



Keel-Hauler's KaNews

May 2002

Newsletter Deadline - May 26

Trip leaders: Please send any new plans and/or trip information to the newsletter editor in time for the newsletter that precedes your trip.
- Thank You

Trip Participants: Please see the yearbook or the keel-haulers web site www.keelhauler.org for details on the following scheduled trips. And be sure to contact the trip leader to indicate you are planning to participate.

May 14 Meeting: Middleburg Hts Community Center, 7:30 PM

Program: Multi-media extravaganza of the Grand Canyon Trip of August 2001 by Mark & Pam Poljak - This time for sure!!!

Note: Chuck Singer's talk on Brazil and Venezuela will be held at the September 2002 meeting.

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Jim Hunt arranged for the cake!

Keel-Hauler Club celebrates 35 years..... at the April meeting many members, the newer and the older, turned out to celebrate, reminisce and generally just have a great time. There were a selection of old yearbooks, newsletters and club T-shirts to take a look at.



(left) Terry Markoff, (back group) Ron Tomallo, Thury O'connor Jerry Zeman, Ed Berneike, (right) Fred Oswald

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May Trip Schedule

3-5 Upper Yough & Cheat Festival, WV (18/23/26/31)

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

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

4-5 Forks of the Cheat, WV (III-IV)

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

11-12 Forks of the Cheat, WV (III-IV)

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

11-12 Middle Fork & Tygart, WV (29/28)

Pam & Mark Poljak pamela.poljak@grc.nasa.gov 440-238-1751

11 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

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

17-19 Dog River (25-30)

Joe Okoniewski runningwave@hotmail.com 231-546-3374

18 Lower Cuyahoga, OH (6) River Day

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

18,19 N Branch Potomac (18)

Mark Cytron mcytron@msn.com 216 227 1392

18-19 Cheat Canyon, WV (26)

Jim Hunt jfhunt@mcdermott.com 330-335-5203

18-19 Lower Yough PA (12/23)

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

25 - June 3 West Virginia Rivers(19-33)

Brent Laubaugh brent@vzavenue.net 215-922-7178

25 - 27 Cheat Canyon (26)

Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu 216-371-8250 (h),

31-June 1 Upper Yough, MD (32)

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

Summer Months Cheat Canyon, WV (26)

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

June

1-2 Lower Yough, PA (24) or Cheat Forks, WV (19-26)

Paula Norris pnorris@moen.com 216-556-0105

4, 18, 25 Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

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

8-9 Cheat Canyon (26)

Anne Kmieck akmie@hawken.edu 216-371-8250

9 Lower Cuyahoga, OH (6)

Karen Daniels karenkayaks@yahoo.com 440-458-5972

KEELHAULERS MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was held on April 9, 2002 at the Middleburg Heights hall. Thirty-seven people were in attendance with three new members – welcome to Dave, Mark, and Gordon.

Treasury report – there is \$6,023.417 in our account. **Minutes** from the previous meeting were accepted and passed.

Chair reports:

Sea kayaking – Jill Lauren – we are looking for a new chairperson. Any volunteers?

Conservation – Matt Muir –Cuyahoga River day is May 18, join us for a clean up river trip. See the **web page** for more details. The yearbook has incorrect information.

Instruction - Steve Ingalls – see the web page for Red Cross canoe and kayak lessons.

Library – Mike Duvall – Nothing to report.

Membership – John Kobak – We have 338 paid members with 16 new signups.

Safety – Chuck Singer –
VENOMOUS SNAKE BITE

1. Allow to bleed for 30 seconds
 2. Wrap limb with ACE bandage if applicable (between bite and heart) as tight as if for a sprain.
 3. Use extractor if available.
 4. If possible, keep bite at heart level
 5. Go to nearest hospital as soon as possible.
 6. Identify snake if safe to do so.
- DON'T DO!

1. Don't remove the ace bandage until the hospital OK's it.
2. Don't eat or drink anything including alcohol
3. Don't engage in strenuous physical activity
4. Don't use oral suction
5. Don't cut into the fang marks
6. No hot or cold packs
7. No tourniquets
8. No electric shock treatment

AVIOD BEING BITTEN

1. Don't touch snakes
2. Watch where you put your hands, feet, and butt

3. Sprint is when snakes are more active (hungry and sexy) so be alert.

Vermilion River Race – Hank Annable- It was cold! Hank asked if we would consider donating a monetary gift (\$50 – 100) to the park. The motion was passed via vote.

Old Business – Westlife and the Morning Journal had articles about the race.

New Business – The Cheat River clinic is the 26th and 27th if there is enough interest. Race entry fee is \$20 and includes a tee shirt, the race, beer, the shuttle, more beer, and admission to Cheatfest.

Trip Reports: There was a Big Sandy race on Saturday. Southern Rivers trip was warm with good water levels on the Norachuckee, Ocoee, Chattanooga, Little River, and Daddy's Creek.

Wetdawg paddling news (<http://www.wetdawg.com>) has stories on Sea Kayaking, Capsize recoveries and rescue procedures video, and information on paddlers wanted for first descent trip to Tibet's Kyi Chi (Lhasa River) headwaters and the Raka Tsangpo (tributaries of Yariung Tsangpo). See website for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Evening Program: The slide show of the Grand Canyon trip was postponed due to equipment failure. It was rescheduled to the May meeting.

At the meeting, Ron Tomallo read a letter that the club received from the

Western Reserve Rowing

Foundation asking if our club was interested in using or in helping to build a boathouse/recreation center in the flats. The members present felt that the club would not get enough use from such a facility to support it. However, if any individual members are interested, please contact Karen Daniels who has the letter and contact information.

ACA Adaptive Paddling Training Course Opportunity

June 20-23, 2002,
Hinckley Lake and U. of Akron
Natatorium

This is to let all instructors in Red Cross, ACA, and other school, agency, camp, or recreational paddling programs know about a training opportunity in the Ohio-Penn Division. Tina Robbins, certified ACA Adaptive Paddling Instructor, and Scott LeBlanc, adaptive equipment designer and director of Wheelchair Sports at Warm Springs Rehab Center, will be conducting a training to assist instructors in incorporating persons with disabilities into their paddling instructional courses. Instructors will learn ADA requirements, how to adapt boats and equipment and instructional techniques to meet the needs of persons with disabilities who want to learn to paddle as a sport or recreational activity. Please post this or copy as many copies as you wish and pass this information along to instructors who may be interested. The course is sponsored by the Ohio Penn Division of ACA and Highland Local Schools, with the cooperation of Cleveland Metroparks and the University of Akron. It is funded by grants from ODNR, Division of Watercraft and MEOSERRC, and is an ACA endorsement to be added to any instructional certifications currently held by the workshop participant.

This is the only course of its type offered in Ohio and several surrounding states.

Registrations may be sent to Elaine Mravetz. For additional information, please contact Elaine Mravetz at (330) 239-1725 or e-mail at rmravet@uakron.edu

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27th Annual Southern Trip

By Elliott Drysdale

As perennial as the spring flowers, John Kobak's Southern River Trip is taken to awaken dormant paddling skills. The promise of warm weather and different rivers calls us from our winter slumbers. This year, because John was vacationing in his RV down south, I agreed to handle the telephone calls and coordination before the trip. People come and go during this trip due to work schedules. The people who did show during this trip were Bill and Jonathan Bachtel, Dave Becker, Judi Cleary and Kristen Haase, Scott Debalski, Elliott Drysdale, Michael Duvall, Boris Glick, Rob Hammond, Scott Jaynes, John Kobak, Stu Koster, John Legg, Dan Lichty, Terry Markoff, Joe Okoniewski, Chuck Singer, John Smoltz, Cecil Tickamyer and Bob Weible.

Nolichucky

We meet at the campground Thursday night located in Erwin, TN at the take out. While the location is perfect with hot showers, the cost of \$8.00 plus tax per person was high. For the first time since I can remember, the weather was warm and the water level perfect for a class III run. When we finished, we stayed a second night, despite the high cost, to enjoy the warm evening, showers and let any late comers catch up. The water level was good at 1250 cfs and for a change the temperature was over 70.

Group did well and Jaws was at a great play level.

Tellico

Early Saturday morning we loosely caravaned to the Tellico River, allowing people to tank up with fuel and ice on the way. Scott Jaynes had a cell phone web browser to update all the river levels as we went. We got a lot of rain south of us which brought the Tellico up to 1100cfs, a high level for our group. Only spoiled by the dark and drizzly weather. The hot dog boaters ran the ledges, Baby Falls, Jerod's Knee and the lower while the others ran only the lower. There was enough water to make several drops on the lower interesting. We all meet at the lower

take out and drove to the customary Mexican restaurant in Copper Hill. After a warm and filling dinner we all drove to the Ocoee river Thunder Rock campground.

Ocoee River

On Sunday morning, Dave Becker treated us to the traditional pancake breakfast along with his own maple syrup. It had rained all night so that the dam had to be turned down rather than up for the weekend paddling levels. It still was 50% above normal release levels. It is nice, however to have the river levels adjusted for paddlers. We had 18 people paddling, and for safety we broke up into buddy teams of 3 and 4. Scott Debalski, Dan Lichty and I went first and kept moving to stay warm. As it turned out, we finished at noon well ahead of everybody else. I wanted to paddle a new kayak (Super EZ) and now knew the condition of the water, so Scott and I ran it again and caught up with the original groups. From there we drove as the clouds broke up to the Talulah Gorge Campground.

Chattooga River, Section IV

Sunday night was warm with the promise of warm, sunny paddling the next day. John Kobak had driven ahead and negotiated 3 sites with unlimited number of cars for our group. Monday morning was sunny and warm and the Chattooga just below 2 feet. This is the best level we have had in years due to previous drought conditions. Scott, Boris, Stu, Bob Weible, Bill and Jonathan Bachtel and I tried to find the Chauga but gave up after we found some local paddlers who told us that it was still to low. We caught up with John Kobak, Mike Duvall and Dave Becker who were running Section 4. Singer led a group down the Section 3. We all took the sneak route down Woodall Shoals. Everybody ran perfectly at Seven Foot Falls, except Mike Duvall. He pointed over the drop and pirouetted the bottom hole right into the wall but got out without a scratch. At Five Falls everybody ran the first drop without incidence. Cork Screw was juicy, as always. Mike Duvall hiked the right side to be a safety while Dave Becker volunteered to run it first without safety

to set up the first throw rope. John Kobak got into his boat and waited in case Dave got into trouble. Dave got cork screwed in the top hole and flipped in the bottom hole. To our surprise, he lost his paddle and had to swim. John, who was calmly waiting above was whistled into action. He could not see what happened to Dave nor why, but charged ahead and ran the best line of the day. By the time he got to Dave, he had self-rescued and all was well. For the first time Jonathan Bachtel, who shows signs of greatness, showed signs of concern when he asked his Dad if it was all right to go then. He ran it perfectly. After asking several local paddlers several times, we ran the center crack of Crack in the Rock. This used to be a bad place but time and water level now make it the preferred route. Everyone ran Jawbone perfectly. We all got out to scout Sock'em Dog. Scott, Jonathan and I ran the Puppy Chute while Bob Weible and Boris ran the launch pad. I should state that Boris ran right of the launch pad and did a beautiful mystery move while Bob boofed the bottom hole. All the rest walked. The 2-mile paddle across the lake was led by the racing trio of Bill Bachtel, Rob Hammond and John Kobak. We spent a second warm dry night at the Talulah Campground. Dave Becker was leaving the trip for business but unfortunately was a little brain dead when he got off the river. His boat with his car keys got loaded on to my van and he got to put-in with his car, sans boat or car keys. Made for a little longer shuttle.

Chattooga River, Section III

(From Judi Cleary) The group who paddled had a very enjoyable, if not long, day. Was section III always that long? The group consisted of Joe Okoniewski, Terry Markoff, Scott Jaynes, RJ, Chuck Singer, Judi Cleary, and Kristen Haase. Kristen's first real white water river found her going over the blind drop at Second Ledge with ease. We had lunch right after that drop and Joe took that opportunity to try out his new hand paddle gloves. Chuck was the only one to run Bull Sluice. The only other boat we saw that day was one raft that was out for an overnigher.



Kristen Haase at Second Ledge



Terry Markoff at Dick's Creek



Joe Okoniewski at Dick's Creek



Chuck Singer at Bull Sluice

Little River

The next morning John Kobak and Mike Duvall left for home while the remaining group drove to the Little River in the Smoky Mountains. The level was at 1600 c.f.s vs. 2000 c.f.s., 2 years ago. Again a perfect level. There is several Class IV drops before the Sinks. Directly above the Sinks, there are 2 pour-over holes. The second hole looks nasty

making the top hole more challenging. Having seen this before I ran the sneak drops over the ledges on river right. Some ran the top hole and sneaked the second. The Sinks is a 15' rock slide on the right and a falls on the left. Everybody ran the rock slide but when 2 locals, Randy and Josh, ran the falls, Boris and Jonathan carried back up and ran it. The bottom 2 miles of the river are Class III and IV. At the Elbow the locals decided to skip it but Boris studied until he knew he could do it. He flipped before the undercut and flushed partially under it but came out smiling. We all went to the local BBQ spot the Randy recommended. There after we drove to the Daddy's Creek.



Stu Koster running the Sinks on the Little River

Daddy's Creek

Frozen Head Campground is closed due to TN budget constraints. We went to the Nemo campground instead, located at Nemo Bridge in the park itself. This cuts off about 20 miles on the morning shuttle. Having taken the trip leadership from John, I managed to fit 6 vans into one \$7.00 camp spot. You can not believe how many time we asked if Daddy's Creek was out of hunting season. We were more concerned about that than the water level. Wednesday morning it was in the 40's and drizzling. The locals, Randy and Josh, we had met yesterday agreed to meet us at the put in. Daddy's Creek

was running again, at a perfect 2 feet. Joe had some trouble at the beginning due mostly to previous problems on Daddy's Creek, but continued on and dramatically improved with each rapid. We were back at Nemo campground by 1:30 p.m.

Scott and I decided to return home while the rest of the group continued on the Big South Fork.

Big South Fork

(from Rob Hammond) The next night we camped at the Big Fork Campground, the site was very nice with great hot showers. That night the temperature dropped down into the 30s. After days in the 70s this was a little tough to get used to. So the next morning the thought of getting into our wet and very cold boating gear kinda slowed us down. The 8:00 shuttle time went and gone, at 9:00 we still weren't motivated to jump into the wet gear. Fortunately the sun came out and we did get our show on the road. The river was great and the sun warmed everything to make for a great day of paddling. The Big South Fork is scenic class III river with rapids that go by the names of: The Ell, Washing Machine Double Falls, Jake's Hole and a few others.



GRAND CANYON 2001

By Richard Dabal, SBRG

August 8, 2001, Wednesday and we're in Lee's Ferry, Arizona. We arrived the day before to set up for a private 18-day trip through the Grand Canyon. There were 16 of us; we were from New Jersey, Ohio, and Germany. We had three rafts carrying all the gear. So that gave us a complement of three BOATMEN, two folks "shreddin" and 11 kayakers. Several folks were on the Canyon for the first time and on their first long term camping trip. Soooo...my thoughts were there should be some good moments on this trip.

August is the monsoon/rainy season in Arizona and we drove from Flagstaff to Lees' with a mix of sun and clouds the previous day. That night there was some rain but no down pours. The following morning we went through the mandatory ID, equipment and orientation video checks and viewing from the NPS Rangers. Once that was completed we did the last second boat prep and shoved off. Before shoving off, I jumped into the water to "re-connect", to self-baptize myself in the water of the COLORADO. If you believe that line....keep reading there will be more. Another reason for jumping in was to see how long I could stay there. The water temperature is about 47 degrees. It was time to start getting used to the cold water.

Now I won't go into details on the campsites, camp-life, hikes, meals, etc., from this point on, I will dwell on what it felt like running the drops, big and small. This "trip report" may go into "Chapters" in length. So if a chapter ends just before we all run the Million Dollar drop then be patient and wait for the next issue of the newsletter.

So, here we are on the Grand, on Steve Ingalls' "Mid-Life Crisis" trip for 2001. Steve asked me to be Lead BOATMAN, the previous Spring for this time around. I felt honored by that, so with that honor??/responsibility I sat down at the oars and headed out in to the current. Now the next 18 days and 225 miles are ours to do what we will.

Some quick background on the BOATMEN. The BOATMEN were myself, Steve and Terry. Bob Wiley and I, back in '93 taught Steve how to handle a raft. He did well despite ending up broadside to the waves at Horn Creek and the hitting the hole in Dubendorf and rowed again in '96? Terry, a C-1er was rowing the third raft and no previous rafting experience. He had a lot of river experience C-1-ing, canoeing and kayaking. Today he starts learning how to work an 18 foot fully loaded raft in big water. Steve and I will show him the ropes and lines and prepare him for the transition to SBRG status.

Now some basics on the Grand...the rapids are rated on a one to ten scale. One being a no-name riffle to Lava Falls which on an "easy" day is 10 +. Fortunately there will be 180 miles and two weeks to build-up to running Lava. The entrances to the big drops are called ramps. One does not go down the tongue or V as is said back East. Tongue or V does not really describe the approach to these drops. Ramp is a good word to use. These ramps can be as wide as the river itself and you actually feel yourself going downhill and accelerating. If you have presence of mind to look upstream you actually see how much you drop. On these ramps you have to set yourself up for the "must make move" all the while the current is accelerating and pulling/pushing you to spots you don't want to be. Also add diagonal and straight head -on waves of increasing size and power getting in the way. All this happens on the approach to the big drops. If you are set up on the approach/ramp then you have a real good chance of getting through upright. If not you will get hammered and most likely flip. Please bear in mind one can be set up and well positioned and still get hammered and flip. The bottom line is you can be set up and looking good but the River God will do as he pleases with you. Put another way.... all bets are off when you go through some of this stuff.

The first of the rated drops, Badger, river mile 8 (rm) the flow was 13K cfs. The sun was shining, the water was green and we shore scouted this on

river left. The paddlers and the "shreddin crew" went to their own scout rock to get their lines. The BOATMEN, being they were BOATMEN picked the highest rock for the best view. Badger is pretty straightforward, start center on the ramp and then pull left of center to avoid an ugly big hole hidden in the waves. So (again) in respect to the phrases of the '93 trip.... Once Steve and I explained to Terry where to be, to go, to do I said, "Lets rock and roll". Once on the water drifting towards Badger the other immortal line from '93... "see you down below".

It felt good to pull on the oars again, to spin the boat, to see how responsive it would be. To stand up on top of the coolers and get a good final view of the line I wanted to run. It felt good to there. Praise ODEN and VULCAN !!!!!!!!!!! I am back!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

One wave caught me and I got some water but it felt good. Camp was right below on river left. End day one. And one big drop out of the way.

Next day was to be the last day of green water. For the next 16 days we would have brown water. We were told the Paria flashed flooded. We didn't see any hint of green water till the last two days on the river. On well. We did get Soap Creek, rm11.5, rated 5-6 in green water (and House Rock too) and ran it to the left side. Terry, the SBGR in training, was getting the hang of it. He was learning the meaning of "time the moves". Timing on big water is a very important skill and learning here will pay off two weeks from now.

We ran Sheer Wall, rated 2-5 down the center and easy ride. Now the first of the big drops was next. House Rock, rm17, rated 4-6. The flow was 13K. We watched another private trip run it and they were all getting pulled to river left into some big waves and holes. What makes House Rock tough is a line of rocks cuts off the ramp and you have no time to cut behind them to avoid the big stuff. Steve, Terry and I got the lines we needed. I went first. Pulling into the current I realized I would not make it past the line of rocks. I saw a gap in this line and spun the raft 180 and went backwards and floated right

into fast moving "swirly" water. I floated past the big stuff with my knees hooked over the oars. Steve and Terry made the move past the line of rocks; they were higher up in the eddy to start with. Both had a good run and Terry got a little too far river left and hit, and disappeared into the big hole at the bottom. The private trip mentioned earlier...they got hammered, no flips but they got nailed. Looking back on what I did it was good to see the reflexes were still there to make the moves. That is, when it became clear I wasn't going to make the first move, seeing the gap, and spinning the boat. Well all that took about two seconds to see, compute and do it. That's what I like about big water rafting.

The next sets of drops are referred to as the 20's because they are rm 20 – 29. Nice little drops. Mile 24 drop has a nasty little hole in it so be alert. We boat scouted these drops and floated through. Later that day the river turned chocolate milk brown. Remember the Paria statement earlier....The brown water isn't so bad, it's when the foam in the drops gets brown that is when it gets "interesting" With the brown foam you lose your depth perception. You don't know where the wave starts, ends, etc. Everything in the rapid is the same color.

The following days were good. It would rain in the late afternoons/early evening. Always in time for dinner. It was good to see the Canyon in a rain setting. We saw a lot of water falls coming off the Red Wall Limestone, low clouds swirling over the canyon walls and listening to the echoing thunder. It was another side of the Grand few folks see, and we were privileged to see this. So much for of that...Lets get back to the river...

President Harding Rapid, rm 43, rated 2 – 4. Harding is called the hardest rapid to screw-up. We went river left. The eddy behind the rock had an eddy wall at least two feet tall and extend a good 100 feet down stream. The sun was shinning that day and felt good, by the time we got to Nankoweap we shore scouted the entrance to Nankoweap Rapid, rm 52, rated 3 – 4, it's easy. We got the prime spot for camp at the

bottom of the drop and then the storm clouds came in. Perfect Timing. Being a SBRG has its perks, in that we know how to time the arrival at camps before the rains
END OF CHAPTER ONE.

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**One Flew off the
Jenkinsburg Bridge**
By: Robin Reporterwantabe

Good evening ladies and gentleman, I am Matthew Brinkley and this is the 6:00 news for Thursday March 28th. Our lead story today takes us to Albright West Virginia where a respected kayaker had an incident today, not just once but twice! Lets go to our intrepid reporter Robin Reporterwantabe on the Cheat River. Robin the whitewater boating community is abuzz with the news today, tell us what happened and what an extinct bird has to do with this.

Well Matt, it seems that Bob and Dade Drummond were out on the Cheat practicing for the Cheat race today. That's the down river race where individuals and local paddling club teams will face off against each other. The Keel Haulers did well last year and the Drummond's wanted to make sure that they would do their part to have the club continue its winning streak. Dade was showing his father some of the race lines that he uses with his Down River boat. Bob was in a Quest, not his usual boat, and he seemed a little unfamiliar with the performance of this boat from the 1970s. Dade kept telling him that you can't hang back with this boat, because if you slow down, the river will have it's way with you. With the river a little on the high side (4 feet), Bob paid little attention to the "whippersnapper's" advice and was very tentative.

Somewhere after Pin Ball, in a small no name rapid, Bob made a quick turn to avoid a small hole, unfortunately this long boat does not turn fast, and Bob found himself upside down in the hole. He immediately flushed out, and attempted a roll, but was unsuccessful. He tried again, this time using a good setup; head down, strong knee thrust,

but even with apparently good form, he still does not roll up. He tried three more times all without success. So he took the coward's way out and pulled the ripcord. With the small cockpit in this ancient boat, he struggled getting separated from the boat, and lost his sandal. Bob, known for his cheapness, swam out and collected this sandal, boat, paddle and started pushing his boat into an eddy for a self-rescue, but alas the powerful river would have none of that. Dade meantime was over a half mile down stream unaware of his father's dilemma. So Bob kept on pushing, first to one side of the river, than the other, all too no avail. About 15 minutes went by before Dade noticed the problem and paddled up to assist his Dad.

Dade was horrified. Unlike his father, who was not appreciating this fine specimen of early plastic boat engineering, Dade loved that boat, and never had a lick of trouble with it. Dade was concerned about the possible damage to the boat's rather brittle plastic. Bob, thinking he was now in good hands, let go of the Quest so that he could grab Dade's boat. Unfortunately Dade's first priority was saving his beloved Quest, and went after the boat. So Bob did all he could to swim to shore, which was difficult with his paddle in one hand and his sandal in the other hand. Eventually Bob made it to the riverbank and dragged his hypothermic body out of the cold water. Bob lay on the rocks for at least 20 minutes, trying to warm up, get his breath, and recover enough stamina to finish the river. Dade, after securing the Quest, was a little impatient. He expected this to be a quick run and left his dog tied up to his car at the put-in. However Dade remembered who was footing the bill for his WVU tuition, so he kept his thoughts private.

Bob upon recovering his breath and some level of stamina, returned to the river, but continued to ignore Dade's advice about having to aggressively paddle the Quest, had four more upside-down incidents during the rest of the trip. In rapids like High Falls and Particle Accelerator, where Bob could use the current to assist his roll, he made solid

rolls. However in another no name rapid Bob could not execute a roll while he was in a pool. He made 6 attempts, each one having good technique, but eventually gave up and went for the ripcord. This time to Bob's dismay, the ripcord, which seemed to be dry-rotted, managed to detach itself from the spray skirt, leaving the skirt intact and Bob a little flustered. Bob pushed himself out of the boat. But this time Bob's energy level was not very high, and he was aware of Dade's true allegiance. So Bob abandoned the boat and paddle, and swam, as hard as his depleted body would let him, to the riverbank. Knowing that the boat at least, was in good hands.

Dade, seeing his Father's distress over winning his second Albatross award in one day, pointed out that because of the outfitting in the boat knee thrusts are not effective, and you have to use a lot of hip in your hip snap. Many people have had trouble rolling the Quest. He went on to say that even he had trouble hand rolling the boat. I don't think Dade's comments consoled his father one bit!

Robin, tell us about this bird award. Matt, it seems that there is a small but growing group of Keel Haulers that take great delight in seeing their fellow boaters swim out of their boat. When that happens they award the hapless boater with the Albatross award. Robin, it sounds like these boaters are rather mean spirited. Matt, the boaters involved, call themselves the Albatross Society. They do admit to enjoying their fellow boaters adversity, however, they insist that swimming award is to inspire boater safety. They claim that boaters are almost always safer when they stay in their boats then when they swim. So Robin, their harassment is a tool to encourage their fellow boaters to make one more attempt to roll up, rather than take a swim? That's right Matt; they say that with few exceptions, such as an impending strainer, boaters are far safer when they stay in their boat, then when they are swimming in a river.

So Robin, I guess that means that Bob Drummond won't be using the Quest on the important Cheat Race? That's correct Matt, however, it seems that

Bob's bad luck did not end there. After dragging his sorry ass up the hill to his van, he found his tire was flat, and he managed to step on his glasses while he was changing the tire. The Quest was last seen being thrown off of the Jenkinsburg Bridge!"

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Dr. K Where are You?

By: Bob Drummond

If you are an Avid American Whitewater reader maybe you noticed that the column written by Dr. Kantgettenuff has been missing since the September issue. Back then the good doctor published a response to my letter telling me how to convince my wife to let me go to the Gauley Fest instead of her class reunion. Dr. K came through with a great plan (so I thought at he time). But since then we have not seen his witty and informative advice for the lovelorn. Maybe the Doc heard about my situation and thought that I might sue him for malpractice, and so he hit the road? If you see Dr. Kantgettenuff, please tell him that I forgive him and to call me. I desperately need his advice. Below is the letter I sent to his column. I hope that by publishing this, maybe he will see it, call me and help me out of my dilemma.

Dear Dr. Kantgettenuff

Bob Drummond here, and I desperately need your best advice, cause I am in such deep trouble, when I look up all I see are the belly's of alligators swimming around! I took your advice on getting me out of the wife's thirtieth class reunion to sneak off to the Gauley Festival. I must tell you good Doctor; your advice went even beyond your usual genius! However, an unanticipated situation arouse that will require an even higher level of your intellect to get my sorry ass out of the doghouse that it now resides in!

But let me start at the beginning, everything looked like it was going to your well-crafted plan. Two weeks before the G-Fest, I was humming the

ole high school Alma Mater just like you told me, and I was telling Pumpkin-Poo (that's the wife) how much I looked forward to seeing the ole gang. I even asked her if she had heard from her best High School friend Bertha Tootontruck (I hated that nosey, lard butted, specimen of an acne explosion)!

Dade, that's the son, and I even rehearsed our lines together. Everything was set, at the appointed hour, 2:45 am the night before the G fest, Dade makes the call, just like you told us to, Pumpkin-Poo answers the phone, Dade asks for me, she probes: why are you calling at this hour, just like you said she would? But he knows what to do, and tells her that he just needs to talk to me, just like you told us. I talk to him, we follow your script in every detail, and I tell him that I am mad as hell, but that I would leave right away to help him. Pumpkin-Poo asks what's going on, just like you said she would. And I tell her that it a father and son thing and not to worry, cause I have a buddy on the Morgantown Police Dept. I tell her that I will be stopping by the ATM to take out a \$1,000 to take care of "things", just like you told me. It was beautiful; everything went exactly like you said it would.

So I pick up my boat that I stashed at Ratt Boy's house, so Pumpkin-Poo doesn't see me leave with my boat. I pick up Dade on the way to Summersville and we have a great day on the Gauley. Then I get to the G Fest with that cool \$1,000 burning a hole in my pocket. Dade, well, he had to work at the Riversport both, if you can call selling cool gear at the G-Fest work! After copious quantities of beer, I found my self at a booth with the boat to die for! So I dicker with the dealer, and we finally settle on the boat, paddle, and a bunch of gear for \$1,000. I am in pig heaven, I could see me swapping ends and making all of my Keel Hauler Canoe Club buddies thinkin I was Eric Jackson! I go to hand the guy the thick wad of \$20s, and in a blink of an eye, it vanishes into thin air, and I hear this steely but familiar voice boom "I THINK NOT!!!" Oh man, I am soooo busted! Yeah, it was Pumpkin-Poo, and she was way, way beyond pissed off! She grabs

me by the ear, just like my Mom used to do, and drags me over to the Riversport booth, grabs Dade by the ear and drags us both out of the G-fest right past all of our buddies!!!

Dr. K, you forgot to mention to me that Pumpkin Poo wouldn't be able to sleep, so a couple of hours after I leave, she gets up and heads for Dade's apartment in Morgantown. Of course Dade was on the river with me, but Ben his roommate, didn't know about our little subterfuge, so he tells her that Dade and his Ole Man took off to the Gauley! Like I said, she was way beyond pissed off, she heads to the G-Feast as fast as her 4 wheels will take her. She gets to Summerville and one of their finest think that her rate of speed is in bad form. It seems that doing 120 in a 35 gets you "Do Not Pass Go" ride, right straight to the pokey! Did I say she was pissed? At this point she is volcanic! She made Mt. St. Helens, look like a case of heartburn! I don't know how she got out of jail, but I think the poor ole cops may have let her out to save their own sanity. They just couldn't take her caterwauling and clanging her tin cup on the cell bars any more! Besides, they were gonna need space for the drunken G-Festers.

Dr. K, I am doing hard time like you wouldn't believe, and I am not just talking about sharing a bed with Fido! No Doctor, sleeping in the doghouse isn't the hard part! When we got home, she makes Dade and me take our gear, and put it into a big pile. Then she gets the tractor out of the barn... oh doctor this is the hardest part; she revs that big ole diesel up, engages the roto-tiller, and then grinds everything, I mean, boats, paddles, river shoes, drysuits, EVERYTHING, is ground up into pieces no bigger than a rabbit turd! Oh Doctor, all of my gear

Page 8

sleeps with the worms!

Doctor K, please, please, please you gotta help me, I have even had to take her to the opera! And poor Dade, his life is so dreary now. He is under strict orders: prove that an x-boater from WVU can graduate in 4 years! Pumpkin-Poo has turned our life into a nightmare that would scare Steven King into writing kindergarten tales!

Bob Drumond,
King of his Dog House

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Vermilion Race 2002 Summary Report

Category Description	10/1/01-4/21/02
INCOME	
VermRaceIncome:	
Refreshment stand	164.70
Registration fees	676.00
TOTAL VermRaceIncome	840.70
EXPENSES	
VermRaceExpense:	
Awards	92.84
Copying	69.02
Insurance	224.00
Postage	68.00
Refreshments	103.62
VermRaceExpense-Other	144.92
TOTAL VermRaceExpense	702.40
RaceTOTAL INCOME -	138.30

INCOME

EXPENSES

FY02 2nd Quarter Report

1/1/02 - 3/31/02

Category Description	1/1/02-3/31/02
INCOME	
ConservationIncome	158.00
Deposit Refund	50.00
Dues	1440.00
Interest	18.62
VermRaceIncome:	
Refreshment stand	164.70
TOTAL VermRaceIncome	164.70
TOTAL INCOME	1831.32
EXPENSES	

INCOME

EXPENSES

Conservation Musings

By Matt Muir

Cuyahoga and Dams

According to a story in the April 23 *Plain Dealer*, the Ohio EPA is undertaking an effort to take down some dams on the Cuyahoga. This ambitious undertaking goes much further than previous efforts. Bill Zawicki, a state EPA environmental scientist, is making noises about removing the Rte. 82 dam and three in Cuyahoga Falls, including the Big Bad Boy of them all—the 60-foot Ohio Edison Dam.

The Ohio Edison Dam, which has drowned a beautiful rapid for 90 years, is licensed through 2041, so most of us have considered it untouchable. If it were decommissioned and removed on that date, I'd be 85 years of age, which is...shall we say...Kobakian. There's hope, though; the EPA is frustrated that the river hasn't been reaching its attainment goals as quickly as hoped. Two reasons for this are Akron's Combined Sewer Overflows (and related Sanitary Sewer Overflows) and...dams.

Some resistance to removing the Rte. 82 dam stems from a concern that its removal will facilitate the upstream migration of zebra mussels. However, one hydrologist of my acquaintance says that the best research on zebra mussels shows that they have plenty of ways to circumvent an 8-foot dam, in any case.

There will be a meeting in mid-May of Cuyahoga stakeholders; I plan on attending.

Grand Canyon and Fish

Here's a weird one, from the April 26 *New York Times*: in an effort to save the endangered humpback chub, Glen Canyon Dam operators plan to introduce alternate high and low flows to the Grand Canyon in the first three months of the year, following low flows beginning in September. The plan is to reduce the population of rainbow trout, who are leading suspects in the deaths of the humpback chub.

The high and low flows are expected to build the sand beaches that private and commercial river-runners use for

camping. Such flows have been employed in largely successful experiments since 1996; this is the first time that they'll be intended to benefit a critter in the area.

To give another boost to the chub population, they plan on electrifying the water to kill many more rainbow trout. Though the plan has widespread support among stakeholder groups, some local fishing groups feel that the trout are getting a "bad rap" and are criticizing the plan.

Route 3 Wave—Black River, NY

Eric Jackson and David Knight have unveiled a plan to modify the riverbed on the Black in Watertown, NY, in order to build a world-class rodeo hole. The plan, which they have sold the city on, is to bring the World Rodeo competition to town in 2005 and to bring the Olympics to New York State in 2012. Many paddlers object to this plan, on the principle that river modification is politically incorrect and that it's especially dangerous under these circumstances, as it may ruin an existing fine surfing wave. As we go to press, a meeting is being held between city officials and interested parties, including Jackson and Knight and the development company, and paddlers, most of whom seem to be opposed to the project.

Ohiopyle Falls Access

The state of Pennsylvania failed to give American Whitewater timely information about their plans regarding Ohiopyle Falls; better late than never, AW is mobilizing the paddling community to make our voice heard. The end of the comment period is May 23. See <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/457/> for the details on how we can work to gain legal access to this relatively easy waterfall for more than just one weekend a year.

From AW's website: Here are our suggestions for writing your own letter.

Send to:

Gary Smith, Division Chief
PA DCNR, Bureau of State Parks
Rachel Carson State Office Building

PO Box 8551
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551
717-783-3307

garyksmith@state.pa.us

- I support [American Whitewater's proposal](#) to open Ohiopyle Falls for boating.
- Regulation §11.220(c)(3) should be changed to state "*Waterfall running. Waterfall running is permitted.*"
- Amend §11.220 to state "(a) *General requirements.* A person engaging in whitewater boating at any state park, including Ohiopyle State Park, Lehigh Gorge State Park, or McConnells Mill State Park shall comply with the following requirements:"
- Add "(f) *Other parks. Whitewater boating will be permitted unless clearly posted otherwise. The decision to prohibit whitewater boating in a Park will be made by the Park Superintendent.*"
- Include your name, address, and date.
- If you have ever paddled the falls or the Lower Yough, describe your experience and why it is important to you that the falls are opened for boating.
- Send us a copy
(Jason@amwhitewater.org, or Jason Robertson, ACCESS DIRECTOR, 1424 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910) if you get the chance, so we know how many people asked for this change.

River Day

Don't forget River Day, May 18! We'll likely join Friends of the Crooked River by running the stretch from Peninsula downstream, picking up trash at the putin and along the way. Be prepared for cold weather, because it still can be cold this late in the season.

Lower Yough Downriver Race Results

by Chris Norbury

This week two new names sit atop the Mid-Atlantic series downriver rankings, after the first pair of races this past weekend. The weekend was forecast to be cold, and with the level on the Yough sitting at 1.4ft a big turnout was never on the cards. With some of the locals crying off for reasons unknown we had the smallest field at the Yough race in MADS history. That did not detract from the standard of racing, though. All of the paddlers who had gathered for an in depth stroke clinic on Saturday made it back on Sunday, and were joined by new comers Heather Rau and Jeff Mayfield, as well as the Mirage racing machine himself, Bob Gedekoh. Despite a forecast to the contrary Sunday morning gave temperatures in the 40's, and heavy rain overnight gave us hope (vain as it turned out) that the Yough would be on the rise. To beat the oncoming cold front we raced the sprint through Entrance and Cucumber, then forewent the carry back around the loop and ran the Classic from the bottom of Cucumber to the bottom of River's End.

Dave Hammond, in his first MADS race, dominated both the sprint and classic, ahead of Simon Beardmore who has made his way up from the junior ranks quietly over the past few years. Both of these guys were a considerable distance ahead of former front-runners Jess Whittemore and Chris Norbury, both of whom are recovering from (or maybe still in the midst of) major upheavals in their respective lifestyles. Scott Leroux produced his best MADS result to date with a third place in the sprint, and with a lighter boat, will challenge over the classic distance too. Chara O'Brien produced the goods once again, although we are still awaiting Chara's use of a wing paddle in a race, which seems scheduled for the Cheat Narrows at present - at least if we have anything to do with it. In the sprint Beth Karp overcame the hurdle of pogies that were almost as long as her arms and seemed more suited to veterinary practices than paddling, to zoom down the sprint course, overcoming the bogey of Cucumber that had laid her low last summer. Keep an eye out for Beth in the junior race at Team trials in April (April 20th-21st). Thanks to everyone who came, to Jess Whittemore for the organization, and my personal thanks to Keith Backlund for the accommodation and

a quick boat repair on Saturday evening without which I would probably not have been racing. Full results are below:

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The Best of Northern WV

by Matt Muir

The rock flipped me, instantly. It held me, at least momentarily. Something ripped my paddle from my hands. Well, *this* sucks.

How had it come to this? More importantly, stuck against an unfamiliar rock, upside-down without a paddle, what could I do now?

Welcome to Paul Lang's March 30-31 trip. Call it "Southern Rivers Lite," or "Easter X-Treme," it was a Trip. Six boaters, hungrily eyeing Class-V charts, rain patterns, and Net gages...in search of Crazy Fun.

Bright'n'early we began... well not as early as intended. I'd had to return home to grab my forgotten drytop and shorts. We met at Little Sandy's a bit after 9. I was armed with "beta;" a list from an AmericanWhitewater.org search of the WV rivers that were running above min...and a printed copy of Bobby Miller's of the Upper Blackwater.

Yough Sprint 3-3-02 – Results

Name	Class	Time	%	Class	%	MADS
Dave Hammond	K1MWW	147	100	100		100
Simon Beardmore	K1MWW	149	101.36	101.36		98.64
Scott Leroux	K1MWW	151	102.72	102.72		97.28
Jesse Whittemore	K1MWW	153	104.08	104.08		95.92
Chris Norbury	K1MWW	153	104.08	104.08		95.92
Chara O'Brien	K1W WW	183	124.49	100		75.51
Bob Gedekoh	K1M NR	189	128.57	100		71.43
Jeff Mayfield	K1M NR	196	133.33	103.70		66.67
Heather Rau	K1W NR	198	134.69	100		65.31
Beth Karp	K1W WW JR	200	136.05	100		63.95
Classic						
Dave Hammond	K1M	WW	31.35	100	100	100
Simon Beardmore	K1M	WW	32.12	101.95	101.95	98.05
Jess Whittemore	K1M	WW	33.43	106.75	106.75	93.25
Chris Norbury	K1M	WW	34.07	108.02	108.02	91.98
Scott Leroux	K1M	WW	34.20	108.71	108.71	91.29
Chara O'Brien	K1W	WW	38.20	121.37	100	78.63
Bob Gedekoh	K1M	NR	39.38	125.49	100	74.51
Jeff Mayfield	K1M	NR	40.16	127.49	101.60	72.51
Heather Rau	K1W	NR	41.38	131.82	100	68.18

Note: the above was written by Chris Norbury in March. On the weekend of April 20, the National Downriver Qualifying Races were held. David came in 5th, showing some unique technique at Railroad. See the video of his "new-school move" at <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/photos/?photoId=1845>. Video also helped Simon Beardmore in that race. The post-race review showed that, though he flipped as he crossed the finish line, his head was above water—and thus he was not disqualified.

The Upper B is one of the signature hair runs of the East. Full of undercuts and sieves, the common advice is to attempt it *only* in the company of someone who knows it well. There were six of us, and we were all Upper B Virgins. Ron Whitney was nervous, but willing. I was willing, but nervous. Daves Broer and Duke were reluctant, trying to talk the Group into something easier...like the Slippery Rock. Paul Lang, trip organizer, was desperate for an Upper B Fix. Brent was willing. Majority ruled, as we deferred to the Organizer. The level was excellent, perhaps a little below 200 cfs. We all had creekish boats, and Brent put Bobby's description into a ziplock bag for on-river reference. We could get out at every horizon line and get a look. We drove down to Davis.

The first difficulty was finding the put in from Blackwater Falls State Park. The description says that you put in below a rapid called "Puke," which is a rarely-run mess of twist and turn and sieve. We put in above it, crossed the river, and portaged. It would be one of two portages that day.

Brent and Dave Duke had their video cameras along, but neither bothered to remove it from his boat. We took our time, scouting when necessary and boat-scouting when possible. Once, Ron got out on river right. "Angle left," he said. I was first.

He apparently meant to be in the center of the ledge, angled left. I was way on the left. I landed in a holey rocky mess and was flipped. This is where I found myself in trouble.

Within seconds, I was moving downstream. A handroll, and with Paul's help, we dislodged my paddle from its hidey-hole.

There are great rapids all over the river. Favorites are probably Tomko Falls and My Nerves Are Shot And I Can't Take It Anymore. Our other portage was Sticky Fingers, which has a killer sieve. Nobody swam, nobody got hurt, everybody banged up his boat at least once on rocks. Brent said that he was going to hold onto his dog-eared copy of Bobby's description as a memento of our virgin run.

Though it's a tough run, Paul, Brent, and the Daves agreed that it's not as tough as the Big South in Colorado...which they'd run, armed only with a guidebook, last year.

Climbing out, Paul got to the top of the heinous hill with a broken paddle blade. We figured that had happened during the climb. This was the first of three self-inflicted insults he suffered.

After a great dinner at a restaurant in Hendricks (Thanks, Paul!), we camped in the parking area at the Otter Creek Wilderness. There wasn't nearly enough rain in the evening to bring Otter up, but we enjoyed the unspoiled beauty of that wilderness area...and we were treated to being buzzed in our tents by some pickup-driving Good Ol' Boy in the middle

of the night, too. His tracks missed my tent by a good foot and a half.

The following day, Paul managed to destroy a tire on his new car by driving "aggressively" on a pothole-strewn road at the North Fork (insult #2). After getting the tire replaced, we ran the Upper Yough at 2.6' and the Big Sandy at 5.9' For the Yough, Dave Duke only noticed the ten-pound rock in the back of his playboat at the end of the run (idle hands, don'tcha know...I had 40 minutes to myself while they all run shuttle). Unfortunately, he had no problem with the high-water run, Squirt Assist or no.

On the Sandy, Paul learned that his old Mongoose didn't turn quite as easily as

his newer boats; his piton at Big Splat (Final Insult) was immortalized not only on Brent's video, but also on the bow of his boat and in various colors on his ankles.

Speaking of Big Splat, it had a huge log across the Horseshoe Hole in the approach. Had I known exactly where it was, I might have walked the approach. Dave Duke got his first run of the final Splat drop, with a mild trashing that also made it to video.

Everything was dropping, so Ron and I headed home to spend Easter with family. Limping as he was, Paul was in no shape to paddle, anyway.

Thanks to Paul for organizing a great trip!

**United States Canoe Association**

National Marathon Canoe & Kayak Championships

Hanover, New Hampshire – Ledyard Canoe Club
August 6 -11, 2002

Join hundreds of paddlers from across North America on the beautiful
Connecticut and Ompompanoosic Rivers.

2002
HANOVER, NH



The Nationals
USCA Marathon Canoe & Kayak National Championships

Races include:
USCA National Canoe & Kayak
Marathon Championship Events
Adult Sprint Championships
Orienteering
National Outrigger Sprints
Youth Sprints

These events are sponsored by the New England Canoe Racing Association and the Ledyard Canoe Club of Dartmouth College, and sanctioned by the USCA. Spectators welcome. You must be a member of the USCA to race and pre-register for each race at least one day in advance.

For more information visit: www.necanoe.org/nationals/

Other useful links: www.uscanoe.org
www.necanoe.org
www.hanoverchamber.org
www.dartmouth.edu/~lcc/



Or call: Peter Heed, Nationals Chair, 603-399-7266
Chris Wilson, 603-643-9211 or nationals@dartmouth.edu
Michael Ripple, Publicity Chair, 617-625-3571 or mripple@aol.com



Keel-Hauler's KaNews

May 2002

2002 Officers

President: Ron Tomallo 440-953-1335
Vice President: Elliott Drysdale 440-708-7208
Secretary: Karen Daniels 440-458-5972
Treasurer: Pam Poljak 440-238-1751

Meeting Place: Middleburg Hts. Rec. Ctr.
15700 Bagley Rd.
Second Tue each month, at 7:30 P.M.

Membership: \$20 per year. New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone send directly to Membership Chairman: John Kobak 440-871-1758
1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, Oh 44145

Any opinions, views or recommendations expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the article's author. Printing these articles in no way implies approval or advocacy of any of the opinions, views or recommendations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or any of its Officers or members.

Water sports are a potentially dangerous activity. Keel-Haulers Canoe Club recommends and encourages all of its members and others to abide by all laws, regulations and recommended practices when engaging in such activity. Each member is responsible for assessing her/his own abilities and for not engaging in activities which are beyond those limits. Members assume any and all risk when choosing to participate in any activity and the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club is not responsible for any damages resulting from such participation.

KHCC WEB PAGE URL:
www.keelhauler.org

FOR SALE

Non- Commercial Advertising is free to all members. To place an ad, send the information the way you want it to appear. Call or mail before the last Saturday of each month. Please write or call when item is sold. It will appear for 2 months unless canceled. Commercial ads may be submitted by club member's owned businesses four times each year with a maximum of four lines of copy per ad.

Check out the following link to see club members by city/state. Pass word is same as for on-line membership list.

<http://www.geocities.com/keelhauler/khcc/khcity.pdf>

WW Kayak - Just in time for the boating season! Pyranha InaZone 242 (only used twice on the Slippery Rock) is brand new at NOC for \$949. I'm selling for only \$675. Red with blue accents. The following web site tells you all about it.

<http://216.122.167.196/ss/pp/playpyra.html>

Call Chris Christo at 440-322-8876 or email basilslounge@attbi.net.

Cartop Rack - Thule Aero (like new) \$60, fits most cars (clips extra) call Meg Gabelman 330-926-0514 or ab256@acorn.net

Kayak - Sit-on-top - Perception Swing, 13' 4", includes paddle, PFD, backrest, thigh braces, snorkel gear. Fun for the whole family \$400.

Call Barb Bodemer at 216-226-1640 in Cleveland, OH area.

E-Mail to **Barb** - b.bodemer@prodigy.net

Fleece Skirts - Great for warming up after a cold day on the river in early spring or late fall. \$25. Call Judi Cleary 440-808-8499 or judicleary@attbi.com



Keel-Hauler's KaNews June 2002

Newsletter Deadline - June 23

Trip leaders: Please send any new plans and/or trip information to the newsletter editor in time for the newsletter that precedes your trip. - Thank You

Trip Participants: Please see the yearbook or the keel-haulers web site www.keelhauler.org for details on the following scheduled trips. And be sure to contact the trip leader to indicate you are planning to participate.

Trip Schedule

June

**7-23 Western Rivers Trip (22-34)
Changed to Idaho**

See article on page 3 for details.

Brent Laubaugh

brent@vzavenue.net 215-922-7178

8-9 Cheat Canyon (26)

Anne Kmiecik

akmie@hawken.edu 216 - 371 - 8250

9 Lower Cuyahoga, OH (6)

Karen Daniels

karenkayaks@yahoo.com 440-458-5972

13-16 Alpine Whitewater Francaise

Bruce Berman

ybberman@usaor.net 412-471-2525

15-16 Upper New River (12/23)

Wayne Carey

WVRedline@cs.com 304-547-1777

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

Lower: Jim Hunt

jfhunt@mcdermott.com 330-335-5203

Lower: Ron Tomallo

rtomallo@hotmail.com 440-953-1335

Middle (Sat): Carl Kudrna

carl@ckweston.com 440-835-0222

21-23 Class II Weekend on the Upper New

Ed Charlton

ed_charlton@prodigy.net 440-716-5489

22 Burning River Day (aka Cuyahoga)

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com

330-NOT A FAX

22 Cheat Narrows (18)

Meet at Little Sandy's Restaurant in Bruceton Mills at 10AM (Ready to go). Be sure to call/email Dave to say you are going.

Dave Atkinson

yakmandave@aol.com 724-285-9302

29-30 Rescue Weekend Clinic & Rodeo - See page 4 for details.

Rob Hammond

Rob.Hammond@isce-corp.com

216-292-5618

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com

330-668-2329

July

2,16, 23, 30 Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com

330-NOT A FAX

3-7 Ocoee River, TN (24)

Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu

216-371-8250 (h),

216-791-3800 x4643

(w)

5-6 Upper Yough, MD (32)

Stu Koster

skoster4@home.com 248-652-3241

9 Club Meeting at Silver Lake in Akron

June 11 Meeting at Hinkley Reservation.

The June 11th club meeting will be held at Hinkley Lake. Be sure to bring your boat to paddle around in the Lake. Come anytime starting around 6pm. Newman Outfitters will provide some white water Kayaks and Sea kayaks to demo. The meeting will be held at dusk

We plan to meet at the **Hinckley Lake Boathouse (#4 on the map)** at the SW side of the lake, off of the West Drive. There are several areas to launch boats – from several docks, or from land on the edge of the lake, next to the docks. The Boathouse is owned by the Metroparks, but is operated by

Newman Outfitters. There are boats, boating supplies, snack foods, etc. for sale in the boathouse which closes at 8:00 p.m. Depending on the weather, we may hold the meeting at the **Whipps Ledges Picnic Area [#7 on the map]**. See Map and driving directions on page 2.

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Rivers' Win Big in Annual Raffle

Mandy Yonas, WVRC

On Saturday, May 4, winners were drawn for the annual West Virginia River Coalition's "River Raffle". Every year, the raffle sales begin with the Gauley River season and the winners are announced during the Cheat River Festival. The top prize this year was a week's lodging near Great Smokey Mountain Park donated by Charilyn Cowan. Other prizes included canoes from Old Town and Back Country Ski & Sport, kayaks from Dagger and Liquid Logic, PFD's by Lotus, and many more.

Of the 64 awarded prizes, **Hank Annable** from KHCC won the second prize Dagger Kayak. Check out our web site at www.wvrivers.org for a full list of prizewinners! In all, 57 members from KHCC contributed during the call-a-thon. Thank you!

However, the biggest winners of the raffle are the rivers and streams of West Virginia. With the help of 175 volunteers, 20 paddling and watershed groups, \$26,857 was raised to support work that keeps our waters clean. This could not have been accomplished without your generous contributions and full support of our organization.

The 2002-2003 raffle will kick-off on September 21 at the Gauley Festival. Since each club provided significant support during this year's raffle, we challenge KHCC to out do the GHCC. By

having your club buy more tickets, you can do more to help West Virginia's streams and actualize more prizewinners from your club. This continued support will assist WVRC with the following work:

- In 2002, we are working to gain compliance with the Clean Water Act in West Virginia. Using this law, we have been instrumental at the Capitol and in court keeping clean water clean.
- Our leading role in a partnership with 25 citizen groups taking legal action against the EPA for approving a state policy that exempts nearly all current polluters from a pollution preventing aspect of the Federal Clean Water Act.
- We have forced the WV Division of Highways to prevent sediment pollution from highway projects that threaten the Cacapon, Lost River and greater Potomac basin.
- WVRC has joined with four local groups to oppose Waco Oil & Gas's permit application to operate a new 76-acre sandstone quarry near Knapps Creek, a tributary of the Greenbrier River. This permit would allow a discharge into a native trout stream and permanently alter the landscape of an area that benefits from a strong tourism-based economy.
- WVRC's efforts were successful in persuading the DEP to deny a permit to Mettiki Coal to operate a longwall mine under the North Branch of the Potomac River. This mine would cause harmful subsidence to a local trout stream and release acid mine drainage (AMD) into the Potomac, a river still healing from AMD.

Thanks again for helping us protect your paddling resources and congratulations on winning great prizes. With your help the 2002-2003 tickets will be bigger than ever. Look for our prize list during Gauley season.

NOTE: Cecil and Ann Tickameyer also won big - an Old Town Canoe!

Best Wishes to Terry Markoff and Sabine Iben on the birth of their new DAUGHTER, **Annika Iben Markoff**, born May 18th. Weighing 3249 grams and 47 centimeters long. The metric must be due to her German ancestry!

Directions to Hinkley Lake

From I-77 exit at Miller Rd. (in Brecksville). Turn left (east) on Miller Rd. to Rt. 21 (Brecksville Rd.) Turn right (south) on Rt 21 to Rt. 303. Turn right (west) on Rt. 303 to State Rd. Turn left (south) on State Rd. Turn right onto Bellus Rd. Then turn left on West Drive.

From I-71 from North, take the Brunswick exit 226 (Rt 303), Go east on Rt. 303 continue 4.5 miles. Go past Ridge Rd./ Rt. 94. to Rt. 606 (Hinkley Hills Rd.) Turn right (south) on Rt. 606 to Bellus Rd. Turn left (east) on Bellus. Hinkley Reservation entrance is 1000 feet. Turn right on West Dr.

From I-271 from North. Exit at Hawkins Road and take it west. It will turn into Bellus Rd. Turn left on West Drive.

Use map on last page of newsletter to proceed to Hinkley Boat House on West Drive.

KEELHAULERS MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was held on May 14 at the Middleburg Heights Rec. Center. Forty-five people were in attendance with 2 new members, Mark and Jerry. Welcome!

Treasury report – there is \$6,568.63 in our account. Minutes from the

previous meeting were accepted and passed.

Chair reports: We are still looking for a representative for Sea Kayaking. For now, contact Marsha Bedford or Stewart Warner.

Conservation – Matt Muir discussed mountain top removal where the top is blasted off and the soil is dumped in the river which causes flooding and leaves homes in sludge. It has been judged illegal and is still being fought out in the local courts.

West Virginia River Conservation is asking for comments' concerning allowing the Ohiopyle falls to be run.

Instruction - Steve Ingalls – instruction classes at Riversport had 40 people signing up to learn to kayak.

Library – Mike Duvall – We received a donation of a video Thunderballs from Matt Muir. Thanks, Matt!

Programs – Judi Cleary – June meeting will be at Hinkley, July at Silver Lake (our normal pot luck) and August meeting will be at Huntington in Bay Village.

Safety – Chuck Singer – We need a new Safety Chair – any volunteers? There was discussion of the drownings on the Chagrin River – know locations of and stay away from dams. There are over 1000 lowhead dams, which were built between 100 and 150 years ago. A 6' notch in the dam would prevent the hydraulic action.

Rescue rodeo – June 29 - a motion was passed to follow the same rules as last year – coed teams and one open boat per team.

Old Business – there were over 300 entries in the Grand River race.

New Business –

- 1) Cheat Race – the Cheat was running at 5', two teams from Keelhaulers. See www.AmericanWhitewater.org and click on photos/videos/wildwater video to see some action shots.
- 2) There was a thank you note from John Kobak for the flowers sent for the passing of his mother. There was also a thank you from the Lorain County Metroparks for the donation after the Vermilion River race.

- 3) May 26 NBC will feature a film on paddling the Nepal River at 2:30 pm.
- 4) Matt received a "Pickled Duck" award for swimming in a wave train class 2 rapid – excuse 63 being "my ass was too big for the seat."

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 so we could watch a terrific slide show on the Grand Canyon. A big Thank You to Mark and Pam Poljak who spent hours and hours putting it all together.

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A view seen by few!

By Rob Hammond

This poem is to reward my buddy, Ratt Boy, for his Albatross event on Cheat Race Weekend. I offer in advance, sincere apologies to anyone with poetic sensibilities.

On May the third in 2002

The day was bright and the water was cool

I had a view seen by few

A Ratt in a Santa hat separated from his boat in a calm pool

This was by far, more than I could chew
Many a swimming boater would say "now that is real cool"

Some would say, to enjoy another's adversity is cruel

As a poor workman would, the Ratt did blame his tool

Oh for sure, his cut is rough, but none can deny, he is our jewel

To reward our friend with a prize so deserved, aw yes, the bird flew.

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Western Rivers Trip moves from Colorado to Idaho

As many of you are painfully aware, the annual Keelhauler trip to Colorado has been cancelled due to lack of water. This year's meager snowpack has disappeared faster than Kobak in the presence of a citation-wielding park ranger. But all is not lost...Check the 2002 Western Streamflow forecasts and you'll notice that northern IDAHO, aka "the whitewater state", has 100-120%

snowpack for this time of year. Just last week, local paddling legend Dave Broer remarked, "Uncle D smells somethin' cookin' in Idaho...and it ain't just the taters."

Game on. We're going to Idaho. I'll save you all the surf to Mapquest - the trip from Cleveland to northern Idaho is around 2020 miles.

For any of you that are interested in joining up with our little traveling circus, here are a few details to consider: I will coordinate the details of the trip. Dave will serve as your Cruise Director and as In-Flight Entertainment

The schedule:

FRI 6/7: Depart Cleveland in evening

SAT 6/8: Enroute

SUN 6/9: Arrive in northern Idaho in morning; boat in afternoon

MON 6/10-FRI 6/21: Boat, camp, boat, camp, boat...

FRI 6/21: Return drive to Cleveland

Several people will likely be flying into Boise and/or Missoula on 6/15 and will be joining the trip from 6/15-6/21. Airfares can still be found as of 5/20 for as low as \$369 roundtrip, with either 6/7 or 6/14 departures, returning 6/21.

Note that there is no information about where we will camp and what rivers we will run. We simply don't know. We will have an Idaho whitewater guidebook and a book of campgrounds. We plan to talk to locals, pick runs based on the group's consensus, and camp where convenient. If this lack of structure scares you, don't come on this trip - you will be miserable.

Skill levels: Based on those already signed onto the trip, we will likely be boating solid class IV (western style - cold, continuous, steep) on a daily basis. There will also be frequent, if not daily, class V options for those who are interested. Because all of these runs will be new to us, the ability to independently read class IV whitewater is a prerequisite, even for the easier runs.

We'll be finalizing plans over the next week. Several people have already

expressed interest in sharing rides from Cleveland, so let me know if you are looking for a travel partner and I can help coordinate.

Brent Laubaugh brent@vzavenue.net
610-416-9376

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Rescue Weekend June 29-30

By Rob Hammond

We will again be sponsoring the Annual Rescue Weekend. We moved it to an earlier date this year so that people can take advantage of what they learned earlier in the season. This will be the same drill as last year, with a Swiftwater Rescue Clinic on Saturday and the Rescue Rodeo on Sunday. This event is designed for beginning boaters with some class II water experience as well as advanced boaters looking to practice and hone their rescue skills.

The Clinic will start at 9:30. There will be 4 stations that participants will rotate through, learning different skills at each station. From First Aid to how to rescue your buddy stuck in an undercut rock. In the evening there will be a pot luck dinner. There are campgrounds near by for those spending the night.

There will be a nominal fee of \$10 or \$15 for the entire weekend to cover our insurance expenses. We will also have event T shirts available with the profits from the proceeds going to our conservation fund.

The Weekend will be at the McConnell's Mill State Park Near the Mill on Slippery Rock Creek. Last year we all had a great time, learned a lot, and a chance to socialize.

I need a few more volunteers for the rescue clinic, so give me a call or email if you can help out. Don't make me call you! If you think that you can learn or hone your rescue skills from this clinic, (and who can't) give me a call ahead of time and make a reservation. Bring a lunch, PFD, helmet and clothing suitable for spending time in the water.

SeeYa at the weekend, Rob Hammond
216 292-5618 or Rob@isce-corp.com

Second Annual Rescue Rodeo, June 30

by Matt Muir

The Rescue Rodeo was an idea born in the steepest mountains of North Carolina. It's a way for paddlers to get together and show off their rescue skills, competing in a friendly manner. It's a day to show what you're made of, and it's a day for fun.

We're hoping that both Keel-haulers and TRPC submit at least two teams. That should provide lots of amusement for the day.

What's this about?

It's a team competition. Teams of four paddlers get together and run through a series of events. Some are timed; others are judged. The events include a Rescue Rope Throw, a Yard Sale Pickup, and a Rescue Scenario. Each team must include at least one woman and at least one open boat or inflatable.

When? Where is it taking place?

Sunday, June 30 (one day after the Swiftwater Rescue Demo Day), at Maytag Rapid (park at the picnic area uphill from McConnell's Mill); registration will end at 10 AM. The event will probably end in the early afternoon.

What's the entry fee?

Not sure at this point. If there is an EF, it'll be nominal, to cover insurance costs. We hope to have some small prizes and goodies for the enthusiastic participants.

Who's coordinating this tawdry affair?

Matt Muir (330-668-2329; RivieraRatt@aol.com).

Anything else I need to know?

Yeah. Come dressed for full-water immersion in whatever weather is likely to prevail. Call ahead, with the names of your team members, as we may have to limit the number of combatants.

This sounds great! I want to help out!

I knew you would. We need help with judging, publicity, planning, and safety boating. We also need a couple of

"victims" for the rescue scenario. Please call or email me with your offers to help!

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Flat Lander Boys Kick Ass

By Rob Hammond

The following story is not true, only the names, places and a few sprinklings of fact remain to lull the reader into a state of believability!

It was a fine day for the 2002 Cheat Down River Race. Fine if you like raging rivers, holes big enough to swallow Greyhound buses, and carnage, lots and lots of carnage! The name here is Bob, Bob Drummond, and I will be your guide on this very harrowing and exciting experience I had with a deep and scary other world.

The Cheat was a cranking 5 foot, which was the highest I have ever run it. Matt Muir, Cliff Wire and I left Friday morning and when we got to town we decided to take a practice run. With all of our farting around it was 2:00 by the time we got on the water, so we had had to hustle to be back register for the race by 5:00 and on the river for a 5:30 race start. The level made for some big water with about 7,000 CFS. Most of river was not a problem. However things got dicey at Big Nasty (BN), I followed Matt into the rapid. On previous runs at BN, I found myself getting eddied out just as I passed the hole. This is not a problem if you are playing, but if you are racing, it can cost you valuable seconds. So I decided that I wanted to stay close to the left side of the hole. Well I got a little too close and found myself smack in the middle of the hole and getting a rather violent trashing. But I hung in and it eventually spit me out. (Note to self: for future reference, BN will spit you if you get stuck in it at 5 feet!) When I finally rolled up I came upon an amazing sight, Matt and his boat were in two separate pools!

Now Matt, Ratt Boy Muir, has bionic lungs and just doesn't swim. In all of the years I have boated with him, I can count his swims on three fingers. So those of us with normal boat to swim

ratios, well we take great delight, when our boy takes the bird! With all of the race festivities, it was really late by the time we got to Kobak's camp ground, out side of John Kobak's new cabin. All of the non racing campers were sound asleep, but did that not stop us from waking them all up to give the great news about Poor Ole Ratt Boy? Yeah, right... of course we woke them up! And there was not an ounce of sympathy for Poor Ole Ratt! I could give more details, but I am sure that Matt will be putting his Dr. Spin on this, and besides, this article is about ME!

So we make it back to register with little time to spare. Turns out that we had a total of 6 Keel Haulers show up for race registration, we broke up into 2 teams of 3, which was the minimum team size. Matt, Chuck Singer, and Ron Whitney were on Keel Hauler Team 1, and Paul Lang, Cliff and myself were on Team 2.

There were 62 boats for the mass start. The water was so swift there, that we all struggling to stay behind start line, the broken down railroad bridge. It was a chore just to hear the count down for the start above the roar of the river. When the signal came, it was not a mass start; it was mass confusion, with half of the boats paddling up stream to stay behind the bridge, and others not hearing the start. Things were interesting until half way to Decision rapid when we started to break up into a few clumps of boaters. I tried to pace myself behind Chuck, but he was pulling away and I lost sight of him. When I get to Decision, Chuck took the line to the right of the hole, and I took the left line. When I get half way down the rapid, I see Chuck out of his boat perched on a rock with his boat heading down stream. But he was not lonely, no, he and a few other boaters were all in the same predicament. The safety boaters were scurrying about reuniting boats and boaters.

This was going to be bad, when Ratt Boy takes the Albatross, and Chuck, who learned the lines on this river during the last ice age, takes a swim, you just know that it is going to be a tough day. And tough it was. Maybe I was just psyched out, or maybe I was tired, but

my lines were El Stinko. I was getting eddied out, falling into holes that were easy to miss, I was flipping. I was doing way worst then my practice run and the water level had not changed.

Before long, I was above BN again, and I had to snap out of it, I could not afford to screw this up, as I did earlier in the day. I learned from the first run to stay a lot more left on the approach to Big Nasty. It looked like I was on a good line, until clearing the last wave before the big hole, when I see myself headed for the edge of the hole, "I can make it, edges of holes are weak" I thought, so I paddled hard, but the last wave slapped me in the chest with such force that it killed most of my momentum. Exiting the hole, meant I had to climb up a steep incline of water; as I started up, it seemed like I was almost vertical. I stalled out completely, and started to slide back into the hole, Ohhh Shit! You know how fast things start to happen when, just for fun; you take your car out and smash it into a brick wall at 60 miles an hour? Well that is how fast and violent things were happening to me. The water was trying to rip the paddle out of my hands. All I could do was stay in a tight tucked position while the massive hydraulic tossed me about. This time around in BN, I was sucked down deep into the hole, there was no light, just a massive trashing! And this is where it gets really weird. I hear a voice; yeah, a deep resonate voice that sounds like Darth Vader! It booms "WELCOME, I have been expecting you Mr. Drummond!" What the heck is going on I'm thinking? The voice continues "I see from my guest list that you have already frequented my fine establishment today!" The roar of the BN was way too loud to hear a voice. This voice was telepathic right into my brain! Who are you the devil? I thought... it read my mind, and answers. "The name is Nasty, Big Nasty. I have a special treatment for frequent guests to my establishment. I must ask you to surrender your paddle!" All of this is going on while I am getting the worst spanking since I Carp Flopped in 2000! Nooo Way am I giving up this paddle I say to myself. I just bought this paddle for the race and I don't even have my name on it yet! BN thunders "You must

surrender your paddle immediately!" Look Nasty, I say to myself, I don't have a hand roll, and this is a race, I don't have time to be swimming around trying to find my paddle, now let me out of here before I get mad! BN booms this really devilish laugh and says "Simon told me the same thing, now Simon won't be finishing the race!!" What? You killed Simon Beardmore, the National Wildwater Team paddler, I asked? BN laughs again, and says, "Mr. Beardmore has survived, but his boat, is now a boat of many pieces!" Look Nasty, you may find this amusing, but those down river boats are really expensive. You can't just go around destroying a guy's \$2,000 boat! So BN comes back and says "how long can you hold your breath Mr. Drummond? Give me your paddle before I get really Nasty!" So I tell BN, I can't hold my breath as long as Ratt Boy, but I can hang in there pretty well. BN snickers "Even Ratt Boy gets an Albatross once in a while!" Now I was getting scared, if BN can make Ratt Boy swim, what chance do I have? So I try a little bluster. You don't scare me Nasty; I have dealt with bigger bullies then you. And you are all the same, just a big telepathic talking head with no teeth! "Mr. Drummond, you bore me with your pathetic bravado. Fortunately for you, I see more fresh meat heading my way. Now be off!" And with a great big squirt I was spit out of the frying pan into a nice comfortable raging river!

With paddle in hand, I roll up and paddle off to take 30th place in the great Cheat River Race of 2002! And to my Amazement, my team takes second place among the club teams, with Keel Hauler 1 team taking third place. First place went to those trash talking punk Kent State kids. But a Royal Flush by the Flat Lander Ohio boys ain't bad, not bad at all!!

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A Fool and His Boat

by Doctor Spin

Gather round, kids, and hear the tale. It's about the Cheat. It's about high water. It's about Cheat Fest, racing,

borrowed boats, and more carnage than you can shake a paddle at.

And, oh yeah, it's about the Bird.

The Cheat Race takes place on Friday afternoon of CheatFest weekend. It's a 10.1-mile extravaganza, beginning at the "Wild Wonderful" bridge downstream of Albright and ending at the Jenkinsburg bridge at the takeout. It's the only large-scale kayak race in America that has a mass start. The mass start is always a celebration of confusion, with a few dozen paddlers creating surges of waves. Usually, they begin to get out of one another's way before Decision Rapid.

Last year, the Kent State Kayak Club assembled a pile of old boats and young boaters, and came away with first place in the Team Competition in the Cheat Race. Keel-haulers took second, and TRPC came in third.

The Ratt decided to make a stink this year, trying to shame other clubs into entering. Monocacy Canoe Club, from the DC area, had a host of paddlers rarin' to take the Keel-haulers (and especially the Ratt) down a notch. They called themselves "Team Hauler Maulers," and assembled enough enthusiastic paddlers for two teams.

Keel-haulers looked good to put together two teams, too. But the river was looking high. It was 5 feet on Friday. Chuck Singer cautioned racers about the high water: "*A Fool and his boat are soon parted.*" The Ratt rode down with Rob Hammond to meet Cliff Wire. They were considering a run of the Big Sandy, but they went for a practice run of the Cheat.

The Ratt borrowed a Mirage off of Rob. This seemed like a good plan—he'd run the Upper Yough and Ohiopyle Falls in a Mirage before—but then he tried to sit in it.

Danged thing didn't fit. No way, nohow. This boat's outfitting was different from the other Mirages. His geeky long legs didn't make it snugly into the boat, and so his butt was off the seat. There were no tools for boat-adjustment at the putin, so he sat as best he could and hoped for the best. It felt very shaky. "Can I handle the river in this thing? Can I even roll this thing?" Wondered a worried Ratt.

At Decision, all went well. At Big Nasty, Ratt opted to lead.

He missed the hole at the bottom—barely—but he got flipped by a squirrely wave there.

Upside down, he set up to roll. No dice. Butt was falling out of the seat. No hip snap. He tried again. And again. After seven or so attempts, with his butt completely out of the seat (and after a pathetic, unanswered plea for a bow-rescue), he did the unthinkable—he bailed.

A Fool and his boat are soon parted.

Rob and Cliff were surprised to find Ratt, his boat, and his paddle all in the eddy...and not together.

Ratt was very shaky for the rest of the river. High Falls was adventurous, but the line is the same as at lower water. There's a sneak left at Coliseum, which is certainly the race line. Lower Coliseum is a frothy mess, but Pete Morgan had a very forgiving line just left of the waves. Even the Ratt Boy felt clean there.

The three boyz loaded up and motored for the race. At the last minute, some of the Keel-haulers must have had second thoughts about the race. There were only six KHCC racers.

Jim Hunt had given fair warning that he wouldn't be racing if it were over 4 feet. The Ratt, however, had been depending on a couple of others...and they chickened out or made other plans. KHCC would have two teams of three. Since a four-person team drops the lowest-paddler's score, having two teams of three would give KHCC no room for error. Jim's decision worked out well for the Ratt, who slipped into Chuck's Mirage like a glove. No need to take a screwdriver to Rob's Mirage. The two teams were: **Team Gnarl:** Chuck Singer, Matt Muir, and Ron Whitney. **Team Albatross:** Paul Lang, Rob Hammond, and Cliff Wire.

The mass start was more confused than ever. The strong current made it difficult for paddlers to arrange themselves upstream of the starting bridge. Even though a 30-second warning was called out, Ron was in a scrum of boaters and couldn't turn his boat around. He began the race backward.

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At Decision, everyone was still clustered together. Ron's boat came under the Ratt's boat at one point. The Ratt and Paul were in close proximity at Nasty—Paul ran it backwards—but Paul soon pulled away.

The Ratt saw a couple of boats with "Asshauler" stenciled on the back. Them's the dang Kent State boyz, he knew. We gotta beat them, he mused. He tried to tell Ron Whitney about that when he was near, but Ron couldn't hear over the rapids' roar. Ratt and Ron were neck and neck with the Kent Boyz.

One of the Kent-Staters, also in a Mirage, pulled up next to Ratt. "Are you the Ratt Boy?" he asked. Maybe the big ol' Santa Hatt gave him away; maybe it was his chiseled good looks. The Ratt Boy was silent, but he knew he was busted. "I'm James," the kid grinned. Great. James, the snot who'd been dissing the Keel-haulers on Boater Talk. The Ratt Boy resolved to catch and beat this little twerp.

A slightly bad line got James ahead of the Ratt Boy. Ron was neck and neck with another Kent-Stater. "Chuck must be ahead," mused Ratt. "As long as Ron and I are with these guys, if Chuck has a good race, we should beat them." As Coliseum loomed, James was no more than 40 feet ahead of the Ratt Boy. At 5', the sneak is the race line at this rapid—same speed, no risk. The Ratt Boy hoped the Kent-Staters didn't know that. James kept sneaking peeks back at the Ratt Boy to see which line he would take. Ratt tried not to give it away, but James went left. Dang!

At Pete Morgan, Ratt went for his easy and fast line from the prelim run. Ratt saw James get slightly right; soon James was eddied, just a little, which brought the Ratt Boy ahead.

From then on, the Ratt Boy saw no hint of James. That eddy, a small mistake, must have cost James big, as he crossed the finish line over thirty seconds behind Rattso. Great! Eric "Max" Metz finished ahead of Ron—so the question was whether or not Chuck had beaten their first guy. James was a good sport about their presumed loss.

That was when KHCC got the Buzz. Someone at the finish line told them that Chuck Singer had swum at Decision.

D'oh! A Fool and his boat are soon parted. When Chuck was carrying his boat up the hill, 36 long minutes after the Ratt, he was all apologies. Spit happens, and it had been compounded by his boat's getting lodged on a rock. KHCC Team Albatross beat KHCC Team Gnarl, due mostly to the fact that Cliff Wire's swim (at some measly hole a mile from the finish line) had cost much less time than had Chuck's. Cliff, in fact, came ahead of almost twenty other boaters. (Chuck still beat about four TRPC'ers.) Unofficial reports say that about ten people swam.

Rob Hammond's run was creditable; he came in 28th, which put him in the top half. As in the practice run, he went into the hole at Big Nasty, getting some trash action before washing out. "Those who can't remember the past..."

Ratt Boy was happy with his race (if not with his practice run). Paul Lang, in a Crossfire, and Ron Whitney, in Kobak's Pirouette, both beat the Ratt in slower boats. However, that should be attributed to their good lines and good paddling. Rattso's run wasn't perfect, but he had no major errors to point to. Paul's result is the more outstanding when one considers that he finished Big Nasty backwards and spent some hole-time in Coliseum (which he figures allowed three or four boaters to pass him).

Post-race, Paul was telling Race Captain Ratt, "I *told* you I'd be fast!" Truth to tell, the KHCC team of Paul, Ron, and Ratt would've beaten Kent State by three places. However, with six boaters to play with, the first team would only have three boaters. Since Chuck had beaten the Ratt in the previous two Cheat Races, putting Paul on Team Gnarl would've forced the Ratt to drop *himself* to the second team...and the results would have been substantially unchanged. Now, there were people who assured the Ratt that they would be racing...and who failed to show up. *If one of those had raced, KHCC would be in First Place.*

KHCC was hardly responsible for the major carnage of the day. There were three DNF's, led by national-class Wildwater racer Simon Beardmore. Beardmore, who should have contended with David Hammond for second place,

thought he could punch the Big Nasty hole in his long boat. Colleen Laffey's video is a convincing refutation. Ol' Simon was swapping ends like a rodeo star, until his boat fell apart. He walked out. His Best Carnage Prize, presented at the party after the race, was "A cheesy Titanic movie poster." This is dissing in the classic Gusic tradition. David and Andrew McEwan, by the way, hung around and helped rescue Simon before continuing with their race.

The race results are at <http://www.rockymountaintinkayak.com/2002/events/CheatResults2002.htm>.

Other Keel-haulers ran the Middle Fork/Tygart on Friday, and then headed up North to hit the Sandy. Some of them made it to the takeout as the racers came in. They freely helped themselves to the beer that the racers had earned with their hard work. They were not shy about their freeloading.

The racers, following the post-race party, made it to Kobak Cabin at 11 PM. The shed out back had three sleepers: Elliott Drysdale, Scott Debalski, and Isaac Ludwig. Ron and the Ratt, with all the subtlety appropriate to a post-race, adrenaline- and beer-soaked party, ensured that their sleep was temporarily interrupted.

Paul Lang spent all of CheatFest wandering the crowd, asking "Do you know the Ratt? He swam yesterday!" At the point where everyone he talked to replied, "Yes—you told me twice already," Paul knew that he had completed his Mission; he could climb into his car and drive home, satisfied that he had Spread the Word like an itinerant preacher.

Paul, and some other self-appointed guardians of the Albatross Award, tried to convince the Ratt that he had the Bird, even after three others swam. They came up with all sorts of ad hoc "rules" to justify their position. All rational observers recognize that, though he had the Bird for a couple of hours, the Ratt lost it quickly. At weekend's end, it belonged with someone whose name shall not be named, but whose name rhymes with Sharon Schmettit

2002 Cheat Race - Team Results:

Team	Name	Places	Total	Category
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Place			Score	
1	MS&T 1	5,6,7	18	Corporate Team Champ
2	Lil Falls	1,2,60	63	Pro Team Champ
3	KSU	20,21,24	65	Club Team Champ
4	MS&T b	19,25,34	78	
5	KHCC 2	17,30,43	90	
6	KHCC 1	22,23,54	99	
	KHCC not	17,22,23	62	(hypothetical)

Partial Individual Results:

Place	Name	Team	Time
1	Andrew McEwen	Lil Falls	55:11
2	Dave Hammond	Lil Falls	55:35
3	Steve Kauffman		57:31
4	Brian Homberg		57:40
17	Paul Lang	KHCC 2	01:05:18
20	David Czayku	KSU	01:06:16
21	Eric Metz	KSU	01:06:17
22	Ron Whitney	KHCC 1	01:06:30
23	Matt Muir	KHCC 1	01:06:42
24	James Reynolds	KSU	01:07:19
27	Justin Jeffers	KSU	01:07:25
30	Rob Hammond	KHCC 2	01:13:04
43	Cliff Wire	KHCC 2	01:21:08
54	Chuck Singer	KHCC 1	01:42:25

GRAND CANYON 2001 Chapter 2

By Richard Dabal, SBRG

Now there were two folks in the group that wanted to learn how to work a raft, Casey K. and Cliff. They asked me in the beginning of the trip if I would show them. Of course I said yes. It is the responsibility of an SBRG to hand down the knowledge and skills of rowing a raft. I do this with pride and humility. (Are you keeping count on these lines?). On easier days Casey or Cliff would row and I would show them the tricks, "RULES" and the way of life for an SBRG. It was fun to watch them try and make the moves, when to push or pull of the oars, when to pivot. I have to say here Cliff, in learning, did get the boat semi-beached on barely submerged rocks,

pert near in the middle of the river, at one point and I must give a BIG THANK YOU to Mark Poljak for helping push us off those rocks. Yes Cliff felt low after that but it was all part of the learning curve. Not that I planned that, it just happened. It was one of those unforeseen moments that even an SBRG cannot foresee. There is a force out there on the river that supercedes that of the SBRG's, and that is what caused the semi-beaching.

The next big drop was Unkar, rm 72, rated 4 – 7. The thing about Unkar is you are forced to shore scout it from a good two hundred yards away. Once you are back on the water, it takes more than five minutes to drift into the ramp alone. Well this day Unkar was running 13K and brown, brown water. We scouted but once back in the boat I knew it was going to be a dead reckoning approach and go from there. I was first, Steve second, Terry third, the usual line up. Terry ended up casting off way after Steve and I did. I was really worried he would miss the line Steve and I took. Too late now, I got onto the ramp and positioned bow angled left. This was going to be a left of center approach, the river right side was out of the question and river left was a huge wave hole. Over the entry waves I saw how big this wave hole was and that it had a right to left slanted feeder wave that would feed you into this huge wave hole. I pulled with all I had to stay away from that slanted wave. I got past it but only to have the first big wave crash on me. Still running straight I kept pushing on the oars to maintain momentum. In the run-out I counted all the kayakers, the "shreddin" duo and looked upstream for Steve and Terry. There they were up right but low, they too took on a lot of water. BIG KUDOS to Terry on this one. He had his first raft passenger on this. Holly K. She held on tight and hung in there.

Nevills is the last big rapid before the Inner Gorge. It is rated a 4 – 7, rm 75 and was a straight shot, a boat scout and run. Camp was a mile after this. We camped right above Hance at rm 76.5, rated 7 – 8. Tomorrow we run the "Inner Gorge". This is the big stuff. We are committed to this now OR.... the choices are commit to run this or

commit to run upstream, or your choice of happy rest home to be committed to.

Dawn the next day. Folks are more quiet than normal. Breakfast appetites were not as strong and the line to the GROOVER was longer than usual. Shore scouting later on gave me a nice surprise. The foam was visible, the amount of silt in the water was lessening and the foam was now discernible. Good, Vulcan was being kind to us. The flow was about 13K, good for the Inner Gorge but one still could not take a deep pull on the oars without risking popping that oar off an unseen rock. The dark brown water hides things.

Hance starts out with a left to right down stream ferry through a shallow channel to behind a house size boulder on the river left side. Once I the eddy of this boulder you set up for the rest of the run. This "entry" channel alone is close to 100 yards long before you get close to the boulder you eddy out behind. I'm first, Steve's second, Terry's third. Close formation this time. Holly K. was passenger in my boat this day. I gave her the run-down on what to "in case". Drifting forwards doing nothing into these drops is bad enough. Drifting backwards doing nothing can't be described. Waiting. Waiting...for that moment. Stand up on the cooler one last time. Timing is everything. Not yet...NOW!!!!!!!!!! I pull on the oars, angle the boat to the right, the current is accelerating and so am I. Ferry angle is good and one more pull before sliding into the eddy. The raft spins 180 and now faces forward. I drift out into the main flow, keep it left of center and have a good run. Everyone did well on this. It was shaping up to be a good day.

Sockdolager, named by Major John Wesley Powell on his epic voyage through the Canyon in 1869, it's an 1860's term for punching out someone, rm 78.5, rated 5 – 7. We shore scouted on river right. As usual the BOATMEN got the tallest rocks to stand to scope out the lines. The two offset waves that marked the entrance to "Sock" were gone. The center was mass of chaos and insanity. Ten foot plus waves exploding all over. Instant flip. No way was I going in there. The kayakers

went first and ran the far right side. They completely disappear in the waves. We BOATMEN find one route on the far left side. Past some "guard waves" and an eddy. "There's our line". "Lets rock and roll". Down on the water its "see you down below" and we head out downstream ferry right to left. I set up, drifted down the ramp, which was river wide at this point and waited. The target eddy was not that large and to over or under shoot it was a high probability. Super cottonmouth this day. No, I wasn't uptight, not at all...all this water and not a drop to drink.... (Was that the Rime of the Ancient Mariner?). I started pulling hard on the oars not even looking over my shoulder this time. The raft went over the "guard waves" like a slinky. Suddenly I felt the raft slow down and simultaneously spin 180 to the left. At that moment I yelled out YES!! I knew I had it and I was at the top of the rapid, I knew I was home free. Steve and Terry aced this. Everyone was doing well; everyone was stoked and running good lines. The sun was shining and it was high water.

Next was Grapevine rm 81.5, rated 6 – 7. I can't remember if we shore scouted this. Anyhow I do remember a center approach, downstream ferry into this. And that is all I remember about Grapevine.

Now we have been on the river for week now. Everyone is into the routine of boat, eat, boat, eat, sleep, hold tarp down, being reminded of "LAST CALL GROOVER...LAST CALL...AND I HAVE PLENTY OF DUCK TAPE". Everyone is pushing his or her own envelope. Everyone is hitting their "wall" at some point. When you do a long trip you will understand what is meant by the term..."wall". But today there is no wall in the conventional or personal sense. The wall(s) we all face today are multiple, ten feet and taller, composed hydrogen and oxygen, as wide as a bus and in the Grand Canyon and flowing chocolate milk brown.

Okay, now back to the river. 83 mile rapid rated 3 – 6. Easy, straight shot. This was an easy one to catch ones breath. Soon the suspension bridges at Phantom Ranch come into view, rm87.

We all walk up to the ranch to mail post cards, make phone calls and to refill the water jugs. While there the daily afternoon thunderstorm rolls in and a light rain starts. It doesn't last long. We do lunch and then back on the water. There is still a lot of the big stuff ahead before camp.

We go past Helicopter Eddy on river Left below the second bridge. UGLY, UGLY place to get stuck in. If one does get stuck in there, you may come out in a....week or so.

River mile 90.5. Horn Creek rated 7 – 9. Horn is one of those rapids that always make me think four – five times before running it. It is a short, violent, incredibly powerful and at the same time one of the most mesmerizing to look at. At 13K the waves on river right were "stay out at all cost". The center was possible. The "hole" on the top left center was glass smooth with an unpredictable explosion/crash to it. Hit it at the wrong time and bye-bye or hit it at the right time and...Well ask Erin B. about her run through it.

The line for the rafts will be the same as back in "93; downstream ferry to river left, stay upstream of the "hole". After scouting it "lets rock and roll". On the water "see you down below". The usual running order. Approaching the drop, floating down the ramp. Silence, just the sound, the roar of Horn Creek. I stand on the cooler I can see the tops of the waves and I am still a good hundred yards from the real start point. Silent. Cotton mouth. Waiting. I start pulling on the oars, I am braced against the frame and lifting myself off the seat. The oars are bending into an arc under the strain. I can feel the acceleration. I can feel the raft going over the smaller entry waves. I am not looking where I am going. This is instinct? Memory? Hope? Suddenly the raft goes over two big swells like a roller coaster, I am still pulling on the oars. I distinctly remember looking to my left AND UP at the second wave. Still pulling, I stop to look down stream. I am where I want to be so I start pivoting the raft to the right to get away from the river left wall. I then look upstream for Steve and Terry. There they are and looking good.

Holly was still in my raft. She was learning what it takes to move a raft, How much effort and time it take to bail one out and how to keep the BOATMAN'S river map in a safe location It was a welcomed quiet few miles to camp. We would camp right above Granite.

This is the official end of Chapter two.

FOR SALE

Cartop Rack - Thule Aero (like new) \$60, will fit Ford Focus (clips extra) call Meg Gabelman 330-926-0514 or ab256@acorn.net

Pa Turnpike Bypass

By Rob Hammond

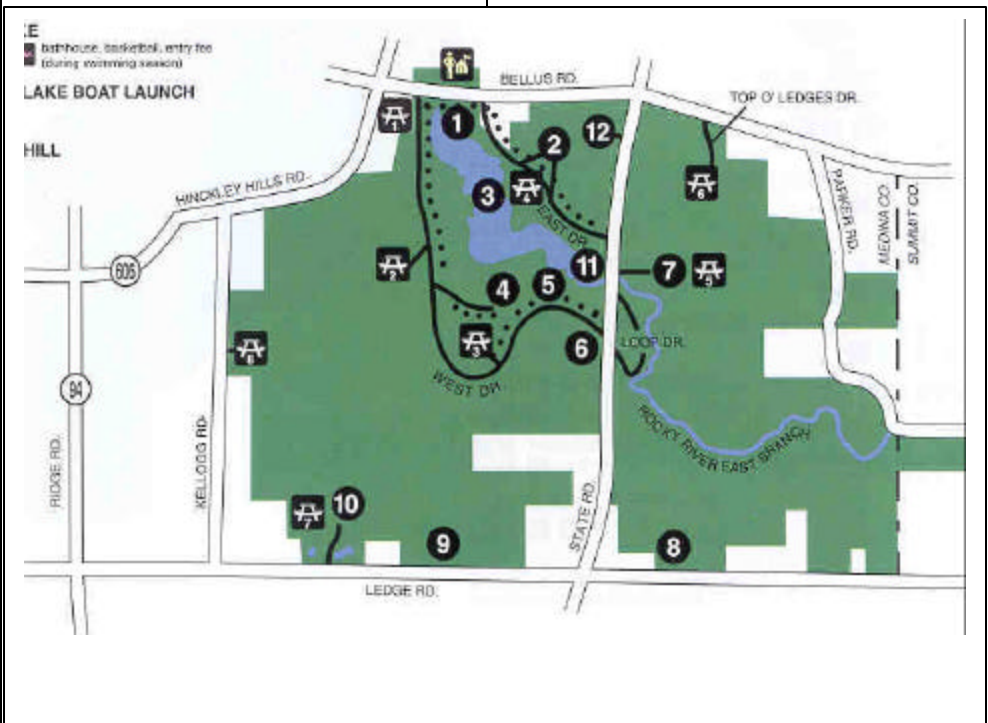
Have you noticed the long backups at the Pennsylvania Turnpike toll plaza as you enter Ohio. It seems worse than normal as they go about repairing the damaged toll booths.

Your intrepid Gasoline Saver Man has been scouting out an alternative for you. When I am in the Cheat Watershed I normally take I 79 north into Pittsburgh, and then I follow the Airport signs, this interstate becomes Rt. 60. and then I take 60 into the PA Pike. Do not take the Rt. 60 exit from I 79, as it will take you on some city roads, instead, follow the signs to the Airport. Although some people like other routes that use more of the PA Pike, I like this route as is convenient

and it takes about the same time as other more direct routes.

Now to bypass the Pa Pike altogether, get off of Rt. 60 at Rt. 51. There is a sign on 60 saying that this is the last exit before 60 becomes a toll road. Take Rt. 51 West, this road becomes Rt. 14 when you enter Ohio. Then look for Rt. 165 West, take that road to Rt. 7 north and that takes you to the Ohio Turnpike. Time wise it takes me about 30 minutes to take the bypass, and about 25 to 30 minutes if I take Rt. 60 to the PA Pike, also I can save \$1.25 in tolls if I use the bypass.

If you are coming from Ohiopyle on the Pa Pike, it is only a 10 minute diversion to get off at Rt. 60 and go south to take the bypass. This is definitely worth while on holiday weekends, where you can easily spend 30 to 60 minutes waiting to pay your toll!





Keel-Hauler's KaNews July 2002

Newsletter Deadline - July 27

Trip leaders: Please send any new plans and/or trip information to the newsletter editor in time for the newsletter that precedes your trip.
- Thank You

Trip Participants: Please see the yearbook or the keel-haulers web site www.keelhauler.org for details on the following scheduled trips. And be sure to contact the trip leader to indicate you are planning to participate.

July 9 Meeting at Silver Lake

The July 9th club meeting will be held at Silver Lake Country Club in Akron beginning at 6:30pm. We will have a race around the island as has become tradition, so bring your craft of choice. There will also be windsurfing and opportunity for roll practice and **a club picnic!** The club will provide burgers, hotdogs etc. and pop. For your contribution please bring a dish according to the following:

Last name begins with... please bring..

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| A-F | Potato/Macaroni Salad |
| G-L | Dessert or Fruit |
| M-S | Chips or Appetizer |
| T-Z | Salad/vegetable/baked beans |

We will serve 7-7:30pm..... Plates, napkins, plasticware will be provided.

Directions to Silver Lake:

From Cleveland:

1. Take I-271 S or Ohio Turnpike to Route 8(Boston Hts).
2. Take Rt 8 south for many miles Get off at the 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 and turn left at the traffic light at Silver Lake Blvd - This is Silver Lake Village. Park at club house on the right.

From Akron and south:

1. take Rt 8 north and get off at the Front St exit (which is right after the Broad Blvd. exit).
2. Then follow directions item 5 above.
[Map to Silver Lake Meeting](#)

We can use the Lake until about 8:30. See you there!

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Volunteers Needed For

Trip Schedule

July

2,16, 23, 30 Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

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

3-7 Ocoee River, TN (24)

Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu 216-371-8250 (h),
216-791-3800 x4643 (w)

5-6 Upper Yough, MD (32)

Stu Koster koster@comcast.net 248-652-3241

9 Club Meeting at Silver Lake, Akron - see info in column at right

25 Upper Yough Race — Friendsville, MD

Jess Whittemore jess@iceweb.net

20-21 New River Gorge, WV (27)

Casey Kaskey casey_kaskey@hmis.org 440-235-8354

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

Lower Yough : Tim Taubert tim_taubert@adit.com 440-256-2506

Fran Hoven zenelan@concentric.net 216-961-1553

Middle: Karen Daniels karenkayaks@yahoo.com 440-458-5972

August

2-4 Upper /Lower Yough, MD / PA (23/32)

Upper: Aug 2-3: Rob Hammond Rob.Hammond@isce-corp.com
216-292-5618

Lower: Aug 4: Ron Tomallo rtomallo@hotmail.com 440-953-1335

3 Bottom Yough (3)

Please let Judi know by July20th if you are interested, so the necessary reservations can be made.

Judi Cleary Judicleary@attbi.com 440-808-8499

3-4 Upper New, WV (16)

Carl Kudrna carl@ckweston.com 440-835-0222

6, 20, 27 Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

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

13 Club Meeting at Huntington Beach, Bay Village

The Teva Whitewater National Championships Oct 11 -13, 2002 Upper Ocoee Olympic Course

As whitewater enthusiasts, you've probably heard that this year's Ocoee event, Oct. 11-13, has been designated as the national championships. American Whitewater reorganized its competitive events into regional circuits which will funnel into the national championships as the culminating event for the season. Teva has come on board as the premier series sponsor, titling the Ocoee event the Teva Whitewater National Championships.

The best of the best will be battling it out for the title of champion. But more is at stake than winning one event - the national championships will determine which boaters will be allowed to compete as Pros in 2003. With limited Pro cards available, expect to see paddlers boating full on, showcasing new moves to wow the judges and spectators.

To further add to the significance of the event, this may well be the last event ever held on the Upper Ocoee Olympic course. The TVA will no longer provide free water for events and their rates are prohibitive. The loss of this premier whitewater venue is a significant blow to the whitewater competition circuit.

To make the National Championships happen will take the time, energy and talents of more than 200 volunteer staff working in a variety of capacities. Jobs available include everything from general office work to construction and set-up to competition judges to risk management to checking IDs at the party. There's plenty of work to go around.

VOLUNTEER STAFF BENEFITS

Volunteering to work for the Teva Tour National Championships competition or party is not only fun but helps raise money for American Whitewater's river conservation and access mission. And we sure do appreciate the help - - all

volunteer staff working 4 or more hours receive:

- a free Teva Tour National Championship T-shirt
- free entrance to the event
- free entrance to the Saturday night party
- 1 free beer ticket (21 or older)
- a chance to win great stuff in the volunteer-only raffle (1 ticket for every 1 - 3 hours worked with a 3 hour minimum / maximum 20 tickets).
- volunteer staff who work an all-day shift will be provided with lunch
- volunteer staff who work 3 full length days or more will receive a free Saturday night dinner

JOBS AVAILABLE

This list is not definitive, other needs may arise, but it covers our primary volunteers needs. For descriptions of each job, log on to our website: www.americanwhitewater.org/events/twnc

Pre-event:

Admission Gate Manager
Food Manager
Marketing Specialist/Program
Marketing Specialists/Electronic Media
Volunteer Manager

At the river:

Timers/Flaggers (October 11-13)
Scribes (October 11-13)
Safety Boaters (October 11-13)*
Shore Safety -throw ropes (Oct 11-13)*
Technical Judges (October 10-13) **
Scoring Assistants (Oct 11-13)
Set-up & Construction (Oct 5)
Set-up Assistants (October 10)
Clean-up/Tear Down (Oct 13)
Athlete Registration Assistants and Check-In (Oct 10 & 11)
Administrative Assistants (Oct 10-13)
Competition Assistants (Oct 11-13)
Food Assistants (October 11-13)
Admission Gate Hosts (October 11-13)
Clean-Up Crew (October 11-13)

At the party site:

Silent Auction Volunteers
Sell Raffle Tickets
Party & Auction Set-Up
Party Gate Volunteers
Sell/Take Dinner Tickets
Check IDs
Party Clean-Up/Tear Down

* Safety boaters and on shore safety personnel must be trained, experienced, and will be screened for safety suitability.

* Judges must have completed an American Whitewater judges training certification program.

CAN'T DECIDE ON A JOB?

No problem. Contact Karen V'Soske (insert link to my email), tell her what you do for a living, your interests and skills, tell her when you will be available, and she will find a job to suit you. Or, [click here](#) to take a look at all job descriptions for all the volunteer staff opportunities.

TO VOLUNTEER

Contact Karen V'Soske, Event Manager
a) email Kvsoske@aol.com (preferred)
b) call 419-877-9215 or, starting two weeks before games, 828-644-0819
c) write to Karen at 10562 Obee Road, Whitehouse, Ohio, 43571

INFORMATION NEEDED

When you contact Karen, please provide **ALL** of the following info:

- 1) full name
- 2) email address (don't include it if you never check it)
- 3) full mailing address
- 4) phone numbers (include all that you don't mind if we call: home, work, cell) and indicate which one is the best to use and when
- 5) note the volunteer job you would like to do - IF you have a preference
- 6) what days will you be available to help - and what hours on those days; note that some of the jobs are on days prior to the event
- 7) tell us your occupation and any other skills you have - this will help us best utilize your abilities by finding the best volunteer job for you

VOLUNTEER NOW!

Some jobs and times fill up fast. The sooner you contact Karen, the sooner she can place you.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU SEND IN YOUR VOLUNTEER INFO

Once Karen receives your volunteer information, she will contact you within 5 days, often sooner. She will make a

placement suggestion (job / day / time) but won't ink it in until you confirm to her that you want that placement. It will be important that you get back to her as soon as possible because others may be contacting her wanting that same placement. She operates on a first-to-confirm-gets-the-job basis. Then, about 3 weeks prior to the event, you will receive a mailing with all the information you need to do your job: when to report, who to report to, any training needed, information about parking, etc. This year we will email the info whenever possible unless you prefer snail mail. Prior to the mailing, you are encouraged to contact Karen any time you have questions or if your availability should change.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of American Whitewater – be one.

Boater-Boy will teach for food!

David Hammond will be looking for work while he is in the Pennsylvania area training for the Wildwater Nationals on the New River in August.

He is available for personal or small group instruction. He has been teaching kayaking at Riversport for the last 4 years, and if you will allow a proud father to indulge; he is very good (at boating and teaching). If you are looking to improve your skills and were thinking of going to NOC or some other kayak school, you might want to consider David, as he is in our back yard (the Lower, Middle, or Upper Yough), and he is less expensive. He charges \$150 per day for either a group or for a personal class. If you can get 4 or 5 friends of similar skill levels together, this can be very economical instruction.

So if you are having trouble catching those tough to get eddies, want to improve your surfing, or want to step up to the next level, David will help you tune your skills, and improve your performance. If you are interested, or want to learn more, give me a call or email.

Rob Hammond

216 292-5618
Rob@ISCE-corp.com

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The Keel-Haulers Boating and Eating Club

How many times have you heard this phrase associated with our club? Yes it is true that after a hard day on the river our club members do tend to head for the tastiest food establishment nearby. So why not let others in on your favorite places to chow- down. Submit your favorite place to eat at your favorite river to paddle. Multiple entries are encouraged. We will list them all in the next newsletter. Please email to Judicleary@attbi.com

Please include: Name of restaurant, any comments on the place or the food. Directions or location information, the river that it is nearby. And the submitter's (your) name.

The more entries we get, the more helpful it will be, so please join in.

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GRAND CANYON 2001 Chapter 3

By Richard Dabal, SBRG

At the end of the first day in the Inner Gorge we camped at rm 93 (Lava is rm 179, we are more than half way there). We set up on river left directly above Granite. So now folks will go to sleep with the roar and crashing of Granite to listen to all night. As for me...I put in earplugs and didn't hear a thing.

The next morning as we loaded up the rafts, I gave out what by then a routine call...."LAST CALL GROOVER!!!!!! LAST CALL!!!!!! AND I HAVE PLENTY OF DUCT TAPE!!!!!! That call got folks and "stuff" moving. I started doing these calls because I was tired of waiting every morning for the "last push". I couldn't finish tying down all the gear until the Goover boxes were loaded onto my raft. So the task of motivating folks in the AM was mine and I was proud to do it.

The next morning we shore scout Granite, rm 93, rated 7 – 8. Granite is a nasty rapid. A goof here can mean a

long swim. The entrance is longer than usual; the ramp is river wide and tough to get your bearings on landmarks. We shore scouted from river left but us BOATMEN and kayakers would enter it from center/right of center. Scouting showed that river left was out of the question; a true center approach would put you in the wrong place at the bottom. Reaction waves are bouncing off the sheer rock wall on river right and force you to the center, which is not a good place to be, there is huge building and collapsing wave hole down there. If you hit when it's forming you're okay. If you hit when it is collapsing...Sayonara. The reaction waves have a river right to left trend. One has to push on the oars raft slight angle to the right to counter that trend. Adding to this is Forever Eddy at bottom of this drop, immediately after/next to that previously mentioned wave hole. This eddy is "avoid at all costs", the name says it all.

The "ripping the rapids apart Shredder duo and the hard boaters go first. We BOATMEN head over to river right and set up. The usual line up, Holly was passenger in my boat today, and the customary last words..."see you down below".

I line up; pushing on the oars, boat angled right. The entry to this drop hadn't changed the first big swells were still those tall but long waves where you have time to look at and to think on what you entering. I looked at the reaction waves and thought hold this line at all costs. My goal was to "thread the needle" between the bottom reaction waves and the wave hole. The window is about as wide as the raft and one has to "know" this window is there and hope one makes it. Up and over the entry waves, the reaction waves are pushing me pretty hard. I felt my line was good, suddenly there was the "thread" and I was on it. I shot past it and past "Forever Eddy". I took on a lot of water and Holly was bailing. I look up stream for Steve and Terry. I see Steve. A few seconds later I hear Steve yell out "Terry's over". I lookup and see several kayaks bulldozing Terry's inverted raft to the river left shore. I didn't see it, but Terry was already sitting on top his inverted raft. My fear was he could

have been stuck underneath. Steve yelled out Terry was okay. BIG SIGH OF RELIEF. I can see Steve getting to shore close to Terry's raft. I was stuck in squirrely water and couldn't get over till about 100-150 yards down stream.

By the time I got to Terry's raft there were several things going simultaneously and all fighting each other, no control, no plan. I stepped into the middle of this and yelled, "TIME OUT!!!!!! TIME OUT!!!!!! That got everyone's attention and stopped everything. I called out what to do and how and folks went and did it. Once the oars were secured, the bow and stern lines secured and two separate lines were set up we were then ready to pull the raft back over. Now the raft was up against a sheer rock wall about eight feet high. With an equal number of folks on each haul line we stated "hauling" and the raft came up. We then kicked the bottom tubes out and the raft came down upright and dry. Inspection showed nothing was lost, nothing was damaged. Terry was okay and that was the main thing. From the time he flipped to the time the raft was righted was maybe 30 minutes that all. I think several folks in the group finally really appreciated all those lines Terry, Steve and I use to tie and secure all the gear and the time we take to do it. Good Ropes, good webbing, good knots, handcuffs, Whoops!!!!!! Wrong story. This incident really shows the BOATMAN's knowledge and skills with ropes and knots and taking the time to do this rope work really pay off.

Now as to why Terry flipped, listening to his "report", it sounds more like in the wrong place at the wrong time. A reaction wave off the wall that pulsed when he went by. He said the right tube rose up and he had no time to high side on it and over he went. Sounds like a corkscrew roll. Another 100 feet and he would have been through Granite upright.

With that to start our day we now had a whole 1.5 miles to "calm down" before we got to Hermit.

Hermit, rm 95 rated 7 – 8. The water was running really dark brown this
Page 4

morning and the foam was barely less dark brown than the water. We shore scouted Hermit on river left. My mouth dropped when I saw it. The once seven symmetrical, smooth faced waves of Hermit were now this seething chaos of huge irregular shaped waves. The river right side was maybe 60 – 40 in favor of the river, the center was 100% in favor of the river, the river left side was maybe 51 – 49 in favor of the BOATMEN. The left side looked like this: The entry into it was really fast water that fed into the center of the rapid, there was this large left to right diagonal swell that "guarded" the left side. This swell had a smooth surfaced upstream side that fed water into the center of the drop. The downstream side of this swell was all "roughed up" for lack of another word. The water from this side fed off onto the left and clearer line. We found a line, now we had to get ourselves there. With the dark brown water, dark foam, and brown colored rocks we had virtually nothing for landmarks to guide us into Hermit.

We three BOATMEN head over to the river right side. Final checks, and "see you down below". I start out. As mentioned earlier landmarks were really tough to see. There were these guard rocks just above this swell mentioned earlier. I wanted to just skirt past them and slide over this swell. Another downstream ferry move. I pulled really hard on the oars. I really wanted to make this move; those huge waves were really ugly down there. I look over my shoulder and see I started too early and was heading for a head on collision with those guard rocks. I call out to Holly we are going to hit. She automatically sinks lower into the bow. I started pushing on the oars to slow down. I hit the rocks and bounced off them "upstream". Somehow my ferry angle remained unchanged. I resumed pulling on the oars. I got over the swell and kept pulling and got spun around. I still got pulled towards those waves. The only chance was angle the raft and hopefully no waves will break on me. I rode up on the shoulders of at the "smaller" waves and I was looking up at them. The largest waves, 10 – 11 feet plus, I had to crank my neck back to see all of it. The largest wave broke as I got

there, and filled me, fortunately that's all it did. Once past that it was a big relief. I look upstream for Steve and Terry. They were through and hull down.

Now we have a whole three miles to calm down and then get ready for Crystal: rm 98.5 and rated 7 – 10 on an easy day. I heard the hole at Crystal was gone and that the submerged island below that had gotten worse. It was all true; scouting it showed no more bus size hole, just a big forming and breaking wave. Below that were ugly and big breaking waves. Depending on how these waves broke on you would decide your fate. You either got pushed towards the Slate Creek Diagonal, a huge hole or into the center of the submerged island onto barely submerged rocks.

The entry was river right, downstream ferry. The problem with Crystal always was and remains those guard rocks on the very top of the rapid at a real bad spot. Because these guard rocks stick out from shore you have a very small window, for a raft, to make the move to pull right of everything. Because landmarks on where to start the pull were so lacking we drafted two kayakers to stand on shore to be landmarks. That really helped. So..."Lets rock and roll"..."See you down below". Also adding to the tension was lunch was to be just below this on the right, and I had that day's lunch on my raft. Talk about pressure.

I lined up and felt good about it, careful not to dig the oars too deep lest they bottom out and pop out of the pin. I get past the ugly stuff with room to spare and start to make the pull for the lunch eddy and pop the down stream oar. It gets swept under the raft, I got the spare out and kicked it into the pin and rowed to shore. Terry did fine and Steve got hung up on some rocks just above the lunch eddy, by the time he got himself off and turned around he just missed the lunch spot. He managed to get into this little "alcove" and threw a rope off his boat and we managed to pull him and raft back up stream. The big stuff was done...for now. Now we could actually relax for the next few miles and enjoy the views and weather.

Weather wise during the mornings it was sunny with the thunder and lightning storms arriving mid afternoon. This day the sun was out longer and the clouds arrived later. Going through Tuna rm 99.5, rated 5 – 6: and the “Gems” was easy. Sapphire, Ruby, Serpentine were fun little (compared to Crystal and Horn Creek, etc.) drops of 4, 5, 6 ratings. It was just as well, this is really nice part of the Canyon for me. You really have time to look at the geology, the Geologist in me was having a good time. I could stand up and just gaze at stuff, at the kayakers, shoot the breeze, or just veg for while. Bass, Shinamu, 110, Hakatai, Waltenberg rapids all went by. Not to sound arrogant but they were the easier drops in the whole trip. Boat scoutable, straight shot rapids. These drops were rated 3 – 7 and all straight shots.

In these drops Casey K. and Cliff were given more lessons on working a raft and they were getting the hang of it. Just need more rowing time and the rest will follow. Teaching them was fun, it gave me a chance to ride Cowboy on the bow through the drops. The next generation of SBRG's; and I am proud to have a hand in their training to become SBRG's

After a pit stop at Elves Chasm, rm116.5, we floated through Stephen Aisle. This four mile stretch of quiet fast water through virtually sheer walls So quiet you can here yourself breath, your heart beat and the occasional roiling/churning of the water as it flows on. I just dropped the oars and let the raft float on it's own. To me this was the heart of a Grand Canyon trip; to hear the silence. To just look at all this rock in all these brilliant colors and count myself lucky to be back here again.

After camping at Blacktail, the Stephen Aisle continued but this lower section was named Conquistador Aisle. Just as quiet and serene as the Stephen Aisle. In places like these the call of the Canyon Wren, the raven echo up and down the canyon. It is those moments I think of first when I think of the Canyon

Forster, rated 3 – 6; Fossil rated 3 – 6; 128 Mile, rated 4 were another easy

batch of drops. On this particular day several other trips passed by, privates and commercial. It was actually getting crowded on the water. But we made the best of it. Terry, the group hustler managed to get several cans of soda from passing commercial trips. He would say to these trips the kayakers would do Eskimo rolls for a treat. The kayakers would do a few rolls, wow these folks and have a soda tossed over. Terry was working on getting a six pack tossed over to us. He was thinking of a good trick for the kayakers to do to get that prize.

End Chapter Three.



Keel Hauler Members sorted by State/City

ST City	Member Last Name
AZ (1) Phoenix	Youngman
CA (3) Atascadero Calabasas Cupertino	Evans Priem Little
CT (1) Southbury	Owen
FL (1) Naples	Halsey
GA (1) Valdosta	Reames
IN (1) Fort Wayne	Legg
MD (4) Bethesda Crownsville Germantown Westminister	Connor - Hipsley Andraka Waickman Kight
MI (10) Ann Arbor Belleville Farmington Hills Farmington Hills Gaylord Lansing	Ricoy Adams Glick Hunsaker Okoniewski Kennedy

Petoskey Bolton
Plymouth Dairymples
Rochester Hills - Koster
Wixom Allen

MO (2)

Ballwin Albright - Aalbersberg
Fenton Roush

NC (1)

Raleigh Griener - Gilbert

NY (4)

Cobleskill Cronin
Ellicottville Winton
Goldens Bridge - Lemke
Jamestown Kopp

OH (292)

Akron (12) Hart
Kiehl - Corey
Liggett
Muir
Porter
Sipe
Edwards
Weible
Hall
Gableman
Urdan
Hoover
Alliance (3) Zimmermann
Guess
McCord
Amherst (2) Gray
Botamer
Ashland Naugle
Ashtabula (3) Taylor
Seymour
Flautt
Athens Tickamyer
Auburn Tshp Drysdale
Montgomery
Aurora (4) Vanderwal
Balsay
Suchovsky
Toothaker
Austinburg Masek
Avon Norton
Avon Lake (4) Eaton
Waddle
Riffle
Vetrone
Bay Village (6) Sprang
Dill
Avallone
Meehan

	Kudrna		Reich	Independence	Rauschenbach
	Cleary		Toms - Kohatsu		LaRosa
Bedford	Wire		Curley	Kent	Lichty
Bedford Hts	Adams		Madorsky - Stern	Kirtland	Taubert
Blue Ash	Chisholm		Brand		Tomallo
Boardman	Thompson		Vincent	Lagrange	Webber
Bowling Green	Smith	Clinton	Reynolds	Lakewood (9)	Duvall
Bratenahl	Lau	Columbia Station - Homberg			Keil - English
Brecksville (3)	Zawacki	Colulmbus (6)	Steinmetz		Weeber
	Zeman		Lane		Plank
	Corrigan		Wake		Griffin
Broadview Hts	- Pablo - Lear		Gift		Bodemer - Klena
Brunswick	Miller		French		Bartha
Bucyrus	Smarsch		Russell		Kersch
Canton	Koskoris	Conneaut	Pratt		Cytron
Chagrin Falls (9)	- Britton	Copley	Nicholson - May	Lancaster	Dorwart
	Iben		Jones	Lorain	Morse
	Griffith	Cortland	Zerefos		Lauren
	Wern	Cuyohoga Falls (4)	- Sweejk	Louisville	Miday
	Lockemer		Manson		Unkefer
	Janoski		McGarvey	Lyndhurst	Tranchita
	Markoff		Sharp		Kudrna
	Wild	Dayton	Schafer	Macedonia	Chapek
	Lewis	Defiance	Mullett	Madison	Debalski
Chesterland	Mulliken	Delaware	Narrotski		Peterlin
	Pirko	Dellroy	Keane	Mansfield	Copely
Cinncinnati	Beaird	Dover	Johnson	Mantua	Jaynes
Cleveland (21)	Owens	E. Liverpool	Groff	Marblehead	Dennerll
	Norman - Farrell	E. Rochester	Mitchell	Mayfield Hts	Lopez
	Darrah	Elyria (6)	Christo	Medina (5)	Guzowski
	Schmidt		Mason		Batizy
	Norris		Hill		Kiesel
	Silverstein - Cybyk		Case		Tubbesing
	Douglas		Daniels		Walker
	Canaly	Euclid	Anderson	Mentor (5)	Bailey
	Kreiner	Fairlawn	Doyle		Textor
	Qua		Bethea		Collins
	Kasinec - Grospiron		Petit - Kremperger		Miller - Needham
	Yaro	Fairview Park (5)	- Fallon		Meyers
	Hoven		Joniak	Middleburg Hts	- Oswald
	Whitney		Thies	Moreland Hills	- Bergfeild
	McGinley		Zimmer	Monroe Falls (3)	- Petrich
	Dudek		O'Connor		Laubaugh
	Watts	Fowler	Yeager		Owens
	Lewis - Pichola	Garfield Hts	Smith	Navarre	Smith
	Doherty		Kosicki	New London	Murr
	Vento - Kanary	Gates Mills	Pesuit	New Waterford	- Brown
	Ryckman	Geneva	Taft	Newbury	Hay
Cleve Hts (17)	Anderson	Greenwich	Eastman	N. Canton	Nelson
	Haas	Hartville	McClung		Lang
	Robinson	Haskins	Nicholson - Lally	N Olmsted (6)	- Moose
	Ingalls - Kmieck	Highland Hts	Roush		Corrigan
	Barnett	Hiram	Becker		Charlton
	Stumpe - Mauter	Hubbard	Lowry		Garcia
	Mickelson	Hudson (3)	Moon		Kaskey
	Duke		Culkin		Pinkie
	Stuelpe		Moore	N Royalton	Heuser
	Bair	Huron	Corso	Northfield	Wahl
	Gross		Hebert	Norton Chaney	

Norwalk	Healy	St. Clairsville	Robertson	Greenville	Turner
Novelty (3)	Reid	Stow (8)	Reese		Vanburen
	istok		Fischlin	Grove City	Black
	Brunner		Strong	Hermitage	Schumacher
Oberlin (3)	Endrizal - Decker		Schilling	Jennerstown	
	Annable		Barber	Media	Weber
	Annable		Schmidt	Philadaphia	Laubaugh
Olmsted Falls	Arndt		Tyree	Pittsburgh	Adams
Orange Village	- Hammond		Sins		Berman
Painesville (7)	Teal - Lecjaks	Streetsboro	Smerglia		Perry
	Dosky		Bradley	Sewickley	Windisch - Reiser
	Watson - Humphreys	Strongsville (3)	- Biley	Transfer	Spanitz
	Tucker		Poljak	Volant McGill	
	Snyder		Henry	Waterford	Schaaf
	Howwiler	Sylvania	Warren	West Mifflin	Dearfield
	Minot - Waddkowski	Toledo	Hull	Yardley	Rauh
Parma (4)	Storer		Fritz	TX (1)	
	Thorne	Troy	Simons	Houston	Boyce - Michael
	Krauss	Twinsburg	Donnellan	UT (1)	
	Thorne	Uniontown	Cotterman	Salt Lake City	Fralick - Chapman
Parma Hts	Rogers	University Hts	Lehnus - Callahan	VA (5)	
Pepper Pike	Boer		Mancino	Chantilly	Henry
Ravenna	Feinberg - Grim	Vermilion	Reising	Mechanicsville	Drozdowski
Rittman	Price		Baker	Richmond	Turkaly - Panzaarella
Rocky River	Conway	Wadsworth (3)	- Reno	Woodbridge	Bertsch
Sagamore Hills	(3) - Trivanovic		Bachtel		Spohn
	Russell		Hunt	WA (1)	
	Moore	Warren	O'Brien	Trout Lake	Robinson
Salem	Bateman		Vaughn	WV (5)	
Sandusky	Ksih	Westlke	Bernneike	Elkins	Bollyard
	Herman		Kobak	Grafton	Boyd
Seven Hills	Sammon	Willoughby	Brown	Morgantown	Scheuch
Sharon Center	Mravetz		Ma		Depree
Sheffield Lake	Singer	Willoughby Hills	- Ryan	Triadelphia	Carey
Solon (3)	Cigany	Willowick	Gannott		
	O'Connor	Youngstown	Mueller		
	Zukerman	PA (19)			
South Euclid	(3) - Obery	Butler	Atkinson		
	Sanzenbacher - Kovacic	Franklin	Kirby		
	Herold		Rhoads		
Southington	Zerefos				



Keel-Hauler's KaNews

Oct 2002

Next newsletter deadline - Oct 27

Dues are now Due!

Your 2003 dues are now payable, as the club's membership year ends October 1st. Your mailing label will indicate whether you are paid up for 2003. Mail your check for \$20 today, please include a donation for our club's conservation program if you can. **IF YOU RENEW BY DEC 10th YOU WILL BE LISTED IN THE YEARBOOK FOR 2003**, otherwise you will not.

Please indicate any changes to your address, phone or e-mail listing.

Pay at any club meeting or Mail to:

**Keel Haulers Canoe Club
1649 Allen Dr
Westlake, OH 44145-2506**

You do not need to fill out a new application or waiver to renew your membership, only if you have any changes of information. Your last newsletter will be the December Kanews.

Oct 8th Club Meeting, 7:30 pm Middleburg Hts Community Center

Program: Barry Tuscano, President of the American Whitewater Association will come and talk about the work done by the AWA and what lies in the future for the association.

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Swept 80 miles out to sea in a Kayak -- Could this happen to you?

*By Wayne Spivak, ADSO-CS 1SR
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary*

On July 29th, 2002 John Stockton, went out for a short paddle in his new kayak. Some twenty-four hours later, after a Coast Guard HH-65 helicopter, C-130 jet and a Navy P-3 Orion aircraft went searching for him, he was plucked out of the water.

During this time period, the Coast Guard and Navy search more than 12,000 nautical miles of ocean, more than twice the size of the big island of Hawaii. Incidentally, that's where Mr. Stockton went kayaking.

In this case, both the Coast Guard and Navy can chalk up a successful Search and Rescue (SAR). Not every SAR case is successfully prosecuted, and boaters, all boaters should understand the dangers, as well as the good times involved in what is essentially a very safe sort.

While this is an extreme example of what can go wrong, we, and that is an all inclusive we, have found that truth is stranger than fiction. Problems while kayaking (or boating or sailing) happen everyday, but thankfully most victims

Trip Schedule

October

6 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

Cathy Schilling: cshill20@aol.com 330-686-8924

5-6 Upper Yough, Upper Gauley, MD/WV (32/33)

Paul Lang: ptboofhoven@surfree.com 330-896-3468

8 Meeting: Middleburg Hts Community Center, 7:30 PM

See description on this page.

12-13? Penn Cup #5

Rob Hammond: Rob.Hammond@isce-corp.com 216-292-5618

13 or 14 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

Kurt Haas: kurth@a-s-e.com 216-321-1763

18-20 Moose River Festival, Old Forge, NY (16/25/30)

Rob Hammond: Rob.Hammond@isce-corp.com 216-292-5618

Brent Laubaugh: brent@vzavenue.net 215-922-7178

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

Lower: Sherie Sanzenbacher: ritchkovacic@stratos.net
216-381-0599

Middle: Brian Thies 440-331-4216

19 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

Casey Brown: cab19@po.cwru.edu 440-946-6305

19-26 (or other weekends) Cheat Canyon - Fall Colors

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

26-27 Russell Fork, Above the Breaks, VA (24)

Cecil Tickamyer: tickamye@oak.cats.ohiou.edu 740-593-8453

November

2 Cheat Canyon, WV (26)

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

9 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

Tim Taubert: tim_taubert@adit.com 440-256-2506

12 Meeting: Middleburg Hts Community Center, 7:30 PM

2003 Trip Schedule Planning

don't find themselves swept 80 miles out in the ocean.

Let's examine Mr. Stockton's case and see where he went wrong and what he could have done to minimize the danger he put himself in, as well as the danger to the rescue crews who went out to search for him. The lessons here work whether you're going to take your vessel (any vessel, from a rowboat up to a 65' cabin cruiser) away from the dock.

Weather

According to published reports, Mr. Stockton said "...that strong winds capsized his kayak...It was just real big swells, 10- to 15-foot swells, wind just howling." Rule one is checking the weather forecast prior to leaving the dock. And continually check the weather.

If the forecast shows a weather pattern or possible weather pattern that is adverse to the conditions your vessel is able to handle, stay home! If the weather begins to turn ugly, head for the nearest safe port.

Weather can turn your four hour cruise in to a twenty-four year nightmare (just ask the crew of the SS Minow), or ask Mr. Stockton if he'd like to repeat his twenty-four hour cruise? Somehow, I don't think so...

Safety Equipment

PFD's

Safety equipment is an absolute, especially on a kayak. All kayaker's, indeed all boaters, should wear a correctly sized Personal Flotation Device (PFD), what many of us still call a life jacket. Should your vessel capsize, it is suggested that you stay with your capsized vessel, and not try to swim to shore.

Swimming to shore, in most instances is a very dangerous decision, since the shore always looks closer than in reality. In addition, without a PFD, the chances for drowning and/or suffering from hypothermia increase logarithmically.

It's not entirely clear from reports if Mr. Stockton had a PFD (life jacket), but he

at least had a "yellow" jacket and an emergency blanket. It was reported that Mr. Stockton thought about swimming to shore. At the speed that his kayak moved away from shore, it would seem that the swim mostly likely would have killed Mr. Stockton.

Cell Phones vs. VHF radios

His entry into the emergency systems was precipitated by his use of a cell phone. While the Coast Guard frowns upon reliance on cell phones, in this case, Mr. Stockton's use of his cell phone did save his life. Unfortunately, he left shore without a VHF radio, which could have communicated with the CG C-130 aircraft or the HH-60 helicopter.

The reason for the Coast Guard's stance on cell phone usage is three fold.

1. Vessels are required, if they have a radio (for recreational boats having a vhf radio is not a federal requirement) to maintain a safety watch on VHF CH 16. CH 16 is the emergency hailing frequency. If you were to call a May Day, this is the frequency you would use.
2. If you call for assistance, and the Coast Guard doesn't hear you, then other vessels within the area of your signal might hear you and either forward your message to the Coast Guard and/or offer assistance to your vessel.
3. Use and range of a cell phone is limited off-shore, and no one but the called party will, under most circumstances, hear your distress call.

Signaling Devices

Federal regulations require signaling devices on board most vessels. Signaling devices come in two varieties, audio and visual. Visual devices are further broken down into daytime and nighttime. Mr. Stockton had none, but by using his ingenuity, he made a signaling device.

For most kayaker's, a plastic marine whistle and a signaling mirror tied to your PFD, would enable you to make yourself known during the 'normal' operating times of the vessel. Kayak's, since they are not required to have lights, should only be used during the

period of sunrise to sunset. If there is a chance that you'll be out after sunset, a flashlight is recommended.

A perfect example of how to use a signaling device, even a makeshift one is offered by Mr. Stockton. "Finally they got close enough and he flew right about 1 o'clock high. I had this blanket, a shiny metal emergency blanket, I tied it on the oar and I stuck it up there and I took off my jacket and I was waving it around. I was just like, Let them see me."

It doesn't do any good to shoot off your flares, or blow your whistle, if there is no one to see or hear them. Use them judiciously! Federal law requires only three (3) flares. Three flares don't last long.

Flares and other pyrotechnics, as far as Federal Law is concerned, are only good for three years (all USCG Approved flares are marked with an expiration date). However, they most likely will last longer. Many Auxiliarists carry some recently expired pyrotechnics with them. These are the ones that they try to ignite or fire first.

The reasoning is that if the older, expired pyrotechnics works, then you now have one additional flare or other device to shoot off. If it doesn't, then nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Float Plan

While not a required item, the Coast Guard strongly advises all boaters to file a float plan with a friend or neighbor. A float plan is a simple document that lists all the possible factors in a pre-planned voyage. The plan should include the type of vessel, its identifying features, make, model and power plant.

It also includes what extra safety equipment is kept on board, the intended path that the voyage will follow, including stops and the intended timing of the voyage (when you think you'll be where, and when). The float plan also lists who is on the vessel, including names, addresses, ages and physical condition.

Should you not show up where and when expected, the holder of the float plan (and their can be multiple holders)

can then call the Coast Guard, who would institute the beginning stages of the Search and Rescue system. The more information provided to the Coast Guard, the better the search planning and the faster the rescue.

Summary

Mr. Stockton is, as previously mentioned, an extremely lucky man. But if he had taken the proper precautions, his reliance on luck would have been markedly reduced. All boaters should learn from Mr. Stockton's two days at sea. Learn what not to leave at home, and learn what to do in an emergency.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is charged with assisting the Coast Guard in its Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) mission, among others. The Auxiliary assists in RBS, by providing to the public many different levels of boater education, geared for all ages, from children to adults.

Why not take a boating safety course, a sailing safety course or one of our navigation courses today. You can contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary either on the web at www.cgaux.org or call your local Coast Guard office. The Coast Guard can also be found in your phone book or on the web at www.uscg.mil.

The Associated Press, the HonoluluAdvertiser.com and 14th District of the United States Coast Guard contributed to this report.

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KEELHAULERS MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was held on October 10, 2002 at the Middleburg Heights Rec. Center. Twenty-six people were in attendance with three guests.

Treasury report – there is \$5820.40 in our account.

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted and passed.

Chair reports:

Conservation – Matt Muir submitted suggestions for places to contribute our funds. The fiscal year end September 30 so donate now!

- Cuyahoga River – a group met to put pressure on the City of Akron to stop dumping waste in the river.
- Slippery Rock – there are discussions on protecting the creek from mining in concert with the Three Rivers Paddling Club and Sierra Club.

Instruction - Steve Ingalls – ARC has several fundamentals of kayaking over the winter in various locations. Refer to website for further details.

(www.keelhaulers.org)

Library – Mike Duvall – Nothing to report.

Membership – John Kobak – 378 member in 2002, 30 have paid for 2003. Dues are due this month.

Programs – Judy Cleary is looking for someone to take over this function.

Safety – Chuck Singer has seen three shoulder dislocations in the last three weeks. Having your shoulder “out of the box” causes this. Extending your arm completely during a brace can cause a dislocation. To prevent this, keep your elbow bent and exercise to keep your shoulders strength up. Lifting weights is good.

Old Business – nothing to discuss so we went right to

New Business – John Kobak discussed pop up ads on website that could be eliminated by going to a single website (we currently use multiple to keep costs to a minimum). John will investigate the cost and report back. (Chuck seconded the motion and everyone voted for it).

Trip Reports: Jim and an army of people went to the Gauley and had a great time!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20. And that is all.

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Jon Reising was spotted this summer paddling down the lower Yough.

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KHCC 2002 Conservation Budget

by Matt Muir

The end of the fiscal year is fast approaching (Sept. 30), and in a rush order, the club officers and I are hammering out a set of donations to river conservation and access organizations. Herewith the proposal that I've sent to the officers:

American Whitewater
\$150

Friends of the Crooked River
\$100

Friends of the Cheat
\$100

Grand Canyon Private Boaters' Association
\$100

American Rivers
\$100

WVRC

\$150

The River Network
\$100

Your club officers may tweak this list a little, but it's likely that the donations will fall basically along the lines of what I've proposed.

American Whitewater

(www.americanwhitewater.org) is the premier whitewater organization in America (hence the name). They focus on river access, safety, and conservation. The current hot battle is a couple of court cases in Colorado, which will determine boaters' rights there for generations. If it weren't for AW, Keel-haulers wouldn't be on Ohionyle Falls, the Tallulah (GA) or the hot new Raquette (NY), and our right to access popular streams like the Upper Yough and the Gauley would be severely curtailed. Barry Tuscano, AW's President, will speak at our October meeting.

Friends of the Crooked River

(www.cuyahogariver.org) is an important organization which has a record of legislative and volunteer success in cleaning up the most important river in Northeast Ohio. There are lots of hot issues being addressed by FOCR right now.

Friends of the Cheat (www.cheat.org) is another no-brainer. Few watersheds are as important to Keel-haulers as the Cheat watershed; few rivers need improvement as much as the Cheat.

Grand Canyon Private Boaters'

Association (www.gcpba.org): now, this one may seem far afield! It's waaay over there in Arizona!

Well, yes. But many Keel-haulers have run the Grand Canyon, or dream of doing so. Perhaps more importantly, GCPBA has been locked in a multiyear battle with the Feds regarding the permit process and national Fee Demo program, which has far-reaching implications for river management country-wide. This battle is coming to something of a head right now. The allocation system is weighted heavily against private boaters; if you get on the Waiting List right now, you can probably put in at Lee's Ferry in, oh, 2025. (And Kobak will still be happy to join you on your trip.) Check out The Plan: www.gcpba.org/access/theplan.php3

and GCPBA's Fact sheet:

www.gcpba.org/access/factsheet.php3.

American Rivers

(www.americanrivers.org) is a national umbrella organization which supports river partners and promotes river conservation and information.

Like Friends of the Cheat, the West Virginia Rivers Coalition

(www.wvivers.org) an essential organization for Keel-haulers' support, both for legislative and for informational reasons.

The River Network

(<http://www.rivernetwork.org/>) is a national leader in supporting grassroots river and watershed conservation groups.

Thanks to various sources of support, including members' donations, donations by Newman Outfitters to our club auction, and proceeds from the Swiftwater Rescue Weekend, our conservation budget for this year is reasonably good, pretty much in line with last year's. I hope we can continue this trend, donating at least a thousand dollars a year to these and other organizations, essential to the sport and the rivers which we love.

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A Bad Day on the River

Ed note: This correspondence was received recently by a keelhauler member.

Sorry to burden you with this but I have to unload it on someone.

Yesterday, (Friday) I nearly killed two of my best friends on the Sturgeon River. It was as close as I have ever seen to a full blown double sweeper entrapment. Not that I have ever seen a single one.

I have to say that it shook me up, badly. I have not been able to sleep tonight. It just keeps on playing over and over in my mind. I was sure that I was watching my friends die right there in front of me I couldn't do

anything to help them. Maybe it wasn't my fault but I have to take a lot of the responsibility because they had not done this river before and I hadn't seen what their abilities were on a tough river.

It had rained a lot in the past few days and I heard that the Sturgeon was really full. Not true. It was full flood. The water was over people's lawns and into the woods. The channel was filled with debris and logs that had floated out of the woods and it was fast. Faster than I had ever seen it in the ten years that I've been paddling it. The liveries had closed down and they were not putting people on the river.

Smart. But that meant that we had it to ourselves. Ok. But I took a couple of novices on this river because I needed someone to help with the shuttles. Even though they did ok at first the wife just couldn't stay out of the brush on the banks and she dodged the bullet time and time again. Hitting a tree or bush and not turning over. Even my paddle partner flipped and she's been on this river a dozens of times. When she flipped, I knew the novices must really be struggling.

We got near the halfway point and I had pretty much decided to cut the trip short and hitch hike for the car. We came to the bridge at the halfway point and sure enough the bridge opening was jammed with logs.

I told them to stay back and went ahead to check it out. I saw a small deeper spot and headed for it and stuck half way across. When I stopped, I looked back to tell them to carry around. Here comes the gal in her 12 ft kayak right into me. She looked terrified. BOOM! She couldn't get off the river. She said she just couldn't stop. The force of the collision blew me off the log but left her side ways, upstream of the log and half her boat was UNDER the log. As I floated away, I turned around to see if she made it, just in time to see her sit there for 2 seconds. She then flipped so fast and violently that I was sure she would be knocked out as she went under and bumped her head on the bottom. But the river was so full that she didn't hit the bottom. She hit

the several other logs that were under the top one and she jammed in with her boat on top of her in a current from hell. You know how the current at a bridge is so strong because when they build a bridge they squeeze the river so they don't have to build such a long bridge. That's the way this one is. She's jammed in there. I can't even see her orange PFD. Then out of nowhere here comes her husband paddling hard right up to the logs and smashes his boat into them sideways and jumps out of his boat upstream of the logs and immediately disappears under the log jam, too. His 14 ft kayak flips and goes into the fray. He said he was going to rescue her. Really a dumb thing to do but damned if he didn't put so much stress on those logs by putting his boat into the jam that one of the logs moved upward, I guess, and the whole log jam just came apart and all logs and the boats and bodies and paddles and shoes and water bottles and everything they had came floating out and into the big eddy behind the bridge.

She had some bad bruises on her one foot and I'm pretty sure she was foot-entrapped and he had a bump on his head and a few little scrapes and scratches. When the jam let go the logs kind of smoosched him tummy but it could have crushed his ribs or even stuck a sharp limb through him or her. They were extremely lucky.

I had to paddle down about 1/4 mile and get her boat and hike back through the flooded woods to make sure they were ok. The river was way too deep and fast to wade back.

My paddle friend hitched a ride on another canoe down to the beached kayak but since I had on long pants and these guys who she hitched with had been drinking, I hiked back to my boat. I didn't want to make it any harder for them than it had to be. We went to the next bridge. Got a ride to the car and went back.

They were ok. His paddle was broken in half. I had never seen that before. And I think I ruined her for paddling anything

faster than a lake. Maybe that's ok. Maybe EVERYONE doesn't have to do what we do. Maybe trying to make whitewater converts isn't such a good idea after all.

Thanks, I needed to do that. Now maybe I can get some sleep.

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On Aug 11, Kristen Haase celebrated her 16th birthday on the river. She started down the river in her Aire Lynx.



And, ended the river in a kayak. She also took her first plunge in a kayak off Jump Rock.

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Lost OC-1 on New 8/20

August 21 2002 at 11:17 AM

[Joan](#) (Login [oc1-w](#))

--

I was paddling the New at -2.ft. and my boat found a home under the rock located river right, at entrance to Millers Folly. Undercut met boat at around 3:30pm on Tuesday 8/20, It's a green Impulse, two yellow air bags and some assorted small stuff, water bottles, throw bags etc. Here at home it's brothers and sisters miss her. If anyone sees/hears/finds it please call or email with details. I posted details and information at most of the commercial outfitters, NPS and rec.boats. Any experienced with this Millers Folly rock please forward tricks of the trade. - Joan Mabee

In response to it's mournful siblings...
Both Mark Cytron and myself presumably stopped by to visit your OC-1 last weekend on the New. On Saturday, August 24, 2002 at -1.5 feet, I had led a nice line skirting the Undercut Rock on river right. I don't exactly remember if I had just powered through on the left side of the tongue curving around to the left past the rock, or if I had stopped off in the little eddy above the big rock before lining myself up with the arcing tongue and slicing through. (I think I may have done that the weekend before while paddling the New with Ron Tomallo's group at -1.7 feet.) Jim Kosicki and John Yaro had clean runs, following my line without incident. I had spun around to surf just below the drop, to watch my compadres descend. I was looking at the rock in the center where Art had lost his paddle the previous weekend and reminiscing. Steve McClung had made some bold but futile attempts to ford out and find it, and Ron, in a masterful display of boat-control virtuosity, had ferried out above the rock to see if he could spot it.

Suddenly, I was watching Mark's boat emerge from the undercut, upside down, and after a few bounces off rocks, we were relieved to see Mark popping up swimming with his boat and paddle in hand. He had pretty much

self-rescued as we escorted him into the eddy below the drop on river right. Mark had been the last to descend, so none of us saw him get swept under the undercut. Mark said that after he flipped and was under the rock, he couldn't roll up and had to bail.

On the Intro to the Yough weekend, I had the unusually synchronistic experience of hearing survivor tales across the span of that Saturday from three different girls who had spent a little time under Dimple. First, Gretchen told of her close encounter, whilst graciously shuttling us from the Miller's parking lot that morning. Then "Dimple" Deb, related her experience, explaining why she understandably still prefers taking a sneak route at Dimple in her little Dynamo. Later that evening, I met the inimitable Ann Marie at that outfitter bar near the tracks when she turned up with her pup, and she told her tale as Rob and Deb were treating their trip leader to a few brews. A common element was that all three had to some degree quelled their panic and relaxed before they eventually flushed out. One of the girls was still hanging on to her raft paddle, and had the presence of mind to reach up and stick it out into the current, which pulled her out. In the aftermath of Mark's experience, I shared that little tidbit with him.

Saturday night, while enjoying our repast at Dirty Ernie's, it rained hard for several minutes. On Sunday, the level had risen above 1300 cfs, to about -1.3 feet. This is still a pretty low level for the New, which as Ron says, can be run "well below zero." The water may not be nearly as pushy as at normal levels, but nonetheless, hazards abound, and the New still needs to be taken quite seriously. While some of the notorious pin spots and hazards are above water, or at least visible, like the clamshell rock in the middle of Lower Railroad, the Undercut Rock at Miller's Folly is perhaps most dangerous at these lower levels. Normally, when one broaches against a rock that is not undercut, the usual strategy is to lean into it and work oneself off of it. A few weeks earlier, after ferrying over from the eddy on the right above River's End on the Lower

Yough, I had broached on the partially submerged rock above Snaggleteeth and instinctively leaned into it. I knew that I could be in big trouble if I flipped there and ended up getting myself pinned upside down in the Snaggleteeth slot. So, as my compadres watched from River left, a little beyond throw rope distance, I sliced my paddle out of the water to regain control of it and prevent it from pulling me under, carefully and determinedly pushed myself around that rock, and then threw in a quick stroke or two to run the slot cleanly.

At a higher water level on the New it might be possible to broach against that big rock at Miller's Folly and work oneself off of it to escape around the corner, but at lower water levels, you can just forget about that being a viable possibility. Sunday, I was again serving as probe for my companions. This time, however, perhaps mindful of Mark's experience the day before, I was perhaps trying to skirt the rock a little too far to the left, and I ended up hitting a few rocks and bouncing down a few little ledges sideways before hitting the left side of the tongue with no forward momentum. Had I anticipated how strongly that current would sweep me toward the undercut rock I would have immediately paddled like hell to accelerate, but I guess I was still feeling a little too laid-back and lackadaisical. After all, this was just the low-water New, and I had emerged unscathed from far more heinous possibilities on the Upper Gauley the Sunday before. By the time I started stroking in earnest, (which was really only a second or so late!) that rock was looming large, and I was probably about 3 feet short from being able to get around it. My last futile gesture before flipping underneath that Scylla of the New was to place my right hand on her, probably about two feet from the corner. My crew watched me and my Transition completely disappear, as if swallowed by that rock, and thought I was a goner for sure. They had to immediately refocus on getting themselves down that rapid without careening in to join me and compound my dire straits. John Yaro said they were thinking that maybe they would be convening in my memory for

salmon & capers every year henceforth, perhaps at that Cathedral Café.

Upside down underneath that rock I was actually feeling fairly calm and focused, considering the circumstances, which undoubtedly required sang froid as well as savoir faire. Sorry Joan, but being preoccupied with my own predicament, I didn't think to look deeper into the recesses behind me to my right to see if I could spot your boat. We knew about it from the message board posting, and Jim had heard some guys talking of it that morning at the Cathedral Café. But I was looking to the light to my left. If you are right handed and let go of your paddle with your control hand to try to ward off the inevitable, or leastwise save your shoulder from smacking into the rock, what happens as you flip is that your paddle swings around behind you. This was quickly apparent to me, as I have long been in the habit of padding the control-hand side of my paddles with a thin layer of minicell, indexing the grip with a seam aligned with the back of the blade that falls under the middle knuckles of my fingers, so I can always tell by feel where my blade is. As I am sure the Adventure Technology cognoscenti are well aware, one does not easily relinquish a carbon fiber AT-2 flexshaft. But rather than being in a set-up position, I could see that my paddle had swung around in my left hand and the minicell grip was now to the rear of my boat. Rolling with a bent shaft can be a little discombobulating initially, and had I not customized it in my usual style, I probably would have been confused as to which end was which. My first order of business was to get that paddle back into my control hand where it belonged. Unlike a dihedral blade, that playboat paddle slices through the water fairly easily, and I was able to quickly spin it around and get it back into my right hand. I was still under the shadow of the rock, and without even considering it, I knew that trying to roll up there would be ludicrous. It was now time to take my own advice, and employ the strategy I had suggested to Mark the day before. I reached up toward the light with the blade in my left hand, and the current pulled me out from under the

rock. I tried a roll on my right, but was met with resistance as I tried to push the paddle to the surface. Staying tucked, I could feel myself dropping down past another rock or two as I switched to my left side and rolled up crisply. Although perhaps thirty seconds had elapsed, I still felt like I had some air left in my lungs. I finished running that rapid newly respectful of the New.

Jim felt that by hanging in to self-extract from that disquieting dilemma, I had exonerated myself from an earlier swim out of his Disco, (my first in a couple of years) which he had been badgering me to try at the mystery hole below Lower Keeney. That damn Disco is a lot like a turtle when it is upside down. Before getting off the river I got back into it to try bow stalling it, and to figure out how to roll it. I needed to come up low to the deck, as if finishing off a hand roll. Up to that point, the upper deck of my Transition had been unscathed. But now, eerily, the New has left it's mark, and a deep arcing gouge graces the deck of my Transition, pointing directly to Miller's Folly on my New River sticker! A starkly indelible reminder on my boat as well as in my brain! Mark was impressed enough to take a close up shot:



As we took off, we encountered one of the expert squirt boaters we had taken turns with playing the mystery hole. Though not quite as smooth as that incomparable submariner, Jim Snyder, who we had watched repeatedly spinning below the surface for 10 and 20 second intervals the day before, this guy obviously knew what he was doing on the New. I asked him what line he takes at Miller's Folly at that level. He said: "I get out and walk around."

The problem with an OC-1 smacking into that undercut is that the open cockpit flips toward the current, which then plasters it deeply into the recesses of that cavernous undercut. I had the sense that my experience was transpiring on the outer edge of a cavelike hole. I've done some glassing, and I can fully appreciate carrying a fiberglass squirt boat around that rapid

at bony low levels. With an ABS canoe, it might be more prudent to at least give that undercut a wide berth and find a middle slot to bounce and scrape your way down.

- Francis Hoven

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FOR SALE:

Superb Beginners Package! WW Perception Spark: GREAT CONDITION! Only saw one season of boating. \$500 (O.B.O.) Package includes: boat, new air bags, new spray skirt, new life jacket & helmet. Call (440) 365-8975 ask for Peggy or email Mason007@attbi.com

2 **sunfish** \$250 and \$200 Jim Tyree
330-688-4431 jgt4531@aol.com

1996 Prijon Stunt 300- 9' **kayak**, displacement hull (pre-planing hull design), lots of leg room, bulkhead foot brace, good for beginners. \$350 or BO. Call 440-4661494 or email at staft@theriverchasers.com



Keel-Hauler's KaNews

December 2002

Next newsletter deadline - Dec 29

Dec 10th Club Meeting, 7:30 pm Middleburg Hts Community Center

Program: Since the 1970s, Rick Feinberg's anthropological research has taken him to remote Polynesian communities in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Over that period he has spent approximately two years living on isolated islands where people live by what they can extract from the sea and grow in their subsistence gardens. Rick will show slides and talk about his experiences on Anuta island and Nukumanu atoll. He will explain how Pacific Islanders even in the 21st century survive by sleeping in leaf houses, fishing from outrigger canoes, and growing crops with tools no more elaborate than machetes and digging sticks.

Photos Wanted!

For the yearbook. Please send your photos to Helmut Schumacher (with a self addressed stamped envelope, if you want them returned) by Dec 30.

Remember all those great photos you took during the year? Well gather them up, tell us where they were taken and who they were taken of, and ship them off to Helmut! But be sure to get them to him by the deadline: Dec 30!

Helmut Schumacher
333 Smith Ave
Hermitage, PA 16148

HELP WANTED!!

That's something that'll catch people's attention in this depressed economy! But, even if economic times were still going well, YOUR CLUB still needs your help.

With the popularity of kayaking continuing to grow, Keelhaulers has enjoyed a membership roster well over 300 members for quite a few years now. That's good news to be sure, but it seems to have its down side - with so many members, the majority seems to sit on the sidelines waiting for someone else to lend a hand.

Trip Organizers:

Here's a simple request that should be a pleasure to comply with – go paddling! It's that time of the year again when we're trying to put the trip schedule together. I know there are those of you who are just too busy to get involved, with work, family, kids, etc... But even if 1/3 of the membership would ORGANIZE one trip a year, we'd have over 100 trips listed on our roster!

Note too, that I use the word ORGANIZE, that's all you're expected to do. Often the term trip "leader" is used. However, this is a real misnomer. Take a look *again* at "The Safety Code of the Keelhaulers" (we all should have read it at least once), there's no mention of trip "leader." The Club is simply a conduit that puts us in contact as common adventurers. All we are asking is for you to step up and be the main contact for a trip or two during the year – arrange a meeting time and place, take names, help organize the shuttle. There's no need to feel that you have to provide advice or guide others down the river. We simply want you to organize things!

We're all in this because we enjoy paddling so why not call Jim Kosicki at (216) 310-0785 or (216) 662-8913 and sign up to organize a trip down your favorite river! Now, is that too much to ask – simply go paddling?

P.S. Jim's deadline for the trip schedule is the end of December so that we can all get our yearbooks well before paddling season. So don't delay!

Trip Schedule

December

7 Rolling Sessions Begin Orange High School, 4:00 PM

David Donnellan DHydroGuy@aol.com 330-405-8911

10 Club Meeting: Middleburg Hts Community Center, 7:30 PM

See above for program description

14 Rolling Sessions Begin Orange High School, 4:00 PM

David Donnellan DHydroGuy@aol.com 330-405-8911

21 Rolling Sessions Begin Orange High School, 4:00 PM

David Donnellan DHydroGuy@aol.com 330-405-8911

31 New Years Eve Potluck Dinner

Peggy Drysdale edrysdale@aol.com 440-708-1208

January 2003

14 Club Meeting - Middleburg Hts. Recreation Center, 7:30 PM

NOTE: This year's annual holiday potluck will be held at the January meeting!

Please bring a dish to share based on your last name....if your last name begins with

please bring

A - F

G - L

M - S

T - Z

Dessert

Maindish/Casserole

Vegetable/Salad

Bread or Appetizer

The Club is also in need of a couple people to fill two Chairpersons slots – one for Sea-Kayaking and the other for Safety.

Sea-Kayaking Chair

Certainly there is a member out there somewhere who is active in Sea-Kayaking? I know the Brad Street Sea-Kayakers concentrate on this activity, but doesn't someone crossover? Since Jill Lauren left last year no one has stepped forward to act as a liaison between the two groups. Even if you can't make the Club's meetings, simply being a contact for those interested in Sea-Kayaking would be a great help! If you can help out in this role, give me a call at (440) 953-1335.

Safety Chair:

Another role where we need help is Safety Chairperson. This role is currently being filled by Chuck Singer (who's been at it for forever), with Rob Hammond filling in as required. Chuck's looking for someone to add some "new-blood" to the safety program (well not literally!!) and because Rob is involved with so many other things were looking for someone to fill this role. How about someone who's also involved as a Red-Cross instructor? You have the first word when it comes to safe boating practices! Again, if you are willing to help out in this role please give me a call at (440) 953-1335.

Thanks!
Ron Tomallo

2002-2003 ROLL SESSIONS

(article repeated from last month with one new exception date: 2/1)

Roll sessions this year will again be at the Orange High School Pool. They are sponsored by Orange Community Education and Recreation. 12 sessions are scheduled on Saturday afternoons from **December 7, 2002 through March 22, 2003. There are several conflicts with high school swim meets again this year, so there are**

exception dates. There are no sessions on 12/28, 1/4, 1/11, 1/25 and 2/1. Pool time starts at 4:00PM and ends promptly at 6:00 PM.

We must shower and be out of the building by 6:30. Rates have increased \$1 this year. A charge of \$5 per person per session (\$4 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 \$20 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, or a check payable to Orange Board of Education.** 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 is allowed. Children must be supervised.
7. **Helmets are required. This is for your own safety. A helmet is required for all persons in the water including those who are teaching.**

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.

The pool is in the west end of the building. You can see it through the two-story-high windows. Park your vehicle in the parking lot at the west end of the building. As you approach the building you will see a wide concrete pad leading to a double set of glass doors on the pool deck. If you arrive early, drop your boats on the concrete pad and go inside and wait until we are permitted to bring boats into the pool area.

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 Message Board. If you have any questions regarding the roll sessions, please contact David Donnellan at 330-405-8911 or DHydroGuy@aol.com.

Paddling the Internet

by John Kobak – Web Master

The club has a great Web Site:

<http://www.keelhauler.org>

80% of our members now have Internet access. This has been the biggest boon to boating since plastic boats.

Keel Haulers Kanews, the club newsletter, is posted on-line each month. It is posted in a PDF version from which you can print an exact copy of the mailed newsletter with the added advantage that your pictures will be in color. It is also posted as an HTML version that is easier to read on-line. If you have sent in an internet address with your membership information you will receive an e-mail each month informing you of the newsletter password.

We no longer have to wonder if the rivers in West Virginia or PA have enough water; we just look at the "River Levels" page," and select the river of our choice. You not only get an up-to-date water level reading but are supplied a curve showing what the river flow has been doing for the past week. Also, the right frame tells you the paddleable levels, gage conversion to local bridge gauges and links to maps plus other useful information.

Can't find your yearbook or newsletter and are wondering if there are any good trips coming up? Check out club's "Trip Schedule", it is updated and corrected regularly. Also the "Used Equipment" page has many more ads than our club's newsletter, since it includes non-members ads.

Want to find someone to paddle with, ask advise or read about late breaking news? Use the "Message Board". If you want an up-to-date member e-mail and phone list select "Member Directory", it is password protected to keep your info from the spammers. The password which never changes is khmail. Want to find out what's happening in the whole world of paddling? Share ideas, read about safety problems, new boats, equipment for sale? Check out "Boater Talk."

Once you get on-line and start following the links to loads of paddling information and manufacturer's websites you will wonder how you ever got along without the Internet.



Hypothermia (Low Body Temperature) by Chuck Singer

Now is the season that the hard core boaters continue to paddle. They are often the better and more aggressive people but sometimes unaware of Karmic failure. That psycho-babble means that if you haven't swum all summer, you are sure you won't swim now. Doesn't always work that way!

Encased in fleece, dry-top, or drysuit, paddling with gloves or pogies and fingers barely functional is not a plan for complete boat control. I know because that used to be my description.

We all need to dress for the water/air temperatures particularly on tougher rivers or rivers that are hard to walk out of. We need to monitor our partners' progress throughout the trip and particularly after a swim. We need to carry things to start fires. A candle stub and matches in a waterproof box can fit in your PFD pocket.

We are warm-blooded mammals and if we are not warm, we are not alive.



Boater Humor

(Editor's Note: Thanks to David Brumbelow for finding this article and sharing it)

Submitted by Ed Harahan, Kayak & Canoe Club of NY (Internet source unknown)

Someone asked an anonymous boater about his class IV comfort level and he answered something along the lines of 'I'm comfortable that I can usually find an eddy to swim to.' Thus, the interviewer was inspired to offer this International Scale of River Difficulty:

Class I: Easy

Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. Swimming is pleasant, shore

easily reached. A nice break from paddling. 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 requires moderate effort. Climbing out of river may involve slippery rocks and shrub induced lacerations. Paddles travel great distance downstream requiring lengthy walk. Something unimportant is missing. Boat hits submerged rock leaving visible dent on frame or new gash in plastic.

Class III: Intermediate

Rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid. Water is swallowed. Legs are ground repeatedly against sharp, pointy rocks. Several eddies are missed while swimming. Difficult decision to stay with boat results in moment of terror when swimmer realizes they are downstream of boat. Paddle is recirculated 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

Water is generally lots colder than Class III. 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 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 permanently removes waterproof box with all the really important stuff. 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 boat which is finally pinned by major feature. Climbing up river bank involves inverted tree. One of those spring loaded pins that attaches watch to wristband is missing. Contact lenses are moved to rear of eyeballs.

Class V: Expert

The water in this rapid is usually under 42 degrees f. Most gear is destroyed on rocks within minutes if not seconds. If the boat survives, it is in need of about three days of repair. There is no swimming, only frantic movements to keep from becoming one with the rocks and to get a breath from time to time. Terror and panic set in as you realize your paddle partners don't have a chance in hell of reaching you. You come to a true understanding of the terms maytagging and pinballing. That hole that looked like nothing when scouted has a hydraulic that holds you under the water until your lungs are close to bursting. You come out only to realize you still have 75% of the rapid left to swim. Swim to the eddy? What #%~~&*#* eddy!? This rapid usually lasts a mile or more. Hydraulic pressure within the first few seconds removes everything that can come off your body. This includes gloves, shoes, neoprene socks, sunglasses, hats, and clothing. The rocks take care of your fingers, toes, and ears. That \$900.00 dry suit, well it might hold up to the rocks. Your paddle is trash. If there is a strainer, well, just hope it is old and rotten so it breaks. Paddle Partners on shore are frantically trying to run and keep up with you. Their horror is reflected in their faces as they stare at how you are being tossed around! They are hoping to remember how to do CPR. They also really hope the cooler with the beer is still intact. They are going to need a cold one by the time you get out! Climbing out of this happens after the rapid is over. You will probably need the help of a backboard, cervical collar and Z-rig. Even though you have broken bones, lacerations, puncture wounds, missing digits & ears, and a concussion, you won't feel much because you will have

severe hypothermia. Enjoy your time in the hospital, with the time you take recovering you won't get another vacation for 3 years.

Class VI:

World Class Not recommended for swimming.

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Dues are now OverDue!

This is the last newsletter that you will receive, if you have not renewed your membership yet. Mail your check for \$20 **today**, please include a donation for our club's conservation program if you can.

Please indicate any changes to your address, phone or e-mail listing.

Pay at any club meeting or Mail to:

**Keel Haulers Canoe Club
1649 Allen Dr
Westlake, OH 44145-2506**

You do not need to fill out a new application or waiver to renew your membership, only if you have any changes of information.

Writers Wanted!

Please consider writing an article for the newsletter, especially about a club trip that you led, or participated in. Send along photos if you took some. We would all like to hear about your adventures!

**Keelhaulers Canoe Club
Year End Report FY02**

Category Description	10/1/01 - 9/30/02		
	Actual	Budget	Difference
INCOME			
ConservationIncome	765.00	600.00	165.00
Dues	7455.00	7400.00	55.00
Interest	61.41	60.00	1.41
Reservations	135.00	84.00	51.00
VermRaceIncome			
Refreshment stand	164.70	150.00	14.70
Registration fees	676.00	650.00	26.00
TOTAL VermRaceIncome	840.70	800.00	40.70
TOTAL INCOME			
	9257.11	8944.00	313.11
EXPENSES			
ConservationExpense	800.00	600.00	-200.00
Internet	5.20	15.00	9.80
Library	29.95	100.00	70.05
MeetingHall	730.00	510.00	-220.00
NewsLetter	2142.46	2700.00	557.54
OrgDues	50.00	50.00	0.00
Postage&Supply			
MiscPostage	101.36	130.00	28.64
NewsletterPostage	600.00	1400.00	800.00
Supplies	0.00	50.00	50.00
YearbookPostage	7.48	50.00	42.52
TOTAL Postage&Supply	708.84	1630.00	921.16
Refreshments	297.15	400.00	102.85
VermRaceExpense			
Awards	92.84	30.00	-62.84
Insurance	224.00	180.00	-44.00
Miscellaneous	125.00	200.00	75.00
Publicity	0.00	170.00	170.00
Refreshments	103.62	140.00	36.38
TOTAL VermRaceExpense	545.46	720.00	174.54
Yearbook Print	1351.50	1400.00	48.50
YoughReserv	150.00	180.00	30.00
TOTAL EXPENSES			
	6810.56	8305.00	1494.44