

TERMINOLOGY

These are some of the ratings worked out by Seth Gibson and his crew of Keewaydin paddlers on a 1989 trip down the George River in northern Québec.

THE WATER

EV Eau vive: lively water (as differentiated from dead water). This indicates that there is a notable downstream flow of current, which, if left alone, will get you to your destination without paddling. It may take a while, but it's easy.

FC Fort courant: strong current. This is more than EV. It means that you will certainly get to your destination without paddling, maybe sooner. If a head wind blows your hat off, forget about paddling upstream to get it. The *courant* may, in fact, be very *fort*, and have standing waves of two feet or so. No rocks allowed, however.

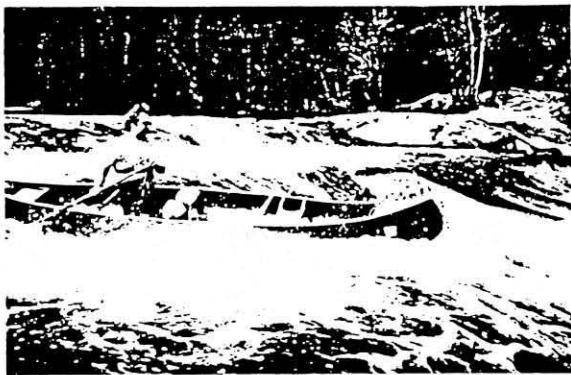
R I Similar to EV and FC, only more so. Often with a few rocks added for a little excitement. No need to worry about running these, unless the river has dropped a foot since the river was rated, in which case you're probably in a rock garden, now.

R II These are now real rapids, probably with rocks, both large and small, and some standing waves. If the R II is quite long, in the wilderness, and in water colder than 50 F, it's often referred to as R III.

R III Be cautious. This means Charlie's really sweating it off to get Jeff through. Bonzo back-ferry time! Lotsa rocks, maybe some of those 3-4 ft standing waves (is there a rock under that one?). Planning ahead is certainly required; swimming frowned upon. These are the real things, and must be treated with respect.

R IV Rocky IV, a movie all the trippers have seen. Certainly not something you'd want to shoot with these little open canoes, right?

R V Recreation Vehicle, something we all wished for on Helen's Falls Portage.



THE WIND

W 0 Dead calm. Happens only on hot, sunny days, during long portages through muskeg.

W I A light zephyr blowing in your face, to keep you cool on warm days, and blow the bugs away. If it's a tail wind, it will allow the bugs to fly along with you, and munch on you at will.

W II A bit stronger wind, annoying as a head wind,

requiring extra effort, and defeating the benefits of cooling and mosquito control.

W III A real pain in the face; it can blow you upstream in an R III rapids, fling wave tops onto the bowman's lap, and generally slow you up. As a tail gale, a W III is almost more dangerous: a large wave coming from behind may flow



over the gunwale into the sternman's but, or even cause the canoe to broach. This often leads to total bailing.

W IV Forget it! Wave tops get blown into your face, canoes are blown over, and loose gear gets whipped away. And that's before you even try to launch the canoes.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTS

Wallywallywack Keewaydin Wilderness term for Kangiqsualujjuaq.

Kangiqsualujjuaq Inuit name for Port Nouveau.

Port Nouveau Québécois name for George River

George River A small Inuit settlement at the mouth of the George River on Ungava Bay. Population about 390.

Coff Pottee The first thing that is put on the stove in the morning, similar to the tot of pea which appears in the afternoons.

Tot of pea #10 can hung over the fire on cold afternoons (or even hot ones), the contents of which can be used to make a number of different hot drinks.

Revolta Ryvita Crackers. When covered with PB&J, they can be used for lunch. After the PB&J is licked off, they can then be reused for almost anything, preferably not another lunch.

PB&J Peanut Butter and Jelly, or for that matter, anything we can spread on our bread or crackers for lunch. They help tremendously with the Revolta.

ATM Appalachian Trail Mix. Brown rice, lentils, and barley. This really sticks to your ribs, your shirt, and the cooking pot.

...eh? A comprehensive expression used by Jeff to be sure we understood what he said was Canadian. For example: Watch out for the rock there, eh?

Holy Jumpin'!! This could mean a number of things, depending on the emphasis, circumstances, or person saying it. The expression is attributed to the early natives of St. Agathe des Monts and is very difficult to translate into American. Charlie says one loose translation might be: "My goodness, look at that R IV up ahead, eh?"