

Eddy Out



Chota Canoe Club, Knoxville TN. Established 1969

October 2013

Mission Statement: Promote community paddle sport activities, safety awareness and techniques while being actively environmentally responsible.

Whitewater Trip Report: Little Tennessee River July 20, 2013



Kim Abney, John Butler, Lee Belknap, John Wiser and Michael Shannon made the trip that was supposed to be.....A broken sway bar, a river rarely done by folks west of the Smokies and a torrential rain storm on the river and two new paddlers.

John and Michael had no idea what they were in for when they started out that morning.

The group met in Bryson City. It was warm, humid and sunny.

The broken sway bar episode started the day as we turned around to go down the forest service road to the takeout. It took a team effort and Lee's toolkit but in a short time we were able to hit the road again. About seven and a half miles upstream we found a put-in and got started.



With the high water most things were drowned-out but we still found plenty of eddylines. We did all sorts of ferries, peelouts, attainments and ominous loop-the-rock workouts. All this was before the storm hit.

When the storm came it poured...and poured...with all of us hanging on to the weeds waiting out the lightning. When it stopped we played again, then more rain.

We were the only ones on the river for a while until we passed a group of canoeist putting on lower down river. Then we saw three tubers on a long flat stretch.

The river was not all flat. There were small Hiwasse-like rapids that passed over ledges here and there and small groups of rocks making eddylines to keep it interesting. It was interesting enough for John Wiser to take on some water-based crossfit training a couple of times.



The group of canoeists passed us at lunch but missed the grand finale by taking out early.

There was a big rapid at the takeout, biggest one of the run. THE rapid. With discussion up front where John and Michael couldn't hear, we decided on the bigger water off to the right side of THE rapid. Turns out there is a house sized boulder near the bottom off on the far right too. An ugly one as house sized boulders go. Lee started waving us off and with all that practice, the guys came right on along through a big wavetrain and holes, then made the long ferry over to the take out, crossing some strong currents. Very similar to the plateau runs.

Talk about beaming from all involved! A happy day on the water and some awesome paddling to top it off.

Kim Abney.

Acadia National Park – Sea Kayaking, Mt Biking on Historic Carriage Trails, Sight Seeing, and Micro-Breweries – Aug 22 thru Aug 31



Maine shoreline in late summer, early pre-fall, Perfect! Beautiful weather, sunny skies, mild temperatures (mid 70's day, mid 50's at night), and good friends. Those of you that have never experienced the coastal waterways of Maine, is truly something to put on your bucket list. Yes, it is 1,200 miles to Acadia, of which part of the duration of the trip is driving. One just needs to bite the bullet, and drive, drive, drive....

Gary Kilpatrick (trip planner extraordinaire) and Doug Johnstone, began the adventure the morning of Aug 22 (Thursday). Driving straight thru to the coast of Maine, we arrived in Free Port Maine, home of L.L Bean headquarters on Friday, of which, is a remarkable set of stores that covers every outdoor activity that one could imagine. Complete with trout water displays (indoor ponds) hallway aquariums.

Then, off to Camden Maine (bit further north), which is a beautiful sea port harbor, of which we stayed in a State Park (Friday evening), just north of Camden. Took in the sights, and just kicked back a bit. Now, Saturday, we traveled the last leg of the drive (another 100 miles or so), to Acadia NP, located on Mt Desert Island. First order of business was to get our camp sites taken care of at south of Southwest Harbor, at Seawall campground. After a couple of scouting of sites, found our home for a week. Tom & Tere McDonough we due to arrive on Sunday, after visiting with Tom's brother that included a tour of site up in Quebec (with a paddle on the St. Lawrence, sighting whales !)...... Gary learned that our neighbors campsite, would become available the next day, and after a bit of maneuvering, we're able to get that campsite for them. Another perfect plan coming together.

After all the food logistics taken care for a few days, Gary and Doug set out for a mt bike ride on one of the famous Rockefeller carriage trails established in the 1913 thru 1940 (renovated in the 90's for hiking/bike wilderness use). What great fun, we took a trip around Eagle Lake, and with the terrain slightly hilly, we made great time, so extended around Jordan Pond, guess we biked about 8 miles. With the day, now about noonish, we decided to get our boats wet in the interior of Acadia, at "Somes Sound". With the help of the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) guide book (highly recommend becoming a member to get hold of this resource), we located a interesting local picnic park "Suminsby Park" with a great walk up put-in. As we unloaded, the park local young adults/families/kids began arriving at the volley ball layout. Always good to find THE SPOT where the locals play. Getting the boats to the shoreline, and off we were,,,, paddling further into the end of the sound. Passing campground, sail boats, fleet of yachts, houses built into the rock mountain sides, it was just a really nice leisurely paddle on a beautiful day. Now, off to find the Atlantic Micro-brewery, for some ale and BBQ.

Monday, around noonish, Tom and Tere arrived, setup their campsite. Mid-afternoon, we're ready for a short paddle. Knowing from a previous trip (aka from a local outfitter), a hidden kayak launch site in Southwest Harbor, we decided to paddle a crossing into the Atlantic, about 3 miles to the Cranberry Islands. The waves were moderate, with about 2

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Tuesday's paddle was in the area of Bar Harbor, in the Frenchman Bay area. With tide changes of 10 to 12 feet daily, one needed to plan around the ever changing tides. We ventured out past Bar Island and a series of islands called the "Porcupines Islands".... Sheep, Burnt, and Long Porcupine Islands. Everywhere the eye could see hundreds of lobster buoys, and the lobster boats working their days. And, we had another beautiful day, sightseeing the shorelines, and boats. We decided to paddle past the porcupines, in between Ironbound and Jordan Island, and back over to an island called the "Hop". At low tide, the "Hop" and "Long Porcupine" were connected with a gravel/pebble bar, about 8 feet up or so, during low tide. With high tide at 5:22pm, and being 12:45pm, we figured our boats were safe, while we hiked to a bluff overlooking "Frenchman Bay", and had lunch. At about 1:30, a neighbor kayaker alerted us that the tide was coming in, and when we arrived to our boats, the wind had changed direction, with the water brushing up against Tom and Tere's boats. Phew,,, we were extremely happy, the a friendly kayaker alerted us !! Heading back to Bar Harbor, we did some tourist beer drinking, and souvenir seeking..... and then off to the Atlantic Micro-Brewery for alt and BBQ !!

Wednesday's paddle was in the Blue Hill Bay area, east side of Mt Desert Island. We found previously due to the MITA guide book, of a nice launch located in Seal Cove area. With the weather a bit crisper, we decided to wear our dry suits, which later, we regretted, because of the warmer air in the afternoon. Paddling along the shoreline, and past Moose Island, we came upon some interesting shoreline. Getting ahead of Tom a bit, we waited for a long time,,, when you finally arrived, he stated that he came across 3 seals in the water !! Of which the paddle now became more of a game of paddle and seal seeking,,, of which both Gary and Tere seeked and found a seal or two. Great fun !! Paddling across to Folly Island, the tide was too low, for a break, so off to the left was a large island called "Bartlett Island" in an area called Bartlett Narrows. Having a nice break on the shoreline,



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Back in the water, and traveled a bit further, we watched one of the lobster boats working his lobster traps. We had a perfect view, and him pulling out 6 lobsters in one trap. Interesting,,,,, Now heading back to Seal Cove, we paddled the inner side of Hardwood Island, along some "Fish Pens". At Seal Cove, boats reloaded on our vehicles, we chilled at a nice park, with some nice ale, and a bit of cheese/crackers. Now for dinner this time !... Maine Lobster, at a local site, just outside of Acadia Mt Desert Island..... Yum, yum.

Thursday, our final day of paddling,,, consisted of another bike exploration (Gary/Doug), and hike (Tom/Tere) on the carriage trails in the morning, and a paddle on an interior lake "Eagle Lake" in Acadia. Great fun !,,, kicked back day, with a fairly strong wind heading back

Simply, a very nice week of friends, paddling, micro-breweries.....oh, nightly campfires, and kicked back times. Maine, it's the place to be in late summer !! Now, the 1,200 mile travel home,,,, !!

Doug Johnstone



Upcoming Club Meetings, Lots of Things to Discuss

Please plan to attend the monthly meetings at Dead End BBQ on Sutherland Ave. Second Thursday of each month. Business starts at 6:30 pm but come early to socialize.

October 10th

We will be discussing the annual conservation donations. With funds down from previous years we will need to decide how much money we want to donate and to which organizations. Last month we took suggestions. The nominations are, American Whitewater, Little River Watershed Association, Ft. Loudoun Lake Association, Legacy Parks and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning.

The other big issue on the table is officer nominations for next year. We have several people who have stepped up and volunteered to fill some important slots.

Those are:

President– Bob Eckhart

Vice-President– Jim Martin

School Director– Sean Combs

Newsletter Editor– Richard Redano

Touring Trip Chair-Deb McCarter

Member at Large– Doug Johnstone

We still need volunteer and nominations for:

Whitewater Trip Chair, Webmaster, Conservation, Treasurer, Safety Coordinator and Secretary

If anyone else wants to put their name in the hat for the positions we have volunteers for we will hold elections for those spots.

November 14th

Officer elections will take place. Current club members can vote at the meeting or submit your vote by e-mail.

Dec 3rd, Annual Holiday Party

Calhoun's at Bearden Hill

Winter Roll Practice

Sean Combs has volunteered to coordinate roll practice at UT. Last year we decided to stop charging the usual \$5 fee for participants. We paid UT over \$1,400 at the end of the roll sessions. We need to decide if we want to resume collecting a fee to avoid the big drain on the club treasury. We also need to decide if non-members will be able to participate in the sessions. Please let us know what you think.

Note From the Editor

We have about 120 members on the e-mail list. That is why you are receiving this newsletter. The Chota Facebook page claims 250 members. As of last month we had 40 people who are currently paid members to the club. Does anyone see the problem here? There are lots of people out paddling under the name of the Chota Canoe Club but a minority actually paying and participating in club activities.

We changed the way we conducted the annual canoe school this year. We had separate schools for Touring and Whitewater on different dates. Both schools were successful in recruiting new members and getting some good training done. Unfortunately they were not big money makers. We did not have an auction which is usually our biggest money maker of the year.

The club pays for insurance through the ACA each year. That insurance is what protects club members from liability lawsuits. You don't get that from Facebook.

The funds in the treasury are lower than in years past. We would like to still continue to fulfill our mission of giving to conservation organizations and training new paddlers to be safe on the water.

If you still believe in the mission and values of the club please pay your annual dues of \$20.

Make an effort to attend a meeting and participate in activities .

We still need volunteers to fill some positions on the board particularly the Whitewater Trip Chair and Safety Coordinator.

The upcoming elections and decisions about our conservation donations and roll practice will be made by dues paying club members.

Hopefully next year the club can emerge with more participants, paddlers and in better financial shape than it is now.

Jim Martin

Newsletter Editor