

June 10 Trip Report HBYC Kayak Trip Little Manatee River, Wimauma Florida.

10 paddlers participated in our paddle in the Little Manatee River. Everyone had single kayaks.

We met Saturday morning in Hudson at the Beacon Woods Café before we drove to the Canoe Outpost in Wimauma for the launch. Bill Elliot was kind enough to transport some kayaks in his trailer. We all signed up for the shuttle service from the canoe outpost. The cost was \$13 per kayak and included them carrying our Kayaks to the water and holding them as we entered from their dock.

We then paddled to the private pick-up point in the Little Manatee River about 2 hours downstream. My GPS said the paddle was about 4 and ½ miles. The first part of the river was narrow with some current. The river widened and had less current as we paddled downstream. It was almost perfect weather.

We saw birds, turtles and some manatees! No alligators were sighted on this paddle. The paddle was easy although we had to navigate around a few trees in the river.

We had to wait briefly at the pickup point because there was a group of 9 paddlers ahead of us. However, the Canoe Outpost sent another bus and transported the boats and us to the launch site.

After getting the boats loaded on cars, we drove to the ***Los Amigos*** restaurant in Ruskin for a late lunch. The service was okay (they were a little disorganized) but the food was very good.

Mitch Lairmore

Kayak Director