

UP THE CREEK

Winter 2012

The Hackensack River Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter



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From The Bilge - Captain's Log -



**Hackensack River
Canoe & Kayak Club
Officers**



Captain

Martin Wellhoefer

Co-First Mates

Bob Rancan

Melody Wenger

- Membership -

Corresponding

Scribe

Nancy Passow

Treasurer

Herta Dusebout

Recording Scribe

Richard Karp

Trustees

Robyn Lowenthal

George Shellowsky

Harris Reinstein

Contributing Writers

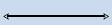


Martin W.

**Litterbox
Publications**

**Editor and
Village Idiot**

Fat Elmo



**Production Staff
And Janitorial Services**

**The Swedish Bikini
Team**



*Please send any
articles, pictures,
questions, answers and
nasty comments pertaining
to the newsletter to:*

fatelmo@gmail.com

As we now enter the 28th year since the Hackensack River Canoe & Kayak Club's inception, I somehow find myself back at the HRCKC's helm (or is it the "Poop Deck"?). There I was, sitting there minding my own business looking for a way out of this, being offered several beverages of unknown alcoholic potency and alas, the last thing I recall is a faint memory of my saying something like "Ok, Ok! I'll do another tour of Captainship.... Only if we can't get anyone else drunk enough to do it! Just give me one more jelly donut!".

Now I really should have seen what was coming considering I have personally have been a conspirator using this technique many times in the past when "Shanghaiing"... ah... I mean "recruiting" past Captains. I truly did my best to put out as much nasty and negative campaign dirt on the only nominee running for the Captain's position, but you folks at the December meeting voted me in anyway. So, for better or for worse I guess ya'll are stuck with me for another year (but there is always hope for impeachment or mutiny or make this Captain walk the plank - Gee, I'll even bring the plank!).



Ok, so you see my first act as the Club's 2013 Captain is to acknowledge and commend our past year's club officers for all the time and effort they devoted to the Club's continuing growth and success over the past year. Special thanks to our retiring Recording Scribe - Adm. Jeff Bowen, our Club Pursuer - Adm. Scott Hageman, Co-1st-Mate Dave Miller and Trustee - Laurie

Captain's Log - continued...

Cochran. Robyn Lowenthal will remain on as a Trustee as well as Webmeister Extraordinaire - George Shellowsky with a former club Purser - Harris Reinstein as our newest Trustee. Continuing on - Bob Rancan will be joined by the Melody Wenger as Co-First Mates, Nancy Passow will also continue on as our top notch Corresponding Scribe/Ministress of Membership. We all welcome Herta Dusebout as our new Purser and Richard Karp will assume the duties of Recording Scribe. Thanks again to all the past and present officers as well as the Trip Coordinators - without volunteering their time and efforts there would be no Club.

Now while we are on the subject of trip coordinators.... The Club needs more of our members to coordinate trips! As you may have noticed there are only a handful of members that regularly step up to the plate and run trips. Who was it that said... "It's not what your Club can do for you, but what you can do for your Club"? Coordinating a Club trip or event is not hard... it's not rocket science... it just takes a wee bit of planning about the place you want to do the trip, come up with a trip description, do some replying to a few e-mails or telephone calls and making sure everyone signs the TRIP WAIVER. See that, easy! If you need some help or advice I'm sure the veteran TCs would be more than happy to steer you in the right direction or even hold your hand on your first attempt. Come on, folks... get out there and run a trip!

I take it we have around 500+/- members in the Club at present - a pretty good amount of folks is it not? Granted as it is with almost every organization there are a number of folks that we never see or haven't seen in years, but they keep renewing so we must be doing something right. So, what is it that keeps our club growing? Is it the dedicated volunteers we have.. **YES!** Is it the great website we have.. **YES!** Is it the informal paddling workshops we hold throughout the year.. **YES!** Is it the wild and crazy parties we have several times during the year? **YES!** Is it the presentations we have at the meetings.. **YES!** Is it the great trips available to our members.. **YES!** Is it the donuts at the meetings? **Damn right it is... !**

So... what's up for 2013? Well, that's a good question. Will we have more Swim With Your Boat Days? Will we have more parties? We we have more interesting presentations at the meetings? Will we have more New Members Days? Will we have more Throw Bag Tossin'? Will we have Paddle Strokes For New Folks Days?..... Alas, it all depends on the volunteers within the membership! Ok, I think ya get the message :>)

Martin W. - Captain



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Just a refresher (or an introductory course for the new members) about how the HRCKC handles it's communications with the membership...

As you should all be aware of by now, the Club Website with it's Activities Section and the E-mail based YahooGroup features are the main means of getting Club's information out to the membership, be it HRCKC sanctioned trips, Club events and official Club business. Due to various reasons (i.e. liability

issues, reduction of non-essential e-mails that may or may not be of interest to most of the membership and just annoys folks with too many e-mails) anything normally posted to these two features should only be Hackensack River Canoe and Kayak Club sponsored trips, Club events and Club business. If a member wants to coordinate and post a Club sponsored trip or event, they may do so by sending the details for inclusion in the Activities Schedule to our Webmeister at: webmeister@hrckc.org. To post the same to the Club-wide YahooGroup E-mail announcement feature which goes out to the entire membership you may also do that by sending the post to:

yahogroup@hrckc.org using the E-mail address that ***you registered with the Club on your membership application*** as your sending E-mail address.

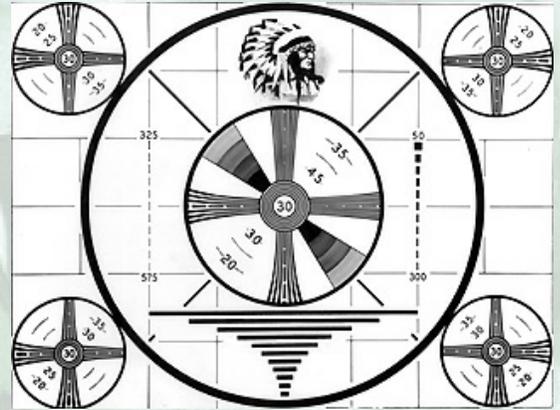
Please, be aware that the YahooGroup is moderated and anything deemed inappropriate (meaning not HRCKC sponsored) will not be posted.

Now you ask... what if you want to post something that is not HRCKC sponsored but something that you think may be of interest to the membership? Well, friends... every couple of weeks we will consolidate such submissions and send out a single YahooGroup E-mail "digest" containing these postings to cut down the amount of e-mails to the membership. You may submit such postings to the following address: captainhrckc@gmail.com

Another avenue is the Message Board. You may use this Message Board to post comments, ask questions, give some advice, get some advice, post how-to stuff, etc. You may register by going to: <http://hrckc.freepowerboards.com>

Official Disclaimer:

Again, submissions to this bi-weekly YahooGroup digest and the Message Board are not HRCKC sponsored or sanctioned and the Hackensack River Canoe And Kayak Club is not to be held responsible or liable for it's content. It is for the general membership's information only by the members themselves.



Roof Racks... Foam Blocks... Or Duck Tape?



By Martin Wellhoefer

So... you just bought your first canoe or kayak and you are probably standing by the store's loading dock with your new boat sitting on the ground in front of you and naturally the salespeople are standing around giving you "That Look" - you know the one, that smirk they all give when they are about to see you kick yourself in the bilge because you never gave a second thought to how you were going to carry the blasted thing home on your car - right? Dah... "Hey, maybe I'll just wrap 57 rolls of duct tape completely around both the car and the boat. That'll hold it!"

Now before I start my diatribe about roof racks and such, let me say... it's very important to realize that no matter what type of carrier you use, the main requirement is to have the boat securely fastened to the vehicle (not just to the racks) with ropes or straps at both



ends and two belly-bands across the hull. Although the boat may only weigh 60-70 pounds in a static state there are considerable forces (often many hundreds of pounds - dynamically) exerted on the boat and racks from wind, braking and turning forces. It's bad enough that a poorly secured boat which has parted company from your moving car will be damaged or destroyed but the possibility of killing or maiming the people in the car behind yours is of much greater consequence. Please make sure the boat is tied to the car's bumper, frame or other direct to car attachment points and that you double check all your tie downs, buckles and knots before you hit the road.

A good way of tying down your bow and stern without having to wrap the rope or strap over your hood's paint job is to use nylon loops bolted onto the engine



Racks...

compartment/fender seam. They work great!

Gone are the good old days of the "Welded Rain Gutter" on cars which were perfect for roof racks. Clamp on the towers... use a couple of 2X4's as crossbars and you have a better rack than you can buy today and a lot cheaper. Boo Hoo, I miss my Jeep Cherokee - the last vehicle other than full sized vans that had them. Nowadays you have to spend some big wampum to get racks on the new cars - probably at least \$300 - \$400 smacklers for all the crap you have to get your boat from here to there, from the two major roof rack manufacturers - Thule and Yakima. Unfortunately not much choice these days. If you don't want to spend all that dough you could conceivably get by with minicell foam blocks but they are not that great for

long term boat hauling especially if you want to carry more than one boat. While canoes are much easier to attach to racks - just turn it over, hull side up, gunnels resting on the crossbars and tie it down side to side and front and rear - kayaks can be more "interesting" to transport on the crossbars... foam blocks, saddles, cradles, stackers, hydraulic lifters, rollers, impulse power, Scotty's di-lithium crystals, Ronco pocket 'yak loader, etc., etc., are available but at sometimes ridiculous prices. The feet (the part that rests on you car roof) come in all different configurations depending on your vehicle. Sometimes you need Einstein to figure out what you need, but a good sales person and the company's fit guide can get you rolling.



WANTED..... articles, dissertations, tall tales, stories, yarns, how-to's or even outright fabrications of reality!

Yes, fellow and fellowette HRCKC members, starting with this issue and the Club's 28th year, we will again attempt to re-re-re-resurrect the classic club newsletter "UP THE CREEK".

From the very beginning the HRCC (now the HRCKC) has sporadically published some sort of newsletter or journal containing various literary submissions from the membership (it's been a long time since the last one.)

Here is a sample of a past newsletter:

<http://www.hrckc.org/newsletters/June2007a.pdf>

So, in order to keep this newsletter going on a regular basis what we need from you folks are articles about your paddling experiences, how you did this or that to your boat, paddling and camping techniques, equipment reviews, culinary suggestions and reviews, etc., etc. It doesn't have to be anything long or complicated. It doesn't have to be a James Michener novel, it doesn't even have to make sense.. it can be a few paragraphs or a few pages - whatever!

Alas, if you are willing to sit down and write a little something for "UP THE CREEK" please do so and e-mail it to Fat Elmo - Eddytor-In-Chef at: fatelmo@gmail.com. File type preferences would be either a .txt, .rtf, .doc, or .docx attachments.... or if you don't know what all this means just type it out directly into your e-mail and I'll figure it out.

Due to the tremendous amount of work and expense needed to produce, print and mail a "paper copy" of "UP THE CREEK" as well

as saving quite a few trees, the newsletter will be only be published as an online PDF (as opposed to a PFD, which is what will keep you from drowning). That said, UP THE CREEK will instead be E-Mailed to the membership and be available on the HRCKC's website for either viewing or printing on you own printer if you wish by using free and widely available (if it isn't already included in your computer software or your internet browser) PDF viewing programs such as Adobe Reader. So folks, send us your literary masterpieces and you too can become famous.

Ministry Of Prose, Parchments and Sagas
Hackensack River Canoe & Kayak Club

Miller's Mayhem

By Dave Miller

In case you haven't been to the HRCK meetings of late, here are some of Dave's "Three Things To Know":

Paddling:

Google the "Aziz kayaking" commercial on U-tube for how NOT to choose a paddle:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehFYAkC7CJs

Instead: We suggest going on different manufacturer's web sites (Like Werner, Bending Branches etc.). Some of them have interactive programs to help you select the right paddle for your Height, Boat style & type of paddling.

If you are a kayaker try & determine if you are a high angle or low angler paddler. Why settle for the size and type of paddle a store happens to have in stock? Order the 'Right paddle' on-line and have it shipped to you in a couple of days!

Camping:

Have you been in the woods on the Saranac Lake trip for a few days? Are you tired of sunscreen and bug spray on your skin?



Do you smell 'stanky' and are expected at your In-law's rehearsal dinner ?

Solution: *Bring a medium size package of BABY-WIPES on your camping trips ? Keep a larger size and some deodarant in the glove box of your car. When your trip is over, you can 'freshen up' and go into town for a hot meal. If you are backpacking, use the small packets of wipes they give out when you order Ribs at a restaurant..*

Survival:

Imagine someone in your group has fallen in the water and now you arrive at the campsite and want to make a fire to warm them up. Or you just want to light your stove and the wind is blowing. Your matches just keep going out and you keep counting how many you have left ! Don't worry, reach for that 'Trick' birthday candle you packed along with your matches. As the breeze blows out your candle, it will re-light and eventually you'll get your stove or fire going.



Fro' De Eddyter

Translated into English from Fat Elmo's Old Bogotian Lingo

Wha Ho, Pilgrims;



Fat Elmo be here. Been many a'snows since ah' las' put out dis here parchment so ah's reckons it be high time ta git anudder one out, pronto! Now let dis here varmint give ye all de straight scoop an' ah' ain't speakin' wit a forked tongue.... De only way we kin gits dis here newsletter out is iffing all ye pilgrims write somethang fer it. Kin' be about purt near anythang... yer haar-raisin' adventures, yer tall tales, yer favorite gear, etc., Watever strikes yer fancy. Iffing we don't git stuff ta put in it, we kin'na put one out. Simple as dat! Jus' send in yer writin's ta dis here polecat at: fatelmo@gmail.com ta git in on de newsletter.



Fat Elmo
Fare Thee Well, Pilgrims
May De Wind Bring Ye Good Tidings
De Rivers Lead Yer Way
An' May Ye Keep Yer Scalp Another Day