

Upper Delaware Cruise  
Pond Eddy to Port Jervis  
Sunday, September 26, 2010  
**Please note date change**

The trip will be from Pond Eddy, NY to Port Jervis, NY on Sunday, 9/26/2010. This is a trip of about eight miles; although we could shorten the trip by about two miles and leave more play time for the more interesting parts. We will enjoy three significant class I rapids and a spectacular view of the Hawks Nest canyon. There will also be an opportunity to spend a few minutes to see the ruins of an old D&H canal lock.

There will be a **launch fee of about five dollars.**

Because the Delaware is such a wide river most hazards and heavy waves can be avoided safely with a little bit of river reading skill.

As soon as we put in at about mile 264 we will need to ferry toward river right to avoid some rocks. About ½ mile later we will enter Staircase rapids at about mile 263.3; this has couple of class I+ drops that are about .2 miles apart. At the first drop, the main channel is on river left and allows for some play time below the drop. This often makes a good lunch stop.

About mile 261.5 we start through the slow but rocky approach to Mongaup rapids. The Mongaup rapids itself is formed by a ledge on river right with a clear channel filled with standing waves somewhat to the right of river center. If power is being generated the Mongaup River complicates things further by entering from river left about ½ way down the drop. There are several good sized eddies on both sides of the river for bailing. Most boats make the drop in fine shape, but many do take on water from the high waves.

We plan a stop for bailing snacking and sightseeing at the sandy beach on river left just below the action. We will have an opportunity to view the ruins of an old canal lock at this stop.

After our break we will move through a large pool that leads us into Butlers Rift a place where the water pretty much runs down hill on a gradual 1/3 mile slope that carries your boat close to the left shore as the river bends right. Keep well away from either bank and you will enjoy some two foot waves on most days.

At the bottom of Butlers you enter into the mile long canyon at the foot of the Hawks Nest. This is a spectacular sight. As we reach the end of the pool the river necks down at Cherry Island and leads to another ¼ mile of active rapids called Mill Rift. Follow the standing waves through the center or left of center to avoid the rock filled right side. As you near the railroad bridge you need to move well to the right. After passing the bridge continue about 100 yards before turning left and stopping at the stony beach for another break, or for our optional take-out at mile 258.3.

Just past the bridge we will pass a series of pretty cliffs on river right. They continue for a mile or two and lead us to an abandoned eel weir that extends almost all the way from river left, leaving only a very narrow channel right under the cliffs. A few more minor rapids and some flat water lead to the take out on river right around mile 256.

Click below for photos of the summer 2009 trip on this section.

<http://picasaweb.google.com/kanoer/090719DelawareTrip#>

Click below for a Park Service river map

<http://www.nps.gov/pwr/customcf/apps/maps/showmap.cfm?alphacode=upde&parkname=Upper%20Delaware%20Scenic%20and%20Recreational%20River>

Contact [kanoer@gmail.com](mailto:kanoer@gmail.com) for details and directions. We might even see the start of foliage color.

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