



HRCC NEWS

AKA "THE LETTER" ISSUE 04.1 - June 15, 2004

THIS YEAR'S TRIP DATES

Family Camping
Undetermined

HRCC Club Trip
Thursday 8/26 -
Sunday 8/29
2004

LOCALS BRACE FOR HOG INVASION

Reprinted from the Windsor Ledger, as reported by F. Dan Rather (no relation)

ASCUTNEY, VERMONT - City officials from neighboring Ascutney have begun preparations for what they describe as "an annual event unlike any other seen in these here parts." The Hog River Canoe Club's yearly Canoe Trip begins Thursday August 26th, 2004 and runs through Sunday the 29th.

Each August this non-profit enthusiasts' club descends on the Ascutney area with it's small mountain of equipment, coolers and alcoholic beverages. By all accounts it's quite a shindig, sometimes compared to such events as the 1984 county-wide party that followed the legalization of backyard distilleries.

Ascutney mayor and three-time nose picking champion Howard Dean (no relation) has good things to say about the HRCC Canoe Trip Weekend. "Sure some of the locals board themselves in their cabins, but the rest of us eagerly await the arrival of the Hogs each year. They're a boon to the local economy, buying out the butcher's best meat and consuming more sub sandwiches than I can count. Too bad we don't have a decent beer store, we'd make out on that one! And just to see their flotilla drifting down the river... what a thing of beauty! We love and admire those guys."

But the area's most notable club owner and lumberjack has a different opinion. Jimmy Dean (son and brother to Mayor Howard Dean) says, "I gotta throw them fuckers outta my bar every goddamn year. They come trapsin' in here in them bright orange shirts like they own the place. But 'cuz all the ladies just swoon over them, I can't very well just not let 'em in. If I did that I'd have a riot on my hands. Naw, I gotta wait till they start runnin' the pool table or pickin' fights with the other lumberjacks. I wish they'd just up and go to White River Junction or somewhere like that. Are they gonna read this? Go be somebody else's problem you smelly bunch of goons!"

The canoe club typically spends a significant portion of the long weekend at Wilgus State Park. According to Park Rangers Darth and Betty Vader (no relation) the club really isn't all that bad. "After all, they keep offering to let us keep their fish. If we liked fish that would really be something. We have a suspicion it's some sort of bribe because there ain't a legal fishing license between the lot of them. Anyhow, we keep them as far away from the other campers as we can... and they don't break too much stuff... well, important stuff anyway."

When reached for comment, one Hog River Canoe Club official had this to say: "Our official position is that we endeavor to be a courteous, helpful and pleasant presence in Ascutney and it's surrounding region during the trip. We see ourselves as respectful and productive members of the community while we're here, and we try to make it an enjoyable event for ourselves and the locals alike. But just between you and me... we come here every year for no apparent reason just to fuck off, get stupid, and try not to get caught raising hell in two states."

Please Note: In the interest of public safety, the Windsor Chamber of Commerce would like to note that lumber, nails, shotgun shells and chastity belts are available at Clem's General Store in downtown Windsor.



Ascutney Mayor Dean demonstrating his champion nose-picking technique during the interview for this article.

GREETINGS HOGS!

I'll bet you didn't realize what an impact we have on the back woods of Vermont every year! Faux-local journalism aside, here's the LETTER to keep you updated. Well sort of updated, it's always a punt when we really get down to it. First off, I crashed my car last fall and as a result all of my trip notes were lost. DOH! So I'm writing this one from memory. Quite a concept, seeing as my memory during trip time is usually seriously impaired. So, here goes...

The weather was again beautiful for the entire trip. 17 Hogs including 4 shiny new rookies floated down the glistening Connecticut River along what has become our typical route. Day one took us from Hartland Rapids to Cornish Landing, day two from Cornish back down to camp at Wilgus, and day three from Wilgus to Ashland Ferry Landing.

Our promising new Spodie Master didn't show up (for shame!). And he did so well last year. Oh well, the job reverted to Mark who began training Dean. And Dean did a great job of pushing the recipe to its legal limits. He had the ingenious idea that mixed beer types might have 'em hurling into the bushes... And it did! Great job, Deano!

Landing on Land played some outstanding music... especially by Hog standards. I don't think that the twenty foot musicians in the Scout Camp knew what to think when Dave L. picked up some twigs and pounded up a storm on a couple fifty-five gallon industrial drums. It's a pretty safe bet that it was the best drumming that field's ever heard! Hopefully we can do it again... hint hint.

I can't recall who the recipients of the awards were. Stupid memory! Jay did step up and set the standard for paying his Blown Bladder Award fine. I was pleasantly surprised when he handed me a Bud. Great club attitude, Jay, thanks. I also remember Johnny and Eric fishing... If anyone else can recall the specific winners, I'll be glad to post it all on the website.

Some might be interested to know that the old tradition of patronizing a gentlemen's club on the way home from the trip is alive and well. And might I say the jumbies that night were, well, pretty average as ta-ta's go. Whattya want, it's Sunday?! Regardless, this is the perfect way to round out the trip, unless you're Mark and you've gotta ralph all over a parking lot on the way home. I still don't remember him eating anything that looked remotely like that. The mysteries simply never cease.

You may have noted that the Family Camping dates have not been officially set. They will no longer be officially set. The reason for this change is that the Hog River Canoe Club was screwed for a night of reservations last year. You guys paid cash for a night that was not part of the trip. To avoid this situation, Family Camping will no longer be a club-sponsored entity. Anyone still interested in the concept of family vacation in Vermont is more than welcome to organize it and take part on your own schedule.

In light of the potential need to establish camp, we have reserved Wednesday for the Canoe Trip this year to make setup as flexible as possible. This is done as a precaution, and if the time is not used for club stuff then those in attendance will pay for that night. The official trip still begins on Thursday, but it's been years since we've actually had to set up on Thursday. Better safe than sorry.

Dues this year will hold at \$60. There's still a good bit of cash in the club fund (\$386), but the hats have not been paid for yet. I can tell you that orange jungle hats are not easy to come by. Whatever is left will be held for food upgrades and Spodie downgrades.

Here's a little side project news for you... The Hogtek spud gun's busted (stupid stun gun electronics really hurt!) and the paintball gear is in need of a little TLC. I guess I've got a shit load of work to do this summer in prep. There's an up note, though. The website has had a bunch of tweaks and additions. Enjoy...

So, lemme know who's coming and what rookies you're bringing! I'd love to know the names of the new victims. <evil laugh> And send your checks and theirs to reserve the spots. Oh yeah, please note the change of address for sending your dues...

I almost forgot... if anybody has any good pictures from last year I'd really love copies. I have a digital camera that's shitty enough to bring this year so we should be all set this time. Smile perty!

See you on the river... *Andy*

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