**Things That Can Go Wrong on an OOPS Trip:**

--Strained back lifting boats off of cars-- always insist of having help, and using proper lifting technique

-- car keys get locked in car—bring spares! Use those magnetic hidden key boxes!

-- Temperature control-- too hot or cold-- have extra clothes, pull over to a beach to change, too hot, demonstrate how to grab someone's bow and dunk yourself in the water, or splash yourself.

--Blisters or cuts-- put on Band-Aids, covered by electrical or duct tape

--Rough water on a windy crossing-- advise short fast strokes, keeping the paddle on the water to brace, check to make sure skeg is working properly and in the correct position, assign someone to paddle with them, and encouraging them by talking, doing sweep strokes on one side to maintain course when weather cocking.

-- Serious Illness or Afflictions-- Heart attack, stroke, allergies, hypoglycemia-- know the signs, and First Aid-- Call for Help Immediately

-- Someone capsizes, and does **not** come out of their boat-- immediately converge on the boat and together roll the paddler back upright, grabbing the victims PFD.  This is challenging to do alone, and becomes much easier with a group.

-- Group gets separated-- have a plan in place to call on the VHF channel 69 if someone gets separated and has a radio.   Have your assistant look after the group, and send out 2 paddlers to search?  Keep an eye out and don't let it happen!  Prevention: set up a buddy system at the start so folks are looking after each other. Pair up people with those who have radios.

-- Gasket breaks in drysuit—use gorilla tape for temporary fix

--Rescuer can’t hold a boat steady for a larger paddler trying to get back in their boat, or paddler can’t get back in boat—have other paddlers assist from the ‘off side’ (grab them by the britches—works great!) – or, have them climb over your own boat then get in their boat, or use the ‘scoop’ rescue, where the victims boat is first flooded, then he is guided in and rolled upright, before the boat is pumped out.

-- Zipper not complete closed, and dry suit floods—use the buddy system to check zippers and hatches before launching

-- Carl Davis