

NH AMC Paddlers Whitewater Rating Card 2011

Arrangement for Rating must be made with trip leader prior to the trip.
Complete Rating Requirements found at www.nhamcpaddlers.com

Paddler: _____

Circle One: **II III IV** Paddler has demonstrated skills for boat & level

Circle One: **OC1 OC2 K1 K1-inflatable K1-Sitontop C1 C2 Raft**

Trip 1: Leader: _____

River: _____ Section: _____

Class: _____ Gauge(Level): _____ Date: _____

Rater's Name Printed: _____

Rater's Signature: _____

Trip 2: Leader: _____

River: _____ Section: _____

Class: _____ Gauge(Level): _____ Date: _____

Rater's Name Printed: _____

Rater's Signature: _____

Trip 3: Leader: _____

River: _____ Section: _____

Class: _____ Gauge(Level): _____ Date: _____

Rater's Name Printed: _____

Rater's Signature: _____

Trip 4: Leader: _____

River: _____ Section: _____

Class: _____ Gauge(Level): _____ Date: _____

Rater's Name Printed: _____

Rater's Signature: _____

When complete, Cut to Post Card size and

Mail to rating card to address found at www.nhamcpaddlers.com .

Experience Required for Class II Rating

Participate in the Spring White Water School and then complete 2 additional Class II river trips on 2 or more different Class II Rivers and acquire 2 different signatures on a NH AMC Paddlers Ratings Card for the trips as they are completed.

If not attending the Spring White Water School complete 3 Class II river trips on 2 different Class II Rivers and acquire 3 different signatures.

Class II Ratings Card Requirement

1. "Rater" must be a rated NH AMC Paddler
2. After making a copy for their records, the paddler sends the Ratings Card to the Ratings Chair

Class II trips may have some Class III rapids

The Six River Classifications:

Class I: Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. Few obstructions, all obvious and easily missed with little training. Risk to swimmers is slight, self-rescue is easy.

Class II: Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting. Occasional maneuvering may be required, but rocks and medium-sized waves are easily missed by trained paddlers.

Class III: Rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and which can swamp an open canoe. Complex maneuvers in fast current and good boat control in tight passages or around ledges are often required; large waves or strainers may be present but are easily avoided. Strong eddies and powerful current effects can be found, particularly on large-volume rivers. Scouting is advisable for inexperienced parties. Injuries while swimming are rare; self-rescue is usually possible but group assistance may be required to avoid long swims.

Class IV: Intense, powerful but predictable rapids requiring precise boat handling in turbulent water. Depending on the character of the river, it may feature large, unavoidable waves and holes or constricted passages demanding fast maneuvers under pressure. A fast, reliable eddy turn may be needed to initiate maneuvers, scout rapids or rest. Rapids may require 'must' moves above dangerous hazards. Scouting is necessary the first time down. Risk of injury to swimmers is moderate to high and water conditions may make self-rescue difficult. Group assistance for rescue is often essential but requires practiced skills. A strong Eskimo roll is highly recommended.

Class V: Extremely long, obstructed or very violent rapids which expose a paddler to above average endangerment. Drops may contain large, unavoidable waves and holes and ...

Class VI: One grade more difficult than Class V. These runs often exemplify the extremes of difficulty, unpredictability and danger. The consequences of ...

Some References:

<http://www.nhamcpaddlers.org/>

<http://amc-nh.org/index.php>

<http://www.outdoors.org/chapters/index.cfm>

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/state-summary/state/NH/>

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt>

AMC River Guides

Classic Northeastern Whitewater Guide - The Best Whitewater Runs in New England and New York- Novice to Expert, by Bruce Lessels. ISBN-1878239635

1.1 Receiving a Class II rating from the NH AMC Paddlers Rating Committee

Skills Required for Rating

Class II - Intermediate

1. Can pick out and negotiate a course through Class II rapids
2. Can assess immediate problems.
3. Can effectively, though not expertly, perform the following strokes as required.

Draw Forward Sweep
Crossdraw Reverse Sweep
Forward Stroke Back Stroke

4. Can ferry left and right.
5. Can back ferry left and right.
6. Can stop the forward motion of the canoe in current
7. Can perform eddy turns and peel outs.
8. Knows and uses proper procedures and safety principles:
 - A) Keep the boat in back in sight.
 - B) Maintains position between the lead and sweep boats
 - C) River Signals
 - D) Proper wearing of life jackets and vests.
 - E) Does not try to stand in current.
9. Knows what to do in the event of a capsize
10. Is acquainted with Whitewater reading
11. Knows the effects of current on the boat and can recognize strainers, rocks, eddies and standing waves.
12. Can effectively run Class II water.

Class II River Examples:

Middle Ashuelot

Middle Souhegan

Lower Otter Brook

Sugar

Pemigewasset (N. Woodstock)