

Leader Canoe Trip September 22-24 – Debrief

The eight leaders who participated in this year's excursion down the Kiamika certainly discovered how wonderful it is to get warm and dry after having been cold and wet. Not only did the weather prove a bit of a challenge but 2 crews decided to try the new art of submarine canoeing as they sank gracefully beneath the waves of the last heavy rapids. Veteran canoeist Mike Yellenik blames neophyte Heather Reid who reportedly made him steer into the big waves. Barb Webster was heard to exclaim that hanging onto the gunwales while being swept downriver was one occasion on which it was allowable to do the unthinkable and "gunwale grab". We figured she was overreacting somewhat to the epithet of "GG" she inherited after her demonstration of gunwale grabbing tendencies in the wild water of the fish dam.

Despite the not too clement weather a good time was had by all and everyone learnt something new. For instance Ken "Mr Clean" Kroeger discovered that his jeep can be safely taken far from home, Heather Reid was entranced with the functionality of the Trangia stove, "Baby" Bob Cox found out that Alison was after all human, while Alison learnt the art of changing gear with the accelerator. Young Venturer Advisor James Papp, who was unable to paddle owing to a shoulder problem, confirmed his suspicion that most of the more "mature" leaders in our Area are completely crazy. And he wasn't even there as they laughed themselves silly while trying to paddle canoes underwater. Then we all discovered why Mike Yellenik was banned from several places owing to behaviour most unbecoming to a Scout and observed that Patrick Hureau can comfortably squat for an incredibly long time while eating breakfast.

Our thanks once again to Les Wilcox who ferried canoes to the put-in point for us, hiding them cunningly in the woods. Les also provided firewood, which was just as well as the chopping skills of certain young Venturer Advisors were reportedly a tad lacking. Pyro Jason Robillard did however do a more than sterling job of keeping a roaring blaze going on Saturday night.

Next year we hope that even more leaders will come to experience the Kiamiaka – meanwhile keep your paddle in the water.

Alison Bentley, AAC Outdoors.