

PADDLE SPLASHES

May
2023

Appalachian Mountain Club
New York-North Jersey Chapter
Canoe & Kayak Committee

LOSS OF A LEGEND
**HAROLD
DEAL**

APPIE OF THE YEAR
**CHARLES
MICHENER**

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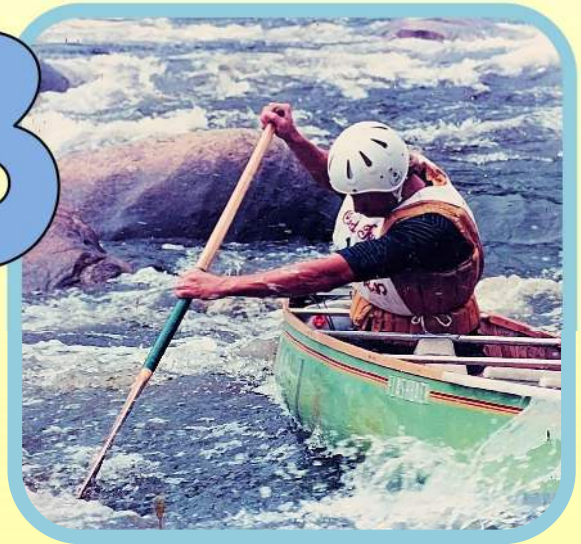
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A Man For All Seasons

Remembering Harold Deal

You wonder what he thought about during those 43 non-stop hours of his solo canoe marathon.

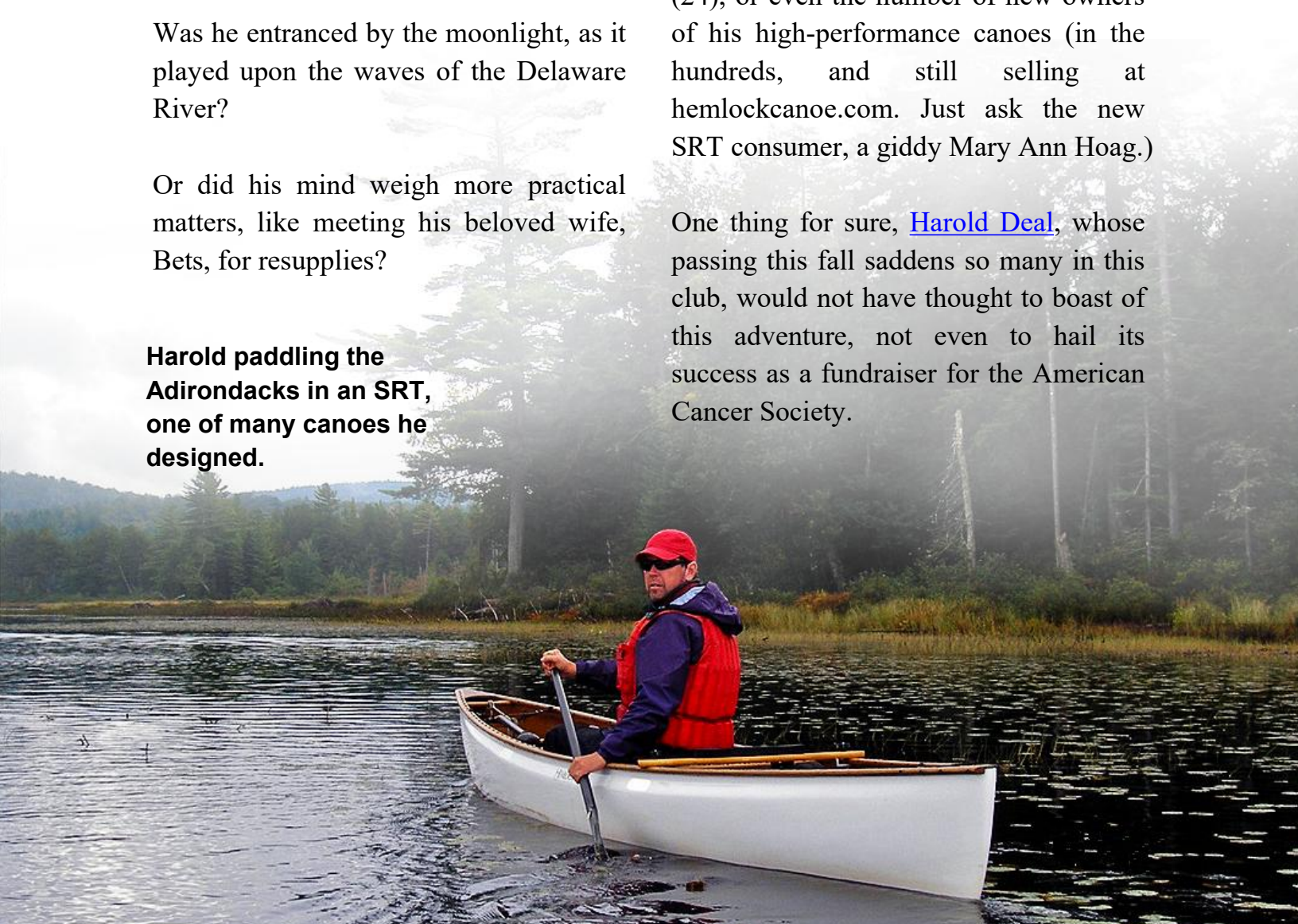
Was he entranced by the moonlight, as it played upon the waves of the Delaware River?

Or did his mind weigh more practical matters, like meeting his beloved wife, Bets, for resupplies?

Harold paddling the Adirondacks in an SRT, one of many canoes he designed.

With the rhythm of constant paddling, he might have fallen into counting—counting the passing miles (200), or his National OC1 Racing Champion titles (24), or even the number of new owners of his high-performance canoes (in the hundreds, and still selling at hemlockcanoe.com. Just ask the new SRT consumer, a giddy Mary Ann Hoag.)

One thing for sure, [Harold Deal](#), whose passing this fall saddens so many in this club, would not have thought to boast of this adventure, not even to hail its success as a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.



Nor would he have gloated over his overnight, open-water trek across Lake Ontario, a crossing he and two other solo canoeists accomplished from New York to Canada in about 15 hours. That, too, was a fun fundraiser, this time benefiting the Breast Cancer Society.

“I never heard of any fundraising,” said Dave Curtis, Hemlock’s owner, as well as Harold’s close friend and longtime tripping partner. Could he really have been that humble?

Yep.

“Harold accompanied us on several Everglades trips when we outfitted and guided those in the 80s,” Dave explained. He never asked Dave for money, just to come along.

“He was a good friend, a wonderful tripping companion, and a superb paddler,” said Dave.

Yet Harold had plenty of reason to brag.

Paddler Magazine honored him as one of the top 100 canoe legends of the century. Their accolades for this boat designer, National Canoe Racing Champ, and nature photographer included his influential stylings as a free-style canoeist.

As one of the founders of flat water freestyle, Harold had a signature move. Only the hull of a canoe glides by, impossibly balancing on its side. The “Hiding Harold,” they call it.



“There is not much a person can’t learn with an open mind and a canoe.”

Harold Deal

His teaching techniques influenced such pros as Bob Foote, Tom Foster, and Kent Ford. Even Canoe Magazine wanted a piece of him, requesting he guide their expedition for a feature story on the Minnesota Boundary Waters.

Whenever Harold showed up at the Monguap or Lehigh, a buzz of hushed, “Do-you-know-who-that-is?” murmurs zipped around the put-in.

“There may be stronger paddlers, but the skill and finesse with which he paddled made it amazing to watch. We lost a good one,” said Stephen Ferder.

Harold first began wilderness canoe tripping as a child on family Canadian excursions. Since then, he had amassed an impressive number of extreme adventures in places like the Grand Canyon, Costa Rica’s highlands, and the remote Northwest Territories.

“He loved winter canoeing,” Curt Gellerman recalls. Curt and Harold frequently led their self-supported wilderness adventures together. Harold’s favorite winter river was the Big Flat Brook up in North Jersey.

“Once he saw a mother bobcat and her two bobkittens,” he said. “So many memories,” Curt added.

“One time we came out on the Delaware, but the ice flows on the banks were at least ten feet high—I have pictures,” Curt insisted. “We had at least half a dozen bald eagles soaring above us.”

Another winter outing didn’t go so well.

As a boy, he was sent out to retrieve a pair of shot ducks from a frozen pond. The birds were too far to be reached even with the longest branch, so he waded into the icy water up to his belly and felt instant paralysis. Even his dry upper limbs stiffened and grew immobile. A swift fire, then a vigorous jog home finally revived movement, but it was a sobering lesson he never forgot.

It was also as a boy that he first dipped his hands into boat designing. An early photo shows him riveted in attention as his young fingers repair the ribs of the family’s birch bark canoe.

Harold (left) and Curt between rapids on Utah’s San Juan River in 2016.

Photo by Marty Plante.



A teenaged Harold re-sewing the family's birchbark canoe (about 1963).



His innovative canoe designs for whitewater ([the Shaman](#)), and flat water tripping (the [Solo River Tripper or SRT](#)), as well as racing paddles are highly respected.

“The Shaman is one of the prettiest canoes, plus responsive and fast,” Cath Kraft said. “The speed, glide, and maneuverability made playing the rapids fun,” she added. Over the years she owned three.

“I had a fantastical wish that Harold’s boating skills would magically transfer to me as I paddled the Shaman,” admits Cath.

“Harold so much loved paddling his own canoes that he had designed that for our Mountain River trip in the Northwest Territories, he went to great expense to bring his own boat,” Curt noted. Everyone else compromised with the soft shell pack-canoes to lighten the bush

pilot’s load, but not Harold. He held fast to his vision. He wanted his precision, hard hull for the three week trip from the river’s headwaters down to the “Mighty Mack,” the Mackenzie River.

He was good at dreaming: designing boats or expeditions, or even his dream house along the scenic Delaware.

Whatever his daydreams were during that marathon fundraiser down the Delaware, he made it known that his feat was dedicated to all the visionaries who, like himself, preserve the natural character of that river corridor.

He called canoeing a “journey of the soul.”

Shaman, indeed.

Therein may lie his greatest legacy: he reminds us all to be true to our dreams.



BY LORETTA BRADY

Getting Schooled

“Paddle!!”

“Don’t forget to breathe!”

“One is a victim. Two is a witness. Three is a rescue.”

“Don’t underestimate the potential power of water at even 100 cubic feet per second.”

These and so many other words of wisdom from our past Chair of Instruction, Butch Futrell, live indelibly in so many minds. His sought-after kayak courses and training series encouraged so many of us to go for it, to

dare to feel the euphoria of whitewater paddling. Canoeists, too.

Now that Butch passes on the torch, we’ll attempt to hit the ground running to keep his legendary momentum going.



Ram Tripathi, leader-in-training and international raft guide, demos for students.

We've styled several innovations to get more boats on the water—and safely.

First, noticing KCCNY has long lacked a formal whitewater kayak course, this year we're partnering to make it happen.

“The magic of paddling club communities will die out without strong instructional programs,” said David Rosenfeld, a key inspiration to this strengthened KCCNY-AMC collaboration.

Jordan Yaruss, a Class 4 boater awarded advanced ICW certification, and who has led many levels of popular clinics and instructionals for KCCNY in the past, is our lead kayak instructor this season.

Jordan will be joined by skilled coaches Kerri Klinger, Mark Tiernan, and Leader-in-Training Ram Tripathi. Together they have a world of experience, and in Ram's case, quite physically international experience, too.

Tom Hart, KCCNY's newest leader, has jump started their club with impressive marketing skills and a vision that ramps up both safety and schmoozing. We've enjoyed blended club paddling barbecues and camping festivals at Deerfest and the Monguap last season, and look forward to joint events this season: like [July's Salmon River weekend](#) already posted online.

Second, we've expanded the course to span two episodes of instruction, thereby

including basic swiftwater rescue skills for students early on.

So for both canoeists and kayakers, you'll see the course listed as two required, bonus events:

**PART 1: Strokes, Maneuvers, & River Running
& PART 2: Swiftwater Safety, River Reading & Running**

The Part One event begins Friday afternoon at the barn, getting fitted for gear and learning to safely car-top boat.

The next day is lake instruction at High Point State Park, offering practice & games with feedback. The third day we run the Delaware River, Staircase Rapids to Sparrow Bush Beach, guiding ferrying and eddy catching with more demos, practice, and feedback.

The Part Two event can be fulfilled either the next weekend at Deerfest, or at a more local river with date TBD depending on student needs and skills. Along with rope throwing practice and self-rescue drills, we'll again coach new paddlers to safely up their game. We'll also demo and guide students on maneuvers while they improve their river reading skills.

Experienced support paddlers are often needed for those river days. Reach out to Loretta at lorettajbrady@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Apart Together

By sharing the High Point State Park campsite, all students—whether canoeists or kayakers—will blend over Happy Hours and campfire stories.

“When we arranged this shared site last year, there was a substantial uptick in



**Instructor Mark Tiernan
cruising between
students.**

new paddlers who joined the follow-up trips,” observed the coaches. Some are even returning this season to learn more. A few recidivists are *crossovers*: folks who’ll paddle single or double blades, kneeling or sitting.

CKC instructors include ACA certified and fully experienced teachers and coaches. The average teacher-student ratio is one instructor per four or five students.

Chris Viani heads the solo canoeist instruction, and a strong team of diverse talent mans—or, rather *humans*—the tandem course. That team includes Herb Sterner, Stephen Ferder, “Mac” MacCauley, Loretta Brady, and Neil Grossman.

Other Courses & Clinics

Eileen Yin has also scheduled a wide selection of courses both for those seeking basic skills *and* for Class 2-3 strivers. Beginners can attend her paddling workshop at Harriman during the [June 9-10 Chapter Picnic](#).

Lest we forget those striving to step-up in whitewater, Eileen hopes to schedule a clinic aimed at Class 2 drills. But even more so, Neil Grossman is again leading a spring series to warm-up and step-up new paddlers, single and double bladers alike. He plans to run four separate, progressively more challenging rivers from March to April.

Neil specially welcomes KCCNY members, dually posting the series on their new website, too.

There are also opportunities several weekends throughout the summer at the AMC’s Fire Island cabin, where co-leaders are on hand to guide guests in sea kayaking or canoeing.

Sense a recurring theme here? Truly there’s more strength—and fun—in numbers.

“Three is a rescue,”—and the start of a barbecue.

Do you know of a conservation project on a river or waterway you love, such as an access point improvement, that needs financial support? AMC’s Waters and Rivers Protection Fund invests in conservation projects across our region thanks to the generous support of our Chapter and others. If you have a project idea or a project that another organization is already leading and looking for funding, AMC may be able to help with a gift of up to \$10,000, though larger grants may also be possible. Click to submit a proposal.

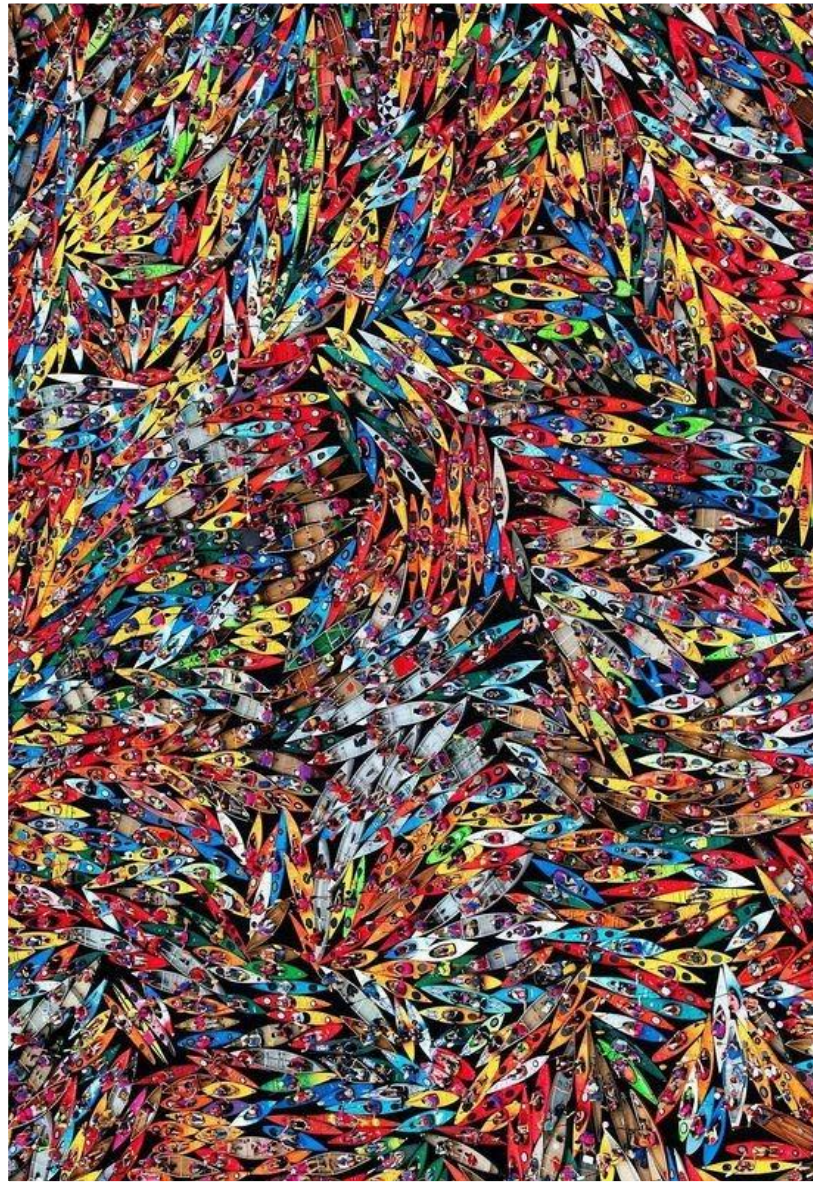


CLICK

IT'S A RECORD

Toms River, NJ, now holds the world record for the "largest parade of canoes and kayaks." A mile-long group of 1,105 boats floated down the river on Aug 20, 2022. (photo below by Jim Lowney / NJ Advance Media)

The Northeast was previously the site of a paddling record when, on Sep 13, 2014, a total of 3,150 canoes and kayaks converged on Fourth Lake in the Adirondack town of Inlet to set a new Guinness World Record for the world's largest raft ever assembled. (photo right by Nancy Battaglia)



Paddlers Party:

MOD MAKEOVER

BY LORETTA BRADY



eems we're getting hipster-trendy.

Over 35 paddlers—a flash mob, for us—toasted a robust year together at Jersey City's hot venue, Zeppelin Hall Beer Garden.

Perhaps the reveling wedding party by the hearth, or the raucous sports fans back deeper in the cavernous hall, influenced our buoyant mood that January Saturday.

Or maybe it was Mary Ann Hoag's centerpiece: the year's recap as an action-packed, looping slide show.

"We wanted to reach more members in North Jersey while allowing Manhattanites a simple journey just steps from the PATH train," said Chair Brian Horowitz.

Fittingly, the traditional pre-pub hike this time spanned the marinas and grasslands of Liberty Park down to a view of Ellis Island docks.




oving the date to a post-New Year's event may also explain the atypical diversity of boaters attending: from sailors to canoeists; from esteemed Harriman Programming Director, Jim Om, to a crop of new millennial leaders like Rose Suarez who is scheduling Fire Island programs.



Zeppelin Hall Beer Garden.

“I’ve been a bit tired of sea kayaking on my own,” said accomplished sea kayaker Sarah Osborne. She was among a handful who even traveled from far flung eastern Long Island to revel with us.

“It’s great to hang out with this kind of group and see what’s going on,” Sar Even demigod legends like Curt Gellerman and Don Getzin mingled in our midst.

 o you realize there are four recent Appies of the Year at this party alone?” Henry Schreiber, himself a renowned Appie and recent Regional Director, observed.

Then there was the classic Awards Roast—er, Leader Awards Ceremony.

Henry, along with Butch Futrell, Marty Plante, Russ Faller, Tim Watters, Lenny Grefig, and Don Getzin, received Lifetime Achievement Awards for their consistent care, feeding, and training of generations of club leaders.


Over a dozen very dedicated trip leaders received our heartfelt appreciation, expressed through warm hugs and cool swag: AMC tote bags, T-shirts, Nature Conservancy Calendars, and selected gift books to match their passions—from *The*

Emerald Mile: The Fastest Ride Down the Grand Canyon, to *Against the Ice: True Arctic Adventures*.

The liquid spirits blended with cosmic ones, as well.

Spirit animal designations were playfully assigned to each leader honored, reflecting the unique gifts each designee shares with the club. Here were a few highlights:

Butch Futrell, whose superhuman dedication to the whitewater instruction program has been a key source of our club’s fame and membership, is bestowed with the Peregrine Falcon spirit animal—the fastest and most successful hunter on the planet.

 arty Plante, Henry and Lenny, who all so wisely steer us diurnally and nocturnally, 24/7, are represented as Boreal, Great Gray, and Great Horned owls.

Don Getzin, for his curiosity and playfulness in rivers, is bestowed with the North American River Otter spirit animal.

Russ Faller, whose endurance, drive, loyalty and affection touch us all, shares the powers of the legendary Siberian Husky. Think [Balto](#).

Brian Horowitz, who carefully monitors us all as top-of-the-food-chain Chair, and guides a steep uptick in quiet water *and* whitewater activity, just as this avian species is enjoying an uptick in its riparian population, is bestowed the Golden Eagle spirit animal.

Stephen Ferder, a linchpin for years in our instructional programs, who lends his flexibility, keen strategizing, and versatile skills,

thus earns his spirit animal as our “Octopus Teacher.”

Mary Ann Hoag, whose incredible skills at gathering us socially, and helping us find sustenance metaphorically and otherwise, is honored with the under-appreciated, soaring New World Vulture.

Yes, the universe has smiled upon this club. Now we just need a crystal ball to foresee future water levels.

Some partiers talked of meeting again in spring for a pub night. If there's interest, let [Brian](#) know! At least there's two zoom gathering dates, for lazy commuters.

Western PA Solo Canoe Rendezvous

June 2/3/4, 2023

Slipper Rock, PA

**Click for
More info**



The Wrong **SPRING** Series

BY LORETTA BRADY

As whitewater spring season openers go, there was one thing seriously wrong.

Sure, there were crowds at each of the day-trip runs—subdivided into three groups of 10—at the Housatonic River on April 15.

And, OK, there was ace coaching from both CT and NY-NoJ AMC chapters *and* KCCNY folk that former students of canoeing *and* kayaking praised as, “a fun, fine way to experience new rivers.”

No, what felt terribly wrong were the 80 degree temps!

Satan's Kingdom section on the Farmington River April 1st started off with frosty rain, but bright blue skies and sun emerged to tease paddlers wisely “over” dressed for the water temps—in the 40s (Riverton Section at 4.88 feet on the gauge).

Each trip progressively upped skill levels, as keen teachers Paul Edwards, Neil Grossman, and Paul Danielewicz cleverly strategized. The Tariffville section, Class 2-3 on the Farmington River, caps this April spring series.

Beyond their control was the “fake summer” climate.

But some, like new canoe student Beverly Wind-Wild, felt the unexpected warm warm-up runs gave her a chance to scramble to find more and better cold weather gear for future needs. You'll easily spot Bev. She's the one whose preschool daughters scribble-designed her shiny red helmet. "MOM," it says, among the artful doodling. Or is that, “WOW”?

**Paul Danielowicz
on the Wallkill
River (right) and
lead instructor Paul
Edwards at the
West Cornwall
Covered Bridge.**

Photos by Marty
Plante.



Adding to the trip report, boaters spotted one picked-over carcass of a buck on river-bank left, “with full rib-cage and antlers—quite a site,” Mary Ann observed.

“Don’t forget seeing the bald eagles!” Cath adds. Some stunning close-ups there were.

Paddler Michael Jordan felt that, “Covered Bridge Rapids [Housatonic] were definitely a highlight, as well as its scenery!”

Perhaps Michael expressed it best for all lucky enough to attend the warm warm-ups. “Thanks Paul, Neil, and Paul and crew for a great trip with a lot of great info and teaching points,” he said.



BEAVERKILL

MAY 7, 2023



PHOTOS FROM
KCCNY FACEBOOK PAGE

Winter

POOL

Sessions
with KCCNY



Congratulations to the 2022 Appie of the Year:

CHARLES MICHENER

The Appie of the Year award was presented by Nominating Committee Chair Henry Schreiber at the New York-North Jersey Chapter's Annual Meeting on November 30.

The Appie award is for an individual who gives selflessly of him/herself for the good of the Appalachian Mountain Club; one who works tirelessly, often behind the scenes, organizing, leading in fact and by example; someone who has served in this manner for several years,

thus over time continuing this commitment; an active volunteer, rather than someone who served well in the past, or for a limited time. The Appie exemplifies what is best about the volunteer ethic that makes our Club, and particularly our Chapter, so special.



Charles' passion in spotting and training leaders is a gift.

He zealously promotes safety and instruction long after his students graduate, cheering them on to test their limits further, to share the thrill of adventurous rapids or expeditions.

He actively scouts and probes new locations in the Pine Barrens or Adirondacks for the clubs' enjoyment, and to increase conservation awareness, a feat he also guided while on the executive committee, evaluating projects for conservancy of waters and rivers.

His pride in the club as chair, leader, and Interchapter Paddling Committee member inspires many.



His warmth and generosity magnetically attracts kayakers, quiet water folk, whitewater experts, and canoeists and boaters of every age, flavor, and world view. It's no wonder Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion incentives were a driving force behind his vision as a beloved CKC chair.

Charles' enthusiastic influence, in fact, could not be contained just among our own AMC paddling committee and chapter.

He is a natural "bridge" leader, expanding our partnerships with other activities committees, other chapters, and other organizations. For example, KCCNY now regularly joins us in Happy Hours and camping at events like "Deer festivities" on the Dryway and Fifebrook extended weekends.

Charles also mentored the Potomac AMC chapter as they revived their paddling program, guiding leader training and joint expeditions. Under his tenure a trend toward multi-activity paddling trips (hiking, biking, paddling anyone?) flourished.

"Charles has a unique charisma. He attracts everyone to us like a Pied Piper."

Mary Ann Hoag

He has been alert to keep connections with younger paddlers—the Younger Members of AMC and the Bergen Community College Outing Club, for example—easing the excluding barriers of carelessness and boatlessness.

And a popular tradition seems now in place, thanks to Charles, to jointly explore the Pine Barrens each spring with a crowd from Worcester AMC.

As long-standing Quartermaster and Equipment Chair, his expertise has carefully improved our fleet with hip SUPs, sporty whitewater canoes (a Silverbirch), a nifty new trailer, and more, while tending constantly to the upkeep of the barn's inventory. For years, we've all depended upon Charles for the role of he who packs the stoves, pop-up tents and extra tables to the Esopus weekends, or our infamous Fall Foliage or Week of Rivers trips and more. We learned last year that to match his efficiency, it takes at least three of us.

As the many nomination letters made abundantly clear, we would not still be thriving as a uniquely diverse and far-reaching, long-lived paddling community without Charles Michener.

As he might humbly put it, he keeps us "relevant."



Whitewater Kayak Instruction

Fri-Sun, June 16-18, 2023

Delaware River, NJ



**Click
Here**

Moving Water Canoe Instruction

**Fri-Sun,
Jun 16-18, 2023**

Delaware River



**Click
Here**

Intro to Coastal Navigation




Jun 23-25, 2023

Southern Maine

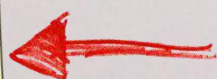


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2023 Activity Schedule

Date		Quiet Water	Class 1	Class 2
May	6-7	Pine Barrens Expedition (Mon-Sat, 5/1-6) <i>Michener/Tiernan</i>		
		Oswego River (Sat, 5/6) <i>Watters</i>	Beaverkill (Sun, 5/7) <i>Plante/Brady</i>	
June	3-4	Mullica Family Trip (Fri-Sun, 6/2-4) <i>Watters</i>		
	10-11	Chapter Picnic at Harriman (Fri-Sun, 6/9-11)		
	17-18		Moving Water Canoe Instruction (Fri-Sun, 6/16-18) <i>Brady/Viani/Grossman</i>	
			Whitewater Kayak Instruction (Fri-Sun, 6/16-18) <i>Tiernan/Yaruss/ Klinger/Tripathi</i>	
	24-25	Canoe/Kayak Fishing At Harriman (Fri-Sun, 6/23-7/2) <i>Om</i>		
	1-2	Fire Island Paddlesports Weekend (Fri-Sun, 6/30-7/2) <i>Barcia/Osborne</i>		

**Swiftwater Rescue
Workshop with
AMC Del. Valley
Delaware River
Sat, July 22, 2023**



*Click for
More info*

Parting Shots: Show me a sign

Northern Forest
Canoe Trail, NYS



Riviere du Diable,
Quebec



Everglades, Florida

Hudson River,
Adirondacks

Saranac River,
Adirondacks



Champlain
Canal,
Eastern NYS



Minerva Stream, Adirondacks