



HRCC NEWS

AKA "THE LETTER"

ISSUE 03.1 - July 15, 2003

THIS YEAR'S TRIP DATES

Family Camping
Friday 8/15 -
Wednesday 8/20
2003

HRCC Club Trip
Thursday 8/21 -
Sunday 8/24
2003

CANOES, BOOZE AND... CHESS?

Hey Hogs! Hope everybody's having a great summer while you're waiting around for the annual outing. Well that trip is rapidly approaching so here's the LETTER to get you primed up for it. And I know the letter's a little late, but hey... shit happens. Besides, there's always a Hog Trip and it's always on the same weekend. (Doh! I probably just jinxed the reservations for next year. Better keep my mouth shut.)

How about a recap? Last year, the trip was yet again graced with great weather. I don't know what we're doing right, but it seems to be getting us in good with the weatherman. The trip route was what seems to be our typical route lately. Nineteen Hogs put in just below Hartland Rapids on Friday and floated to Cornish Landing. Only a small (but healthy) amount of Rookie pushing was needed to get us through the shallows. Saturday was a continuation from Cornish to Wilgus. And on Sunday, a bunch of the Hogs finished the route down to the Ashland Ferry Landing.

While we drifted down the mighty Connecticut we had our eyes out for more potential camping sites that we might be able to use in the future. And we discovered a really neat one. As we came up

from the shoreline into an open field we were met by a handful of twenty foot tall wooden musicians. It was quite a sight. After a little recon we got some info that might allow us to use this camp, although it hasn't been pursued yet.

We had another awesome crop of rookies. There were four of them with us to compete for the honor of being the Rookie of the Year. As tough as the decision was, none could overcome Nate to win the award. Congratulations Nate, I think that humongous cooler of food went a long way to cinching it for you. That and you're a pretty damned good cook, too.

The Running Dummy Award went to Doug for not knowing how long a country mile really is. He decided it would be a good idea to walk from Wilgus to the local redneck club numerous country miles away. In classic Hog fashion nobody bothered to tell him of the error in his thinking. Wait... I don't think anybody was thinking anything coherent that night anyway.

Best Fisherman seems to have a permanent lock on it. Once again to Moose's chagrin, Don won the title. I think he's made some sort of below board arrangement with the Connecticut River fish. Good work, Don.

We had a pretty unsuccessful time of enforcing the Blown Bladder Award rules. The winner of that little pissing match was Dan, and he still owes his round of drinks. We haven't forgotten Dan! Bring those beers... If I remember right, I think Don still owes, too...

Mickey made a great showing as our new Spodie Master. Most of us found our daily treat to be more than sufficiently disgusting. Thanks to Mark, our previous SM, for helping Mickey through his apprenticeship. How long is a Spodie Master Apprenticeship anyways?

As for unofficial tournaments, there were a couple of new ones. The first was chess. Yes, chess. At first I just couldn't picture a bunch of tipsy Hogs sitting at the board. But as it went on I saw that there were a bunch of heated matches throughout the trip. You guys think that you can handle a double elimination tournament of chess? I'm getting sober just thinking about it. I even broke out the chess set to brush up for this upcoming trip.



Couldn't get this guy to wear a Hog River Canoe Club hat, but he sends his regards anyways...

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The second unofficial tourney was a loosely organized paintball shooting contest. Moose brought out his new gun and I broke out a few of the Disposable Heroes guns and we shot at cans placed at various places across the site. We saw some sharp marksmanship from both Hogs and Heroes, but when the dull clank of paintball on aluminum finally stopped Dave Occhialini had the best score. If we should make it to a campsite other than Wilgus one of these days (like say Jarvis Island...) we can turn this into a real paintball contest.

OK, I know it's a fetish of mine (and a couple of others I won't name) but although the spudgun was improved for the last trip it still had ignition issues. Those damnable grill igniters are just too unreliable. So I've been working on a couple improvements. How about stun gun electronics for the ignition? 10,000 volts anyone? Oh, and MAPP gas as a new fuel? I'm trying like hell to get it wrapped up in time for the float.

I'm proud to say that we had absolutely no run-ins with our new Rangers at Wilgus. I think I said about ten words to them the whole time. This is a good thing... we haven't pissed them off yet. I guess there's still time. As for other locals, Stubbs and Laura did another wonderful job of providing our lunch sandwiches for the float.

We did, however have an issue regarding peoples' equipment. Eventhough it's clearly stated that you should not bring anything with you that you don't want broken, soaked or at the bottom of the river... we still need to respect each others' stuff. Most all the trappings for the trip are personally owned by Hogs and are provided for everyone's enjoyment. Please take good care of your fellow Hogs' stuff when you're using it. If not, it just won't be available anymore.

So, what's up for this year? Well as of right now there are eight confirmed attendees. Three of them are the first of the rookie class for this year. If you're planning on attending, please let me know so that we can make sure there are enough canoes. The dues are holding at the same rate as last year, \$60. We did it right last year and we didn't have to rent any boats.

That reminds me of the fund. We have a significant amount of money in the fund. I can't say exactly what the balance is right now because of the expenditures on shirts and such, but I am not planning on using it all for club clothing. There will be some held over for making the meals for this year somewhat better than they were last time. One thing I'm working on is a pig for a real Hog River pig roast. It's nice to know a pig farmer. Something that we will implement this year is a meal committee. It's worked well in the past, and it definitely makes for more gooder eats. That stuff will all be finalized on trip Thursday.

I have people again asking me when we're going to spend a night away from Wilgus. We've been spoiled by having all the conveniences right at hand (not a bad thing)... not to mention it's a pain in the ass to break down the camp and move. The suggestion that I've heard is that maybe we could run a light camp at Wilgus to make a move easier. As I am unashamedly a fan of the Jarvis Island idea I can say I like the idea of invading an island and starting a really big Hog Fire once again. This is another thing that will require discussion by those present. Awww, come on!!! Let's do it!

Another good thing for this year will be the music. As part of the Rookie class this year we will be welcoming the remaining members of Landing on Land. They've recently gotten back from a southern tour and they're excited to join us. Add them to the musical talents that are already on the trip and we have all the makings of a lot of musical fun. I wonder if they can play INNAGODDADAVIDA? I also hear there might be some work being done on an official Hog River Canoe Club theme song.

So, speak up if you're bringing your ass (or somebody else's) up to Vermont this year. We'd love to have a hearty turnout again this time to drink down the fresh bottles Hog River Anisette and Hog River Peppermint Schnapps...

See you on the river... *Andy*

Checks, Confirmations
and Comments to:

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TRIP ON THE REAL HOG RIVER

As many of you might already know, there really is a Hog River in Hartford, CT. It's from that very river that our club gets it's name, and if you'd like to learn a little more about it you can visit the HRCC website for a link that'll give you a bunch of history on our namesake.

But the interesting thing is that a good portion of the Hog River now runs through a tunnel under the city of Hartford. Hm-mmm, wouldn't it be neat to take a bunch of Hogs down the Hog River Tunnel? If the idea of taking an adventurous float inside the tunnel appeals to you, please let me know and we can arrange a Hog Float on the Hog River.

