

Manistee River Currents

From The Banks At Chippewa Landing



Newsletter #28

Looking back on the summer of 2010 it will be remembered for the long distances people traveled to get to Chippewa Landing. We had our usual Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania groups. And added this year was New York, Virginia, Arizona, Florida, California, Colorado, North Carolina, and Billericay in the United Kingdom. That's right, from across the big pond, and I'm not talking Lake Michigan. We picked up Mark (from New York) and Stewart (from United Kingdom) at the Traverse City airport, stopped for some groceries and some secret fishing lures, and took them right to the river. They really enjoyed the remoteness with no portages the Manistee River had to offer. But I think the camping and camaraderie at Chippewa Landing was also the highlight of their trip.

Ben and his fishing buddy traveled all the way from Virginia to experience the remote fall fishing downstream from US-131 in the special extended fishing season section. After driving all day and late into the night they arrived at Chippewa Landing, set up camp, and launched the next morning with no time schedule in mind. After four days I received a phone call from a "red Iron trestle bridge" that a couple of guys needed to be picked up. What a great fall adventure they had on the Manistee River.

It was also good to see Sally and her good friend enjoying the river at a slower pace for her last trip of the season. She actually stopped a few times and just enjoyed relaxing on the bank of the river this time down. Remember (fast) Sally it is not a race.

Two Scout groups from southern Michigan had some great weather to enjoy their fall weekend camping trips this year. We saw one group earlier in the spring and the other group stayed with us a few years back. It's wonderful to get recognized by the Scouts for a great camping and canoeing destination.

The four kayakers with their own kayaks launched from Sharon Bridge for a three day trip, and in spite of the windy conditions had a great time. They were very experienced with overnight trips down other rivers from all around the county, but this was their first time down the Manistee River. I'm always amazed at all the equipment you can pack in kayaks. They had just finished a trip down the Mississippi and informed me that with mile markers along the way on that river it was easy to tell where you were at. No such thing on the Manistee. Afterwards they told me I was right, the river sells itself as one of the best for extended multiple day trips. Thanks guys and gals for the beautiful pictures of the river in the fall colors you sent me.

November 12, 13, 14 saw the last customers of the season at Chippewa Landing. And it was fitting that it was our long time friend Dave and his wife Cara from River Journeys that ended the season with a three day trip. Dave has a service called River Journeys (www.riverjourneys.org) that helps people enjoy the Manistee River that would like a guided trip down the river. They have been guiding for many years and have some great campsites picked out. They have all the top notch equipment you need and do some fantastic cooking in Dutch ovens. They can help with a complete guided trip or any variation you would like. And nobody is better company, or knows more about the Manistee River than Dave and Cara. They were with Red and Rex this time for their first trip down the river. They saw eagles, ravens, deer, muskrats, and very few people. They made a great video of their trip that you can see at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5RC1GN_vZk

We are looking forward to the 2011 season and have already started getting the campgrounds ready. We had a very strong windstorm in October which knocked down some trees and even blew a canoe into the river. Unfortunately for Anna and the Kellogg group no "marked" trees fell to help them get their campers into the Wooded Pavilion Campsite. We've already cleaned most of the debris up, and also improved the road through the pine camps. I'm sure Mark and Consuelo won't miss all the pot holes on their way to their favorite camp – South Pines.

Although many of our long time customers, and a few new ones, already have their campsites reserved for the 2011 season it's always nice to see when the first reservation gets phoned in for the upcoming season. Two years ago the first phone call making a reservation was January 1st. Last year it was between Christmas and the New Year. This year it was November 30th thanks to Wendy for calling early and reserving the "White Pine Camp" at the Oak Grove campground for the 2011 season. So get your friends involved early and give me a call so we can get a weekend reserved for you.

Chippewa Landing

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