

# THREE RIVERS CHAPTER

Issue 124  
September 2017

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## September Outing: Allegheny River Excursion

by Millie Sass

**Saturday, September 9,  
10:00 a.m.  
Bonnie Brae Boat Launch,  
Tidioute, Pa.**

### Official Club Paddle

For the official paddle on Saturday, September 9, we will meet at Bonnie Brae Boat Launch at 10 a.m. That Pa. state launch is 3 miles north of Tidioute Pa., on the river side of Route 62, across from Bimber Run Road. There is a parking lot there; should be room for all of our vehicles.

This is an official state launch, so **launch permit stickers are required.** We will float downriver, pause briefly at Tidioute for a “comfort” stop, and then proceed 4 miles down to my cabin (total trip is approximately 7 miles).

I will end my trip there, but you may decide to proceed another 4 miles south to West Hickory or even to Tionesta (another 7 miles). I can arrange

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*If you'd like to extend Saturday's paddle into an overnight or weekend excursion, you are welcome to join me at my cabin.*

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to pick you up either at West Hickory or Tionesta.

This arrangement will get us on the river shortly after 10 a.m. rather than much later in the morning like last year, when we deposited our vehicles at the takeout point and then met with a strong headwind. It also gives people options for length of trip.

### Weekend Option!

If you'd like to extend Saturday's paddle into an overnight or weekend excursion, you are welcome to join me at my cabin:

**24 Riverview Road  
Tidioute PA 16351**

I will be at my cabin from the afternoon of Thursday, September 7 through the evening of Sunday, September 10.

The official club paddle will be on Saturday, September 9, but you are welcome to come any time on Thursday, Friday, or Sunday too. I will help with transport on those days if you'd like to do some river exploring.

### Things You Need to Know

- ⊕ I will supply a simple camp meal after the Saturday outing.
- ⊕ Bring drinking water. The cabin has a flush toilet and shower facility, but water is not potable.
- ⊕ There is plenty of room for tent camping. There is a shed that can be used for sleeping.
- ⊕ The Allegheny River is rocky and can be shallow in spots. You might want to bring your “beater” canoe.
- ⊕ You will need water shoes for the river; it's too rocky for bare feet.

If you need more information about the weekend/facilities/location/directions, please email me at [millie\\_sass@hotmail.com](mailto:millie_sass@hotmail.com) or call me at 412-681-5563 (home) or 412-251-6689 (cell). Note that I have a new cell phone that *does* get service at my cabin. I will be departing from Pittsburgh early in the morning of September 7, so please use my cell phone number after that.

I will need a head/canoe count by **Tuesday morning, September 5.** Please let me know if you can join any part of the weekend. ⊕

## Joint Event with CABBS

Our joint outing with Cleveland Area Boat Building Society (CABBS) turned out to be a small gathering at Leesville Lake just south of Carrollton, Ohio.

We were joined by Jerry and Lorie Priebe, CABBS members who live near Millersburg, Ohio. They brought with them their small wooden dingy, which Jerry built. It is equipped with oars as well as a sail. They opted to propel it on Leesville with a small electric trolling motor.

Millie Sass brought along her two granddaughters, Hannah and Emma, who were visiting from their home in Germany. Millie's friend Fred, visiting from his home in Wales, also joined us.

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*Hannah sang like a true voyager in French, English, and German. . . .*

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The result was an international flotilla of watercraft. Hannah sang like a true voyager in French, English, and German as she joined in helping paddle Andy and Jackie Hutjera's canoe.

Leesville is a long skinny horseshoe-shaped lake with many bays to explore. The day was bright and clear with very light winds, which made for ideal paddling conditions. The water is quite clear with excellent downward visibility.

As we paddled along near the shore, we were able to see many large fresh-water sponges growing on underwater downed trees. Ospreys and other bird life



Andy and Jackie get **paddling assistance and a serenade** from Millie's granddaughter Hannah.

were spotted as we explored the sheltered shores of the lake.

After a leisurely paddle down the lake and back, we returned to the North Arm marina, where we cooked hot dogs and hamburgers in the shade of several large

maple trees. Folks got to visit with the Priebees who have spent many summers camping in Alaska. Scott Johnson is planning a trip there next May and was able to pick up some helpful pointers. ☪



Three Rivers Chapter and CABBS folks at Leesville Lake, Ohio.

## Canoes for Sale

### Birchbark Canoe

Rich Weber of the Erie Sport Store is offering for sale a birchbark canoe, which has been hanging on display in the store for some time. I sent photos of the canoe to Ferdy Goode, and this is his reply:

*“What we have here appears to be a nailed Wabinaki Tchiman (Algonquin) made out of one sheet of birch bark. This particular style is a hybrid of the old eastern Algonquin. It was built somewhere out east, possibly even in Canada—maybe even at Maniwaki, Quebec, an old canoe-building center where Native builders made many canoes for sale for sportsmen 50 or more years ago. There is no doubt that most of the wood is white cedar. Planking is*



**A very special store fixture** could be yours.

*overlapping. The stem piece may be plank-on-edge rather than split laminations and is attached with split root. Nice canoe.”*

Rich is asking \$4,500 for the canoe and can be reached at: [rich.weber@eriesportstores.com](mailto:rich.weber@eriesportstores.com)



**Getting this canoe floating on water—instead of air—could be a worthy project.**

## Canoes for Sale

### 1950s Old Town Sailing Canoe

Ann Swain, who operates the canoe livery at Bolivar, Ohio, is looking for a good home for her Old Town canoe.

Ann acquired this canoe about twenty years ago from the original owner. She has attempted to find the build record, but was advised by Old Town that the record was destroyed. She has not been able to locate the serial number to check it against the WCHA scanned records.

The canoe has its original canvas and comes with paddles, mast step, mast thwart, lee boards, and seat back. The sail and mast are missing.



This sailing canoe comes with **many of its original accessories.**

Ann believes it is seventeen feet long. She is asking \$2,000 for the whole outfit and wants it

to go to someone who will appreciate it. She can be reached at 330-484-4295. ☎



This beautiful canoe deserves **a good home.**

## Schedule of Events

For more information on any of these events, contact Craig Johnson at (740) 696-1000 or nosnhojgiarc@gmail.com.

⊕ **September 9**

We will gather at Bonnie Brae boat launch for a paddle on the Allegheny. There Overnight camping at Millie's cabin is an option. See p. 1 for more information.

⊕ **October 6–8**

**Mini-Assembly, Gifford Pinchot State Park**

We will be gathering with three other chapters near Harrisburg, Pa. Make your reservations early because campsites disappear quickly.

⊕ **October 22**

We will hold our annual meeting at Sylvan Canoe Club in Verona, Pa. ⊕

### Chapter Information

- ⊕ **Head:** Craig Johnson
- ⊕ **Treasurer:** Fred Capenos
- ⊕ **At large:** Bob Ball, Millie Sass, and Richard Seman
- ⊕ **Newsletter:** Andy Hutyera and Ann Mertz
- ⊕ **Librarian:** Mark Zalonis

### National WCHA Information

- ⊕ <http://www.wcha.org/>