

The Haw River Paddler

The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company
Electronic Update
October & November 2008

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What's So Special About Autumn Paddling?

So many people who enjoy paddling rivers forget about the best time of the year to enjoy them. During October and November, the temperatures are delightful, the leaf color is spectacular and the wildlife is actively preparing for the winter months and is easy to see. If that isn't reason enough to go paddling during the autumn months, consider the fact that you will probably have the river to yourself.

As Edward Abbey said so well, "Get out there ... run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and elusive air. Sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness of the lovely, mysterious and awesome space. Enjoy yourself. Keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to the body, the body active and alive."

We are all pretty stressed these days with the state of our economy and concerns for the upcoming elections. Like Edward Abbey, we think an essential way to deal with the stresses of life is to "Reconnect with Nature and Have Fun Paddling."

Hurricane Hannah - Good News & Bad News

We were lucky again this year to be spared the full force of a hurricane. Thankfully, Hurricane Hannah brought us some much-needed rain, water to fill our nearby lakes and water to raise our underground water tables. The hurricane also changed the Haw River in many ways, some for the good and some not.

The good news is that the large logjam at the Interstate I-40/I-85 bridges has been much reduced. There is still some blockage on the right side of the river, but the left side is totally open and the middle has a passage when the river is above 2.5 feet on the U.S. Geological Survey gauge at the Town of Haw River.

The bad news is that there is now a huge logjam at the old railroad bridge in the

Town of Haw River with only a very small passage on far river left. Remember, river left is on the left side of the river when you are facing downstream. As of early October, you can paddle through the passage when the river is around 2.0 feet on the gauge. If the river level is any higher than 2.5 feet on the gauge, the small passage could be very dangerous. Be prepared to take out on river left and walk around the obstruction, but look out for poison ivy.

Schedule of Courses & Trips - August & September

If you are interested in a paddle course or a guided trip, you can find a schedule of activities on our website (www.hawrivercanoe.com) on both the Instruction and Guided Trips pages. Don't forget, you can rent a canoe or kayak and do a self-guided trip. A brief listing of activities for the remainder of October & November follows:

October

- 10/4 River Clean Up
- 10/4 Stargazing Float
- 10/5 Town of Haw River to Swepsonville
- 10/10 Sunset Paddle
- 10/11 Canoe & Kayak Classes
- 10/18 Fly Fishing Paddle
- 10/18 Full Moon Paddle
- 10/24 Sunset Paddle
- 10/25 Owl Prowl
- 10/26 Swepsonville to Saxapahaw
- 10/31 Pumpkin Paddle

November

- 11/1 Stargazing Float
- 11/2 Town of Haw River to Swepsonville
- 11/7 Sunset Paddle
- 11/8 Canoe & Kayak Classes
- 11/9 Pedal & Paddle
- 11/15 Paddle Dinner - Brewery Style/Carolina Brewery
- 11/15 Full Moon Paddle
- 11/21 Sunset Paddle
- 11/23 Swepsonville to Saxapahaw

Classes include Quick Start for Canoe & Kayak (3 hrs.), Introduction to Canoeing (8 hrs.), Introduction to Recreational Kayaking (8 hrs.), Basic Whitewater Canoeing (16 hrs.) and Sea Kayaking Fundamentals (16 hrs.).

Want to Build a Boat, But Don't Have the Room?

If you have been to our office in Saxapahaw, NC, you know that we are located next to the Haw River in the basement of the local community center. The entire basement is divided into three 900+ square foot sections with The Haw River Canoe & Kayak Company in the middle section. An artist has recently moved into one of the sections leaving one section vacant. We think the third section would be ideal space for building wooden canoes and kayaks.

We may be building wooden pirogues, a Cajun-style flat-bottom boat, to add to our fleet of rental boats between Swepsonville and Saxapahaw. We have enough room in our section to meet our needs, but are considering expanding into the third basement section if there is interest by others in building wooden boats. Depending on the number of interested folks, the space rental could be as little as \$25/month per person. That's a good price for the use of the space, electricity and power tools. Building a wooden boat together could be a wonderful family project. Give us a call at 336/260-6465 or send us an e-mail if you would like more information (info@hawrivercanoe.com <<mailto:info@hawrivercanoe.com>>).

How Can We Make Our Website More Useful to You?

It is during the late autumn and winter months that we map out our plans for the coming paddling season. We evaluate what you, our friends and customers, want us to offer rather than create what we think you want us to provide. It is one thing to provide a paddling program that meets your needs, but it is entirely another thing to present it to you in an efficient and useful way so that you even know about it.

We know that most of our guests found out about us in one of two major ways, word-of-mouth and/or the Internet. Obviously, our website (www.hawrivercanoe.com <<http://www.hawrivercanoe.com>>) needs to provide you with the information you need and in an easy to find and helpful way. That is why we are now asking you to let us know if or where our website is falling short. We would appreciate your input and advice so that as we refine the site for 2009, we give you what you need. The easiest way for you to do that is go give us a call at 336/260-6465 or send us an e-mail (info@hawrivercanoe.com).

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