Race Results and Awards

Deerfield River, Charlemont, MA

July 14-17, 2011

2011 WWOC DR Nationals

The WWOD Nationals, sponsored by the Birch Hill Canoe Club, were held on the Deerfield River in Charlemont, MA on July 14-17. Thanks to Race Chair Charley Brackett and the many volunteers who worked hard to make this event successful and a lot of fun.

The weather was sunny and in the 80's and the water releases were between 800 and 900 cfs, so not all days had the same conditions. Perhaps the river was faster and the Zoar Gap a little easier on Sunday with the 900 cfs release. There were several kayak classes in addition to the ACA canoe classes and a joint nationals. While there were many spills, fills, and 180's in the tough Zoar Gap rapid, there were no serious injuries. The hot weather brought out hundreds of tubers who, along with the rafters, sometimes added obstacles to the course for some of the racers.

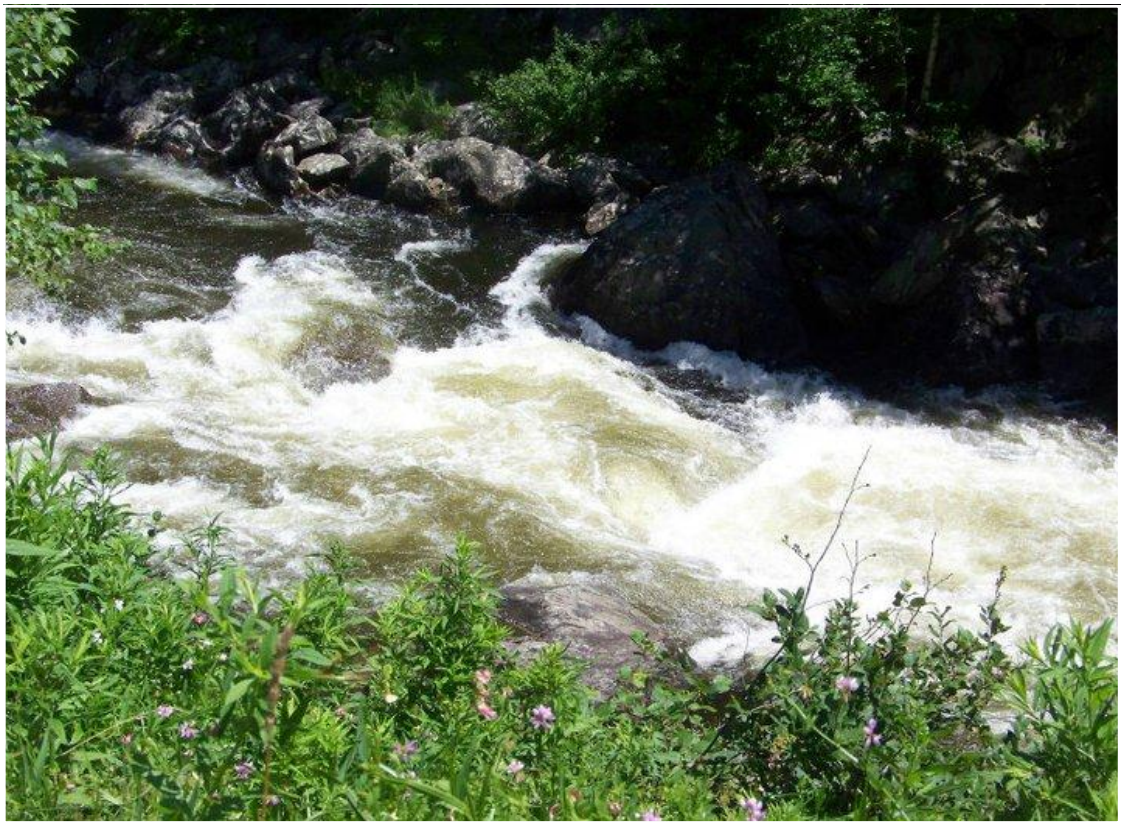
The results show multiple outstanding performances by some paddlers. The fastest canoe time for the long course was 1:03:10 by Jeff Owen and Steve Woodard and the fastest canoe sprint was 10:59 by Ed Sharp and Keith Havens. In a kayak, Mark Wendolowski ran 8:42 in the sprint and 56:38 on the long course. The Youngest Paddler Award went to Ellie Siegfried and the Sportsmanship Award went to Brian Beaupre. Jeff Owen again won the Willis Hackett Award.

Thanks to several photographers for the action shots taken. Unfortunately, we do not have a full set of pictures for all winners in the 4 days of racing. Many pics can be found on the Birch Hill Canoe Club Facebook site. Send missing shots to G_Stockman@msn.com.

The long races were roughly 9-miles of the Deerfield River, mostly easy class I and II with the class III Zoar Gap in the middle very challenging for fast open canoes. The sprint couse began 200 yards above Zoar Gap and finished a long mile downstream at the railroad underpass. Details of the area and race can be found with the URL

www.wwocd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=118&Itemid=85

Travis Wheeler (bow) and Peter Heed were the first boat on Thursday to reach Zoar Gap – and the last to complete it! Ed Sharp and Keith Havens, stalking close behind, passed them to finish first for men's F16 doubles. Travis and Peter took the right side route too fast, or too angled, and eddied out. Travis jumped out and had the bow to the bank, but Peter was still in the current and holding on. Eventually boat and paddlers took an epic swim all the way down to the bridge before they could get back on the course. See the Birch Hill site for a video of their tenacious struggle to reset and complete the race. For the rest of the week, Zoar Gap continued to be a challenge. But, the river was beautiful and fun for everyone, including the rafters and tubers. And, it was hot, so swims could be refreshing – right Peter?



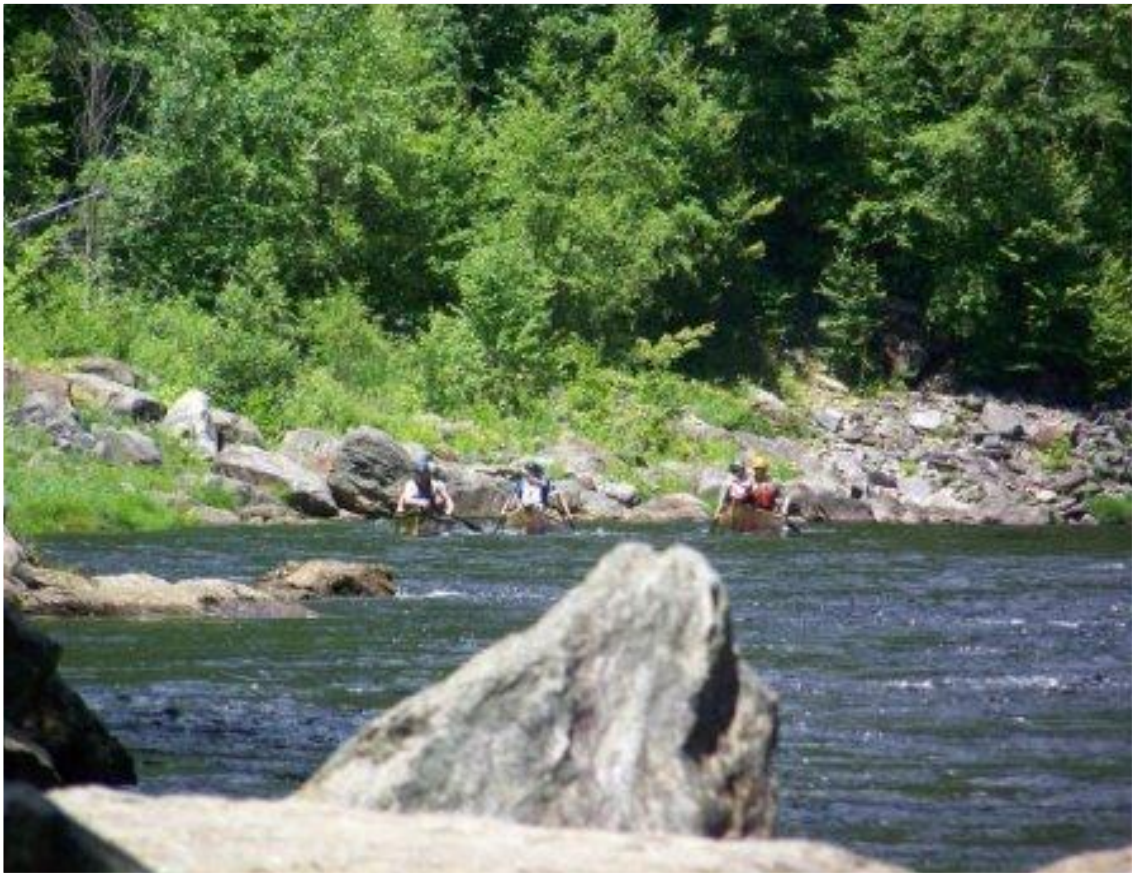
Zoar Gap

with right, left, and center routes, all challenging

Mass start

July 14 of OC-2 men F14

below the dam



Jeff Owen and Steve Woodard 1st OC-2 men F14 40-54 and fastest time overall at 1:03:10

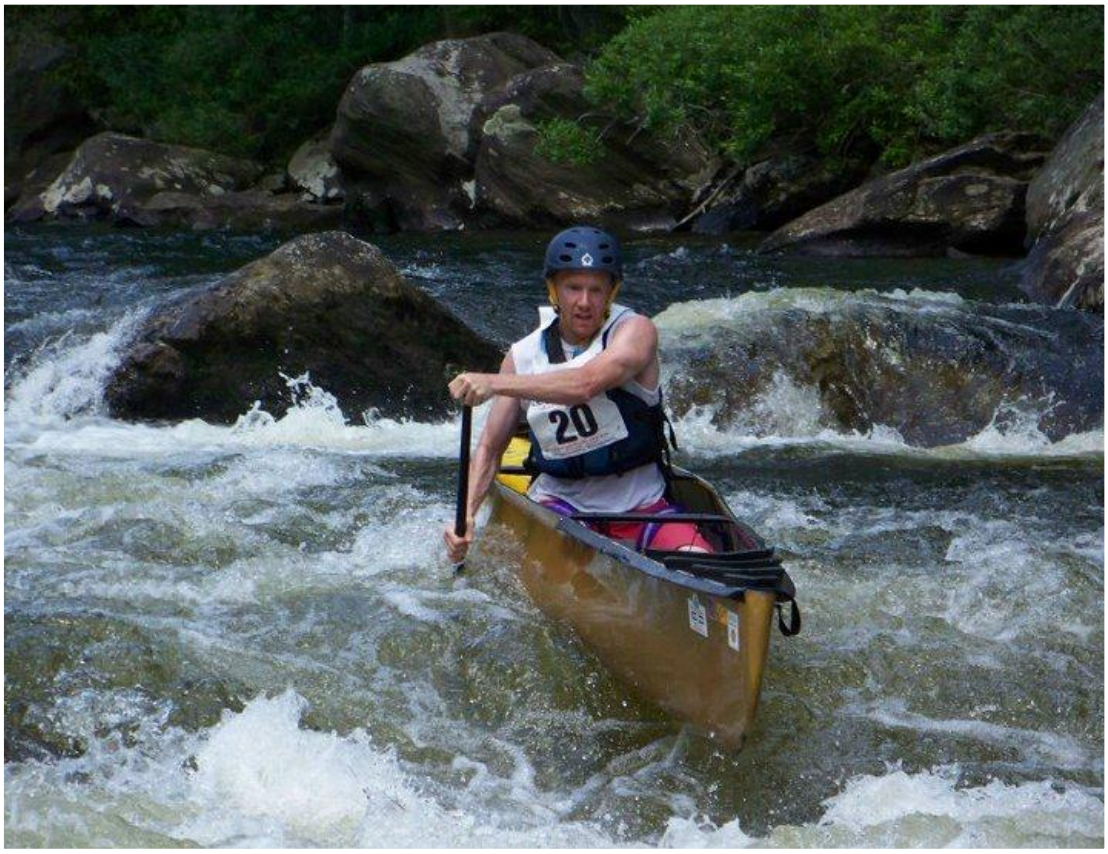
Ed Sharp and Keith Havens 1st F16

OC-2 Men 55 and up.

(Keith won F16

OC-1 55 and up long and Ed was 2nd)

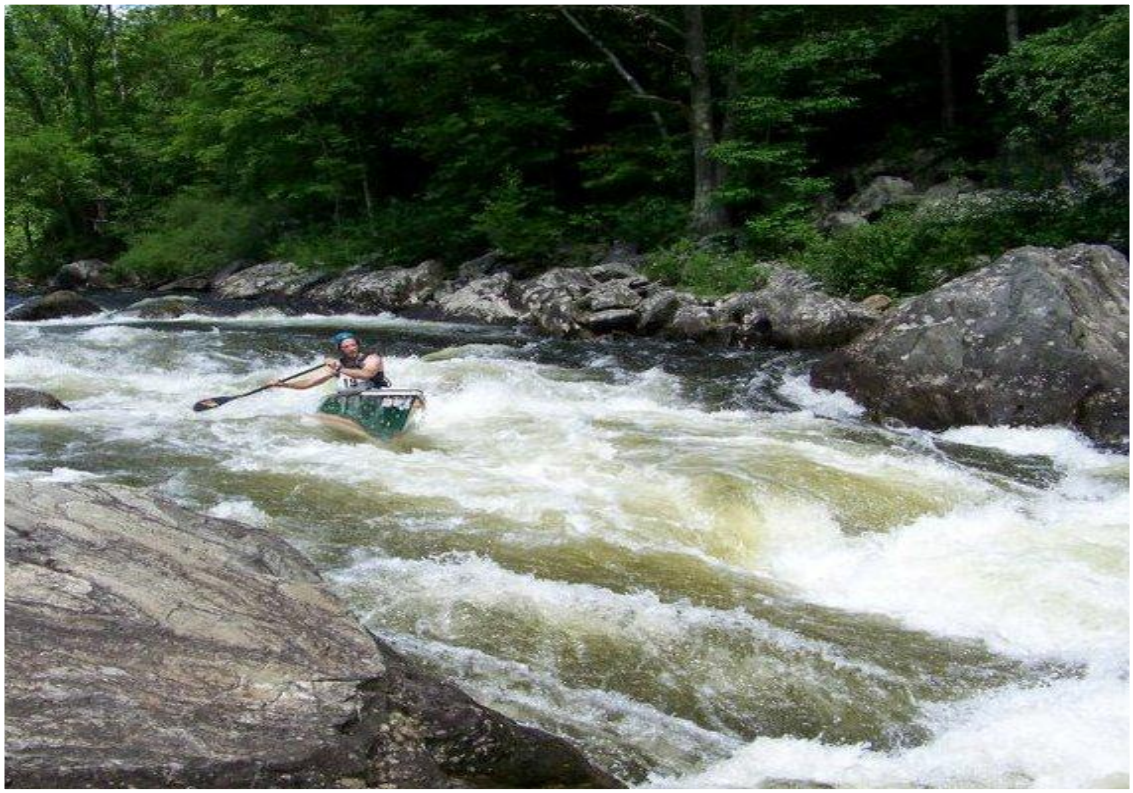
On Sunday, Terese and Travis Wheeler beat Ed and Keith's time for fastest overall F-16

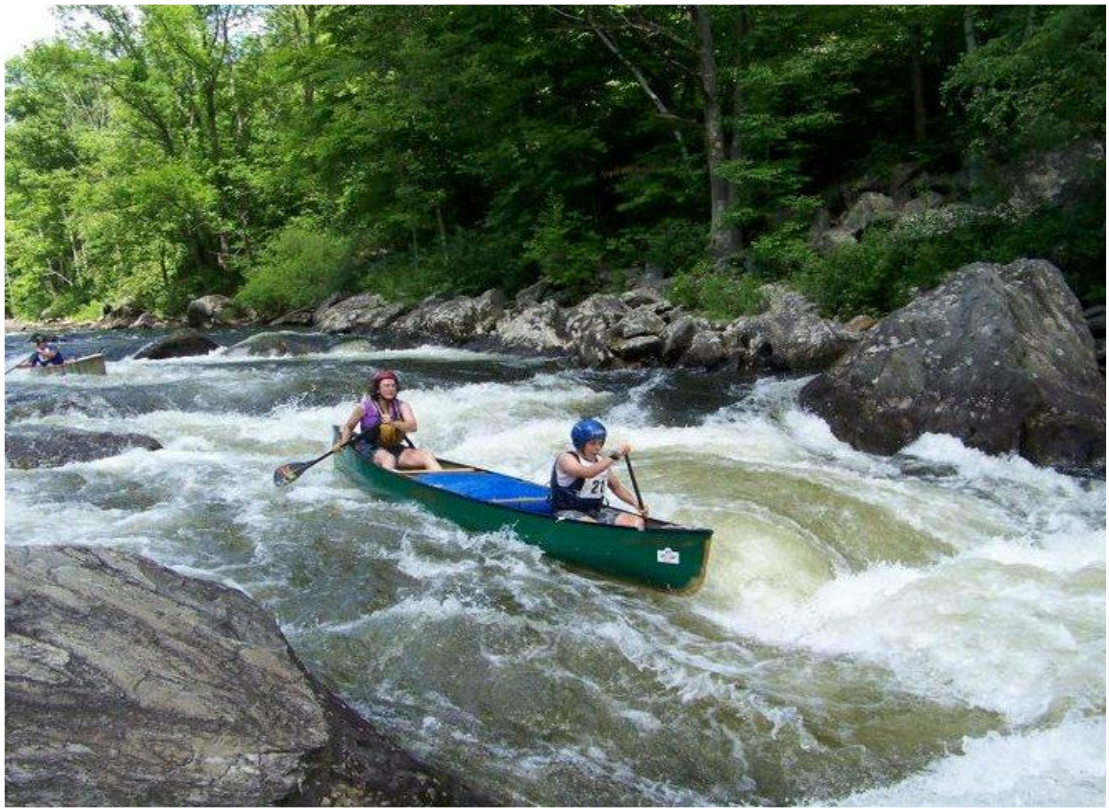


Jeff Owen 1st OC-1 men 40-54 long; and repeat fastest OC-1 time and Willis Hackett winner; 2nd in F14 OC-1

men 40-54 sprint

Clayton Cole 1st F14 OC-1 mens 40-54 sprint; 3rd in F14 mens 40-54 long





Laurie Hamilton and Laurie Stearns 1st OC-2 women in the Gap center route

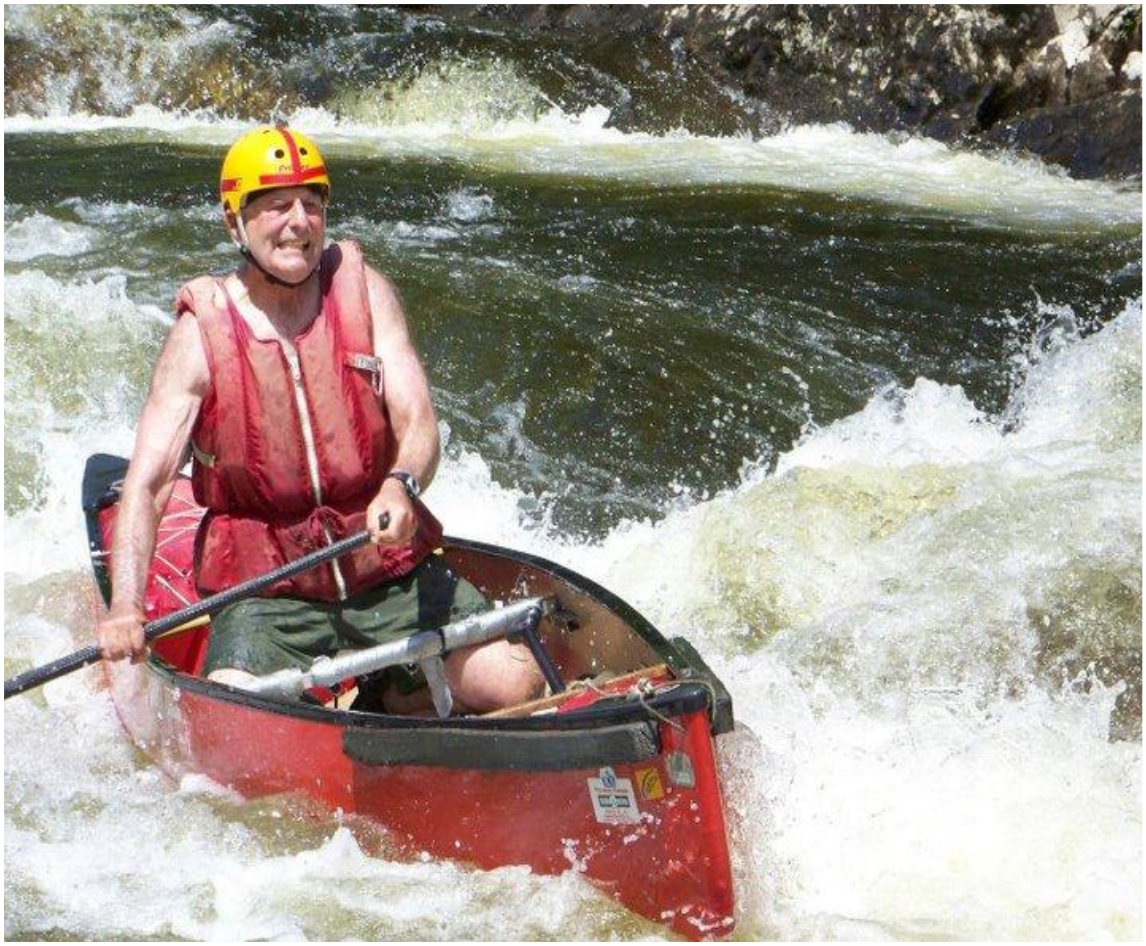
Richard Weber 3rd F16 OC-1

55 and up

sprint

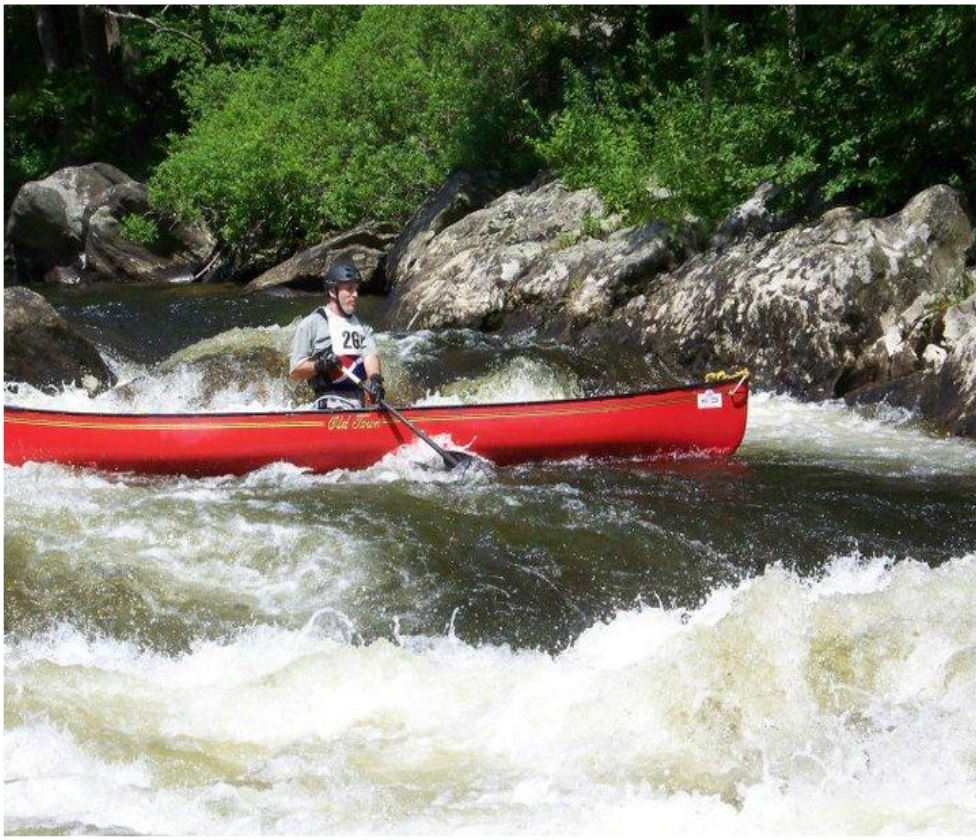
William McDuffie 2nd F16 OC-1 40-54 mens long in the Gap right route (upriver are: K. Havens, E. Sharp, G. Stockman, J. Marona)

George Stockman 3rd OC-1 F16 55 and up long (dry this time in the center route) 3rd in the sprint: tied with R. Weber.



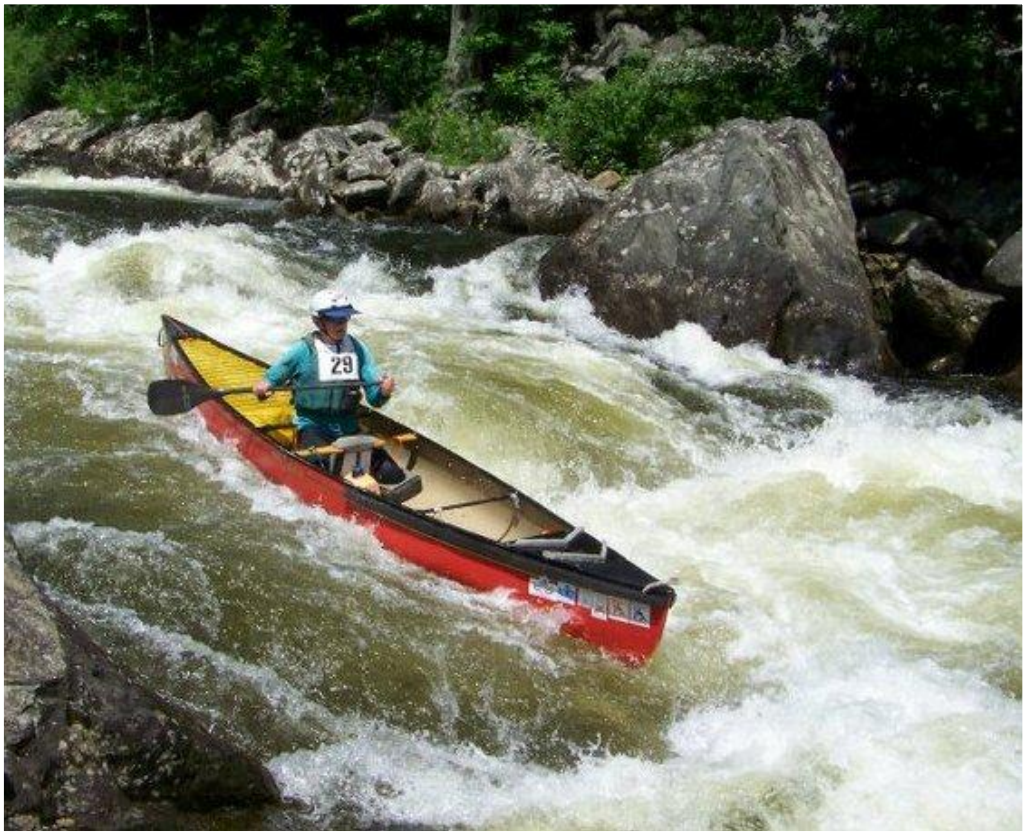
Will Siegfried, 2nd F14 OC-1 40-54 long, takes the center route in the canoe he designed.

In the right route in the red boat is Brian Beaupre, 1st K-1 short 19-39 long race, 2nd in sprint, and winner of the 2011 Sportsmanship Award.

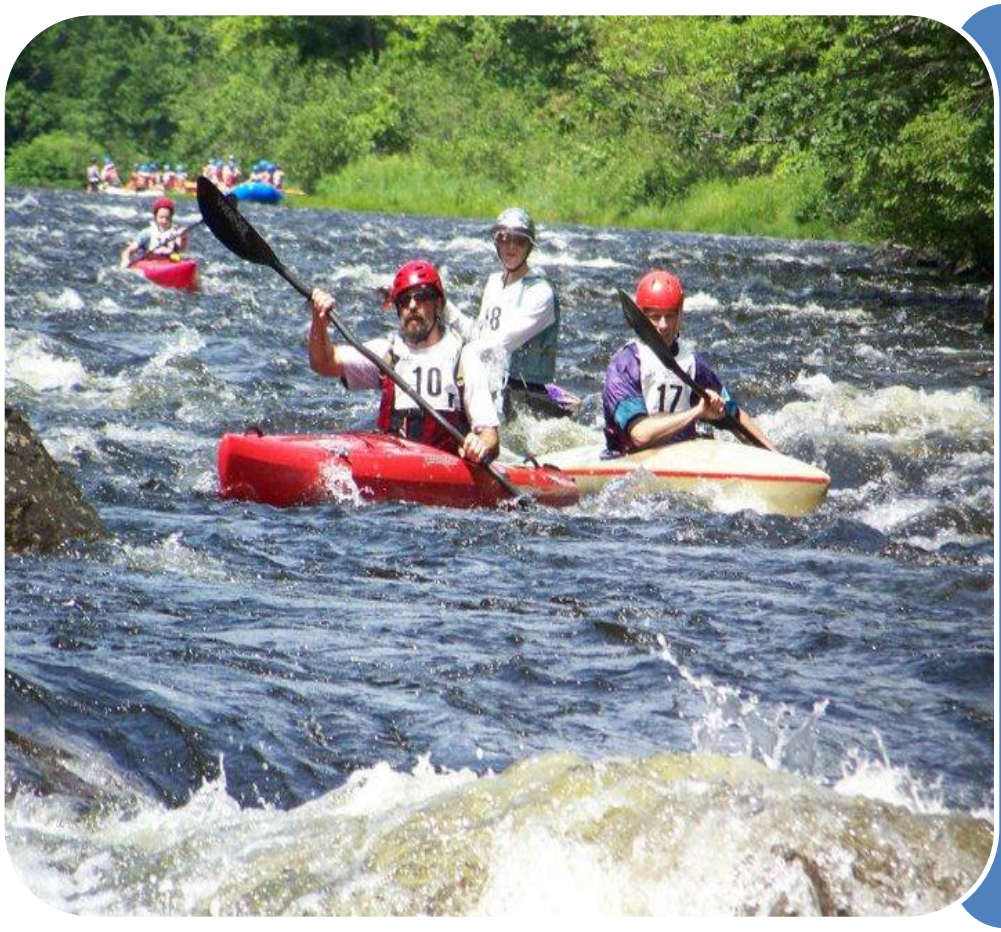


Eric Jones on the left route

3rd in F16 OC-1 40-54 both sprint and long



Ed Sharp going center. 2nd F16 OC-1 55 and up long; first with Keith Havens in OC-2 F16 55 and up both sprint and long



Jamming at the gap top

- 10 Brian "camera head" Beaupre
- 18 Will Siegfried
- 17 Bruce Welk (1st K-1 short 40-54)
- 14 Keith Duggan coming on (2nd K-1 short 19-39)

Paul (bow) and Clayton Cole get some air time. 2nd F14 OC-2 40-54 long