

MINNESOTA PADDLER

AUGUST VOLUME 50 No. 6

The Official Publication of the Minnesota Canoe Association



State Fair Time

this issue

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GREETINGS FROM THE MCA BOARD

Greetings!

I've been impressed with the Urban Boatbuilders organization. The front cover shows young builders at the State Fair. In late July, several new boats were launched at Lake Como, then off to the BWCA. Also, they may join us for the Fall Color Cruise on October 4, 2014.

Kevin submitted a trip report. If you download this as a 2-page spread, it's easier to follow the canoe route on the maps.

We are still seeking a volunteer who is interested in the Public Relations Director position. Drop me a line if you have a recommendation.

Girls, don't be shy. Step up and submit a short essay about portaging!

Editor-

communications@mncanoe.org






*Cover– Urban Boatbuilders at the DNR Building at the MN State Fair. Bob Anderson.
Above– Builders, presenting their new boats at Lake Como. Mary Hoffman.*

From the by-laws of the MCA:

The purposes for which the corporation is organized are:

- to unite in common organization those persons who are interested in all phases of recreational canoeing, professional and amateur canoe racing, canoe camping, and related activities
- to formulate and maintain standards for the guidance of members and others interested in canoeing
- to exchange information about canoes, canoe equipment, river, lakes and other waterways, campsites and other matters of common interest to members
- to promote and encourage conservation of wilderness, waterways and campsite and such other matters as will maintain and improve conditions for canoeing
- to do any and all lawful acts and things and to engage in any and all lawful activities which may be necessary, useful, suitable, desirable, or proper for the furtherance, accomplishment, fostering, or attainment of any or all of the purposes for which the corporation is organized
- to aid and assist other organizations whose activities are such as to further, accomplish, foster, or attain any of such purposes.

	"GIRLS PORTAGE TOO" Essay Contest
	Tell us the story of your most memorable portage on a canoe trip for a chance to win!
	"GIRLS PORTAGE TOO" Poster & Sticker
	"GIRLS PORTAGE TOO" Poster
	"GIRLS PORTAGE TOO" Sticker
	Prize Donations Accepted
	Winning essays will be published on MCA website www.mncanoe.org and Minnesota Paddler

How to Enter:

Send to: girlsportagetoo@mncanoe.org
Name, Address, Phone number, Email.



Public Relations Director Needed

The MCA needs a
Public Relations
Director.

Start by meeting like
minded people like
yourself at the Water
Trails Tourism
Summit this
September.

The MCA would like to
sponsor your registra-
tion in return for a
volunteer position on
our board of directors.

Widen your network by
meeting community
groups, government
agencies, and individu-
als seeking information
and assistance from the
MCA.

It's rewarding and
exciting to be a part of
making things happen.



Minnesota State Water Trails Tourism Summit



September 29-30, 2014 | St. Cloud, Minnesota

Join us for the Minnesota State Water Trails Tourism Summit – an interactive and educational gathering of communities, businesses, and user groups. This first-ever event will focus on how paddle sports can increase outdoor recreation tourism, foster economic development, build a sense of community, and provide a better quality of life.

Frequently Asked Questions

When and where is the summit?

The summit is September 29-30 (Monday-Tuesday), at the [River's Edge Convention Center](#) in St. Cloud, MN.

Who should attend?

Tourism professionals, paddlesports businesses, local community leaders, and non-profit or volunteer groups that promote paddlesports recreation.

How do I register?

Visit granitecountry.com/wtsummit to learn more and register. Early registration is open from August 1st to September 5th.

How much does it cost?

Attendance for both days of the summit costs \$100 if you register before September 5th (early registration). After September 5th, registration costs \$125.

What's included?

Your registration fee includes all the equipment needed for the experiential day, as well as dinner and refreshments on Monday, and breakfast, breaks, and lunch on Tuesday.

For more information, visit the [summit website](#).

Minnesota State Water Trails Tourism Summit Schedule

Experiential Day

Monday September 29, 2014

- 12:30pm Registration
- 1:00pm Option #1 Paddle the Mississippi River State Water Trails including presentation stops along trail. *There will be educational stops on shore as well as during the paddle. On the water time is approximately 2 hours.*
- 5:00pm Option #2 Tour by van to learn about the economic impacts of paddlesports
- 6:00pm - Social Hour/Networking
- 7:00pm - Dinner and Speaker: Welcome from Erika Rivers, Director of DNR Division of Parks and Trails. Evening Keynote by Greg Lais, Wilderness Inquiry Founder and Executive Director.

Workshop Day

Tuesday September 30, 2014

- 7:30am Registration and Breakfast
- 8:30am Welcome and Keynote Speaker
"Your Community from a Paddler's Perspective"
Natalie Warren, Wild River Academy Founder
- 9:30am Breakout Sessions (Choose one)
- Media Relations
- Making Paddle Friendly Communities
- Connecting Youth to the Outdoors
- 10:30am Break and Networking Time
- 11:00am Breakout Sessions (Choose one)
- Planning a Paddling Event
- Promoting the Water Trail in Your Community
- Specialized Offerings: Repeat Customers and Advertising
- Noon Lunch and Speakers
Panel Facilitator Patrick Moore,
Communications Director,
Pioneer Public TV and Civic Engagement Consultant
- 1:30pm Speed Sessions
- Attend 15 minute information sessions on topics ranging from Social Media to Stand up Paddleboarding
- 3:00pm Regional Networking Meeting
- Talk with outfitters, tourism officials, friends groups, and local DNR representatives in your area
- 4:00pm Closing Remarks

Registration Information

\$100.00

Early Registration (Now until September 5th, 2014)
*Discount will be deducted at the time of the transaction

\$125.00

Registration (After September 5th, 2014)

\$70.00

Seminar Day Only (Day 2, September 30th, 2014)

Student Information

There are a limited number of reduced-fee student registrations available. Contact Ana Vang at (651) 259-5620, email Anleisha.vang@state.mn.us for more information.

For mail in registration check out the:

[MN State Water Trails Tourism Summit Registration Brochure](#)

PLANNING PARTNERS:

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EXPLORE MINNESOTA TOURISM

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ST. CLOUD AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY-OUTDOOR ENDEAVORS

CLEARWATER OUTFITTING

MINNESOTA CANOE ASSOCIATION

CONSERVATION CORPS OF MINNESOTA AND IOWA





MCA Fall Color Cruise on the St. Croix River and Builders Contest

Saturday October 4, 2014



Join our MCA cruisers for a view of the St. Croix River in its fall splendor.

General Info

The trip will be insured by the USCA. There will be a \$4.00 per person charge payable to the MCA for non MCA members. A USCA waiver must be filled out and signed by all participants.

All boats must comply with US Coast Guard rules. PFD for each person and 1 whistle per boat.

Shuttle will be run by participants and coordinated by MCA leaders. River access not requiring a fee are at Osceola Landing and Log House Landing.

Last year the MCA and the Loppet Foundation bought six 17 foot Jensen canoes. The Canoes will be available for the Fall Color Cruise on a first come first served basis. The cost for the use of a canoe will be \$30.00 MCA or Loppet member \$40.00 nonmember. Reservation must be made and confirmed by September 22 with David Shanteau.

Bring your own food and beverage.

Builders Contest Rules

Boat must have been made within the last 5 years by the person entering the boat. Classes will be determined on the day of the event. Winners will be determined by a vote of the people present.

Any Questions contact:
David Shanteau
Education & Safety Director
651-433-2157
daveandmad@frontiernet.net

Basic Route

Osceola Bridge Landing Rt. 243 to William O'Brien State Park at Marine on St. Croix.

Schedule: (MN State Parks Stickers or Daily Entrance Fee Required at Parks)

9:30 Arrive at Osceola Bridge Landing, sign in, unload, get ready.

9:45 Start shuttle to O'Brien take outs.

10:15 Start Paddling

12:00 Lunch below the RR swing bridge.

12:45 Builders Contest (See rules below)

1:15 Start Paddling

3:00 Arrive at O'Brien load up and finish shuttle.

4:00 Wrap up.

Updated Boat Decals!

Members— An updated version of the MCA decal is available. Email us with your name and current address. The first one is free. For more than one, the cost is \$1.00 .

The sticker is a 4in x 6in oval.

Send request to :

Communications@mncanoe.org



Pipestone/Winisk River

Trip Report June 17- July 1 2013

By Kevin Groeneveld

Description:

Our route followed the Pipestone River from a road access point north of Pickle Lake to where it flowed into Wunnummin Lake, then to the Winisk River, and the village of Webequie on Winisk Lake. The Winisk River continues on to Hudson Bay. Our route passed through Pipestone River Provincial Park and the Winisk Provincial Park. This route cuts through the granite of the Canadian Shield and features a variety of whitewater, waterfalls, small and big lakes.

We found online trip reports (Worth Donaldson – www.mycr.com) and very detailed maps for the first half of the trip from the road down to Wunnummin Lake at <http://kokanie.ca/pipestone-river-canoe-route>. The Canoe Atlas of the Little North provided most of the information for the last half of the trip on the upper Winisk River. The Atlas also provided many details about portages, waterfalls and the local people. The first half of the trip was a series of white water rapids and waterfalls that was broken up by the occasional small lake. The last half of the trip was a series of lakes broken up by the occasional rapids or falls.

We were able to find established campsites and most of the portages on the first half of the trip. Many of these portages had been “sterilized” by very hot forest fires. Some of these areas had been completely stripped of trees. It was very much like hiking in a sandy desert. We had difficulty finding campsites and portages on the last half of the trip. We pitched our tents along abandoned portages in places hacked out of the woods or just a tilted rock along the shoreline



Kevin and Vern



Pipestone/Winisk River
June 17- July 1 2013
Kevin Groeneveld, Vern Fish, Jerry Storm

Day 1 – June 17 We stayed at Lynn Cox's Bed & Breakfast in Pickle Lake the night before. Lynn helped us find Jim Bradley of Cristal Lake Camp to drive us up the gravel road to the put-in point (cristal.lake@gmail.com). Jim loaded our gear and our two canoes into the back of his pickup. Jim had worked in the Northwest Territories and he shared several stories of his life up north and in Pickle Lake. On the way up, we crossed the Ozhiski River, which feeds into the Attawapiskat. This could be a river worth exploring for a future trip. We crossed the access to the winter road that leads to Wunnummin Lake. After a couple of hours of driving on a good gravel road, we ended up at the bridge crossing the **Pipestone River**. The road provides access to a gold mine. After months of planning and days of driving, we were finally ready to push off. Immediately after we left the landing was a Class II slot underneath the bridge. The map shows four more Class I's or Class II's within the first kilometer. The first canoe rolled going through the slot while the second ran it with no problem! It took a fair amount of time to pull the canoe out of the strong backwash and get it bailed out. The fun had just begun as the same canoe rolled again going through the next set of rapids. Lost in all of excitement was a great series of

Class I's and Class II's that we ran successfully. All in all, it was a pretty good first day.

Day 2 – June 18 We broke camp by 8 am and inevitably found two really nice campsites just downstream. This would happen several times on this trip. The next bend included a couple of Class IV's with a ledge in between. We cleared a few logs off the portage on river right. The river then split around a big island at the 15 km mark and we went south of the island. Kevin and Vern pulled up on another island to check out the rapids on the right. Jerry portaged over the island and we had nice run down the left side of the rapid. We then paddled by a little bay on the north that offered several sandy beaches on which to camp. The next run of white water was a powerful set of Class III-IV rapids. The portage on the left was completely blocked off by downed trees, so we lined our way to the bottom of the run. The next portage on the left was also lost in a tangle of downed trees. It was late and so we threw up our tents in the trees along the portage trail on river left above a long run of Class III rapids.

Day 3 – June 19 It started to rain just before daybreak. Not a great way to start a tough day. Everyone was moving a little slow. We took another look at

the long set of rapids and decided to load up. We ran, lined, and portaged the long series of Class II/III rapids, carried over a ledge. We then used the two boats to leap frog from eddy to eddy until we came to the last Class III. We helped Jerry carry his solo over a burned over portage on the right while Kevin and Vern ran the rapids. Jerry filmed our run from above. As we cleared the east end of the big island, we could see that the north channel was filled with rocks. I could see why the "preferred" route avoided this rock garden. Just downstream, we saw one of the few moose we would see on this trip. As we came up on the 30 km mark, we were met with a hard left bend that disappeared around a tall esker. The water was raging white all the way around the bend. We climbed the steep sandy hill and stopped to take lunch. We then hiked out to the end of the point and tried to find a line through this maze of whitewater. We had a great birds-eye view from up on the top, but we just could not see a clean, safe line. We carried up and over the hill back down to the river. The run down to **Markop Lake** was calm and relaxing. We were happy to get out and explore the falls just upstream from the portage into **Markop Lake**. The 1997 fire that burned across this portage had left nothing.



Pipestone River

Rooted in the early Precambrian bedrock, the area's boreal forests are home to moose, deer, black bear, wolf, marten, fox, lynx, and otter. Glacial features include a fluted ground moraine, DeGeer moraines, Big Beaverhouse moraine and Glacial Lake Agassiz sands and silts.

Park Facilities and Activities: There are no visitors' facilities. Visitors should be well-skilled in wilderness trekking and white-water canoeing.

Location: About 200 km north of Sioux Lookout.

Park Size: 97,375 ha

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We found an aluminum, flat-bottomed boat that had melted. We camped on white sand with a few black logs for contrast. I could see nothing but white sand going over a distant hill. It was very strange able to look right through a boreal forest.

Day 4 – June 20 That morning we portaged around the falls and Jerry portaged around the following rapids while Kevin and Vern ran them. At the bottom of the rapids, not paying attention, we rolled when we went up against an unseen rock. Almost immediately, we landed on huge, flat underwater rock where we could stand and bail out the canoe. Our map notes said to line the left side of the next falls but we quickly ruled out that option. The portage was a tough carry through blow down. The next rapid was a long hike across a sandy burned over area on the right. We could see rock cairns every now and then but the trail and trees were completely burned away. Because the next portage was across a series of white sand dunes with no trees, I could see the entire series of the rapids below me. It was an incredible run of Class III-IV white-water. We came to **Hole-in-the-Wall Falls** at 45 km. It was a short carry on a bright, sunny day. We had plenty of time to find the hole on river right side of the

falls. This would have been a great place to camp but it was the wrong time of day and we were already a little behind schedule. We paddled through a couple Class I's on our way to **Karl Lake**. We should have seen a winter road crossing the river but missed it. We stopped and checked out the MNR "tin" cabin. According to the maps, there was a gold mine less than 20 km to the west. Above the next falls, we crept down the right side looking for the portage where our map notes said there was a gorgeous campsite overlooking the falls. We found it and listened to the water pounding over the falls all night.

Day 5 – June, 21 We pulled the canoes through the campsite, around the falls and back into the water. This was a long, mostly flat paddle down to **Wastayanipi Lake**. Wastayanipi means "*end of clear water*". Along the way, we passed the 60 km mark. We had gone 36 miles in 4.5 days on a 200-mile trip. We knew that the first half of this trip was going to take longer because of all of the waterfalls and portaging. We hoped to make it up on the second half of the trip. On **Wastayanipi Lake**, we found a small but nice fly-in fishing cabin. Many paddlers have checked out this cabin. They had carved their

names into the posts and walls—"lost my canoe at Markop Lake", "waited two days for my plane". We hunted for the gravesite that was supposed to be across the bay but didn't find it. We paddled down the lake and found a long wave train at the exit. We lined around the first one, then ran the rest of them. We spent the night on an island that our map notes indicated was a good site but with lots of trash. The map was right. There were fishing nets, sleeping bags and other camping junk scattered across the island. We did 15 miles this day and covered a total of 75 km.

Day 6 - June 22 Off the island, we hit a series of three rapids that we ran and lined. There was a long paddle to **Assin Lake** where there was another fly-in fishing cabin. While the first cabin was rustic, this one was a step above a Holiday Inn. From the deck we watched cow moose and her calf plow through the wetland out in the bay. The sign-in book did not indicate a lot of people had been there but they all had caught walleye. We could see the winter road to **Big Beaver House** where it comes down to the water from the south and where it climbs up the shore to the north. Jerry caught five walleye as we trolled across the **Assin Lake** to the best campsite

of the trip. It had a sandy beach and a number of tent pads. We had a fish dinner, watched sunset and had a fire on the beach. Paddling does not get much better.

Day 7 – June 23 We left the “Assin Hilton” and headed for the exit from the lake. A series of rapids out of the lake turned hard to the right in a loop. It turned out to be a very nice Class I-II series. We ran another series of Class I-s down to **Dead Lake**. The exit out of **Dead Lake** required us to run **Manitou Falls** that was also known as “God’s Rapids” or “The Gate”. Supposedly, when the steep waves subside, you can run the “open gate”. There was also supposed to be a white cross at the bottom of the run. With all of that hype, we approached this waterfall with caution and ate lunch while we scouted. We could not find the cross and the portage was not passable. The falls was a powerful but straight Class II. We ran the “gate” and later met our first motor boat. The crew waved and took our picture. We skipped a pretty good campsite and were then forced to camp on a portage above the next rapids. As we were setting up a motor boat went down the rapids.

Day 8 – June 24 We pulled out of the campsite and found a

line down the rapids. At about mile 84 we ran rapids on the north side of an island without even looking for a portage. We did the same thing as we dropped into **Hilyard Lake**. There was supposed to be a cabin on the south side of the lake but we did not see it. Clouds and wind begin to chase us across **Hilyard** as we squeezed between the island and an esker. We then hugged the north shore because other trip reports have indicated that you can’t run the rapids on the south side of an upcoming island. These reports indicate you should take the half-mile winter road across the island. We see the road opening but decide to run the easy white water on the north side and stop at the first eddy. We can now hear a roar from the next rapids so Kevin rock hoped down the shoreline to see how bad it was. This was far more white water than we wanted to run. While exploring the rapids, Jerry found a log portage and we begin the process of pushing and pulling the loaded canoes across. It hindsight might have been easier to just unload and portage. That afternoon the weather took a turn for the worse with fog, rain, lower temperatures, and a quartering wind. We couldn’t see the peninsula sticking out into **Wunnummin Lake** and we couldn’t find a beach or a flat

rock to land on let alone pitch a tent. To make matters worse, we had to keep bailing the boat about every 10 minutes. We thought we might have a hole. We tacked our way into the wind between Bury and Porter Islands, close enough to see the road on the peninsula. We landed on sandy beach, wet and cold. A pickup truck pulls up and we say hello to Ralph and Paulina Winter. We ask if there is a place to camp on the beach and Ralph sends us down to the portage over the esker. A half hour later, there is Ralph at the portage asking us if we want to spend the night in his backyard tepee. We had told him about the leaky canoe and he offers to help us fix it. At this point, a night in a dry tipi sounds pretty good. We load up his truck and head into town. We found a 1/8 inch hole in the boat that must have happened when we dragged the boat over a loose nail on the log portage. Jerry had three very small nail holes in his solo. Ralphs tepee turns out to be more of a cabin than a tipi, with lots of room for the three of us. Ralph and his wife brought us some excellent bannock pizza for dinner and spent most of the evening telling us about their life in the north and their community. Ralph told us about hunting moose, caribou, geese, fishing, and running whitewater.

Updated Boat Decals!

Members— An updated version of the MCA decal is available. Email us with your name and current address. The first one is free. For more than one, the cost is \$1.00 .

The sticker is a 4in x 6in oval.

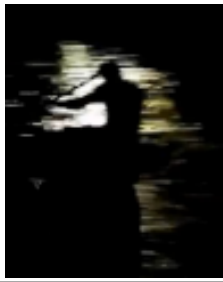
Send request to :

Communications@mncanoe.org



The Ausable River Canoe Marathon, Michigan, July 26, 2014, 9:00 p.m., a 120 mile night canoe race on a narrow twisty river. Five Minnesotan's participated, including MCA board member Emily Johnson. All finished.

14:16:36 was the fastest time for this race.



Wunnummin Lake

Wapikopa Lake

Sennett Lake

Summer Beaver

Nibinamik Lake

The Posse Paddle - amateur canoe & kayak race

New in 2014 - Sun, September 7, 8:30am – 12:00pm

- **Where:** Cannon River Launch, Dundas, MN
- Start at Cannon River launch in Dundas (corner of Railway Street North and County Road 1)
- **Participant Fee:** \$15 Per Person Pre-registration before August 29th. Online at CRWP.net (includes a DJJD button sent via mail). \$20 per person even t day registration. Includes DJJD Button.
- End at Riverside Lions Park in Northfield (700 Poplar Street)
- Time: Registration – 8:30 AM, 1st Race at 9:30 AM, Last race finishes by Noon

[Map](#)

[Cannon River Watershed Partnership Registration Website](#)



Day 9 - June 25 After breakfast, Ralph gave us a tour of the village. He then warned us that the paddle across **Wunnummin** Could take most of the day. The trip across the big lake went well. We had some light wind and a little chop but no water over the bow. The only trouble we had was finding the exit off the lake and back into the river system. There were several confusing bays and openings to test our map reading skills. Ralph had directed us to some cabins owned by his family at the entrance to the **Winisk River**. There were several old cabins, picnic tables and a standing tipi frame with a fire pit. Jerry cooked up three walleye he had caught and we had a great night back in the wilderness. At this point, we had covered a total of over 100 miles.

Day 10 - June 26 A morning fog delayed our departure so we explored the fish camp. There are a lot of cabins scattered across a pretty wide area. Most were not in very good shape. As we began our paddle down **Winisk River**, we came to Cemetery Point where there are a number of white crosses in the trees. We ran a wonderful set of Class I-II's down to **Sennett Lake** and finally stopped at one of the campsites Ralph had pointed out to us. He also told us where to fish near

the campsite. Jerry brought home five walleye for supper. That evening we saw a motor boat filled with locals go up the river and then back down again later. We assumed they were coming up from **Summer Beaver** to an unknown destination.

Day 11 – June 27 We left our campsite and immediately ran into white water. The wind was now coming out of the northeast so it felt like we were paddling upstream as there was not much current in the river. At this point the river flows through a chain of lakes running SW to the NE with rapids in between them. We looked for a campsite while crossing the big lakes, fighting the wind. We finally give up and carve a campsite out of the trees on an island downstream from Penn Island. We could smell smoke from a distant forest fire. We are about 130 miles into the trip.

Day 12 – June 28 In the morning we came upon what we conclude is a summer camp for kids. There were cabins, benches, a dock, and a fish cleaning station. We found a sign with the name of the camp. It was called "Breathing Ground". The village of **Summer Beaver** was within an hour paddle and we had been told it had a 'great little store'. If we wanted to quit and call in the

plane, this would be our last chance. Back on the river, we came to the fork in the river at Giblin Island in **Nibinamik Lake** where there is the turn off to **Summer Beaver**. We could see the radio tower in the distance and we stopped for few minutes to discuss our options. We decided to keep paddling down the **Winisk** to our take out at **Webequie**. The **Winisk** now splits around a big island and on south side, we run a couple of Class II-III rapids with big standing waves that were a lot of fun. We camped on a portage that evening before the next big run. This turned out to be a very nice location with lots of room. The mosquitos were out in force, so we retreated to our tents early. We are at mile 151.

Day 13 – June 29 That morning we lined the upper part of a two-part rapids and then ran the lower part. After that, we were on **Lake Wapikopa**, which had a lot of open water. The search for a campsite was hopeless, so we finally find a slanting burn over area of rock on the south shore just before Turtle Island. We found room for the tents and made the best of it. The air was just dead silent and it was hot. The only nice aspect of this site is that the water was warm and the swimming was great. We are now about 166 miles into the trip.

Day 14 – June 30 We broke camp at 7 am, paddling into a stiff wind. We ran some small rapids to get into **Chipai Lake**, weaved our way past Howson Island and south of Ivey Island. The map showed what looked like a shortcut to **Kanuchuan Lake** just east of Cotter Island and south of Blackler Bay. We paddled a lovely little stream that was a nice break from the big water. This shortcut saved about 1.5 miles. These big lakes kind of merge together. It was hard to see where one lake starts and another one ends. Later in the afternoon, we came upon Long Rapids with nowhere to camp. We finally settled on a narrow slice of sand with just enough room to pitch our tents. A powerboat went by that evening. Waved to each other before it went down into Long Rapids. We are at about mile 185. We had told our pilot that we'd in **Webequie** on July 1 or 2. We needed to cover at least 15 miles by tomorrow to get close the village.

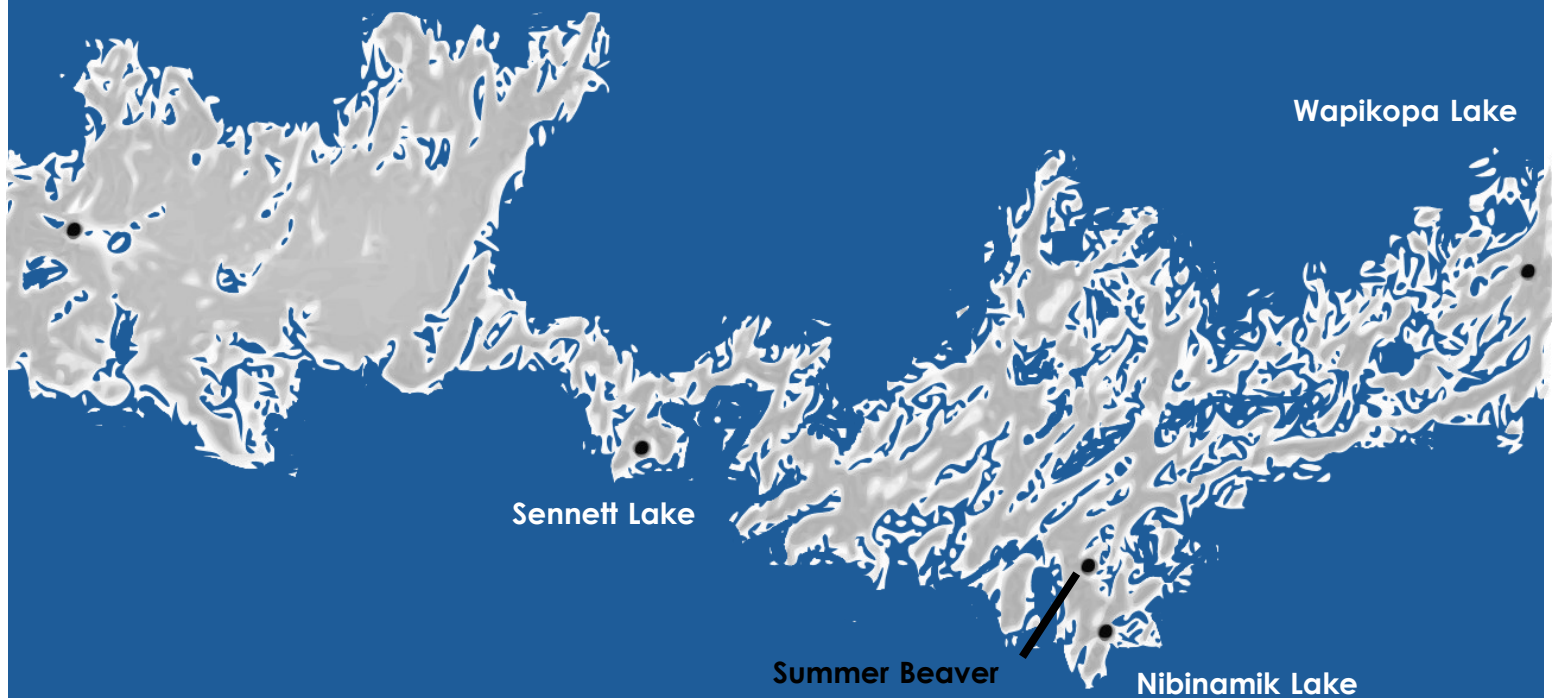
Day 15 – July 1 “The Last Day”

We were up and on the water before 7 am. Long Rapids turned out to be a long set of rough water. Later in the morning, we came up to rapids with the name “Kitche Powitik” (Big Rapids). We should have paid more attention. The map showed a portage that we also should have paid attention to. The map showed a change in elevation at the rapids

greater than 10 feet, which we should have also paid attention to. It was the last day on the river. We were getting a little lackadaisical. We didn't bother to stop and scout the first drop as it looked very runnable (which it was). It was the second set of rapids, just out of view, that caused a problem. As we came out of the first drop, there was no time to prepare for the “Big Rapids”. This was one huge haystack after another on both sides of an island. We had just enough time to haul ourselves towards the island. The current turned the stern downstream and we hopped out to pull the canoe into some rocks before we were pulled into the maelstrom. Jerry in the solo boat had held back and watched us. He was able to ferry across the river to the top of the portage on river right and so avoid the rapids. We managed to walk the canoe down along the island to the bottom of the rapid and finally got to the bottom of the portage. We helped Jerry line his boat down the right side of the falls. We all shook hands took pictures and said our thanks before getting back into the boats. Later, we came across an old trapper's log cabin. The walls were covered with cardboard insulation. A couple pair of old falling apart snowshoes with a variety shotgun shells were scattered on the table and the floor. With one last rapids to go

before our take out at **Webequie**, about 9 miles downstream, a yellow float plane comes out of the east and makes a pass over us. He does a wing wave and makes another pass, then he puts down right in front of us. The pilot gets out and yells, “*You Vern Fish?*” Vern yells back, “*you Pete Johnson?*” We had arranged with Pete to pick us up in **Webequie**. He was to have tracked our progress from our daily SPOT updates. But, Pete's email address was not put in correctly and he had no idea where we were. He knew approximately when we were supposed to arrive in **Webequie** give or take a few days. He happened to be in **Webequie** that day and asked around if anyone had seen or heard of us on the river. A local guy he knew had been coming down the river the night before and had gone by us while we were camped for the night. He let Pete know where we were and so he flew up river until he found us. After loading our gear into the single engine Otter and strapping the canoes to the struts in mid river, Pete flew us back to Pickle Lake. We showered. As we were leaving Pickle Lake, we saw a big sign for the Black Fly Festival. We decided not to stay. We stopped in Sioux Lookout for lunch, then on to Fort Francis where it was Canada Day (July 1), they were shooting off fireworks. Rainy Lake was sparking from the aerial

Wunnummin Lake



Wapikopa Lake

Sennett Lake

Summer Beaver

Nibinamik Lake

Trip Dates:	June 17 – July 1, 2013	
Nearest City:	Pickle Lake, Ontario	
Nearest Villages:	Big Beaver House, Wunnummin Lake, Summer Beaver, Webequie	
Put in Point:	Northwest of Pickle Lake, Ontario- 2.5 hour drive	
Take out Point:	Just west of Webequie, Ontario (Kanuchuan Lake)	
Water level:	High	
Canoes	Spirit II, Wenonah (17 ft, Royalex, with a Paddedry Canoe Cover) Wilderness Solo (15.6 ft, Royalex, homemade spray skirt)	
Paddlers:	Kevin Groeneveld, Chanhassen, MN Jerry Storm, Cook, MN Vern Fish, Waterloo, Iowa	
Difficulty:	Moderate to Advanced – This trip requires remote wilderness camping skills and the ability to read and paddle Class III whitewater.	
Maps:	53B16 Wachusk Lake 53B07 Mawley Lake 53A Wunnummin Lake 53A16 Wapikopa Lake 53A13 Big Beaver House 53A15 Sennett Lake 53B09 Opapimiskan Lake 43D14 Winisk Lake 53B08 Forester Lake 43D13 Kanuchuan Lake	
Distance Traveled:	200 Miles	
Rapids Run:	44	
Rapids Lined:	8	
Portages:	11	
Submitted by:	Vern Fish, vernfish@aol.com Kevin Groeneveld, kgroeneveld83@gmail.com	



Winisk River

Landforms in the park include a large moraine and drumlin field.

Park Facilities and Activities: There are no visitor facilities. Anyone planning to visit this remote northern park should have prior wilderness and white-water experience.

Location: About 340 km north of Geraldton and some 500 km north of Thunder Bay.

Winisk River Provincial Park

P.O. Box 970

Nipigon, ON

P0T 2J0

Park Size

Park Size: 141,100 ha



REGIONAL UPDATES

Polymet Copper Mining in Northern MN

2015-2016 session— Final Environmental Impact statements, public comments, decisions

July 15, 2014 No pending legislation, reviews, actions

[May 20, 2014](#) PolyMet Mining Issue Gives Carlson School Freshmen a Case Study for Ethical Decision-Making

April 18, 2014 Nothing reported.

[March 13, 2014](#) EPA issues EC-2 rating.(Environmental Concerns— Insufficient Information)

Cannon River/Hidden Valley Campground

[August 12, 2014](#) Campground Owner Appeals county's permit revocation

[June 16, 2014](#) Owner applies for a variance for holding tanks instead of on-site sewage treatment.

[May 16, 2014](#) Campground permit revoked by county— Thanks for your support and care for clean water!

[April 3, 2014](#) Troubled Campground Gets Reprieve

[March 14, 2014](#) The Cannon Falls Beacon, "Campground permit revoked by county",

[~2011 through 2013](#) Woodhalls Campground Management, The Independent Voice of the North American Campground Business, gives many dates and details

[October 2011](#) Goodhue County Land Use Management, documents, photos, letter, inspections

Paddling Opportunities and Upcoming Events

Rookies

Go to the [Racing Forum](#) on mncanoe.org for all information.
Racing Director Marcus Imes sends out emails with frequent updates, depending on the weather.

Space available

River Ramblers— Cruises

For more information and a trip packet, follow the link to the river-ramblers.org website. It really is that easy. They are expecting to here from old friends and new comers.

August 23	RUM (Cambridge)	1C-1K	MARK DeBOER
August 30	MINNESOTA RIVER	1C-1K	KEN JOHNSON
September 6	APPLE RIVER (Star Prairie)	1C-1K	STEVE KUHN
September 13	LOWER MINNESOTA (SHAKOPEE TO 35W)	1C-1K	HARLAN NICKERSON
September 20	LOWER CANNON	1C-1K	MARK DeBOER
September 27	LOWER ST. CROIX	1C-1K	HARLAN NICKERSON
October 4	ZUMBRO (MILLVILLE)	1C-1K	JOHN & KANDY

Come join the River Ramblers on this 2014 paddling season, and see for yourself how fun and relaxing it can be to enjoy the beautiful rivers and creeks that surround us. The best way to find out if this is for you, is to join the River Ramblers on one or more trips. www.river-ramblers.org

MCA Fall Color Cruise, St. Croix River

Saturday October 4, 2014

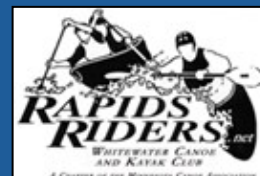
David Shanteau

Education & Safety Director

651-433-2157

daveandmad@frontiernet.net

CLUBS IN THE REGION



Mankato
Paddling &
Outdoors Club



Minnesota Canoe Association

P.O. Box 14989
Minneapolis, MN 55414-0989

www.mncanoe.org