

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS ON THE 2010 RENDEZVOUS

On behalf of Bruce and myself, I want to thank all of you who helped make this years Rendezvous another success! The weather was great, despite all the dire predictions. Participants from Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Maryland, New York and PA came to test paddle a great variety of canoes. And while the numbers may have been down from last year, what we lacked in quantity was more than made up for in quality. It was a weekend of great paddling opportunities, talks, demos, clinics, conversation and FUN!

There were several highlights. The freestyle demonstrations by Elaine Mravetz and Marc Ornstein were superb. The Dead Fish Polo Demo turned into a long, lively and dangerous game even though we didn't have a proper "fish." (Note to self, watch for ringers.) And the candle light paddle on the lake Saturday night proved to be a great new experience for paddlers and spectators alike. Thank you Bob, for the suggestion!

Special thanks to all the manufacturers who were represented, Colden Canoe, Hemlock Canoe, Placid Boatworks, Dogpaddle Paddles and Zre Paddles. Thanks also to Wind and Water Boatworks, Wooden Canoe Heritage Association and the Freestyle Champions for bringing even more depth and experience to the event.

This year's Speaker's Forum participants provided a wealth of information, from new manufacturing techniques to canoe heritage, paddle design and more. Thanks to Harold Deal and friends (you know who you are,) Joe Moore, Paul Myer, Marc Ornstein and Mark Zalonis for sharing.

Lee Ann's Vegie Pot Luck dinner was the place to be on Friday evening for a fantastic variety of great food! Thanks Lee Ann and let's do it again next year! Having a vendor on hand for breakfast and lunch on Saturday proved beneficial to the paddlers and Community Care Connection, the local charity that reaped the profits. The Saturday evening on-site picnic dinner was surpassed in popularity only by the beer tasting that followed! The ambiance of the lakeside tent only added to the experience.

I personally met such warm, wonderful people and had such a great time that it felt like weekend party!

For those who don't know, our previous sponsors, a local Rotary Club, decided in April that they didn't want to be involved this year, which made us scramble to find someone with the insurance coverage we needed to stage the event. Old friends, Dave and Ruth McQuaid, who own Keystone Sojourns, an adventure travel company, volunteered and saved the day. And they came and paddled with us, too. I also want to thank the Cooper Family, who own Cooper's Lake Campground. They have been extremely supportive of the event from the beginning. We couldn't have done it without the McQuaids and the Coopers!

And for all of you who ordered T-shirts at the Rendezvous – I ordered them today and they should be arriving in your mailbox within two weeks!

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CAME!!!

Becky