

Rivers of Newfoundland Database

Region:	River:	NTS Sheet:	UTM Type:	Zone:
Burin Peninsula	March Brook	1 M16	NAD27	21

River Description:

A nirvana of runnable waterfalls. Beware of the traipse through eternal hell to reach these gorgeous waterfalls.

Difficulty Rating: Hardest Rapid: Flow Information:

V

VI

When Piper's Hole River is cranking in the spring, up over 75 on its gauge, than this brook is likely low - medium. Perfect!

River Levels:

How to get there:

Put-in	Northing:	Easting:
	5315958	702819
Starting at the Piper's Hole River parking lot, a partial change in the parking lot is required before the 3.8 km forced march to the put-in. March Brook is the first major brook that crosses the old rail bed. Our team bush crashed (1.2 km) up the western side of the brook and scouted on the way up. There is a trail several hundred meters before the crossing that possibly goes to the pond that the brook originates in. This is probably easier hiking than the bush crash.		
Take-out	Northing:	Easting:
	5311920	703612
March Brook is a tributary of Piper's Hole River. The take-out is where the river flows under the old highway bridge. The normal take-out for Piper's Hole.		

Gradient:

Section:	Max
Distance:	1.30 km
Elevation Loss:	69.0 m 226 ft
Gradient:	53 m/km 281 fpm

Detailed Description of the River

First descent: (March of 2002) Kevin England dared the freezing temperatures (-7C) and was observed by Stephen Arns and Chris Buchanan.

March Brook is a beautiful set of waterfalls in a narrow canyon. The falls are the only whitewater with short intervals of class I water in between each drop. Time constraints limited the team to running only four of the drops, but there are two or three 7.5 - 9 m drops left to be looked at on the river. The first falls is an 8 m affair with multiple rocks protruding from its face. The landing is on a slab into a flushing hole. The narrow pool below the falls must be traversed in order to line up on the far river left side for a boof onto the narrow tongue beside a particularly nasty hole. Definitely not a place to be messing up.

Second falls starts with a series of small ledges, losing about 3 m of elevation into a narrow pool above an 8 m curtain falls. There are probably two options to run this drop, but be careful of hanging up on shallow rocks at the edge of the drop. There is a resting eddy on the river right side of the second pool. A slide type 7 m falls is the final portion of this spectacular triple drop. This last bit is

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hard to scout and care should be taken running it.

Third falls (VI) would be an awesome 9 m curtain falls, but it presents some problems. The entire brook passes through a narrow cleft in the canyon walls indicating that the pool is probably very deep. Unfortunately the steeply dipping cleavage of the rock units creating the cleft form a hideously undercut ledge on the river left side of the landing zone. Complicating the issue is a large, diagonal wave at the top of the drop that pushing into the undercut. Ideally a skilled boater could ride up on top of the curling wave and boof hard on the river right side neatly avoiding the hole and undercut. This requires a brilliant set of moves and excessively large, brass balls.

Two options are presented to run the last portion of the brook. Approaching the final horizon line an island in the river splits the flow into two channels. The river left channel is a 2 m wide slot canyon with two 3 m drops leading to a final 7 - 8 m falls. Everything probably goes in this canyon, but rescue options are limited and stakes are high. The river right channel starts with a 5 m falls that can be run off a curtain falls or split into two ledges. There are two very sticky, riverwide holes backing up the pool on this drop.

The final 200 m of the brook is a steep IV boulder garden with three distinct rapids which can be mostly boat scouted.