



Keel-Hauler's KaNews October 2004

Date	Trip/Event	State	Rate	Trip Organizer	
October					
10/1-2	Upper Yough	MD	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482
10/2-3	Gauley River	WV	27-33	Bill Miller	440-257-2970
10/2	Cuyahoga River	OH	4	Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
10/9-10	Penn Cup Slalom Race? - Bellefonte Slalom	PA	12	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
10/9-10	Slippery Rock	PA	19	need organizer	
10/9-10	Cheat Canyon	WV	26	Casey Brown	216-533-0895
10/9-10	Upper & Lower Gauley	WV	27-33	John Kobak	440-871-1758
10/12	Election Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center at 7:30 PM	OH		Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482
10/16-17	Gauley River	WV	27-33	Scott Debalski	440-298-1257
10/15-17	Moose River Fest	NY	27-30	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
10/16-17	Lower Yough	PA	23	Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
10/16-17	Middle Yough	PA	12	Brian Thies	440-331-4216
10/23	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
10/23-24	Russell Fork	KY	26-35	Cecil Tickamyer	740-593-8453
10/30	Sea Kayak Huron River to Lake Erie (Nickleplate beach)	OH		Rich Kish	419-621-7610
10/31	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Brett Mancino	217-321-7878
10/31	Cheat Canyon	WV	26	Mark Poljak	440-268-9194
November					
11/6	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Tim Taubert	440-256-2506
11/6-7	Backpack trip - Oil City	PA		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
11/9	Trip Planning Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center at 7:30 PM	OH		Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482
11/14	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
11/20	The Thing - Tallulah River		34	AWA	
11/27	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Brett Mancino	217-321-7878

Your 2005 membership dues are now payable.

Our membership year ends September 30th, so that your 2005 dues are now due. 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. You can pay dues 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. An application will be included in our October newsletter. Your last newsletter will be the December Kanews, please don't make us keep sending out notices, it costs the club time and money. You may pay your dues and register on-line using Paypal or a credit card.

Use this link:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/Registration.htm>

American Whitewater Discount for club affiliates

All Keelhauler Members can get \$10 off their yearly AW membership dues. Now only \$25. If you would like to join (or renew) your AW membership on-line, you will need the promotion code for Keelhaulers Canoe Club. That code is CL10kcc. When you enter the promotional code in the field provided on the first page of the membership form, the \$10 discount is automatically applied on the payment page. Here's the link for joining on-line:

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/membership/>

Trip Descriptions for upcoming club trips:

Oct 8-10 Gauley

The lower river is similar in difficulty to the Cheat at 3 ft. So, if you want to warm up before attempting the full fury of the upper canyon, come along on Saturday. Tentative schedule is to run the Upper on Friday & Sunday and Lower on

Saturday, some may run lower on Sunday as well. Advanced paddlers only for the Upper, call before coming. We will camp at Battle Run Campground.

John Kobak keelhauler@yahoo.com or 440-871-1758.

October 12 Club Meeting

At the October meeting we will vote on the 2005 officers.

Here is the proposed slate, with nominations also being taken from the floor.

President: Judi Cleary
Vice President: Ed Charlton
Secretary: Elliott Drysdale
Treasurer: Rob Hammond
Trustee 2004-2007: John Kobak

The video SEVENTH DROP IN GOD'S COUNTRY will be featured at the Oct. meeting. It shows excellent, challenging whitewater runs filmed in British Columbia. The November meeting will feature the TRCP 2004 Grand Canyon trip video.

Oct 15-17 Moose Fest

The Moose is truly a unique river. Granite formations create relatively big drops between the pools. Some of the rapids are worth the seven-hour drive, even if you only look but don't want to run them. The Festival is a fund-raiser for AWA; unlike other festivals, this one is indoors where it's warm.

Contact: Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com or 585-412-9826.

Oct 16-17 Gauley

This Gauley trip will be the lower on Sat and the upper on Sunday.

Contact: Scott Debalski
scd@lubrizol.com 440-298-1257.

Oct 30 Sea Kayak - Huron

This is a joint sea kayak trip with the Bradstreet Sea Kayakers Club, co-organizer: Sharon Bouchonville Launch at "The Coupling" on the

Huron River (under the Turnpike bridge over the river). We will paddle 9 miles north to Nickleplate Beach on Lake Erie.
Contact: Rich Kish richkish@hotmail.com at 419-656-5651.

Nov 6-7 Backpack at Oil Creek in PA

Join Judi and Chuck for an invigorating trek through a picturesque park in PA. This will be a low-mileage hike into cozy Adirondak shelters where we will camp the night. Wood is available to make these shelters toasty even if the weather is cool. After a hearty breakfast in the morning, we will take a leisurely hike back to the cars. Autumn foliage should be good. If interested please contact the trip organizer by Oct 27 at the latest, as the shelters need to be reserved in advance.

Contact: Judi Cleary judi@jctravels.us or 440-289-5511.

Bike Trip down the lower Yough

By Judi Cleary

On August 13 (Yes it was the dreaded Friday the 13th) a small band of hearty individuals met at a campground on the shores of the bottom Yough in anticipation of biking (not boating) for the weekend. OK, so Chuck, couldn't take 2 days of biking so he opted to kayak the first day and bike the second. The small band consisted of myself, Chuck and 2 school friends who have a tandem bike. The next morning we were joined by Rob Hammond and Karen Dearfield.

Chuck graciously shuttled us to Fall's Market where we had breakfast to fuel us for the ride ahead. The weather was great. We began our ride by going over the reconstructed railroad bridge over Rt 381 and the Yough. Biking rails-to-trails paths are great in the slope is minimal. As a thoughtful trip coordinator, I choose to start or pedal at the upstream end and bike downstream - the desirable all down hill. By the end of the day, we had traveled 31 miles.

We stopped at Swimmers after only a short while and hiked down to watch Kurt Haas go by in his boat. I don't think he saw us, as we were not dressed in the garb of people he would take notice of. A short distance later we stopped to take the short hike up to see a pretty little waterfall on Jonathon Run (which joins the Yough just above Double Hydraulic. We had a picnic lunch on the shores a little further downstream, past the usual takeout. The only time we had to brave real roads was the short distance in Connelsville.

In the afternoon we came upon another campground on the river. They had a small store so we stopped for ice cream. By later afternoon we dragged our sore butts into the campground of Hazel Bakers. This establishment is owned by a friend and is primarily a canoe livery, which just recently expanded into a campground. We dined on grilled hamburgers and chicken, and all fell asleep early.

The next morning we ate at camp. We decided to continue down the bike path toward Pittsburgh and then return to the camp site, rather than running a shuttle to avoid having to retrace our tire tracks. This next day saw a little more traffic on the bike path and some different scenery. Karen, who lives in the area, pointed out an old coke oven in the side of the hill. We stopped at a park area where a train station once stood and ate the lunches that we had packed. On the trip back to our cars we were tempted with the early smells of a BBQ stand that was preparing to cater to the people who followed us a few hours later. We logged about 25 miles on Sunday. Of course, Rob Hammond logged a little more as he seemed to have missed the take out, that is, the cut off that led to the campground. We're not exactly sure what the story was there.

We all had a great time and thought that this biking sport might have some merit. Perhaps next year we will work up to the mileage by going out a few more times prior to the trip. Another suggestion I heard is to combine a bike ride with a boating day. Heck, I'll even throw in a hike and we can have a triathlon of sorts without pressure of racing. So during your winter hibernation consider joining us next year for something a little different.

Cien Saltas

By Judi Cleary

It was Friday, Sept 24. I had gone into work early, so that I could leave early. It was Gauley season and I was primed to paddle one of my favorite rivers, the lower. When I arrived home all set to jump into the van for a quick get away, Chuck and I were forced to step back and consider our options. Ivan was threatening and it looked unlikely that the Gauley would be low enough to paddle. Everyone else in our planned trip decided not to go - who could blame them. I remember being down at the Gauley last year for fest weekend and spending the entire morning (at least 5 hours) driving from one river to the next, in search of something that was not too high (or too low), and in the end we never did get on my beloved Gauley.

So we headed for the computer. Looking at one gauge after another, all were too high already, and rising! Then we found it - the Cheat. It was a little over a foot on Friday night and with any luck it just might be OK. Later on, our friends who live in Bruceton Mills would tell us that they were in the eye of the storm for the majority of the time and hardly got wet.

We delayed our departure and left bright and early the next day. The gauge was still looking good. However, as we drove on toward Albright every river we crossed was roaring. At one overpass near Pittsburgh we could see heavy flooding including a small shopping mall with its parking lot under water. I am sure there was significant flood damage to the stores there. It is sad to see the havoc mother nature can cause sometimes, and it does give one pause.

Exiting Rt 68 we could see the Big Sandy was big and brown, as was its cousin the Little Sandy, which came into sight a few minutes later. As we approached the Cheat we were pleasantly surprised at what looked to be a good level - 2.5 on the gauge. Now, the next challenge was to find someone to paddle with, and shuttle with. Upon turning the corner into the Mountain Streams parking lot, our answer was

provided. MS&T had a trip ready to go and we were just in time. Our luck was impressive. We encountered no other paddlers on the river that day.

The "customers" on the trip turned out to be a group of Naval cadets. Boy, do they have energy to burn! Chuck and I were in our shredder and had trouble keeping up. As we started down the river the clouds gave way to glorious sunshine and warm temps. The most remarkable part of this trip was all the waterfalls we saw on the way down. There were easily a hundred of them, which was the inspiration for the title of this trip report. Chuck tells me that there is/was (it is now under water) a rapid on the Bio Bio in Chile which is called "Cien Saltas" or 100 waterfalls. The water streaming down from the falls was crystal clear, not the usual brown muddy flow. The sun glistened off the water creating a surreal effect. Chuck had to keep bringing me back to the task at hand, especially right about Recyclatron, as I was mesmerized by the spectacular waterfall there.

As we neared the take-out you could see even from a distance, the Big Sandy tumbling into the Cheat. It was running 10 feet, and backing up water into the Cheat at the confluence. Later we learned that the Cheat peaked at about 8 feet that night. We were very lucky to be there at just the right time. I don't think I have ever paddled the Cheat in September before. I am always on the Gauley at that time of year. But it was truly a remarkable experience which has been etched into my memory.



Keel-Hauler's KaNews November 2004

<u>November</u>					
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11/6	<u>Slippery Rock</u>	PA	19	<u>Tim Taubert</u>	440-256-2506
11/6-7	Backpack trip - Oil City	PA		<u>Judi Cleary</u>	440-289-5511
11/9	Trip Planning Meeting at <u>Middleburg Hts</u> Community Center at 7:30 PM	OH		<u>Bill Miller</u>	440-257-2970
11/14	<u>Slippery Rock</u>	PA	19	<u>Ross Brinkerhoff</u>	440-286-1476
11/20	The Thing - Tallulah River		34	AWA	
11/27	<u>Slippery Rock</u>	PA	19	<u>Brett Mancino</u>	217-321-7878
<u>December</u>					
12/4	<u>Slippery Rock</u>	PA	19	<u>Cliff Wire</u>	440-439-6541
12/14	Annual Potluck Dinner meeting at <u>Middleburg Hts</u> Community Center at 7:30 PM	OH		<u>Bill Miller</u>	440-257-2970

The club membership year ended on October 1st. The newsletter mailing label indicates whether or not you have paid your 2005 dues. If not, please try to mail your check for \$20 today, and include a donation for our club's conservation program if you can. Please indicate any changes to your address, phone or e-mail listing. If no changes are required you do not have to fill out a club application or waiver to renew your membership, however one is included on the last page. You can pay your dues at any club meeting or mail your check to:

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

You may now pay your dues and register on-line using Paypal at
<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/Registration.htm>

Your last newsletter will be the December Kanews, please don't make us keep sending out notices, it costs the club time and money. If your dues are not received by 12/14/04 your name will not be listed in the 2005 Yearbook & Roster.

Another reminder: There is only one database for all club information, so all changes of address, e-mails, phone numbers need to be sent to John Kobak (address above) or e-mail to membership@keelhauler.org. You can view the current database on-line at:
<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook4.pdf>

You need to use these passwords for access to database: User Name: **dir** ; Password: **names**

Congratulations to our new club officers for 2005!!!

President - **Judi Cleary**

Vice Pres - **Ed Charlton**

Secretary - **Elliott Drysdale**

Treasurer - **Rob Hammond**

Trustee - 2005 - **Jim Hunt**

Trustee - 2005-6 - **Chuck Singer**

Trustee - 2005-2007 - **John Kobak**

and new committee volunteers:

Conservation –**Dan Zaleski**

Meeting Program –**Bill Miller**

2005 Trip Schedule – **Lisa Strong**

Keelhauler's Meeting, **October 12, 2004,** **Middleburg Hts Rec Center**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45PM. Twenty members were present including our old friend Bob Halsey.

The Treasurer's Report gave a balance of \$8,459. which is at the end of the fiscal year.

The minutes from last meeting didn't make it in time to appear in the newsletter, but hopefully they will be submitted for next month.

Rob Hammond, our Treasurer proposed the club make our annual donation to conservation in the amount of \$850. which is what we gave last year. A discussion ensued around whether to increase the amount, and how much to give to each of the organizations. A proposal to increase to \$900 was made and a vote passed

the following donations:

American Whitewater	\$150.
Friends of the Crooked River	\$100.
Friends of the Cheat	\$100.
Grand Canyon Private Boaters	\$100.
American Rivers	\$100.
WV Rivers Coalition	\$150.
River network	\$100.
Nature Conservancy	\$100.

Chuck Singer donated a recent Rick Gusic video to the club Library, and that video (A history of the Cheat) was shown as the program for the evening.

John Kobak announced that annual dues are now due (\$20.) plus be sure to considered giving an extra amount to be donated to one of the groups above next year.

John Kobak had a call about a old wood/canvas canoe in need of repair for someone who was interested in such an endeavor. Contact John if interested.

It was mentioned that someone from Kent State wants to announce Kayak instruction on the club's message board. He is an instructor from Kent and the Red Cross. Discussion of members present was that we should allow and encourage this activity, so no one had a problem with giving him the OK to post.

Rob Hammond mentioned that he would like to re-think the boating Instruction associated with the club. All agreed that this subject needs more discussion at a later time.

Ed Charlton, Safety Chair, reviewed a safety article from the recent AW magazine. It was an entrapment situation that required resuscitation, which was successful. Ed pointed out 2 take-away points:

1. Be careful not to become a second victim while trying to help out.
2. Death does not always occur as fast in a drowning situation as it would in other situations. So don't hesitate to try to resuscitate if there is any hope of life.

John Kobak talked about the issue of the Park System failing to buy the property on the Gauley for a take-out for the upper, due to the inflated price being

asked by the outfitters that own it. American Whitewater is looking for comments on this subject which they will forward to the Park System. For information, check with John or check the AW website.

It was announced that Lisa Strong will be doing the trip schedule for 2005, so start thinking about volunteering to coordinate a trip next year.

The election of new officers for 2005 was held. The nominating committee recommended the following slate which was voted on and approved.

President:	Judi Cleary
Vice President:	Ed Charlton
Secretary:	Elliott Drysdale
Treasurer:	Rob Hammond
Trustee 2004-2006:	John Kobak

New Business:

The books (financial records) need to be audited by another club member. Shelly Schmidt volunteered to do it. Thanks Shelly!

Judi Cleary mentioned the report on river usage on the Grand Canyon is out and the Park is looking for comments back by mid January. Judi is hoping to have some club members read the findings and present a condensed report on it at the December meeting.

Elliott had a trip on the Upper Yough and reported on it. He talked about Sherry (Brad Guess' girlfriend) having a great combat roll.

Hey!

Please consider sending a newsletter article/trip report to your friendly newsletter editor Kelly.

e-mail at peetzaguy@aol.com

or

peetzaguy@zoominternet.net

November Keelhauler's Meeting **A Challenge?**

Fellow Keelhaulers,

This is a message from your new president. We as a club have been challenged by our sometimes companion and sometimes competitor TRPC - Three Rivers Paddling Club. They say we are incapable of getting 100 members to a single meeting. I say we prove them wrong. And this is the meeting to do it, so read on.... I am promised that you will NOT be disappointed so I implore you to attend the November 9th club meeting!

See you then,

Judi Cleary

Tuesday, November 9, 2004 Program

The Grand Canyon

(TRPC and Keelhauler's 2004 Summer Trip)

By Rick Gusic

(Write-up by Barry Adams, slightly edited by Judi)

I received a call the other night from by a tearful President, Judi Cleary. It seems that the Club had scheduled this program on November 9th un-be-known to me? There was 4 ½ hours of video taken on this trip. The raw footage was turned over to the famous paddling Film Maker, Rick Gusic. You have all seen his acclaimed films, Spreading the Disease, and Thunderballs, the Return of Team C just to mention two.

Complete artistic freedom was given to Rick Gusic. We had a saying on this trip "What happens in the Grand Canyon stays in the Grand Canyon". Well as it turns out we forgot to tell this to anyone who shot the video and we did not get a chance to preview the film. On Tuesday October 19 the film was premiered at the TRPC meeting to a standing room crowd of over 100 members. Has the Keelhauler's Club ever had that many members at a meeting? I bet TRPC will beat you here? I have to tell you, it was far better than anything any of us could of imagined. Unfortunately, there were some parts that need to be edited before

it is shown again and I told Judi and Bill Miller they would just have to wait for some additional editing. Judi pleaded with me about poor attendance, the need for good programs and the possible cancellation of this meeting. She really laid it on thick, but I did not relent. A day later, I felt so bad that I had a change of mind and the participants of the trip be-damned. They should of known better anyway?

Bottom line you will get the uncut version, probably never to be seen again.

Will there be nudity? You bet ya!

Come see Terry Markoff sing? (Not an entire song, thank you)

Will there be scenes concerning the toilet (Hoover)?

You bet ya!

Does Catherine Curley really have big ovaries and show up the guys?

How many times does Matt "Carp Boy" Muir Swim and Carp?

Is Erin Bethea always first in line for food?

Does Ann Kmieck swim? Does she run Lava?

Come see Scott and Ratt-Boy Hoola Hoop. That's right this is worth the trip to the meeting alone.

Come see Steve Ingalls, well?? Be Steve.

This is just the Keelhauler's. Come see what Rick Gusic did to me and other TRPC members.

Seriously, forget about all the stuff above. Wait to see the whitewater action. The Colorado River was magnificent and the whitewater runs amazing not to mention the accompanying music. There is even a raft flip caught on tape. Did I mention the evacuation of someone who fell off a cliff? There is more, but I am giving away to much as it is. There is even a rumor that this DVD may even be reproduced and sold to the public. This is your chance to see the raw first-cut version free. If you do not make the time to come to this meeting you will have no one to blame but yourself. We will again provide munchies and drinks. (At least TRPC always does?)

A Bad Day

By John Kobak

Not that my last trip on the Gauley was good. Two weeks ago, on my one and only Gauley weekend I had a perfect three days. One swim each day. All in flat water. First after Sweets Falls on the Upper Gauley, second day while playing on the Lower and the third day after Pillow on the Upper. Not too good a weekend.

My flat-water rolls suck. I guess I need more roll practice. To add salt to the wounds, Mike Duvall hands me a "How to Roll" video at the club meeting.

But now on to our story. It's Halloween weekend. I have a feeling that they will do a early release on the Upper Yough, so I talk Elliott Drysdale into driving down super early on Friday morning in case they do a 6 AM release. Well by 9 AM, I still see no release and Elliott is due to arrive at 9:30. I call and the recording says no scheduled release, I get back on the computer and lo and behold it shows that a unscheduled release has started.

We get to put-in but don't see any water. Maybe it started late. We drive to the power dam and find out that it is indeed releasing. We head back to put-in and by this time there is plenty of water, and the clouds are starting to break up and the sun is shining. A perfect trip but there are only two of us and no one else is on the river today.

All goes well up to Bastard, the first good rapid. Elliott goes first and is having trouble on the eddy line after the boof. I hesitate, I back-paddle, I drop down next to him and flip. Before I make it up I drop over some rocks into a slow eddy, miss my second roll attempt and drop into the big hole. I get up but can't get out and I am able to grab a rock and my kayak and find myself sitting in the middle of the river without a paddle,

Elliott paddles by, looking for my paddle. I decide to get rid of the kayak and push it into an eddy. It works, it stays there. I figure that I can dive into the eddy and get to shore but I hesitate, thinking what if I can't make it in? I'll wait until Elliott walks back upstream and provides me a throw line. As he walks back upstream, my boat comes out of the eddy and heads downstream. Elliott runs back to his boat and follows. It hangs up, but he pulls it off the rock. He disappears around the corner. I think, it is a huge eddy and there should be no problem. Well, while he was trying to clip on his tow line he flips over, drops his paddle and can't bow rescue off of my boat full of water. He swims and manages to keep his boat and paddle but my boat heads on downstream toward Charlie's Choice.

I finally get the courage to dive toward shore and make it easily. I wish I would have done that while my kayak was still there. I walk down to the big eddy and I see Elliott but no kayak. He says couldn't keep it in the eddy and it will probably be below National Falls, where even a bigger eddy awaits. Well, no trail exists between Bastard and National, so up the hill and through the Rhododendron hell I walk. When I finally get there I see Elliott sitting on shore. I say, where is my kayak? He says "Beats me, I damn near drowned at National Falls. I ran the hero line by accident, got stuck in the hole, couldn't get out, got recirculated, ran out of air, drank and breathed the river water and just finished puking my guts out. Didn't see your boat and don't want to paddle anymore."

So we both start walking, me with Elliott's paddle and Elliott with his boat. When we get below Zinger, I suggest that he should try paddling again and see if he comes across my kayak. He takes as many sneak lines as he can and I walk and watch to make sure that he is OK. We get all the way below Cheese Burger and a guy comes paddling up. He says my boat was in the middle of the river right above where Elliott put back in, he brought it to shore and it's up there just below Trap Run Falls. So, back up the trail I go and Elliott waits for me. The guy reminds us that it is a two hour release and the water level is already dropping.

I finally find my kayak, but realize that the front foam wall is gone and one piece of my four piece breakdown paddle is missing. Can't paddle it. Well here I go, back to the trail. An hour and a half after I left him we get back together. He has another breakdown paddle, and we can paddle out together. The only problem is, by this time the water is all but gone. We paddle hard through some new looking rapids and finally make it to the takeout OK.

The fog rolls in and a heavy thunderstorm starts up but at least we are all in one piece. I guess it's a good idea to always paddle with at least three people. It would have made all the difference today. Maybe I'm just getting too old for this crap. Oh well, with all the rain maybe the Cheat will be up tomorrow. Into the hot tub and get a good night's rest. I'll see how I feel in the morning.

Picture submissions for the 2005 yearbook

Either snail mail or e-mail is fine. Please stuff or zip e-mails and keep the package under 3 meg. Tiffs, bmp or jpegs are ok. Please include a caption or who is in the picture and who took the picture. Include a self-addressed postage paid envelope if you want your pictures returned. Deadline is Nov 20th!

Direct any questions to:
helmut5319@yahoo.com
or mail to:

helmut schumacher
3089 hann hill rd.
hermitage, pa 16148

2004 AW Ohiopyle Over the Falls Festival Wrap-Up

By Barry Adams, Event Coordinator

First of all I want everyone to know our main goal is to open up the Ohiopyle Falls on some limited basis and we are still working towards that aim. We will be meeting with the new Park Manager in the near future to get his impressions regarding this matter.

This year's event went well. Some of the results are as follows:

Sprint

Over All Winner of the: Oliver Cup: Brian Homberg from Accident MD

Previous Overall winner in 1999, 2000 and 2002

Best Women's Finish: Kara Weld from Confluence PA -
Previous Winner in 1999

FreeStyle

Over All Winner of the: Jeff Snyder Cup: Eric Peterson from Wallingford CT (only 16 years old)

Women's Division: First - Shanna Powell from Asheville NC (Second Overall)

Complete results on our Web site: www.FallsRace.com

We had participants from 12 different states, Canada, England and Ireland. Most paddlers are content not to enter any competition and just see how many times they can go over the Falls. We had about 200 participants run the Falls. The water level stated at 1.79 and fluctuated down to 1.56. The weather for Friday and Sunday was beautiful. Saturday was not bad either but we got a little rain. There was a good spectator crowd for Saturday and Sunday. The forecast for Saturday probably kept some spectators away. We had a great town party with a great band, The Mavens/Dog Run Boys, that really kept everyone entertained. The fact that we had free beer and a film festival on the side of a building did not hurt either. One point of excitement was when the tarp blew off over the stage during the awards ceremony and we all got nearly electrocuted. The silent auction had bargains for everyone.

As you all know we had to use our cancellation date this year. Since we had to cancel the event last year due to a hurricane also you might ask why we have this event during hurricane season? Good question? Believe it or not, September is considered a low water month, but it seems that hurricanes (tropical storms by the time they reach us) are becoming more common or we are just having some bad luck. In September we only had three days of rain all related to three hurricanes. So why not move the event? The park and town do not want us to have the event in the summer because the weekends are already maxed out. No matter when we have this event it will conflict with something, Gauley release, Upper Yough release, Russell Fork Rendezvous, some Freestyle event etc. We are still searching for the best date. Actually, that may be a good thing for our sport if you like these sorts of things. The fact that the Corps of Engineers helps us so much in controlling the water level of the Yough gives us a very good chance of having this event on our selected date and it takes a lot of rain to spoil it. Unfortunately, 4 to 7 inches of rain in one day is considered a lot. But we should not complain since we had plenty of rivers to run those weekends.

It takes a lot of work to put an event together like this and in this case, we are all volunteers. I would like to recognize those that make this event happen.

COMMITTEE

Event Coordinator: Barry Adams (that's me)

AW Representative: Barry Tuscano (Board Member the Father of this Event)
Safety Director: John Lichter
Web-Site Coordinator: Matt Muir (Outstanding Web Site)
Town Liaison: Mark McCarty (Mayor)
Park Liaison: John Hallis (Park Manger)
Pa Organization for Watersheds and Rivers: Frank Cetera
Subaru: Jim Keebler
River Flows: Terry Palmor (worked hard this year with the Corps to get the appropriate level)
Corps of Engineers: Bob Yue
Freestyle Chair- Chuck Morris
Judging- Kara Weld
Race Timing: John Stephen
PA Announcer: Gary McCormick
Cup Designs: Chuck Stump
Medallions: Scott Stough
Video and Film Festival: Scott Patton and Mark Levander
On-site Entertainment and Unofficial Host: Jeff Snyder
Site Set Up and AW Membership: Carl Erb
On Site Registration: Deborah Holdsworth
Treasurer-Registration-Promotion-T-shirts-Entertainment- Sponsors etc: That would also be me. Hey, I could use some help here. I need to get a life? It is difficult to recognize just one or two persons since everyone did a great job but Matt Muir (RivieraRatt) doing the Web site and John Lichter on Safety worked very hard on this event.

Of course, this event would not be possible without volunteers for safety and administration. I know these jobs can be tedious at best but we really need almost everyone's help. Here is the dilemma we have. I would like to bring the cost of registration down even more than we did this year for the competition. We need participants to pre-register so we know we have enough for safety. Presently \$10 in advance will get you unlimited runs plus a t-shirt. Insurance cost us \$6 a person now. If you do the math it is costing us money at \$10 a head. In fact, if we did not have ACA insurance, this event may have to end. Not too many insurance companies want to insure us. The AW insurance company basically told us to, well you get the point. If we make it too cheap, paddlers may not pre-register? Basically, this is where I make my plea to pre-register and volunteer specifically for safety.

Prize money has also been discussed with opinions on both sides. Presently, we gave out gift certificates. We also now have Cups for the overall winners thanks to Chuck Stump. We have tentatively named the freestyle award the Jeff Snyder Cup and the down river award the John Oliver Cup. John Oliver was the Secretary of the DCNR that approved the permit application for the first race in 1999. Hey, this event would not be the same without Jeff Snyder. Jeff once again got the front page of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette newspaper for Monday October 4, 2004. No telling how much more press he will get before the end of the week. The participants who placed also got a medallion and will get a certificate suitable for framing. Hey once you spend the money it is gone but that medallion will hang from your mirror until you are very old or your better half throws it out.

For the first time (at least legally) we let shredders go over (one person per shredder) on a test basis limited to approved persons. Hopefully we can expand into this area for next year.

I hope everyone had a good time. Let me know the good and bad regarding this event and any suggestions you may have for future events. I particularly want to hear from anyone that would like to help with this event. It really can be a lot of fun to help out. Just in case you did not know the proceeds from this event go to American Whitewater and Ohiopyle Stewart Volunteer Fire Co.

It seems that there were photographers all over the place and a number have sent me information on them. I would encourage you to give your business to the local Ohiopyle photographer Greg Green of Wild Rivers Photo Service: 724-329-0330 Here are other photographers that have contacted me so far:

Larry Davis: <http://www.larry-davis.com/portfolio/subCatImages.cfm?subID=46>
larry@profotos.com

Ed Fagan, Web link:

<http://PhotoWiz.freehosting.net/OverTheFallsFest2004/index.html>

ColumbiaPhotography@comcast.net

Jason Beam:

<http://jbeamphotos.com/gallery/FallsRace04>
jbeam@jbeamphotos.com

Chris Herring:

<http://www.upperyoughphotos.com/ly/fallsrace/index.htm>

photos@upperyoughphotos.com

Also, check out the this picture on the Pittsburgh Post Gazette on-line paper: http://www.post-gazette.com/journal/photos_display.asp?ID=13876
Scott Patton (patton@pulsenet.com), our own official video guy, shot video all three days. He has put together a (two-tape set) VHS video, which is available now for purchase. The two-tape set includes nearly 4 hours of Falls Running and related weekend highlights including the rain/wind-interrupted awards ceremony. Videos will be \$15, which will include postage/handling and packaging. See our web site under the info page "Order Video" button for details.

Most importantly I would like to thank our major sponsors: **Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR)** and new this year, **Subaru**, in additions to our Silent auction sponsors.

A Revised Keystone Canoeing **By Ed Gertler**

Press Release:

In all honesty, the following announcement is from a biased source, i.e., the author. The new (4th edition) of Keystone Canoeing is finally off the press. Though hidden behind the same ugly cover (picture of Charlie Walbridge paddling the only flatwater he has done in the last 20 years), everything in between has been updated, from the introduction to the maps to the text. It hopefully documents all the current road names, dams removed and dams built, new accesses and accesses lost, new roads and bridges, roads and bridges abandoned, gauges added and gone, and so on. It interprets many of the new gauges available online and reinterprets old recommendations. There are even a few new creeks described. I think it will again be a guidebook that you can depend on. Hope you like it.



Keel-Hauler's KaNews DECEMBER 2004

December 14th Holiday Meeting

7:00pm, Middleburg Heights Community Center, 15700 Bagley Rd

Potluck dinner will start at 8:00pm. Raffle tickets will be sold at \$1 a piece for a chance to win some **awesome** door prizes. Proceeds will go to the club conservation fund! Donated prizes are from the following:

Rocky Mountain Kayak Arona Rd New Stanton, PA
www.rockymountinkayak.com (1-800-383-0909)
Jeff Prycl will be happy to fulfill all your equipment needs. Stop in on your way to the Yough or visit him on the web, you won't be disappointed. Check web page for directions and store hours.

Little Mountain LTD-

<http://www.littlemountainltd.com/>,
7230 Mentor Ave, Mentor, Ohio (440-946-5028)
Little Mountain LTD is NE Ohio's premier outdoor sports' retailer, specializing in skis, apparel, snowboards and more. Greg McGuire and his staff can take care of all your equipment needs. When it's too cold to paddle, let's go skiing!

Outback Steakhouse—<http://www.outback.com/>,
8595 Market St. Mentor, Oh. High quality food and service, generous portions at moderate prices. Check it out, great food. I eat there all the time.

Terence O'Flaherty, Atty. at Law,
(440-946-1743), 7541 Mentor Ave., Mentor, Oh. General Practice of Law. Terry loves to swim the upper Yough so you know he's got to be a tough attorney.

Cuyahoga Tuna-Mystery Gift!

I have personally patronized all of our sponsors and I highly recommend all of them.

Bill Miller

From the Pres.....

Just before last month's meeting, the Keelhauler Board met for the first time in a few years. This group of seven people came up with several ideas for moving the club forward which I would like to share with you.

Since meeting attendance has been slipping over the last several years, the board decided on the following actions.

1. The structure of the club meetings at Middleburg Heights will be changing. The doors will now open at 7pm to give members a chance to visit, view the library, conduct business with the membership chair etc. Refreshments will be served during this time which will include either pizza, appetizers or something to substitute for an actual dinner. So if you are coming directly from work you don't need to stop somewhere else to eat. In return, we will put out a donation jar to help defray the added cost of the food. If you'd like to suggest some types of food, please email me or [Jim Hunt](#), and we'll see what we can do. We will give this idea a try for several meetings to see if members like it. The actual business meeting will start at 8:00pm and we will aim to make it shorter ending at least by 8:30 which is when the program will begin. This schedule will begin at the February 2005 meeting.

2. We are going to cancel the January club meeting. It is frequently bad weather at that time of year and attendance tends to be low.

3. We are going to have door prizes at the December Holiday Potluck Meeting. Please see article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information on this exciting idea which is sure to draw a crowd. Smooth talker, Bill Miller, has lined up an extensive list of goodies for us.

4. We are planning to survey members regarding what it would take to bring more of our members out to the meetings, so be sure to make your opinions known by responding to it. Also, at any time that you have an idea about the club, the meetings, the trips, please feel free to pass it on to me or any of the officers.

Thank you and SYOTR,
[Judi Cleary](#)

A Membership Reminder...

The club membership year ended on **October 1st**. The newsletter mailing label indicates whether or not you have paid your 2005 dues. If not, please try to mail your check for \$20 today, and include a donation for our club's conservation program if you can. Please indicate any changes to your address, phone or e-mail listing. If no changes are required you do not have to fill out a club application or waiver to renew your membership, however one is included on the last page. You can pay your dues at any club meeting or mail your check to:

Keel Haulers Canoe Club

1649 Allen Dr

Westlake, OH 44145-2506

You may now pay your dues and register on-line using Paypal at <http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/Registration.htm>

Your last newsletter will be the December Kanews, please don't make us keep sending out notices, it costs the club time and money. If your dues are not received by 12/14/04 your name will not be listed in the 2005 Yearbook & Roster.

Another reminder: There is only one database for all club information, so all changes of address, e-mails, phone numbers need to be sent to John Kobak (address above) or e-mail to membership@keelhauler.org. You can view the current database on-line at:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook4.pdf>

KHCC Meeting Minutes November 9, 2004

Attendees, 44

Approval of last month's minutes as printed in news letter.
Welcome new members and visitors.

Treasurer Report by Rob Hammond. Approximately \$10,000 balance.

Year book schedule by Lisa Strong. Notify her if you can not lead the same trip as last year. Submit photos to Helmut Schumacher for year book. Provide self addressed envelope if you want it back.

Conservation Chair is Dan Zaleski.

Instruction by Steve Ingalls. Wilderness first aid class in first week of February. Red Cross pool sessions at Orange HS and others.

Library by Mike Duvall. Updated list is on the WEB and he has inventory on all tapes and books in stock.

Membership by John Kobak. 144 members paid to date, 200 outstanding. 21 less members this year.

Newsletter. Submit to Kelly Miller.

Pool sessions by Dave Donnellan. Plan to use Orange and Lakewood again.

Program by Bill Miller. Potluck dinner next meeting and will offer door prize. Planned discussion of Grand Canton permit proposal.

Refreshments by Jim Hunt. Plan to expand food for people who skip dinner to come to meeting. After next meeting look into starting at 7:00 PM for more social time and business meeting starting at 8:00 PM.

Safety by Ed Charlton. Per story in newsletter (Bad Day by John Kobak), always paddle with three people.

Rescue Weekend by Rob Hammond. Set date for last weekend in June. Ask for volunteers. Kent group is looking for photos from this year.

Vermilion Race by Rob Hammond. Set date for early April.

No old or new business.

Trip reports, Jim Hunt on the Cheat with 80 F temp and over 4 ft. water. Chuck Singer's hike at Oil Creek State Park.

The program for the night was a 50-minute DVD show of a recent private trip down the Grand Canyon with both TRPC and Keelhauler members taking part. Erin Bethea provided a short introduction. The video was filmed by the paddlers and then edited by Rick Gusic. The audience was not disappointed!

2005 CHAIRS

The following is a list of 2005 Chairs for the Keelhaulers. There are some new names as well as the old familiar ones. We have gotten off to a great start this year thanks to each and every person on this list. Please be sure to extend your assistance and your gratitude to these volunteers.

Conservation: **Dan Zaleski**

Instruction: **Steve Ingalls**

Library: **Mike Duvall**

Membership: **John Kobak**

Webmaster: **John Kobak**

Newsletter Editor: **Kelly Miller**

Newsletter Distribution: **Judi Cleary**

Pool Session: **David Donnellan**

Meeting Program: **Bill Miller**

Refreshments: **Jim Hunt/Bob Bair**

Safety: **Ed Charlton**
Rescue Weekend: **Rob Hammond**
Yearbook: **Helmut Schumacher/Judi Cleary**
Yearbook Schedule: **Lisa Strong**
Vermilion Race: **Rob Hammond**

Please Volunteer.....

We are putting together the 2005 keelhauler trip schedule. Please volunteer to organize a trip. We are looking for trips of all skill levels and types including whitewater, sea kayaking, and other adventures such as hiking or skiing. Please email or call. Include name, dates, contact information, and trip description.

Lisa Strong at strong_lisa@yahoo.com,
Cell: 330-958-9014 or Work: 330-995-1732

2004-2005 ROLL SESSIONS

Sponsored by Orange Community Education and Recreation & Lakewood Community Education & Recreation. To be held at Orange High School Pool and Lakewood High School Pool.

Orange High School Pool Roll Sessions

Eleven sessions are scheduled on Saturday afternoons from **December 11, 2004 through March 19, 2005 at Orange High School Pool. There are several conflicts with high school swim meets this year, so there are exception dates. There are no sessions on 12/25, 1/1, 1/8, & 1/29.** Pool time starts at 4:00pm and ends promptly at 6:00pm. **We must shower and be out of the building by 6:30pm. A charge of \$5 per person per session (\$4 for Orange School District residents) covers the use of the pool.**

Lakewood High School Pool Roll Sessions

Nine sessions are scheduled on Saturday afternoons from **December 11, 2004 through March 19, 2005 at Lakewood High School Pool. There are several conflicts with swim meets. There are no sessions on 12/25, 1/1, 1/8, 1/22, 1/29, or on 2/12.** Pool time starts at 4:00 PM and ends promptly at 6:00 PM. **All must shower and be out of the building by 6:30pm. A charge of \$5 per person per session 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 & Lakewood, 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 required to participate. Club members can bring non-member friends. For those interested, membership forms will be available at the door.
3. The roll session at Orange High School 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/manager upon entering the pool. **Please bring exact change to Orange High School.** Lakewood High School pool staff can make change.
5. We must avoid damage to the facilities and especially the pools' 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 will be required, whether you are in a boat or standing in the water helping someone. This is for your own safety.**

Directions to Orange High School Pool...

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 along the west end of the building. There is a very 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.

Directions to Lakewood High School Pool...

Lakewood High School is at 14100 Franklin Blvd., and the pool is located in the back of the High School, so entering at the Robinwood Ave. entrance is easiest, especially when coming from I-90. Exit from I-90 at the Bunts Rd./ W 140th St. Exit and head north on Bunts to Madison Ave. Turn left on Madison Ave. and head one block to Robinwood Ave. Take a right on Robinwood Ave., which dead ends into the pool entrance. Kayaks should be brought through the delivery entrance/emergency exit, which is located just to the east of the Robinwood entrance. Pool staff will be stationed at the delivery entrance to assist you.

Cancellation Policy

If winter driving conditions are bad, the session may be canceled. When Orange Community Education and Recreation is closed, information is typically on local television and radio stations. We will also try to post closings on the Message Board. If Lakewood High School pool is closed, that information will likely be available on the pool's voicemail at (216) 529-4014. If you have any questions regarding the roll sessions, please contact David Donnellan at 330-405-8911 or ddonnellan@adelphia.net.

Keelhaulers Southern Rivers Renegade Tour II, or Surviving the wakeup call, April 2004

Just notes along the way, by Boris Glick

Day 0 - Getting there

Not much to remember. Stu and I squeezed our gear into his Ford Escape and headed South, from time to time trying to raise on a cell phone the groups that were already there. We were hoping to hook up either with folks from Michigan, or with the Keelhaulers Southern Rivers Trip. The rest of the Renegade II tour, that is, Brent, Dan, Duarte, and a couple of his friends, were going to run the Green Narrows. We thought it too much for a warm-up trip for either of us (and a bit too ambitious to try out my brand-new Lil'Joe), so we were hoping for something easier. In a Subway somewhere in Kentucky we learned that the Michigan group was still in West Virginia, scrapping the Nolichucky plans in favor of the Elk, the Meadow, and laps down the Cranberry. The Keelhaulers Southern Rivers Trip has their sites set on Nolichucky and maybe Ocoee. The rain, predicted a week earlier, wasn't happening, so our choices of warm-up run were quickly dwindling. But, there was always the Tallulah. I missed my wife all the way down.

Maybe except the coffee breaks. Nah, then I missed her even stronger (Lena, you're reading this, right?)

Day 1 - Tallulah Gorge, 500 cfs

I spent the night hanging in my hammock between two trees near the Ocoee put-in. Stu slept in the car. Around eight-thirty we got up and headed towards Georgia. Tallulah was the only thing that was running within hundreds of miles - and soon we got a call from Brent saying that they were waiting for us at the put-in. I looked at the GPS and determined that we had about 30 minutes to the put-in.

In about an hour and a half, we were there. The day was sunny and warm, so our wetsuits stayed dry. The 600 rusty rungs of the put-in ladder were waiting for us. We passed by a group of people in open canoes, waited for the knees to start working again, and splashed into the water.

My line down the first drop wasn't as good as it could've been, considering that I flipped on the top and washed through a couple of small holes. As irritating as it was though, I fared a lot better than the swimmer next to me - he dislocated his shoulder and was in considerable pain. I helped him reunite with his group, and we went on. My own boating was sluggish at best, but I managed.

There are two big drops on the Tallulah - Oceana and Bridal Veil. At 500cfs, Oceana is quite friendly - at least for those who run the center line. The alternative (going far left and shooting past the jagged boulder dubbed The Thing at 30 miles per hour) is too much like using yourself as a bowling ball, with The Thing serving as a pin. The main objective (to get the boat to the bottom) is easily reached, but some of the possible outcomes are less than painful.

We all chose to run the center line, except for Duarte, whose line started at the center, but instead of ferrying in front of The Thing like us mortals, he went to the right of it. Made it look smooth, too. When I grow up, I want to be like Duarte.

Stu ran the center line too, but in the bottom hole his roll has failed him, and the ensuing swim was preserved for posterity both in video footage and as still shots.

There were some other noteworthy runs - in particular, a young paddler in a small playboat, who ran straight into the face of The Thing. According to the laws of physics, we were expecting a pit-on, broken bones and a subsequent evacuation. Instead, his boat literally soared upwards, cleared The Thing, and landed on the other side. I still can't tell how he did it. My opinion leans towards an optical illusion, or less likely, a case of spontaneous levitation - although some were arguing a rogue surge of the pillow. For now, there is no firm consensus on the matter, so it will have to stay unexplained.

After the takeout, we headed Northwest and looked at the waterfalls on Cullasaja. A sweet run! One of these days I might be boater enough to run it, too.

Unfortunately, during the dinner I noticed that my digital camera's viewfinder and the screen steamed up on the inside. Next morning, it wouldn't power up at all. Even worse, my SLR can't easily get into or come out from the

stern of my boat - so all the pictures from the trip are from the first day.

The pictures of the day are here:

www.fotki.com/glick/tallulah_gorge

Also, some professional pictures can be found here:

www.downstreamphoto.com

And the pictures of Cullasaja falls are here:

www.fotki.com/glick/cullasaja

Day 2 - Tallulah Gorge, 700 cfs

Brent, Duarte, and the rest went out to run the Green. Stu and I decided to spend one more day on Tallulah, to get a better warm-up (neither one of us was satisfied with our performance the day before). We also wanted to see what the gorge was like with an extra 200cfs in it.

There were even less boaters on Sunday. The weather cooled down, so we geared up to compensate. If anything, the run was easier than the day before - we remembered most of the tight spots, and none of the holes grew much worse. The only noticeable difference was Oceana. At 500cfs, the center line was easy and controllable - you go down the main slide sideways, paddling forward at an easy pace, and stay ready with a right brace. When hit the hole, side-surf it towards The Thing on the river-left (that's where the hole kicks, because the rock shelf that forms the hole is slanted that way). Because of the slant, the side-surf is no work at all, and surfing across the pillow of The Thing is just as easy. But during the 700 cfs Sunday release, the pillow grows bigger and more powerful, and the surges can throw the paddler several feet in the air - with no telling which way he'll land. Last year, several people landed on the rock upside-down, on their heads or shoulders. So, I decided that at 700cfs, the river-left line offered more control. As it turned out, I was wrong.

A good Samaritan with a video camera offered to talk me through the line. He pointed out the rooster tail to aim for, and suggested that I should brace on the side away from the rock, because the objective was to allow the boat to bounce off the pillow. I did what he said - and maybe, just maybe, I ended up even further right than he said. Next thing I knew, I was hurtling straight towards the center of The Thing. I did the only thing that I could think of at the time - present the bottom of my boat towards the rock. The impact felt like a landing from a good size waterfall. I bounced off the pillow, then the water dragged me on my side towards the hole at the bottom of the rapid. Even running on my side, I still had enough momentum to punch the hole. I rolled in the outflow, thankful for the elbow guards.

Almost nobody ran the center line on Sunday, and those who did, were thrown by the pillow of The Thing every which way. Perhaps, the only truly dependable line at that level is to run to the right of The Thing - but it requires a lot of confidence, high degree of control, and a no-nonsense attitude towards the bottom hole.

Bridal Veil drop has proved to be more entertaining. The drop is a simple slide that leads into a large, almost river-wide keeper hole. The only line is to hug the left bank,

sliding down the rocks barely covered by water, and punch the far left shoulder of the hole. At 700cfs, it actually becomes easier, because more water is coming down the rocks, and it's easier to build enough speed on the way down. One river feature makes the drop more interesting - the river-wide small hole right above the drop. It's not powerful enough to stop a kayak, but it can slow it down or change the direction. Most paddlers punch it with plenty of speed.

To start the day's entertainment, we saw a successful run of Bridal Veil in a Topolino Duo tandem kayak. The boat effortlessly punched through the top hole, slid down the far left, went over the shoulder of the bottom hole, veered left, and flipped! The paddlers set up for the roll on the simultaneously, and the boat snapped up a lot faster than a regular kayak would. The crowd of onlookers cheered, and with a good reason!

The next incident was all about the fallacy of taunting the river gods. A guy in a yellow playboat got into the hole on the top and started throwing cartwheels. A few on the right, then a few on the left - all controlled and very deliberate-looking. When he had enough, he set up a brace, floated up and over the pillow, and went down the slide. He took a couple of lazy strokes to get him towards the left of the drop, which almost worked.

But not quite. Soon enough, he was doing cartwheels in the bottom hole. The first couple of cartwheels looked so well-executed and controlled, that I couldn't tell if he was in trouble or not. But when his head went underwater, I realized that he wasn't playing - and that there wasn't anybody in sight with a throwbag, except me. I tried to run or walk down the left bank, but the rocks were too slippery, so I sat down and slid towards a rock shelf on my butt.

Then I hit him with a throw rope - easily the best throw I ever made! Unfortunately, the paddler didn't see the rope, and didn't grab it. By that time, he was out of his boat. The only other mishap on the river had to do with Stu's paddle. After we ran one of the last drops, somebody noticed that a half of his left blade has snapped - it was still okay for forward strokes, but not for low-brace. I got out my breakdown, and we ran the last Class 3 - neither Stu nor I making it look pretty. Each missed a boof at the top, flipped in the first drop, and proceeded upside-down through the most of it, rolling on the bottom.

After a nice Chinese dinner, Stu and I drove towards the campground where Brent and Dan stayed the two previous nights. Stu drove and I navigated, which explains the scenic shortcut, that turned into a two-hour-long detour. To compensate, I took pictures of the main falls of Cullasaja - a remarkable sight. We made it to the campground two hours after dark, and were soon asleep, listening to the sound of the long-awaited rain.

Day 3 - The Green Narrows at 100%

In the morning, Brent drove over to the area with a better cell phone reception and soon came back. The Green was running at 100% release, plus some water from the last

night rains that should pad the rocks somewhat. An ideal level for an introductory run.

Soon, we were running the shuttle. And suddenly I found myself in the spot that I remembered from two years back - the top of Frankenstein rapid, the first serious drop on the Green Narrows. The move there is somewhat involved: Squeeze through the crack between two rocks, drop into the current that goes perpendicular to the crack, ferry across the current, catch a micro-eddy under the right bank, then peel out and boof the drop on the river-right slot, and finally, ferry back to the river-left in front of an overhanging undercut rock. Again, my line was less than perfect - I blew the first ferry and ended up running the wrong slot, the one on the river left. I didn't get stuck (mostly luck), but the current shove me into the undercut. I was able to push off with little difficulty though, and caught an eddy on the bottom. I don't think Stu's line was very clean either, but at least he ran the right slot.

The next few drops we pretty much followed Brent. He's been paying attention to his last few runs of the Green, and is now familiar enough with the river to guide our little group. Before Zwick's, we got out of the boats and scouted the drop. From the bank it seemed a lot easier than from the boat - punch a hole on the river-right (taking care not to slam into the rocks that guard the right side of the drop), than work your way right, trying to end up on the right of the horseshoe-shaped main drop of Zwick's. The second-best line is running the horseshoe on the far left, and the worst one - trying to punch the hole on the horseshoe head-on in the center. The move is somewhat difficult, because if starting on the right, most of the water pulls the boater towards the center of the drop. My line was by no means picture-perfect - I ended up running the center of the bottom hole, but the Lil'Joe slid over the top of the hole without even slowing down.

The next drop, called Chief, was a bit unnerving, because the main line goes straight over a rock sieve - the only place where somebody died on the river. I made it over the sieve without any problems, but hit too many rocks along the way for my comfort. Next time, I'll be on the right of that drop, instead of its center. That center is evil.

We carried the four drops of Gorilla, and splashed down below Flume. We ran Scream Machine without incident, but the hole on the bottom of Nies' Pieces got the better of Stu and me. The AWA description says that the hole is "sticky above the 100%". I can attest to it. After spending some time upside-down, trying to catch the outflow with the paddle, rolling up and getting sucked back in, I ran out of air and pulled the skirt. The boat played in the hole for a while more, then floated out. Stu (who was already out of his boat) helped me to get situated on the rocks along the river-right. Stu's boat was gone out of sight, but he still had his paddle. We assessed the situation, thinking of different ways to get Stu to the left bank. Finally, Brent saw a way to climb up the wall of the gorge, and Stu headed upwards. Brent and Dan ran Rapid Transit, and I followed. The pool below the drop was large enough to tow a swimmer

across, so I remained there to wait for Stu's descent, while Brent and Dan went further downstream to hunt for Stu's boat. Soon I spotted Stu about fifty feet up the Rhododendron-covered cliffs and shouted for him to climb down. He did, eventually. We crossed the river, but not completely without accident - Stu slipped and couldn't hold on to his paddle, so it floated downstream on its own.

Luckily, when we reunited at the bottom of the drop, Brent and Dan had captured both Stu's boat and the paddle, both in good shape.

We ran the new line down Groove Tube - boofing the drop straight down the center. My boat landed flat with a hard thump, and we carried around Sunshine. It was inspiring to see a group of local paddlers, who ran Gorilla/Sunshine combo without getting out of their boats, even without catching the set-up eddy before Sunshine.

The rest of the run proceeded without a hitch, except for me sliding face-down on Little Sunshine. Soon, we were back in our cars, heading towards the dinner and the campground - but not before checking out the local outfitter store.

Day 4 - North and West Forks of the French Broad

The night brought more rain, and after checking the levels, we decided to run the forks of the French Broad. These are both short runs, so we thought that we might be able to run both the North and the West forks. On the North Fork, the AWA description rates one of the rapids (Boxcar) at 5.1. That rating made me nervous, and I didn't run it - although walking away from this drop was quite depressing. It truly felt as a lost opportunity.

A couple of drops later, we got out of our boats to scout Submarine. The hole on the river-left looked big and recirculating, so we ran the right side.

As we carried our boats towards the cars on the takeout, we ran into Joshua. He was anxious to run the West Fork with us, so we threw the boats into his pickup and he gunned the engine. The West Fork of the French Broad turned out to be a short, but very fun run. There are three significant rapids, all slides, all easy to scout and fun to ride, without much in the way of consequences. As we neared the takeout, Joshua told us that there's time enough for another run of the North Fork - if we use the alternative put-in and takeout that he knows about. So, we did.

On our second time down, I did run Boxcar. I still can't tell what it did to deserve a 5.1 rating. The line is straightforward - just charge down the far right - and the hole on the bottom isn't bad.

My second run down Submarine was the entertainment of the day. This time, the water was a good two feet lower (the level was dropping very fast), and the river-right line that we ran earlier, was now a sieve. So we ran the river-left, punching through the hole. All except me, that is. Instead of punching it, I went for a ride. A long ride. First in the boat, then out. On the right bank, the hole is supported by a sheer rock, and on the left, it flows into an undercut (Closet Of Doom, according to AWA). There was

no hope of swimming out of that one on the surface; I had to let the outflow grab me and carry me deep under the hole. I surfaced about ten feet downstream, while the boat kept bouncing and cartwheeling in the hole for quite some time - ten minutes at least - before finally floating out. Dan caught my paddle on the way out, which was intact - but one of the pogies was missing.

Day 5 - The Watauga at 750cfs

The night was rainy again. The temperature dropped, and the mountains around us were covered by snow. I was concerned about paddling without my lost pogie, but by some miracle, the store manager was in, and he sold me a pair of pogies - more than an hour before the official store opening time.

Our original plan was to go North towards West Virginia and run the North Fork of Blackwater, but it was too high. So we ended up going towards the Wilsons Creek - and found it too low. The only other option was the Watauga. After a less-than-scenic two-hour detour down the dirt roads, we came to the put-in.

The water was high. It was dropping, to be sure - the last reading of 800 cfs was from seven o'clock in the morning. But still, AWA doesn't recommend this run above 650cfs. Brent said something about ending the trip with a bang. Stu decided to opt out, and I was on the verge of it - but at the end, decided to go.

It was big, pushy water. To me, it was a totally new experience - when the confidence in each maneuver is very low, the boat gets thrown around all the time. There was no telling if a brace or a ferry will work. It was hard to tell if an eddy turn would actually get me into an eddy, or just get me tangled in the boiling interface. My body tried to compensate for the lack of precision with extra force - which only made things worse: By the end of the first mile I was physically exhausted. The run was six miles... We did carry Hydro.

I don't remember much of the rest of the run. The rapids weren't all that big, but with my reduced confidence level, everything seemed ten times harder than it really was. At one point, when scouting on the left, I saw an easy-looking slide into a small hole. What I failed to notice, was the circular current in the feeding eddy - the hole was recirculating, and a lot bigger under the surface than it was on the top. Soon, I was swimming again, with my boat doing flips and gyrations in the hole.

Brent helped me to get to the shore, then he and Dan took off after the boat, while I started walking along the left bank. The water was fast. About a quarter of the mile downstream, I saw my paddle on the rocks on the left side - Dan saw it floating in an eddy and threw it out of the water. The boat was a whole mile downstream. Luckily, Brent had his tow system, and he was able to get the boat to the river-left before the next major drop, and I reunited with my boat - sans one of the pieces of the breakdown paddle.

That rapid was pretty difficult - several moves, dodging large holes and a sieve on the river right. We all ran it, with

me flipping and hitting the side of my helmet in the process. All three of us carried State Line Falls, although Brent and Dave spent some time looking for possible lines. I wanted no part of it.

After running the last rapid (the holes looked formidable, but I was still good for the good old "follow-the-leader" routine) we got to the takeout. How the world had changed! The snow was gone, the sky cleared out, and we were getting a good dose of sunshine. And my part in the Keelhaulers Renegade Tour II was over, except for the aching muscles and the missing gear. But I'll be there the next time!

See you on the river!

A Fall Day on the Cheat

By Jim Hunt

The late fall Cheat Trip was scheduled for Oct 30th. Typically it is cold out, the water is cold, and the water level is high. I contacted the trip organizer the Monday before the trip to express an interest even though the Cheat was very low and no rain was predicted. Since I was the first to contact the trip organizer, I was asked if I could take over the trip which I said I would.

By mid week, no one had contacted me, the water was low, no rain was predicted, but on the bright side it was going to be warm on Saturday. I figured the trip would not happen due to low water but we would find something else to paddle. I finally heard from a couple of paddlers who wanted to go on the Cheat even at low water so the trip was on. We were all expecting a very low water run - lower than I had ever run the Cheat.

Then the rains came...Thursday night. Lots of rain fell in the Cheat forks area and by Friday morning the water was rapidly rising at Parsons. Then more rain came...Friday night lots of very heavy rain in the Cheat canyon area.

Saturday morning water level checks showed about 5000 cfs at Rowlesburg which is 20 miles upstream of the Cheat canyon. The water level at Parsons, 60 miles upstream, was stable. The estimates indicated the water level in the Cheat canyon would peak at over 4 feet which is higher than I had ever run it. We would be in the Cheat canyon at the high point of the bubble with lots of extra local flow added in.

Six of us met at Little Sandy's Restaurant at 10:00 Saturday morning. The forecast was for some rain but temperatures in the mid 70's. We discussed the water levels and the options for the day: Cheat canyon, Big Sandy, Little Sandy, Middle Fork/Tygart. The group wanted the Cheat so off we went.

The gage at the bridge in Albright showed 4.1 feet. The side streams were running big and the paved roads were washed over in places so I knew there would be more water in the Canyon than the bridge gage indicated. Then the shuttle crew came back and reported Bull Run was washed out and frequently underwater. Everyone still wanted to do the Cheat but also realized the water level could be higher than expected in the canyon.

Off we went: Elliot, Jim, Ross, Mike, Jason, and myself. We proceeded with caution down the river trying to boat scout what we could. I was the only one with lots of Cheat runs at all different levels so I got to lead. Fog had moved in which made it hard to scout and also hard for me to figure out what rapids we were into. The first stop we made to scout was Big Nasty. At this level, the name is appropriate. You could have put a bus in the hole. There was a good sneak on the left shore that 3 ran and the other 3 carried. The risk of running the regular line, not getting left fast enough, and going in the hole was too much for this group.

On down the river we went. The normal lines seemed OK, just lots of push. Many of the rapids were just washed out which made them easier to run than at low levels. As we got down the river past Cue Ball we became somewhat more concerned about the level and the push - no problem though, the normal lines were just fine. At High Falls we got out to scout. The usual line down the middle looked good but there were a couple of almost river wide holes below the first drop. We all ran High Falls. It was great fun at this level with lot of speed, however, stay out of the hole at the bottom (Jim). Next came Coliseum - no one seems to want to run this one. We all took the sneak without even looking at the rapid - no reason to get out of the boats here.

At Pete Morgan we ended up with boats on both shores above the main drop. At this level it is difficult to get to the main drop due to large holes/waves everywhere. Three managed to hit the normal line, 2 ran the wrong side of the rock and went down the right side and one went over the upstream rock and got stuck in the eddy between the two rocks. Not too many clean looking lines here but everyone made it and no one swam.

The rest of the trip was uneventful. The sun came out and it was in the 70's. We had only seen two other boaters all day. It was a good day: no swims, no lost boats and very few flips. We had all made it down the Cheat at fairly high water by being careful and cautious.

What more could you ask for at the end of October - high water on the Cheat, warm temperatures, and the river to yourself.

Please consider.....

Please consider sending a copy of this letter to the Content Analysis Team and your U.S. Senators and Congress Reps.....

November 2004

Content Analysis Team
ATTN: Roadless State Petitions
USDA Forest Service
PO Box 221090, Salt Lake City, UT 84122

Dear Content Analysis Team,

As a concerned citizen, I am writing to urge the Forest Service to withdraw the Bush Administration's proposal to repeal the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

The Roadless Rule is a well-balanced and reasonable policy that was finalized after two decades of scientific study, 600 public meetings held across the country, and a historic 1.7 million public comments received in support of the rule. This rule guarantees protection for our national forests, which provide 60 million Americans with pure drinking water, habitat for thousands of species of wildlife, and countless recreational opportunities nationwide. While protecting our rivers and national forests, the rule also allows for new roads to be built in case of fires and to ensure public safety. To date, 2.5 million comments have been logged in support of this rule, making it the most popular rule in our history.

Over and above its environmental benefits, the Roadless Rule makes sound economic sense. Currently, the Forest Service has a backlog of \$8 million in maintenance and reconstruction costs for existing roads that still need to be fixed and will only continue to deteriorate. Not only will costs continue to rise if more roads are cut through forests but the environmental consequences will become more severe over time. The Roadless Rule would prevent additional costs to both the Forest Service and our environment.

Thus far, more than half of the land within our country's national forests has been exposed to various types of development that all require road building. This disruption of our forests has already altered their ability to provide clean drinking water to tens of millions of people and safe habitats for thousands of species of wildlife.

In addition, once a road is built through an untouched area, the federal agencies responsible for that land cannot recommend it for wilderness protection by Congress. The Bush Administration has already removed Alaska's Tongass and Chugach National Forests from the Roadless Rule and is fiercely determined to bring an end to the rule most vital to the preservation of our national forests.

I strongly urge the Forest Service to withdraw the Bush Administration's proposal and keep the Roadless Area Conservation Rule intact.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments on this crucial issue.

Sincerely,
Your name

<u>December</u>	<u>Trip Description</u>			<u>Trip Leader</u>	
12/4	<u>Slippery Rock</u>	PA	19	<u>Cliff Wire</u>	440-439-6541
12/14	Annual Potluck Dinner meeting at Middleburg Hts Comm. Center at 7:30pm			<u>Elliott Drysdale</u>	216-496-8482
<u>January</u>	A work in progress....there is still time to volunteer to run a trip....see earlier article.....				

The State of the Treasury

Rob Hammond - Treasurer

Financial year 2004, which for the Keel Hauler Canoe Club ended on September 30, was good for us. Unfortunately 2005 does not have as rosy of a future. Below are the reports and charts showing where our money came and went, as well as what we expect see this year. 04 was a good year because we had a pretty good membership renewal rate, but mostly because we had a great Vermilion Race income. Last year was unusual for the race as it a warm sunny day and there was plenty of water. The result was we had a tremendous race turnout which pushed up our receipts up to the best ever. Unfortunately we can't count on an early April race day being warm and sunny, so I had to lower our race income expectation down to more typical levels. Also we are not seeing the membership renewal rate as high as previous years, so we have downsized our expectations for income in this area. You can see from the budget below, we are expecting to receive almost 16% less income from last year. Now if I was the U.S. Treasurer instead of the Keel Hauler's Treasurer, I wouldn't worry about this minor inconvenience. Since I don't have the authority to order printing more money to cover the deficit, we are going to take care of this the old fashion way... we are going to cut expenses!

If you look at our expense chart, you notice that 2 of our bigger expenses are: printing the newsletter and postage for mailing our newsletter and yearbooks. **The best thing our members can do to help us out today, is cancel your mailed newsletter.** Most of us now have email, if you are still receiving your newsletter via your mail carrier, now is the time to change to the email only version. Contact [John Kobak](#) if you want to change this option. The next thing members can do to help out the club is to talk up membership benefits. If you are boating with someone who is not a member, especially on club scheduled trips, guilt trip them into joining. One of our biggest club benefits is organizing trips for people of all skill levels. A membership costs less then a tank of gas, and the payback is year around. I like John Kobak's trip policy. You can come on a club organized trip once to check us out, but after that you need to join. They don't call John the Membership Nazi for nothing! And if you haven't joined what are you waiting for, we are all out of engraved invitations! Print some club [applications](#) to hand out. The biggest change to our budget will be cutting \$750 out of our conservation donations. The next thing you will notice is the donation can placed by our refreshment table at the meetings. We actually want to improve our refreshment offering with things like pizza to encourage more of you to come out to our meetings, soo... we would kinda like to see folks drop in a dollar or two to help defray our costs.

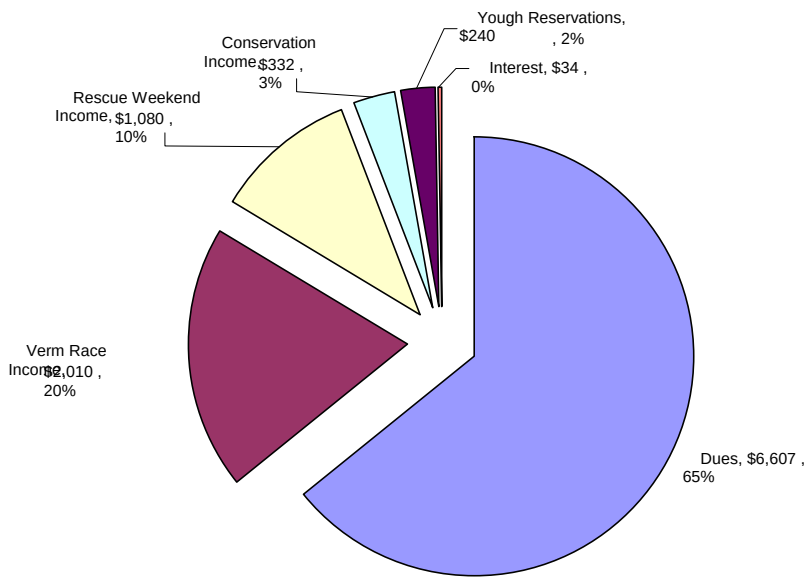
Now that is the gloom and doom part of the report. The good news is that unlike Secretary of Treasury Snow, the Keel Haulers actually have an honest for real surplus in our coffers. That surplus comes from some good previous years were took in more than we spent. I am all for spending this surplus of about \$5,000. But we don't want to spend it on our basic operating expenses. The board of directors is looking at appropriate ways to use this money. We would like to find ways that would

benefit the club in areas such as improving or promoting whitewater instruction, increasing membership, bringing in great programs to our meetings, or supporting river conservation and access causes. Now if we can't find a worthy cause, I vote for sending our club treasurer on one heck of a great paddling vacation, or perhaps you might consider upgrading his paddling and ski gear, he can't stay "old school" forever you know!

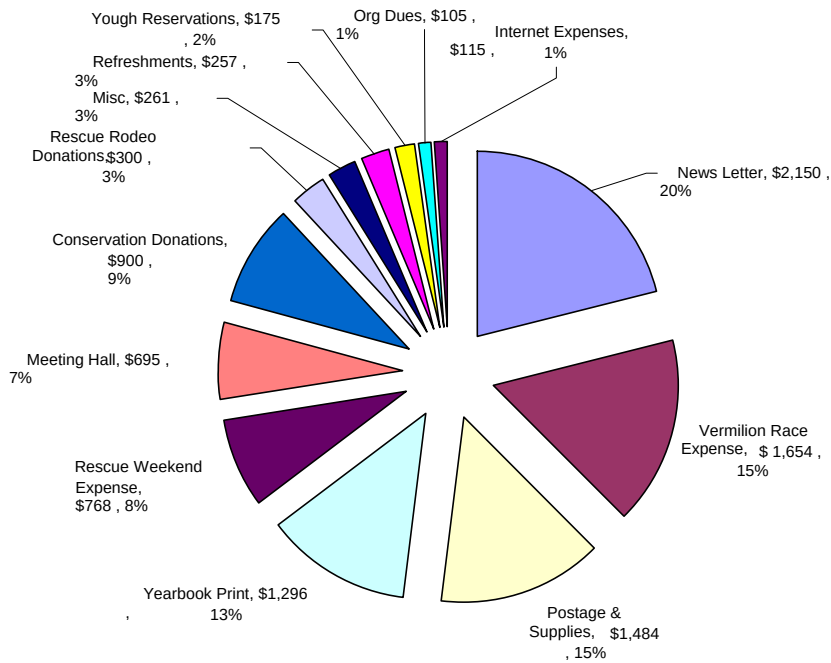
Keel Hauler Financial Year, 2005
Budget

	FY2004	FY 2005
Category Description	Actual	Proposed Budget
INCOME		
Conservation Income	\$332	\$250
Deposit Refund	\$50	\$50
Dues	\$6,607	\$6,000
Interest	\$34	\$20
Rescue Weekend Income	\$1,080	\$1,000
Reservations	\$240	\$150
Vermilion Race Income	\$2,010	\$1,250
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,352	\$8,720
EXPENSES		
Conservation Donations	\$900	\$250
Rescue Rodeo Donations	\$300	\$200
Internet	\$115	\$120
Library	\$0	\$75
Meeting Hall	\$695	\$660
Misc.	\$261	\$150
News Letter	\$2,150	\$2,150
Org Dues	\$105	\$100
Postage & Supply	\$1,484	\$1,500
Refreshments	\$257	\$200
Rescue Weekend Expense	\$768	\$700
Vermilion Race Expense	\$1,654	\$1,400
Yearbook Printing	\$1,296	\$1,300
Yough Reservations	\$175	\$150
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,180	\$8,955

KHCC 2004 Income



KHCC FY 2004 Expenses





Keel-Hauler's KaNews

January 2004

Next newsletter deadline - 1/23 Please remember to send material as text copied into the body of an email (no .doc please) and attached tiff or jpeg images only to the editor (note new address on mailing label page)

January	Trip/event	Description	Organizer	email	phone
1/3	KH Roll Session	4-6pm: Orange HS Pool	Dave Donnellan	DHydroGuy@aol.com	330-405-8911
1/10	KH Roll Session	4-6pm: Lakewood HS Pool	Dave Donnellan	DHydroGuy@aol.com	330-405-8911
1/13	KH Club meeting	7:30pm at Middleburg Hts. Rec Center			
1/17	KH Roll Session	4-6pm: Orange HS Pool	Dave Donnellan	DHydroGuy@aol.com	330-405-8911
1/24	KH Roll Session	4-6pm: Orange HS Pool	Dave Donnellan	DHydroGuy@aol.com	330-405-8911
1/24	KH Roll Session	4-6pm: Lakewood HS Pool	Dave Donnellan	DHydroGuy@aol.com	330-405-8911
1/25	Fundamentals of Kayaking for Women at Orange High School	Red Cross pool session	Mike Darrah	mdarrah@orange.k12.oh.us	
1/31	Slippery Rock	This is the first river trip of the year. Call Mark to find out meeting place. Prepare for cold water.	Mark Cytron	mcytron@cox.net	216-227-1392
February					
2/1	Fundamentals of Kayaking for Women at Orange High School	Red Cross pool session	Mike Darrah	mdarrah@orange.k12.oh.us	
2/7	KH Roll Session	4-6pm: Lakewood HS Pool	Dave Donnellan	DHydroGuy@aol.com	330-405-8911
2/7	Lehigh Film fest				
2/8	Fundamentals of Kayaking for Women at Orange High School	Red Cross pool session	Mike Darrah	mdarrah@orange.k12.oh.us	
2/10	KH Club meeting	7:30pm at Middleburg Hts. Rec Center			

January 13 Meeting: Middleburg Hts Community Center 7:30 PM

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December 2003 Meeting Minutes

taken by Rob Hammond

Attendees – 20 , 1 Guest

Treasure report – Not available

Minutes – Move to accept meeting minutes as printed in news letter

Conservation – Andy Gross our new Conservation Chair will submit conservation information to the Newsletter. He will be looking

into both Conservation and Access issues of the paddling community. He will also make recommendations for the 2003 conservations donations to the Board of Directors.

Library – Has a new book and video

Membership – John Kobak reports that 247 members paid their 2004 dues.

Website – John Kobak, nothing new to report.

Instruction – Rescue Weekend Chair, Rob Hammond, is looking for volunteers for organizing and judging the Rescue Rodeo. He

hopes to expand the event this year to include more paddling clubs.

Safety – Ed Charlton reminds us that this is a good time to check your gear, as there is still time to put a request in to Santa! He also suggested to make a New Year's resolution to work on new safety skills.

Old Business – None

New Business – None:

Trip Reports – Various members report trips in November on the Cheat and Big Sandy Rivers

Program – Christmas Dinner and

a presentation on Free Style Canoeing by Bob Marvetz. Bob and his wife will be back for our June meeting for an on water demonstration.

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On the national front:

1. The EPA Administrator, Mr. M. Levitt said that the EPA is back-tracking from its recent pronouncements about cutting back on wetland protection...in other words, wetlands are not under as much attack as projected...
2. The Fed. Govt. is not going to tinker -or so it says- with the Clean Water Act....on the other hand, it did tinker with the Clean Air Act and is allowing dirty power plants to keep on polluting...
3. A judge is reviewing whether snowmobiles can use, even to a limited extent, Yellowstone Park

On the regional front:

1. Elaine Marsh posted a note on our website, RE: Keeping Lake Erie open to the public....

...the shoreline belongs to all the people of Ohio, but the proposed HB 218, that passed the House and is before the Senate now, would change that... please read the full memo from Elaine and get involved...especially lake kayakers!

2. One of the 'sister clubs,' Three Rivers Paddling Club has also been active in trying to protect the quality and access to rivers in PA and beyond...recently, in their newsletter, one can read about not tinkering with Dimples Rock on the Lower Yough...and about protecting McConnells Mill State Park through which the Slip runs....If you have an extra \$12, you can be a TRPC member for a year and get monthly news from that. Several of our members

(including yours truly) belong to TRPC...

3. There is a 'Cheat Canyon Coalition' which recently got together to brainstorm about ways to focus resources on the Jenkinsburg river access. There are details too numerous to repeat. If you are interested and can assist with ideas for funding or expertise, send your e-mail to Charlie Walbridge at: ccwalbridge@cs.com My thanks to Elliott Drysdale for bringing up this item.

On the local scene:

1. Virginia Aveni, an "activist and land steward" recently wrote an article on "Dike 14 Nature Center proposed to Lakefront Committee" in the newsletter of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes.
2. Access to the Cuyahoga river in the Cuyahoga Valley is available. My favorite putin is in Peninsula by the railroad station, with takeout at Boston Mills bridge. There are restrooms at both locations. Parking can be tight at either location in high season or on weekends, but there are overflow parking possibilities. Currently (late November 03), there is mandatory portage under the Turnpike as contractors are removing the old pylons, etc. Should be clear, I'd think, by late spring 04.
3. If you hear any news about access to and quality of any local river (or any related topic), please notify me.

Prof. Andrew C. Gross
Department of Marketing
College of Bus. Admin.
Cleveland State University
1860 East 18th St., BU453
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3610 USA
tel. 216. 687.4744
fax 216. 687.9354

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2003 Club Donations

The following is a list of donations to various organizations for 2003 that have been approved by the Board.

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
Nature Conservancy	\$50.

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 Ohiopyle 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/thep-lan.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.

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Dear Fellow Paddlers,

I am trying to find people who believe that Lake Erie shoreline belongs to all of the people in Ohio. Currently, HB 218, which has already passed the Ohio House of Representative, is moving into the Ohio Senate. It it passes there as is, we will no

longer be able to walk along the shoreline unless our feet are in the water. So, if you are kayaking and wish to rest, you will need to sit or stand in the water, regardless of the water temperature.

When the bill was moving through the house, there were bus loads of land owners, we (Great Lakes United, the Ohio Environmental Council, the Ohio League of Sportmen, the National Wildlife Federation, Ohio Chapter of Audobon, the Sierra Club) got lawyers who made convincing legal arguments but we had no support from recreational groups. Several Representatives, including Tim Grendel and Chris Redfern, said that no one used the shoreline and that nothing would change if people had to walk in the water. Can you help us counter this preposterous statement? We need you. Please help.

The senate will take up this bill shortly after the holiday recess.

We need your help to show the senate that many people use the shore and want to have access remain as it is. There is a tremendous amount of information about this bill. Go to http://www.theoec.org/greenup_paper_current.html and find the links to information on HB 218. If anyone has any interest in working on this, please contact me. Time is short. If we loose the shoreline, we will not get it back unless we go to court and the outcome of that is not certain.

Thank you for your consideration. Happy paddling.

Elaine Marsh
330-657-2055 W
330-666-4026 H
330-328-3909 M

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BIG SANDY 11-23-03 PADDLERS AND PLAYERS

By Michael Duvall

There had been rain in the middle of the week and everything was flooded. That seems to be the kind of year we have had. John Kobak posted that the Big Sandy would be at 6.5 on Saturday and 6.1 by Sunday and the weatherman said it might make it up to the 60s. Well, 6.1 sounded good to me because I have only been on the lower Big Sandy three times previously. I called John at the cabin to get the scoop on where I could join up with the group. He said that Little Sandy's restaurant at 9am was the place to be. Karen Dearfield and I drove up just in time to greet Paul Lang in the parking lot. Karen was disappointed that Paul's wife Joanne wasn't there because of the fun the four of us had at the Moose Fest. About the time we went in Brent Laugaugh showed up. It seems that Brent had come up with a devilish little game to play on the river involving two sets of hand paddles!! The names of the rapids were put in a hat and the "players" each drew two rapids. Which ever rapids you picked you had to run with only hand paddles. As we ate breakfast more "players" and a few like myself that chose not to "play the game" showed up. We ended up with 9 people. John Kobak, Karen Petit, Rob Hammond and myself were the paddlers; and Brent, Paul Lang, Uncle D, Dan Wojo and Jonathan Bachtel were the "players."

Dan seemed to enjoy the hand paddles and used them on most of the river. Jonathan used them as required but it looked like he preferred his paddle. Some even used the hand paddles on Wonder Falls. I am not sure who that was because I had my own problems there. I penciled got rear ended by

the curtain and swam. One of the highlights of the day was Big Splat. I chose the rope line on the right along with most of the paddlers. A few of the "players" went for the Splat. Most of "players" portaged the horseshoe hole approach to run the Splat drop. Brent was the only one that ran the horseshoe approach and he made look like a piece of cake. All the "players" that ran Splat looked good, but the real show was Paul Lang. Paul ran the Splat drop with the hand paddles and made it look easy. Another notable image was following Uncle D as he hand paddled First Island. I watched him go over the first drop, then I saw a huge arm swing, then I saw him run the second drop just fine - seems there was a hand roll between the two drops - I was impressed. It was a great day on the river.

When we got to the takeout Karen Dearfield was there with my van. She had driven it from the put-in and had been hiking up and down the shuttle road while we paddled. We put the boats on the cars and headed back on the most dangerous part of the trip, the infamous class V shuttle road. All was fine until the very last turn before the turn off for the put-in. As I slowed for the turn my vision was obscured by the appearance of three boats in the windshield. Then we all watched in disbelief as they boofed off the hood and skidded to the side of the road. Of course the boats were unhurt because the hood of my car broke their fall. This was a valuable or should I say costly lesson "Always use bow and stern lines."

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The Kayak Roll Head Game

Part II

by Rob Hammond

One man's journey to swim independence!

Ok where was I when we ran out of ink last month? Damn... I knew I shouldn't wait until the last minute to write this part. Ok if you didn't read the last month's article, you better go find a copy right now, it is on the Internet, read it, cause this part isn't gonna make much sense, unless you read the first part. After the article ran, I received some good pointers from people who had Dr. HG problems, so next month I will talk about some things that have helped other people. And if you have some experiences that you would like to share drop me a line, Rob@SCD-Corp.com (Names can be changed to protect delicate egos!).

As you remember last month we talked about how easily it was to have our head messed with when we are upside-down in a wet and unfriendly environment. The Good Dr. Head Game likes to fool us by speeding up our sense of time, so that what we think is 30 to 60 seconds of inhospitable upside-down time is really more like 2 to 4 seconds. We also talked about "teaching our muscles" the technique. When we know any technique well enough that we do not have to consciously think about it, we are not as easily distracted when we have other entertainment competing for our attention.

So why is it that we can swim under water for 20 seconds without any panic, oh yeah... we may have a hankering for a breath of air, but we don't feel the sense of panic that we get after just a couple of seconds in an upside-down kayak? The answer is: when we are swimming we don't have the trapped feeling, we can come to the surface anytime we want. But when you are upside down in a kayak, you feel trapped because

your legs are inside the boat and you can not swim to the surface. Now the objective amongst us, would point out that exiting an upturned kayak is a simple move that you can do in under one second. We all know that, but our friend, and I use the term most loosely, Dr. Head Game somehow makes us forget how fast we can get out of the boat. And now that he has us just a little concerned, he feeds on our fear and starts turning the time acceleration dial. You may have observed this phenomena yourself in a pool. You are upside-down and after an eternity of thrashing, you can't seem to right your boat. Your lungs feel like they are going to explode and you can't wait a moment more. Fortunately your buddy is there with a bow to rescue you. As soon as you put your hands on your buddy's boat, with your head still under water, your panic subsides, and you seem to have all of the time in the world to bring your head up for that breath of air.

It is the trapped feeling that is the first hurdle that we have to overcome to get our head game under control. This trapped feeling can have a devastating effect on some people, to the point that it affects their boating even when they are upright. These people have the experience and skills for class III rivers, but are still very tentative on easy class II rivers. When someone is consumed with the fear from feeling trapped; don't bother trying to use logic to try and talk them out of their fear. Their rational brain knows that they aren't trapped in the boat, but Dr. Head has such a grip that he does not let reason penetrate to the Fear Central Command (FCC). The FCC is that part of the brain that protects us from doing stupid things that could qualify us for the Darwin award. You know, things like playing baseball on the freeway, or unless your name is

Kennedy; playing football on skis on a steep, wooded Aspen ski slope. The FCC has an important roll in the survival of our species and therefore has a direct connection to the Senior Commanding General in our head.

So what to do if Dr. HG is blocking reality from getting to the FCC? My experience is that you have to start from the beginning and do some wet exits, just as you did, or should have done, on the first day you were in a kayak. Then slowly progress to activities that increase the hang time in an inverted boat. You can't rush this phase, and you may have to go back to it from time to time. Cause, if the FCC rules that boat inversions are the equivalent of standing in front of a speeding locomotive, then boating is not gonna be something that you can put on you're A list of fun and exciting things to do.

Main Squeezes respond much, much better to instructors that they don't sleep with.

Now this is to all of you out there who wanted your Significant Other (SO), to enjoy the sport, that you have a high addiction level to. However, you just couldn't get them interested. Oh sure... they gave you all kinds of reasonable sounding rationalizations, but the real reason is very likely that their FCC, courtesy of Dr. Head Game, will not allow them to play with rattle snakes or skirt into a tippy little plastic boat and put onto water that has strange currents and obstructions that do inexplicable things to the craft. Those of us who have been in this sport for more than a month or two have seen our buddies bring their main squeeze to the river anxiously waiting for them to catch their

whitewater addiction. Now look around and count the number of boating couples that you see, I don't know about you but... I don't need both hands to keep the tally! Now why is that? The primary reason is probably that you nominated yourself to be the head instructor! That Bunkie, is a bad idea! Leave the initial instruction to the professionals! You might be very capable of teaching your buddy, but Main Squeezes respond much, much better to instructors that they don't sleep with. If I have to explain this to you any further, then let me refer you that Mars and Venus book.

Ok, so you're smart enough not to fall into instructor trap. The next challenge is way harder. That is the one where you expect them to progress twice as fast as you did. You are anxious to get on the rivers that you can have fun on, so we engage in a little harmless skill inflation. Yeah, that is where, after a month on the river, we tell our SO that they are good enough for that class V river that we love! Ok, maybe I exaggerate just a little, but you get the idea. We tend to not spend time on the basics. And the most crucial basic, is to make sure that the new boater is comfortable when they are not upright. If you blow by the wet exits, Eskimo rescues, and just feeling safe upside-down in moving water, then the FCC is going to kick in and put the breaks to any future forward progress! Now while we are on this couple message, let me point out that us guys are the biggest offender turning our SO away from whitewater boating. But I don't want you chicks to set back and think you aren't the cause of couple-less boaters as well. You have an even bigger challenge with your SO than the guys. And that is due to the Machismo factor. If you spook a guy on the river, doing a sport that you that you are

already better at then he, than don't expect a second chance. A chick is far more motivated to spend quality time with her guy; and a guy is way less motivated to engage in a sport that has spooked him, and that he feels like he is a klutz at. So the boater dud's girl will go for the full 3 strike count before she hangs up her rubber skirt, where the boater chick's guy, will very likely bail after the first intimidating inversion!

So now, for what ever reason, we find our self with Dr. HG sitting back with a big grin on his face and our FCC has put a stop to any further Whitewater fun. You all have heard your doctor say that it is easier to prevent a medical problem than it is to cure it. The same applies here, when your FCC has put you in Whitewater Fun Arrest (WFA), you will need to spend some serious time in the Intensive Boater Rehab Unit (IBRU). All kidding aside, once boat inversion fear has overtaken your rational thinking, it is hard to push that fear into the background where it belongs. My experience is to start with wet exits. Note to WFA sufferers; you will need a patient buddy to help you out here. Now you may want to write off this step as too elementary. DON'T DO IT!! We are not trying to teach a technique here, we are trying to break down a big reinforced concrete wall that you have built up in your mind. Once a comfort level is established with several wet exits, work on increasing the hang time underwater, start with 3 seconds upside-down before exiting, and move up to 5, 10 and 20 seconds. Also use the same technique on Eskimo rescues where your buddy moves his boat close to provide a bow for you to pull yourself up. Work up a 30 second hang time for a bow res-

cue. Once you establish a comfort level with these drills in still water, try them in moving water, especially waiting for the Eskimo rescue. The goal here is to keep your fear under control, while you are upside-down in moving water. Above is a treatment regime I have used for boaters in full WFA. Most of us don't need that intensive of treatment. Instead of a full blown case of WFA, we may just be suffering from Boat Inversion Anxiety (BIA). This is a whole lot easier to treat, you may want to start with doing bow rescues and gradually increasing your hang time, but don't ignore this, in extreme cases it may lead to full blown WFA, but at the very least, it will keep you out of the Bombproof Roll Club. You may scoff at BIA, but let me tell you we all have BIA to at some degree.

I used to think that some people were exempt from BIA. Take my buddy Matt (Ratt Boy) Muir; he had a reputation of being able to roll anything, anytime, anywhere, every time. We all assumed that his super human stamina was due to the fact that, well... he wasn't really human. With his personality it was quite easy to believe that he was an alien life form that only needed air to blow off his insulting comments to us. But even the mighty Ratt succumbed to BIA. I remember the day, 3 years ago, like it was yesterday! He and I ran the Upper Yough in the morning and in the afternoon we entered a down river race on the Cheat Narrows. I was the only one to show up without a sleek racing boat. When I saw my competition I thought that the only way that I would not come in dead last was to cheat, or if someone swam. To make this delicious story short, my buddy Ratt saved me from the shame and dishonor by taking a swim in his rickety and unstable race boat, and taking my rightful place as the last place contestant!

So if we all have BIA, what do we do about it - as we try to move to swim independence? I think the most important things are: Practice, Patience, Focus and Tune-out. We talked about practice last month.

PATIENCE - is needed to wait for the right time. Frequently when we flip, the conditions are not ideal for an immediate roll, so wait until your boat stabilizes, or gets out of the foamy and aerated water where you paddle can't get any purchase. And of course; forget what Dr. HG is telling you. You generally only have to wait for a few seconds for conditions to improve.

FOCUS - on proper technique, when I miss my roll, I tell myself to slow down, go through the basics and focus on using good technique. Generally my problem is that my head comes up too soon, so a roll failure is my cue to keep my head down.

TUNE-OUT - is typically a big problem for newer boaters. They need to learn to tune out the distractions, things like bumping in to rocks, turbulent water, and most importantly Dr. HG. A technique that worked for me: was to analyze what went wrong after every swim. I started cataloging things that should not have been a problem but were, things like bumping into a rock, being stuck in a hole, pinned against a rock or breaking a paddle blade. When I came across the situation again, I recognized the problem and that it was not a threat. It was sort of a "been there, done that" moment. Oh... you ask, what do I do when I break a paddle blade? I admit that it does not often happen. but the solution is simple: do an off-side roll, that will put you on the good blade! pinned upside-down, and ready to bail out? DON'T! most of the time you will wash off the pin if you are patient, use a lit-

tle rocking action, push or pull your way off the rock, and again, don't forget to use your offside roll, if the onside roll is not working. Raft run over you? I have seen people push their way out from under the raft. The main thing is; don't let a little adversity freak you out, there is plenty of time to pull the rip cord, so try a few things first, you may be pleasantly surprised to find that the bombproof roll club is not that hard to get into!

Remember it is almost always safer to stay in your boat and roll; than it is to bail out and swim. It really is!!! I can only remember 2 situations that I had to swim in the last 15 years. One was when my boat was caught in a sieve. I had to wait until they shut the water off at the Gauley dam to get my boat out. The second was when I dislocated my shoulder; caused by over reaching on a high brace. Come to think of it, I should have just done an off-side roll using my good shoulder (I violated the Tune-out rule), so make that one mandatory swim! Now trust me... I have had more than one swim, but I only had to swim once. That means I have had at least 500 needless swims!

Send me your stories of what has helped you get over your boating fears, and we will continue our talk next month. Here is a hint, clip this article out, tape it to the fridge, and review it frequently when the boating season starts. Mean time, I ran across the following internet sites that have some useful info on kayak rolling.

SeeYa soon at the Bombproof Club meetings!!

Resources:
<http://www.paddletsra.org/Training/Rolling/Bombproof%20roll.htm>

<http://www.endlessriveradventures.com/bombproofroll.html>

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2004 Officers

Pres: Elliot Drysdale 440-708-1208
VP: Judi Cleary 440-808-8499
Sec: Rob Hammond 216-292-5618
Tres: Karen Daniels 440-458-5972
Meeting place: Middleburg Hts. Rec. Ctr.
15700 Bagley Rd.
Second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 P.M.

Membership: \$20 per year. New member-
ships, renewals, change in address or phone
send directly to Membership Chairman:

John Kobak
440-871-1758
1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, OH 44145

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any of its officers or members.

Water sports are a potentially dangerous
activity. Keel-Haulers Canoe Club recom-
mends 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

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Editor KeelHauler Kanews

January 2004

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Next newsletter deadline - 2/20 Please remember to send material as text copied into the body of an email (no .doc please) and/or attached tiff or jpeg images only to the editor - mgabelma@hotmail.com.

2004 Keelhaulers Trip Schedule

Date	Trip/Event	ST	Diff	Organizer	Organizer's email	Phone #
February						
2/7, 21, 28	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool	OH		David Donnellan	Dhydroguy1@netzero.com	330-405-8911
2/7	Lehigh Film fest	PA				
2/8	Fundamentals of Kayaking for Women at Orange High School	OH		Mike Darrah	mdarrah@orange.k12.oh.us	
2/14, 21, 28	KH Roll Session at Orange pool	OH		David Donnellan	Dhydroguy1@netzero.com	330-405-8911
2/14	Downhill Ski at Seven Springs	PA		Rob Hammond	Rob@SCD-Corp.com	216-292-5618
2/15	Fundamentals of Kayaking for Women at Orange High School	OH		Mike Darrah	mdarrah@orange.k12.oh.us	
2/28	National Paddling Film Fest	KY		Steve Ingalls	sti@po.cwru.edu	216-371-8250
2/28	Slippery Rock	PA	3	John Yaro	jmyaro@sherwin.com	216-566-2501
2/28-29	Cross Country Ski trip in PA	PA		Judi Cleary	judicleary@comcast.com	440-808-8499
March						
3/6, 13, 20, 27	KH Roll Session at Orange AND Lakewood pools	OH		David Donnellan	Dhydroguy1@netzero.com	330-405-8911
3/6-7	Stony Creek	PA	4	Dan Wojciechowicz	Wojo1177@yahoo.com	440-862-1818
3/13	Slippery Rock	PA	3	Rob Hammond	Rob@SCD-corp.com	216-292-5618
3/13-14	WV Creeking	WV	5	Brent Laubaugh	Brent7@comcast.com	215-496-9376
3/14	Neshannock Creek	PA	2	Steve Zerefos	sgz@rbparch.com	330-646-7235
3/20-24	Backpacking, Smoky Mountains	VA		Steve McClung	kayakkazoo@aol.com	330-325-7095
3/21	Vermilion River Cleanup	OH	2	Hank Annable	Jfrice53@hotmail.com	440-775-4953
3/28	Vermilion Race	OH	2	Rob Hammond	Rob@SCD-corp.com	216-292-5618

February 10 Meeting: Middleburg Hts Community Center 7:30 PM

Topic - Alpine Whitewater
Francaise

This summer we are planning 3
paddling trips in the French Alps

that will explore some of the
world's most scenic and delight-
ful whitewater.

On Tuesday February 10 we will
present a slide show of our pro-
gram showing trips from previous
years.

The scenery is breathtaking.
The rivers are fun and

interesting. The Inns where we stay
are quaint and photogenic. And the
food, well, it's French.

Bruce Berman
Mykl Messer

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January 13, 2004 Meeting Minutes

taken by Rob Hammond

Attendees: – 15

Treasurer Report: \$10,547

Minutes: Move to accept meeting minutes as printed in newsletter.

Conservation: Andy Gross, Conservation Chair was not present. Ken Canaly spoke of Methane mining in Wyoming causing flooding of salt brine damaging local environments.

Library: Mike Duvall reported that a new book was donated by Pat Guzowski.

Pool Sessions: Pool sessions on Saturdays 4-6 pm at Lakewood and Orange. See newsletter for details and for Saturdays that sessions are not scheduled. Note: helmets are required.

Instruction: Red Cross has upcoming classes and a one day children class.

Safety: Ed Charlton talked about a lot of wood hazards from tree falls this time of the year. He also recommended reading Rob Hammond's Articles about "Bomb Proofing" your roll in the December and January news letters. There was group discussion about hypothermia hazards.

Vermilion Race: Promotional information was submitted to North Coast Sports for publication prior to the race.

Rescue Weekend: Volunteers are needed for organizing the weekend, instructors, and judges for the Rodeo on Sunday. See Rob Hammond to volunteer.

Old Business: None

New Business: Rob Hammond reported that he has completed the audit of Financial Year 2003

club books and found them to be in order. Karen Daniels (club treasurer) and Rob Hammond (club secretary) would like to switch officer roles. A vote was taken and the change approved. There was a discussion about the bank charges that the club had to pay for bounced checks received last year. There was talk about creating a Black List of people who do not make good their checks and back charges. These individuals would not be allowed to take part in events or club membership. A bylaw was proposed, voted on, and passed; charging people who pay with a bad check a \$30 fine along with making their check good. There was also a group discussion about Ohio's bill 218 before the state congress regarding access to Lake Shore property.

Trip Reports: Ken Canaly reported on a New Year's Day Party at Edgewater Beach on Lake Erie (and yes that includes spending time on the frigid water) with Bradstreet kayaking club Ken reported 50-70 people attended the chilly event. Terry and Sabine had the annual News Year's Eve party at their house with 20-30 people. Rick Feinberg reported that his daughter Kate is climbing mountains in Chile. Rob Hammond's son David, is also in "wintering" in Chile as a raft guide.

Program: Mike Duval provided a new library video of kayak women doing some way cool kayak runs and rodeo. Unfortunately I neglected to write down the name of the video (so fire me!).

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21st National Paddling Film Festival (NPFF), February 28 in downtown Lexington, Kentucky

Saturday February 28, 10 am to 6 pm, in the Kentucky Theater, amateur and professional films on all aspects of paddlesports will compete in the NPFF, one of the longest running river conservation fundraisers in the country.

Competitive kayaker, radical paddler and cutting edge boat designer Corran Addison will be our Special Guest Host, discussing his newest video project "Legend of the Falls," and the challenges involved in filming extreme sports.

Also at the festival will be a competition of still images, and an auction of paddling gear and accessories. Saturday night starting at 9 pm, there will be an Awards Party at the nearby Limestone Club. There will be live music, and surprise celebrity presenters.

Tickets for the Film Festival are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. The Awards Party is \$10. Tickets to both the show and the party are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the festival. Advance tickets available through our website, www.surfbwa.org/npff, click on "attend." For more information, contact Dave Margavage, OverFlowXL@aol.com or 502-867-0468.

Motion entries for the NPFF will be accepted until January 23, and still photo entries can be submitted until February 13. See our website for all the details, and become part of the competition!

Zina Merkin, Bluegrass Wildwater Association and National Paddling Film Festival

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Club income/expenses for Financial Year 2003

By Rob Hammond, Treasurer

Last year we had a good year financially. Our income was up nicely and our expenses remained consistent with previous year's expenses. We had a net profit of \$2,539. Below is a report of our income and expenses from last year.

Income/Expense Report for FY 03 10/1/02 Through 9/30/03

Category	Description	Amount
INCOME		
Member Conserv. Donations		720
Membership Dues		8,067
Bank Interest.		71
RescueWeekend Income		1,105
Vermilion Race Income.		1,245
TOTAL INCOME.		11,207
EXPENSES		
Bank Charge		.76
Conservation Donations		.850
Web Hosting Expenses		.95
Library		.33
Meeting Hall Expenses		.725
News Letter Expenses		2,016
Outside Organization Dues		.55
Misc. Postage & Supplies		1,485
Meeting Refreshments		.195
RescueWeekend Expense		.669
Vermilion Race Expenses		.915
Year Book print expenses		1,328
Yough Reservations		.225
TOTAL EXPENSES		8,668
OVERALL TOTAL		\$2,539

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From Skagway Alaska Towards Washington by Kayak

By Gregg Berman

Tuesday, July 8, 2003:

What a difference a day makes! The first night of my trip began under clear skies and over calm waters and I made about 20 miles. I got on the water late again the second night after visiting the town of Haines. As I headed back to my kayak I ran across a family from Washington and ultimately was asked to join my new friends for dinner on the beach. After we said our goodbyes I got on the water.

Very shortly the white caps started coming up in force and I was soon paddling straight into a 35 mile per hour headwind with four and occasionally 5 foot sea breaking on top of me. The seas were not as much of a concern as the wind trying to rip the paddle from my grasp and impede my progress along with as luck would have it, a tide also going the opposite way. Progress was very slow and I eventually was too exhausted and gave up making my goal of rounding Seduction Point to visit a friend at Glacier Point. I found a beach and though it seemed to take forever, eventually made shore. The one fortunate thing about the way the waves were going was there was no surf on the beach I chose to impede my landing. I stayed the night there.

Apparently though I received an overuse injury to my right forearm that continues to plague me now and make paddling impossible for the moment. I tried on day 3 to paddle farther and only made a mile before being exhausted by the same conditions and feeling more pain in my arm. I set up

camp again and this time waited 2 more nights before attempting to go again. Though I had been mostly tent bound during the winds and varied rains I was actually enjoying myself and had plenty of food and water as well as things to read and writing to do in my journal. It was a good lesson in patience.

Finally on morning 5 (Friday) I woke at 4am with the turning of the tide and checked the weather. The winds were down to about 15 knots with small seas and I decided to get on the water by 6am when the tide would be at near full ebb to assist me along. It was still a tiring paddle to Seduction Point as I came into this expecting to need to slowing build up my paddling muscles again. As I rounded Seduction Point, Davidson Glacier came into full view and Glacier Point at it's base was my destination. There were four foot swells with the tops occasionally breaking on the way across but all in all a fairly gentle ride. As the tops broke they made a distinctive sound, similar to another I heard shortly after rounding Seduction Point. I had passed a sea lion going the opposite way and then within moments the sound of a humpback loudly exhaling only 40 feet off my port bow. I watched the humpback for a while and then continued on my way. I wasn't sure exactly where I needed to land. Only that somewhere on Glacier Point a group of guides lived including my friend Eric.

I landed on a tidal flat and new it would be a few hours before the tide would come in and take my boat with it. I started hiking in the direction I thought I needed to go and suddenly from out of the bushes emerged a green school bus! And then another followed shortly thereafter. The driver turned out to be one of the guides

I was looking for and by this time they all knew I was on my way as I was several days late because of the winds. I spent the morning with them taking a motorized canoe trip to the face of the glacier with their clients who had come over on a ferry. It's pretty remote, with only 11 guides living there, but it's beautiful and comfortable with sort of their own little town there.

Everyone has been great to me and I'll be hanging out here for at least the week as I try to recuperate my arm. I walked down the beach yesterday and think I got several good pictures of some bald eagles. I know it was a pretty scene in my viewfinder but of course one never knows what will come out on the film. Ha Ha I've also done some strawberry picking as well as eating lots of other wild edible plants. I'm having a great time despite things not going as initially planned. Hey I'm on a journey and things never go as planned so why not just sit back and enjoy the ride. And I definitely am. I got a ride with the guide manager on the zodiac back to Haines today and will stay here a couple days to see a chiropractor and massage therapist about my arm. Then it's back to Glacier Point to continue to rest my trip.

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

Well it's been quite a week. I couldn't have gotten marooned in a more ideal spot. My arm is doing much better now and I'll be heading towards Glacier Bay by morning. It's a couple days paddle to get there. After all the therapy for my hand last Tuesday, it was making rapid improvement and I finally went for a test paddle on Saturday. It felt pretty good though definitely not 100%. In the meantime this week has been filled with hikes along the beach and the glacier stream and up through the forest. I've been eating lots of

berries, mostly strawberries and salmon berries so far.

The folks at Glacier Point where I have been staying have all been really great and i've had a wonderful time there. On Friday I made some new friends when folks from town came out to play. We were all escorted to the face of the glacier by Darrin, Digger, Jeff, and Eric (a few of the glacier point guides) to go see the ice caves. It was really spectacular with waterfalls formed by melt run off on various points on the glacier and the ice inside the caves was of an incredibly deep and beautiful blue. On Saturday we spent the day on the frisbee golf course the guides set up. It's quite a course winding through the forest and along the beach and through huge strawberry fields where everyone had to drop to all fours to grab a treat. :o) It was the first time my arm would have allowed that and it was great fun. It was also a pretty hot day, so we followed the game up by taking a canoe to the lateral moraine at the side of the face of the glacier. We swam there in a sun warmed glacier kettle. A depression in the rock that is separated from the main glacial lake which is far too cold to consider swimming in no matter how hot the day. Dinner that night was berries and fresh caught crab. There have been lots of salmon and halibut meals too.

On Sunday i decided to paddle over to Haines to visit with my new friends. As is often the case, though I only planned on being there for the afternoon initially, now it's Tuesday morning and i'm still here. They have all been great and on Monday, Christy and I hiked to the top of a mountain where the 360 degree views were spectacular. It was nice to get such a different perspective on the places I'm paddling. Being as close to the water as I am gives a

very intimate view but I don't often get to see the big picture so this was a real treat. We hiked up one side of the mountain and down the other. On the way, there were lots of blueberries and in between eating them we nearly filled a nalgene bottle full with them. We didn't get off the trail till after 10pm and fortunately Wendy had kindly left her car there for us.

The next day I went with Marie as she guided a float trip by oar raft through a bald eagle preserve. Bald eagle where all around us in the trees at rivers edge and sitting on the gravel bars of the braided stream. Very Cool!! I did some glass repair work on my kayak last night and I think by this afternoon it should be cured enough for me to get back on the water. I still have some stuff at Glacier Point so I'll paddle over there today and either just grab it and go or else wait till first thing tomorrow morning. By the weekend I should be in Glacier Bay and after several days there, perhaps on to Sitka but that will be weather dependent as it's an exposed coast.

I've had a blast with all the folks I've met over the last week and a half and greatly appreciate all their hospitality. Now I'm looking forward to getting on the water again and seeing what is in store for me next.

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Trip Descriptions for upcoming club trips

Feb 7 Lehigh Valley Canoe Club Film Festival

The Festival will present the "best-of" paddling videos from the National Paddling Festival archives. 3-8PM Saucon Valley High School, Hellertown, PA.

610 559-9595

Feb 14 Downhill skiing at Seven Springs

Rob Hammond

Let's spend Valentines Day on the slopes at Seven Springs in PA! Saturday we will meet at the Tahoe lodge at the top of the six person high speed lift at 10:00 am. If you miss us at 10:00 we will be back at Tahoe at noon time.

Seven Springs has great skiing for beginners, intermediates and advanced skiers. We will split up into groups looking for similar terrain. Some people will be staying over for Sunday skiing. Call or email for directions or questions and to make reservations.

Rob@SCD-Corp.com

Home: 216 292-5618

Cell: 216 287-8580

Feb 28 21st Annual National Paddling Film Festival

Club Contact: Steve Ingalls

The 21st annual National Paddling Film Festival will be held in Lexington, Kentucky on February 27-28, 2004 at the Kentucky Theatre, in downtown Lexington.

Sponsored by the Bluegrass Wildwater Association, the NPFF is pleased to present the best paddlesport image competition in the nation. This year Corran Addison, one of whitewater sports biggest personalities, will be a special guest at the 2004 National Paddling Film Festival. Corran will speak about his experiences as a filmmaker and relate the special physical and technical challenges of filming whitewater paddlers in remote locations, along with discussion of editing, producing, and marketing his whitewater films. Once again, the call is going out for paddling clubs and organizations to send a representative to judge at the Film Festival.

For more information about the

National Paddling Film Festival, check out the Bluegrass Wildwater Association Webpage <http://www.surfbwa.org>. Please contact Lyn Lewis for further information or to volunteer before February 1.

Feb 28-29 Cross Country Ski Ohiopyle

Judi Cleary

Come and see what Ohiopyle looks like in the winter. Join me for a weekend of cross-country skiing, or hiking if the snow does not cooperate. We will base our activities at our cabin off of Chalk Hill Road. My plan is to drive over Saturday morning. We will then ski Saturday afternoon, have dinner at a local restaurant (Stone House?) Saturday night, then ski some more Sunday morning before heading home Sunday afternoon. Don't have the equipment? There are stores in Cleveland that will rent you the equipment for the weekend. If you have any interest in this trip, contact Judi by Thursday night Feb 26 at the latest! judi-cleary@comcast.net 440-808-8499

Mar 6-7 Stoney Creek

Dan Wojciechowicz

The Stoney is a play-boater's dream, yet still offers everyone a fun time. At low to medium water levels this is primarily a class III run. At medium to high levels the intensity and continuousness of the run picks up dramatically, and steps up a notch in difficulty. Most of the rapids are a combination of continuous ledges coming at you from different angles and can be run using different lines. A few rapids have large boulders thrown in to spice things up. Be sure to contact the trip organizer for details, if you plan to attend. Wojo1177@yahoo.com 440-

862-1818

Mar 14

Neshannock Creek

Steve Zerefos

Neshannock Creek: This is a short whitewater run with a couple of class II rapids and a couple of surfing opportunities, a perfect run for intermediates or beginners with some river experience. Kayakers or canoeists should have weather appropriate gear (full wet suit or dry suit). The creek has a relatively narrow range for comfortable paddling, but if it's not high enough, a run down lower Slippery Rock Creek may be substituted, or if too high a run down East Sandy Creek may be considered.

Contact Steve Zerefos

sgz@rbparch.com

330-646-7235

Last year no one responded about this trip, so the night before the trip Steve posted that it was cancelled. Of course then a couple of folks just showed up at Neshannock, just to find that the trip organizer was over on the Slip paddling. So let this serve as a reminder to CONTACT THE TRIP ORGANIZER FOR ANY TRIP THAT YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND!

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Brent Laubaugh

Brent Laubaugh and co-organizer Dave Broer will put together two weekends of West Virginia Creeking with some of the possibilities being the Big Sandy [31], Otter Creek [31], Fikes Creek [29], Seneca Creek [30], Upper Blackwater [35], North Fork of Blackwater [34]. Be sure to contact Brent in advance if you plan to join in. brent7@comcast.net 215-496-9376

Mar 20-24

Great Smoky Mountains Trip

Steve McClung

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On Tuesday March 23 the plan is to hit the trail at 8:00 am hike 5.2 miles to camp site #28 then set camp for the night. This will be all down hill day, with an Elevation lose of 1000 feet.

On Wednesday March 24 the plan will be to hit the trail at 6:00 AM, hike 7 miles to the trail head. There will be a 2 mile climb, then it will be all down hill from there to the trail head.

If you are interested in going I need to know by February 18, I have to Reserve the backcountry camp sites. I can take a maximum of 8 people in my party.

You can E-mail Steve McClung at kayakkazoo@aol.com or call at

330-325-7095

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Hank Annable

Meet at 10:00 AM at Birmingham on Route 113. We will shuttle cars and paddle down the Class II river picking up trash and clearing fallen trees. If it is warm, pack a lunch for a fun time on the river in the early spring. If willing to help out, please contact Hank at campusvideo@yahoo.com 440-775-4953

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Rob Hammond

This is the club's 36th annual canoe and kayak race (1969 to 2004). This race has become a traditional "sign of Spring" in Northern Ohio. It's a great opportunity to shake the cobs off your muscles and get wet on a moderate river. The race covers an eight-mile course from the Schoepfle Gardens in Birmingham, Ohio to the Vermilion River Reservation near the City of Vermilion. There are seventeen separate canoe and kayak classes in the race. If you live in Ohio, your canoe or kayak must have a current Ohio boat registration. You can download a race application from KH web page. Vermilion River clean up will be held March 21 - see description under events. Contact: Rob.Hammond@SCD-corp.com 216-292-5618

----*----

2004 Officers

Pres: Elliot Drysdale 440-708-1208
VP: Judi Cleary 440-808-8499
Sec: Karen Daniels 216-292-5618
Tres: Rob Hammond 440-458-5972

Meeting place: Middleburg Hts. Rec. Ctr.
15700 Bagley Rd.
Second Tuesday of 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. Mail or email before the second to 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.

For custom fitting and expert advice on skis, snowboards, skateboards and appropriate apparel - shop at: **Bavarian Village Ski and Snowboard Outfitters** 5881 Mayfield Rd. Mayfield Hts. Ohio See CHRIS BARNETT (440)449-1300 M-Th 10am-8pm, Fri & Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-5 pm



Editor KeelHauler Kanews

February 2004

Meg Gabelman

aka mgabelma@hotmail.com

3866 Golf Course Drive

Norton, Ohio 44203

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Keel-Hauler's KaNews

March 2004

Next newsletter deadline - 3/19 Please remember to send material as text copied into the body of an email (no .doc please) and/or attached .tif or .jpeg images only to the editor - mgabelma@hotmail.com.

Trip Schedule

March						
3/6, 13, 20, 27	KH Roll Session at Orange AND Lakewood pools	OH		David Donnellan	Dhydroguy1@netzero.com	330-405-8911
3/6-7	Stony Creek	PA	4	Dan Wojciechowicz	Wojo1177@yahoo.com	440-862-1818
3/9	Annual Club Auction	OH	Bring your used outdoor equipment to sell. UAW Hall, 5615 Chevrolet Blvd.			
3/13	Slippery Rock	PA	3	Rob Hammond	Rob@SCD-corp.com	216-292-5618
3/13-14	WV Creeking	WV	5	Brent Laubaugh	Brent7@comcast.com	215-496-9376
3/14	Neshannock Creek	PA	2	Steve Zerefos	sgz@rbparch.com	330-646-7235
3/20-24	Backpacking, Smoky Mountains	VA		Steve McClung	kayakkazoo@aol.com	330-325-7095
3/21	Vermilion River Cleanup	OH	2	Hank Annable	Jfrice53@hotmail.com	440-775-4953
3/28	Vermilion Race	OH	2	Rob Hammond	Rob@SCD-corp.com	216-292-5618
April						
4/3-4	WV Creeking	WV	5	Brent Laubaugh	Brent7@comcast.com	215-496-9376
4/3-4?	Loyalsock	PA		Rob Hammond	Rob@SCD-corp.com	216-292-5618
4/4	Little Beaver	OH	2	Steve Zerefos	sgz@rbparch.com	330-646-7235
4/4	Slippery Rock	PA	3	Ron Tomallo	rtomallo@hotmail.com	440-953-1335
4/9-16	Southern Rivers Trip		3-5	John Kobak	keelhauler@yahoo.com	440-871-1758
4/10	Slippery Rock	PA	3	Jim Kosicki	Tat2saint@aol.com	216-587-4528
4/10	Conneaut Creek	OH	2	Gary Tucker	tuckga@aol.com	440-357-7890
4/10-11	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	WV MD	3+	Steve Ingalls	sti@po.cwru.edu	216-371-8250
4/10-11	N. Br. Potomac Release	MD	3	(no trip yet planned)		
4/13	KH Club Meeting	OH		Middleburg Hts. Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, Middleburg Hts.		

March 9 Meeting:

KH Club Meeting/ Annual Auction

**7:30PM at the UAW Hall
5615 Chevrolet Blvd
Parma, OH**

Bring any outdoor or boating gear to sell and/or bring money and take home a bargain. The club does not charge any commission, just a good way to get rid of gear you are not using or find just what you are looking for.



February 10, 2004 Meeting Minutes

taken by Rob Hammond

Attendees: - 19 - 2 Guests

Treasurer Report: \$10,867.91

Minutes: Move to accept meeting minutes as printed in newsletter.

Conservation: See Conservation News submission

Library: No report

Membership: No Report

Website: No Report

Program Chair report: Next meeting will be our annual auction held at the UAW hall in Parma. So bring your gear to sell, or come and buy some gear. We need a new Program Chairperson, please contact Elliot if you are interested in filling this position.

Instruction: No Report

Safety: Ed Charlton gave a talk about the dangers of early spring boating. He talked about hypothermia caused by the temperature of the water and air.

Vermilion Race: Rob Hammond reported that things are on track for the race. This year we will be using customized T shirts as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Rescue Weekend: Rob Hammond reported that he is looking for volunteers for judges and instructors. He is coordinating with Three Rivers Paddling Club to generate some teams to compete with Keel Hauler teams.

Old Business: None

New Business: The Yearbooks have been published and were distributed to members at the meeting. The rest will be mailed out. Lower Yough permits have been purchased for the 2004 summer paddling weekends.

Trip Reports: Members reported trips on the Vermilion and Cuyahoga Rivers.

Program: Bruce Berman and Mykl Messer gave a talk and had slides of their guided paddling trips to rivers of France.

Conservation News by Andrew Gross

Local Scene: Recently, the Plain Dealer carried a mix of good news and bad news. There was a prominent picture of the dam being taken down in Kent, Ohio so that our beloved crooked river, the Cuyahoga, can flow more freely. Hey, each step counts. On the other hand, there was a major article about raw sewage being dumped in that and other local rivers at 'high tide.' But am told that the NE Ohio Regional Sewer Authority is working hard to solve some of these problems...yes, they are taking a lot of time. And, yes, I am paddling the Cuyahoga personally in season... – the stretch between Peninsula and Boston Mills is a nice place to do the first outing of the spring. One can ski and kayak sometimes on the same day in the Cuy.Valley !

Regional Scene: Recently I skied Seven Spring, PA and my thoughts wondered off to nearby Ohiopyle, PA and the Yough. This area is becoming popular with outdoor loving folks: kayakers, canoeists, but also hikers, climbers, and cyclists. The more recreational users there are, the stronger the combined voices can become!- Recently, Keith Pitzer, Exec. Dir. of the Friends of the Cheat reported (in the TRPC Feb 04 Newsletter) about public access issues at the high use areas of Jenkinsburg and Rockville. Charlie Walbridge, a board member of the Cheat Coalition, and others are hard at work, representing river users versus companies such as Allegheny Wood Products. Again, becoming active is recommended. For more info, see the newsletter cited or go to www.cheat.org (NB: Cheat Festival is on May 1st this year.)

Still on the regional scene, the West Virginia Rivers Coalition is

quite active. Recently I received their year-end report/review and the early 2004 special double issue (you can send them both your input and money at: WVRC , 801 N Randolph Ave., Elkins, WV 26241). This last issue is over 20-pages long and has solid sections on conservation, including the various 'antidegradation' law suit victory. A judge ruled in favor of 10 individuals and 10 environmental/citizen groups that the State of West Virginia violated the implementation of rules. There are also paddling and watershed articles and data on water quality...lots of good stuff to read, if you have time.

National Scene: Here the news is also mixed, as you scan the pages of national newspapers and advocate publications. You can go to printed newsletters and/or online websites of American Whitewater, American Rivers, Sierra Club, etc. But what caught my eye recently was a picture of sea kayakers in San Francisco Bay ... which was a feast. But then an article in the SF Chronicle Jan 11/04 also caught my eye: "Write your Congressman? Don't even bother" by J. McLeod. Jonathan was an intern for House Speaker Dennis Hastert and this article shows clearly how bulk mail is literally tossed out and individual mail is answered in a cursory way by interns. In fact, a form letter exists for most complaints/inquiries! The big wigs do not read the mail, not even from their constituents.

This sounds discouraging and I am not sure that just joining the various advocate groups can fully overcome this. But by joining up you do enhance your own solitary voice and with like-minded people, your voice can be heard via the lobbying effort of these groups (I am a member of all three cited above!) If you can reach your Congressman in person, that may

make a difference- but that is not easy. Signing petition postcards does very little -- indeed nil!- per the SF Chronicle article. A more fruitful avenue is outlined above, that is joining up with other individuals and groups. This seems evident from the WVRC newsletter as just cited.

Final note: One of our members called me from near Warren, Ohio (Brad has moved) and told me that he saw some ooze' flowing into a nearby creek or river.

He said he called the national EPA's regional office in Chicago. Well, that is one possible route. I'd advocate local calling to: city hall(s), Ohio EPA branch, any and all environmental group (Sierra Club is expanding in Ohio!) and environmental or urban study departments of universities. G'luck!

Editor note: Andrew Gross regrets that he could not be at the Jan-Feb-Mar meetings.

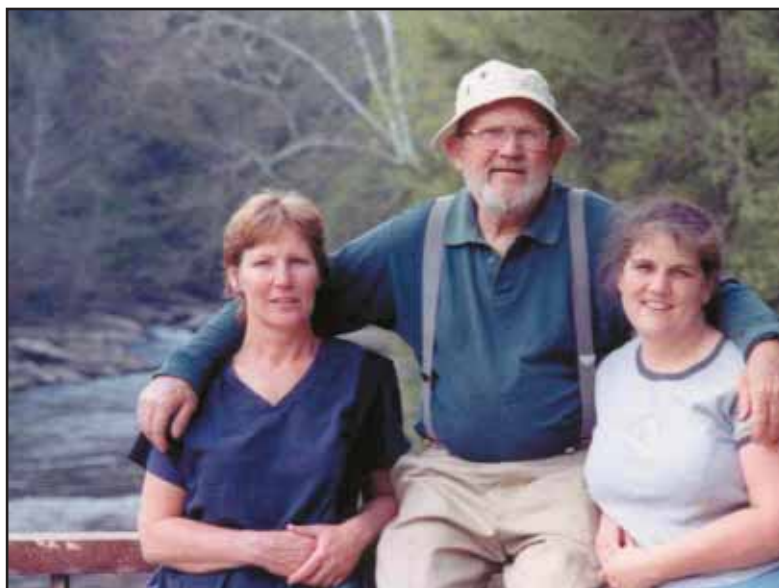
GRAND CANYON PRIVATE BOATERS ASSOCIATION

(GCPBA) is a group dedicated to representing the interests of private boaters to the Park. GCPBA sued the park to restart the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) after the Park Service wanted to drop it due to lack of consensus. One of the main areas GCPBA is concerned with is river access. The Grand Canyon is the only river in the West with a waiting list. Before the Park closed the list, the wait was 23 years. Yet you can pay a commercial outfitter \$2,500 and go down the Canyon this summer. We think there is some thing wrong when commercial interests have greater access to a National Park than citizens do. GCPBA is determined to bring the access into balance.

Needless to say this takes money. Each year we hold a silent auction of river/camping gear. This year our auction will begin on the 1st of April. It will end on April 18th at midnight CST. The URL for the auction is;
<http://www.gcpba.org/auction/>

Don't miss out! Registration will begin on 1 March 2004. Last years donations included the new Mini-Me raft donated by Hyside and a Leopard cataraft donated by Aire. Other donations from last year included Sawyer oars, Chaco sandals, Chums, and other essential river gear. Donations are now being accepted for this year's auction. There is also a need for people to help contact vendors to solicit donations. To make a donation, or to help with the auction, contact Nancy Seamons at 801.368.4881 or at riverbabe@earthlink.net.

Now that the lawsuit has been settled with the Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP) and the



My father Jack Keane passed away in December. He loved the rivers, as anyone that shared a trip with us would know. With him the more paddelers on a trip the better, especially for the applause he would get on a sucessful run. He enjoyed the company he found on the river, and believe me he talked about it for weeks and months afterwards. I would like to once again express my gratitude to Red Cross instructors who provide much more than safety instruction and basic skills. You gave my mom and dad countless peaceful fishing trips on scenic lakes and rivers, a few rivers more exciting than mom cared for, and I have time shared with my dad, brothers, sisters and friends on the Slip, Yough, Hiwassee, Cartecay, Tacoa, Juniper Creek.....what more can I say.

Kate Koskoris

Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) is in progress, the GCPBA is gearing up for the future. There is a lot of work to be done in working with the GCNP to help develop an access system favorable to the private boater in Grand Canyon. These efforts will require a lot of monetary support in order to be successful. The auction is just one way to keep funds coming in to help with the monetary demands. Not only will you be helping us, and yourself, in our pursuit of fair access, but you will be getting quality merchandise as well.

-----*

Seventh Annual FOT/TGA Luncheon

The seventh Annual Friends of Tinnerman/Tinnerman Guide Association (FOT/TGA) luncheon will be held on Sunday, 7 March at 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Byzantine Church at 4600 State Road in Cleveland. The Greater Cleveland Council/Boy Scouts of America operates Tinnerman, a canoe base on the French River in Ontario, Canada.

The speakers for this year's program will be the husband and wife team of AnneBell and Jerry DeMarco. They will speak on ways to conserve parks and wilderness areas for future generations and how individuals can take action. Jerry DeMarco is the Managing Lawyer of the Canadian Sierra Club's Legal Defense Fund. The Fund is Canada's foremost non-profit Environmental law organization. AnneBell holds a Ph.D. in environmental Education and ecological restoration and works as a consultant to a variety of environmental groups. Most recently, she served as the Acting Executive Director of the Wildlands League Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Society. Ann and Jerry have

paddled several of North America's wilderness areas, including Glacier Bay, Alaska and the Tatshenshini-Alsek Rivers of Alaska and Northwestern Canada. They have also paddled in British Columbia's Clayoquot Sound, the Yukon River and in 1995 honeymooned on the Thelon River in the Northwest Territories. They have written several articles for Canada's paddling magazine, Kanawa, as well as for numerous other publications.

The \$20.00 fee includes heavy hors d'oeuvres. For reservations or additional information, call Joe O'Donnell, FOT/TGA Treasurer at (216)351-4181. Mail your check for \$20.00 payable to FOT/TGA c/o Joe O'Donnell 4615 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44109.

-----*

Trip Descriptions for upcoming club trips

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April 9-16 28th Annual Southern Rivers Week

John Kobak
The trip starts Friday on the Nolichucky and Watauga. We will split up into groups depending on skill level and interest. We will need some interme-

diate trip leaders. Rivers that we may visit, are the Nolichucky, Watauga, Doe, French Broad, Big Laurel, Little River, Tellico, Ocoee, Nantahala, and Chattooga III & IV, and Daddy's Creek (Obed-Emory system in Tennessee), if water levels are good. We will finish up on the Big South Fork before heading back home. If levels are too low, we will head north to WV for the best water available. This is a great trip for intermediate paddlers wishing to tackle some challenging rivers with some of the more advanced paddlers. John guarantees that your skills will increase after an intensive week of paddling. You MUST call/e-mail John in advance of the trip; he can also assist in ride sharing.

Contact the trip organizer **John Kobak** for maps and itinerary.

-----*



Loxahatchee River, Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Florida Photo by Steve Rodney

2004 Officers

Pres: Elliot Drysdale 440-708-1208
VP: Judi Cleary 440-808-8499
Sec: Karen Daniels 216-292-5618
Tres: Rob Hammond 440-458-5972
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John Kobak
440-871-1758
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Editor KeelHauler Kanews

March 2004

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aka mgabelma@hotmail.com

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Norton, Ohio 44203-5403

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April 2004

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Trip Schedule 2004

Date	Trip/Event	State	Rate	Leader	Phone
April					
4/3-4	WV Creeking	WV	33	Brent Laubaugh	610-416-9376 C
4/3-4	Loyalsock Slalom Race - RACE CANCELLED FOR 2004				
4/4	Little Beaver	OH	12	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
4/4	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Ron Tomallo	440-953-1335
4/9-16	Southern Rivers Trip - Biggest trip of year, Intermediate to Advanced paddlers.	TN-GA	22-31	John Kobak	440-871-1758
4/10	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Jim Kosicki	216-587-4528
4/10	Conneaut Creek	OH	8	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890
4/10-11	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	WV MD	19	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/10-11	N. Br. Potomac Release	MD	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/13	Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center at 7:30 PM	OH		John Garcia	440 -777-6077
4/17	Grand River	OH	8	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
4/17-18	Riversport RiverFest	PA		Bob Ruppel	800-216-6991
4/17-18	Basic River Instruction -Ashtabula	OH		Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/18	Conoquenensing Creek	PA	14	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
4/22-25	Adirondack Creek Week	NY	28-33	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
4/23-25	Middle Fork & Tygart Gorge	WV	29	John Kobak	440-871-1758
4/23-25	Stony Creek Rendezvous	PA	21	Jim Kosicki	216-587-4528
4/24-25	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Andy Gross	216-321-9284
4/24-25	N. Br. Potomac Release	MD	18	Needs Organizer	
4/24-25	ACA Instructor Development Wshp	OH			
4/25	Clarion River	PA	8	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
4/25	Cheat Canyon Race Clinic	WV	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
4/30	Upper Yough	MD	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758
4/30	Cheat	WV	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
	Mass-Occurrence Race @ 4pm				
May					
5/1-2	Cheat Canyon Cheat Fest weekend	WV	26	Scott Debalski	440-298-1257
5/1-2	Whitewater I Instruction - Slippery Rock	PA	13	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/1 & 3	Upper Yough	PA	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758
5/8-9	Middle Fork & Tygart Gorge	WV	29	Mike Duvall	216-521-0094
5/8-9	N. Br. Potomac Release	MD	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
5/11	Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center at 7:30 PM	OH		John Garcia	440 -777-6077
5/15	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
5/15-16	Cheat Canyon	WV	26	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
5/15-16	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	WV	19	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/22	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Ann Corey	330-869-6549
5/22-23	Whitewater II Instruction	SW PA	19	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/22-23	N. Br. Potomac	MD	18	Mark Cytron	216-225-5418
5/22-23	Lower Yough	PA	23	Mike Duvall	216-521-0094
5/22-23	Middle Yough	PA	12	Robert Bair	216-371-6390
5/29-31	Cheat Canyon	WV	26	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476

**April 13 Meeting:
Middleburg Hts
Community Center
at 7:30 PM**

Elaine Marsh will speak at the next meeting on House Bill 218 which applies to land and river access.

**March 9, 2004
Meeting Minutes**

taken by Karen Daniels

Attendees: 37, one guest

Treasurer report: \$9188.43 after paying for the yearbook

Minutes: It was moved to accept the meeting minutes as printed in the newsletter.

Conservation: Elaine Marsh will speak at the next meeting on House Bill 218 which applies to land and river access.

Library: Mike will obtain a copy of "The Cheat River" to show at an upcoming meeting.

Membership: 294 members, which is 30 under last year and 60 under the all time high. Please remind prospective members they can sign up via the Internet, among other options.

Program chairperson: This position is open. The May meeting will consist of a presentation by Chuck Singer of his adventures in Africa.

Instruction: The Rescue Rodeo will be held June 26 and 27 in Slippery Rock, PA. Camping is available and Cheeseman Campground. Rob Hammond is looking for volunteers to assist with this.

Safety: Ed spoke of cold water. Hypothermia is only one concern, another is the water is so cold as to cause muscles to seize up. Paddle only if dressed properly in drysuits and make sure your fellow paddlers are also dressed properly.

Sea kayaking: Nothing to report

New Business: Vermillion River Race is March 28 with River clean up the previous weekend. The Vermillion is a class II river and there are many classes to run the race in. Applications are available on-line. We need volunteers – see Rob Hammond

Judy obtained Lower Yough permits for the three scheduled club trips.

Trip reports: John Kobak spoke about his trip to Mexico – details are available on the website.

Southern Rivers trip is April 6. Contact John Kobak for more information

Western trip is being led by Eliot Drysdale.

Motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm

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HELLO! As you all are getting hints of Springtime right around the corner, I'm sure everyone is automatically thinking about

CHEAT FEST!!!! It is merely one month away, **Saturday,**

May 1st! I am again in search of gracious people who are willing to volunteer their time and services for the wonderful event. If you and anyone else you know would be able to help out, please drop me an e-mail at

kelligeswein@hotmail.com

or feel free to call me at home

(304) 379-8719. Let me know your name, contact info, and what times and positions you would be interested in volunteering for. Looking forward to hearing from you all....

-Kelli

EDITOR'S NOTE: Information is available on our website at
www.uscanoe2004.com

**2004 USCA NATIONAL
CANOE & KAYAK
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Oscoda Michigan has been selected to host the 2004 United States Canoe Association National Canoe & Kayak Championships this August 9-15th. Paddlers from 5 years of age and up from all over the United States will be coming to compete for the National Championship titles of over 100 race classifications. Oscoda is also the home of the Finish Line of the Weyerhaeuser AuSable River International Canoe Marathon, which runs July 24-25, 2004. The AuSable Marathon committee is working in conjunction with the Oscoda-AuSable Chamber of Commerce and the Michigan Canoe Racing Association to stage the event.

"The Nationals" will be headquartered at the Warrior Pavilion at Van Etnan Lake Park, and the Adult and Youth Sprint Championships will be held there. The Marathon Championships will be held on the fabled AuSable River using the field-tested course of the Curley Memorial Canoe Race (July 10-11, 2004). There will be an Orienteering event on the AuSable as well.

This year, in addition to canoes and kayaks, "The Nationals" are going to feature races for outrigger canoes. These will take place on Van Etnan Lake, the AuSable River and Lake Huron. There will be an opportunity for the general public to participate in some "demo" races in the 45-foot 6-man outrigger canoes.

Many activities are being planned for the enjoyment of participants and spectators alike. The Oscoda Rotary Club is going to be hosting a "Luau Celebration" on Saturday of Nationals week, there will be

one or more pleasure cruises on the AuSable River, a River Cleanup is scheduled for Monday August 16th sponsored by Oscoda Canoe Rental, and there will be many more activities of interest.

Lodging, sponsorship opportunities and other information can be obtained from the Oscoda-AuSable Chamber of Commerce (989) 739-7322 (800) 235-4625 <http://www.oscoda.com>

Extensive information, photographs, course maps and frequently updated race results for the 2004 USCA National Canoe & Kayak Championships is/will be available on the world-wide web at: www.uscanoe2004.com

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Mexico 2004 Trip Report

By John Kobak

We left Cleveland when the weather turned cold on January 5th. As usual we headed due South first to Atlanta to help Peggy's sister with a few remodeling projects. The weather then turned cooler there and so we headed further south to Houston to see Rich & Tracey Priem and their new baby Cade. They are both bike racers so they named the baby Cadence for pedaling. We did a few bike rides and the weather turned cooler here also.

By January 21st we were finally on our way to Mexico, we stopped in overnight in Laredo so that we could cross the boarder early in the morning and avoid the crowds. After getting confused and going around in circles at the border entrance station, it took about an hour to get all the paper work for the RV completed. It was drizzling but it is most-

ly turnpike driving. In each large town you get dumped off the turnpike and need to negotiate some bumpy local roads to the far side of town to pickup the next turnpike. The turnpikes have virtually no traffic since they are very expensive. The 500 mi drive cost us about \$100 in tolls. Gasoline is fairly expensive at \$2.15/gal and is the same everywhere since the stations are all Gov't operated.

I brought my laptop computer with me for two reasons. I have a GPS that plugs into the USB port so that I always know exactly where I am and a cell phone that also plugs in giving me internet access as long as I am in a Verizon digital area. There are two problems in Mexico; the computer maps are not very good showing only main highways and they are not very up-to-date, there is no Verizon digital cell phone service. Most large towns have internet cafes and only cost only \$1-3 per hour. So I could keep our web site up-to-date and answer my e-mail by using my computer and putting the files on a disk to use in their computers.

We decided to stay 2 nights in Durango to rest up from our long drive and get ready for the hair-raising ride to Mazatlan. You camp in a field in a motel complex and use the shower in an empty room. Durango even had a Sam's club & Wal-Mart. The drive from Durango at 7000' elevation crosses over a 9200' pass, across the "Devils Spine" down to sea level in Mazatlan. The drive is only 200 miles but it took us almost 8 hours. I think the views would have been beautiful, if we could see them. It was raining hard, foggy in places and filled with trucks that like to take up both sides of the road. The only spectacular thing was the

hundreds of waterfalls, coming down the steep cliffs, sometimes right down onto the highway. We had a lot of rock dodging to do. When we started it was 45°F in Durango, it dropped to 40° at the pass, which had piles of snow under the trees. As we came out of the mountains the temperature started to rise. When we reached the coast at Mazatlan it was 75° and sunny. They are starting a new turnpike to improve this drive but at the Mexican pace it won't be completed in my lifetime.

Now in Mazatlan, MX

Summer was finally here. We picked a campground right in the heart of all the action. It is a block from the beach and has a large swimming pool and lots of shade from the sun. We could walk to town and/or ride the buses or taxis. I did some bike riding to the North of the Zona Dorado (Hotel Zone). The scenery changes from large hotels & restaurants to big open fields and a few campgrounds. We had stayed in this area on our last trip but it was too far from everything. When the guided caravan trips are camped here the local restaurants come in and offer a free party with drinks and snacks to get people to come to their places. One day a group from the Salvation Army brought in 20-30 kids, all in costume, who performed native dances for a little donation for the local children's home. Some performers were as young as 3 yrs old. It made you want to cry. After 9 days we decided to move further south down the west coast of Mexico. We had no planned itinerary and did not make reservations anywhere. We decided if we liked the place we would stay and if not move on. We had traveled the entire west coast in the past and thought we may make it as far south as the Guatemala border.

Mexican Police in Action

We left Mazatlan early Monday morning and drove south about 150 mi. We were less than a mile from our planned destination when a motorcycle cop pulls us over. Now remember, he can't speak English and I barely can barely converse in Spanish. He claims that I didn't stop for a traffic light, I said it was just turning caution, he says you can't go through on amber either. I try my winning smile, my best arguments. He just says I should get a ticket and won't relent. He even suggests that maybe I was speeding, I wasn't. I guess it's La Mordida (the bite or bribe) that will be the only thing that works. I call him into the motor home and offer him 50 pesos (almost \$5), he smiles and wraps the bill in his blank ticket and gives me directions to our desired location, Playa Chacala. I guess this is the price of admission to this area.



On the beach

Playa (Beach) Chacala is a newly discovered place since they recently paved the 5 mi road from the main highway to town. It was just as we hoped for; a mile of clean beach with the tiny town on one end and a health spa, Spanish school, on the other end. There are bars/restaurants on the beach near the town and some million-dollar homes in the nearby hills, the reason for the paved road it seems. It looks like about 12 Canadian RV's have taken up all the beachfront camp sites so we park our RV and walk around. As we walk to the end of the beach farthest from the restau-

rants we find a few small homes with signs about showers and toilets. After asking around, I find that we can pull our RV between two shower houses right up to the beach and have our own private site with a large palapa to hang my hammock with only the noise of the chickens and roosters to bother us. The sound of the waves pounding on the beautiful wide beach almost drowns them out. Best of all, it's almost free. I negotiate a rate of 3 nights for 100 Pesos (\$9). We did a lot of beach walking and I paddled my kayak around the bay. There is internet access in a school in town but the connection is slow and has no floppy disk drives for me use to transfer files. So I bike 7 mi, uphill both ways, to the bigger town of Las Varas to one of several internet cafes.

We really enjoyed our 8-day stay on Playa Chacala, even after it got busy with lots of Mexican families who were on a 4-day holiday weekend. It turns out that Thursday was Constitution Day and the families pack up the kids and head for the beach. Things really came alive on the sleepy little beach. Little bands playing if you gave them some Pesos, lots of beach vendors peddling hammocks, popsicles and t-shirts. Luckily our camping spot was at the far end and we were seldom bothered. Each day however we had small trucks come by at the same time selling; Purified Water (5 gal jugs for \$1) which we added to our water tank each day and drank good water, Tortillas (we skipped those), vegetables, freshly made bakery, and misc. plastic ware. You never had to leave your camp with all this service. There were small grocery stores in the town for whatever else we needed. Buying water this way for our 5 week Mexico trip cost us about \$12. Much easier then trying to treat the bad Mexican water to make it drinkable.

Moving South Down the Coast

We finally felt that we needed to move on so we headed about 50 mi south. We had heard that the campground at Sayulita, where we had stayed a few years ago, was very popular and full. So we stopped at just north of there at a town called Lo de Marcos. The town was much bigger then Playa Chacala and had four campgrounds and a nice beach. We had an unusual way to find the campground. As we drove into town there was a small boy maybe 13 years old, on his bike who waved to us. As we rode though the town he rode along side of us asking if we wanted to go to Pretty Sunset RV Park. We said yes, so he began leading us though the several turns through town and to the campground. He opened the campground gates; we were here at 9 am since it was only a short drive from Chacala. The lot had room for 8 RV's and one spot was open. He directed us in and told us to hookup. I figured that he was just an enterprising young boy looking for tips. It turns out that he actually runs the park. He collected our camp fee and welcomed us.

The campsite did not have direct access to the beach. You needed to go out the gate and back into the rest of the park to get to the beach. So although the facilities were nice we preferred to be closer to the beach and at least hear the surf. We left early the next morning and headed toward Puerto Vallarta. We stopped at Sayulita and found out that it was indeed full and would be that way for a month. In PV we found a Sam's club next to a Super Wal-Mart where we did a lot of food shopping. Food is not that cheap in Mexico. The only bargains were fresh fruits and vegetables at small stores or roadside stands.

We then headed south into the city; actually we missed the bypass and ended up right along the Malecon (Beach walk) with hundreds of stores, shoppers, buses and traffic

lights. We eventually found our way out of town and headed up the mountains, about 2500', before we came down to the coast again. It was 2 pm and I had enough driving for a day, so we pulled into the first town that we saw that had a paved road going to the beach. It was Punta Perula. It had several RV parks on Chamela Bay. The trailer park we picked was very nice with full hookups and we were almost on the beach. The campground is managed by one of the campers; he loved to fish and gave us our fill of fresh fish whenever we wanted. I'll bet 80% of the campers in MX head to the same campground each year and stay for the entire winter. You do see a few Caravans with 10-15 big RV's being lead down the coast as a tour. I guess they are afraid to try Mexico on their own. It is really quite safe down here and the roads are not in that bad a condition. If you stay off the roads at night you will have no problems. One couple hit a cow in the dark with their trailer. We stayed here for a week taking walks on the wide 4-mile long sandy beach and paddling my kayak around the large rocks in the beautiful bay. There was no internet access in town, maybe next year?

Last of the Beach Resorts

We left on Wed 2/18 for another beach campground about 40 mi south called Boca Beach. This campground was pretty full and the only sites that they had available were tent sites back in a shady palm grove. It was a nice big site but you get more breezes if you are closer to the beach. There were lots of Canadian campers crowded in for the season. The bay was nice and the kayaking was good, but the beach was not as clean so we stayed for only two nights.

We moved about 12-miles south

to the next bay, Bahia de Navidad (Christmas Bay). There are actually three towns on the bay, Melaque, Obregon and Barra de Navidad. We had stayed in the biggest town, Melaque, on our last trip but had heard that there was a brand new campground in Obregon behind a beautiful hotel, Laguna del Tule, with a big swimming pool.



LagunadelTule

There were electrical hookups but no showers but we could camp right on the beach that faced west and could watch the most beautiful sunsets. The last two bays that we had stayed at faced south. This beach is very steep and the big waves crashed into the shore, kayaking was out of the question unless the waves died down. They just got bigger each day.

We had only traveled about 400 miles along the coast, but Peggy was getting anxious to get back home. Our original plans had us going 700 mi further south along the West coast but we think it may be too warm if we go further south. The weather from Mazatlan to Barra de Navidad was about 80°F for the highs and it would go to low 60's at night. We had to use blankets for sleeping and never needed air conditioning with the great breeze from the 75° ocean water.

Back to the Mountains

Our next destination is the second biggest city in Mexico, Guadalajara. It is at about 5000' elevation and has nice year round

temperatures. Lots of North Americans have retired here. The highs are in the high 70's and lows in the low 40's. We got an early start and chose the direct route up the mountains. There were mixed reports on the drivability of the road but it was 60 mi shorter and about an hour quicker than taking the toll roads out of Manzanillo. The road had a few very curvy sections but no steep climbs. There is a nice campground which is right on the edge of the city. It is way back from the highway and now partially filled with retirement homes as well as transient campers. It is very quiet. We met up with two couples that we camped with at Punta Perula and one couple we camped with at Melaque. We rested for the day. On Thursday, one couple offered us a ride in their jeep to the town of Tonalá. Thursday is market day and there were hundreds of booths and stores selling local crafts. It was the biggest open air market that I have seen anywhere.

Heading For Home

We left around 5 AM to avoid the heavy Guadalajara traffic. It was a good thing that we had driven to Tonalá the day before. There were several detours and very confusing road signs. The start of the Turnpike is right at Tonalá. Once we got there it was clear sailing and all but about 40 mi of turnpike driving back to Laredo. We made an overnight stop in Matamoros and by Saturday afternoon we were back at the border to turn in our RV permit and get across the border. This process took 1-1/2 hours. Weekends are a bad time to cross the border. It is crowded with Mexicans who come to USA to shop. It's really less expensive in the USA now than in Mexico. The toll roads from Guadalajara to Laredo cost us another \$100 but are really worth it. We spent a day in Houston cleaning up and took two days to drive home to Cleveland. We blew in with the wind and warm 70° weather which lasted for one day. Now we

are back to winter again, wishing we were back in Mexico.

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Trip Descriptions for upcoming club trips

This is the time of year when the frozen rivers thaw out and the white water enthusiasts come out of the wood work. This year we have a plethora of trips in April and May with multiple trips each weekend; many have 3 or more, aimed at a variety of skill levels! So take advantage of these excellent opportunities to sharpen your skills, learn from the experts, experience camaraderie, enjoy the great outdoors, and just plain have fun. SYOTR!

Apr 3-4 WV Creeking

Brent Laubaugh and co-organizer Dave Broer will put together two weekends of West Virginia Creeking with some of the possibilities being the Big Sandy [31], Otter Creek [31], Fikes Creek [29], Seneca Creek [30], Upper Blackwater [35], North Fork of Blackwater [34]. Be sure to contact Brent in advance if you plan to join in.

Brent Laubaugh.
brent7@comcast.net.
215-496-9376

Apr 4 Slippery Rock

We'll meet at the Rose Point Bridge at 10 AM. Depending on group consensus, we may travel up to the lake and put-in there. Depending on water level, we may paddle all the way to Harris Bridge or split into sub-groups, paddling the upper and lower sections independently. Make sure you call in advance to confirm your participation.

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

Apr 4 Little Beaver

This is a pleasant trip down a flat-water/class I creek suitable for canoes & recreational kayaks, with plentiful eddies and easy pourovers for beginning whitewater paddlers. There is one very friendly wave for beginners to try surfing. Shutterbugs and history buffs may be interested in the many old locks from the Sandy & Beaver Canal that are on the creek. We'll paddle a 7 mile section from the state park to Fredericktown, meeting at Beaver Creek State Park in the parking area closest to the bridge at 10:00.

Steve Zerefos.
sgz@rbparch.com.
330-646-7235

April 9-16 28th Annual Southern Rivers Week

The trip starts Friday on the Nolichucky or Watauga. Rivers that we may visit, depending on skill and/or water level, are the Nolichucky, Watauga, Doe, French Broad, Big Laurel, Little River, Tellico, Ocoee, Nantahala, and Chattooga III & IV. If the water levels are good, we will then travel to the Obed-Emory system in Tennessee near the Kentucky border where we will paddle Daddy's Creek. We will finish up on the Big South Fork before heading back home. If levels are too low for Tenn., we will head north to WV for the best water available.

This is a great trip for intermediate paddlers wishing to tackle some challenging rivers with some of the more advanced paddlers. I guarantee that your skills will increase after an intensive week of paddling. You MUST call or e-mail me to let me know if you are coming. I need to know first and last days you intend to paddle, who you will be driving down with and your skill level. If you would like

to share a ride I can help coordinate. See this link for itinerary. http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/2004_South_Itin.htm Also contact me on April 6 or 7th for first meeting place.

John Kobak
keelhauler@yahoo.com.
440-871-1758

April 10-11 North Branch of the Potomac

A good run for intermediates, this river is fairly continuous class II - III whitewater. The North Branch also excels in play opportunities. It consists mostly of waves and ledges, but there are some notable holes.

Ross Brinkerhoff.
happy2bboatin@earthlink.net.
440-286-1476

April 10-11 Cheat Forks

General description of all Cheat Forks trips: The forks of the Cheat flow out of the mountains in the Monongahela National Forest south of Parsons, WV. The Jennings section of the Dry Fork is a class III whitewater run with an entire weekend's worth of play spots. The Laurel Fork run from Route 33 to Jennings is 13 miles of continuous class II - III+ rapids with some ledges which are more difficult than that. This part of the Laurel Fork is practically inaccessible other than by boat. The Bemis to new Route 33 section of the Shavers Fork isn't quite so remote as the Laurel Fork, but it is a very nice place to spend a day in a boat. After heavy rainfall in Randolph County, we might find runnable flow in the class III Laneville section of Red Creek or in Gandy Creek above its confluence with the Dry Fork at Job. The steep parts of the Blackwater Fork are for experts only, so you'll have to find someone else to tell you about that. The Little Sandy and Big Sandy are Preston County

Cheat tributaries. The Little Sandy and the Big Sandy above Rockville are a nice class III+ run, and sometimes they are available to us after substantial rainfall. All of these rivers deserve recognition as the national treasures, which they are. Come see for yourself, and then help work for Wild and Scenic status designation for them.

The Cheat and Potomac headwaters runs are available during periods of high water in the Cheat watershed. If the Canyon is too high, then flow in some of the forks or similar rivers in the Potomac South Fork watershed just over Spruce Knob to the east, might be just right for a day of whitewater excitement. I would like to find several other people who are interested in making some of these runs again this year if flow rates there are favorable. This will require flexible planning and mobilization on what could be fairly short notice in response to rain gauge accumulation and stream gauge flow data. The Cheat Canyon probably will be the low water alternate destination on these weekends.

We'll find something this April 10-11 weekend in the Cheat Forks or over the mountains in the Potomac watershed, water flow rates and weather forecasts permitting. The exact plan for this trip will depend on water flow, rain gauge, weather data, and group interests, and therefore the plan might be uncertain until noon on Friday. Please contact the trip organizer by email with a message subject line which includes the words, "Cheat Forks" early during the week before this trip to have your name added to the correspondence list.
Steve Ingalls.
sti@cwru.edu.
216 371 8250 (Leave message with daytime phone number)

April 16-18: ARC Fundamentals and Basic River Instruction weekend

ARC will give fundamentals and basic river instruction in canoeing and kayaking on this weekend. Fundamentals classes also have a required meeting at an indoor swimming pool on April 4. Please see the following URL www.cleveland-arc-canoeand-kayak.org for course descriptions and prerequisites, or contact directly the people listed below with your questions.
Sherie Sanzenbacher.
ssanzenbacher@alltel.net.
440-298-1293
Steve Ingalls.
sti@cwru.edu
216 371 8250
Pam Oliver.
Oliverp@usa.redcross.org
216 431 3322

April 17-18 Riversport's Riverfest

Our friends at Riversport have planned a Riverfest, to include reps from Watermark (Perception and Dagger), Wave Sport, Liquid Logic, and Eskimo on hand to answer questions and make recommendations. Most of the models will be on hand for free demo on Ramcat Rapid. Camping is free for the weekend, and they will have free refreshments on Saturday afternoon (beer and chips). Also they are going to have a fun rodeo on Sat. at 4:00 and a sprint race on Sunday at noon. Prizes will be awarded in the form of gift certificates to their store.
Riversport. Bob Ruppel.
whiteh2o@qcol.com.
800-216-6991

April 22-25 Adirondack Creek Week

The Adirondacks in upstate New York offer a great variety of creeks and rivers. As you head north from West Virginia, sandstone gives way to granite and rhododendron is replaced by evergreen trees.

Built by sudden drops in the levels of glacial Lake Iroquois back when Kobak and Singer were in their youth, the streams are typically long pools followed by huge drops. For Creek Week, we have a great lineup of streams for the intrepid Keelhauler, including the Moose (III+, IV or V), Raquette (V), Independence (IV), Otter Creek (IV), Fish (III), Black (III-IV), S. Br. Grass (IV-V), E. Br. Oswegatchie (IV-V)...and many others. There will also be a First Annual release on the Hoosic (V), Northeast of Albany, on April 21. The Base Camp for Creek Week will be Old Forge, NY, a charming and rustic mountain town. For added fun, there'll be a Film Festival at a theater in Old Forge on Saturday evening. See www.oldforgeny.com/creekweek for up-to-date details. Be sure to email Matt or phone him (JULIA 1 ZUBO—note: this is 585-421-9826, not the number listed in your Yearbook!) ahead of time with your intentions—and bring your longjohns.
Matt Muir.
RivieraRatt@aol.com.
585-421-9826

April 23-25 Middle Fork & Tygart

The water levels are usually ideal at this time of year. This trip is for those wanting something a little more challenging than the Cheat but easier than the Big Sandy. You get two for one. The Middle Fork is a tight Slippery Rock sized river while the Tygart Gorge is more like the Cheat. Our shuttle is the shortest of any trip we paddle. Camping at Audra State Park is deluxe. You must call by Thursday since we may paddle Friday as well.
John Kobak
keelhauler@yahoo.com.
440-871-1758
or Cabin 304-379-4747

April 23-25 Stonycreek Rendezvous

Come help the Benscreek Canoe Club to improve access to the Stonycreek. Please email trip leader for Keelhauler float plan and info. For event information, visit <http://www.benscreekcanoecub.com>
Jim Kosicki. . . .
Tat2saint@aol.com. . . .
216-244-0201

April 24-25 ACA Instructor Development Workshop

Instructor Development Workshop (IDW) and Instructors Certification Examination (ICE) for INTRODUCTION TO KAYAKING is being offered Saturday and Sunday, April 24 & 25, 2004 at the Bowling Green State University Pool, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Registration deadline is April 2, 2004.
Larry Kiraly. . . .
Lak9@Buckeye-express.com
419-874-7987

Apr 24-25 Slippery Rock

The Apr 24-25 trip to the Slip is subject to weather and river level-conditions. The official trip will be Apr 24 OR Apr 25, but you are free to organize a group the other day. Please check in with the trip leader in midweek or later in the week, preferably via e-mail or home phone: 216 321 9284. I do teach Wed and Thurs eve but you can call me between 9 and 11 pm (maybe out Fri eve) and leave your name and number (speak clearly/slowly). I plan to organize both an upper and a lower trip (see ratings in Yearbook) subject to river level and the skill of participants!
Andy Gross
a.gross@csuohio.edu
216-321-9284

April 25 Cheat Race Clinic

Come and join us for a fun day on the river. This clinic is a preparation for the upcoming Cheat Canyon Mass-Occurrence race. I will be demonstrating some basic race strokes and race strategies.

We will also run the river and look at various river routes to find the best race lines. So if you have raced in the Cheat Canyon Mass-Occurrence, or are just thinking about it give me a call. The clinic will be geared for beginner and experienced racers. Lets get some teams together and beat the TRPC teams!!!! Go Keelhaulers!
Rob Hammond. . . .
Rob@SCD-Corp.com. . . .
Home: 216-292-5618. . . .
Cell: 216 287-8580

Apr 25 Clarion River

The section of the Clarion that we'll paddle is about 8 miles of mostly isolated class I water. There are a couple of little rapids, but they are easily navigable in almost any paddle craft. This trip is suitable for canoeists and recreational or beginning whitewater kayakers. Canoe campers might find this section of interest since some of the most isolated riverside campsites on the Clarion are along this section. We'll meet at the Belltown bridge at 10:00 to set shuttle.
Steve Zerefos
sgz@rbparch.com
330-646-7235

April 30 Cheat Canyon Mass-Occurrence

This race is the first event of the annual Cheat Fest. Friday's fun will include the "Cheat Canyon Mass-Occurrence," a full-bore race down the Cheat Canyon. Historically, this included a team event; let's get a bunch of Keelhaulers together to beat the Three Rivers Paddling Club! Saturday will have a race on the Cheat Narrows, and Sunday may see a race nearby. There will be a Cheat River Race Clinic on April 25 to hone those racing moves and plot strategy. Go Keelhaulers!
Rob Hammond. . . .
Rob@SCD-Corp.com. . . .
Home: 216-292-5618. . . .
Cell: 216 287-8580

April 30, May 1 & 3 Upper Yough

There is a scheduled release Fri, Sat & Mon. The trip is for advanced paddlers only. If you are a first timer you will be led down the river one on one. You must call enough in advance to set you up with a competent leader. This is a very popular weekend since it is the first Saturday release and it is Cheat Fest Weekend. All paddlers are invited to stay at my cabin.
John Kobak
keelhauler@yahoo.com. . . .
440-871-1758 or Cabin
304-379-4747

May 1 Cheat Fest

The Friends of the Cheat will present the annual Cheat River Festival on this weekend. Join the FOC, paddlers, and local people for great springtime whitewater and a celebration of the Cheat watershed. There will be drawing the WVRC raffle ticket winners that evening as well. Not as big as its big brother, the Gauley Fest, but still plenty of opportunity to buy stuff, check out the latest gear, and see old friends who may have been hibernating over the winter. Festival Contact: Carl Bolyard. . .
cbolyard@wvivers.org
Scott's plan is to do the Upper Yough on Sat, camping at Kobaks, Cheat Fest on Sat night and doing the Cheat on Sunday. If there are people interested in doing the Cheat on Sat he is happy to do that also, but last year they ended up doing one day on each. Call Scott in advance so he knows your interest.
Scott Debalski. . . .
scd@lubrizol.com. . . .
440-298-1257

May 1-2: ARC Basic River and Whitewater I Instruction weekend

ARC will give basic river and whitewater I courses in kayaking and canoeing on this weekend. The likely instruction sites are

Slippery Rock Creek and the Conoquenessing River near New Castle, PA. Please see the following URL

www.cleveland-arc-canoeand-kayak.org for course descriptions and prerequisites, or contact directly the people listed below with your questions.

Sherie Sanzenbacher.
ssanzenbacher@alltel.net.
440-298-1293
Steve Ingalls.
sti@cwru.edu
216 371 8250
Pam Oliver.
Oliverp@usa.redcross.org
216 431 3322

May 8-9 North Branch of the Potomac

A good run for intermediates, this river is fairly continuous class II-III whitewater. The North Branch also excels in play opportunities. It consists mostly of waves and ledges, but there are some notable holes.
Ross Brinkerhoff. . . .
happy2bboatin@earthlink.net. . . .
440-286-1476

May 15-16 Cheat Canyon

Come join Jim for a weekend on the Cheat Canyon. The Cheat Canyon is beautiful and remote with no access other than by the river. The trip is through a long canyon with nearly continuous rapids. Most of the rapids are Class III or III+ with a few Class IV thrown in to make it interesting. If you find the Lower Yough easy and boring at moderate water levels, then you are ready for the Cheat Canyon. Camping is available right at the put-in and as a special bonus, you will get to experience one of the worst shuttle roads in WV. In the event of high or low water, we will find something else in the area to run
Jim Hunt
jfhunt@BWXT.com
330 335 5203

May 15-16 Cheat Forks

See general description of all Cheat Forks trips above on April 10-11
Steve Ingalls sti@cwru.edu. 216 371 8250 (Leave message with daytime phone number)

----*----



2004 VERMILION RIVER RACE RESULTS

PLACE 1. C-2 UNRESTRICTED TIME

1	260	Young, Eben	Roudebush, George	1:08:14
-	228	Collins, Keith	Collins, Linda	DNF

PLACE 3. C-2 Mixed Standard TIME

1	233	Leszek, Ed	Monte, Mary Jo	1:00:43
2	304	Masek, Dan	Masek, Sarah	1:03:28
-	272	Skinner, Norman	Newlon, Alice	DNF

PLACE 4. C-2 Novice TIME

1	255	Peterson, Scott	Debrason, James	1:07:10
2	302	Frenk, Gregory	Frenk, Neil	1:08:20
3	265	Hoffman, John	Grob, Bill	1:11:56
4	271	Fleming, Andy	Hassan, Cole	1:16:03
5	230	Cunningham, Randy	Roberts, Genny	1:17:01
6	254	Linowski, Kurt	Elliott, Steve	1:21:53
7	262	Mauk, Bryan	Petratis, Kasey	1:35:33
8	261	Mauk, Tim	Mauk, Dennis	2:06:32
9	251	Mauk, Kevin	Mauk, Danny	2:07:32
10	252	Messina, Sal	Messina, Sal Jr.	2:10:32
11	313	Russo, Mark	?????	2:26:05

PLACE 5. C-2 Men TIME

1	222	Hull, Robt V. Jr.	Hull, Jeff	1:06:05
2	299	Saltis, Denis	Saltis, Tom	1:06:23
3	229	Neal, Edward	Tompkins, Thomas	1:13:03
4	312	Thacker, Geoff	Thacker, Josh	1:19:30
5	231	Balduff, Tim	Balduff, Brian	1:20:19
6	311	Thacker, Geoff J	Kollar, Bryan	1:24:23

PLACE 7. C-2 Mixed TIME

1	308	Anderson, Diane	Anderson, Eric	1:12:10
2	303	DeChant, Angela	Oravec, Dave	1:16:26

PLACE 8. C-2 Master TIME Handi

1	225	King, Marvin	Way, Jay	0:54:30	5:10
2	256	Davis, Daniel	Christian, Darrell	1:11:12	3:20
3	220	Zackowski, Ron	Kropel, Elisabeth	1:18:53	2:10

...continued on back page

2004 Officers

Pres: Elliot Drysdale 440-708-1208
VP: Judi Cleary 440-808-8499
Sec: Karen Daniels 216-292-5618
Tres: Rob Hammond 440-458-5972
Meeting place: Middleburg Hts. Rec. Ctr.
15700 Bagley Rd.
Second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 P.M.

Membership: \$20 per year. New member-
ships, 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 advoca-
cy of any of the opinions, views or recommen-
dations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or
any of its officers or members.

Water sports are a potentially dangerous
activity. Keel-Haulers Canoe Club recom-
mends 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. Mail or email before the second to 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.



2004 VERMILION RIVER RACE RESULTS Continued from pg 9

PLACE 9. C-2 Over & Under TIME

1	286	Hudak, Paul	Hudak, Matthew	1:08:25
2	300	Singleton, Bill	Singleton, Kurt	1:10:55
3	232	Parker, James	James, Caleb	1:12:39

PLACE 10. C-2 ABS TIME

1	306	Allen, Erich	Hoven, Francis	1:09:59
2	287	Russo, Michael	Karlovich, Lisa	1:14:00
3	296	Casner, Jim	Vogel, Devin	1:17:26
4	276	Ferit, Michael	Ferit, Joseph	1:17:28

Editor KeelHauler Kanews

April 2004

Meg Gabelman

aka mgabelma@hotmail.com

3866 Golf Course Drive

Norton, Ohio 44203-5403

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Keel-Hauler's KaNews

May 2004

Next newsletter deadline - 5/17 Please remember to send material as text copied into the body of an email (no .doc please) and/or attached .tif or .jpeg images only to the editor - mgabelma@hotmail.com.

Trip Schedule 2004

Date	Trip/Event	State	Rate	Leader	Phone
May					
5/1-2	Cheat Canyon Cheat Fest weekend	WV	26	Scott Debalski	440-298-1257
5/1-2	Whitewater I Instruction – Slippery Rock	PA	13	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/1 & 3	Upper Yough	PA	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758
5/8-9	N. Br. Potomac Release	MD	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
5/11	Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center at 7:30 PM	OH		John Garcia	440 -777-6077
5/15	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
5/15-16	Cheat Canyon	WV	26	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
5/15-16	Cheat Forks	WV	19	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/22	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Ann Corey	330-869-6549
5/22-23	Whitewater II Instruction	SW PA	19	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/22-23	N. Br. Potomac	MD	18	Mark Cytron	216-225-5418
5/22-23	Middle Yough	PA	12	Robert Bair	216-371-6390
5/29-31	Cheat Canyon	WV	26	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
June					
6/4, 5 & 7	Upper Yough	PA	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 or at Cabin 304-379-4747
6/5-6	Cheat Canyon	WV	26	Pam Poljak	440-268-9194
6/6-20	Western Rivers Trip	CO	Class 3-4	Elliott Drysdale	440-708-1208
		CO	Class 4-5	Paul Lang	330-896-3468
6/8	Meeting at Hinkley Lake 6PM FreeStyle Canoe Clinic	OH		John Garcia	440 -777-6077

May 11 Meeting: Middleburg Hts Community Center at 7:30 PM

Chuck Singer will present slides and narrative from his recent trip to East Africa, where his goals were to

- 1) go on a safari
- 2) visit Zanzibar
- 3) climb Kilimanjaro and
- 4) raft the Nile.

April 13, 2004 Meeting Minutes

taken by Judi Cleary

Attendees: There was a shortage of members, especially officers, at the April meeting, due mostly to the Southern Rivers trip which lured away many a paddler anxious to jump-start the spring paddling season. Fortunately, Vice President Judi Cleary was able to return from the aforementioned trip just in time to chair the meeting.

There were several new members and guests who introduced

themselves. Many of the chair people were absent, so many chair reports were not given.

Treasurer report: shows a balance of \$9,511.73. The Vermilion Race accounting is currently at \$718, however there are still some bills yet to pay, including one for \$138.

Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as posted in the newsletter.

Conservation: Andy Gross reminded us all to carpool to the river and to the meetings whenever possible.

Roll Sessions: The 2004 roll sessions have now ended. Pat Guzowski mentioned that some of the sessions at the Lakewood pool were sparsely attended.

Business for this time of year: Vermilion River Race: A record number of people for recent times raced this year, perhaps due to the outstanding warm weather AND great water level. Ed Berneike brought in a great article in the local Lorain paper that had some outstanding photos from the race.

Programs: Chuck Singer will give the May 11 Program on his recent trip to Africa. Elaine and Bob Mravetz will present a Freestyle Canoe clinic at the June meeting. See article in this newsletter.

April Program Notes: The program was given by Elaine Marsh who talked to us about House Bill 218 which looks to redefine the access to the land that is found between the normal high water mark and the low water mark on the shores of Lake Erie. She encouraged us all to contact our state senator to Vote NO on House Bill 218 which will diminish shore access to paddlers. Go to www.senate.state.oh.us/senators/ to send an e-mail message, or call 1-800-282-0253.

Trip reports: Jim Hunt reported on his Non- Southern Rivers Trip on Easter Weekend. There were 7 people on Stony Creek on Friday, and 9 people on Middlefork/Typgart on Saturday(?) Chuck reported on the first few days of the Southern Rivers trip, which found participants paddling the Nolichucky, the Ocoee and the French Broad. There were several first-timers to this ritual including Ed Charlton, Greg Debalski (Scott's son), and Sheri Kraus. All did excellently.

Jim Kosicki had twelve people on the Slip on Saturday, April 10.

Upcoming trips: April 24/25

Andy Gross announced that he is looking for someone to co-ordinate his Slippery Rock trip with him. It will probably be on April 25, as the Grand River Race is April 24.

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The 4th Annual Cuyahoga SWCD Rocky River Clean-up Saturday, May 15, 2004 9 a.m. – noon

Spring is here! Join us as we go down to the river and around town to attack litter and debris. Find out what is happening in the Rocky River watershed, and get involved in its protection and preservation. Plus, you will be assisting our city with our federally-mandated storm water management program!

Dress for the weather, wear boots or work shoes, and bring work gloves if you have them. Bags will be provided. Children under age 18 must have adult supervision. Groups will carpool to sites throughout the watershed.

For registration or more information, contact Becky Siekkinen at Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District: (216) 524-6580 ext. 12, or at rsiekkinen@cuyahogawcd.org.

This event is co-sponsored City of Berea, City of Middleburg Heights, and the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation in cooperation with Cleveland Metroparks, The Rocky River Watershed Council and the cities of Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Broadview Heights and North Royalton.

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Susquehanna River Trail Guide

The Susquehanna River Trail Association (SRTA) published a new trail guide at the end of the

2003 paddling season. Although it has been available at local outfitters in the Central Pennsylvania area, it is now available for purchase via internet at the SRTA web site: www.susquehannariver-trail.org

The web site also includes a PDF version of our newsletter to keep readers up-to-date on Susquehanna River happenings.

The waterproof, two-sided guide contains a detailed map with useful information from the viewpoint of a river paddler, including launch sites, mileage, island campsites with GPS coordinates, landmarks, navigational hazards, user amenities, natural features, historical and natural science commentaries and river safety guidelines.

The described trail extends along the main stem of the Susquehanna River from Sunbury to Harrisburg, PA and contains 20 island campsites maintained by the SRTA. The campsites are marked by numbered signs located at take-outs and consist of primitive tent sites and a fire ring.

Let your members know about the Susquehanna River Trail Guide - and See you on the river!

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FreeStyle Canoe Clinic

Club members have a unique opportunity to learn FreeStyle canoeing at the June 8 KH Club Meeting at Hinkley Lake. The first session will begin about 6pm, with a repeat session afterwards as needed. The June FreeStyle Canoe clinic will include a demonstration of the principles and boat physics behind FreeStyle Canoeing, and how to use boat pitch and heel, body mechanics, and efficient paddling strokes and placements to make the canoe perform precisely.

Basic maneuvers will also be covered, and paddlers who are interested will have an opportunity to learn a few of the basic compulso-

ry maneuvers used in competitions. You can bring your own solo canoe, or there will be several on hand to try while learning basic FreeStyle skills.

Basic FreeStyle canoe skills are practical, make the boat respond to you, and are easily transferred to whitewater canoeing as well as canoe tripping and touring. The Clinic will be taught by Elaine and Bob Mravetz, Keelhauler members and 2003 National Interpretive FreeStyle Canoe Champions in tandem class. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to learn from the best!

JUNE 24-25 ACA Adaptive Paddling Workshop

A few spots are still available for the June 24-25 ACA Adaptive Paddling Workshop sponsored by Ohio Penn Division ACA and Cleveland Metroparks, with the support of the ODNR, Division of Watercraft. This is an especially helpful workshop for trip leaders and paddlers working with adults or children in paddling instruction. Under the Americans With Disabilities Act, a person with disability may not be excluded from paddling programs because of their disability. Participants in this workshop will learn all the legal and risk management requirements relating to accessibility of paddling opportunities to persons with disabilities.

You will also learn how to work with low cost outfitting materials and equipment to build an adaptation to meet the special needs of a paddler with a disability, to capitalize on their abilities and offset their areas of impairment. This workshop is only offered once each year. Participants receive a great deal of valuable resource information and learn skills to include interested persons with disabilities in paddling programs and trips.

For more information and registration, contact Jeremy Oyen at: jro@clevelandmetroparks.com or call 216-341-1704.

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African Adventure

By Chuck Singer

Last month we learned about how John and Peggy Kobak spent their winter, so I demanded equal space this month!

Earlier in the year, I decided to visit East Africa and purchased a cheap ticket for early January. Unfortunately, my dog, Anna, got old and died causing me to postpone the start of my trip. So Judi Cleary and I left in early February. I had four goals 1) go on a safari 2) visit Zanzibar 3) climb Kilimanjaro and 4) raft the Nile.

We landed at Kili International Airport, then took a cab to Arusha, Tanzania. From Arusha we went on an 8 day safari in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater Park. It is a camping trip and it was just as wonderful as you might have expected. The Serengeti was filled with all kinds of mammals and birds including lions, zebras, elephants, wildebeests, giraffes, leopards, cheetahs, five or six kinds of antelopes, hyenas, jackals, water buffalo and one lone rhino. Here are some details.

Lions: We found a sleeping pair and went off road into rocks to see them. After 5 minutes or so, we tried to drive away and were stuck for a bit. I didn't volunteer to get out and push! We stopped next to a sleeping lioness lying on a fresh water beach. Her belly was stuffed and her chin red and messy. We were within TWO feet of her and could have touched her through the open window but I'm

not that dumb yet. A lioness caught a big stork and played with it for a bit before dragging it into the bushes.

Cheetahs: We saw four sitting and watching Thompson Gazelles. Getting bored, they got up and walked in front of the truck. The Tommies watched them and followed them for a while to make sure the cheetah's were really gone.

We ate lunch at Ngorongoro crater and wondered why no one was sitting under a great shade tree. Judi picked up a piece of fried chicken and brought it to her mouth but a crow sized bird hit her hand and nearly got the chicken. We moved. We watched hippos and elephants while there.

We were camping by ourselves in Ndutu, south Serengeti, and at breakfast, a baby gnu (2 days old) came into camp and went up to everyone one at a time to see if we were its mother. It was lost and bleating pitifully. It was last seen heading back towards the herd but I don't know if it made it.

The camping was rough with no water at two camps and cold showers at only two more. The food was great with all three meals being four course. I'm sure I gained weight. The cook did a fantastic job considering he only had charcoal to cook with and no refrigeration. He cooked up the chicken and eggs the first day and we ate them the rest of the trip using the warm mayonnaise too.

The three main roads in Tanzania are paved but the rest are rock and dirt and even sitting in a vehicle is an aerobic activity. The trucks are constantly pounded and it's a miracle they last as long as they do. On the main road in the Serengeti, we were going 40 mph on a washboard. The driver's theory was that the tires

bounced over half of the ruts but our teeth were chattering and there was dust everywhere.

My second safari (after Judi returned home) was five weeks later and was as good as the first but different. I didn't see as many lions but went to different places. We still saw the Serengeti, Ngorongoro, but concentrated on places most tourists didn't travel to. We spent almost two days at Ndutu where we saw the wildebeest migration. There were thousands of them and they waded/swam across the shallow lake. One calf just couldn't keep up and laid down in the water. It was tough leaving it there but when we came back much later, it was gone; either reunited with its Mom or a friendly predator. We also encountered a leopard kill (a gazelle) hanging from a tree limb at least 30 feet in the air. We didn't see the leopard though.

We saw a rhino in NGNG as well as the aftermath of a zebra kill. There were four lions feeding on a 30 minute old kill. There were also 6 or 8 cars watching the dinner. We also saw a hippo out of the water chewing on grass.

We then drove north to a series of granite rock hills (kopjes) where we saw lions and cheetahs

resting in the sun watching the grassland. They were on different rocks as lions kill cheetahs when ever they can.

We continued up north to close to the Kenya border and stayed at Lobo Camp. It was full of baboons and at 1am, LIONS. There were at least 4 lions within 30 feet of the tent and they were very noisy. I kept telling myself that they wouldn't bother me in the tent and I finally convinced myself. After they left, some grazers came near the tent and chewed up the grass and then later, I think something brushed up against the tent which woke

me up pretty seriously.

At daybreak, I opened the tent flap a little and snuck out to pee (It was a long night!) As I finished, I saw our guides who had slept in the car frantically motioning me back into the tent. The lions were walking in the brush 20 feet behind the tent making lion noises. It was way cool! They finally left and we could eat breakfast after fighting with the baboons.

From there we followed the Kenya border south to the Rift valley and drove down into it. It reminds me of the Mars lander pictures but with Maasai and cattle. We looked at flamingos at Lake Natron. There was a great hike up to a waterfall that you could swim in. The hike was similar to that of Havasu for all you GC people.

We then drove down the full length of the Rift valley back to Lake Manyara. There was NO road-there, only tracks. We forded streams, drove down streams and did a lot of driving in low gear.

We never camped with any other people and didn't often even see anyone else. We might not have seen as many animals as the first safari but the nearby roar of a lion at 1am makes up for that.

Tanzania is very poor but the prices were fairly high. There was a two price structure for the parks. The locals got in for \$4 and we paid \$50-70 per day. It added up pretty fast but that's the price one pays to keep the Serengeti open. Otherwise it would be a cattle ranch. Camping Safari prices were about \$110. per day or \$80 during the low season.

Next, Judi and I took a bus to Dar Es Saalam. We left Arusha on an air conditioned bus for an 8 hour trip and limped into DES 11 hours on a different bus. The first one lost a lot of power so they had to turn off the AC and of course the

windows won't open on a AC bus. I told Judi about the 120+ British soldiers that died in Calcutta in a hot, closed room but she didn't appreciate it. We finally pulled over and got on a local bus that flew down the road, air blasting in the open windows. Once again, life was good! After a night's sleep at the Jambo Inn, we took the ferry to Zanzibar and ended up on the east coast of the island on a long, sandy beach that was great at high tide but 400 yards away at low tide. We went snorkeling from a dugout canoe but the fish were only average.

We spent 3 hours getting back to Stone City on Zanzibar riding in a dalla-dalla, which is a pickup truck with benches and a canopy. The road was not paved and a little hard on your butt as there were often 20 people in the vehicle. As honored guests, we were in the front seat where Judi roasted her legs on the engine and I got wet from the rain. The next morning we went on a city tour. This port was the center of slave trade until 1880 and has a lot of history. The streets were very narrow and totally twisted so it was easy to get lost. After a Spice Tour and a Cave Trip, we flew back to Dar, in between two thunderstorms!

Dar Es Salaam is a very exotic town with strong Arabic influences. There are many, large mosques here and many people wear the traditional clothes like the burka for the women and the white gown for the men. The street touts and taxi drivers are relentless until you have been there long enough to be recognized as not a newbie. The first price quoted is often double or triple the lowest price so one needed to negotiate or pay more. I was spoiled by the low prices in Thailand. There were many Indian people here and most shops were run by them.

The traffic was chaotic but there didn't seem to be a lot of accidents. We are so lucky in the US to have a

good road system and traffic controls. Most of us couldn't drive here with all the problems and distractions.

It had rained once a day for 3 days, at times very hard. Then it stopped and the sun came out however the humidity stayed at 100%. The cars drove thru 6" deep water at 20mph throwing spray everywhere. Riding in an open dalla dallas didn't look like much fun as the water was very dirty.

The only other thing I haven't mentioned yet was the prayer calls from all the mosques. The one I really hated was at 5:15am.

Stay Tuned for "Part 2 - African Adventure" which will appear in the June Newsletter. I flew back to Cleveland on March 20 and am still recovering from my trip. About 50% of my slides were ruined by Airport X-rays but I'll still have enough to show at the May KH meeting. See you then!

----*----

Trip Descriptions for upcoming club trips

April 30, May 1 & 3 Upper Yough

There is a scheduled release Fri, Sat & Mon. The trip is for advanced paddlers only. If you are a first timer you will be led down the river one on one. You must call enough in advance to set you up with a competent leader. This is a very popular weekend since it is the first Saturday release and it is Cheat Fest Weekend. All paddlers are invited to stay at my cabin.

John Kobak
keelhauler@yahoo.com. . . .
440-871-1758 or Cabin
304-379-4747

May 1 Cheat Fest

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present the annual Cheat River Festival on this weekend. Join the FOC, paddlers, and local people for great springtime whitewater and a celebration of the Cheat watershed. There will be drawing the WVRC raffle ticket winners that evening as well. Not as big as its big brother, the Gauley Fest, but still plenty of opportunity to buy stuff, check out the latest gear, and see old friends who may have been hibernating over the winter. Festival Contact: Carl Bolyard. . . cbolyard@wvivers.org Scott's plan is to do the Upper Yough on Sat, camping at Kobaks, Cheat Fest on Sat night and doing the Cheat on Sunday. If there are people interested in doing the Cheat on Sat he is happy to do that also, but last year they ended up doing one day on each. Call Scott in advance so he knows your interest. Scott Debalski.
scd@lubrizol.com.
440-298-1257

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www.cleveland-arc-canoeand-kayak.org for course descriptions and prerequisites, or contact directly the people listed below with your questions.

Sherie Sanzenbacher.
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May 8-9 North Branch of the

Potomac

A good run for intermediates, this river is fairly continuous class II-III whitewater. The North Branch also excels in play opportunities. It consists mostly of waves and ledges, but there are some notable holes.

Ross Brinkerhoff. . .
happy2bboatin@earthlink.net. . . .
440-286-1476

May 15 Slippery Rock
We'll meet at the Rose Point Bridge at 10 AM. Depending on water level, we may paddle all the way to Harris Bridge or split into sub-groups, paddling the upper and lower sections independently. Make sure you email/call in advance to confirm your participation.

Contact: Joe Marks
joemarksz@adelphia.net
216-281-1517 h / 216-281-1517 cell

May 15-16 Cheat Canyon

Come join Jim for a weekend on the Cheat Canyon. The Cheat Canyon is beautiful and remote with no access other than by the river. The trip is through a long canyon with nearly continuous rapids. Most of the rapids are Class III or III+ with a few Class IV thrown in to make it interesting. If you find the Lower Yough easy and boring at moderate water levels, then you are ready for the Cheat Canyon. Camping is available right at the put-in and as a special bonus, you will get to experience one of the worst shuttle roads in WV. In the event of high or low water, we will find something else in the area to run

Jim Hunt jfhunt@BWXT.com
330 335 5203

May 15-16 Cheat Forks

General description of Cheat Forks trips: The forks of the Cheat flow out of the mountains in the Monongahela National Forest south of Parsons, WV. The Jennings section of the Dry Fork is a class III whitewater run with an entire week-

end's worth of play spots. The Laurel Fork run from Route 33 to Jenningsston is 13 miles of continuous class II - III+ rapids with some ledges which are more difficult than that. This part of the Laurel Fork is practically inaccessible other than by boat. The Bemis to new Route 33 section of the Shavers Fork isn't quite so remote as the Laurel Fork, but it is a very nice place to spend a day in a boat. After heavy rainfall in Randolph County, we might find runnable flow in the class III Laneville section of Red Creek or in Gandy Creek above its confluence with the Dry Fork at Job. The steep parts of the Blackwater Fork are for experts only, so you'll have to find someone else to tell you about that. The Little Sandy and Big Sandy are Preston County Cheat tributaries. The Little Sandy and the Big Sandy above Rockville are a nice class III+ run, and sometimes they are available to us after substantial rainfall. All of these rivers deserve recognition as the national treasures, which they are. Come see for yourself, and then help work for Wild and Scenic status designation for them.

The Cheat and Potomac headwaters runs are available during periods of high water in the Cheat watershed. If the Canyon is too high, then flow in some of the forks or similar rivers in the Potomac South Fork watershed just over Spruce Knob to the east might be just right for a day of whitewater excitement. I would like to find several other people who are interested in making some of these runs again this year if flow rates there are favorable. This will require flexible planning and mobilization on what could be fairly short notice in response to rain gauge accumulation and stream gauge flow data.. The Cheat Canyon probably will be the low water alternate destination on

these weekends.

We'll find something this May 15-16 weekend in the Cheat Forks or over the mountains in the Potomac watershed, water flow rates and weather forecasts permitting. The exact plan for this trip will depend on water flow, rain gauge, weather data, and group interests, and therefore the plan might be uncertain until noon on Friday. In case of low water in the mountains, we probably will join Jim Hunt's trip in the Cheat Canyon. Please contact the trip organizer by email with a message subject line which includes the words, "Cheat Forks" early during the week before this trip to have your name added to the correspondence list.

Steve Ingalls sti@cwru.edu.
216 371 8250 (Leave message with daytime phone number)

May 22-23

North Branch of the Potomac

A good run for intermediates, this river is fairly continuous class II - III whitewater. The North Branch also excels in play opportunities. It consists mostly of waves and ledges, but there are some notable holes.

Contact: Mark Cytron
mcytron@cox.net
216-225-5418

May 22 Slippery Rock

Meet 10 AM at Rose Point. Plan to paddle from Rose Point to Eckarts bridge. Call trip organizer to confirm and check on Sunday plans.

Contact: Ann Corey
330-869-6549 amcck@msn.com

May 22-23: ARC Fundamentals, Basic River, Whitewater I & II Instruction weekend

ARC will give fundamentals, basic river, and whitewater I, and whitewater II courses in kayaking and canoeing on this weekend. The likely moving water instruction sites are rivers in southwestern PA

and northeastern WV, water levels permitting. Please see the following URL for course descriptions and prerequisites, or contact directly the people listed below with your questions.

www.cleveland-arc-canoeand-kayak.org

Sherie Sanzenbacher
ssanzenbacher@alltel.net 440-298-1293

Steve Ingalls
sti@cwru.edu
216 371 8250

Pam Oliver
Oliverp@usa.redcross.org
216 431 3322

May 22-23 Middle Yough

Bob plans on paddling both Saturday, 5/22, and Sunday, 5/23. Meet at the Ferncliff parking lot at 10 AM both days. This class II trip is for paddlers in canoes or kayaks. The water will still be cold so dress accordingly. Bring lunch. Please contact the trip organizer if you plan to attend. Please call or e-mail by Thursday night the week of the trip.

Contact: Bob Bair
bairrtbair@aol.com
216-371-6390

May 29-31 Cheat Canyon Memorial Day Weekend

I can't think of a better way to spend this holiday weekend. Can you? Open up the summer season with a couple of runs down the Cheat!

Contact: Ross Brinkerhoff
happy2bboatin@earthlink.net
440-286-1476

June 4, 5 & 7 Upper Yough

There is a scheduled release Fri, Sat & Mon. The trip is for advanced paddlers only. If you are a first timer you will be led down the river one on one. You must call enough in advance to set you up with a competent leader. All paddlers are invited to stay at my cabin which is near the river.

John Kobak

keelhauler@yahoo.com. . . .
440-871-1758 or at Cabin
304-379-4747

June 5-6 Cheat Canyon

If there is water in the Cheat watershed this weekend, Pam will paddle somewhere in that area. If not, then she will probably head to the Lower Yough for an early morning put-in. Call ahead to Pam if you are interested.

Contact: Pam Poljak sumer-sun@apk.net
440-268-9194

June 6 - 20

Western Rivers Trip

Colorado is the target, but trip organizer says he is willing to go wherever there is good water. Possible runs include things like The Numbers, Granite, Clear Creek, and Royal Gorge on the Arkansas; Big South and Narrows on the Poudre; Upper Animas; Stuff around Crested Butte (I'd appreciate help on these from those who have first hand experience); Boulder Creek & South Boulder Creek; Roaring Fork & Crystal; Clear Creek near Golden; and possibly some exploratory runs on the Upper Rio Grande. The trip will begin on the Poudre River near Ft. Collins, Colorado on Sunday at noon and then we hit the Arkansas near Buena Vista. On most days we will paddle 1/2 day leaving time for hiking, biking and sightseeing. Please let trip leaders know of your interest as

far in advance as possible. Group will split up into intermediate and advanced paddlers. Trip participants should look forward to some non-paddling options such as sight-seeing, mountain biking, hiking, bar hopping, hot springs, climbing, etc.

Contacts: Class 3-4: Elliott Drysdale EDrysdale@aol.com
440-708-1208

Class 4-5 : Paul Lang
ptboofhoven@surfree.com
330-896-3468

2004 Club Trip Schedule

Corrections

Bicycle trip in PA will be
August 14-15 (NOT Aug 28-29)

Ohiopyle Falls Race will be the
weekend of September 10-12
(NOT Sept 25)

Gauley Fest will be the weekend
of September 24-26
(NOT Sept 17-19)

Upper Yough race is 7/31 not 9/15
according to Deep Creek Hydro.
<http://www.deepcreekhydro.com/dc>

h/1,3016,CID428077,00.html?1id=
428071

Please make note of these revised
dates.

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2004 Officers

Pres: Elliot Drysdale 440-708-1208
VP: Judi Cleary 440-808-8499
Sec: Karen Daniels 216-292-5618
Tres: Rob Hammond 440-458-5972
Meeting place: Middleburg Hts. Rec. Ctr.
15700 Bagley Rd.

Second Tuesday of 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. Mail or email before the second to 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.

Perception kayak Pirouette S, granite with purple trim,
good condition \$350 call 330.706.9970



Editor KeelHauler Kanews

May 2004

Meg Gabelman

aka mgabelma@hotmail.com

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Norton, Ohio 44203-5403

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Keel-Hauler's KaNews

June 2004

Next newsletter deadline - 6/18 Keep those articles coming – If you don't see your story this month stay tuned it will appear next month. Please remember to send material as text copied into the body of an email (no .doc please) and/or attached .tif or .jpeg images only to the editor - mgabelma@hotmail.com.

Trip Schedule 2004

Date	Trip/Event	State	Rate	Leader	Phone
June					
6/4-5 & 7	Upper Yough	MD	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758
6/5-6	Cheat Canyon	WV	26	Need New Leader Call Pam	440-268-9194
6/6	Lower Yough	PA	23	Sabine Iben	440-543-4969
6/8	Outdoor Meeting at Hinckley Lake Reservation Boathouse, bring your boat anytime after 6pm, meeting at dusk.	OH		Elaine Mravetz	330-239-1725
6/6-20	Western Rivers Trip	CO	25-35	Elliott Drysdale	440-708-1208
	Elliott leads Class3-4 portion, Paul leads Class 4-5			Paul Lang	330-896-3468
6/12-13	Lower Yough – permits	PA	23	Ron Tomallo	440-953-1335
6/12-13	Middle Yough	PA	12	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
6/14 & 16	Fundamentals of Kayaking, Mentor Dept. of Rec. pool 6-9pm	OH		Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
6/15 & 17	Fundamentals of Canoeing at Mentor Lagoons 6-9pm	OH		Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
6/19	Cheat Narrows	WV	18	Joe Marksz	216-281-1517
6/19-20	Upper New	WV	16	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
6/21 & 23	Fundamentals of Kayaking, Mentor Dept. of Rec. pool 6-9pm	OH		Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
6/22	Cuyahoga – Burning River Day	OH	4	Jim Kosicki	216-587-4528
6/22 & 24	Fundamentals of Canoeing at Mentor Lagoons 6-9pm	OH		Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
6/26-27	Rescue Weekend & Rodeo	PA		Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
July					
7/1-5	Shawn & Ted's Excellent Ocoee Adventure	TN	25-28	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
7/2-3	Upper Yough	MD	32	Stu Koster	248-626-5551
7/9-10	Ohio River Way Paddlefest	OH		Katie Miller	
7/10	Valley Falls	WV	23	Need Leader	
7/13	Outdoor Meeting & Cookout at Silver Lake, bring your boat anytime after 6pm, meeting at dusk.	OH		Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
7/13, 15, 20, 21	Fundamentals of Kayaking, Mentor Dept. of Rec. pool 6-9pm	OH		Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
7/17-18	Lower Yough Intro weekend) - permits	PA	23	Fran Hoven	216-961-1553
7/17-18	Middle Yough	PA	12	Karen Daniels	440-458-5972
7/24-25	New River Gorge	WV	27	Need Leader	
7/31	Upper Yough Race - 6 hour release	WV	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758
7/31	Lower Yough	PA	23	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
7/31	Upper New	WV	16	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744

June 8 Meeting at Hinkley Reservation.

The June 8 club meeting will be held at Hinkley Lake. Be sure to bring your boat and paddle around in the Lake. Come anytime around 6pm. The meeting will be held at dusk. Additionally, there will be a Freestyle Canoe Clinic. The first session will begin about 6pm, with a repeat session afterwards as needed. The June FreeStyle Canoe clinic will include a demonstration of the principles and boat physics behind FreeStyle Canoeing, and how to use boat pitch and heel, body mechanics, and efficient paddling strokes and placements to make the canoe perform precisely. Basic maneuvers will also be covered, and paddlers who are interested will have an opportunity to learn a few of the basic compulsory maneuvers used in competitions. You can bring your own solo canoe, or there will be several on hand to try while learning basic FreeStyle skills. Basic FreeStyle canoe skills are practical, make the boat respond to you, and are easily transferred to whitewater canoeing as well as canoe tripping and touring. The Clinic will be taught by Elaine and Bob Mravetz, Keelhauler members and 2003 National Interpretive FreeStyle Canoe Champions in tandem class.

For the meeting we plan to meet at the **Hinkley Lake Boathouse** at the SW side of the lake, off of West Drive. We will meet at the south side of the Boathouse.

Directions to Hinkley Lake coming from the north:

From I77: exit at Miller Road (in Brecksville). Turn left (east) on Miller Rd. to Rt 21 (Brecksville Road). Turn right (south) on Rt. 21 to Rt. 303. Turn right (west) on Rt 303 to State Road. Turn left (south) on State Road. Turn right onto Bellus Road, then turn left on West Drive.

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

From I-27 exit at Hawkins Road and take it west. It will turn into Bellus Road. Turn left on West Drive.

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May 11, 2004 Meeting Minutes

as taken by Karen Daniels

Attendees: 27, one guest

Treasurer Report: \$9088 in the budget

Minutes: It was moved to accept the meeting minutes as printed in the newsletter.

Conservation: Nothing to report.

Library: Nothing to report

Membership: Nothing to report

Program chairperson: This position is open. This only takes about an hour a month so someone please volunteer! Six meetings are scheduled already, the biggest task is reserving the Middleburg Heights recreation center and the UAW hall for the auction.

There will be a freestyle canoe clinic at the June 8 meeting at Hinkley Lake.

Instruction: Red Cross is offering White Water II classes May 22

Safety: Ed passed out copies of a White water roulette article in the LA times. Paddlers tend to be overconfident when it comes to reading rapids, assuming that nothing under the water has changed. We need to count on skills of ourselves and other instead of instinct.

Newsletter: Meg Gabelman will do the June and July issue, we need an editor.

Sea kayaking: Nothing to report

New Business: The Rescue Rodeo will be held June 26 and 27. Sponsors are providing gift certificates and cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. The clinic on Saturday will feature a new station, wilderness first aid. Sign up early, we fill up fast. We need judges for the rodeo – contact Rob Hammond for details.

The Splash Zone in Oberlin is starting kayaking classes.

Old Business: \$2010 in race receipts with \$1537 in expenses and \$473 profit. It was voted and passed to donate \$100 to the Lorain County Metro Parks out of the race receipts. Should there be a women's category for the sea kayaking and should we designate short and long kayaks? E-mail Rob Hammond with comments.

Trip reports: We need a trip leader for Casey Kaskey's New River Gorge trip in July. The Southern Rivers Trip was warm with moderate levels early in the week. The last day was 32 degrees.

The Cheat race was last weekend. There were three teams, two men teams and one team of women. The women won.

The Western Rivers trip is June 6, Elliot is leading.

Motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm

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Forth Annual Rescue Weekend June 26 & 27

By Rob Hammond

Keel Haulers Canoe Club and Three Rivers Paddling Club are again holding the Annual Rescue Weekend at McConnell's Mill State Park on Slippery Rock Creek. As last year, the Swiftwater Rescue Clinic will be on Saturday and the Rescue Rodeo on Sunday. This event is designed for beginning

boaters as well as advanced boaters looking to practice and hone their rescue skills.

The Clinic will start on Saturday at 9:30. There will be 4-5 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. We will be camping at Cheeseman's Breakneck Campground where we will also have a pot luck dinner and campfire Saturday night. Betsy Cheeseman is allowing nonecampers to join us for the dinner. So come for the clinic and stay for dinner, bring your own main course and a covered dish to share.

The rodeo will be bigger than ever this year! This event tests a team's skill at basic rescue techniques with drills like rescuing a swimming boater and all of their gear before they go over 'Brink of Death Falls'. You say that you don't remember a falls on the Slip... don't worry we will make one for the event! The most interesting part of the rodeo is the scenario, where a team comes upon a rescue scene, is given some basic facts, and then they have to affect a rescue in as short of time as possible, as well they are judged on how well they do the rescue. Last year poor ole "Hapless Harry" was pinned in his boat; he was unconscious and in the middle of a raging river! The teams had some good, and some not so good techniques in rescuing Harry, I think everyone realized just how hard a rescue can be, when seconds are ticking away! Now don't worry, this year will have a different Scenario and Team Slacker's clever little rescue technique is not going to work this year! And... I hope to have 2 scenarios this year, just so you don't get too bored!

So what do the winning teams get besides bragging rights? This year we have prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. There are cash, gift certificates and winner t-shirts for each of the team members. Our sponsors so far are: Rocky Mountain Kayak and Riversport School of Paddling. Because the rodeo should attract a lot of boaters from many clubs this year, we have decided to set a

limit to the number of teams. Register early if you want to be sure to get a slot.

Teams can have up to 4 people, and they must have at least one woman, and one open boat. The open boat can be a canoe, or sit-on-top. How about putting together a Boater Chicks Team this year? Get your buds together to compete against other clubs and protect our club's honor! You don't have to be a Hot Shot boater to do well. This event is just plain fun, I guarantee that you will learn something, and the top 3 teams will be rewarded with more than just a handshake from me and a kiss from Karen (guys only)!!

There will be a nominal \$20 per day fee to cover our insurance and expenses, but there are good discounts available for multiple days, registering early and being an American Canoe Club member. All of our instructors, judges and organizers are volunteering their time to help you. There will be some cool new event T-shirts in both woman's and men's styles available (see them online). Order them early if you want to be sure to get your size! The profits from the proceeds of this event will go to river conservation and access groups. So not only will you be learning something, meeting your buds, eating well, having a great time, maybe winning some cool stuff, but you will be helping the rivers

that you love to paddle! Attached is an application that you can mail in, or this year you can apply and pay online! For more information or to apply online go to: <http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/rescue04.htm>

On a less entertaining note; every year someone in our club assists in a significant river rescue. Many times the situations are serious, but are not necessarily life threatening, however, sometimes they are life threatening. Last year Scott Debalski from the Keel Haulers was in the right place at the right time to pull a completely submerged paddler out of an undercut rock on the Upper Yough. Other years there have been other heroes. When a situation comes up, we don't get a chance to pull out our rescue manual, we don't get a "redo" and we don't know ahead of time, who is going to be called upon to make a difference in someone's life. So let's spend a little time, and a little money and be a little better prepared, incase YOU are the one called on!

SeeYa at the weekend, Karen Dearfield email: riverfun911@hotmail.com for TRPC,

and Rob Hammond, email: Rob@SCD-Corp.com or 216 292-5618 for Keel Haulers.

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New Newsletter Editor Sought!

Meg Gabelman has done an excellent job in getting out the monthly Keelhaulers newsletter for almost a year now. But her term expires with the July newsletter, so we will need someone new to take over this responsibility beginning with the August newsletter. Please consider "giving back" to the club by volunteering for this or the other chair positions that are currently vacant (eg. Program chair). Please contact

Judi Cleary,
judicleary@comcast.com
(440-289-5511) for more information, or to volunteer!

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Arizona:

Vacation Without Water

by Karen Daniels

April 2004: Pat Serio (non kayaker, rides bikes, though) and I flew to Arizona and rented a car to drive to the Grapevine Canyon Ranch (about an hour and a half outside Tucson) on Friday evening, arriving about 11:00 pm. To get in the ranch, there is a gate that has to be opened and closed to keep cattle where they belong. There is a gravestone right inside the gate marking the remains of the "last person that left the gate open." Since I could see the toes of his boots sticking out of the ground, I was careful to close the gate! There is also a box on the fence marked "leave your troubles here." I really liked that. After a restful night, we went to the cookhouse for a huge breakfast consisting of any or all of the following: eggs or omelets, bacon or sausage, toast or bread of several varieties, parfait of yogurt and fruit, oatmeal, pancakes, fruit, etc. After pigging out, we went to the barn and outfitted ourselves with cowboy boots and hats and went for an all day horseback ride to visit an abandoned copper mine.

We rode about three hours through beautiful desert mountains. It had rained quite a bit so the wildflowers were in full bloom; I took lots and lots of pictures of flowers I never saw before. We saw a golden eagle, deer, lizards, coyotes, many unidentified birds, and one snake. Just a bull snake, pretty markings and non poisonous. And lots and lots of cows. This is a working ranch, after all. We sat down to a packed box lunch at the copper smelter where the bricks still stand and the

equipment is slowly rusting away. More pictures. My horse, Peanut, watched our every move while we were eating. I am used to dogs giving me the mournful "I am so hungry" look but not a horse! He is a beggar for treats.

We then rode three hours back through hills and valleys and dry washes. The scenery was breathtaking. You can see for ten miles or more, and the mountains are beautiful. It is incredibly quiet, just birds and the breeze and cows mooing. No traffic or power equipment or radios. The silence was deafening. Very peaceful and relaxing. And dry. Canteens of water are carried everywhere in the desert. The air is so dry; it dries out any exposed skin, like hands, face, and lips, very quickly. Chap stick was a necessity. Dinner was a steak fry consisting of steak, twice baked potatoes, beans, bread, vegetables, and blueberry pie for dessert (yum!). We went to bed early, after riding that distance. I never did ask how far it was in miles but it took seven hours.

The next morning, we went for a shorter ride, just three hours. During the ride, I squatted down to take a picture of a flower and sat on a cactus. Everyone heard my yelp! We rode back to the ranch for a cookout consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, pasta salad, cookies, and lots of cold drinks. There were several hopeful dogs underfoot waiting for a dropped crumb. We were told a funny story of the pet cow, Clementine, used to be allowed to wander the yard while people were eating. Eventually, she figured out people were EATING and shoved her head in between two hapless guests, swiping their food and sliming everything with her tongue. Now she is banished to the corral when there is a cookout. There is also a mule that would get in line with the guests, for his turn for a burger.

After lunch, Pat and I thought about a nap but instead decided to drive to Chiricahua (Cheer-i-cow-a) National Park. Well worth the 30+ mile drive. We chose to hike the Echo Canyon trail, a mere 3.5 miles. Piece of cake, right? The scenery was so breathtaking we stopped every other minute to exclaim over it and take pictures, though no pictures could do justice to the incredible rock formations. There are towering rock spires that are several hundred feet high, with huge boulders balanced on small pedestals. It looks like a good breeze would cause a rock the size of a large house to come crashing down. Imagine huge rocks shaped like cigars standing upright? miles of them.

There are rings worn around the rocks ? the geologists do not have a good answer to how this wonder happened but I have never seen anything like it. The trail leads you down into the mouth of the canyon which is an easy walk. We were at 6,870 feet above sea level, so we were out of breath on the climb back out of the canyon to the parking lot. Probably due to the thin air as much as the climb. Pat and I covered the trail, including stopping to take many pictures, in a little over two hours. One of the options the ranch offers is a ride through the Chiricahua National Park on horseback; we were not there on the right date for that. Besides, I really enjoyed the hike! They also offer rides to Cochise's stronghold. Lots of Indian/American history in this area. After hiking, we went back to the ranch for dinner, which the staff kept hot for us as we were late getting back. Dinner consisted of turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes (real), peas, bread, and wonderful cherry cobbler for desert. They fed us well!

There is a sheriff's star for when you pass the lope (slow gallop) test and a plaque if you unintentionally dismount your horse. Both the animals and guests are treated with

loving kindness, making me want to go again ? and soon! There is such a sense of peace and relaxation, no TV or phone (available in the main cabin if you really need them), the rooms hold two beds and a bathroom. There is a huge screened in porch on the cabins, featuring a ping pong table and comfortable chairs.

The temperature was about 65 degrees in the morning, rising to the high eighties during the day. The average rainfall is five inches, so rain was not a concern, though, when rain does come, it can flood an area quickly. Long sleeves and sunscreen are a must, the sun and wind burn exposed skin quickly. At night, stargazing is a given. The stars are so thick in the sky and bright, it almost hurts your eyes to look at them.

It was a wonderful vacation and I would highly recommend Grapevine Canyon Ranch to anyone wanting a truly different, relaxing vacation. There is a pool and hot tub to soak your aches and pains away and a bar in the cookhouse (dining area) for relaxation after dinner. A pool table and library offer another place to sit and relax. People come to the ranch from all over, we shared dining quarters with guests from Germany and England. The ranch motto is "how the west was once" and people come from overseas to get the real American cowboy experience. The atmosphere is relaxing, jeans and tee shirt, no dressing up here. The people that run the ranch were very warm, friendly, and welcoming. They did everything they could to ensure we had a good time. The horses are used to non-riders, or if you know how to ride, you will be given someone a little more spirited. The ranch is geared to riding horses, not much else to do so if you do not like to ride, you would be bored. There are

horseback rides to Cochis's stronghold, caverns to explore, and even overnight camping trips where they take a covered wagon with food and supplies and you sleep under the stars.

Pat and I talked of getting a group together to go as there is a cabin with three bedrooms that sleeps up to 10 people. It was so much fun, I cannot wait to go back!

African Adventure (Part 2)

By Chuck Singer

At this point in the trip, Judi had to return home, but I still had 5 weeks left, so I headed off to Moshi, Tanzania. The trip to Moshi was uneventful except for the horrific bus crash we saw the aftermath of. The bus, identical to the one I was in, went off the road and hit a tree head on. I don't know the extent of the injuries, but it looked bad.

I was grabbed by a local tout as I got off the bus. His name was Job and many people here have Biblical names as it was Christian rather than Muslim area as in Zanzibar. He told me he had a trip up Kili with one 38 year old guy from NYC. I could keep up with him! The expedition started on Sunday and cost \$650. In reality the one American male turned out to be two 27 year old French women teaching in South Africa. Both were very fit and one competed in 100km races. Needless to say, they were always ahead of me.

Mount Kilimanjaro has always been a symbol of Africa since Hemingway and many movies and it's what tourists do on Tanzania's Northern circuit (visit Zanzibar, climb Kili, safari in the Serengeti). I'm not sure why I tried but it seemed like a good challenge. About 60-70% of those trying make it and I was glad to be one of them. Here is an approximate overview of my climb.

Day 1 Walked up 7 hrs
Gained 5200ft elevation

Day 2 Walked up 3 hrs
Gained 2800ft elevation

Day 3 Walked up 7 hrs
Gained 2200ft elevation

Day 4 Walked up 7 hrs
Gained 1700ft elevation

Day 5 Walked up 11 hrs
Gained 4500ft elevation

Day 5 Walked down 4 hrs
Lost 9000ft elevation

Day 6 Walked down 3 hrs
Lost 3500ft elevation

There were about 100 people climbing the Machame trail with 250 porters. The rich people had 3 porters/person and we had 5 for the 3 of us plus one guide. The rich had chairs and tables & personal pit toilets while we sat on rocks and went into the most disgusting toilets I've seen in a while. They were open 3 sided boxes with a 6X8" hole cut in the floor and a lot of people missed! The porters carried everything on their heads as well as a small backpack, for \$25/trip and tips (\$35 for us) \$60 for 6 days. The food was good and sufficient so I was never hungry, just exhausted. Typically we would breakfast at 7:30am and be walking by 8:15. We would eat lunch at Noon or where ever since we were carrying it, then continued to camp that had been set up by the porters. The first three days it rained and spit snow by 1:30pm and got into the 40's at night.

Each day as I crawled into camp, I wasn't sure I could finish the climb but I didn't want to quit. This was physically the hardest thing I have ever tried. Some of the trail was good and some steep and rocky similar to Nankoweep on the GC. Day 4 was a heartbreaker because it was up and down all day and you HATE to give up elevation. Day 5 started at midnight with no sleep as I was nervous and we were camped at 15,295ft. The first part was steep and bad and then it just stayed bad.

The air was crystal clear and the stars were intense. Moshi was a bright blob far below. My steps now were now a slow one at a time with a 12" stride if I was lucky. I looked up occasionally and saw other headlamps far above me high into the Stygian (I always wanted to use that word!) darkness finally merging with the stars. When will it ever end? I had been walking for 5 days now on the fine edge of Pukesville and I was too close to quit but my body was ready to hang it up. At 6:00am, I reached the edge of the summit and watched the sunrise turn Eagle glacier from black to pink to red to blue and then I crept over to the true summit, Uhuru at 7:00am. Many people were still climbing up as I headed down at 7:30am. The trail down was volcanic ash that you walked/skied down but it was exhausting on your quadriceps.

After an hour of that, I was exhausted and thirsty since I had had nothing to eat and only 1 liter of water during the climb and descent. I toppled over to some shade and was eating some snow when group of American MD's came down with extra water and glucose concentrate. That was enough of a jolt to get me the 4 miles back to camp. I drank some water but couldn't eat as I was nauseous. I laid in my tent for two hours and then started wet coughing (AMS pulmonary edema) We then descended from 15,000 to 9000ft and I was better. My quads were so bad I used both hiking sticks as canes down the rocky steps, only falling a few times. The final day was more of the same.

I consequently lost my right big toe nail as I forgot to trim it before the descent and I also acquired a couple of small blisters, but my quads suffered the most. I stayed in Moshi for a few days to recover.

I had taken some of my dog,

Anna's ashes to the top of Kili but when I got there, I decided she didn't want to be any more volcanic ash, so I when I returned to the Serengeti I let her stay there. She will become part of the grass, then a wildebeest, then maybe a lion.

While I recovering from Kili in Moshi, I went out with a local kid to visit a village north of town. It was supposed to be scenic so why not! We took a dalla-dalla which is a minivan that holds more people than a clown car! Once there were 23 people in it and it was CROWDED. As the honored guest, I was allowed to be one of the 4 people in the front seat. We drove for 45 minutes on a good road and then started walking to a nice little waterfall of 50ft or so. Climbing up and down showed me I was not completely healed yet. We then walked to the "cave" which was a hole dug in the ground with a homemade ladder descending. At the bottom you crawled thru 100ft of 4ft diameter tunnel trying not to breathe in the flies or kneel on too many ants.

From there, we ate lunch which was very good but unidentifiable in parts. My favorite was a tennis ball like pastry that contained a whole hard boiled egg.

We then went to his parent's house where I met his Grandmother and sister. I asked why she wasn't in school and was told it was too expensive for them. Well, me and Bill Gates know the value of education so I underwrote the entire cost of her 6th grade tuition (\$3). They wanted to feed me but there wasn't much food there except for bananas. It was a banana plantation. We then went for another hike up a big hill that had a Catholic shrine on the top. It was weird to see the stations of the cross in Swahili.

Returning to Moshi, I had supper at my new favorite place that serves barbequed goat (1# and 2

cokes \$2). This place had 15 cats hanging around waiting for scraps. It also had two bad pool tables and one white face (if there were a mirror handy). But don't knock it if you haven't tried it.

At this point I was feeling cocky again, so I was ready for the bus ride to Uganda through Kenya. It was long, hard, and tiring since the roads were so bad and I couldn't sleep. The worst event that almost broke my spirit happened after crossing the Kenya-Uganda border enroute to Jinja where I was destined. They wouldn't let me off there and insisted I go another 2 hours to Kampala to clear customs, wait there for another 2 hours, then yet another 2 hours back to Jinja!

Jinja was a laid back place and I hooked up with the Nile River Explorers for a raft trip on the White Nile. It's the same Nile that flows thru Egypt but this part had BIG rapids. The flow is dam controlled and was 20,000 cfs and maybe 40 feet/mile gradient. We were in 14 foot self bailers with really heavy paddles. The life jackets and helmets were fine though. They have a standard talk up and safety but they make you swim thru the first rapid and then they flip the boat and have the guests try to get back in. The water is 80F and no crocs at this point. I wondered about all the safety until I saw the first rapid. There were a lot of flips (my raft flipped twice) and I had an almost epic swim as I got eddy-lined for a few seconds. The company does a lot of squat in the bottom of the raft and hold on to the safety line. I don't like doing that but after the first swim, I made sure I could reach the line as the boat went over. There were safety kayaks along as well as an oar rig to fish people out. The rapids were like the Maui wave on the Gauley but bigger and two or three in a row. There were also lots of stopper holes and a few pour-overs. The

last rapid was called "A bad place" and most people walked it. I ran it with three nurses from Indiana and the guide and we made it but just barely. We had stalled out and were drifting back in when I did my best to pull us down river and we got lucky. Think of punching Big Nasty at 5 feet.

The company picked you up at your hotel, fed you breakfast, lunch on the river and a really good supper at their camp. And there was beer or pop on the bus. Camping was free for that day, too. All this for \$85. Back in Jinja, Uganda I caught a plane ride back to Dar. The bus ride was too long and bad. I guess I'm getting soft.

-----*

Trip Descriptions for upcoming club trips

June 4, 5 & 7 Upper Yough

There is a scheduled release Fri, Sat & Mon. The trip is for advanced paddlers only. If you are a first timer you will be led down the river one on one. You must call enough in advance to set you up with a competent leader. All paddlers are invited to stay at my cabin which is near the river. John Kobak
keelhauler@yahoo.com. . . .
440-871-1758 or at Cabin
304-379-4747

June 5-6 Cheat Canyon

If there is water in the Cheat watershed this weekend, Pam will paddle somewhere in that area. If not, then she will probably head to the Lower Yough for an early morning put-in. Call ahead to Pam if you are interested. Contact: Pam Poljak sumersun@apk.net
440-268-9194

June 6 - 20 Western Rivers Trip

Colorado is the target, but trip organizer says he is willing to go wherever there is good water. Possible runs include things like The Numbers, Granite, Clear Creek, and Royal Gorge on the Arkansas; Big South and Narrows on the Poudre; Upper Animas; Stuff around Crested Butte (I'd appreciate help on these from those who have first hand experience); Boulder Creek & South Boulder Creek; Roaring Fork & Crystal; Clear Creek near Golden; and possibly some exploratory runs on the Upper Rio Grande. The trip will begin on the Poudre River near Ft. Collins, Colorado on Sunday at noon and then we hit the Arkansas near Buena Vista. On most days we will paddle 1/2 day leaving time for hiking, biking and sightseeing. Please let trip leaders know of your interest as far in advance as possible. Group will split up into intermediate and advanced paddlers. Trip participants should look forward to some non-paddling options such as sight-seeing, mountain biking, hiking, bar hopping, hot springs, climbing, etc. Contacts: Class 3-4: Elliott Drysdale EDrysdale@aol.com
440-708-1208

Class 4-5 : Paul Lang
ptboofhoven@surf.free.com
330-896-3468

June 12-13 Lower Yough

The first of the traditional summer lower yough trips is approaching. The Club has pre-paid permits for both Saturday and Sunday during this busy time of year. We still must reimburse the club \$2.50 for each day's permit, however it insures we get decent put-on times. There are 10 hard-boat permits with put-on times of 9-10am on both days. Club members should call Ron or Jim ahead to reserve a permit. Plan to meet at the boaters change house at or before 8 AM to give ample time to

shuttle.

Contact: Ron Tomallo at rtomallo@hotmail.com 440-953-1335 or Jim Hunt at jfhunt@BWXT.com (330) 335-5203

June 12-13 Middle Yough

This is the first of the Summer Yough trips. We will run the middle section on both Saturday and possibly again on Sunday for some of the heartier souls. The water stays quite cold in this section of river, so dress appropriately. This is a great section for fine-tuning your boat handling skills as we descend the approximately 9 miles from Confluence to Ohiopyle. Call or email me for details by the Thursday prior to the trip. Contact: Carl Kudrna
carl@ckweston.com
440-835-0222

June 14, 16, 21 & 23 ARC Fundamentals of Kayaking – Mentor Pool

To be held at mentor Department of Recreation from 6-9pm. Contact Steve for more information. Steve Ingalls sti@cwru.edu
216 371 8250 (leave message with daytime phone number)

June 15, 17, 22 & 24 ARC Fundamentals of Canoeing – Mentor Lagoons

To be held at Mentor Department of Recreation from 6-9pm. Contact Steve for more information. Steve Ingalls sti@cwru.edu
216 371 8250 (leave message with daytime phone number)

June 19 Cheat Narrows

This section of the Cheat is fairly tame rating III (or 18 on the KH scale). There are a couple of major rapids but mostly a gently flowing river, and great scenery. Meet at the Quick Serve in Albright at 9am to shuttle to the river. The Quick Serve is on the right hand side of the road on Route 26

heading south from Rt 68 (take the Bruceton Mills exit on Rt 68). If you cross the bridge over the Cheat, you have gone too far. Contact: Joe Marks joe-marksz@adelphia.net 216-281-1517

June 22 Burning River Day

On this day in 1969, the Cuyahoga River did what it could to inflame the nation. Let's do what we can to celebrate! We'll meet at the public parking lot in Peninsula at 5:30 PM. This year's trip includes a scavenger hunt with prizes.

Call to confirm.

Contact: Jim Kosicki
Tat2saint@aol.com
216-244-0201

June 26-27 Rescue Weekend Clinic and Rodeo

Come and join us on Slippery Rock Creek at McConnell's Mills State Park for the annual rescue clinic and rescue rodeo. This weekend is designed for beginning to experienced boaters, with something for everyone to learn or to hone our skills. Saturday will be the rescue clinic; we will practice basic rescue skills on moving water. A potluck dinner will follow the clinic. On Sunday we will set up realistic rescue scenarios where your team will compete against other teams using various rescue skills. The rodeo is a lot of fun, and is great practice. It will also show you how hard a rescue can be, when you are under stress and are thinking on your feet, on how to effectively deploy your rescue team! If you don't want to participate in the rodeo, come and cheer on your friends, or ask how you can volunteer to make our weekend a success. Space is limited so call early for reservations. Contact: Rob Hammond 216-292-5618

July 1-5 Shawn and Ted's Excellent Ocoee Adventure - Day Daze

The plan is to paddle Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Drive back Monday. Contact Shawn for more information and to tell him you are interested.

Contact: Shawn Reese
shawn.reese@interpaynet.com
330-688-4296

July 2-3 Upper Yough

The trip is for advanced paddlers only. If you are a first timer you will be led down the river one on one. You must call enough in advance to set you up with a competent leader.

Contact: Stu Koster
skoster@wowway.com
248-652-3241

July 9-10 Ohio River Way Paddlefest

Friday night is a paddlers party and expo at Four Seasons Mariona 4609 Kellogg Ave, Cincinnati OH. This includes Gear Shop and yard sale, demo boats, wooden canoe and kayak show, safety clinic, silent auction, and vendor display. Saturday is amateur and pro races including a 6-mile float.

See website for more information:
http://www.ohioriverway.org/orw_paddle.htm

2004 Club Trip Schedule Corrections

Bicycle trip in PA will be August 14-15 (NOT Aug 28-29)

Ohiopyle Falls Race will be the weekend of September 10-12 (NOT Sept 25)

Gauley Fest will be the weekend of September 24-26 (NOT Sept 17-19)

Upper Yough race is 7/31 not 9/15 according to Deep Creek Hydro.
<http://www.deepcreekhydro.com/dc/h/1,3016,CID428077,00.html?1id=428071>

Please make note of these revised dates.

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Attention Greenland Paddlers . .

If you are a traditional "Greenland" paddler, or are interested in developing these skills, please take a moment to consider this outstanding event!

3rd Annual Training Camp, August 27 - 29th, on Lower Herring Lake just south of Frankfort, MI.

This unique event is focused exclusively on building and developing skills using the narrow blade traditional "Greenland style" paddle. All instruction is delivered in small groups, providing as much one-on-one attention as possible across all levels, beginner through advanced. Greg Stamer, Greenland champion and Qajaq USA President is our featured instructor, this year joined by the Walden Qajaq Society and Dennis Asmussen. The venue, Camp Lookout, is located on a stunning strip of land bordered by the lovely inland Lower Herring Lake and, to the west, Lake Michigan where sunset gazing and evening bonfires are a regular event. Truly a paddlers event, the camp is reached by kayak as there are no roads or trails for motorized access. Deeply committed to maintaining highly personalized instruction, we limit attendance to the first 50 registrants.

For further details, please visit <http://www.waterholic.net/qajaqtc/> or contact Dave Braun at dave@qajaqusa.org.

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Slippery Rock Rescue Clinic and Rodeo

Application - June 26 & 27 2004

Name: _____
Address: _____

Email: _____
Phone: _____ **Club:** _____
Rodeo Team Name: _____ **Team Members:** _____

Each team member must fill out an application.

Fees

- ☐ Rescue Clinic 6/26/04 \$20
☐ Rescue Rodeo 6/27/04 \$20
☐ Event T-Shirt Men's* \$10
☐ Event T-Shirt Woman's* \$12

Check selections above

Sub Total: _____

Discounts

- ☐ Rodeo & Clinic -\$5
☐ Pre-Registration -\$5
☐ ACA Member ** -\$5

ACA No. _____

Sub Total: _____

Checks payable to Keel Hauler Canoe Club. **Send to:**
 Rob Hammond, 30799 Pinetree Rd. #220, Cleveland, Oh 44124

Total: _____

All profits from this event are donated to river conservation and access groups. So your dollars go to supporting the rivers that you love and boat!

***T-Shirts:** Event T-shirts are available. This year we are going to have a limited number of woman's Ts, they are a fitted shirt with a scoop neck. The shirts are red with a cool new design front and back with 2 colors of ink. Sizes are limited, so if you want a choice, order your shirt early and check off the size and style below.

Men's Medium ☐ Large ☐ Extra Large ☐

Woman's Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐

Discounts are offered if your application and check are postmarked by 6/21/04 (mail to address above) and if you sign up for both the clinic and rodeo.

**** ACA Member:** American Canoe Association members get free ACA insurance coverage, **MUST HAVE ACA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER** to get the discount.

Contact: Rob Hammond, - Rob@SCD-Corp.com (216) 292-5618
 Karen Dearfield - riverfun911@hotmail.com
www.Keelhauler.org

2004 Officers

Pres: Elliot Drysdale 440-708-1208
VP: Judi Cleary 440-808-8499
Sec: Karen Daniels 216-292-5618
Tres: Rob Hammond 440-458-5972
Meeting place: Middleburg Hts. Rec. Ctr.
15700 Bagley Rd.

Second Tuesday of 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. Mail or email before the second to 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.

Perception kayak Pirouette S, granite, great starter boat, good condition \$350 call 330.608.6012, leave message



Editor KeelHauler Kanews

June 2004

Meg Gabelman

aka mgabelma@hotmail.com

2583 16th St., Apt. #2

Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

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Keel-Hauler's KaNews

July 2004

Next newsletter deadline - 7/23 Please remember to send future material to the new editor - Kelly Miller at this e-mail address Peetzaguy@aol.com

Trip Schedule 2004

Date	Trip/Event	State	Rate	Leader	Phone
July					
7/1-5	Shawn & Ted's Excellent Ocoee Adventure	TN	25-28	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
7/2-3	Upper Yough	MD	32	Stu Koster	248-626-5551
7/9-10	Ohio River Way Paddlefest	OH		Katie Miller	
7/10	Valley Falls	WV	23	Need Leader	
7/13	Outdoor Meeting & Cookout at Silver Lake, bring your boat anytime after 6pm, meeting at dusk.	OH		Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
7/13, 15, 20, 21	Fundamentals of Kayaking, Mentor Dept. of Rec. pool 6-9pm	OH		Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
7/17-18	Lower Yough Intro weekend) - permits	PA	23	Fran Hoven	216-961-1553
7/17-18	Middle Yough	PA	12	Karen Daniels	440-458-5972
7/24-25	New River Gorge	WV	27	Cecil Tickamyer	740-593-8453
7/31	Upper Yough Race - 6 hour release	WV	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758
7/31	Lower Yough	PA	23	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
7/31	Upper New	WV	16	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
August					
8/1	Lower Yough	PA	23	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
8/1	Upper New	WV	16	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
8/6-7 & 9	Upper Yough	MD	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758
8/7	Sandusky Bay Sea Kayak	OH		Rich Kish	419-621-7610
8/8	Hike Resthaven Wildlife Area	OH		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
8/10	Outdoor Meeting at Huntington Beach Reservation bring your boat anytime after 6pm, meeting at dusk.	OH		John Garcia	440 -777-6077
8/14-15	Basic River & WW Instruction	PA		Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
8/14-15	Bicycle trip - PA rails to trails	PA		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
8/14-15	New River Gorge	WV	27	Ron Tomallo	440-953-1335
8/20	Lower Yough (Ladies Day)	PA	23	Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
8/21-22	Lower Yough -permits	PA	23	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969
8/21-22	Middle Yough	PA	12	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890

July 13 Outdoor Cookout/Meeting at Silver Lake

The July 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, hot-dogs etc., pop, and table ware. 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/or baked beans

We will serve 7-7:30pm.....

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.

A map can be found at <http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/SilverLake.gif>

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

June 8, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Taken by Judi Cleary

There was a small but energetic group of paddlers that met this night at Hinkley Lake to observe and experience Freestyle Canoe at the hands of Elaine and Bob Mravetz. See more on this later in this newsletter.

The club meeting began near dusk.

Minutes were approved as in the newsletter.

Membership report showed that there are currently 315 members, which John Kobak pointed out is a 10 year low for this time of year.

Judi Cleary announced that a newsletter editor is being sought (see article later in this newsletter on this topic).

Ed Charlton, Safety Chair, gave very useful hints on low blood sugar issues. See his write-up in this newsletter.

Elaine Mravetz announced that a Midwest Freestyle Canoe Symposium will be held on Sept 10-12 this year at Litchfield Lake at Camp Butler/ Manatoc, Peninsula, Ohio. There will be instructional classes at all levels on Saturday and Sunday. Great instruction, food and fun! For registration information contact Elaine or Bob Mravetz at 330-239-1725 or email them at rmravet@uakron.edu

Trip Reports:

Mark and Pam Poljak led a Cheat Canyon trip at about 2.2 feet. They reported that one person was stuck in a pourover and ended up breaking their paddle and swimming. Fortunately a break-down paddle was secured for the remainder of the trip.

John Kobak reported on a few trips he has recently organized on the Upper Yough. He reported taking down several new peo-

ple and he said he couldn't remember any swims on these trips. (We're not sure if that is a comment on the skill level or John's memory skills.)

There was also a report on a great Memorial weekend trip which included the Williams and Cranberry which were both running at excellent levels. The same trip saw the participants paddling the upper Meadow and the Laurel Creek into the Cherry.

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A Very Big Thank You

.... to Elaine and Bob Mravetz for providing the Freestyle Canoe Clinic and demonstration at the June club meeting at Hinkley Lake. Several of us learned how (OK, so we just attempted) to perform the basic moves without tipping the canoe. Amazingly none of us ended up swimming. After a time of experimenting we were all headed for shore, where we were thrilled by live demonstrations of solo and tandem canoe routines by these two National Champions – complete with music!

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The Editor baton is passed

I want to give Meg Gabelman a heartfelt THANK YOU for being our club's newsletter editor over the last year. This is a time consuming task and Meg met all the deadlines even though she had frequent obstacles to overcome. Please consider dropping Meg an email and thank her yourself, mgabelma@hotmail.com

Now for the new, Kelly Miller, our previous proof reader, has agreed to step into the editor role. I look forward to seeing Kelly's creativity in the upcoming year. Please send your future articles to Kelly at this catchy email address:

Peetzaguy@aol.com

The deadline for the August newsletter is July 23. But please feel free to send Kelly any contri-

butions earlier if you have them.

Thank you both!
Judi Cleary

Hypoglycemia in Paddlers

By Ed Charlton, MD
and KH Safety Chair

Diabetes is becoming more and more common. More and more of our paddling partners are diabetic. One of the complications of diabetes is a low blood sugar, also called hypoglycemia. A mild case of hypoglycemia makes the person jittery and uncomfortable. A serious case can result in seizures, coma, and death. Other names for hypoglycemia are insulin shock and insulin coma.

Diabetes results in too little insulin being available in the diabetic's system to move blood sugar, glucose, into the tissues of the body where they're the main source of energy. The medications for diabetes replace or enhance insulin's effect. But, the balance between enough insulin and too much insulin is a fragile one. Things that contribute to an unexpectedly low blood sugar supply include:

- Skipping or delaying a meal
- Not eating enough food
- Unexpected exercise, either intensity or duration

When a person's blood sugar goes lower than is good for them, the body has defenses. One of these is the adrenal glands' release of epinephrine, or adrenaline. It's the fight-or-flight hormone. One of its side effects is an increase in blood sugar. So someone beginning to have low blood sugar gets a wallop of adrenaline released into his

bloodstream. Predictably, the signs of mild hypoglycemia may include:

- Trembling/shivering
- Shaky hands
- Rapid heart beat
- Sweating or clamminess

Other symptoms are:

- Headache
- Hunger
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Fatigue
- Dizziness

If the person's blood sugar continues to fall, the brain begins to shut down. This can result in:

- Belligerence/rage
- Irritability
- Change in personality
- Sleepiness
- Slurred speech
- Lack of coordination

Unstopped, a falling blood sugar will result in coma, seizures, and death.

How is hypoglycemia treated? If the person is fully conscious, use 4 ounces (1/2 cup) of fruit juice or sugared soda. Fine alternatives are twice as much milk, sports drink, or six pieces of hard candy. Don't give food or drink to someone who's not fully conscious, though. They might choke. Instead put some semi-solid sugar between their cheek and gum. A couple of teaspoonfuls of honey, jelly, or cake icing are just right. (Now you know what to do with those little foil packets of honey you get with your biscuit from KFC.) Cake icing is available in little, one-ounce plastic tubes in the baking section of supermarkets. Many diabetics will have an emergency supply of quick-dissolve glucose tablets stored with their blood sugar monitor or with their insulin supplies. Look there!

A couple of tips:

(1) It takes 15 minutes from the time sugar is given until it'll have any effect. Meaning, don't give a diabetic a quart of orange juice every 5 minutes until they feel better.

(2) Straight sugar is better than candy bars or chocolate. Fat mixed with sugar slows down its absorption.

(3) Anybody sick enough to have a change in consciousness or seizure needs medical evaluation immediately. Call for an ambulance/EMS. These days if there's a road nearby, a squad can get there. Even to campgrounds and riverbanks.

Why is this relevant to paddlers? Imagine a couple of dramas-in-real-life. A paddler that you didn't know was diabetic has a swim or two, his lunch washes away, and he skips a meal. Or, maybe the swim is longer or more vigorous than his meal-planning allowed for. Maybe lunch gets delayed an hour or two. Maybe the call to "SHUTTLE IN FIVE MINUTES!" caught him by surprise and he skipped part of his breakfast. Maybe the length of the paddle or the shuttle back to camp took longer than expected. In any one of these ways he or she may get into trouble. If you recognize the real problem and know what to do, you may save him from injury or death. A diabetic is no more responsible for an episode of hypoglycemia than someone is responsible for having a heart attack or an epileptic is responsible for having a seizure. A lot of things can happen. But, by being alert to the possibilities you can make a difference.

In addition to mid-or late afternoon being likely times for hypoglycemia, the middle of the night is also above-average risk. Reasons are the duration of medications and any consumption of alcohol shuts down the liver's

response to low blood sugar for several hours.

To my paddle budz with significant health conditions: tell somebody or wear the info on jewelry.

Take-home messages? If you find someone barely conscious, unconscious, confused, or comatose with a pulse, give him or her sugar. If a diabetic buddy doesn't show up for breakfast or dinner, double-check that he or she isn't lying in a tent in a hypoglycemic coma. If some afternoon a paddle buddy acts like he's lost his mind or goes emotionally ballistic, give him some sugar. Might save a life someday.

Like to know more? Check out bddiabetes.com, emedicine.com, or the diabetes section of about.com.

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Adirondack Creek Week 2004 by Matt Muir

Well, I couldn't convince any of my fellow Keel-haulers to make the trip up North to paddle in the 'Daks...but I was hot for some good-ol' cork-bobbin' action, so I did my best to round up paddlers.

Rounding up was not as easy as I'd have liked. I don't know too many hairboaters, or even whiskerboaters, in this region, so I hooked up with a group from F.L.O.W.-Rochester's Finger Lakes-Ontario Watershed paddling club. A good bunch they are...but the gnar, they don't head for. Their club schedules trips for the Beaver River releases (in Sept.), but only on the tame Taylorsville section-not on the sweet'n'scary Moshier or the sphinterrific Eagle section. They were, however, warm bods to paddle with.

I'd intended to have the "week" begin on Wednesday, April 21,

with the release on the Shaghticoke Gorge of the Hoosic River, near Albany. This first-annual release was a big American Whitewater event. My plan had to change, due to having committed my entire year's worth of vacation days on one mid-summer trip. So I had to wish AW well from afar.

I was very glad to hear that the Hoosic release got 44 paddlers-not bad for a midweek release, and many more than the 25 minimum required to maintain the release. Butt my "week" would begin on Saturday.

Water levels dropping, a bunch of FLOWers that I'd never met congregated at the putin for the Salmon River in Pulaski, NY. This river has releases all summer long, but those releases are in the 700-cfs range. Saturday's 1500 cfs added a bit of punch.

The Salmon's not a bad stream. About two hours from Rochester, give or take, it features plenty of play (at least at 1500 cfs). It's no more difficult than the Slippery Rock, though it's bigger-a fact which was brought home to us when two of the eleven boaters demonstrated that they really didn't have a roll; muscling the boats to shore took some time. It won't be my favorite run, but I can see myself moseying up that way in midsummer when everything else is as dry as a popcorn fart.

I was amused to see that everyone who was playing in the good waves and holes was in a creek boat; all the others had bought their colorful hot playboats for...future skill development, I guess.

We camped Saturday night in Old Forge. This bunch don't go for the Kobak-style \$0.25/night campsite. No, they rented a cabin. It's tough to shoehorn enough bodies into a

cabin to make it worth \$160 bucks per night, in IMHO. But the cookout was great, and the beer went down as easy.

I really wanted to continue hanging with that crowd...butt they were headed for the Middle Moose, which might charitably be rated Class III. A bad Class III, replete with flatwater, scrappy sections...and maybe one rapid. (Maybe I'll check it out when the Moose is running scary high, but not this weekend.) I couldn't even convince anyone to run the Lower (IV). So I headed for Fowlersville on my own.

After half an hour or so of driving around, trying to find someone awake and up for paddling, I found a Gang of Three from New Hampshire and associated parts. The Moose was running 4.2', a hefty butt sane level. This crowd had one Bottom Moose Virgin on hand. Great! I thought. It's always fun to help show the lines to a newbie.

Well..."Toffer" decided to wait at the putin for another of their buds, who was still two hours away. "Bird" and "Tate," with a longer drive, were ready to go right away. So we left Toffer with his book of crossword puzzles. (Listening to his buds, one recognizes that Toffer has two speeds: running hair lines on the Raquette at a floodstage of 3000 cfs, or...sitting in his truck doing the NY Times crossword puzzles. There's just no end to the characters one meets when boating.)

When signing in at the dam, I noticed that I was twice as old as anyone else on the list. Guess I gotta get used to that kinda thang, since Kobak won't be making it up to NY every weekend.

By the time I was dressed and in my boat, Bird and Tate were scouting Fowlersville Falls. It's one of the most intimidating drops around-a 60-foot slide into a big hole. In truth,

it's a one-move pony, hard to mess up. (Take it from someone who's famously found a way to mess it up.)

I hadn't seen the Moose in a couple of years. But how hard could it be? How could it have changed? I decided to forgo that whole scouting game and blew by my new best friends. Way left, down the slide, that rock is pillowed, straighten it out, am I going too far right? No, I'm okay. Into the rooster-tail, big splash of cold water upside the face, and...into the eddy.

Time to wait for Bird and Tate. Bird came first, rolling at the bottom. Where's Tate?

After a few minutes, seventeen-year-old Tate was walking. Well, that's his decision-butt Fowlersville's not the toughest rapid on the river. What's he gonna do at Knife's Edge? Or at Crystal? We were to find out.

We got to Funnel, scouting. Bird ran it first, and he cleaned it like Martha cleans pots in the prison kitchen. I went second, and...not the line I was looking for, but passable. Tate got flipped next to the diamond-splitter rock at the bottom and rolled.

After another mile of flatwater (such is the Bottom Moose: lots of flatwater, then big chesthairy drops), we found ourselves at Knife's Edge. At this level, the "normal" line didn't look appealing. The "normal" line is to skitter along on a two-foot-wide ledge, then drop sideways off it into a maelstrom just upstream of a boulder. Skirt around the boulder, and finish it up. That's the "normal" line; butt at this level, there was enough flow to push you past the boulder on the wrong side. What's Plan B? Well, it could be down the middle-butt that way lies

a pothole that killed a guy in 1987. If it were higher, the pothole would be washed out. But it looked sketchy, so I looked for Plan C.

Plan C involves heading further down that ledge, barking a seven-foot boof at the end. Great line, if you hang it right; big mistake, if you slip off the ledge a couple feet early. That's the line I went for.

Paddle, paddle, head right, on the ledge, stay on the ledge, don't let no flow kick you left, it's starting to kick me left, I hope I'm near enough to the end of the ledge, drop...and Boof! Clean and tasty.

Waiting in the eddy...where are Bird and Tate? Finally...they're both a-walkin'. No shame in walking, but there's an easy sneak on the other side. They knew about it, too. Well...that's okay. Their decision.

Double Drop had a sneer on the right. I saw a line-if I could tweeze between the holes. I steeled myself and went for it, while Bird and Tate headed for the sneak on River Left.

I was where I wanted to be...but the water was faster than I. I got shoved into a pour-over hole. For the ten millionth time, my Phat saved me from myself, and I emerged upright. (Scott Debalski: take note!) Bird managed the sneak. Tate...walked. Tate's head was apparently not in the game today.

Since we were at the bridge, Tate decided to walk out. Bird and I suggested that he paddle the flatwater to Ager's Falls; he could decide to run the Falls there, and/or take out then. He came along.

In a real sense, "now we were two." But Moose Homey Chris Koll's group had overtaken us, so

we had someone else to hang with. (Two of Chris' group ran the right side of Double Drop. Them dudes, who are experts on the Bottom Moose, did better than my line, but they didn't make it look clean, either.) Ager's was easy, as always. But Tate didn't run it, choosing to walk out. He'd only run one rapid! Bird and I headed for Shurform.

Dang. There's a lot of development at Shurform these days. Some suburbanite decided to get away from it all. Bought a parcel in the country, built a house (not at all set back from the river, no sirree), mowed down a bunch of pesky trees, and planted a lawn. Presto! Suburbia in the country!, complete with herbicide and pesticide runoff...and erosion like you wouldn't believe. Where's Hayduke when you need him?

We didn't scout; we figured that watching the entry line of Koll's group was scouting enough. The key to Shurform is in judging when to power over the diagonal wave to catch the thin, twisty current on the left Too early and you might be ricocheted back into the rocky center, living the fast-paced but ultimately unrewarding life of a pinball. Too late, and you might miss your chance to catch the current-and, again, pinball. Both Bird and I timed it fine, riding the fun down the left.

Powerline is a fairly straightforward IV of waves and holes and eddies and stuff. I managed to get back-ended for my first roll of 2004. On to...Crystal!

I'm not embarrassed to admit that I snuck.

See, a week earlier, I'd pitoned hard into a rock on Flint Creek, severely denting the bow of my Phat and badly bruising my left foot. (The boat was fixed with a couple minutes' application of a Heat Gun; the foot would take much longer.) Just below Ager's Falls, I'd pitoned again-not as

hard, but on an already injured foot, the Limp was Back.

So, when it came to the complex mass that is Crystal, I didn't want to risk getting offline and heading down a channel that was known to be full of chair-sized rocks just below the surface. So I snuck. And I took out above Magilla.

Hey, I can run them bay-bees again. After all-they're only three hours and change from home.

That's it for my Keel-haulers Trip of One. See you-all at the Raquette!

The 04 Massacrance

By Robin "Reporter" Wannabee

Dateline April 30, 2004

I am here in Albright WV as we kick off the 2004 Cheat Fest, one of the oldest whitewater festivals in the US. The festival officially runs on Saturday noon until the beer runs out. But things start getting into the spirit Friday evening for the Bridge to Bridge Down River race. The Keel Hauler race organizer this year is Rob Hammond, let's talk to him and get some insight about the race.

Rob: Robin, it is going to be interesting this year, 3 of our top racers are not with us this year. Out with injuries are Ron Whitney and Paul Lang. The biggest disappointment is Matt Muir, seems that the bum wouldn't lie and take a sick day from work. We picked up some new racers. Ron Tomallo is a first timer for the race, but a seasoned and respected racer, we also have Michael Duvall, Chris Kiehl and a relatively new boater, Jason Miller. This year we have an historic event for this race. For the first time ever, we have the Keel Hauler Chicks Team! This is the first all female team for the club and the Cheat race! The team consists of Sue Whitney, Shelly Schmidt and Julie Garcia. The

women are going to race as a group to watch out for each other, and help each other with the race lines.

We will have 3 teams this year, the most of any club! Team I has the venerable Chuck Singer, the guy who has probably made more trips down the river than just about anyone. We will also have Ron Tomallo, Jason Miller and myself. This team could have been a bicentennial team! Yeah the cumulative ages of the racers would have been over 200 years if Jason hadn't dragged the average boater age down! Team II will have Jim Hunt, Cliff Wire, Chris and Michael.

Robin: Sounds like a great lineup. How's the competition look this year?

Rob: As usual our toughest competition is the punks in the Kent State Club. They have a couple of new guys this year, so it is hard to say how they will do. The Three Rivers Paddling Club, are always a worry, we have beat them every year so far, but they could pull their act together this year and squeak out a win!

Robin: I see you brought down several boats this year, what is the story on that?

Rob: I have a collection of older plastic boats that are much faster than the play boats of today. I am lending my Quest to Jason. He has never paddled a boat longer than 8 feet, so he may have some getting used to with a boat that is 13 feet long. I also have a Mirage, and a Pirouette to lend to our team. I would take one of the longer boats, but my shoulder has been giving me trouble so I want to stick with a boat I am comfortable with.

Robin: So what are your goals this year?

Rob: As always, it is to beat the Punks from Kent State! There is nothing finer than for us old farts to beat the young bucks! We came close 2 years ago, but we have never beaten them.

Secondly it is to beat the Three Rivers guys. We have beaten them pretty handily every year, but they have good potential, and this year will not be our strongest team. And Thirdly is for me to finish in the top half of the boaters. It doesn't sound like much, but there are a lot of serious down river racers at this race, and a lot of people who boat this river professionally as river guides. And the rest of the top half of boaters are younger, in faster boats, or just plain better than me!

Robin: So how was the trash talking rivalry this year?

Rob: Well Robin, that is my favorite part of the race! The Keel Hauler message board is usually full of insults from the punks and from TRPC. All trash talk statements on the board have absolutely nothing to do with truth or reality, and the more outrageous the better! But this year it was kind of lame. Since Matt was not racing, I don't think his heart was into the trash, but he did get a few licks in. And David Knox from the punks had some pretty creative stuff. But the punks were definitely off their game this year. Come to find out, they were all suffering from the same thing... employment! They already hold the record for spending the most years in college without earning a degree, but I guess it finally caught up with them and they had to find jobs! And speaking of rivalries, we just had TRPC pull an underhanded trick. Karen Dearfield offered me brownies! Allegedly, they were for my birthday in a few days, but I know the truth! She may be a member of Keel Haulers, but that is in name only, her heart is with the TRPC gang. And she knows I can't eat just one of her brownies, they are way too good! So she figured that I would pig out on them, like I usually do, and just before the big race. Those brownies would lie in the bottom of my stomach like a cement bowling balls, weighing me

down and throwing off my balance. I used all of my meager will power, covered them up and buried them out of sight in my car!

Robin: Let's see if we can find Karen and talk to her about this little subterfuge. Karen, we have reports that you were caught trying to sabotage, the Keel Hauler team with some home baking! This is a pretty serious charge; would you like to give your side of the story?

Karen: You must have been talking to Rob, he is such a whiner, I am going to kick his butt! I hope you didn't fall for all of his excuses for why he can't do well in the race. He has been trying to pedal the "oh my sore shoulder" and "oh my boat is so slow" fairy-tales. But I will give you the truth... he may be able to tell a good story, but as a racer he SUCKS!!!

Robin: Wow, there is no shortage of rivalry there! The race is just about to start, so let's go down to the river and see what's going on.

The river level at the Albright gage is 3 feet, a nice level that is not too pushy, but still challenging. And the temperature is a balmy 75 degrees with a slight overcast. The race committee tells me that there are 101 boats this year for the biggest race ever! There was so many racers, that they ran out of race bibs. Last year's race had 80 boats; and that was a record breaking year as well. All of the boats are waiting behind the broken down bridge for the start signal. They are trying to stay behind the bridge, but the current wants to sweep them down river. If that happens, they will be disqualified. The gaggle of boaters is something to see, boats of every color and type, even a couple of Topo Duos, or 2 person kayaks. I don't think that most of the racers can even hear the start signal above the noise of the rivers and the bumping boats as they jockey for position. There are a bunch of boaters well back

from the lead, not wanting to get run over in the stampede.

And they are OFF!! The boaters in the sleek downriver boats take an early lead followed by about 90 other boats of all kinds in the biggest mass start in all kayak racing! The first rapid is Decision, and the racers break up into 2 lines, the right line is the fastest, but you have to go through the meat of a relatively big rapid. The left line is less challenging but noticeably slower. So I guess the decision to be made here is between speed with risk, or slowness with the certainty that you won't be a swimmer on the very first rapid! Let's head down to the takeout and talk to some of the racers as they come in.

Robin: It looks like we got here just as some of the racers are coming across the finish line! We have a couple of the regulars on the wildwater racing circuit in their fast boats. There is Jess Whittemore at 1 hour 1 minute. Oh dear, this looks like trouble, here comes David Knox from the Kent State team and right behind him is Steve Knechtel from Three Rivers at 1 hour 11 minutes. And here comes another Kent Stater and a TRPC boater, this does not look good for the good guys. Wait, wait, that is Ron Tomallo I see leading the Keel Haulers. And his time is 1 hour 15 minutes. Now I see Chuck Singer at 1 hour 17 minutes. And now comes a mass of boaters, I hope scoring can keep this all straight, cause I have lost track of who is who here. Wow, this is some kind of race! There is free Micro Brew Beer for everyone, Jeff Prycle, owner of Rocky Mountain Kayak, and a main sponsor is filling the cups of all racers. These men and woman, don't look like they are too tired to hoist a few. We won't get the official results until later tonight, but right now, no one seems to care! Let's see how the Keel Hauler teams did. Rob how

did things go out there!

Rob: Robin, it was an awesome race! I got my butt kicked a lot more than I would have liked, but the race was a lot of fun. I really love the mass start! It is pretty crazy at the beginning, and we actually had to hold back on the early rapids because the crowds were too big to fit through some of the narrow lines, but everyone was polite and we did not have too many situations. Well... I take that back, most of the other suckers were polite, I hated to take advantage of them, but what the hell, this is a race!

Robin: Ok I won't get into race etiquette here. Jim Hunt, how was your race, I understand things didn't go so well for you?

Jim: Yeah you could say I had an out of boat experience. It was a nothing rapid, but I guess I zigged when I should have zagged, and the next thing I knew the scenery got a lot wetter! And I have to tell you I don't know what the secret is to rolling these old boats, but they sure don't roll like the ones we paddle today! These boats are great on the flat water, very fast, but I had to slow down in the rapids and take careful lines, because I knew that my chances for rolling this beast were not good!

Rob: And let me interject here, one thing I don't like about the big mass starts, is that you don't have to know the lines. There are enough boaters out there that you can just follow their lines, and the people in front are all taking the best race lines, so most people had pretty good lines even if they didn't know what they were doing. And the thing I like about a big mass start is that there are plenty of people around to gauge how well you do. I was neck and neck with this younger guy (well most all boaters are) he was a faster boater, but he did not have good boat control, so here and there I could make some headway on him

cause I took a slightly more efficient line, but his superior speed would pass me up sooner or later. Then I passed him at Que Ball, he took a sloppy line and got eddied out. I passed him and was feeling pretty smug, that I took care of that whippersnapper for good. I got to High Falls and he was nowhere in sight. I had a good line at the top but, I remembered that the fast line was way right just before you get to the final drop. I wish I could blame that bone headed move on the beer, but I hadn't been to the keg yet. That, dear Robin was a way bad call! I ended up in this huge pool of very slow moving water, while I watched 5 other boaters, including the whippersnapper jet by me, in a fast current. That move had to cost me over 90 seconds! But I learned the fast line at High Falls!

Robin: Jason, how did you do in that big boat you were using?
Jason: I tell you what, I have a lot of respect for the early boaters, I don't know how they got to were they did with those things. First of all there are no edges; I don't know how to boat without using my edges to make my turns! It was half way down the river before I started getting the hang of things, then I was able to kick it into high gear. Next time I race, I am not going to wait until race day to learn how to drive a long boat!

Robin: Ok we are back at Mountain Steams facility. They had a great catered dinner for us by a local restaurant, and there is still plenty of beer. That's a good thing, because, due to a computer failure, they just announced that the race results won't be ready until tomorrow at the Cheat Fest. Fortunately this crowd does not seem to care too much!

Cheatfest: Rob, you look a little down, how were the results? Well Robin, it is a sad day today. It seems we got our collective butts kicked this year. The Punks beat us again this year, but the real tragedy is the TRPC boys, they

took second, leaving us with Third!! This has never been done in the history of the Cheat Race! But the good news is that we did beat the Baltimore, 3 West Virginia teams, and one to two TRPC club teams. Even our Woman's team beat one of the West Virginia teams!

So there you have it, the Good Guys slip to Third place but they still have a lot to be proud of. And who knows, there is always next year!

The 51st Annual 2004 Mug Race

by Bob Halsey

This is my report of our efforts in 40 mile sailing race from Palatka Fla. to Jacksonville Fla. on the St John's River. I have been competing now for about nine years. It is the first Saturday of May and usually fits into our trip North from Naples Fl. to Willoughby, Ohio. This year I got Noble Enge to do it again in his sailing canoe, a Clearwater model and I had my old cedar strip canoe "Sugar". Noble was sailing with his 55 sq. ft. sail by Bremen. I was sailing with my combination ACA sail rigged with the gaff tight to the mast, 44sq ft, and a jib 11sq. ft. by Doyle sail maker. We shuttled our canoes and cars on Friday as we had to start at 7: 30 A.M. Saturday. We stayed in the Holiday Inn Palatka and launched from their frontage on the river. The start is off the hotel about 1/2 mile out in the river. It was at low tide and light SSE wind so we had little trouble getting off the beach. When I first got there Thursday, a strong wind and sea from the East would have made it very difficult. At the start Noble got a better start and stayed ahead. My smaller main sail and the difficulty getting the jib to fill and pull steadily when sailing downwind detracted from my speed. But by the time we got to the power line crossing, about a

mile, I could tell that we had a good chance to finish the race before the cut off time of 8:15 P.M. As we headed up the next leg on a starboard tack it seemed strange, We were alone in the lead, usually by this time the bigger boats could be all around causing wind shadows etc.

The next leg is about 14 miles of generally North direction. The wind gradually built a sea and my work was to balance the canoe and try to keep the jib filled. I had an jib boom and outhaul lines but wind was variable in strength and direction. So I had my hands full trying keep the jib pulling.

As the seas increased from the stern, the canoe wallowed around a lot. I got so exhausted at one point I had to pull into the lee of a point into some bull rushes and rest 15 minutes, eat a granola bar and drink water. The fleet caught up to me at this time. Recovering I took off again. I made pretty good time, considering, passed through the bridge at Green Cove Springs, a little over half way. I was off Noble's house about 3:30 about 10 miles to go. I figured I had it made. Noble was far ahead out of sight since my rest stop. Now the weather changed I could see black clouds and lightning to the north and east that was not too bad as I was heading NNW towards the turn buoy off the west end of the I-295 bridge. But as I was off Julington creek bay the wind shifted to NNE now I had a head wind and storm was closing in. Noble meanwhile had been surprised that he was still all alone in the lead but as the wind shifted he was concentrating on sailing and got turned around. He was sailing the wrong way and as he sensed something was amiss dug out his compass & sure enough he was going south rather than North. He corrected that but several boats had passed him by then. In the storm he did manage to finish the course.

...continued in the next newsletter

Trip Descriptions for upcoming club trips

July 9-10

Ohio River Way Paddlefest

Friday night is a paddlers party and expo at Four Seasons Mariona 4609 Kellogg Ave, Cincinnati OH. This includes Gear Shop and yard sale, demo boats, wooden canoe and kayak show, safety clinic, silent auction, and vendor display. Saturday is amateur and pro races including a 6-mile float.

See website for more information:
http://www.ohioriverway.org/orw_paddle.htm

July 13, 15, 20 & 21

ARC Fundamentals of Kayaking – Mentor Pool

To be held at Mentor Department of Recreation from 6-9pm. Contact Steve for more info.

Steve Ingalls sti@cwru.edu
216 371 8250 (leave message with daytime phone number)

July 17-18 Lower Yough

This is the traditional Intro to the Yough. The Club has pre-paid permits for both Saturday and Sunday during this busy time of year. We still must reimburse the club \$2.50 for each day's permit, however it insures we get decent put-on times. There are 15 hard-boat permits with put-on times of 9-10am on both days. Club members should call Fran ahead to reserve a permit. Plan to meet at the boaters change house at or before 8 AM to give ample time to shuttle.

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

July 24-25

New River Gorge

Classic West Virginia big water run, similar difficulty to Cheat Canyon but less technical & less continuous. Never too low, sometimes too high for me although not often in summer. Lower Gauley

(also similar difficulty) often available in summer & may be an option one day. We'll find something to paddle! I'll camp at Mountain Laurel Campground off US 19 in Fayetteville, many other options in area. Meet at Visitor Center at 9:30 both days. Cecil Tickamy
ctickamy@columbus.rr.com
740-593-8453

July 31

Upper Yough Race & Paddle

The oldest and most prestigious Extreme Race in America has moved to a Saturday! This will be a great day in Friendsville, with a special 6-hour release. So it also makes a great day to paddle and observe the race from your kayak. There will be a party and awards after at the city park. Contact JFeild@MMC2020.Com if you want to compete.

Keelhaulers are invited to stay at Kobak's Cabin.

Contact: John Kobak keelhauler@yahoo.com 440-871-1758 or at Cabin 304-379-4747

July 31 – Aug 1 Lower Yough

The Club has NOT pre-paid for launch permits for this weekend, so plan to contact Shawn Reese and make plans for timing etc.

Contact: Shawn Reese
shawn.reese@interpaynet.com
330-688-4296

Aug 6, 7 & 9 Upper Yough

There is a scheduled release Fri, Sat & Mon. The trip is for advanced paddlers only. If you are a first timer you will be led down the river one on one. You must call enough in advance to set you up with a competent leader. All paddlers are invited to stay at my cabin which is near the river. Monday's trip could be cancelled unless we have at least 3 paddlers.

Contact: John Kobak
keelhauler@yahoo.com
440-871-1758 or at Cabin 304-

379-4747

Aug 8

Sandusky Bay Sea Kayak

This is a joint seakayak trip with the Bradstreet Sea Kayakers Club. It will be about a 9 mile paddle from Sandusky (Battery Park) to Huron (City Beach). The trip starts in Sandusky Bay and goes into Lake Erie for the last two miles. Put-in is at the Sadler Sailing Basin / Sandusky Sailing Club at Battery Park (behind the Sandusky police station). We will meet at the park or at the take-out at Huron City Park (just east of Huron river at the end of Center Street where it meets Lake Erie). A picnic at the park and is planned, whether permitting.

Rich Kish richkish@hotmail.com
419-656-5651

Aug 8

Hike Resthaven Wildlife Area

Resthaven Wildlife Area, OH Walk 6 miles to see wetlands, wildlife, birds, woodlands, etc. This area is near Sandusky, Ohio. Meet at 10:00 AM.

Dennis Plank
dennislakeerie@aol.com 216-939-8229

2004 Club Trip Schedule Corrections

Bicycle trip in PA will be August 14-15 (NOT Aug 28-29)

Ohiopyle Falls Race will be the weekend of September 10-12 (NOT Sept 25)

Gauley Fest will be the weekend of September 24-26 (NOT Sept 17-19)

Upper Yough race is 7/31 not 9/15 according to Deep Creek Hydro.

<http://www.deepcreekhydro.com/dch/1,3016,CID428077,00.html?1id=428071>

Please make note of these revised dates.

or contact Dave Braun at
dave@qajaqusa.org.

-----*

2004 Officers

Pres: Elliot Drysdale 440-708-1208
VP: Judi Cleary 440-808-8499
Sec: Karen Daniels 216-292-5618
Tres: Rob Hammond 440-458-5972
Meeting place: Middleburg Hts. Rec. Ctr.
15700 Bagley Rd.

Second Tuesday of 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

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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. Mail or email before the second to 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.

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Editor KeelHauler Kanews

July 2004

Meg Gabelman

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Keel-Hauler's KaNews August 2004

Date	Trip/Event	State	Rate	Trip Organizer	
August					
8/1	Lower Yough	PA	23	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
8/1	Upper New	WV	16	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
8/6-7	Upper Yough	MD	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758
8/8	Sandusky Bay Sea Kayak	OH		Rich Kish	419-621-7610
8/8	Hike Resthaven Wildlife Area	OH		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
8/10	Outdoor Meeting at Huntington Beach Reservation, bring your boat anytime after 6pm, meeting at dusk.	OH	41	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482
8/14-15	Basic River & WW Instruction	PA		Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
8/14-15	Bicycle trip - PA rails to trails	PA		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
8/14-15	New River Gorge	WV	27	Ron Tomallo	440-953-1335
8/20	Lower Yough (Ladies Day)	PA	23	Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
8/21-22	Lower Yough -permits	PA	23	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969
8/21-22	Middle Yough	PA	12	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890
September					
9/3,4,6	Upper Yough	MD	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482
9/4-6	Raquette/Beaver	NY	27-35	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
9/10-12	Ohiopyle Falls Race & Freestyle Event_	PA		Barry Adams	412-242-4562
9/11-12	Slippery Rock	PA	19	Andy Gross	216-321-9284
9/11-12	Upper Gauley_	WV	33	Ron Whitney	440-946-1213
9/11-12	Lower Gauley	WV	27	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
9/11-12?	Penn Cup Slalom Race? - Little Lehigh	PA	12	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
9/14	Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center	OH	41	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482
9/15	Upper Yough Raft and Kayak Race	MD	32	Precision Rafting	800-477-3723
9/18-19	Upper Gauley	WV	33	Need leader	440-439-6541
9/18-19	Lower Gauley	WV	27	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969

Trip Descriptions:

Aug 6, 7 Upper Yough (MD) 32

There is a scheduled release Fri, Sat & Mon. I cannot be there on Monday. The trip is for advanced paddlers only. If you are a first timer you will be led down the river one on one. You must call enough in advance to set you up with a competent leader. All paddlers are invited to stay at my cabin, which is near the river.

John Kobak keelhauler@yahoo.com . . .
. 440-871-1758 or at Cabin 304-379-4747

Aug 8 Sandusky Bay Sea Kayak (OH)

This is a joint sea kayak trip with the Bradstreet Sea Kayakers Club. It will be about a 9 mile paddle from Sandusky (Battery Park) to Huron (City Beach). The trip starts in Sandusky Bay and goes into Lake Erie for the last two miles. Put-in is at the Sadler Sailing Basin / Sandusky Sailing Club at Battery Park (behind the Sandusky police station). We will meet at the park or at the take-out at Huron City Park (just east of Huron river at the end of Center Street where it meets Lake Erie). A picnic at the park and is planned, whether permitting.

Rich Kish richkish@hotmail.com . . .
419-621-7610 (H), 419-656-5651 (Cell)

Aug 8 Hike Resthaven Wildlife Area (OH)

Resthaven Wildlife Area near Sandusky, Ohio. Walk 6 miles to see wetlands, wildlife, birds, woodlands, etc. Meet at 10:00 AM.

Dennis Plank dennislakeerie@aol.com . . .
. 216-939-8229

Aug 10 Outdoor Meeting at 6pm at Huntington Beach Reservation in Bay Village, OH

Bring your boat. There is a swimming beach. If winds are good, you can surf the Lake Erie waves. There is an opportunity for roll practice. Arrive anytime, the Club meeting is at dusk.

From East: Take I-90 to Columbia Road exit (158). Go North to Lake Road. Turn left on Lake and go West to Huntington Beach Reservation.

From West: Take I-90 to Crocker Road exit (156). Go North to Lake Road. Turn right. Go East to Huntington Beach Reservation

From South: Take I-480 to Clague Road exit. Go North to Lake Road. Turn left. Go West to Huntington Beach.

Use parking lot on the North side of Lake Road. Meet at Picnic Pavilion on East side of park. You can put in watercraft on East side of swimming beach.

Elliott Drysdale EDrysdale@aol.com or
216-496-8482 Cell

Aug 14-15 Basic River & WW Instruction (PA)

Notes: The Whitewater 1 course is designed to teach participants to plan, organize, and conduct a safe day long boating excursion. Participants will learn to maneuver their boats in swift water, and to identify and avoid potential river hazards. Classes are held on class 2 rivers in Pennsylvania. Boating & safety equipment are provided

- The Basic River Course is a prerequisite.
Minors must have signed parental consent and be accompanied at all times during the class.

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

Aug 14-15 Bicycle trip - PA rails to trails

We will meet Sat morning at Canoe Livery near Perryopolis (Just s. of Rt 70 on Rt 51) which is where we will later camp overnight. We will then be shuttled to Ohiopyle where we will have breakfast at Falls Market. Then we will bike to the campground along the Yough rails to trails path, a distance of about 30 miles (think flat). We will stop for side hikes along the way. We will stop for a picnic lunch (bring your own). We will have a cookout and camp overnight at Hazel-bakers (the canoe livery), which is on the shores of the bottom Yough. The next day we will have breakfast, break camp, and bike again. We can decide on the distance (12, 18, 25 miles?) depending on what the group feels like. The 25 mile ride will get us to the outskirts of Pittsburgh. Again we will get a shuttle to where we want to end, so we don't need to go back for our cars. Be sure to contact Trip Organizer by Tuesday, Aug 10 to be included in on the fun!

Judi Cleary at 440-289-5511 cell or
Judicleary@yahoo.com

Aug 14-15 New River Gorge WV 27

The new river gorge has the highest flow of any whitewater river in West Virginia (relative to rainfall). It is a beautiful gorge with plenty of outdoor activities in the area. This trip is appropriate for intermediate to advanced paddlers with a reliable roll. It has a 27 rating on the Keelhaulers scale which is close the Cheat canyon at 3 feet. We plan to boat both Saturday and Sunday. If the Gauley is runnable, we may run that Sunday if the group agrees. Please call ahead for meeting and camping locations.

Ron Tomallo
rtomallo@hotmail.com . . 440-953-1335 home
or 216 692-7232 Work

Aug 20 Lower Yough (Ladies Day) PA 23

All you women paddlers put the kids in daycare and come down to the Yough for a less crowded day on the river.

Sherie Sanzenbacher at
ssanzenbacher@alltel.net or 440-298-1293.

Aug 21-22 Lower Yough PA 23

We have 10 permits for each day for the 9:00 - 10:00 slot. Please plan on meeting at 8:00 AM in the boater's parking lot. If you plan on joining us please contact me early so that I reserve a permit for you.

Terry Markoff
ke_markoff@lqca.org or 440-382-1118 cell.

Aug 21-22 Middle Yough PA 12

Call the Yough trip organizers early if you are interested in paddling this weekend.

Gary Tucker at tuckga@aol.com or
440-357-7890.

Sept 3,4,6 Upper Yough MD 32

The trip is for advanced paddlers only. If you are a first timer you will be led down the river one on one. You must call enough in advance to set you up with a competent leader.

Elliott Drysdale
EDrysdale@aol.com 216-496-8482 Cell.

Sept 4-6 Raquette/Beaver NY 27-35

You wanna paddle four runs in three days? This weekend marks an annual get-together for paddlers in the beautiful Adirondacks. The steep and narrow Beaver River has something for aspiring creekers, as well as Class-V gnar for adrenaline junkies. The [Taylorville Section](#) is III-IV (27) and a good creeking intro; the [Moshier Section](#) is IV-V (32), with some easy waterfalls and one Class-V rapid (which can be portaged); and the [Eagle Section](#) is V (33), one long series of steep, narrow slides. This weekend marks the year's only release on the Moshier Section, the jewel in the Beaver's Triple Crown. Also, for your paddling pleasure, the weekend has two days' releases on the [Stone Valley Section of the Raquette](#) (35). The "Tallulah of the North," the Raquette is solid Class-V stuff...and serious fun for those who are ready for steep gradient with sudden, big drops. Those who simply want to watch the action can take on a scenic and mildly challenging 3-mile hike along the river. Something for everyone! Call (cell: 312-943-5397) for directions and camping info.

Matt Muir at 585-421-9826 or
RivieraRatt@aol.com.

JULY 13th MEETING at SILVER LAKE

Everyone had such a good time evidently at the last meeting socializing, that there never really was an actual meeting! The treasury does have a balance of \$9242.94 as of 7/13/04, and the Rescue Rodeo had \$1080 in receipts with a total of \$312 profit for river conservation and access donations. There was however a Silver Lake Race with congratulations going out to the winners as follows:

1 st place:	Skip Brunner
2 nd place:	Chuck Singer and Shelly Schmidt
3 rd place:	Jim Hunt
4 th place:	Pat Guzowski

ACA MIDWEST FREESTYLE CANOE SYMPOSIUM

September 10-12, 2004

By Elaine Mravetz

Since several people participated in the clinic that we did at the June Keelhauler's meeting, I thought I should put in a reminder of the upcoming event in case they either want to take a class or else just come for the free Saturday evening Interpretive FreeStyle Canoeing Exhibition. We are also sponsoring through the Ohio Penn Division ACA some ACA Instructor Updates and Endorsement courses in case any of the club members who are ACA instructors need an update to recertify or want to pick up an additional endorsement so they can teach additional types of courses.

ACA MIDWEST FREESTYLE CANOE SYMPOSIUM

September 10-12, 2004

Held at Litchfield Lake, Camp Butler / Manatoc Peninsula, Ohio

Instructional classes held at all levels Sat. and Sun. in solo and tandem FreeStyle canoeing, and taught by nationally known instructors.

Interpretive FreeStyle Canoe Exhibition on Saturday, Sept. 11, around 5 p.m. Come and watch nationally ranked competitors perform their routines (similar to long program figure skating)

ACA Instructor Updates offered on both Friday and Saturday, in addition to ACA Endorsement courses offered in Canoe Camping and Rolling

**Great instruction, food, and fun!
Circle your calendars!**

**For registration information, contact:
Elaine and Bob Mravetz
(330) 239-1725, or e-mail at: rmravet@uakron.edu**



**Click on Images for larger view
Pictures are compliments of the Silver Lake Club
President from our last club meeting on 7/13/04.**

The 51st ANNUAL 2004 MUG RACE

by Bob Halsey

Continued from the July edition....

Meanwhile, I made a couple tacks up wind and was crossing tacks with other racers off Mandarin point. I was on port tack as the storm got worse heavy wind, seas, and very heavy rain, thunder and lightning, very poor visibility. I was tired and getting exhausted again, I decided to tack to starboard so I wouldn't be crossing boats I had seen coming up. In the maneuver with canoe wallowing around I lost it and fell in the water on the windward side the canoe was filling with water, I hung onto the rail, the sail still dragging me along. I was unable to get back in even though the sail was holding the boat from rolling to windward I didn't have enough strength to get over the rail. Then a big sail boat hove-to and asked if I was all right. I hollered "NO". Man and wife, Hutch and Meg, He jumped in the water and tied a line to my bow and then Helped me over rail into my boat, boat now full of water we lowered my sails. Meg controlled their boat and made radio call for help. They got bumpers out and got my canoe along side and dragged me over the rail into their boat. Then a big Searay came along and took me off the sailboat, they were anxious to get on with their race. Pete and Phil in the Searay were very solicitous. I had a wet suit on so I wasn't too cold but a jacket to cut off the wind was good. They were part of a Searay group doing rescue work their radio was full rescue talk and in contact with the Rudder club. They decided to take me into the club and another rescue boat would drag my canoe into the Rudder club. It was still storming even with the windshield wipers full on it was hard to see a few hundred feet. When they got in they tied up next to another boat and put me in it. They were helpful with hot drink and blankets. They were more worried than I was about my health. I finally got helped up the dock to the Rudder club office. A Police officer standing by in the office called for the Paramedics who checked me over and decided I was OK for 87 yrs (blood pressure 100 over 60). On the way in, I had seen another motor boat pulling in Noble's canoe, so I was worried about him as I didn't think he had a wet suit. It seems after he passed the finish line and was going under the I-295 bridge a gust of wind turned him over and this motorboat, not an official rescue boat, offered him help. Meanwhile the other rescue boat pulled my boat in and both mine and

Noble's canoe were on land. In the end Noble got 6th place in the race. They had 199 boats of all types and sizes in the race. I think I am getting a little old for this.

AMERICAN WHITEWATER OHIO PYLE OVER the FALLS FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2004

<http://www.fallsrace.com/>

By Barry Adams

This will be the 6th year for this event and this year promises more activities in addition to whitewater paddlers running the Ohiopyle Falls on the Youghiogheny River. Here is a sample of the events we have scheduled:

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 10: Falls will be opened up to practice runs between 3:00pm and 6:00pm assuming with have enough safety.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11 - FALLS RACE AND FREE-STYLE EVENT: Practice Runs begin at 9AM; Competition starts at 12 Noon. -- Whitewater paddlers race over eighteen-foot Ohiopyle Falls. Two competitions: Sprint - approximately 200-yard whitewater course includes, two-foot, four-foot and eighteen-foot drops. Freestyle - low volume kayaks surf the rapid above the eighteen-foot drop in a routine for points and cartwheel, end-over-end, off the edge. Various competition categories. Practice Runs continue after the competition. Awards ceremony held for winners of various categories.

SATURDAY EVENING TOWN PARTY - Begins at dusk/7:00pm -- Falls Under Lights. Lights will highlight the Falls. Very dramatic. Other event features include Film Festival. Music and booths of food. Many other activities in the area.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12: Practice Runs begin at 9AM and continue until 3:00pm. In addition, we will have a silent auction. Boats, bikes, gear, raft trips gear/services from - over the last two years we had contributions from local retailers and Riot, Eskimo, Dagger, Perception, Pyranha, Custom Inflatables, Immersion Research, Lotus Designs, Specialized,

Cannondale, Immersion Research (and Bibs) Ohiopyle Trading Post, Rocky Mountain Kayak, Mountain Surf, American Whitewater, Teva, Extreme Gear, Specialized Bikes etc. Auction winners will be announced on Sunday.

A Fun Loop race will be held on the Lower Yough on Sunday. This would bring in more paddlers who do not want to run the Falls, but would like a fun race on the popular Loop. Race starts around 3:30pm.

For more information, updates and registration see: <http://www.fallsrace.com/> or contact Barry Adams at: Bj2adams@juno.com or 412-242-4562. Volunteers are needed. Discounts for pre-registration and volunteers in addition to t-shirts for volunteers.

Proceeds benefit American Whitewater and the Ohiopyle Stewart Volunteer Fire Co. Cancellation Dates or High Water dates will be October 1-3, 2004.

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2004 SOUTHERN RIVERS TRIP IMAGES

by Michael Duvall

I recently asked John Kobak, who led the Southern Rivers Trip, if anyone was writing a trip report. He said that if he wrote it he would have to report that I swam. To that my reply is "What's new!!" But I must admit that my swim left a lasting image in the mind of everyone who saw it, but I will get to that in good time. There were however some other great images that I can recall. I will try to share these images with everyone as I give the basic day by day description of the trip. We met Friday at Warrior Path State Park to run the Nolichucky. Elliott Drysdale and Rob Hammond rode with John Kobak in the RV. Lee Owens was there with KC, I haven't seen Lee since he dislocated his shoulder on the last Southern trip. Scott and his son Greg were there and Greg was looking to do some big drops. Brad Guess and Sherry came with Brad Guess's car being questionable. Chuck Singer, Judi and Kristin doing kayaking and shredding. Bob Weible came down from Akron. Ed Charlton came along to see if he could handle some new rivers.

The Nolichucky was kind of low, only 1500 cfs, so there was no carnage to report. The low levels meant that "Jaws" was a very friendly surf wave. Everyone did well through "On the Rocks" and the "Quarter Mile." The only negative thing was that the park and play boaters never yielded to the to boaters coming down stream. Dam "Hole hogs!!"

After much discussion, the plan for Saturday was for some people to do the French Broad and some to go directly to the Ocoee for two days. I voted for the French Broad because it was the only other river that had water, even if it was at the minimum level, and besides I had never been there. So our group of Ed, Chuck, Judi, Kristin, Rob and Lee set off for the French Broad. Good thing Chuck led the shuttle because I would have never found it. Here is where I got the first of the memorable image. It was the look on the faces of Sherry and Ed when they ran Kayakers Ledge. I had gotten out with a rope and set safety so I could see just how big their eyes got. There were even a few cameras to record the event. I don't know about Sherry but I know it must have been the biggest drop Ed had run at that time.

Easter Sunday the group reunited at the Ocoee. Of course it is tradition to have a pancake breakfast with Becker's real maple syrup and get on the river before the hordes of rafts. I think everyone ran straight through "Hell Hole" without incident but very few got in line to play there. Even though we were early there must have been 30 park and play boaters there. If you have never been there before, it is worth it to get in line and watch the locals. They were doing cartwheels and loops and making it look easy.

Monday was the Chattooga, section IV, the river made famous by the movie Deliverance. The level was low, only about 1.5 ft but still fun. "Screaming Left Turn" was just a whisper. We wondered what "Woodall Shoals" would be like at this level but the right Sneak line was there but just a little scrapey. "Ravens Rock" is always fun to watch first timers run. The correct line is to drift into the drop very close to the left shore and ride a diagonal wave to the center of the river. Some hit the diagonal wave too hard and punched through and rode over a big rock into the hole at the bottom. Although the drop looks impressive it is easy and everyone did ok. "Seven Foot Falls" is always a hoot. "Aim for the rock on the right" is the basic instruction and as I recall everyone did well. Five falls is always

challenging even at a low level. Ed had decided ahead of time that he would walk around this so he ran "Entrance" then walked to below "Sock-Em-Dog". "Corkscrew" always has my name and this was no exception, I flipped in the middle but hung in and rolled at the bottom. Sherry ran it fine, it was nothing! Everyone ran it just fine and nobody needed the safety rope. The level was so low that when we got to "Crack in the Rock", none of the cracks were runnable so we all walked. We all had to walk "Sock-Em-Dog" also. I think Sherry was the winner in the race across Lake Tugaloo. The take out provided another memorable Image, a '90 Thunderbird was being towed out of the lake. This also provided the quote of the trip, when asked how far the car went into the water an observer answered, "Not too far, I could still see the headlights."

We got some rain so some of the creeks we skipped on way down were now running, but we had already lost a couple of paddlers. Chuck, Judi and Kristin left Sunday afternoon. Lee and KC headed to Florida after the French Broad. And now Brad and Sherry headed back after the Chattooga. The remaining paddlers headed back to the Tellico. When we got to the Tellico I went to the gauge to get a reading, 2.5 which works out to about 500 cfs which is perfect, just enough water but not pushy. This is where I provided an image for everyone. It was just the first or second ledge of the "Ledges" section. My line was not good and I kinda stalled out going over the ledge. Then, after this drop hit some rocks and flipped. I tried a couple of roll attempts but decided to bail. I wasn't sure where I was when I bailed but I was getting worked after my wet exit. Well it seems that I exited just as I was starting over the next 8 foot ledge. Everyone could see the exit perfectly because I was coming out of my boat through the curtain of the waterfall. I have been told it was very picturesque. After that experience I decided not to provide any more lasting images so I walked Baby Falls.

It was at "Baby Falls" that I viewed another image, the facial expressions between Greg Debalski and his father Scott. Greg really wanted to run the falls because running a big drop was the main reason that he came on the trip. However, he saw the concerned look Scott's face so with a sad face of his own he walked "Baby Falls". After Greg did well on "Jared's Knee" I am sure Scott was confident that Greg would have done fine going over the falls, but there is always next year.

Tuesday night we went to the Little River near Gatlinburg in the Smokey Mountains. As we drove along side the river to the National park we could see that the Little was flowing well. We stopped at the "Sinks" to judge how much water was in the river. All I can say is that it looked pretty juicy. Wednesday we awoke to what turned out to be the final image of the trip, 3 inches of snow covering the ground, our cars, and all the gear hanging on the line. Seeing the snow and below freezing temperatures we all forgot about the Little and decided to go home.

These are the Southern Rivers Trip images.

The next newsletter deadline is 8/20/04.

The new newsletter editor is Kelly Miller.

Please send your articles to Kelly at:

peetzaguy@zoominternet.net

Look for the "Tripp" report for the following postcard in the next issue.....





Keel-Hauler's KaNews September 2004

Date	Trip/Event	State	Rate	Trip Organizer	
September					
9/3,4,6	Upper Yough	MD	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482
9/4-6	Raquette/Beaver	NY	27-35	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
9/10-12	Ohiopyle Falls Race and Freestyle Event	PA		www.americanwhitewater.org/~matt/OhiopyleFalls/ or Barry Adams at 412-242-4562	
9/11-12	Slippery Rock	PA	19	need organizer	
9/11-12	Upper Gauley	WV	33	Ron Whitney	440-946-1213
9/10-11	Lower Gauley	WV	27	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
9/11-12?	Penn Cup Slalom Race? - Little Lehigh	PA	12	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
9/14	Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center at 7:30 PM	OH		Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482
9/18-19	Upper New	WV	16	Karen Daniels	440-458-5972
9/18-19	Upper Gauley	WV	33	Paul Lang	330-896-3468
9/18-19	Lower Gauley	WV	27	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969
9/18-19	Penn Cup Slalom Race? - Codorus	PA	12	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
9/18-19	Lower Yough	PA	23	Dave Roush	440-461-6456
9/25-26	Slippery Rock	WV	19	Tim Taubert	440-256-2506
9/24-26	Upper Gauley (AWA Gauley Fest)	WV	33	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
9/25-26	Penn Cup Slalom Race? - Fiddler's Elbow	PA	12	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
October					
10/1-2	Upper Yough	MD	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482
10/2-3	Gauley River	WV	27-33	Bill Miller	440-257-2970
10/2	Cuyahoga River	OH	4	Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
10/9-10	Penn Cup Slalom Race? - Bellefonte Slalom	PA	12	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
10/9-10	Slippery Rock	PA	19	need organizer	
10/9-10	Cheat Canyon	WV	26	Casey Brown	216-533-0895
10/9-10	Upper & Lower Gauley	WV	27-33	John Kobak	440-871-1758
10/12	Election Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center at 7:30 PM	OH		Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482

Your 2005 membership dues are now payable.

Our membership year ends September 30th, so that your 2005 dues are now due. 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. You can pay dues 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. An application will be included in our October newsletter. Your last newsletter will be the December Kanews, please don't make us keep sending out notices, it costs the club time and money. You may pay your dues and register on-line using Paypal or a credit card. Use this link:
<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/Registration.htm>

American Whitewater Discount for club affiliates

All Keelhauler Members can get \$10 off their yearly AW membership dues. Now only \$25. If you would like to join (or renew) your AW membership on-line, you will need the promotion code for Keelhaulers Canoe Club. That code is CL10kcc. When you enter the promotional code in the field provided on the first page of the membership form, the \$10 discount is automatically applied on the payment page. Here's the link for joining on-line:
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/membership/>

Trip Descriptions for upcoming club trips:

Sept 10-12 Ohiopyle Falls Race

Sponsored by American Whitewater, this event has become a much

anticipated opportunity to run the falls at Ohiopyle. See AW website for more information.

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/~matt/OhiopyleFalls/>

Sept 11-12 Slippery Rock

Andy Gross is asking to be relieved of leading the Sep 11 or 12 trip to the Slip as he has to go to Boston. He'd appreciate anyone stepping up to be organizer/coordinator -- who can choose either Sep 11 or 12 per Yearbook. Thanks in advance.

Sept 14 Meeting

"A Video will be shown about a possible Winter trip to Chili and the Futaleufú river "The Greatest Whitewater on Earth" and the Crown Jewel of South American rivers."

Sept 17-19 Upper & Lower Gauley

Upper Contact: Paul Lang
mailto:tim_taubert@adlt.com 330-896-3468. Lower Contact: Terry Markoff.
mailto:tim_taubert@adlt.com
440-543-4969

Sept 18-19 Lower Yough

The club does not purchase launch permits for this trip, so you need to purchase your own or coordinate with Dave. This time of year should be OK to buy on the spot, depending on size of group. Check with Dave for meeting times etc. Contact: Dave Roush droush@comkt.com
440-461-6456

Sept 18 Upper New

Warm water and weather and great meals combine to make this class II - III trip (novice-intermediate) a memorable one. We'll paddle both days and most of us will stay at Mountain Laurel campground. Call me to confirm your participation at least a week ahead of time, as this is a popular one for the club. Contact: Karen Daniels at karenkayaks@yahoo.com or 440-458-5972.

Sept 24-26 Upper & Lower Gauley & Fest

This is the weekend that the AWA provides an opportunity for many white water (and other outdoor) vendors to display their stuff.

There are also booths from various outdoor interests, food booths and an awesome auction. It's a lot of fun, so come along! There are also club river trips this week, so check the trip schedule and join in on the fun.

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/events/info/GHome.phtml>

Contact: Cliff Wire

clfwire@aol.com

Oct 2 Cuyahoga

Paddle 10 miles from Eldon Russell Park to Hiram. This is a woodland stream with a gentle current that goes through wetland areas. The water is good quality for wildlife, bird watching and enjoying nature. Meet at 10:00 AM. Contact: Dennis Plank dennislakeerie@aol.com or 216-939-8229

Oct 8-10 Gauley

The lower river is similar in difficulty to the Cheat at 3 ft. So, if you want to warm up before attempting the full fury of the upper canyon, come along on Saturday. Tentative schedule is to run the Upper on Friday & Sunday and Lower on Saturday, some may run lower on Sunday as well. Advanced paddlers only for the Upper, call before coming. We will camp at Battle Run Campground.

John Kobak

<mailto:richkish@hotmail.com> 440-871-1758

August Meeting Minutes

By Judi Cleary

The August 10th Keelhauler meeting was held at Huntington Beach. It was a lovely night and a few people brought kayaks and paddle in the waters of Lake Erie.

Business Meeting: Approximately 11 members were in attendance and a family of three joined the group to see what our club was all about.

There were no minutes from last week's meeting. The treasurer reported a balance of \$8,766.31.

Conservation: There was a discussion of linking to conservation group from the web site.

Library: Books were donated to the library last meeting by Chuck Singer and John Kobak.

Membership: John Kobak signed up 12 new members last month, mostly on the Upper Yough. He is a smooth talkin' man.

Program Chair: A plea was made for a new chair person. Please give careful consideration to helping your club by volunteering for this key position. It does not take a lot of time.

Safety: Ed Charlton demonstrated treating a hypothermia victim with 2 large garbage bags, an idea that was borrowed from the caving community. It was also mentioned that Mountain Surf sells whistles (which can be carried on the river to raise attention in emergency situations) for about \$2.50 - a great deal.

New Business:

Andy Gross suggests posting as in newsletter to fill program chairs and any other open club positions. He also recommended reducing the number of meetings each year by skipping one or two months over the winter when travel to meetings can be difficult.

Trip reports:

Andy Gross reported on a recent Slippery Rock trip. He said it was a beautiful day with no swims.

Elliott Drysdale said the Western Rivers trip in June had 9 participants. This small number was

because people believed the water levels would be low - but they were not. There were more people with Paul paddling the more difficult runs. Rivers included the Poudre (2.7' to 4'), the Roaring Fork (900cfs - Paul's group ran it at 1500cfs). And 2200cfs was what the Arkansas was running.

It was reported that a contract was awarded for a white water course at Deep Creek lake (Whisp) for training and races. Groundbreaking has occurred.

John Kobak reported that there were 27 people from the Keelhaulers on Upper Yough Race weekend (only Ron Whitney actually raced). BTW, John had a rip roaring party at his cabin that weekend. John also reported that there were 22 people on his trip on the Upper Yough this past weekend.

Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact By Meg Gabelman

Because of concerns of harmful exports, diversions, overuse and mismanagement of water from the Great Lakes Basin, the Charter Annex Agreement (Annex 2001) was born. This group of the region's Governors and Premiers set up precedents from an environmentally protective standpoint for the management of Great Lakes water. On July 19, 2004 a draft of the legally binding agreement, the Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact, was released for public comment until October 18, 2004. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Public meeting for the Cleveland/Akron Area is on Tues. Sept. 21 at the Brecksville Community Center, One Community Drive, Brecksville, 2:00-4:00 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Show your support! For more information on the

agreements:

www.speakongreatlakes.org.

The Adams-Stazi Tour: Grand Canyon 2004 by Matt Muir

Caste of Characters

Name	Nickname
Barry Adams	AdamStazi
Erin Bethea	Menu Tsarina
Catherine Curley	Rafter Cat
Scott Debalski	Sitting Bull
Jen Franco	Photo Op
Jen Huebschman	867-5309
Kurt Huebschman	Moonie Boy
Steve Ingalls	Guru
Anne Kmieck	(none?)
Jeff Knechtel	Hula Boy
Terry Markoff	Good Morning, Sunshine
Cindy McCormick	(none?)
Gary McCormick	Dinner Cleanup
Matt Muir	Carp Boy
Mark Pavkovich	Winkie
Craig Wassinger	Thong Boy
Chrissy Zeltner	Mile Markers
Little Ratt Dude	Squeaky

For me, it began in February of this year. For others, the onset was earlier or later. For Barry Adams, it began, oh, about 13 years ago when he paid his initial fee and got himself on the Private Boater Waiting List.

In case you don't know, the Private Boater Waiting List is a sore point with many whitewater paddlers. You spend your \$100 and get assigned a number, somewhere in the thousands, which drops by 300-400 with each passing year as boaters use their place in line. When your number approaches zero, you're near the front of the line and you get to run your own Grand Canyon Tripp. Barry's initial number must have been 5000 or so. These days, the list is 26 years long...and the National Park is no longer accepting new applications.

In contrast to the Private Boaters' situation, commercial interests have plenty of choices. If you want to run the Canyon next year, all you have to do is plunk down \$4000 of your hardy-earned dollars and sign on with a commercial Tripp. It'll be shorter than the 18-day private Tripp, butt you'll be there.

Why, you might ask, is the system stacked so badly against private boaters? Part of the answer lies in the last name of one of the largest commercial outfitters: Hatch. Ted Hatch, who

inherited the biz from his daddy, is the first cousin of powerful Utah senator Orrin Hatch. Hmmm...

Think of it: 26 years. Think of the time when Barry entered the Waiting List: before the *first* Iraq war, before you'd heard of Bill Clinton, Condoleeza Rice, or Lance Armstrong, when the Dancer was *the* hot new playboat.

Think of what kayaks might look like in 26 years. Think how *old* you'll be. It's a real problem; you can help by joining and supporting the [Grand Canyon Private Boaters' Association](#) (and, of course, [American Whitewater](#)).

Rick Gusic was generous enough (or enough of a vulture) to lend Barry a video camera for the trip. Barry secured spare tapes and batteries so that we'd have plenty of footage at critical moments. We had to be very careful with the vidcam; stored in the rafts during the day, it would reach high temperatures, so it usually rode in a kayak, typically between the paddler's legs.

An aside: my "water-resistant" Pentax 105WR turned out not to be so waterproof. A previous model had endured five years of Class V trashings before wearing out. But it had never endured a multi-day desert trip; the omnipresent Canyon sand did a number on the new camera's gaskets. After about Day 3, I had to treat it as carefully as one would treat any camera. (It has since been cleaned with compressed air and gentle application of isopropyl alcohol. Following the treatment, it passed 30-Minute Static Water Immersion, Test # MCM-1-1.)

English	AdamStazi
Paria River	Preeva
Nautiloid (fossils)	Nantaloids
Anasazi	Anastazi
Matkatamiba(Creek)	Matkanaweeba, Matkamaweeba
Elves' Chasm	Elvis

A trip report of an 18-day event would take up this whole newsletter and bore everyone who wasn't there (and many of those who *were*), so why don't we just roll the highlight film?

Day 1, putin at Lee's Ferry. Everyone's excited and full of anticipation. Anne gets onto the water and sees someone flailing with ineffective rolling attempts. Helpful soul that she is, she hastens over to the pathetic soul and gives him a bow rescue. When he comes up, he turns out to be an embarrassed Matt Muir.

That's right. I've prided myself on having a bombproof roll...but lack of rolling practice has had its effect. Many times in the trip, my roll was shaky or non-existent. When they weren't busy laffing, many members of the group offered constructive suggestions and, when needed, more bow rescues. In big water like the Grand Canyon, with big, unpredictable waves at rapids like Hermit and...Laval, this whole roll thing was something of a concern.

Day 9, Granite / Hermit / Crystal: Granite is a funny rapid. Like many rapids in the Canyon, it's substantially more difficult for rafts than for kayaks. One must avoid holes in the middle and funky reflection waves off the canyon wall, river right. Terry had flipped his raft there in 2001, and righting the raft had taken several strong men a solid hour. He was nervous, but his line was fine. Anne, who'd swum there during a previous trip, flipped and rolled up with a big smile on her face. Fearing the Flip of Death, I braced like a madman in one of the holes toward the end of the rapid.

At Hermit, I decided to run the Meat. It's got the biggest waves in the Canyon, but we were there for some fun, right? Well, about the second or third wave broke over me and backended me quicker than you can say "Where's your roll *now*, Buttmunch?" Time to carp or cut bait, I guess. First roll attempt: carping for air. Second: carp. Third: roll...and slammed upside-down again by another breaking wave. Carp, carp once more, carp...and a roll, and into the eddy, gasping for breath. I hear that the whole sequence won't be on the video, because: a) a following boater purloined the spotlight (her swim trumped my rolling attempts), and 2) most of the carps would've been too far downstream to make for good video anyway.

Crystal is another of those rapids that give rafters the willies. Floods in the 1960's and in 1983 turned a benign rapid into one of the most contentious events in the Canyon. It's got a hole that can easily flip a raft; avoiding it requires strong pulling against the current into the shallows on River Right. All our rafters, including the Colorado couple Mark and Chris, ran it cleanly on the right. Many of the kayakers followed that prudent path; Barry, Jeff, Craig,

Scott and I chose to run the Meat, tweezing a green line between two holes / breaking waves.

Barry's line was most interesting. He got backended by an approach wave, rolled up immediately, and cleaned the tweeze between the two waves. (Unfort, that reportedly didn't make it to video.) Jeff and Craig tried to play in one of the holes, accomplishing a solid 1.5 seconds of surf time.

At the lunch stop below, Colorado Mark shared shots of whiskey with us, calling them "ABC Shots," which stood for "Alive Below Crystal." For rafters, at least, this rapid is a big deal.

Day 5, Nankoweap. This hiking trail is a must-see, a steep, hot desert trail to see the graneries where Anasazi Indians stored their food many centuries ago. It also sports some of the best canyon views among the reasonably accessible trails. But when people tell you that the majority of accidents in the Grand Canyon happen on hikes—not on the water—they aren't kidding.

Cindy and I were bringing up the rear, focusing on taking photos, as we neared the top. Suddenly we heard a scream.

We turned, to see the very scary sight of a human plummeting down a sheer cliff. He hit a jutting point and bounced off like a rag doll. Cindy and I raced down the mountain, seeking help, while those who were up there attended to the victim.

There were two groups at the Graneries when the accident took place. Jeff and Craig were on the scene immediately. The man, who'd fallen about forty feet, had serious injuries: two broken wrists, a badly injured leg, a concussion, and possibly a damaged vertebra. With committed, confident people (including EMT's and Dr. Catherine Curley), the Adams group was instrumental in a rescue operation that was careful, fast and effective. The commercial group that the injured man was associated with got a backboard up to the site quickly, and soon a dozen people were in a coordinated effort to get him down the mountain. Our satellite phone was put to use immediately, calling for an evac. Though Canyon visitors are warned that helicopter evacuations are frequently delayed until the following morning, the copter arrived within a couple of hours,

and the injured party was airlifted out within three or four hours of the accident. That was a remarkable rescue effort. At dinner, Barry told the group that he was proud.

This incident really brought home to us how dangerous the hiking can be. It's tough to know exactly what did happen, but apparently the guy stepped off the narrow path for a moment to allow his 14-year-old daughter to pass. One misstep, and the consequences were dire. From that point on, we really thought about the care we took while pursuing the many mountain-goat paths.

Day 15, Lava: This is the meatiest rapid on the Canyon. It's the one everyone talks about, in many ways the climax of the trip. All of us virgins quivered with anticipation.

We paddled about twenty miles to the lunch stop. Barry led us to believe that Lava would be four or six miles away. In fact, it was only two miles away; with the swift current, that was right around the corner! He didn't want our palpable nervousness to interfere with our digestion. Two miles, four, or ten miles away—it really didn't matter. Lunch was very subdued. (For my part, I'm sure I'd have been my usual boastful self, *if* I'd been confident of my roll.)

Soon we came upon Vulcan's Anvil, harbinger of Lava only a mile away. We all touched the huge volcanic rock for good luck and headed down to our doom.

It didn't look that big from the trail overlook. By this time, we knew that nothing in the Canyon looks as big as it is—especially Lava, which is scouted from a great distance. We knew that we'd have to avoid the raft-swallerin pour-over hole in the middle of the river. The sensible line looked to be right of the hole; get as close as you can, and then motor for the left. The problem is discerning the line from water level, where there are few visual clues.

Some folks scout for a few minutes, studying and analyzing. Some scout for half an hour, trying to screw up their courage but getting more nervous as they stand. I count myself among those who take a look or two and want to run the rapid as soon as they see a line. Here, I couldn't stand waiting any longer. Scott and I decided to be on the left edge of the "bubble line" which designated some

slow water on River Right, and then to crank for the left. We headed for our boats.

When we were launched, Scott went first. Still feeling shaky about my roll, I followed.

"What's this?" I wondered. Scott was at least a boat-length right of where we'd agreed was the prudent spot. I didn't yell; he wouldn't likely hear me, and even if he did hear, the unsolicited advice might only confuse him. I abandoned the plan of Following Scott in favor of the New Tactic: Save Yourself!

I begin to head left. As I crest, I see the bottom of Scott's boat. Can't think about that now. Get left. In some big waves. Scott tries to roll; carp. Big wave slows me down; brace. Scott's still upside-down. Huuuge wave tries to break over me. It stops me dead, mid-river. The old, bombproof Matt probably wouldn't worry about it too much and would probably be flipped. The current, panic-stricken Matt braces for Dear Life. The wave surfs me twenty feet over to a weak point and I continue downstream. Scott carps again and then tells himself to get a grip and keep his head down. He rolls and we both catch the river-left eddy. Scott heaves some breath into his depleted lungs and we both attain back up the eddy to help out—if anyone needs it.

Scott had run The Meat. I'd run more of The Meat than I'd intended. I'm not certain that there's a truly vegetarian line in that rapid.

Seeing our shining example—of how *easy* it is to get toilet-bowled in that-ol' rapid—Gary, Cindy, and Anne chose the "Vegan Line:" walking the dog on River Left. That's a horrendous trail, but help from some kayakers made it bearable.

Next came Jen, Kurt, Erin, and Chrissy. Jen and Chrissy rolled, if I recall correctly. Kurt had pretty much the ideal line, making it look easy. Erin, who'd walked it when she'd run the Canyon in '03, had a good line, requiring a brace on at least one substantial wave before making it over to the easier stuff in the

middle. Barry also made it look easy, as he had in '93. All the rafters also did fine in the rapid.

Craig and Jeff went for the "Raw Red Meat" line, tearing flesh from bones with their bare teeth. I'm not sure about Craig's experience, but I do know that most of Jeff's major-league trashing took place behind a rock, out of the reach of the video camera. The carnage that the video *was* witness to was *trés* impressive. "I took one for the Team," he explained, picking kernels of million-year-old basalt out of his chin.

The Canyon is a unique, total experience. Cell phones, gas prices, email, and the latest spin from soulless political hacks in Washington do not intrude on your life for 18 blissful weeks. This was brought home to me on the night following Day 18:

I woke up and was aware of a weird red light. "What's this?" I wondered. "Who has a red headlamp, and why's s/he up at this hour?" "Who's camping near me?" my mind groped in the dark.

After some foggy mind-groping, I realized that I was in a hotel room; nobody was camping; there were no headlamps; and the red light was from one of the omnipresent digital clocks. (Erin told me that she had a similar experience.) The following night, I was similarly disoriented in my bedroom at home. Alas, the night-time disorientation soon subsided and I re-integrated into the modern world. Kerry had chosen Edwards and Marlon Brando had kicked the bucket, and J Lo was thinking about marrying Ben Affleck or somebody. Sigh...

The photos for this trip are posted at www.americanwhitewater.org/~matt/AdamStazi/. American Whitewater is graciously allowing me to post lots of photos on its site. Check back occasionally, as the volume and arrangement of photos will change as I get more developed.

'Scuse me; I have an appointment with the Erie Canal for some rolling practice.