

Cliff Eisner 1970 - 2006

Last Updated Sunday, 17 December 2006

As you are probably aware, the paddling community lost a member when Cliff Eisner died in a tragic kayaking accident on the East Branch Saco river on 10/28/06.

Cliff, age 36, was an experienced boater and a dear friend of mine and many others in and out of the paddling community. Those of us who knew him are mourning this great loss. Thanks to those of you who have provided support for his close friends and family.

Cliff was a talented math teacher who was loved by his students at John Stark Regional High School, where he worked for 11 years, and recently at Kennett High School in Conway, NH, where he just began working. Aside from being a patient teacher of math to countless non-mathematicians, Cliff turned many students on to outdoor activities through his leadership of the outing club at John Stark. Cliff led many trips for little or no money, giving freely of his time to all comers. As we receive notes from his former students, it becomes increasingly clear that his passion for the outdoors rubbed off on many of them; it has been a real joy to read about the great impact his outdoor leadership had on their development, in the students' own words. He was one of those teachers that one remembers throughout one's life—patient, caring, humble, funny—perhaps you can think of someone like Cliff from your own past.

Because of his unwavering love of the outdoors and his tremendous impact on students, a Memorial Fund has been established in his honor at John Stark. The Fund will carry on Cliff's tradition, so many future students can learn in and from the outdoors—as Cliff would have wanted. The aim of the Fund is to establish enough money in an interest-bearing account to pay for the maintenance and upkeep of the outdoor program that Cliff led for so long. It is the hope of his friends and colleagues that we can continue to build this fund year after year and make the outdoor program a sustainable part of the school.

As the details of Cliff's accident emerge, we will all learn from them about how to become better, more judicious paddlers. That is Cliff's contribution to our community in his passing. I am writing this post here on the MVP website to ask the paddling community (you and me) to contribute a little to Cliff's memory, too. Would you consider making a contribution to the John Stark-Cliff Eisner Outdoor Education Fund? Here are a couple suggestions:

- Write a check today.
- Sell a kayak that is taking up space in the garage, and give the proceeds to the fund.
- Sell some other gear and give the proceeds to the fund.
- Sell some gear in the spring and give the proceeds to the fund.
- Look for future fundraising events that are paddling-related, and attend them.

Part of my passion for kayaking stems from the bountiful feeling of community I get from other paddlers. I am committing to making an annual donation to this fund. I hope the paddling community can help keep Cliff's memory alive not only by keeping him in mind when on the river, but by rallying around his memory and contributing whatever you can to the Fund established in his honor.

If you're inclined, you can send donations to:

John Stark-Cliff Eisner Outdoor Education Fund
c/o John Stark Regional High School
Attn: Mike Turmelle
618 N. Stark Highway
Weare, NH 03281

You can email me if you have any questions. Thanks for your consideration.

With regards,

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