wood hanging over the runout of the diagonal holes that looks like it will fall in pretty soon and make a nasty log jam. Other than that there is just a lot of green moss, a few waterfalls dropping into the river and some really nice class III-IV rapids... like there's always been.

On Thursday Robyn wanted to head over, and brought Catherine, Tom and Anders as well. The level was a little bit lower but well within the nice medium range. We did two

more really nice laps. An added plus this time was how clear the water was. It's hard to convey just how good this run is at a nice level... it's active, interesting paddling but really forgiving... you'd be hard pressed to find an undercut, sieve, pothole or bad pin spot on the run.

I paddled elsewhere on Friday and Saturday, but folks were interested in heading back Sunday morning. We had myself, Tanner, Anders and... Dave! It had been a few years since I'd boated with Dave, and in fact it was Dave who had shown me this run 8 years ago. The level was a fluid low, just spilling over the middle of the gauge rock. We did two more laps on this surprisingly chilly day.

After that I went to take a quick look at Thatcher Brook down in Hancock. It is a very interesting looking run.

So that is how to enjoy snowmelt, and it's also nice to see folks actually out paddling after work!

N. Branch Cold River / Cold River

Monday Apr 30, 2018

Organizer: Scott Gilbert

Difficulty: int-adv WW

Level: low boatable

Author: Scott Gilbert

In the winter of 2018, after spending most of my adult life living north of 89, I moved to Middlebury. This move placed me in striking distance of a whole new cache of creeks and streams many of which I had never paddled. On the afternoon of Monday April 30th, after missing the peak runoff event of the past week (visiting family in NC) I took the opportunity to explore one I had been wanting to check out for a while - the North Branch of the Cold.

The North Branch is a small stream tucked to the southeast of Rutland in a surprisingly remote valley. Its waters originate on the northwest aspect of Killington and travel south

before meeting the main branch of the Cold just below the Brown Covered Bridge.

The put-in I chose was where Notch Road crosses the river just below Mclaughlin Falls - a potentially runnable 2-stage falls dropping perhaps 30 feet in total. As I was travelling alone it was something I didn't inspect closely. From the pool at the base of the falls it is a little over three and a half miles to the main branch of the cold with an elevation loss of 650 feet. The first mile drops 200 feet and contains fun constricted boulder and bedrock rapids. Wood was an issue in some, but otherwise it was surprisingly decent boating. Unfortunately, the quality boating ends and for the next 2 miles the creek was shallow, gravelly and wood infested, the sort of tiring and boat abusing stuff that deters one from returning. Redemption is found in the last six tenths of a mile after Mendon brook enters on the left, adding flow. Below here the creek drops 170ft over small and continuous boulder rapids, reminiscent of the Big Branch only tighter and slightly less steep. Of the run I found this to be the most enjoyable and a great way to dull the memory of the previous 45 minutes in the flat section.

While the boating on the North Branch had its highlights, as an overall run it is not something I would likely recommend. That being said the valley has a very remote feel and contains a beautiful birch and maple forest. Something about it reminded me strongly of the White Mountains.

At this point you are deposited into Cold River proper. I chose to hike up from the confluence another 3/4 of a mile to add a bit more to the afternoon. From here down to the Cold River Road bridge it was an incredibly fun III+ romp. There was one dangerous river wide pine about 1/2 mile above the covered bridge directly after the river makes a nearly 90 degree turn to the left.

This section felt like a smaller E. Branch of the Pemi both in character of rapids and scenery. The 3 miles contains continuous

wave trains, small holes and a few boulder strewn rapids to maneuver through. With the flow on the low end of the spectrum it was low stress - aside from worrying about wood. If you were to find this with a lot of water it would be a fantastic run, but also more serious due to its continuous nature and the likely addition of a few sizable holes.

At the take-out bridge I was worn out. 6½ miles of boating, plus a good amount of time with the boat on my shoulder had drained me. Unfortunately, the real fun was just starting with a nearly 8 mile bike shuttle up some seriously steep back roads still to be done. The shuttle back to the top is rather indirect, requiring you to travel north into Rutland before back-tracking south and up Notch Road where there are a couple of gut-busting hills to impede progress. I'm not too proud to admit I was forced to dismount for a time.

Finally arriving at the car, out of water, stamina and daylight, was a relief. In total the adventure took about 4 hours start to finish.

Was I glad to have done it? Definitely. I can't think of a better way to spend my free time than exploring a secluded river valley tucked into the Green Mountains. Will I be back to the North Branch? Definitely, except next time will be with a fishing pole and a backpack with beer.

As for the Cold proper, as has been stated before, it is an underrated, often passed over run that I would argue ranks as one of the best class III runs Vermont has to offer. At higher levels it would sure to please those looking for more challenge and serves as a great backup to when the Big Branch is too high.

So the next time the water is up down south, make sure to give yourself time to get a run in on the Cold.

Lower Mad River

Wednesday May 9, 2018

Organizer: Jim Poulin

Difficulty: intermediate WW

Level: low boatable

Author: [Jim Poulin](#)

Ten of us gathered on a warm (80 degrees) spring day. This was the "Team Edition" trip. We had the following "teams":

Team Centrifuge: JimF & Max (they were fun to watch flopping all over the place)

J-Team: JimP & John

Eddy Hop Team: Hugh & Steve

Team Chris: ChrisW & ChrisM

Father / Daughter Team: Paul & Rita

And we will not make mention of any swim team members...

Since it was so sunny and warm we took our time getting through the first few rapids. Yes, there is still wood in the S-Turn rapid but we all missed it. We burned so much daylight by the time we hit the Route 100 bridge we needed to hustle a bit to get to the take out by sunset. We made it with a few minutes of daylight left. By the time we took out the temps were still in the mid 60's!

Everyone has a great time. Why can't all days of paddling in Vermont be 80 degrees with enough juice to get us downriver?!?

Everyone runs the EB Pemi (NH)

Saturday May 12, 2018

Organizer: Mike Mainer

Difficulty: intermediate WW

Level: low boatable

Author: Mike Mainer

Yes, that's right, the East Branch of the Pemigewasset. Where all the wealthy, famous and fashionable New England paddlers go. Or at least they should, but didn't. I got a couple

miserable excuses: "Too low" (it was holding around 700), "The Saranac is in" (the Saranac isn't 10 miles of impeccable class III-IV) and so on. I guess this river, once one of the most trendy and fashionable paddling destinations in the northeast just doesn't stack up to not paddling at all, even on beautiful late spring days.

Actually, doing this run alone was sort of nice. I didn't have to work on convincing anyone to do the hike into the upper section (because there was no anyone), and I didn't have to convince anyone else to hike past the normal upper put-in and go even farther upstream - one of my goals for the day. I ended up going about 2.5 miles past Franconia Brook (or over 5 miles above the roadside put in) before I decided that I needed to leave time to actually paddle. My hiking was rewarded with a couple of the best solid class IV boulder gardens in the whole Pemi watershed. This was a nice surprise, in addition to the miles of great, continuous class III, pristine water quality and wilderness scenery. I also ran into Greg and Sawyer Hanlon, who were in packrafts and a little surprised to see another boater up there.

Most of the run is in great shape, with a lot of the messy cobble piles left by Hurricane Irene mostly eroded away. The floods last fall cut an entirely new channel in one place, leaving a solid quarter-mile of the old riverbed almost completely dry.

Loon Mountain Rapid also changed a ton - it's unrecognizable compared to the past-Irene version, and is a vast improvement over shitty, rip-rapped sluice that the ski area left when they replaced the bridge. The new version begins with a steep, clean drop over and around huge granite boulders well upstream of the bridge. There were two older open boaters here who absolutely crushed the bottom hole in their gigantic boats.

On a side note, if you're in the whites when things are running, check out the Zealand

River - it's one of the nicest-looking creeks I've seen. Probably runs when the Sawyer runs.

Saranac (NY) in May

Sunday May 13, 2018

Organizer: Chris Weed

Difficulty: int-adv WW

Level: medium

Author: [Chris Weed](#)

The Saranac had been running high for over a week, but by the week of May 6 showed promise of coming down to a sensible level, with little rain expected for the next several days. I posted about a possible trip, and Charlie expressed interest. By Thursday Jeremy had emailed me about the trip. Early on Friday I posted a plan to meet on Sunday morning, and Chris Frost signed on.

By that time the gauge was down to 5.5 - 5.6 feet, a nice medium level. I hoped it would hold into the weekend, and it did (at 5.25 feet). Saturday was sunny but chilly, but Sunday looked ideal, with a forecast high of 70 F or above.

As usual, we carpooled to the Grand Isle Ferry from the Milton Park and Ride (I-89 Exit 17) and met at the Maplefields convenience store on Route 3 in Redford shortly before 1:00 pm. After checking out the large rapid above and under Ore Bed Road just upstream from the store, we decided to change at the usual takeout (2.1 miles farther upstream) where Silver Lake Road meets Route 3 (in Clayburg). From there the shuttle up to the put-in is about 4.2 miles. (On the river, the distance is about 5.5 miles.)

By the time we started down the 200 yard put-in trail the weather felt like summer, and the sky was a gorgeous clear blue. Jeremy and Charlie were new to the run, and I was glad to see them experiencing the river with such beautiful weather and at a solid medium flow. We paddled uneventfully for the next 45 minutes or more down to Tefft Pond Falls, taking in the wild surroundings on the edge of Adirondack Park. The initial rapid right after the

put-in is a nice extended warmup, which includes class 3 features at higher flows. After that is an extended meandering stretch of flat water through a wetland.

It ends abruptly at Tefft Pond Falls (Class IV-IV+), where we stopped to portage and scout the falls. I had seen it run on a couple of occasions by that time (by Max Redman and Noel Bailey) and knew of another run by Jamie Dolan. (Undoubtedly there have been many others by solid New York paddlers in years past.) All these were at lower flows (4.7 to 4.9 feet). As indicated, we elected to portage, but a run was certainly not out of the question. At 6 feet and above the drop is arguably Class V, with wood almost always a complicating factor.

The next rapid brought us to the top of the big Class III-IV cascade where mishaps usually occur. Jeremy and Charlie took the meaty line against the large central island, while Chris Frost and I took a couple of more conservative lines to river-left. Chris went right against the left bank, which includes a tricky bend and a couple of holes that can cause problems. He handled it without incident, and we met up in the large pool below. After surveying what came next, Chris took off and worked left, with me following farther to the right.

I focused on maneuvering through the staggered ledge holes in this section, and lost track of what Chris was doing. At the bottom of the rapid I looked around, and saw that Jeremy was giving chase to a boat. It quickly became evident that Chris was swimming. He self-rescued fairly readily on river-left, and corralling his boat became the main problem.

We ended up in front of the one house that fronts on the river below Tefft Pond Falls, where some confusion ensued. I pulled into an eddy and threw my paddle on shore, capsized my boat while trying to get out of it, and lost my water bottle in the process. At that moment I saw Jeremy scrambling to exit his boat, get on shore, and start running after something. I thought at first it was my paddle, but it turned out to be his; mine stayed where I threw it.

Somehow in the midst of all this we did indeed rescue Chris Frost's boat, and were able to regroup and continue on down the river.

At the time I was worried that the owner(s) of the house might be home, and would strenuously object to our use of their riverfront, but nobody appeared. I've heard stories about unfriendly landowners along this stretch of the Saranac. Fortunately, it is generally easy to stay either on the water or out of sight, or both.

After that episode we were able to relax and enjoy the continuous 2+ miles of rapids that follow, including the one remaining substantial drop on the run, where the river splits around an island. Plenty of easy whitewater follows, with some nice surfing opportunities, especially on river-left.

Running the Saranac can make for a long day, but the run to the upper takeout only took us about 2 hours. At 5.75 feet or above many may consider it worth using the lower takeout and running the rapid above Ore Bed Road, although this entails paddling about 1.5 miles of shallow quickwater (mostly Class I) to get there.

During a reasonably wet spring the Saranac stands a good chance of having good flow well into May. There are few things better than experiencing the wilderness feel of this run with a clear sky, warm air, and cool but not cold water. I continue to highly recommend it. (By the way, the Saranac is part of the [Northern Forest Canoe Trail](#).)

Spring Moose (NY)

Saturday-Sunday May 26-27, 2018

Organizer: Nobody

Difficulty: advanced WW

Level: medium low

Author: Mike Mainer

For the first time in a few years I actually had Memorial Day weekend clear to paddle, but didn't really make any plans. I sorta wanted a big Quebec weekend or something that like,

but hadn't the time to get a plan together. Still, a warm weekend on the Moose in New York seemed like an easy, fun and logistically simple option and as it turned out Tom was on board as well. I have to admit that while the Moose is not the most exotic or sought-after run, it's still a pretty good deal... you can camp by the river, run fun, mostly-friendly class IV/V and the pool-drop nature of the run makes it a great social river, especially with the level in the low- to mid-3's.

On Saturday we had a large but competent group and had a routine run down to Agers. Some folks went for the hard lines, some didn't, but everyone was having a fun, relaxing day.

Things took a decided turn at Sure-Form, when one member of our group, Molly, flipped at the top and washed out the bottom semi-conscious and unable to exit her boat. I didn't quite realize what had happened, but fortunately Justin and Jeff picked up on the problem faster than I did and 4 or 5 of us managed to get her out of the current and somewhat stable on a rock, while a few others corralled gear and Greg took off to call 911. The next big stroke of luck came when a friend of ours, Olivia, who is an ER doc came down with the group behind us, and with her direction we moved Molly to a better position where she regained full consciousness and a little bit of feeling in her extremities. Once the Lyons Falls Fire Department arrived, 20+ firefighters and paddlers carried Molly across the runout of Sure-Form to the back of a pickup truck and thence to an ambulance.

This was a sobering event for a rapid that, while notorious for bloodying knuckles and smashing elbows has never really been viewed as truly hazardous. To some degree, I think many of us have become indifferent to the shallow-but-not-shallow-enough nature of so many rivers in the northeast and the significant, but unobvious hazard that produces.

As a side note, the ultimate diagnosis was 2 or 3 broken vertebrae, a painstaking but nearly

complete recovery and what everyone hopes will ultimately be a strong return to paddling.

Sunday went a bit better, with no real issues. It was warm enough to paddle in a t-shirt. The best part of the day was when the entire group ran the alpine line at crystal. In fact, sitting at the bottom watching 10 friends fire it off cleanly was one of the best parts of the season.

Paddling is always about taking the good with the bad and dealing with what the river throws at you. Be well, be wise, beware, because.

Browns River - Westford

Tuesday Jun 19, 2018

Organizer: Chris Weed

Difficulty: nov-int WW

Level: medium

Author: [Tony Shaw](#)

A summer whitewater outing in these parts requires a dam release or a rainstorm. And rain it did. But the Monday afternoon—and overnight—intermittent heavy thunderstorms were clearly fast-moving and isolated, so we also needed a Chris Weed to read the tea leaves and ferret out a hasty Tuesday paddling plan. Early Tuesday morning the VPC message board started lighting up. By late Tuesday morning the sun had made a return. And about the time we put-on in Westford to run the Browns—1:00 pm—the Lamoille R. at East Georgia started falling from its peak flow (1900 cfs).

I knew from my own scientific analysis here in Williston ("thousand one, - thousand two, ...") that several potent cells had passed 10 miles or so to our north—over the Browns headwaters. Those fast-moving thunderstorms - the kind that shake your whole house when the thunder hits—were impressive. God I love summer!

I debated between canoeing and kayaking, and I chose the kayak mainly because it is a bit easier to carry and load on the car—and because it was easier to extricate from all the s#@* cluttering up our garage.

So Chris and I took my 7-week-old hip for its maiden voyage in a kayak, and it was great! The Browns corridor below Westford is surprisingly remote and lovely, home to the 2 deer we saw on the riverbank and their compadres, and at least the one coyote we saw SWIMMING across the river! And of course we had the swollen, musty-smelling river thing going on. It's the "Browns", after all!

There is a new river-wide strainer in the first 1/4 mile below the put-in on Rt. 128 in Westford, but other than that all the lines were clean, and neither of us had any difficulty. My hip actually felt really great while boating, and I even went for a mountain bike ride later that afternoon. God I love healing!

It would have been fun to have a larger group on the river, but it was Tuesday after all, and with storms like these you've got to strike while the iron is hot. I think the Browns was cresting in Westford just about the time we put on (2" or so below the concrete footing at the bridge across from the put-in). It was down to 4" or so below the footing as we headed for home around 3:30.

Addenda (courtesy of CCW): As already indicated, 40-50 yards above the rapid leading in to the broken dam (the second drop after the put-in) there is a freshly fallen tree spanning the width of the river. (It apparently went down during one of the thunderstorms on Monday, 6/18.) It has plenty of branches and foliage, so it's a bad strainer. Its danger is mitigated by the slow-moving flow at that point (at yesterday's medium level) and the fact that one could sneak past it against the bank on far river right. However, another high-water event could move it downstream into the lead-in rapid or the broken dam itself, so it would be good to cut this tree at the earliest opportunity.

There is also some new wood in other locations farther downstream, but nothing that represents a real hazard (for now). However, note that the far river-right sneak route at the river-wide ledge (third major drop) is obstructed by a log at its entrance. That will be an issue if

one attempts to use that route during a high water run, when the hole below the main ledge drop looks risky to punch. (That would be at a level approaching flood stage.)

High Peaks Creeks (NY)

Friday Nov 2, 2018

Organizer: Jordan Vickers

Difficulty: advanced WW

Level: medium high

Author: Mike Mainer

Lots of water around this fall. I awoke bright and early Friday morning thinking about the New Haven, but with Ranch Brook well over 100 and heading straight up it seemed there might be better opportunities. I knew a few folks would be over in the Adirondacks, so headed over to Keene Valley, past a fluffy-looking North Fork Boquet and many waterfalls around Chapel Pond to John's Brook. There I found two New York Justins and a Vermont Jordan and a John's Brook that was at the very high end of runnable.

An easy choice was made to head back to the NoFoBo. This wasn't my first time on it, but the general quality of the run still surprised me. With a nice mix of big boulder gardens, constricted bedrock and sloshy mini-gorges, all connected by juicy class III, it is varied, fun and not too gnarly, at least at a good medium level. We took out at Andy's hole, which looked deadlier than anything we wanted to deal with at that time.

After the NoFoBo we headed back to John's Brook, which had dropped into a juicy runnable range. We used the lower put-in, about a 15 minute walk up from the trailhead. The first quarter-mile had a lot of walking (partly because there were terminal log jams every 200 feet and partly because overall, there was a lot of water and a lot of gradient and it all seemed kind of scary). After the fourth log jam we were able to stay in our boats and actually got to enjoy some of the awesome boulder gardens the lower half of John's Brook is

known for, though we carried the two biggest ones. We took out a little way down the Ausable. Jordan hit the road fast since he had to be in Burlington in an hour (it was Kristen's birthday and yes, Jordan had the day off and he spent it all paddling) while Justin and I headed towards Vermont for what we were sure would be a great weekend of boating.

On a side note, apparently if it's your wife's birthday and you're planning on going boating, you can just let Justin know and he'll notify the appropriate parties. I don't know how much he charges for this service but I hope it's a lot.

Costa Rica

March 11-17, 2019

Organizers: Brock Richardson, Tina Scharf

Difficulty: int WW

Level: lower than expected

Author: Tony Shaw

Where los Ticos give up rain for Lent
Costa Rica! A'paddlin' we went
Not a Gringo was sorry
On the so-low Pacuare
Our exotic boat-bashing descent

With Toucans and Quetzals to ponder
And open-air markets to wander
Those friendly Hispanics
And Brock's endless antics
Made special our trip way down yonder

Editor's plea: Trip reports are a joy to read, but only if they get written in the first place! Seriously, trip reports are a valuable footnote to your club-sponsored and impromptu river adventures. Access to recently published reports enhances awareness of changeable river conditions and can heighten safety on subsequent outings. Additionally, the trip reports you submit are testament to "existing use", a doctrine that is relevant in the dam re-licensing process. It's easy, it's fun, and those of us living vicariously through your trip reports will love you for it...

Events Calendar

	DATE/DAY	PLANNED EVENT	CONTACT	PHONE/EMAIL/COMMENT	EXPECT
	Sunday Mar 24	VPC Spring Potluck/Slideshow	Tony Shaw	802-324-8497 boatful@comcast.net Williston Federated Church — 6:00 - 9:00 pm	offwater
	Thursday Mar 28	Northern Vermont University - Johnson Pool Session	Bill Hildreth	802-326-2077 boomzoom@fairpoint.net 7:00-8:30PM	pool
	Saturday Mar 30	Upper White River	Tony Shaw	802-324-8497 boatful@comcast.net	nov-int WW, int WW
	Wednesday Apr 10	Lower or Upper Mad River	Chris Weed	802-503-9801 Chace.Rapid@Gmail.com	nov-int WW
	Saturday Apr 13	New Haven Ledges Race	Ryan McCall	802-272-6209 ryanmtnman@gmail.com	offwater, adv WW, spectators welcome
	Wednesday Apr 17	Lower New Haven	Paul Carlile	802-318-3279 pcarlile29@gmail.com	int-adv WW
	Thursday Apr 18	Northern Vermont University - Johnson Pool Session	Bill Hildreth	802-326-2077 boomzoom@fairpoint.net 7:00-8:30PM	pool
	Saturday Apr 20	New Haven Ledges Race (- backup date-)	Ryan McCall	802-272-6209 ryanmtnman@gmail.com	adv WW
	Saturday Apr 20	Joe's Brook ⁱ	Tony Shaw	802-324-8497 boatful@comcast.net	adv WW
	Sunday Apr 21	Upper New Haven	Eric Bishop	802-899-1865 barberic@comcast.net	int-adv WW
	Wednesday Apr 24	—(Leader's Choice)—	Jim Poulin	802-355-4591 jimpoulin1958@yahoo.com Difficulty TBD	int WW
	Thursday Apr 25	NFCT Paddling Film Festival at Outdoor Gear Exchange ⁱⁱ	Northern Forest Canoe Trail / OGE	802-496-2285 marthe@northernforestcanoetrail.org 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm.	offwater
	Saturday Apr 27	Saranac River (Silver Lake Road to Redford)	Chris Weed	802-863-2149 Chace.Rapid@Gmail.com	int-adv WW
	Sunday Apr 28	Upper Missisquoi (North Troy) ⁱⁱⁱ	Paul Carlile	802-318-3279 pcarlile29@gmail.com	Int-adv WW
	Wednesday May 1	Browns River in Jericho	Tony Shaw	802-324-8497 boatful@comcast.net	int-adv WW
	Saturday-Sunday May 4-5, 2019	West River Release, Spring 2019 ^v	Jim Poulin	802-355-4591 jimpoulin1958@yahoo.com	nov-int WW, int WW, int-adv WW
	Sunday May 5	North Branch Lamoille	Paul Carlile	802-318-3279 pcarlile29@gmail.com	adv WW
	Wednesday May 8	Lower Mad River	John Atherton	802-238-8412 JohnjAtherton@comcast.net	int WW
	Sunday May 12	Fiddlehead Slalom (Montpelier, VT – Winooski River – Class II+) ^v	Amy Hunt	401-338-5669 aehunt79@gmail.com	int WW
	Wednesday May 15	Lower New Haven	Jamie Dolan	802-453-4658 jdolan_05443@yahoo.com	int-adv WW
	Saturday May 18	Hudson Gorge ^{vi}	Jim Poulin	802-355-4591 jimpoulin1958@yahoo.com	Int-adv WW
	Wednesday May 22	Lower Mad River	Paul Carlile	802-318-3279 pcarlile29@gmail.com	int WW
	Friday-Monday May 24-27, 2019	Spring Moose Fest 2019	Mike Mainer	802-318-5790 mainer.michael@gmail.com	int WW, int-adv WW, adv/exp WW
	Saturday-Monday May 25-27, 2019	New York and Quebec - Class IV+	Mike Mainer	802-318-5790 mainer.michael@gmail.com	adv/exp WW
	Saturday-Monday May 25-27, 2019	Maine Weekend - Dead/Kennebec ^{vii}	Ben Schott	617-530-0412 benjaminjameschott@gmail.com	nov-int WW, int WW, int-adv WW, adv WW
	Saturday-Sunday Jun 1-2, 2019	VPC Novice Clinic	John Atherton	802-238-8412 JohnjAtherton@comcast.net	flatwater, nov WW
	Saturday-Sunday Jun 15-16, 2019	Triple Taureau Trip (class 4/5)	Mike Mainer	802-318-5790 mainer.michael@gmail.com	adv/exp WW

	DATE/DAY	PLANNED EVENT	CONTACT	PHONE/EMAIL/COMMENT	EXPECT
	Wednesday Jun 19	—{Leader's Choice}— (class 2/3)	Mike Mainer	802-318-5790 mainer.michael@gmail.com	nov-int WW, int WW
	Wednesday Jul 3	—{Leader's Choice}— (class 2/3)	Mike Mainer	802-318-5790 mainer.michael@gmail.com	nov-int WW, int WW
	Saturday-Sunday Jul 13-14, 2019	VPC Class II Clinic	John Atherton	802-238-8412 JohnjAtherton@comcast.net	nov-int WW
	Wednesday Jul 17	—{Leader's Choice}— (class 2/3)	Mike Mainer	802-318-5790 mainer.michael@gmail.com	nov-int WW, int WW
	Saturday-Sunday Jul 20-21, 2019	Maine / Kennebec ^{viii}	Ben Schott	617-530-0412 benjaminjameschott@gmail.com	int WW, adv WW, rafting options
	Saturday-Sunday Aug 10-11, 2019	Maine Weekend - Dead/Kennebec	Ben Schott	617-530-0412 benjaminjameschott@gmail.com	int WW, int-adv WW
	Friday-Monday Aug 30-Sep 2, 2019	Ottawa River Weekend	Jim Poulin	802-355-4591 jimpoulin1958@yahoo.com	int WW, int-adv WW, adv WW
	Saturday-Monday Aug 31-Sep 2, 2019	Beaverfest/Raquette (III-IV+, Labor Day Weekend)	Mike Mainer	802-318-5790 mainer.michael@gmail.com	adv-exp WW
	Saturday-Sunday Sep 21-22, 2019	West River Release, Fall 2019 ^{ix}	Vermont Paddlers Club	nnn-nnn-nnnn vpcnews@vtpaddlers.net	nov-int WW, int WW, int-adv WW
	Friday-Sunday Oct 18-20, 2019	Moose River Festival (class IV)	Mike Mainer	802-318-5790 mainer.michael@gmail.com	int-adv WW, adv WW

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

Trips/events with the  are American Canoe Association sanctioned events. THESE ARE THE ONLY LISTINGS THAT ARE SANCTIONED BY THE ACA AND VPC.

- nov = max Class II, int = max Class III, adv = max Class IV, exp = Class IV+/V
See the International River Rating Scale
- [Winter pool sessions](#) continue until April 20th (space limited, fee charged). Signup online.
- 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 for far-flung trips to have a say in pre-planning.
- Car-pooling on long (and short) trips is encouraged!

Disclaimer:

Danger exists for participants in canoeing, kayaking, tubing, and other activities organized or advertised by the Vermont Paddlers Club. Such participation may result in illness or injury due to accidents, the forces of nature, or other causes not foreseeable. Such illness and injury may include disease, strains, sprains, fractures, dislocations, paralysis, and/or death. Possible injuries may cause serious and permanent disability.

By your participation in any Vermont Paddlers Club activity you knowingly assume the risks arising out of that activity. In so doing you release, hold harmless and indemnify the Vermont Paddlers Club and its agents, officers and employees from any and all claims and suits for bodily injury, property damage, wrongful death, loss of services or otherwise which may arise out of your participation in canoeing, kayaking, tubing and other activities, whether or not such claims or suits arise from negligent acts or omissions by the organizers and conductors of this activity, their employees or volunteers, another participant, any other person or from any other cause.

ⁱ If Joe's is too low or too high, the Moose, Gale (NH), or EB Pemi (NH) might serve as the alternative

ⁱⁱ Tickets \$12 online / \$15 at the door / \$10 students.

ⁱⁱⁱ USGS gauge: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/vt/nwis/uv/?site_no=04293000

^{iv} It is likely the spring release will be held one day, May 4, 2019. Contact our Reservation Call Center only (no online reservations). Reservations may be made for a 2-night minimum. More details on Jamaica State Park website.

^v At least part of Saturday will be available for full course practice runs. The racers meeting will be at 8:30 AM, unless otherwise noted, on Sunday followed by the two runs in both session A then B.

^{vi} USGS gauge: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/01315500/>

^{vii} Expect the Dead at 5,000 cfs. There will be creeking options.

^{viii} Expect the Kennebec at normal mid-summer flow and at 2,400 cfs

^{ix} Campsites are prioritized for paddlers and a 3 night minimum stay is required, and a maximum of two campsites may be reserved per customer. See the Jamaica State Park website for additional details.