

Keel-Hauler's KaNews Jan 1900



What Y2K problem!! All the worry warts running around! As you can see, my quill pen works fine! Just do as I did. Go to the pharmacy, pickup a new calendar, and hang it on the wall. Works flawlessly every year! Now where are my teeth...

Directions to Peninsula Library From Cleveland...

Take st. rt. #77 south to exit #143 - Richfield (Wheatley Rd.) -- Turn left and cross over bridge and turn left again, returning to highway #77 north, stay in right lane.

Take immediate right onto ramp for #271 north. Get off at first exit - *exit 12 - #303 and turn right (east) and drive

1.5 miles. Turn right at first traffic light (Riverview road)
Peninsula library is on your left after about 1 block.

From east side of Cleveland...

Take 271 south to exit 12 - #303
Turn right (east) onto #303 and drive 1.5 miles... (see* above)

From Akron...

Take #77 north to #271 north and get off at 1st exit - exit 12-#303 and turn right and drive 1.5 miles... (see* above)

...or take rt#8 north to #303 Peninsula exit and turn left (west) and drive into Peninsula. Pass railroad tracks, at traffic light turn left (south) onto Riverview Rd. and Peninsula library is one block on left.

Schedule of Events
JANUARY 1900

Jan 8, ...Rolling Sessions Begin

Cliff Wire...(440) 439-6541

Jan 8, 15, 22, whatever...Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

Matt Muir...(330) NOT A FAX

Jan 11...Meeting, Peninsula Library

See Newsletter for program announcement. 6:30pm.

Jan 22, ...Rolling Sessions Orange HS

Cliff Wire...(440) 439-6541

Feb. 5, ...Rolling Sessions Orange HS

Cliff Wire...(440) 439-6541

Feb. 8...Meeting, Peninsula Library

Feb. 12, ...Rolling Sessions Orange HS

Cliff Wire...(440) 439-6541

Feb 19, ...Rolling Sessions Orange HS

Cliff Wire...(440) 439-6541

Keel-Hauler Canoe Club minutes

Dec. 14, 1999

New Members and Guests: 1

Treasurer's Report: \$4769.76

Chair Reports

Conservation: Akron Beacon Journal had an article on how Ohio leads in dam removal. Copies were provided for interested parties.

Instruction: Orange HS, Lakewood, Rocky River, Tri-C Metro campus all have classes starting sometime in 1900.

Sea Kayaking: Need a chair person for coordination.

Library: Please return videos & books. If not returned, fees will be charged!

Membership: 394 total for 1999. 236 are paid for 1900.

Pool Sessions: Starting Jan. 8, 1900 through March at Orange HS. 4-6pm.

Program: Christmas party

Safety: "Moderation" - Don't drink too much water. Chuck Singer spoke about an individual who died in the desert from drinking too much water. It affects your electrolytes/body chemistry.

Vermilion River Race: Hank Annabel & Shelly Schmidt agreed to co-chair this year.

Old Business: Trip Schedule - Call Gary Sherck or Kurt Haas if you are still interested in leading a trip. The year book also needs more pictures. Send pictures to Matt Muir. The book goes to press round 1-1-1900.

Stickers: Asked for new logos. John Kolak suggested adding color and changing the club name to Keel-Haulers Paddling Club. Tabled until the next meeting. Some folks want stickers for their cars.

Rescue Rodeo: If planning to run in Aug. need to start now. Three Rivers is interested. Please call Matt Muir if interested.

New Business: Looking for meeting place Jan-Mar 2000. Where to hold the auction. KSC hall suggested. Will look into.

Thanked Northern Ohio Printing for printing business cards for the club.

Andy Gross suggested organizing a club social - maybe for next Christmas or during the summer.

1900 ROLL SESSIONS

by David Donnellan

Roll sessions this year will again be at the Orange High School Pool. They are sponsored by Orange Community Education and Recreation. 10 sessions are scheduled on Saturday afternoons from January 8, through March 11, 1900. There are no sessions on January 15, and January 29.

Pool time starts at 4:00 PM and ends promptly at 6:00 PM. We must shower and be out of the building by 6:30. A charge of \$4 per person per session (\$3 for Orange School District residents) covers the use of the pool.

The sessions are unstructured, providing plenty of time to practice at your own pace. There is no formal instruction. However, there are always people on hand who are happy to demonstrate and provide assistance. If you want help with your roll, just ask.

Extra kayaks and equipment are not provided. While it is often possible to borrow other peoples' boats for short periods, it is a good idea to arrange this in advance. Hand paddles will be available for learning hand rolls.

To maintain a good relationship with the Orange Schools, there are a few rules to observe.

1. All boats must be clean. Remove the air bags and wash the boat, inside and out. Do this at home. Dirty boats are not allowed in the pool.

2. Sessions are open to the general public. Club membership is not required to participate. For those interested, membership forms will be available at the door. Annual club dues are \$15 per family.

3. The roll session is preceded by an Open Swim session. If you arrive early, please wait outside the building with your

boats until the Open Swim session ends at 4 PM.

4. Please sign in and pay the lifeguard upon entering the pool. Please bring exact change. No coins please.

5. We must avoid damage to the facility and especially the pool's tiled surfaces. Remove metal rudders from sea kayaks. Do not bring aluminum canoes. Do not launch off the deck of the pool -- enter your boat while it is sitting in the water.

6. The pool becomes crowded. In the interest of safety, neither free swimming nor diving are allowed. Children must be supervised.

The Orange High School Pool is on the south side of Chagrin Boulevard, between Lander and SOM Center Roads. It is two miles east of the Chagrin exit off I-271 (which is just north of the I-271 and I-480 interchange). From I-271 take the Chagrin Boulevard exit and head east. At the Lander Road turning circle stay on Chagrin Boulevard by taking the second road right. The school will be about one-half mile on the right side of the road.

Winter Roll Sessions are once again scheduled at the Orange High School pool. They will be held from 4-6pm on Saturday afternoons, 1/8-3/11 (except 1/15 and 1/29). Fees are \$3/resident and \$4/non resident.

The newsletter has complete details, or for more information call Orange Community Schools and Recreation at 216-831-8601.

Due to construction at the high school, the west entrance to the pool deck is closed. Drop your boats and gear at the doors on the east end of the pool deck (near the front doors of the school). Parking is available in front of the school and in front of the stadium. Clean boats only. Remember to remove that uneaten lunch from November! Hope to see you there!

If winter driving conditions are bad, the session may be canceled. When Orange Community Education and Recreation is closed this information is typically on local television and radio stations. We will also try to post closings on the Hotline at 216-556-4659.

Upcoming Red Cross Kayaking Classes

Fundamentals of Kayaking

Call (216) 431-3081 or email darrahm@usa.redcross.org for more information and to register

Lakewood High School

January 23 to February, 2000
Sundays 4pm to 8pm

February 20 to March 5, 2000

Sundays 4pm to 8pm

Orange Recreation

January 19 to February 9, 2000

Wednesdays 7pm to 10pm

February 16 to March 8, 2000

Wednesdays 7pm to 10pm

Rocky River High School

February 26 to March 11, 2000

Saturdays 1pm to 5pm

2000 Canoe & Kayak School

April 7, 8, & 9, 2000

Located at Camp Beaumont Boy Scout Reservation in Ashtabula Variety of course offerings: Fundamentals, Basic River, and Instructor level courses in Canoeing, Kayaking, and Sea Kayaking.

NO ADVICE

by Dana Castro (reprinted with permission from Boater Talk, in answer to a question about bad advice)

The worst "advice" that I ever got running a rapid was an instance in which I got NO ADVICE. It really makes quite a story, if you ask me...

It was a long time ago, when I was a relatively new paddler. I was following a substantially more advanced paddler, whom I will call "John" (not his real name.) Being more advanced, he would lead a rapid and then I would follow. Things went well for a number of rapids. Then we came to a big long rocky drop. "John" ran it without any apparent difficulty and he turned around and waited at the bottom, clearly visible and looking up at me, doing and saying nothing at all. That reassured me and so I visually picked myself a winding path down the drop, finishing with a left hand turn in front of a huge boulder, to end in the pool beside him.

Gathering my courage I forged forth. Everything seemed to be going quite well. Right here, left there. Now only the big left sweeper in front of the boulder. HEY, What's going on??? I'm paddling left across the face of the boulder but I'm sweeping sideways right into it!!! Too late I saw that it was immensely undercut and the WHOLE RIVER was going under the rock. As I hit the rock I remembered something I had read in a book about undercuts having no pillow, but then I was pushed down and down and down and then slammed onto the bottom,

upside down, still in my boat, with this gigantic current blasting everywhere. I opened my eyes (which is something I never do), and looked up and saw a light green color (the surface) far away.

After a tremendous, frantic struggle, with everything seeming to happen in a peculiar kind of slow motion, I managed to claw my way out of the boat. Like a fly hit by a train, I was immediately plastered against the rock and pushed even further down. I remember how the rock hurt my hands as I tried unsuccessfully to get a purchase on its surface. I literally have no recollection of exactly what happened next. (I think the whole thing was so traumatic that that part got blocked out of my memory.)

But I do remember bursting to the surface on the DOWNSTREAM side of the huge boulder. I do remember that my boat came bursting out of the water like a submarine in a crash surfacing, and I remember that it did that only after some minutes. I do remember later going to a park that overlooks the gorge and literally lying on the grass and smelling the little wildflowers and thanking God for my life.

I do NOT remember ever saying anything to that paddler about how he just sat there and looked at me as opposed to pointing me away from the obstacle. I don't know why I didn't.

I also know that I remained paddling "friends" with him for years later; I guess my standards in those days must not have been very good.

Then, a good number of years after the incident, the fellow "took up" with my (first) wife! This led to a divorce which was very painful for me as, (at the time) I did not have any more recognition of the threat this woman had posed to the quality of my life, than I had recognition of the threat that the boulder posed to my physical life that day on the river!

A number of years now after THAT happened, I am now a happier human being, married to a wonderful woman (who paddles a XXX). The other fellow, on the other hand, got himself into a bad case of "foot entrapment" with the ex-wife, who demanded that if he wanted to stay with her he had to: 1) give up paddling, 2) become a lawyer, and 3) convert to her religion!

Since that day on the river I have learned both how to identify undercut rocks and bad women, and how to avoid them. I have also learned that looking for advice from others

on really important things is something that you do very, very carefully, paying at least as much attention to who it is you are asking advice from, as to the advice itself.

Flying kayaks on airplanes

By Frazer Pearce, 9-Sep-97; reported to rec.boats.paddle and summarized on his website at <http://star-www.dur.ac.uk/~frazierp/kayak/neat/fly.html>

This is a collection of ideas about how to go about getting your boat onto a plane. Some things might work, some not; the main thing is to persevere. Be prepared for many phone calls and to get the run-around from the airline/booking clerk. Even then you may get frustrated at check-in unless you have something clear printed into your file or on your tickets.

At the outset I should point out that I have only personally flown with plastic boats. Fiberglass/kevlar boats are of course much more easily damaged and often longer than plastic boats and so much of this may not apply. However, glass boats are much lighter than plastic, a definite bonus and are often being flown to competitions, another thing the airlines love.

The old myth about calling a kayak a “surf kayak” doesn’t wash much anymore. More and more people are taking boats onto planes and many companies now have a policy on kayaks. For instance, American were quoting a “standard price” to fly a kayak to San Francisco from Heathrow early this year. Many clerks will refer you to cargo as soon as you mention outsize baggage. Cargo rates for kayaks are volumetric and so extortionate.

Smaller airlines are often more accommodating, particularly if you are a reasonable sized party. With 10 or more people traveling you should immediately contact the airlines “group bookings” department, who will try to bend over backwards to get you to fly with them.

Dropping a rival airlines name into the conversation often gets things done. For instance here in the UK, Virgin and British Airways hate each other, so a handily placed remark about “well, I was just speaking to Virgin and they don’t seem to have a problem” can often get things moving.

Some things to mention early; you will only have 1 piece of check-in baggage, an indestructible suitcase that just happens to be 3metres (10feet) long. The rest of your

kit goes inside the boat, clothing goes as hand luggage in a small-ish rucksack (try to keep this reasonable and make it look light, then they won’t insist on weighing it). The 10 feet bit is important, the metal containers that the baggage goes into are this size. Longer than 3metres and they won’t like it. It will still fit but this seems to be the “grumble” point. Technically, 3.10 or 3.20 meters is “about 3 meters”, don’t worry, they probably won’t measure them (or alternatively, stop paddling the barge and get a short boat).

It is usually pretty straightforward to get an airline to agree to fly your boat for a price. The difficult bit is getting it on for nothing. My impression is that this is getting harder. Be prepared to phone around, it was quite easy to get down to \$100 a boat for a return flight across the Atlantic this spring. It took over a month to lose the extra \$100 (thank you British Airways, have a free plug). Please try hard to do this. If airlines think they can stick paddlers for \$100, then they will; if everyone flies with the airlines that carry boats for nothing then the price will stay low.

Make sure that the person you speak to writes the fact that you are bringing kayaks and that they will carry them into your file (or even better onto the comments field of your ticket). The check-in clerk will call this up when you arrive. Make sure you phone back and get them to read what it says on your file, often the booking clerk will “forget” to write into your file and you will be stuffed. Don’t pay up until you are happy that this has been done.

Don’t be afraid to complain if you get the run-around. Keep a note of the times you called and when they promised to ring you back but didn’t. Ask to speak to someone in charge if you get too much of this, they are more likely to have the power to agree to your more than reasonable request.

Once you get to the airport

Arrive early, very early if possible. This gives them no possible excuse along the lines of “well we would, but it is too late to get the special handling”. Early, things are less rushed.

Pack up neatly and look professional. Load the boats and have them taped and ready to go before you approach the check-in clerk. There is nothing worse than a mountain of gear and boats to put off the airline. Keep your hand luggage out of sight during this bit, have someone else watch it while a couple of you do the talking.

Be nice to the clerk. Most of them are bored witless by the stream of tourists they usually see. It sounds simple, but a smile and a joke go a long way in this game.

If you have several boats (I’ve flown in a party of 9) then it is a good idea to keep one boat nearly empty and on top of the pile. All boats look the same and so obviously weigh about the same amount. Rarely will more than one boat be weighed. Sometimes none will get weighed, as the scales in several airports are inaccessible for kayaks. The correct answer to the question “how much does that boat weigh” is “15 kilos” (or 40 pounds). Technically this is true; after all they did not ask how much all the gear jammed inside it weighed.

Be prepared to stand your ground. Point out that the kayaks are mentioned on your file so they must have known you were coming. On the return leg, point out that the airline got you here, so it must be possible to get you home again (this is particularly useful if you picked up the boats at your destination).

Kayak-friendly airlines

Good (*=small agreed charge, others free if you work on it, further details below)

Aeroflot	Air India
Air New Zealand (*)	American (*)
British Airways	Canadian Airlines
Easy Jet (*)	El-Al
Emirates Airlines	Ethiopian airlines
Finn Air	Korean Airlines
MIAT (*)	Royal Air Maroc
Royal Air Nepal	South African Airlines (*)
Swiss Air	Turkish Airlines
United	US Air (*)
Virgin	

Will grumble but have flown boats in the past:

Continental	Iberian Airlines
Lacsa	Biman

This year we took 6 boats to Turkey, flying the last 2 legs (Istanbul to Ankara and then on to Erzurum) on quite small planes.

Turkish Airlines were the sole carrier here and so could have been awkward but proved to be extremely helpful and very kayak friendly. No problems at all either way with the gear, no charge to the consumer.

Last year we went to New Zealand and back with Korean Airlines at no charge. Within New Zealand boats are so common they are standard items. Air New Zealand carries them for NZ\$20 (around US\$10) a go. Before that both British Airways and Virgin have flown boats cheaply or for nothing. In

the past American have been very good but now have a kayak policy, which is a little steep. Lacs and Iberian will fly boats but will grumble. Biman used to fly boats and are very competitively priced but I've no recent experience of them (poly). You can certainly add Virgin Atlantic to the list of good airlines to take boats. On one trip to Florida last year for a racing training camp I recall we took four racing K1s! No problem at all as we had phoned them up beforehand to confirm (James Clark).

Air India, Royal Air Maroc, Swiss Air all have been fine in the past (Mark Rainsley).

United: 2 paddlers emigrated to Oz at the start of June and flew United with a massive 84 kilos weight allowance on a standard ticket. Within this weight allowance they were allowed two pieces of hold luggage at no more than 32kg each (yes, that means you have up to 20kg of hand luggage sitting in the locker above your head!). United do seem to have a price for kayaks but arriving at check-in early and being within the weight allowance and stating that the kayak was one of the two allowable pieces of luggage was all it needed to get the boats on the plane. The boats were a Razor at ~2.6m and Gliss at ~2.4m. (Jim Ellis). I think it was United that destroyed a Canadian Olympian's slalom boat en route to the Atlanta games (Paul Skoczylas). United Airlines has been TERRIFIC when it comes to carrying slalom kayaks and canoes around the world. I whole-heartedly endorse its entire staff and attitude. They are the main choice of the U.S. Slalom Team to this day. During the 1996 Olympic Games, there were a few instances of boat damage by several airlines not used to carry fiberglass crafts. However, United Airlines always comes through with reparations should a mishap occur. (Lisa Jacobi - US Olympic Team Manager - Slalom for the 96') I've flown both [United and BA I assume] over the Atlantic with no problems though I'm afraid that United gave me the best overall service (Chris Sladden).

US Air will check boats for \$75US. Not much hassle at all (Leland Davis).

British Airways are good too (Lisa Jacobi).

Even MIAT (maybe I arrive tomorrow), the Mongolian airline, took our boats for a very small price (bribe) and were far less hassle. Ethiopian airlines (a real white knuckle ride) were none too keen to take the boats out of Heathrow but eventually agreed. Funnily enough on the return journey they didn't even blink at the 25Kg ebony elephant that I

took as hand luggage tucked under my arm. Flying out of Delhi once with Royal Nepal airlines, I had a cunning plan. I had a red rose in my dry bag and picked a Nepalese lady with a stunning smile. If she questioned about the boat I was going to give her the rose and try and charm my way on, or at the very least give her a good laugh. However, she merely smiled, waved the boat through and wished me a safe time on the Nepali Rivers. I didn't like to give her the rose after that in case she changed her mind.

These days I always make sure that the airlines will take the boats by ringing them directly and usually getting it in writing - just can't be bothered with the hassle anymore. - Chris Sladden

I flew two boats with Aeroflot to Nepal in 95, and they cost me £80 each, outbound, and half that back. This was arranged in advance, but was in addition to my normal luggage allowance, and compared with hiring each, outbound, and half that back. This was arranged in advance, but was in addition to my normal luggage allowance, and compared with hiring a boat for 3 months worked out very cheap. Royal Air Maroc were fine, but we were within our luggage allowance that time, so they went on for free. (Simon Wiles)

American: They had quite a steep rate for flying boats transatlantic in 1997. Before that they were very good (poly). American Airlines recently initiated a policy of carrying kayaks with your baggage for a \$75 fee. Excellent service at baggage check in and no hassles. No restrictions on size (Maury Eldridge). Last week I went from the small airport in College Station, TX to Albuquerque, NM with my Pyranha 280 (9'2" long). Though the plane was relatively small, the good folks at American Airlines (American Eagle, to be precise) counted it as oversized baggage (\$50); the same went for the return trip. When I tried to set up a similar arrangement with Continental, I was told that since "kayak" shows up in their computer (along with canoes and jet skis) as having to go by air freight, I could not fly out of College Station on their planes and would have to go to Houston (100 miles away) to ship it (for \$70). (Steve Daniel)

My experience was that Continental carries them for \$75, one way, if you call them a "windsurfboard" (John William Kuthe). Now, Continental has a policy of not taking kayaks at all. They didn't tell us this until we got to the checkout and we had checked

beforehand. We had to resort to speaking to the Chairman to clear it (Daniel Hayward).

FinAir (Finnish Airlines) and El-Al (Israeli Airlines) - both performed as if they carry kayaks every day (no fees, no questions, checked with Prijon "Rockit" 283 cm length) (Michael K)

Easy Jet last week said it would be up to the airport agents. I phoned the airport agents and they said yes, no problem, £25 return to Geneva. P.S. Geneva is £18 each way if you book well enough in advance (from Liverpool) (Guy Austin, Adam Sawyer)

Canadian wanted to charge £35 but didn't at check-in (Gwyn Ashcroft).

Emirates airlines: Two of us flew out to Johannesburg with Emirates Airlines carrying a couple of Kayaks en route to Zim last November with no problems what so ever. They explicitly stated that there would not be a charge over the phone when booking and barely looked surprised when we checked the empty boats on alongside the paddles and rucksacks. (Brian Armour)

South African Airlines wanted to charge £80 UKP per kayak from Jo'burg to Vic Falls. This is supposed to be a set charge but a bit of the Scottish boys on holiday chat soon dissolved that. Check in at Vic Falls gave no trouble as the local boys couldn't give much of a monkeys for what they put on the SAA planes but a bit of chat again smoothed things along. (Brian Armour)

Kayak unfriendly airlines KLM Delta Northwest Airlines Alaskan airlines

KLM: Avoid like the plague. They have a clearly written and non-negotiable "no kayaks" policy, simple as that. You have no chance of persuading them otherwise, unless you are willing to arrange "air cargo" (at around £300 to South America). KLM code share with Northwest Airlines (Mark Rainsley).

Delta: Were refusing kayaks to California from Heathrow summer 1999 (Poly). Delta is probably one of the worse. Very profit minded and have never been easy to deal with (Lisa Jacobi). I don't know Delta's policies but in their defense a friend of mine recently shipped a kayak from Salt Lake City, Utah to Knoxville, Tennessee via Delta air cargo. It arrived in one day for \$62 (Philip Young).

Alaska: Are also kayak unfriendly but I managed to get away with it (Dan Dunlop).

Additional info (a good experience from Oysein Bjorke)

I thought you might be interested in hearing my positive experiences with British Airways, feel free to use any of the information on your web page if you want. My flight was the BA 284 from San Francisco to London/Heathrow August 8th 1997. A couple of weeks before I called the 1-800-AIRWAYS number and talked to a person who said that a kayak had to go as cargo regardless of size. A disappointing start, but then I called BA Cargo (1-415-877-0606) and talked to Emelda. She told me that British Airways now had a policy that only things over 10 feet have to go as cargo. Anything shorter, including kayaks, should be no problem to bring directly to the check-in. I called 1-800-AIRWAYS again, and did now speak to another woman, Amanda Packard, who said the same thing as Emelda. So I filled my 8'8" Kinetic with most of my paddling gear, and taped my paddle to the top of the kayak (I wouldn't bring a separate paddle bag because I had a mountain bike in my other free bag...) Then I wrapped the whole thing in plastic. I arrived early (~11am, flight was at 3:30pm), the line was short, and with a cart it was no problem maneuvering the ~65lbs kayak, two big ~70lbs bags and hand baggage around by myself. The service in the check-in was excellent, they asked if the thing was less than 10 feet - but did actually not ask if it was a kayak or something else. They also put the kayak on the scale and said it was ok. I thanked for great service, and went happily to the gate. 16 hours later I received all the bags and the kayak in perfect condition in Oslo. Fun to see the kayak rolling out between all the other baggage!

Kayaking Honeymoon in Alaska by Ann Corey and Chris Kiehl

Nenana River Chris Kiehl

We put-in on the Nenana River at McKinley Village and paddled down to the Denali Strip outside the Denali National Park entrance. This is the class I-II section but we were happy just to get on the water. They were a little reluctant to rent kayaks to couple of tourists from Ohio on their honeymoon, but after talking to them once over the phone and twice in person, they asked one of the guides and he said OK. So when we returned to the park entrance after staying four days ninety miles into the park

at a backcountry lodge, we outfitted the boats and put on their drysuits. They seemed a little alarmed by my comment about paddling without a drysuit, but after all the reindeer sausage I'd eaten on this trip I should have known this wasn't the land of Santa Claus or warm water paddling. We did our required rolls at the put-in to show we could and were on our way. Our guide Roger was occupied with three Duckies so we mostly watched out for ourselves. The river was very straightforward although the rapids were long compared to back home. The river was surprisingly shallow for carrying 7,000 cfs. They said it was on the low side. The weather was turning colder and the glacier melting had slowed which put the river level on the low side. The water was greenish at the put-in but after a large tributary entered containing water from another glacier; the river turned the more typical silty gray.

The rapids were generally in curves in the river and formed long wave trains. Oh yeah, the water was cold, kind of like the water you pour out of your cooler after all the ice has melted. We were lucky it was a warm day. Some of the waves looked like they would provide good surfing but you had to catch them on the fly so I can't really tell you. Several times Roger's description of the upcoming rapid would include the location of the waves and a "we'll wait for you at the bottom". They didn't have to wait long. I'm more familiar with the waves that have nice eddies next to them so you get a dozen tries before you get on. These waves were one shot and catch you on the next trip. Oh yeah, the scenery was great, lots of mountains, and high rock walls that made the trip much in the same way that the Alaska Brewery Amber ale made the 8 hour train ride back to Anchorage. Our 11-mile section ended in a nice ½ mile rapid; the biggest of the trip, leading into the canyon section below, which looked like great fun.

Moral of the story is no matter where you go always be on the look out for a paddling adventure.

Sea Kayaking in Alaska's Icy Strait Ann Corey

The second leg of our honeymoon was a sea kayaking trip near Glacier Bay. The bay John Muir discovered in a canoe in 1879 didn't exist a century earlier, at that time eighteenth-century explorers found instead a wall of ice a mile thick where the entrance to the branching 65-mile-long fjord now opens into the Icy Strait. Fortunately for us the ice is long gone from the strait. The trip

was two nights camping on Chichagof Island and sea kayaking from that base camp, but first we had to get there. We started with a hop over to Gustavus from Juneau in a four-seater plane. My first time in a plane this small. Thankfully the flight was not too bumpy. Once we got there and realized the town was very small, almost nonexistent (population ~400) I was sure glad we got dinner before leaving Juneau as there are no restaurants in Gustavus this late in the tourist season (we closed everything we went to). A tour of the town took less than 10 minutes. We stayed at the Puffin B&B. Alaskan B&Bs make you long for the image of New England style B&Bs. That night we met our guide John, who gave us a run down of the trip and fitted us for rain pants and jacket and the most important piece of gear, rubber boots. If you're a local, your wearing rubber boots and they are the only pair of shoes you'll ever need. Did I say it was raining?

We went to the dock the next morning and saw our shuttle vehicle, a sailboat, over to Chichagof Island in the Tongass National Forest. The sailboat was the only boat Spirit Walker Adventures could find that late in the season. The normal boat was a flat-bottomed speedboat and much easier to unload. It would be a challenge lowering fiberglass sea kayaks over the sides of the sailboat into 2-3' waves. After loading the gear and setting off, we got to the island and saw a few humpback whale blows on the way. We unloaded the sea kayaks over the side of the boat about 50 yards from shore and would shuttle the gear to shore in three trips. I was taken to shore in the double kayak first. Then John went back for Chris and the rest of the gear. On the sailboat, they'd loaded a raft with the gear to reduce the number of trips needed but the waves were picking up. By the time John got back for Chris, they had to get in from the other side of the sailboat. First time in a sea kayak and straight into 3' waves was quite a rush. Once everything was on shore, we had to move to higher ground because the tide was coming in. I never realized the tide could come in so fast and far. In this place and at this time of year, the tide rose over ten feet, which can cover a lot of beach.

The first afternoon, we set up our tents in the woods and feasted on smoked Halibut, cheese, bagels, fruit and of course dessert. Our kitchen and eating area was set up about a quarter mile from our tents on the shore, in case any bears caught wind of our food. The waves were really choppy and it was possible that we wouldn't paddle that afternoon. But after lunch it was calm

enough for our guide to take us out. He took us in bigger stuff than normal, since we were experienced kayakers, although not experienced sea kayakers. We saw harbor seals, river otters, eagles, whales and sea lions. The fiberglass boats glided through the water but were still heavy on land. After an excellent dinner of Golsh (Garlic, olive oil, lemon, soy sauce, honey) marinated halibut and all the fixings we retired for the evening just as it was getting dark ~8 PM. The latrine was the final stop of the night. The latrine was a wooden box with a hole cut in the middle covering a hole in the ground. That wood was cold. The two person tent was comfortable, especially the therma-rests. I was surprised at how warm it was out, about 50 °F. I expected much colder weather and brought enough fleece to outfit an army. Needless to say, I only took off my rain suit and fleece jacket and pants when getting into the tent. At night cruise ships went by all lit up making for a strange sight as we sat on the beach isolated from civilization. In the morning, we'd awake to the sound of whales breathing, the blows can be loud.

The next day we got out paddling early and made it beyond the "point". Of course as soon as we got over there the wind started to pick up. We turned back early so the trip back wouldn't turn into a nightmare. While sea kayaking we were never more than about a hundred yards from the island. On the way back a whale came close by, they are amazing creatures, however our solace was interrupted when a helicopter landed on the island. I thought maybe the weather was too bad to fly in since it was raining, but they just got out and stood around talking on the beach and eventually left. We never found out why they were there. A park service cabin was our lunch spot for the day and got us out of the rain. John started a fire in the small wood burning stove to cook our lunch. There's nothing like soup and grilled cheese sandwiches on a cold wet afternoon. I bet they eat a lot of soup and grilled cheeses in Alaska. Two park rangers had spent the summer on Chichagof Island observing the animals and counting the number of ships and people using the area. After lunch, the seas were too choppy for more paddling so we went for a hike, I mean bushwhacking. We eventually made it to our destination, an open area with small trees. I never expected to see it since the shore was surrounded by woods. The ground was spongy – it certainly was a rain forest, which I never expected to see in Alaska. It was some kind of a bog. I did expect to see bears but only saw scat. They

sure eat a lot of berries. We ate some late season wild strawberries that the bears had left us on our way back to the kitchen.

The kitchen was set up away from our tents since bears live on the island. There was a set of large smooth rocks adjacent to our kitchen. I think that is why the sea lions kept coming by – I think we took their sunbathing spot. On our third and final day, we ate a cold breakfast quickly to maximize our time on the water. After a half-hour of paddling, we decided to go back and load all our gear into the boats and paddle around the corner to find a calmer pick up point. Surprisingly everything fit into the boats including, tents, sleeping bags, stove, food container, clothes and personals. We had brought one dry bag each for clothes and personals. The five-gallon container of water and small gas cylinder for the stove were strapped to the top of the kayaks. We tended to surf along with the waves more now being all loaded down – an eerie feeling when shore wasn't close. As we paddled a group of a dozen sea lions followed us. As our guide had warned us the sea lions were pretty aggressive, more aggressive than any of the bears we saw in Alaska. They would submerge, and then poke their heads out and growl at us and then go under again. A large male came within 30 feet of Chris & I – time to back paddle fast and change course. Eventually our ride came and we paddled over to the sailboat. A couple of extra people were there to help unload the boats before the boats were lifted on to the sailboat. Once on the sailboat, ZZZoom we went across the icy strait and then to the airport after a change of cloths for a short flight back to Juneau. We were eager to get to the hotel for a shower before the next leg of our trip – watching the bears eat Salmon in Katmai National Park.



Deadline for May Newsletter Apr. 22

For the April meeting, we are meeting at the Shore Cultural Centre on Babbit Rd. in Euclid, room 127. The meeting will start at 7:30, with the doors opening at 7:00.

From the East – 90 west to Babbit Rd. Turn Rt. Onto Babbit.

From the SouthEast – I-271N to 90W, exit at Babbit. Turn Rt. Onto Babbit

From the South – I-77 or 71 N. to 90E. Exit at Babbit. Turn Left onto Babbit.

From The West – 90 East to Babbit Rd. Turn Left onto Babbit.

EVERYONE – Head North on Babbit Rd. to Shore Center Dr. (Value City on Right). Turn Left into the front parking lot. EWC Community Room in the front center hall on the main floor.

April and/or May....Forks of the Cheat (Class III-IV)

Steve Ingalls....sti@po.cwru.edu....216-371-8250

April 7, 8, & 9....ARC Canoe and Kayak School

The ARC and ODNR will conduct Fundamental Courses, Basic River, and Instructor-level courses in Canoeing, Kayaking, and Sea Kayaking. The program site is the Camp Beaumont scout reservation in Rock Creek, OH. The program provides meals and lodging for participants. Fundamentals classes are given on a small lake. River classes are given on the Grand River (class I), Conneaut Creek (class I+), and the Ashtabula River (class II+). ARC can provide boating equipment if you need it. This is a very popular program. Applications and equipment use requests are handled on a first come, first served basis.

Mike

Darrah....darrahm@usa.redcross.org....216-431-3081

Steve Ingalls....sti@po.cwru.edu....216-371-8250

April 8....Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

We will meet at the 422 bridge at 10:00 AM. Please call the trip organizer in advance to be certain river conditions are acceptable.

Rob

Hammond....bhammond@tycoint.com....216-292-5618

April 8....Sea Kayaking at Black River, 10:00 AM

Keith Clarke....kclarke@on-b.com....440-888-7317

April 8-9....Middle Fork and Tygart, WV (29/28)

You must call on Thursday since the trip may start on Friday.

Elliott

Drysdale....EDrysdale@aol.com....440-349-4787

April 11....Meeting, Location TBD

See newsletter for program announcement.

April 12....Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet Landing, 6:00 PM

Jill Lauren.....440-246-2993

April 15-16....Forks of the Cheat (Class III-IV)

Steve Ingalls....sti@po.cwru.edu....216-371-8250

April 15....Grand River, OH (6)

This should be a good warm-up for the next week's Grand River Canoe Race. Call for meeting time and location.

Carl Kudrna....sitesmart@aol.com....440-835-0222

April 15-16....Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

We will meet at the 422 bridge at 10:00 AM. Please call the trip organizer in advance to be certain river conditions are acceptable.

Rachelle

Schmidt....rlschmidt@calibersys.com....330-865-9385

April 19....Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet Landing, 6:00 PM

Keith Clarke....kclarke@on-b.com....440-888-7317

April 21-28....26th Annual Southern Rivers Week (16-31)

The trip starts Friday on the Nolichucky. The number of participants will probably dictate that we split up into several groups depending on skill level. We will need some intermediate trip leaders. Rivers that we may visit, depending on skill and/or water level, are the Nolichucky, Doe, French Broad, Big Laurel, Little River, Tellico, Ocoee, Nantahala, and Chattooga III & IV. This year, if the water levels are good, we will then travel to the Obed-Emory system in Tennessee near the Kentucky border. We will finish up on the Big South Fork before heading back home. If levels are too low for Tenn., we will head north to WV for the best water available. This is a great trip for intermediate paddlers wishing to tackle some challenging

ivers with some of the more advanced paddlers. I guarantee that your skills will increase after an intensive week of paddling.

John

Kobak....keelhauler@prodigy.net....440-871-1758

April 22-23....Upper Big Sandy, WV (22)

Vince Kremperger.....330-666-7257

April 22-23....Loyalsock Slalom

This is a race for intermediate boaters. There will be 20 to 25 gates in class 2 and class 3 rapids. The race is in central PA, North of Williamsport at World's End State Park, PA. This is a good race to tuning up your boating skills for the summer. The Race is run by the Penn State Outing Club Whitewater. *Dates are tentative; please check with Rob.*

Rob

Hammond....bhammond@tycoint.com....216-292-5618

April 22-23 North Branch, Potomac (19)

Gary Smith

....garolncary@juno.com....216-581-9666

Kate Biley....440-846-2628

April 23....Grand River Canoe Race, OH (6)

Call or email Keith for information.

Keith Clarke....kclarke@on-b.com....440-888-7317

April 29-30....ARC Whitewater Weekend #1

This program provides an instructional step beyond the ARC Beaumont basic river programs for canoe, kayak, and decked C1 paddlers. The instruction sites are the Connoquenessing River and Slippery Rock Creek near New Castle, PA. This program is designed for students who have completed a basic river course or who have equivalent experience. Call for details and registration materials well in advance of the program date. Participation and equipment are available on a first come, first served basis.

Mike Darrah

(registration)....darrahm@usa.redcross.org....216-431-3322

Steve Ingalls

(info)....sti@po.cwru.edu....216-371-8250

April 29-30....ARC Basic River Weekend #2

This is a second course offering for paddlers who have fundamental flatwater skills who would like to learn river paddling. Equipment is available for use by participants on a first come, first served basis. The program will be presented in parallel with Whitewater Weekend

#1 in or near McConnell's Mill State Park in western Pennsylvania. Call Steve for more information, or Pam Oliver to register.

Mike

Darrah....darrahm@usa.redcross.org....216-431-3322

Steve Ingalls....sti@po.cwru.edu....216-371-8250

April 29....Sea Kayaking at Mohican River

Pack a picnic lunch meet at 10:00 PM

Dan Naugle....drnaugle@brigt.net....419-368-4109

April 29-30....West River, VT (III-III+)

Releases on this river are always a festive event. The local church sponsors a turkey dinner on Saturday.

Tom

Cronin....CroninTJ@Cobleskill.edu....518-255-5308

April 29-30....Riversport Paddlers' Rendezvous

Our friends at Riversport are having a rodeo clinic this year as well as the other things they have had in past years. For more information, call Riversport (814-395-5744), or email Bob Ruppel: Roop@shol.com .

May 5....Slippery Women's Trip, PA (13/21)

Ladies, come out and join Cathy for an all-women's trip over to the Slip. Call ahead for the meeting time and place.

Cathy

Schilling....james.catherine@cleveland.va.gov....330-686-8924

May 5....Upper Yough, MD (32)

Stu Koster....skoster@wwnet.net....810-652-3241

May 5-6 (Friday-Saturday)....Cheat River Festival, WV (18/23/26/31)

Ron

Whitney....whitney64@aol.com....216-741-4405

May 6 or 7....Grand River Cleanup Canoe Trip (6)

Please call for location and meeting times.

Gary Tucker.....440-357-7890

May 6-7....Forks of the Cheat, WV (III-IV)

The weather should be nice, so come join us for a run somewhere in the Cheat Forks. Water levels will determine where we paddle, so call ahead for the meeting spot.

Steve Ingalls....sti@po.cwru.edu....216-371-8250

May 6-7 – DELAYED - North Branch, Potomac (19)

Has been moved to May 20-21

Gary Smith

....garolncary@juno.com....216-581-9666

May 9....Meeting, Location TBD

See newsletter for program and location.

May 20-21....ARC Whitewater Weekend #2

See newsletter for the exact date. This is tentative. This program provides an instructional step beyond the ARC Beaumont basic river program #1 and the alternate basic river program #2 for canoe, kayak, and decked C1 paddlers. The instruction site will be in southwestern PA near Ohiopyle State Park. This program is designed for students who have completed a basic river course or who have equivalent experience. Call for details and registration materials well in advance of the program date. Participation and equipment are available on first come, first served basis.

Mike

Darrah....darrahm@usa.redcross.org....216-431-3323

Steve Ingalls....sti@po.cwru.edu....216-371-8250

North branch of the Potomac, Easter weekend April 22 and 23, contact Gary & Carol Smith (216) 518-9666.

Or Kate Biley 440-846-2628

Keel-Hauler's March 14, 2000 Meeting Minutes

New Members: 3

Treasurer's Report: Balance is \$4,867.60

Chair Reports:

Sea Kayaking: No report.

Conservation: Terry Markoff mentioned that the AWA published the list of projects it worked on last year. He made this publication available to the members at the break. He also mentioned that Friends of the Crooked River were appealing the "fill-in" of the Parma wetlands

Instruction: Ron Whitney mentioned that he has put a number of instructional videos on one tape covering topics as whitewater roll; sea kayaking; and basic whitewater kayaking skills.

Terry Markoff mentioned that people should consider taking the Red Cross Instructional Fundamentals of Kayaking Class scheduled for Mar 7, 14, 21, and 28.

Rob Hammond mentioned that people should also consider taking the Beaumont class coming up April 7, 8 and 9th. He also mentioned that if you don't have a roll, you should go to Tri-C's March 20, 2000 roll review. Finally, he stated that the Orange High School pool sessions are over.

Library: see the instruction section above.

Membership: John Kobak stated that as of March 14, 2000 that we had 330 paid members and that the yearbooks have been distributed to everyone. He also added that if you received two yearbooks, he may be calling you to get one back.

Safety: Chuck Singer reported about Syd Reames accident that occurred on the Mexico trip. He jumped from a 40 to 50 foot rock and broke his back. He needed to be life-flighted from the Mexican hospital to a Houston hospital. He went through an 8.5-hour surgery. He is recovering and has movement in his legs. However, he has two years of rehab ahead of him. Chuck then discussed that when you get older your discs in your back begin to degenerate and hence cannot take the same types of impact. The morals of the story - do not jump off of things that are that high. Chuck mentioned that in most accident scenes that you do not have to rush, and that everyone involved should think about and discuss a course of action. Also, Chuck and John Kobak saw Syd 2 weeks ago and they said that he has a positive attitude and that Syd's new hero is Bob Boyce.

Vermilion River Race:

Hank Annable stated that he needs help in the Vermilion River Pre-race clean up. Call him if you want to help. He also stated that everything was going according to schedule. He said that the insurance for the race has been finalized. He talked about the new bibs that will be worn by the racers and that they were going to give out metals instead of T-shirts this year. He also said that we should all hope for rain. Ed Bernike talked a little about the advertisement of the race and he asked people to send him newspaper clippings on the race if they saw one in any of the local papers.

Old Business:

Rescue Rodeo: Matt had no new information to add. He said that information is in last newsletter.

Lower Yough Permits: Rob Hammond said that if you are trip leader for one of the Club's Lower Yough trips you need to pick-up the permits. John Kobak, stated that he had the camping permits for the Upper Yough club trips. Rob Hammond reminded all present that the money collected from the paddlers that go on these trips, has to be returned to the club.

World's event: Ron Whitney stated that Dave Persolja took 40th place at the Worlds

and that he ranked fourth in last year rodeo points in the US. Ron said that we raised over \$300 for Dave. He added that if you see him on the river talk to him.

Upcoming Meeting Place

Rob Hammond said that he had made numerous calls to find a meeting place for next month since the Middleburg Hts. recreation center will not be open until June 2000. He said that the April 2000 meeting will be held at the Euclid Shore Cultural Center located at Lakeshore and East 222 Street. Matt Muir thanked Rob for making the numerous calls to find a place.

New Club Logo

Rob Hammond mentioned that the last date to vote on the new logo was April 1, 2000. There was a vote on whether the Club wanted to purchase transparent or solid-color stickers. The vote was unanimous for the solid color stickers.

Upcoming Southern Rivers Trip:

John Kobak asked people to call him if they are planning on participating.

Boy Scouts need Camp Counselors: Bob Smith came to the meeting to recruit full-time camp counselors for the Boy Scouts. He said that the camp is in Canada and that the camp runs for 8 weeks. He said they take the boys flat water canoeing. The position pays \$160 per week. He said if anyone, over 17 years of age is interested that they should call Jim Phillips Camp Director of Boy Scouts at 216 861-6060. The camp runs from June 14 until August 14, 2000.

Lower Yough Downriver Race

....Or: what beer goes best with Humble Pie?

Chris ("Obsession") Norbury has gotten together quite a lineup of downriver races all over the Eastern US&A this year. We got the Lower Yough, Cheat, Cheat Narrows, Lehigh, and a whole bunch of others. March 5's was the Lower Yough.

Today did not begin especially auspiciously. I picked up Paul Lang in Akron, Brighton Early, and peeled out onto the highway.

Not five minutes into the ride...WHUMP! Uhoh, I think, that sounds like the paddles that used to be attached to my roofrack via bungee cords. Uhoh, I think, bungees might have been a bad idea. Flashers

flashing, I backed up a few feet. We got out of the car and saw the two paddles, right there on the freeway, sparsely traveled at this pre-dawn hour. We also saw the car run over them. Guess the driver didn't see Paul's white blades. We also saw the truck, playing "follow the leader," running over them. There was a Lott of clunkish noise, too.

Snapped the blade off my paddle, this little ordeal did, and when Paul picked up his paddle...well, it had quite a bit of flex there.

Bummer.

I had a breakdown; Paul didn't. I brought him back to his car. He was done for the day; I continued on to Ohiopyle. I had three hours of driving. I spent most of it silently entertaining myself with various variations on "Dummy! Stupid! D'oh!" and etc.

Well, I got there in time for a practice run. MyOhMy, there were a bunch of downriver boats. Usually, I can win, place, or show in my division just by showing up (and finishing the race). Not so this time, not with names like Jesse Whittemore, Ted Newton, and Steve Kaufman attached to those loong, un-turny boats. But that was okay; I expected it. I was there to challenge myself and have some fun.

See, the Lower Yough is about at the top edge of my skill level in a downriver boat. It's got all them rocks, and here's little ole me, trying to avoid them in a boat with the turning radius, if not the stability, of the Queen Mary. (Doesn't roll too easily, neither, with no chines to speak of and goofy limited knee braces.) The last time I'd hit Ohiopyle in one of them thangs, I'd hit that submerged rock in Cucumber. Put a hole in the bow that you can put your fist through. This time, the water was higher (2.75'), so there'd be fewer rocks; but I had my nicer boat, and I didn't want to beat it up.

Well, in my practice run, I hit kinda hard in Dartmouth, and I got eddied and had to sneak Railroad, but it wasn't too bad. Chris had warned me that River's End would be the toughest. "You gotta drive left, and be turning, and turn some more, to avoid that rock in the current."

I couldn't picture it. I mean, I knew which rock, but it's an easy move in the liddle

plastic boats. Couldn't you just drive hard, right-to-left? "No," said Chris. "No," said Jesse. You gotta turn.

Ulp. Oooo-kay...

I began a minute ahead of Jesse. I predicted that he'd pass me by Cuke, and by gum, that's what happened. He took a completely different line from mine, going far right of the hidden rock. Me, I was going left of it, but I got washed up on the big-ol' river-left rock. Got washed over the drop almost sideways, and got inadvertently 180'ed by the eddy line. Well, that won't do any wonders for my time!

Right around Railroad, as I snuck again (again, not by choice), I got passed by two others. They stayed in sight through the Doldrums, and then we hit Dimple.

I was concerned about Dimple - Swimmer's, though it was likely pretty well covered. I managed it with some slowdowns at eddy lines but no rock hits. Bottle of Wine went okay, too. I got passed by someone not far before Double Hydraulic. "I'll follow his line through River's End," I thought, but he lost me at Double Hy. It was me and the rapid.

I saw why you couldn't go right-to-left; it was too shallow-rocky over on the right. So I began in the middle, pointed left, and turned.

Well, I tried to turn, tried to avoid the rock. It didn't happen. Washed up on that suckah like a leaping fish on a dock. Then I washed over it, making unfunny noises with the structural parts of my boat. Then I was upside-down. Gave it a roll attempt.

Uh-oh.

See, if I miss the first roll attempt, things can turn bad in that boat. I can fall out of the outfitting, jest a little, and then it's *really* hard to roll.

Really hard. I gave it another try, and I almost came up. But not quite. "Keep your haid down!" I told me. It didn't work. I tried choking "down" (opposite of choking up?) on my paddle. Almost. Held myself in a low brace, to get some air, then tried again. Nope. Again. Nope.

After several of these pathetic attempts, I'd completely fallen out of the outfitting. All you vultures out there, foaming at the beak,

pay attention here, 'cause I know I'm making your day:

I bailed.

Yep, for the first time since March 2, 1996 (an event that will forever live in the memories of Rob and David Hammond, Ron Whitney, Kosmo Cramer, Jasons Zukerman, and others: Upper Cuyahoga Gorge at insanely high water), I grabbed the loop and pulled my geeky long legs out of the boat.

I didn't enjoy the ensuing experience. It's not so much that the water was cold, but the fact that getting a breath wasn't trivially easy. This swimming stuff is tiring! I don't know how guys like Colins Drozdowski and Matt "My Boy" Chaney can do it so often. My helmet's off to him.

I towed the boat over to a rock and emptied it. When I made it to the takeout, they were all waiting for my sorry finish. Everyone had beaten me. That includes AW Editor Bob Gedekoh in a Mirage, who beat me by 12 minutes, and Stacy in a Blast, who beat me by seven. I don't know what went wrong with Keith Backlund, who only beat me by five minutes. Maybe he decided to stop and sun himself at Swimmer's or something.

I had someone take my picture at the takeout, showing my hand, which had the same raw look that Brian Joly displayed in "Silent Thunder: The Legend of Team C." (I was wishing I hadn't left my gloves in the car at the takeout, you betcha.)

Well...it was a nice day. Despite the goober trick with the paddles, and the last-place finish (including the "S" word), and the patching that my poor maltreated boat needs, I'm glad I went. I was there to challenge myself, and to learn something. I got the challenge I was looking for, and I learned some humility.

But don't worry. I've had other lessons in humility, and they've never had any permanent effect.

by Matt Muir

Still Swimless in the Third Millennium!!**

** Claim void in Pennsylvania

Editors Note:

It will be noted by the observant that Matt did not attend **ANY** of the Roll Sessions at Orange HS this past winter. Coincidence, Page 4

hmmmm. Something about it being too far away or some such excuse. Now you have first hand experience at what lack of practice will do for you. Rolling sessions in the summer months doesn't help at all when going out for spring paddling.

Attention all Upper Yough boaters

By Steven Taylor

Access to the river is in jeopardy. At the last Friendsville town council a group of irate locals demanded that boaters no longer be allowed to take out in town, that parking be prohibited along the streets and roads where boaters commonly leave their vehicles, and that the state police be asked to patrol the town during all releases. A lot of pressure is being put on the good folks at MT Surf to stop private boaters from taking out there. These complaints made the local paper and the DNR has become involved.

Some of the townspeople's complaints were justified, others probably overstated... but the bottom line is that every boater in Friendsville needs to be sensitive to the community and behave as if he/she were standing in his/her mother's back yard. Many of the people in Friendsville are elderly and wary of newcomers. They are very conservative. We can not afford to continue to alienate them. If we lose our access to the river in town we will have to paddle two additional miles of flatwater to reach the town park take out. This will take almost an hour if you are at the front of the release (as is often the case) and it will not be very pleasant. So listen up!

Please do not bring your dogs to the Upper Yough. If you insist on doing so, do not let them run loose or venture onto anyone's private property. Do not leave them unattended at the put in or take out... i.e.. tied to the bumper of your car. The local animal rights people are very concerned about this and have been seen at the put in "investigating" vehicles. Please leave Fido at home!

Under no circumstances change in your vehicle or behind towels, etc. Change inside Mt. Surf or at the changing house at the put-in. Even the hint of bare flesh sends the locals ballistic. It doesn't really matter whether they actually "see" anything. It is just the thought that they might "see" something.

Under no circumstances drink alcohol on the street... i.e.. at the take out. Even though the local beer store is right next to the parking area, drinking on the street is illegal and not acceptable to the townspeople.

Do not play music or engage in any raucous behavior. Try to be as inconspicuous as you can. The less time you spend congregating on the street after running the river, the better.

Look both ways before crossing the street and do not obstruct traffic.

Drive very slowly through town and also through Sang Run, the community near the put-in. Remember there are many pets and children in the area and the locals are very concerned about speeding boaters.

Patronize the local businesses as much as possible. We need all the allies we can get. Say thanks to John Mason and the crew at MT. Surf. They are taking a lot of heat over this and without them we would be up the proverbial creek without a paddle!

I know all of this sounds rather Draconian, but the situation is really serious and there is a lot at stake. The Upper Yough is a tremendous asset and we would hate to see it turned into a police state. The only way this can be avoided is if everyone is on their best behavior. American Whitewater is actively trying to deal with the community's concerns even as I post this. Feel free to forward this message to other paddling newsgroups, or to print it in club newsletters, etc. Spread the word.

SYOTR Bob Gedekoh, American Whitewater Board

WANTED

Guides for the Greater Cleveland Council Boy Scouts of America

(GCC/BSA) Tinnerman Canoe Base (TCB) on the Fr. River in Ontario, Canada, summer 2000. Here's a wonderful opportunity to share your paddling proficiency with young people and their adult advisers. For more details, call Bob Smith, TCB Director at 440-835-1956(h) 216-529-4062(w) or Jim Phillips at 216-861-6060(w)

The Ocoee Rodeo Needs You

Volunteers are needed to help stage another successful Ocoee Whitewater Rodeo. This years rodeo, May 19-21, has been designated a US Team Trials event so the action/competition will be intense. It

takes nearly 160 volunteers working in a variety of positions to make the rodeo a success - we need you! Jobs available include:

Timers

Scribes

Judges

Safety Boaters

Announcers

People on shore with throw ropes

People to help with the party:

- check ids at the beer stop

- set up/tear down

- silent auction

- sell tickets

And many more.

As a rodeo volunteer, I can tell you it's fun, gives you the chance to see some of your old boating buddies and meet new ones, and it helps raise money for river conservation. Hey, what more can you ask: great people, great rodeo action, a great party, AND a great cause. To top it off, all volunteers putting in at least 4 hours get a t-shirt, free entrance to the party, and the chance to win cool stuff in the volunteer-only raffle.

If you can help, please contact Karen V'Soske at Kvsoske@aol.com or call 419-877-9215. Let me know what day(s) you can work, how many hours, and if you have a job preference.

INTERNSHIP WITH AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Opportunities are available for internship positions with American Whitewater at the National HQ in Washington, DC. For details, contact:

RichB@amwhitewater.org, PH - 301-589-9453, Fax - 301-589-6121. www.awa.org. National Office Internship, American Whitewater, 1430 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Generic Trip Report *by Paul Litzer Price*

This newsletter sometimes looks like Matt Muir's personal paddling journal. Now, I'm not saying that he's not a good guy and a fine kayaker and an awesome writer or anything, but KaNews needs more diversity, if only to meet some federal standard or other and keep the club officers out of the slammer (although a little hard time would probably wipe the smirk off our club president's face...). The editor of KaNews is in a bind. He knows, for e.g., that there were people out there paddling

on January 1, 2000. That would seem to be worthy of a trip report, but nobody submitted anything. We're left surmising that some people don't know how to write one. Well, you'll all be out there in April, May, and June, so you'll have plenty to write about. In the interest of fostering the aforementioned literary diversity, we offer up the following Generic Trip Report. Just use the sections and phrases that apply, and you, too can be a writer!

On (date) we ran the (Lower Yough / Slippery Rock / Gauley / Itchyfootsy). The weather was (warm and sunny / raining / cold enough to freeze your butt to the boat and make you ride on top of the car all the way home / cold enough for the President to keep his pants on). On the drive to the river (Debalski got lost / Paul Lang got a speeding ticket / Matt Muir drove over his paddle / Kobak showed everyone where they could save a penny on gasoline). We arrived (half an hour late / an hour late / two hours after everyone had given up on us).

When we ran shuttle, (Matt Muir got lost / Ron Whitney got a speeding ticket / Kobak cut off six Good-ol' Boys toting loaded gun racks / Cliff Wire mooned the town sheriff). I hadn't met (name of paddler) before, but he assured me that he had run (the Upper Gauley/ the Green Narrows / the Upper Yough) several times without a problem.

We took a look at the gage and the level was (perfect for a first-timer / perfect for the certifiably insane). Our spirits (if not our teeth) brightened, we put in. (Name of boater mentioned above) swam at the first Class-2 rapid. This was his/her first swim (in four years / this year / of several dozen that day). When questioned again about his experience, it turned out (he had rafted the Upper Gauley / he had seen a video of the Narrows / he had once driven through Friendsville).

At the next rapid, (name of boater) swam. What a doofus. Please abuse him/her when you next see him/her.

At (fill in name of rapid) Falls, Karen Petit (scouted for 45 minutes / scouted for an hour / scouted until there was no daylight left), then (almost screwed up the line / screwed up the line / *really* screwed up the line). Matt Muir laughed at her, then (wedged his paddle in a rock and lost it /

wedged his paddle in a rock and broke it / set his boat down on his paddle and broke it).

At the takeout, we all (drank beer / drank beer and created a scene / drank beer and got drunk enough to marry Twila / drank beer and joined Cliff in mooning the town sheriff).

This also applies for the Sea Kayakers and Flat Water Boaters. Tell us about the Great Blue Heron catching frogs and the eagles snagging fish and all the other cool stuff that you see on your trips. Otherwise I will have to start naming names like Brent Laubaugh who was in Ecuador and promised me something last spring. Or Kelly Miller who was in Panama, and promised me something two months ago. Just like that I'll do.

How to Get a Bombproof Roll

by Eric Jackson (ej@madrivercanoe.com)
as posted to Boater Talk
(<http://www.boatertalk.com>); reprinted
with permission

Here is how to take your roll from where it is to, 100% effective.

Everyone learns to roll, then goes through some kind of regression, forgets their roll, then gets it pretty good again giving them 90% confidence in it, then oops, what happened.

At this point, where you are, you will either rise up, or go down forever. There is no medium ground here. You know you have the skills to roll, it is a head game, here is what you do. (I have taught thousands of people to roll, and they never swim!)

1. You must be confident and proficient in your basic technique. So start at the beginning. Go to the side of the pool, practice the hip snap. You must pay attention when doing it (no going through the motions). Keep your head in the water until the cockpit hits you in the side (you have done a complete hip snap) then bring your head out. Remember, you body is weightless in the water, 1" out of the water and you weigh 150 pounds (or what ever you weigh) So upright the boat while weightless, then bring your body out.
2. Do the same exercise, but with your paddle on the side of the pool, drop in the water, hip snap up. Open your eyes and

look at the bottom of the pool, don't take your eyes off the bottom until your boat is upright.

3. Do the entire roll a couple of times having someone watch for proper technique.

If you can roll again, with 75% proper technique or better, you are ready for the next step, becoming a roller for life.

ROLLING VS. SWIMMING IS A NO-COMPROMISE MENTAL DECISION!

When you are underwater, your ability to make quality decisions is limited. In fact, I wouldn't want to rely on any decisions I make underwater. So it is critical to make all important decisions in advance of getting in your kayak.

#1 Decision- When I flip over, I roll up. This is an easy one. If you are walking across the street and you fall down, you just stand up and walk to the other side. You don't lie there and wait for someone to help you. Why? Because you know how to stand up. If you try to get up and fall again, what do you do? You stand up and walk across the street before you get run over by a truck. If you tip over, you roll up, if you miss a roll, you set up and do it right the next time.

Rolling is easy- you know how to do it on both sides. The only time you don't roll is when you aren't focused on the task at hand- SET UP, COCK UP, HIP SNAP, HEAD DOWN.

That is all you can do when underwater.

IMPORTANT FACTS-

1. All you can do underwater is roll up.
2. If you think about anything but rolling up, you will have more trouble rolling.

Scenarios-

You tip over and your paddle hits a rock underwater---

Set up and roll

You are set up but your head bounces on a rock---

roll up

You feel a huge boil and swirly water and you are having trouble setting up--

Set up and roll (it may take another 5 seconds)

You are up against rocks on one side---

Set up and roll on other side.

Get the point: Everytime you are upside-down, you focus on the roll and roll up.

The option- Swim (It takes at least 5 more seconds to get air then rolling, you bang your legs, waste 5 minutes, get cold, endanger yourself and everyone with you) So swimming is not an option.

HOW DO I PRACTICE MY ROLL TO HAVE TOTAL CONFIDENCE IT WILL ALWAYS WORK?

1. Once you are confident in a pool that you will get back up if you tip over (you can roll) you can begin your real roll practice.

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER TIP OVER WITH YOUR PADDLE SET UP IN ROLL POSITION!!!!

This will never happen in a river, so practicing this way means every time you tip in a river it will feel different to you then in practice.

Your goal is to get comfortable with every conceivable position to start your roll from underwater.

Examples: Tip with your paddle behind your back, over your head, holding with one hand, backwards, bad grip, etc. Tip with your paddle off to the side of the boat, look for it and swim to it, grab it set up and roll.

Time your self underwater- practice extending your time underwater with a reasonable comfort level. (The average person is comfortable for 10-15 seconds on the first try and 15-30 seconds on the second try. This means it is possible for you to double the time you have to be comfortable underwater with a little practice (underwater is no big deal unless you feel panic, extending the time you have before panic is easy and critical)

Learn an "intuitive roll"- You can now roll any old which way but loose. You no longer roll set up. You can pass your paddle over the boat while underwater, etc. Awesome. One more step...

Getting past the "learned, mechanical roll". You do a sweep roll, or a C to C roll. Fine. Rolling though is simply getting a bite on the water and hip snapping up. (you should take your roll past the beginner phase and learn to roll in all kinds of positions of paddle and body)

Here is how you do it-

1. Flip in the water with your paddle in the high brace position and roll back up (deep high brace)
2. Same thing but let the paddle go underwater to a 30-degree angle, then roll up.
3. Do it again letting the paddle go deep to 60 degrees, then roll up.
4. go to 90 degrees then roll up. (miss a roll?, no problem, set up and roll normally)

What you are trying to achieve in the above exercise is to learn what you can get away with and still roll up. It is not necessary to "set up do a CtoC roll" everytime. In fact, most of the time you should be able to turn a flip into a quick hipsnap back up. Why? Because you generally tip over with the paddle in a position that is similar to one that your are practicing above (60 degrees into the water for example)

You can always set up and do the "proper roll technique" if you miss a quick roll up. However, if you don't learn that you can roll from any position, you won't ever have an intuitive roll.

Summary:

1. Decide that you NEVER swim. (The only time swimming is safer than staying in the boat is when the boat is pinned solid to something)
2. Practice "combat rolls" only- that is the only kind you will ever have to do.
3. Extend the amount of time you are comfortable underwater (a bath tub is good for this too)
4. Learn an "Intuitive roll"- rolling any which way, (it is all about getting a bite on the water with your paddle and doing a good hip snap, keeping the head down.)
5. Imagine every possible situation that could possibly occur in the river and try to simulate it in the pool (use the sides, use other kayakers, use a broken paddle, etc)
6. Learn a hand roll after the intuitive roll.

ONE MORE THING. TIME TO PUT AN OLD WIVES TALE TO REST ONCE AND FOR ALL!!!!

It is not better to roll leaning forward vs. leaning back!

The last three years there has been some kind of underground cult that has ruined the rolls of thousands of boaters,

endangering them in the river, ruining their confidence, and their on the water enjoyment. This cult has been teaching that you should ALWAYS roll up leaning forward. BS, NO GOOD!

Their theory is by rolling up leaning forward you protect your face from hitting rocks. Wrong!! By the time you have done your hip snap and are coming up, if you are leaning back your face is pointed at the sky, not the bottom of the river.

Leaning forward during hip snap hinders your hip snap by 50%. This means you will be missing many more rolls than if you lean back. It also raises your center of gravity on the roll by 50% taking more energy to roll up.

You want to nail your first roll everytime! This means good hip snap (leaning back a little or all of the way), keep your center of gravity low (leaning back) and finish every roll in bracing position (leaning back, paddle out to the side)

Leaning forward means missing rolls, slamming rocks on your way back in, coming up out of position for a good brace to keep you up, etc. SAY NO TO THE CULT!

With all of this said remember....

You will see me, and all of the best boaters breaking all of the rules mentioned about (except the swimming part) because our rolls are so intuitive that we just "roll up" with no regard to technique or a consistent approach. (I rarely ever set up and roll, I often lean forward so I am in position to take my next stroke, I will lean back if it is important that I stay up) etc. You too can get there, but a breaking out of the "mechanical roll" mold is the first step.

I hope this was a worthwhile rolling article for everyone.

See you on the water,

Editors Note: Regarding the lean forward/backward argument, the above is not the final word. Listen to both sides, and make your own decision!

Après Rain, de Luge
by Matt Muir

February 12, a look at the gages said good things for the Slippery Rock (<http://www.trailworks.com/rotw/slipperryrock.cfm>). After some solid rain amid three daze of 40+ temper-Ratt-ures, I was figuring ice would *not* be a problem. I talked Dave Broer, who was itching to

paddle, and David Donnellan, who'd orchestrated a water line break in Orange, so's he could paddle instead of attending the rolling session, into coming along.

There was at least one boat-laden car at the takeout bridge, so we knew we weren't the only nutzos in the winter cold. Since we were anticipating water above 2 feet, I convinced my compadres into heading for the Slide at Frew's Mill.

One look told us to put in elsewhere. The pool above the Mill was all iced over. We could have recognized this as a harbinger, but we headed straight for Rose Point and put in there.

As we passed Jake's Gauge, it was showing roughly a foot. Was Jake off by a foot? Or had the Wurtemberg gage led us astray? We continued on and got ourselves some head-dunking at Airport. When we turned downstream, reality hit us in the face.

Reality consisted of a wall of ice in the pool just downstream. David was the first to give it a try. He drove his boat up on the frozen surface, and began to handwalk across, looking like Eddie M. in *Trading Places*. We got to the other side and felt a little ice break under our hulls as we plopped back into liquid water. This is not the biggest or slowest pool on the Slip, so we suspected more to come.

In all, we were stopped five times by the ice. In three cases, we could launch up and handwalk; we were kinda wishing fer dem lugers' gloves: you know, the ones with spikes on the knuckles, so's yew can scoot yerself along (they'd perhaps come in handy for raft encounters on the Yough or Gauley, too!)...in the other two cases, we had to get out and walk the rapids on the trail. In one of *those* cases, walking around the pool below Maytag, it was a solid Class-4 hike, with slick ice covering a long section of the trail.

When we got to McConnell's Mill, we were accosted by Kris, a Michigander who'd driven all that way to paddle on a literally icy winter day. Of course we took him aboard and gave him shuttle. Upon hearing where Kris had come from, David shook his head in wonder: "Now, *there's* a man who *needs* to paddle!" Having run the river once with the other group, Kris got two runs in.

The last of the ice dams was in the pool above Hilo Bitch. I got atop the ice, but it

was thin there and I broke through. I was stuck in a "reverse island," if you will, flailing madly to get back on solid ice. It would've been most embarrassing to have been throwroped out of that predicament! (It probably goes with saying, but just to remove all doubt: that kind of ice requires caution. If there's a chance that your boat will slip under the ice in moving water, that's a lethal hazard, from which there would almost certainly be no rescue. It would *be unconscionably risky* to attempt to get onto the ice under circumstances where the boater wasn't certain that s/he wouldn't be swept under.) It took some time and some paddle-flailing and some water-ice-reading to get me back on the solid stuff, so's I could Do the Eddie. I (hopefully) got some good pictures of my buds up on the ice. Check the Ratt Hole (<http://members.aol.com/rivieraratt/ratthole.html>); they should be in there by the time you read this.

Anyhoo, it was a bit of a unique day. Had we known it was iced over, we'd have stayed in Ohio; nevertheless, it's fun to have this kind of experience under your skirt. You look at the Wurtemberg gage, you'd of figgered it was running 1.5-2 feet, by any correlation I've ever heard. UNfort, it was really running 11 inches by the time we got to the McConnell's Mill gage. Bummer, but that's still a fun level. I guess the Wurt gage was ice-encrusted or something. All this WWWeb technology is great, with instant communication and a clear picture of which rivers are best, even from hundreds of miles away, but...no system is entirely error-free. I guess that's a good thing, as total predictability would be less fun.

You take a look at the ice crossing the stream, with a little snow on it, and you think, "Dang. That ain't the kinda white water I wuz hopin' fer." It was the hardest water I've ever had to paddle...

Keel-Hauler's KaNews May 2000



June Deadline: May27

Directions to Peninsula Library From Cleveland...

Take st. rt. #77 south to exit #143 - Richfield (Wheatley Rd.) -- Turn left and cross over bridge and turn left again, returning to highway #77 north, stay in right lane. Take immediate right onto ramp for #271 north. Get off at first exit - *exit 12 - #303 and turn right (east) and drive 1.5 miles. Turn right at first traffic light (Riverview road) Peninsula library is on your left after about 1 block.

From east side of Cleveland...

Take 271 south to exit 12 - #303 Turn right (east) onto #303 and drive 1.5 miles...(see* above)

From Akron...

Take #77 north to #271 north and get off at 1st exit - exit 12-#303 and turn right and drive 1.5 miles...(see* above)

...or take rt#8 north to #303 Peninsula exit and turn left (west) and drive into Peninsula. Pass railroad tracks, at traffic light turn left (south) onto Riverview Rd. and Peninsula library is one block on left.

May 20-21...ARC Whitewater Weekend #2

See newsletter for the date.

This program provides an instructional step beyond the ARC Beaumont basic river program #1 and the alternate basic river program #2 for canoe, kayak, and decked C1 paddlers. The instruction site will be in southwestern PA near Ohiopyle State Park. This program is designed for students who have completed a basic river course or who have equivalent experience. Call for details and registration materials well in advance of the program date. Participation and equipment are available on first come, first served basis.

Mike

Darrah...darrahm@usa.redcross.org...216-431-3323

Steve Ingalls...sti@po.cwru.edu...216-371-8250

May 5...Slippery Women's Trip, PA

(13/21)Ladies, come out and join Cathy for an all-women's trip over to the Slip. Call ahead for the meeting time and place.

Cathy

Schilling...james.catherine@cleveland.va.gov...330-686-8924

May 5...Upper Yough, MD (32)

Stu Koster...skoster@wwnet.net...810-652-3241

May 5-6 (Friday-Saturday)...Cheat River Festival, WV (18/23/26/31)

Ron Whitney...whitney64@aol.com...216-741-4405

May 6 or 7...Grand River Cleanup Canoe Trip (6)

Please call for location and meeting times.

Gary Tucker.....440-357-7890

May 6-7...Forks of the Cheat, WV (III-IV)

Steve Ingalls...sti@po.cwru.edu...216-371-8250

May 6-7 - Moved to May 20-21...North Branch, Potomac (19)

See description on page 33.

Gary Smith garolncary@juno.com...216-581-9666

May 9...Meeting, Location Peninsula Library

May 10...Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet Landing, 6:00 PM

Keith Clarke...kclarke@on-b.com...440-888-7317

May 13...Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

Kurt Reno...kreno@neo.rr.com...330-335-3610

May 13...Lower Cuyahoga, OH (6) River Day

Chris Kiehl...amcckkayak@aol.com...330-869-6549

May 13-14...Middle Fork and Tygart, WV (29/28)

Pam & Mark

Poljak...poljakp@linelnt1.light.ge.com...440-238-1751

May 13-14...Cheat Forks, WV (26)

See description at April 15-16.

Sherie

Sanzenbacher...ritchkovacic@stratos.net...216-381-0599

May 17...Sea Kayaking at Huron City Park, 6:00 PM

Jill Lauren.....440-246-2993

May 20 or 21...Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

Ann Corey

mcckkayak@aol.com...330-869-6549

May 20-21...ARC Basic River Weekend #3

The third American Red Cross whitewater weekend program is directed toward participants who want to refine sound basic whitewater skills. The instruction site is the North Branch of the Potomac River in the Maryland panhandle, with the Cheat Narrows as a possible alternate site. These are different rivers from the ones we use for the prerequisite WW #1, and these rivers present different problems and different learning opportunities to paddlers. Some ARC equipment is available for use by participants.

Mike

Darrah...darrahm@usa.redcross.org...216-431-3323

Steve Ingalls...sti@po.cwru.edu...216-371-8250

May 20-21...Yough Weekend, PA (12/23)

Lower: Michael

Duvall...Michael.Duvall@amgreetings.com...216-521-0094

May 24...Sea Kayaking at Avon Lake City Hall, 6:00 PM

Bob Zehe...jcunitpro@aol.com...440 934-2167

May 26 - June 3...West Virginia Rivers Week (19-33)

John

Kobak...keelhauler@prodigy.net...440-871-1758

May 27...Sea Kayaking at Kilbuck Creek, 10:00 AM

Keith Clarke...kclarke@on-b.com...440-888-7317

May 27-29...Memorial Day Weekend in the Cheat Canyon (26)

Steve Ingalls...sti@po.cwru.edu...216-371-8250

Summer Months...Cheat Canyon, WV (26)

Steve Ingalls...sti@po.cwru.edu...216-371-8250

June 2-3...Upper Yough, MD (32)

Ritch

Kovacic...ritchkovacic@stratos.net...216-381-0599

June 3-4...Lower Yough, PA (24) or Cheat Forks, WV (19-26)

Please call ahead for the plan.

Sue

Strumbel...sstrumbe@mail.doc.gov...216-741-4405

June 4...Sea Kayaking at Lakeview Park, 10:00 AM

Roll and Rescue Session / Pancake Breakfast – meet at 10:00 PM

Barb Bodemer & Rose

Klena...b.bodemer@prodigy.net...216-226-1640

June 3-4...Canoe Sailing on Lake Pymatuning, OH

Jim Botamer.....440-988-8580

June 6, 20, 27...Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

Matt Muir...RivieraRatt@aol.com...330-NOT A FAX

June 7...Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet Landing, 6:00 PM

Keith Clarke...kclarke@on-b.com...440-888-7317

June 9-11...Sea Kayaking East Harbor State Park,

Call Jill for time and meeting location.

Jill Lauren.....440-246-2993

June 10...Lower Cuyahoga, OH (6)

Ann Corey...amcckkayak@aol.com...330-869-6549

June 10-11...Cheat Canyon, WV (26)

See May 27-29 description.

Anne Kmieck.....216-371-8250

June 13...Meeting, Whiskey Island Marina

See newsletter for directions.

Keelhaulers 4/11/00

Meeting Minutes

New Members/ New to meetings: Brad Hubiak from Doylestown Ohio is an interested intermediate kayaker. He is interested in possibly joining the club and boating with others of his experience level.

Treasurer's Report: Vince was not present but forwarded the information. The present balance is \$4223.60, which includes \$725 from the Vermilion race. There are more \$ to pay out for the Vermilion race.

Instruction: Chuck Singer and Steve Ingalls gave updates on instruction. The Beaumont weekend had excessive rain. The Ashtabula, Conneaut, and Grand rivers were all above instruction levels. Thus they could not complete the river courses and no one received their river certification. The present plan is for students from Beaumont to go to the

WWI/Basic River weekend April 29th and April 30th. They will complete the river course and then fast forward to WWI.

They will receive their river certification and depending on how fast they progress some will get their WWI either at White Water I weekend or the White Water II weekend (May 20th and May 21st).

Membership: John Kobak informed us that we presently have 339 paid up members.

Safety: Chuck Singer described how small accidents could cause injuries that limit your ability to paddle. Bruises are broken blood vessels that can be a sign of internal bleeding.

Practice RICE (Rest, Ice, Compression, and Elevation) to keep these injuries from getting worse. And those who asked him nicely could view his bruised tushie, the incident that focused his talk.

Old Business/New Business:

Hank reported about the Vermilion Race. There were 52 boats, and 73 people. Last year there were 47 boats and 73 people. There are enough number Bib's for up to 5 more years. There are enough trophy's left over for several more years. The entry fee was \$10 of which \$2.50 went to Insurance. The profit from the race should be in excess of \$100. The club then raised a motion and voted in a \$100 donation to the Lorain County Metroparks in appreciation of their support and help on race day. John Kobak recommended we consider putting dates on some trophy's next year. At least the classes that always have a strong showing of boaters.

The Logo has been decided. The voting is final. Only 56 total votes were tallied.

The winner is the latest entry from Bill Weeber. It received 47% of the votes. The original Logo (The Old Mountaineer) captured 32% of the vote. The other new entry from Rachelle Schmidt captured 16% of the vote. John Kobak says he may take artistic liberties in choosing the color scheme.

The rescue rodeo is presently scheduled for August 12th. There will be a planning meeting on a Saturday or Sunday in May at the Slippery Rock. Please contact Matt Muir if you would like to help out. Four club members have pledged support for this even.

The Cheat River Festival would like to have 4 man teams from each club compete in the river race. This will give a team spirit to the race. The race entry fee

includes the shuttle, a T-shirt, Etc. The race is bridge to bridge. There was a request to see if we want to put a team together.

Grand River Race date is wrong in the yearbook trip schedule. The trip schedule is correct in the last newsletter. The real date is Saturday April 29th.

The Bradstreet Sea Kayaking group will be providing safety for the triathlon held at the Rock and Roll hall of fame. You get a T-shirt for participating. You will need a Sea Kayak to help out. It will be the weekend of July 15th and 16th. See article in newsletter.

The Program:

Joan Mabey talked about her scheduled White Water Rescue Classes. The classes are tentatively scheduled for April 29th and 30th, May 6th and 7th, June 10th and 11th, Oct 28th and 29th, and Nov 4th and 5th. See also the information sheet that is now on the web page. Call Joan at 440-235-2153, or 440-463-0544 for more information.

WANTED

Guides for the Greater Cleveland Council Boy Scouts of America (GCC/BSA) Tinnerman Canoe Base (TCB) on the Fr. River in Ontario, Canada, summer 2000. Here's a wonderful opportunity to share your paddling proficiency with young people and their adult advisers. For more details, call Bob Smith, TCB Director at 440-835-1956(h) 216-529-4062(w) or Jim Phillips at 216-861-6060(w)

INTERNSHIP WITH AMERICAN WHITEWATER

Opportunities are available for internship positions with American Whitewater at the National HQ in Washington, DC. For details, contact:

RichB@amwhitewater.org, PH - 301-589-9453, Fax – 301-589-6121. www.awa.org. National Office Internship, American Whitewater, 1430 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

The Ocoee Rodeo Needs You

Volunteers are needed to help stage another successful Ocoee Whitewater Rodeo. This year's rodeo, May 19-21, has been designated a US Team Trials event so the action/competition will be intense. It takes nearly 160 volunteers working in a variety of positions to make the rodeo a success - we need you! Jobs available include:

Timers, Scribes, Judges, Safety Boaters, Announcers, People on shore with throw ropes, People to help with the party:

- check ids at the beer stop, - set up/tear down, - silent auction, - sell tickets, And many more.

As a rodeo volunteer, I can tell you it's fun, gives you the chance to see some of your old boating buddies and meet new ones, and it helps raise money for river conservation. Hey, what more can you ask: great people, great rodeo action, a great party, AND a great cause. To top it off, all volunteers putting in at least 4 hours get a T-shirt, free entrance to the party, and the chance to win cool stuff in the volunteer-only raffle.

If you can help, please contact Karen V'Soske at Kvsoske@aol.com or call 419-877-9215. Let me know what day(s) you can work, how many hours, and if you have a job preference. I'm working with Jayne Abbot, AWA, and her stellar corps of seasoned volunteers to help with this event. Jayne sends along her thanks to all those willing to help.

Fun Times For First Timers In West Virginia (Wheeeeeee!!!)

March 24 & 25

Pete Turkely

Another weekend spent on two of my favorite rivers in W.Va. It's getting to be a habit: The Lower Big Sandy on Saturday and the Cheat on Sunday. Dave Broer, the elusive George Carroll, and I packed into my little Subaru and drove to Teeter's campground Friday night to get a jump start on the weekend. Already there were Brent Laubaugh, and Lower Big Sandy first timers Kelly Lennon and Cathy Schilling. We met up with the rest of the Ohio gang in the morning, put on the river and split up into two groups, ours consisting of the six people named above.

As expected the two first timers were a little tense, but Kelly and Cathy were quickly put into paddling mode with good runs through the approach rapid to Wonder Falls. We scouted the falls and they both decided to walk it. The rest of us posed for the camera during our runs over the falls, most of which were good except for George's sad imitation of a number 2 pencil, however, all he suffered were the appropriate hoots and hollers.

Next up Zoom Flume. Kelly's line looked good, but she said she scraped a bit

down the cheese-grater. Cathy, meanwhile, ran the hero's line - A vertical drop of the steepest part of the ledge that forms the extreme river right side of the rapid. She dropped cleanly, but directly onto the Cheese-grater, and paddled through w/o incident.

The fun (or lack of fun) began at Little Splat. Brent, George and I led the way with clean runs (with me running the last third of the rapid backwards. I ran it better than when pointed downstream). Dave stayed back with Kelly and Cathy to watch our runs from shore. We explained the sneak route rather clearly, but they must have seen something they liked because both Kelly and Cathy decided to give it a go. I saw Kelly go first (I didn't actually see her, I only saw her bow pointed straight up at the sky) she got backended at the top and flipped. Cathy followed and also got flipped in the same spot. Dave, following close behind, cringed in horror as he saw these two flip in close succession before his eyes. He wasn't too sure how he was going to pick up the mess. He got some relief when

Kelly got off a perfect combat roll and finished the run nicely. However, Cathy didn't hit her roll and bailed as she started to get bounced around on the rocks, and subsequently faced a not so fun swim through the rest Little Splat. We got her ashore at the bottom, and although shaken, she recovered and was determined to continue.

After viewing Big Splat for a while, we all watched "Brent" make a run of the final drop of Big Splat. He spent a long time in the eddy above the final drop gathering all of his wits before taking the plunge. We fished him out of the eddy on the river left at the bottom. Somewhere below Big Splat Cathy had another swim, but nowhere near as severe as the one through Little Splat. She sucked it up and finished the rest of the day without incident.

I can't remember where but somewhere further down I was following Broer through a slot, when I got splatted up on a rock and flipped against it. Kelly, following close behind, boofed off the bottom of my boat and stuffed me further against the rock. I washed around and as I started to roll up, I got tagged by a rock. Each time I tried to roll, I got tagged by another rock. After about four or five times of that I had enough and bailed. I bounced over a couple of more drops and finally managed to get my boat and I in a

safe place. Good thing cause I don't think Dave and Kelly were in any position to help me or gather my gear. As I was gathering my senses I saw George get flipped where I had just bailed. He also greeted a couple of rocks but managed to recover just above me (thus avoiding the shame of carrying the albatross, which still remains in my possession for a swim at airport). Cathy followed, except she stayed upright and avoided a repeat of George's and my debacle.

It was just before the first drop in First Island when I noticed a strange vibration in my paddle. Just as I was going over I saw my paddle blade was cracked, "@\$%\$#&@%#", Fortunately, it was still held together enough for me to finish out the day. (My first and only paddle is finally retired after 4 1/2 years of bottom bracing and rock bashing. Maybe it's also time for a new boat!). Everyone else had good lines, while Kelly and Cathy walked. The rest of the day was spent enjoying the remainder of the river without incident. Everyone had a great time, Although Cathy said it will be a while before she attempts the Lower Big Sandy again.

The next day Cathy and Kurt Haas departed to run the Upper Big Sandy, while we (Dave, Brent, George, Kelly and I) ran the Cheat. For some stupid reason they all thought I was the person best suited to show them the lines. On Big Nasty I got a little too far right with Kelly following me. I got by the big hole at the bottom, while Kelly managed to catch the edge of it and flipped. She perched upside down on the froth that is Big Nasty for a few seconds before washing downstream and rolling. One near disaster averted! Again at High Falls, Brent watched me lead Kelly off-line. This time too far left. She got flipped at the curling wave, rolled up and got flipped again. She bailed and we picked up the pieces downstream and continued.

Nothing of note until Coliseum. We all watched as "Brent" again impressed us with his rodeo display in Recyclotron. Kelly, not wanting to be outdone by "Brent" put on quite a rodeo display of her own in Lower Coliseum. I led the line once again. It was deja vu as I turned around to see the bow of Kelly's boat pointed straight up at the sky. She managed to surf BOTH monster holes in Lower Coliseum, throwing her first official cartwheels and proving that old schoolers

in 20 foot long Pirouettes can rodeo with the best of those crazy kids (She plans to attempt the surf while upright the next time through). Soon thereafter she was out of her boat. Further downstream we again gathered up the flotsam plus one shivering boater and were on our merry way. I mentioned to the group if in retrospect they thought it was a good idea to have the guy carrying the albatross leading the group through everything. (I was later informed that Kelly was not part of this bird carrying contest, and that I still retain possession. All that good work for nothing).

Chew or be Chewed

By Brent Laubaugh
4-08-2000

What does a roast beef (w/ Swiss) bagel sandwich and Dave Broer have in common? Those who know Dave might find this question a bit perplexing, for it is indeed, under normal circumstances, difficult to draw parallels between a meat sandwich and a practicing vegetarian. Fortunately, for the sake of this article, the similarities were all too clear on April 8, 2000, when several Keelhaulers set out for an early spring trip to the Middle Fork and Tygart Rivers in West Virginia.

We met just outside Audra State Park (still closed for winter) and awoke Saturday morning to 70 degrees and quickly changing weather conditions. The group was composed of John Kobak, Elliot Drysdale, Sean Madras (a new member from Erie, Pa), Kelly Lennon, Peter Turkaly, Dave Broer, and myself. Kelly was still sick from the week prior and opted to serve as the honorable Shuttle Bunny Extraordinaire.

PART ONE - PETER DEVOURS BAGEL SANDWICH

The levels on the Middle Fork had been dropping for several days, and so at around 3.9' had acquired a crystal-clear blue complexion. We put in at Audra and immediately turned on our Kobak navigational unit. Built by NASA, this essential paddling guide works extremely well under even the most adverse conditions, but does not accurately keep river time. The run was creekly and was not at all pushy at what would be considered moderate levels. Sean knew the Middle Fork would be a challenge for him, but he negotiated the first rapids without incident. As we approached the newly named rapid "Boof or be Eaten", Kobak announced the

line - a small right boof off a three foot ledge to avoid a rock in the middle of the channel. The "boof intensity" dropped as each paddler ran the drop, and the last two, Sean and Dave both were forced to roll after careening into the rock. The rock managed to steal Sean's glasses in the struggle.

No other major incidents occurred until the rapid just beyond "Screaming Jane", in which Sean was toppled near the top of the rapid and swam the bottom portion. The creeking ended abruptly as we poured with the waters of the Middle Fork into the Tygart. Although certainly not "big water", the difference in volume was an abrupt change from the Middle Fork. The first serious rapid was "S-Turn", which was beefy and boasted two munching holes at the bottom left of the serpentine "S" course. Sean again had difficulty at the top of the rapid, and the power of the rapid didn't allow for a roll. After Sean was safely to the side and catching his breath, several of us pulled out a snack from our boats. I retrieved a roast beef and swiss bagel sandwich, and took my first bite. I quickly noticed, however, that our Kobak navigational unit had not budgeted lunch into the itinerary, and was beginning to lead the group downriver. Peter and I scrambled back into our boats, and with the sandwich resting on my sprayskirt, we raced to catch up with the group, which was quickly approaching "Shoulder Snapper" rapid.

Knowing that "Shoulder Snapper" was an easy rapid, IF you were on line, I stuffed half the bagel sandwich into my mouth and began to carefully track Kobak's entry into the drop. By this point, Peter and I were both in fast-moving current heading right for the horizon line. I realized that even if I was on Kobak's line I couldn't paddle the rapid with a half bagel in my hand. ANSWER? I held the bagel sandwich in the air and said, "Peter?". With the first glance of that succulent roast beef, Peter's eyes glazed over and all of his being was focused on one thing and one thing alone - eating that bagel sandwich. I quickly handed off the prize and frantically worked to position my boat for the line. I made the move right on time and shot through the rapid. Catching an eddy on river right just below the drop, I turned quickly to see what had become of Peter.

As I turned upstream, I spotted Peter in the midst of a one-handed backstroke. With the other hand, he was

still packing bagel into his mouth, determined to paddle backwards against the current on the lip of the drop until every piece of the sandwich was safely in his mouth. Like a chipmunk, Peter was obviously storing sandwich in his cheeks so that his food would be protected during the descent. He finally entedered, with cheeks still puffed out, worked furiously to free himself from the predicament, but the boat finally flipped upstream and was still stuck squarely against the rock. Taking the situation very seriously, and expecting at the very least to retrieve a swimmer, several of us paddled aggressively to Peter's aid. Just as we approached the rock, Peter's boat washed around the rock and after two roll attempts, Peter rolled up. He was still chewing the bagel.

After completing Hook Rapid, the Tygart began to mellow and we soon found ourselves carrying down the mile of train tracks to our cars. When we arrived, we realized that our Kobak navigational unit had managed to end our day on the river at 13:30 hours. I quickly concluded that we could not waste an afternoon with rivers running all around us. After some haggling, Dave, Peter, and I agreed to make tracks for our third river of the day - The Big Sandy.

PART TWO - WONDER FALLS DEVOURS DAVE

Remember what I said about 70 degrees and quickly changing conditions? By the time we reached the Big Sandy put-in at Rockville, the time was 15:30 and the temperature had dropped 31 degrees. Downpours had been occurring all day and the Sandy was on the rise. As we paddled out beneath the bridge, the gauge read a pulsing 6.5'. All of us had paddled the Sandy at levels up to 6.25', but we were about to get a lesson in stream dynamics.

At the entry rapid to Wonder Falls, all three of us realized that the Big Sandy wasn't going to allow the traditional boogie paddling that characterizes much of the river. No, we were going to have to work down the six mile stretch. Dave, in the final drop of the entry rapid, flipped and face-planted against an underwater rock. When he rolled up, the water that flushed from his helmet and ran down his face had a subtle red hue. Upon closer inspection, Peter and I notified Dave that his forehead, his nose, and his lip were bleeding. Dave immediately remarked, "Its funny, but it doesn't hurt at all." Peter and I concluded that Dave either had an

elevated pain tolerance or possibly had just damaged the pain center of his brain. Well, there we were, staring at the steaming horizon line that marks Wonder Falls. Dave assured us he was fine, although his medical assessment of himself was a bit suspect. Dave rationalized that the injury to his head couldn't have been too serious, because he only saw stars upon impact - he argued that if he had sustained a "REAL" head injury he would have seen those little birds circling above his head like in the cartoons. Dave didn't realize it at the time, but ironically a bird was in fact surveying the scene from above and was watching his every move. Looming ominously, the infamous Swimming Albatross eagerly awaited Dave's run over Wonder Falls. Peter was first to launch off the drop. Dave followed closely behind, but near the lip of the drop, his boat brushed slightly against an exposed rock that robbed his speed.

I have been told by numerous Sandy veterans that the hole below Wonder Falls becomes very nasty at levels above 6.5'. Dave Broer would offer a slight revision to that statement - that the hole below Wonder Falls becomes very nasty AT 6.5'. Robbed of his speed, Dave penciled the drop and was immediately sucked back into the curtain. While upside down and struggling to roll, he and his boat were surfed to the really mean part of the hole and throttled mercilessly. After nearly twenty seconds of Dave's inverted cartwheeling, Peter first saw a paddle surface, and then up came Dave, washed out about fifteen feet from the falls. [Details of the munching come courtesy of Peter - I had yet to run the falls at this time.] As I came over the lip of the falls, Dave had just been picked up by Peter and was being pulled to the side. I retrieved Dave's boat in a swirling river-right eddy, and after some ferry and towing practice, Dave and his boat were reunited.

The rest of the run was surprisingly pushy, and many of the small, normally punchable holes required solid boofing skills. The Albatross around Dave's neck clearly destabilized his paddling, but his brace served him well to the takeout. When we finally climbed the hill at the Jenkinsburg bridge, all of us were exhausted. Fortunately for us, Kelly came through with hot chocolate, cookies, and beer - plenty of nourishment for three cold, hungry, and injured paddlers. Three rivers - one day. One could quickly

become spoiled with such conditions if the drought-ridden days of summer weren't so unsettlingly close. Enjoy 'em while you've got 'em.

3 Blind Mice or Some BS (That's Big Sandy, what were you thinking)

By Cliff Wire

Here it is the end of March, and I haven't been in the water yet! Not a good start to the year. Here comes an e-mail from Matt Muir letting me know about a Big Sandy trip on March 25 to solve that problem. Why should I start out small for my first trip of the year! Jump in with both feet I say (some say foolishly). I start out by violating one of the first rules I made up when I started kayaking. Any trip that is over 3 hrs one way requires at least two days of paddling. I managed to hold to it for four years! The Vermilion River race was the next day, so I had to be back. Managed to car pool with Matt and Karen Petit though which kinda let me not break the rule too badly (like crossing your fingers). We met at Little Sandy's off of I-68 in WV. The list of 11 included: Matt Muir, Paul Lang, Matt Chaney, Karen Petit, Cliff Wire, George Carroll, Kelly Miller, Cathy Shilling, Peter Turkaly, Dave Broer, and Brent Laubaugh. After running shuttle and warming up in the wonderful playhole at the Rockville put-in, we broke into two groups. The first five listed above, and the 2nd six. The 3 blind newbies were Kelly, Cathy and I.

The day was gorgeous. Bright and sunny with the sun only occasionally going behind a cloud. We start out with some nice class 2/3 stuff. Plenty of surf holes and the like on the way to Wonder

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All 18ft of it! Coming into the last rapid before scouting, Paul gets hung up, that buffaloes Karen who bumps into him. They are both blocking the eddy I wanted to go for. I bump into Karen, and go over, then go over the rapid into the pool, then I roll up (recalling Matt's swim in the last newsletter, I went to roll sessions, it paid off). Cold water! The sun was warm, the air cool, and the water COLD! We get out and scout. There goes Paul over the Falls. There goes Karen, and Matt, Here comes Pete and the rest of the gang. There goes

Pete. There goes Matt C. Here comes Paul for his second run. I notice that the Falls are very high! Here comes Matt for his second run. There go some folks from other clubs. Time for me to quit dilly-dallying here. I notice again how high the Falls are! Here I go to my boat, and stop for a different vantagepoint to view the approach. Here I get in my boat. Here I get in the water and paddle to the approach to watch the line from this perspective. There goes Paul to show me the line. Matt is in position with his camera. Guess I have to go now. Notice there isn't any trepidation here. Yeah, right. I mean, how bad can it be, I've done Jump Rock on the L. Yough. It's the same distance, right, sort of, kinda, like, maybe! (Did I mention how high they were? 18 ft in case somebody missed it.) Here I go, paddling hard! Got to make that line. I did. And over the

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I go. Here comes the water real fast!! It was a perfect landing! I saw it all in my minds eye. Had to, my eyes were closed! Just a small snootfull of water. Hoo Boy!! That was a rush. Here comes Karen in Kelly's boat. Here she comes again in Cathy's boat. Here comes Matt without a paddle (or no hands as I describe it).

Finally, our five are done, and off we go into some boogie water. Read and run as Matt calls it. Solid Class 3. Or real big Eddy Turn as I think of it. You don't want to swim here! Lots of fun! We arrive at Zoom Flume, and get out to scout. It has a big curving tongue on the left that you want to ride. Center is the Cheese Grater (it is like going over rumble strips. Bet you can't guess how I know that fact). Extreme right is a ledge that leads to the Cheese Grater. Almost everyone had good lines. Can you guess who didn't? Matt ran it twice. For a unique perspective, Cathy ran the ledge.

Off we go for some more boogie water. Little Splat is in here somewhere, I just don't remember where or how it went. Here comes Big Splat. We all get out and scout. Matt M. gives me his camera. I get shots of him and Paul running the Splat. Matt C., Karen, and I choose the shoe leather option on this one. This is the last we see of the 2nd six. Looking upstream, it is an awesome view! We can see our

fellow KH'ers scouting and walking Big Splat.

Here comes a half-mile to mile of boogie water. You can't see more than 3 successive rapids at a time. Eddy turn times 10 is how I describe it With tall rocks. Off we go. The river decides puncture a rock wall with my boat. It didn't, but it was a good try! The left brace fails, and it is Maytag time!

Everybody now: *"This is how we wash our kayak, wash our kayak, wash our kayak. This is how we wash our kayak, wash our kayak, wash our kayak"*.

But I digress...

The top of my boat bangs on some rocks a few times, my right knee comes out of the brace. I decide that isn't good. I put it back in. My helmet takes a two whacks (my helmet is my friend, I like my helmet). My left shoulder takes a whack, but it didn't tear the dry top! (have to keep proper perspective). I decide to tuck up real close and get the paddle ready to roll when things calm down. The top of the boat takes another whack or two. Now for the spin cycle. I am spun around and spit into some calmer stuff. I go for the roll. I make it!! Exclaimed Matt M.: "Now that was a combat roll!". I didn't see a thing. Had my eyes closed the whole time. You didn't want to swim here. It would have been a long one. And bumpy! And no fun!

On the way to First Island, there is this great play hole. We all take a few turns. Karen decides to go in and play hole hog! Also known as being stuck. Matt M. finally drops in and helps her out. Everybody makes the roll.

We come to First Island. We get out and Scout. You drop though a chute, and the current wants to push you to the left in a big way as Paul demonstrates. Thing is, you want to go right! Watch Matt M. He runs it well. There is a pinning rock at the bottom which, is why you want to go right. Here I go. Not right enough. I manage to perch on top of the pinning rock for a second to two until the current pushes me off the top and away. Here come Karen and Matt C. with good runs.

The rest is just boogie water until the take out. At 3:00, KA-BOOM!! Thunder and some light rain for about 15 minutes. By the time we hit the take out at 3:30, it is bright sunny again!

Having passed on the Glenn Miller shuttle, we ran our own. We change and cross the

bridge. They have really improved the road on the other side of the bridge. A narrow gravel road. No ruts! What a great day to start the year.

Addendum: April 15, Big Sandy one more time. I get washed again at the same rapid. This time the river decided to have me sideswipe the same rock wall before putting me in the washing machine.

Whack the helmet a few more times, the boat, the left shoulder. Hey, I've done this before. I also manage to go over First Island upside down. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough room between the boat and the rocks for me. Scrape the whole way over and make the roll. I am becoming very proficient at demonstrating how you don't want to run rapids. But a great day that finished with a hike to Big Splat with the folks who ran the Upper Big Sandy.

I Fought the Yough and the Yough Won *by Jim Hun*

It all started last August when I decided to get back into whitewater kayaking after a 20+ year absence. During those 20 years I had been concentrating on sailboat racing and backcountry extended canoe tripping. I was good at reading whitewater and getting a loaded canoe through most anything so I figured going back to a kayak would not be too hard. Anyway, in August I had gone down the lower Yough in a Airforce one man raft and had a great time. I saw a bunch of kayaks and it looked like fun plus my son, Jay, was an avid kayaker. Within a few weeks I was the owner of a used Dagger Animas.

During the fall my son and I made a few trips to the lower Yough and I ran it fairly well with a few flips and wet exits - my 20 year old roll was gone. My boat handling was not great either but I could pick decent lines and get the boat through them most of the time. I vowed to relearn to roll over the winter and figured my paddling technique would come back with practice.

I took rolling lessons over the winter and also went to the pool sessions. The roll was solid in the pool by the end of the winter. I could roll every time in the pool even when flipping while moving and with the paddle in various strange positions. I was ready to hit the rivers. I took the Keelhauler's test and determined that the lower Yough was at or just above my rating.

Friday March 31 came around and the weather forecast for Saturday April 1 was good with sun and warm predicted. The

lower Yough was at 2.5 feet - a good level for me I thought. Off we went Saturday morning to the Yough. The trip went fine, we ran a shuttle, and were ready to get on the river about 11:00. The first thing I noticed was that with a wet suit, spray jacket, and life jacket, I felt sort of stiff and restricted. I wished I had practiced more rolls with the life jacket on. I also noticed the water was at 42 degrees, which was cold. I stretched, practiced paddling in the pool at the launch area, did some high braces and hip snaps, and was ready to go.

It felt good to be on the water, but my boat handling was not real smooth and felt funny - maybe the thought of cold water was making me too tentative. In Entrance, I stayed out of the bigger swells and worked the right eddying out now and then to look down river. By now my son was at the bottom of Entrance waiting for me. I looked down river, picked a line and took off. I was near the end of the rapid working my line when I noticed another boat coming at me from river left, the paddler looking down river not seeing me. Soon I was hit in the bow on the left side. I was knocked off line and now heading for a large rock. I went hard right trying to hit a small space between two rocks. I hit the spot, got hung up, bounced till I got loose, was off balance and sideways as I slid into a hole behind the large rock. I flipped left and was upside down before I knew it. The water was cold, somehow my knee had got out from under the thigh brace, I half tried a roll and then fell out of the boat.

I swam to shore with the boat and put myself back together again and was ready to continue. I had concluded: the water was not that cold, the flip was an accident caused by another boat, and I needed to brace up better when in the rapids to lock into the boat better. I caught up with my son below the rapids and we discussed what line to shoot at Cucumber. We had always shot left before due to the big rock in the middle. He went first and made it through fine, or so it looked to me - later he said there was a big hole at the bottom left that almost got him. I started down Cucumber running left of center and as I hit the top of the drop off I noticed two things: the right looked a lot better, and there was a large hole with a swirling vortex all set to suck you in on the left near the bottom. I tried to stay just right of the vortex but got sucked in anyway. Another flip to the left, a couple of lame tries at a

roll and I was swimming again. This swimming was getting old and it looked to be a long day at this rate.

I again swam to shore with the boat, put myself back together again and was ready to continue. I had concluded: I should have gone right, and I need to get serious about rolling. We continued down river. I was feeling a little more tentative, so I was picking easier lines and it was working well and allowing me to work on my boat handling. Things were going well - I was having fun and was determined to get down the river - this river was not going to get the best of me. At Eddy Turn, near the bottom, another ledge/rock with a hole. Again I flip to the left (are you seeing a pattern here yet) and as quick as I was over, I was back up. I'm not real sure how it happened but my roll had worked. I was elated - my first roll in moving water.

We continued down river without incident. I continued to look for easier lines to practice my paddling without worry of being eaten by a large wave or hole and it was working fine. We were approaching Dimple Rock, and I decided to scout this rapid as it had always intimidated me in the past. I scouted from the right shore and saw a nice line down the middle that would keep me away from the big rock on the left shore and avoid the need for the sharp right turn. My son had shot down Dimple on the normal line and was waiting in an eddy for me. I shot my line as planned, eddy out with my son, and we talked about Swimmers - stay off the right shore above Swimmers and stay left at the ledge. We both shot down without incident, eddied out and watched some boats playing in the waves at the ledge.

We continued down river. I shot right at Double Hydraulic staying out of the standing waves with no problem. My son followed me and hit the first hydraulic head on, disappeared shortly, and then popped up making a hard left turn to avoid the second hydraulic and the large hole beneath it. He made it through fine but seemed relieved to have missed the hole at the bottom.

At River's End, I decided to pick my way through the rocks to the right to stay out of the big waves on the left. It worked well for a while until I ended up on the right shore with a fairly tight looking line on down. I was sitting in an eddy next to shore and thought about walking around with the boat to the bottom. I decided to go for it (mistake). I hit the first shoot OK.

Then at the second shoot I did a 180, got sideways, and stuck against a rock with a little water flowing over the top of the boat. I was in no danger but it was now time to get out of the boat on to the rock, wait for the boat to swamp, and then drag it out. It worked according to plan with a little help from my son who had noticed I was missing and had walked up the right shore with a throw rope. I drained the boat and carried it around the rest of the rapid. No harm done, just another victory for the river.

We continued down river with no more problems. I went through some big waves just above the takeout - thought I was dead meat in a couple of the waves but somehow made it through. We took out and headed for the truck. An eventful first day out - four flips, three swims, one pin, and one successful roll. It was 2:00 and I was up for a loop run before heading home - I wanted another shot at Cucumber.

I warmed up again at the put in with a few practice rolls and big hip snaps. We started down the loop, through Entrance with no problems. I stopped above Cucumber on the right shore to scout it. I wanted a plan this time and really wanted to get through this rapid. My son had shot right this time and liked that line. We talked at the bottom of the rapid and picked a line for me which started near the right shore with a right/center line. I got in the boat fairly far up river and headed down. There was a large rock that I needed to pass just left of to pick up my line. I got sucked into the rock, hit it with my right stern and flipped over to the left (again). A quick try at a roll - no dice, then decision time. Swim to shore now (a close, easy swim) or go down Cucumber upside down or holding onto the boat in the water. A no brainer for me - head for shore - good by boat have a nice run. I met up with the boat below Cucumber - mad at myself for flipping before I even got a chance to run the rapid. I had been thinking so much about the line I wanted that I was not paying attention to what I was doing before I got there. I drained the boat and shot the rest of the loop without any trouble.

On the way home I thought, what had I learned today - lots: I need to practice rolling in moving water. I need to make myself roll - bailing is not an option and should only be a last resort. I need to spend some time on easier water to work on my boat handling and paddling technique. If the Yough is above 3 feet - I

need to stay off of it and stay out of Cucumber till I start paddling better. And last but not least, figure out why I only hit rocks with my right stern and why I always flip to the left.

Like I said - I fought the Yough and the Yough WON. But I expect to be back after a few trips to the Slip.

Next weekendsame old,same old...

Pete Turkaly

The following weekend we were up for a repeat performance of the same trip, the Sandy on Saturday, the Cheat on Sunday. This time Dave Donnelan was the unfortunate first timer to gullibly follow Brent and I downriver.

We met at Little Sandy's where we hooked up with a large group of Keelhaulers (along with a few new faces, Dave, Troy and Jeff from Va.). Dave was up for the challenge. At Wonder Falls he studiously followed everyone's run of the drop, until he was sure he had it down. He hopped in his boat and proceeded to execute a perfect run. The expression on his face after surfacing was typical of a first time run of the falls; a combination of "YeeeeHaaaw" and "What the hell just happened!". At Zoom Flume, Dave was set to follow everyone's line straight through the ledge-holes into the flume, when I convinced him to take the route that skirts behind them from the right. He was probably better off on his own. He ended up taking the line pioneered by Cathy Schilling the week before and ran the drop on the right. The rest of the trip went very well as Dave hit all the right lines, despite the fact that he was following the likes of Brent and I.

Figuring that Dave didn't get tortured enough by us the day before, Brent and I concocted a scheme (not intentionally, mind you) that would ensure a memorable weekend. In our usual slacker mode we took our time as group after group of cheat paddlers put on the river (They, of course, had turned their clocks ahead for daylight savings time, and planned accordingly). We meanwhile drove to Little Sandy's restaurant to pick up the three Virginia boys, who in like manner forgot to set their watches ahead. With 11:00 (or 10:00 our time) approaching we had yet to run shuttle. It was cold and we were dreading the long day on the river ahead of us.

There we were at Teeters campground; Brent and I, with four first timers blankly staring at the two of us as

we tried to formulate a game plan. Then I heard something. It was quiet at first, just barely audible over the sounds of Muddy Creek. It grew in volume... I've heard it somewhere before. It was coming from Brent. I glanced at him and saw something was stirring in his brain. Just then his eyes lit up and I recognized the sound as the theme from 2001:A Space Oddessy. Brent, in a moment of brilliance, shouted; "Hey, what about Glenn Miller!". With a quick phone call to Glenn we agreed to a 2:00pm pick up time, which was the same pickup time for all those guys who put on at 9:00am. We had to move. In pure Benny Hill fashion we were changed, in our boats, and on the river by 11:15am.

With no time to explain the rapids, Brent put me in charge of setting the pace and showing the lines. At our accelerated pace, Big Nasty came up much sooner than expected. "That can't be Big Nasty already" Brent stated as we all drifted into the approach. I quickly angled my boat and shouted the instructions "angle left and paddle hard left!". At the bottom I turned to see the line drifting further to the right with each succession of paddlers. Dave, bringing up the rear, was the furthest right, and flipped just above Big Nasty. With a quick combat roll and angle correction he plowed thru the huge hole, got flipped, washed out behind it, and rolled. "Can we at least get a description of the big rapids when we get to them" was his only comment. No time for talking, we got some major catching up to do. Paddling furiously we caught up to the early boaters past the halfway point at cueball. Good thing cause Dave was about to lose his arms. 3 hours of paddling compressed into 1, Yeehaaw!! Slackers Unite!!.

We finished the day in a more relaxed fashion in the company of the other Keelhaulers, and witnessed a truly sick performance by crazy Dave of Va.; A 30 foot launch of his boat from the canyon walls into a perfect face plant on the waters below. This coming the day after pitoning on the Splat Rock on his first time down the Big Sandy. After the grueling introduction to the Cheat our four first timers were treated to the wonderful Glenn Miller shuttle experience, complete with cow cart, and cold pelting rain. It doesn't get any better than this.

Out Of The Blue Kayaks

I would like to announce to the Keelhaulers my discount for NRS and Ocean Kayak stuff. Beginning April 1, 2000, Into The Blue Kayaks, Eastlake, 440.918.0587, bluekayaks@ncweb.com, will sell equipment in the NRS, the Carlisle, and in the Ocean Kayak catalogues to Keelhauler members and their families at a discount of 10% off list prices. This will apply to all items in the Ocean Kayak and Carlisle books and most items in the NRS book. This policy will continue until further notice. Of course, shipping will be additional. I will order equipment daily, if necessary, and no one will be forced to wait more than a week or so for their equipment. Because my wife and I are paddlers, we realize the necessity of speed in getting paddlers their stuff and will try to get gear to you as fast as we can. The gear can be either drop shipped directly or can be picked up at our house. We accept cash or personal checks (checks must clear our bank before the order is made). Sorry, no credit cards. Thanks for your attention. Happy paddling. Todd Williams



Keel-Hauler's KaNews June 2000

July Deadline: June 23

Directions to Silver Lake From Cleveland:

1. Take I-271 S or the Ohio Turnpike to Route 8(Boston Hts)
2. Take Rt. 8 south for many miles(passing the Hudson exit, the Steels Corner exit, and the Graham Road exit) until you come to 2 nd Street exit in Cuyahoga Falls.
3. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Northlands St.
4. Turn left again at the stop sign onto Front St. (Rt. 59).
5. Drive 1.1 miles on Rt. 59 until you come to the traffic light at Silver Lake Blvd., and turn left.
6. This is Silver Lake Village, on your right you will see the lake and club house.

From Akron and south:

Take Rt. 8 North and look for the Broad Blvd. Exit(Cuyhoga Falls). Immediately after Broad Blvd. will be Front St.(Rt. 59) exit. Then follow instructions 5 & 6 above.

Bring your boat or sailboard. We can use the lake until about 9:00.

June 6, 20, 27 Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com 330-NOT A FAX

June 7 Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet Landing, 6:00 PM

Keith Clarke kclarke@on-b.com 440-888-7317

June 9-11 Sea Kayaking East Harbor State Park,

Call Jill for time and meeting location.
Jill Lauren 440-246-2993

June 10 Lower Cuyahoga, OH (6)

Ann Corey amcckkayak@aol.com 330-869-6549

June 10-11 Cheat Canyon, WV (26)

See May 27-29 description.
Anne Kmieck 216-371-8250

**June 13 Meeting, Silver Lake, Newman
Outfitters will be providing Sea and
White Water Kayaks for club members
to demo from 6:30 PM until the
abbreviated meeting at 9:00pm
June 14 Sea Kayaking at Lakeview
Park, Lorain, 6:00 PM**

Jill Lauren 440-246-2993

June 17 to July 4th - Colorado

Whitewater Trip- including Poudre, Arkansas and Animas Rivers, Plans and details will be announced. Exact rivers will depend on water levels. Trip leader -TBD Possibly; Elliott Drysdale, Santo Albright or John Kobak

[Elliott Drysdale](mailto:ElliottDrysdale) 440-349-4787

[John Kobak](mailto:JohnKobak) 440-871-1758

[Santo G. Albright](mailto:SantoG.Albright), 314-343-0787

June 17 Sea Kayaking at Grand River, 10:00 AM

Keith Clarke kclarke@on-b.com 440-888-7317

June 17-18 Yough Weekend, PA (12/23)

This is the first of our summer Yough trips. A Middle Yough trip will be organized on Saturday and/or Sunday; if interested, call the Middle Yough organizers in advance. Call the Lower Yough trip organizer early to reserve a permit. The Club has reserved 10 permits on Saturday, and 10 permits on Sunday, from 9:00 to 10:00 PM You must check in with the Lower Yough trip organizer before 8:10 PM (**Please read Yearbook for important information**).

Lower Yough: Judi Cleary

judicleary@mediaone.net 440-736-6337

Middle Yough (Sat): Carl Kudrna

sitesmart@aol.com 440-835-0222

Middle Yough (Sun): Brian Thies 440-331-4216

June 17-18 Canoe Sailing on Lake Pymatuning

Jim Botamer 440-988-8580

June 22 Sea Kayaking at Gordon Park, 6:00 PM

Jackie Otte jackieotte@bigplanet.com 216-371-1674

June 24-25 Sea Kayaking Huron River

Campout

Call Bob for meeting time and location.
Bob Zehe jcunitpro@aol.com 440-934-2167

June 29-July-4 Ocoee River, TN (24)

Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu 216-371-8250

July 1 Sea Kayaking Upper Cuyahoga River

Riverside Park, Green River Tavern – meet at 10:00 PM

Jim Cooke jcooke@drfast.net 440-871-8019

July 4 Weekend Upper Yough, MD (32)

Gib McGill gibmcgill@pathway.net 412-946-9158

July 5 Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet, 6:00 PM

Keith Clarke kclarke@on-b.com 440-888-7317

July 8 Sea Kayaking at West Branch, 11:00 AM

David and Nina Farkas dfarkas@nccw.net 216-382-2935

July 8-9 New River Gorge, WV (27)

Colin Drozdowski

cdrozowski@msbcbs.com 304-345-4797

July 8-9 Lower Yough, PA (24)

Casey Kaskey

Casey_Kaskey@HMIS.ORG 440-235-9637

July 8-9 Canoe Sailing Races at Lake Pymatuning, OH

Jim Botamer 440-988-8580

July 11 Meeting and Cookout, Silver Lake Country Club

Keelhaulers Canoe Club Minutes

Meeting Date: May 10, 2000

Meeting Place: Pennisula Library

New Members and Guests: There were several new members and guests present. Allen Brown moved to Ohio (Hudson) about 5 years ago. He is an avid canoer and has enjoyed canoe camping. He states that his wife is just beginning to canoe. Dick Oyen has just begun white water kayaking. He has recently completed the Fundamentals and Basic River courses through the American Red Cross. Dolly Howard, of Sagamore Hills, recently learned about Keelhaulers Canoe Club when she met a couple of KH members on the river. Dolly has enjoyed white water rafting and kayaking as well as canoeing. Jim Evans has been a member about a year now. He paddles a 16' Mad River Explorer and enjoys canoe camping. Allen Keltyka has been canoeing about 30 years. He came to Ohio about a year and a half ago. He currently paddles a 15' Mad River Explorer. Jeff Larson is interested in learning more about sea kayaking.

Minutes: Chuck Singer made a motion that the minutes of the 4/11/00 meeting be accepted as printed in the newsletter. Rick Feinberg seconded the motion, which passed.

Treasurer's Report: Vince Krempenger reported that the current balance is \$4,068.36.

Chair Reports:

Sea Kayaking: Marsha Bedford announced that the "Roll and Rescue" session organized by Bradstreet Sea Kayakers, which was originally scheduled for June 4th at Lakeview Park in Lorain, has been changed to Bradstreet Landing (same date and time) on Lake Road in Rocky River. M. Bedford encouraged all those interested in practicing their skills to join the sea kayakers. A free breakfast will be provided. If interested, please call Barb Bodemer, (216) 226-1640, so that she has some idea as to numbers for the breakfast.

Instruction: No new information was presented. There are some programs in the planning stages and when the details are finalized, the information will be posted on the website.

Library: Ron Whitney reported that there has been no recent additions to the library.

Membership: John Kobak reported that there are currently 347 paid members. He indicated that this is fairly equal to the size of the membership over the past 4 years.

Safety: Chuck Singer spoke briefly on the dangers of skin cancer. He cautioned everyone to be clearly aware of too much exposure to sun over a long period of time during the boating season. He suggests that we use at least a 15 spf waterproof sunscreen and put it on often. The damage of the sun's rays can be cumulative over several years of exposure.

Discussion also focused on the risks of shoulder dislocations, especially when engaged in a high brace—a stroke which requires a high level of skill and caution. Anytime your paddle is above your head you are in danger of suffering a shoulder injury. It is also recommended that we practice the ability to release our spray skirts with each hand individually so that in the event our "dominant" arm is injured, we are still able to quickly release the spray skirt and wet exit, if needed.

Old Business: Matt Muir presented a sign up sheet for volunteers to sign up to help with the rescue rodeo. He also advised that he will be going to Slippery Rock on Saturday, 5/13/00, to explore the area and look for appropriate rapids to set up practice rescues. He asked those present if anyone was interested in going with him.

Rob Hammond announced that he still has Yough permits for the August and September trips. These permits need to be picked up by Tom Berneike and Dave Roush.

New Business: Tim Taubert announced that the next two meetings will be held at Silver Lake at 7:00 p.m. Newman Outfitters will be providing a variety of river and sea kayaks for folks to demo at the June meeting. If you want to demo boats it would be best if you arrive about 6:30 p.m. There will also be demo gear available. You are also free to bring your own boat to paddle on the lake. If you have a boat to sell, you may want to bring it so that interested buyers can see and demo it. There will be a short business meeting at dark. A map to Silver Lake will be posted on the website.

T. Taubert provided information on the Newman Outfitters North Coast Paddlers Exposition to be held at East Branch Reservoir on June 24th. There is a \$5 charge and will provide those in attendance the opportunity to demo a large selection of boats and gear (kayaks and canoes) being provided through companies such as Newman Outfitters, Dagger, Perception, Wilderness Systems, Mad River, Yakima, Lotus Designs and many more. There will be assorted clinics throughout the day as well. Proceeds will be donated to the Geauga Park Systems.

Keelhaulers has been asked to put up a table and present information on our club. J. Kobak agreed to bring applications and old newsletters to distribute. Tim Taubert volunteered to help set up and manage the table.

Trips: John Kobak announced that he will lead a trip on the Tiger the weekend of 5/13/00. He also advised that there will be a western trip to Colorado rivers from 6/17 to 7/4/00. Details will be forthcoming.

Trip Reports: Carol Smith shared some highlights of an Easter weekend trip for the dam release at North Branch. She reports that there was a lot of water with very few people, which allowed a lot of time to play on the ledges. In summary she reported, "a good time, but a cold time."

John Kobak spoke briefly about the Southern Rivers trip from 4/21 to 4/28/00.

Twenty- seven people participated and ran a variety of rivers. He specifically shared highlights from happenings at Danny's Creek, which is located on a State Hunting Reserve. It seems as though folks ignored some signs indicating "no boating" and consequently contributed dollars to the local funds (individual citations of \$142/each!!).

Les Berke and John Kobak shared information regarding a group in Dayton, Ohio that is advocating the elimination of kayak licensing. Also noted are efforts in Ohio to eliminate numbers on kayaks if licensing continues. Rather just the state sticker would suffice.

Adjournment: Matt Muir made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by John Kobak. The meeting was adjourned.

The program for the evening was a slide show presented by John Kobak and Chuck Singer of the Mexico trip from the first week in February, 2000.

Mexico 2000

By John Kobak

For pictures of our trip go to:

<http://pages.prodigy.net/keelhauler/khcc/mexpictureindex.htm>

The group slowly gathered around to see what had happened. Syd lay on his back in the cool water telling us he has lost the feeling in the lower part of his body as a result of his jump off the high waterfall into the deep pool below. But wait, I'm getting ahead of the story. Let me start from the beginning of our exciting winter in Mexico.

It's great to be retired and to be able to get out of Cleveland for the winter. My wife Peggy and Chuck Singer decided that this year we would winter in Mexico. We always like to paddle with club members so we set up a 10-day paddling trip. Calleva Outdoors provided the kayaks, shuttles and leadership for the trip. As usual the logistics of getting everyone to the rivers is a story in itself. We drove our motor home to Houston to pick up Rich Priem. Chuck started his trip early by flying to Cuba; hopefully he has a story of that trip portion. Chuck flew back from Cuba via Cancun and Houston where he joined us.

I have been to Mexico three others times but never did a river trip. I always felt the rivers in Mexico were a little too dirty, **Bruce Berman**, our intrepid guide, proved me wrong. The rivers we ran were mostly spring fed turquoise water and flowed over beautiful travertine waterfalls. The trip was planned to be a little easier than last year's Ecuador trip. Paddling centered around two different areas of the eastern Sierra Madre Mountains. The first area was near Jalapa just west of Vera Cruz and the second area was situated near Ciudad Valles, which is west of Tampico.

On our way South we stopped in Tampico to pickup **Judi Cleary** who wanted to stretch her trip into a full 2-weeks. We now had 5 travelling in my RV built for three, so **Chuck & Judi** used a tent. We decided to enjoy the beaches of the Emerald Coast, a resort area just north of Vera Cruz. The coastal road was in terrible shape and several bridges were washed out from last August's floods. This was our second visit to these beaches, I don't know if it's us or if January is not a good time to visit. The weather was cold and drizzly and the large waves made enjoying the beach out of the question. We did a little biking but decided to leave a day early and drive to Jalapa, which is the capital of the state of Vera Cruz. We enjoyed the large anthropological museum and the warm sunny weather. We got to Carrizal Hot Springs one day early.

The Keelhauler paddling team, consisting of **Bill Miller, Cathy Needham, Elliott Drysdale, Bob Boyce, Syd Reames, Vicki Windisch** would not arrive with **Bruce** until after midnight So **Rich** and I did another long bike ride paralleling the Rio Pescados. We were disappointed in what we saw, class 2 rapids and fairly dirty water. Our worries were for naught; this was not on the trip schedule. The campground and cabins are located in a well-developed Hot Springs park. Two fairly good restaurants and a relaxing soak in the Hot Springs finally got us to kick back and relax.

The next morning we all got together, got the kayaks outfitted and set out for our first adventure on the Rio Actopan. After a fairly short drive on reasonably good road we arrived at the putin which had crystal clear water gushing out of a canyon spring into a delightful Class II-III stream. This is

a gem however I took one look at the falls and decided not to test my recently repaired broken collarbone.



Actopan Falls

However our guides along with **Elliott** made it look easy. The river was cool but a great start to our winter trip. An easy way for everyone to get back their paddling skills after an inactive Fall. There was no more rain for the rest of the trip and the weather kept getting warmer each day.

The next day, we had planned to run the Baranca Grande Section of the Rio Pescados. The section was much farther upstream and much cleaner than the lower river, however the road was too rough for the van and we could not find a truck to take us to the putin. We decided instead to run the section below the Baranca Grande section, which had good access roads. The rapids were good class III+ but the river was a little dirty. This section was still clean by Mexican standards but it was the dirtiest of our trip.

We drove to Jalapa and stayed in a downtown hotel that night. The next day we all shopped, went site seeing or used the Internet services to write back home. We had little trouble finding Internet access anywhere in Mexico. Even in the smallest beach towns. However the cost varied greatly from \$1 per hour to a \$1 per minute, depending on whether the provider was a local or long distance call.

We drove to the hardscrabble mountain town of Altatonga. The hotel's doors were a short 5' 8"; **Syd & Elliott** had a few head knocks. Since we were to end up the next day in Tlapocoyan, **Peggy** and I took the motor home there that night with **Bruce** as our guide. This was one of the worst roads in Mexico and found us on a dark, rainy, chuck-holed mountain road. Not my favorite drive. **Bruce & I** caught the bus back in the morning in time to meet the

group loading into the back of a truck for a two hour ride to the Alto Bobos.

This 8-mile class 3-4 section is accessed by way of a precipitous trail from the village above; it was a 45-minute carry for us, **Bob Boyce** insisted that he could do the hike with his canes. A burro carried his kayak and in the 2-hour hike he wore out the rubber tips of his canes.



Syd & Elliott started 7 mi. further upstream on a tougher section, which included a large waterfall, which they portaged. **Syd's** bad luck started. While scouting the rapid he fell into the water and had to be rescued by **Elliott** who found he only had half a throw rope. Mice had chewed out a section. They paddled so fast for the rest of the trip that they passed our group and finished before we did. Tlapocoyan is a very pretty, prosperous looking town, however the town square (zocalo) looked like a scene from *The Birds*. Each morning and night the Grackles gathered in such large numbers that the racket would wake us up.

The next day we would spend driving north to Ciudad Valles, the base for the rest of the paddling trip. We followed the group with our motor home. They knew of a route that would be shorter and we could visit the Mayan ruins of El Tajin while avoiding the bad roads along the coast. What they didn't know was that there were some bridges out along the shortcut. They discussed the bridge detour with a road crew and waved us to follow. I figured this was a short bypass around the bridge. Pretty soon we found ourselves heading out though farm pastures on a dirt road, we opened and closed pasture gates and watched the farmers shake their heads in amazement and mumble something in Spanish that sounded like, "You'll never make it".



Pretty soon we had our RV wedged between small trees and bushes. We had to saw off limbs to get through. We were bogged down in axle deep mud,

tearing off our steps and the back of our black water holding tank. After about 50 more yards we go to a bridge that looked like it would not hold my 6-ton motor home. The guides attempted to drive the van/trailer combination across. The bridge dropoff was so large that they ripped the hitch ball right off the van leaving the trailer on one side and the van on the other. Well for us the decision was easy, turn around and struggle back to the main road and then go back to the bad coastal road. We skipped El Tajin so we still could make it by 11pm that night. They got the hitch ball welded and continued on with no problems other than the loss of lights on the trailer. They still stopped to visit the ruins at Tajin and got to the hotel at 1 am. What a day!

Today was to be a short run on Micos Section of the El Salto. This is travertine country, with ledge after ledge of fun waterfalls into frothy easy water.



John on the Micos

This is a very special place. Only pictures can really describe it. We would then continue down an exceptionally beautiful jungle run below the waterfalls with many small ledges. The carry in was on a narrow trail dropping down into the gorge. At the bottom we were looking up at an 80' waterfall. As we prepared to launch from the turquoise pool, two guides along with **Syd Reames** decided to climb up to a ledge along the waterfall and jump into the

deep pool below. The two guides jumped with no problem but **Syd** must have hit wrong and instantly felt the loss of use of his legs. We figured he most likely had some type of back injury and the best thing to do



would be to keep him on his back in the cool water until an ambulance could come with a backboard. We were a long way from a phone and the city. It must have taken an hour and a half for help to reach **Syd**. After assisting him onto the backboard the group carried him up the hill to the waiting ambulance. The rest of us decided at this point we would complete the trip and **Alex** and **Ricardo** (**Bruce's** friend from Mexico city) would accompany him since they could both speak Spanish and would see to it that he got the proper medical assistance.

The doctor at the clinic, after discussions with doctors from Houston, decided it would be best to get him back to USA as fast as possible. **Tania**, **Syd's** wife, made arrangements for a Learjet to fly in to a nearby airport. In 24 hrs they had him at Houston's Herman Hospital. They stabilized him and in a few days they decided to do major surgery. It took over 8 hours for the 24-person team to go in under his rib cage to clean out bone fragments on the front side of the L1 vertebrae. Then they did a bone graft from a cadaver. They then flipped him over and inserted a Titanium rod and plate on the back for stability. **Syd** then spent the next month recovering and doing physical therapy in Houston. He is now back in Valdosta where he is walking with a cane but will continue to wear a body brace until mid May. At that time his upper body therapy can start. We ask everyone to say a prayer for his speedy recovery.



Double Rich Syd's accident cast a pall over the rest of the trip but we decided to finish the trip.

The next day we ran a 6-mi. stretch of Rio Tampaón It is a narrow limestone canyon, class III, with unusual rock formations. The river is deep with straightforward rapids. At one point the river disappears underground and reappears 50 yds. down stream.



Our last full paddling day found us on the beautiful

3-mi. section of the El Salto. There were waterfalls from 3 ft to 25 ft and Class IV rapids. This is travertine country with

Shredding the falls ledge after ledge of fun waterfalls. This is a more advanced run than the Micos though there are still plenty of sneak routes to allow intermediate paddlers to enjoy the rivers.

On Friday, the group went back to run the travertine falls section of the Micos. I stayed back at the hotel to repair the motor home so we could make the rest of our trip. It was a fun paddling trip and everyone left for Tampico that evening.

Chuck, **Peggy** and I continued on our tour of Mexico for 3 more weeks. Some of the touring highlights were; we loved the three little beach towns of Melanque and Sayulita and Kino Bay on the West Coast of Mexico. The beaches were clean and deserted and the campgrounds had great hot showers. **Peggy** enjoyed shopping for arts and crafts in Dolores Hidalgo and Tlaquepaque.

The highlight of this portion of our trip was our 3-day trip by 9-hr train ride to Copper Canyon. They claim it is bigger and deeper than the Grand Canyon. Well **Chuck** & I know the GC and it was no GC. Views of the deep canyon from the train are limited. The town of Creel is a good base for exploring other sites and



missions. The most interesting aspect was the Tarahumaras Indians who are expert at weaving baskets and running long distances in this high altitude country. You can get to Creel by car

or RV if you approach from the east, but the train is the only access from the West Coast. The train ride is expensive but it was a unique once in a lifetime experience.

Whenever we travel south of the border I always get the same questions. Aren't you afraid of banditos, won't you get some bad disease, is it safe. Well I feel much safer in most places in Mexico than I do in the US. Of course in large cities in either country there is always petty crime. In the small towns of Mexico people are friendly and

helpful. It is good to learn some Spanish so you can communicate in restaurants, hotels and read road signs. If you stick with bottled water and eat well-cooked food you should have no other problems. I don't recall anyone getting very sick on our trip. Mexico is rapidly becoming a modern country although things are not as cheap as they used to be. Gasoline was \$2 per gallon and imports were expensive.

We visited **Syd** in the Houston rehab center on our way home and found him in good spirits with a positive outlook hoping for a full recovery.

Chuck will show slides at our club's May 9th meeting on Cuba and Mexican trip.

Some Internet Links & Info;

Photos from our trip:

<http://pages.prodigy.net/keelhauler/khcc/mexpictureindex.htm>

Calleva Outdoors:

<http://www.calleva.org/paddling/mexico/slide1.htm>

Kayak Mexico:

<http://www.kayakmexico.com/main.htm>

Mexican Travel Links:

<http://www.dreamagic.com/stan/mexother.html>

Peoples Guide:

<http://www.peoplesguide.com/index.html>

Spring Runs

Andy Gross

Spring warmup. Gradually. Yeah, that's for me. Because my motto is not what some others adopted-- "if it ain't froze, we go." No sir, that is not for Andy. Call me a fair weather fan. Rule of thumb: air and water temperature must add to 100. Otherwise, I will stay by the fire. You folks on the river dodging ice and snow- well, hey, to each his/her own. Just don't call me when your backside is frozen and when you cannot unglue your numb fingers from the paddle!

So- first trip on Friday, March 3rd with Paul Herbold. Just a little local outing to the Cuyahoga in the Valley. Nice warm day, but hey, there were still skiers on the Boston Mills slopes! We had a ball on the Peninsula-Boston Mills run. River was high enough to surf a bit. It is a scenic stretch and we had lots of fun. Paul kindly agreed to bring his pickup and bike and so the shuttle was via his bicycle. Thanks, buddy! The

Valley is so close and this stretch is truly a joy unless it is too low.

Next trip: playing safety or sweep after the Vermillion race. Hank Annable and a club member from New York State, Brad Hubiak, and yours truly floated and scraped down the river after all the racers have gone down. We had a nice float and a nice chat-- good camaraderie! I heard Chuck Singer finished 1st even though he had to walk a bit! Whoever served us refreshments at the halfway point-- thanks! Love that Vermillion gorge too - it is also scenic and nearby. Thanks for all the work, Hank and company!

So now it is mid-April, Sat., Apr 15 and Carl Kudrna had a trip on the Grand on the 15th. Bless you, Carl, for picking a great day. Nice weather, good river level. Lots of sea kayakers went ahead and then the 4 of us: Carl, Brian Thies, Barb __(?) and yours truly floated down. Not many riffles, but having fun and exercising. Nice lunch at the Countyline bridge. And again, good scenery, good company. No westerly wind to push us back. Another nice warmup.

Next day is Sun, Apr 16...an organized trip to the Slip. Found Ron Tomallo and others at the 422 bridge...he and others wanted to do the upper part of Slippery Rock creek (again), but Paul Hubiak, a new member from Doylestown and I opted for the lower and we were then joined by two guys from PA. We had a ball (it was 1' or so) as there were plenty of playspots. The first two rapids here are Jane's Ender and Roostertail, methink. They challenged us a bit. The 3rd and last big rapid, Pillow (Stupid) Rock was all covered up; we scooted over it; and the rock garden before Harris Bridge was humping. Grrreat!

And now it is end of April (29-30) and the Slip is at the right level for me = 0' (some people turn up their nose at that, but not me!) so I respond to Jim Hunt's inquiry. He can only go Sunday, but that is bad for me as it is the CVS marathon and 10K race in downtown Cleveland (and I am registered

already). But lo and behold, Bernadette Mullins calls from Youngstown, Friday evening, so we hook up on Saturday morning at the 422 bridge for the upper part. Last minute, ad hoc arrangements can work! We encounter the Red Cross class under the tutelage of Professor Steve Ingalls and fellow instructors. They warn us about a big strainer at the entrance just below the 422 bridge. Thanks for the warning, folks; it would have been a baaaad experience to hit those big logs.

There is only the 2 of us, but Bernie and I leave the Red Cross class and push ahead bravely. The river is-- empty! Where is everybody? Well, in the class and at the Cheat ...or having post-Easter blues?! Who knows. We do well at Airport, no problems! After lunch at the mill we continue downstream. Finally, two guys from Ashtabula, Bill and Howard (no last names exchanged) catch up to us. Bernie and Bill are doing ok, but Howard swims in a few places. We do some scouting and it pays off; we pick 'simple routes.' But no sneaking 'Triple Drop.' And yes, it upended me. For shame. Tried to roll, but no avail, so I swam a bit. But it was not too cold, just a bit embarrassing. Gotta practice that roll more, for sure! No problems at Fishladder and Gib's Nemesis, but we have respect for these rapids.

Takeout at Eckert bridge. Oh yeah, we left the cars at 422 and Bill and Howard have theirs at Harris bridge. What to do? Pssst, do not shout this around, but Bernie charmed the 'Ranger Lady' and she got a ride back to her car in the DNR vehicle. So we are ready to head home. But a stop at Heavenly for ice cream and a high five with my paddling partner is a must. Thanks, Bernie for a great day on the river and looking out for the old man! We'll

miss you when you go to Alabama in mid-summer. Let us know how the rivers are down South.

So that's how I like to warm up in the spring--grrrrraduallllly! Step by step. Get my sea, oops, my river-legs

back. And yes, I must practice my roll more this summer. (And yes, I ran a good race Sunday, under 57 minutes in the 10K; was 5th in my age group. What's my age? Well, just turned 65. Who is the oldest active paddler in the Club? Let me know. I hope to be out there with you Young Turks and Fellow Seniors for another decade, then will reassess.) But, yes, please look out for me, especially in the Slip Gorge and the Lower Yough. Just keep yelling at me: "Andy-- paddle, paddle!"

In early May, the weather turned balmy. The crowd was going to the Cheat or the N. Branch of the Potomac. (I could not-commencement at CSU- with Drew Carey!) But lo and behold, the Slip stayed up at 0'. I was planning a trip on Sat., May 6th, but lo and behold, Dave Donnellan calls on Fri, May 5th and we high-tailed it down to PA. Not a soul on the river-well, almost no one, just a few folks from Michigan (putting in at Kennedy Dam). We had a great time, Dave playing and me 'finessing' the rapid. No swim this time for me! Thanks Dave, for some great tips and general guidance. Only wildlife we saw were kids playing hookey from school and smoking pot and cigarettes. We did not even have to shuttle- some good ole PA fishermen gave Dave a lift. A super day on the Slip.

32nd Annual Vermilion Race Day a Success

By Rob Hammond

We had one of the best days for weather at the Vermilion Race in recent memory, the temperatures were in the 60s and the sun was shining! There was a good turnout with 73 people anxious to show their stuff. This year the Lorain Metro Park, made a lot of improvements at the put-in with paved parking, landscaping, and even flush toilets. We also tried something new. Instead of the old race bibs that were suffering from old age, we used a pin on sheet with numbers to identify the racers.

The level was a low 6 inches, but it was enough run the race. There was a few spots that the kayaks dragged on the bottom, and I am sure the canoe'ers must have had to get out in a few spots and push off of a gravel bar here and

there. But, if you concentrated on your lines, the river was passable.

A lot of work went in to the race, and I want to thank everyone for their participation, Hank Annable and Shelly Schmidt organized everything, Ed Berneike, Carol Smith, Ron Tomallo, John Kobak, Jim Botamer, and Jim Hunt made significant contributions. At registration, and boat inspections Monica Keil, Cliff Wire, Gary Smith, Elliott Drysdale and all the rest that contributed to make things work like a well oiled machine! At the takeout, Scott Debalski took care of our hunger pangs, with plenty of food and soft drinks. I also want to thank the "helpers" who put the large bolder in my boat before I raced. I am sure that they thought the extra weight would "help" my race time.... it didn't!

Whoopass on the Vermilion

Rob Hammond

The 2000 Vermilion Race was the race that I intended to announce my retirement! Yes, I had my retirement speech ready and everything, but for one little problem. You see, it doesn't matter to me if I win 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or less. Yep, for me there is only one guy to beat. This guy has confounded me on every race I have had against him, and we race often, mostly unofficial stuff, like flat water at the end of a whitewater run. Now why all the animosity against a fellow boater you ask? Well, he is a good boater, I will give him that, but this guy is 13 years older! Now I may have just turned 50, but this guy won't even respect my youth! No he just keeps delivering Whoopass on me, every time I race him. But this year, yea this year I had him, he had an injury last year, and was complaining about his sore shoulder this year.

So this spring when my buddies would call and try to entice me with "come on Rob, the Big Sandy is running", I would decline. "No", I would say "I need to stay home and wash my dog". And then I would get my boat and practice, and practice some more on the Chagrin River, my

local Vermilion. I needed to build up my stamina, no way was that Ole Coot gonna disgrace me again!

Come race day, I was ready, I felt good, it was my day to be on the delivering end, instead of the receiving end. My run started out good, I took off like I was in a sprint race, and I kept a good pace throughout the race! Yea I had a few bad lines that cost me 5 or 10 seconds here and there, but in the past I would have a lot of bad lines. My stamina training on the Chagrin helped me keep my focus during the long and grueling 1 1/2 hour run. In the past years I would get tired, my mind would drift, and before I would know it, I would be broached on a rock. But this year, call me "Laser", cause that is what my focus was like. At the finish line, I rocketed by - I was on fire!

So I took out after the finish line, loaded my boat, and then I loaded up on Scott's great grub. We all had to wait for scoring to finish tabulating the results. And it took forever, I don't know what takes those guys so long, but I could have made two runs in the time they took to post the results up. But it gave me time to practice my retirement speech, I figured that after I beat the Ole Coot, I best quit before his shoulder heals! Anyway, the results start trickling in for my division, Chuck Corso takes first place with a blazing 1 hour, 26 minutes, 9 seconds. Then my time comes up, it wasn't so great, but a respectable 1 hour, 29 minutes, and 31 seconds. But where is the Ole Coot's time? Some more results trickle in, but nothing for the Coot. Nothing to do now - just wait around, and have another of Scott's hot dogs. So just as I was sinking my teeth into the dog, I look up and see the Ole Coot smirk at me. Oh, I hate that smirk! I run over to check the latest results, and there it was, that no count, son of questionable parentage, Ole Coot does it again! He gives me 1 minute, 46 seconds of Whoopass. I blow chow all over the race results! I can't take it, he musta cheated. My time was good enough for third place,

but I don't care, I deserved to kick some Ole Coot in the Whoopass, but instead I get my Come-up-ins!

So, I talk to the Ole Coot, and give him my congratulations. Yea but, it was like one of those beauty contests, you know, were the losing contestant smiles sweetly when she finds out the other girl won, and then she gives the winner a big hug. Come-on, you know what she is really thinking, "how did that hag win, they probably are not even her own teeth!". Yea, the Ole Coot says he had the same problem when he was my age. He couldn't beat this old guy he raced against until the guy got to be 70. 70?? No way am I gonna wait 7 humiliating years!! Hard work didn't get it for me this year, so next year, I guess it's gotta be treachery! Hmm - maybe his boat might meet up with a slow leak! Yea, that's the ticket, I wonder if Tonya Harding's thugs are looking for work?

Next year, next year, just you watch out John Kobak, cause the paddle strokes that you hear coming up behind you, will be those of the guy delivering your Whoopass!

Rock 'n' Roll Triathlon Swim

Looking for people willing to donate time and energy to assist the swimmers for the junior and senior triathlons. Held on July 15th for juniors and July 16 for the seniors.

For your efforts you will receive a tee shirt from the event. The junior event is held at Edgewater Park. We need to be there at 7:30 AM. The senior event is held over by the Rock'n'Roll Hall. And for that you get a sunrise paddle at 5AM. This assist has been done for a number of years. We have a great time with the Diver's that are part of the water safety forces. They also feed us between the races. If you have your own VHF or Marine radios please bring them. If this sounds like your kind of fun contact me at: Jill Lauren 440-246-2993
JillMKayaker@gateway.net

The Longest Day

Shelly Schimdt

Slippery Rock was running 7 feet the weekend directly prior to my scheduled trip. That would have been the weekend of 4/8 and 4/9 when Rob Hammond and Bill Porter lost and retrieved their boats (don't expect a trip report on that). I was planning on running both Saturday and Sunday (4/15 and 4/16) to get ready for the Southern River's trip. The plan was to go all the way down to Harris bridge on Saturday and then to Eckarts on Sunday. Being that it was still raining on Monday the 10th, I was concerned that the levels may be too high for a club trip so I began considering what local rivers would be an appropriate substitute.

I was a bit leary about being a trip organizer, no matter how many times the club states that the trip organizer does not lead the trip, but simply organizes the event, the more novice club members tend to look to the organizer for guidance. Something I didn't want to be responsible for even if the level dropped to 3 foot. I wasn't too worried about getting myself down at 3 or 4 foot but I've little confidence in my abilities to save someone else at that level.

By midweek, I received a few calls on the trip and as I couldn't resist, I asked all those that I had not paddled with before if they were confident in their rolling ability. I had even told a few that I was not a big woman and just recovering from an injury and may not be able to save them. I informed them it was a narrow river and that a self-rescue should be in the forefront of their minds. Meanwhile, I was banking on Ron Tomallo and my C-1 friend from COP, Bill Krull, being with me and, if need be, these two strong virile men would jump in and save their sorry asses.

By Friday at dinner, five people had contacted me – four of whom I had not paddled with before and the fifth being Vince Kremperger. He responded for himself and Karen Petit – whom I have both paddled with before. Of the four unknowns, 2 were responding for

another 2 paddlers unknown to me. I was now going to be paddling with six people I had not paddled with before. Six unknown men paddlers. As a woman, I did like those odds; but being a woman, I know men often exaggerate their skills and abilities and from the earlier questions I posed to the four I spoke with, my concern about saving swimmers was increasing. Throughout the evening, a few more paddlers called but only one, Bill Porter, was known. (It was during that conversation, that Bill P. told Ron T. about the adventures from the previous weekend which included some three boaters all swimming in the last drop of triple-drop.) So the group is up to about 12 or so now and the level is down to about 1 ¾ foot.

All except one lone (smart) paddler planned to congregate at the 422 bridge at 10 am for the Saturday run. Mark had recently completed a pool course with the Red Cross and had sense enough about him to meet us later at Eckert's bridge. He was running into scheduling difficulties with the moving water courses and appropriately selected a portion of the river that met his skill level. Dave Atkinson, from TRPC, joined us. This was his fourth trip down the upper and gorge sections. He's becoming a regular KHCCer, he's even collecting himself Ratt points (see Feb 2000 issue). Harry Greising was touting a brand spanking new open canoe. Vince Elia compelled his buddy Chris Wade to make the trip, the infamous father and son team, Jim and Jay Hunt were present, as well as the continental Dragan Trivonovic. Vince and Karen decided to put in at the Ranger station where they picked up Dave Toothaker, Rex Unkefer, and Steve.

As the paddlers dropped one by one into the river, they began playing to warm up. Some performed rolls, some squirted off the large rock in the center of the river, and some swam. Yes, swam at the put-in: in class one moving water! No one had suspected that any one would swim at the put-in, but Chris

missed his roll and bailed. He got out there in the current and before I knew it he was pulling his rip cord. I don't know who picked up the pieces but it was pretty obvious we'd need to keep an eye on him downstream. Chris swam a number of times on the upper section and was wise to take out at the mill, rather than to listen to his pal Vince. He caught back up with us at Eckart's bridge and that would be one less worry for the gorge section.

A number of other incidents (mostly swims) occurred during the trip. Our open boater, Harry, made a courageous attempt to make it down river but alas, his skill level would not permit it. I observed that he had a tendency to grab the gunnels of his boat right before he would capsize. Lucky for me, I did not once have to retrieve the canoe. The gallons of water it held would have made it very very heavy.

We portaged around the mill without a lunch break, which caught at least Vince E. off guard. Since we were planning on running the lower section, a spontaneous decision was made to have lunch after running the gorge at Eckart's bridge. So we all climbed directly over the wall and began putting on. Ron T. had to cut short some playtime at the mill when he noticed that his boat was filling up with water. We all know what he forgot to do... Meanwhile, I got stuck in a swirly eddie and while making a feeble attempt to cut over the eddie line, tipped and rolled. Well, Vince K. saw me upside down, got a bit excited and quickly came down passed the bridge to rescue me and ended up swimming himself. I believe Karen was around to assist in his rescue but Vince K. is an active participant in self-rescuing. He managed to get himself and his boat to the riverbank and all that was necessary was to retrieve his paddle.

It was hard to keep track of the swimming that had and would be occurring because the group naturally divided into a couple of subgroups. Karen, Vince, Dave T., and Rex U comprised the leaders of one group and

Ron T., Bill K., Bill P., and myself comprised the leaders of the second group. The 6 unknowns were somewhat divided between two groups. I am certain however, that all the unknowns swam that day. I was fortunate to only have to rescue one, Dragan.

We were making our way through triple drop a few at a time. I was one of the earlier paddlers into the rapid and ended up edding out ½ down on river right. I remember sitting around for quite a while thinking when are they going to come down? Finally a paddler arrived on river left and yelled across that Karen was out of her boat and someone's hurt. Oh no! Was Karen hurt? (Immediate empathy for a fellow woman paddler.) Quite a time went by before the first sign of a problem was visible. Then the empty boat makes its way down and a second one not far behind it. Jay Hunt had dislocated his shoulder near the top of the rapid. His paddle got wedged between some rocks and that's that. He and his dad, Jim, climbed out of the gorge on river right side and hoofed it to Eckart's bridge. Ron T. and Dave T. snared the boats in the pool below and escorted them to the bridge.

We arrived at the bridge before the infamous father & son team of Jay and Jim. One look at Jay told it all, it was apparent he was in a lot of pain. An ambulance was called and the medic attempted to relocate the joint but the muscles had spasmed and the effort proved futile. An hour of waiting must have went by before the medics were ready to port Jay out. Karen P. and Vince K. had commitments in Ohio and decide to complete the run on their own. Vince E. displayed some impatience with the wait but Ron T. was adamant about supporting Jay and I wasn't about to disagree with him. (The broken rib incident from the Tallulah gorge must still be fresh in Ron T's mind.) We worked out the details of shuttling the Hunt's vehicle to the hospital, Ron T. grabbed Jim Hunt's pfd (he's always forgetting

something...), and off we went down to Harris bridge.

We picked up a new paddler, Mark, and Chris hooked back up with us. This was Mark's first moving water experience since he took the pool class. He was eager to practice catching eddies and work on peel-outs. He had the opportunity to play in some waves and I would have to say that he had a positive experience even though he did swim.

We must have been on the river 'till 5 pm that day. I never imagined I would spend more than 6 hours on a Slip Trip. Ron T and I were going to be camping over night and had invited Bill Krull for a grilled salmon dinner. By the time we'd taken the Hunt's vehicle to the hospital and returned to the campsite it was after 8 pm and we found Bill K. copping a little nap in his vehicle. Dinner and cocktails were finally on the table at 9:30 pm. Hopefully, Sunday's trip would be much shorter.

I'd like to thank the senior paddlers of the trip for all the help they were with the newbies. Various people questioned me on the skill level (or lack thereof) of some of the group members. It is the decision of each individual to comprehend their own skills and ability but I will mention that club yearbook has a self-rating test that I would hope each of the unknowns (who are now known) would take. I used this test myself prior to the Southern River's trip and found it provided an accurate assessment for me. All you boys have to do is keep your ego in check.

Big Sandy
Karen Petit

What started out as cold dreary day for a potential 11 paddlers turned into a very nice day for our group of 6. The other 5 defectors went and paddled the little sandy, I am sure they will tell their story.

Chris Keil and Ann Corey were the first to say definitively that they wanted to run the UBS, so a trip was in

development. Soon there was Jim Hunt, Tim Brightbill, Bill Miller[heroic morning drive to make the put in time], and me[my paddling partner Karen Petit was one of the defectors]. Our meeting time of nine am was a little early for those of us members of the late boaters club, but Karen and I were enroute to vacation in Charleston S.C. and wanted to get a move on. The level was at 6.1+ good level for UBS but a little bony for the Little Sandy[which went up to 6.4 the next day].

Although I have run this section several times before, remembering the rapids and preferred lines is not a strong point with me. Bill and Chris became our boat scouts and probes. I believed they enjoyed this unofficial role. Ann quizzed me regarding the river and its environs to which I responded "that a trip leader need not be the most knowledgeable or best paddler, only that he/she know the shuttle" and be willing to sacrifice the day for the group. Quotes from Ratt boy the willing to sacrifice comment is mine. As I have noted in another article that this section is pretty with the rapids building slowly[understatement] to a peak at the take out, makes for a very comfortable river experience for those of us budding intermediates. Ann, while a little whiny at first, probably had the best lines and best control of the day. Tim was having a very good day and was really working it [hitting eddies and working on ferry moves] however he got a little to casual and hit a rather deceptive wave sideways and adious, to shallow to roll. I thought he would become an honorary member of the bottom bracers club, but apparently he was taught well and did not place his paddle on the bottom and chose to swim, the only one of the day. Jim did a rather spectacular upside down and a very nice combat roll. Here is where i would move to the restraunt review section.

Todays dining establishment is Little |Sandy .Most people that paddle the Cheat area know this place well. Located just north of I-68 at the

Bruceton Mills exit, it is a store, gas station , put-in, parking and of course a restraunt. The prices and food are reasonable and good . I would tell you what I had to eat but can't remember as I write this a week and 1000 miles later. I will give it a thumbs up rating however.

Wanted: Spray skirt for Perception Pirouette S - Jim Dietrich ~ (330)923-793 or e-mail: dietrich_j@hotmail.com

Hudson Bay, Indian Built 14' wood/canvas canoe, built 1963. A-1 Mint reconditioned, \$1600. Great solo canoe, but built for two. Joan/Geroge Grellinger 440-933-6494

Perception Pirouette S Good Condition. Granite Color. \$350. Brett Mancino 216-795-1775

Keel-Hauler's KaNews July 2000



Aug. Deadline - July 22

Directions to Silver Lake

From Cleveland:

1. Take I-271 S or the Ohio Turnpike to Route 8(Boston Hts)
2. Take Rt. 8 south for many miles(passing the Hudson exit, the Steels Corner exit, and the Graham Road exit) until you come to 2nd Street exit in Cuyahoga Falls.
3. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Northlands St.
4. Turn left again at the stop sign onto Front St. (Rt. 59).
5. Drive 1.1 miles on Rt. 59 until you come to the traffic light at Silver Lake Blvd., and turn left.
6. This is Silver Lake Village, on your right you will see the lake and club house.

From Akron and south:

Take Rt. 8 North and look for the Broad Blvd. Exit(Cuyahoga Falls). Immediately after Broad Blvd. will be Front St.(Rt. 59) exit. Then follow instructions 5 & 6 above.

Bring your boat or sailboard. We can use the lake from 6:00 until about 9:00.

July 8...Sea Kayaking at West Branch, 11:00 AM

David and Nina Farces.....216-382-2935
dfarkas@nccw.net

July 8-9...New River Gorge, WV (27)

The New River Gorge is the biggest whitewater river in West Virginia. This trip is appropriate for advanced boaters with a reliable river roll. Please call ahead for camping locations and meeting times.

Needs new Trip Leader

July 8-9...Lower Yough, PA (24)

Please call or email for the plan.

Casey Kaskey 440-235-9637

Casey_Kaskey@HMIS.ORG

July 8-9...Canoe Sailing Races at Lake Pymatuning, OH

Jim Botamer.....440-988-8580

July 11...Meeting and Cookout, Silver Lake Country Club

This is the meeting when we have our annual cookout. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a dish to share; call Sue to coordinate dishes. There may be a repeat of last year's race, in which the winner tries again to assert his overwhelming dominance.

Sue Strumbel.....216-741-4405

sstrumbe@mail.doc.gov

July 12...Sea Kayaking at Vermilion, 6:00 PM

Jill Lauren.....440-246-2993

July 15-16...Sea Kayaking Campout at Pymatuning

Call or email Jackie for details.

Jackie Otte.....216-371-1674

jackieotte@bigplanet.com

July 15-16...Yough Intro Weekend, PA (12/23)

This is the first of our summer Yough trips. A Middle Yough trip will be organized on Saturday and/or Sunday; if interested, call the Middle Yough organizers in advance. Call the Lower Yough trip organizer early to reserve a permit. The Club has reserved 10 permits on Saturday, and 10 permits on Sunday, from 9:00 to 10:00 PM You must check in with the Lower Yough trip organizer before 8:10 PM (**Please read yearbook page 46 for important information**).

Lower Yough: Tim Taubert.440-256-2506
taubert@hexagram.com and

Fran Hoven.....216-961-1553

zenelan@concentric.net

Middle:

Kate Koskoris (Saturday)...330-493-3460

July 18, 25...Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

You can never have too much rolling practice.

Matt Muir.....330-NOT A FAX

RivieraRatt@aol.com

July 22-23...Lower Yough, PA (23)

Please call or email for the plan.

Fran Hoven.....216-961-1553

zenelan@concentric.net

July 22-23...Canoe Sailing on Lake Pymatuning

Jim Botamer.....440-988-8580

July 22-23 Watertown, NY...Black River Festival, NY (26)

Tom Cronin.....518-255-5308

CroninTJ@Cobleskill.edu

July 26...Sea Kayaking at Avon Lake

City Hall, 6:00 PM

Bob Zehe.....440-934-2167

jcunitpro@aol.com

July 27...Sea Kayaking at Gordon Park, 6:00 PM

Jackie Otte.....216-371-1674

jackieotte@bigplanet.com

July 29-30...New River Gorge, WV(27)

George Carroll.....330-836-8409

gtc333@aol.com

July 31- Aug 6...Sea Kayaking Week

East Harbor to Put-in-Bay to Pelee Island and return

Michelle Schiau.....440-235-3477

skiyeow@aol.com

Late July or early Aug...Canoe/ Camping - Missinaibi River, CAN

Join Dwight for this wonderful weeklong trip on the beautiful Missinaibi River in Ontario. If you have ever been canoeing in Ontario, this is one trip you will enjoy.

Dwight Arndt.....440-234-5172

Aug 1, 15, 22, 29...Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

You can never have too much rolling practice. See June 6 description.

Matt Muir.....330-668-2329

RivieraRatt@aol.com

Aug 4-6...Upper / Lower Yough, MD / PA (23/32)

Upper: Aug 4-5: Rob Hammond..216-292-5618
bhammond@tycoint.com

Lower: Aug 6: Ron Tomallo.....440-953-1335
rtomallo@hotmail.com

Aug 5-6...Upper New, WV (16)

Experience "Big Water" in a Class-II setting. This is a fun seven-mile stretch of beautiful warm water. A reliable roll is not needed. We will paddle from Stonecliff to Cunard and have a great dinner as a reward. Directions are available. Call to confirm trip, meeting time, and location. Trips both days are possible.

Carl Kudrna.....440-835-0222

sitesmart@aol.com

Aug 5...New River Gorge, WV (27)

Ted Moore.....216-440-4555

tedmoore@alltel.net

Aug 8...Meeting, Huntington Beach

See newsletter for directions.

Aug 9...Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet, 6:00 PM

Keith Clarke.....440-888-7317

kclarke@on-b.com

Aug 12...Sea Kayaking at Portage Lakes, 10:00 AM

David and Nina Farkas.....216-382-2935

dfarkas@nccw.net

Aug 16...Sea Kayaking at Edgewater

Park, 6:00 PM

Jill Lauren.....440-246-2993

June Minutes

by Rob Hammond.

The June meeting had a large turnout as Silver Lake, with a race around the island, and demo whitewater and sea kayaks supplied by Newman Outfitters. Ron Whitney and Sue provided grilled hotdogs, and there was plenty of socializing by all with many new members and guests. The business meeting started at 9:00 pm

Minutes:

Chuck Singer made the motion to accept the Minutes from the May meeting be accepted as printed in the June newsletter, the motion was seconded and was passed on a vote.

Treasures Report:

Vince Kremperger reported that the current treasury balance was \$4,231.42

Chair Reports:

Instruction:

Steve Ingalls reported that there are many new roll sessions, and instruction classes. Please contact Michael Darrah at the Red Cross for specific information. Steve will forward the information to John Kobak to be posted on the club Web Site.

Membership:

John Kobak reported that there were 360 paid members.

Program:

Tim Taubert reported that the July Meeting would again be held at Silver Lake, with a potluck cookout; so bring your favorite dish.

Safety:

Chuck Singer gave a short talk on high water swimming on the river. Chuck made the point that contrary to the general rule of thumb about holding on to your paddle and letting your boat go, in high water you should let your paddle go and hold on to your boat. The boat is much more visible, making it easier for rescuers to spot a swimmer on a raging river, and it gives the swimmer added buoyancy.

Old Business:

- Demo day organized by Newman Outfitters will be June 24, at the East Branch Reservoir; Tim Taubert will have an information table and is looking for volunteers to help man it.
- Rescue Rodeo, Matt Muir was unavailable for the business meeting, but a report was given in his place and later confirmed by this writer, that the Rescue Rodeo has been postponed until spring. Matt was encouraged to organize a less formal event for this year to build interest in swift water rescue. Matt will provide details at a later date.
- The Rock and Roll Triathlon was discussed with a request for volunteer safety boaters.

New Business:

- Mike Narotski, Watercraft Officer, for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources wrote a letter requesting assistance with updating their Brochures "Boating On Ohio's Streams" These Brochures indicate the information about Ohio's streams including access points and other pertinent data for canoeing and kayaking on Ohio's rivers. Rob requested, and Steve Ingalls, agreed to take the lead on responding to Mike's request. Anyone interested in assisting is asked to look at the information, it can be accessed through a link on the KH website, and then forward any suggestions you have to Steve Ingalls.
- Chuck Singer reported that Suzie Annable passed away, the Club sent flowers to the funeral, and extends sincere condolences to Hank, a Keel Hauler charter member, and his family.
- John Kobak reported that the Middleburg Hts. meeting hall, is now finished and would now charge \$20.00 per hour fee, or \$40 for a typical KH meeting. John went on to say that this is \$160 more than we have traditionally donated in past years, assuming that our summer meetings are not held at Middleburg's hall. The

time slot for our meetings needed to be reserved to insure our typical time and dates. A motion was taken on making reservation for the hall from September 2000 to May 2001 at the \$20 per hour rate. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken which passed unanimously.

- Rob Hammond announced that Shelly Schmidt was entering a Demo Derby contest this summer. She requested help in naming the car, and a slogan to be painted on the car that she will be destroying. Any suggestions should be sent to Rob. The person submitting the selected name and slogan will be awarded the opportunity to watch Shelly's "smashing performance" at their own expense! Details of Shelley's "magnificent adventure" will be announced at the next meeting.

ODNR Requests help for new paddling brochures.

Rob Hammond

Mike Narotski, Watercraft Officer, for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, wrote to me requesting assistance in updating their Brochures "Boating On Ohio's Streams", before they are reprinted. There are 5 different brochures for different parts of the state. Each brochure details things like put-on and take-off locations, river classifications. As the largest paddling club in Ohio, we should be taking the lead on providing information to improve these brochures. Please review these brochures and give your feed back to Steve Ingalls at sti@po.cwru.edu. You can access these brochures at <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/odnr/watercraft/boat/northeast.html> As folks who enjoy the paddling recreation, it is a good opportunity to give back a little, to make the sport more enjoyable for others. We should also be gathering the same type of information for sea kayaking which has seen phenomenal growth in the last few years. Information about parking and put in locations would be very useful to people who are new to the area, or to the sport. I don't know if ODNR is willing to create a new brochure, but if we put together some information, I am sure that they would be willing to consider it.

So if you paddle in Ohio, and can give some information to improve the ODNR brochures, please send it along to Steve. This information must be put together by October. But please don't put it off, do it now while spring paddling in Ohio is still fresh on your mind!

Also Mike also mentioned that canoeist and kayakers account for approximately 11% of the boats registered in the state of Ohio. The dollars that we pay for licenses make up a significant part of state licensing revenues. We should be taking an active roll in giving ODNR input on things that they could be doing for our recreation.

And lastly Mike made the point that "the Ohio Legislature has made \$6,000,000" (yep, that's the M word) "available to local County Soil and Water districts to distribute to those willing to remove log jam's from waterways. Sounds like a potentially very useful strainer, dangerous obstruction removing, facilitating tool". So call me "Have Chainsaw, will travel", hey for 6 mill, I'll cut up a few logs!

Cheat Canyon 5/7/00 level 2'

Weather sunny & hot ,water warm. Well it is gut check time. on all previous trips to the canyon I have not done as well as one needs to do in a river of this type,[remote class 4] granted ,each succeeding time I have done better, but not to the standards that I set for myself, so today is the day for the acid test. I either do well or take up croquet.

I have been working very hard at my boating, going to the pool every week [KSU club], getting out on the rivers as much as possible[20+ days since Jan 2] and trying to control the fear factor. I fixed my broken Crossfire* and this is its third river and the one that will surely challenge the highly vulnerable weld with acidic water and rocky river bed. So this is a test for man and boat. Several plans are available to us: 1] to meet Steve Ingalls for a 0830 putin and a 1400 Glenn Miller take out, 2] meet at take out at 10 for a ride back with TRPC members of late boating club or run our own shuttle and move at our own pace. We take door number three. Up early enough for option 1 and too early for option 2 we put in just before 11.

Bill Miller is our 'fearless leader'. Jon Mitchell is our 1st timer. Karen Petit is well, Karen Petit, and I am the scared puppy that rounds out this foursome. Bill's style of boating is relaxed to say the least, his lines are clean & smooth. His frequent use of eddies is very impressive. We were conservative and played follow the leader [go EXACTLY where he goes, unless he screws up]. The first 5 or 6 rapids are the ones that give me the most anxiety. Not because of any particular reason just because being number 4 in this rumba line was very cool, I got to watch Bill lead Jon and then follow Karen so I got 3 probes showing me the way. The first biggie, Big Nasty, I hiked last time but today I go for it.

We scout, we try to watch other boaters run the line a good idea except that the boaters running the lines are throwing ends, cart wheeling, wave wheeling, dropping into the holes and surfing and spinning. Turns out it is rodeo day with the likes of Clay Wright, EJ,BJ, Steve Fischer, and too many other of the top boaters for me to name tuff to watch the 'classic' line with these characters. Well here we go - do not want to screw up in front of these people. Finally, I hit the dream line. Next is Cue Ball which sends Jon up on the rock. When he rolls up all he sees is wall, over he goes and out he comes from his boat [sound familiar Cliff?] what he did not know was when he flipped the 2nd time he washed off the wall and into a huge pool with an upstream flow, so when he punched out his self rescue was immediate and complete[did not want to let go of the brand new Werner paddle]. My next nemesis is high falls where all my attitude problems began last year. Well it is not a problem now because I sneak it on the right, the other three nail the clean line, beautiful. Next is Coliseum. We take the rocky left approach to ensure a left entry to #1 hole, eddy out next to #2 hole I am familiar with this place, last trip here I was not aggressive enough and into cloud chamber I went, well I am damn sure not going to make that mistake again, out of the eddy with power and aggression, touch the back of the hole as per previous instruction. Wa la, I am in the swirly pool on the right, cross over to the left, two quick slap braces, I have made it! Jon went into what little of cloud chamber exists at this level gets stern squirted

through it and flops over and nails his roll, way to go. All previous trips to the canyon the rest of the river has been kind to me today will be no different. My boat and I have passed the acid test. Anybody want to buy a croquet set?

Today's restaurant for review is TWILA'S located next to Little Sandy's at the Bruceton Mills exit of I-68. It is a very reasonable priced, good food ,clean establishment. This place is exceedingly friendly and entertaining and Twila is quite the character herself., thrown out of Friendsville for answering a survey regarding kayakers as being good for business and having the property owner where her sign was, cut it down with a chain saw. If you go there ask about the gullible kayakers and her husbands trip on the Upper Yough in an inner tube.

*The break in my Crossfire occurred when paddling the Cuyahoga gorge with Ratt Boy. Why is it that people involved with this guy have their equipment suffer? i.e. Hammond's broken boat, Lang's paddle, Kobak's upturned bow of his boat, Feinberg's broken boat. I am sure the list goes on. I am noticing a trend here. Too bad those Ratt points aren't redeemable for cash

A New, Revised International Scale of River Difficulty:

*by Dave Petterson (lifted with permission
from rec.boats.paddle)*

Class I: Easy. Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. Swimming is pleasant, shore easily reached. Almost all gear and equipment is recovered. Boat is just slightly scratched.

Class II: Novice. Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting. Swimming to eddies may require moderate effort. Climbing out of river may involve slippery rocks and shrub-induced lacerations. Paddles travel a great distance downstream requiring a lengthy walk. Canoe hits a submerged rock leaving a ding on gunwale.

Class III: Intermediate. Rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid. Water is swallowed. Legs are repeatedly ground against sharp pointy rocks. Several eddies are missed while swimming. Difficult decision

whether or not to stay with boat is made. Decision to stay with boat results in moment of terror when swimmer realizes they are downstream of boat. Paddle is recirculated gently in small hole way upstream. All personal possessions are removed from boat and floated in different directions. Paddling partners run along river bank shouting helpful instructions. Boat is munched against large boulder hard enough to leave series of deep gouges. Sunglasses fall off.

Class IV: Advanced. Intense, powerful but predictable rapids requiring precise swimming in turbulent water. Swimming may require 'must' moves above dangerous hazards. 'Must' moves are downgraded to 'strongly recommended' after they are missed. Sensation of disbelief is experienced while about to swim large drops. Frantic swimming towards shore is alternated with frantic swimming away from shore to avoid strainers. Rocks are clung to with death grip. Paddle is completely forgotten. One shoe is removed. Hydraulic pressure removes car keys and credit cards from zippered paddle jacket pocket. Paddle partners running along stream look genuinely concerned while lofting throw ropes 20 feet behind swimmer. Paddle partners stare slack-jawed and point in amazement at canoe which is finally stopped by major feature. Climbing up river bank involves an inverted tree. One of those little spring-loaded pins that attaches watch to watchband is missing. Contact lenses are moved to rear of eyeballs.

Class V and beyond: Expert. Not recommended for swimming.

Marooned By John Kobak

What a predicament, here I was in my car looking at the 2' deep water flowing over the road. We were stuck on what had now become an island. Last night a ranger had mentioned that if it really rained hard, that water sometimes goes over the road. We discounted what he said, figuring that since we only got a light rain, the river may go up, but it would never cause a flood. But let me set up how the five of us were now "Survivors" on this island.

This year our annual WV week of rivers was only to be a four-day weekend trip. Elliott Drysdale and I met Matt Muir, Scott

Debalski, Gib McGill, Ron Whitney and first timer Mike Narotski at Little Sandy's restaurant. We also planned to meet Santo Albright & Kris who drove all the way from St. Louis. A missed e-mail and faulty cell phone caused them to end up on the Yough. Never did run across them the whole weekend.

Our group was going for a nice 6' run on the Lower Big Sandy. This is a good level, especially for first timers. Wonder Falls won't recirculate you and all the rocks are better padded. When Elliott had run Wonder Falls at a much higher level he had gotten recirculated so he was a little apprehensive. I reassured him that it was an easy level. Well, head games caused him to bail even though when he flipped at the base of the falls he was just sitting on the boil. He did fine the rest of the day. Ron, Matt and Gib made Big Splat look easy. However Gib flipped in the horseshoe shaped approach hole but rolled in time to make the eddy above Splat. The rest of us walked it. Matt's group was doing a two-day trip while Elliott and I were heading down to the Gauley.

They wanted to run the river twice so they sprinted down the river. I liked the early takeout time but would have liked to take it a little slower. It was fun to watch Scott get trashed in his new kayak (Prijon Samurai). He sure made the run look hard. I heard his second time down was much smoother.

We got to Summersville in time to eat at the new China Buffet Restaurant. We highly recommend it, lots of good food including a sundae bar. The campground below the dam had lots of room for us and the remainder of our group (Paul Lang, Bob Nicholson, Peter Turkaly and Brent Laubaugh) who would roll in about midnight.

The Gauley was running at 1250 cfs with 200 cfs coming out of the Meadow River, a nice relaxing level for Peter to try out his new kayak. It was either the boat or Peter, he sure didn't have any trouble like Scott did on the Sandy. The weather at the Sandy had been great but it was now turning colder and looked like rain. As usual the first thing that happens at the Gauley is the fog rolls in. This makes it very interesting for those who don't know the river as well. We took a guess at the best lines for Pillow, Paul got a surprise flip and I ended

up surfing the wave on the front of Pillow Rock wondering whether I should paddle forward into the "Room of Doom" or backpaddle, I backed out upright.

Lost Paddle also gave me an apprehensive moment. As I made the second last move to the right eddy above "Tumble Home", I flipped and washed backward through a slot that I had never ran before, but luckily caught some current with one of my paddle blades getting me upright in a hurry. The heavy rains pelted us for about 30 min. I remarked if this keeps up for an hour or so we will have nice level for tomorrow.

Paul Lang was the only one to run "Iron Ring" which looked nasty at this low level. The higher the river gets, the easier this rapid becomes. Paul, however, made it look easy. "Sweet's Falls" flipped 3 out of the 6 paddlers. By this time it was drizzling lightly off & on.

We paddled down to the Panther Creek takeout and decided that since they put a new roof on the outfitter's pavilion it would be a great place to camp in the rain. Elliott and I had our steak roast while the rest headed out for dinner and Brent went to see his grandmother in Beckley. They all came back by midnight and we were expecting Boris Glick to roll in after midnight. JoAnn convinced Paul to camp at the dam since she liked having toilets nearby. This turned out to be a fortunate decision for Paul. Boris had never been here before and after being lost a few times decided to camp at the dam. However, he didn't see Paul camped there.

When we awoke on Sunday morning the river looked quite fast. The standing waves were 6 ft high and we were camped next to a flatwater section of the river. I grabbed all my gear, jumped in the van and drove toward the parking lot. OHOH, things look bad. The river was pouring over our only means of escape, Elliott got out to check the depth: way over his knees and Elliott is 6'4" tall. We backed up to the pavilion and tried to get a weather forecast. They had been predicting more rain and if it materialized we could be stuck here for a few days.

Bob Nicholson offered to ride out on his bike to call our wives and buy some food, however as he waded across the water Paul & Joann showed up. We heard their

sympathetic laughs on our side of the new stream. They did agree to go to the store with Bob and talk to the Dam operators (or is it Damn?). They politely informed Bob, no they couldn't turn off the dam so we could get off our island, they had to worry about the people on the lake being flooded. They said pray that it doesn't rain anymore since they now were releasing 9500 cfs with 3200 cfs more coming out of the Meadow. No wonder we were trapped.

Believe it or not, we watched them launch two large raft groups on the lower Gauley. The current near our camp was moving at 8-10 mph. They were in for fast exciting float. We played games and occupied ourselves cleaning up the area of beer cans left by locals. At about 2 PM, I noticed that the river was dropping. We ran back to the road, it had dropped a foot. If we could build a dam on the high side of the road perhaps we could cut the flow across the road to a low enough level to get the cars across. The Corps would be proud of the dam we built, however, we didn't do an Environmental Impact Statement. Our only statement was "Let's get the &#@* off the island."

It was 4 PM when we got to the dam to tell them we were free. They were so happy they let me use their computer to get to the KH Gauge Page. Ah ha, the Cranberry was 4.8' and dropping. I told the group if we high tailed it over, we could still run a river today. We passed Paul Lang on our way to the Cranberry. He had run it with a group from Dayton's OA Club and was he was now heading for the New Dries. We got to the Cranberry by 5PM and were off the river by 6:30PM. We had the river to ourselves. The Cranberry is a great class III-IV run. Brent and I had run it before but the rest were first timers. Peter got sucked back into a ledge I now call "P Hole" since this is the same ledge where Mark Poljak got surfed the last time we ran the river. However, unlike Mark, Peter had to swim out. Elliott asked where is the big one, "S-Turn", as he paddled around the next corner taking the lead for the first time. I quickly eddied out and yelled "This is it" as he paddled into the maelstrom. It was a fun rapid at this level.

We all agreed to run the river again early Monday morning and then head home. By Monday the level had dropped to 4.4' but it was still a really fun run. I found out that

Paul found the Dries dry so had headed up north to run the Big Sandy, which was up to 6'9". He met George Carroll and a couple of paddlers from DC. Boris never did find our group but found some other paddlers to run the Middle Meadow at 3500cfs. He said it was very pushy. He then proceeded to drive back to MI. All that driving for a four-mile paddle. As on Memorial day trips in the past, the rain brought up the rivers but this time it also gave us a new experience. Watch out for rising rivers.

John's Brook - Great run for the certifiably insane

*by Honorary Keelhauler Karl Gesslein,
(lifted with permission from
rec.boats.paddle)*

So there I was, the better part of the way down what was easily the most difficult creek I had ever paddled, standing on the shore waiting for Mike to walk down, after paddling a long section of class IV-V by myself trying to catch up with Mike's lost paddle. My spray skirt had been badly ripped on a log, which was stuck under an undercut rock and Mike's skirt was also badly ripped. Luckily mine had ripped first so I had gotten dibs on the only safety pin we had which was now holding together the tear and keeping my little creek boat from sinking like the Titanic in this heinous 350+ fpm creek known as John's Brook. If John's Brook had been a movie review it would have read like this:

John's Brook is the newest in a long line of productions aimed at appealing to the segment of the kayaking community that have hit their heads on a few to many rocks. The first two hours is spent watching kayakers hike up 3 miles of steep rocky trails dragging 100 lbs. of gear through the mud, over creeks and over huge boulders. You can tell from the gradient that once these guys hit the water, there will be hell to pay. While most runs gently ramp up for the viewer once they get to the water, John's creek starts out full bore and never slows down. The entire 5 miles is just one long climax with little or no interruption. Most people who enjoy this spectacle will be forced to switch over to autopilot or will end up running out of energy and adrenaline after the first 15 minutes. After the first couple of hours, you wonder when it will end, and whether

or not the actors will just say "enough" and walk out of the canyon.

Book of St John's Brook

1:1 Yea, verily thou shalt not let go of thine paddle, even if thou art stuck in a strainer, struggling to get out of thine boat
1:2 For if thou dost let go of thine paddle, then thou must pull thine partner over that same log that thou hast broached on
1:3 And as thine partner looks at thee with sad and worried eyes begging you to be careful, thou shalt push him into the water on the downstream side of the log and say unto him "Thou must go now alone and fetch my paddle which hath gotten away from me"
1:4 And with great fear thine partner shall boat quickly, yet carefully down the next ¼ mile of rapids until he doth portage to avoid yet another log which hath blocked his passage.
1:5 Giveth not up though, as another paddle awaiteth thee back at thine trusty car.
1:6 Thine friend shall journey to the car and return with his spare paddle so that thou may complete thine run
1:7 Although the rain continues to fall, and the creek continues to rise and although you are hungry and tired, you must continue on.
1:8 For thou hast traveled so far to see it, and thou wilt have it done.

While only a dozen or so drops rivaled the Bottom Moose for difficulty, the sheer continuousness of the river caught Mike and me off-guard. It was a bad gear day, though it was a good paddling day. Usually I'm anxious to keep paddling after most runs. This time I was happy to be back at the car. It had been 10 hours since I had eaten and I had drunk all my water bottle after hiking the first ½ mile and had been drinking river water the rest of the way. By the time we had reached the takeout I was relieved and exhausted.

The next time you see an old-school creeker who has been paddling longer than you've been alive, ask the where the best run in the Northeast is. If they say John's Creek, you'll know to shudder in terror at the thought of the heinous hike and of all those drops, one right after another with few eddies and lots of wood. More strainers in fact than I have seen in ALL the rivers I have run in my piddly little 4 year paddling career. While everything else in NY is in flood, this creek is one that is better reserved for the certifiably insane.

MIDWEST REGIONAL FREESTYLE COMPETITION AND INSTRUCTIONAL CLINIC

Sept. 9 & 10, 2000. Medina, Ohio.

A new regional FreeStyle Canoeing competition and instructional clinic are being offered for those interested in competing or learning more about FreeStyle canoeing. This event is sponsored by the Kilted Yak and sanctioned by the American Canoe Association.

Plans call for FreeStyle instructional clinics at different skill levels from beginner to advanced on Saturday morning, afternoon and Sunday morning. Competition and an exhibition in FreeStyle Canoe paddling will be held Saturday, early evening. Come and learn more about FreeStyle from nationally known ACA certified FreeStyle instructors and watch the first Midwest Regional Comp in the sport!

Contact Elaine or Bob Mravetz for additional information and registration at 330-239-1725 or rmravet@uakron.edu.

Wanted: Spray skirt for Perception Pirouette S - Jim Dietrich ~ (330)923-793 or e-mail: dietrich_j@hotmail.com

Hudson Bay, Indian Built 14' wood/canvas canoe, built 1963. A-1 Mint reconditioned, \$1600. Great solo canoe, but built for two. Joan/George Grellinger 440-933-6494

New Wave Sleek – with backband, average condition, two yrs old, purple, white & black. Asking \$375 or trade for Corsica S or Dagger Crossfire or similar type boat. Steve Bateman 330-337-9444 (OH)

Keel-Hauler's KaNews Aug. 2000



Sept. Deadline Aug. 25

Aug 8th meeting 6:30 PM at Huntington Beach Park, Bay Village.

This is our last outdoor meeting for the season.

DIRECTIONS: From Cleveland, take I-90 W. to Columbia Rd.(Exit 159). North to Lake Rd. Turn Left on Lake Rd. going west to Huntington Beach Reservation. Park on the north side of Lake Rd. Meet at the Picnic Pavillion on the east side of the park.

You may use watercraft on the east side of the swimming beach. Experts will be available to assist with Eskimo roll practice.

Late July or early Aug...Canoe/Camping – Missinaibi River, CAN

Join Dwight for this wonderful weeklong trip on the beautiful Missinaibi River in Ontario. If you have ever been canoeing in Ontario, this is one trip you will enjoy.

Dwight Arndt.....440-234-5172

Aug 1, 15, 22, 29...Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

You can never have too much rolling practice. See June 6 description.

Matt Muir...RivieraRatt@aol.com...330-668-2329

Aug 4-6...Upper / Lower Yough, MD / PA (23/32)

Join Rob and Ron for a good weekend with fun and challenge for paddlers from low intermediate to advanced!

Upper: Aug 4-5: Rob

Hammond...bhammond@tycoint.com...216-292-5618

Lower: Aug 6: Ron

Tomallo...rtomallo@hotmail.com...440-953-1335

Aug 5-6...Upper New, WV (16)

Experience "Big Water" in a Class-II setting. This is a fun seven-mile stretch of beautiful warm water. A reliable roll is not needed. We will paddle from Stonecliff to Cunard and have a great dinner as a reward. Directions are available. Call to confirm trip, meeting time, and location. Trips both days are possible.

Carl Kudrna...sitesmart@aol.com...440-835-0222

Aug 5...New River Gorge, WV (27)

The New River Gorge is the biggest whitewater river in West Virginia. This trip is appropriate for advanced boaters with a reliable river roll.

Please call ahead for camping locations and meeting times.

Ted

Moore...tedjmoore@earthlink.net...216-440-4555

Aug 8...Meeting, Huntington Beach

See newsletter for directions.

Aug 9...Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet, 6:00 PM

Keith Clarke...kclarke@on-b.com...440-888-7317

Aug 12...Sea Kayaking at Portage Lakes, 10:00 AM

David and Nina

Farkas...dfarkas@nccw.net...216-382-2935

Aug 16...Sea Kayaking at Edgewater Park, 6:00 PM

Jill Lauren.....440-246-2993

Aug 18 (Friday)...Lady's Day at the Yough (23)

(Or any other Class 3-4 river that is running that day)

Put the kids in daycare and come down to the Yough for a less crowded day on the river.

Sherie

Sanzenbacher...ritchkovacic@stratos.net...216-381-0599

Aug 19...Sea Kayaking Sandusky

Bay/Cedar Point, 10:00 AM

Stuart Warner...stuarthm@aol.com...440-892-1537

Aug 19-20...Yough Weekend, PA (12/23)

This should be a nice weekend with hot weather and warm water. A Middle Yough trip will be organized on Saturday if interested boaters call the trip organizers in advance. Call the Lower Yough trip organizer in advance to reserve permits. The Club has reserved 10 permits from 9:00 to 10:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday. You must check in with the Lower Yough trip organizer before 8:10 PM on Saturday and on Sunday. **(Please read page 46 for important information).**

Lower Yough: Tom

Berneike...scubaohio@hotmail.com...216-521-1228

Middle trip organizer: Gary Tucker...440-357-7890

Aug 19-20...New River Gorge, WV (27)

The New River Gorge is the biggest whitewater river in West Virginia. This trip is appropriate for advanced boaters with a reliable river roll. Please call ahead for camping locations and meeting times.

Scott Price...ginprice@yahoo.com...330-925-4017

Aug 24...Sea Kayaking at Gordon Park, Cleveland

Jackie Otte

...jackieotte@bigplanet.com...216-371-1674

Aug 30...Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet

Keith Clarke...kclarke@on-b.com...440-888-7317

Sept 1, 2 & 4...Upper Yough, MD (32)

Advanced paddlers, if you're ready for some real slalom practice, this is it. Just 45 minutes from Ohiopyle, this Slippery Rock-sized riverbed with triple the gradient and added rocks definitely will make for a busy day. Be sure to call to confirm. The group campsite at Piney Mountain is reserved, so there will be plenty of room for the night.

Scott Debalski...scd@lubrizol.com...440-298-1718

Sept 2...Sea Kayaking Picnic on the Breakwall

Watch the Labor Day air show from the Breakwall – Put in at Edgewater at 10:00 PM

Marsha Wacker...giraugh@aol.com...440-356-0987

Sept 2-3...Penn Cup # 1

Come out for the first of 5 slalom races in the Pennsylvania Cup series. These races are for beginner to advanced boaters, they are a two-day affair, on Saturday we practice running the gates and attend training clinics. On Sunday we race and assist in judging. There are many classes you can compete in, including Jr, Men's, Woman's, and experts. There are classes for the boat you enter: Open Boats, C1, C2, K1; even classes for Plastic Boats and Race Boats. As a result the classes are small, and you will typically race against people of similar skills. The competitors in these races vary in skill from first-year boaters to people who run class 5 rivers.

The Penn Cup series is an excellent place to learn Slalom Racing, because on Saturday there are race clinics, *free to those who race on Sunday*, for beginners and intermediate boaters. Olympic racers sometimes teach these clinics; you may even have an instructor that will compete at the next Olympics. These races are great for improving your technical boating skills.

So if you are having trouble making those hard-to-hit eddies, or are not making the moves that you should be, come to the races and we will help you move up to the next level. The race dates for the Penn Cup series fill up quickly, so you frequently must register ahead of time. The first race is on the Middle Yough at the Riversport campground. There will be 20 to 25

gates set up at RamCat, a class-II rapid. *Dates are tentative; please check with Rob.*

Rob

Hammond...bhammond@tycoint.com...216-292-5618

Sept 2-4...Beaver River, NY (III-V+)

The Beaver has only been runnable for a couple of years, thanks to an agreement reached by AWA. There are three sections: Taylorville, Moshier, and Eagle. Taylorville is a great "intro to creeking" run; Moshier has some easy waterfalls and some excellent

technical action. The Eagle section is for those who like their action fast and furious. Camping is available right next to the river. Call or email Tom for details.

Tom

Cronin...cronintj@cobleskill.edu...518-255-5308

Sept 6...Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet

Keith Clarke...kclarke@on-b.com...440-888-7317

Sept 8-10...Gauley River Weekend, WV (28/33)

The annual fall drawdown also draws bigger and bigger crowds of paddlers each year. The river isn't getting any easier; there are just many more good paddlers. The Gauley is still the Ultimate Whitewater Challenge for the advanced paddler. The lower river is similar in difficulty to the Cheat at 3 ft. So, if you want to warm up before attempting the full fury of the upper canyon, come along.

John

Kobak...keelhauled@prodigy.net...440-871-1758

Sept 8-10...Sea Kayaking Campout at Kelley's Island

Marsha Wacker...giraugh@aol.com...440-356-0987

Sept 11...Upper Cuyahoga, OH (3)

Paddle 10 miles from Eldon Russell Park to Hiram, Ohio. This is a woodland stream with a gentle current that goes through wetland areas. The water is good quality for swimming, rolling, wildlife, and enjoying nature.

Dennis Plank.....216-228-4926

Sept 15-17...Gauley Fest Weekend, WV (26/33)

The crowds aren't much bigger on AWA's Festival weekend, and it's a lot of fun, so come along! We might run the Upper-Lower Gauley Marathon or two runs on the Upper on Saturday if there's interest.

Upper Gauley: Matt

Muir...RivieraRatt@aol.com...330-668-2329

Lower Gauley: Sue Strumbel

sstrumbe@mail.doc.gov...216-741-4405

Sept 16...Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Tim

Taubert...taubert@hexagram.com...440-256-2506

Sept 12...Meeting, Middleburg Heights Rec. Center

See newsletter for program announcement.

June 2000 Minutes

The June meeting minutes written by Rob Hammond.

The June meeting had a large turnout as Silver lake, with a race around the island, and demo whitewater and sea kayaks supplied by Newman Outfitters. Ron Whitney and Sue provided grilled hotdogs, and there was plenty of socializing by all with many new members and guests. The business meeting started at 9:00 pm

Minutes:

Chuck Singer made the motion to accept the Minutes from the May meeting be accepted as printed in the June newsletter, the motion was seconded and was passed on a vote.

Treasures Report:

Vince Krempenger reported that the current treasury balance was \$4,231.42

Chair Reports:

Instruction:

Steve Ingles reported that there are many new roll sessions, and instruction classes. Please contact Michael Darrah at the Red Cross for specific information. Steve will forward the information to John Kobak to be posted on the club Web Site.

Membership:

John Kobak reported that there were 360 paid members.

Program:

Tim Talbert reported that the July Meeting would again be held at Silver Lake, with a potluck cookout; so bring your favorite dish.

Safety:

Chuck Singer gave a short talk on high water swimming on the river. Chuck made the point that contrary to the general rule of thumb about holding on to your paddle and letting your boat go, in high water you should let your paddle go and hold on to your boat. The boat is much more visible, making it easier for rescuers to spot a swimmer on a raging river, and it gives the swimmer added buoyancy.

Old Business:

- Demo day organized by Newman Outfitters will be June 24, at the East Branch Reservoir; Tim Talbert will have an information table and is looking for volunteers to help man it.
- Rescue Rodeo, Matt Muir was unavailable for the business meeting, but a report was given in his place and later confirmed by this writer, that the Rescue Rodeo has been postponed until spring. Matt was encouraged to organize a less formal event for this year to build interest in swift water rescue. Matt will provide details at a later date.
- The Rock and Roll Triathlon was discussed with a request for volunteer safety boaters.

New Business:

- Mike Narotski, Watercraft Officer, for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources wrote a letter requesting assistance with updating their Brochures "Boating On Ohio's Streams" These Brochures indicate the information about Ohio's streams including access points and other pertinent data for canoeing and kayaking on Ohio's rivers. Rob requested, and Steve Ingalls, agreed to take the lead on responding to Mike's request. Anyone interested in assisting is asked to look at the information, it can be accessed through a link on the KH website, and then forward any suggestions you have to Steve Ingalls.
- Chuck Singer reported that Hank Anabell's wife passed away, the Club sent flowers to the funeral, and extends sincere condolences to Hank, a long time Keel Hauler member, and his family.
- John Kobak reported that the Middleburgh Hts. meeting hall, which will be finished soon, would now charge \$20.00 per hour fee, or \$40 for a typical KH meeting. John went on to say that this is \$160 more than we have traditionally donated in past years, assuming that our summer meetings are not held at Middleburgh's hall. The time slot for our meetings needed to be

reserved to insure our typical time and dates. A motion was taken on making reservation for the hall from September 2000 to May 2001 at the \$20 per hour rate. The motion was seconded, a vote was taken which passed unanimously.

- Rob Hammond announced that Shelly Schmidt was entering a Demo Derby contest this summer. She requested help in naming the car, and a slogan to be painted on the car that she will be destroying. Any suggestions should be sent to Rob. The person submitting the selected name and slogan will be awarded the opportunity to watch Shelly's "smashing performance" at their own expense! Details of Shelley's "magnificent adventure" will be announced at the next meeting.

ODNR Requests help for new paddling brochures.

Rob Hammond

Mike Narotski, Watercraft Officer, for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, wrote to me requesting assistance in updating their Brochures "Boating On Ohio's Streams", before they are reprinted. There are 5 different brochures for different parts of the state. Each brochure details things like put-on and take-off locations, river classifications. As the largest paddling club in Ohio, we should be taking the lead on providing information to improve these brochures. Please review these brochures and give your feed back to Steve Ingalls at sti@po.cwru.edu. You can access these brochures by going to the club website and looking for Ohio Canoeing links under the link page, <http://pages.prodigy.net/keelhauler/khcc/kh.htm>. As folks who enjoy the paddling recreation, it is a good opportunity to give back a little, to make the sport more enjoyable for others. We should also be gathering the same type of information for sea kayaking which has seen phenomenal growth in the last few years. Information about parking and put in locations would be very useful to people who are new to the area, or to the sport. I don't know if ODNR is willing to create a new brochure, but if we put together some information, I am sure that they would be willing to consider it.

So if you paddle in Ohio, and can give some information to improve the ODNR brochures, please send it along to Steve. This information must be put together by October. But please don't put it off, do it now while spring paddling in Ohio is still fresh on your mind!

Also Mike also mentioned that canoeist and kayakers account for approximately 11% of the boats registered in the state of Ohio. The dollars that we pay for licenses make up a significant part of state licensing revenues. We should be taking an active roll in giving ODNR input on things that they could be doing for our recreation.

And lastly Mike made the point that "the Ohio Legislature has made \$6,000,000" (yep, that's the M word) "available to local County Soil and Water districts to distribute to those willing to remove log jam's from waterways. Sounds like a potentially very useful strainer, dangerous obstruction removing, facilitating tool". So call me "Have Chainsaw, will travel", hey for 6 mill, I'll cut up a few logs!

July 2000 Minutes

Rob Hammond wrote the July meeting minutes, due to the absence of the Secretary.

The June meeting was held at Silver Lake, with a potluck barbeque. The business meeting started at 9:00 pm

Minutes:

June meeting minutes were read and accepted.

Treasures Report:

Vince Kremperger, the Treasurer, was not at the meeting, and there was no treasurer's report.

Chair Reports:

Instruction:

Steve Ingalls reported that all of the Red Cross classes were over until this fall.

Membership:

John Kobak reported that there were 372 paid members.

Program:

Tim Taubert reported that the August meeting would again be held at Huntington Beach; so bring your boats to kayak on Lake Erie, or to surf or swim at the beach. (If you are surfing, hope for small craft warnings)

Safety:

Chuck Singer gave a short talk that was very informative. Unfortunately, I didn't write it down, and for the life of me, don't

remember what it was about. But it was very good!

Old Business:

- Mike Narotski, Watercraft Officer, for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources wrote a letter requesting assistance with updating their Brochures "Boating On Ohio's Streams" These Brochures indicate the information about Ohio's streams including access points and other pertinent data for canoeing and kayaking on Ohio's rivers. Steve Ingalls has agreed to take the lead on responding to Mike's request. Anyone interested in assisting is asked to look at the information, it can be accessed through a link on the KH website, and then forward any suggestions you have to Steve Ingalls.

New Business:

- Matt Muir gave us an update on the Rescue Rodeo. Unfortunately, he was not able to organize an event as originally outlined. However, an alternative Swiftwater Safety Demonstration day was proposed, hopefully the first of an annual event. This event would consist of some safety demonstrations by club members. The event would be open to all at no charge. A discussion of what should be included in the demonstration was held, with a consensus agreeing that the Z drag would not be demonstrated, because it is basically used to free equipment, and that was probably not worth taking personal risks for. What was agreed to demonstrate, was some basic rope tying, wading techniques in swiftwater, rope throwing, and other swimmer rescue techniques. The event is anticipated to be held at the McConnells Mill on Slippery Rock Creek. There is ample parking in a lot above the mill; however, parking at the mill is very limited. The proposed date for the Swiftwater Safety Demonstration Day is Saturday, August 12th.
- Rick Feinberg, our Vice President will be leaving the Cleveland area for a temporary assignment. He is

trying to go to the Solomon Islands to engage in some research. Unfortunately the air carriers are reluctant to land there due to some local disputes. It seems that the carriers have decided to pursue other business interests, with the reports of sporadic gunfire at the airport. Not to be deterred, our Archeology Professor, has decided to go to Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), to engage in research and evaluate, just how crazy, his idea of going to the Solomon's really is.

- With Rick Feinberg leaving the area until possibly December, depending on his tolerance, of doing research amongst armed combatants, he has resigned his position of Vice president. The membership at the meeting was asked to volunteer to fill the position until the fall elections. The underwhelming response was drowned out, by the first occurrence, that evening, of complete silence.
- The Kilted Yak store is sponsoring the "Midwest Regional Freestyle Competition and Instructional Clinic". Elaine Mravetz gave a short description of what the event would be about. For more information, you can read the article in the July or August newsletter, or you can contact Elaine or Bob Mravetz at: (330) 239-1725, or Email: rmravet@uakron.edu.
- The new logo stickers are now available. There is a limit of 2 stickers per membership, more are available for \$1.00 for 3 stickers. All members present at the meeting were given stickers. For people not at the meeting, you can send Rob Hammond a Self Addressed and Stamped Envelope, and he will return the stickers. Rob's address is 27600 Emery Rd. Orange OH 44145.
- The Intro to the Yough Weekend for July 15, and 16 was announced. If you are interested, contact the trip leaders, Tim Talbert or Fran Hoven.
- The Second Annual Yough Over the Falls Race is tentatively set for

the last weekend in September, although details on the race are very scarce at this point.

A motion was taken to adjourn the meeting, which was approved and seconded.

Swiftwater Rescue Demonstration, August 12

by Rob Hammond and Matt Muir

At the last KH meeting we talked about a replacement for the Rescue Rodeo, that we are calling the SwiftWater Rescue Demonstration Day (SRDD)

This event should be of great interest to all boaters, beginners and experienced paddlers alike. The following is the proposed (and very flexible) agenda:

Sat: 10:00 Meet at the parking lot above the Mill
 10:30 Rope- tying demonstrations
 11:30 Safety talk (optional)
 12:00 Lunch in the picnic area above the mill
 1:00 Rope throwing rescues at Maytag
 3:30 Ferry rope across the river exercise
 4:30 Rescue wading exercise
 5:30 Run the Slip, if there is water
 7:30 Dinner at the campground

Sun: Run something that has enough water to be runnable

Please let Matt Muir (RivieraRatt@aol.com, 330-NOT A FAX) or Rob Hammond (bhammond@tycoint.com, 216-292-5618) know of your plans to come. Be sure to bring:
 Your boat and paddle;
 A throw bag;
 Extra rope
 Carabiners (at least two; as many as you have)
 Paddling clothing to keep you warm for a whole day on the river.

Indy-Day on the Upper Yough by Matt Muir

We had 8 people on Saturday, July 1: Gib (Tripp Coordinator), Ron Whitney., Sue Strumbel, Greg Lewis, Boris Glick, Rob Hammond., and Scott Debalski.

Sue looked more relaxed than I'd ever seen on the Upper. She's now confident that she knows the rapids, which means she doesn't need to freak out, worrying that the guy she's following is offline, and "what do I

do???" She had some rolls on Saturday, but no swims. Nothing even close to a swim. During the paddle out, she quietly and happily said, "Yay." I looked over at her, and she said, "yay." She was grinning ear to ear. *Everybody* was happy for her.

Boris knew the lines pretty well for a second-timer. Ron decided Boris didn't deserve to take it easy, so he led him through all the tough lines: the slots at Charlie's, the boof at National, and the Time Warp at Heinzerling. Boris got himself *worked* at the Charlie's final slot. Didn't have enough speed, got cartwheeled pretty seriously. I ran the slots, but I went through the middle slot at the end. I was having trouble getting control in the eddy, and a raft powered in. It was looking like I was gonna get run over, and I got flipped and ran the drop upside-down. Apparently the raft was right next to me the whole way, awing all them Keel-haulers. I was lucky to escape with a few skinned knuckles.

Greg was trying out the used Sleek he'd bought off of Kate Biley. It's the ugliest color of green; a couple weekends ago, when Tinker's was too high, he ran the Aurora Branch of the Chagrin with Ron. He found the thang a mite tail-happy and got *mauled* in a hole right near the putin. He still bought the boat, though, and moved the seat forward.

What a difference a couple of inches make, as Catherine the Great was wont to say. The last glass holdout among Keelhaulers' Upper Youghers has succumbed. Greg found the Sleek (compared to his Screamin' Meanie) more stable, better surfing, better at running clean lines, and more squirtable. He was thrilled. His Meanie is now mothballed.

Speaking of dewds in new boats: Scott has adjusted to his Samurai. He was catching the beginnings of cartwheels at Backender, for one thang; more importantly, his lines and his uprightness looked good once again. He did get sucked into Natl Falls, though, if IIRC. That was fun to watch, as it always is.

Powerful Popper. Oh, my. At Saturday's level (2.0'), I was expecting it to be relatively friendly. Hahahahahahaha. I went in, got endered and flipped immediately, and *couldn't* get set up to roll. Everything was weird. When I finally rolled up, I heard Ron say something about

"It gets tough if you get surfed into that eddy." Oh; the river-right eddy? No wonder. Butt I went back in.

Got endered immediately, flipped, and found myself at that ugly eddyline again. Yuck. Couldn't get set up to roll; every time I got the paddle into position, my boat got tipped a little, bringing everything outta whack. Then I got fed back into the hole. Ugly! Losing breath. Back into the eddy line. Gotta get a breath, if not a roll. I got my head out of the water by an inch or so and caught a microbreath. Another couple of pathetic roll attempts, and the eddyline released me and I rolled up. The Keel-haulers were amazed, I think, and a little disappointed. (When I got my head into the air momentarily, I was told that Ron said "Damn; he got a breath." It's sooooo nice to have friends.)

Then Gib went in and got one of them towering Pirouette enders. He then got surfed into the bad eddyline and repeated my performance, except, of course, for the rolling-up part. Hey--not everyone has my lungs. I got a couple of photos of his head bobbing at the surface. Yearbook material?

Gotta love that Upper Yo.

That was Saturday. Monday had most of the above paddlers, with the addition of George Carroll, Brent Laubaugh, and Mark Steinmetz; and the loss of Greg Lewis. This would be George and Mark's second runs. George's first run had been a forgotten two years ago, so as far as the Upper Yough is concerned, he was describing himself as a "Born-again Virgin."

We split into two groups. Gib's group waited for Stu and Bryan Koster, who yelled at them from the Sang Run bridge; our group got going. The following is Gib's account of one incident in his trip.

You missed the excitement. When you told me you could get along without Paul Lang, you didn't realize the story material you were forfeiting. We get down to Charlie's Choice, Paul runs that slot on the right along with me, Stu and Bryan, no problem. We get to the end of Charlie's and I ask Stu if he's going to do the crack move. Right after I ask, Stu points to Paul, who has just broached across the crack, and is getting violently jerked. The bottom of his boat is firmly broached on the right boulder, and the stern is bent right around the corner. As Bryan tries to pull him off, he sinks

lower. After assessing for a few moments, I realize the best position to help from is around back, so I paddle down to there, arriving several moments after (AW Director) Barry Tuscano, who gets out on the rock and tells me to be downstream safety. He's able to give Paul a hand and help him out. The boat sinks out of sight, then reappears just above Triple Drop. I say, "That boat is going to run National for sure," which it did. 'Twas excitin' fer a few moments anyway.

I spoke with Paul afterwards. He attributed his error to a loss of concentration, in part because of a very nearby raft. I also posted a description of the event to rec.boats.paddle, and got a mixed response. The vote, if not an actual consensus, was that Paul's incident was, in fact, a technical swim, because, though he had climbed out of his boat onto a rock, he'd still had to swim to shore from that midstream rock. (In addition, there was some serious chastisement of him for asking passing rafts for a ride!)

Following Brent at Triple Drop, George looked not completely in control. He was several feet away from where I'd recommend, heading directly for the hole; plus which, he was looking sideways and ready to flip. When he hit the hole, that's exactly what happened. He tried to roll once or twice, then gave in to his shame.

This is not the best place to swim. If you exit your boat at Triple Drop, very likely your boat grabs the fast water and inexorably runs National Falls without you. We quickly got George to a rock, and left the crowd below National to retrieve his craft. While George was regaining his equilibrium on the rock, Ron noticed his keys hanging from a biner on his PFD. Always the helpful soul, Ron snuck up and liberated the keys.

Ron had a nice idea at Tommy's Hole, reprising his idea from once before. Tommy's has that scary-looking slot, which has been described as "Dimple with an attitude." Ron had run it backwards before, on a lark, and this time he goaded me into the same thing by yelling, "Anybody who runs it forwards is a wuss!" Well, not one to turn down a dare, I followed his line. I found myself in the unusual predicament of being stuck in the hole right above the pointy rock. Took a few seconds for it to let me go and dribble me through the slot.

Some of us ran the left side of Heinzerling, which has a lot of horrendous pinning spots. On Saturday, a woman had been pinned badly in there. Only her companions had been able to keep her head above water for the few minutes it took to get her unpinned. Ron and I had no serious errors. We waited below to see the others run the drop. I saw Sue flip on the pillow and drift off the rock upside-down, before she rolled in the micropool.

I'm not sure what happened at Meat Cleaver. Maybe Ron and George ran separate approaches (to the right and left of the rock), or maybe they both got teased by the complicated eddy-boiling water. All I know is that I have a picture of the two of them getting in each other's way as they passed through the Cleaver Rocks.

Somewhere above Powerful Popper, in the class-3 water, Sue's mettle was again testes. Right behind her, I saw it all. She flipped immediately before a 4-foot pourover-slot combo. This had serious potential to ruin her newfound confidence. I saw her roll up right away, though, so her Upper Yough winning streak remained intact.

At the takeout, George was gearing up to get changed. He walked up to Sue with a downcast look. "I'm going to have to find a locksmith," he sighed. She pokerfaced to Ron, "George can't find his keys." Given that he hadn't had the best of days, perhaps it's understandable that George was not fully able to appreciate Ron's sense of humor.

Keel-Hauler's KaNews Sept. 2000



Yes, we are back at Middleburg Hts, Rec Center. I-271 N or S to Bagely Rd. East 1 mile, less. On the left by the Fire station, before the library.

2001 dues are now payable.

Our membership year ends October 1st, so your 2001 dues are now due.

Please be aware that the 2001 dues will probably be going up at least \$5/year, however if you pay before the dues increase you will still get your membership for only \$15. Don't forget to include a donation for our club's conservation program donations.

Mail your check along with any changes to your address, phone or e-mail listing to:

Keel Haulers Canoe Club

1649 Allen Dr

Westlake, OH 44145-2506

You do not need to fill out a new application or waiver however one will be included in our October newsletter.

Sept 1, 2 & 4 Upper Yough, MD (32)

Advanced paddlers, if you're ready for some real slalom practice, this is it. Just 45 minutes from Ohiopyle, this Slippery Rock-sized riverbed with triple the gradient and added rocks definitely will make for a busy day. Be sure to call to confirm. The group campsite at Piney Mountain is reserved, so there will be plenty of room for the night.

Scott Debalski scd@lubrizol.com 440-298-1718

Sept 2 Sea Kayaking Picnic on the Breakwall

Watch the Labor Day air show from the Breakwall – Put in at Edgewater at 10:00 PM

Marsha Bedford giraugh@aol.com 440-356-0987

Sept 2-3 Penn Cup # 1

Rob Hammond bhammond@tycoint.com 216-292-5618

Sept 2-4 Beaver River, NY (III-V+)

Tom Cronin cronintj@cobleskill.edu 518-255-5308

Sept 6 Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet

Keith Clarke kclarke@on-b.com 440-888-7317

Sept 8-10 Gauley River Weekend, WV (28/33)

John Kobak keelhauler@prodigy.net 440-871-1758

Sept 8-10 Sea Kayaking Campout at Kelley's Island

Marsha Bedford giraugh@aol.com 440-356-0987

Sept 9-10 Penn Cup #2

Penn Cup Race #2 The Little Lehigh Slalom-See the Pennsylvania Cup series Sept 5-6. Contact Rob Hammond or the race organizer the Lehigh Valley Canoe Club. This is Class 1 Slalom, at the Little Lehigh River, in Allentown PA.

Rob Hammond bhammond@tycoint.com 216-292-5618

Sept 11 Upper Cuyahoga, OH (3)

Paddle 10 miles from Eldon Russell Park to Hiram, Ohio. This is a woodland stream with a gentle current that goes through wetland areas. The water is good quality for swimming, rolling, wildlife, and enjoying nature.

Dennis Plank 216-228-4926

Sept 12 Meeting, Middleburg Heights Rec. Center

15700 Bagley Rd

See newsletter for program announcement.

Sept 13 Sea Kayaking at Lakeview, Lorain, 6:00 PM

Jill Lauren 440-246-2993

Sept 15-17 Gauley Fest Weekend, WV (26/33)

The crowds aren't much bigger on AWA's Festival weekend, and it's a lot of fun, so come along! We might run the Upper-Lower Gauley Marathon or two runs on the Upper on Saturday if there's interest.

Upper Gauley: Matt Muir

RivieraRatt@aol.com 330-668-2329

Lower Gauley: Sue Strumbel

sstrumbe@mail.doc.gov 216-741-4405

Sept 16 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Tim Taubert taubert@hexagram.com 440-256-2506

Sept 16-17 Yough Weekend, PA (12/23)

This should be a nice weekend. Crowds should be thinned out due to the weather getting colder and kids going back to school. A Middle Yough trip will be organized on Saturday if interested boaters call the trip organizers in advance. Call the Lower Yough trip organizer in advance to

reserve permits. The Club has reserved 10 permits from 9:00 to 10:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday. You must check in with the Lower Yough trip organizer before 8:10 PM on Saturday and on Sunday.

Lower Yough trip organizer Dave Roush dave_roush@progressive.com 440-461-6456

Middle Yough trip organizer: **Need**

Sept 16-17 Penn Cup #3

Penn Cup Race #3 The Codorus Slalom-Contact Rob Hammond or the race organizer Linda Davidson, Conewago Canoe Club, ddavidson@csdavidson.com. This is a flatwater slalom, at Codorus Creek, in York, PA.

Rob Hammond bhammond@tycoint.com 216-292-5618

Sept 20 Sea Kayaking at Avon Lake City Hall

Bob Zehe jcunitpro@aol.com 440-934-2167

Sept 23 Sea Kayaking Picnic at Emerald Necklace

Begin to plan for 2001sea kayaking schedule. Meet at 10:00 PM

Marsha Bedford giraugh@aol.com 440-356-0987

Sept 23-24 Gauley River Weekend, WV (28/33)

See Sept. 8 trip description.

Dave Becker imdabecker@aol.com 330-274-0328

Sept 23-24 Penn Cup #4

Penn Cup Race #4 The Fiddler's Elbow Slalom-See the Pennsylvania Cup series Sept 5-6. Contact Rob Hammond or the race organizer the Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg. This is a class 1 slalom race, at Swatara Creek, Hershey, PA.

Rob Hammond bhammond@tycoint.com 216-292-5618

Sept 27 Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet

Keith Clarke kclarke@on-b.com 440-888-7317

Sept 30-Oct 1 Gauley River, WV (23/33)

See Sept. 8 trip description.

Stu Koster skoster@wnet.net 810-652-3241

Sept 30-Oct 1 West River, VT (III-III+)

This "unofficial" festival is known all over the Northeast as the paddling party of the Fall. Expect classic Vermont foliage, and a church-sponsored spaghetti dinner in the

evening. Call early, as camping space may be limited.

Tom Cronin cronintj@cobleskill.edu 518-255-5308

Sept 30-Oct 1 Ohiopyle Falls Race - 2nd Annual

Come and watch or come and race. We probably will put together an impromptu river trip, look for Keel Hauler members.

Oct 7 Sea Kayaking at Huron River, 10:00 AM

Stuart Warner Stuarthm@aol.com 440-892-1537

Oct 7 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Cathy Schilling

james.catherine@cleveland.va.gov 330-686-8924

Oct 7-8 Upper Yough, Upper Gauley, MD/WV (32/33)

The upper, upper weekend will be a challenging fun filled weekend. We will run the upper Yough and then the next day move over and run the Upper Gauley. Please call ahead for the plan.

Paul Lang

Paul.T.Lang@FirstEnergyCorp.com 330-896-3468

Oct 7-8 Penn Cup #5

Penn Cup Race #5 The Bellefonte Slalom,- See the Pennsylvania Cup series Sept 5-6. Contact Rob Hammond or the race organizer Penn State Outing Club Whitewater. This is a class I+ slalom, and pot luck dinner. The Penn Cup awards will be awarded after the race, at Spring Creek, in Bellefonte, PA

Rob Hammond bhammond@tycoint.com 216-292-5618

Oct 10 Meeting, Middleburg Heights Rec. Center

15700 Bagley Rd.

August KH meeting minutes

Monica Kiel, Carl Kudrna & Rob Hammond collaborated the August meeting minutes, due to the absence of the Secretary.

The June meeting was held at Huntington Beach. The business meeting started at 8:30 pm

Minutes:

July meeting minutes were read and accepted.

Treasurers Report:

Vince Kremperger, the Treasurer, was not at the meeting, and there was no treasurer's report.

Chair Reports:

Instruction:

Steve Ingalls the safety chair was not available but there were reports that Red Cross classes were starting at Tri C in September. Contact the Red Cross for details, or checkout the club's web pages for class dates & times.

Membership:

John Kobak reported that there were 376 paid members. John brought up the question of raising dues for next year. He suggested the treasurer' submit an accounting of the club's expenses and next year's budget to determine if our dues will cover our expenses, especially with the meeting hall expenses going up.

Program:

Tim Taubert, the program chair was not present so there was no announcement about the next meeting. However the meeting will be at the new recreation center in Middleburg Heights.

Safety:

Chuck Singer gave a short talk about the dangers of boating on raising water levels and the signs that indicate rising water. Chuck also talked about planning in a rescue situation. He stressed that it is important to take a few moments to consider all of the options instead of trying one until it becomes obvious that the plan won't work.

Old Business:

- Mike Narotski, Watercraft Officer, for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources wrote a letter requesting assistance with updating their Brochures "Boating On Ohio's Streams" These Brochures indicate the information about Ohio's streams including access points and other pertinent data for canoeing and kayaking on Ohio's rivers. Steve Ingalls, has agreed to take the lead on responding to Mike's request. Anyone interested in assisting, is asked to look at the information, it can be accessed through a link on the KH website, and then forward any suggestions you have to Steve Ingalls.
- The Swiftwater Safety Demonstration day was on schedule for the upcoming weekend at McConnell's Mill State Park, with a Potluck dinner afterwards. The event will

hopefully become an annual event. This event will consist of some safety demonstrations by club members. The event would be open to Keel Haulers only, at no charge.

- Rick Feinberg, our Vice President has left the country and his position is still open.
- The Kilted Yak store is sponsoring the "Midwest Regional Freestyle Competition and Instructional Clinic".
- The new logo stickers are now available. There is a limit of 2 stickers per membership, more are available for \$1.00 for 3 stickers. For people not at the meeting, you can send Rob Hammond a Self Addressed and Stamped Envelope, and he will return the stickers. Rob's address is 27600 Emery Rd. Orange OH 44128.
- The Second Annual Yough Over the Falls Race is tentatively set for September 30th and October 1st.

New Business:

- A new Domain Name for the Keel Haulers Web Site was discussed. John Kobak did some research and found that Keelhauler.org, Keelhauler.com and Keelhauler.net are all available. The cost for registering a domain name is \$35 per year. Discussion on whether the expense is needed vs. the ease of finding the website, and reserving the name so others cannot take it. A vote was taken on whether to pay for registering the name. The vote passed with a few people dissenting. Another vote was taken to pick a name for the web site, with the winning name being **Keelhauler.org**.
- A separate issue of hosting of the website was discussed. This would consist of moving the website from John Kobak's personal account to a site owned by the club. John had an estimate of \$250 per year to host the site. Without the website hosting, we would not be able to use a different name. A lively discussion took place on if the expense was worth the benefit. Some people brought up that there were cheaper alternatives. The

issue was tabled for a future meeting.

- The Club Secretary, Marsha Bedford, resigned her position, due to her inability to properly handle the duties of the position and contending with her busy business and personal life. She has offered her assistance in finding a replacement.
- Fran Hoven reported that Newman Outfitters has donated 100 feet of webbing for the Keel Haulers Swiftwater Rescue Demo Day. He wanted to acknowledge their generous gift, and pointed out that possibly next year and with more notice, they may be interested in donating more.

A motion was taken to adjourn the meeting, which was approved and seconded.

Safety Lessons

In the past month there were two dramatic safety incidents in our boating community - both of which brought thoughts of our mortality. I won't attempt to describe the incidents in complete detail in this article. I will give you general descriptions and my take on a couple of the lessons learned.

The first near-disaster happened on the Cheat River over the weekend before July 4th. Several local paddlers were having a nice day doing a low-water run on the river. At "Pete Morgan Rapids" the last Class IV rapid on the run, Star Mitchell, 63. A retired school teacher, hit a line that caused her kayak to flip. During the flip, Star hit her head on a rock beneath the surface of the water. According to Star, "she felt like her head was jammed into a wall" and then her head "hit the deck of her boat, cracking her front tooth." She "knew immediately that [she] was badly injured" and popped her spray skirt to get out of and away from the boat.

She was washed into a recirculating eddy and was being pushed into an undercut rock. [This is the part where the "angels" came into action - you'll probably recognize the names of these particular "angels."] Jeff Davis, CCA safety chairman, Bob Opachko, a Keel Hauler; and Bruce Berman, a Three River Paddling Club member and co-owner of Calleva

Outdoors, who was with us when Syd broke his back in Mexico, each earned their wings on this day. Jeff and Bob were able to get a throw rope to Star before she got sucked into the undercut. Star says that (blessedly) she never lost consciousness. This allowed her to help in her own rescue. She also says that her hi-flotation life jacket kept her head up and supported.

When Jeff and Bob got Star to the shore, Star held her arms wrapped around, above her head, i.e., keeping it in a stabilized position. Once on shore, the "angels" went to work quickly assessing the situation and fashioning a cervical collar to support Star's neck. Styrofoam from Bruce's kayak was carved to make the collar and duct tape was used to secure it to (and inside of) Star's life jacket. Jeff says that he was amazed at how he and Bruce worked like a well rehearsed team, even though they had never done anything like this together before, and don't even paddle together much (if ever?).

The fact is that both Jeff and Bruce are experts with knowledge of safety procedures, and that knowledge was instinctively translated between them. I won't go into the rest of the details except to say that Jeff carried Star in his solo canoe down three more miles of Class III rapids, out on what has been described by many as a Class V shuttle road and to the hospital in Morgantown.

The diagnosis was a fracture of the first cervical vertebrae in Star's neck - an injury that apparently usually results in death or paralysis! The emergency room personnel were amazed at how well stabilized was Star's neck. Star now sports a metal halo (this angel theme keeps re-appearing) with pins in her head and rods to a vest for stability for the past month and for weeks to come - but with a prognosis for complete recovery! As of today, Star says that she is feeling better, but seems to want to sleep a lot. I'm guessing that sleep is not an easy feat with her new head-gear.

So, back to a couple of the obvious lessons for ALL of us (and there are SO many more, less obvious ones):

Paddle with Jeff, Bob and Bruce at all times (just kidding); carry basic safety equipment - throw ropes and duct tape in this example; have the correct paddling

gear - life jackets with good flotation and a good helmet in this example; and learn HOW to handle rescue situations by taking classes and then refresher classes and then more refresher classes - both in terms of helping others AND to know how to help yourself. Star has been helping out in Jeff's safety classes for years. Her knowledge of what to do, to assist in her own rescue definitely had an impact on the success of the endeavor and the ultimate good result (considering the options).

The second incident happened on the Arden Section of the Tygart River the first week in August. This was another situation of friends paddling a low-water run on a fairly difficult section of river. In this incident, Kathy Streletzky (her rec.boats.paddle moniker is "Mothra") hit a rocky line over a tough rapid that ended in a pin of her kayak, with Kathy stuck in her boat upside down. She had to go into a contortionist mode in order to keep her head above the water - with extraordinary difficulty - while using her paddle as leverage off of the bottom of the river. Dick Pierce, Wes Mills, Pete (?) and Ed Evangelidi were with Kathy - Dick and Wes downstream for safety, Ed on the shore and Pete upstream.

Ed's, Pete's and Dick's throw ropes fell short of Kathy from their positions and I believe that Wes' throw rope was the one that bit the mark - close enough so that Kathy could see and reach it. With that additional and necessary stabilization, Pete then went into action with a man-to-woman rescue as he abandoned his boat and gear and unpinned Kathy's boat enough so that she could pop her spray skirt. Both Pete and Kathy got to shore safely.

The "ironic" part of this story was that Ed was traveling alongside the river that day in his car and had been carrying Wes' throw rope to use for safety on some of the rapids. As the story goes, at the last minute before taking off for this particular rapid, Wes put his throw rope back in his boat and Ed retrieved one of his ropes from his car to set safety on the rapid. If Wes had not regained his rope, this story may not have had such a positive ending.

So, now for the obvious lessons

-Always carry a throw rope and practice throwing it in non-threatening situations. I remember Bob Kimmel (the CCA Instruction Chair) telling me once that he loves to hang around below Dimple Rapid on the Lower Yough so that he can practice with his throw rope - there are plenty of opportunities there!

-Take safety classes so that you can do quick assessments of the situation and make good decisions on courses of action. Be VERY careful about not creating another victim - Pete knew that Kathy was more stabilized before he took his risks.

-It should be obvious to all of us - beginning through advanced paddlers - that knowing safety skills is vital to our enjoyment of this sport. We all know that things can happen on even the more benign rivers and creeks. This is not necessarily a plug for the Keel Hauler safety classes, but then again Know how to help one another and yourself. I'll end with a paraphrase from Kathy/Mothra - the people with whom we travel to the river are the greatest gift.

John Kobak edited from story by Ginny DeSeau of Canoe Cruisers from DC.

Swiftwater Rescue Demonstration

Day a Success

By Rob Hammond

It was the Russell Fork, a notorious class 5 river, noted for the abundance of under cut rocks. The current was swift and Tammy's boat was pushed under the rock, right up to the cockpit, she was upright, but she was plastered up against the rock and grasping it with every ounce of her energy, just to keep from being shoved under the rock. We were the rescue team, and we had to figure out how do we get her out fast, because it was obvious that she could not hold on for much longer! The water was moving too fast to paddle up for a boat-based rescue, there was no access from shore, and a wading rescue was out as well. That was the scene, painted for us by our Safety Chairman, Chuck Singer. The place was the McConnell's Mill State Park, and the event was the Swiftwater Rescue Demonstration Day. And, I gotta tell you, Chuck really challenged us. Each new rescue scenario he came up with, got harder and harder, but the Russell Fork rescue was by far the toughest.

The Swiftwater Rescue Demonstration Day (SRDD) was a great day, the weather was moderate, and sunny, and the learning that went on was phenomenal. We had three stations set up at the park, that everyone rotated through. We started at the picnic grounds, where we all met in the morning, and that was the location for station 1. That's where we practiced throwing ropes, demonstrated various rescue scenarios, and Fran Hoven taught us how to tie knots, and to use ropes and webbing. Now I always knew how to tie knots, but Fran showed me how to tie knots that you could untie, and more importantly, knots that don't come untied when you need them. Newman Outfitters donated 100 feet of webbing, which we cut up, and gave to as many participants as we could. Since we were on dry land, Chuck had to be creative to make the rescue scenarios as realistic as possible. The pinned boater exercise used a picnic table with the boat's stern tied to the top and the bow on the ground, this showed how to use a stabilization line on a pinned boater. The undercut was again the picnic table, with the seat being just high enough to pin the boat up to the cockpit.

Down on the water, we had 2 stations. Station 2 was led by Matt Muir, Ron Whitney and Gib McGill. And they taught us how to rescue swimmers with ropes and boats. The station was above the dam at Maytag rapid. Everyone jumped in the water to learn some techniques and have some fun. Gib McGill even gave us a practical demonstration. You know I've always respected Gib's boating prowess, but I had no idea that his teaching skills were on the same par! Yea, he wanted to show everyone how to do a self-rescue, so under the guise of not being able to hit his hand roll, he bailed out of his boat and did a self-rescue. Yep, everyone was impressed with his willingness to sacrifice his self-respect to show off - umm - I mean to ah make a good demonstration. Wow, is he something or what!

Over in station 3, up above Maytag Rapid, we had Sheri Sanzenbacher, Ritch Kovacic, and Ron Tomallo, teaching us how to wade in moving water, with just you and a paddle, and another technique with other people. We learned how to ferry a rope across the river, how to use the rope to stabilize a foot entrapment victim in the middle of the river. We also learned, that wading and ferrying a rope is not as fast or as easy as it looks. These skills were important to practice, because as a rule, we don't get a chance to use these skills on our typical paddling day.

After the 3rd session, we were all ready for some dinner, and what a feast we had. Shelly Schmidt and Sue Strumbel organized the potluck dinner. Nobody went away hungry, or looking for something interesting to eat. The club supplied the burgers and dogs. The participants and volunteers supplied the rest of the food. We had some great desserts, salads, pizza, and we even had some great pasta by one of the participants, Steve Maite, who just happens to be an award-winning chef.

I want to thank everyone for contributing to a great event. Especially the volunteers, who kept the day safe, interesting and moving along. I especially want to thank Ranger Chuck McQuaid, who worked miracles in getting our activity permit, in a very short time. Chuck knows how to work within the state's bureaucracy to make things happen. In his first attempt to get it approved, he was told to reject the application. But he stuck with it and got

everything resolved. When measured in “bureaucrat years”, Chuck got the permit approved at the speed of light!

Oh, so how did Tammy do in her undercut situation? Well, it wasn’t easy, first we tried a snag line, but that didn’t work because she was pushed flat up against the rock, and the force of the current was so strong, she couldn’t push away from the rock enough for us to get the line down around her waist. The best we could do was to get the line down to the top of her PFD, and that would not be the right location for the solid pull we would have had to do. We thought of using a swimmer using a rescue PFD, tethered to a throw rope. But it was agreed that not only would it be dangerous for the swimmer, but also the swimmer would be at the mercy of the water current, and would have very little control to move around. So in the end, we tethered a boater to a throw-rope, the boater attached another line to the stern of Tammy’s boat, and a crew on shore pulled her out. Tammy is fine now, but she pays a lot more attention to the lines she takes! Tammy may have been fictitious, but the scenario that Chuck created for us was very realistic and challenging!

So if you weren’t one of our participants or volunteers, did you miss anything important? You bet you did! So don’t even think about missing this event next year!

Lost and Found

We lost a new throwbag at the Slippery Rock Rescue class last week. It belongs to a new paddling friend of mine. It is one of those new half-mesh bags, orange color. If anyone found it, I will be glad to pick it up. Sherie Sanzenbacher, ritchkovacic@stratos.net, 216-381-0599

Someone left a drink container at the picnic area for the Swift Water Demo. If you can ID it, I’ll make arrangements for you to get it. Ron Tomallo, rtomallo@hotmail.com, 440-953-1335

A Rescue on the Lower Yough

By Rob Hammond

It was the day after our Swiftwater Rescue Demonstration Day. So a group of us went to the Lower Yough to get some boating in. There was Sherie Sanzenbacher, Ritch Kovacic, Steve Rogers, Ron Tomallo, Shelly Schmidt, and Chris Ringenbach. The level? Well, on the gauge it was 5 foot, but that was cause the gage was knocked over. It looked like a Mac truck had hit it! I don’t know what happened, but the level during the previous week was reported at 14 feet. Maybe it was a log that crashed into the gauge? So if the gauge had been upright, the level would have been more like 2.5 feet. It was a pretty typical day, we got on before 8:00am, so we could get off early and head home. After wearing out the hole at Swimmers for about 2 hours, we figured we ought to head on down.

Just past Jump Rock, Steve Rogers met some rafters that were having a really bad day. It was a group of 8 people who rented 2 rafts. Since they were clueless about navigating a raft on class 3 water, do they spend the extra money to take a guided trip, with guides that do have a clue? No, of course not, why spend the extra money, when you got 4 macho guys along that can muscle the rafts down that river! Well, you know what happens to unguided missiles, I mean rafts, when they go careening, down the river and completely oblivious to what’s waiting for them at Dimple Rapid. Yeah, we know what happens: they flip! And spew the occupants all over the river. Usually an incident at Dimple is pretty harmless stuff, some of the swimmers, ignorant to any danger, think it is great fun, and other swimmers get quite the scare! Well our intrepid rafters had the latter, along with a few intimate moments with Youghiogheny rocks. Yep, both rafts flipped, they traveled the rest of their odyssey sans raft, through the lower part of Dimple, Swimmers Rapid, and just for the fun of it, through Bottle of Wine. They finally got things back together at Jump Rock. As you can image, with a swim that long, they all had quite a fright. Unfortunately, one girl named Kim also had an injury to her leg. Two others used their legs to hike out. When we got there, the two smarter ones had already left, leaving injured Kim, two rafts, and 6 bewildered rafters.

Sherie administered first aid to Kim’s leg, which Sherie thought might be a fractured tibia. But Kim, well dressed for the occasion, in her finest cotton, was now somewhat hypothermic, with a lot of shivering. I offered Kim my pile pullover from my dry bag. I should have done what we learned at the SRDD. Which was have a commercial rafting company use their radio to call for help. But there was no commercial raft in sight, and more importantly I wanted to get back home for dinner with my family, but now I had a serious investment in Kim, I wasn’t going to take a chance on losing my pile! There was no easy way that Kim, with her leg, could hike out from where they were. There were 3 more rapids. One rapid, Rivers End, could not be sneaked. It wouldn’t be easy, but it looked like the best option was to get Kim to the Bruners Run takeout so her friends could take her to the hospital. And since I now had an investment to protect, I offered to show them the way down.

Yes, I know better than to get involved with rafters! But she was really cold, scared and hurting, and oh yeah, she was kinda cute! But, I figured, how bad could it be, there were only 3 more rapids? Did I mention that you should stay away from rafters! These folks might as well have not had any paddles! Cause the raft went where it wanted, and they seemed to have little influence over the raft’s direction! Even though the river was high, they found every little rock there was to find approaching Double Hydraulic; thankfully, the river gods mercifully guided the raft away from the holes. So now came Rivers End, and Kim was very nervous. Well, actually she was a basket case--she sat in the middle of the raft and held onto the ropes with a death grip! We got them to the pool above Rivers End, and told them what to expect and how to run the line. The first raft went through completely out of control, but managed to stay upright. That was the last we saw of them; they didn’t know how to stop, so they just kept going. Now it was time for Kim and her 2 friends. I couldn’t afford to lose my pile, I mean Kim, so I stayed close, shouting paddle instructions at the 2 paddlers. I should have saved my breath--they paddled more air than water. However, once they got into the main current, the river was their guide and they did all right. The last major rapid

was Bruner Run, which is a straightforward line for rafts, but you had to make a hard left turn at the end to get out of the current and go to the takeout. The unproductive paddle strokes seemed to have absolutely no effect in moving the raft. It looked like the raft was going to Connellsville; no matter what the paddlers did, it didn't change the mind of the raft. When I paddled down, the problem was obvious. The raft was completely full of water. They must have had at least 2,000 pounds of water that they were trying to move! Since they lost their bailer, they did not know how to get rid of the water. Chris and Sherie came down and helped paddle. With 4 paddlers, they got the raft to the takeout.

So all ended well, Kim got to dry land, and her friends took her to the hospital, I got my pile back. But more importantly, I learned another rescue lesson. Sometimes the best help is knowing when not to help. I didn't count on the rafters being so unable to help themselves. They didn't know any basic river running techniques, so even with advice they barely made their way down the river. Two inexperienced paddlers were not enough to control their raft. They didn't realize the consequences of their raft being full of water. If they had said anything, we would have stopped and dumped the water out. So what is the moral of the story? Should we have left after Sherie gave Kim basic first aid, and told them to wait for a commercial raft? The hypothermia could have been treated on the warm day by just taking off the cotton shirt Kim had on. I don't know; my guess is that if we hadn't helped, they would have attempted the river by themselves rather than wait. But I certainly learned to pay more attention to what was going on. Maybe I should have got in and paddled the raft on the rapids and walked back to get my boat? Kim's injury was not so urgent that it needed immediate medical attention. What she needed was to get to the takeout without any further injury. We accomplished that, but if things had gone a little differently the story might not have had such a good outcome. When you read about tragic events, many times it is not a single action that creates the tragedy--it is many little things that cascade together, that build a potential for a small misjudgment to cause a significant problem. It's my nature to want to help, so the next time I see a Kim on the river, I

will stop and give assistance, administer first aid if needed--but before I commit to providing a ride out, I will strongly consider other potential courses of action, which include letting rescue professionals handle the job.

Keel-Hauler's KaNews Oct. 2000



Nov. Deadline Oct. 27

2001 dues are now payable.

Our membership year ends October 1st, so your 2001 dues are now due. Please be aware that the 2001 dues will probably be going up at least \$5/year, however if you pay before the dues increase you will still get your membership for only \$15. **Don't forget to include a donation for our club's conservation program donations.**

Mail your check along with any changes to your address, phone or e-mail listing to:

Keel Haulers Canoe Club
1649 Allen Dr

Westlake, OH 44145-2506

You do not need to fill out a new application or waiver however one will be included in our October newsletter.

If you want two free Keel Hauler Stickers enclose a "Self Addressed Stamped Envelope" with your dues payment and J. Kobak will send them to you.

A Great Big Thank You to Newman Outfitters for their Donation of supplies to the SwiftWater Rescue Demonstration Day in August at Slippy Rock Creek.

It has been noticed by the observant that the September issue had an article printed twice. The official explanation is that that article was considered important enough to be printed twice! The unofficial explanation is: Oops!

Oct 7 Sea Kayaking at Huron River, 10:00 AM

Stuart Warner Stuarthm@aol.com 440-892-1537

Oct 7 Slippy Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Cathy Schilling

james.catherine@cleveland.va.gov 330-686-8924

Oct 7-8 Upper Yough, Upper Gauley, MD/WV (32/33)

The upper, upper weekend will be a challenging fun filled weekend. We will run the upper Yough and then the next day move over and run the Upper Gauley. Please call ahead for the plan.

Paul Lang

Paul_T.Lang@FirstEnergyCorp.com 330-896-3468

Oct 7-8 Penn Cup #5

Penn Cup Race #5 The Bellefonte Slalom, - See the Pennsylvania Cup series Sept 5-6. Contact Rob Hammond or the race organizer Penn State Outing Club Whitewater. This is a class I+ slalom, and pot luck dinner. The Penn Cup awards will be awarded after the race, at Spring Creek, in Bellefonte, PA Rob Hammond bhammond@tycoint.com 216-292-5618

Oct 10 Meeting, Middleburg Heights Rec. Center

Oct 13 Sea Kayaking 2001 Planning Meeting

Plan for adventures in 2001. Meet at 7:00 p.m. Call Marsha for directions. Marsha Bedford giraugh@aol.com 440-356-0987

Oct 13-15 Moose River Festival, Old Forge, NY (16/25/30)

The Moose is truly a unique river. Granite formations create relatively big drops between the pools. Some of the rapids are worth the seven-hour drive, even if you only look but don't want to run them. The Festival is a fundraiser for AWA; unlike other festivals, this one is indoors, where it's warm.

Tom Cronin cronintj@cobleskill.edu 518-255-5308

Oct 14 or 15 Slippy Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Kurt Haas kurth@a-s-e.com 216-321-1763

Oct 14-15 Yough Weekend, PA (12/23)

This is our traditional fall color appreciation Yough trip. The only guarantee made for this weekend is that the scenery will be great, with fall colors peaking around this time. The weather could go either way, so be prepared for cold wet weather but hope for the best. Call the Yough trip organizers early if you are interested in paddling on this weekend.

Lower Yough: Sherie Sanzenbacher ritchkovic@stratos.net 216-381-0599

Middle Yough: Brian Thies 440-331-4216 (All trips are open for Canoes too!!)

Oct 18 Sea Kayaking at Bradstreet

Jill Lauren 440-246-2993

Oct 23-27 (or other weekends) Cheat Canyon - Fall Colors

The Canyon is beautiful at this time of year. Even at low water, it's a trip worth taking.

Kurt Reno kreno@neo.rr.com 216-321-1763

Oct 21 Slippy Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Ted Moore tedjmoore@earthlink.net 216-440-4555

Nov 11 Cheat Canyon, WV (26)

Let's hope this fun river is running in the cold. Call to confirm levels.

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com 330-NOT A FAX

Nov. 11 Slippy Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Tim Taubert taubert@hexagram.com 440-256-2506

Nov 14 Meeting, Middleburg Heights Rec. Center

Program

2001: A Paddler's Odyssey Trip Schedule Planning

Nov. 18 Slippy Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Kurt Haas kurth@a-s-e.com 216-321-1763

September 2000 Minutes

Guests: No new members/guests were present.

Treasurer's Report: \$3688.79

Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes as written, motion seconded and approved.

Chair Reports:

Membership-384 paid members. 21 have paid their dues for 2001. Rates are expected to go up in the new year, so please pay now.

Program-Bruce Berman presented a video and slide show on various trips he has participated in. This excellent presentation included such areas as Mexico, South America and France. October is still open, please contact Tim Taubert if you have a program suggestion. We will be voting in October for a new slate of officers. The

November meeting will be Trip Planning for 2001, and the December meeting will be the annual Holiday festivities.

Safety-Chuck Singer brought in his first aid bottle and discussed things you should have in case of emergencies. Duct tape should be on everyone's list.

Instruction-Steve Ingalls stated that Fundamental Classes are starting up. CCC will have classes 10/9; Brookpark 10/3; Tri C Metro 11/6; and Brookpark again on 11/7. Classes are \$95.00 per person and this includes equipment. Please contact Steve or The American Red Cross for further information or to sign up. Newman Outfitters will be having roll sessions 10/17 and 10/24. Their store is located in Solon-please contact them directly with any questions.

Conservation- West Virginia Rivers Coalition is having a "Day in the Country" in Yellow Springs W. Virginia (Eastern Panhandle area). There will be Nature Walks, Pony Rides, Mountain Music, Stream Ecology and lots more so come on out and enjoy. For more information call 304.637.7201.

Suggestions for donations to different boating organizations/conservation groups were made and are found under New Business below.

Library and Refreshments- Ron Whitney and Sue Strumbel

are looking for someone to volunteer to assume their functions. They have been updating the club's library and providing food fit for a king for the last 5 years and would now like to let someone else have a go at it. Please contact Rob Hammond or Ron and Sue if you would like to help the club out with these positions.

Old Business: 1st, we have secured a website for \$15.00 per year. The name is Keelhaulers.org. 2nd, the Over The Falls event will be taking place 9/30 and 10/1. You can register on line-our website has a link. 3rd, don't forget to contact Steve Ingalls with any suggestions for Mike Narotski, Watercraft Office for the ODNR, regarding updating the brochures "Boating On Ohio's Streams". These brochures are very helpful in indicating access points and other pertinent data for canoes and kayaks on Ohio's rivers.

New Business: 1st, John Fralick indicated the Hotline account he has for the club will be ending in December, and since he now resides in Utah he would like someone

locally to volunteer to assume this account. The Hotline is a voice mail system used by the Club to leave trip messages. The Club was asked if they wish to continue this service or just use the website. Many members indicated it is easier to access the Hotline or leave up to date messages or call in while on the rode to see if there have been any changes. Ron Tomallo will check with John to see how much usage the service had. A vote will be conducted at the October meeting to determine this issue. Cost wise, this runs \$11.95 per month.

2nd, John Kobak secured an internet provider for \$15.00 per year to host our site.

3rd, the following proposal was made for donations:

WV River Coalition-\$50.00

Friends of the Crooked River-\$50.00

Friends of the Cheat-\$50.00

American Whitewater-\$60.00

Rivers Unlimited-\$60.00

American Rivers-\$50.00

River Network-\$60.00

Seventh Generation-\$30.00

A motion was made to increase the amount for American Whitewater to \$100.00. The motion was seconded and approved by a quorum.

Another motion was made to accept the above proposal with the change for American Whitewater. This motion was seconded and approved by a quorum.

4th, club elections will be held at the October meeting. Rob Hammond will list the proposed slate in the October Newsletter. Voting will occur at the meeting.

Trip Reports: this was omitted in order to allow Bruce Berman to present his program and get back to Pittsburgh before the sun comes up.

The meeting was adjourned.

Pillow in the morning

By Judi Cleary

It was a crisp fall day (9/17) and I made my way down the cliff that leads to the river, carefully selecting the vertical ground where I would place my feet. Once at the river, I searched for a rock with a view. One with a bird's eye view of the intimidating rapid known as Pillow (on the Gauley). There were crowds of people everywhere – you'd think it was the Olympics. I knew there were Keelhaulers on the river that day, so I settled back on my rock and waited for sight of them.

First on the scene was Santa Claus – or was it Matt Muir, you know, I get those two confused. After seeing him complete a clean run, I refocused my attention to the top of the rapid. Ron Whitney and Sue Strumbel were beginning their descent. Ron came first followed closely by Sue. Just above the first hole, Ron spun around quickly to dispense some last minute advice to Sue. Unfortunately, the edge of the hole sucked him in. With Ron marking where "not to go", Sue proceeded by unscathed. Ron was only detained briefly however, and was on his way done river in no time. Meanwhile, Sue, obviously concerned about Ron, turned around to make sure he was OK. Oooh, watch out Sue! Now Sue flipped over, just above Volkswagen. But wait, she is up again just in time to brush by the large rock. They ended the rapid as they started – together. The thought occurred to me that maybe it would be safer if they did not paddle together.

Once more, I looked up to the top of the rapid. This time I saw Mr. President (Rob Hammond) begin his approach river left. Unbeknownst to Rob, a raft engaged the same rapid from river right. For a while this was not a problem. After all, the river is quite wide at this point and odds are that they would not travel at exactly the same speed. But the odds really weren't with Rob this particular weekend. Rob continued down the rapid, on a course slightly ahead of the raft. Closer and closer the raft came, sneaking up on Rob. "Watch out Rob! Raft behind you". Just as Rob was at Pillow Rock the raft and Rob made contact. Not exactly the place one would choose for this kind of encounter. But Rob made the best of it and by the time he passed VW, he and the raft parted ways, no worse for the wear.

Well, this was just too much excitement for me; and the Keelhauler's were now heading down river. So I began my trek back up to the parking lot, proving again that it really does take less time to go up that hill than down.

First Aid Kits

By Chuck Singer

A first aid kit should be outfitted for you, your trip and perhaps your past experiences. Obviously a trip on the Yough and a two week expedition to Nepal require different kits.

My everyday kit contains things I, or my friends use fairly frequently. Here is what I

carry. The kit is in a 500ml Nalgene bottle. These bottles are not always water tight so I duct tape seal the lid. You should check it for dryness and air it out if you open it because the water from your hands will hurt the material inside.

1. A small roll of duct tape wrapped around a rod
2. Aspirins
3. Advil (Ibuprofen)
4. Roloids
5. Kaopectate pills
6. Large needle and waxed thread
7. Single edged razor blade
8. Antiseptic wipes
9. Neosporin or other antibiotic
10. Variety of band aids
11. A little acetone for drying
12. Space blanket

Other things can be added as necessary. Remember though, the best first aid kit is useless if it is not with you.

Gauley Fest 2000

by Matt Muir

Starts with a Bang

Good-ol' GauleyFest. It never ceases to provide some excitement. We had seven for Friday: Matt Balkey and Bob Spangler, a couple of West Virginians who'd given us shuttle a couple of months earlier on the Cheat, joined Rob Hammond, Cliff Wire, Scott Debalski, Gib McGill, and me. (Ron Whitney and Sue Strumbel were on the Lower Gauley.) The air was cold; the water, warm. So we didn't freeze as long as we stayed in our boats. We didn't all manage that trick, as you'll see.

I had Matt, a second-timer, following me. Bob, a Gauley Virgin, was following Scott. Cliff was following Gib; and Rob, who's paddled the river a dozen or more times but whose memory for rapids is "raaaather Quaylish," as I'd told Matt via email, was free-floating; he'd follow behind whatever pair he wished, or he'd take his own line. A good plan, a good group.

After the customary play at the wave near the putin, Matt and I pulled into an eddy a drop or two above Initiation. Rob paddled by. "Do you know where you are?" I shouted. He answered in a confident affirmative.

We started to the next drop, and I was surprised - and concerned - to see Rob heading right, exactly where you're not supposed to head right. A rock or a horizon

line blocked my view of what happened next.

(Please see Rob's and Gib's descriptions, up close & personal, of what happened next.)

His attitude after the incredibly scary experience was amazing. He remarked that we would have to get his boat out, because my water bottle (which he'd borrowed) was in there! For the rest of the weekend, that water bottle was a running sick joke.

For FWIW, here's how I've always approached Initiation. I know it's coming up, but I'm not sure exactly where. So I head left, and I *stay* left until I've passed what I know to be the Initiation drop. (Then I look back upstream with whatever Gauley Virgin is following me, and point out the Danger Zone.)

Cliff had his usual run: many rolls, no swims, and some impressive time spent scouting Pillow. (I don't want to exaggerate the time I spent while he was scouting; but while I was shivering on shore, camera in hand, I witnessed three species of amphibians evolve into land mammals.) (Ed. Note - there were 4 species. Somebody wasn't paying attention!! It was quite fascinating!) Later, in a no-name rapid, he tried one known pourover sideways and got seriously worked in the hole. He and paddle were immediately separated, and it looked like an impending swim. I'd seen a similar incident in a hole at Tinker's earlier in the year, and, without a handroll in his resume, he'd surfed his way out. Same thing this time. The dood's got some pluck!

I was the last in the group to run Sweet's Falls. I reached the eddy to see Scott, who said, "You completed our perfect record: we all ran it upright!"

Scott's poker face is not world-class. It was easy to get the *real* story out of him: I'd been the *only* one of our gang to run it upright. (I did flip there once, in '95, when I ran it sideways.)

The climb up Panther Mountain took sixteen minutes for me; I imagine Scott's and the youngsters' times were similar. Gib took a little over 20 minutes. We waited and waited. Forty-five minutes after the start of the hike, Cliff emerged with some kind soul helping carry his boat. We were all composing hassling phrases to toss his way, when he grinned and said, "Okay, I'm a wimp." Kinda ruins the fun of burning someone, when he cheerfully burns himself. But I can't call this guy, who continually

gets himself out of nasty trouble, a "wimp." (He paid the \$5 bucks on Sunday for the WVRC truck to carry his boat.)

After we finished the run (a good run--Rob's was the only swim), we met Rob and headed down to try the Retrieval. Scott had the idea of swimming over to the rock, where (at only 1000 cfs) we could stand on the rock right next to the boat and clip on. Rob, Scott, and I swam out. Cliff tossed us ropes and stuff, and Gib, Matt B, and Bob were posted downstream to catch any debris. Once we got out there, retrieval was fairly simple (though it still, at only 1000 cfs, required some heavy pulling).

(Guess what? On Sat/Sun, he went waaaay left at Initiation. By the BTW, the killer spot isn't at all evident from upstream. I don't care how good anyone's river-reading skills are; without a warning, nobody would recognize it as a danger spot.)

Rob ran the Marathon on Saturday and the Upper Sunday, having a good run both days to get his confidence back. I don't think he's gonna forget where the killer sieve is...never again.

Marathon Men

Saturday would be the Marathon for many of us: Gib McGill, Rob, Ron Whitney, Ron Tomallo, Cliff Wire, and Kurt Haas (an Upper Gauley Virgin) joined me. Paul Lang was along for only the Upper. In years past, the Marathoners had become increasingly difficult to herd into a timely run, culminating with last year, when we were an hour and a half late in meeting up with the Lower Gauley paddlers. I'd decided that the two groups should just go their separate ways, but Sue really wanted us to paddle with them in order to improve the strength of her group. I agreed to meet at Koontz's Flume at 12:30. If we were late, they could amuse themselves by playing in Five Boat Hole.

Kurt was following me. We had a good look at Initiation after we passed it, then headed down toward Insignificant. There are two approaches at Insignificant: go left of the Hidden Hole, or go right. I like going right: it can be a tough move at the beginning, but the reward is a relatively easy run afterwards. Kurt made the crux move just fine, but got flipped in the waves and holes below. Three roll attempts, and...I was chasing down his boat and paddle. A kindly raft gave Kurt a ride to the eddy. He had no beef with the rest of the river.

At Pillow, some got out to look. Ron W. turned to me and said, "I always get trashed here, so I'm just going to splat the rock." That was exactly what he did.

I'd told Kurt that the Meadow signaled Lost Paddle rapid. As we came to a gap in the shore, with a sizable creek coming in from the left, I pointed it out to him. "Do you know what that is?" It was a river, but it had no meaning for him. After some hints, I finally outright told him that it was the Meadow, hearkening Lost Paddle. Apparently, he'd been looking for a meadow, not the Meadow River.

A Safety Chair and an Ejector Seat

As usual, we were behind time as we headed down to meet Sue's group. Most of us motored past fine play waves and holes, shaking our heads at our foolish, macho plan. It took an hour and a half to get from the Panther takeout to Koontz's Flume. The fastest of us were only fifteen minutes late when we found them at Five Boat.

Along with the seven Marathoners, then, we had: Scott Debalski, Sue, new Keel-Hauler Jody Clinger, Keith Gross, Mike Duvall, Fran Hoven, Giuliano Madama, Terry Markoff, Sabine Iben, David Duke, and Chuck Singer.

A bunch of people took out at Diagonal Ledges for a bite. I saw my chance. See, only four days prior to this, our Safety Chair, Chuck Singer, had *wowed the crowd* with a display of his venerable vaunted First-Aid Kit. And here I was, having paddled 15+ miles of river, with a few hours remaining and a *wicked* case of heartburn. I asked for a crack at his stash.

Chuck is a lucky man. He's been paddling since before ol' Noah opened up his vessel to two paddlesnakes, and yet he's experienced total freedom from heartburn, the Paddler's Malady. He and I opened up his pillbox full of antacids, and they were fused in there like an insect in amber.

We couldn't claw any tablets out intact, so he suggested that I employ his trusty needle. Did I say "trusty" needle? I meant "rusty" needle! It broke at the rust point, but not before I fished out enough powdered antacid to get relief. I'm sure our Safety Chair would like me to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of keeping the contents of your First-Aid Kit in good repair!

Sue and I had both expressed serious concern about Fran's friend, Giuliano, a

ducky rider who seems to have aspirations far in excess of his skill level (and who refuses to join Keel-Haulers, for some reason). Fran insisted on bringing him along to run the Lower Gauley on Saturday, and we relented. Sue insisted, though, that he sign a liability waiver. Giuliano signed it, saying that it was "in protest." Nobody could really figure out what that meant.

At most rapids, Giuliano pursued a repeating pattern: he would shoot the rapid ("running" the rapid would imply some measure of control), swim, and let loose a top-of-the-lungs stream of epithets, vulgarities, profanities, and obscenities that would make a raft guide blush. Then, he'd say he was having a blast.

Above Heaven's Gate, Fran and Giuliano asked what was up. I'm no Lower Gauley expert, but I did the best I could: "There are two rocks at the bottom," I said. "Go between them. And there are waves and holes on the way down." I knew they'd wait for further explanations. As I began to head downstream, I turned and added, to Giuliano, "Enjoy your swim!"

I ran the rapid, perhaps my favorite on the Lower Gauley, and eddied to watch Giuliano. There was a large pourover hole on the right, and it was apparent that he was drawn to it like a lawyer to a car crash. "Schlurp" went the hole. "Schwimm" responded Giuliano. To his credit, he soon climbed back into his boat and finished the rapid. That's one way to self-rescue!

At Pure Screaming Hell, however, he did no better. I impressed on him the need to work left in order to avoid the big hole. Said big hole can kick the paddler into a sieve, so avoiding it is really important.

I eddied out and watched the "fun." Giuliano was motoring down the right, apparently without a care in the world. I yelled "Go left!" a bunch of times. He continued drifting down the right, with predictable results. Luckily, the hole let him through without sending him into the dangerous sieve. When I arrived to help pick up the pieces, he said (through the customary blue streak of vocabulary practice) that he had heard my warnings, but he'd been too tired to work left. So much for athleticism compensating for a skill deficit! We were glad that he'd signed the Liability Waiver.

At the end of the river, following literally countless swims, he offered the opinion that he'd done pretty well. "Pretty well," I

countered, "for a Class-II paddler." Fran disputed that, saying that Giuliano is really a Class-III paddler. I'll leave it to the reader to decide whether a Class-III paddler belongs on a hazardous Class-IV river.

Fran, who I believe was a Lower Gauley Virgin, had no trouble with the river at all.

Jody had been considering an easy part of the New, in deference to his shoulder which had recently been arthroscoped. I talked him into running the Lower G. I knew he'd do fine. The last time I'd seen him on the river had been at the Cheat Race, which he'd entered as a Cheat Virgin. In his Inazone 220, he wasn't expecting to set any records. "I didn't come in last!" he's proud to say.

The Festival was the usual crowded, entropic mass. It was great fun. American Whitewater unveiled its new website:

<http://rapids.americanwhitewater.org>. Have you seen it? It's a vast improvement.

Sunday

It was tough corralling all these boaters into action the following morning. Gib and Cliff, in particular, seemed intent on competing for who could take the longer breakfast and who could take his tent down later. Gib won, but it was neck-and-neck.

Sunday's group had the Upper Gauley group pared back down: Scott, Paul, Gib, both Rons, Sue, Mike, Rob, Cliff, and me. I recall Sue looking nervous on the Lower G last year, and very worried on the Upper (though she did fine). This year, on the Lower, she was smiling and surfing up a storm; on the Upper, she looked determined and confident.

This day, Cliff was left to his own devices; he's a big boy, and he'd run the Upper G four times. He pursued his own lines at some of the hard-to-read rapids like Insignificant, and he had no flips in any of the major rapids. This was very good to see, as it indicates his progression from a boater with an excellent roll and confidence, to one who can run clean lines in hard rapids and *actually stay upright*. Soon he'll be leading virgins down Class-V rivers!

With Sue following him, Ron W. showed us all what he'd been talking about the previous day: he found one of the big holes at Pillow, getting worked in there and leaving Sue to find her own line. Her line was excellent, though she got flipped in some swirlies and immediately rolled up. Sue had an excellent day, by the way. Her lines at the major rapids were excellent; though she flipped in

minor stuff, she snapped her roll immediately every time.

Watching from the eddy on River Right, we were treated to the sight of Rob finishing the river a hair's breadth in front of a raft. It looked as though he was going to try to ferry across the river right in front of the raft, but he stayed on the left side of Volkswagen Rock. Too bad –it would've been a cool move, *if* successful.

Mike Duvall was following me. He ran an excellent line at Insignificant and at Pillow. Everything went well at Lost Paddle...until Tumblehome.

He and I caught the eddy on river right above the Tumblehome slots. I told him to ferry out and to head for the big slot. There's some swirly water in there --I remember seeing Pam Poljak flip there in '95-- and it apparently got Mike's edge. Three roll attempts were, as Clinton says, "close, but no cigar." He got out and swam toward the rock. That didn't look like a good place to swim for, and his boat quickly broached on the dangerous 3-foot-wide slot. This slot is reputedly dangerous, and it looked as though Mike was going to have to swim through it.

Mike grabbed his boat and climbed onto it, from which he climbed onto the rock. I floated by, through the "sensible" slot, and looked for signs of Mike's progress. The rock blocked everyone's view. All that everyone could see was that Mike's boat was broached. They were relieved when I told them that he *wasn't* in it. "Rescue" Ron Whitney, always ready, clambered upstream with a throwbag.

A guy in a yellow Disco floated into Tumblehome rock while Ron was at it. His boat found its own dangerous slot, and the guy death-gripped his way onto the rock. Ron got his rope to the guy and pendulumed him over to shore. Mike drug his boat up on top of the rock and threw it down into the eddy. After I checked for depth in the eddy, Mike jumped in. As he emptied his boat, some of the rest of us went for enders.

On the way home, Scott Debalski and I discussed the whole weekend (it's a long drive home); one conclusion we reached was that, when the chips are down and you need a rescue, among the Keel-Haulers we know, there's nobody you'd rather see than Ron Whitney. Not only does he get upstream with a rope more quickly than anyone else, but he's quick to improvise a good, workable plan.

On Sunday, Paul reprised his run of Sweet's from Saturday, when he'd gotten backended and flipped.

From the eddy above Sweet's, somebody gave us a bit of a show. He flipped in a hole above the approach. Gave it five or more roll attempts, he did. At the last moment, a raft jerked him upright by his arm so that he didn't have to run that badboy upside-down. After running Sweet's, we were treated to the sight of a yellow Disco –the same one that we'd seen at Tumblehome– once more *sans* boater. Our impression was that this poor dood had other separatory experiences that day.

After not his most stellar performance on Friday (including a flip at Sweet's and riding Woodstock Rock at Iron Ring upside-down), Gib finished the weekend with two flip-free days! It is the opinion of your correspondent that Gib declined to pursue any ender opportunities at Tumblehome on Sunday, specifically in order to keep that record intact. He had managed some ender action on Saturday, though, without any inversion incidents.

The climb up Panther Mountain took me 21 minutes, including about three stops for breath. Can we agree that it had been one tiring weekend?

Gauleyfest 2000

by Gib McGill

As we approached "Initiation", a class III wavetrain-type rapid just a couple of drops after the put-in on the Upper Gauley, we were all aware of the consequence of a mistake. I, for one, am always rather tense at this point, with that queasy tight-throat feeling and the rubbery-weak arms. This even though I've run this rapid countless times before, and even though I know it's easy to run safely if you know where you are. Just stay left of center, and, of all things, don't surf "No-no Wave"! This is the spot where kayaker and Keel Hauler member Dave Mills pinned and drowned in 1995. The date was Friday, September 15th, the first of three days of paddling over Gauleyfest 2000 weekend. Scott Debalski and I had met Matt Muir at 11:00 at the Panther Mountain take-out parking field.

The plan was to paddle the Upper Gauley today, the 28-mile "marathon" Saturday, then the Upper again Sunday. I was following Rob Hammond and basically

sticking to his line. I knew him to be an experienced and conservative paddler. After all, he was nearly as old as me, having recently surpassed the half-century milestone. His line, as it should be, was left of center on the approach to the horizon line, itself just left of two large sloping boulders on river right marking the crux of the drop. But instead of staying left, or even getting a little farther left as I planned to do, he allowed himself to drift right of center. In retrospect, this rightward drift may have been due to the surfing action of "No-no Wave".

At first I assumed he knew exactly what he was doing, and that he'd veer left just when he needed to. But my confidence switched to incredulity when he crested the meat of the drop still heading right. "What the hell is he doing?" I muttered under my breath; then I caught sight of Rob flipping. I momentarily lost sight of him. I must've looked briefly away from his situation as I turned to concentrate on my own, scrambling to get myself even farther left. When I finally slid safely down the left side of the wavetrain, I noticed a terrible apparition, like something from a disaster video, just ten or fifteen feet to my right. About four feet of the bow of a red kayak were poking straight up in the air out of the whitewater, out of very spot where Dave Mills' accident had occurred! I knew Rob had been in a red boat, but I told myself that maybe this was not his; maybe it was the residue of someone else's accident days or weeks before. I looked downriver, but there was not another boat or boater in sight.

With no denial possible, I paddled hard for shore, repeating the phrase, "Oh, my God!" as the shocking truth began to sink in that Rob was actually in that rock sieve where at least two paddlers have perished. I doubt that I would have done it, but as I searched for a landing to beach my kayak, it occurred to me that the only effective rescue was going to be for someone to run back upstream fifty yards or so, jump in and swim directly for the rock sieve in the hopes of A) seeing Rob in time, B) being able to securely grab him before being swept past, and C) not joining him in the rock sieve or getting sucked into any of the other numerous rock crevices and undercuts. This is called the "strong swimmer rescue", but I was not feeling all that strong at that moment.

Luckily, I never had to make the decision whether or not to attempt the heroic (or foolhardy) jump. Rob's head had finally

surfaced and Matt Balkey was offering the stern of his kayak to him. I came over and helped out, then, when Rob had climbed up on shore and caught his breath, I said, "OK, let's hear it. What's the full story?"

Well, the reason Rob had been hesitant to be rescued on river right is that he'd been under the continuing misapprehension that the "No-no Wave" drop was the next one downriver. It still hadn't occurred to him that he'd just survived a swim through one of the most dangerous spots the Gauley River has to offer! This one small error, nothing worse than a misreading of the landmarks of the rapid, had nearly cost him his life! He explained that, in fact, "No-no Wave" *had* surfed him to the right, then given him a permanent backender into the floor of the rock sieve, his boat locking in that position with his body held so tightly by force of water to the rear deck that he couldn't even reach the grabloop on his sprayskirt. He'd wiggled and pushed, finally exiting the cockpit. Then it got real dark. That's because he was passing through the same underground passage the river itself takes. His boat was not so lucky; it stayed there in the same position, like a warning post to other paddlers, all day until well after the water's flow had been curtailed (down to something like 1500cfs from 2850) and we were able, not without difficulty, to extricate it.

There's a lot to write about the rest of Gauleyfest 2000, but I don't have as much time these days as I used to, so I probably won't get to that. But if nothing else, I felt I had to write about Rob's incident from my own perspective, partly because I was so close and partly because I think this rapid, Initiation, warrants everybody's attention and understanding. It's important to know that the rock sieve which constitutes the danger to boaters is not obvious. Somebody scouting from shore or from an upstream eddy is likely to conclude that the deadly sieve is the crack between the two large river-right boulders, where a smaller rock is lodged, with water tumbling over and under it. **WRONG!** In actuality, the sieve is built into the riverbed directly under the right portion of the main body of water going downstream. This is why it is so dangerous. Just the act of being a bit too far right can put you in it. I'm told that there is now an accurate map of the rapid posted on the bulletin board at the put-in, though I have not seen it. Finally, for those paddlers who

are first-timers on the Upper Gauley, or who are not quite sure of the line at Initiation, five words of advice: "WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY LEFT!"

From the Horse's...um, Mouth

By Rob Hammond

Yeah, it was pretty dumb; as you know my visual memory of rivers is not great.

I thought Initiation was the next drop down from where it actually was. So I planned to take a line that was the middle of the chute, but when I hit No-no Wave, it pushed me river right. I didn't work hard to correct it, because I thought I had plenty of time to get lined up for the next drop.

And where I was going didn't look threatening. That all changed in a few milliseconds when I went over what appeared to be a small pourover. It backended my boat and shoved the stern up against a rock and locked me in solid. The water pressure on my chest was significant, and it plastered me against the stern deck. I couldn't reach up to grab loop, so I pushed on the boat to release the spray skirt. When it broke loose, I shot out of the cockpit like I was ejecting from a fighter jet. I was under water moving quickly somewhere, then the water got dark. I was afraid that I was going into a sieve that I wouldn't be able to swim out of. Not that swimming had any affect in the fast moving water, but finally it did lighten up and I came to the surface to get a little air, but was quickly covered by more water. I saw a boat bow, but I couldn't grab it, and was under water again. I kept my hands up as high as I could, hoping someone would drive their boat into my hands. Finally things slowed down, I got a piece of a bow for a few seconds, got some buoyancy, and started swimming as fast as I could. There were several boaters around me, and they all looked relieved. But I was pissed--nobody was paddling urgently, didn't they know that they were heading into the Initiation Sieve, I thought? We were all at risk, we were on the wrong side of the river, and these guys are taking it easy, do they know were the hell they are at?! Well, it took me a few seconds to realize that I was the one that didn't know where I was. I looked back and saw my boat standing straight up in the air in the middle of an innocent-looking drop, and no way to get to it. Once I was to shore, the whole group came over and told me how glad they were to see my helmet bob up in the water.

Matt said he was going to see what he could do about my boat. I told him to just forget it, I had everything I needed (life). I was probably only stuck in the boat for about 10 seconds, although it seemed like a lot more. When the water turned dark, I knew that I did not have too much time left, but I suppose it was probably only another 10 seconds before I could get a small breath.

We all looked over the situation, but it was obvious that there was no safe way to get the boat out until the water shut down in a couple of hours. So I told the group to leave, and I would walk out. We all assumed that there must be a trail above the river, so I climbed around until I found it. But boaters kept coming by and would start a rescue operation, so I went back down to the river to wait for the water to go down, and tell boaters that there was no problem. There was sure a lot of worried looks when they went by; because they could not see if anyone was in my boat, they all looked relieved when they saw me pat my helmet telling them everything was okay. I heard from a few people the next day that they never really knew where the sieve was until they saw my boat in it. I always assumed that the sieve was further right where two boulders came together, but it is actually left of the big boulder by about six feet!

The water was supposed to shut down at 2:00. About 2:30, the last group of boaters came by, and one found my paddle that had just flushed out. I waited another half hour, and decided that the water was still not low enough for me to safely get to my boat and recover it by myself, and there were not more boaters coming, so I headed back to the put-in.

After everyone got off the river we met up and went back to see if we could get my boat out. Most of us hiked back to Initiation, except Matt who with his boat hiked halfway when he realized that he could just put in, and boat down to the rapid. He didn't count on all of the briars on the steep slope, so he got a little scratched up. When we got to Initiation, the dam was still releasing about 1,000 CFS, and there was no easy way to get to the rock, so I took a rope and swam out to it, then Matt and Scott came out.

When we got to the place where the boat was trapped, I realized how lucky I was. The pourover at the top of the sieve as probably only about 5 foot wide; there were boulders extending downstream on each side of the

pourover rock coming together in a V shape. Before the two side boulders connected there as a rock about 3 feet in diameter pinched in the V. My boat pinned against the pinched rock. The chamber formed by the pourover, side boulders and pinch rock was fairly large at the top, but the deeper it got, the more constricted the space was, sort of like a funnel. The space between the pourover and the rock I was pinned against was only about 4 or 5 feet at the top and maybe only 2 feet at the bottom. I was lucky because my boat pinned high in the funnel, giving me enough room to escape, but if the water had been lower, or my boat less buoyant, I would have gone deeper into the chamber where I may not have had enough room to get out!

An exciting day on the Gauley that I don't need to go through again!

The day I paddled in the Olympics by Matt Muir

It was all Roger's doing, don't you see. He called me way back in February or March, telling me he was getting married. Some young thing named Jennifer. (Aren't all young things named Jennifer?) Anyhoo, we'd always kinda figured him for a potential cradle-robber, so it's not like we were stunned to find out that his First Filly would be someone barely old enough *not* to be his daughter.

But we were heartened by the call, both because ol' Roger was getting hitched, and because we'd be able to go to the Olympics!

The time of year --late August-- wouldn't be conducive to great paddling, what with snowmelt gone and autumn rains yet to begin in earnest. But we'd be there, and I was determined to paddle in the Olympics!

I got onto the message boards and asked around. I got a couple of nibbles; one from "Darren," and another from "Zack." Having received an offer of one or more boats that might fit my geeky long legs, I armed myself with a few beers (coin of the realm, don'tcha know) and the Lovely & Talented Mrs. Ratt and I boarded Continental Flight Whatever to Seattle. Non-stop.

That's right: Seattle. Not Sydney. What, didn't I make that clear? Seattle's just across Puget Sound from the Olympic Peninsula, of course. You didn't think ol' Roger had moved to *Australia*, did you? He does like

beer, but...I guess I digress. I was looking to paddle in the *Olympic Mountains*.

Roger's wedding was the good kind. Took about three minutes for him and his youthful bride to say their "I do's," after which it was off to the reception, complete with open bar. The day before, we'd visited some Seattle cyber-buds and seen the very impressive Snoqualmie Falls. You got a 200-foot drop, and what looks like a hump of solid rock at the bottom, and I don't think even Tao's up for *that* challenge. The morning after, we were off to the Olympics.

Olympic National Park, which occupies most of the peninsula, is one of the better ones, in my humble opinion. It has impressive beaches and mountain ranges, a diversity of flora, glaciers, and some very impressive rain forests. I could easily spend a month there, or more, and never get bored. But now let's can the intro and get down to the paddling.

It was looking to be the Elwha. This, the largest river on the peninsula, has two sections of interest: the Rico Canyon section, which has some serious Class-V character including blind, unscoutable drops (and did I mention that the Olympic rivers are famous for collecting wood?), and the Lower Elwha, a Class-III section that includes one Class IV. The Rico Canyon also includes a two-mile hike in, which suggests a certain degree of remoteness and commitment.

Zack, who was willing to set me up with a boat and gear, was interested in the Lower Elwha; Darren, the Rico. Given my druthers, I'd be very interested in some serious creeking on the Rico. The decision would depend on a few phone calls.

Logistics would be easier for the Lower, as Zack would come with the boat; I wouldn't have to drive out to meet him, paddle, then drive again to return it; but Class V is Class V. Then I called Darren.

Turns out Darren had never run the Rico before. "But we can read and run." Blind drops? "Decide on the fly," Darren was enthusiastic.

Turns out Darren had nobody else lined up.

Turns out Darren was fifteen years old.

Yiiiikes. Running blind Class-V with only a testosterone-enhanced high-schooler as a guide started to sound as though it would carry some safety concerns. In addition, words like "responsible adult" and "liability" were floating around in my grey matter. To

top it all off...I wouldn't be able to ply him with the bribery beers I'd brought!

I called Zack. Class III would be fine, even if it was running low.

We met. We spent a solid twenty minutes in the hotel parking lot, first determining that the playboat he'd brought would be laffable for me. Then we went to work on his Y.

We shoved the bulkhead all the way forward (of course). We loosened the bolts and banged the seat back as far as it would go. No dice. We loosened the backband to the point where it was completely out of play. Not yet. Zack, bless'im, took his river knife to his carefully glued-in hip pads. Almost. Then we took a screwdriver and removed the knee / thigh braces. Success! It would be a tight fit, not very comfortable, but I could float in this boat.

The Elwha was only half an hour's drive away from our Port Angeles hotel. Niiice. We stopped during the shuttle to check out its only Class IV rapid. The sign at the turnout warned of "Class V Rapids;" I had to reassure the L&T Mrs. Ratt that warnings often over-assess the danger. In truth, it looked like a tight and technical, though short and pleasant, rock-infested drop. There were two routes that looked feasible: a nearly straight-shot which involved some turning action, and a more heroic route that you'd have to run pretty precisely if you didn't want an upside-down pin on some ugly sharp rocks. Zack, a moderately conservative paddler, was planning on the straight shot. I was looking at the hero route and salivating.

We left the L&T Mrs. Ratt and put in. It was pretty low. Some play waves were still there, but nothing was outstanding. At the first disruption, I felt a drip on my bare thighs. A glance told me that, when we'd unscrewed the thigh braces, we hadn't thought to re-attach the screws. There were two very distinct 1/8" holes in the combing. With no duct tape around, I shoved a couple of twigs into the holes and carried on. The drip was minimal, but the twigs did need replacement once or twice.

I looked back upstream and took a couple of photos of some steep canyon-type sections of the river just upstream of the putin. The Elwha is a beautiful river; it would be more so, were it not for a couple of dams.

The first dam was built in 1913; the second, 1926. Both violated environmental laws even in those antediluvian days. According

to *Olympic National Park: A Natural History*, by TJM McNulty, if both dams were removed, nine of ten salmon stocks would have a good-to-excellent chance of recovery. Further, one dam has never been licensed; the other's license ran out in 1976. In 1995, the Dept. of the Interior and the National Park Service announced their intention to remove both dams; however, Congress has repeatedly refused to allocate funds for the dam removal, due largely to the efforts of Senator Slade "Skeletor" Gorton. Both dams exist *solely* to provide power to one paper mill in Port Angeles. (Anyone want to hazard a guess as to whether or not the paper mill contributes to any senator's campaigns?) By the way: Gubnor GW "Dubya" Bush visited Washington recently and promised that, if elected, he would ensure that *no* dam would be removed nationwide.

Oooops. Was that a soapbox I was standing on? Apologies. I'll climb down and resume the story.

We ran a couple of drops and came to the Class IV (which, by the way, has no name. What's *wrong* with these people?). Zack went first, cleaning the line. Jammed into the Y, I didn't feel like a hero. I ran the standard line, too, and I didn't impress the crowd with my prowess. In the last drop, I banged a rock with my right elbow. (That's a "gate touch" in the Olympics.) I was wishing I hadn't left my elbow pads in the car at the takeout.

Not completely daunted, I handed my camera to Zack and carried up to run it again. I still didn't go for the hero line, but at least this time my run was completely clean.

We surfed a little in the squirrely waves below the drop's final slot. I got myself upended...and blew my roll. I set up...and blew it again! "Oh, no," I wondered, "am I gonna embarrass myself in front of this guy?" I made my third rolling attempt. Zack tried to excuse me, asking about the thigh braces; but the failed rolls had been good old-fashioned incompetence. We headed down.

There weren't any further drops worthy of note; a lot of shallow, scrappy spots which required careful lines if I didn't want to feel the rock-banging on my bare feet, was all. There was an ender spot for small boats. In the Y, I didn't get any verticals, but I came close a couple times. More importantly, my roll returned to its customary reliability.

Okay, so it wasn't the most impressive stream you've ever heard of. But it was pretty, and I got another run under my skirt. Besides: I can now truthfully say that *I've paddled in the Olympics*. Can you?

Wanted: Used Dagger Transition- call Andy G at 216 321 9284, a.gross@csuohio.edu

DRY SUIT: Used dry suit with tunnel, L/XL, gasket covers and built-in waterproof booties. Some gaskets need to be replaced. \$60.

SPRAY SKIRT: Brand new/never used XXL Mountain Surf easy-on large keyhole neoprene skirt. I paid \$149, only \$100!

Dry Bag: perfect size for kayakers \$6

Huge dry bag: Expedition size, only used on one trip \$35

Take apart paddle: Perception Harmony, 2-part, repaired \$60

Air bags, stern, pair, barely used, \$20

Battered helmet, make offer

PFD: Lotus, Lola, purple, \$55

Susan Vetrone work (440) 899-5427, home (440) 895-0389, svetrone@tycoint.com

Club Elections at October 10th meeting

Keel Haulers Board of directors has announced it's nominations for officers for 2001.

Election will be held at the October club meeting in the new Middleburg Hts Rec. Center.

President	- Rob Hammond
Vice President	- Ron Tomallo
Treasurer	- Pam Poljak
Secretary	- Casey Brown

Present Trustees:

Gary Smith - 1999 - 2001

Cathy Schilling - 2000 - 2002

New Trustee

Mike Duvall - 2001 - 2003



Keel-Hauler's KaNews Nov. 2000

Dec. Deadline Nov. 24

Nov 11 Cheat Canyon, WV (26)

Let's hope this fun river is running in the cold. Call to confirm levels.

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com 330-NOT A FAX

Nov. 11 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Tim Taubert tim_taubert@adlt.com 440-256-2506

Nov 14 Meeting, Middleburg Heights

Rec. Center

2001: A Paddler's Odyssey Trip Schedule Planning

Nov. 18 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Kurt Haas kurth@a-s-e.com 216-321-1763

Dec 2 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com 330-668-2329

Dec 9 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Cliff Wire clfwire@aol.com 440-439-6541

Dec 12 Meeting, Middleburg Heights

Rec. Center

This is a good occasion for a small holiday party. Please bring a small dish to share.

Contact Sue to coordinate dishes.

Sue Strumbel sstrumbe@mail.doc.gov 216-741-4405

Keel-Hauler Canoe Club minutes

October 10, 2000

Membership: John Kobak stated that there are 389 members for this year. 60 are paid for 2001.

No new members or guests

No Treasurer's report

Chair Reports:

Instruction: American Red Cross will begin their classes at Tri-C on Monday. For more information call Steve Ingalles or the Red Cross. Winter rolling sessions will be held at Orange High School beginning January 6, 2001. The cost will be \$4.

Conservation: Terry Markoff mentioned that the AWA's Sept/Oct. 2000 issue listed

its top 40 priorities for river access and conservation for upcoming year.

Library: Mike Duvall has volunteered to be the next Library Chairperson. Ron Whitney said hand over the library to Mike at the next meeting. Please return your outstanding books to the club now to make this transition smoother. Rob Hammond thanked Ron Whitney for doing such a great job with the club library for the last couple of years.

Safety: Chuck Singer brought in the local newspaper article covering the drowning at Dimple Rock on the Lower Yough. He said that there are a number of ideas floating around on what to do about this rapid, one idea is to make an easy portage on river right, another is to blow-up Dimple Rock and a third is to fill-in the bottom of the undercut. Nothing has yet been decided, but Chuck said that he will continue to monitor this issue. There was then a discussion on how a number of small mistakes can lead into a serious situation on the river.

New Business:

There was a lengthy discussion on whether to keep or discontinue the club's telephone hotline. After the discussion, the club voted to discontinue the use of the telephone hotline.

Rob Hammond also mentioned that he wanted to begin sending the club newsletter via email to club members who wished to receive it in that form. However, he said that club would still send it via U.S. mail for members who did not want to receive it via email.

Judi Cleary, Program Chairperson for this year passed out a survey of possible program topics for the upcoming year.

Rob Hammond presented the new slate for next year:

President: Rob Hammond
Vice President: Ron Tomallo
Treasurer: Pam Poljak
Secretary: Casey Brown

Trustees: Gary Smith
Cathy Schilling
Mike Duvall

The new slate was voted in for next year.

Ron Tomallo also said that he would like someone to replace him in mailing the newsletter.

John Kobak mentioned that Thury O'Connor was diagnosed with Leukemia and was at the University Hospital.

Rob Hammond mentioned that Sherie Sanzenbacher made the Red Cross Hall of Fame.

Solomon Islands Development Trust

P.O. Box 147

Honiara

Solomon Islands

WESTERN PACIFIC

(677) 23409

STAYING AFLOAT IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC

by Rick Feinberg

10 September 2000

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the war-torn Solomon Islands. This is a trip report whose only whitewater is whitecaps on the ocean, but it has been an interesting couple of months since I left the States. As many of you know, since early July I've been wandering around the currently-troubled Western Pacific on a research project. Other than airports, the trip thus far has taken me to two countries and three islands.

My departure was delayed for a month because of a paramilitary coup in the Solomons on June 5th, and the fighting that has continued since that time. Because of the troubles, when I left Ohio the only airline flying into the Solomons was Air Niugini, leaving from Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea. So that's how I was routed. But as soon as I got to Moresby, there was a new crisis in the Solomons and Air Niugini cancelled its flights. So I was stuck in New Guinea. I made use of my time there by renewing acquaintance with people from Nukumanu, a Polynesian atoll where I worked in 1984. I got a lot of new information on

development issues and improved on my skills with the Nukumanu language as well as Tok Pisin, a form of Pidgin English that's used by most people in Papua New Guinea.

I also spent about three weeks in Buka, a small island near Bougainville—another place that has been convulsed by civil war over the past fifteen years. On Buka, my son Joe and I lived in a Nukumanu settlement, sleeping under mosquito nets and taking cold “showers” with a bucket and a cup. (People in the States often forget what a luxury it is to have running water.) Among the high points for us were a couple of deep-sea fishing trips in a small skiff. On the first expedition we spent one night sleeping on the beach, under the stars on a tiny, deserted island so that we could get out to the fishing grounds at the crack of dawn. Despite a little drizzle, the weather was pretty warm, so the only thing that disturbed our sleep was an invasion of sand crabs that would come and nibble our toes as soon as we were about to drift off.

Deep sea fishing for the Nukumanu means using a hand line with 200-pound test monofilament in almost a kilometer of water. Even with a pound of metal at the end of the line, it took a good ten minutes for the hook to reach the bottom, and longer to pull it back up. Under those circumstances, if you get a bite but fail to hook the fish, you don't want to pull up your hook and check the bait, since it might be a half hour before you can get it down and start to fish again.

We caught a lot of *parumea*, the Nukumanu word for a type of large red fish that lives in very deep water and can reach 40 pounds. Because of the change in pressure as you pull the fish up from that depth, the air trapped in its internal organs expands. So the fish is typically dead and blown up like a balloon by the time it reaches the surface. Since we were using hand lines, our hands were thoroughly cut up and our arms very tired by the end of the day. Joe pulled up one of the biggest *parumea*, and the Nukumanu gave him a new name: Tautai, which means “Expert Fisherman.”

We also caught a 40-pound yellow fin tuna and trolled for bonito. The bonito were used mostly for bait, but we also cut them up and ate them raw for lunch, with a little coconut meat for flavoring. The biggest challenge in all this was to get the fish into the boat before they were eaten by

sharks, and we lost almost as many as we landed. We came close to bringing in a five-foot shark, but after a long struggle it managed to break the line and get away.

The most exciting incident on Buka was the capture of a crocodile that had just eaten two people. It was shot across the channel on Bougainville, where it had attacked a 15-year-old boy who was diving for bêche-de-mer in the ocean near the mouth of a river. They brought it back to town, cut it open, and pulled out the remains of its victims, one of whom was still clearly recognizable. It was a dramatic reminder that life in Paradise can be precarious.

Joe had to leave to go back to school in mid-August. In the meantime, Air Niugini kept scheduling flights to the Solomons and then canceling them at the last minute. And Solomon Airlines began a special once-a-week flight from Brisbane (Australia) to Honiara, the Solomon Islands capital. I finally gave up on the Port Moresby route and re-booked myself to Honiara on Solomon Air, getting here last Tuesday. I have located a number of my old Anutan friends, who were the ones I'd really made this trip to see. One of my friends is looking after the house of “some lady” and has been clearing out a room for me; so I'm expecting to move in with him on Monday.

In the meantime, I've been staying at “Travellers Motel,” near the banks of the beautiful Mataniko River, just across from Honiara's Chinatown. It is 88 Solomon Islands dollars per night, which comes out to about US \$15. And the owner is from Ontong Java Atoll, making him almost a *wantok* (a speaker of the same language, in Solomon Islands Pijin). If I speak to him in Nukumanu and he responds in Luanivua, we can generally understand each other. Polynesian languages are all pretty close, and it has been interesting trying to speak in *language* (Pijin for an indigenous language) to people from Nukumanu, Ontong Java, Anuta, and Tikopia, making enough sound and vocabulary shifts to be understood, and trying to keep the wrong language from popping out at the wrong time. Adding Pijin and Tok Pisin into the mix doubles the fun.

Life in Honiara seems a little strange. In some ways, it has been like coming home. Many things look very familiar and, superficially, the town seems almost normal. People are as friendly, gracious, and hospitable as ever. Perfect strangers

greet me with warm smiles and are more than happy to engage in conversation. There has been a lot of new construction since 1993, with a beautiful new paved four-lane highway approaching town. The old traffic light has been replaced by a new roundabout; and Mendaña Avenue, the main street, now has a median strip and nice new fence. The market has been completely revamped and has a beautiful new roof. And after Port Moresby, Honiara seems neat, clean, and relaxed. Of course, the fact that half the population has fled over the past two months has done a lot to slow the pace of life here.

But when you look more closely, you can see that things are *not* normal. A lot of stores are closed down, and the selection of goods in many of the stores is limited. A lot of businesses, some government offices, and all the banks are closing at 2 PM. Both of the dive shops have ceased operation. Honiara is inhabited almost exclusively by people from Malaita Island, plus a few people from Santa Isabel and Western Province. And one sees almost nobody in Chinatown. I haven't seen any guns, except a toy (I think) that some little kid was pointing at passers-by on the street yesterday. But there are gun shots at night, and there's a bullet hole through the kitchen wall in my motel.

Most importantly, when you start talking to people you learn that they are very worried. Some are frightened; others are just angry about what has happened. Guadalcanal men can't get past the barricades to enter town, although sometimes the Malaita Eagle Force lets a few women through to go to the market. And some of the Malaitans currently in town are here because their homes were burnt down while the Guadalcanal militia (the so-called Isatabu Freedom Movement) was in control. Meanwhile, the government has been paying out a lot of money in compensation to people on both sides, and it doesn't have enough funds left for such basic services as education. The “College of Higher Education” just closed most of its classes because the government did not provide the promised allocation, and they have no money to pay their staff. In other words, while daily life in Honiara isn't as grim as I'd feared it might be, something has clearly gone very wrong.

As for my immediate future, the old government ship has been purchased by the

Member of Parliament from Temotu Province (who is also a businessman, a member of cabinet, and Minister for Planning and Development) and made into a commercial vessel. It's supposed to go up to Anuta in a couple of weeks, and the mission ship, the *Southern Cross*, is scheduled to go in November. So I should be able to spend a month or two on Anuta and get back to the States before the end of the semester. But probably not in time to paddle before spring 2001.

I hope you've all had a good summer, that the rivers are up, and that you've been able to keep your heads above water—at least most of the time. I miss you and look forward to seeing you in a few months. SYOTR.

Voicemail System to be Disconnected

At the October meeting a decision was made to disconnect the Club's voicemail system. After seven years of operation, the system hasn't been getting enough use lately to justify the annual expense of \$144. The system will be disconnected December 12. For trip and meeting information, please refer to the yearbook, the newsletters, and the Club's Web site at www.keelhauler.org

GAULEY EXPERIENCES

by Michael Duvall

It was the first week of Gauley season so I drove down Thursday night and parked at John and Peggy Kobak's camp site. Friday John and I shuttled with some guys from Michigan and North Carolina and John showed me the way down the Upper. Although I had done the Upper a year ago, then it was only at 800 cfs not 2800 cfs, so to me this was a whole new river. On Saturday Chris Kiehl and Ann Corey joined us on the lower. I had a few screw-ups but nothing worth writing about.

However on Sunday things got interesting, John Kobak, Angie White, Dave Broar and I did the Upper. Of course John knows all the lines, Angie and Dave don't worry about the lines, and I forgot the lines. As is usually the case on a Sunday with the knowledge that we had a 4+ hour drive ahead of us, we were cruising down the river and not wasting any time dilly dallying at the play spots or discussing any

lines. As we got close to this one rapid I asked Angie about the line and she replied "Go between the holes then go right" and she took off. I gave her a little space then followed. It was when I was going between the holes that I looked up and saw all the current going toward a big bolder on river left. "OH MY GOD THIS IS PILLOW!!" It seems that I was oblivious of the warning signs, the tent with lots of people on the right and that big boulder on the left.

I tried to get in a few strokes to the right but I was headed straight at the boulder. I "SPLATTED" Pillow and got flipped right, thank goodness I didn't go left into the "Room of Doom." I tried one quick attempt at a roll then exited.

Now here is when the unbelievable happened. A raft guide told his people to help me. They pulled me into the raft grabbed my boat and took me to shore. Peter (Tex) Turkaly told me something like that happened to him, but the rafters actually emptied his boat for him and let him launch off the raft. Now, I might have asked the others not tell anyone about my stupidity except that Brent and Kelly who boated on Saturday were at Carnifax Ferry on the rocks watching. Afterwards I was hoping they had videoed it because then I could have tried to brag that I meant to Splat Pillow. I don't think any one would believe me though. We finished the run without further incident.

9-17-00

I came back the next weekend for Gauley Fest. Saturday I ran the Lower with a large group that included Sue Strumble Chuck Singer Matt Muir, Fran Hoven, his friend, as well as many other Keelhaulers. On Sunday a very large group of us ran the Upper. Matt had heard about my previous run on the Upper so he was on by butt about not knowing that I was at Pillow. He became my own personal guide taking time to show me where Rob had his experience at Initiation and the location of Pillow. This week I did well at pillow and ran my own line, even though Matt showed me his line, which was also good. After Pillow I worked my way out of the strong eddy behind Volkswagen rock and around the corner just as a raft was pulling out from behind a rock. The raft ate my whole boat and me. From my inverted position everything was dark and all I could feel was rubber so I bailed. It took a lot of work to get my boat out from under that

*&#\$% raft. But all that was nothing. The big show was at Broken Paddle.

Now you may have heard about that rapid because one of the top paddlers died there in 77. It is a very long rapid and I was doing well until the last section. The correct move is to make it through a 10-ft slot next to a huge undercut boulder. However I swam right in front of the boulder and was heading for a narrow crack in the rock. I knew that was not a good place to be but the current was taking me right for the crack. As luck would have it I was clinging to my boat and my boat got crosswise at the crack and pinned. Now that might sound bad, but it turned out to be a good thing for me. I was able to climb up on the pinned boat and then on the boulder. After I was out of the water I pulled my boat free and up on the rock with me. At this point I heard yelling and turned to see another swimmer coming for the boulder but at another small crack near shore. This was almost an out of body experience because I could have been looking at myself back in time a minute earlier. When I saw him try to grab the rock that I was on, I helped him with a rope that I always carry around my waist. I was able to hold him there until Ron Whitney who had his throw rope out to save my ass tossed the rope to him and pulled him to shore. Now back to me, I was still on this undercut boulder with my boat. Ron asked me "If I had a paddle could I launch on the upstream side of this boulder."

I had to tell him that the current might just pull me under the boulder. So I pulled my boat to the top of the 15-ft boulder and launched it down stream into a pool. Then I did the only thing I could do; I jumped in after it. Of course Matt checked the depth first, then taunted me to try to land on him. From there I went to shore where we often eat lunch and emptied the boat got back in and we all continued down river.

After all the excitement was over Ron told me he once saw a guy get sucked under the boulder and come up on the other side. I knew I was real lucky but when it was over the best thing to do is get right back in the boat and paddle and not let it freak you out.

The last hard rapids are Iron Ring where I was a little off line to the left and had to do a hard brace in a hole and Sweets Falls where I had an excellent line and didn't get my hair wet.

Well that is my side of the Gauley story.

Paddling in Europe, part one
By Sabine Iben

Here it is- the first trip report from Europe by your german correspondent.

Moving to Germany people were reassuring me that kayaking is extremely popular in Europe and I wouldn't have any problems to find people to paddle with. Easier said than done. I started with the home page of the german canoe association to find myself a new club. Well, as I said, boating IS very popular. I live in Heidelberg- that means there were about 12 clubs within a 30-min drive. So, how to choose????? I was thinking of a club with many scheduled trips to choose from, as well as extremely nice, fun and reliable people that would lead me down unknown rivers (I should better say creeks). Unfortunately the club I was thinking of is located about 4500 miles away in Cleveland, Ohio. Anyway, I made some phone calls to the officials listed on the web page of the state- organization and was referred to the most active club as far as recreational white water kayaking is concerned. Of course, I would have chosen another one if I wanted to do competitive racing, or competitive slalom or canoe polo or canoe camping or

The German system is quite different from the way it is in the US which explains why there are so many clubs within an area that has about a 600 000 population (high estimate). Most of those clubs formed in the beginning of this century and often several generations are still active members. Clubs are regarded as a non-benefit organization and get some privileges, which includes tax free membership fees and no property taxes. Most clubs over the years have acquired land and build club houses that host weekly meetings, get- together (can be used by members for different occasions e.g. weddings). The club in Mannheim where I joined is located in a park right by the Rhine River and regarded as a "canoe station". That means any member of the german canoe association that happens to canoe down the Rhine has the right to stay overnight in the clubhouse. Members can also store their boats and equipment in the clubhouse if they wish to, the club also owns several boats and some equipment for people to use.

By the time I made some contacts it was winter. There is a class III-IV river about 1

½ hours away, but there were no scheduled trips and since I did not really know anybody I didn't get invited to the short notice trips when the rain gods were favorable. So I took up the other clubs activities- ski gymnastics and regular get together. There were some pool sessions starting in February which were mostly intended for the beginners to learn how to roll.

Then the first scheduled trip came up sometime in March- 24 miles flatwater on the Rhine!!! I was already pretty unhappy because there were not too many whitewater trips scheduled- the club, which has almost 200 members, has only about 40 paddling whitewater (which is by far the biggest group in the area). By the way I did survive the 24 miles of flatwater. Of course I didn't feel my RPM was well suited and took my overflow out of the basement to make things better. I must say, I did have a lot of fun. It was a gorgeous day, we did stop for lunch at another clubs boathouse and since the river is flowing fast it took only about 4 ½ hours to paddle the entire distance. I did make some new friends and found out that the season for paddling in the alps starts somewhat later and that most people don't just go for the weekend but rather use holidays and vacations (of which there are many in Germany). Since I joined the southern rivers trip for Easter I actually didn't get to paddle anything other than flatwater in Europe until June.

My first trip went to Switzerland, to the "Berne Oberland" which means we stayed on a beautiful campground overlooking a big lake (Thuner See) and towered by snow covered mountains. I arrived after dark so I was quite impressed when I opened my tent the next morning looking at great scenery on a sunny day. Used to get up early, eat something quick, get ready and head for the river to run shuttle I was amazed by the sight the next morning- people were setting up tables and chairs, someone was going to the local bakery to get rolls for everybody..... we did start slow. Well, there is actually a good reason for it. Most creeks were in the area (we had a whole bunch to pick from) and the drive involved was usually not more than 30 minutes. Also the water is very cold and it is a whole lot nicer to paddle when it is warm- a put-in at 11 am is just fine. Snowmelt makes the water rise later in the day- another reason to have a leisurely breakfast.

When the temperature reached about 80 F we were ready to put in. Nobody was even talking about choices how to dress. I rapidly learned that the only question that came up on an extremely hot day was whether to wear just a lightweight polypropylene under your wet suit and dry top or a heavy fleece. THE WATER IS COLD- that doesn't mean 60 F like the lower Yough, it means 40's like the Yough in mid winter.

The first river we explored was the Saane, mostly class III with one class IV rapid (S-Turn) in it. The water was flowing very fast; there were only small pools after the drops, if any. The scenery was absolutely fantastic with clear green water and high peaks in the background. The riverbed wasn't very wide to start with but twice the river narrowed down to two deep gorges (one of the most beautiful places I have seen). What was very striking to me was that because of the narrow river bed and the high flow there were big water features in this creek- eddies weren't well defined and you had to pay a lot of attention to suddenly appearing whirlpools, reminding of the New. There were several trees in the creek, all of them easily avoidable, but surely a potential hazard. My fellow paddlers actually seemed to be used to look for strainers at all times, it seems like that is part of paddling in the Alps.

The following day we decided to head for the Engstlige- the section we were to paddle was rated class IV with the possibility for our expert paddlers to put in above for a beautiful 1 mile class V gorge. Some members of our group were quite disappointed as we found out hiking down to the gorge that there were several strainers in the section we could see with a potential for more. It turned out we still had all an exciting day. The creek actually wasn't all that difficult if you just looked at a piece at a time. What I mean by that is that it was VERY continuous- fast flow with lots of holes, rocks, pourovers, once again many trees to avoid. There was not a single pool the entire run and the eddies weren't that great either. A reliable roll was certainly required and I did to get very impressed by my groups rescue abilities since we had two swims. They actually managed to chase both the swimmer and the boat successfully both times (I was too busy paddling to help). I also saw the point of rescue vests (basically used by everyone in Europe) and „cow tails“ to attach to the

boat- in the absence of pools it is pretty hard to get the boat on shore. One almost injury actually happened to me and a fellow paddler- we almost got hit by a rock. I mentioned those eddies, did I?? At one point Oliver stayed in an eddy by holding on to a rock and me holding on to him. Unfortunately that boulder was pretty loose and we managed just in time to get back in the current before it crashed in the water. I wonder how many paddle injuries happen by rock slides- maybe I should report that to our safety officer??? All in all though it was a very fun day on a creek that certainly needed all my attention.

Over the Summer I did manage to get quite some paddletime in and found out that the choices within a 5 hour drive are almost unlimited. Fortunately there are very good guide books by the German canoe association that describe the runs mile by mile- in about 11 paddling days until August I paddled almost as many rivers (or sections of rivers)- Saane, Engstlige, Simme in Switzerland, Breitach (1 section), Jagst, Ammer and Loisach in Germany, Breitach (another section) and Reißbach in Austria.

About the 10 days Terry and I spent in France there will be a separate trip report. So, anybody that is willing to go about 5000 miles for a paddling trip- welcome to Europe!!!

Dimple Rock is Very Undercut!

posted to rec.boats.paddle, 10/27/00

I went down to Dimple Rock on the Yough. This morning with Ohiopyle State Park manager Doug Hoehn and a group of rangers, outfitters, and guides. The dam had shut the river back as much as possible, and it was reading 0.7'. The water was very clear, and the morning sun was shining down under the rock from upstream. From the river left shore we were able to wade out and probe under the rock with a long pole. Then we looked underneath the rock with a diver's mask.

What a sight! Dimple Rock is sitting on a rock outcropping. It overhangs the upstream edge by four to six feet over much of its width. It tops out an irregular "room" roughly four feet high. The water was clear and appeared calm. Even at this low level, the roof of the "room" is a foot below the surface of the river. At 3.5 feet, when the Dimple Rock pillow starts to

wash onto the top of Dimple Rock, the "roof" of the "room" will be under roughly 7' of water. The room is so large that the trees removed in the 1996 drowning almost certainly did not fill it. The water was quite murky at that time, which is why no one got a clear view of this area.

My theory is that most rafters who flip above the rock stay in the pillow and are washed to the right and safety. A few unfortunate folks get washed deep, and end up under the rock. They are unable to work their way out the sides and back to the surface before running out of air, but are eventually washed free. This has happened 3 times over the past decade.

So now we know. Dimple Rock is VERY undercut! Doug Hoehn has pulled together an advisory committee to look into safety on the Yough, and Dimple Rock in particular. If you have any comments you may email me at ccwalbridge@cs.com.

Charlie Walbridge
AW Safety Committee

Just in from Edith Chase, Friends of the Crooked River:

COMMUNITY WATERSHED

WORKSHOP- Find out what makes your watershed a unique place to live. Share with the River Navigator and the River Partners your ideas for improving water quality, river access, open space, recreational opportunities, and community revitalization. TOPICS- Slide Presentation "From Fire To Fame", Projects and Accomplishments, Identification of Future Projects. WHEN- Tuesday, November 14, 2000 at Mingo Pavilion in the Sand Run Metropark, Akron, OH. FOR FURTHER INFO. Call- Kay Carlson 216-241-2414 ext. 253

I'm sure our Keelhaulers President will write you an excuse to attend the workshop instead of our meeting.

Final plan for Snake River Salmon

"American Rivers is engaging in an urgent plea for congress to meet the following before The Clinton White House is history. Form a final plan for Snake River Salmon recovery that improves water flow and other critical conditions immediately, that intensifies efforts to restore important habitat and improve migration conditions,

and that will begin removing the four lower Snake River dams as soon as possible."

The above paragraph is quoted from American Rivers. If you want you can include it in a letter to the President(not Rob). You may also want to say that the National Marine Fisheries Service's plan is ignoring important scientific evidence that demonstrates that any strategy that does not include dam removal does not meet salmon recovery goals. Oh yes and the current plan violates the Endangered Species Act and the Clean water Act, as well as breaching treaties with Native American tribes.

If you are interested in joining, sending a letter, or contacting your Representatives, do so within the next 60 days.

I Wowed the Crowd at Ohiopyle Falls *by Matt Muir*

As I rolled up, I heard the hoots, hollers, and cheers from the Observation Deck. This was predictable; they're not impressed or excited by a clean run, unless it's in an obviously unconventional boat like an open canoe or if it's Jeff "Strider" Snyder, standing up in his Thrillseeker. But this experience --hearing the crowd hooting and hollering after I rolled up-- was one I became very familiar with at Ohiopyle Falls this year.

As with last year, we had a Konflagration of Keel-haulers for the Race, including repeaters Mike Duvall, Ron Tomallo, Gib McGill, and Steve Bateman, and Ohiopyle Falls Virgins Bob Nicholson, Duarte Morais, Jody Clinger, Craig Homberg, Brett Mancino, Brent Laubaugh, Dave Broer, Barry Adams, and Dave Atkinson. Rob Hammond, scheduled to run the race and volunteer to help with the organization, came up lame with an injured ankle a few days before the race. Ron Whitney got incorrect information (from the ambiguous website) about registration from me, and decided to head for the Gauley.

Last year, it was a one-day event, organized in a rush after a park official made the tactical error of saying "Nobody's going to run the Falls without a permit." The savvy folks from American Whitewater (you are a member, aren't you?) recognized that that statement opened the door to some sort of permit process...and the ball began rolling, with only a couple of months to line up all the ducks in a row. After all the t's were

dotted and the i's crossed, we had about 250 paddlers, all looking to run the Falls at once, which resulted in one of the most impressive fuster-clucks you've ever seen: 40-60 boaters, all jostling about in the Ultimate Eddy.

This year, they gave it two days. Registrants would have a three-hour window, scheduled by bib number, to take their practice runs on Saturday. On Sunday morning, there'd be an additional three-hour window for everybody, followed by the race. With the practice runs thus spread out, the crowding was much less severe. This was further improved by the official at the putin, who was coordinated with the officials at the Lip to ensure that the Ultimate Eddy would have no more than about eight paddlers at a time.

Thus, it was easy to get multitudinous runs in. On Saturday, I was scheduled for practice runs from 9 AM in the morning 'til noon, and to help with safety from 11 'til 1. It's not hard to recognize the conflict there. Concerned about my precious Falls-running time, I asked about getting "comp time" after 1 PM in the afternoon. No problem, I was told. I got me some five runs before my turn, standing on shore with a throwbag.



My third run was my first crowd-pleaser. I got just a little right at the lip. When I landed, everything was okay, upright and all that...but the water began shoving me right. I saw that it was shoving me right toward a raft...but danged if I could do anything about it. I tried to lean into the raft, but the flow was strong, and soon I was under. "Floating undercuts," they call'em.

Oh, spit. I was under for a while. My paddle and I became separated quickly. I tried handwalking to get out from under the raft. It took some time (during which, the spectators later told me, the guy on the raft was running back and forth, looking for me

and looking up at other officials, hands out in the "I don't know" gesture), but it worked me free. Now, it was time to handroll.

Well...you see, my old Cruise Controls were easy to handroll. On-side, off-side, one-hand, one-hand with a closed fist...they were all good. The Phat has sharp edges and high sides, and my handroll is...shall we say, less than 100%. I tried; no dice. Tried again. I saw guys on shore, scurrying down toward me with throwbags. Tried again...got a breath. Then I saw that I was heading for a shallow eddy. I pushed off the bottom...and was upright to stay! Yep, the crowd went wild.

I heard later that at least two other paddlers spent some downtime under that raft, after me, before they decided to move it out of the way. ("What on earth was that raft doing there?" You may ask. Well...it was there for *safety*, of course!) I can't resist noting that none of the other hapless boaters managed to stay in their boats.

My safety time proved eventful. Like a firefighter, we were treated to long periods of not much going on, punctuated by unpredictable times when we had to act, quickly and in a coordinated fashion. We were stationed next to the Second Ledge, which is a four-footer with an unseen piton rock just below the landing surface. Last year, Gib McGill and I pitoned that suckah hard in a Topo Duo, causing me to walk funny for days; it also put a hull-wide crack in Rob Hammond's glass boat (being paddled by me, which also didn't do my feet any good!) This is the last drop before the Ultimate Eddy; though a swim there is not recommended, there should be plenty of room to rescue boater, boat, and paddle before the Drop. I tossed my throwbag to at least one swimmer and reeled him into the eddy. I also got a couple of photos of people running some of the drops at that ledge. Though of course the Falls is what people are coming for, the approach rapids are nothing to sneeze at. The First Ledge has a sticky horseshoe hole which can cause problems not only for the 7-foot cartwheeling machines that they make these days, butt also for the 12-foot slalom boats. Those who stood safety by that hole got plenty of practice throwing ropes.

I looked above and saw AW board member Barry Tuscano, an excellent boater and a real gentleman (without whom there'd

certainly be no Falls Race, by the way!) heading downstream in the stern of a Topo Duo. I got my camera ready and snapped the shutter as they hit Second Ledge. The immediate "THUD!" was unmistakable. They were stuck--vertically pinned.



The bow paddler exited quicker than George Carroll in a Class-IV drop. Barry had more difficulty, what with the unrelenting waterforce all over his back, but he got out pretty quickly. This big, long boat was completely submerged; only a couple feet of pink were visible just below the surface. And it was wedged in there tighter than a Tokyo subway commuter. It took a solid twenty minutes of attempts before the boat came free. They got back in and headed downstream. Barry told me later, however, that they also swam at the base of the Falls. Seems they hit bottom, flipped, and the bowman, Ed Petrisek, lost his paddle. So Barry was trying to roll on the left, while Ed was trying to handroll on the right. Coordination is an important element of tandem boating! (You can see photos of the whole event in http://members.aol.com/Hunquo/OhioPyleFalls/OhioPyle_Falls.html)

TRPC'er Maureen Phelan paddled by with a balloon woman (a set of balloons tied together to look like a woman) attached atop her helmet. On her next run, her helmet was bare. With a questioning look, I patted my helmet. She smiled. "When I pencilled in," she began. Say no more! The poor balloon woman was unceremoniously dismembered.

After my safety shift was over, I clambered back up for another four or five runs. I was continually testing lines in the first and second ledges. With Rob's patched boat on my roof rack, I was trying to decide on good lines that would yield a race-worthy time, while avoiding bad scrapes and the noxious piton rock. I went to the right side of the ledge, but there was rock there. I went far left, in the squirrely water. No

rock there, but it's not a fast line, and the squirrely water might play unfavorably with my balance in that weird old boat. I went for the boof, as Jesse Whittemore and all the good boaters were doing; but I also sat in the eddy below the boof, probing with my paddle. Folks, that piton rock is *everywhere*! Jesse was avoiding it in his Wavehopper, but few of us are Jesse. Not once did I hit the rock, but an 8-foot plastic boat with lots of rocker isn't a perfect model for a 13-foot glass boat with little rocker.

Meanwhile, my runs at the Big Drop itself were going pretty well. So, for my last run of the day, I decided to have some fun. With Mike Duvall ready to run probe for me, and to be in the pool at the bottom when I dropped, I asked Jody to carry my paddle for me.

I was uneasy, because: 1) I was concerned about getting enough speed to punch the hole and go off the Big One with speed, and b) well, there is that handroll problem. Nonetheless...there was a crowd, and they were entitled to a show.

The approach rapids were no-brainers, and I'm good at those. Mike and I collected ourselves in the eddy. He went. When the green "Go" sign emerged, I peeled.

I got pretty much where I wanted to go...butt I'd been right. It was hard to punch that hole with speed, and hard to get a good line off the lip.

I saw my bow pointing straight down. "Oh, spit," I thought. Within moments, I hit and was backendered into it. "This is rather not what I was looking for," I thought. The curtain of water poured down on me. The hole swapped my ends, making me yet another hapless, unintentional rodeo star of the day. "Pray, will this demon hydraulic have pity on this meager soul and afford me safe and intact egress?" I wondered.



After the normal eternity, the turbulence seemed less robust. I gave a try at

handrolling. Not quite. Gave another. And another. And another. During one of several tries, I saw a boat approaching. I grabbed his bow and gratefully accepted a rescue. He was paddler number 188, and I still owe him a beer. The crowd went wild, as is its wont.

That evening and the following morning I ran into Dave Broer and Brent Laubaugh, respectively. They were wishing Paddler 188 had kept his nose out of Keel-haulers' business (word does get around). "You so deserved to swim!" Exclaimed Dave. Sorry, guys. If you could hang in your boat longer than a gnat's lifetime, maybe someone would come 'round and help you, too. (At this point, by the way, I'm left wondering whether my handroll would've worked had I not had the big-ol' Santa Hat atop my helmet. Suckah tends to sponge up water and slow down the roll, don'tcha know.)

AW threw a nice party, with two kegs of beer and some good videos, at Riversport. The gentle flow of the river, and the wind in the trees, lulled us to sleep. The humongous freight trains only woke us about a dozen times during the night. Ahhhh...the sounds of nature.

Sunday, my lines were perhaps not as good. I was the second to run the falls, and I pencilled. After taking my medicine, I rolled up, again to the crowd's cheer. My predecessor, Ed, had apparently taken the same line as mine. He was the man who'd been in the Topo Duo bow, but by himself, he showed that he could take a lickin' & keep on tickin'.

My next two runs found me boofing and hitting kind of hard at the bottom, bouncing my head back and whiplashing my neck. That was followed by a few uneventfuls...

Then came my last practice run before the race. Everything was feeling good and clean in the approach rapids. I got the Green and headed for the V. As I punched the hole, a little bit of eddy line pulled my bow rightward. (This kind of thing is on video, as it happened to Racing Legend Roger Zbel last year in the race. It ruined his race time completely.) *Oh, nooooo!* I straightened 'er out, but headed straight down an unpleasant seam. *Oh, noooooo!* I began to get munched.

See, there's munching, and there's munching. I could remember the last time I'd seen someone get munched in there.

That's why we call that eddy the "Kosterizer." And I was getting a good Kosterizing. Two questions: 1) How long could I hold my breath, and b) Would I be let out of the eddy?

After showing me the error of my ways, it let me out, and I rolled up...to the cheers of a grateful crowd. When I ran the race, by the way, I had a clean line all the way through. I'm not winning any medals in my Phat, but I'm happy with the result nonetheless. I had 17 or 18 runs, with only four crowd-pleasers and no swims. (Rob's boat stayed high and dry all weekend long.)

Discussion seemed to result in a consensus that the Falls, including the non-trivial approach, is a Class IV at 1'8" or less. At 2 feet, the backwash at the bottom begins to get severe.

During the race, at our safety position at Second Ledge, we saw someone in a Wavehopper get flipped at First Ledge. He couldn't get the roll to work and bailed. The throw-ropers got him onto the rock immediately, but his big-ol' boat was aheadin' downstream. I suited up in my boat, preparing to clip a line to it, or bulldoze it into an eddy...whatever the situation called for. That's when the boat lodged on top of a rock just left of the ledge. We discussed it. The rock was too high, too tough to get to from my boat, though it had an eddy behind it. We thought of ferrying a swimmer over to the rock; he could climb onto it and clip a rope. That would work! But just then, Kara Weld, a member of the US slalom team, came charging toward the boat, clearly intent on knocking it loose. I slid down into the water in order to help pick up the pieces. The boat *barely* came loose and clambered down the drop. Kara and I (mostly Kara) bulldozed it to the shore eddy, where many hands grabbed it. "Who was that?" I asked. Kara turned toward me. "Meee!" she grinned. "No, I meant who was driving the Wavehopper?" "Meeeee!" she grinned.

Wow. A nationally ranked paddler swims out of a Wavehopper and gets a DNF next to her name. Kinda makes me feel not quite so bad about my racing *incidents* at the Lower Yough and the Cheat Narrows. Hey, at least I finished those races! But most impressive was her good sportsmanship. In her position, I wouldn't have had enough class to be smiling like I meant it.

Incidentally, the fastest boats in this year's event were Wavehoppers. Nobody repeated last year's strategy of taking a glass "Wildwater" boat; the piton rock at Second Ledge was apparently too severe, even for the top dawgs.

There was at least one other DNF in the race. Some guy also got hammered at First Ledge. At that moment, safety was sparse, with just one woman there. She kept throwing a rope to him, but her throw-rope attempts weren't exactly Whitneyesque. The poor dude swam the second ledge. Watching from above, we all knew that had to hurt. His boat ran the Falls without him. (Witnesses said it had a pretty clean line.)

From the safety position, I saw Mike Duvall's race line. He seemed slowed a little by one of the Ledges, then he motored through a slot-like thing, figuring that that might be the quickest line. That wasn't the line that most chose, but he wasn't alone. Some observers suggested that his line was probably best, based on where he'd emerged from Second Ledge. Works for me! But his time was higher than mine and Gib's. Good for Gib, by the way, who beat me by two seconds. Last year, I beat him by a second. Next year, I'll use a faster boat; I have to be happy with my time, though, considering that I improved by some 14 seconds over last year's.



What with running safety and all that, I didn't see many other Keelhaulers' runs. So I asked them for their own stories.

Testimonials from other Keelhaulers

Scott Wake: I cheaped out and didn't run it at all

Jody Clinger: only 3 runs (for the record: shoulder surgery July 13)

Only screw-up was my last run when I got a bit offline and then whiffffffed my boof stroke and penciled in a bit.

Swims: Heck no!

Interesting: **Jeff Snyder** rolling (his Thrillseeker) while standing up. Too Cool! *This reminds me. Jeff was the undisputed Star of the Show. He must've run it about 40 times. I witnessed his flipping the boat and rolling it twice; apparently, he figured out that trick about a year ago. As Jody says, that's impressive beyond words. The AW organizers were encouraging him and another "strider" to run it as often as possible for the PR value.*

Michael Duvall: I can't believe you didn't watch all of my runs. I didn't pre register so there was no reason to get there early. Got there about 2 PM, paid \$40 and headed to the putin with my number.

2000 Ohiopyle Falls Race: Partial results

O/A	Name	Class Place	Class	Time
1	Brian Homberg	1	K1-Wildwater	1:02:12
2	Louis Geltman	2	K1-Wildwater	1:03:76
3	Steve Kauffman	3	K1-Wildwater	1:04:70
4	Jess Whittemore	4	K1-Wildwater	1:08:13
5	Andrew McEwan	5	K1-Wildwater	1:08:49
6	Eric Martin	1	K1-Slalom	1:10:63
7	John Weld	6	K1-Wildwater	1:13:20
8	Matt Weldon	7	K1-Wildwater	1:13:70
9	Robbie Fulton	2	K1-Slalom	1:13:91
10	Mark Moore	3	K1-Slalom	1:14:66
20	Duarte Morais	9	K1-Wildwater	1:23:94
40	Jeff Snyder	1	Duck	1:35:59
42	Craig Wood	30	K1-Slalom	1:35:91
44	Gib McGill	31	K1-Slalom	1:36:34
51	Matt Muir	37	K1-Slalom	1:38:70
69	Barry Adams	48	K1-Slalom	1:45:54
77	Michael Duvall	54	K1-Slalom	1:48:45
82	Mark Pavkovich	2	OC-1	1:51:56
102	Michael Gatons		K1-Slalom	DNF
103	Kara Weld		K1-Wildwater	DNF

Ran the drop 3 times with the first being perfect. The second run I over-corrected to the right, then penciled coming to the surface upside down but made a nice roll and paddled like hell to keep out of Stu's eddy (also aka "the Kosterizer"—*Your Intrepid Reporter*). After 3 runs, I ran the Loop with Brent L. and Dave B. Brent and I carried back by the Fernhill parking area, put on there and ferried to the race put in and ran it again. That was 4 times on Sat. if you are counting. (*I'm always counting.*)

On Sunday, I could feel that my stomach muscles had a workout, most likely from being pushed to the back deck when I penciled the day before.

I made 3 practice runs on Sun. with good results; that is, I landed upright and stayed upright. Last year, I swam 2 out of the 3 times I ran the Falls and decided not to embarrass myself further by racing. But this year I felt good about my practice runs so I kept my bib on and ran the race. The race was good. I ran a middle line to the last eddy, got a little right at the lip of the falls, but got a good landing and paddled for the finish. I wasn't fast; I just didn't want a DNF.

That's my story and I am sticking to it!

Gib McGill: I got in five runs, including the race run. No schwimms, thank goodie. Main screwup was that I boofed way too hard on my very first run, putting a nice gimp into my lower back when I landed completely flat! That's my main reason for only getting' in four runs on practice day. My reason for no practice on the second day, as you know, is that I was controllin' traffic.

PS. Remember how I said, "Go, Rattso," as you were starting out, with the perhaps-predictable result that you would turn and smile, thereby dropping a second or two of paddling time?

Brent Laubaugh: I was proudly 8 for 8, with no rolls or swims. Not every line was smooth, but my last stroke was enough to spare me on several occasions. I bought one photo, which clearly shows me approx. halfway down the curtain, perfectly horizontal, and continuing to aggressively push off the water behind me. By the way, I have video of your under-raft experience. I didn't get the camera running until after you were already under the raft, but I got your re-emergence from the back side, your series of hand rolls, and your reaction to

the crowd's applause. Good Stuff for one of my upcoming films.

Photos: Michael Duvall, Keel-hauler alum and Striding Star Jeff Snyder, Your Intrepid Reporter, Keel-hauler alum and repeat race victor Brian Homberg. All photos by Marty Lamp, courtesy of www.IplayOutside.com (which has tons more pictures).

Keel-Hauler's KaNews Dec. 2000



Jan 2001 Deadline Dec. 20

Dec 2 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Cliff Wire clfwire@aol.com 440-439-6541

Dec 9 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com 330-668-2329

Dec 12 Meeting, Middleburg Heights Rec. Center

This is a good occasion for a small holiday party. Please bring a small dish to share. Contact Sue to coordinate dishes.

Sue Strumbel sstrumbe@mail.doc.gov 216-741-4405

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Jan 6 Rolling Sessions Begin, Orange High School

See description/directions [Pool](#) [Roll Sessions](#)

and check the newsletter for possibly revised dates.

Dave Donnellan H20Fiend@aol.com 216-291-1686

Jan 6, 13, 20, whatever Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

The usual plan: meet at the 422 bridge at 10 AM. Call for river conditions.

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com 330-NOT A FAX

Jan 9 Meeting, Middleburg Heights Rec. Center

[Map to Middleburg Rec center](#)

See newsletter for program announcement.

Feb 24/25, 2001 – yes, 2001! Niagara Gorge Hike, NY

IMPORTANT!!!

If your address label indicates that you have not paid your dues, drop everything and do it today. You can use the application on the last page of the newsletter or just tell me about any changes. E-mail: keelhauler@prodigy.net. This year we will again be indicating your paddling interests in the yearbook. If you haven't indicated interest on your application be sure to drop me a note with your dues check for \$15. Remember after January 1st the dues are \$20/year. Also make

sure you list your preferred E-Mail address.

Send check to:

Keel Haulers Canoe Club

1649 Allen Dr

Westlake, OH 44145-2506

Keel Haulers Canoe Club **November 14, 2000 Meeting** **Minutes**

- Rob Hammond opened the Keel Hauler's November meeting on 11/14/00 at 7:30 pm.
- New Members / Guests
 - One new member was in attendance: Steve Lowry, who is a new paddler.
 - One guest was in attendance: Victor Reichman, who is interested in outrigger canoeing.
- Officer Reports
 - Treasurer's report: Pam Poljak has entered the transactions for the last two years to obtain a balance for the treasury of \$3562.72. Once she has categorized expenses, a budget will be presented.
 - Secretary's report: The assembly voted to accept October meeting minutes as posted in the newsletter.
- Chair Reports
 - Canoe Sailing – no report.
 - Sea Kayaking – no report.
 - Conservation: Matt Muir
- AWA wants paddlers to write letters to oppose the erection of a dam on Daddy's Creek. Details are on AWA's website. Information will be posted on KH website.
- A temporary dam was constructed on the Cuyahoga for bridge repairs, requiring paddlers to portage around this obstruction.
- Instruction: Steve Ingalls
- American Red Cross (ARC) Fundamentals of Kayaking classes and roll sessions will be offered during January, February,

and March. Details are on the KH website.

- Library: Mike Duvall obtained the collection 11/14/00.
- Membership: John Kobak
 - There are 397 members in the club, an all-time high. 191 members are paid.
- Programming: Judi Cleary
 - The meeting location is not determined for the coming year. It is possible to continue having it at the Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, but there are some logistic details which remain to be worked out. Judi is investigating alternate locations.
 - The annual auction will be held in February this year to accommodate other programs / speakers which are being planned for the spring.
- Safety: Chuck Singer
 - Falls account for 14,000 deaths each year, the second leading cause of accidental death, following only auto accidents. The incidence of death by falls is increasing.
 - Chuck offered the following advice: Be careful when walking at put-ins and take-outs. Round, slippery rocks can cause falls. Climbing on walls or gorges can be hazardous.
- Old Business
 - Electronic Newsletter To Begin Soon
 - Initially, members with email will receive both electronic and hard copies. Eventually, members can elect to receive only electronic copy, which will save significant printing and postage costs.
 - The electronic newsletter must be viewed with Acrobat, which can be downloaded for free from the internet. A link to the download site is posted on the KH website.
 - Club members without email will still receive a hard copy of the newsletter each month.

- New Business
- Email Policy
 - Ron Tomallo with help from Matt Muir will define an email policy to protect club members' privacy.
- Dues Increase to \$20 per year per member.
 - Rob Hammond opened discussion regarding raising dues. Many members spoke in favor.
 - John Kobak moved to vote, Judi Cleary seconded, and the assembly voted unanimously to approve the increase in dues by \$5 per year to a total of \$20 per year per member as of January 1st 2001.
- Sales of Fleece Jackets with Embroidered Club Logo
 - John Kobak polled the assembly for interest in purchasing fleece jackets with an embroidered club logo. Group discounts are available.
- The meeting was adjourned.

Club Meeting Location

By Judi Cleary, Program Chair

The club has returned to its former meeting location at the new and greatly improved Middleburg Heights Recreation Center. The facility is a much larger, newer complex and we have been holding our meetings in one of the class rooms for the last few months. In addition to the modern and comfortable surroundings, other things have changed (ie. there is a \$40 per night charge for the room and there is no guarantee we can book it for each meeting night, ie we will need to have some alternate locations identified). So this is an appropriate time to review and discuss if we want to change where we hold our meetings (Sept - May).

Below are a few suggested options for consideration. We will discuss these alternatives at the next club meeting (Dec 12), which will be held at Middleburg Hts. and vote on it in the January meeting. If you want to provide input on this subject, be sure to attend, or convey your opinion to a club officer prior to the meeting date. Please feel free to suggest other viable options. The following are being offered to start discussion, but should not be

considered our only options. Things to consider are: cost, location, availability.

Option A: Keep the meeting location at Middleburg Hts Rec Center. Cost is \$40. per two hour meeting (7:30-9:30pm). We need to leave the room by 9:30. Facilities (AV etc) are excellent. This option will require closer communication with facility administrator (as they will only reserve a couple months at a time) and there is no guarantee of the room each month (but we really don't know yet if this will be a problem). If we choose this option, we would proceed with the understanding that if there are frequent times when we cannot get the room, that we would reconsider other options.

Option B: Choose a new location - centrally located to the club membership. We would look for a recreation center, library, or other suggested locale.

Option C: Choose two (or three) locations and alternate meetings between the two. Presumably, one more western and one more eastern (and also southern?). Presumably Middleburg Hts could be the more western location? Also keep in mind, that most/all of the library locations we used last year, required that we be out by 9pm, and noise from the meetings was problematic. We will be discussing this for the next 2 months, so voice your opinions at the meeting or by sending email to Rob Hammond (bhammond@tycoint.com) or any of the other club officers.

Voicemail System to be Disconnected

At the October meeting a decision was made to disconnect the Club's voicemail system. After seven years of operation, the system hasn't been getting enough use lately to justify the annual expense of \$144. The system will be disconnected December 12. For trip and meeting information, please refer to the yearbook, the newsletters, and the Club's Web site at www.keelhauler.org

E-KaNews Rollout by Rob Hammond

The roll out of the Keel Haulers Electronic Newsletter is here! The first official E KaNews is the December 2000 issue. We had a rollout using the November

Newsletter as a trial distribution to iron out any bugs, as well as to let our members with email know about the service, and how to use it. If we do not have your email address, or you would like to update it, then send a message to John Kobak our membership chair at: keelhauler@prodigy.net.

The newsletter will be stored on our website, a monthly email message will have a hot link to it, so all you have to do is click on the link, and it will bring it up in your web browser. The Newsletter will be stored as an Acrobat PDF file. This means that you will need the free Acrobat reader, to view the newsletter. Using this format will get rid of all of the compatibility problems that we would have using different versions of word processors or editors, and also lets us use color photos. The Acrobat reader is used widely on the internet, if you don't have a copy, you can download it free by going to their website: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

If you have the reader and would like to see the December issue of the newsletter click on this link to our web site: <http://pages.prodigy.net/keelhauler/khcc/Dec00.pdf>

We wanted to go electronic for 3 reasons.

1. To save money on postage.
2. To get the newsletter to our diehard readers sooner.
3. A side benefit that we did not expect, is that the quality of the product is much better. The pictures are clear and in color, the email and Web address are active so all you have to do is click them to use them.

What will happen to our mail KaNews?

One of the first questions I get about the E-KaNews is, will we stop mailing out the newsletter? The answer is no, if you want your newsletter mailed, then that's what we will do. However, in the next 6 months we will ask people to drop their mail KaNews for E-KaNews, if they are happy with receiving their newsletter electronically. This is to save money, one of our biggest club expenses is the postage. If we don't spend the money on postage, it frees up the money to be spent on other things that are

important to the club. Every Newsletter costs 33 cents to mail to every member every month, next year it will be 34 cents. When you add up 34 cents for 12 months it comes out to over \$4.00 per member per year. And when you multiply that times almost 400 members, it starts to add up to money, and I think we can all agree, that money could be more usefully spent. So try it out and see how you like it!

Email Policy

Now that we are going to start using email more, I want to have a policy on how we use email. I have asked Ron Tomallo our Vice President to create a policy that will guide us on how we use our email list, and who may use the list. He will work with Matt Muir in creating a policy to make sure that our email list is protected from SPAMers who would use the list to fill our electronic mail boxes with junk mail. If you have any input about this policy, or comments on the new E-KaNews, please bring them up at our next meeting or send me your comments by email at: robhammond@earthlink.net

Donate a Boat and Get a Tax Deduction

The Red Cross Kayak Instructional program is in need of used kayaks. We are looking for plastic boats with large cockpits. If you are willing to donate your used boat, please contact Steve Ingalls at 216-371-8250 or sti@po.cwru.edu. Your donation may be tax deductible. Please, Plastic Boats Only, no Fiberglass.

Something Completely Different *By Matt Muir*

Decisions, decisions...I could run up Nawth and hit Moose Fest for the fourth consecutive year. Or, I could go for something different: I could head south.

When my schedule said that I wouldn't be taking Friday off, that meant that nobody would be available to drive with me. Staring at the 7+-hour drive to Fowlersville, I seriously considered heading south instead. I emailed people, asking for: 1) directions, and b) a trusted guide.

I got my directions, and I got confirmation that one Hank Zachary would be there. It would be less than 7 hours, most likely, and I could run the Gauley on Sunday,

making the drive home tolerable. It was decided.

With tears welling in my eyes, I emailed Kobak with my decision. "You're missing the chance to accumulate Kobak Points," he bitterly chided me, "to the point where you're falling behind Elliott." 'Tis true; I haven't earned a Kobak Point since June or July. But the logistics were better for heading south. And South I headed—to the Russell Fork.

Slicing through the mountains in Breaks Interstate Park, at the Virginia / Kentucky border, the Russell Fork is one of the premier advanced runs in the East. Steep and technical and strewn with undercuts, this run is not for sissies. It is one of the more dangerous rivers that I've considered running. Over the years, I've read a few death reports saying, "he had run the river dozens of times without incident, but a small mistake caused him to flip right above the undercut." Yes, I was nervous. But Hank, a friend of Honorary Keelhauler Ken Strickland, assured me that he had safe lines at the most dangerous rapids.

When I emailed Ken, I was delighted to read that he'd be coming, too. Slowly recuperating from a shoulder injury, he wouldn't be running the Russell; he'd just be coming along for the ride...and the party.

The Party. Oh, yes. This isn't a Gauley Fest place. At the Russell Fork Rendezvous (a week prior to my visit), the atmosphere is said to include "a bunch of hippie types getting' nekkid and dancing by the campfire." Well. Ain't gonna have nobody getting nekkid up there in the frigid Adirondacks, that's for shore! The atmosphere on a non-Rendezvous weekend would be less intense, but still rather...shall we say...informal.

I also had contact with TRPC'ers Craig Wood and Dave Woten. Like me, they'd be Russell Virgins, gratefully (if not gracefully) following Hank and whoever else might be able and willing to help out.

The drive down was uneventful. The directions are easy. It took me less than 6½ hours to get there. Camping is right at the takeout. The gorge, from that spot, is beautiful. Just downstream, a canyon wall rises a few hundred vertical feet. The fall colors were only beginning; up North, they were raging. I hunkered down with a couple of cold ones and hung out at someone's campfire. Sometime after dark, there was a tap on my shoulder. My buddy

Ken was there, all decked out in an old-man Halloween mask. (I guess he wanted to do what he could to mitigate the pain I felt from not having Kobak with me.) We sat and talked. And talked.

Everyone, including Hank, assured me that I would do fine. "Don't believe the hype," proclaimed one boater. If I hadn't been sure I'd reach the takeout still breathing, I wouldn't have been there. Still, the assurances were appreciated. The assurances said, in essence, that Fist has an easy sneak that will keep you away from the Mother of All Undercuts, and that Maze is an easy rapid, which has a good line to avoid the undercut. Other rapids, like El Horrendo, Climax, and Trippple Drop, aren't easy, but they're not complete killers.

Continuing with the campfire, Ken and I met the daughter of the land on which we were camping. She seemed intent on sharing her electric blanket with a paddler, but Ken and I both told her that we were spoken for. We were polite, in view of the fact that her father is really very generous in allowing us to camp on his property (despite the prominent "no camping" signs).

The next morning, when I awoke, Ken and the others suggested that they should've checked my tent to make sure that I'd been alone. I showed them that neither of my arms had been chewed off, and that seemed to convince them.

It was morning when Dave and Craig showed up. No hurry; the water doesn't dribble into the putin until 11:30 or thenabouts. That's a good thing, because Hank is one of those paddlers who operate by a rather relaxed schedule. With two runs planned, we got to the putin at noon. Ken and Hank's friend, Todd, was also along. Some of us Keel-haulers had met him last year on the Gauley. In the winter, I read that he ran the Upper Gauley at 25,000 cfs...solo! He got set to run the Russell...wearing a latex Halloween Death Mask. (Ken had offered me the use of his Ole Man Mask, but—call me a weenie—I kinda wanted a good view of the rapids for my first run.

The river begins with some easy no-name rapids. The first rapid of note is Tower. Listed in AW's river database as a 5.0, but Ken considered it more a Class IV. He was interested in my opinion.

Urp. In my fragile emotional state, staring at a river that had the potential to spank me

but good, I felt in no condition to evaluate rapids. “Boof right,” Hank told me, “about three feet from the rock...after that, deal with it!”

Soon thereafter is Fist, with its notorious undercut. Small mistakes there have simply killed strong, skilled boaters. We took the “Fire Exit” sneak on the right, nowhere near the hint of an undercut. Hank is a good boater, and a bit of a wild man who continues to run Sunshine on the Green Narrows, despite the fact that it once destroyed his boat and seriously injured him. If he’s sneaking Fist, I am. Dave and Craig were right along us.

Not long after Fist is Maze. This is the site of the other undercut. The undercut is at the bottom end of a rather large eddy; as long as you boof into the edge of the eddy, you’re not even close. Craig did roll at that boof—not where I’d like to be talking to the fishes!

Trippple Drop follows Maze. It begins with a river-wide ledge. “If you get surfed in the hole, hang in there. You won’t get out under your own power, but someone on shore will grab your bow and pull you out.” Yikes. Sounds nasty, but we all cleaned that drop and the other two.

Soon thereafter comes El Horrendo, which involves a steep fall into one of the ugliest holes you’ve ever seen. Word is, if you get out and take a look at it, you won’t want to run it. So we ran it on Hank’s description alone.

I looked down into the Maw. I thought, “this is not going to end well.” I got hit by some stuff from the right, stuck in the hole for a short moment, and flipped. I’d been told that getting flipped under those conditions would send me under an overhanging ledge, about a foot above the water. In that case, I’d have to hang out until my boat dribbled out the other side of the ledge. Like a good boy, I waited until it was clear, then rolled up and recognized that I’d just provided amusement for a couple dozen spectators. Dave, I believe, ran that rapid upright; Craig didn’t, but he rolled up before the ledge.

There are other rapids in there, including one called “Sixteen Stitches,” which is a fun fast, curling Class IV. The final rapid is Climax.

Climax is a steep falls into a very shallow spot. The beta on this one is: don’t flip at or near the top, or you’ll be donating skin, and possibly tooth enamel, to the riverbed.

At the bottom, if the hole flips you, no biggie. I ran it, the hole flipped me, I rolled up...no biggie. Craig: same thing. Dave ran it and got stopped by the hole. People were yelling and gesticulating, trying to convince him to flip, as that’s the easiest way out of that BadBoy. Dave didn’t understand; he thought he was kept for good. So, without ever flipping, he pulled his skirt and swam on out.

When we finished the run, Dave and Craig decided they didn’t need a second run, so they drove back to Pittsburgh. They drove—what? 700 miles?—for 3.8 miles of whitewater. Noooo comment.

For our second run, we were on Hank Time once again. He wanted some lunch (fair enough) and to “git good-n drunk.” (ummm...) He said it would take 30 minutes. (“That means an hour,” I noted.)

The delay turned out to be longer. We began running shuttle in reasonable Hank Time, but a ranger at the putin road denied us access.

The ranger told us that there was a rescue in progress, and emergency vehicles would need exclusive access to the dirt road. After much discussion, we shouldered our boats. We were soon in luck, as a truck that was exiting the river access area offered to drive us to the putin.

Without the handholding I’d received on my first run, my lines were less precise. This was most notable at Trippple Drop, where I got a little right at the second drop. I saw everyone hanging in the eddy before the third ledge, but from where I was, I didn’t think that eddy was in my future, so I motioned my intentions to the Boyz and continued on.

Well. I entered the third drop about eight feet right of the recommended spot, and found the converging Flow of Flows. The water took me and my high-volume Phatt and sent me down for my first and best Mystery Move.

The water was swirling all around me. I had no clue of how close I might be to the surface, or of when I might find it. The thought of a dangerous pin occurred to me, but since no such dire warning had come my way, I wasn’t ready to freak out. After a long five seconds, I emerged (upright!) 20 feet downstream. I saw the hole in front of me. I wish I could tell you that I had the presence of mind to punch that suckah and remain upright...but that wasn’t in the cards. I flipped and rolled up. Pulled into

the eddy next to where they were all working on the unfortunate paddler who’d needed resuscitation.

As it turned out, he would be okay. He’d flipped in the eddy above the undercut in Maze, rolled up, but not quickly enough to be sucked under. He’d emerged unconscious; five minutes of rescue breathing got him breathing on his own. He was eventually ferried across the river and carried to a waiting railroad car, which helped get him to the hospital, where he was released the following day. Whew!

(The following weekend, a paddler got into the Fist Undercut, also requiring rescue breathing. This can serve as a reminder to all paddlers: is your CPR current? We don’t all paddle the Russell Fork, but there are dangers on many rivers that we routinely paddle.)

The drive to the Gauley was four hours. I got in at 10 PM in the evening. Finding Ron Whitney and Sue Strumbel’s campsite was no trouble...but I was disappointed to find that they’d sacked in for the night. I talked with them a bit through their tent door, but they weren’t getting up. I’d see them in the morning.

Sue just keeps looking better on the Gauley. She flipped in Pillow, Iron Ring, and Sweet’s, but rolled up immediately each time. She had a great long-term surf in the wave near the putin, and with few other paddlers on the river, she grabbed a few good surfs at Insignificant. When we weren’t concentrating on our own lines through the rapids, Sue and I generally watched Ron as he wavewheeled and splatted his way down the river. The dood knows how to have fun.

Ron and Sue paid their \$5 bucks to the WVRC shuttle bus and loaded their boats. Feeling like an idiot, I couldn’t let my macho self-image down. I set up to shoulder my boat. As long as their boats were taking the Fun Ride up, though, I put my throwbag and some other extraneous equipment in their boats. No sense making the hike unduly burdensome.

I checked my watch: 12:40:14. I started walking. I kept walking. I sweated. I cursed my macho stupidity. I put one foot in front of the other. When I finally got to the field above and dropped my boat on the ground, I re-checked my watch: 12:54:27. Whoa, Momma! At just over 14 minutes, that was a new personal best! Gib McGill might’ve beaten me in the Ohiopyle Falls

Race...but I defy him to make that climb in under 20 minutes—with or sans throwbag!

RED CROSS CLASSES

REGISTRATION

TO ENROLL, register by phone (216)431-3076 using Visa, Mastercard, or American Express. All courses must be prepaid.

QUESTIONS

For information about classes, help with registration, updated class offerings, or any other related questions, call a kayak instructor at (216) 381-0599, or a canoe instructor at (216) 371-8250.

ROLL SESSIONS

Learn and perfect your roll. Sign up for one or more sessions. In order to maintain low student to teacher ratios, enrollment is limited. All equipment is provided at no additional fee. Bring a swim suit and towel.

Pre-registration and scheduling must be done prior to the course through the Red Cross. Sessions at Newman's are \$10 per hour. Sessions at Cuyahoga Community College are \$20 per night.

February 5, 2001

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Metro Campus swimming pool in downtown Cleveland 6-9 pm.

February 12, 2001

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Metro Campus swimming pool in downtown Cleveland 6-9 pm.

March 19, 2001

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Metro Campus swimming pool in downtown Cleveland 6-9 pm.

March 26, 2001

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Metro Campus swimming pool in downtown Cleveland 6-9 pm.

ADDITIONAL DATES AND LOCATIONS

will be added throughout the winter. Classes are anticipated at Cleveland, and Solon. Call an instructor for details.

FUNDAMENTALS OF KAYAKING

This course is designed to introduce students without previous kayaking experience to basic paddling, rescue, and kayaking skills necessary for safe kayaking on flat water. Select from

one of the classes listed below.
Course is \$95 per person

This class is a prerequisite to river and white water classes. This class overlaps somewhat with Fundamentals of Sea Kayaking.

January 2001

TWINSBURG RECREATION CENTER

This pool class is five weeks long, held from 6:00 pm to

8:30 pm. Registration for this class is handled separately. Please call an instructor for dates and registration information.

February 19, 26, March 5, & 12, 2001

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE POOL

Held at Cuyahoga Community College Metro Campus Swimming Pool in downtown Cleveland. Class is four weeks long, held from 6 pm to 9 pm.

February 24, March 3, & 10, 2001

ROCKY RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

This pool class is three weeks long, held from 12:30 pm to

4:30 pm. Registration for this class is handled separately. Please call an instructor for details.

ADDITIONAL DATES AND LOCATIONS

will be added throughout the winter.

Classes are anticipated at Lakewood, Rocky River, Cleveland, Brookpark, and an east side location. Call an instructor for details.