

March 2007
revision A

The 2007 Old

Merrimack Valley

Paddlers Almanac

Level Interpretations

Gauge Locations

River information
and more



Calendar of
Release Dates

Whitewater
events

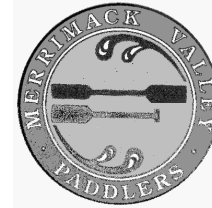
Shuttle Directions

Pemigewassett / Merrimack River

Supplement

Published in Thornton New Hampshire
Occasionally
since 1997

MWL
3/25/07



Old Paddlers Almanac 2007

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Mt. Washington Valley Paddlers

Merrimack Valley Paddlers

We are a group of paddlers who informally paddle together on a regular basis; organize training trips on rivers ranging from easy Class II (for beginners) to difficult class IV and V (for advanced paddlers). We also maintain a fleet of rental boats, including two 5-person rafts, "rubber duckies" and "hard" boats.

We assist new paddlers in learning the skills needed to both paddle safely and have fun! This includes correct selection of a boat, safety equipment, paddle, and other gear. We also will help teach you the basic skills needed for your first whitewater experience, including how to get in and out of a kayak easily, how to do a "wet exit" (getting out of the boat while it is upside down), and learning to roll.

We conduct free rolling sessions in the summer for people looking to learn to roll their kayak, run rolling sessions in local pools at cost in the winter, hold an annual Pig Roast and Rodeo for the entertainment of all, and are very active in the monitoring of local rivers and how the relicensing of dams on these rivers impact us all.

Our membership dues are a mere \$15 per year for individuals, and \$20 per year for families. Applications are available from our website at: <http://www.mvpclub.org/> or write us for more info at:

Merrimack Valley Paddlers
P.O. Box 334
Merrimack, NH 03054

2006 / 2007 club officers

President:	Bill Smith
Vice President:	Jeff Swett
Treasurer:	Sharon Lacroix
Secretary:	Graham Fritter
New Board Member	Dane Tullock
2nd year term	Ernie Thibault
3rd year term	Russ Fleweling
Membership:	Phil Werner
Conservation:	George May
Safety	Mike Gatewood
Newsletter/Almanac	Mark Lacroix
Website	Mike Brindamour / Mark Lacroix

New Paddlers

If you are new to boating the Merrimack Valley Paddlers (MVP) can get you up to speed so you can enjoy river running or playing sooner and safer. A good majority of the MVP are whitewater kayakers although many also canoe and sea kayak.

Trips are posted in the newsletter but mostly on the MVP message board. All boaters joining trips with the MVP are responsible for their own safety. The attitude most boaters take to the river when paddling with a group is as follows:

"I am outfitted properly for the conditions and boating within my ability with a group of friends who have invited me along. If I should get in trouble on the river I alone will be responsible for my self-rescue and not expect others to rescue me and or my equipment. If, however, one of my paddling friends should become in need of assistance, I will do all in my power to expedite a rescue of that person and or their equipment."

There is a good cross-section of experience within the MVP and most any member is more than willing to help out new boaters. But be aware that your safety is paramount; therefore following some basic rules will help you smoothly integrate into the group.

Contacts

As a new boater you may have a lot of questions about kayaking and or river running in general. Feel free to use some of the resources available through the club. Some of the best ways to do

this is to join our message board at <http://www.egroups.com/group/merrimack-valley-paddlers/> From here you can read or post messages. Our website is in the process of being re-built and should offer much more information for new paddlers in the near future. Go to: <http://www.mvpclub.org/> for the MVP website.

Another great way to get in touch with some new friends is to attend one of the monthly meetings hosted by various members throughout the Merrimack valley. Meetings are informal and may include some snacks and refreshments or bring your own. The annual meeting and the July Pig Roast setup meeting usually include free beer and some food. At these meetings we ask for attendees to help in someway. During the annual meeting you are asked to vote for officers, at the Pig Roast setup you could be asked to help in a variety of ways to prepare for our annual party. Pig Roast setup task include mowing the field, cutting and stacking brush for the bon-fire, painting and building picnic tables, or digging out a new outhouse pit. Look to the message board for the Pig Roast setup date.

New boater equipment

Basic equipment needed for whitewater boating is available at several locations throughout New England. Look to the adds on the inside front and back almanac covers for recommended outfitters that support the Merrimack Valley Paddlers. Used equipment is also available from club paddlers upgrading. Look to the message boards and newsletters for new deals. Also check out some yearly events where used equipment is sold. The West river releases in April and September often has many boats for sale at the Jamaica state park parking lot. The MVP pig roast in August is also a good place to pick up equipment.

Basic equipment includes:

- Kayak (or canoe): Limited rentals are available through the club. The type of boat you should get depends on your goals. A canoe offers comfort, height (for down river visibility), more storage space for extended trips (or beer). A kayak offers more flexibility in river play and river difficulty, as you get better. Kayaks are further broken down into play boats, river runners, creek boats etc, once again the paddlers preference. Most MVP'ers are kayakers but we never mind canoes on our trips as long as they carry our beer.
- Spray skirt: Whitewater kayaks should be outfitted with a spray skirt. Spray skirts are usually made out of neoprene and seal the kayak cockpit to the paddlers' torso. See an outfitter to get the proper size skirt.
- Float bags: Every boater will swim sooner or later especially new boaters just starting to learn how roll. Purchase and install float bags to save your boat from getting pinned or overwhelming your fellow boaters rescuing your equipment. Float bags come in pairs and fit into the cavities behind the seat or stern and bow in a canoe. Make sure the bags are inflated before each trip this will keep the boat higher and lighter in the water if it should lose its occupant.
- Paddle: Goes without saying. Paddles come in a variety of materials including wood, fiberglass, plastics and composites.
- Lifejacket: Absolutely necessary for whitewater and must be worn at all times. Get a good fitting lifejacket that allows for arm movement freedom.
- Helmet: Absolutely necessary for closed boaters. Try and get a good quality helmet that will cover the temple area and below the ears.
- Wet/dry suit: Unless you only paddle in the summer you will need to protect yourself from hypothermia. Dry suits are the preferred method for most boaters since it allows more freedom of movement.
- Etc.: Gloves or pogies to protect the hands, a helmet liner (neoprene or fleece). Good footwear such as river sandals or river socks. A knife. A good back band and boat outfitting, water bottle, throw bag, elbow pads for steep creekers.

Learning to boat with the MVP

Learning to whitewater boat can start at anytime of the year depending on when you join up with our group.

The winter months from January through early March are when we traditionally will be inside at an indoor roll session. Several of these are scheduled throughout southern NH and northern Mass. Look on page 21 or the message boards for cost, locations and times. We recommend you have your own equipment but rentals are available. Most roll sessions are informal and are held so people can practice their roll. Most anyone at these sessions will help new boaters if asked. Some other roll sessions are more structured and have dedicated instructors and rental equipment. These sessions are a little more expensive but worth the extra money to get started.

If you should start in the spring take advantage of the NH AMC/MVP spring whitewater school. This is the best way to get started. This year's school starts on April 13th thru the 15th and includes classroom instruction on the first day, flatwater instruction on the next, then a river run on the last day. See page 13 for contact information and more info.

Spring time is also when most river trips will be occurring. If you cannot attend the whitewater school at least try and get out on some moving water and paddle a little in order to familiarize yourself with the boat before taking on a river class II difficulty. Make sure you feel comfortable and your equipment fits correctly. If you're just starting out, try and find a trip in the class II range, see page 29 for a list of easy rivers. The MVP usually schedules trips on easy rivers in the spring. They are led by experience paddlers and do not cost anything. Be aware that you should be fully outfitted and dressed for the weather and river conditions at the time of the trip, especially early in the spring.

Summertime offers lots of learning opportunity. The Merrimack Valley Paddlers usually offers informal roll sessions on a lake in southern NH or northern Massachusetts. In the recent past they were held on Wednesday evenings at Nutting Pond in Billerica Mass. Look to the newsletter or message boards for more information.

A basic boating skills class will be held on the Upper Winnepesaukee River on Tuesday evenings starting in June. See page 20 for more information.

There are also multi day commercial whitewater schools that will teach everything from the basics to advanced paddling technique.

- **Northern Waters (Saco Bound)**, Errol NH
<http://www.sacobound.com/kayak.html> Phone: 603.447.2177
- **Zoar Outdoors**: Charlemont Mass.
<http://www.zoaroutdoor.com/> Phone: 800-552-7483
- **Umbagog Outfitters** P.O. Box 268 Errol, NH 03579
<http://www.umbout.com/> Phone: 603-356-3292

Boating Websites and contact information

No doubt there are hundreds maybe thousands of websites with information about whitewater boating. It is impossible to list all of them here. What are listed here are the most important sites as it relates to boaters from central New England. To get more information check out the "links" directory located in almost any club organizations website.

Boating Clubs

- Merrimack Valley Paddlers**: <http://www.mvpclub.org/>
Message board: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/merrimack-valley-paddlers/>
- Mount Washington Valley Paddlers**: <http://www.mtwashingtonvalleypaddlers.org/>
Message board: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MtWashingtonValleyPaddlers/>
- NH AMC**: <http://www.nhamcpaddlers.org/>
- Ledyard Canoe Club**: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~lcc/index.php>
- Maine AMC**: <http://home.gwi.net/amcmaine/>
- Boston AMC**: <http://www.concentric.net/~amcbcc/>
- Vermont Paddlers Club**: <http://members.aol.com/~boatful/vpctext.htm>
Message board: http://members.aol.com/~boatful/mb/aol-book.htm#_bottom
- Rhode Island Canoe & Kayak Association**: <http://www.ricka.org/>
Message board: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RICKA_WW/
- Connecticut AMC**: <http://www.ct-amc.org/index2.htm>
- Housatonic Area Canoe and Kayak Squad**: <http://users.bestweb.net/~keech/hacks.htm>

- AMC New York-North Jersey Chapter**: http://www.amc-ny.org/rec_actv/canoe.html
- Boater Talk**: <http://boatertalk.com/>
- Northeast Paddlers Message Board**: <http://www.npmb.com/home.htm>
- No Umbrella**: <http://www.noumbrella.com/index.shtml>
message board: <http://www.noumbrella.com/forum/index.php>
- Kayak and Canoe Club of New York (KCCNY)**: <http://www.kccny.com/>

Equipment

- Dagger**: <http://www.dagger.com/#>
- LiquidLogic**: <http://www.liquidlogickayaks.com/index.asp>
- Necky**: <http://www.necky.com/>
- Riot**: <http://www.riotkayaks.com/Riot/>
- Perception**: <http://www.kayaker.com/index.asp>
- Wavesport**: <http://www.wavesport.com/>
- Mitchell Paddles**: <http://www.mitchellpaddles.com/>
- Werner Paddles**: <http://www.wernerpaddles.com/>
- Stohlquist**: <http://www.stohlquist.com/>
- Kokatat**: <http://www.kokatat.com/>
- Colorado Kayak**: <http://www.coloradokayak.com/>
- Northwest River Supply**: <http://www.nrsweb.com/>

River Level Information

- USGS (National)**: <http://water.usgs.gov/realtime.html>
- Northeast River Forecast Center**: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/nerfc/>
- Army Corps Whitewater Release Info**:
<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/waterres/rccframe.html>

Regional Vendors

- New England Small Craft**: <http://www.nesmallcraft.com/>
- Outback Kayak**: <http://www.outbackkayak.com/>
- Saco Bound**: <http://www.sacobound.com/index.html>
- Suncook River Canoe & Kayak**: <http://www.suncookriver.com/>
- Umbagog Outfitters**: <http://www.umbout.com/index.html>
- Zoar Outdoors**: <http://www.zoaroutdoor.com/>

National Organizations

- American Whitewater**: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/>
- American Rivers**: <http://www.americanrivers.org/>
- American Canoe Association**: <http://www.acanet.org/main.htm>

Misc.

- Tide Charts**: <http://www.maineharbors.com/>
- National Weather service**: http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/gyx/main_menu.shtml
- Merrimack River Watershed Council**: <http://www.merrimack.org/>
- ACA certified Rescue Classes**: <http://www.rescueclasses.com/>

MVP website

Thanks to Mike Brindamour we now have a new website. The idea behind this website is to fill a gap in one of the main purposes of our organization... communication. The MVP phoneline was retired recently because of disuse; the newsletter is neither frequent nor timely enough to be of much use when it comes to trips or river information. The new website is based on American

Whitewaters homepage design. It will be updated at least weekly during the main paddling season with information on upcoming trips, releases, meetings and other items related to boating. The newest and latest information will appear at the top off the page, as new information is posted the previous info block will scroll down and eventually off the home page. Perishable information will be deleted soon after it becomes untimely, other info such as stories and release information will be stored on another page to allow it to be accessible for a longer period of time. There are many new features and future updates yet to be implemented, and we seek feedback in order to improve the site. The address is the same as it has been for several years now <http://www.mvclub.org/> Please feel free to send stories or "opportunities for improvement" comments to mwlcx@hughes.net

CLUB RENTAL EQUIPMENT

Rental fees are \$10/day for kayaks, canoes, and inflatable kayaks. The Club raft is \$50/ day. Shredder \$30/ day. All watercraft come fully outfitted and include helmets, paddles, PFD's, and spray skirts. The Club tent is \$25/weekend. Payment for rental must be paid at the time equipment is picked up for use. Rentals are listed below:

Dagger Crossfire	Mark & Sharon Lacroix	(603)-726-3701	Thornton NH
Cruise Control	Bill Smith	(603)-244-2398	Raymond NH
Perception Whippet	Bill Smith	(603)-244-2398	Raymond NH
Dagger RPM	Bill Smith	(603)-244-2398	Raymond NH
Canoe 17 Foot	Joe and Nancy Damboise	(603)-463-9890	Deerfield NH
Thrill Cat (inflatable kayak)	Jeff Swett	(603)-497-8151	Goffstown NH
Air force (inflatable kayak)	Jeff Swett	(603)-497-8151	Goffstown NH
Thrill Seeker (inflatable kayak)	Dan Holzman	(978)-369-2379	Carlisle MA
Whitewater Raft 1 (5 person) (Star)	Bill Smith	(603)-244-2398	Raymond NH
Whitewater Raft 2 (5 person) (NRS)	Joe and Nancy Damboise	(603)-463-9890	Deerfield NH
Shredder (Two person cataraft)	Abbey & Richard	(603)-428-6067	Henniker NH
Perception Super Sport	Dan Philbrick	(603)- 428 6489	
Sea Kayak (K-2)	Ray Winter	(603)-744-8062	Bristol NH
Tent 20'x20' Canopy	Doug Bruning	(603)-786-9820	Groton NH

Generally, the equipment for the craft is with the craft custodian. Please call the custodian (at a reasonable hour) regarding how to get the boat. You may reserve the equipment for your use well in advance of your intended use date.

You must be a club member in good standing. It is up to the renter to make arrangements to pick up and drop of all equipment at the custodian's residence or make arrangements with the custodian to meet elsewhere.

Renters assume all risk and shall not hold the Merrimack Valley Paddlers or any of its officers or custodians liable for any death or injury resulting from such rentals.

Renters are responsible for damaged and/or missing equipment and must replace or pay for an equivalent replacement of said equipment.

Rental rates are per day use if returned within a day after use.

Long term rental rates.

Rafts, \$50 a day or \$75 for the weekend, \$125 for a 3 day weekend, and \$200 for a week..

Kayaks: \$10 for the first day then \$5 for each days use thereafter.

Inflatables: \$15 for the first day the \$7 for each days use thereafter.

Shredder: \$30 for the first day then \$25 for each days use thereafter.

USGen FLO-FONE System

PG&E National Energy Group announces that USGen New England, Inc. is replacing 888-FLO-FONE with a new Flow Information System from Waterline.

24-hr flow forecasts based upon predictions of load demand, and available supply to the New England region are available and we are providing near real-time flow data. USGen New England, Inc is providing this information for all its Deerfield and Connecticut Basins facilities at an online web page and through a new toll-free telephone number. Both services are provided by Waterline through its "FlowCast" program. Flow information can be found online at www.H2OLINE.com and follow the "FlowCast" page link, then click on US Gen New England, Inc. for the site code list.

Flow information is also available by dialing Waterline's free National telephone hotlines:

1-800-452-1737 for the Boater's Edition.

1-800-452-1742 for the Angler's Edition;

For each line, at the prompt, dial-in a six-digit site code for the specific river reach of interest.

Site codes can be found on both the Flowcast page at ww.H2OLINE.com or you may proceed and select from the following site menu to get the new site code for use on the new FlowCast system. Please make a note of the six-digit number so you can have it when subsequently dialing the new FlowCast telephone number.

- 255122 Deerfield River at No. 5 Development, Monroe Bridge, MA
- 255123 Deerfield River at Fife Brook Dam, Florida, MA

Calendar

The following pages have a calendar of events scheduled as of late February of 2007. Check the newsletter and message boards for updates and additions throughout the season. The table below shows the abbreviations and numbers used to signify releases and events on the calendar months on the following pages.

Code	River	PG	Code	River	PG
(1)	NE Slalom Series	12	FB	Fife Brook	62
(2)	Wells River Rumble	14	KL	Kennebec low	40
(3)	Whitewater school	13	KH	Kennebec high	40
(4)	NH ACA race	13	M	Millers	63
(5)	Deerfield festival	14	MS	Moose (NY)	69
(6)	MVP Pig roast	15	MG	Magalloway	41
(7)	Gauley Festival	18	MP	Mongaup	69
(8)	Moose Festival	18	OB	Otter Brook	53
B	Beaver (NY)	67	P	Pontook	48
BW	Blackwater	51	PB	Pemi (Bristol)	54
CF	Canada Falls	42	R	Rapid	43
D	Dead	38	RQ	Raquette (NY)	70
DW	Dryway	63	S	Salmon (NY)	71
E	Esopus	68	W	West	61
F	Farmington	65	WF	Westfield	65

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
(1) New England Slalom Series (NESS) OB=Otter Brook WF= Westfield S=Salmon				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 s	15 s	16 s	17 OB, S
18 OB, S, (1)	19 s	20 s	21 s	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 WF	31 WF

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 WF	2	3	4	5	6	7 FB
8 FB	9	10	11 FB	12 FB	13 FB, (3)	14 FB, M, MP, (3)
15 FB, M, MS (3), (1)	16	17	18 FB	19 FB	20 FB	21 OB, FB, WF
22 OB, FB, WF, MS	23	24	25 FB	26 FB	27 BW, FB	28 BW, W
29 BW, W, MP, MS, (1)	30	M= Millers BW=Blackwater MP=Mongaup (3) NH-AMC spring whitewater school			OB=Otter Brook FB= Fife Brook WF= Westfield W=West MS=Moose	

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
OB=Otter Brook DW= Dryway FB= Fife Brook D=Dead E=Esopus		1	2	3	4	5 D, OB, FB, MS
6 OB, FB, MS (4), (1)	7	8	9	10	11	12 D, FB, MP, MS
13 FB, MS, (1)	14	15	16	17	18	19 FB, MS
20 FB, MS, (1)	21	22	23 FB	24 FB	25 FB	26 D, P, FB, DW E, MS, (1)
27 D, P, FB, DW MP, MS, (1)	28 P	29	30 FB	31 FB	P=Pontook MS= Moose MP=Mongaup (4) NH ACA WW Championships (Otter Brook)	

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
D=Dead KH=Kennebec (high water) KL=Kennebec (low water) MG=Magalloway			FB= Fife Brook DW= Dryway MS= Moose MP=Mongaup E=Esopus		1 FB	2 D, P, E, MS
3 P, MS	4	5	6	7	8	9 D, P, FB, MP
10 P, FB, DW	11	12	13	14	15	16 KH, KL, P, FB
17 D, P, FB, DW	18	19	20 FB	21 FB	22 FB, DW	23 KL, MG, P, FB DW
24 MG, P, FB, DW, MP	28	26	27 FB	28 FB	29 FB, DW	30 D, KL, MG, P, FB DW

JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 D, MG, P, FB DW	2	3	4 P	5	6 P, FB, DW	7 D, KL, MG, CF, P FB, DW, MP, S
8 D, MG, P, FB DW, S	9 KH	10	11	12 FB	13 R, P, FB	14 KL, CF, R, P, PB, FB E
15 KL, R, P, PB FB, DW, E	16	17	18 FB	19 FB	20 P, FB	21 KL, CF, R, P, FB, RQ S
22 R, P, FB, MP, S	23	24	25 FB	26 FB	27 P, FB, DW	28 D, KL, CF, P, FB DW, (5)
29 D, P, FB, DW, (5)	30	31	CF= Canada Falls MG=Magalloway R=Rapid D=Dead KH=Kennebec (high water) KL=Kennebec (Low water)	(5) AW Deerfield River Festival FB= Fife Brook DW= Dryway E=Esopus MP=Mongaup	PB= Pemi (Bristol) ??? P= Pontook RQ= Raquette S=Salmon	

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
R=Rapid MG=Magalloway P=Pontook KL= Kennebec (low) MP=Mongaup	CF=Canada Falls D=Dead S=Salmon (6) MVP Pig Roast	1 FB	2 FB	3 P, FB	4 KL, CF, R, P, FB, DW, MP, RQ, S	
5 KL, R, P, FB DW, S	6	7	8 FB	9 FB	10 R, P, FB	11 D, KL, CF, R, P, FB
12 D, R, P, FB, DW	13	14	15 FB	16 FB	17 P, FB	18 KL, MG, CF, P, PB FB, DW, RQ, (6)
19 KL, MG, P, PB, FB, DW, MP, (6)	20	21	22	23 FB	24 P, FB, DW	25 KL, MG, CF, P, FB DW
26 MG, P, FB, DW	27	28	29	30	31 P, FB, DW	FB= Fife Brook DW= Dryway PB=Pemi RQ= Raquette

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
P=Pontook RQ= Raquette (NY) B= Beaver (NY) E=Esopus		D=Dead CF= Canada Falls SH= Seboomook (high water) MP=Mongaup				1 KL, MG, CF, P FB, DW, B, E, MP, RQ
2 D, KL, MG, P FB, DW, B, E	3 P, B, RQ	4	5 FB	6 FB	7 FB	8 KH, KL, CF, P FB, B
9 P, FB, B	10	11	12 FB	13 FB	14 FB	15 D, CF, P, FB, DW, RQ
16 P, FB, DW, B, MP	17	18	19	20	21 (7)	22 W, (7)
23 KH, (7), (1)	24	25	26	27 FB	28 FB	29 FB, MP
30 FB	(7) Gauley River Festival MG=Magalloway FB=Fife Brook W=West			DW=Dryway KH=Kennebec (high water) KL=Kennebec (low water)		

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 FB	4 FB	5 FB	6 FB, DW, E, (1)
7 D, FB, DW, E, MS, (1)	8	9	10 FB	11 FB	12 FB	13 FB, F, MS, (8), (1)
14 FB, F, MP, MS, (8), (1)	15	16	17	18	19	20 F, MS
21 F, MS	22	23	24	25	26	27 MP, MS
28 MS	29	30	31	MS=Moose F= Farmington D=Dead E=Esopus MP=Mongaup		(8) Moose River Festival FB= Fife Brook DW=Dryway

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	JANUARY 1, 2008 New Years Day on the Winnepesaukee				

Paddling Events 2007

The following pages list events most popular with MVP paddlers. Check the newsletter and message boards for updates and additions.

2007 New England Slalom Series Races

The New England Slalom Series is a whitewater slalom series for open canoe and well as C/D ranked and unranked decked boaters. All races are sanctioned by the ACA, and points earned count toward national rankings. Open canoe paddlers from this series are usually among the top finishers in the Open Canoe Slalom national championships. We are proud that training programs like Adventure Quest and The Mascoma Express have used our series to develop their paddlers, some of whom have on to national and international prominence as members of the U.S. Whitewater Slalom team, or as nationally ranked paddlers in the sports of whitewater slalom racing and whitewater rodeo. Our series warmly welcomes people of all ages, from those who are complete beginners in whitewater slalom racing to those who race just for fun and excitement.

Racers are registered at the first race, and points from each race, that they enter, are accumulated for the series standings. To qualify for a series award, racers must compete in at least five races in the same class. The best five finishes determine each racer's series standing, with the Farmington Slalom as tie-breaker. Racers may enter a maximum, of three classes per race, and are eligible for up to three series awards. Special participation awards are given to those racers who complete a minimum of one race run in each of the ten races in the series. At the end of each race, there is a drawing for a certificate good for free entry into one of the next two races in the series. Any participating racer present at the awards ceremony is eligible to win! The certificate is good for up to three classes, is not transferable, and may not be used for late registration.

More information at: <http://users.bestweb.net/~keech/a-ness.htm>

- **Salmon Slalom** - Class I slalom on the Salmon River on 03/18/2007, in Colchester, CT.
- **Punch Brook Slalom** - Class II+ slalom on the Farmington River on 04/15/2007, in Burlington, CT.
- **Blackwater Slalom** - Class II+ slalom on the Blackwater River on 04/29/2007, in Webster, NH.
- **Kenduskeag Slalom** - Class II slalom on the Kenduskeag Stream beginning on 05/06/2007, in Bangor, ME.
- **Fiddlehead Slalom** - Class II+ slalom on the Winooski River on 05/13/2007, in E. Montpelier, VT.
- **Covered Bridge Slalom** - Class II slalom on the Housatonic R. on 05/20/2007, in West Cornwall, CT.
- **Class I Clinic & Slalom** - Class I slalom on the Housatonic River on 5/26-27/2007, in Falls Village, Ct.
- **Cascade Falls Slalom** - Class II+ Kuaka Outlet 9/23/2007 Penn Yan NY
- **Esopus Slalom** - Class II+ slalom on the Esopus Creek on 10/06-07/2007, in Phoenicia, NY.
- **Farmington Slalom** - Class II slalom on the Farmington River on 10/13-14/2007, in Otis, MA.

NH AMC / MVP Whitewater School April 13-15

Spring Whitewater Canoe and Kayak School

Sponsored by the New Hampshire Appalachian Mountain Club (NHAMC) Paddlers and the Merrimack Valley Paddlers (MVP)

Friday - Sunday, April 13-15 2007

A weekend of whitewater class II instruction for flatwater and quickwater paddlers. The school will be held in Henniker, NH and on a nearby river.

During this course, you'll learn the basic skills of river reading and maneuvering through whitewater, as well as some basic safety and rescue procedures. Topics covered will include the understanding of various water conditions and rescue techniques. We'll review and help you improve your basic paddling strokes, as well as how to perform a forward- and back-ferry, eddy out, peel out, and so on.

You'll work with several instructors as they get to know you and you get to know them. Each will bring their perspective and experience into the learning environment. The instructors are passionate about whitewater paddling and are eager to show you how to thoroughly enjoy this active outdoor sport. They are very supportive and will guide you through the exercises so that you feel comfortable at all times and learn that whitewater presents many opportunities for fun, rather than being viewed as an obstacle.

The objective is for you to become comfortable in whitewater while learning the techniques of whitewater paddling. We also hope you will build new friendships and feel the sense of camaraderie of our paddling community.

The course includes sessions on Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday as well as requiring two additional river trips with NHAMC Paddlers of your choice shortly after the school. Successful completion of the course will earn you a Class II Whitewater Rating.

The school fee includes all instruction, boating equipment, and Saturday's dinner. Students need only to bring personal gear. A wetsuit is ****required**** and be supplied by the student; rentals may be available at dive or surfing shops.

Fees: The price is \$90 for AMC or MVP members, \$110 for non-members. Limited enrollment!

For more information, please visit www.nhamcpaddlers.org

Wells River Rumble April 15

Wells River Rumble: Sunday 4/15/07

Competitor's meeting 12:30pm – Lower Wells River, Vermont Mass start
Rapid-by rapid sprint and full-length downriver race. Plus a 3-person team race.

The race course is 1 mile of class 4-5 pool-drop rapids and ledges (up to 14ft.)

USGS records indicate guaranteed water. Participants park at the Fish and Game area off Rte 302 VT, 1.5 miles east of the Exit 17 off Interstate 91.

\$10 entry fee gets you a t-shirt and a shot at the prizes.

Disclaimer: These races are a "common adventure" type enterprise, just an informal gathering of local paddlers. If you can safely paddle class 4-5 and would like to join in you may. No one is going to hold your hand and everyone is solely responsible for their own decisions.

American Whitewater's Deerfield Riverfest Saturday, July 28th, 2007

The Deerfield Riverfest will begin at 2:00pm on July 28th in the large field across the street from Zoar Outdoor on Route 2, Charlemont, Massachusetts. The event focuses on bringing people to the area to enjoy a weekend of outdoor activities, showcase whitewater paddlesport and raise funds and membership for American Whitewater. The festival is an afternoon/evening event providing entertainment for both paddlesport and non-paddlesport enthusiasts young and old. Saturday afternoon on the river features our 11th annual amateur whitewater rodeo. The festival site will be bustling with activity including a marketplace during the day and in the evening; we roll out the carpet for our famous chicken barbecue, live entertainment, beer and a silent auction of awesome outdoor gear. Sunday morning features a wild down river race on the Monroe Bridge section of the Deerfield

This year's festival will focus on adding vendors and activities that provide a level of community outreach to interest families and children, as well as place an emphasis on the conservation and access role AW has played in the region. Music, food, and lots of entertainment throughout the afternoon and evening will keep the crowd hoppin' and happy as they shop for new boats, outdoor equipment, and local arts and crafts. Some might even be lucky to place a winning bid at the Silent Auction.

This year's exciting festival is a special event that celebrates the first major AW relicensing victory in New England. To help us celebrate this incredible river--contact Mike Coleman at (781) 662-7162 or mdc@beaconarch.com. to volunteer. If you would like additional information, please visit www.americanwhitewater.org/events. Be Part of a major milestone in American Whitewater history.

Background

American Whitewater and F.L.O.W. started the Deerfield River Festival to celebrate the successful relicensing process that took place in 1993 forcing whitewater recreation and environmental concerns to be considered in conjunction with power generation. The Deerfield River relicensing helped to pave the way for hundreds of relicensing projects that have taken place in recent years across the United States.

Directions

To get here from Boston take Route 2 west. Where Route 2 merges with Interstate 91 in Greenfield be sure to exit again onto Route 2 west (exit 26.) Charlemont is about 17 miles west of this exit. The festival site is in the large field just beyond Zoar Outdoor on the left (south) side of the road.

To get here from New York take Interstate 95 north to Interstate 91 north. Take exit 26 and follow Route 2 west for about 17 miles. The festival site is in the large field just beyond Zoar Outdoor on the left (south) side of the road.

Camping

Due to restrictions enforced by the Town of Charlemont, American Whitewater is not able to offer or condone camping onsite. Failure to comply with this request will jeopardize future events. Information on camping in the local area is available at www.zoaroutdoor.com/direct.htm

Merrimack Valley Paddlers Pig Roast

August 17th, 18th, & 19th

Bruning farm New Hampton NH

\$25 suggested donation gets you food, beer, soda, camping, live music, bonfire, kayak rodeo, flea market (with request that a portion of what you sell goes to the conservation fund) and much more.

Silent Auction, hopefully including Multiple Boats, assorted paddling gear, paddles, helmets, etc.

If you are looking for gear to get started paddling, this is the place to be...

Kayaking on the Pemi both days, with scheduled releases of 900 CFS from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Whitewater rodeo on the Pemi, Saturday at 10am

Raft and Duckie Rides for those new to paddling and the kids...

The Pig Roast is the single largest event held by the Merrimack Valley Paddlers, and the largest annual gathering of Boaters in New Hampshire each year. A good time is always had by all...

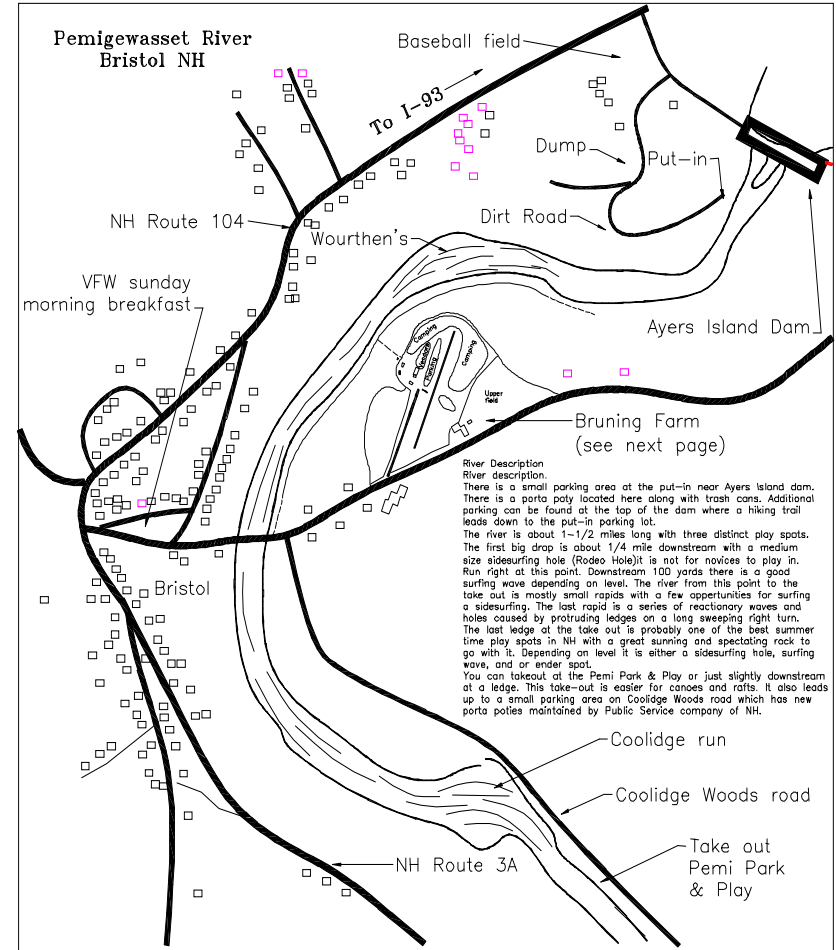
To get to the farm, take I-93 to Exit 23. Take Route 104 west to downtown Bristol. Make a sharp left onto Central Street, follow it down the hill, across the bridge, and back up the hill. The farm will be on your left across from the crutch factory.

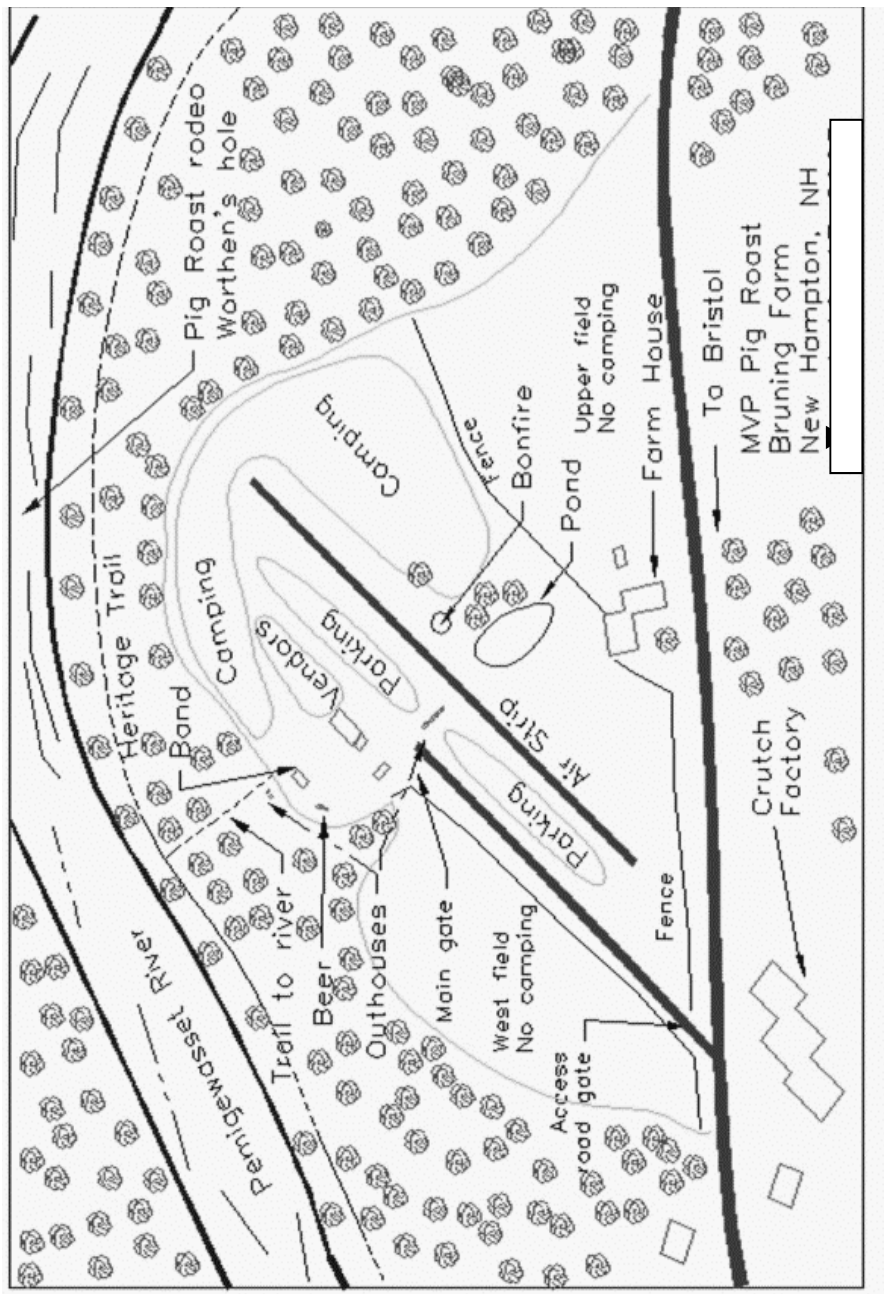
For those GPS enabled, the farm is at 43.59°N, 71.73°W

For those familiar with the Pemi, the farm is about 1/4 mile past the road to the takeout.

Your dog is welcome to attend with you, but must be tied from 4 PM until after dinner is complete Saturday Night. No Exceptions. Dogs just love pork too much.

See map on the next two pages for location of the events and the river segment of the Pemigewasset River.





Gauley RiverFest

Rt 19, Summersville, WV

9/21-23/07

Nicholas County Veterans Memorial Park

Welcome to Gauley Fest, the paddling world's biggest party! Started in 1983 to celebrate the derailment of a hydro-electric project that would have disrupted whitewater flows on the Gauley, Gauley Fest has grown to become the largest river festival in the world, posting attendance numbers of over 5,000 people in 2006.

The event focuses on bringing people to the area to enjoy a weekend of outdoor activities while showcasing whitewater paddlesports and raising funds and membership for American Whitewater. The festival is a three-day event, with the main activities taking place on Saturday night. Expect the festival site to be bustling throughout the weekend with food, vendors, and activities for paddlesport and non-paddlesport enthusiasts of all ages.

The festival will feature live entertainment, a whitewater marketplace, beer, and a silent auction where you can pick up some awesome outdoor gear. The Gauley River Festival is a critical fundraiser for American Whitewater and is our largest fundraising event.

All proceeds from the festival support American Whitewater's conservation and access work throughout the Southeast. Come out and join us for a weekend of exciting paddling, enjoyable activities, and a celebration of West Virginia whitewater.

Ben Van Camp
49 Johnston Blvd
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 713-5825
ben@amwhitewater.org

Moose River Festival

Old Forge NY

October 13th and 14th

The Moose River Festival is an American Whitewater event that showcases the spectacular whitewater fun and variety found on New York's Moose River. The festival party takes place indoors on Saturday night in Old Forge, New York at the North Street Pavilion. As in years past, the festival will feature live entertainment, food and beverages, industry manufacturer displays and information, a silent auction, equipment raffles, and river events on Sunday. Join us for a weekend of fun, excitement and good friends!

Chris Koll 315-652-8397 ckoll1234@aol.com

New Years Paddle on the Winnepesaukee

Franklin NH
January 1st, 2008

Start 2008 off right with the first paddling event of the year. New Years day on the Winnepesaukee River in NH has been an MVP tradition for several years. This year marks the 26th annual run. Last year approximately 60 boaters braved the icy conditions. Our yearly host Fred Zimmermann put on a pasta feast for all to enjoy after the run. Also, an award will given out to a worthy recipient who has worked for the protection of this fine resource.

The early years saw few boaters and was mainly run by a local group called the River Rats. The MVP got more involved when a hydro developer submitted plans for a dam and diversion pipe near the current put-in in Northfield. This structure would have dewatered the river bed in all but the highest water events in the spring. In an effort to highlight other uses for the river the club organized river cleanups, trips, and joined the River Rats for their annual New Years day plunge. A large group of people running rough chilly waters in the dead of winter always attracted the local and sometimes national press. Many icicle-laden beards made interesting pictures for the front pages of local and regional newspapers. But this also allowed us to get our views across concerning the protection of this valuable recreational resource. Eventually the hydro developer cancelled their plans but the New Years tradition continued.

In recent years the New Years day Winni event has become the second largest social event the Merrimack Valley Paddlers sponsors. The club currently flips the bill for the days activities. Boaters are treated to a warm hall for changing and early socializing over coffee and donuts, a limited shuttle service to and from the river put in and take out, plus a pasta dinner, refreshments, beer, and more socializing after a cold day on the river. Even if you do not boat come along and enjoy the events, you will not be sorry.

We will be renting the Unitarian Church Hall on Central St. in Franklin NH. Take interstate 93 to exit 20. Take a right on NH rt 3, 11 to Franklin approximately 4.5 miles. Going South on Rt 3 (Central St) you go past the Mill Wheel (Trestle View Park), Past Grevior's Furniture over the Bridge and take a Right into LUCKIE LENNYS Parking Lot the Unitarian Church is right there! Across from Packer's Outlet. Hall Opens at 9:00 AM. Paddlers can meet there to change and get a quick snack and hot drink before running the river. Shuttle at 10:00 boat at 10:30 Spectators are encouraged to join this event. The best viewing spots are the put in area at Cross Mill Bridge, the Route 3 bridge in Franklin, or walking / skiing along the newly opened Winnepesaukee River Trail that parallels the entire run. Come watch the fun! At 2:00 people will return to the Church Hall for a festive meal and the awards ceremony. The public is invited.

Events to be scheduled

Below is a list of yearly events that have not been scheduled as of late February 2007. The dates given in italics for the event are tentative. Verify any of these events before plans are made.

Summer lake roll sessions

Wednesday evenings July, August 2007

Plans are underway for the return of summer lake roll sessions. For many years George May had organized and hosted an informal gathering on lake Naticook in Merrimack NH. The past few years Jean Towns hosted our group on Nutting Lake in Billerica Mass.. These roll sessions are informal and are free to any members. Many of the experienced attendees take it upon themselves to teach, coach, and offer encouragement to new boaters trying to learn basic paddling techniques and the Eskimo roll.

Look to the newsletter or message boards for updates.

Summer river running basics

Tuesday evenings June, July 2007

Plans are underway for the return of Tuesday evening river running basics skills on the Upper Winnepesaukee River in Tilton NH. This training session is geared for new boaters just getting into whitewater. You will be taught basic paddle strokes, ferrying, river reading skills, eddy catching, surfing and basic boat handling. We generally meet between 5pm and 6pm at the put in where boaters practice wet exits and Eskimo rolls. At 6pm a group of the willing runs the 2 mile section of class I-II water through Tilton.

Look to the newsletter or message boards for updates.

Summer River Safety Course

May June July August 2007

Plans are under way for several swift water rescue sessions this summer. Some of those sessions will be a basic one day course, the others will be a more extensive two day course. The course will be taught by Mike Gatewood, Walt Andry and Mark Lacroix. Mike, Walt and Mark recently were certified through ACA by Charlie Walbridge as Swift Water Rescue instructors. The class is for all abilities. It teaches you all the basic's on the first day and important knowledge of self rescue. Then on the next day there is more classroom stuff with discussion and then off to the river to practice it for real in a safe environment.

Anyone who believes they will be pursuing whitewater boating, as a sport should seriously consider taking this course. Or one of the other safety training courses set up by the Mount Washington Valley Paddlers and the NH AMC.

The outline for the course included 13 points that included;

1. Rescue Principles: Basics of rescue
2. Rescue organization: How to organize a rescue
3. Personal gear: Life vest, knives, helmets, whistles, etc.
4. Throw bags: types, strengths, etc
5. Throw bag use: Techniques for throwing and repacking, belays, vectoring, etc.
6. Swimming: Techniques for swimming in whitewater, the Barrel roll to get across eddy lines.
7. Wading: maintaining balance in swift water wading
8. Rescue Life Vest: types and use
9. Lines across the river: stabilization, extraction, setting up zip lines and their use
10. Knots: `nuff said, was good for us strap users
11. Boat unpinning: muscle and mechanical systems for extraction of kayaks and canoes
12. Entrapment rescue: foot and boat entrapment rescue methods
13. Loose boat rescue:

More information on these rescue classes along with a schedule can be found at:

<http://www.rescueclasses.com/>

2007 MVP Annual Meeting

Late October or November 2007

Last year the MVP annual meeting was held in Manchester NH. We will be looking for a new location this year.

The annual meeting is a gathering of club members for the purpose of electing, or re-electing, new club officers. A potluck dinner is served along with beer supplied by the MVP. Members bring videos and pictures to view.

Look to the message boards for date and location.

2008 Pool Sessions

January, February 2008

Winter indoor roll sessions is a great way to get started into whitewater boating. It is also a good way to practice and perfect that roll before the spring paddling season gets under way. Beyond all that it's an excellent way to meet boaters and make plans for the next season on the rivers. There are usually four pool sessions, sometimes more. Check the MVP message board for additional pools and dates.

The following is a list of pool sessions that were held in 2003. We will try and offer these again next year but check the newsletter and message boards for updates and additions.

Manchester NH

Where: Manchester YMCA
When: Sunday evenings 7 to 9PM January and February

Laconia NH

Where: Laconia YMCA
When: Sunday mornings 9AM-11AM January and February

Billerica Mass

Where: Billerica Boy's and Girl's Club
19 Campbell St.
Billerica MA 01821
When: Wednesday nights 8PM-10PM January and February

Other possible pool locations over the last few years include Dover, Claremont, and Portsmouth in NH, and Danvers, Brookline, and Watertown Mass.

New England Whitewater Towns

The Forks Maine

Dead

Kennebec

Moxie Stream

The Forks Maine region is a popular whitewater center for the Upper Kennebec region. Many rafting companies have set up shop in the immediate Forks area in recent years. Water can be found on two sections of the Kennebec and the Dead rivers from early May through October. In addition there are several steep creeks, such as Moxie Stream, in the area that could be runnable early in this time period or after a heavy rain. Other rivers within a two-hour drive from the Forks include the West Branch of the Penobscot, Canada Falls and Seboomook sections of the Penobscot, and various other rivers.

Campgrounds / Lodging /Rafting

Numbers correspond to map locations on page 39

- (1) **Webb's Dead River Campground & Shuttle Service: Shuttles to the Dead put in, campground with showers. To book a site at Webb's campground call (207) 663-2114 and ask for Karen.**
- (17) **Indian Pond campground**
- (6) **The Ball field campground:** Primitive campsites, porta-poties, no showers. Take out for Lower Kennebec.
- (3) **River Drivers:** Rafting, etc.
<http://www.riverdrivers.com/> Phone: 1-866-RIVRDRV
- (11) **Magic Falls Rafting:** Raft trips, camping
<http://www.magicfalls.com/> Phone: 1-800-207-7238
- (13) **Northern Outdoors Camping,** Rafting, restaurant, hot tub, bar, entertainment
<http://www.northernoutdoors.com/> Phone: 800-765-7238
- (7) **Crab Apple:** Camping Rafting, hot tub, bar, food.
<http://www.crabappleinc.com/> Phone: 1-800-553-7238
- (14) **North Country Rivers Rafting,** etc.
<http://www.ncrivers.com/> Phone: 800-348-8871
- (15) **Professional River Runners:** Rafting, etc.
<http://www.proriverrunners.com/index.html> Phone: 800-325-3911
- (16) **New England Outdoor Center:** Rafting, paddling shop, etc.
<http://www.neoc.com/> Phone: 800-766-7238
- (12) **Three Rivers Whitewater & Kelly Brook campground**
<http://www.threeriverswhitewater.com/> Phone: 1-800-786-6878

Food

- (5) **Berry's General Store:** Gas, Beer, food, supplies, pizza, subs
- (2) **Appleton's restaurant:** Pizza, subs, ice cream, breakfast.
- (9) **The Marshall Hotel (Hotel Cocktails):** Food, bar, horseshoes, and pool table.
Phone: 207-663-4455

Paddling shops & Misc.

- (4) **Dead River Outfitters**

Errol NH

Androscoggin river (Pontook & Errol Rapids)

Rapid River

Magalloway River

Errol NH located in northern NH close to the Maine border offers a wide range boating opportunities all summer long. This area offers some of the most remote regions in the eastern US. Wildlife is plentiful and may include Moose, bear, Loons, Bald Eagles etc. In addition Lake Umbagog located just north of Errol is a federally protected National Wildlife Refuge.

The Errol rapid located on the east side of Errol is a short class II section good for training and novices. Saco Bound (Northern Waters) has set up a small outfit here on the western shore with a campground, paddling school, and small boating shop. Water is controlled by a hydro dam just upstream from the campground and runs through this section every summer day. This section is only about 1/3 of a mile long and boaters usually carry back upstream and run it several times a day.

The Pontook section of the Androscoggin is about 15 miles south of Errol on route 16. This section offers a longer and more interesting class II run. Pontook dam releases most weekends.

Starting in late June and ending in late August, the Magalloway and Rapid rivers offer more challenging boating.

The Magalloway located 20 miles north of Errol in Wilson Mills Maine, offers class III and V boating on the upper stretch. Releases are on weekends starting in late June through the second week in July. The Rapid then has four release weekends until the middle of August then once again the Magalloway finishes up the month of August with weekend releases.

The Rapid River offers class IV boating in a remote setting. The Rapid can only be reached via a maze of logging roads just outside of Upton Maine about 10 miles east of Errol. See page 44 for shuttle map.

Campgrounds / Lodging /Rafting

- **Errol Motel**, Main St, Errol, NH 03579, (603-482-3256)
- **Northern Waters (Saco Bound)**, Kayaking school, camping, excursions, paddling shop.
<http://www.sacobound.com/kayak.html> Phone: 603.447.2177
- **Magalloway River Inn**, Route 16, Errol, NH 03579, (603-482-9883)
- **Azisochos Valley Camping Area**, Route 16 Wilson Mills Maine (207-486-3271)
- **Mollidgewock State Park Campground**, Route 16 Errol, NH Phone: 603-482-3373
Reservations: 603-271-3628
- **Lakewood Camps: 207.243.2959**
- **Log Haven Campground: 603.482.3294**
- **Umbagog Outfitters** P.O. Box 268 Errol, NH 03579
<http://www.umbout.com/> phone: 603-356-3292

Food

- **The Northern Exposure:** Main St Errol, NH, 03579, (603) 482-3852
- **Errol Cream Barrel & Chuck Wagon** 482-3258 Main Street, Errol NH 03579

Charlemont Mass.

Deerfield (Fife & Dryway)

The main attraction in the Charlemont Mass area is the summer time recreational releases on the Deerfield River. Two sections offer boating for novices through advanced. Fife Brook section of the Deerfield offers class II paddling good for Novice through intermediate boaters. Zoar Gap the last drop on this section is considered class III but can easily be portaged. Over a hundred releases are scheduled on the Fife Brook section starting in April and ending in October. Releases on most days but never on Mondays and Tuesdays. See calendar for dates.

The Monroe Bridge section, (also known as the Dryway), offers boating for intermediate to advanced paddlers. Releases here are on most weekends, (including some Fridays), from May through October.

The Deerfield River festival is usually held on the last weekend of July. This event is sponsored by American Whitewater and is a celebration of their success in guaranteeing regular dam releases on the Deerfield. See page 14 for more details.

Campgrounds / Lodging /Rafting/Paddling shops & Misc.

- **Zoar Outdoors:** Rafting, paddling shop, whitewater school, camping
<http://www.zoaroutdoor.com/> Phone: 800-552-7483
- **Country Aire Campground:** Charlemont, MA 01339 Ph: (413) 625-2996
<http://www.countryairecampground.com/>
- **Mohawk Park:** P.O. Box 668 Charlemont, MA 01339 Ph: (413) 339-4470
- **Mohawk Trail State Forest:** Rte. 2, Charlemont 413 339-5504
<http://www.state.ma.us/dem/parks/mhwk.htm>
- **Savoy State Park** (413-663-8469)
- **DAR State Park** (413-268-7098)

Inns

- **Charlemont Inn** (413-339-5796)
- **Oxbow Resort** (413-625-6011)
- **Giavanni's Red Rose** (413-625-2666)
- **Whitcomb Summit Motel** (413-662-2625)

Jamaica VT

West River	Ball Mtn Brook	Winhall
Wardsboro	Rock River	

Jamaica Vermont is a popular destination for its annual spring and fall release weekends. The main attraction is the release from Ball Mountain flood control dam operated by the Army Corps of Engineers. This year the spring release occurs the weekends of April 23/24 and the fall release September 24th. This release allows boating on two sections of the West. The upper West class III and the lower West class II. The termination for the upper and the start for the lower are located at Jamaica state park which lies just to the north of Vt. route 30. Camping is available at Jamaica state park but you will need to make your reservation by the afternoon of January 2nd to be assured of a site for the weekend. No reservations are accepted until the new year. Call 1-800-299-3071 to make your reservation early or 1-802-874-4600 during the camping season to try and get on the waiting list for a cancellation.

Another alternative to Jamaica state park in Winhall campground located about 10 miles further north of Jamaica on route 100. Winhall campground is operated by the Army Corps of Engineers and used to be free to spring and fall campers up until 5 years ago. More and more people have been coming here over the last few years but as of last year the campground was still only about half full. To guarantee a spot or particular campsite call 1-877-444-6777 or go to <http://reserveusa.com/>

At Jamaica state park, Vermont state workers operate a shuttle on the upper West during the fall release. Shuttle fees are \$10 per trip or \$15 for unlimited trips for the day. There is no spring shuttle since the shuttle route utilizes an old railroad bed that is usually too muddy in April. You can also hike over Ball Mountain dam using a new well-graded trail. To get to Ball Mountain dam continue north on Vt. rt 30 past Jamaica approximately 2 miles, look for a small sign on the right for Ball Mountain dam. Take a right and travel approximately 1 mile. Just before the end of the paved section of road take a left down a steep narrow (but short) dirt road to the parking area located in the spillway of the dam.

There is no organized shuttle for the lower class II section of the West. Your best bet would be to hook up with one of the guided trips offered by the MVP or one of the chapters of the AMC.

The shuttle access is located at the pavilion parking lot in Jamaica state park. Access to Jamaica state park is \$2.50 per person per day unless you are camping there. There is parking also available in a school ball field just before the entrance to the state park. Parking here cost \$3 per

vehicle but be aware that if you wish to walk into Jamaica state park you will still need to pay the \$2.50 per person fee. This parking lot is more popular for people running the lower West and late comers to the state park once parking there is filled.

About half a dozen vendors set up at Jamaica selling boating gear. There is also a food stand with hot dogs, burgers, hot and cold drinks. Saturday evening the town of Jamaica puts on a Spaghetti supper for the boaters. This is usually located at the church at the intersection of Vt rt. 30 and the Jamaica state park access road. There are a couple other eating establishments right in town, more are located 5 to 10 miles north and south of town.

If there has been recent rains (especially in the spring), other rivers in the area could also be running such as Ball Mountain brook, Winhall, Wardsboro, Rock, and the Londonderry section of the West.

Campgrounds / Lodging

- **Jamaica State Park Campground** - Jamaica, VT 05343 Ph: 802-874-4600
- **Winhall Brook campground:** Rt 100, Winhall VT (877) 444-6777
- **Townshend State Park Campground** - Townshend, VT 05353 Ph: 802-365-7500
- **Camperama** - Depot Road, Townshend, VT 05353 Ph: 802-365-4315
- **Bald Mountain Campground** - 1760 State Force Road, Townshend, VT 05353 Ph: 802-365-7510

Bristol NH

Pemigewasset River Smith Fowler Baker valley Winnepesaukee

Bristol is better known as the site of the annual MVP pig roast. The pig roast event normally has releases from Ayers Island dam on the Pemigewasset River. See the section on the Merrimack Valley paddlers pigroast on Page 15.

The Bristol region is best visited in late spring to early summer when water can almost always be found on the Bristol section of the Pemi or 15 miles south on the Winnepesaukee River. Earlier in the spring or after a heavy rain more challenging boating in the class IV and V range can be found nearby on the Smith, Fowler, and the Baker Valley. Dozens more rivers in the class III thru V range can be found within a 45 minute drive from Bristol (see maps below). During wet summers the Pemi and Winnepesaukee will be boatable most of the time. In dry summers the Winnepesaukee still can be a scatchy run but the Pemi may be too dry except for the park & play hole. During the summer the park and play hole at the Pemi take out is crowded with play boaters. Even during a dry summer there is usually enough water for a nice hole to form. Located off Coolidge Woods road, this is one of the most popular park & play spots in New England.

Campgrounds / Lodging (Bristol area only)

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park RR1, Box 396, Rte. 132N, Ashland, NH 03217 (603) 968-9000	Clearwater Campground 26 Campground Rd Meredith, NH 03253-4200 603-279-7761
Pleasant View B & B RR. 1, P.O. Box 498, Bristol, NH 03222 (603) 744-5547	Blueberry Shores Campground On Newfound Lake water 151 Wulamat Rd, Bristol, NH 03222

FLOW CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW ENGLAND RIVERS

A rivers character along with the season and current weather conditions has to be considered when deciding where to go boating. To simplify this we have characterized 6 different types of rivers as shown below. Not all rivers fit into one of the types shown below so under the river descriptions you will find some rivers with combinations of letters. You can average out the differences between the two types and come up with a general idea of what the river is like. For example: The Pemi in Bristol is considered a type CF. With the dam at its put-in this Type C river has a release schedule that allows more boating days than what normally can be expected from a simple type C. Be aware that the reference to the number of weeks a river type is boatable is only a generalized average spread over a typical year. For example a type C river may be boatable from March through April, about 8 weeks. Then it may be boatable for three weeks in the fall and the rest of the time during a Winter thaw or a Summer Hurricane.

Type A: River with large upstream watershed that runs most of the year. Should be runnable more than 48 weeks a year. Prolonged subzero weather and or extended drought will make the river unrunable. Must flow at a good rate to keep from freezing over in the Winter and have a large enough watershed to survive droughts. Example of type A rivers: The Merrimack through Manchester NH and the Farmington T'ville section in Connecticut.

Type B: River with a substantial upstream watershed that runs approximately half the year (26 weeks). Some of these rivers have upstream dams and large lakes to regulate the flow. These are usually mid sized rivers with a steeper gradient than the type A's. Type "B" rivers may become unrunable during mid winter cold snaps for a few weeks. A summer drought may dry them out for several weeks. Occasional dam releases upstream could bring weekend boating during dry spells. Examples of type B rivers: White river through Sharon VT, Lower Ashuelot river in Hinsdale NH..

Type C: Medium size river with a substantial upstream watershed that runs approximately 1/4 of the year (13 weeks). The same as Type B but runs less frequently due to a variety of factors. These factors may include a steeper upstream watershed that will run water off more rapidly or a particular river characteristic such as a wide riverbed or steeper gradient. Examples of a type C river: The Contoocook through Henniker, Concord river in Lowell, Lower Millers.

Type D: Small size river with small or steep upstream watershed that runs approximately 2 to 5 weeks a year. These are typical of the White MT rivers and the upper watersheds of southern New England. Steep gradients are sometimes associated with these rivers usually class III and IV. Examples of a type D river: Upper Ashuelot in Gilsun NH and the Natchuag in Connecticut.

Type E: Steep creeks. The smallest and hardest to catch running rivers. May only run for a total of 10 days a year. Those 10 days would be split up into several runnable periods of only a few hours. You may have to run the creek during or immediately after a heavy rain. Examples of a Type E river: Cold stream in Sandwich NH, Ball MT Brook in Jamaica Vt.

Type F: Dam controlled. These rivers are totally at the mercy of the dam operators. Recreational releases have been negotiated with many of the dam operators for weekend releases. Examples of a Type F river: The Kennebec river in Maine and the Monroe Bridge (Dryway) section of the Deerfield in Mass.

For such a small geographical region, New England has a vast amount of whitewater boating possibilities. Four distinct seasons add a bit more challenge to comfortable boating. If you are willing to put up with a little rain, wind, ice, snow, or sunny days in the 90's, you will not have an off season. Here is a monthly breakdown of the types of rivers you can find water on. You can then look up the river types in the river descriptions that follow.

January +

February: The coldest and the slowest boating months of the year. Nor'easters will bring heavy surf along east facing coastlines. In Massachusetts the Cohasset tidal rip will provide an excellent surfing wave twice a day every day. Show up at the put in three hours before high tide, this will give you time to suit up, socialize and launch as the wave from the incoming tide builds up. Type A rivers are your best bet. Occasional thaws will open up type B and C rivers in southern New England.

March +

April: The highest river levels in New England usually occurs during this period. As the season progresses from early March to late April, start in Connecticut then work your way up to the White Mts. of NH and Maine for the snowmelt runoff in late April. In finding water in any creek during this time, there are scheduled dam releases from flood control reservoirs that guarantee runnable levels. Releases are scheduled on the Westfield, Millers, West, Lower Otter brook, and Blackwater. This is the period of the year that all river types are available for your boating pleasure.

May +

June: With the return of the foliage, river levels drop off throughout most of New England. Early in this period, a rainstorm will rejuvenate many of the rivers such as the Contoocook, East Branch of the Pemi, Swift. The class III-IV Deerfield River in western Mass. begins its summer release schedule. The Dead River in Maine has several high water releases scheduled for the period. Dam release rivers such as the class IV Kennebec and class IV-V Penobscot Rivers begin to see visitors around Memorial day weekend. Black flies during this period can be a real nuisance through late June. Type A, B, and F are the most typical rivers available during this time period.

July +

August: Years ago this period use to be called the off season. Now you can find water on any weekend. The Deerfield, Kennebec, Penobscot, Rapid, Magalloway, Dead, Pemi at Bristol have many weekend release dates scheduled. Type A and F rivers are the most common runs you will find. Occasional tropical storms or their remnants will bring type B and maybe C rivers up for a couple of days. The tidal bores such as Cohasset and several in Maine (see Maine Atlas), have a play spot that appears twice a day every day.

September +

October: In the early fall months you will find the last of the scheduled summer releases. In addition to these releases, the Army Corps of Engineers begin the annual draw down of lakes and reservoirs. This is to allow for excess water runoff during the upcoming winter and spring. months. There are releases on the West, Dead, Winnepesaukee, Mascoma, Sugar, Farmington, Esopus, Moose and several other rivers. In addition to the rivers the Atlantic Hurricane season is at its peak. On average several storms approach then pass off the east coast of New England producing heavy surf from Rhode Island to Maine. Occasionally the storms will hit New England and produce heavy rains that bring up most river levels.

November +

December: With the loss of tree foliage, river levels rise with a moderate rain. During this period you can expect to run river types A, B, C, and occasionally D. There are a few left over lake drawdowns in November but most recreational releases are over by now. Coastal storms become more frequent creating high surf along the coast. Rivers usually remain ice free till Christmas.

The New England Coast

The Surf

West Virginia and Idaho are known for their whitewater but the lack an ocean. New England's coastline attracts many playboaters with their whitewater boats and sea kayak's to surf the waves. When a hurricane or Nor'easter approaches, heavy surf pounds the coast from Maine to Rhode Island. These storms could be well out to sea never affecting the local weather. During the summer strong southwesterly winds ahead of a cool front will pick up surf along the southern New England coastline. Some popular surfing spots are Ogunquit Beach Maine, Jenness Beach NH, Point Judith Rhode Island. Check out this website for some great surf information: www.nesurf.com

The Reversing Falls

The rocky New England coastline contains many tidal boars. This is a unique geological feature that connects the ocean to an inland body of water by way of a reversing tidal flow of seawater. During an increasing tide, seawater will start flowing into the inland waterbody such as a saltwater pond or marsh. When the tide approaches low, the flow reverses and starts to drain the inland water body. If the conditions are just right such as a narrow inlet or a large volume of water, the constricted inlet will fill with turbulent water and in some cases result in a series of standing waves which are great for surfing. The best known of the reversing falls is Cohasset Mass. Twice a day every day, the conditions to produce a fine series of surfing waves occur. It is recommended you arrive at Cohasset three hours before Boston high tide. This will give you time to suit up, socialize, then catch the wave as it builds.

There are several other reversing falls along the coast of Maine. The DeLorme Maine atlas is a great source of information for their locations.

River Guides

The main intention of this almanac is to give the latest information on gages, releases, and other updates that have recently occurred or change on a yearly basis. To get information on the rivers themselves, try one of the river guides authored by New England boaters.

There are currently several main guides that local boaters use. "New England Whitewater" by Bruce Lessels is the most helpful guide available. This guide was republished in 1998 and covers more of the rivers we run in detail than any other.

The AMC series guide (actually three books in all) covers more rivers than the other two combined. The AMC books are great for finding practically any river in New England but they lack detail and gauge information. Look for these three books Amc River Guide Maine, Amc River Guide New Hampshire & Vermont, and AMC River Guide: Massachusetts Connecticut Rhode Island

For New York state check out "New York Exposed The Whitewater State" volumes 1 and 2 by Dennis Squires

If you are looking to get into creeking, then Greg Hanlon's book Steep Creeks of New England, is a must.

All books are available through local outfitters, bookstores, or on the web through www.amazon.com/

Recommended New England river runs

Ranking or rating rivers from best to worst is totally arbitrary and depends on the experience and boating preferences of the paddler. The following list is based on the most popular sections that the core group of Merrimack Valley Paddlers tend to visit most often. Since most MVP members live in eastern Mass and southern NH, results will be more skewed to the rivers in that immediate area. Other factors that improve popularity are season length, summer releases, and overall quality of the run. Factors such as polluted water or short boating seasons tend to suppress its popularity. Popularity is judged by message board postings and the experiences of the author. Rivers are broken up into four categories shown below from easy rivers, moderate rivers, difficult rivers, and park and play spots.

Easy rivers (Class I-II)				
River	State	Class	Type	Notes
Pemigewasset (Bristol)	NH	II	FC	Releases
Piscataquog	NH	II	FC	Spring/Fall
Deerfield (Fife Brook)	MA	II	FB	Summer Releases
Winnepesaukee (Upper)	NH	I-II	A	Most anytime
West (Lower)	VT	II	FC	Spring/Fall Release
Merrimack	NH	II	A	Anytime
Androscoggin (Errol)	NH	II	A	All Summer
Androscoggin (Pontook)	NH	II	F	Releases
Otter Brook	NH	II	FD	March/April Releases
Souhegan (Upper)	NH	II-III	D	Late March/April
Farmington (T'Ville)	CT	II	A	Anytime
Contoocook (Lower)	NH	II	B	Late spring/rain
Pemigewasset (Woodstock)	NH	II	B	Early summer/rain
Sugar	NH	II	B	Late spring
White	VT	II	B	Early Summer
Mad	VT	I-II	C	April/May

Moderate rivers (Class III-IV)				
River	State	Class	Type	Notes
Winnepesaukee (Lower)	NH	III (IV)	FA	Almost anytime
Deerfield (Dryway)	MA	IV	F	Summer releases
Contoocook	NH	III-IV	B	March-June/rain
Dead	ME	III (IV)	F	Summer releases
West (Upper)	VT	III	FC	April and Sept
Concord	MA	III+	B	March-June/rain
Swift (Middle)	NH	III	D	April-May
Magalloway	ME	III	F	Summer releases
Millers (Upper)	MA	II-III	FC	April-May/rain
Bearcamp	NH	II-IV	C	April-May/rain
Mad	NH	III-IV	D	April-May
Blackwater	NH	II-IV	C	April/releases
Ammonoosuc	NH	II-IV	FC	April-May/rain
Smith	NH	IV	D	April
Ashuelot (Lower)	NH	II-IV	B	March-May
Seboomook	ME	III+	FC	Summer releases

Moderate rivers (Class III-IV) continued				
Rivers	State	Class	Type	Notes
Saco	NH	III	D	April / May
Gale	NH	II-IV	D	April-May
Farmington (New Boston)	MA	III-IV	FD	March/Fall releases
Westfield	MA	I-III	FC	April releases
Mascoma	NH	II-III	C	April/Rain
Hudson	NY	III-IV	FB	April-June/rain
Quaboag	MA	II-IV	B	March-June
Esopus	NY	II-III	F	Releases

Difficult rivers (Class IV-V)				
River	State	Class	Type	Notes
Kennebec	ME	IV	F	Summer releases
Swift (Lower)	NH	IV	D	April-May
Pemigewasset (East Branch)	NH	IV	D	April-May
Rapid	ME	IV	FC	Summer releases
Penobscot (W. Branch)	ME	IV-V	FB	All Summer
Warner	NH	IV	C	April/ rain
Moose	NY	V	FB	Fall release/festival
Natchaug	CT	II-IV	D	March/ rain
Black	NY	III-V	B	
Contoocook (North Branch)	NH	V	D	April
Pemigewasset (Upper)	NH	V	D	April-May
West Branch Deerfield	VT	V	D	April-May/rain
Raquette	NY	IV-V	F	Releases
Pleasant (W. Branch)	ME	V	D	May
Housatonic	CT	IV	F	Releases
Moxie Stream	ME	V	D	May/rain
Independence	NY	II-V	C	

Park & Play				
River	State	Class	Type	Notes
Pemi Park & Play	NH	II	FB	Best at 600 cfs
Merrimack (293)	NH	II (III)	FA	Best at 7500 cfs
Merrimack (Arms park)	NH	II (III)	FA	Best at 5000 cfs
Farmington (T'Ville)	CT	II	A	Almost anytime
Connecticut (Sumner Falls)	VT	II	FA	
Saco (Limington Rips)	ME	II (III)	A	
Cohasset tidal rip	MA	II	A	Tidal
Black (Hole Brothers)	NY	II	B	

New England Flow Extremes

Trying to predict the best time to boat in New England can be difficult. Major rain events can happen at anytime of the year. If one had to pick a month then April would be the best choice. The worst time to plan a paddling vacation in the region would be winter where most rivers in central and northern New England Rivers are frozen. Other variations can occur depending on the latitude, elevation, and watershed orientation of the particular river. The matrixes below show the historical high water peaks and low water dates for various rivers throughout New England extracted from USGS historical data. Flows are in Cubic Feet per Second, Drainage areas are in square miles.

Maine							
River	Location	Average Peak	High Flow	Average Low	Low Flow	Years Gaged	Drainage area
St John	Nine Mile Bridge	28-Apr	12939	1-Aug	795	53	1341
Allagash	Allagash	3-May	8881	31-Aug	939	75	1229
St Croix	Vanceboro	5-May	1058	23-Nov	415	75	413
Machias	Whitneyville	25-Apr	2628	1-Sep	245	67	458
Penobscot (North Branch)	Pittston Farm	18-Apr	4100	10-Sep	9.45	2	232
Penobscot (East Branch)	Gridstone	30-Apr	7107	9-Sep	769	84	1086
Mattawamkeag	Mattawamkeag	25-Apr	10940	3-Sep	595	69	1418
Piscataquis	Blanchard Dover	24-Apr	1369	27-Aug	10.90	7	118
Piscataquis	Foxcroft	23-Apr	2653	2-Sep	105	101	298
Penobscot	Enfield	26-Apr	36380	3-Sep	5618	101	6671
Kennebec	The Forks North	11-May	5106	31-Oct	1709	100	1590
Carrabasset	Anson	25-Apr	2913	2-Sep	167	83	353
Sandy	Mercer	18-Apr	4234	24-Aug	185	68	516
Wild	Gilead	2-May	683.00	8-Sep	27.80	40	69.6
Ellis	Andover	25-Apr	1207	13-Sep	44.30	23	130
Swift	Roxbury	23-Apr	872	6-Sep	38.80	75	96.9
Saco	Cornish	25-Apr	8203	3-Sep	877	88	1293

New Hampshire

River	Location	Average Peak	High flow	Average Low	low flow	Years gaged	Drainage area
Diamond	Wentworth Location	23-Apr	1665	9-Sep	92	63	152
Saco	Conway	3-May	3423	27-Aug	260	81	385
Bearcamp	Tamworth	17-Apr	800	20-Aug	23.6	11	67.6
Lamprey	Newmarket	6-Apr	959	8-Sep	46.8	70	183
East Branch Pemi	Lincoln	2-May	1135	2-Sep	69.3	11	115
Pemigewasset	Woodstock	3-May	2028	27-Aug	133	40	193
Baker	Rumney	18-Apr	1068	27-Aug	44.7	51	143
Pemigewasset	Plymouth	23-Apr	4655	27-Aug	362	100	622
Smith	Bristol	19-Apr	542	28-Aug	24.5	86	85.8
Winnepesaukee	Tilton	17-Apr	1230	5-Sep	367	67	471
Merrimack	Franklin	21-Apr	7959	28-Aug	1133	78	1057
Contoocook	Peterborough	3-Apr	435	26-Aug	21.5	35	68.1
Contoocook	Henniker	6-Apr	2356	30-Aug	143	38	368
Warner	Davisville	6-Apr	975	28-Aug	25.4	41	146
Blackwater	Webster	14-Apr	821	24-Aug	42.8	66	129
Soucook	Concord	31-Mar	413	9-Sep	19.3	16	81.9
Piscataquog	Weare	8-Apr	378	24-Aug	10.3	27	63.1
Piscataquog	Goffstown	4-Apr	1286	26-Aug	28.7	39	202
Merrimack	Manchester	6-Apr	15750	28-Aug	1489	67	3092
Souhegan	Merrimack	3-Apr	1045	8-Sep	52.9	70	171
Connecticut	Pittsburg	22-Apr	970	20-Jun	334	47	254
Ammonoosuc	Bethlehem	2-May	691	28-Aug	70.8	65	87.6
Sugar	Claremont	18-Apr	1462	28-Aug	91.1	76	269
Ashuelot	Keene	7-Apr	650	26-Aug	21.7	53	101
Otter Brook	Keene	7-Apr	295	27-Aug	10.3	40	47.2
Ashuelot	Hinsdale	7-Apr	2240	8-Sep	160	95	420

Vermont

River	Location	Average Peak	High Flow	Average Low	Low Flow	Years Gaged	Drainage Area
Passumpsic (East Branch)	East Haven	23-Apr	410	27-Aug	45.3	44	53.8
Moose	Victory	23-Apr	657	21-Aug	41.3	57	75.2
Passumpsic	Passumpsic	18-Apr	2723	27-Aug	266	75	436
Wells	Wells River	17-Apr	545	27-Aug	43.5	64	98.4
Ompompanoosuc	Union Village	7-Apr	799	26-Aug	37.6	50	130
Ayers Brook	Randolph	16-Apr	187	27-Aug	11.8	65	30.5
White	Hartford	23-Apr	4272	27-Aug	277	88	690
Ottawaquechee	Bridgewater	22-Apr	224	2-Sep	12.1	19	23.4
Black	Springfield	18-Apr	1180	28-Aug	53.6	60	158
Williams	Rockingham	7-Apr	1033	1-Sep	29.7	17	112
Saxtons	Saxtons	5-Apr	485	9-Sep	15.6	45	72.2
West	Jamaica	6-Apr	1487	9-Sep	74.2	51	179
Walloomsac	Bennington	17-Apr	601	27-Aug	79	73	111
Poultney	Fair Haven	1-Apr	939	27-Aug	53.1	75	187
Mettawee	Pawlet	30-Mar	409	12-Sep	27.2	19	70.2
Otter Creek	Middlebury	8-Apr	2732	9-Sep	377	89	628
New Haven	Middlebury	14-Apr	657	7-Sep	49.7	14	115
Lewis Creek	Ferrisburg	13-Apr	387	6-Sep	20.3	14	77.2
Winooski (North Branch)	Wrightsville	22-Apr	510	9-Sep	25.2	70	69.2
Winooski	Montpelier	18-Apr	2102	5-Sep	163	86	397
Dog	Northfield	16-Apr	509	9-Sep	25.1	69	76.1
Mad	Moretown	18-Apr	974	9-Sep	60.3	75	139
Little	Waterbury	24-Apr	593	6-Sep	104	68	111
Lamoille	Johnson	17-Apr	2027	9-Sep	171	80	310
Missisquoi	Troy	18-Apr	1142	10-Sep	73.1	73	131
Clyde	Newport	25-Apr	849	6-Sep	100	88	142

Massachusetts

River	Location	Average Peak	High Flow	Average Low	Low Flow	Years Gaged	Drainage Area
North Nashua	Fitchburg	5-Apr	374	12-Sep	23.9	31	64.2
Squannacook	Groton	6-Apr	428	9-Sep	20.8	54	65.9
Assabet	Maynard	23-Mar	524	8-Sep	42.3	63	116
Concord	Lowell	27-Mar	1540	10-Sep	165	67	400
Blackstone	Northbridge	23-Mar	662	6-Sep	106	45	141
Millers	Royalston	7-Apr	1054	29-Aug	84.6	52	189
Deerfield	Charlemont	12-Apr	2051	3-Sep	358	91	361
North	Shattuckville	5-Apr	787	10-Sep	32.9	64	89
Green	Colrain	5-Apr	339	2-Sep	14.8	36	41.4
Quaboag	Brimfield	6-Apr	655	8-Sep	74	92	150
Westfield	Knightville	7-Apr	1220	21-Aug	60.8	90	161
Housatonic (East Branch)	Coltsville Greate	5-Apr	344	27-Aug	32.3	67	57.6
Housatonic	Barrington	7-Apr	1512	2-Sep	199	91	282
Farmington	New Boston	5-Apr	528	1-Sep	61.6	91	91.7
Hoosic	Williamstown	5-Apr	847	26-Aug	84.1	64	126

Connecticut

Mt Hope	Warrenville	22-Mar	165	6-Sep	9.28	63	28.6
Farmington	Tariffville East	6-Apr	2738	9-Sep	502	32	577
Salmon	Hampton	22-Mar	490	29-Aug	32.5	75	100
Housatonic	Falls Village	7-Apr	3005	8-Sep	402	91	634
Housatonic	Gaylordsville	6-Apr	4643	10-Sep	462	63	996

River Block Information

The following pages contain the latest information available for the most popular rivers paddlers from central New England seek out. A lot of this information is new and is not contained in the most recent river guide books. River information is grouped into blocks as shown in the example below. An explanation of the block segments follows.

5			1			3		
Swift (Lower)								
2			Location: Albany New Hampshire.			Type: D		
4			Class: IV (V)		Length: 5.35 miles		6	
7			Gauge: Visual / USGS (East Branch USGS)			Gradient: AV: 84'/mile Max: 123'/mile		
			Minimum level: 1' / 6.8'					
			Low: 1.25' / 8.0'		Medium: 2.25' / 10.0'		High: 2.75' / 11.0'	
AW web page:								
http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1192/								
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code:335114								
10						8		
						9		

- 1) River name and segment.
- 2) Location of the put in for this particular river segment.
- 3) Type: This refers to the runoff pattern for this river. See page 26 for an explanation of New England flow characteristics.
- 4) Class: This is a number (in roman numerals) that relates to the international river rating scale. Numerals in parenthesis refer to the classification as the river level rises above medium and into high levels. There are 6 classes overall as explained below.

class I (1): easy. fast moving water with riffles and small waves. few obstructions, all obvious and easily missed with little training. risk to swimmers is slight; self-rescue is easy.

class II (2): novice. straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting. occasional maneuvering may be required, but rocks and medium sized waves are easily missed by trained paddlers. swimmers are seldom injured and group assistance, while helpful, is seldom needed. rapids that are at the upper end of this difficulty range are designated "class ii+".

class III (3): intermediate. rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and which can swamp an open canoe. complex maneuvers in fast current and good boat control in tight passages or around ledges are often required; large waves or strainers may be present but are easily avoided. strong eddies and powerful current effects can be found, particularly on large-volume rivers. scouting is advisable for inexperienced parties. injuries while swimming are rare; self-rescue is usually easy but group assistance may be required to avoid long swims. rapids that are at the lower or upper end of this difficulty range are designated "class iii-" or "class iii+" respectively.

class IV (4): advanced. intense, powerful but predictable rapids requiring precise boat handling in turbulent water. depending on the character of the river, it may feature large, unavoidable waves and holes or constricted passages demanding fast maneuvers under

pressure. a fast, reliable eddy turn may be needed to initiate maneuvers, scout rapids, or rest. rapids may require "must" moves above dangerous hazards. scouting may be necessary the first time down. risk of injury to swimmers is moderate to high, and water conditions may make self-rescue difficult. group assistance for rescue is often essential but requires practiced skills. a strong eskimo roll is highly recommended. rapids that are at the upper end of this difficulty range are designated "class iv-" or "class iv+" respectively.

class V (5): expert. extremely long, obstructed, or very violent rapids which expose a paddler to added risk. drops may contain large, unavoidable waves and holes or steep, congested chutes with complex, demanding routes. rapids may continue for long distances between pools, demanding a high level of fitness. what eddies exist may be small, turbulent, or difficult to reach. at the high end of the scale, several of these factors may be combined. scouting is recommended but may be difficult. swims are dangerous, and rescue is often difficult even for experts. a very reliable eskimo roll, proper equipment, extensive experience, and practiced rescue skills are essential. because of the large range of difficulty that exists beyond class iv, class 5 is an open ended, multiple level scale designated by class 5.0, 5.1, 5.2, etc... each of these levels is an order of magnitude more difficult than the last. example: increasing difficulty from class 5.0 to class 5.1 is a similar order of magnitude as increasing from class iv to class 5.0.

class VI (6): extreme and exploratory. These runs have almost never been attempted and often exemplify the extremes of difficulty, unpredictability and danger. the consequences of errors are very severe and rescue may be impossible. for teams of experts only, at favorable water levels, after close personal inspection and taking all precautions. after a class vi rapids has been run many times, it's rating may be changed to an appropriate class 5.x rating.

- 5) Length in miles put in to take out.
- 6) Gradient: AV stands for average drop per mile. The Max is the maximum drop per mile someone can expect in this river. Information on this is extracted from US Geological Survey maps.
- 7) Gauge: Immediately after the word "gauge" is the type of gauge paddlers refer to for this river section. In some cases, such as this one, there will be two types of gauges listed with a slash in between. In this case the first one is "Visual". After the slash is "USGS" which stands for a United States Geological Survey.

- **Visual:** usually refers to a paddlers gage painted on a rock or bridge abutment in the river.
- **Such and Such Dam:** The flow is regulated through the outflow of the Dam. Information on the flow is usually made available by the dam operators either by an internet post or phone call.
- **USGS:** Stands for United States Geological Survey river level gage. Information from these gages can be accessed through the USGS websites. The websites contain "realtime" data on levels and flows. Many of these gauges are also available by calling the toll free "Waterline" river information line. See Page 6 for more information.
- **Virtual:** A virtual gauge usually refers to a real USGS gauge not located on the section mentioned. It is usually in a nearby watershed, well upstream on the same river stretch or only a short distance downstream of the river segment, but the proximity of the gauge and the river characteristics are similar. These gauges work best in the spring or wide area rain events. Do not rely on this gauge type for localized rain events such as summertime thunderstorm activity.

Immediately after the gauge type is the minimum suggested level. This usually refers to the lowest level the river can be comfortably run without wading through shallows. If

two gauge types are mentioned then two different levels will follow separated by a “/”. The first number refers to the first gauge type (in this case the “visual” gauge) and the second number refers to the second gauge type (in this case the “USGS” gauge). If the section mentioned has a USGS gauge located on or very close to the river segment then only the USGS will be used. In this case flow information for the gauge level will follow the “/” usually in cfs (cubic feet per second). This is the standard unit of measure used.

USGS measures levels in “feet” above an arbitrary base point. Therefore there is no relationship between gauge levels on different rivers even different segments of the same river. Levels or flows shown in *italics* are not verified.

- 8) Paddling levels: This line gives the Low, Medium, and High levels for boating this river section. This information uses the same format as the “minimum” level box above this line. The “/” separates two different gauge types or, as for the USGS type gauges, a level in feet then the flow in CFS. The information used for this is based on the latest guidebooks, USGS historical data, and the authors’ personal experiences. Levels or flows shown in *italics* are not verified.

Low: River is well within its banks. It is high enough to avoid wading but shallow areas and rocks are numerous and could still hamper navigation. River will have more of a drop and pool type nature with slow moving water between drops. Care must be taken to pick the deepest channel to run at each drop. A low running river is usually (but not always) one half class lower than its overall rating.

Medium: River is bank full. Medium levels are the standard for designating a class (I thru VI). All descriptions are written for medium levels.

High: River is above bank full, debris (trees, branches, and such) could be washing downriver with the boater. River velocity increases exponentially. Fewer and smaller eddies than medium levels require precise boat handling to catch. Larger hydraulic effects such as holes, turbulence, and waves. Individual rapids start blending together to form longer more difficult rapids. Most river ratings increase by one half to a full class level.

- 9) AW webpage: This is the url to find the American Whitewater webpage for the river segment. Go to this site for more information, current river levels, directions, river descriptions, etc.
- 10) Phone information: This is particularly handy if you do not have access to an internet connection. Some phone numbers are to automated river level recordings for that particular river. Most of these are operated by hydro operations. Many of these will give information for the predicted flows for the following day. When “Waterline” precedes a toll free number use this to get information on the USGS gauge for this river segment. See page 6 for an explanation and more information on Waterline.

After the river information block some rivers could have more information. This information is usually of a current nature, something that is not contained within standard river guidebooks. If the section in question is a dam-controlled river with regular recreational releases, then the latest release schedule is included. This release schedule was current as of late February 2007. Unforeseen events such as drought or dam repairs could alter this schedule. Some charts have “tentative” within its heading, check the message boards and newsletter for updates.

Some river descriptions are also included but paddlers should use one of the guide books (see page 28), or the American Whitewater web page for more detailed river descriptions.

2007 New England/New York River/Water Level information and Recreational boating releases

The following information has been assembled from several sources. We would like to thank Tom Christopher and Julia Khorona from New England FLOW, Ginger Cox of Boston AMC, American Whitewater, and NH AMC. Although every attempt has been made to guarantee accuracy last minute changes due to, dam maintenance, drought, flood, etc. can be and should be expected. Please check the websites for the latest release information and updates that were not available at press time.

Maine

Blue Hill Falls		
Location: Blue Hill, Maine.		Type: A/Tidal
Class: II-III	Length: 100 yards	Gradient: AV: N/A
Gauge: none Minimum level: tidal		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/771/		
Tidal information at: http://www.maineharbors.com/tide3.htm		

This is a tidal reversing falls, like Cohasset in MA and Sheepscot in Lincoln County, ME. Play time begins about 2.5 hours before high tide.

Cold Stream		
Location: West Forks Maine.		Type: D
Class: V	Length: 11 miles	Gradient: AV: 65'/mile Max: ?/mile
Gauge: Visual Minimum level: See below		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/783/		

Runs much of the Spring and after rainfall. It can be run in Midsummer. Gage: downstream river-left abutment of the putin bridge. Boaters also use a flat rock in midstream just downstream of the putin bridge. If the top surface is covered, Cold Stream is minimum. Directions: From The Forks, ME, head North on Rte. 201 7.8 miles to a dirt logging road on the right. Take this road; continue past a storage facility on the left. About 1 mile from Rte. 201, a small one-lane bridge crosses Cold Stream; this is the putin.

To takeout: head back on Rte. 201 to where it crosses the Kennebec River.

Dead		
Location: West Forks Maine.		Type: F
Class: II-III (IV)	Length: 13 miles	Gradient: AV: 31'/mile Max: 47'/mile
Gauge: Long Falls Dam Minimum level: 1200 cfs / >5000 cfs class IV		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/787/		
1-800-557-3569 Dial F or 3 for Flagstaff Dam		

Dam-controlled: min 1200 cfs (quite bony); at about 2400 cfs, the rocks get more padded and the water, more fun. The river is a mostly boulder type rapid with lots of holes and pourovers. There is simply too many features and rapids to describe. Only the highlights have been documented here. The descriptions are for a summertime release level of about 2000 cfs. At these levels the river is mostly class II-III. There are several releases scheduled for 5500 cfs and higher during May, early June, September, and October. At these levels the river becomes class III-IV with continuously long rapids in an isolated region of New England. The shoreline and riverbed are totally different from the neighboring Kennebec River. There is little shear wall cliffs on this river but thick vegetation grows right up to the rivers edge. This makes it very difficult to rescue swimmers and equipment.

2007 Dead River releases			
Date	Flow	Date	Flow
Saturday May 5th	7000+ cfs	Sunday, July 1st	1300 cfs until 1 pm
Saturday May 12th	7000+ cfs	Saturday, July 7th	1300 cfs until 1pm
Saturday, May 26th	2400 cfs	Sunday, July 8th	1800 cfs until 1pm
Sunday, May 27th	5500 + cfs	Saturday, July 28th	2400 cfs until 1 pm
Saturday, June 2nd	5500 + cfs	Sunday, July 29th	1800 cfs until 1 pm
		Saturday, Aug 11th	2400 cfs until 1 pm
Saturday, June 9th	5500 + cfs release ends at 1pm	Sunday, Aug 12th	3500 cfs until 1 pm
		Sunday, Sep., 2nd	5500 cfs until 1 pm
Sunday, June 17th	3500 cfs release ends at 1pm	Saturday, Sept. 15th	3500 cfs until 1 pm
Saturday, June 30th	1800 cfs until 1:00 pm	Sunday, Oct. 7th	Full Open up to 6000 cfs until 1 pm
Gauge: Long Falls Dam Minimum level: 1200 cfs / >5000 cfs class IV			
1-800-557-3569 Dial F or 3 for Long Falls Dam			

Dead River Shuttle

Note: All mileages are approximate. New logging roads occasionally are built and old ones are abandoned. Traveling on the most used road is usually your best option. If you are unable to decide on a direction wait for a raft company bus or other boaters to pass. Another option is to use the shuttle provided by Webb's (207-663-2214) across the street from Berry's general store. Inquire there for times and availability.

1. Start at Berry's General Store and travel north on route 201 approximately 2.8 miles.
2. Take a left on a dirt road when you see "Old Timers Place" a brown building and road name on the right. This is point "A" on the map. Reset your trip counter at this point.
3. Stay on the road most traveled all the way to the put in. Take a left at the fork at mile 4.7. This is point "B" on the map.
4. At mile 6.9 the paper company used to charge a road use fee. This practice ceased a couple years so boaters no longer need to pay the \$4 per head fee. However, the cabin is still there, and this user fee could start again at anytime. This is point "C" on the map.
5. Left at mile 9.0. This is point "D" on the map.
6. Right at mile 9.7. Taking a left here brings you to the gravel pit put in lower down on the Dead.
7. Take a right at mile 13.8 just after passing a parking area on your left. This road brings you down hill to the put in. Note: When many rafting companies are in the area you should park just before the right turn and carry down to avoid traffic on this steep narrow road. This is point "F" on the map.

As of May 2002, the shuttle road was in very good condition but can be very dusty during dry periods and somewhat muddy when raining. The last .2 miles downhill to the put-in has been graded and is also in very good condition. Any vehicle (except very low clearance) would be adequate for the shuttle.

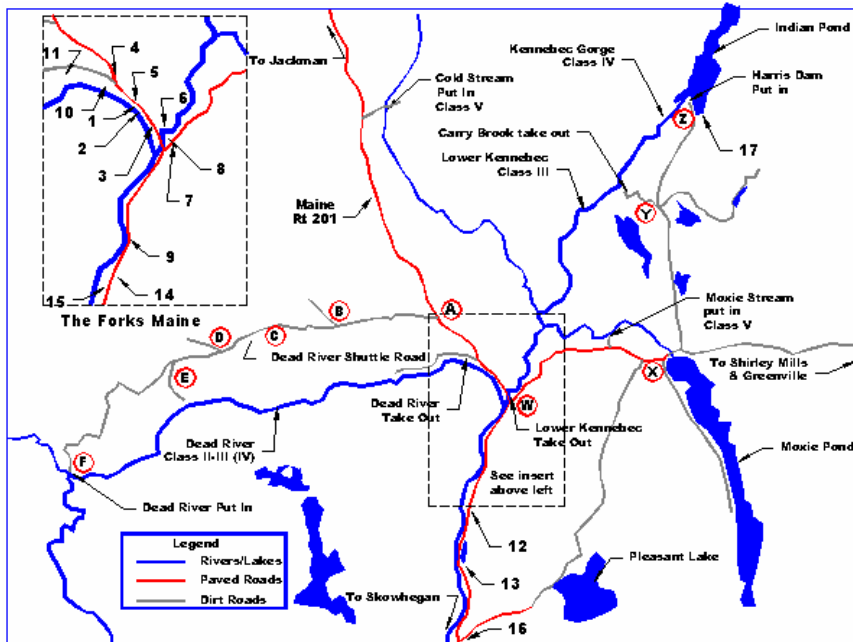
Kennebec		
Location: West Forks Maine.		Type: F
Class: IV	Length: 3.5 miles	AV Gradient: 40'/mile
Gauge: USGS Suggested Minimum level: 300 cfs		
Low: 2400 cfs	Medium: 4800 cfs	Medium High: 6000 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/438/		
Phone line: (800) 557-3569 Dial K or 5 for Kennebec		

The Kennebec is a dam-controlled river. It is a popular whitewater-rafting destination during the summer months. An agreement worked out between the rafting, boating, and power company has guaranteed water on weekends. Normally you can expect 4800 cfs from 10 am until 2 pm but that can change depending on conditions. At times of drought the flows will remain at 4800 cfs but the release times can be cut back 2 hours (10am to 12 pm). Early in the season (May) flows may be higher (6000 cfs) and for longer durations. For the latest flow information call (800) 557-3569 Dial 5 for Kennebec.

The following information is from AW Director Tom Christopher:

1. The 300 cfs minimum flow is an excellent Class II-III run, fine for open boats and not pushy, with 2, perhaps 3, easy Class IV drops that can be easily portaged. It will provide a wonderful opportunity for folks with a lower skills level to enjoy the remote beauty of the Kennebec Gorge.
2. The normal 4800 cfs release is a classic Class IV run with big water waves and crosscurrent crashing off of the Gorge walls, a few serious holes, and multiple opportunities for long nasty swims especially below "Big Mama" (8 ft. waves) and into the "Alleyway". If you do not have a combat roll or have limited Class IV experience, it is probably not a good idea to run at this level.

3. At 2400 cfs all of the above is significantly magnified. There are more holes with consequences, much stickier and nasty. The river become more technical at this level and now becomes a more difficult Class IV+ river that will require a good solid skills level for the trip to be run safely.



In addition to the daily standard release AW has negotiated several new high water days (8000 cfs) and low water releases (2400 cfs). Those dates are shown in the table below.

2007 Kennebec Settlement Flows					
Date	Time	Flow	Date	Time	Flow
Sat., June 16th	10am to 1pm	8000 cfs	Sun., Aug. 5th	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs
	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs			
Sat., June 23rd	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs	Sat., Aug. 11th	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs
Sat., June 30th	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs	Sat., Aug. 18th	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs
Sat., July 7th	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs	Sun., Aug. 19th	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs
Mon., July 9th	10am to 1pm	8000 cfs	Sat., Aug. 25th	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs
Sat., July 14th	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs	Sat., Sept. 1st	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs
Sun., July 15th	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs	Sun., Sept. 2nd	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs
Sat., July 21st	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs	Sat., Sept. 8th	10am to 1pm	8000 cfs
				1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs
Sat., July 28th	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs	Sat., Sept. 22nd	10am to 1pm	8000 cfs
Sat., Aug. 4th	1pm to 3 pm	2400 cfs			

2007 Magalloway releases			
Date	Flow	Date	Flow
Sat., June 23rd	900 cfs	Sat., Aug. 18th	1200 cfs
Sun., June 24th	900 cfs	Sun., Aug. 19th	1200 cfs
Sat., June 30th	900 cfs	Sat., Aug. 25th	1200 cfs
Sun., July 1st	900 cfs	Sun., Aug. 26th	1200 cfs
Sat., July 7th	1200 cfs	Sat., Sep 1st	900 cfs
Sun., July 8th	1200 cfs	Sun., Sep 2nd	900 cfs
Phone line: (800) 557-3569 Dial A or 2 for Androscogin then dial 4 for Aziscohos Dam			

Moxie Stream			
Location: Moxie Maine.			Type: D
Class: V	Length: 1.75 miles	Gradient: AV: 116'/mile Max: ?'/mile	
Gauge: Visual	Recommended Minimum level: See takeout rapids		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/839/			

Penobscot, South Branch (Canada Falls)			
Location: Pittston Farm Maine.			Type: D
Class: V	Length: 3.5 miles	Gradient: AV: 45'/mile Max: ?'/mile	
Gauge: Canada Falls Dam Recommended Minimum level: 400 cfs			
Low: 400 cfs	Medium: 900 cfs	High: 3000 cfs	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/865/			
Phone line: 207-723-4341 ext 163			

A big thank you to American Whitewater and New England FLOW for negotiating releases on this beautiful river. This year we will have 11 scheduled releases on every Saturday from July to early September. Releases begin at 10 am and continue until 3 pm. On line release information can be found at: <http://glha.brascanpower.com/> look under "Canada Falls dam".

Directions: The Canada Falls section of the Penobscot is not far from the Seboomook section. To get to the river, use the directions for the Seboomook in this guide then, instead of taking a right to Seboomook Campground take a left instead to Pittston Farm. Camping and lodging is available here and this is the takeout for Canada Falls. To find the put in, continue over the bridge to the river then take your first left. This dirt road is a little rougher and narrower than the ones up to this point. Continue 3 miles to the put in at the dam. Look to the website for additional information concerning directions and other logistics.

2007 Canada Falls releases			
Date	Flow	Date	Flow
Sat., July 7th	500 cfs	Sat., Aug. 18th	600 cfs
Sat., July 14th	600 cfs	Sat., Aug. 25th	750 cfs
Sat., July 21st	600 cfs	Sat., Sep 1st	750 cfs
Sat., July 28th	900 cfs	Sat., Sep 8th	600 cfs
Sat., Aug. 4th	600 cfs	Sat., Sep 15th	500 cfs
Sat., Aug. 11th	750 cfs	-----	-----
Flows begin at 10 am and continue until 3pm on each release date.			

Magalloway			
Location: Wilson Mills Maine.			Type: F
Class: III-V	Length: 2 miles	AV Gradient: 67'/mile	
Gauge: Aziscohos Dam Suggested Minimum level: 600 cfs			
AW webpage: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/824/			
Phone line: (800) 557-3569 Dial A or 2 for Androscogin then dial 3 for Aziscohos Dam			

The Magalloway is a dam controlled river with several scheduled whitewater releases during the summer. The upper portion of this run is a technical class V with vertical drops up to 18'. Some rebar, concrete, and old log cribbing can still be found here complicating some of the obvious clean lines. The easier (and more popular) class III section of this river can be accessed from a parking lot by a power plant about 1/2 mile south of the route 16 bridge over the river. Look for a dirt road between high-banked dirt burns leading down to the access parking lot. At the parking lot hike down a trail that leads below the last of the class IV-V drops and put in here. From here the river is a technical class III through a boulder-strewn rapid. Look out for pinning boulders. About a 1/2 mile down river there is a nice surfing wave formed at a ledge outcropping. More class II-III water continues with a few more difficult sections at rock ledges with large hydraulics to avoid. Take out downstream river right at the route 16 bridge overpass. Flows are from 10:00am to 3:00pm with little or no delay due to short distance between release and put in locations. For the latest flow information at other times of the year call (800) 557-3569 Dial 2 for Androscogin then dial 3 for Aziscohos Dam.

Pleasant, W. Branch (Gulf Hagus)		
Location: Greenville Maine.		Type: D
Class: V	Length: 4.7 miles	Gradient: AV: 110'/mile Max: ?'/mile
Gauge: Visual Recommended Minimum level: -4" Virtual (USGS) 5.0'		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/878/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 231188		

Minimum virtual gauge runnable level still to be verified. Gauge located at Dover-Foxcroft. Blanchard gauge remote site number no longer available on Waterline.

Runnable in late spring or after heavy rain. The visual gage is the downstream, river-right abutment footing of the putin bridge. 4 inches below the footing is a minimum level; even with the footing is medium, and 8 inches above the footing is high.

Directions: To takeout: from Brownville Junction, follow Rte. 11 North about 5 miles. Hang a left at the sign for Katahdin Ironworks onto a paved road which quickly becomes dirt. Follow about 6 miles to a rope gate at the remains of the Katahdin Ironworks. The Gulf Hagas, though on public land, is only accessible by private roads managed by Katahdin Iron Works/Mary-Jo Inc., who charge a toll to use their "usually dilapidated" dirt roads. In 1999, the toll was \$4 for Maine residents and \$7 for out-of-staters. Cough up the toll and head 6.5 miles to the dirt parking area, the takeout, on the right where a short trail leads down to the river.

Rapid		
Location: Upton Maine.		Type: FC
Class: IV	Length: 5.25 miles	AV Gradient: 68'/mile
Gauge: Middle dam. Suggested Minimum level: 800 cfs		
Low: 1000 cfs	Medium: 1400 cfs	High: 2300 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/881/		
Phone Line: (800) 557-3569 Dial A or 2 for Androscoggin then dial 1 for Middle dam		

The rivers flow is controlled from Middle dam at the lower end of Lake Richardson. Releases of 1300 and 1800 cfs are scheduled for the warm dry weekends in summer. Usually the last two weekends of July and the first two weekends in August.

The Rapid River is located in a secluded part of Maine close to the NH border. It used to be difficult to get to this river because of limited accessible public roads. Boaters used to paddle several miles across the open waters of lake Umbagog out of Errol NH then carry upstream to the put in. Others hired a seaplane bush pilot out of Errol to fly them into Pond in the River then pick them up several hours latter in Lake Umbagog. There is a private dirt road on the north side of the river but this is gated and inaccessible to all but a few camp owners and one rafting company. In the late 80's a group of Maine Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) members found put in and take out spots through a maze of logging roads on the south side of the river. These logging roads have improved over the years and are now suitable for any vehicle to make it to the put in. The take out is still a little rougher towards the end and it is still recommended to take a high clearance vehicle there.

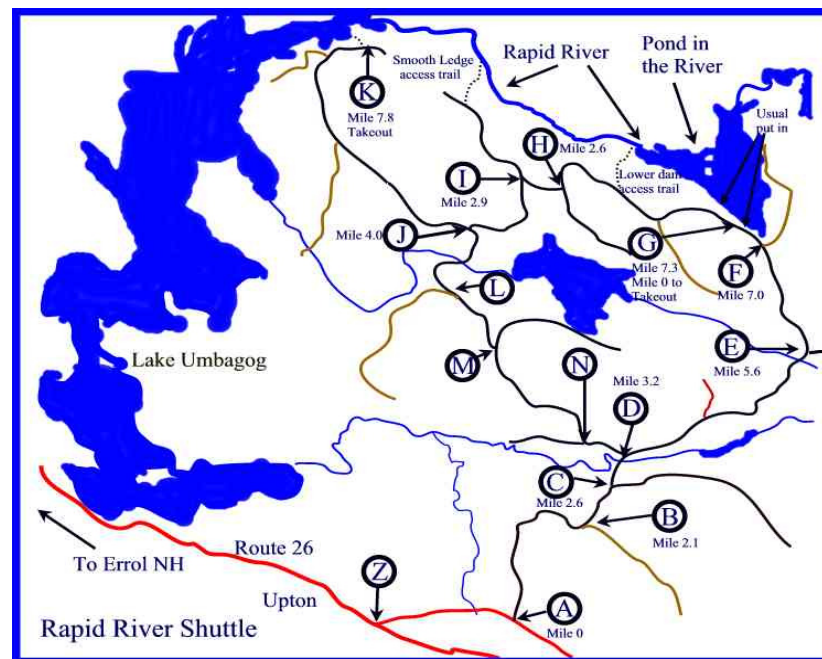
*Although the dam stops releasing at noon, dropping river levels usually are not noticeable at Smooth Ledge until 3 pm

2007 Rapid releases					
Date	Time	Flow	Date	Time	Flow
Fri., July 13th	All day	1300 cfs	Sat., August 4th	All day	1300 cfs
Sat., July 14th	All day	1300 cfs	Sun., August 5th	Until Noon*	1300 cfs
Sun., July 15th	Until Noon*	1800 cfs	Fri., August 10th	All day	1300 cfs
Sat., July 21st	All day	1300 cfs	Sat., August 11th	All day	1300 cfs
Sun., July 22nd	Until Noon*	1800 cfs	Sun., August 12th	Until Noon*	1800 cfs
Rapid Flow information					
Low: 1000 cfs		Medium: 1400 cfs		High: 2300 cfs	
Phone Line: (800) 557-3569 Dial A or 2 for Androscoggin then dial 4 for Middle					

*Although the dam stops releasing at noon, dropping river levels usually are not noticeable at Smooth Ledge until 3 pm

Rapid River Shuttle Map and Etiquette

Access to the Rapid is via private land and private logging roads. The land is mostly owned by local paper mills and a few individual land owners. There have been grumblings from the land owners about traffic, camping, and ATV's. Please try to car pool as much as possible, pull vehicles well off the road. Logging trucks have the right of way so yield to them and give them a wave. Stick to a reasonable speed on all roads especially around sharp corners. Slow down to a crawl when you approach a logging operation in progress to avoid "dusting" the workers. Please do not camp in the area especially if it is posted. There are several campgrounds in the Errol area. Carry out all trash. The land owners I've talked to seem to be more upset by ATV use than boaters so please keep a good boaters image. There is one access point to the logging road network from Upton that already has a gate that can easily be closed and locked. Let's hope this does not happen.



Map Key

Directions to shuttle road start in Upton Maine.

- 1 Begin at Errol, NH, take RT-26 and go Southeast for approximately 10.1 miles passing Upton Maine on the way.
2. Take a left on East B Hill road at point "Z" 44.6874962 north, -71.0010071 west. Approximately 2 miles to point "A" 44.6845818 North, -70.9620514 West

Directions to put in from point "A", road conditions good

- A. Start here 44.6845818 North, -70.9620514 West
- B. Left at fork, 2.1 miles from point A, 44.7043610 North, -70.9580078 West
- C. Left at fork .5 miles from point B, 2.6 miles from point A, 44.7084351 North, -70.9522705 West
- D. Right after bridge, small sandpit on the right, .6 miles from point C, 3.2 miles from point A, 44.7156830 North, -70.9458923 West
- E. Road intersects from right, stay left, 2.4 miles from point D, 5.6 miles from point A, 44.7325172 North, -70.9113846 West
- F. Road intersects from right, stay left, 1.4 miles from point E, 7.0 miles from point A, 44.7492065 North, -70.9215622 West
- G. Put in: look for a small pull off on the left and ribbon flags on the right. .4 miles from point F, 7.4 miles from Point A, 44.7541084 North, -70.9290314 West There is another access point about .1 miles farther, look for a small clearing on the left.

Directions to take out from put in, road conditions good to fair

- H. Continue on road from point G 2.6 miles to point H, then take a right, 44.7585678 North, -70.9638290 West
- I. Take a left, .3 miles from point H, 2.9 miles from point G, 44.7585678 North, -70.9710846 West
- J. Right 1.1 miles from point I, 4.0 miles from point G, 44.7503891 North, -70.9830322 West
- K. Pass several minor logging roads on your left, then stop as the road heads down hill about 3.8 miles from point J, 7.8 miles from point G, look for streamers on the left signifying the trail to the take out. 44.7843132 North, -70.9979095 West

Directions out (point "D") from the take out.

- J. Return to point J and take a right, 44.7503891 North, -70.9830322 West
- L. Stay left, .6 miles from point J, 44.7399406 North, -70.9860458 West
- M. Take a right 1.8 miles from point J, 44.7314568 North, -70.9749527 West
- N. Take a left 1.5 miles from point M, 44.7172165 North, -70.9570389 West
- D. Take a right at point D .6 miles from point N, 44.7156830 North, -70.9458923 West

West Branch of the Penobscot		
Location: Millinocket Maine.		Type: FB
Class: IV,V	Length: 17 miles	Gradient: AV: 22'/mile Max: 80'/mile
Gauge: McKay hydro station. Minimum level: 1300 cfs		
Low: 1800 cfs	Medium: 2400 cfs	High: 3000 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/867/		
Phone Line: 207-723-4341 ext 163		

McKay station releases through much of the summer. The section from the dam to Prays big eddy (about 2 miles) is considered a class V run. Just below the put-in is Exterminator hole. At normal summer levels punch the hole on the left. Below exterminator is Staircase rapid. Staircase is a shallow class IV with a nice wave train at the end. Just downstream you will notice the main flow of the river goes to the left around a shear rock wall go to the left for Big Heater rapid. To the right a narrow channel leads to a nice little drop (Little Heater). Just below the heaters on river right is Troublemaker hole, a nice powerful playhole. Pull out on river left just above a bridge. Downstream lies one of the most difficult rapids in all New England. The Cribworks should be scouted from "Vulture rock" which lies on river left where the river turns left. The move should be obvious to any veteran boater.

Drop through the Turkey Shot on river left then move toward river right through Final Chute. Avoid going river left after Turkey shot, the river runs through a boulder sieve that could trap a boat or swimmer. Below Prays Big Eddy the river alternates between long stretches of flatwater and sudden large drops. Some of the rapids in this section are "Big Amberjackwockamas" (Big A), Neswadnehunk (Soudyhunk) falls, and Abol. The West Branch of the Penobscot has been compared to the Upper Gauley and many New England boaters will come here for a warm up before venturing to West Virginia. Releases through much of the summer. Call Great Northern at 207-723-5131 or 207-723-2328. Camping can be found at "Pray's Big Eddy" located just below the Cribworks. Phone number 207-350-1599. There are other individual campsites scattered about the area maintained by the paper companies. Inquire at the gatehouse about them. On line release information can be found at: http://glha.brascanpower.com/Penobscot_L.asp look under "McKay Station (Ripogenus dam)"

Saco (Limington Rips)		
Location: Limington Maine.		Type: A
Class: III	Length: .5 miles	Gradient: AV: ?'/mile Max: ?'/mile
Gauge: USGS Recommended Minimum level: Always water		
Low: 1000 cfs	Medium: 4000 cfs	High: 8000 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3459/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 231196		

Park & Play

Seboomook (Penobscot)		
Location: Rockwood Maine.		Type: FC
Class: III+	Length: 2.5 miles	Gradient: AV: 15'/mile Max:
Gauge: Seboomook Dam. Suggested Minimum level: 400 cfs		
Low: 400 cfs	Medium: 1000 cfs	High: 2000 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/868/		
Phone Line: 207-723-4341 EXT 163		

A great intermediate to advanced river with multiple ledge drops. Several great playspots also. This is a remote river accessed by private logging roads. On line release information can be found at: <http://glha.brascanpower.com/> look under "Seboomook Dam"

In 2005 Tom Christopher of American Whitewater announced a new agreement with the power company, local Indian tribes, and other agencies to provide boatable flows on the Seboomook section all Summer long. Minimum daily flows will increase to 500 cfs, this will be available 24/7 throughout the boating season. On the Saturday of Labor Day weekend there is usually a special "high water" release of 1500 cfs. There will be a new (phone and web based) flow information system set up and operational from April 1st thru October 15th of each year. That information is available and can be found on the AW site.

North Maine Woods Inc.

The Seboomook section of the Penobscot lies in what is known as the North Maine Woods. North Maine woods is a consortium of private landowners (mostly paper companies), encompassing 3.5 million acres of working forest. It is rugged remote country many miles from the conveniences of modern day life. To get more information on access fees, gate locations and hours, camping information, etc. go to the North Maine Woods website at: <http://northmainewoods.org/index.html>

Directions to Seboomook and Canada Falls

It's not the easiest place to get to but the scenery is nice and the dirt roads are not too bad. You

will want to start your trip into the small town of Rockwood Maine on the western shore of Moosehead lake. To get to Rockwood take exit 39 off of Interstate 95 head north on ME 7

In Dexter take a left and head north on ME 23

In Guilford take a left and head north on ME 15/6

This will take you to Greenville continue on ME 15/6 by taking a left in Greenville 15 miles will bring you into Rockwood

Continue through the other side of town then stop at the Rockwood country store on the Moose river for supplies.

If you are coming up from the Forks area take ME 201 north to Jackman

Take a right onto ME 15/6 to Rockwood. It is approximately 50 miles from the Forks, there are other options to get here using logging roads but refer to the Maine atlas and Gazetteer for those options.

Once in Rockwood at the country store get all your supplies including food and gas up your vehicle there are very limited services within the North Maine Woods region.

From Rockwood

Approximately 37 miles to the put in for the Seboomook and 28 miles to Canada Falls

From the country store head west ¼ mile then take a right on the bridge over the Moose river.

Bear right on the otherside of the bridge, pavement will turn to a good dirt road within a mile. 20 miles on this road to the "20 mile checkpoint" and gate run by a consortium of paper companies

At the gate pay \$8 per person per day (\$5 Maine resident)

Proceed towards Pittston Farm

At the intersection take a left for Canada Falls and proceed ½ mile to Pittston Farm.

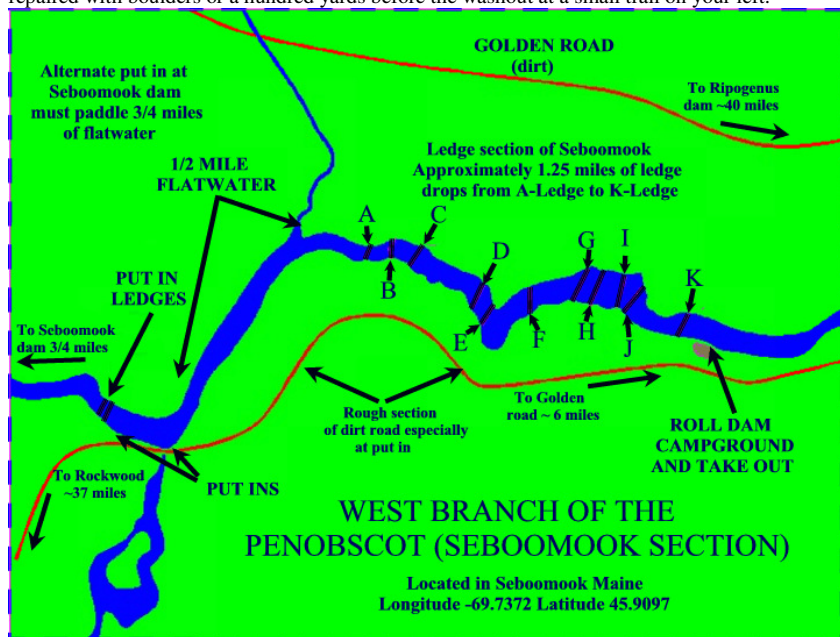
For Seboomook take a right on Boyd road.

Continue on this road approximately 12 miles until you see a sign for Seboomook campground

Take a left here just before the campground then another immediate left at the next intersection. Seboomook campground does have limited but expensive supplies and gas if needed.

Follow the road to the put in which is ½ mile further than the road to Seboomook Dam visible on your left as you are driving.

You can either put in where the river comes close to the road at a washed out section that was repaired with boulders or a hundred yards before the washout at a small trail on your left.



New Hampshire

Ammonoosuc (Middle)

Location: Twin Mountain New Hampshire.		Type: C
Class: II-III	Length: 2.9 miles	Gradient: AV: 41'/mile Max: 48'/mile
Gauge: USGS (Bethlehem) Minimum level: 3.5'/580 cfs		
Low: 3.7'/660 cfs	Medium: 5.0'/1380 cfs	High: 5.5'/1800 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1155/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331114		

The Ammonoosuc starts high up on Mt Washington (6288') and runs later in the season than most other White Mountain rivers. Late April and early May is generally the high water period. This is a nice intermediate run in the Northern White Mountains of NH. The most difficult rapid (Boat Breaker) is at the end of this run near the take out.

Ammonoosuc (Lower)

Location: Bethlehem New Hampshire.		Type: C
Class: II-IV	Length: 7.3 miles	Gradient: AV: 40'/mile Max: 9'/mile
Gauge: USGS (Bethlehem) Minimum level: 3.5'/580 cfs		
Low: 3.7'/660 cfs	Medium: 5.0'/1380 cfs	High: 5.5'/1800 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3689/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331114		

Good intermediate to advanced river section.

Androscoggin (Errol)

Location: Errol New Hampshire.		Type: FA
Class: II	Length: .5 miles	Gradient: AV: 35'/mile Max: 5'/mile
Gauge: USGS Minimum level: 750 cfs Av Summer flow: 1500cfs		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3736/		
Phone Line: (800) 557-3569 Dial A or 2 for Androscoggin		

This section is generally used as a training river for novice paddlers. It is very short therefore most people choose to shoulder shuttle their boats running this section over and over. Saco Bound Northern Waters has a whitewater school and campground located right at the river. Put in just north of the campground in a large pool by the USGS gage. A center run through the river affords big water waves; river right provides a more technical run through and around boulders and holes. Look for a nice surfing wave adjacent to "Pancake Rock" about 40 yards upstream of the Route 26 bridge. Take out on river right at the large pool "Braggs Bay" below the rapids. This section of the Androscoggin is dam controlled but the flow here is very reliable throughout the year even during a dry summer.

Androscoggin (Pontook)

Location: Milan New Hampshire.		Type: F
Class: II	Length: 2.4 miles	Gradient: AV: 23'/mile Max: 35'/mile
Gauge: Pontook Hydro dam. Minimum level: 850 cfs Normal release flow: 1500cfs		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3686/		

A nice class II in the north woods of NH. Good place to see moose. The Pontook hydroelectric station usually bypasses the water in this section. Recreational releases are scheduled for most summer weekends.

2007 Androscoggin (Pontook) releases				
May	June	July	August	September
Sat., 26th	Sat., 2nd	Sun., 1st	Fri., 3rd	Sat., 1st
Sun., 27th	Sun., 3rd	Wed., 4th	Sat., 4th	Sun., 2nd
Mon., 28th	Sat., 9th	Fri., 6th	Sun., 5th	Mon., 3rd
	Sun., 10th	Sat., 7th	Fri., 10th	Sat., 8th
	Sat., 16th	Sun., 8th	Sat., 11th	Sun., 9th
	Sun., 17th	Fri., 13th	Sun., 12th	Sat., 15th
	Sat., 23rd	Sat., 14th	Fri., 17th	Sun., 16th
	Sun., 24th	Sun., 15th	Sat., 18th	
	Sat., 30th	Fri., 20th	Sun., 19th	
		Sat., 21st	Fri., 24th	
		Sun., 22nd	Sat., 25th	
		Fri., 27th	Sun., 26th	
		Sat., 28th	Fri., 31st	
		Sun., 29th		

Full river flow (up to 2200 cfs) 10am to 4pm
Weekends and holidays from the Saturday before Memorial day through June 30th
Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from July 1 through Labor day
Two weekends following Labor day

Ashuelot (Lower)		
Location: Hinsdale New Hampshire.		Type: B
Class: II-IV	Length: 3.5 miles	Gradient: AV: 52'/mile Max: 80'/mile
Gauge: USGS (Hinsdale) Minimum level: 4.5'/750 cfs		
Low: 4.7'/810 cfs	Medium: 4.9'/1000 cfs	High: 5.5'/1500 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1158/		

This river holds water very well since it is at the bottom of a huge watershed; it is usually one of the last rivers in New England to be running during the spring.

Ashuelot (Upper)		
Location: Marlow New Hampshire.		Type: D
Class: III-IV	Length: 5.3 miles	Gradient: AV: 64'/mile Max: 90'/mile
Gauge: Visual. Recommended Minimum level: 4.5'		
Low: 4.7'	Medium: 5.7'	High: 7.5'
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1159/		
Flow info at Army Corps of Engineers website: https://rsgis.crrel.usace.army.mil/nae/dynamic/realtimehtml/smd-tab.html		

This section of the Ashuelot lies above the Surry mountain flood control dam and therefore is a natural flow river.

The USGS gauge is located below this flood control dam 6 miles downstream from the take out, therefore it should only be used as reference since the Army Corps of Engineers could be discharging more or holding back water for flood control. To get a more accurate reading on the

arch bridge entrance to Gilsom gorge. People with good eyesight or a pair of binoculars can read the level from the river left bank.

Gilsom gorge visual gauge	Surry Lake Inflow cfs	Interpretation
~4.4	~430	Minimum
<4.8	~480	Scratchy
<5.1	~560	Low
<5.4	~700	Low to medium
<5.9	~900	Medium
<6.4	~1200	Medium high
>6.4	~1500	High

Baker (Upper)		
Location: Warren New Hampshire.		Type: D
Class: V	Length: 3.8 miles	Gradient: AV: 180'/mile Max: ?'/mile
Gauge: USGS (Rumney) Suggested Minimum level: 2.7'		
Low: 3.2'	Medium: 4.6'	High: 5.8'
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2981/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331123		

You can judge the flow from the road. The gage referenced here is downstream of this run, downstream of the confluence of the S. Br. Baker and the Baker; therefore, the Upper Baker may rise and fall much more quickly. This gauge, however, does give a general indication of the water levels on the upper reaches of the Baker River. There are several other class V creeks in this region including the South Branch of the Baker, Pond Brook, and Halls Brook.

Baker (South Branch)		
Location: Dorchester New Hampshire.		Type: D
Class: V	Length: 3.0 miles	Gradient: AV: 130'/mile Max: ?'/mile
Gauge: USGS (Rumney) Suggested Minimum level: 2.4'		
Low: 2.7'	Medium: 4.2'	High: 5.3'
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2980/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331123		

Paddlers gage located on the river-left abutment at the Rocky Brook putin. The abutment has three small (4" diameter) pipes just above the riverbed. A level even with the bottom of these pipes is minimum; a level even with the top of these pipes indicates a medium level.

Use the Baker gage (linked above) with care; it is downstream of the confluence of the Upper Baker.

Bearcamp		
Location: Tamworth New Hampshire.		Type: C
Class: II-IV	Length: 3.5 miles	Gradient: AV: 36'/mile Max: 55'/mile
Gauge: USGS (Tamworth) Suggested Minimum level: 4.8' / 250cfs		
Low: 5.0' / 325 cfs	Medium: 5.6' / 750cfs	High: 6.0' / 1050cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1162/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 335113		

The Bearcamp drains the southeastern slopes of the White Mountains. It is best run in April through early May.

At the put in the Bearcamp is quickwater with a sandy bottom. Between here and where NH rt 50

25 comes into view the river contains a couple of easy class II rapids. Once NH rt 25 comes into view the action picks up. Cold Brook rapid (class III+) starts about 50 yards above a bridge. Cold Brook enters on the right just above the bridge. The section just past the bridge is the toughest. Below Cold Brook rapid the river splits around an island. The right channel goes through a small narrow gorge with 20' vertical walls. A relatively easy rapid leads to a sharp vertical drop of about 3' to 4' depending on water levels. The left channel is easier but does not always have enough water to run without scratching. Below the Gorge was the site of the Bearcamp dam. The dam was taken down by the state of NH in the fall of 2003. There are no reports at this time of how this river segment has been affected. The rest of the river contains a couple mostly class II-III the last one just above the takeout being the toughest and longest.

Blackwater			
Location: Webster New Hampshire.		Type: FC	
Class: II-IV	Length: 2.5 miles	Gradient: AV: 32'/mile Max: 65'/mile	
Gauge: USGS Suggested Minimum level: 3.9' / 400 cfs			
Low: 4.6'/600 cfs	Medium: 5.1'/900 cfs	High: 6.1'/1500 cfs	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1163/			
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331128			

The Blackwater is a class I-IV river in south central New Hampshire. The section of boating interest lies just downstream of a flood control dam operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. One recreational release weekend is scheduled each year in April.

2007 Blackwater releases			
Date	Time	Flow	Notes
Fri April 27th	11:00am-until water is depleted	650 cfs	24th annual
Sat April 28th			Blackwater
Sun April 29th			slalom

Contoocook			
Location: Henniker New Hampshire.		Type: B	
Class: III-IV	Length: 3.0 miles	Gradient: AV: 54'/mile Max: 70'/mile	
Gauge: USGS Suggested Minimum level: 6.5'/600 cfs			
Low: 7.4'/ 890 cfs	Medium: 9.0'/ 2200 cfs	High: 10'/ 3700 cfs	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1167/			
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331145			

One of the most popular spring runs in southern New Hampshire. The Contoocook has a fairly large drainage area for a New England river therefore it holds water well into Spring then rises occasionally after a moderate rainfall especially in the Fall.

The Contoocook was featured in the 1997 Old Paddlers Almanac. The put-in and take out locations are on private land. Please be courteous to anybody you may happen to see here. Pick up your trash and be discrete about changing.

Contoocook dam removal

On Tuesday June 29th, 2004 a 100-year-old dam a half-mile below our old take out on the Contoocook was breached. This was an historic moment and the first time in history American Whitewater, FLOW, AMC, MVP and others have actually helped to pay for a dam removal to improve whitewater boating. The result was 3/4 mile extension of the river trip with two new rapids. There is a new takeout just downstream on river left of the twin truss bridges. There is more parking here at the old mill site. Also the take out here is a lot easier and shorter.

Contoocook (Lower)		
Location: Henniker New Hampshire.		Type: B
Class: II	Length: 2 miles	Gradient AV: 18'/mile
Gauge: USGS Suggested Minimum level: 6.2'/450 cfs		
Low: 7.4'/ 890 cfs	Medium: 9.0'/ 2200 cfs	High: 10'/ 3700 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3688/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331145		

Contoocook (North Branch)		
Location: Antrim New Hampshire.		Type: D
Class: V	Length: 6 miles	Gradient: AV: 55'/mile Max: /mile
Gauge: Virtual USGS Contoocook: suggested minimum level 8.5' (steady or rising)		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1170/		

The visual gauge that was once located where the river passed under route 9 disappeared when the bridge was replaced three years ago. The gage referred to above is should only be used as a rough idea for the minimum level.

Gale		
Location: Franconia New Hampshire.		Type: C
Class: II-IV	Length: 3 miles	Gradient: AV: 67'/mile Max: 90' /mile
Gauge: Virtual USGS (Ammonoosuc) Suggested Minimum level: 3.0'		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1172/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331114		

The Gale is a beautiful northern NH river. The river starts out class II and picks up in intensity as a boater heads downstream. The first mile is class II, the second mile is class II-III, the last mile is the class IV gorge section. The last mile is the toughest as the river cuts a deep narrow gorge through an old basalt lava dike. The change in geology is responsible for the ledgy nature of the gorge section. The gorge contains several class IV ledge drops.

Mad		
Location: Waterville Valley New Hampshire.		Type: E
Class: III-IV	Length: 7.8 miles	Gradient AV: 85'/mile Max: 122'/mile
Gauge: Suggested Minimum level: 1.4' Visual / 7.0' Virtual (East Branch USGS)		
Low: 8'	Medium: 10'	High: 11'
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1173/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 335114		

The Mad has a relatively short season due to its small and steep watershed. When it is running this is one of the longest stretches of continuous class III-IV whitewater in the state. Be cautious of rain or warm days in the spring when you are at the put-in. The river can rise up from low to too high by the time you reach the gage rock 6 miles down river.

Mascoma		
Location: Enfield New Hampshire.		Type: C
Class: II-III	Length: 3.9 miles	Gradient: AV: 38'/mile Max: 80' /mile
Gauge: NHDES http://www.des.state.nh.us/rti_home/station_information_display.asp?ID=MCAN3		
Low: 400 cfs	Medium: 1000 cfs	High: 1500 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1174/		

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) retired the Mascoma gage in October of 2004 because of budgetary reasons. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has taken responsibility for the old USGS gage. Information can be found at: http://www.des.state.nh.us/rti_home/station_information_display.asp?ID=MCAN3

Drawdowns of Mascoma Lake likely make this section runnable in the fall.

Merrimack		
Location: Manchester New Hampshire.		Type: FA
Class: I-II+(III)	Length: 5.3 miles	Gradient: AV: 4'/mile Max:
Gauge: USGS Suggested Minimum level: 2.7' / 900 cfs		
Low: 3.6'/1900 cfs	Medium: 4.7'/4000 cfs	High: 6.3'/9000 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1175/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331156 Phone Line: (603) 634-3569 (Amoskeag)		

Flow is regulated through the Amoskeag hydroelectric dam at the put in. There is usually enough water to run this section most of the year. Flows from mid July through late September could be marginal especially in a dry year. Call the recorded dam release phone line at (603) 634-3569 for a flow update. Flows on the Merrimack usually peak 3 to 4 days after a rain event.

The Merrimack River through Manchester is more popular for its three play spots rather than as a river run. However, this section does provide water at a time of year when practically every other river within 100 miles is too low. The scenery is poor since it runs through the heart of Manchester's mill district.

Otter Brook		
Location: Keene New Hampshire.		Type: FD
Class: II	Length: 3.1 miles	Gradient: AV: 53'/mile Max: 72'/mile
Gauge: USGS Minimum suggested level: 190 cfs		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3644/		

Lower Otter Brook is traditionally one of the first spring rivers run in NH. It is mostly a class II run appropriate for novice and intermediate paddlers.

There is a nice hole/wave play spot formed by the dam outflow at the put in. Use caution here since the concrete walls on either side could trap a paddler should the hole be the more prominent feature. It is also very shallow so watch out not to roll here.

The river starts out with class II, winding its way through an alder thicket. This section is very narrow and occasionally contains strainers and overhanging alders. Recent beaver activity has added to the hazard. As of March 2002 a rather large beaver dam has been built about 1/4 mile below the Middletown road bridge. Currently this dam is breaching in the middle and creating a very nice drop and surfing wave, but the dam is being washed away slowly with each release or high water event.

2007 Otter Brook releases			
Date	Time	Flow	Notes
Sat. March 17th	9:00am-until water depleted	300 cfs	Recreational
Sun. March 18th		300 cfs	Recreational
Sat. April 21st		300 cfs	Recreational
Sun. April 22nd		300 cfs	Recreational
Sat. May 5th		300 cfs	Recreational
Sun. May 6th		300 cfs	ACA NH WW

Note: If there is not enough water available for the May weekend Saturdays release will be cancelled.

Pemigewasset (Bristol)		
Location: Bristol New Hampshire.		Type: FC
Class: II (III)	Length: 1.6 miles	Gradient AV: 25'/mile Max:
Gauge: Ayers Island Dam Hydro Suggested Minimum level: 500 cfs		
Low: 800 cfs	Medium: 1500 cfs	High: 2700 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1178/		
Phone Line: (603) 634-3569 (Ayers Island)		

Ayers island hydro dam at the put-in regulates this entire section. The USGS gauge is located 10 miles upstream of the dam in Plymouth NH. When this gauge exceeds 1300cfs, water is just about guaranteed in Bristol. Water is available at other times when this gauge is below 1300cfs but Ayers Island Hydro regulates releases below the dam. This is a peaking power station so levels sometimes rise and fall without warning. To get the latest best guess level information call after 7pm the day before (603) 634-3569 for a recorded phone message. You can call the dispatcher for specific info 603-669-4000.

There is a small parking area at the put near Ayers Island dam. There is a porta potty located here along with trashcans. Additional parking can be found at the top of the dam where a hiking trail leads down to the put-in parking lot.

The river is about 1-1/2 miles long with three distinct play spots. The first big drop is about 1/4 mile downstream with a medium size sidesurfing hole (Rodeo Hole) it is not for novices to play in. Run right at this point. Downstream 100 yards there is a good surfing wave depending on level. The river from this point to the take out is mostly small rapids with a few opportunities for surfing a sidesurfing. The last rapid is a series of reactionary waves and holes caused by protruding ledges on a long sweeping right turn. The last ledge at the take out is probably one of the best summer time play spots in NH with a great sunning and spectating rock to go with it. Depending on level it is a sidesurfing hole, surfing wave, and or ender spot.

You can takeout at the Pemi Park & Play or just slightly downstream at a ledge. This take-out is easier for canoes and rafts. It also leads up to a parking area on Coolidge Woods road that has new porta potties maintained by Public Service company of NH.

2007 Pemigewasset Bristol releases (Ayers Island dam)			
Date	Time	Flow	Notes
Sat. July 14th	10:00am to 4:00 pm	900 - 1000 cfs	AMC instruction
Sun. July 15th	10:00am to 4:00 pm	900 - 1000 cfs	if water is available
Sat. Aug. 18th	10:00am to 4:00 pm	900 cfs	MVP Pigroast
Sun. Aug. 19th	10:00am to 4:00 pm	900 cfs	if water is available

Note: The weekend of August 17, 18, and 19th 2007 is the scheduled Merrimack Valley Paddlers Pig Roast and whitewater rodeo.

Pemigewasset (East Branch)			
Location: Lincoln New Hampshire.		Type: D	
Class: IV	Length: 5.9 miles	Gradient AV: 99'/mile Max: 112'/mile	
Gauge: USGS Suggested Minimum level: 7.0' / 350 cfs Visual gauge: 0.6'			
Low: 7.3'/600 cfs	Medium: 8.0'/1500 cfs	High: 9.0'/2500 cfs	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1179/			
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 335114			

The East Branch of the Pemigewasset gets its start in the mountainous federally designated wilderness area upstream from the put-in. As a result the water is clean, clear, and usually cold when the river is running. Launch under the suspension footbridge at the east end of the parking lot. What you see here at the start is pretty much what you will see for the next 6 miles. The river is relatively wide (85') for a New England river. It is strewn with large granite car sized and larger boulders. These boulders create extreme turbulence during high water. The rapids are continuous and at high water all blend all together for a long class IV-V run. Be aware because of the nature of this river, boulders even large ones move and shift every spring changing the river character. Also the steep mountainous watershed causes the river to rise and fall rapidly.

Note that Loon Mtn Ski area will be expanding rapidly over the next few years, as a result more condos, golf courses, homes, lodges etc. will be sprouting from both banks of the East Branch especially below Loon Mtn. Rapids.

Pemigewasset (Upper)			
Location: Lincoln New Hampshire.		Type: D	
Class: V	Length: 2.9 miles	Gradient AV: 200'/mile Max: ?'/mile	
Gauge: Virtual USGS (Pemigewasset) Suggested Minimum level: 4.5'			
Low: 4.5'	Medium: 6.5'	High: 9.0'	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2989/			
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331173			

A classic steep creek running through some of the best river scenery in the region.

Pemigewasset (Woodstock)		
Location: Woodstock New Hampshire.		Type: B
Class: II	Length: 4.25 miles	Gradient AV: 27'/mile Max: ?
Gauge: USGS (Woodstock) Suggested Minimum level: 2.9'/250 cfs		
Low: 3.7'/700 cfs	Medium: 4.2'/1000 cfs	High: 5.1'/1800 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3645/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331173		

Class II river good for novice and intermediate paddlers. The two most difficult sections are right at the beginning and at the take out. Both can be easily avoided by portaging. White Mountain Speedway lies on the right bank of the river about half way through the trip. Races are often held there on Sundays and can be very loud.

Piscataquog		
Location: Goffstown New Hampshire.		Type: FC
Class: II	Length: 2.4 miles	Gradient AV: 15'/mile Max: 25'/mile
Gauge: USGS Recommended Minimum level: 4.7'/383 cfs		
Low: 5.0'/520 cfs	Medium: 5.9'/1080 cfs	High: 7.0'/2020 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3600/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331175		

The Piscataquog is a great novice river and is fairly dependable even early in spring. The dam at the put in causes the river to rise and fall regularly throughout the winter; this keeps ice from building up under all but the coldest conditions. The first mile has most of the whitewater, with several nice class II drops. There are good play opportunities along the way the best being just past a clearing for power lines that run overhead. This play spot is called the Toilet Bowl. Depending on level it is either a hole or series of waves. Just before the bridge to Pinardville, there is a small drop that contains some rebar from an old dam. The bridge to Pinardville (1 mile) is an alternate take out if you are only interested in the upper section or your time is limited. Below the bridge the river flattens out with only two good drops, although these drops are more intense (but shorter) than the ones above. There is also a nice squirt line at a river bend where the river takes a sharp right. The old take out used to be located at a power line crossing as the river flattens out to the backwater from another dam downstream. A new home was built here in 2006 necessitating a 1/3 mile paddle downstream to the new takeout below the riverside camps on river right.

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services draws down Glenn Lake located above the dam in the fall. The drawdown usually occurs on a weekend in early November to allow for boating opportunities.

Saco		
Location: Bartlett New Hampshire.		Type: D
Class: III-IV	Length: 6.2	Gradient AV: 49'/mile Max: 78'/mile
Gauge: Visual/Virtual Suggested Minimum level: .7' / 5.5' lower Saco gauge		
Low: 1.0'/?	Medium: 2.7'/?	High: 3.9'/?
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1182/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331112 (lower Saco gauge)		

The visual gauge is painted on the bridge abutment at the takeout. The virtual gauge lies several miles downstream and should only be considered if the level is steady or rising. Complete correlations with the visual and virtual gages still need work.

The Saco runs through the highest mountains in the northeastern US. It cuts through a steep valley called Crawford Notch (a NH state park). Outside of the sustain spring melt off the Saco rises and falls rapidly due to steep terrain in its headwaters. If snow is not present it will be necessary to catch the river during or shortly after a heavy rainfall.

This section starts out at the base of an impressive gorge. This gorge is runnable at certain levels but should be scouted. Below the river is consistent class III at low levels. At higher levels this section should be considered class IV due to its consistent gradient. Further down

river the consistent gradient turns to more of a pool drop nature with the pools getting larger as one heads down. There is a couple of portions in this lower section where the difficulty increases namely Sawyers rock and Tweedle-Dum Tweedle-Dee rapid. Both these rapids are visible from route 302 when there is no foliage on the trees (mid Oct. thru mid May).

Smith		
Location: Alexandria New Hampshire.		Type: D
Class: IV	Length: 1.75 miles	Gradient AV: 89'/mile Max: 100'/mile
Gauge: USGS Suggested Minimum level: 4.0'/ 388 CFS		
Low: 4.3'/500 cfs	Medium: 4.7'/666 cfs	High: 5.5'/1000 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1183/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331182		

The Smith River is a steep spring runoff river located in central NH. This section parallels the old route 104 that has long since been abandoned. It is usually plowed just past a bridge over the river. This is the normal put in. The run is continuous from the put in. The most difficult rapid is located just upstream from the Cass Mill road bridge. Ray's Rapid can be sneaked on a small channel on river left just above Ray's but is often choked with logs and ice early in the season. The river slackens a little after the bridge. The take out is usually at a clearing formed by some overhead power lines.

Souhegan (Upper)		
Location: Wilton New Hampshire.		Type: D
Class: II-III	Length: 5.75 miles	Gradient AV: 59'/mile Max: 85'/mile
Gauge: Visual (RT 31 bridge) Minimum level: 1.3'		
Low: 1.5'	Medium: 1.9'	High: 2.1'
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1185/		

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) retired the Stony Brook gage in October of 2004 because of budgetary reasons. There are no new correlations to other gages at this time. A new virtual gage may be developed over the next year.

The USGS gage in Merrimack is too far downstream for a reliable level assessment of the upper even with a slow sustained snowmelt runoff. It is a good indicator of how high the level might of been about 12 to 24 hours prior. The painted gage at the class III put-in is the one used for levels in the New England Whitewater guide, but this gage is in serious deterioration at this time. A new gage was painted on the rt 31 bridge back in 1995 so people would not have to walk in to the other gage for a level check. The gages match levels at 1.7'.

Dam put-in	Rt 31 bridge	Runability
.8	1.3	(Minimum play level at bridge hole)
.9	1.4	Minimum level most people like
1	1.5	
1.2	1.5	
1.4	1.6	good surfing at ledges
1.7	1.7	Medium low
1.9	1.8	
2.1	1.9	Medium
2.25	2.0	Medium high
2.4	2.1	High

Beyond 2.1' at the bridge the gage is not reliable because of the velocity of the river. The Souhegan is a popular spring run. The river is small only about 30' on average. The first mile is steeper (class II-III) once you pass the bridge the river mellows out to a class II. This bridge crossing is the access for the easier section below. The entire river is wooded and scenic with only an occasional view of the road. The Souhegan is narrow and has many blind corners, because of this look out for trees and strainers especially early in the season before local boating clubs clear them out. The take out is located near the Monadnock Spring Water

plant. Be careful of where you park here the owners of the water bottling plant do not care for anyone parking on their property. This also applies to the field surrounding the plant.

Sugar		
Location: Newport New Hampshire.		Type: B
Class: II-III	Length: 2.8 miles	Gradient AV: 34'/mile Max: 40'/mile
Gauge: USGS Recommended Minimum level: 2'/250 cfs		
Low: 2.5'/ 580 cfs	Medium: 4.0'/1900 cfs	High: 4.5'/ 2500 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1187/		

USGS gage is located downstream of the takeout in Claremont. The Sugar drains Lake Sunapee, a large lake that tends to regulate flow on the river. The Sugar rises and drops more slowly than other rivers in the region. The lake also keeps the Sugar running later in the season, sometimes mid to late May.

Swift (Middle)		
Location: Albany New Hampshire.		Type: D
Class: III	Length: 2.6 miles	Gradient AV: 55'/mile Max: 65'/mile
Gauge: Visual / USGS (East Branch USGS) Minimum level: 1' / 6.8'		
Low: 1.25' / 8.0'	Medium: 2.25' / 10.0'	High: 2.75' / 11.0'
AW web page: http://rapids.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1191		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 335114		

The Middle Swift is a very good intermediate run. This section of the Swift is sandwiched between two class V drops that can easily be by-passed. The rapids in between are a lot mellower mainly class III. The biggest drop in this section is Triple Drop; it is two 3' drops about 50' apart with a big wave/hole at the bottom. At lower water Triple drop should be considered class III+. A look at the take-out for this section is advised since you don't want to run Lower Falls without scouting.

The Swift runs along side the scenic Kancamagus Highway in the White Mountain National Forest. It is not wild but still scenic, the road and tourist areas at the put in and take out can be crowded with curious people taking pictures or just gawking especially late in the Spring.

Note: the above mentioned gradient information does not include Upper and Lower falls.

Swift (Lower)		
Location: Albany New Hampshire.		Type: D
Class: IV (V)	Length: 5.35 miles	Gradient AV: 84'/mile Max: 123'/mile
Gauge: Visual / USGS (East Branch USGS) Minimum level: 1' / 6.8'		
Low: 1.25' / 8.0'	Medium: 2.25' / 10.0'	High: 2.75' / 11.0'
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1192/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 335114		

The lower Swift is the most sought after Spring River in NH for intermediate to advanced boaters. The Swift drains the southeastern slopes of the White Mountains. The river is narrow only averaging 50 feet in most locations. You can put-in below the class V Lower falls in a relatively calm pool below. The first rapid after this is class IV then it calms down to class I-II water up to the Gorge (1.8 miles). From here on down the Swift once again calms down to class II until Staircase. After Staircase the river gradually gets steeper and more continuous as you make your way downstream. It eventually builds up to a mostly continuous class III-IV with a few more difficult class IV's. This whole section looks and feels a lot like the Upper Yough in Maryland with blind obstructed drops through holes and pinning rocks. Most drops can be boat scouted but a couple should be looked at and carried if you feel uncomfortable, notably Lower Falls, Cabin Gorge, and Staircase. The Kancamagus highway parallels this entire section making for easy exit and entry points along the way.

Warner		
Location: Warner New Hampshire.		Type: C
Class: III-IV	Length: 2.5 miles	Gradient: AV: 60'/mile Max: 110'/mile
Gauge: USGS/Visual (Lainge Bridge). Recommended Minimum level: USGS 4.8' / 1.3'		
Low: USGS: 4.9' / 1.5'	Medium: USGS: 6.4' / 3.3'	High: USGS: 6.9' / 4.5'
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3603/		

The put in for the Warner is on a slow meandering bend in the river. Shortly after the put in class II - III rapids begin. Towards the end of the drop you will come up to a bridge with a house on the right bank that used to house a mill. There is a short class III drop here into a large pool. Look out for debris on the river right side of this drop. After two more drops the river widens to 40' or so going through a rocky technical section known as Pinball rapid. It then narrows down to the remains of an old mill/dam, there is also evidence here of a newer (yet still abandoned) small-scale hydroelectric project. There is a concrete bypass on the far left that is usually clogged with debris therefore there is no flow to suck you in. There is another steep narrow concrete sluice (3' wide) on the left. If you run the sluice turn your paddle parallel to the boat to avoid loosing it (or your arms) from the vertical concrete sidewalls. The sluice then drops into a trashy runout then through two steep dropping channels created by the bridge abutments of an old bridge. Below this section the river returns to more class II then flattens out for some distance. There are a few more class II-III rapids for the next mile or so. When the road appears high on the left bank through a clearing, you are about to enter the toughest section of the river. As the river drops back into the forest by an old bridge abutment the river begins its Five Falls section. The river here is only about 18' wide. The first third mile or so is class III. After this warm-up section the first ledge drop is about 3' into a "melt" down hole. Many boaters hug the right bank by a large rock and get some good down time through the hole. The eddy below is short and immediately leads up to the next drop. Many boaters pull out here at West Roby District Road at the bottom of the last rapid. Further downstream lookout for a small dam and portage on the right. This dam is in the process of being refurbished for hydro-electric production. In the fall of 2003 there was a report of a guide wire being strung across the river just above the dam, be aware of this. After some flat water where the river crosses under NH route 103 then back again, the river picks up to class III for about 1/3 mile. The takeout is on river right just as the road starts climbing up the hill away from the river.

Winnepesaukee (Lower)		
Location: Franklin New Hampshire.		Type: FA
Class: III+(IV)	Length: 1.25 miles	Gradient: AV: 80'/mile Max: 90'/mile
Gauge USGS: Recommended Minimum level: 2.75' / 350 cfs		
Low: 2.9'/400 cfs	Medium: 4.0'/900 cfs	High: 5.9'/2100 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3057/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331195		

The river is passable (but very scratchy) all the way down to 200 cfs. The minimum recommended for a relatively fluid run is 350 cfs. From 350 cfs to 650 cfs the river should be rated class III. Above 1800 cfs all rapids from Coliseum down blend together as one long difficult rapid. This should be considered a Class IV run at this level. Above 2400 cfs, class IV+.

In 2004/2005 a brand new riverside park was constructed at the takeout. Trestle View park features a new take out ramp for boater along with bathrooms, park benches, parking etc. This will ease the take out which was always challenging since it involved climbing over an old brick wall. The park is also the trail head of the Winnepesaukee Trail. Directly across the street from the bull wheel (a park icon) the trail parallels the river left side all the way to the put in. Foot and bicycle shuttling is made much easier by this improvement.

Winnepesaukee (Upper)		
Location: Tilton New Hampshire.		Type: FA
Class: I-II	Length: 2.1 miles	Gradient: AV: 25'/mile Max: 35'/mile
Gauge USGS: Recommended Minimum level: 2.5' / 250 cfs		
Low: 2.9'/400 cfs	Medium: 4.0'/900 cfs	High: 5.9'/2100 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3570/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 331195		

This is a great training river. It starts out very easy then gets a little harder as you head downstream. The first mile starts out with quickwater that gradually turns into class I. This class I rapid is great for learning ferrying and eddying maneuvers. At the railroad bridge, run the middle channel between the abutments. Run the center of the next drop. There is a lot of pinning potential in the rocks downstream of this drop in low water. This drop is class II and II+ above 1000 cfs. The left side of this drop has a hole. You can eddy out just downstream to the left of the hole so you can get the best approach to a nice surfing wave adjacent to it. At the next railroad bridge look out for a pilling sticking out vertically just right of center of the center channel. At 700-800 cfs this pilling is just under the surface and hard to recognize. At lower levels it is obvious and easy to avoid. Just downstream of the bridge is a wide easy surfing wave just before the river splits around a small island with a town park on it. Just past a street bridge downstream, there is a nice wide surfing wave extending out from river right. This one does not have an eddy to serve it so you will need to catch it on the fly. Take out on river left after the next bridge and past the line of restored train cabooses. A new riverside park with river access was dedicated by the town of Tilton in the fall of 2006. This park features a take out ramp for boaters along with bathrooms, park benches, fishing piers, and parking.

Directions from the south: Interstate 93 north to exit 20 (Tilton, Laconia) Approximately 1 hour from the Mass NH border. Go straight through the lights at the end of the exit ramp past McDonalds, Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken. Immediately following the J.J. Niesen bread factory on your right, you will pass over the bridge then continue on 100 yards then take a right. Another 50 yards to the put in on the right. Our traditional put in by the bridge is no longer available; it is now posted and roped off. The new put in is on a cove-extending out from the main flow of the river and is owned by the state of NH. It tends to get "weedy" in late summer and is usually frozen in early spring.

Vermont

Connecticut (Sumner Falls)		
Location: Hartland Vermont.		Type: FA
Class: III	Length: .25 miles	Gradient: AV
Gauge: USGS Minimum level: 3000 cfs		
Low: 3000 cfs	Medium: 5000 cfs	High: 10000 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3606/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 505121 Also 888-356-3663		

Popular playspot. The best level is two out of three tubes from Wilder dam. One out of three is ok as well but three out of three is washed out and minimum flow is no good. From the time they release at the dam, it takes about 2 hours to get to the playspot.

Mad		
Location: Moretown Vermont.		Type: C
Class: II-III	Length: 2.0 miles	Gradient: AV: 35'/mile Max: 7'/mile
Gauge USGS(Moretown): Recommended Minimum level: 3.2' /230 cfs		
Low: ?/350 cfs	Medium: ?/750cfs	High: ?/900cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2038/		

West (Lower)			
Location: Jamaica Vermont.		Type: FC	
Class: II	Length: 2.5 miles	Gradient: AV: 30'/mile Max: 40'/mile	
Gauge: Ball Mtn Dam. Minimum level: 1000 cfs Normal release level: 1500 cfs			
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2056/			
West (Upper)			
Location: Jamaica Vermont.		Type: FC	
Class: III	Length: 2.5 miles	Gradient: AV: 40'/mile Max: 50'/mile	
Gauge: Ball Mtn. Dam. Minimum level: 1000 cfs Normal release level: 1500 cfs			
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2055/			

A very popular spring and fall release, although, recent developments threaten this decades old tradition. See page 24 for more info.

The Upper West is fun and challenging for most boaters. Put in is either carrying over a flood control dam or taking the shuttle service provided by Vermont State Parks in the fall.

Jamaica State Park and campground is located at the end of the tougher upper section and the beginning of the class II lower West.

To reserve a site at this campground you must call 800-299-3071 on January 2nd and make reservations for the two yearly releases. You can call in season at 802-874-4600 to try and get a cancellation.

Other camping is available 8 miles from Jamaica at Winhall campground. Reservations are also accepted there but are not necessary unless you want a particular site.

2007 West River releases (Ball Mtn & Townsend dams)			
Date	Time	Flow	Notes
Sat. April 28th	8:30am-until water is depleted	1500 cfs	Recreational (no shuttle)
Sun. April 29th			
Sat. Sept 22nd			Recreational

West Branch Deerfield			
Location: Readsboro Vermont.		Type: D	
Class: V	Length: 3.5 miles	Gradient: AV: 155'/mile Max: ?'/mile	
Gauge: Visual Recommended Minimum level: 0'			
Low: 2	Medium: 5	High: 8	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2034/			

A gage is painted on a rock on river right just upstream of the Brooklyn St. Bridge.

White			
Location: South Royalton Vermont.		Type: B	
Class: I-II	Length: 13 miles	Gradient: AV: 10'/mile Max: 18'/mile	
Gauge: USGS Recommended Minimum level: 3.8'/450 CFS			
Low: 4.5'/700 cfs	Medium: 5.8'/2000 cfs	High: 6.8'/3500 cfs	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3671/			
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 501184			

This section of the White River is mostly quick water interspersed with ledge drops. The lower portion below Sharon is more difficult with several interesting ledge drops. 1 mile below the bridge at Sharon there is an old broken dam that is best run on the right. Look for the old dam abutments on either side of the river. A horizon line will become noticeable just above the drop. Pull out on the left if you should decide to portage. 3 miles below Sharon is the next large rapid. Quartermile rapid is a series of small drops through a checkered maze of broken ledge. In low water only one or two routes are passable and require skill to maneuver through. The last big rapid on this section is at the West Hartford bridge. This is usually the takeout since the river below slackens into White River Junction.

Massachusetts

Cohasset Tidal Rip			
Location: Cohasset Massachusetts.		Type: A	
Class: II	Length: .25 miles	Gradient: AV: ?'/mile Max: ?'/mile	
Gauge: none		Recommended Minimum level: tidal	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/683/			

Tidal bore south of Boston. This is a great playspot. Featured in the 1997 Paddlers Almanac

****UPDATE 3/2003. The wave at Cohasset has been altered by natural or manmade events. A recent inspection showed that granite blocks from the broken dam (which formed the wave) has moved out of place. This displacement prevents the wave from forming. Check the AW site for updated information.

Concord River			
Location: Lowell Massachusetts.		Type: C	
Class: III+ (IV)	Length: 1.5 miles	Gradient: AV: 35'/mile Max: 45'/mile	
Gauge: USGS Minimum level: 5.1'/500 cfs			
Low: 5.3'/600 cfs	Medium: 5.9'/1000 cfs	High: 6.5'/1400 cfs	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/680/			
Phone line information: 508-975-0400			

USGS gage on this section not currently on Waterline's phone in database.

Deerfield (Fife Brook)			
Location: Florida Massachusetts.		Type: FB	
Class: II -III	Length: 9.5 miles	Gradient: AV: 25'/mile Max: ?'/mile	
Gauge: Fife Brook dam Minimum release level: 700 cfs			
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/682/			
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 255123			

The Fife Brook Section of the Deerfield ranks as one of the best novice to intermediate rivers in the entire northeast. With scheduled summer releases on most every day except Mondays and Tuesdays you can almost always find water here. The river is generally class I and II with one exception that being Zoar Gap. Zoar Gap can be portaged on river right. Below Zoar Gap (about halfway) there is access from a bridge. Many paddlers use this as a takeout for the upper or a put in for the lower section. Below the bridge the river is generally considered class I with many opportunities to test out new skills on easy rapids. This section is also popular with tubers in the summertime. A hot summer day will see hundreds of tubers on this river section.

2007 Deerfield releases (Fife Brook) 106 release dates						
April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Sat., 7th	Sat., 5th	Fri., 1st	Sun., 1st	Wed., 1st	Sat., 1st	Wed., 3rd
Sun., 8th	Sun., 6th	Sat., 9th	Fri., 6th	Thu., 2nd	Sun., 2nd	Thu., 4th
Wed., 11th	Sat., 12th	Sun., 10th	Sat., 7th	Fri., 3rd	Wed., 5th	Fri., 5th
Thu., 12th	Sun., 13th	Sat., 16th	Sun., 8th	Sat., 4th	Thu., 6th	Sat., 6th
Fri., 13th	Sat., 19th	Sun., 17th	Thu., 12th	Sun., 5th	Fri., 7th	Sun., 7th
Sat., 14th	Sun., 20th	Wed., 20th	Fri., 13th	Wed., 8th	Sat., 8th	Wed., 10th
Sun., 15th	Wed., 23rd	Thu., 21st	Sat., 14th	Thu., 9th	Sun., 9th	Thu., 11th
Wed., 18th	Thu., 24th	Fri., 22nd	Sun., 15th	Fri., 10th	Wed., 12th	Fri., 12th
Thu., 19th	Fri., 25th	Sat., 23rd	Wed., 18th	Sat., 11th	Thu., 13th	Sat., 13th
Fri., 20th	Sat., 26th	Sun., 24th	Thu., 19th	Sun., 12th	Fri., 14th	Sun., 14th
Sat., 21st	Sun., 27th	Wed., 27th	Fri., 20th	Wed., 15th	Sat., 15th	
Sun., 22nd	Wed., 30th	Thu., 28th	Sat., 21st	Thu., 16th	Sun., 16th	
Wed., 25th	Thu., 31st	Fri., 29th	Sun., 22nd	Fri., 17th	Thu., 27th	
Thu., 26th		Sat., 30th	Wed., 25th	Sat., 18th	Fri., 28th	
Fri., 27th			Thu., 26th	Sun., 19th	Sat., 29th	
			Fri., 27th	Thu., 23rd	Sun., 30th	
			Sat., 28th	Fri., 24th		
			Sun., 29th	Sat., 25th		
				Sun., 26th		
				Fri., 31st		

Releases are typically three hours at 700cfs; they begin anytime between from 9:30 AM and noon; often, they go from 10 to 1

Deerfield (Dryway) aka Monroe Bridge		
Location: Rowe Massachusetts.		Type: F
Class: III-IV	Length: 3 miles	Gradient: AV: 60'/mile Max: 80'/mile
Gauge: Dam #5 Monroe Bridge Minimum release level: 900 cfs		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/681		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 255122		

The Dryway either has no water at all or release flows of between 900 and 1100 cfs. The most popular intermediate to advanced run in the region. Release weekends draw large crowds sharing a relatively narrow riverbed. Commercial rafting trips are also popular on this section.

The Dryway was the feature river in the 2005 edition of the Old Paddlers Almanac. Those maps can still be viewed at the American Whitewater website for the Dryway.

2007 Deerfield Dryway releases (Monroe Bridge)			
Date	Time	Date	Time
Sat. May 26th	10am to 3pm	Sun. July 29th	10am to 2pm
Sun. May 27th	10am to 2pm	Sat. Aug. 4th	10am to 3pm
Sun. June 10th	10am to 2pm	Sun. Aug. 5th	10am to 2pm
Sun. June 17th	10am to 2pm	Sun. Aug. 12th	10am to 2pm
Fri. June 22nd	11 am to 3pm	Sat Aug. 18th	10am to 3pm
Sat. June 23rd	10am to 3pm	Sun. Aug. 19th	10am to 2pm
Sun. June 24th	10am to 2pm	Fri. Aug 24th	11 am to 3pm
Fri. June 29th	11 am to 3pm	Sat Aug. 25th	10am to 3pm
Sat. June 30th	10am to 3pm	Sun. Aug. 26th	10am to 2pm
Sun. July 1st	10am to 2pm	Fri. Aug 31st	11 am to 3pm
Fri. July 6th	11 am to 3pm	Sat. Sept. 1st	10am to 3pm
Sat. July 7th	10am to 3pm	Sun. Sept. 2nd	10am to 2pm
Sun. July 8th	10am to 2pm	Sat. Sept. 15th	10am to 3pm
Sun. July 15th	10am to 2pm	Sun. Sept. 16th	10am to 2pm
Fri. July 27th	11 am to 3pm	Sat. Oct. 6th	10am to 3pm
Sat. July 28th	10am to 3pm	Sun. Oct. 7th	10am to 2pm

Millers (Upper)		
Location: Rowe Massachusetts.		Type: FC
Class: II-III	Length: 7 miles	Gradient: AV: 32'/mile Max: 60'/mile
Gauge: USGS Minimum level: 5.6'/620 cfs		
Low: 6.0'/ 820 cfs	Medium: 6.7'/ 1500 cfs	High: 7.2'/ ? cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/694/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 255112		

The Upper Millers is located in north central Massachusetts. This section is mainly a class III river. The Birch Hill flood control dam is controlled by the US Army Corps of Engineers. 1 release weekend is scheduled in the spring.

2007 Millers River releases (Birch Hill Dam)			
Date	Time	Flow	Notes
Sat April 14th	9 pm on Friday until Water supply is depleted	1100 cfs	44th annual River Rat Race
Sun. April 15th		1100 cfs	Recreational

Quaboag			
Location: Brimfield Massachusetts.			Type: B
Class: II-IV	Length: 5.5 miles	Gradient: AV: 32'/mile Max: 85'/mile	
Gauge: USGS Minimum level: 3.8'/260 cfs			
Low: 3.9'/315 cfs	Medium: 4.4'/525 cfs	High: 5.5'/980 cfs	
AW webpage: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/697/			
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 251243			

Westfield			
Location: Huntington Massachusetts.			Type: FC
Class: I-III	Length: 5.2 miles	Gradient: AV: 60'/mile Max: 80'/mile	
Gauge: Knightville USGS		Minimum level: 500 cfs	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/703/			

Knightville dam is just upstream from the put in. Normal spring recreational release from the dam is 1000 cfs. The flow is augmented with the confluence of the Middle Branch of the Westfield River about half way through this segment. Littleville dam on this branch usually releases an additional 300 cfs during recreational release weekends.

2007 Westfield River releases (Knightville & Littleville Dams)			
Date	Time	Flow	Notes
Fri. March 30th	Fri. afternoon until water is depleted	Full flow ramping down through the weekend	Discharge of winter pool for downstream migration of salmon smolt
Sat. March 31st			
Sun. April 1st			
Sat. April 21st	6:00am-until water is depleted	1000 cfs Knightville	54th annual Westfield River Race
Sun. April 22nd		300 cfs Littleville	

Westfield (Pork Barrel section)			
Location: Cummington Massachusetts.			Type: CD
Class: I-III	Length: 7.2 miles	Gradient: AV: 60'/mile Max: 80'/mile	
Gauge: Visual at put in bridge		Minimum level: 1'	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/701/			

The Pork Barrel Section of the Westfield lies above the dam. Therefore it is dependent on rain or snowmelt. This section is a nice spring run somewhat remote from civilization.

Farmington (New Boston)			
Location: New Boston Mass.			Type: DF
Class: III-IV	Length: 3 miles	AV Gradient: 75'/mile	
Gauge: New Boston (USGS) Minimum level: 3.8'/250 cfs			
Low: 4'/340 cfs	Medium: 4.5'/520 cfs	High: 5.5'/1100 cfs	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/686/			

2007 Farmington / Fall River releases (Otis reservoir)			
Date	Time	Flow	Notes
Sat. Oct. 13th	All day	250 cfs	Slalom race
Sun. Oct. 14th	All day	250 cfs	Slalom race
Sat. Oct. 20th	All day	250 cfs	Recreational
Sun. Oct. 21st	All day	250 cfs	Recreational

Connecticut

Farmington (T'Ville)			
Location: Tariffville Connecticut.			Type: A
Class: II-III	Length: 1.5 miles	Gradient AV: 15'/mile Max: 40'/mile	
Gauge: Tariffville USGS Minimum level: 1.5'/480cfs			
Low: 1.9'/750 cfs	Medium: 3.2'/1000 cfs	High: 4.3'/3000 cfs	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/443/			

USGS gage on this section is not currently on Waterline's phone in database.

Housatonic			
Location: Kent Connecticut.			Type: F
Class: IV	Length: 2.6 miles	Gradient AV: 45'/mile Max: 100'/mile	
Gauge: USGS Minimum level: 1.7'/300 cfs			
Low: 2.0'/400 cfs	Medium: 3.0'/900 cfs	High: 5.0'/3000 cfs	
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/448/			
Phone line: 860-824-7891			

Natchaug			
Location: Chaplin Connecticut.			Type: D
Class: II-IV	Length: 3.8 miles	Gradient AV: 25'/mile Max: 120'/mile	
Gauge: USGS Minimum level: 3.8'			
Low: 4.1'	Medium: 4.7'	High: 5.4	
AW webpage: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/451/			

The Marcy Road gauge is a new U.S.G.S. gauge that has recently come online. It is on the Natchaug River just upstream of the put-in.

New York

Beaver (Moshier)		
Location: Moshier Falls New York.		Type: F
Class: IV-V	Length: 3 miles	Gradient: AV: 50'/mile Max: ?'/mile
Gauge: Moshier Dam Minimum level: 400 cfs		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2613		
Beaver (Eagle)		
Location: Croghan New York.		Type: F
Class: V	Length: 1 mile	Gradient: AV: 210'/mile Max: 210'/mile
Gauge: Eagle Dam Minimum level: 200 cfs		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2614		
Beaver (Taylorville)		
Location: Belfort New York.		Type: F
Class: III-IV	Length: 2 miles	Gradient: AV: ?'/mile Max: ?'/mile
Gauge: Taylorville Dam Minimum level: 400 cfs		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2612		

2007 Beaver releases (Moshier, Eagle, and Taylorville sections)

Date	Section	Time	Date	Section	Time
Sat., Sep 1st	Taylorville	10am-2pm	Sat, Sep 8th	Eagle	1pm-5pm
Sun., Sep 2nd	Eagle	1pm-5pm	Sun, Sep 9th	Taylorville	10am-2pm
Sun., Sep 2nd	Moshier	10am-2pm	Sun, Sep 9th	Eagle	1pm-5pm
Mon., Sep 3rd	Taylorville	10am-2pm	Sat, Sep 16th	Taylorville	10am-2pm
Mon., Sep 3rd	Eagle	1pm-5pm	Sun, Sep 16th	Eagle	1pm-5pm
Sat, Sep 8th	Taylorville	10am-2pm	-----	-----	-----
All Moshier and Taylorville releases 400 cfs All Eagle releases 200 cfs					

Black		
Location: Watertown New York.		Type: A
Class: III-V	Length: 8 miles	Gradient AV: 28'/mile Max: ?'/mile
Gauge: USGS Minimum level: 2.5' / 1000 cfs		
Low: 2.9' / 1500 cfs	Medium: 3.7' / 2500 cfs	High: 4.4' / 4000 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1255/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 365121 For whitewater opportunities at Glen Park Hydro, call the plant operator at (315)-788-9121		

Esopus		
Location: Phoenicia New York.		Type: F
Class: II-III	Length: 6 miles	Gradient AV: ?'/mile Max: ?'/mile
Gauge: USGS Minimum level: 5' / 540 cfs		
Low: 5.5' / 840 cfs	Medium: 6.2' / 1450 cfs	High: 7.0' / 1800 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/3848/		
Phone Line: 914-657-2388		

May 26th KCCNY Memorial Day Weekend Slalom clinic
June 2nd, 3rd KCCNY Slalom @ Railroad rapids and downriver race
July 14th, 15th
September 1st, 2nd
October 6th, 7th NESS Race, Esopus Slalom

Fish Creek		
Location: Talberg New York.		Type: CF
Class: II-IV	Length: 9.4 miles	Gradient AV: 48'/mile Max: ?'/mile
Gauge: USGS Minimum level: 1.5'		
Low: 2.0'	Medium: 3.0'	High: 4.0'
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1306/		
Phone Line: (315) 449-1208		

Fish Creek may be the finest play river in the northeast. Most paddlers put in below the City of Rome dam and takeout 1/2-mile below the town of Taberg along Blossvale Road

Hudson		
Location: North River New York.		Type: FB
Class: III-IV	Length: 14 miles	Gradient AV: 30'/mile Max: 80'/mile
Gauge: USGS (North Creek) Minimum level: 2.8'/480 cfs		
Low: 3.9' / 1500 cfs	Medium: 5.5' / 3800 cfs	High: 6.3' / 5600 cfs
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1321/		
Phone Line: 518-465-2016		

The gauge is actually in North Creek which is about 5 miles below the take out. 2.8 is actually too low if you miss the bubble from the Indian and can be rather scratchy even if you don't. Once it gets above 5.5 the run is pretty continuous. Above 7 you had better be pretty confident of your ability as the river easily takes control upon the least mistake.

Releases into the Indian River from Abanakee Dam.

April to Mid June- Releases everyday

Mid June to Labor Day- Lower level releases every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday

Labor Day to Columbus Day- Saturday and Sunday only, Columbus day.

Independence		
Location: Glenfield New York.		Type: C
Class: II-V	Length: 2.6 miles	Gradient AV: 85'/mile Max: 100'/mile
Gauge: USGS Minimum level: 4.2' / 200 cfs		
Low: 4.5' / 300 cfs	Medium: 5.3' / 600 cfs	High: ?
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1324/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 361443		

MONGAUP		
Location: Sparrow Bush New York.		Type: CF
Class: II-III	Length: 2.9 miles	Gradient: AV: 53'/mile Max: 60'/mile
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1349/		

2007 Mongaup releases (Tentative)		
Saturday, April 14	Sunday, June 24	Saturday, September 1
Sunday, April 29	Saturday, July 7	Sunday, September 16
Saturday, May 12*	Sunday, July 22	Saturday, September 29
Sunday, May 27	Saturday, August 4	Sunday, October 14
Saturday, June 9	Sunday, August 19	Saturday, October 27

Time 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM

* On May 12, 2007, the release will presumably run, as it has in the past, until 4:00 PM, to allow time for an extra run in conjunction with River Cleanup Day.

Release volumes are not specified; please be aware that while most releases are one turbine (870 cfs), or Class II+, releases in the spring and fall are occasionally two-turbine (1640 cfs) or Class III-III+. Paddlers are encouraged to call Mirant's release line (845-357-5266 ext 141) on the day of the release for information on the release volume. During drought conditions, the Delaware River Basin Commission has the authority to suspend recreational releases, though unscheduled power releases still occur.

Moose (Bottom)		
Location: Fowlersville New York.		Type: CF
Class: V	Length: 5.0 miles	Gradient: AV: 72'/mile Max: 90'/mile
Gauge: USGS (McKeever) Minimum level: 2.5'		
Low: 2.8'	Medium: 3.3'	High: 4.0'
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1352/		

2007 Bottom Moose releases			
Sun. April 15th	Sat. May 12th	Sun. May 27th	Sun. Oct. 14th
Sun April 22nd	Sun. May 13th	Sat. June 2nd	Sat. Oct. 20th
Sun. April 29th	Sat. May 19th	Sun. June 3rd	Sun. Oct. 21st
Sat. May 5th	Sun. May 20th	Sun. Oct. 7th	Sat. Oct. 27th
Sun. May 6th	Sat. May 26th	Sat. Oct. 13th	Sun. Oct. 28th

Moose Festival October 13th and 14th

Releases are from 10 am to 5 pm (sign in required)

As always, be aware that a Bottom Moose release only allows the natural flow of the river to re-enter the streambed. Consequently, a minimum of 2.5' as reported on the McKeever gauge is considered necessary for a release to provide navigable levels.

In addition, when the natural flow exceeds 4.8', a minimum level will spill over the dam at Agers Falls and no release is required.

Paddlers are required to sign-in at the powerhouse on release days. The release will not start until a minimum of three paddlers register. When the river is spilling on non-release days, no sign-ins are required.

Moose (Lower)		
Location: Fowlersville New York.		Type: CF
Class: IV	Length: 9.0 miles	Gradient: AV: 40'/mile Max: 90'/mile
Gauge: USGS Minimum level: 3.4'		
Low: 3.5'	Medium: 4.0'	High: 6.0'
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1351/		

Raquette		
Location: Colton New York.		Type: F
Class: IV-V	Length: 3 miles	Gradient: AV: 7'/mile Max: 7'/mile
Gauge: Colton Dam Minimum level: 600 cfs		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1387/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 365125		

This reach is one of AW's newest success stories.

A full season of whitewater releases have been on the schedule since 2003. Feedback from boaters attending this year's release will help determine future flow levels and release dates.

Full release is scheduled between 10 am-4 pm. Be aware that the water level is raised incrementally starting at 90 cfs—then 180 cfs—then 360 cfs—then the final 720 cfs. This process takes three hours starting at around 7 am so that we'll have full release by 10 am. Similarly, the water will be ramped down over a three-hour period at the end of the day.

If you put on early, be aware the water will be rising behind you.

Boaters are reminded that a sign-in procedure must be followed. It's quick and painless and can be completed while running shuttle. Reliant Energy is being real informal about the sign-in requirement. There will be sign-in sheets mounted on plywood at the put-in. Just sign your name and home town. It is vital to demonstrate use of the resource when lobbying for continued releases on the Racquette and other rivers so don't be a jerk and fail to sign-in.

2007 Raquette releases (Stone Valley section)					
Date	Flow	Time	Date	Flow	Time
Sat., July 21st	720cfs	10am-3pm	Sat, Sep 1st	900 cfs*	2:30pm-4pm*
Sat., Aug 4th	720cfs	10am-3pm	Mon, Sep 3rd	720cfs	10am-3pm
Sat., Aug 18th	720cfs	10am-3pm	Sat, Sep 15th	720cfs	10am-3pm

*720 cfs from 10am to 2:30 pm

Sacandaga		
Location: Hadley New York.		Type: F
Class: II-III	Length: 3 miles	Gradient : AV: 15'/mile Max: '/mile
Gauge: Stewarts Bridge Reservoir Minimum level: 4.8'		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1400/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 365122		

Releases everyday for most of the year usually from 10 am to 5pm approximately 5000 cfs.

Salmon		
Location: Pulaski New York.		Type: F
Class: I-III	Length: 3.9 miles	Gradient : AV: '/mile Max: '/mile
Gauge: USGS Pineville Minimum level: 750 cfs		
AW web page: http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1404/		
Waterline: 1-800-452-1737 site code: 365122		

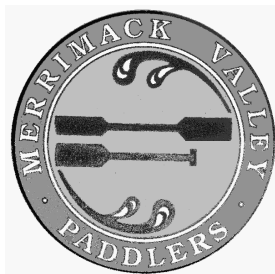
Scheduled 750 cfs releases as follows

February 27, 28

March 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21

July 7, 8, 21, 22

August 4, 5



Disclaimer

All information contained in this guide was acquired from multiple sources and was believed to be accurate as of mid March of 2007. Before heading out to the river check the paddlers message boards and websites for the latest information. Drought, flood, mechanical breakdowns and other unforeseen events can alter, cancel, or postpone any scheduled release. High and low water events caused by weather extremes could change the class ratings of the river. Only use the almanac as a general guide. Every paddler is responsible for his or her own safety and must take responsibility for their own actions. Scout often set up safety and portage if there is any doubt.

All river information, pictures and maps (with one exception) within this guide were produced by the author and retains all copyrights. The one exception is the picture of John and Brenda Emerson on page 75 that was taken by Jean Towns.

Mark Lacroix

2007 Paddling Diary

	DATE	River	Section	Level	Class
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
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20					
21					
22					

2007 Paddling Diary

	DATE	River	Section	Level	Class
23					
24					
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44					

Paddlers to remember 2006

2006/2007 saw the passing of two fellow paddlers and a change of scenery for two others.

Cliff Eisner

On October 28th 2006 Cliff Eisner of North Conway New Hampshire drowned in a tragic accident on the East Branch of the Saco River.

Cliff, age 36, was an experienced boater and a dear friend of many in and out of the paddling community. Those of us who knew him are mourning this great loss. Thanks to those of you who have provided support for his close friends and family.



Cliff was a talented math teacher who was loved by his students at John Stark Regional High School, where he worked for 11 years, and recently at Kennett High School in Conway, NH, where he just began working. Aside from being a patient teacher of math to countless non-mathematicians, Cliff turned many students on to outdoor activities through his leadership of the outing club at John Stark. Cliff led many trips for little or no money, giving freely of his time to all comers. As we receive notes from his former students, it becomes increasingly clear that his passion for the outdoors rubbed off on many of them; it has been a real joy to read about the great impact his outdoor leadership had on their development, in the students' own words. He was one of those teachers that one remembers throughout one's life—patient, caring, humble, funny—perhaps you can think of someone like Cliff from your own past. As the details of Cliff's accident emerge, we will all learn from them about how to become better, more judicious paddlers.

Because of his unwavering love of the outdoors and his tremendous impact on students, a Memorial Fund has been established in his honor at John Stark. The Fund will carry on Cliff's tradition, so many future students can learn in and from the outdoors—as Cliff would have wanted. The aim of the Fund is to establish enough money in an interest-bearing account to pay for the maintenance and upkeep of the outdoor program that Cliff led for so long. It is the hope of his friends and colleagues that we can continue to build this fund year after year and make the outdoor program a sustainable part of the school.

As the details of Cliff's accident emerge, we will all learn from them about how to become better, more judicious paddlers. That is Cliff's contribution to our community in his passing. I am writing this post here on the MVP website to ask the paddling community (you and me) to contribute a little to Cliff's memory, too. Would you consider making a contribution to the John Stark-Cliff Eisner Outdoor Education Fund? Here are a couple suggestions:

- Write a check today.
- Sell a kayak that is taking up space in the garage, and give the proceeds to the fund.
- Sell some other gear and give the proceeds to the fund.
- Sell some gear in the spring and give the proceeds to the fund.
- Look for future fundraising events that are paddling-related, and attend them.

Part of my passion for kayaking stems from the bountiful feeling of community I get from other paddlers. I am committing to making an annual donation to this fund. I hope the paddling community can help keep Cliff's memory alive not only by keeping him in mind when on the river, but by rallying around his memory and contributing whatever you can to the Fund established in his honor.

If you're inclined, you can send donations to:

John Stark-Cliff Eisner Outdoor Education Fund
c/o John Stark Regional High School
Attn: Mike Turmelle
618 N. Stark Highway

John Emerson

1947 to 2007

John L. Emerson passed peacefully from this life into the next at home on February 8, 2006 at 10:30 pm. He was born at the National Homeopathic Hospital in Washington DC on December 12, 1947. He grew up with his loving step father, Burt, who was a Marine serving as a combat photographer in four wars, and his mother Eileen who worked many years at the Pentagon. The "best year of his life" was the junior high school year spent in Gorham, NH with his grandparents. While his heart was in the NH White Mountains, he and his parents traveled the country and to Japan, where he spent his high school years. He joined the Air Force when he graduated from high school and served in Vietnam. John worked for the USPS in Portland, Maine.

He studied geology and cartography at the University of Southern Maine and George Washington University. He loved reading and learning. He rode motorcycles, drove tractor trailers, did carpentry and showed dairy goats, while always enjoying the company of good friends. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed whitewater kayaking, camping, mountain biking, x-country, teli and downhill skiing and snowboarding. John tried everything he could at least once including aikido and rock climbing at White Horse Ledge. John loved animals, learning to play many instruments, and sharing those instruments with friends. He especially loved living on the river and kayaking all over the country with his friends in the Mount Washington Valley Paddlers Club and Merrimack Valley Paddlers Club.



John is loved by his wife and kayak partner, Brenda, his daughter Kathryn Noelle, his stepson Jeremiah, stepdaughter Hannah, his best friend Nancy and many other special and wonderful friends who will miss this kindhearted, loving, and generous soul. His wish for all the people he loved is to "feel the freedom of living, loving and playing hard. This life is short and must be enjoyed daily."

A celebration of John's life and dedication of the "Emerson Put In at Limington Rips" will be held on May 19, 2007.

There will also be a memorial paddle at Northern Waters Campground in Errol and the Dead River on Memorial day weekend.

Donations can be made in lieu of flowers to MWVP to

encourage water safety, river cleanup and river access. www.mtwashingtonvalleypaddlers.org
The only continuity possible in life, is love, growth, fluidity and freedom, as rivers are free, changing with every season, always flowing and creating a better path for itself.

Sunshine and David Livingston

Two other paddlers decided a change of scenery was the best thing to do at this time in their lives. Sunshine and David Livingston pulled up their Goffstown New Hampshire roots and moved to the Caribbean island of Curacao. David is a well known boater always willing to lead paddlers down some of the most challenging waters in the New England region. Sunshine was known as the bubbling personality of the MVP. She was one of the greatest cheerleaders the club has ever had. Always helping out at club events and training countless newbies on her neighborhood river (Piscataquog).



Sunshine Livingston



David Livingston

Club Officers

At this years annual MVP meeting there were several office positions that changed hands.

Nancy Gero who has served as MVP president for several years decided not to run this year and hand over the responsibilities to the newly elected Bill Smith. Nancy has served the club well over the last several years, we thank her for her service and we wish her well. No doubt we will still see her on the rivers of New England.

Peter Banks decided to hang up his treasurer hat after many years of serving in that position. Peter kept the club financially sound throughout his term. Peter also received a lifetime achievement award for his efforts at the New Years day events in Franklin NH.



Nancy Gero



Peter Banks



Waterline

Website: <http://www.h2oline.com/>

Paddlers Phone: 1-800-452-1737

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Just dial toll free 1-800-452-1737. An automated greeting will explain the operation of the system. At the prompt to enter "Site code" use your touchtone phone to enter the 6 digit site code, shown below, for the river you are interested in. An automated message will give the most recent level, (usually in feet), then give you the most recent previous readings from that gage. You are then asked if you want to enter a new site code for another gage.

Go to the related page in the almanac for an interpretation of that level information for the river you are interested in.

Virtual gauges are identified as such. See page 36 for an explanation of virtual gauges and boating levels in general.

Our Mission is to conserve and restore America's whitewater resources and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

None of the work American Whitewater does is possible without your support. It is estimated by the Outdoor Industry of America that over 200,000 people consider themselves whitewater paddlers. We need the support of this community. Join now and support AW's river stewardship work.

The Northeast has been the recipient of much of AW's work over the years. If you paddle the Deerfield, Kennebec, Rapid, Seboomook, Canada Falls, Contoocook, Moose, Magalloway, or many other rivers you have benefited from AW's work whether it is release schedules, dam removals, access issues, or fighting boater fees.

Ongoing projects in the Northeast include the Ausable River in New York and the Winnepesaukee River in New Hampshire.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

\$25.00 Junior (Under the age of 18)

\$25.00 Individual for Affiliate Club Members (**SAVE \$10** if you are also a member of an AW Affiliate Club) (MVP is an affiliated club)

\$35.00 Individual One Year

\$45.00 Family (Immediate family members excluding children over the age of 18)

\$65.00 (2) Year Membership

\$100.00 Ender Club* (Receive AW's annual Ender Club T-Shirt **FREE**)

\$250.00 Platinum Paddler* (Receive AW's exclusive Patagonia Platinum Paddler Hooded Seatshirt **FREE**)

\$750.00 Lifetime Membership (Receive AW's Lifetime Membership Stahlsac Paddlers Duffle **FREE**)

\$1000.00 Legacy Membership (Receive AW's exclusive Kokatat Gore-tex Paclite® Jacket and Pants **FREE**)

*A portion of your contribution may be tax deductible. If you would like information about the tax deductibility of your contribution, please speak with an AW Staff member.

Join online at:

https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Store/?crm=199&rn=328&action=show_detail

Maine			New Hampshire		
River	Site code	Page	River	Site code	Page
Kennebec	231159	40	Ammonoosuc	331114	48
Gulf Hagus (Virtual)	231188	43	Baker (Virtual)	331123	50
Saco (Limington)	231196	46	Bearcamp	335113	50
Vermont			Blackwater	331128	51
River	Site code	page	Contoocook	331145	52
Connecticut	505121	60	Gale (Virtual)	331114	52
White	501184	61	Mad (Virtual)	335114	52
Massachusetts			Mascoma	331154	53
River	Site code	Page	Merrimack	331156	53
Deerfield (Fife)	255123	62	Mohawk	331164	
Deerfield (Dryway)	255122	63	Pemi (East Branch)	335114	55
Millers	255112	64	Pemi (Plymouth)	331172	53
Quaboag	251243	65	Pemi (Upper) (Virtual)	331173	55
Connecticut			Pemi (Woodstock)	331173	56
River	Site code	Page	Piscataquog	331175	56
Natchaug (Virtual)	091114	65	Saco (Virtual)	331112	56
Salmon	091117		Smith	331182	57
New York			Swift (Virtual)	335114	58
River	Site code	Page	Winnepesaukee	331195	60
Black	365121	66			
Independence	361443	67			
Raquette	365125	70			