Facts and Questions
AMC Boston Paddlers – Boot Camp - 2017

Q. **Ability Level - what should mine be to be in this course?**
   A. 1. You should be in at least your second consecutive season of whitewater kayaking.
        2. You kayaked at least 10 days last season and 8 days this season prior to the course.
        3. You have had successful combat rolls (even if not 100% - you've definitely had at least a couple that worked in combat).
        4. You have kayaked in Class III water before - this will not be your first Class III experience.

Q. **How difficult will the rapids be in this course?**
   A. They will be Class II-III rapids. The second day of the course will be 17 miles of Class III rapids. We will show you good ways to run them, but you need to have some "mileage" in your boat before you get to the course.

Q. **What rivers?**
   A. Assuming appropriate levels, the course will be held on the Kennebec East Outlet, and the Dead. An alternate selection is the Carry Brook section of the Kennebec.

Q. **I've only done Fife Brook - am I ready?**
   A. No.

Q. **I also did the Pemi at Bristol - am I ready?**
   A. You're getting warmer.

Q. **I also did the Class III section of the West.**
   A. Warmer.

Q. **I've gone every single weekend, paddling both days, for 12 AMC trips last season, and 10 this season, and 4 of the trips were on Class III rivers.**
   A. You sound like you would benefit from this course.

Q. **How about me? I went on 5 trips last season on Fife Brook, and I've done the Class II section of the West.**
   A. You really need to get some more Class III mileage first - Zoar Gap alone is not enough to get you ready, especially if you go straight through it.
Q. Isn't the Intermediate Kayak Course the "next step" after completing the Beginner Class?
A. Plan to go on another 10-20 river trips, and then apply. The Intermediate Kayak Course is not an "Advanced Beginner Course." It is designed to improve the skills of someone already paddling Class III water. So, if you have just taken the Beginner Class or even if you took it last year, but didn't paddle much after completing it, you should get some more mileage under your belt before taking this course.

Q. Do I really need to be in "excellent" physical condition?
A. We will be doing very long days of very hard work. We are not going to just run through rapids - we are going to "do" rapids multiple times. We are going to do (no exaggeration here) hundreds of ferries and eddy turns at each rapid. If you are in great shape, you will get a huge benefit from doing this - if you are in marginal shape, you won't be willing to do what we ask of you, and so you should let someone else have your space in the course.

Q. Do I really need to have a roll? I never flip.
A. Yes. Absolutely. You will be reluctant to do the things that we ask you to do if you are afraid that it will result in a swim.

Q. Do I really need to have all my own equipment?
A. Yes. And it should be equipment that is in good working order and that you are familiar with. This allows us to concentrate on developing your paddling skills rather than repairing or adjusting equipment. This includes 2 working bow and 2 working stern air bags!

Q. How much does it cost?
A. Tuition is $75 for AMC Members, $100 for Non-Members. If you are not a member of the AMC, you should consider joining. Members will have preference. Additional fees: ~$100 for camping, shuttle fees ($20 per person & kayak for the Dead River), printing and other leader expenses. Students split the total of these costs.

Q. What about food?
A. Plan to bring your own food and drink for on the river. We plan to do group meals at camp (meal costs will be shared between all participants) or go to a restaurant. We'll decide that later on.

Q. How much are the instructors paid?
A. The instructors are all AMC Boston Paddler volunteers.

Q. Where will we stay?
A. We will camp together at the Three Rivers Whitewater Rafting base in The Forks, Maine; a place with hot showers, a bar, and a restaurant. This location is about 58 miles north on Route 201, from exit 36 on Route 95.
Q. Can I bring my girlfriend/boyfriend/husband/wife/kids/parents/dog?
A. No, unless they are in the course (except the dog) - it gets to be too many people and extra logistics and responsibilities. If you need to be with them, you should do that instead.

Q. Could I stay somewhere else with them, instead of staying with the class?
A. Again, it adds an unnecessary extra element to planning, meeting times, etc., so if you want to spend the two days with them, you should really do that instead.

Q. Is it OK if I miss Saturday or Sunday? (I have to go to a wedding / shower / graduation, etc., but I really want to do the course too.)
A. No. It's all or nothing. Other people want your spot, and the course is a progression. If you can't be there for the whole course, please don't apply this year.

Q. Will I get a Class III Rating from this course.
A. No. We will not give ratings for the course. There is no test. There are no grades. There is no passing or failing - just come, work, learn, have fun.

Q. It looks like this is the course for me! How do I apply?
A. You need to apply by mail. Enclose:
   • The completed application
   • A check for $75 ($100 non-AMC member) for Instruction Fees, payable to "AMC Paddler Committee", and
   • A check for $100 for camping/shuttle/etc payable to "Jeff Pacuska" to the address listed on the application.
   • Deposits will be refunded if you are not accepted otherwise, refunds (less the PayPal processing fee, if applicable) only if you cancel more than 10 days in advance and we can fill your spot.
   • Be sure that you apply before the application deadline!

Q. Is there a phone number where I can ask more questions?
A. No phone calls please.

Q. What if I have more questions?
A. Send an e-mail to whitewater@amcbostonpaddlers.org