

Manistee River Currents

From The Banks At Chippewa Landing



Newsletter #17

(Continued from Roland Neynaber newsletter #16)

My longtime fishing buddy, Rob, his son Robby, and I took our five day four night trip down the Manistee from CCC Bridge to the landing the week leading up to the Fourth of July. We had some rain in the middle of the week but it sure did turn on the fishing for us. We were all picking up fish and in those upper stretches of the river you'll even catch some Brook Trout. The morning of the second day, Rob pulled in a nice hefty 20" Brown Trout. We spent the fourth day at one of the great campsites along the river and in 15 minutes Robby caught two Brown Trout, a 15" and a 16". (All released) On Friday Rob and Robby drove home with some great fishing stories and I stayed at Chippewa Landing for the Fourth of July.

There were a couple of groups new to Chippewa Landing that I met along the river on the Fourth. If you are new and planning for a group outing at Chippewa Landing, feel free to copy the invitation that I've use for several years attached below. Customize it for your own needs then e mail it out. Surely you can be a little more creative than me so pop in your own photos, use some kind of nifty font, set your date, and organize your meals (Who is bringing the watermelon?) . This will at least give you a blueprint to start from. In the meantime, I hope to see you on the river. Roland Neynaber

Join us for a great time on the Manistee River on the weekend of -----

Contact: Your Name, Phone Number, and E Mail Address

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

Great wooded camp site with room for plenty for tents or small trailers. Come up Friday, or earlier if you wish, and camp Friday night and Saturday night.

WHAT TO BRING

- Lawn chair
- Sunscreen
- Tent and associated camping accessories.
- Water shoes for walking in the river (Chippewa has them in the store for \$15 women's, \$12 for men's)
- Towel for river
- Toilet paper for the river trip, trust me on this!
- Hat with brim, sunglasses that won't fall off (Polarized are Best)
- Bring a REAL lunch and snacks for on the river.
- A warm sunny day can really dehydrate you out on the river. Bring something to drink other than just alcohol...sport drinks, soda, water...
- Bring something for dinner, there will be a cooking fire. You can coordinate menus with others. If desired, bring a grill, camp stove, Dutch oven..., OK to be creative!
- Dry bags for river items and/or large Zip Lock bags.
- Cooler (Not Styrofoam) for the river.
- Bringing a camera on the river? Put it in a zip lock AND dry bag.

Chippewa Landing provides a great campsite, picnic tables, small shelter/pavilion, clean pit toilets and a small store (I am having a cord of spilt firewood delivered). Those that rent canoes, kayaks or rafts are supplied with paddles, floatation cushions, and children or any others who wish are provided with life vests.

HELPFUL HINTS

- The standard one day river trip is from Missaukee Bridge. Chippewa Landing will drive you and your gear up river and drop you off with canoes, kayaks, or rafts. You will paddle down river, back to your campsite at Chippewa Landing.
- The trip is listed as 3.5 hours. If you get in the river and paddle slowly but steadily, never pause, never stop, never pull over for whatever, you will finish in 3.5 hours. But...you will actually be on the river for much longer, at least 6 or 7 hours. Plan on it accordingly with food and drink
- Chippewa Landing rents back rests for canoes at \$5.00. Trust me, a back rest is well worth the money. Nobody who has rented a backrest once has gone down the river again without one!

- Rafts tend to be much slower than canoes and kayaks. As such, rafts generally take a shorter trip, leaving at Chase Creek for a "2 hour trip" that will actually last a good 4 hours.
- Fishing. There are Rainbow and Brown Trout in the river. Also some Walleye and occasionally Pike. You need an "All Species" fishing license

FEES

- Canoes \$40.00 all day, \$30.00 each additional day
- Kayaks \$30.00 all day, \$25.00 each additional day
- Rafts (Can seat 4-6) \$95.00 all day
- Back rests \$5.00 all day
- Private boat haul \$20.00
- Camping/person/night \$5.00

Newsletter #16

Summer is really here now and Chippewa Landing is in full swing. Your host and owner, Rick Walsh, is busy with the livery and has asked me to give you all an update from The Landing. The weather was just perfect this past Fathers Day weekend and most of the campsites were filled up. I woke up Saturday morning from the Shady Corner campsite up to sunshine and temperatures that got up to the mid to upper seventies. Bill Schnitker, longtime member of the dock crew and a favorite driver at Chippewa drove my party up to Missaukee Bridge for the standard day trip. The river was up about 4" above normal for this time of year, pretty clear, and wild purple Iris were blooming all along the banks. I fished much of the day, picking up four small trout before a big one hit my lure just about fifteen minutes upstream from Chippewa Landing. Caught me by surprise and ripped out a bunch of line before I got it under control. Rolling near the surface I could see that I had a nice bronze colored Brown Trout pushing 20". I got it right up to the canoe before it flipped off the line and laughed as it swam away. But hey, I've got lots of stories about the ones that got away. Bill's son, Abe, got himself a 17" Brown the same day on the same stretch of river. All in all, a wonderful day to out on the Manistee.

It was good to see a couple of scout troops last weekend. Bill and I are Eagle Scouts and always enjoy the opportunity to host troops at Chippewa Landing. Troop 90 was camped in the Top Corner site and had a good group of new youngsters going down the river. With the experience gained from this trip, it would be nice to see them camping along the river next year.

Five Troops from Indiana met at Chippewa Landing where they were shuttled up river then made a long 65 mile trip from CCC Bridge to Chippewa Landing. Only a well organized group could complete that journey like they did in just two days.

They spent a couple extra days at The Landing working on several projects for the campground including building Wood Duck houses, constructing a dock for the Island campsite (see pic), and carving an impressive totem pole that will be erected in the future. I attended a portion of their last campfire Friday night and was moved by the stories and lessons imparted there. The Roll Call of the brave boys from Company B and C is a campfire experience that I will not soon forget. Thank you from me and all of the Chippewa Landing Staff for reminding us of all the best that Scouting has to offer.

I'll be back at Chippewa Landing next week for my annual five day four night trip from CCC Bridge with my buddy Rob and his son Robbie. Robbie is twenty now and has been making this trip with us since he was eight. We paddle at a leisurely pace for four days and spend an extra day at one of the nice campsites. Canoe camping is one of my favorite pastimes. The Manistee River has vast stretches of state land for you to camp on. Did you ever take that day trip from Rainbow Jim or Missaukee Bridges and wish you could spend more time on the river? I often turn those into two day trips by carrying my gear in the canoe and camping at a half way point. You can have a prime riverside campsite all to yourself like the one below. It gives me the time to drift slowly, fish, stop often, and have a nice shore lunch. You can explore sections of the river that very few canoeists ever see. It is not uncommon at all for us to spot eagles, deer, beavers and other wildlife along these stretches. Once, drifting quietly down from Sharon Bridge, I rounded a bend and suddenly came upon a Bald Eagle standing on the riverbank no more than thirty feet from my canoe. I held my breathe as it slowly took flight. What a sight! I've never taken a group canoe camping down the river that hasn't come back to do it again. More details on canoe camping in another newsletter. Hope to See You on the River, Roland Neynaber

Chippewa Landing

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