

## Joint HRCKC, Wanda CC Upper Delaware Trip, Sunday 9/20/09

Hi to all:

August 16, 2009

See the 7/19/09 trip report for more info.

Write down my Cell number, **201-615-9878**. Remember it may not work in the Delaware Valley between towns. My home number is 201-387-0226, my Pennsylvania number (Fri – Sun) is 570-698-7731.

As this is written the water has been higher than normal on the Delaware for much of the summer. As the investment folks say, “Past performance is guarantee of future results.” Even in dry seasons the Delaware generally has sufficient water via dam releases for pleasant paddling. We may even see the leaves starting to turn.

### Trip Plan:

We can expect about a seven mile trip with several spots where we can stop and play.

Our put in is just above Staircase rapids at a commercial livery access. We will need to ferry out to river center very quickly (mile 263.5). Then we will enter Stairstep at about mile 263.3. There are several ledges along River right followed by a .8 mile pool. The next significant drop is at the Mongaup ledge at mile 261. There is a ledge on river right a deep fast channel in river center and a rock garden on river left in the area where the Mongaup River enters the Delaware. The channel contains relatively high standing waves. Just below the ledge is a pretty big eddy on river right; a good spot to stop and take photos. At the bottom of the drop, on river left, is a long sandy beach.

Some groups like to take a short walk there the study the ruins of the Delaware and Hudson canal lock located there. Around mile 260 we will enter Butler’s Rift which is where the river bends right and the river bed slopes downward over about a quarter mile. This produces a lot of waves with a gravelly/rocky shallow on river right; a wave filled channel to the left of river center and a series of eddies on river left produced by rocky outcroppings.

At the bottom of Butler’s Rift, mile 259 we enter the scenic Hawk’s Nest canyon with 250 ft cliffs on river left and a wider sloping shore line on river left. This peaceful, very scenic interlude lasts for a little over a mile and leads us into Mill Rift next to Cherry Island, mile 258.9.

Mill Rift is a significant drop of about .2 miles ending in the pool below the railroad bridge, mile 258.4 (pass under the right span). We can stop on river left at Firemen’s Beach for a swim and break if folks want to do that.

After Firemen’s Beach, at mile 257.9 we need to stay very close to river right to avoid an eel weir. The right side of the river now presents a couple of miles of rock faced cliff undulating along the river. Opposite the Eddy Farm resort is a spot where adventurous folk jump from the heights into the river. We will not do that.

We will take out at the PA fish commission access at Matamoras, mile 256.1.

**We will meet at Matamoras access by 9:30 am on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 2009.**

**Directions: To Matamoras access.**

**Take 17 and the NY Thruway to the Harriman Exit.**

**Take Rt 17 West and North to 84**

**Take 84 West to exit 1.**

**Follow Rt 6 through local streets to a light at the start of rt 97. (At this point route 6 makes a sharp left)**

**Make the left and continue about ½ mile and cross the bridge.**

**Just after the bridge make an immediate right and go about 2 miles to the PA Fish and Game access in Westfall. The Westfall Twp municipal building may be seen on the left and set back from the road. Our meeting point is in the parking area on the left side of the road.**

We will consolidate our boats here and pool our money to pay for the launch and parking fees at Kittatinny’s Matamoras Base. The cost is \$2.00 per boat to launch from the Kittatinny access at Stair Step and \$5.00 to park on their property. The group may choose to drop boats and do a double shuttle to reduce the parking fees.

To reach the Stair Step put in retrace your steps across the bridge to the place where you made the left turn at the start of 97. At this point turn left onto 97 and continue for about 8.9 miles. Kittatinny’s Staircase access is on the left.

All participants are expected to wear PFDs, bring food and drink, and a change of clothes. Adequate footwear is particularly important. Please no slip on sandals. Bring a helmet if you have one. Wait for the other boats at each drop. Bring FRS radios if you have them. Use a sandwich bag to keep it dry. Your boat should be equipped with a painter(s) that are secure, but available if needed.

**At the bottom of each drop we will pull over to a shore eddy and make sure everyone is through safely before we proceed.**

Please let me know via email at [delawaretrip0920@gmail.com](mailto:delawaretrip0920@gmail.com) if you plan to join me.

Jim Mc Loone