

Terradise to Cincinnati Expedition

St. Rt. 762 Bridge to Circleville – Scioto River

August 30, 2009

2:30 PM – 7:30 PM

15.47 miles, 5 hours

Has it been TWO years since my last segment? Yes, and this trip is way overdue! I have been busy building a brick wall at home, and needed a good excuse to get back to the Terradise-Cincinnati Jr. River Patrol Expedition.

The excuse arrived in the form of a playing job at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pickerington, Ohio on August 30. Our Jambalaya Jazz Band plays a Dixieland service for various churches, and since I was going to be in the area anyways, it seemed like a good day to put another segment of the river behind me.

About a year ago, I purchased an aluminum canoe at a yard sale for \$200, and invited Josh and Sarah (my two oldest children) to join me in boat. Josh, his dog Ellie and I gave it a shakedown on Saturday, August 29 on the Little Miami River from Bass Island to Beechmont Avenue and it performed beautifully.

On Sunday morning August 30, 2009, I left at 6:30 AM for Pickerington and arrived just as Drew Cremisio and the rest of the band arrived at Epiphany Lutheran Church, played two services and changed my clothes for the river. Then I made a quick stop at Meijer to purchase some deck shoes on sale for two dollars (too big, size 11, but such a deal!) I arrived at the starting location at Route 762 at about 1:15 PM. Josh and his dog Ellie were there and had scouted the river access location which was a gravel road leading directly down to the water. Two years ago when I left this area I had not known this natural resources area was here and had to drag the canoe up the other side of the river up a steep bank.



Sarah arrived about 10 minutes later and we took the canoe and kayak down to the river's edge and then locked them up together. We then took Sarah's car and Josh's car down to the US Route 22 Bridge at Circleville. We left the truck and Sarah's car, got in Josh's Saturn Vue and headed back up US Route 23 and State Route 762. We loaded up the canoes with all of our gear and got on the river about 2:30 PM.



According to the USGS River gauge website the river had been up about 6 feet the day before but was now back down to only about 1 foot above normal, which was ideal for paddling as it gave us a little bit of current. What started out as a overcast cold morning with temperatures in the low 50s soon warmed in the 60s with partly cloudy cumulus clouds and a gorgeous day. After about an hour and a half and 5.91 river miles, we crossed the state Route 316 Bridge and the river straightened out a little bit.

We saw lots of swallows or swifts surfing the river for water bugs. I saw few turtles and finally saw a great blue Heron. We eventually saw 3 herons together. I tended to stay a little bit ahead of Sarah and Josh, and managed to scare up an eagle, who then spent the next few minutes soaring higher and higher. I then saw either the female eagle or an Osprey:





We stopped at the mouth of Cook's Creek (9.14 miles) just below the Cook's Creek Golf Club and had a little lunch. We were back on the river within 15 minutes and after about another hour and a half passed the bridge on Commercial Point Road at mile 13.2, which is being re-constructed. About 30 minutes later we passed the mouth of the big Darby Creek at mile 14.5. One more bend and we reached the take-out point just above this US Route 22 Bridge, 15.47 river miles below St. Rt. 762. We loaded the truck back up with both the kayak and the canoe by tying the kayak to the canoe and then placing the canoe upside down on the rear of the truck rack.



I headed back to Cincinnati with a beautiful cold evening sunset along Route 22 toward Washington Court House and Sarah took Josh back up to pick up his Saturn Vue. I arrived home about 9:30 PM, ready to do another segment as soon as possible.