

UP THE CREEK

The background of the entire page is a painting of a person in a red canoe on a river. The person is wearing a red hat and a dark jacket, and is using a paddle. The river is surrounded by trees with autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding trees.

WINTER 2013 #1

The Hackensack River Canoe & Kayak Club Newsletter

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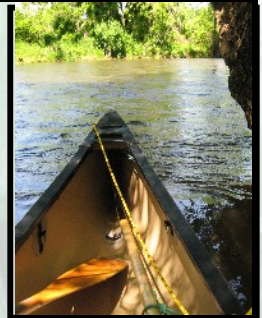
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*Please send any
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nasty comments pertaining
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FROM THE BILGE CAPTAIN'S LOG



I truly hope everyone had a great “holiday of your choice” season and do wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year.

Now that cooler weather is upon us and many of you are presently not too keen on getting out on the water, the HRCKC is doing it's best to keep the membership entertained. Of course, there is the Holiday Party (or as I like to call it - the Winter Party) coming up on Sunday, January 20th at Rivara's Bar and Grill with all the usual glee and frolics that normally occurs at this festive event. Not only will there be lots of vittles (RIBS) and beverages of your choice, but we will have door prizes, RIBS, special “Major” awards, RIBS and of course, the dull speeches from the Captain. Oh yes.... and don't forget the RIBS!

Well, getting back to other Club matters in the coming year... what I propose this winter is what I may refer to as an HRCKC Town Meeting. Possibly at the February meeting - after the usual business meeting, I'd like to open the floor up to the general membership asking for suggestions and comments about what you would like to see the Club offer (and of course, what you can do to contribute) in the way of programs or events.

Some things come to mind are the on-the-water, ever-so-popular annual Swim With Your Boat Days, New Members Orientation Day, Paddle

Captain's Log - continued...

Strokes For New Folks Day and some of the Throw-Rope Tossin' safety workshops. In the past, the HRCKC has had a (for the lack of a proper name) "Gear Day" at the March meeting - just before the annual The Jersey Paddler's PaddleSport 2013 show (and it's discounts) in Somerset at which the club has had a booth for the last 25 years. For the benefit of new paddlers who are just starting to acquire equipment, various club members show and recommend paddling gear that they personally use - all with the purpose of giving the new folks an idea as to what they may want to consider and /or acquire at the show.

Some other thoughts come to mind... As a club, do we want to offer more skills and safety workshops? Do we want to get more involved in environmental projects? Do we want to have more outside speakers give presentations at the meetings? Or... none of the above? It's your club, folks! Please share your thoughts!

Again, I would like to thank all those members that give their time and efforts to make the HRCKC exist and grow... The people who volunteer supplying the refreshments at the meetings.. The volunteers who organize and help out at the great Club parties.. The volunteers who coordinate the club trips throughout the year.. The volunteers who organize and help out with the workshops.. The Webmeister who keeps the club's spectacular website going... and of course, the folks who volunteer to be Club Officers... are all to be commended for their service.

As we celebrate the HRCKC's 28thth year in February, I would like to reminisce a bit... Over the years I have made many good friends in the Club and hope to make more in the future, but there will always be a special place for some of



Captain's Log - continued...

the original members that are still with the HRCKC... Peggy Valvano, Gail and Michael Musante, Adele Breitzkreitz, Geraldine Renner, Karen Siletti, Lisa Tracy-Savoie, Steve Barnes, Jeff Heilbrun. I especially mention and truly miss an original member and my good friend - "Fearless" Phil Renner who passed away two years ago at the age of 92. In the early days Phil was on practically every trip, helped with the formation of the club, was always the first one to grab a rope swing and jump into the water, participated in just about every club event and with the help of his wife and my good friend - Geraldine, ran many Club trips far and wide. As some of you long-time members may recall, Phil's trademarks were the black dot he painted on every boat and piece of paddling equipment he owned (so as he always said, "That's so I know what is mine"), his red beret, his behemoth Cadillac and of course, his infamous "Renner War Whoop" which he brought forth as he paddled under every bridge or through every tunnel. As such, there are times while I paddle on a clear night, I'll look up at the stars and I swear I can see that one of those especially bright stars has a black dot on it! Then I know my ol' pal - "Fearless" Phil is still watching over us.



Martin W. - Captain



A Merry Christmas

By Woodrow DuBois

As revealed to Jeff Bowen



How I love Christmas time. Everything looks all festive and bright, and folks everywhere seem somehow energized despite the seasonally brief daylight hours and the long dark cold nights. And the crowds at the malls. And the anxiety over what to get Aunt Bertha after last year's fiasco with the gift gym membership. And what to get the darling wife. And how to tell the kids A) there is no Santa Claus, and B) I don't care what the other kids are getting, I can't afford a pony.

But it's really great to get together with the family and kid around like the old days, eat a lot of great food, and enjoy watching the kids together. That's why I was looking forward to going over to my brother-in-law's house. The ladies get together and have a gab-fest that all three generations of them seem to enjoy, and the guys likewise engage in manly togetherness in front of the TV, or sometimes if the weather is nice enough, out in the back yard for a brief game of touch football. With five "youngsters" under 30 and three of us just a bit over 30, it makes for a great time. All the while in the other room

the Christmas carols are playing "Silver Bells" or "White Christmas" or "O Little Town of Bethlehem" or some other well loved song.

This year Bob, my brother-in-law called me up and asked if I could bring over my chainsaw when we came over. Seems that during hurricane Sandy a pine tree in his back yard had been partially uprooted and was leaning at a 45 degree angle over his back porch. He had been unable to find someone to take the tree down, and the prices that they had quoted him seemed a bit excessive.

We arrived at Bob's house, and after the obligatory greetings to and from all the members, the ladies began to coalesce in a happy gaggle in the kitchen area while the guys drifted into the yard.

A clever strategy was devised where the youngsters would use a rope to pull the top of the tree away from the porch while I, the Chainsaw Master, would cut the trunk in a way which would allow it to be pulled

A Merry Christmas continued...

laterally before I completed the cut and let the tree fall harmlessly onto the lawn where it could be limbed. Then the limbs would be cut to the lengths approved by the township guidelines and dragged to the curb for removal. I was glad to have all those energetic twenty-something guys to do all that dragging. They all looked so strong, confident, happy and somewhat bemused as they listened to the plan and nodded agreement.

I had checked the chainsaw and donned my safety helmet. I adjusted the noise-abatement earmuffs and pulled the face shield down. I savored the moment. It was quiet with the earmuffs on, and the joking and laughing of my son and his cousins was muted. Here I was on Christmas day, about to cut down what would have made a nice Christmas tree, if you needed one that was 40 feet tall. I could smell the fresh scent of the tree, and the sight of all the good food and sweets in the kitchen had filled me with anticipation. Bob already had a fire going in his fireplace, and there was



punch and eggnog. It was going to be a great Christmas. I couldn't wait to relax and

kick back with some eggnog and listen to some Christmas carols, and enjoy a peaceful family holiday, you know, just like the rest of the world was doing just about then.

"S i-ilent Night....Ho-oly Night, All is calm...All is..."

B RUMMM, / BRUMM, /
BRAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAOO
OOAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA / BRUP
BRUP BRUP BRUP
BRRAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAOOOOOWHAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA /

W ell, the tree came down easily just as we planned and it was limbed, bucked and dragged to the curb in less than an hour, and everyone seemed to enjoy the task.

B ut I was left thinking about some of the other folks in the neighborhood whose expectations might have been different.

"C hestnuts roasting on an open fire... chainsaws roaring just outside..."

JB

The Great Caterpillar Migration

From The Ancient Sagas Of The Archives Of Fat Elmo

On a recent canoe trip a question arose as to the migratory patterns of the Monarch butterfly. As we all know, the Monarch butterfly migrates from the northern climates down to Mexico every year. Where the mystery begins is after the insects get down there it is assumed the butterflies breed, lay their eggs and produce caterpillars.

Now my question is... How do the caterpillars get back up to the northern climates to grow into butterflies again?

The eminent entomologist and probationary Walmart greeter - Professor Clive P. Hosenpfeifer, has devoted a great deal of his life in search of an answer to this mystery and has come up with a break-through theory.

For countless millennia there were great herds of caterpillars crossing the vast plains of North America from their ancient breeding grounds in Mexico. The land was covered with millions of caterpillars as far as the eye could see. Wolves and coyotes roamed the flanks of the great herds thinning out the stragglers, the old and the weak. Later as humans migrated to North America, the plains Indians would hunt and stampede hundreds of the caterpillars over cliffs

to their deaths in order to obtain their hides for shelter, clothes and for food. Matter of fact, an Indian delicacy

was French-fried caterpillar lips! Understandably, the caterpillar was held in great reverence by many of the tribes.

As the white man spread into the Indian lands, caterpillar pelts were traded by the natives for the white-eye's trinkets. The infamous caterpillar trappers such as Gabby Schmertz, Tyron Yobro, Louie Dembroski and of course, the greatest of them all - Goober Pickens, traveled great distances into areas no white man had ever seen in search of the caterpillar pelts ever so popular with European earmuff makers.

But alas, with the coming of the Iron Horse the days of the great caterpillar herds were numbered. Thousands were shot with high-powered guns such as the deadly Sharps Caterpillar rifle.

By the beginning of the 1900's the great caterpillar herds were almost hunted to extinction. If it wasn't for the underground caterpillar railroad, which smuggled a small number of the Monarch caterpillars north, we surely wouldn't have anymore Monarch Butterflies today.



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

PaddleSport 2013 - Volunteers needed to staff HRCKC booth

Well, it's getting close to that time of the year when we have to start making arrangements for our Club booth at the annual Jersey Paddler's show - PaddleSport 2013 - to be held from Friday, March 22nd to Sunday, March 24th at the Garden State Exhibition Center in Somerset, NJ. For the last 25 years our Club has been invited to participate at the largest Canoe & Kayak show on the east coast. What we need are club members to volunteer to staff our booth. The Jersey Paddler's show policy allows 12 club members to get in for free as long as they put a minimum time into staffing our booth. The members need to be registered with them beforehand and will receive "Club Badges" at the entrance desk. If you would like to volunteer for a minimum of a half day, or either a full day, two days or the full three days please let the club officers know. First come, first served for the free admission.

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 iffin' 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. Iffin' 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

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.

