

Voyageurs Trip Report June 21 – 24, 2018

By Sue Lamoureux



Trip Participants:

Tom O'Neal, Linda Pascoe – trip leaders; Rob Alexander, Pat Elliot, Sue Lamoureux, Peter Lindell, Tom Quinn, Bob Stark.

Fashion Report: 2 Tilly hats, 2 Bucket hats, 2 Baseball hats, 2 matching Sunwester hats



We knew it would be a great trip because June 21st was Summer Solstice.

Weather was warm – mostly low 80's, bit of rain one evening, water temp 65. Bumper crop of mosquitoes. Bug nets or even mosquito jackets would have been an aid for those trips to the “toilette of the deep woods”.



Day 1: Launched at Ash River Visitor Center before noon and paddled 7 miles to campsite 43 on Kubel Island in Lake Namakan. We did fit 7 tents on 4 tent pads but it was a tight fit for some. We toasted the Solstice at twilight with mead provided by Tom O. We learned from Tom O. that there are 3 different twilights - Civil, Nautical and Astronomical. Unsure which one we toasted. He made an offering to the lake which must be credited for our good weather.



Day 2: Early morning discovery by Rob – a dragonfly larvae had crawled out of the lake and we watched it emerge – see pictures. It really was a once-in-a-lifetime observation. We delayed our launch until the dragonfly was hanging on tree bark to continue drying. A good omen for our day paddle to the Kettle Falls Hotel. Hotel was built in 1910. Distance 6.5 miles each way. Enjoyed walleye, beer, pie and ice cream for lunch. Warm, sunny weather. Barely a breeze to keep us cool while paddling. None of the paddlers decided to emigrate into Canada which was on one side of our route. No doubt some considered the option.



Day 3: Again day was warm, sunny for our day paddle to Junction Bay. Enjoyed playing in the foam & spray from the falls. Paddled past an active eagle's nest. We determined there was no passage from Junction Bay to Net Lake. Only a buggy hiking path. Distance paddled 12 miles. A bit of evening rain. Bob wet his fishing rod but no luck.



Day 4: Sunny, and a rare east wind at our backs as we paddled back to our launch site at Ash River! It made for a very quick and fun paddle.

AWARDS

Rob - Dual award. Marco Polo Award for participant from the farthest distance away (Illinois) and Naturalist Award for finding the larva of the dragonfly

Bob - Anglers Award for fishing (Linda was a no show [again] in this area)

Pat - Calvin Klein Award for fashionable mosquito protection

Peter - Ben Lawry Award for leading the paddler pack much of the time because he wanted to!

Sue – The You Go Girl Award for enduring hordes of mosquitoes at the pit toilet, unable to utilize methods frequented by the (sympathetic) menfolk, & coming up with an alternative that only Linda knows.

Linda - Alice Waters Award for her homemade granola bars (yum yum)

Tom O - Another Dual award. For supplying mead to toast the Solstice, the coveted Falstaff Award and for a successful wood tick extraction on Sue's back requiring a tweezers and a small band aid, the Kildare Award.

Tom Q - for sharing his Chocolate Cherry Brownies, the Pope Francis Award.

A good trip was had by all!