

HOOKED ON THE OUTDOORS

By Mike Johnson

I personally am not one to necessarily believe in all that astrology stuff, but I do find myself a few times a week giving a quick glance and read of my daily horoscope. I guess I do it for entertainment purposes mainly...but I guess one never knows for sure. One curious thing though is my astrological sign is Aquarius, and the sign for Aquarius is the water carrier. Throughout my whole life I have felt the most peace whenever near, on, or in water...hey there just might be something to this astrology stuff after all. If you are a fellow Aquarian, or perhaps someone who just loves the water too, it's hard to beat the area we live in, and the aquatic options available to us.

A great way to spend the day, or perhaps a few hours, is canoeing down the Dan River, less than an easy hour's drive from most of us. We first ventured on the Dan River on canoes a few years ago, and just recently returned to see if it could be as much fun as the first time...and it was.

Your day gets started by registering at the office, paying for your canoe rental, and getting outfitted with the necessities like life vests and paddles. The big decision you will need to make is if you to do the 6 mile run (which takes about 3 hours to complete), or the 13 mile run (which takes about 5 hours to complete). I recommend that "first timers" opt for the 6 mile run; not that canoeing is overly strenuous, but just to make sure it is your "cup of tea". At the appointed time, all soon to be canoers are summoned to an old school bus that let's just say "has a lot of character". The bus transports everyone to their assigned entry point on the river. Before you are "set loose" on the river, you are given a brief safety overview, and the latest update on the river conditions. I suggest listen carefully, as the river can take on a different personality each and every day based on the weather conditions the day before.

Canoeing down the river is a very peaceful thing. Outside of the gentle rush of the water or the occasional babbling of a small rapid...there are no noises along your traverse down the river. Canoes are a strictly sit in and paddle type of boat, stand up in a canoe you will fall out of the canoe, and you will get wet. Even if you don't plan on standing up, wearing "clothes you don't mind getting wet" is always a good idea when canoeing. It's also a good idea to bring along some water to get yourself hydrated, and while you are at it pack a lunch so you can pull over on a sand bar along the way and take a break. I personally never head out for an aquatic adventure without my waterproof camera and of course fishing rod (there is some fierce fighting smallmouth bass to be had), and if you can swing it both these items can only add to your river (ad) venture.

With the onset of Fall upon us, there is no better time to canoe down the Dan River. The weather will be cool and invigorating, and the blaze of colors along your tree lined trip down the river

will simply be amazing. I know we are planning a trip back “down the Dan” before canoeing shuts down for the season on November 1st. For more information about canoeing the Dan River you can check out: www.danrivercompany.com

That’s it for now; hope to see you on the Dan and as always...Tight Lines!!!!