

# EDDY LINES

A PUBLICATION OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN'S CANOE & KAYAK CLUB DECEMBER 2008



Paddling Ford's Terror in Alaska  
Picture courtesy of Laurie Perry

Full Moon Paddle  
Full Moon Paddle

Page 5

Next GLP Meeting  
January 13th  
Creekside Grill  
Ann Arbor  
  
6:30 pm  
  
Details on page 5

## Inside:

- Alaska Trip .....Page 2
- Calendar .....Page 4
- President's Corner .....Page 4
- More fun stuff & Upcoming Events .....Pages 5, 6, & 7

## ALASKA ON THE HOME SHORE By Laurie Perry



**Paddling Dawe's Bay, Alaska. From left to right: Laurie, Marge, Rafael, Lynn, Guide, Suzie, & Ron. Photo courtesy of Laurie Perry**

From July 31 to August 7, 2008, I was one of 6 kayakers aboard the Homeshore in southeast Alaska for what was the most spectacular kayaking trip I've ever experienced. I'm still fairly new to kayaking, and to see Alaska for the first time – and see it from the water – was really a dream come true. Ron and Suzie, Lynn and Rafael and Marge and myself were the only passengers so the onboard details were quite customized.

Our Alaska experience began in Sitka where the weather was beautiful and sunny when we arrived. Marge and I flew in early enough to settle in at the bed and breakfast and do some sightseeing and shopping before the rest of our group arrived. Once the capital of Alaska, Sitka is a beautiful, historic town of shops, restaurants and museums. If possible, be sure to visit the totem pole museum and walk the totem pole trail. It's a peaceful, easy walk through the woods and along the shore with various old, hand-carved totem poles along the way. There are even demonstrations of totem pole carving at the museum.

The following day we boarded The Home Shore which is a 62' trawler still used for commercial fishing during the months of October and November. From May to September, after being thoroughly scrubbed down and refitted with 2 aft staterooms, it's used as a 'mothership' home base for kayaking tours through the Inward Passage of southeast Alaska.

The amazing crew of 3: Captain Jim Kyle, first mate and kayaking guide Ben Kyle, and chef extraordinaire Kendra Miller, were excellent and provided for our every need on a 5-star level. We were 9 adults onboard this boat but I never felt that we were crowded or that privacy was at a premium. We were welcome on the bridge and upper deck at any time and the common gathering/eating room was big enough for all of us. If talking to the crew about their boating experiences wasn't enough, they even have a nice little library onboard.

During the course of 7 days we covered over 300 miles of water from Sitka to Petersburg and paddled a total of 53 statute miles. We departed Sitka on a rainy Thursday. The weather that day was not ideal but it did not dampen our excitement and enthusiasm for the trip ahead. Fortunately, that was the only day it actually rained. Due to the clouds, we missed a few days of being able to see the majestic mountains that surrounded us, but we were never disappointed with the sights we did experience. The expanse and openness were truly breathtaking and beyond words to describe. *Continued on page 3*

## ALASKA ON THE HOME SHORE — *Continued from page 2*

Every evening we anchored in a new location and discussed the next day's paddling plan with the crew. The beauty of each location was amazing and we were able to see some wildlife not found in the Michigan waters I'm used to. Eagles and various water fowl were abundant, as were sea otters floating belly up amongst the bull kelp. We sighted black bear and brown bear, both with cubs, down near the water's edge as we motored past. Curious groups of sea lions popped up just about everywhere to check us out. Starfish the size of a dinner platter, sea urchins and other sea life was easy to view through the crystal clear waters.

One day, we paddled out toward a sea lion rookery but did not get too close as they are in a protected area and can be aggressive if threatened. In spite of the distance, the sound of their bellowing was quite loud!

The only town we visited on our tour was Pelican—a very remote fishing village perched at the waters edge with the mountain directly at her back. All of the buildings stand high on pilings as the tidal waters rise and fall roughly 19 feet. All of the buildings are connected by a wide boardwalk and the modes of transport are ATV's, bicycles or foot. From Pelican we motored to Taylor Bay where we paddled that afternoon and took a break to walk the beach near Brady Glacier. We were excited to see wolf and even bear tracks in the sand, and even happier not to encounter them face to face!

We were up early for our day at Adolphus Point so we could spend the morning paddling with a pod of about 19 humpback whales. We were the only ones on the water with them for awhile before the local whale-watching tours came into the area. The whales kept circling and spouting and occasionally breaching, almost as if they knew they were on display. What a sight they were! Groups of sea lions followed the whales to share in the fishing, as did flocks of sea gulls. It was a pretty exciting morning!

Day six had us paddling within ¼ mile of Dawes Glacier. The katabatic wind coming off of the glacier made the paddling quite cold and the waters a bit rough. Still, it was a beautiful sunny day and we were all thrilled to be there. Paddling around small icebergs was definitely a new experience!

Our last paddling adventure was in Ford's Terror. That morning we went on a short hike to see the landscape and pick wild blueberries. We tried to make enough noise to let the bears know we were in the area. They must have gotten the message because we didn't encounter any berry-picking competition. The passage to enter Ford's Terror is quite narrow so our entrance and exit had to be timed with the tides. The thought of a 6-hour paddle was a bit daunting to me at first but I was surprised at how quickly the time went by! (We did land and take a break!) Every turn, every corner, every vantage point held a spectacular view. There were waterfalls everywhere and each one was more beautiful than the last. Making our way back out was interesting as we navigated around and across various eddies and currents. It was hard work at times, but not anything I would have wanted to miss! And no one capsized!

We started every day with an incredible breakfast, broke for fabulous lunches and ended the days with amazing dinners—all prepared by Kendra in the little galley! It was fun to watch her disappear into the hold below deck and come up with fresh produce and items for our next meal. Each meal included a fresh fruit or salad and everything was made from scratch. In spite of all the paddling, I believe we all probably put on some weight!

Our last night onboard, Jim and Ben had us download our best photos into their computer and we were each given a disk and slideshow before we left. We were also each gratefully sent home with autographed recipe books of favorite Home Shore dishes.

I have never before been on a trip like this one and though I hope to go back on the Home Shore someday, I know it will not be quite the same as this first. Alaska is exactly as I had been told—more beautiful and breathtaking than words can describe. You really do have to see it to believe it and if you can experience it on the Home Shore, you are in for an incredible treat! Check out [www.homeshore.com](http://www.homeshore.com) to see more and book a trip.





Spotted on local rivers at various times, photo courtesy of Cathy Myles

We are about to head home (north of the border) for Christmas, and I want to get this corner finished so we can get a newsletter out. I would like to say thank you to LeAnn for your tenure as Newsletter Editor and thank you Sharon for agreeing to take the task over. The club would not function without the dedicated efforts of all the volunteers. A big thanks to all of the people, who spent time helping the club run, organized events, wrote articles or sent pictures for the newsletter, or helped to make our club a great group to spend time with. Also a big thank you to our corporate sponsors (Riverside Kayak Connection in Wyandotte) for their enthusiastic support. I am planning to visit them between Christmas and New Year's Day.

The new year is often a time to make resolutions; eat less, exercise more, enjoy the outdoors more, or whatever your choice is. It is also a time to look back on what we have done and accomplished. I would say we had a good year in 2008. We paddled frequently, got to some new places, met lots of new people, and had a GREAT time with another club. The new year will bring lots of opportunities and challenges. We have events planned to get out on the water, we have some issues that affect the paddling community which we need to pay some attention to. There are lots of opportunities for you to help make this a better club. Please let any of the executives know if you want to help organize something, have a special skill you would like to share or have any ideas to help make the Great Lakes Paddlers an even better club. We continue to have our monthly dinners all along the Huron Watershed. We try to move around so we are close to all of our members at some point during the year.

In October, our regular monthly dinner was changed from a dinner out to a pizza gathering and moonlight paddle. Our meeting fell on a night with a full moon, so Rick Lalonde suggested the paddle. About 10 of us gathered at the Lahvic's house for pizza and salad followed by an hour and a half paddle on Barton Pond. The moon did light the night up for us, although it took a while to get high enough to clear the trees. Our paddle included a visit to the railway bridge across the pond where the Democrat supporters had painted the name of the eventual president elect.

### TRIP NOTIFICATION

It is essential that you notify the trip leader that you plan to paddle with them. Trip leaders are listed in the paddle details in Eddy Lines.

Please let your leaders know your skill level and equipment.

If no notification is received the trip leader will assume that they are alone and may decide to go paddle solo in some other more convenient spot. If you show up at a put-in and no one is there you may want to try and remember if you notified them of your intentions.

**Information is subject to change!**  
Details as they become available and may be in past issues of Eddy lines.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009

### January 2009

- 01/01/09 Annual New Year's Day Paddle
- 01/07/09 Winter Rendezvous - RKC
- 01/11/09 Presentation - RKC
- 01/13/09 GLP Meeting - Ann Arbor
- 01/18/09 Fun Start Your Kayak - RKC
- 01/25/09 Rolling Class - RKC

### February 2009

- 02/07/09 Paddler's Potluck Gathering
- 02/13-14/09 Wilderness Canoe Association Symposium
- 02/28/09 Picture Day with WECCC

### March 2009

- 03/07/09 14th Annual Quiet Water Symposium
- 03/10/09 GLP Meeting - Whitmore Lake
- 03/13-15/09 Canoecopia
- 03/21/09 St. Paddy's Day Paddle

### April 2009

- 04/14/09 GLP Meeting - Ann Arbor
- 04/25/09 Yakapalooza!

### May 2009

- 05/12/09 GLP Meeting - Wyandotte
- 05/22-25/09 20th Annual WMCKA Symposium

### June 2009

- 06/09/09 GLP Meeting - Ypsilanti
- 06/26-27/09 Paddlefest 2009

### July 2009

- 07/14/09 GLP Meeting - St. Clair Shores
- 07/16-19/09 Great Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium

### August 2009

- 08/11/09 GLP Meeting - Milford

### September 2009

- 09/08/09 GLP Meeting - Flat Rock

### October 2009

- 10/13/09 GLP Meeting - Brighton

### November 2009

- 11/10/09 GLP Meeting - Chelsea



Photo by Rick Lalonde

## Full Moon Paddle

I must accept full responsibility to highjacking the October dinner meeting, apologies to expectant regular diners but the lure of a full moon on the meeting night begged for an active event. After a bit of online banter on destinations, Tom and Wendy Lahvic offered up at their place for pre paddle pizza plus “extras” before we launched between Tubbs and Barton Pond as the sun set on the horizon making way for cool fall air.

Tea lights on canoe decks, kayak hulls a glow made for strange low light images, paddlers taking in the surreal moonlit environment. We slowly paddled down to the rail bridge with its full expression of political preference where we stopped to share a snack. Oblivious to the cool damp night, we paddle past the put in, heading to Tubbs, doing our best to delay the inevitable end to the memorable evening.



Cannot thank enough Tom and Wendy once again for their hospitality and a great evening.  
Rick Lalonde

Photo of John Scislowicz' kayak by Rick Lalonde

**Next Great Lakes Paddlers' Meeting**  
**January 13th, 6:30**  
**The Creekside Grill**  
5728 Jackson Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI  
**734-827-2737**

## GREAT, a GLP Environmental Friend

In recent years the GLP has participated in exchange paddles with the Grand River Environmental Action Team (GREAT). One is hosted by the GLP in the metro counties and the other is hosted by GREAT in the Jackson County area. Such an arrangement exposes paddlers of each group to unfamiliar waterways guided by those with local expertise. To encourage social interaction and friendship, a cookout picnic has been added to the agenda. Founded in 1990, the mission of GREAT “is promote the protection and preservation of the Grand River Watershed through activities and educational programs.” The Grand River is Michigan’s longest river with its headwaters in Jackson County. Like the GLP, GREAT has monthly paddle trips, but as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, GREAT opens these up to the public to create public awareness of the local water resources and environmental appreciation. Reservations can be made at no cost to use one of GREAT’s eight kayaks or seven canoes which are transported by the organization to the trip site on their two trailers. Participants averaged 45 in 2008. With 135 members, GREAT: is a key partner in the Upper Grand River Implementation Project funded with a federal grant; works remove debris to expand sections of the Grand River which can be effectively paddled; and has a quarterly environmental-paddling newsletter, but its most important activity is the annual Grand River Clean-up. Last year a record 90 volunteers showed up to remove trash in and along the Grand River. GREAT’s annual March meeting features an environmental speaker. A handful of people are members of both the GLP and GREAT (individual membership: \$15 and is tax deductible). For more information, check: <http://www.great-mi.org> or call 517 416-4234.

Jim Seitz  
President GREAT and GLP member



Jim Seitz on the Huron River  
Photo courtesy of Vicki Schroeder

## RKC Events



**January 7, 2009 - 6:30 pm**

### **Fort Street Brewery Get-Together**

Winter Rendezvous for Riverside Kayak Connection. Meet at the Fort Street Brewery in Lincoln Park. [www.fortstreetbeer.com](http://www.fortstreetbeer.com) Fellow paddler and Fort Street Brewmaster, Doug, will be our host for the evening. Please RSVP to Tiffany or Sarah at 734 285-2925 or [tiffany@riversidekayak.com](mailto:tiffany@riversidekayak.com) or [sarah@riversidekayak.com](mailto:sarah@riversidekayak.com) Hope to see everyone there!

**January 17, 2009 - 4:00 pm**

### **Bridging the Gap Presentation**

The incredible tale of a group of eleven paddlers who traveled from Lake Huron to Lake Erie, completing 90 miles over Father's Day weekend 2008. Free, but space is limited. RSVP to Tiffany at 734 285-2925 or [tiffany@riversidekayak.com](mailto:tiffany@riversidekayak.com)

## RKC Classes

**January 18, 2009 - 6:00-9:00 pm**

### **Fun Start Your Kayak**

Southgate Family YMCA

**January 25, 2009 - 2:00-5:00 pm**

### **Rolling Class**

Eastern Michigan University

Call RKC to sign up. Space is limited! 734 285-2925

**Don't forget to sign up for RKC's Newsletter!**

For more information visit [www.riversidekayak.com](http://www.riversidekayak.com).

## Welcome New Members

Graham Battersby

Mark Ellison

Kim Harper

Kathy Kulchinski

Vicki Schroeder



## "Huron River Impoundment Management Plan Update"

I encourage you to visit [www.huronriverpaddlers.blogspot.com](http://www.huronriverpaddlers.blogspot.com) for updates about the potential for new whitewater in downtown Ann Arbor. The most recent posting highlights the leading designer and installer of whitewater projects throughout the world: the firm Recreation, Engineering & Planning (REP). REP designed the renowned Charlotte whitewater park and makes in-stream improvements to popular stretches of whitewater like the Nantahala River. Today, REP is a consultant for two cities in Michigan, Flint and Ann Arbor.

The planning document, "Visions of Argo" (written by students and faculty of the University of Michigan), expresses the need for organization and advocacy of user groups that stand to be affected by the removal of Argo Dam. You can start to become more involved with bringing whitewater to the Huron River by becoming a "Follower" of the blog. To do so, click on "Follow this blog" in the lower right hand corner of the page. The site will ask you a few questions and even allow you to post a picture of yourself on the water. Blog followers will have the option to receive each new posting as an email sent directly to your inbox.

As we head into winter doldrums, look for new ways to be involved with Huron whitewater.

Thanks for supporting whitewater resources in lower Michigan!

Best regards,

Jonathan E. Lutz  
[www.huronriverpaddlers.com](http://www.huronriverpaddlers.com)  
[Jonathanelutz@gmail.com](mailto:Jonathanelutz@gmail.com)  
517 290-9901



## 2009 Dues are Due!

We value your membership and encourage you to renew your membership and also invite your friends to join Great Lakes Paddlers.

Please take a moment to fill out the form on page 8 and send it in.

Thank you and we hope to see on the water soon!



# Manistee River Weekend



Photos courtesy of Tom Brandau

We began this trip with some wayward directions from Google Maps and missing persons who had gotten into a sand trap on the trails that certainly looked like roads on the map! After a scouting mission, which involved a 4-wheel-drive truck and a tow strap we recovered the missing amongst our group but not before they had to spend the night in their vehicle. For future reference, approach the CCC Bridge State Forest Campground from the northern route off M-72. This allows you to drive on a real road, not an unmarked sand dune. This is by the way a beautiful campground right on the banks of the Manistee River and well worth the effort to find it! It is a primitive campground with large campsites but had new outhouses! See <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?id=579&type=SF CG> for a description.

We were able to paddle different sections of the Manistee on Saturday and Sunday, Saturday being the better weather day with partly cloudy skies and temperatures in the upper 60's. Sunday was overcast but not raining however it was a little cooler. This took place on the last weekend of September and the fall colors were not in full swing yet but just had hints of the brighter colors yet to come. The water level was quite adequate and the current fairly swift. Many twists and turns and downed trees made for an interesting paddle which was quite fun. We had a group which consisted of four tandem canoes and two single kayaks.

We prepared meals together and sat around the campfire singing whatever songs came to mind. I think that a good time was had by all and would highly recommend that we entertain thoughts of paddling this section of the Manistee again in 2009.

Sharon Clark



Twana Chandler



John Scislowicz



The whole motley crew

