

Moving Water Seminar  
Sunday, 8/16/2009  
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New Paddlers and Old:

The “Swim With Your Boat Day” on the pond acquainted gave you an opportunity to explore the WET environment. I hope to go a bit beyond that and have some fun at the same time.

The moving water seminar is not a trip, nor is it a formal instruction program. Rather it is an opportunity for members to share some of their experience and “tricks of the trade” with newer members. Our object is not to work on boat handling skills, but to explore the moving water environment as a group. We will have an opportunity to explore the following areas often neglected by new paddlers. (Not necessarily in this order)

Note: There is no guarantee that we will have time to do all of the activities listed.

When the WET environment is MOVING it acquires a whole new set of characteristics. I would like to answer some of those questions that seem to puzzle the new moving water paddler such as:

What does a rock look like? Did you know that many rocks hide behind a small pillow of water that builds up on the upstream side to disguise it as more water?

What does the expression “Between a rock and a hard place” really mean and how to avoid it? Hint: Your boat is the hard place.

Why does your boat slide sideways into a rock when your boat is clearly pointed away from it?

You get the idea. We would like to explore the environment of moving water by getting into it and by getting onto it. For example we will offer an opportunity for you to:

Practice a shuttle.

Learn about some of the hazards of moving water such as foot entrapment and strainers.

Take a walk into moving water and experience the pressure.

Give everyone a chance to practice in water mobility. (Mutual support)

Give everyone a chance to “belay” a boat that has been filled with water.

Give everyone a chance to offer and receive a throw rope. (Receivers will swim.)

Discuss and demonstrate the hidden rock syndrome.

Learn where the channel is likely to be.

Learn the theory of the ferry. Possibly practice performing a ferry.

Learn the theory of surfing. Practice your surfing skills another day.

Learn the theory of the eddy turn. Practice the eddy turn another day.

We will also have an opportunity to run Skinner’s Falls and then paddle for about five miles on mild moving water.

This activity is presented in the belief that paddlers who understand the environment that they are paddling in will have a much easier time evaluating and learning the boat handling skills needed to paddle safely and to move about in the moving water environment.

Jim Mc Loone