



ARKANSAS CANOE CLUB

P.O. Box 1843

LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203

WWW.ARKANSASCANOECLUB.COM

This is the Arkansas Canoe Club Message Board. It is owned, operated, and maintained by the Arkansas Canoe Club to foster and promote the interest of those individuals who find recreation and relaxation in paddling canoes, kayaks, rafts, and other similar personal powered water craft; for companionship in group activities, and to exchange information of special interest to all phases of paddling; and to act together toward the preservation of the wilderness character of our waterways by advancing public relationships with governmental agencies and the public in general.

The ACC was not formed for financial gain, and doesn't distribute income or profit to its members. We do cooperate with other similar organizations to support paddling, the preservation and improvement of natural waterways and water safety.

This is an open board; anyone may read the posts in the General forum without the need to register. If you want to post, we require you to register. We encourage, but do not require, that you show your name and the location where you live. This may be shown in your profile or signature, or by alternate methods such as use of the Signature Block or a link to your own website. If you prefer to remain anonymous, we respect that decision, but we still encourage you to at least show the place where you live, or at least a general location (e.g., "NW Arkansas") because this will help other posters provide the best possible responses to any questions you may ask. You do not have to be a member of the Arkansas Canoe Club to post, so readers should remember that opinions expressed may or may not be shared by the general membership. We encourage non-members to register and participate in our discussions.



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A complete listing of what is, and is not allowed, would be difficult to assemble and harder to read. The guiding principle is that discussions which are “positive” in nature will generally be allowed, while discussions which take on a negative tone will often be moderated or deleted entirely. You should also remember that it is our assumption that family members of all ages may be visiting our board. The same behavior that would be welcome at our campfire, or in our home, will be welcome here.

The following is only a partial list intended to give a few examples; if your post or thread is edited or deleted and you wish to challenge that action, please be prepared to justify that the post was “positive” in nature. Pointing out that none of these specific examples fits your case exactly will not be considered as a sufficient basis for reinstating the edited/deleted post or for counseling the moderator that such deletion should not have occurred.

With the above in mind, here are some examples of what is, and is not, allowed on this board:

1) Users who decide to repeatedly violate these guidelines may be suspended. Moderator's judgment applies here. Length of suspension will typically be for only a short “cooling off” period, but may be longer depending on specific circumstances. Any suspension more than 48 hours will be discussed among available board members and moderators to insure actions are fair and consistent. We do not believe that anyone should be “banned for life” and welcome any previously banned posters to consider rejoining our discussions, if they are willing to follow these guidelines. If you love the rivers, we want you back.

2) Do not post any abusive, obscene, vulgar, slanderous, hateful, threatening, sexually-orientated or any other material that may give even the casual visitor to this board a perception of the Arkansas Canoe Club that is contrary to our goals and purposes. We ask that posters consider things like nudity, bad language, or music that some might find offensive when posting links to other paddling related information such as paddling videos, but we also caution parents that we have decided that in the majority of cases it is not possible or desirable for us to monitor or attempt to censor linked material for “age appropriateness” or some other standard on which many of us might disagree. Parents who are concerned about what their children might see or read on the internet need to maintain a cautious oversight role; we do not have the time or inclination to set the standards for what is or is not allowed on linked sites.



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3) No trolling! Don't make posts that are inflammatory just to get people riled up.

4) Ad hominem and personal attacks are not permitted. Criticize the ideas, not the people. An ad hominem attack is a logical fallacy describing the attempt to discredit an argument by merely attacking the credibility of the arguer. Flaming will not be tolerated. "You are wrong" is not a personal attack; "You wrong because you are an idiot", probably. Name-calling in the absence of content will likely be assessed as a violation of this rule.

5) If someone posts something that offends you don't attack them with another post. That only fuels the fire. Please notify a moderator or club officer of why you find the post offensive; if your concern is readily apparent to others and the post is in violation of these guidelines, the post will be deleted.

6) Don't post gripes about your thread getting deleted on the board because they will be deleted as well. If you want to talk about why the thread was deleted email a club officer or another moderator. We won't comment on the board.

7) In general, criticism of businesses will not be allowed. We do not have the resources to insure a fair presentation of both sides of the issue; therefore such issues should be resolved directly with the business owner or by other means. Conversely, positive recommendations or reports of services which exceeded expectations or were considered at or above "the norm", would be allowed. The PM feature may be used if you wish to report a negative experience to an individual poster who has asked a question.

8) Negative or potentially insulting posts directed at government or private agencies (or their employees), elected politicians, other clubs, and other groups that we work and cooperate with will generally not be allowed. The ACC believes that the best chances of influencing the future direction of an individual or an agency come with maintaining a respectful and professional tone in all interactions and discussions. Questions and debates must show proper respect at all times and at all levels or the posts will be deleted.



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9) Concerns about businesses, agencies, or individuals who may be damaging the environment will generally be allowed, but posters should exercise caution to stick to the facts. “The smelly discharge is coming from a pipe that appears to be on Company XYZ’s property” would be allowed. “Company XYZ knows they are violating EPA discharge limits and doesn’t care” would not be allowed. “Company XYZ is violating EPA discharge limits” might be allowed, if supported by information such as a published newspaper article, EPA notice of violation, or some similar corroborating evidence.

10) Interference with ACC events, meetings, and functions is not allowed on the message board. If you have an issue with the club, come to the meetings and discuss it with club officers or contact us by phone or email. You can find us here ([link to board of directors page](#)). This is not the place to either air dirty laundry or to harass the Club.

11) We believe that some items of Club business are still best conducted in person or by more direct methods such as phone conversations and even e-mail. Some of our club members do not monitor or participate in message board discussions while many non-members do, and history has taught us that internet flame wars can quickly erupt and leave permanent damage to once-positive relationships. Readers should understand that for these reasons, discussions about some potentially controversial items of Club business will be moderated or even deleted. This should NOT be taken to mean that the same comments or opinions would be unwelcome at Club meetings. We are not trying to prevent the Club from going in new directions, but we will not allow a discussion which is divisive on a forum that is more than 50% non-members.

12) As the number of people coming to this message board increases, more and more are people searching for help, information, and paddling friends. Many are completely unaware of the deadly hazards presented by the rivers and streams we play on. Be very careful when giving advice. Please answer questions along the lines of “Can I do such and such” with an explanation of the conditions or maybe the equipment and skill needed, but leave the actual decision of “do” or “not do” to the individual.