

Terradise to Cincinnati Expedition

State Route 32 Bridge to State Route 348 Bridge

Scioto River

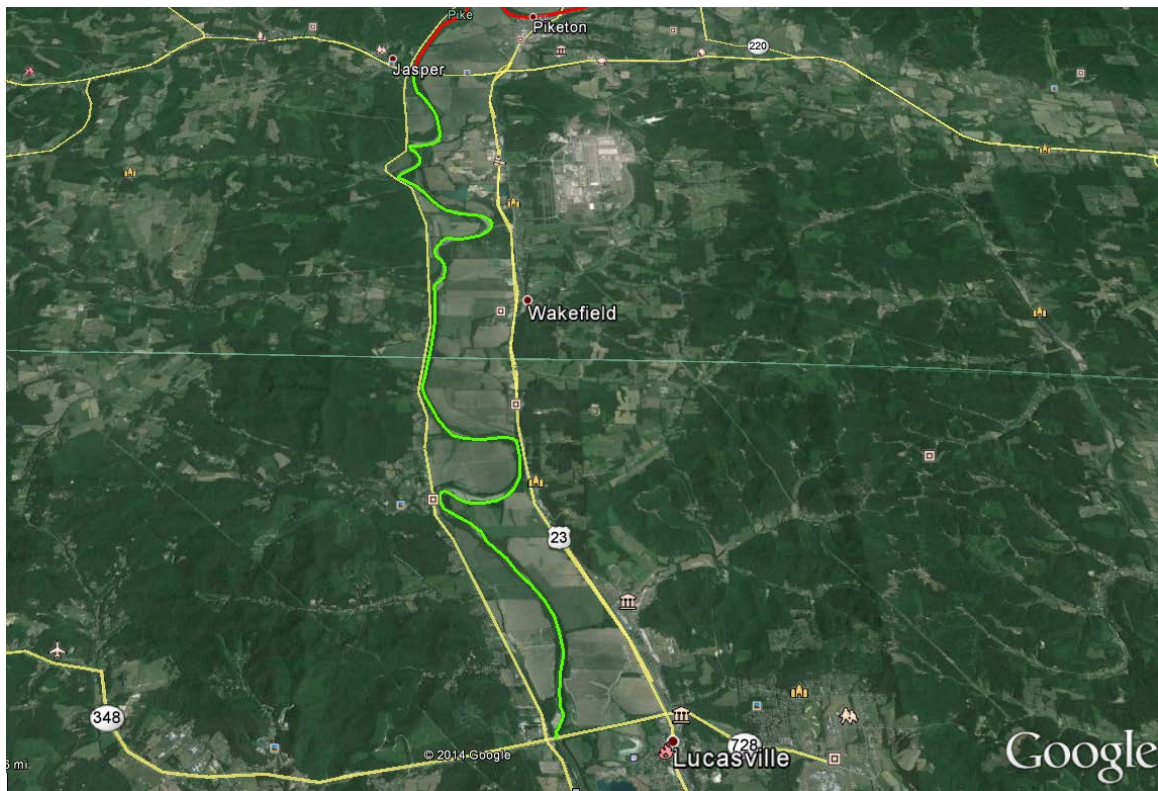
September 20, 2014

9:35 AM to 3:45 PM 15.7 miles

David, Josh and Jed Haldeman

Preface

Last week (September 13, 2014) we thought we might make it to the Ohio River on this leg. We didn't! We thought we could do 30 miles, since we did 21 last week. But with schedules being what they were, we decided to do half of that and save the last leg for another day.



1- Today's route



Jed joined us for this leg, so that meant he could paddle with Josh in the canoe, and I could be back in my Ocean Kayak. Lego (Josh's dog) came along again.

Josh and I left at about 6:15 AM from Cincinnati for the 90 mile trip out Route 32 – and after pit stops at McDonald's and a great rest area near the intersection of Routes 32 and 124, we arrived at the designated rendezvous at the park and ride next to the Route 32 Scioto River Bridge.



2- Sunrise on State Route 32 just west of the Scioto River



3The Scioto River Bridge on State Route 32

We had asked Jed to try to find a “noodle” (foam flotation device used in swimming) at Walmart in Chillicothe, but they were out of stock. The noodle would have made a nice knee protector for the paddler in the front of the canoe, as the edges of the boat tend to cut into the knees from that seat. That caused a small delay in his arrival. Josh and I scouted an alternate spot to put-in, but it proved too steep without any “beach” to board from. So Josh and I unloaded the canoe and the ocean kayak (sit-on-top kind), and slid them down the trail to the launch site under the bridge. Jed soon arrived, and he and I

took his car down to the take-out point at the State Route 348 bridge. That is a 12 mile drive down Route 104. We found a great take-out just below that bridge, and parked the empty truck in the small pull-off just to the northwest of the bridge.

We then headed back in Jed's car, and found Josh had prepared the canoe and the kayak for departure.



4- Loading the canoe at State Route 32 bridge

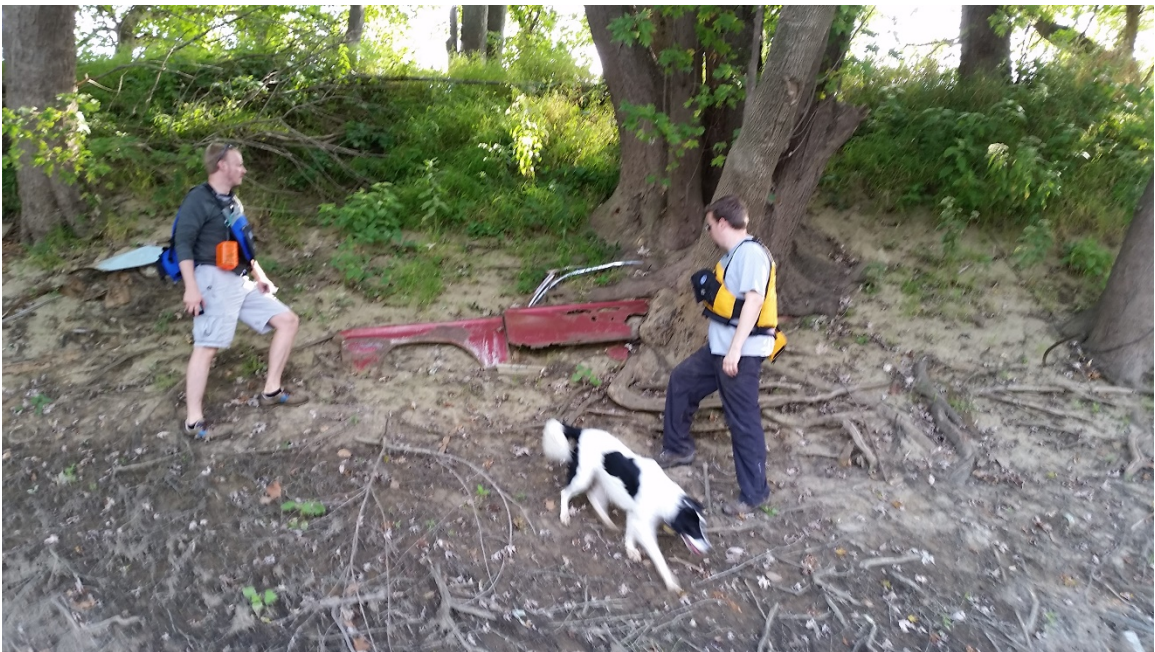


5- Away at 9:15 AM



6- The calm in the morning (Josh Haldeman photo)

This trip proved to be largely uneventful. However, at our first pit stop for Lego (She eyed every gravel bar with the call of nature), Josh spotted this:



7 - Junk cars don't just go away...

Notice that the tree is actually growing OUT of the car. Soon, we found other cars of similar age – none newer than the 1950s. With the Portsmouth Atomic Energy Commission Gaseous Diffusion plant¹ just across the valley from this, the boys thought of all kinds of exotic stories to cook up about why these cars were here... Use your imagination.

A little further down the river, the first bend brought the usual high cut bank, exposing the gravel below and silt above, complete with the bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) nests:



8 - Scioto Valley Strata



9- Josh and Jed navigating the horrendous rapids (!)

State Route 104 parallels the west side of the wide Scioto valley, while US 23 traverses the east side. The river snakes its way down the valley, wandering from one side to the other, and increasing the straight line distance by about 4 miles. The curves are actually a welcome break from the occasional 2-3 mile stretches of straight or maddeningly slightly

¹ The gray area at the upper right on the map on the first page now undergoing shutdown.

curved reaches. On the curves, the current picks up, and dodging dead trees left from past floods presents a small challenge that makes the trip a little more interesting. The previous picture shows the Ohio Department of Highways' solution to the river's natural way of extending the meanders. Hitting the massive pile of rip-rap, the river reacts by increasing the sharpness of the bend, in this case to more than 90 degrees:



10- Man-made river bend (see previous picture for river level view)



11- Josh gives the Ocean Kayak a try

We eventually decided to have some lunch. Josh brought peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and apples, Jed added cauliflower and carrots with a nice hot dip, and I

contributed oatmeal chews and cranberry raisins. Lego ate a little of each, along with half her dish of food.



12- Lunch on the river

Jed took a turn in the kayak, outpacing Josh and I, since we spent most the time yawning and resting after lunch! We finally caught up with him, and I took back the kayak for the last 6 miles or so.

At last the State Route 348 bridge came into view, and we beached just above the bridge at 3:45 PM. Josh and Jed brought the canoe up the hill as I fought with my wet feet and dry socks.



13- Josh and Jed and their new hat.

Jed brought the kayak up with little help from me, and we secured both boats onto the truck, and Josh squeezed into the tiny compartment behind the seats and we drove back the 12 miles on the road in about 12 minutes, compared to the 6 hours on the river. We dropped Jed off and he headed back to Columbus, while Josh and I decided to go on down to the mouth of the Scioto and the Ohio River to scout the take out for the next leg.



14- The goal for next time - The OhioRiver!

We decided to follow the river back to Cincinnati, along US Rt 52, which conveniently took us through Ripley, Ohio with its quaint riverfront row houses and a great little soda shop Rockin' Robins. Catfish, Bogart Burger and root beer floats to go. After all, we needed some calories after the trek today!

Next time: Ohio River for sure!