FLOATING PINE CREEK

Pine Creek Gorge offers the whitewater enthusiast a real challenge during high water conditions. In normal years, this would be in April and early May. Scenery along this route is rugged and unspoiled. CAUTION: A single paddler should not attempt this stretch alone. The only access to Pine Creek between Tidaback and Blackwell is from the railroad grade.

Please help us maintain the natural character of Pine Creek. Our state laws prohibit littering but many people still litter our stream sides. Help keep Pine Creek litter free, pack out a bag of trash. Remember the natural beauty that you have seen, leave it unspoiled for those who follow in your wake.

Be considerate of fishermen you encounter. Where possible, pass behind them. Otherwise, allow them at least a berth of stream between you.

Always obtain the landowner’s permission. Cold water can numb the extremities and limit reflexes almost immediately. Should you plunge into cold water, you may not have the opportunity or the ability to put on a PFD. PFDs should always be WORN when boating in cold water.

SAFETY AND THE LAW

Pine Creek, from Ansonia to Blackwell, is classified as Class III water with frequent rapids and swift flowing water. Creek conditions can also be determined from the gauge on the Route 6 bridge. Good canoeing conditions exist when the gauge reads 2 feet and greater indicate hazardous conditions. The minimum “no scraping” water depths for Pine Creek are:

- Ansonia to Blackwell - 3.0 feet
- Callahan Hill to Waterville - 2.8 feet
- Blackwell to Cammal - 3.0 feet
- Cammal to Waterville - 2.8 feet
- Waterville to Route 220 - 2.5 feet

These readings are part of a 1972 fixed and may change on a year-to-year basis. During high water large waves capable of swamping open boats may develop at a number of locations.

Pennsylvania law requires that all vessels (not just motor boats) have on board a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) for each person.

Boats less than 16 feet in length and canoes and kayaks of any length can satisfy legal requirements by carrying one approved wearable device (Type I, II, III) or throwable (Type IV) device for each person on board.

Boats 16 feet and larger must have one approved wearable device (Type III or II) on board for each person and in addition one throwable device (Type IV) must be on board. (For canoes and kayaks see above.)

COLD WATER BOATING

COLD WATER KILLS! Few people realize the danger involved in a sudden plunge into cold water.

Due to hypothermia, life expectancy in 33° to 40° (0° to 5°C) water may be as short as 15 minutes even when wearing a personal flotation device. Cold water can numb the extremities and limit reflexes almost immediately. Should you plunge into cold water, you may not have the opportunity or the ability to put on a PFD.

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