

Sacandaga River - Stewart Bridge Reservoir to Hudson River

Geographic Location

This 4.5km section of the Sacandaga river is located about 30km southwest of Lake George, NY. It begins below the Stewart Bridge Dam at Lake Lutzerne and ends where the Sacandaga joins the Hudson.

Topographic Maps (USGS 15 Minute)

Lake Lutzerne, NY Quadrangle

Suggested Water Levels

This section is dam-controlled by the Reliant Energy's Stewart Bridge Dam, Lake Lutzerne, NY. In 2002, water was released from the dam 7 days a week, from 7AM to 4PM. This daily release generally keeps water level between 5.0 and 5.8 ft, or 4000 cfs. One may get good idea of the prevailing flow pattern by looking at recent water data from

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ny/nwis/uv/?site_no=01325000

The flow forecasts are also available from

<http://www.h2oline.com>.

Although the forecasts are made only 4 days in advance, there seems to be some stability in the flow patterns.

According to the AWA webpage for this section (<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1400>):

- Min. suggested level: 4.8 ft
- Max. suggested level: 7.0 ft

Wilderness

Although this river runs through a civilized area, the shores have remained unsettled and the scenery mostly wild.

Difficulty

At a level of 5.4, this section is accessible to most paddlers. Beginners should be accompanied by more experienced paddlers however. Advanced paddlers will find a few good play spots making for a fun and relaxing day.

Access (from north)

- Highway 87 south, exit 21.
- 9N south for 16km (10mi) to Lake Lutzerne.
- At Lake Lutzerne, turn west on School Street at a 4-way intersection with a gas station.
- School Street soon turns 90 degrees to the right. Immediately after, turn left on Bridge Street, and cross the bridge over the Hudson, which is fairly narrow at this point.
- After the bridge, turn left, and navigate among the streets until you get to a kayak store close to the river. This is the take-out, with a parking lot.

Sacandaga Outdoor Center

1 Whitewater Way

Hadley, NY 12835

1-888-696-5710, 1-518-696-5710

Shuttle

- Backtrack to Bridge Street.
- Turn left on Bridge Street (which is also County Road 4.)
- At 4.3km from the bridge, turn left at a "Y" intersection, on County Road 7.
- Drive 0.3km on County Road 7, after which you will come to a "T" intersection. On your immediate right is the parking lot where you will leave your car after unloading.
- Turn left, and continue for 200m where you will see an opening in the fence to your left (right under the power line) with a "whitewater access" sign. Unload your car, then go back to the parking lot next to the "T" intersection.

Shuttle:

5 km

Alternate take-out and shuttle

An alternate take-out is available:

- On 9N, drive to a Golf Club located immediately south of the bridge over the Hudson.
- Take one of the 2 streets right in front of the golf course.
- Drive about 1.6km, where there is a parking lot on the right, and a dirt road sometimes closed by a blue gate. This road is in fair condition and in 300m leads to an open area where a take-out is possible.

Shuttle:

- Backtrack up the dirt road.
- Turn right on Dean Mountain Road.
- At the "T" intersection, turn right on Mt Anthony Road.
- At the "Y" intersection, keep to your right.
- Drive over the Stewart Bridge Dam.
- The carry trail to the put-in is located 600m passed the dam, right under the power line.

Description

- A 400m carry to the put-in begins on County Road 7, right under the power line, where there is an opening in the fence that surrounds Reliant Energy's land, and a sign indicating the whitewater access. All other accesses have been closed, either by fences or by signs, that forbid whitewater access.
- Paddlers should sign-in in registration book, located a few meters to the shore.
- The put-in is made in a quiet zone, where paddlers can warm-up.
- The first rapid is class II. When the pillars of a former bridge are in sight, taking the right side and crossing fair-sized standing waves leads to an eddy on the right shore from where you can access some surfing waves. This is the most fun, and almost the only, play spot on this section, so it is worth spending some time there.
- Class II continues up to the pillars.
- Quiet section of a couple km.
- Soon after passing under a pulley cable, there is a right bend where the last rapid begins. From tiny waves, it builds up progressively into a class II rapid. Just before a left bend, where there is a fenced grassy land on the right bank, the rapid enters a short section of class III, which lasts up to the confluence with the Hudson.
- The take-out is made on a concrete landing on the left bank at the confluence. Above, there is a kayak store (Sacandaga Outdoor Center) and a parking lot. They provide shuttle at 11, 1, and 3, for a fee of 2\$, or for 4\$ for a paddler with a boat. Paddlers are advised to confirm this schedule at the kayak shop before relying on the shuttle availability.
- Upstream (left) on the Hudson, there is a bridge under which the river is very deep. A "Tarzan" rope and high ledges allow for jumping into the river. Be sure to probe the river bottom properly before jumping off the cliffs. Also check the condition of the rope before using it. Then...try it at your own risk and peril!
- Downstream (right) on the Hudson, there is another take out on a beach surrounded by large trees.

Production - Distribution

Survey

Charles Leduc

Date: October 12th, 2002

Flow : 5.4 ft, 4100 cfs

Base Map

Topozone, <http://www.topozone.com>

Mapwork/Text

Charles Leduc

Contributors

Carrie Wallace: revision and corrections.

Olivier Tardif: revision and corrections.

Distribution

Authorized, provided the content remains unchanged and the distribution is done free of charge. Available from www.cartespleinair.org.

Disclaimer

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Sacandaga River
Stewart Bridge Dam to Hudson River
Map 1 of 1

