

Chupacabra Canoe

August Blogs

River Rankings Part III

JStroke adds the 3rd river to his on going list.

Susquehanna and Clarion Trip Archive

How to Take a Crap in the Woods - Video

Another video example from Firestick and JStroke

Social Media Outlets

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New blogs every Sunday and Wednesday on the official Chupacabra website!



Chupacabra Quick Facts

- The Chupacabra were founded in 2012 with 17 members
- The Chupacabra myth hails from the Americas'. Chupacabra means goat sucker and was first sighted in 1995 in the depths of Puerto Rico
- The first logo for Chupacabra canoe and most recognizable one, was created by founding member Milkman
- The first river to experience the Chupacabra's was the Allegheny river, which is 325 miles long
- Chupacabra Canoe has a decade of river conquering underneath their belt

Success on the River

Captain Canoe

Since my dad's 70th birthday, every summer the men of my family plus the rare breed deemed manly enough to join us, have been packing up and heading out on a multi-day canoe trips to enjoy the great outdoors, the peacefulness of a river, and camaraderie in the wilderness. Over the last decade of trips, I have gained some insight into making these excursions a success. I have been tested on more than one river with plenty of failures and some success. For this blog, I have taken some lessons I've learned and boiled them down to three key elements: Gear – Food – and Fun. Today I want to talk about why these keys are important and provide some helpful tips so you too can one day enjoy your own successful canoe trip.



Gear. Why is gear important? Whether it's an overnighter or a week-long excursion, having the right gear ensures that you can enjoy your time in the wilderness while minimizing the amount of worry and hassle. You must have a quality sleeping quarters, whether it is a tent or a hammock, having protection from the elements like bugs, cold and rain, is a top priority. I have tried several different tents, from sharing a 4-man, to hand me downs with holes in them, to my own brand-new tents. For maximum benefit make sure your tent is light, but sturdy. It should have a detachable rain fly and windows with screens that can open and close to control ventilation. A tarp is definitely a good idea to protect against extreme rain. A sleeping bag or several warm blankets along with a sleeping pad will give you a peaceful night's rest. From my own experience I do not recommend relying on the warmth of rocks by the fire. Important to remember, even during the summer, temperatures at night can dip into the 50's and 60's, which is a stark contrast to the daytime temperatures and therefore can feel very cold. Having the right sleeping bag can provide you with the warmth you need to rest comfortably throughout the night. And, not knowing what the river area camp sites are like means you may find yourself making camp on hard rocks or dirt so relying on a sleeping pad is important for restful and rejuvenating sleep. The last thing you need is to wake up with a stiff back and then spend all day cramped in a canoe.



You will also need a quality cooler or two. I recommend a soft sided cooler for each day's beer and food allotment, and then a hard-sided cooler to hold dry ice. You'll need the dry ice to recharge your ice for the soft-sided cooler and keep any frozen food frozen. Lastly, you will definitely want dry bags to hold your clothing, tents and sleeping bags. Even in calm rivers, water still finds its way into the bottom of the canoe and will easily drench anything not properly sealed. If you flip, or if you don't flip but somehow magically take on so much water your canoe is actually under water you will find you and your gear floating or sinking in the river. If your gear is not properly sealed in a dry bag it will be soaking wet, much like yourself. Don't forget, the drybag is only as effective as the person closing it, be sure you take the time to seal it properly.

Food. You will need nourishment throughout the day. If the river is fast flowing, you will have very little paddling to do and expend minimal energy. However, if the river is slow you will be paddling a majority of the time and will need nourishment to replenish your spent calories. For breakfast, something fast and easy, granola bars and coffee at camp. There is nothing quite like scalding hot campfire coffee and granola to get things moving in the early morning. Not wanting to feel I need a nap during the day, I refrain from eating a midday meal, instead rely on snacking and beer to keep my energy up. Homemade beef jerky is a delicious low-cost snack that provides sustained energy and is fun to make and does not need to be kept cold. I like to supplement my jerky with Apples- they are easy to carry, don't require refrigeration and are a nice contrast to the beef jerky. In between these two foods, I munch on sunflower seeds. Again, another source of protein, and being out in the wilderness, you don't need to worry about where to spit the shells. For dinner, a simple can of black beans warmed over the fire with some cut up andouille sausage and fresh onion is a perfect soul refreshing meal at the end of a long day of paddling and fun on the river. Although, I admit our meals have gotten much more lavish over the years as we have gotten more proficient in our packing and refrigeration. Last, we cannot, nay, must not forget hydration. Even the smartest people on paper can forget the importance of drinking water. Consider preceding each beer with a bottle of water to prevent dehydration. If you must, take out the frozen bottle of water you used as ice and let it defrost for some nice refreshing hydration. If it's raining and cold, a few nips of Bourbon keeps the soul warm and the body ready to take on the next task.



Fun. We spend quite a few hours on the river paddling each day and it's important to enjoy that time. Cigars are a must, with no women allowed, there is no one complaining about the smell, or nagging you on what number beer it is at 11 am. In fact, few things are as enticing as smelling cigar smoke after you finished breakfast, picked up your campsite, packed your canoe and are ready to hit the river. Don't forget the famous Chupacabra bloody mary's, a must have (check back later for a tutorial). When everyone is ready for a break, the flotilla is a great way to spend time together and float down the river. Consider packing a disc for tossing at camp and a tennis ball or football for throwing at each other on the river. If your lucky enough to camp for two nights at a spot, then axe throwing, or canoe races are some fun ways to pass the time. Of course, some of the rivers are moving quite fast and trying to swim to the other side becomes a sport all its own. If you travel the Southfork of the Cumberland, there is not much that compares to jumping off the huge rocks into the water below. There are hikes to do, and there are those who choose to sit by the campfire all day, a little bit for everyone. For me, the most fun is the challenges of a tough river we were able to conquer and the stories we are able to share throughout the rest of the year. In my opinion, the greater the challenge, the better.



So, remember to invest in quality gear, make sure you have plenty of nourishment and have fun.

-Capt. Canoe – Chief Paddling Evangelist

Chupe Approved Gear

Stanley Cook Set



"Squeeze and boom"

-Captain Canoe

SealLine Dry Bag



"Lots of room in there"

-Captain Canoe

Ammo Box



"It is Awesome!"

-Captain Canoe

All Chupacabra approved gear can be found on Amazon. Check out all the gear reviews on ChupacabraCanoe.com

Ask a Canoeist

Email any question you have for a chance to be featured in next months edition.

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Words of Wisdom From the Chupes

"Leave only footprints and feces"

- Chupe

"Don't Mention the Auxiliary!"

- Everyone

"There is no can't...only canoe"

- J Stroke [Paluski]

"Never argue with an idiot. They'll just bring you down to their level and beat you with experience"

- Seacow

Want to Win Your Own Official Chupacabra Decal?

Invite 5, yes only 5, friends to join the Chupacabra news letter and you can win your very own Chupacabra decal!

WE WANT YOU!



Send in any questions you have about us, the Chupes, and we might just answer your question in the next issue of the Chupacabra Newsletter!

Email us the five members you brought to the newsletter to lock in your decal!



NEXT MONTH

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