

5-12-03 Monday Night Rookies

I didn't get a chance to write after the last Monday Night Rookies. We still are drawing a large number of paddlers. We had 30 paddlers for 15 canoes. We had one first timer and a couple newer paddlers then the rest were the more experienced paddlers. The temperature was in the lower 70's at the start. We were on the water at 6:05 pm and we paddled for 1:40. I got home and looked up the total number of different paddlers we have had so far this year at Rookies and I counted 69 people. Six people have been to all six Rookies so far and they are Rick Lorenzen, Marsh Jones, Ed Arenz, Todd Ellison, Joe Conrad and I. Lee Jarpy and Ismail Guler have made it to five Rookies.

Mississippi River Challenge www.mississippichallenge.org

Many of you are aware that Bob Bradford and Clark Eid are paddling the entire length of the Mississippi (2,348 miles) to raise awareness for Rett Syndrome and Leukodystrophy. They are paddling a Kruger designed canoe. They were going to be in the Minneapolis area yesterday (5-14-03). Several of us were interested in paddling with Bob and Clark. Andrew Gribble, support technician, for the group called the group early in the morning telling them they were about 2 hours north of St. Cloud. Kenn Ketter, Keith Canny, Lee Jarpy and Al DuBois drove up and put in at the St. Cloud Dam around 7 am and met Clark and Bob to paddle along with them. I understand from Bob and Clark that it rained all night until 04:30 AM and Clark couldn't sleep in the canoe. The wind was also very strong out causing a strong headwind. I had spoke to Andrew the night before to call me when they were at Monticello. Kenn Ketter called me at 11:55 AM telling me that they were on the north side of Monticello. I called Tom Gardner to see if he wanted to paddle and I got a big, yes. Tom was planning on paddling with Bob and Clark later downstream of Ketter's. Ed Arenz also called and I filled him in on their location. Ed Arenz paddled his Bell C1 starting from Mississippi Point Park at 3:30 pm going upstream to meet the group coming down. Tom showed up at Ketter's at 3:50 pm so I decided to call Kenn to find out where they were at on the river. Kenn told me they were half an hour north of Dayton. I hoped that Tom and I would have time to drive up to Dayton but there wasn't enough time. Tom and I put in at the same park as Ed and started paddling upstream at 4:30 pm. Well, on a normal day I wouldn't have been canoeing on the Mississippi River in a proboat with the wind the way it was blowing. There were many white caps rolling upstream. We saw the group coming downstream at 5:00 pm. Tom and I had to cross to the other side where they were hugging the other shoreline. Luckily where we crossed it wasn't as bad as many of the other areas we encountered. I had never met Clark before and I was only introduced to Bob briefly in the past. Tom knew Bob but I don't think he had met Clark. Ed, Tom and I paddled along with "Team Hope". Tom and I shook hands with both paddlers and talked. Ed Arenz also stayed with us. The other two canoes broke off a little while we enjoyed our talk with Bob and Clark.

Tom and I ran into some large rollers south of the Anoka bridge. We hit about four of them dumping about 8 inches of water in the canoe. If there were two more rollers we would have been submerged but somehow we got both bailers open and started paddling as hard as we could while the water was going back and forth. It is a strange feeling paddling a canoe with that much water. Kind of a delayed motion effect. The water

slowly drained from the canoe and we got most of it out. We did have to paddle hard one more time to get some more water out but that was about it. We turned around and talked some more while keeping our canoes upright.

We got to the Coon Rapids Dam where we had to portage. The Kruger canoe weights 85 pounds by itself. This canoe is equipped with portage wheels. Kenn, Keith, Lee and Al saw the light at the end of the tunnel after a long hard windy day and they paddled on toward Ketter's place. Ed, Tom and I kept the other two company for the next 40 minutes. We pulled in to Ketter's at 7:15 pm. Kenn, Keith, Al and Lee put in around 12 hours with Clark and Bob.

The lasagna was all warm and ready to eat. There was coffee and brownies. I understand Sarah Kueffer made the brownies. Bob Bradford made an effort to introduce everyone who didn't know everyone one to one. Bob also went around to each of us who paddled with them today to tell us thanks. You sure could see that they were very happy to have people paddle with them. Gene Jensen and others stopped by to see the paddlers while they were on their short break.

If there are other people downstream that want to paddle with them I would recommend it and they sure would like it.

Later on, Al and Tom paddled up from Tom's place in Newport and met Clark and Bob at Hidden Falls and paddled back downstream to Tom's place. Al told me they were done at about daybreak.

Other News

The **Motley to Staples Canoe Race** Sunday, June 1st is **cancelled** for this year.

Kate Ellis hurt her back last week. She was going to do the General Clinton with Al DuBois. I was going to do the Clinton in my C1, but due to Kate's injury I will be paddling with Al.

I sent the Rum River Marathon Canoe Race Results to Gareth Stevens and a picture of the start of my race. I believe both will be put in the Canoe News.

I didn't receive any race results from the Snake River Race to send to Gareth or to post on the MCA website. I left a message today with one of the members of the committee.

My thank you letter on the Rum River Race has been posted on the MCA website.

Check the racing schedule for details on the Rum River Flag Race this Saturday.

That's all for now!

Chuck Ryan