



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS OCTOBER, 2007



**Next Club Meeting is Tuesday, October
9th at 7:30 PM,
at the Middleburg Hts Community Center
16000 East Bagley Road**

[Map to Meeting](#)

**Annual Election Meeting plus Program:
Visit Glacier Bay, Alaska**

**Come experience Glacier Bay, Alaska, by
sea kayak through slides and narrative by
Judi Cleary. Trip taken in the summer of
2006. Humpback whales, glaciers, and
spectacular scenery abound in the land of
20 foot tides. Trip was based on the book
"The Only Kayak" by Kim Heacox.**

**All meetings are open to guests.
Invite a prospective member!**

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes, September 11th, 2007 Submitted by Andy Gross

At about 6.15 pm there was an informal meeting of Board members present: Ed Charlton, Judi Cleary, Ed Drysdale, Andy Gross, Rob Hammond, and John Kobak. Later in this session, Messrs. Pat Guzowski, Jim Hunt, and Chuck Singer were invited to participate. Informal discussion ensued with a lively give & take. Topics included: number or frequency of club meetings (should there be 11 as of now or fewer), possible locations, programming, people serving as Board members and/or offices, attendance, etc. No formal motions were made and no decision was taken. Board members and Officers welcome and

indeed solicit feedback from members, encourage attendance and volunteering for administrative positions!

Some of those present advocated fewer (possibly as few as 7 meetings, say in even months plus July), others did not. Programming was seen as a key to both the frequency of meetings and to attendance. Some suggested sharing of jobs that is offices. Some suggested Club meetings in winter after roll sessions at pools, possibly one on East side (after Orange) and one on west side (after Lakewood).

At 7.15 pm, meeting was called to order by Pres. Ed Charlton. First, new members were introduced: Vic Case from Akron, Todd and Charlie Clark, Art C (K?) and Dennis G ...most of them interested in recreational kayaking or canoeing but also in Class I and II rivers down the road. All were welcome. Trish Voss is our coordinator for flat water paddling-- please note her announcements & postings.

The Treasurer, Rob Hammond reported a balance of \$3,929 in our checking account and \$6.040 in a combination of savings accounts and CDs. Membership Chair, John Kobak reported a roster of about 300 members. He reminds everyone that our dues are due ("do the dew") now in Sep.-Oct., not at the end of the year; pay up \$20 via check or Paypal (see note in last newsletter!). John K, also our Webmaster, reported that the website is working well. From time to time there is a bit of a problem with the website and specifically the message board. This

is not the fault of the provider, but is due to robotic attacks in and out of USA. Safety Guru, Chuck Singer, suggested we do not paddle alone and find fellow paddlers even on mild rivers or lakes. He also reminded us that familiar rivers change configurations depending on level. Others cited obstacles or barriers on rivers that pop up unexpectedly. Carrying first aid kits and a rope is always a good idea. See American Whitewater website/journal for further safety issues.

Trip reports were made by Jim Hunt re the Gauley. A significant number (10+) of folks showed up at the 1st release for both the Upper and Lower Gauley and a good time was had by all. The level was said to be around 3000 cfs. Andy Gross thanked again all those who guided him on the Lower Yough in late July and Dan Wolcott for carpooling. He reported on two other nice trips lately to the Vermillion (with Eric Anderson, Bill Heuser, Frank Webber, Don White) and to the lower part of the Slip (with Sue and Bill Keane, Joe & Amanda, Frank W, and Tim H of TRPC). And thanks Frank for carpooling. Lots of fun on both trips!

There was no old business. Under new business, the topic of leadership and the taking on of Officer and/or Board positions was brought up. We would welcome volunteers. We especially are in need of a Yearbook editor later this fall, who has skills with 'Pagemaker' software; Judi Cleary cannot take on this job this year. We also welcome those who wish to submit and assist with photos. Much of the work can be done on-line or electronically, but the final version should be on a CD.

The meeting was then adjourned for a program arranged by Joe Marksz. It consisted of an excellent demonstration of basic Yoga moves and movements by Ms. Antoinette Primoic of Brecksville, Ohio. She conducted the exercise for about 30 minutes for the benefit of about 20 club members of all ages. A great time was had by all. President Charlton and all others thanked her.

Replacement Newsletter Mailer Sought

Wanted: A Keelhauler member willing to mail out the newsletter once a month. Minimal time required to complete task (about 20-30 minutes a month). However timeliness of mailings is important as the newsletters need to be mailed around the 2nd to the 5th each month in order to be recieved in time for the monthly meeting. Current mailer will provide on-the-job training and lots of words of support and appreciation! PLEASE consider donating this very minimal amount of time to support the club. If interested, please contact Judi Cleary.

It's that time again.....

All club memberships expire on October 1st. As soon as you can, mail a \$20 check for your 2008 membership dues.

To: Keel Haulers Canoe Club

1649 Allen Dr

Westlake, OH 44145-2506

Or, pay \$21 on-line using Paypal. Use this link and click on the Paypal Logo -

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/khcapp.htm>. Or, just

use your Paypal account and send your dues payment to dues@keelhauler.org. Review your on-line membership listing, using this link:

<http://keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook7.pdf>

User Name: "dir" and the current password.

You do not have to fill out an application or waiver form, you only need to send me any changes to your membership record.

Please encourage any of your non-member paddling friends to join/rejoin the club. Our total membership has been decreasing in the last few years. The club offers a lot to paddlers of all skill levels at less then the price of a tank of gas to go paddling.

John Kobak

Keel Haulers Canoe Club

<http://www.keelhauler.org>

Oct.			Time to Pay Dues	
10/5, 6	Upper Yough - Last Saturday Release	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
10/6, 7	Upper & Lower Gauley	27-33	Bill Miller	440-257-2970
10/9	Club Annual Election of Officers at Middleburg Hts		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
10/13, 14	PENN CUP Bellefonte Slalom race		Igor Birbrayer	440-479-5636
10/13, 14	Gauley River	27-33	Needs organizer	
10/12-14	Moose River Fest	27-30	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
10/13	Slippery Rock	13-19	Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
10/13, 14	Lower Yough	23	Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
10/13, 14	Middle Yough	12	Brian Thies	440-331-4216
10/14	Bike East Harbor State Park and Marblehead Lighthouse		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
10/27,28	Russell Fork	26	Cecil Tickamyre	740-593-8453
10/27,28	Cheat Canyon or Lower Big Sandy	26/31	Jim Steppenbacher	440-655-4052
10/28	Slippery Rock	13-19	Brett Mancino	216-570-7382
Nov.			Pay Dues	
11/3, 4	Oil City State Park Backpack Trip		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
11/3	Slippery Rock	13-19	Tim Taubert	440-256-2506
11/11	Slippery Rock	13-19	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
11/10, 17, 24	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
11/13	Club Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
11/18	Slippery Rock	13-19	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
11/24	Slippery Rock	13-19	Brett Mancino	216-570-7382
Dec.			Last Chance to Pay Dues	
12/1	Slippery Rock	13-19	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
12/1, 15	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
12/8, 15	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
12/11	Club Holiday Party at Middleburg Hts Comm. Center		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489

2007 Officers

President: Ed Charlton 440-716-5489
VP: Mary Modesitt 216-581-4111
Secretary: Andy Gross 216-321-9284
Treasurer: Rob Hammond 216-292-5618

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, on the second Tuesday of each month.
Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts 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

Wanted: Don and Helen Skelton are looking for a canoe. If you have one for sale, please contact them at dhnskelton@aol.com.

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

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter!

Deadline for the November issue of the newsletter is 10/23/07.

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@comcast.net
peetzaguy@aol.com
October, 2007



KEELHAULER'S KANews NOVEMBER, 2007



Next Club Meeting is Tuesday, November 13th at 7:30 PM
at Middleburg Hts Community Center
16000 East Bagley Road

[Map to Meeting](#)

Annual Trip Planning plus

Program: Dr Mark Panigutti will do a workshop/lecture on how to deal with shoulder dislocations, a common kayaking injury.

All meetings are open to guests.

Invite a prospective member.

2007-2008 Winter Roll Sessions

The winter roll sessions are about to begin. For all of those not familiar with the drill, please read the blurb below. For those familiar with the roll sessions, there have been a few changes this year.

Lakewood is now from 4:00 to 6:00 (no access before 3:50 please) rather than the old 4:15-6:15. This year's Lakewood dates are: November 17, November 24, December 1, 15, 22, 29, January 12, February 2, 16, 23, March 1, 8, and 15.

At **Orange** we will be responsible for putting the lane lines back in when we are done. The pool is closed on Sunday this year which is when they traditionally put the lane lines back in and they need the lane lines in for swim-team practice at 6:30 am Monday morning. Just a reminder, that we will have to fill out a registration form again this year. I will get the Orange pool dates posted to the schedule as soon as I have them.

And don't forget to jerk your air bags out and give your boat a bath!

See you in the pool.

Larry Frodyce

**These roll sessions are sponsored by Orange Community Education and Recreation & Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Department, and are to be held at Orange High School Pool and Lakewood High School Pool.

Orange High School Pool Roll Sessions

The 2007/8 season is scheduled to start in Dec. and Run through March. Exact times and dates will be on the Keelhauler schedule as soon as we have them. Last year pool time starts at 4:00pm and ends promptly at 6:00pm. We must shower and be out of the building by 6:15pm. A charge of \$6 per person per session (\$5 for Orange School District residents) covers the use of the pool. We have also been asked to remove the lane lines when we arrive and replace them before we leave.

Lakewood High School Pool Roll Sessions

Sessions are scheduled on Saturday afternoons from **4:00-6:00 PM**. Check the Keelhauler schedule for exact dates. **Boats may be brought into the facility at 3:50 PM, and pool time begins at 4:00 PM. All must be out of the building by 6:15 PM. A charge of \$6 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 not required to participate. For those interested, membership forms will be available at the door. Annual club dues are \$20 per family.
3. The roll session at Orange High School is preceded by an Open Swim session. If you arrive early, please wait outside the building with your boats until 4:10 PM. Please bring in boats through the back emergency exit, which will open at 4:10 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. **All participants at Orange MUST complete a registration form with emergency contact information prior to entering the pool area. (attached if people want to fill it out in advance)**
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 may become crowded. In the interest of safety, neither free swimming nor diving is allowed. All children under the age of 18 must be supervised at all times by a paying adult.
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 Hotline at 216-556-4659 and Message Board. If Lakewood High School pool is closed, that information will likely be available on the pool's voicemail at (216) 529-4014, and on the local media as well.

Minutes from Oct 9, 2007, Keelhauler meeting at Middleburg Height's Recreation Center

Submitted by Andy Gross

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Ed Charlton, President. Newcomers were asked to introduce themselves. We welcomed John and Deb Shelton and Irina Shapiro.

Rob Hammond, Treasurer, reported that the Club had \$4983 in checking account and \$6040 in CDs and savings accounts. Interest being earned on these accounts has been relatively low.

John Kobak, Trustee, Membership Chair and Webmaster reported that we have 307 members, just about the same as a year ago. He reported on some continuing problems with our website message board (invaded by some hackers). He contracted for new updated software to be installed and supported but nothing has been done yet. He contacted TRPC for advice, but they have not responded as of this date. He said he is not in need of additional cash right now, but appreciated a previous resolution on this topic.

Judi Cleary reported on behalf of Larry Fordyce about pool sessions. She stated that all dates currently posted are tentative. However, roll sessions should be starting on Saturdays at both Lakewood and Orange high schools in December and end in March with time out for holidays and swim meets. The topic of a weekday and a Sunday roll session was discussed briefly, but they are unlikely.

Chuck Singer, Safety Chair offered the following tips: Change smoke alarm batteries at home at end of October; check and repair boat outfitting, throw bags and dry suit seals, use 303 protectorant to keep soft; re-fit your first aid kit (discard 5 year old stuff); review problems you had on rivers and lakes; and, attend roll sessions.

Jim Hunt told about a wilderness First Responder course to be offered at ASCII and mentioned that there are numerous safety courses offered, including those by the Cleveland Metroparks.

John Kobak reported about trips on the Gauley and the Upper Yough. Michael Duvall mentioned that Joe Marks attended 'Wilderness First Aid' sessions where shoulder dislocations and other problems were discussed at Gauley Fest. A discussion ensued whether it is best to attend to such problems on the river or at off-site locations.

John also mentioned that Anne & Steve Kmiec are still recuperating at home from an accident off the river and shoulder dislocation.

Ed Charlton asked for an informal poll whether the program on 'Basic Yoga' last month was viewed favorably, and all those who attended endorsed it, and thought it could be an annual feature.

Andy Gross asked about kayak dealers and the response was: (1) in NE Ohio: Appalachian Outfitters, Backpackers; Kilted Yak (but all have limited inventory of river gear); (2) statewide: Outdoor Equipment in Poland, Ohio and Whitewater Warehouse in Dayton, Ohio; (3) in Pennsylvania, Rocky Mountain Kayaks (Jeff Prycl) near New Stanton; and many dealers in Ohio. There are dealers in West Virginia and a swap market at Gauley fest.

Next, the election of officers took place. The following slate was elected by acclamation:

Ed Charlton—President
Cliff Wire-- Vice President
Terry Markoff—Treasurer
Pat Guzowski—Secretary
Trustee-- Rob Hammond
Patty Murphy kindly agreed to take charge of the Yearbook with the aid of the software package, PageMaker.

All members are asked to contribute to the trip schedule by the November 13 meeting. The program for that meeting will be a visit by an orthopedic doctor. The December meeting will be a potluck affair; there is no meeting in January; the February meeting may take place on a Saturday by poolside or at a restaurant afterwards. The meeting was adjourned at 8.15pm.

The program that followed the business meeting focused on two trips to Glacier Bay, Alaska by Judi Cleary and Larry Fordyce. Judi brought several books and also displayed two large maps prior to her excellent slide show. She talked about her visits to Kodiak Island, Anchorage, and Juneau, followed by sea kayak excursions into the various arms and inlets of Glacier Bay. The trip involved both small airplane and boat transportation in July and August 2006. Slides showed glaciers and adjacent land, seascape, camping sites, distant mountains, flora and fauna, and bald eagles. Judi and Larry were also able to observe a pod of whales and to take some excellent photos. The program ended at 9.15 with much applause.

Jim Hunt and Bob Bair, o-Chairs, Refreshment, served hot dogs and other food during the break between the business session and the program. John and Deb Shelton kindly offered Club logo decals to those present and suggested that sheets of these could be used by the Club as a fund-raiser.

The Black and Lower Moose

By Brent Hendren

I'll start on Friday when Joe and Eric Marksz, Karen Petit, Mike Duvall, Brad Farster, Brandon Hendren and I hooked up with some great folks from the Buffalo area (FLOW) to paddle the Black. It was obvious our guides knew Ratt Boy as none of them would shake hands with us 🤖. Just kidding, they were great people and good reliable paddlers who led us safely down the Black without any serious incidents. (Kudos to Liane and Sean) The weather was great!. Sunny and 45-50 degrees or so and thankfully no wind.

After watching our group of 12 play in Hole Brothers I took a deep breath and headed down river to what I knew was our first significant rapid. A class IV and fairly long rapid called Knifes Edge. Basically it consisted of three ledge drops with the last ledge being the beefiest and the home of Molly's Crack which is a serious pin spot. The True Path is a line that approaches the bottom ledge left of center. The objective is to pass a large hole on your left then power left to miss Molly's Crack and the powerful recirculating hole behind the third ledge.

While we were scouting, a group of paddlers worked their way through Knifes Edge. Some ran river right following the safer "B-Line Skate" line while others successfully ran the True Path. Unfortunately one poor guy split the two lines right down the middle centering himself for a boof move on third and biggest ledge. This is not a recommended line (not likely to clear that hole and its backwash) and thusly this guy got trashed and recirculated for well over a minute. He would disappear for 15 seconds, surface and almost wash out only to be pulled back into the hole over and over again. We stood on the shore watching in horror while one of his group made a valiant effort to get the end of his boat close enough to the swimmer to assist if and when he surfaced again. He got a little too close and ended up in the hole and swimming also. Both eventually made it out ok but the first guy was visibly shaken. After watching that thrashing about half the group elected to take the B-Line Skate while Eric, Joe and Mike ran the True Path. They made it look easy.

Mike added an interesting twist with a mid run flip just above Molly's Crack but managed to roll up and finish in perfect form. We all made it through a series of smaller rapids including the class IV Crusher and headed for the river right portage around the dam and the class IV+ Glen Park Falls. I was glad that no one mentioned the option to run Glen Park Falls because it looked very scary (even from the safe distance of a quarter mile or so across the river) from our point of re-entry on river right. As we were about to launch two boaters portaged the dam on river left and successfully ran the two vertical drops of approx. 8 and 15 feet that make up Glen Park Falls. I think Joe, Mike and Eric were a little disappointed that they were not offered the option to scout and run the falls (next time guys). The release had stopped and the river was dropping fast. Even I could tell the river was dropping because as we approached the next significant rapid our guide was telling me we would run river left. Imagine how puzzled I was when I arrived at the rapid to find the river left line blocked by about 18" of concrete uniformly running from river left shore to about twenty feet shy of river right. Ok she said the river is dropping faster than I realized and we are seeing features I am not aware of but there shouldn't be anything significant from here on out. Having pretty much gotten the all ahead clear word we were just boogying on down the river spread out all over the place when Karen found herself struggling in a surprisingly strong and determined hole. She hung in there for a long long time while Joe struggled upstream to assist her (or at the very least to keep her company in that hole) while I laughed my butt off, I mean while I looked on in disbelief. Ultimately Karen swam and that night I had to pay off our guide for helping me set her up. LOL. Just kidding Karen!

Two and half hours from put in to takeout and we were off to Old Forge New York for the Bar Crawl, where I, if I say so myself, held my own for a change. Only two bars were participating in the Bar Crawl this year so we all decided to approach this as the loop on the LY and get as many runs in as possible before closing. I learned a good lesson from Joe while he and my wife were doing Jello shots at Slimys or Slinkys or Sliders or "whatever". Anyway, because Eric is sitting with us, Joe goes into this play dumb routine acting like he has never indulged in or even heard of Jello shots and spent the better part of the fifth inning (Boston Cleveland game was on) working this Jello shot with his tongue. Although my wife intrigued, it was actually a little gross if you ask me. Since my wife wanted to dance (this was her reward weekend for putting up with my absence every weekend all summer) and because the Tow Bar was packed, we planned to follow

Paul and Mike to another joint that allegedly had a live band. Their directions were something like this. Head down river about a mile then go river left of the steak house and eddy out river right at first the opportunity. Amazingly it worked.

Saturday was a little different. Temps were about 40 with a strong wind and dark cloud cover. The Moose was running at a bit over 4' (I should have stayed in bed or at least elected to run the class II middle section) but instead I joined a group of 16 paddlers including my friends Mike Duvall, Paul Herold, Karen Petit, Brad Farster, and Brandon Hendren and off we went down the Lower Moose. At the first rapid- Iron Bridge- we lost a paddler who elected to walk out after a nasty swim. (None of my above mentioned friends of course) Next up was a Class III Rapid called Tannery. It's a rather long and a little technical with a few ledge holes and pourovers to deal with but all in all it is a doable rapid even with my meager skills. (At least so I thought LOL). Following a long scout I was off. Feeling pretty confident I pulled out of the eddy before Brandon could get in my way LOL and soon (within seconds) was struggling to escape a hole which eventually got the best of me and sent me swimming the second half of Tannery. Now swimming a rocky hole filled rapid is not my idea of fun anyway, but knowing I was now 60' off my line and headed for the exit pour over on far river right (which I hadn't bothered to scout, since my line ended on far river left) bothered me a bit. Oh well nothing to do but tuck and plunge. Lucky for me I washed right through, hauled my sorry butt up on shore and spent the next 10 minutes catching my breath rubbing my bruises and watching all my friends make the run look easy and painless. Needless to say I was a bit cold and feeling a little intimidated at this point but the rest of the day went well. Of course I walked MixMaster all by myself (which of course was caught on film by my darling son) while everyone else took the easy class IV water route lol. We all had a good time with a great group of people. Saturday night's party at the festival was fun too. We all got to hang out with Ratt Boy and our new friends from FLOW plus my wife bought me a new semi drytop and drypants so I would stop crying and start dancing --so I did!



Eric lining up at Ager's Falls



The Ager's Falls Run

The Bottom Moose

By Joe Marks

The group for the Bottom Moose ended up being Tom Sutton, Selby (a local guy), Eric Marks and me (Joe Marks). Our excellent leader was Matt (Rattboy) Muir who considers the Moose his home river and it shows. He had a few tricks up his sleeve to make things more manageable. Easy scouting is one of the nice things about this river. It's the only river where I felt I knew every rapid after only one run and I think that's because of the scouting. We had only one inconsequential swim and a couple of pretty impressive combat rolls under pressure. Both Eric and I agree that it was definitely the toughest river we've done to date and there certainly wasn't a playboat in sight anywhere. Creekers ruled the day.

We were hoping for levels of 3 ft or less which is supposed to be kinder for a first run but ended up with a little over 4. The beta on the Bottom is that it gets quite a bit tougher over 3.5 but we had gone all the way up there to run it so we weren't going to give up without some serious consideration. Indeed, Tom came all the way from Florida and he definitely had the

Bottom on his mind. I think he might have been seeking a little revenge after last year. When he pulled up to the put-in I decided to tease him and say that due to the levels we had all chosen to skip the Bottom and do the Lower instead. The look of disappointment on his face was obvious and priceless! The decision on whether to run the Bottom was made even tougher because there was such a good alternative option of running the Lower with some really fun people. Also, Tom showing us all his scar tissue from last year's Bottom Moose run didn't help. Especially when he said that it had just recently finished healing. You know, that knuckle kind of thing that seems to take forever?

What was an easy decision for Eric was an agonizingly drawn out internal conflict for me. I debated with myself till the bitter end on whether to do it at those levels and that decision process was probably just as exhausting as the run itself. I even made sure I shuttled drivers back to the put-in so that if I blew the first rapid I'd have my car nearby. I'm very good at dragging indecision out longer than most. That first rapid is Fowlersville Falls and even though it's not the hardest, it's still very intimidating looking. Plenty big enough to see if I was feeling "on" that day. Fowlersville is a drop over an 8' pitch, bumping off a pillowed rock and then getting yourself lined up for a very fast 40' slide at a 60 degree angle. A hard hit waits at the end so you better be forward. Even though I bumped off the wrong side of the pillowed rock it went well. Tom, being a particularly determined paddler, hiked back up for a second shot at it because he had flipped at the bottom the first time. The rest of us just sat at the bottom watching the show.

After that, we had Funnel, Knives Edge and Double Drop. They are all EYE OPENERS for sure but with Matt Muir's expert advice and being able to easily scout every rapid, we had a good concept of what we needed to do when we got back into our boats. As we were scouting Knives Edge some pro boaters came through and hit some of the best boofs I've ever seen off. They made that line look so easy that for a moment I was considering trying it but then came to my senses. We all had good lines and I started to relax and get into it a bit more. Even though in the back of my mind I knew the big stuff was near the end.

A Class III+ portage around the dam and then Ager's Falls which is a pretty straight forward 18' waterfall. Matt said that we could go over pretty much anywhere so Eric and I were planning on going off side by side. We got separated on the approach and at that point decided to focus on the drop instead of trying to get lined up together again. This was the only one we had not gotten out and scouted so it was still a little read and run for us.

The next rapid is Shureform and even though it's not considered to be the toughest on the river it probably had the highest "pucker factor" for us. A Very Long, Fast, Shallow and Bumpy Slide on which you have to make a fairly strong right to left move to avoid some really nasty stuff. You have to make that move through a diagonal wave which seems intent on taking you exactly where you don't want to be. However, the main thing your thinking while scouting this rapid is that if you go upside down in this one your are gonna feel like a piece of parmesan on a grater. After all, it does get its name from a tool designed to shave down wood. Powerline followed and is the easiest of the named rapids. It was a fun multiple hole puncher with some eddies to try and hit on the way through. This was the site of one of my two flips and Eric's only one. If you're going to flip, this ain't a bad place to do it.

Crystal and Magilla are the Big Boy's and I guess are considered to be Class 5.1's at 3 to 3.5 feet. Again, the level that day was a little over 4'. Crystal was really the highlight of the day. A truly impressive rapid. Getting lined up for the first drop so that you are in a good position to avoid the Horseshoe hole just below is the first trick. Well, Matt had an excellent visual reference point that made it pretty easy to be where you needed to be. We all boofed the very left side of the Horseshoe as directed and proceeded to move across to the far left through some pretty funky water heading for the last 12 foot drop. Eric and I were a couple of feet too far right and went down the unintended middle drop upright and unscathed. Tom was a little too far left, got caught in a hole, flipped, rolled and hit the far left drop nicely. He's cool under pressure like that.

Tom and I did not run Magilla but Eric, Ratt and Selby did. They all pretty much nailed it. Eric said Crystal was actually much tougher though. I was a little disappointed that I didn't run Magilla but since it was at the end our run I was pretty tired, cold and stiff. Especially after our long scouting session there. Oh well, quitting while you're ahead is a necessary skill for some of us aged boaters. On the drive home Eric and I decided that the river is sort of like the Upper Yough in complexity, sort of like the Upper Gauley in size (at those levels anyway) but with more vertical.

The Club was well represented up there during the weekend and all seemed to have a great time. The whole Adirondack experience has a very unique feel to it and I'd love to see if we can get even a larger Keelhauler contingent up there next year. The weekend had a nice international feeling to it because of all the Quebec boaters there. The actual Fest itself isn't much of course but the more people we have go up there, the better the bar hopping party. It's only a 14 hour roundtrip or 15.5 if you stop in Watertown for a Friday run on the Black. My guess is that everyone felt that it was worth the trip. I know we plan to be there next year. Thanks Rattboy!



Crystal on the Bottom Moose

Nov.			Pay Dues	
11/3, 4	Oil City State Park Backpack Trip		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
11/3	Slippery Rock	13-19	Tim Taubert	440-256-2506
11/11	Slippery Rock	13-19	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
11/10, 17, 24	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
11/13	Club Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
11/18	Slippery Rock	13-19	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
11/24	Slippery Rock	13-19	Brett Mancino	216-570-7382
Dec.			Last Chance to Pay Dues	
12/1	Slippery Rock	13-19	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
12/1, 15	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
12/8, 15	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
12/11	Club Holiday Party at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489

2007 Officers

President: Ed Charlton 440-716-5489
VP: Cliff Wire 440-439-6541
Secretary: Pat Guzowski 216-780-5734
Treasurer: Terry Markoff 440-543-4969

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, on the second Tuesday of each month.
Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts 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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KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

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Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter!

Deadline for the December issue of the newsletter is 11/23/07.

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@comcast.net
peetzaguy@aol.com
November, 2007



KEELHAULER'S KANews DECEMBER, 2007



**Next Club Meeting is Tuesday, December 11th,
at the Middleburg Heights Community Center
16000 East Bagley Road
Doors open at 7:00pm and dinner is at 8:00pm**

[Map to Meeting](#)



**Program: Annual Christmas Party, Pot luck dinner
Please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name.**

A-E: Bread or Appetizer

F-L: Dessert or Fruit

M-R: Main dish or Casserole

S-Z: Salad or Vegetable

All meetings are open to guests. Invite a prospective member!

November 13th Meeting Minutes

The November meeting of the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club was brought to order by President Ed Charlton at 7:35 PM on November 13, 2007, at the Middleburg Heights Recreation Center.

A guest was present: John Norris.

Treasurer Terry Markoff reported our checking account balance as \$5299.15.

Membership Chairperson John Kobak reported 151 paid members and reminded the members that the club's annual membership fees are due. As Webmaster, John reported continuing problems with accessing the Club's message board. As an interim fix, he's started a new message board that requires each person to re-register to use the board. He is still working on the old board and hopes to either fix it or transfer its old messages to the new board.

Schedule Chairperson Michael Duvall asked members to confirm the trips they'll lead for 2008 on documents posted at the meeting or contact him soon.

Yearbook Chairperson Patty Murphy gave us an update on edits for the yearbook.

Safety Chairperson Chuck Singer reminded us to check the status of rivers online to look for comments about new hazards since this is the time of year that downed trees start to be a problem.

On Conservation, Ed Charlton described a problem with overflow of raw or partially treated sewage from sanitary sewers when we have excessive rainfall or snowmelt. He said americanrivers.org had information on their webpage. We should become informed that Congress has a Right-to-Know bill about public notification of sewage discharges in committee.

During Trip Reports, Ron Croissant discussed a trip on the Middle Yough. There was a discussion of the merits of pogies versus gloves. Michael Duvall described a trip on the Russell Fork.

There was no Old Business.

During New Business, former Treasurer Rob Hammond reported that \$2900 was available from 2007 Club revenues that could be used for conservation donations. The consensus was that the Board of Trustees would discuss the possibilities and make a recommendation to the membership at the December meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

A program followed the meeting: Dr Mark Panigutti discussed shoulder dislocations.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Guzowski, Secretary

RUSSELL FORK CLASS III-IV

By Michael Duvall

Want to go to the Russell Fork and not risk your life in undercuts and sives? Do the upper section or the lower section into town.

After four weekends at the Gauley in WV and a long weekend at the Black and Moose in upstate New York, I could not break the habit of long drives to paddle. It seemed that I just could not stay at home. Where could I go next? How about the Russell Fork on the VA/KY border. I called Cecil Tickamyer who was listed as the trip organizer for the Russell Fork Rendevous weekend. He told me that it was exactly 2 hours and 30 minutes from Charleston, WV to Elkhorn City, KY. The Breaks Interstate Park and campgrounds is where he and some friends from St Louis, MO would be camping. I met up with them on Saturday morning just in time for a cup of coffee they had brewed in the pop-up camper. Then it was a short trip to the lodge restaurant for breakfast. There was no rush because they don't release the water until 10:00 and it is only a 10 minute drive to the putin. After a nice breakfast in the dining room, which by the way had a beautiful view of the Fall colors in the gorge, it was back to camp to get dressed. The temperature was low and the water was coming from the bottom of the dam so most wore drysuits. We loaded quite an assortment of crafts, a tandem canoe for Cecil and Ann, a small cataraft, a tandem inflatable kayak, a solo inflatable kayak and my hard kayak. He told me that the section that we would be doing has a KH rating of 23 just like the Lower Yough. After paddling the upper section I would agree. There were no drops harder than Railroad and none were any more congested than Dartmouth or Edie turn. After weeks of hard rivers it was fun to take it easy on a new river. Saturday evening there was a festival in town next to the river, but it was not well attended. The good news was that right next to the festival was the Lexington Club, Bluegrass Wildwater Association

(surfbwa.com) having their annual club party. Luckily I know quite a few of the club members from years of going to their Film Festival, so no one objected when I helped myself at the keg.

Sunday was a repeat of Saturday except that when we got to Garden Hole the takeout for the upper which is the putin for the gorge (Breaks) I decided to hike into the gorge to see how bad it was for myself. The putin /take out is on river right but if you want to hike into the gorge you have to get to river left. I crossed the river, stashed my kayak in the bushes and hiked along the railroad tracks. After only a quarter of mile I came to the RR tunnel. It was a good thing Cecil warned me to take a flash light because the tunnel curves so when you are in the middle you can't see the light at either end...it's really dark. When I came out of the tunnel I was much higher than the river or more correctly the river really dropped. I saw

what I think was the exit of Maze. After that was the most photographed rapid, El Horrendo. It was very impressive, I know I could run the approach, but the bottom hole looked like it would have its way with me. Having seen enough, I retraced my steps to the take out and headed home.

I have decided that I will go back some time and run the Breaks. The locals say that 350-400cfs is a fun level (sives are most dangerous from 400 to 800 cfs), so if I could hit it with natural flow at that level I would do it.



Cecil and Ann



Elhorendo

Your Photos Needed!

If you have any great paddling pictures from this year, please submit your photos for the yearbook to Helmut by December 31st. His e-mail address is helmut@businessptg.com, or mail them to Helmut Schumacher, 3089 Hann Hill Road, Hermitage, PA, 16148.

Yearbook Bios

It's time to update the bios and pictures for the 2008 yearbook. This is a little reminder asking the officers, trustees and committee chair-persons to update their bios. Please send your changes or new bios to our new yearbook editor, Patty Murphy, at rhpm2006@yahoo.com by December 7.

The Passing of a Longtime Paddler

As many old-timers know, Marge Cline was a long time paddler, former AW president, former ACA board of director, ACA instructor trainer and friend and teacher to many paddlers. She passed away on October 29, 2007. Only 1 week later her husband Bob (himself a CWA member too) also passed away on November 7, 2007. Known as Rivermom, Marge Cline started paddling in 1949 in a dugout canoe, and didn't stop paddling or being part of the community. Marge has been an important and active member of the both the Chicago Whitewater Association and American Whitewater. She has started and trained thousands of paddlers in the Chicago area for over 3 decades. In 2000, Marge Cline was honored by Paddler Magazine for being one of 100 "Paddlers of the 20th Century" who've made a difference. Marge's love of paddling was illustrated in the spring of the same year when, suffering chest pains, she drove herself to the hospital. After angioplastic surgery, she rested a day and was paddling the next afternoon. Marge had a few additional strokes/attacks and continued to come to pool sessions to help instruct through 2007. She continued as editor for the club newsletter to her very last day. She was an extremely dedicated woman and paddler. CWA owes so much to her. We all mourn the loss of a paddling icon. Our hearts go out to her family and friends.

Accomplishments and Tidbits

- Editor of the Gradient (CWA newsletter) for 28.5 years - that must be a record for any newsletter editor!
 - American Whitewater (AW) President 1982-1988
 - Candidate for International Whitewater Hall of Fame 2006
 - Paddler Magazine - 100 Paddlers of the Century
 - 1990 ACA 'Legend of Paddling' award
 - 2002 ACA 'President's Award'
 - President of the Midwest Division of ACA
 - National board of directors of ACA
 - Instructor Trainer Educator with ACA (only 1 of about 20 in the country)
 - Marge spend a fair amount of time behind her Super 8 movie camera in the early years, and more recently behind a video camera, recording various aspects of CWA history. She entered a number of videos in the National Paddling Film Festival, and was a regular at the first 10 or 12 Festivals, typically serving as a judge.
 - 1983 National Paddling Film Festival - Winner 8mm Film: Recreational Scenic – Gallatin and Yellowstone River
 - One of her signature moves was a headstand in the bow of a C-2 while surfing a wave with a trusted stern partner
- The Chicago Whitewater Association has a memorial page honoring Marge Cline, you can visit it to see pictures and stories at <http://www.chicagowhitewater.org/cwa/margecline.asp>.

Upcoming Trip Schedule

Please consider leading a trip in 2008. We need to plan now so that all trips can appear in our annual trip schedule and roster which goes to print in about 30 days. Call or e-mail Michael Duvall at (216) 521-0094 or Michael.Duvall@amgreetings.com.

Dec.			Last Chance to Pay Dues	
12/1	Slippery Rock	13-19	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
12/1, 15, 22, 29	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
12/8, 15	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
12/11	Club Holiday Party at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
Jan.	2008			
1/1	X-C Ski		Fred Oswald	440-888-5829
1/1	7th Annual New Year Paddle at Edgewater Beach		Stuart Warner	440-356-9550
1/5	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool Note time for this session is 3:00 - 4:30 PM		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
1/12	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
1/26	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
Feb.				
2/9, 16, 23	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
2/02, 16, 23	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
2/13	Club Monthly Meeting		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
2/17, 24	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
2/24, 25	National Paddling Film Fest		Michael Duvall	216-521-0094

KEELHAULER DUES ARE PAST DUE!!!

All club memberships expired on October 1st. Please mail a \$20 check for your 2008 membership dues. **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.**

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

You can pay your dues on-line for \$21 using Paypal. Use this link: <http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/khcapp.htm> and click on the Paypal Logo. If you have a Paypal account just send your dues payment to dues@keelhauler.org.

All Keelhauler Members can get \$10 off their yearly American Whitewater membership dues. If you would like to join or renew your AW membership on-line, you will need the Affiliate Club Code for Keelhauler's Canoe Club. Enter **CL10kcc** in the field provided to get your \$10 discount. Here's the link for joining AW on-line.

As we get ready for the 2008 yearbook to go to print, please make sure all your contact & paddling preference information is correct by reviewing an on-line copy of the yearbook. **At <http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook6.pdf>**
You need to use these passwords for access to our databases. User Name: dir; Password: see monthly e-mail.

Keel Haulers Family Membership Application

Please print the following information as you wish it to appear on the membership roster and your newsletter mailing label.

I am presently a member change only as indicated _____

Name: _____

Spouse or Significant Other: _____

First

Last

Address: _____

Number

Street

City State Zip code - Zip +4

Phones: _____

Home

Cell Phone (optional)

Work Phone (optional)

Circle which **two** numbers you want listed in our yearbook

E-Mail _____

E-Mail-2 _____

Please Check **all Paddling Interests**

WW - Whitewater ____ **SK** - Sea Kayak ____

FW - Flat water ____ **CC** - Canoe ____

Camp____

Check here if you want a monthly newsletter mailed to you. We prefer that you read on-line. **I would like Snail-Mail** _____

The Keel Haulers Board occasionally approves the release of its mailing list to conservation groups or other organizations which it believes would be of interest to its members. If you do **NOT** want your name released to any group, please check here. **NO MAILINGS** _____

MEMBER'S MUTUAL AGREEMENT FOR PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY

I, _____, _____, desiring to join my fellow paddlers in the Keelhauler's Canoe Club, (please **print** or type **name** of each person over 18, if family application)

do hereby declare that I fully understand and accept the following facts of life on the river:

- (1) Boating on whitewater rivers exposes participants to various hazards. These hazards include (but are not limited to) loss of life and/or limb or property damage caused by boulders and other obstacles, strainers, undercut or entrapping formations, falls, holes, reversals, and other water formations, changing conditions, cold, high water and other hazards;
- (2) No one but myself is responsible for judging my qualifications for my safety when I choose to challenge my capabilities by boating on a particular river, or a particular rapid;
- (3) I may assist my fellow paddlers to the best of my own ability if they appear to need such assistance - but only so long as I can do so, in my judgment, without significant danger to myself. I further understand that this does not imply any legal duty for me to do so, nor for any one else to render such assistance to me.

Now, therefore, intending to be legally bound, I hereby waive, for myself and for anyone else claiming through me, my right to sue the Club, its officers and members, trip coordinators or any of my fellow paddlers, for any injuries to my person or my equipment which may occur during, in preparation from or in transit to or from a club outing. The waiver applies to any negligent act or omission intended to promote my safety or well-being.

This waiver is given in the interest of permitting the Club to exist and to serve the paddling community, and to enable myself and my fellow paddlers to feel free to donate our services and to help each other without fear of liability.

My waiver is given in exchange for similar waivers to be granted on my behalf by other members of the Club. Waiver has no expiration.

**ALL
MEMBERS
SIGN
HERE**

X _____
X _____
X _____
X _____

Signature of each Household Member over 18

Date

MINOR WAIVER : I also give permission for the following **minor children:**

_____ to participate in Club outings. I waive the rights described above with respect to the named minor(s), and I further agree to indemnify the Club, its officers and members, trip coordinators and other outing participants from any claims arising from the participation of the above named minor(s).

Signature of Adult Member required
FOR Minor WAIVER ONLY

Date

Mail to:
John Kobak
1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, OH 44145-2506

Pay to: **Keel Haulers Canoe Club**
Dues - **\$20.00** Per Year
Club Year starts **Oct 1st**
Yearbook distributed **Feb 15**
Last newsletter in **December**

Any additional donations go to Keel Hauler's Environmental Fund

2008 Officers

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VP: Cliff Wire 440-439-6541
Secretary: Pat Guzowski 216-780-5734
Treasurer: Terry Markoff 440-543-4969

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The deadline for the January issue of the newsletter is 12/22/07.

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KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@comcast.net
peetzaguy@aol.com
December, 2007





KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

JANUARY, 2007



There will be no club meeting in January. Have a happy new year and see you in February!

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes, 12/12

There was not a "formal" club meeting, just a potluck dinner enjoyed by about 25 people.

Membership Survey and Thanks

By Mary Modesitt

I would like to take this time to thank the membership for taking the time to fill out the survey that was posted on the website and emailed to members back at the end of October after I took office as your Vice President. I was very pleased and delighted to have such a huge response on the first day the survey went live. On that day alone I received over 50 emails which showed me that the membership wanted their voices heard about how they feel about the club and changes they would like to see. I have presented the findings and my comments to the board over the course of the last couple of months and a formal response will be coming. Again thank you so much for taking the time to fill out the survey. If you have a comment or suggestion please feel free to email them to me at lilmary@keelhauler.org. This is your club and I would love to hear what you have to say.

Kobak's Annual RV Trip from John and Peggy Kobak

Friends and relatives who want to know where we are heading off to in January can track our progress from this web link. <http://keelhauler.org/RV/> See the right side pull-out menu that says "Mex2007".

I will try to keep adding information as we go. So after we leave, you can check back here whenever you want, and I won't spam you with any e-mails about our trip.

Kokosing River Paddle on 09/09/2006

By Gary Porter

What a day! For those who were unable to paddle, the Kokosing is a neat and interesting river.

It was a long day as I left home about 7:45 am and headed to Mount Vernon. With only one stop I arrived at the Mount Vernon Riverside Park at 10 am. We all arrived there within 5 minutes of that time.

Tim & his daughter Becky, Trish Voss and myself showed up to paddle. Tim said he had left home about 6 am that morning to check the water levels, but had not had time to do so. However, he stated that he had talked to the canoe livery owner in Howard and had been told that people who had recently paddled between Mount Vernon and Howard spent some time walking due to low water levels. Tim specifically stated that the previous group had to walk at least 5 times due to low water levels for short distances.



We decided to try the paddle since 5 times walking did not seem excessive walking to us and the weather was perfect at that time. At 10 am the weather was wonderful with the fog rapidly burning off and being replaced by sunshine and warm temperatures.

By 10:30 am we were ready for liftoff/departure in sunshine and Tim spent a few minutes swearing us all in (with right hands raised), as duly accredited members of the Kokosing River Paddling Club with all appropriate rights and responsibilities of membership as he understood them. We all accepted membership and proceeded forthwith!



We began our Kokosing River adventure and I was astounded to see Tim propelling his canoe named "Thwarted Love" by standing in it and using a pole to propel the craft. He was able to move quite rapidly so should he choose. My thoughts were that he had a superb sense of balance that I could never come close to approximating, and also that if he had a few drinks you would never be able to tell if he was tipsy!

Shortly after beginning we waited while Tim went back to his car to retrieve the ignition keys for the vehicle left downstream.

In the first few miles we encountered 3 small low head dams (not on the state's map), which were easily passed by getting out on the shore and allowing our craft to float over while holding a rope, and then getting back in. Further on I had to exit my canoe three times and walk due to low water (approximately 20-30 feet each time). Other craft that drew more water may have had to walk 6 or 7 times in the 17 miles for the same type of short distances. Water levels while adequate were still sometimes under a foot deep for 15-20% of the time. However, for the most part our paddles found adequate purchase of water. Tim never complained about his poling technique. My only complaint about Tim's poling technique was that it was noisy and scared the 1-2 thousand (yes, thousands) of small mouth bass which I observed.



I was particularly impressed with the fish, the terraced rock bottom (not always mud but rock), the many rocks and swift corners which were actually rather thrilling, and the one "slide" where we went down

a chute type slide (I went left and was the only one to go down it). Also, the snags and other impediments to paddling gave it a full feeling of Indiana Jones style adventure, but able to be experienced by a layman. It was tiring but well worth the effort. Three times the rapid speed of the current in turns was foolishly added to by me with further paddling which careened me back into the inside curve shore and resulted in being beached on the inside of the curve as I came out of the curve. Each error that caused self imposed beaching was both exhilarating and disappointing as they required exiting the craft, reorienting and heading downstream again!

We reached the Howard take out point at 5:50 pm (I overshot 1/8 mile and had to backtrack upstream - 7 hours on the river, 17 miles), and after packing up we all headed to a Mexican restaurant on High Street in Mount Vernon which had been recommended by Sharon Bouchonville. The place was full of Mexicans who knew how to cook and was the end of a megatastic day (the great weather held - nice all day, about 80 degrees F., with no rain and mostly sunny).

We left the Mexican restaurant at 8:35 pm and with only one stop I arrived at home in Sandusky at 10:35 pm. Mardell looked at me and said she had wondered where I was since it had been dark a long time. I explained our itinerary and said Tim dragged me to a Mexican Restaurant in Mount Vernon, and now she wants to eat there.

Those of you who did not paddle missed a truly unique river. It is now obvious why the Kokosing River is an Ohio Scenic River, and Ohio's first Water Trail.

Coldwater Queen Takes White Lightning on Maiden Voyage and Survives Winter Storm by Lisa Brand

Friday October 13th. We set out from Ohio in the afternoon, despite the weather report of two feet of snow in Buffalo and a travel advisory of road blocks east and north of there. After all, we were heading in that direction but would stop short of the New York State line, in northwestern Pennsylvania in the Allegheny National Forest. Eric Ticker had the real challenge. He was picking his way down from Toronto. With parts of the QEW and the Peace Bridge closed, he relied on the traffic radio to guide him across the border heading south.

Our destination: Kinzua Dam Reservoir. Miles and miles of water stretching alongside hundreds of acres of wooded hills and valleys, dotted with cliffs, boulders and caves, deposited eons ago by the ice age glaciers.

My orange Honda Element was aflame with color- 3 bright kayaks atop, strapped and bow-tethered for the trip. The glory of the pack: my new Seaward Legend, a high performance light-weight Kevlar expedition boat that stretches almost 18 feet long but only 22 inches wide, with three hatches. It is gleaming white with black seams and rigging and weighs in at a mere 45 pounds. I have dubbed my kayak "White Lightning" not for the speed with which I paddle - I have far more stamina than speed - but for its raw potential.

We gathered on the shore as the early evening sky turned dark shades of purple-gray and the temperature steadily dropped. We stood there, seven of us, watching the wind whip up white caps as if to just dare us to try our luck. Eric and I were the two "biyakers

(sea/whitewater kayakers) among us. The rest were seasoned sea kayakers except for the one newbie; a very good sport. Without hesitation we packed in our gear: tents, sleeping bags, fleece blankets, cooking stoves, lanterns, enough food to last at least a month, and a few luxury items: camp chairs and pads for our collectively aging derrieres. Adventurers we might be, but with an ever expanding array of aches and pains each year as we pursue our activities ... and as our age pursues us. Hatches tightly shut, we zippered ourselves into dry suits, pulled up our spray skirts, stretched them snugly over our cockpits, and shoved off, heading for our favorite campsite some miles across the lake. We were in fine form, and high fashion, with someone wearing a Hawaiian print shirt over layers of paddling gear. Aloha!

We stubbornly refused to use flashlights. The night sky became pitch black, decorated only by the blue-bright shimmer of stars. We kept track of each other by the splash of paddles in the water and frequent checks, calling out names in the darkness until everyone was accounted for. Someone reported our GPS coordinates and forged ahead to scout out the campsite. Soon thereafter I felt the shoreline shift, heard a change in the timbre of water lapping against rocks and knew we had arrived. I turned toward shore, headed into the cove, pulled up my skeg, and landed gently on a bed of gravel.

We set up camp, cooked a quick meal, hauled all the food up "bear ropes" slung between two tall far-fetched trees, and headed for our tents. The next morning we faced a new challenge: sleet, hail, snow, and wicked winds. We hung tarps for a wind break and canopy then the "fire brigade" headed off to collect firewood and take turns with the nifty camp saw. We created an impressive log cabin fire, which we kept blazing all weekend long, and assigned someone to be in charge of pumping fresh filtered water. Fire and water, food and friendship; we had it all. We hunkered down and after a hot breakfast played cards all morning. I lost and must admit that I did so very consistently, to everyone's delight.

As soon as the sky cleared a bit we set off in ones and twos for brisk hikes, to warm up our frozen limbs and enjoy the forest. When the sun barely peaked through the trees I got antsy and quickly headed back, eager to paddle. Putting in with Eric, we had our sights set on the far shore. Although we might claim that we paddled across it would be far more truthful to say that we were blown around and by luck just happened to end up somewhere on the opposite side of the lake.

Soon after we had gained the far shore we saw small specks on the horizon; a fleet of friends were coming across. Then with the wind whipping a halo of cold spray around us, we all set out together to explore. We found refuge in a protected inlet where we sat rocking in our boats, mesmerized by the armies of water bugs hop-scotching across the surface of the water with small fish in hot pursuit, oblivious to the winter weather. Heading back we first paddled upwind a good distance so when we turned we would have enough leeway during the crossing not to be blown off course and overshoot our campsite. Our plan succeeded and we all arrived back safely.

And then ... I was consumed with an insane desire to swim. Fully acknowledging my uncontrollable primeval urges, I had stowed a large dry towel in a waterproof bag on the beach. After securing my kayak I quickly stripped and took the plunge! The thought immediately occurred to me: damn, it was nothing like the hot springs in New Mexico! (Fond memories of a previous adventure...)

Numb within seconds, I actually managed to swim a bit, waiting for Eric to join me. Apparently he harbors doubts about the benefits of a cold water swim, thus his hesitation. But he wasn't going to let me swim alone (not that he has a competitive bone in his body). He splashed in, and as he surfaced I heard him chanting a mantra which sounded distinctly like "heart attack! heart attack! heart attack!"

Emerging, beet-red, drying off was a strange sensation. Since I was numb, I couldn't feel if I was wet. So as I towed off, I couldn't feel if I was getting dry. I had to imagine I was, and rely on the wind to help. There was no other choice; the wind had started to howl again, and let us know who was boss. Long Johns and three layers of fleece later, with additional jacket, wind pants, gloves, ear warmer, neck warmer, hat with ear flaps, wool socks, thick knee-high waterproof neoprene paddling boots, and hovering over the roaring fire, I actually warmed up quite nicely, though I don't think Eric ever beat the chill all night. Which only goes to remind me that I should feel kindly towards my extra layers of fat.

I faced a peculiar dilemma that evening: would I sit with my stinky pirate pals for dinner? I had brought my biodegradable soap, and after my swim and suds, I was squeaky-clean. A veritable oddball indeed!

We had a leisurely breakfast the next morning, broke camp and took off, heading straight into the wind, pulling hard. After a while we stopped for a hike along the shore. Sadly, we discovered a memorial stone, dedicated to a woman of thirty five. Her cause of death and her link to the land is a mystery to us. Then we spied a cave which provided us much amusement as we enthusiastically spun a tale of intrigue which ended with all of us taking refuge in the cave from wild beasts, or tornadoes, or winter avalanches ... or all three, which remarkably saved our lives.

We picnicked on a soft bed of leaves and moss. We climbed, scrambled, stumbled, and hauled each other up, scaling a tall boulder overlooking the lake. The air was scented with pine trees. Autumn had painted the scene in all its glory. The colors danced, shimmered and exploded in the sunshine. Ahh-another perfect adventure.

CONSERVATION CORNER

BY MARY MODESIIT

It has been a while since I wrote. Too many things getting in the way but here is the latest issue that has been brought to my attention and thought should be shared.

Mountain Top Removal threatening the Appalachian's

I will be presenting information that I have gathered from key websites that I highly recommend people go and visit:

<http://www.ilovemountains.org/>

http://www.appvoices.org/index.php?/site/mtr_overview/

<http://www.wvrivers.org/issues/mountaintopremoval/mountaintopremoval.html>

http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/stewardship/land_management

<http://www.wvrivers.org/articles/CoalMiningAndTheCleanWaterAct.pdf>

So what exactly is mountain top removal you may be asking yourself now? Well according to the **US EPA** definition mountain top removal is:

"Mountaintop removal/valley fill is a mining practice where the tops of mountains are removed, exposing the seams of coal. Mountaintop removal can involve removing 500 feet or more of the summit to get at buried seams of coal. The earth from the mountaintop is then dumped in the neighboring valleys."

There are 6 main parts to this process: clearing, blasting, digging, dumping waste, processing, and reclamation (pictures of each step can be found on www.ilovemountains.org). Clearing is pretty self explanatory. It basically means the mountains are cleared of any plant life and the topsoil is removed. Since the coal is buried deep in the mountains, explosives are used to remove anywhere from 500-800 ft of the top of the mountain to get to the coal seams. Digging is done these days by draglines which can stand more than 20 stories tall and which requires fewer workers. Just guess where they put the unusable soil from the digging, it's deposited in near by valleys and streams. The sludge that is left over from the processing of the coal which contains many toxic chemicals: arsenic, mercury, lead just to name a few, are placed in impoundments that are held in place by mining debris. In 2000, one of these "sludge dams" broke sending more than 300 million gallons of toxic coal sludge into the tributaries of the Big Sandy in Martin County, KY. After the mining companies are done with the mountaintop they are required to make sure it is stabilized and vegetation be reintroduced to the soil. In many cases this is little less than seed grass. Trees will take thousands of years before they become dominant on the mountains which lead to a high threat of flooding in near by towns and valleys.

These are just some of the facts I have shared with you. If you would like to learn more and what you can do to help stop this threat to the mountains we love to see each time we go out boating please visit the websites that I have listed above. So far this type of mining has not reached Fayetteville, WV as of this date and seems to be concentrated in southern tip of the state along with TN and VA, but it soon will spread up through West Virginia if it is left unchecked.

Moose Fest 2006

by Matt Muir

Yeah, it wuz cold, raw, and windy. Keel-hauler attendance was down this year. Joe Marks was planning to bring his son, Eric, but Keith Clark's untimely passing combined with a crazy snowstorm Thursday night, so they couldn't make it.

Thus, we had Bruce Bookless and Tom Sutton from KHCC, and Mark Hanna from TRPC. (Also present was KHCC member John Greer—the Manhattan dude, who was paddling with the Strange brothers.) We ran the Black on Fri with FLOW members. It was running 2900 cfs, which is moderately beefy. The temperature was a balmy 33°F. Bruce shivered out of his truck and talked of being the day's Shuttle Bunny. Chris Koll, crusty ole buzzard and Dean of the MooseFest, sauntered over and told him that it was warm enough even for "damned Ohio Boaters." The Black River Gorge tends to shield boaters from vicious winter winds, he told him. (None of us was loving the temperature, but we all were glad—including Bruce—to find that Chris was right, and we were comfortable on the water, after all. When getting out to scout Knife's Edge, which with a tight line between holes and a pinning rock if you miss your line, is perhaps the most tricky rapid of the run I pulled my skirt—and my grab loop came off in my hand. Whooooops...I spent half an hour with my little sewing kit

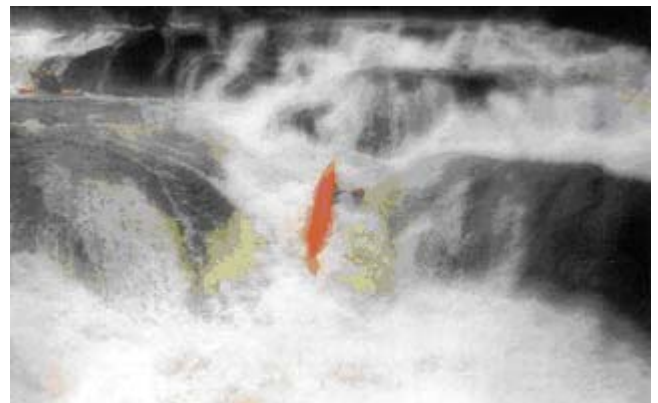
(how many of *you* keep a sewing kit in your First Aid Kit? How many of you *bring* a sewing kit??), painstakingly reattaching the grab loop. On the suggestion of FLOWer Richard Mauser, I also secured a length of webbing to the inside of my cockpit and trailed it through the skirt to allow for an exit if the cheap, thin thread didn't hold. That was a secure arrangement, but I was fairly conservative after that. I wussed on the Poop Chute, butt otherwise had a great run. Bruce was very happy he'd run the river.

The Pre-Fest parties on Friday night weren't as big and raucous as they'd been in previous years. The highlight, perhaps, was the dudes trying to sell people on a \$400-dollar self-inflating tent. It didn't seem as secure as a *real* tent, and it was too small for "normal" people, let alone the likes of geeky ol' me. Though people were pretty polite, I don't think they had many takers.



Rafters barely avoiding the last rock at Shurform.

On Sat, Tom and I ran the Bottom; Bruce and Mark joined some FLOWboaters on the Lower, which was way low—3.3 feet, more or less—butt apparently they had fun in the cold. Tom was a rookie on the Bottom, and he didn't have the cleanest lines. He flipped in the first three drops—Fowlersville, Funnel, and Knife's Edge—before sneaking Double Drop on the left. He and I both had ugly-butt-survivable lines at Shurform, almost getting shoved into the middle. His line at Powerline was his first and only really good line of the day. (It was my turn for an ugly line there.) He finished it off by flipping at the "island" rock at Crystal and running the rocky middle chute upside-down. He was lucky to emerge with only a badly scraped thumb. Not the cleanest lines at *all*, butt he rolled up every time.



Counting fish at Crystal



Tom's River Rash after Crystal.

We had snow on Sat night. My bud had a camper, butt I refused his offer and slept in my tent. I bought a paddle and desperately needed sprayskirt at the Fest. At the Fest, they announced the results of that day's race, which had been a mass start from just above Ager's Falls to the finish. There were only about a dozen takers. As their names were called (last to first), they each took a swig from a bottle or whiskey. Thus, the winner had the privilege of sharing spit with eleven other scruffy ol' river monsters. Damn—if that ain't incentive to excel, I don't know what is.

On Sunday, Tom and I had Mark Hanna with us. (Bruce drove home that day.) Tom rolled (again) at Funnel, then hiked back up to run it again while Mark got back into his boat after a swim. Tom cleaned it this time, getting some valued confidence back. They both snuck Knife's Edge, because there's a nasty log just under the surface which can snag you if you flip running the main (S-curve) line. I ran the Boof, and it wuz schweeeet.

With his confidence buzzing, Tom ran the main line at Double Drop. He rolled, butt ran it well. We both cleaned Shurform and Powerline. Mark walked Crystal; I got rolled by the Horseshoe Hole (got it on vee dee oh!) and had no speed for the final drop—rolled there too. Tom rolled at the top, just right of the Horseshoe, butt then cleaned the bottom drop, oh yesh it wuz sooo schweet. He could drive home happy, knowing that he'd had some clean lines on some beeeeg rapids—not bad for a dude with two+ years' paddling experience!

Don't you wish you'd been there? Snow or no, Moose Fest is always great Adirondack fun. See you next year!



Tom's good line at Shurform.

Welcome to all the **New Keel Hauler Members** and a few who rejoined in the past few months, who were not members last year. This has been our biggest surge in new members in several years, bringing the total membership as of the end of the 2006 membership year to 325. Hope to see you all out paddling in the spring. If any info is not correct, please contact: keelhauler@yahoo.com

Asipauskas, Marius & Ramune Braziunaite	SK
4420 W 194th St #208	216-898-9724
Cleveland, OH 44135	
sssiuram@yahoo.com	

Banach, John	WW,FW
1350 Weathervane Ln 3B	330-606-5032
Akron, OH 44313	
j_banacka@hotmail.com	john.banach@muehlstein.com

Brazier, Steve	FW,CC
2636 South Belvoir Blvd	216-932-6243
Cleveland Hts, OH 44118	216-272-6545 C
frogman7usa@yahoo.com	

Brodke, Douglas & Patty	SK,FW,CC
Emily '95, Jack '98, Luke '01	440-933-7893
32393 Birchwood Ln	440-506-9725 C
Avon Lake, OH 44012	
dougbrodke@comcast.net	pattybrodke@comcast.net

Brunjes, Chris & Kira	WW
Justin '98, William '00	703-938-5142
708 Glyndon St SE	703-287-0505
Vienna, VA 22180	
Chris.Brunjes@mindbank.com	cbrunjes@cavtel.net

Eddington, Paul & Sue	SK,FW,CC
12145 Pheasant Run Cir	440-230-2921
North Royalton, OH 44133	440-781-4134 C
pauyed@yaho.com	seddingt@sbcglobal.net

Gustafson, Glenn	SK,FW
474 E Beck St	614-354-9586
Columbus, OH 43206	614-422-5655
glennigus@yahoo.com	glenn.1.gustafson@jpmchase.com

Hersh, Robert SK,FW
136 Krolik Ave 724-929-8706
Belle Vernon, PA 15012 724-255-1615 C
rahersh@comcast.net

Howser, William & Sharon WW,FW,CC
2439 Abbe Rd 440-552-5598
Sheffield Lake, OH 44054 216-410-6363 C
bhowser@gmail.com shrnsmail@yahoo.com

Kindry, Rob WW,SK,FW,CC
2528 Donna 330-388-9509
Richfield, OH 44286 216-636-7411
robk118153@yahoo.com

Knierman, Mary WW
18367 Cussewago Rd 814-337-9315
Meadville, PA 16335 814-333-5575
maryk@zoominternet.net

Koller, Beth WW,SK
1909 Winexburg Ct T1 240-506-0417
Silver Spring, MD 20906 410-786-4633
ekoller2@earthlink.net

Kopen, Jonathan & Katherine WW,SK,FW,CC
John '96 330-273-4699
2603 Crestview Dr 330-725-3393
Hinckley, OH 44233
jdkopen@verizon.net

Maddock, Harold & Sandy WW,FW,CC
Luke ' , John ' 440-236-5503
12433 Hawke Rd
Columbia Station, OH 44028
HMaddock@Imarc-inc.com

Meluch, Chris SK,FW,CC
14416 SR 113 440-965-5958
Wakeman, OH 44889 440-935-0247 C
stonebosn@eriecoast.com

Moermond, Jeanette & Dale Zucker SK,FW,CC
3548 Silsby Rd 216-397-0631
Cleveland, OH 44114 216-445-6614
moermoj@ccf.org j_moermond@yahoo.com

Morse, Christina WW,SK,FW,CC
Meagen Clough '86 440-245-1079
1041 West 10th St 440-225-4558 C
Lorain, OH 44052
kayakchris66@yahoo.com

Nelson, David WW
321 Pearl St Apt 2 812-371-4370
West Lafayette, IN 47906
drnelson@purdue.edu

Pecot, Mark & Patti Clark WW,SK
41° North Kayak Adventures 216-321-5433
3626 Northcliffe Rd 866-529-2541 C
Cleveland Hts, OH 44118
mark@kayak41north.com mpecot@sehs.net

Perry, Dean & Britt WW
52 Tamarack Ct 267-364-5131
Newtown, PA 18940 609-240-7186 C
dean1216@gmail.com dean.perry@alc.com

Petit, Karen & Vince Krempenger WW
882 Brunsdorph Rd 330-666-7257
Fairlawn, OH 44333 330-573-4000 C
kvfunh2o@hotmail.com

Plant, Charles WW,SK,FW,CC
7511 Crown Point Dr 330-650-0394
Hudson, OH 44236 330-612-2063 C
plantce@yahoo.com

Porter, Gary & Mardell FW,CC
2704 Eastwood Dr 419-621-1998
Sandusky, OH 44870
gcport@buckeye-express.com

Sines, Kathy WW,SK,CC
William '90 513-932-7846
299 Hoffman Ave 513-518-3555 C
Lebanon, OH 45036
kathy.sines@gmail.com ksines63@yahoo.com

Stearns, David & Maria WW,SK,FW
Summer '96, Joe '99 440-377-2236
5029 Eastpark Dr 561-306-2828 C
North Olmsted, OH 44070
dbs@davidstearns.com dbstearns@wowway.com

Werger, Ron WW,SK,FW
808 Westwood Dr 330-725-7833
Medina, OH 44256
rwerger@zoominternet.net

White, James WW,SK,FW,CC
224 Forest St 440-355-4482
Lagrange, OH 44050 706-294-4765 C
derizen@yahoo.com

Wojnar, Michelle & Brian Buddemeyer WW,SK
118 Three Degree Rd 412-335-4014
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
ww@michellewojnar.com lakeshel@hotmail.com.

Current Trip Schedule for 2007

The schedule is listed through June due to space limitations. Note that some trips we usually schedule are in need of an Organizer. Please e-mail me at Michael.Duvall@amgreetings.com if you can take on one of these trips. The club and your fellow paddlers would appreciate it. ~Michael Duvall

Date	Trip/Event	RR	Organizer	Phone #
Jan.	2007			
1/1	X-C Ski		Fred Oswald	440-888-5829
1/1	7th Annual New Year Paddle at Edgewater Beach		Stuart Warner	440-356-9550
1/6, 13	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
1/7, 14,21,28	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Peak Performance Center		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
1/20, 27	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
Feb.				
2/10, 17, 24	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
2/11, 28, 25	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
2/13	Club Monthly Meeting			
2/17, 24	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
2/23,24	National Paddling Film Fest		Michael Duvall	216-521-0094
2/24	Slippery Rock	13-19	John Yaro	216-566-2501
March				
3/3, 10, 17	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Rocky River School Pool - Saturday. To register - Call 216-431-3076		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
3/4, 11, 18	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Lakewood High Schools - Sunday. To register - Call 216-431-3076		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
3/3, 4	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
3/3, 10	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
3/3, 10, 17	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
3/11	Neshannock Creek or another class II	12	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
3/13	Club Monthly Meeting and Annual Auction			
3/18	Vermilion River Cleanup	SK/FW	Hank Annable	440-775-4953
3/24	Rocky River Tributaries	17	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
3/25	Vermilion Race	SK/FW	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
3/24,25	WV Creeking	>30	Brent Laubaugh	724-272-6944
3/30	Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge - Permit Application	16	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549
April				
4/6-13	Southern Rivers Trip -- Map -- Detailed Maps	22-31	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C

	Must contact trip leader 3 days before trip			
4/7, 8	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/7	Grand River	SK/FW	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890
4/8	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Needs organizer	
4/15	Cheoah River in NC	33	Jeff Macklin	724-527-5105
4/14, 15	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/14,15	Lower Yough	16	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
4/10	Club Monthly Meeting			
4/14	Grand River	SK/FW	Carl Kudrna	440-835-0222
4/15	Bear Creek or another class II	??	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
4/20-22	Middle Fork & Tygart	29	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
4/21,22	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/21-23	Stonycreek Rendezvous	21	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/22	Huron River, Milan to Huron Marina	SK/FW	Chris Meluch	440-965-5958
4/22	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Rick Feinberg	330-678-0727
4/28	Cheat River Race Clinic	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
4/28	Walk Little Beaver River Trail		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
4/28	Grand River Race - Alternate Date 5/6	SK/FW	Brian Davidson	800-669-9226
4/28, 29	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Mary Modesitt	216-581-4111
4/28, 29	WV Creeking	32	Brent Laubaugh	724-272-6944
4/29	Little Beaver	SK/FW	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
May				
5/4, 5, 7	Upper Yough	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 or 304-379-4747
5/4	Cheat Mass-Occurrence Team Race	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
5/5	Upper Cuyahoga	SK/FW	Trish Voss	440-975-0272
5/5, 6	Cheat Fest and River trips	26	Needs organizer	
5/5, 6	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/8	Club Monthly Meeting			
5/12	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
5/12	Lower Big Sandy	31	Jim Steppenbacker	440-655-4052
5/12, 13	Cheat Canyon	26	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
5/12, 13	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476

5/12, 13	Red Cross - Basic River and Whitewater Paddling in Western PA		Red Cross	440-298-1293
5/19	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549
5/19	RiverDay 2007 By Friends of the Crooked River	SK/FW		216-651-3476
5/19, 20	Lower Yough	23	Mike Duvall	216-521-0094
5/19, 20	Middle Yough	12	Robert Bair	216-371-6390
5/19, 20	Cheat Canyon / Lower Big Sandy	26-31	Peter Turkaly	804-550-0256
5/19, 20	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/25, 26	Upper Yough	29	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
5/26, 27	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Mark Cytron	216-227-1392
5/26-28	Cheat Canyon	26	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
June				
6/1, 2	Upper Yough	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 or 304-379-4747
6/2,3	Esopus Slalom Race run by KCCNY		Igor Birbrayer	440-479-5636
6/2, 3	Cheat Canyon	26	Pam Poljak	440-268-9194
6/2	Cuyahoga River, Peninsula to Boston Mills	SK/FW	Ann Corey	330-869-6549
6/2	Ladies day on the Slippery Rock	13-19	Mary Modesitt	216-581-4111
6/3	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Mary Modesitt	216-581-4111
6/3	Lower Yough	23	Sabine Iben	440-543-4969
6/3	Yough Lake Cruising Trip	SK/FW	Gene Baker	440-967-6454
6/ 10	Vermilion or Black River	SK/FW	Chuck Singer	440-949-6681
6/9,10	Red Cross - Basic River and WW Paddling in Western PA		Red Cross	440-298-1293
6/12	Club Meeting & Free Style Clinic at Hinckley Lake at 6pm	SK/FW	Elaine & Bob Mravetz	330-239-1725
6/16, 17	Lower Yough - permits	23	Ron Tomallo	330-666-7340
6/16, 17	Middle Yough	12	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
6/16 - 28	Colorado Rivers - advanced/intermediate trip,	25-32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
6/23,24	Rescue Weekend & Rodeo	All	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
6/30	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

FEBRUARY, 2007



**Next club meeting is on Tuesday,
February 13th at 7:30pm at the
Middleburg Hts Community Center**
16000 East Bagley Road

[Map to Meeting](#)

- **Program: Film: "Kilowatt Ours"**
- **Increased consumption of coal has meant**
- **increased atmospheric pollution, and the modern**
- **technique of "mountain top removal" mining has**
- **been taking an awful toll on the mountains and**
- **mountain communities in West Virginia and**
- **Kentucky. Join Sierra Club activist Thomas**
- **Pirko for a presentation of the award-winning**
- **film "Kilowatt Ours" by Jeff Barrie. Then Tom**
- **will take questions on what you can do to**
- **reduce your use of coal.**

Doors open at 7pm.

All meetings are open to guests.

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes

There was not a scheduled business meeting for January. Therefore, there were no minutes.

Member Survey Results And State of the Club By Ed Charlton

First of all, I'm truly flattered and grateful to be President of our Club this coming year. When I moved to Cleveland in 2000, I'd never sat in a kayak. But having performed that blessed event in the pool of Newman Outfitters, I was hooked and quickly discovered the Keel Haulers. I found new friends that I'd soon trust with life and limb and would have more fun with than anything else you can do with your clothes on. As a boater, I'm mediocre (on a good day). As an administrator, I more closely resemble an absent-minded professor than a steely-eyed MBA.

So, what do I bring to my stewardship of our Club, then? Commitment to the Club and its members, and openness to new ideas and change are my strengths.

This leads me to our recent member Survey, courtesy of many hours of hard work by Mary Modesitt. My thanks to dozens and dozens of you who took the time to thoughtfully answer our questions. In it, you told us that the Club does a number of things well. We have an excellent schedule of trips and a peerless website. The Club is sizable, stable, and reliable. But, there's room for improvement and change.

We are in practice almost exclusively a whitewater kayaking club, at present. We offer encouragement to seakayakers, rec boaters and canoeists, but almost no trips. We will remedy that with your help. Repeatedly you asked for downriver camping trips. We will develop them. You asked for more interesting programs and that some meetings are held on the East-side. Both will happen. Many of you note a difficulty as a newcomer to "break into" the social aspects of the membership and a cliquishness that is discouraging.

A lot of you had concerns about non-members joining us on our trips. Most of the comments expressed concern about having to police people joining our trips to find out if they are indeed members. We recognize that most of us do not care to be confrontational in this activity that we all enjoy. In reality, there are only a few people who regularly take advantage of our hospitality, and it's not worth distressing our membership over the actions of a few.

We've got an incredible Club! We're one of the best in the nation. I'm proud to be on a river or at a put-in and identify myself as a Keel Hauler. Let's continue to develop our Club for our enjoyment. If we do it right, our Club will thrive.

KEELHAULER CPR CLINIC

Tuesday March 27th at 7:00pm
Middleburg Heights Community Center
(Map to Meeting)
1600 Bagley Road
Space Is Limited

Register Now at: keelhauler-cpr@adelphia.net

In keeping with The Club's goal of enhancing safety on the water through education we are offering a CPR Clinic. ALL of your boating partners would like you to join them for a one evening CPR clinic.

Recent events have reminded us of just how important basic CPR skills can be. Even if you've taken a CPR course in the past it could be time to refresh your skills and/or learn the latest techniques. During the stress of an emergency is no time to be trying to recall the skills from that class you took a few years ago. This class is open to all Keelhaulers and anyone who thinks Keelhaulers are cool.

Basic CPR skills will be learned through the new American Heart Association Community CPR Training Program called "CPR Anytime". The class will be led by our own Debbie Avallone. Debbie is a healthcare professional and AHA Certified. Participants obtain personal kits to bring to class. At the end you take home your kits containing a manikin, DVD and book to share with family and friends. Your kits can then be used for future refresher courses with no additional cost. The interactive program will take little more than an hour. The cost, including shipping, is \$36.90. To save a few dollars, 2 friends or family members can share a kit.

CPR Anytime personal learning kits are ordered from the American Heart Association on line by clicking on the link below or by phone at 1-800-233-1230. Allow two weeks to ensure delivery.

Order - FAMILY & FRIENDS CPR ANYTIME KIT AT:

<http://saturn.igetsmart.com/servlet/loaddaemon?Type=5&Load=ahacpr&Field1=801066+++&Field2=&Field3=&Field4=1&Field5>
(click on Home button)

To Summarize:

- Register Now at keelhauler-cpr@adelphia.net
- Order Your Personal CPR Kit at the link above or by calling 1-800-233-1230
- Important: You must allow 2 weeks for delivery of your Kit before the Clinic date!
- Bring your Kit to the Middleburg Heights Community Center at 7:00pm on March 27th
- Wear comfy clothes suitable for sitting on the floor.
- Bring something to cushion your knees (pad, towel, piece of rug, etc.)
- Leave being a little more prepared for the unexpected.

Swimming Whitewater

Beyond "Feet-Up"

By Kent Ford

Most whitewater paddlers have heard the rule of thumb "keep you feet up" when swimming-the cardinal rule for avoiding defensive strategy is important, but it is not the only thing you should know about swimming whitewater. Several different techniques exist for swimming in whitewater: defensive, aggressive, and special styles dealing with eddy lines, strainers, holes, drops and big water.

Defensive swimming:

The first move

The first thing to do after an unexpected swim is get on your back with your feet pointing downstream. Floating in this defensive swimming position, you can evaluate what lies ahead, and you are well protected in shallow spots on the river. Keep your body lined up with the current so you can slip by rocks without hitting them. Use your legs to absorb the impact from rocks if necessary. If the water is

shallow, arch your back to keep your feet high. Turn your head and time your breathing to take in air between waves and holes.

While swimming, keep your feet near the surface and never try to stand up in water deep enough to float you. If your foot gets caught, the water can push your body over and hold you underwater. A foot entrapment is a dangerous but avoidable situation. Even experienced paddlers make this mistake. Don't let embarrassment, frustration or cold make you hunt for footing. Swim properly unless it is just too shallow.

From the defensive swimming position--on you back with your feet up--you can evaluate what's next. When you see a hazard to avoid, or an eddy or shore for safety, angle your body and back-stroke to maneuver. Move around by angling your body in the direction you want to go and backstroking upstream. You will be looking between your feet at what you are avoiding ... since you can't see where you are heading, this position can be disconcerting. Think of aiming the top of your head for your destination.

Aggressive swimming

If you need more power, change to an aggressive swimming technique. Roll over on your stomach and use a crawl stroke. Breathe on the downstream side to avoid inhaling water. This type of swim is (the)tiring, so it is best for short, intense bursts. A breast stroke or side stroke will improve your visibility but slow your progress. Any swimming is exhausting and you'll be thankful for practice and fitness training. The crawl style aggressive swim is especially important for rivers with deep turbulent water. If you see where you want to be, get there!

Special swimming techniques:

Barrel rolls across an eddy line

When you swim into an eddy, it is easiest to break through by performing a barrel roll over the eddy line. When the current grabs you, go with it by rolling upright again. This technique will help you break through the eddy- line, which naturally tries to spin and reject you.

Don't miss the obvious:

Grab a rock

With powerful current you may not be able to swim into eddies. In such a case, your best chance may be grabbing for a rock or even swimming head first up onto a friendly rock. In certain cases this can save you from a long, battering swim.

Strainer swimming

Swimming over a strainer is done head first. Although you want to avoid this predicament, if you find yourself unavoidably swimming towards a strainer, switch to head first and kick to launch over the top. The goal is to keep your head up. The normal feet first position is too passive for strainers.

Vertical drops

Vertical drops require a unique swimming technique. The idea is to ball up to avoid the possibility of washing into a foot entrapment. This technique should be employed anytime you are swimming over sheer drops of several feet or more.

Swimming in pourers

If you feel stuck in a hole don't just swim for the surface. Change your shape to see if this causes the hole to spit you out. The most

reliable system is swimming aggressively for the sides where water rushes by or swimming upstream into the pour over to hook up with current flushing out underneath.

Swimming in big water

If, you end up in an unfortunate big water swim, swim aggressively if you see a way to get to safety. Watch the currents to decide if you are safer staying with the extra flotation of your boat or abandoning your boat to allow an aggressive swim. In big flows you will probably need help getting to shore ... and you'll be thankful if your group has the skills to assist.

Swimming helpers

You end up in the water when you least expect it, usually from an unplanned swim or minor rescue situation. Being prepared to swim starts when you dress for the river. Cold water and hypothermia are obvious threats on nasty days, but good weather days can be deceptive. If the air temperature plus the water temperature is less than 100 degrees, the risk of hypothermia is real. Check the water temperature and dress accordingly. Snug helmets and PFDs round out proper preparation for swimming. Keep everything streamlined so nothing can hold water or get snagged.

Feb.				
2/10, 17, 24	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
2/11, 18, 25	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
2/13	Club Monthly Meeting		Tom Pirko	440-256-9242
2/17, 24	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
2/23, 24	National Paddling Film Fest		Michael Duvall	216-521-0094
2/24	Slippery Rock	13-19	John Yaro	216-566-2501
March				
3/3, 10, 17	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Rocky River School Pool - Saturday. To register - Call 216-431-3076		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
3/4, 11, 18	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Lakewood High Schools - Sunday. To register - Call 216-431-3076		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
3/3, 4	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
3/3, 10	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
3/3, 10, 17	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
3/11	Neshannock Creek or another class II	12	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
3/13	Club Monthly Meeting and Annual Auction		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
3/18	Vermilion River Cleanup	SK/FW	Hank Annable	440-775-4953
3/24	Rocky River Tributaries	17	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
3/25	Vermilion Race	SK/FW	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
3/24, 25	WV Creeking	>30	Brent Laubaugh	724-272-6944
3/30	Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge - Permit Application	16	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

MARCH, 2007



**Next club meeting is Tuesday,
March 13th at 7:30 PM at the
Middleburg Hts Community Center,
16000 East Bagley Road**

[Map to Meeting](#)

Program: Annual Auction - Bring any outdoor gear that you wish to sell and bring some money to take advantage of the great bargains. Remember that there is a very limited market for boats at this auction. You will get a better price by placing an ad on our used equipment page. Doors open at 7PM, auction starts at about 8:30 PM, after a short business meeting.

All meetings are open to guests.

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes

The February meeting was canceled due to bad weather.

Keelhauler CPR Clinic

**Tuesday March 27th at 7:00pm
Middleburg Heights Community Center
([Map to Meeting](#))**

**1600 Bagley Road
Space Is Limited**

Register Now at: keelhauler-cpr@adelphia.net

In keeping with The Club's goal of enhancing safety on the water through education we are offering a CPR Clinic. ALL of your boating partners would like you to join them for a one evening CPR clinic. Recent events have reminded us of just how important basic CPR skills can be. Even if you've taken a CPR course in the past it

could be time to refresh your skills and/or learn the latest techniques. During the stress of an emergency is no time to be trying to recall the skills from that class you took a few years ago. This class is open to all Keelhaulers and anyone who thinks Keelhaulers are cool.

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Order - FAMILY & FRIENDS CPR ANYTIME KIT AT:

[Click to order kit](#) (then click on Home button)

To Summarize:

- Register Now at keelhauler-cpr@adelphia.net
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- Important: You must allow 2 weeks for delivery of your Kit before the Clinic date!
- Bring your Kit to the Middleburg Heights Community Center at 7:00pm on March 27th
- Wear comfy clothes suitable for sitting on the floor.
- Bring something to cushion your knees (pad, towel, piece of rug, etc.)

- Leave being a little more prepared for the unexpected.

Whitewater Hall of Fame

By Sue Taft

The International Whitewater Hall of Fame (IWHOF) is accepting nominations for the 2007 Class of Inductees through March 30, 2007. While nominations are only accepted through affiliate organizations, the whitewater community is encouraged to contact their affiliates to participate in the process. Check out the website (www.iwhof.com) for a listing of the affiliates and the nominating criteria and forms. Thanks much for your help and support.

After Elliott Drysdale's one week annual southern trip. [Southern Rivers Trip](#)

Cheoah River Trip

Date: Sunday, April 15
 Meeting Time: 8am
 Meeting location: Cheoah take-out, boat ramp area on Lake Calderwood
 Length: 9 miles
 Class: IV-IV+ at 1130 cfs; IV-V at 1840 cfs
 Expected flow: 850 to 1000cfs dam release + natural flow
 Coordinator: Jeff Macklin
 Phone: 724-331-7873 cell

The Cheoah is a continuous, advanced to expert playable roadside run in the extreme southwest corner of NC. Paddlers should be VERY comfortable on the Upper Yough at 2.2' (or similar river). Except for 2 or 3 half-mile sections, this 9-mile river is more continuous than anything else in the Southeast with a similar water volume. Some call it "warm western-style paddling;" Gradient profile for last 7 miles: 65, 97, 83, 57, 72, 101, 99fpm. Within the last mile is a .24-mile section with a gradient of 142fpm.

The Cheoah gets harder as it rises, especially the upper section (based on the river's current tree and brush-clogged status). At 1500 cfs, it is a very exciting and challenging level, providing a thrilling ride unlike anything else to be found in the Eastern US. Directions from Robbinsville, NC:

Go north on US 129 for 16 miles. The river you'll drive next to for the last 9 miles is the Cheoah. At the confluence of Little Tennessee and Cheoah, You will cross a bridge. From this bridge you can see a huge dam on the Little Tennessee to your right. Turn left into the Lake Calderwood boat ramp area immediately after crossing this bridge. Look for a dark green Dodge Caravan ... probably with a bunch of wet/ripe clothing hanging inside ;-)

Vermilion River Race

By Rob Hammond

Put Sunday, March 25 on your calendar. That's the date we will be running the first opportunity to get out and work out some our winter atrophied muscles! The river is an easy class I I and very scenic. And there are all kinds of race classes based on age, gender and boat length, so there will be a place for you to fit in. The race can be as much or as little as you want, some people take the race as a leisurely stroll, and others... well lets say that they are in it for blood. Last year, we raised the age limit for senior boaters from 40 to 50, cause.... um, let's just say us old guys were a bit too challenging for the younger guys, and we thought we would let you guys compete amongst yourselves without embarrassment! Or something like that! But I will give you younger guys a heads up. When you see Chuck Singer signing up for the younger men's class, don't think that he is going to be an easy mark, just cause he is a little on the gray side and really should be with the us ole farts. He loves kicking whippersnapper butt!

After the race, there will be hot food for cheap. So come on out for an early spring chance to get ready for the season. Check out the race application, rules and map in this newsletter.

Also, I need a few good women and men to help out at the race and to help get the word out to some of the local sports retailers (we have packets to drop off), as well as some people to help out at registration and at the refreshment stand. So let me know if you want to hang out with some really cool folks and help us make the race a success! If you still have questions, or would like to help out...give me a call! Rob Hammond 216-292-5618.

Vermilion Race 2007

Go to these links to view race rules, application, waiver and map.

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/rules2007.pdf> == Vermilion Race 2007 Rules & Map

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/applic2007.pdf> == Vermilion Race 2007 Application

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/waiver2007.pdf> == Vermilion Race 2007 Waiver

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/vermilion.html> == Map of Vermilion Race

http://www.keelhauler.org/images/Vermilion_LowLocation.jpg == Low Water Location

New this year – Register & Pay on-line

http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/Vrace_Reg.htm == On Line registration

We still need a few trip organizers. Please review and E-Mail at Michael.Duvall@amgreetings.com, or call Michael Duvall today at 216-521-0094.

March				
3/3, 10, 17	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Rocky River School Pool - Saturday. To register - Call 216-431-3076		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
3/4, 11, 18	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Lakewood High Schools - Sunday. To register - Call 216-431-3076		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
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3/3, 10	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
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3/11	Neshannock Creek or another class I I	12	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
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3/18	Vermilion River Cleanup	SK/FW	Hank Annable	440-775-4953
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3/25	Vermilion Race	SK/FW	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
3/24, 25	WV Creeking	>30	Brent Laubaugh	724-272-6944
3/27	Keelhauler CPR Clinic at 7 PM Clinic Location	CPR kit	Register Now	440-716-5489
3/30	Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge - Permit Application	16	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549
April				
4/6-13	Southern Rivers Trip -- Map -- Detailed Maps Must contact trip leader 3 days before trip	22-31	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
4/7, 8	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/7	Grand River	SK/FW	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890
4/15	Cheoah River in NC	33	Jeff Macklin	724-527-5105
4/14, 15	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/14, 15	Lower Yough	16	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
4/10	Club Monthly Meeting		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
4/14	Grand River	SK/FW	Carl Kudrna	440-835-0222
4/15	Bear Creek or another class I I	??	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

APRIL, 2007



**Next club meeting is Tuesday,
April 10th at 7:30 PM at the
Middleburg Hts Community Center,
16000 East Bagley Road**

[Map to Meeting](#)

**Program: To be announced. Doors open at 7PM,
auction starts at about 8:30 PM, after a short
business meeting.**

All meetings are open to guests.

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes

March 13th, 2007

1. Meeting opened on quite late, at 8.07 pm, due to room conflict. Large crowd at MH Rec Center and our room was not ready.
2. Guests were introduced by themselves (n=8 approx.) and were welcomed. Ed C. has names and contact information.
3. Rob Hammond, Treasurer, reported a balance of approx. \$3300 with CDs at approx. \$6000. Cash flow and balance will fluctuate soon due to Vermillion race expense and income.
4. Rob Hammond also reported on Vermillion race, scheduled for 3/25. Hoping for good weather and good volunteer turnout. Cleanup date is previous Sunday, 3/18. Members please pass out and post posters.
5. Dr. Trish Voss was introduced. She will be Program Chair/Coordinator for recreational, family outings (flatwater or mild Class 1+), Already some trips are scheduled with 1st one on May 12th. See announcements.
6. Mary Modesitt reported on Conservation. Grand River Partners sent flyers, stickers and postcards as thank

you note for our contribution. This group takes care of the G R Watershed.

7. Rob Hammond reported on activities related to American Red Cross. He is hoping for joint ventures, flyers, and activities with ARC this year. We have a link to ARC on our website.

8. Pat Guzowski reported for Library. He is open to suggestions reacquisitions; he and others favor Instructional Videos.

9. Chuck Singer reported re Safety. Suggestions: in spring, dress for water, not air, temperature. CPR session is scheduled for 3/27 @ \$39. Instructor will be our member, Ms. Debbie Avellone.

10. Old Business- member survey was accomplished; May meeting is likely to be on east side; we are talking to McConnell's Mill State Park in PA re Keith Clarke memorial bench; put-in at the mill on the Slip is being resolved with the Park Supt. and looks good (=user-friendly!).

11. New Business & Other- no new business; see website for trips; Ed C recommends Southern trip for interested parties. Always contact trip leader , don't just show up.

Adjourned at 8.37 pm for auction (conducted by master auctionner, Chuck S.)

Respectfully submitted

Andy Gross, Secretary, Keelhaulers

Please consider writing an article for your club newsletter. You can write about your upcoming trip, a past trip, or informational material that other members may find of use.
Send articles to peetzaguy@aol.com.

Mexico 2007

By John Kobak

We hate the Cleveland winter weather, so we decided to head back to Mexico again for the winter of '07. We invited Thury O'Connor to follow along with us in the RV he purchased last fall.



On our way

[Click for Map of our Trip](#)

We did what I call our taste of Mexican beaches. We started down the East coast of Mexico and just East of Vera Cruz at the beautiful mountain lake of Catemaco we headed due south and ended up on the West coast close to the Guatemala border. We then very slowly worked our way up the West coast exploring many beautiful beach towns. We finally ran out of time when we got just North of Puerto Vallarta and then headed back East through Guadalajara and back to Texas.

[Part 1 - More Pictures](#)



Zipolite Beach, Oaxaca

Early on, after we reached the West coast we had some difficulty in finding campsites since several campgrounds had closed. In general we felt that more RV'rs are heading to Mexico, but about 90% of them are from Canada. The US press does not depict Mexico as a safe place to travel. While in fact the opposite is true. The people are warm and friendly and if you ever had mechanical problems of any sort it is much easier to have things repaired in Mexico rather than in the States. They know how to fix, not just replace, things.

[Part 2 - More Pictures](#)



Crocodile waiting to eat the birds

It's a bird watcher's paradise, of course in some places the crocs ate several birds each night right behind our campsite.



Maruata - Our new Favorite place

[Part 3 - More Pictures](#)

Sometimes our accommodations were first class like this beautiful hotel, restaurant and campground on Melaque's beach near Barra de Navidad.



Laguna de Tule

[Part 4 - More Pictures](#)

While other times we roughed it camping next to a Mexican family's little one room hut.



Chacala

Of course they all were right on some of the most beautiful beaches that you have ever seen.

We did a lot of beach walking early in the day while the temperature was still in the low 70's. However, not only did we have no rain on the entire trip but there was a cool spell which kept the highs in the mid 80's, with low 60's at night which was great for sleeping. There was no need for A/C ever due to the ocean breeze and our RV roof top solar arrays ensured that we had plenty of power even when we were just boondocking with no hookups of any kind.

I took my kayak along and when the shore break was not too large, I got a chance to get a little exercise by paddling around the bays and doing some surfing.



Into the waves

[Part 5 - More Pictures & Links](#)

It was a great trip, but I'm glad that there are not that many people heading to Mexico every winter. There really are not enough campgrounds to go around and some nice sites are being bought up by hotel companies building small hotels on every beautiful beach.

We drove 3600 mi. in the US, averaging 600 mi/day while in Mexico we drove 3000 mi. and averaged only about 175 mi/day between camps. Other than their turnpikes the roads are not built for speed. We drove about 5 hours/day in Mexico. Gasoline was about \$2.45/gal, about the same price as in the states.

We only use bottled water which we buy in 5 gal jugs. They are available everywhere for about \$1 each. I don't believe that we spent over \$40 for the entire two month trip and we use this water for everything except showers. We used their campground showers or our sun showers when boondocking.

This year we never got stopped by one military road block which searches for drugs or by one Mexican policeman looking to cite us for a minor traffic infraction.

If you are interested in doing a trip like this, let us know, we can give you some pointers. Here is a link to some of our older Mexican trip reports.

[More reports on my Mexican trips.](#)

Surfer's Ear Sucks: episode #1 - "Only hating when it rains" March 8, 2007, By Clay Wright

What a winter!

If you ever wanted to become a pill-poppin couch potato who complains like an old lady when it rains? Let me suggest twisting your knee and getting a wicked ear infection right before Green Race. . . getting to limp around on crutches whacked on oxycodone and in near silence at the event, then finding out you need knee AND ear surgery before you will be able to paddle again. My only consolation: I think the Rain Gods miss me, as there's barely been an inch since. Knee ACL replacement breezes by, but after months and months of ENT/Specialist visits, rounds of antibiotics, oceans of drops, and weeks spent in Lortab-land my Ear has me on the Vacation to Hell. I can't hear but 50%, the pain is occasionally intense, I've got goo coming out some weeks, and I can't hear even straight hydrogen peroxide drops till they ooze down, burning and bubbling into my brain. My latest doctor finally admits 'till you get those bones removed there is just not much we can do'.

History:

I've paddled since I was 7, full time winters here at Rock Island for 15 years, and didn't start wearing ear plugs till my first OR - about 12 years ago, when 'Dr. D' awarded me 'Best of Show' in terms of ear closure and told me I had 95% closure in one ear and 80% in the other. So getting 12 more years on 250 day/yr paddling program is testament to the effectiveness of Dr. D's Pro-plugs and Playboater's 'Ear-wig' Scull Cap (System X).

Without Doc's free OR screening, though, I had not a single symptom and would never have known. Got my first real ear infection after an Africa trip in 2003, and only 6-7 more minor ones till now. Draining water became a real problem in 2003, but otherwise I felt I had at least 90% hearing in both ears despite what Doc's photos showed. But 2006 is a different story. The infection moved to my middle ear, bursting my ear drum in a flood of warm goo on the heating pad and with a welcome relief from the pain the day before Green Race. It re-heals then burst again later in the winter. Little did I know I would rather have continued with the pain. The infection is the real danger, the boney growths are just the cause.

Surgical research:

My ENT had done 3 of the surgeries in which they peel your ear off and drill . .but when the CT scan came in he

balked from the job. 'You don't have one bone blocking the ear canal, it's like the whole thing has grown shut' ... and he points out the thickening bones in my ear canal ... they are the thickest bones in my whole skull according to the scan. He worries drilling with no ear drum visible means possibly missing the canal (going into the brain). He worries a Chisel strike could cause a fracture running through the facial nerve (causing permanant facial paralysis). I'm freaked out, and start Googling to find old Shaun Baker articles, Bob Gedekoh's AW writings, lots of horror stories, but find one website dedicated to my condition:

<http://www.santacruzmedical.org/surfersear.html>

and accompanying article.

<<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2005/May/23/local/stories/02local.htm>>

I e-mail the website and Dr. Hetzler writes back the next day with tons of info. When I ask him about number of surgeries performed, facial nerve paralysis and time off the water after he's got all the right answers: 350 ears, no facial nerve or skull fractures, and 2-weeks to 1 month usual healing time (as opposed to 2 months after the drill). Then I ask about coming out for the surgery and he's already got files made up with airport distances, hotels, drive times, and what to expect. Only someone fully dedicated to treating this condition and used to on out-of town athletes would go to so much trouble. And Southwest flies Nashville to San Jose for under 200\$ round trip. I'm so outta here ... Stay tuned for Episode #2 in the continuing drama 'Surfer's Ear Sucks'

NOTE:

This story was copied from www.jacksonkayak.com Clay Wright is a world class freestyle kayaker and extreme steep creeker. He is also a regular contributor to the American Whitewater Journal.

Michael Duvall

New Boating Instruction Brochures By Rob Hammond

American Red Cross (ARC) Greater Cleveland Chapter has recently agreed to pay for the printing of a great new brochure advertising the boating instruction program. The ARC in partnership with the Keel Haulers Canoe Club has operated the instructional program for many years. In the last few years class enrollments have substantially fallen off and forced cancellation of

several classes. This has been due primarily to the lack of marketing of the program. Potential boaters just did not know of the longstanding instructional program. And with the internet, a person searching for boating instruction would find alternative training by private and public entities, but the Keel Hauler/ARC training was hard to find.

This Brochure invites people who are thinking about getting into paddle sports to check out the Red Cross classes. It was written a few years back but it lacked excitement and sizzle. A call went out for a graphic artist to spice up the brochure. Terry Markoff had a friend in Texas who was a graphic artist and she agreed to create the brochure at no cost to the instruction program. The artist, Carla Cheshirre, created a great piece out of a tired and boring piece, and she made Sabine a glamorous cover girl! You can see the results of her work on the Keel Haulers website. Click the instruction tab and look for the brochure in the slide out menu. To thank Carla for the great work she did on our behalf we are going to make her an honorary Keel Hauler. Also, she wants to come to the Lower Yough this summer and do some rafting. We owe her a great time on the river and hope to see her soon!

You will also see this brochure in the yearbooks that are now in the mail. We included the piece because we want you to give it away! If you know of someone who has shown some interest in learning how to canoe or kayak, give them the brochure and encourage them to check out the schedule on the Keel Haulers website. If you don't know of a potential boater take the brochure to school or work and put it up on the bulletin board. Along with your help in distributing the brochure, we will be taking the brochures to recreational centers and sporting good stores. If you would like some additional brochures for display at schools, clubs, work, or groups you are part of, give me a call and I will get some out to you.

To keep the Keel Haulers Canoe Club strong we need to beef up our membership roles and the best way to do that is encourage people to try out the sport. And one of the best ways to try it, without having to invest in a lot of money in boating gear, is to sign up for the next Red Cross boating class! Take your brochure and make it work for our club!

Vermilion River Race

Dateline: Sunday March 25 2007

Wow what a great day to have a race! Sunny day, temperatures in the 60s and a great water level! The water level started the day at about 3.9 feet and dropping to about 3.7 feet on the USGS gauge by the end of the race.

The turnout was the best we have had in 20 years! We had 117 boats and 152 racers! It has been 1988 since we saw so many racers and 1986 since we saw so many boats in the Vermilion River Race. Why did we have such a great turnout? Certainly the great weather was the main draw. Also the great story written by D'Arcy Egan in the Cleveland Plain Dealer the previous day did not hurt. Check it out at:

<http://www.cleveland.com/outdoors/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/sports/117472661890250.xml&coll=2>

The huge turnout did cause some problems for those of us running the race. Things were slow at the registration, boat inspection, start line and at scoring. It took a while, but we finally got the scores out and the award ceremony. Every year after the race, we check and recheck the scores, and this year we had to make some corrections over the results we posted on Sunday. You can look at the official results enclosed, or on our webpage.

Most of the changes are minor, but there was one that affected 1st place. In the C-2 Senior class 4, there were only 2 boats. There was some problem in calculating the handicap for one boat. It turned out that they came in 1st place. My apologies to Scott Kermode, and Ken Burney, I will send out the gold medals to you.

If you could not wait around for the award ceremony, you can have me mail your medals. Just send me \$2.00 for each medal to cover shipping and packing materials and I will get it out to you. Or if you let me know, I can bring it to the next Keel Hauler meeting.

We need to thank all of the volunteers who worked so hard on this race, not just the day of the race but the late evenings afterward deciphering hand written registrations and piecing all of the paper work together to make the scoring right. Weeks before the race

requires weekends preparing mailings to all former racers, dropping off of race promotion material at sporting goods stores all over NE Ohio. The work to put on this race is tremendous, and we could not do it without the support of over a dozen volunteers whose paycheck only comes when you have a great race day and we thank them. I want to take this opportunity to give them all a big thanks on behalf of all the racers!

Next year is our 40th anniversary for the Vermilion Race. We are looking forward to seeing every one come out. If you have any suggestions of what we can do to make this anniversary special let me know.

Rob Hammond
Keel Haulers Race Chair
Cell: (216) 287-8580, Phone: (216) 292-5618
r.hammond@SCD-Corp.com

Vermilion River Race Results

1 C-2 Unrestricted Canoe

546 1:19:18 Haslage, Dan Oravec, Dave

2 C-2 Mixed or Women Canoe

472 1:03:37 Monte, Mary Jo Leszek, Ed
464 1:05:49 Masek, Dan Masek, Sarah
493 1:11:43 Desjardins, Pierre & Emilie
478 1:14:08 Hoven, Francis Maddamma, R
503 1:20:26 Thieret, Ed Thieret, Connie
504 1:22:49 Frattarohl, Julie & Jim
534 1:36:45 Veverka, Dennis Miller, Laura
456 2:00:26 Howser, Billy & Sharon

3 C-2 Men's Standard Canoe

453 1:08:16 Conant, Skip Tenbusch, Andrew
486 1:08:25 Grady, Bob Greising, Harry
466 1:09:17 Hull Jr, Robert Hull, Jeff
528 1:10:36 Murdoch, Scott & Bryan
559 1:10:58 Walker, William Funderburg, J
547 1:11:29 Parker, James Leavitt, Jeremy
535 1:11:40 Frenk, Gregory Frenk, Neil
549 1:13:02 Koloini, Kyle Koloini, Kris
505 1:18:25 Pasenow, Jim Pasenow, Jason
545 1:18:32 Hook, Jeffrey Shumaker, Scott
527 1:20:43 Capiccioni, Joey Anderson, T
538 1:21:00 Lowstetter, John Kory, Andrew
554 1:22:27 Fritz, Don Fritz, Scott

501 1:22:28 Vitovich, Stan Vitovich, Cody
540 1:23:53 McKain, Kirby Barns, Tim
570 1:23:56 Hudak, Paul Hudak, Matt
555 1:25:30 Diederich, Joe Johnson, Paul
539 1:25:59 Foley, Mike Cunningham, Randy
522 1:28:44 Forbush Jr, Michael Wolbom, J

4 C-2 Senior > 49 yrs old

Age Handicap

526 1:15:19 Kermode, Scott Burney, Ken :40
521 1:16:06 Skinner, Norman Myers, Gary 08:00

5 C-2 Over & Under

470 1:17:35 Annable, Chuck Annable, Sam
480 1:25:19 Markoff, Terry Markoff, Anni
499 1:25:43 Snyder, Mike Snyder, Neil
520 1:45:06 Anderholm, John & Callie
508 2:22:24 Thieret, Russell Thieret, Josh

6 C-2 One Person Canoe

569 1:10:38 Teeple, Dick
563 1:11:00 McFarland, Randall
483 1:14:17 Tenbusch, Richard
565 1:27:05 Jerdonek, Richard
551 1:27:10 Rasinski, John

8 K-1 Short Kayak < 11.5', Men

498 1:13:31 Duvall, Michael
548 1:16:01 Parker, James
500 1:18:00 Park, Jim
557 1:25:23 Corso, Chuck Jr
523 1:27:33 Anderson, Eric
514 1:27:44 Schaaf, Andy
452 1:28:11 Root, Raymond
490 1:30:02 Strongfellow, Jim
450 1:31:59 Raber, Phil

9 K-1 Short Kayak < 11.5', Women

524 1:13:39 Johnson, Karen
479 1:19:08 Iben, Sabine
467 1:24:09 Holman, Denise
510 1:24:22 Hook, Diane
507 1:28:03 Avallone, Deborah
481 1:29:55 McKay, Christine
451 1:33:03 Raber, Jennifer

10 K-1 Kayak < 14.4', Men

544 1:04:28 Rabatin, Jacob
537 1:06:47 Gorey, Tim

460 1:07:34 White, Joe
 556 1:07:37 Kuncel, Adam
 496 1:08:46 Singer, Chuck
 489 1:09:02 Gary, Tim
 495 1:09:46 Spoores, Corey
 566 1:09:54 Wire, Cliff
 519 1:10:10 Annable, Tom
 536 1:12:03 Gorey, Shawn
 509 1:12:06 Stearns, Dave
 449 1:13:26 Guzowski, Pat
 567 1:15:39 Harple, Brian
 497 1:15:46 Winters, Floyd
 502 1:17:47 Nerandzic, Phillip
 485 1:20:09 Camacho, Greg
 518 1:20:28 Farrow, Neil
 564 1:21:52 Brennan, John
 482 1:34:55 McKay, Jay

11 K-1 Kayak > 11.5', Women

473 1:08:58 Monte, Mary Jo
 513 1:12:27 Morse, Chris
 550 1:16:50 Homberg, Donna
 533 1:19:12 Pinchbeck, Patti
 458 1:22:34 Fries-Maloy, Terry
 516 1:26:38 Patterson, Nancy
 492 1:29:16 McFarland, Colleen
 562 1:37:13 Skocaj, Adrienne
 517 2:08:54 Boggs, Lora

12 K-1 Kayak <14.5', Senior >49 yrs

543 1:06:10 Rabatin, Jake
 488 1:07:11 Gary, Tim
 457 1:08:07 Kobak, John
 468 1:10:44 Caudill, Mike
 477 1:12:01 Hammond, Rob
 532 1:14:10 Forman, Ron
 469 1:16:35 Wanosik, Tom
 484 1:18:04 Housholder, Bob
 494 1:20:52 Hocevar, Mark
 471 1:22:41 Beecheler, William
 558 1:25:32 Herbert, Larry
 512 1:25:42 Schaaf, William
 560 1:25:56 Berneike, Ed
 506 1:29:46 Ross, Steve

13 K-1 Long Kayak > 14.5', Men

474 1:00:36 Leszek, Ed
 455 1:01:12 Webber, Frank
 461 1:05:15 Slough, Eric
 491 1:05:47 Boyce, John

531 1:06:01 Batizy, Tass
 463 1:09:34 Shawhan, Brad
 542 1:10:02 Davis, Ben
 568 1:12:33 Chapman, Thomas
 511 1:15:50 Amato, James
 552 1:36:10 Payerchin, Richard
 561 1:38:12 Poelilin, Nicholas
 476 1:42:13 Asipauskas, Marius

14 K-1 Long >14.5', Senior >49 yrs

454 1:03:30 Webber, Frank
 529 1:03:52 Batizy, Arpad
 541 1:06:23 Davis, Daryl
 459 1:10:43 Spang, Mark
 553 1:13:10 Siesel, Steve
 515 1:36:32 Neal, Edward

Cheat River Race

By John Kobak

We need volunteers for this year's Cheat River Festival on May 5th. If you have been a regular, our volunteer coordinator will be contacting you. Let me know if you are interested in a specific time and work detail. Use swilts@cheat.org rather than replying to this message.

More volunteer opportunities: Preston Beautification Committee announces a "WV Make It Shine" cleanup along Cheat River Narrows on Rt. 72 south from Pringle Run to "as far as we can get". Saturday April 7th (rain date April 14). Start 9 am. Meet at Pringle Run pull off (4.3 mi from the intersection of Rt 7 and Rt 72 south). Bring work gloves and wear long pants, long sleeves and sturdy shoes. Contact Keith at kpitzer@cheat.org or 329-3621 for more information.

On April 14th Friends of the Cheat will do our Adopt-a-highway cleanup along RT 26 north of Albright. Meet at Albright Quik Stop at 9 am.

Contact Keith if any questions, kpitzer@cheat.org

Upper Yough Release Schedule

This is a quick update on what could be the up coming season for the Upper Yough..... We will be dealing with a new schedule this year..... There are not to many changes that will affect us but there are some confusing ones so pay attention:

No Mondays in April. Last two Fridays.

In May we will have the first 2 Monday and the first Saturday and the first 3 Fridays.

Memorial day weekend on odd years we get Sunday
Monday Even years we get Friday Saturday.

June has every Monday and Friday, No first Saturday.
The Saturday season will start on the 2nd to last Saturday. All releases in June start at 11:00 am and go to 2:00 pm. This will be the new release time until the

end of August. July and August are the same as before with the addition of all Saturdays.

September is every Monday and Friday and the first two Saturday with the release time changing back to 10:00 am the 1:00 pm.

October is the same as always.

Best regards,
Roger, Precision Rafting

2007 Upper Yough Tentative Release Information 3/24/07 update

April	Release Time	July	Release Time	Sept	Release Time
	10:00 am to 1:00 pm		11:00 am to 2:00 pm		10:00 am to 1:00 pm
4/20	Fri	7/2	Mon	9/1	Sat
4/27	Fri	7/6	Fri	9/3	Mon
May	Release Time	7/7	Sat	9/7	Fri
	10:00 am to 1:00 pm	7/9	Mon	9/8	Sat
5/4	Fri	7/13	Fri	9/10	Mon
5/5	Sat	7/14	Sat	9/14	Fri
5/7	Mon	7/16	Mon	9/17	Mon
5/11	Fri	7/20	Fri	9/21	Fri
5/14	Mon	7/21	Sat	9/24	Mon
5/18	Fri	7/23	Mon	9/28	Fri
5/27	Sun	7/27	Fri		Release Time
5/28	Mon	7/28	Sat	Oct	10:00 am to 1:00 pm
June	Release Time	7/30	Mon	10/1	Mon
	11:00 am to 2:00 pm	August	Release Time	10/5	Fri
6/1	Fri		11:00 am to 2:00 pm	10/6	Sat
6/4	Mon	8/3	Fri	10/8	Mon
6/8	Fri	8/4	Sat	10/12	Fri
6/11	Mon	8/6	Mon	10/15	Mon
6/15	Fri	8/10	Fri		
6/18	Mon	8/11	Sat		
6/22	Fri	8/13	Mon		
6/23	Sat	8/17	Fri		
6/25	Mon	8/18	Sat		
6/29	Fri	8/20	Mon		
6/30	Sat	8/24	Fri		
		8/25	Sat		
		8/27	Mon		
		8/31	Fri		

According to the trip schedule, we still need a CheatFest Coordinator.....

April				
4/6-13	Southern Rivers Trip -- Map -- Detailed Maps Must contact trip leader 3 days before trip	22-31	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
4/7, 8	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/7	Grand River	SK/FW	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890
4/10	Club Monthly Meeting		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
4/15	Cheoah River in NC	33	Jeff Macklin	724-527-5105
4/14, 15	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/14, 15	Lower Yough	16	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
4/14	Grand River	SK/FW	Carl Kudrna	440-835-0222
4/15	Bear Creek or another class I I	??	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
4/20-22	Middle Fork & Tygart	29	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
4/21,22	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/21-23	Stonycreek Rendezvous	21	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/22	Huron River, Milan to Huron Marina	SK/FW	Chris Meluch	440-965-5958
4/22	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Rick Feinberg	330-678-0727
4/28	Cheat River Race Clinic	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
4/28	Walk Little Beaver River Trail		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
4/28	Grand River Race - Alternate Date 5/6	SK/FW	Brian Davidson	800-669-9226
4/28, 29	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Mary Modesitt	216-581-4111
4/28, 29	WV Creeking	>32	Brent Laubaugh	724-272-6944
4/29	Little Beaver	SK/FW	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
May				
5/4, 5, 7	Upper Yough	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 or 304-379-4747
5/4	Cheat Mass-Occurrence Team Race	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
5/5, 6	Cheat Fest and River trips	26	Needs organizer	
5/5, 6	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/8	Club Monthly Meeting		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
5/12	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Joe Marks	216-281-1517



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

MAY, 2007



**Next club meeting is Tuesday,
May 8th at 7:30 PM. Location is
to be announced. Please check
the website for an update.**

Program: Increased consumption of coal has meant increased atmospheric pollution, and the modern technique of "mountaintop removal" mining has been taking an awful toll on the mountains and mountain communities in West Virginia and Kentucky. Join Sierra Club activist and club member Thomas Pirko for a presentation of the award-winning film "Kilowatt Ours" by Jeff Barrie. Then Tom will take questions on what you can do to reduce your use of coal.

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2007

There were no minutes submitted for this meeting.

Winter Roll Sessions: The Big Payoff

I have noticed that the Winter Roll Sessions have become more popular over the last several years. When we started these sessions there was only one location which was fairly well attended. The last few years we have expanded to two locations (Orange and Lakewood) and this past year even tried a few Sunday sessions. In addition there are several people who have established their own roll sessions.

It is clear that some people have really "caught the bug" and are there almost every session, while others

come when the can. I started coming more regularly the winter before last and increased my attendance this past winter. And what I found out is that it is actually fun! Before, I went out of "duty", to try to get a roll. I know it sounds crazy, but now I really enjoy being upside down in my boat, knowing that I can roll up when ever I want.

In addition to roll sessions, another way to perfect a roll is by putting in some time at the gym, especially over the winter when outside activity is frequently less. On the advice of my boss (also a paddler) I put many hours in on the rotary equipment at the gym which simulates the shoulder and upper body rotation required for doing a roll. I suspect time on this machine is what gave me my off-side roll this winter.

OK, so now I am having fun rolling away at the pool, but where is the big payoff? I mean, can I actually transfer this skill to the river? As you all know rolling in the pool is one thing, doing a combat roll on the river is quite another. The next obvious step was to try my new skill on a more difficult river than I had been paddling.

My opportunity came on the last day of the Southern Rivers trip. The group decided to run the Big South Fork in TN. It sounded like it might be doable for both Larry and I as we were both looking to expand our river running skills. And John Kobak said, "don't worry" there are places to get out scout the major rapids.

So I went blissfully on this run. The first half (Clear Creek) was fun and had several class II-III rapids. The second half we got to the Big South Fork. It was wider and the first three major rapids greeted us shortly.

At the top of the first major rapid (and I had no clue that it was the first one) the river was wide with an

array of large boulders spread across it. It appeared there may have been several routes through. John took the lead going far river left. Elliott then headed off far river right. I hesitated for a moment trying to decide which way to go. Only one person followed John, so I opted to follow Elliott. As I paddled to river right I notice Elliott turn around a give a big SEG just before he disappeared over the ledge. OK, well I was committed now.

It turned out to be a double drop (Double Falls). The first drop was the largest and a lot of fun. The second one was not as high but with lots of turbulent water at the bottom as it took a hard right hand turn. Amazingly enough I survived this rapid without a flip. And with a smile on my face, I accused Elliott of trying to kill me.

Major Rapid 2 (The washing machine) came up quickly. A couple people ran it before I was close enough to see their line. I did see Michael Duvall take a left line and get shot up vertically. Then John ran a center line and seemed to have a less violent ride, so I decided on the center route. Of course after I got over the ledge and could see the turbulent water below, my subsequent flip came as no surprise. After taking a few seconds to set up and waiting for the washing machine action to lessen, I rolled up, to cheers from everyone (did they think I wasn't going to roll? ☺)! Amazingly, I was very calm and knew I was going to roll, even though I have almost never done a successful combat roll in my life. So I have no idea why "I knew" I could roll, but I did. I have always thought that white water river running is a mental game and this river trip certainly bore that out.

So now I was on top of the world, and it was all down hill from here. My next flip, and roll occurred at the very next rapid Ell where every paddler save one, flipped too.

We were done with the three major rapids so now I could relax, right? But I had run every rapid practically blind. Where was the scouting? With this group, what was I thinking? That I was on a Steve Ingall's trip? Actually it was a good thing that I did not scout any, or I probably would not have run them.

Well, there were actually a few more substantial rapids yet to come. On one in particular I flipped again and took two tries to roll up. At which point I realized I was at the edge of another drop, which I ran and

flipped at the bottom again. This time it took me three attempts to roll up.

So at this point I have four flips and four successful rolls (well, five actually, if you count my practice roll at the beginning). I am not cold (even though the river is freezing) because I have on my new dry suit. But I am exceedingly exhausted. The run was over 11 miles but I made it to the end.

After the four flips we came to one more drop that was not as steep, but people were having some trouble with it, so John yelled up to me to be sure I kept paddling hard all the way through the rapid. This is a suggestion that was made to me repeatedly that day. So not wanting to flip again, I paddled like heck. And made it through! Note to self: Remember to keep paddling aggressively through strong currents!

So now that I appear to have my roll, the next challenge is to work on being a more aggressive paddler. It is all part of the continual improvement process.

I am VERY appreciative for all the outstanding support that Larry and I received on that trip, as we both made a step up. You guys (John, Elliott, Michael, Wayne, Bill) are the best! Not to mention my appreciation to my partner Larry, who somehow got me to this skill level.

So putting in the time to get the muscle memory set to enable you to do a roll automatically is definitely a major component to a river roll. "Knowing you can do it" and not panicking is the other part.

One other observation is that I am now opening my eyes when I do a roll which really seems to help. I am not sure if it is being able to orient myself, seeing the position of my blade, keeping my eye on the blade so I can keep my head down, or just seeing those Lawrence Welk bubbles. But I am convinced that it helps.

So my message to those out there who have been trying to get their roll is that it is possible. Even after 25 years of trying.

Summer roll sessions are also on the increase at a lake location near you. So with the weather improving, be sure to check those out. And don't forget to do your practice roll at the beginning of every river run.

So next winter, when you are yearning to get out on the water in boat, consider going to a pool session. Whether you are a beginner to rolling or just want to maintain your roll, go to the roll sessions! They can be lots of fun, improve your skill and there are many locations and times to choose from. Please feel free to forward any ideas you have on improving our roll sessions or schedule to our President, Ed Charlton.

SYOTR, Judi Cleary

Cold Southern Trip

At least we were not in Cleveland

By John Kobak

This is the 33rd year that we have been running our Southern trip. We went on Memorial Day in the early years but we eventually moved to Easter week to take advantage of the extra vacation days that people get and the higher water levels. Sometimes Easter comes early and sometimes we start in the snow. This year we had an early Easter and a late Winter.



Michael, Wayne, Me, Bill, Elliott, Judi decision time

Because of the cold weather many people dropped out leaving only a small group of 9 hardy paddlers. Elliott Drysdale led the trip with me as his advisor. Wayne Carey, Bill Miller and Michael Duvall came down for the entire trip. Bruce Bookless came down and after one day of paddling headed back home. Judi Cleary and Larry Fordyce joined us a day late but stayed the entire trip. Erin Bethea came late and left early.

We decided to utilize Warrior Path State Park for our first two nights. They opened up their overflow area for us, so we had our own private campground including hot showers. A big campfire warmed us up.

We left Cleveland on Thursday in a heavy snow but it was much nicer in Northern TN. It was sunny and in the low 60's. The Nolichucky River was a low 875 cfs but the group thought it was perfect for our first river paddling of the year. No problems, just a little windy. We met Judi & Larry at camp that evening where everybody cooked-in in spite of the cool weather. The weather turned cold and we awoke to 3" of snow and no water in the Tellico or Little Rivers.

Judi suggested that we try the Pigeon River which runs along I-70 at the NC/TN border. It is a dam release and when we got there we saw plenty of water.

However, we also saw snow and it was 30° F. We all agreed that it would be a nice day to shop and headed over to the NOC store on the Nantahala. Bruce gave up and headed back to Ohio.



Author at Bull Sluice – Click photo for animation

So Saturday night, as is our tradition, we arrived at Thunder Rock campground on the Ocoee. We enjoyed a Mexican dinner in Copperhill and met Erin who finally made it after some car problems. We started a big campfire and made sure that no one was drinking any alcohol. Up drives a TVA police officer, who quickly comes to our campfire to check our drinking habits. No one was drinking, however he was not happy. He asked Elliott, do you have beer in your cooler? I answered; "You have no right to look in our coolers." Boy was that the wrong thing to say. He promptly collected everyone's ID and he said that alcohol is not permitted on any federal land. Elliott and everyone but me generously opened their coolers showing him their beer

and wine. He said no alcohol is permitted even if it is locked away and no one is drinking. Of course he was wrong but he was on a roll.



Erin on the Pigeon

Bill Miller pulled him aside and asked that he let us all go, since we were just a bunch of old guys. Well, he agreed but he still was mad at me for questioning his authority. He finally drove away, but we still can't figure out why he harassed us.

I wrote the forest service to complain about the harassment. They returned my call and said they would contact the TVA who patrol the area. The TVA supervisor called me and apologized and said he would discuss the complaint with the officer. He felt that he was over zealous. The TVA supervisor did discuss this with the officer who agreed that it happened exactly as I said. He was told by the supervisor in no uncertain terms that no searches of coolers can take place when there is no actual alcohol consumption taking place. Finding cans in the trash is not probable cause either. I decided not to ask for a formal reprimand because I was assured that this type of action will not happen again.

On Sunday morning we had our annual pancake breakfast and got on the Ocoee (1200 cfs) by 11 AM. Judi & Larry decided to Shred it. The only real entertainment of the day was when they tried to punch Hell Hole unsuccessfully.

We got an early start for Tallulah Falls Campground where we camped for two nights. The weather was a little warmer here but the Chattooga was only running at 1.3'. Elliott, Judi, Larry and Erin decided to do a hike of the Tallulah Falls Gorge while Bill, Michael, Wayne and I tackled the low water on Section IV.

Our biggest challenge at this level was the hundreds of rocks strewn all about. Five Falls is where the action starts. We set our usual safety rope up at Corkscrew and Jawbone. But it stayed dry, as the group looked solid. The low flow made the middle crack in "Crack in the Rock" look doable but we all decided to carry,



Michael at Seven Foot Falls

Wayne was the only one to give Sock-Em-Dog a try and hit it perfectly. The day was sunny but cool with a windy paddle across Lake Tugaloo.



Bill at Corkscrew

No one wanted to do a repeat run at these levels so we drove back to the Ocoee. No water, so we kept on driving until we reached the Pigeon River again. The dam releases here are very unpredictable. We just missed a morning release of 2100 cfs but we paddled the dropping flow which was probably below 1000 cfs. It was the first time for everyone but Wayne. It is a nice challenging class III run and not as dirty as some say. The best part was that there was a Bar-B-Q restaurant at the takeout that is worth a stop.

We jumped back in our cars and everyone but Erin headed up to the Big South Fork, which was also running low. We made it by dark. The alcohol policy at Bandy

Creek campground is reasonable. "Keep all your drinks in your campsite. No drinking in your car." Rain was predicted and started up when we did our shuttle on Wed morning.



Wayne at Sock-Em-Dog

The river was only running 875 CFS and Elliott told everyone that it would be no fun. He was wrong, it was a good level and the first three rapids were very challenging. Everyone got sluiced at a rapid called the El, and ended up upside down. Luckily the winter roll practice helped all but one, which was our only swim on the entire trip. The steady rain all day long was more than 1-1/2" and the river went up to 2500 cfs on Thursday, but the temperatures were turning cold again so most of us headed home while Judi and Larry headed to the Lower Yough only to find that it had risen to over 4.5' with a snow storm predicted.

This was probably one of the colder trips that I remember, but it was still fun to get out on the river to kick off Spring.

Thanks to Wayne, Larry & Judi for the pictures

Huron River Trip By Patty Kishman

Thirteen paddlers enjoyed one of the first gloriously sunny weekends this spring on the Huron River Sunday, April 21.

Highlights of the FW/SK trip organized by Chris Meluch of Wakeman were new friends, warm weather (finally!) and bald eagle sightings.

It was a mix of canoes and kayaks, young people and older folks, including members Hank Annable and his grandsons; Hank's son Chuck and his wife; Gary Porter; and new member Patty Kishman of Vermilion. They were joined by several friends including Bill and Ann Molnar of Milan; their daughter Diane and friend Shelley; and Shirley Koachway of Vermilion.

The group met at The Coupling, an Erie County Metropark just north of the turnpike in Milan. Cars were shuttled up to the Holiday Harbor Marina on SR 13 just south of downtown Huron. The marina charges \$5 per boat for use of its ramp and parking.

The group set off from The Coupling before noon. The Huron River is a deep river with long stretches of undeveloped land along its banks. Paddlers noted there wasn't a strong breeze from the north for a change, and there wasn't much current running Sunday afternoon.

Everyone enjoyed the calm and natural beauty, which was interrupted just briefly by the passing of a roaring motor boat towing a wet-suited water skier.

After stopping for a snack and a stretch on a grassy bank, the paddlers passed under SR 2 (where a kooky water sculpture of the Loch Ness monster floats) and reached the marina around 3 p.m.

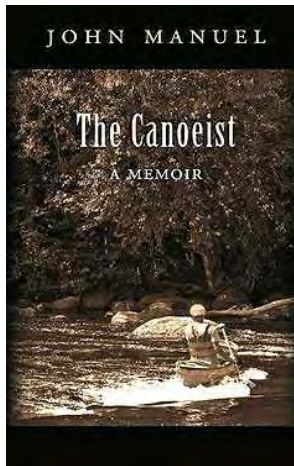
The group ended the trip with a cold drink on a riverside patio in Huron and made plans to meet again at the premier paddle of Sandusky's new "water trail" in the Sandusky Bay Saturday, June 2 at 1 p.m. Go to ci.sandusky.oh.us and click on "East Sandusky Bay Water Trail" for details.

Book Reading from The Canoeist By John Manuel

I will be doing a reading from my memoir *The Canoeist* (Jefferson Press) at Joseph-Beth Booksellers, 24519 Cedar Road, in Lyndhurst, at 7 pm on Monday, May 21. I am a Cleveland native, and much of the memoir takes place on the rivers of Northeast Ohio as well as on Appalachian rivers like the Pigeon, Nantahala, Chattooga, and Ocoee. The book has received excellent reviews in *Paddler* and *Canoe & Kayak*. Author Cliff Jacobsen says, "The focus is on canoeing but the message is about life—birth and death, love and trust,

and our burning need for wild places. You will love this book even if you don't canoe."

After the reading, I will offer tips on how paddlers can find publishers for their writing.



Dedication Ceremony Planned for East Sandusky Bay Water Trail

The City of Sandusky Division of Parks, Recreation & Horticultural Services and Erie MetroParks is pleased to announce that an official dedication ceremony for the new East Sandusky Bay Water Trail will take place on Saturday, June 2nd, 2007 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Big Island Preserve and Landing, located at the east end of River Avenue off the Cedar Point Causeway in Sandusky. Registration will begin at the site at 12 p.m. at the entrance to the Reserve area.

Dignitaries and special guests from State, Erie County, and local government, plus the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, land management agencies, canoe clubs from Cleveland, Toledo, Cincinnati, and Columbus, have been invited to participate in the dedication ceremony which will include a ribbon-cutting to officially open the 15-mile water trail. Following the ceremony, willing participants will take part in a "First Paddle" along the shores of Pipe Creek. Sandusky residents and the general public are welcome and encouraged to attend to watch the festivities, and may bring along their own canoe or kayak, if desired, to tour the water trail on their own. Comfortable outdoor walking shoes are recommended.

A water trail is a route along a river, or across other bodies of water such as a lake or salt water, for people using small beachable boats including kayaks, canoes, day sailors, or rowboats. Water trails are most often

unidentified by the land facilities that support water travel which includes launch and landing sites, campsites, rest areas, or other points of interest. On land, trails have distinct surfaces or walkways; on water it is the entire surface, a surface that is constantly changing with flow, current, boat wakes, and wind.

The dedication date coincides with the official date of National Trails Day, a day of celebration at thousands of events nationwide created by the American Hiking Society to promote public awareness and appreciation for America's trails and the people who build and maintain them; to promote the health benefits of trails; to build partnerships among trail groups, businesses, and public land managers, and to encourage cooperative efforts among the various trail users including hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, walkers, boaters, and others.

In February, 2007, the City of Sandusky and Erie MetroParks met with staff from the Ohio Division of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft, to discuss the possibility of official designation of the East Sandusky Bay Water Trail. Coordinators of this project from the City of Sandusky and Erie MetroParks are meeting with ODNR next week and hope that the designation will then be made official. The East Sandusky Bay Water Trail, with additional support endorsed by the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail, will then be the third official Water Trail in the State, and the only Water Trail on a Lake Erie bay in Ohio. Each year, more than seven-million visitors come to the Sandusky area. The East Sandusky Bay Water Trail will provide our community and visitors the opportunity to enjoy scenic views, cultural history, and fantastic additional recreational options. For additional information, visit the City's website at www.ci.sandusky.oh.us or Erie MetroParks at DiscoverIt@eriemetroparks.org.

06/02/2007, there will be a meet and greet with food at the Porter's from 10 AM to 12 PM prior to the paddle for like minded paddlers to assemble prior to the inaugural paddle of the East Sandusky Bay Water Trail.

The Porter's is approximately 1.5 miles from the put in point.

On the map the start is at point 1. The place to park and take out is point 11, about 3 blocks away, as there is limited parking at the put in area.

Allow a half hour extra travel time on Saturday mornings when Cedar Point is open.

The eagles are on the nest at the Old Dutch Tavern. Tonight they were busy feeding someone in the nest.

****Directions to the Porter's - 2704 Eastwood Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870. (419) 621-1998**

As you travel *NORTH* on highway US 250 from either the Turnpike or Highway 2, you pass the following in this order:
Sandusky Mall is on the right,
Ohio Veterans Home is on the left,
CORSO'S greenhouse is on the right.

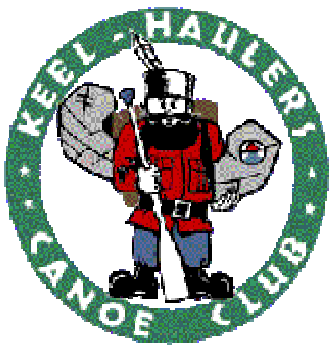
When you see Corso's Greenhouse, you should be in the right hand lane, with your right turn signal on, and slowing down. After Corso's there is a motel called the La Quinta Inn, after the motel there are 3 houses, then turn right. You are on Eastwood Drive, (it is a narrow residential street & easy to go past), and we are the 12th house on the right(counting the one on the corner). Do not jog left, stay right. The address is over the garage door.

2704 Eastwood Drive. *It is just off US 250 about a block.* If lost call us at 419-621-1998 for directions.

Basically these directions are 12 houses off the road to Cedar Point.

For more information, contact:
Michele Hall, Recreation Department Supervisor
Phone: 419.627.5886
Email: mhall@ci.Sandusky.oh.us

May				
5/4, 5, 7	Upper Yough	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 or 304-379-4747
5/4	Cheat Mass-Occurrence Team Race	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
5/5, 6	Cheat Fest and River trips	26	Needs organizer	
5/5, 6	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/8	Club Monthly Meeting		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
5/12	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
5/12	Upper Cuyahoga	SK/FW	Trish Voss	440-975-0433
5/12	Lower Big Sandy	31	Jim Steppenbacker	440-655-4052
5/12, 13	Cheat Canyon	26	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
5/12, 13	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
5/19	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549
5/19	RiverDay 2007 By Friends of the Crooked River			216-651-3476
5/19, 20	Lower Yough	23	Mike Duvall	216-521-0094
5/19, 20	Middle Yough	12	Robert Bair	216-371-6390
5/19, 20	Cheat Canyon / Lower Big Sandy	26-31	Peter Turkaly	804-550-0256
5/19, 20	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/26, 27	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Mark Cytron	216-227-1392
5/26-28	Cheat Canyon	26	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
5/27, 28	Upper Yough	32	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

JUNE, 2007



Next Club Meeting & Free Style Clinic is Tuesday, June 12th at 6:00 PM at Hinckley Lake Boathouse

[Map to Meeting](#)

Program: 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 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 skills. Basic Freestyle 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 more information, please contact Elaine or Bob Mravetz at rmravet@uakron.edu or (330) 239-1725. Kayak Roll practice is also available. All meetings are open to guests.

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes May 8, 2007, by Andy Gross

The meeting was called to order at 7.30 pm. Three officers were present: Ed Charlton, Rob Hammond, and Andy Gross. We welcomed guests; two of them were visitors from Nepal (hosted by Andy G.), studying television and newspaper reporting in USA. Rob H. gave the Treasurer's report; we have approx. \$2900 in the checking account and about \$6,000 in savings (3 CDs). The Yearbook has been paid for, so we are in good shape. Rob H. also promoted the Rescue Clinic weekend, on the third weekend in June; 1st day doing rotation among stations, 2nd day hands-on experience on the river. See Newsletter/Yearbook for details.

Several members reported on Cheat Fest sponsored by Friends of the Cheat. It was very successful with about 2,000 people attending and about 140 to 150 boats racing. There were several bands providing free music. Our Cliff Wire came in first among Keelhaulers; Mike Duvall and others did well too. We have more work to do to beat TRPC. Friends of the Cheat protects the whole watershed. The Festival has appeal to both paddlers and non-paddlers. For \$20 you get to race, get a shuttle and a t-shirt.

John Kobak reported some problems with the website, but he is working on fixing them. There may have been some "robot attacks." A motion was voted on and unanimously approved to buy some additional protective software for approx. \$100. We may also buy the "Keelhaulers.org" website for \$10 if still available as some people boot that up instead of our current one "keelhauler.org." Some discussion ensued on the Club's proper name and logo. Is it Keelhauler or Keelhaulers or Keel-Haulers or...?! The original incorporation paper states that it is "Keel-Haulers" but the website is "keelhauler.org." We shall try for some consistency down the road. - John K also reported a total of 288 paid-up members, up slightly compared to a year ago.

Pat G. reported for the Library. He is glad to purchase recommended books and/or videos. The Club is acquiring a new edition of Western Whitewater.

Apropos, Western, the trip West is a week earlier to catch the not-so-high snowmelt. Rivers will include the l'Poudre and the Arkansas.- Report was made on the memorial bench for Keith Clarke, to be installed at McConnell's Mill on the Slip. Total of \$300 was raised so far; but \$300 more may be needed.

Fundamentals of Kayaking classes will be offered in June at Mentor, Westlake, etc. See the brochures printed (which carry both the American Red Cross and Keelhaulers names and logos) and consult with Steve Ingalls & Rob Hammond. Next meeting is in June (most likely-outdoors). In July, we shall celebrate the Club's 40th Anniversary at Silver Lake with boating and a picnic.

Freestyle Canoeing

For people not familiar with freestyle canoeing, the best description is that learning freestyle is like obedience training for your boat. You learn to make it maneuver, turn, stop when you want it to and where you want it to—very precisely. It is the use of boat heel (shortens the turning radius of the boat making it easier to turn) by paddling so the boat is angled or heeled with one gunwale or rail closer to the water. Even though it sounds precarious, it is an efficient use of the

physics of the boat and the way it wants to move through water, the physics of effective paddle placement and clean paddle strokes, and biomechanics—using the body efficiently to move the boat cleanly through the water. Freestylers spend a lot of time going around and around in circles on purpose while they fine tune their strokes and boat and paddle positioning for effortless movement through a body of water.

At the very least, freestyle techniques and skills allow the average paddler, whether going on a canoe trip, recreational touring, or paddling rivers and whitewater, to move the boat precisely through the medium of water for more safe and efficient (therefore more enjoyable) paddling.

At the far end of the freestylers are those involved in paddling to music using a choreographed routine. These folks enjoy exhibiting or competing in the sport of interpretive freestyle, which is analogous to long program figure skating. In this, the competitor develops a routine to a piece of music lasting 5 minutes or less, containing at least 4 compulsory maneuvers and a variety of additional maneuvers that show use of onside and offside paddling skills and boat control, in both forward and reverse. The program is judged on technical skill shown in executing the maneuvers, artistic interpretation of the music, use of space, and variety shown in the routine.

The Mravetz's took their first freestyle canoe classes in 1999, and Elaine started competing nationally in women's solo in 2001. She won several silver medals, and has been reigning National Champion in Women's Solo for the past several years. The Mravetz's began competing in tandem (2 man) canoe in 2002, winning the silver medal in 2002 and national championship in tandem for 2003. This year's National Interpretive Freestyle Championships will be held in Peninsula, Ohio September 8, 2007. Come and participate in a FreeStyle clinic at the Keelhaulers June meeting at Hinckley. Bring a canoe and paddle or the Mravetz's will have a few that you can borrow to try some of the basic maneuvers and skills.

CONSERVATION CORNER BY MARY MODESIIT

CAMPFIRE DELIGHT, PADDLERS FRUSTRATION

I can not count the number of paddling trips over the years that I have been on that people did not bring firewood from home. We knew it was going to happen but everyone hoped that it would not. *Emerald ash borer* has hit our part of Ohio and now we are banned from transporting firewood across the state line. Emerald ash borer first showed up in Michigan back in 2002. It is a native beetle from Asia that is believed to have come across in a shipment of wood packing material. The problem right now is not the adult beetle to an extent since it only feasts on the leaves of Ash trees causing little damage. The culprit of the destruction and heartache is the larva stage of the Ash borer. It bores its way into the ash feasting on the life blood and causing the trees to die. This destructive bug had caused the death of millions of Ash trees in 3 states so far and DNR is working hard to prevent the spread. So please help out by not bringing your own firewood to the campsites any more. Pat G. brought this to my attention with a post on the message board a few weeks ago and people were asking if the larva only attacks ash trees why is the ban on all trees. I will try and explain why the ban has to cover everything. First off your average day Joe does not know the difference between

trees especially if you are just buying a truck load of firewood and do not see the leaves of trees. To be honest even I can not tell the difference between all the different species of trees and I took many plant classes in undergrad. Yes the larva are stuck to the tree that it is growing up in but the adult beetle is free to move around. Think about it if you buy a truck load of firewood and it is a mixture of different species what would stop the beetle from being transported to a new area. Also like any other creature out there in this big world, if your food supply starts to go away you go on the hunt for a new area that has what you need. For control purposes it is just easier to ban all firewood from being moved then just the ash. It would cost too much in manpower to check campers' wood supply when the funds could have more use trying to find a way to eradicate the intruder. Below are websites to some useful information about the Ash Borer and what DNR is trying to do. Please take the time to familiarize your self on this matter and please, please help us by not bringing your own firewood from home and buy local.

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

http://ashalert.osu.edu/what_is_eab.pdf

<http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab/>

A Nice Day on the Slip by Andy Gross

Joe Marks had a scheduled trip to the Slip on Sat., May 12, but some of us could not get away, so we organized an ad hoc trip next day, Sun., May 13 instead of taking mothers to brunch. Brent Hendren, Phil and Jen Raber did both parts, Andy Gross joined them for the Lower. Air temp was in the high 60s, water temp was near 50F or better...sunny and blue skies all around.. level was about +3" which is a bit scrappy on the Lower, but still quite viable. Andy is grateful to his buddies for encouragement!

The access for the Lower became a bit more rugged. Pfeiffer road which was shortcut from the highway has been "paved over" with big stones, so use highways 488 and 19 instead to get on Mountville and Cheeseman. Also, the steep downhill right above Eckert bridge is now truly almost one lane, the side near the river eroded...and watch for coming traffic, please, put on your headlights. We saw no big strainers on Lower Slip. That's all for now, folks!

A Few Thoughts on Dropping Dead by Ed Charlton

The Club sponsored it's first-ever CPR training session on March 28th. Our own Debbie Avallone taught us Friends and Family CPR. It was an excellent session. I was fortunate enough to be one of the attendees. It was fun, instructive and low-key.

Why learn CPR? Well, about 2/3 of cardiac arrests are witnessed by someone. Frequently, it's a friend or family member. If that family member starts CPR promptly, the victim's chance of surviving doubles or triples. Meaning, the life you save could be your parent, aunt or uncle.

Some people shy away from taking a CPR class because they're scared of hurting the victim or feel like they just couldn't jump into a life-or-death medical situation. The truth is: it's not life-or-death. It's death-or-death. 95% of people who have a cardiac arrest die from it. Nineteen out of twenty people who drop dead are not coming back

from it. With chances like that, you and the victim have nothing to lose!

The single best hope for a person who drops dead is that one of these new automated external defibrillators is close by and that a bystander knows how to use it. (Instructions are covered in Debbie's class.) Malls, airports, restaurants, and police cruisers routinely have these AEDs.

Paddlers are pretty savvy people. So, I want to share some details about cardiac arrest with you. Hear on the news or from a friend that someone died at home or at play "from a massive heart attack"? Almost certainly not true. It's almost a contradiction in terms. People don't drop dead from heart attacks. "Whaaaaaaa?" That's right; people seldom drop dead during a heart attack. They get a ride to the hospital with the EMTs. They get some medication, maybe a stent (tube) placed in a blocked coronary artery, and then they go home. Almost 95 per cent of people who suffer a heart attack go home alive. You know plenty of them. (The fancy name for a heart attack is myocardial infarction, or MI, and refers to death of a section of heart muscle because a blocked coronary artery shuts off the blood supply to that section.) Why is having a heart attack so feared, then? Plenty of the fear is superstition. Misinformation. Some people do die from it. But, most of them do so weeks or months later.

Well, what's causing people to drop dead if it's not heart attacks? 90 per cent of the time it's a change in heart beat, or arrhythmia, that's so chaotic that the heart can't pump blood anymore. The commonest one is ventricular fibrillation. Imagine what it would be like for someone to blast one song into your left ear and another song into your right ear. That's what v-fib is like for a heart. What an AED does is to deliver a shock to the heart that turns off both songs. Then if the heart is healthy enough, it restarts itself, starts pumping blood again, and the person returns to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

So the next time your significant other tells you to drop dead, be sure to ask, "What exactly do you mean by that."

And take a CPR class.

Paddling the New Whitewater Course at ASCI By David Hill

I have been trying to coordinate a trip to the USNWC Charlotte course in conjunction with a work trip but things never seem to go as planned. Then while I was pitching the idea for some whitewater features in Kent to the City, they asked me to participate on the Sports & Leisure Subcommittee for the Main Street Program in order to present a paddlers' perspective. The Main Street Program was designed to assist small communities in evaluating various downtown redevelopment ideas to promote economic benefits. About this same time I heard about the 2007 Whitewater Courses and Parks seminar being presented at the Wisp Resort and Adventure Sports Center International (ASCI) Whitewater course in McHenry, MD.

I suggested that someone from either the City of Kent or the Main Street Program should attend this informative conference if the City was serious about determining options for enhancing whitewater in Kent. After all this is Ohio the land of no whitewater so if you want

some without driving several hours you need to make it; and this seminar was all about making whitewater. In the back of my mind I was hoping they suggest that I go since one of the tours offered was "on the water" before the park is even opened to the public. Well they agreed to cover my reservation fees if I was willing to be their fact finder, so I figured the least I could do as part of my public service to the community was to volunteer my time.

Reservations were made and conversations suggested that participants "may" be able to paddle their own kayaks. Hmm, this was sounding better all the time! Now if only the weather was warmer since forecasts were predicting highs in the low 40s. So I pack my gear and head towards MD. Around Morgantown I notice snow on the ground and coming into MD there is ~6 inches on the ground from last weeks' storm.

I arrive in time for lunch and sit at table that included John Anderson, one of the architects on this project. We get some first hand knowledge of the design and features of the park before the "dry tour". The "dry tour" is just that, no water in the course so we can see the features and design layout. They discuss the "wave-shapers" and how they can be adjusted to maximize features. They talk about how all rocks were inventoried and catalogued (some numbers were still present on them) to make sure that placement used the best ones for the design features. These guys are serious! The bottom of the "river" is shaped concrete to allow better flow of the water through the course.

The course is supplied with water that is pumped from Deep Creek Lake to the top of the mountain and stored in a small reservoir (13 million gallons) that doubles as storage for snow making in the winter. Up to four pumps deliver water into the course and flows can be adjusted to create Class I through IV rapids. In addition, two of the wave-shapers (Features A & D) have adjustments on both the upstream and downstream sides which coupled with the pumping variations provide a wide range of paddling experiences. The wave-shapers that are equipped with upstream adjustments allow the upstream pools to be flooded and submerge most of the rocks for lower class paddling. The flow was around 450 cfs for the "on the water" tour with 3 pumps operating for Class IV conditions. The course has an overall drop of 25 feet over its quarter mile (100 fpm) and representatives indicated that the time required to change from Class I to Class IV is about 20 minutes.

After getting ready in the locker rooms which included heated floors (a nice feature on this cold day) everyone was ready to try the course in guided rafts. Well, everyone except Scott Shipley, Charlie Walbridge, Risa Shimoda who went straight to their kayaks along with some other safety boaters. The raft guides talked about the course features during the ride which was a good time. At the end, they announced that all private boaters could paddle while they continued raft tours.

Everyone puts in the Starting Pool below the pump discharge area. The pump discharge creates some nice surfing waves and a great area for warming up with power ferries or roll practice. I didn't take advantage of the roll practice (mistake #1). The discharge port has some wings on the sides and seems to be similar to a wave-shaper so the output feature can be varied. Surfing in this pump discharge was a little tough to get on, but once in rides were fast.



Brian Jennings surfing the start pool wave-shaper. Photo by Carrie Lueckel.

Following the large holding pool, the first drop (which was still being modified) is about 4 feet as you pass below the observation bridge.



Upstream view of the first drop next to the observation bridge without water.

This drop is a green tongue followed by a decent surfing wave and a wave train.



My line through the drop was fine but I got flipped in the wave train, rolled up, and caught one of the eddies that were surging quite a bit below this drop. I peeled out into the flow and got flipped again. Now where did I put my roll? No where to be found, so I'm swimming in front of a huge crowd of photographers; say cheese as I swim the next 3 foot drop. Grab an eddy and stand up, which is one of the benefits over a "real" river. This was also one of the hot safety topics during the seminar, but I digress. Gather my gear and focus. This course is harder in the kayak than the rafts!



Feature A without water.

Next up is the first wave-shaper (Feature A) that is about 6 feet. Damn if I didn't get flipped again, followed by another swim. Decision time! While I'm gathering my thoughts (and pride) some of the paddlers like Brian Jennings are tearing up this feature. The engineers were tweaking this spot while paddlers were surfing the wave.

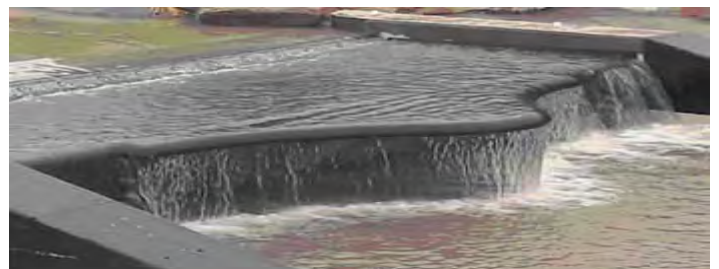


Brian Jennings surfing feature A with local legend John Regan looking on. Photo by Carrie Lueckel.

I rip off a few rolls in the pool below Feature A and decide to press on. I take a few turns in Feature A before getting flushed off, followed by a roll or two. OK, head on straight, stay focused and no more swims!

Next up was a strange design (Feature B) that could be adjusted on the downstream side to create a good hole.

I remember this one from the raft trip and made sure to keep up my speed and get through it. I'm more comfortable on a wave than in a hole and didn't need something at this point to break my focus.



Feature B (wave-shaper) without water. This spot has up to 5 different bolt on shapes that can be used to vary the desired effect.



Jimmy Blakeney sitting in the eddy at Feature B. Photo by Carrie Lueckel.

Between Features A & B on river left is an amphitheatre for spectators to watch free-style events and proposed bouldering structure for rock climbing.

The next feature was a semi-permanent wooden structure that created another retentive hole. Some of the rafts were able to surf this spot, so my game plan was full speed ahead.



Semi-permanent wooden structure without water.

However, some paddlers like Jimmy Blakeney took advantage of it. They described this spot like the upper hole at Salida, but with a steeper green water coming in.



Jimmy Blakeney cartwheels his way back into the hole. Photo by Carrie Lueckel.

After a few smaller drops the next major rapid is created by another wave-shaper. Feature C will create a nice wave/hole combination that was one of the easier spots, at least for me anyways. I had some

good surfs at this spot and it should be good for a variety of skill levels.



Feature C without water.

Here are some links to pictures and video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SU7-XSDNBCU>

http://www.adventuresportscenter.com/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=26



Brian Jennings dropping on to feature C. Photo by Carrie Lueckel.

Over the next 100 yards or so, the course takes on a different feel. The designers have created a section of funky currents and eddy lines that will present paddlers with a skills building area. Numerous boulders are placed in midstream to breakup the flow patterns and provide deep spin spots. This section was very fast and loaded with numerous reactionary waves that were constantly changing/surging to keep paddlers on their toes. This section should be great for slalom paddlers. Did I mention that they will be installing gates throughout the course!



Some of the midstream boulders and the "school bus" (yellow structure in center of picture) without water. The "school bus" structures are temporary and are being used to assess flow patterns for potential permanent modifications.



Jimmy Blakeney rockspins to cartwheels. Photo by Carrie Lueckel.

At the end of this section is the last rapid before the reservoir. Feature D is another wave-shaper that creates a 6-foot drop into a nice surfing wave. I had numerous surfs at this spot before calling it a day.

At the end of the course is the reservoir and a short paddle will take visitors to the location of the proposed conveyor belt to deliver kayakers/rafters back to the starting pool for another run.

I'm not going to get into the real river vs. artificial course discussion, but this place rocks! The variability of the course flow will be part of the daily operational schedule; Class II-III ("Cascades") in the morning and Class III-IV- ("Deep Creek Rapids") in the afternoon to satisfy a wide variety of paddlers. They will be building a rock climbing area and mountain bike trails on some of the remaining acreage, so gear up and head to McHenry, MD. The ASCI opens to the public on Memorial weekend.

More Links:

http://www.adventuresportscenter.com/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=99

http://www.mclaughlinwhitewater.com/www_projects/www_advensports_projnotes.shtml

<http://www.whitewatercoursesandparks.com/home.htm>

Dear Fellow Keelhaulers and All Paddlers...

As the season gets under way in earnest, we are all excited about the next trip to the river...it is a joy to put on and have the triple treat of (1) nature/scenery, (2) camaraderie/buddy-talk, and (3) skill improvement. Been out four times already this spring, all of them great outings. Have some suggestions below for making our Club outings and meetings even better.

Consider the following "3Cs" (1) conservation, (2) cooperation and (3) contribution. The first one says, we all are concerned about our physical environment-- a natural for an outing club... but in this age of global warming, do we practice what we preach? What am pleading for is more carpooling, ride-sharing, and so forth. Yes, kayakers and canoeists are feisty individuals...but a bit of conservation via sharing the drive to the river makes sense.

Second, along those lines, the second C is cooperation...yes, it will take time to coordinate, but hey, all you have to do is a bit of posting on the website and/or phoning...not that strenuous stuff. Third and last, an off-the-river activity: contribution to your Club. When I came in, I decided to serve as a refreshment chair for a number of years and was glad to do so. A small core now is taking charge of various tasks

to have successful meetings. Please take part and be of service to others- volunteers are always welcome.

Well, enough pleading and preaching. SYOR! Andy Gross

p.s. This is written in my personal capacity, not as Secretary in the Club and not as a CUS Professor.

Slippery Rock Rescue Rodeo and Clinic

Rescue Clinic:

Saturday June 23, 2007 will be a clinic on basic river rescue skills.

This clinic is intended for new boaters, as well as, a brush up for intermediate and advanced boaters. There will be several learning stations, with some new ones this year, both on land and in moving water that students rotate through to learn various skills. Skills taught include first aid, rope throwing, snag line rescues, boat based rescues, and wading rescues. For your added enjoyment we will simulate some more complicated rescues in the comfort and safety of the picnic grounds. Admission to the clinic is limited, so sign up early at the contact below. The charge for the clinic is \$22 for TRPC and Keel Hauler club members, and \$25 for non- members. Discounts are available for pre-registration and also attending the Rodeo, see application for details.

Rescue Rodeo:

Think you are a pretty hot boater, or maybe you think that you would like test your rescue skills in a safe environment with your buddies? Well then, the Slippery Rock Rescue Rodeo may be for you!

Sunday June 24, 2007 there will be a rodeo team competition in basic river rescue techniques. Each team must have 4 people. We changed the previous requirements for teams to have at least one female and one open boat. Now teams can be any configuration. The events are timed or judged and the team with the highest cumulative score for the events wins the rodeo. Rodeo events include such things as rescuing a boater and equipment, ferrying a snag line across the river, and simulated rescue event where teams are judged by timeliness, and effectiveness of their rescue. Most people find that even easy tasks become much harder when under the pressure of a rescue. Although nothing can simulate a real rescue, I think you will find that pressure of competition goes a long way to duplicate that pressure. Besides bragging rights the winning team members will be awarded prizes!

And it costs how much? The fee for the rodeo is \$22 for TRPC and Keel Hauler club members, and \$25 for non- members. Discounts are available for pre-registration and also attending the clinic, see application for details. So how do you sign up? Send me your printed [application](#). Save \$3, sign up with [on-line application](#) and pay with Paypal. Call me for one 216-292-5618 send me an [email](#), or check our website <http://www.keelhauler.org>

Event T-Shirts: Event T-shirts are available. This year we are going to have a limited number of woman's Ts, they are a fashion cut shirt with a V neck. All shirts are Caribbean Blue with a cool new design front and back. Sizes are limited, so if you want a choice, order your shirt early and check off the size and style below. Unlike last year, the woman's Ts run true to size. Be sure to add T-shirt cost to the amount you are paying with Paypal. T-shirt picture is on the back page.



Profits:

These events are staffed by volunteers. There are some costs for insurance, prizes and event expenses. The profits will go the Keel Hauler's conservation fund, which provides money to River Conservation, and access organizations.

Location: [Click for a Map of Area](#)

McConnell's Mill State Park near the intersection of US 422 and US 19, near the town of New Castle PA. The web site for the park is: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/mcconnellsmill.aspx>

Camping: Camping will be at Cheeseman's Breakneck Campground adjacent to the park. Their web site is: <http://www.cheesemanfarm.com/camp.html>

Pot Luck Dinner: Saturday night will be a big pot luck dinner. Bring a main dish for yourself and a salad or desert to share with others. If you don't want to bring a dish, bring some pop or chips and buy one of our big hamburgers for a \$5.00 donation.

Volunteers: We need volunteers for the Rescue Rodeo as judges and for scoring. You don't need any special skills or talents. However, the ability to count is a big plus!

Application: Click for a PDF [application](#). Fill it out and mail to Rob or save \$3, and sign up with [on-line application](#) and pay with Paypal.

Sponsors: Rocky Mountain Kayak, Riversport School of Paddling, Keel Hauler Canoe Club and Three Rivers Paddling Club.

Contact: Rob Hammond, Rob@SCD-Corp.com . . 216-292-5618
or Dave Altman, dave@webpa.net 412-977-7099

LIL MARY'S NORTH BRANCH OF THE POTOMAC TRIP APRIL 27-28, 2007

BOATERS: Pat G., Nurse Debbie, Lisa and Eric, Jen and Phil R, Floyd W., Kelly and Dave, Happy and Jamie, Chris R., Rick C., Mark S., Lisa (Kelly's friend from MD Saturday only), and last but not least Lil Mary.

Man that is all I can say at this point now that the trip is over with. I have never imagine having this many people come out for the trip. On top of that to have such a strong group on a trip that is geared for

beginners. I was a little sad to not have as many new boaters as we have had in the past show up for trips on the North Branch. On the upside we all had a blast. So here is how the trip came together. Back in the beginning of March I got to thinking man my weekend is still in April and it has a tendency to be cold. I wonder how much the cabins at the put in would cost and if any would be still available. To my luck when I called two were still free and the cost was just \$65 for the weekend with a refundable \$25 security deposit. I jumped on it and hoped that I would at least have three other people willing to split the cost with me once the trip got here. As normal trip leader fashion I put up my post about the trip to encourage others to go a week before hand and already started spamming my fellow boaters who I normally see on the river in years past the week before. By that Monday I had about ten people. Boy did that grow by the time Friday morning came around to 16 people. Wow is all I could say and starting to worry about how to organize the group in terms of shuttle and not to be a cluster mess on the river.

I meet up with Pat G at his place by 1pm and loaded up my gear and headed out to the highway. Since Ohio is now on the list of states ban from transporting wood across the state line into PA. We had to relay on finding firewood on the drive. Let me tell you, one would be surprised at the lack of people selling firewood on this drive. We had to scavenge all our firewood that we used this weekend from deadfall and some Giant Eagle wood Rick had picked up at the store. All but Lisa and Eric showed up at the campground Friday night.

The next morning Phil and Jen treated people to pancakes and sausage for breakfast before we headed up to the put in parking lot. It was rather cool gloomy day which meant to our surprise, that hardly anyone else was on the river. To me it seemed that the river was super cold compared to other years and so only the hardy went out to play at the put in play spots. Discussion took place on how best to deal with such a large group in terms of breaking up in groups. Instead we went with the option of the buddy system. We only had one person who never had seen the river before and Floyd did great both days. People who wanted to played their way down the river and especially at the lunch spot hole did. One thing that did have me nervous this day was the amount of wood that we came across in the river. In my opinion there is only one real rapid that people need to worry about and that is Robins Nest since there has been rumored to be rebar in the holes. The only line I know of running it was the far river left line and I just hoped there was no wood there. Happy showed us that you can run the rapid on the river right side. The next funniest rapid in my humble opinion is Top of the World which is just a long wave train that is a blast to ride down. Everyone had a great time and the evening just got better.

Once back at the cabin the group started getting ready for the cooking of the feast we are to have. I had sent out word that I was going to be bringing my new Dutch oven to make Jambalaya and suggested to other to bring something to share. Well that is what everyone did. Dave and Kelly had an awesome Beef Stew cooking all day in a crock pot in the cabin. Happy and Jamie brought a small charcoal grill that many took advantage of. Plenty of chips and salsa and for dessert Jen and Phil made a killer peach cobbler in their Dutch oven. Everyone ate like kings that night and much conversation took place. Another Pat from the cabin next too us came over to visit and share our fire. In Nurse Debbie fashion she determined before the cooking was to take place that we did not have enough firewood. I was amazed by the number of saws and other chopping tools came out for her and me to take as we went looking for more wood. At one point as we were carrying wood back I made the side comment to her that something just was not right. Debbie and I were out gathering wood

while a good portion of the gentlemen were sitting around the fire pit watching the charcoal burning. :) In good fun we picked on the guys but we really did not mind gathering more wood. During the evening it did rain for a short amount of time but Rick had planned for this and had his tarp shelter set up.

Sunday morning people chipped in with breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, potatoes, toast, and coffee. If my memory serves me right we went through two cartons of eggs and a container of egg beaters. The day was sunny and warmer and so more people took advantage and played at the put in. Again we played our way down the river and at Robins Nest Pat, Debbie, Rick, and a forth I believe but forget who ran the river right line. Just like the day before we had the river basically to ourselves. At the end of the trip I had people asking me if this was going to become an annual event, in a heartbeat I said yes. As long as I can have the second release weekend and come make the trip it will be an event not to miss. Thanks to everyone who came out, who cooked, and helped with shuttle. You guys all rock, and I hope to see everyone on a river here soon.

SEASON WARM-UP ON THE SLIP

by Rick Feinberg

I'd been scheduled for several months to lead a Slip trip on Sunday, April 22nd. Late March and the first half of April had been very cold, and I wasn't anticipating a huge turnout; but a few days before our excursion the weather turned spring-like. With the improvement in the weather and water levels holding at over a foot, droves of paddlers suddenly emerged from hibernation. By the time we got on the river, the group included Ed Charlton, Floyd Winters, Ron Tomallo, Shelly Schmidt, Sabine Iben, Judi Cleary, Larry Forsyth, Kathy Sines, Michelle Browning, Brian Isbel, Brent Hendren, Joe Marksz, Mike (whose last name I didn't get), Debbie Avallone, Dan Glomb, Andy Gross, Jen & Phil Raber, and Nancy Grim.

It was nice to see old friends and meet new river rats, including a dedicated group of Kathy, Michelle, and Brian, who drove all the way from Dayton to paddle with us. From my perspective as trip organizer, however, the large turnout could have meant chaos. Fortunately, we had a cooperative group of strong, experienced paddlers. The hardest part was coordinating the shuttle—with several of our party only running the Gorge, several only running the Lower, most wanting to do the whole river, and a few opting to run the Gorge twice. The challenge did tax our organizational and mathematical skill, but in the end no one got stranded.

I was a little concerned about setting off from Rose Point with fifteen boaters all paddling together; but we had no real newbies. Brian, Michelle, and Kathy were the least familiar with the river, only having been on it a few times, several years ago. In addition, Brian was in a new play boat, and Kathy was getting used to her new OC-1. But they were all well-seasoned paddlers, and I was confident that those most familiar with the river would look after the relative few who knew it less well. Moreover, Ron's prediction that we would naturally find ourselves dividing into groups as we went along proved prescient.



Rick running slot on river right at Turkeyfoot. Brent at ledge between Turkeyfoot & Triple Drop.

(Photos by Tom Riddle.)

The weather was spectacular: a bright sun, cloudless blue sky, temperatures in the mid-70s, and a water level of about 14 inches. Since it hadn't rained in several days, the silt all settled to the bottom, leaving the water a clear green in between the patches of white foam. And at just over a foot, the Slip, has almost no bad lines. We needed none of the technical maneuvering required by lower levels; yet the water wasn't high enough to be pushy. In other words, a perfect season warm-up for those of us who had been staying off the rivers waiting for the snow to melt.

On the first drop, below the ranger station, Ed capsized and executed a smooth combat roll; otherwise everyone stayed upright until after the Mill. At the Mill, about half the group stayed back for lunch, while eight of us continued down the river to connect with those waiting at Eckert to do the Lower. I was a little hesitant, as purported organizer, to leave half the group behind; but I gratefully accepted Debbie's offer to take responsibility for the second contingent.



Ron has fun while setting safety. (Photo by Tom Riddle.)



Kathy going for ender in her OC-1. (Photo by Tom Riddle.)



Michelle eddying out above Triple Drop. (Photo by Nancy Grim.)

My group didn't stop to do much playing, although Shelly managed to turn upside down at the ledge between Turkeyfoot and Triple Drop—and rolled with no difficulty. Debbie's group took more time to play, and I was told that just about everyone got in at least one combat roll. But there were no swims.



Shelly practicing her combat roll. (Photo by Tom Riddle.)



The gang at rock garden between Triple Drop and Fish Ladder. (Photo by Tom Riddle.)

At Eckert, the three boaters from Dayton left for their long drive home, and several others shuttled back to Rose Point to run the Gorge again. Most of us joined up with Andy, Nancy, Dan, Jen, and Phil to run the Lower. This group included paddlers who were a little less experienced. I tried to keep them apprised the upcoming rapids and the friendliest lines through them, while Ron and Shelly set safety at each of the three class II drops on this section. Dan had a brief swim at the first class II but had no further problem. And Phil pulled off an impressive roll at Stupid Rock. He capsized, managed to right himself on his third try, and immediately hit something that knocked him over again. On his fourth try, he came up for good while the rest of us applauded his determination and breath-holding ability.

An added treat for the day was the visit of my old friend, Tom Riddle. Tom is a professional photographer and has spent most of the past three decades living in Southeast Asia. Typically he comes home to Ohio once or twice a year, and this time I managed to get him to join us at the Slip. He doesn't paddle, but stationed himself at Turkeyfoot, above Triple Drop, and in a few other strategic locations to document the day's exploits. A few of his photos accompany this article.

June				
6/1 & 4	Upper Yough	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 or 304-379-4747
6/2, 3	Red Cross - Basic River and WW Paddling in Western PA		Red Cross	440-298-1293
6/2	East Sandusky Bay Water Trail	SK/FW	Gary Porter	419-621-1998
6/2, 3	Esopus Slalom Race run by KCCNY		Igor Birbrayer	440-479-5636
6/2, 3	Cheat Canyon	26	Pam Poljak	440-268-9194
6/2	Cuyahoga River, Peninsula to Boston Mills	SK/FW	Ann Corey	330-869-6549
6/2	Ladies day on the Slippery Rock	13-19	Mary Modesitt	216-581-4111
6/3	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Mary Modesitt	216-581-4111
6/3	Lower Yough	23	Sabine Iben	440-543-4969
6/3	Yough Lake Cruising Trip	SK/FW	Gene Baker	440-967-6454
6/10	Vermilion or Black River	SK/FW	Chuck Singer	440-949-6681
6/10 to 22	Rivers in Colorado - advanced/intermediate trip, Tentative Trip Plan	25-32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
6/11, 13, 18, 20	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool. 6PM-9PM To register - Call 440-974-5720		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
6/12	Club Meeting & Free Style Clinic at Hinckley Lake at 6pm	SK/FW	Elaine & Bob Mravetz	330-239-1725
6/15-17	Allegheny River - Buckaloons Camp & Kayak	SK/FW	Joanne Schreiber	440-808-5838
6/16, 17	Lower Yough - permits	23	Ron Tomallo	330-666-7340
6/16, 17	Middle Yough	12	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
6/23, 24	Rescue Weekend & Rodeo		Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
6/30	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489

2007 Officers

President: Ed Charlton 440-716-5489
VP: Mary Modesitt 216-581-4111
Secretary: Andy Gross 216-321-9284
Treasurer: Rob Hammond 216-292-5618

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Rec. Ctr.,
15700 Bagley Rd., on the second Tuesday of
each month. Doors open at 7:00 P.M.,
meeting starts 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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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

Keelhauler members are entitled to a 10% discount on AW dues.



For Sale:

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

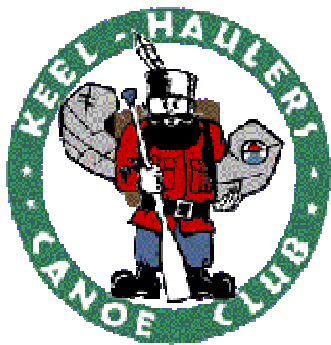
**Please consider writing a trip report or article for the
next newsletter!**

**Deadline for the July issue of the newsletter is
6/21/07.**

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or
peetzaguy@comcast.net.



KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@comcast.net
peetzaguy@aol.com
June, 2007



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

JULY, 2007



**Next Club Meeting is Tuesday,
July 10th, at 6:00 PM at
Silver Lake**

[Map to Meeting](#)

Program: - This is the club's 40th anniversary meeting and cookout. We will have old club memorabilia. The club will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, tableware and soft drinks.

Members should bring appetizers, salads, vegetables and desserts according to your last name:

A-E Chips or Appetizer

F-L Dessert or Fruit

M-R Potato/Macaroni Salad

S-Z Salad/vegetable/or Baked beans

Kayak Roll practice is also available.

All meetings are open to guests.

Keelhauler Meeting of June 12th

There were no minutes from the Keelhauler Meeting on June 12th as everyone was enjoying the freestyle exhibition, and enjoying themselves!

**Pirates capture
The North Fork
of the Blackwater
May 19, 2007
by Jonathan Bachtel**



I was greeted in West Virginia at the put-in with handshakes and smiles. After quickly gearing up, I trotted down the goat path to the put-in. With each step, the thunderous roar of Douglas Falls grew louder, and anxiety filled me more. I stood at the base of a fifty-foot waterfall watching its swift run-out spill into a heinously steep boulder-strewn series of interconnected drops. The bottom of the rapid was nowhere in sight, and I asked myself why I was kayaking this insane creek - especially with known Pirates.



Jonathan boofs into the NFB

My nerves fled instantly as I soared off the first of two eight foot boofs in the rapid, and as I screamed past the safety of a well-placed crew touting throw bags, my confidence soared brilliantly. Unlike other groups that I have paddled with, I felt a special unity with these Pirates. We moved as a single unit gliding down large slides and over spectacular waterfalls - with precision and control in the midst of some serious gradient.

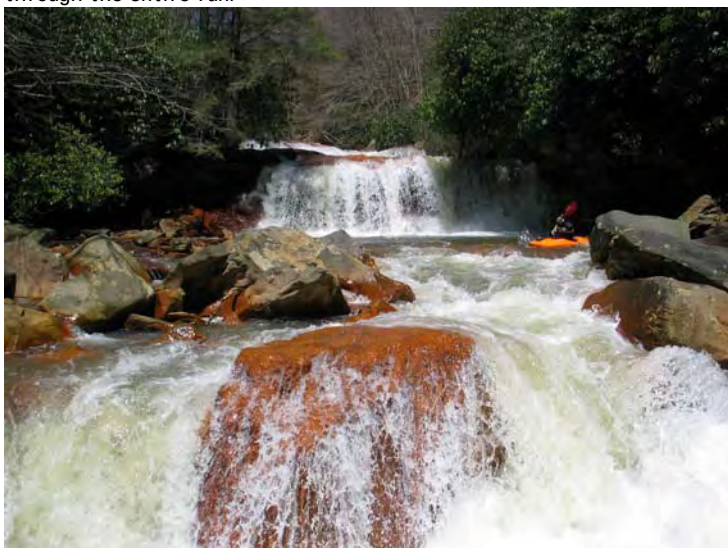


Brent Laubaugh launches a sikky

At World's Ugliest Rapid, The lead Pirate stood superhumanly in the undercut rock and waited to push boaters out of the peril caused from a bad line. This proved extremely helpful, since two members of the group found themselves becoming "up close and personal" with the undercut and its neighboring cave. This same pirate turned to me later in the run and said "stick close, I don't want to give away the surprise." I reluctantly followed his blue boat as it peeled out of the small eddy into the torrent. The adrenaline filled my blood and boosted me down two big slides and immediately over a 15 foot waterfall.

Ironically, I felt safer paddling with the Pirates on the North Fork than I ever have on the Upper Yough or Upper Gauley. Given the Pirates' renegade reputation, I expected a rowdy, unsafe adventure with swimmers, undercuts, and near-death experiences. On the contrary, I enjoyed a sharply-executed, safe, and sunny day filled with laughs and glorious yet serious whitewater kayaking (and there were still the undercuts).

I had never kayaked a creek that drops 400 ft in one mile and I was a little nervous especially with notorious rapid names like Eye of the Needle, World's Ugliest Rapid, Cow Pissing on Flat Rock, Double Indemnity, and Gluteal Mash. But the North Fork was made manageable with great communication and safety set at every major rapid, and a unified group of boaters looking out for each other through the entire run.



Smoltz lining up for Rainbow Room

The Pirates of Team FIFO present that day included Brent Laubaugh and John Garcia, accompanied by Jason Miller and his cronies. After climbing 400 feet out of the Blackwater Canyon and hiking a mile with our gear, the swashbuckling crew notified me that I had earned my way into the League of the FIFO's. Now I'll be watching the rain gauges, knowing that the FIFO's are always willing to properly guide those looking to step up to the next level - the wonderful world of class V steep creeks. From my point of view, the moral of the story is that it is unfair to judge a group as unsafe or reckless, especially when you've never had the opportunity to be guided by them on a run that demands a high level of precaution and communication. The next adventure awaits - surrender the booty...

Understanding Hull Speed or Why Long Boats Are Faster Introduced by Cliff Wire

Way back when, when I was a little boater, I was told that longer boats are faster than shorter boats because of increased hull speed, whatever that meant. I don't recall any more about the answer, only that it didn't clear much up. Oh well.

11 years later, and I'm hobbying with the history of US battleships. I found some cool sites: www.navsource.org and www.maritimequest.com, full of pictures and histories of all types of ships. That in turn led to www.navweaps.com. Scroll down, and click on Naval Technology which is where I found "Understanding the Prismatic Coefficient", which I think does a pretty good job of explaining what Hull Speed is and why long boats are faster. There are many other interesting articles such as "What caused 'The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald?'" and "Do Battleships Move Sideways When They Fire?". I thought the article of sufficient interest and relevance that I asked permission to print it in the Kanews, and received same. References are made to the USS North Carolina (BB's 55&56) and South Dakota (BB's 57-60), and the Iowa's (BB's 61-66) (did you know there were 6 Iowa's?). Pictures can be found at the above sites. While the article is written primarily with battleships in mind, the facts apply to all ships and floating vessels. It comes to mind that the Iowa's hull shape bears a strong resemblance to sea kayak hulls. A reference is also made to the Iowa's bulbous bow. You can see what this has evolved to at navsource.org - Click on aircraft carriers and scroll down to the USS Gerald Ford.

Anyway, with a big Thank You to Stuart Slade and the folks at navweaps.com for permission to reprint the following, here we go.....

Understanding the Prismatic Coefficient By Stuart Slade Updated 18 December 1998

OK, here goes...

The speed of a ship is determined by the point where the energy put into the water (by the engines) equals the energy lost to the water by drag. At this point, the ship is in dynamic balance with its surroundings and it will maintain speed. The ship's speed can be increased by injecting more energy into the water or by ensuring the ship loses less energy to the water. Eventually there comes a point

where the ship's engines cannot add more power to the water so the ship cannot accelerate faster. This point, by the way, may not correspond to the maximum power of the engines - it may be that the props are thrashing in a mass of cavitating, turbulent water and simply do not transmit power to the water. Thus, it is actually possible to increase power output and have the ship slow down.

The ship's energy loss to water is that of the resistance of the hull (drag). There are two primary causes of that drag. One is wavemaking resistance, the other is wetted area. In surface ships, the wavemaking resistance is by far the dominant factor at anything more than slow speed. On submarines, wavemaking resistance is pretty unimportant and wetted area dominates. We'll come back to that later.

Wavemaking resistance is determined by two factors. One (the primary factor) is the length of the ship. The longer she is in proportion to her beam, the less the wavemaking resistance and the faster she'll go. This is why lengthening the hull of a ship (as was done by the Japanese) will actually cause her to increase maximum speed without any additional modifications. The second factor in increasing speed is the beam to draft ratio. Deepening the hull causes the ship to lose resistance thus increase speed.

What is actually crucial here is the rate at which the cross sectional area of the ship changes. A ship with a slow change (increase or decrease) in cross-sectional area will have less wavemaking resistance than a ship with a rapid change. This is where prismatic coefficient comes in - it actually is a pretty good rough measure of how quickly the cross sectional area changes.

Now we come to dodges. The Iowa's have a pronounced bulbous bow. At slow speeds (where wetted area resistance predominates), this increases resistance due its wetted area and is a disadvantage. However, at higher speeds, it tricks the water into thinking that cross-sectional area is changing much more slowly than is the case and therefore reduces wavemaking resistance. Thus a bulbous bow benefits at higher speeds and is a liability at low speeds. You'll note that modern tankers have very large bulbous bows - this is because they have very high prismatic coefficients and the bulbous bow tricks the water into thinking that the hull is less bluff than is the case.

The problem with all this is, as prismatic coefficient drops, so does usable volume within the hull. Worse, so does buoyancy. At this point, the great trick is to maximize usable internal volume while reducing rate of cross-sectional area change.

The best hull form for usable internal volume is a box - which has zero unit cross-sectional change along its length and thus zero wavemaking resistance. Unfortunately at its ends, its rate of cross-sectional change is infinite and so is its wavemaking resistance. It is possible to move it through the water but the energy output is dreadful for any given speed.

In the good old days of ship design, ships had constantly changing cross sectional area along their length so had minimized wave-making resistance. This caused immediate penalties in internal volume and also in cost (curved things cost more to make than straight things). So, the great idea was to use a nice, box-like centersection and gently-tapering ends.

Now we have yet more problems. A ship with fine ends (those that have a gently-changing cross-sectional area) have little buoyancy fore and aft. They will dig their bows into the water in heavy weather and generally be very wet and unpleasant. This can be countered (partially)

by giving the ships greater freeboard forward. Battleships have another problem that is pretty much peculiar to them. Their guns and armor ensure that most of their weight is amidships and this is where their buoyancy is needed. This causes much grief.

About 1935, in the US design offices, somebody had what we call in The Business a BFBO - a "Blinding Flash of the Bloody Obvious" - a sudden realization of a very simple concept that had eluded everybody else. Since a rectangular centersection is essentially wavemaking resistance-free, if it is extended as far fore and aft as possible it should be possible to have a relatively rapid change in cross-sectional area fore and aft of that block that averages out to a reasonable value over the ship's length. This gives internal volume and buoyancy just where it is needed while keeping resistance at a minimum.

You can see the effect of this BFBO by comparing the hull forms of the North Carolina and South Dakota. With Iowa, they took the game one stage further. By extending the bow out forward, they gave the ship a very fine entry and only a very slow increase in cross-sectional area. By restricting the area of rapid cross-sectional area to a limited section of the front, the average wave-making resistance over the length of the bow was very small.

At the same time, they had a large box-section amidships that provided a lot of volume to support the weight of the guns and armor and to accommodate the engines. Even better, by building the hull with a deeper draft, they were able to use larger screws and absorb power more easily.

This left the stern to smooth out and skegs and a transom did nicely there, the water is thoroughly fooled and thinks the hull is much finer than it is. By the way, this is why skegs didn't work very well on European BB designs - they still used continuous curvature hulls so the water-fooling properties of skegs didn't show any advantages but their wetted area drag did.

And that is why the Iowa is shaped the way she is. You can get the same performance out of a more conventional hull design but that doesn't give you the weight-lifting capacity and volume amidships.

Oh, by the way, since subs have wetted area as their primary resistance cause, their key determinant is usable volume versus surface area. This is why the ideal shape for a submarine is short and fat while that for a surface ship is long and thin.

There will be a quiz Monday Morning!

Boating the Euphrates

by Gib McGill

The difference was mind-boggling...the difference, that is, between what I saw with my NVGs (night vision goggles) in the up position (disengaged) versus in the down position. The motor of the armored launch thrummed as we skimmed east northeast, downstream along the Euphrates River (*Nahr Al Farat*, in Arabic), skirting the northern border of Ramadi in the black of night. My eyes, without the benefit of NVGs, had adjusted to the dark; my view was of a grey, moonless sky and a similarly grey river below. Bisecting the two expanses of grey was a featureless, thin black strip of land. Blacker still to my near left was the prow of the SURC (small unit riverine craft), or 'zawraq' as the Iraqis called it. Above either side of the prow I could

make out the dark shapes of the two bow gunners with their machine guns poking past armor plating, one looking right, one looking left. Scattered randomly over the black strip of land glimmered ever-so-faint house lights, echoed in the dim sky by a faint star here and there. Once in a while, a flare from one of the helicopter gunships circling the area as part of our security would arc like fireworks through the sky, petering out after a few seconds. An unknown orange shape glowed low above a bend in the river ahead. It was mid-September, the night temperature between 85 and 90. Wearing my body armor and helmet, obligatory for all military or contractor personnel going 'outside the wire', I knew I wouldn't be cold this evening; the breeze generated by our travel was refreshing. I lowered the NVGs and an astonishing, grainy-green world sprang to life before my eyes. The dim stars gleamed brightly, while the distant lights from the houses shone a warm, haloed green, dancing again in reflection off the lively surface of the water. The black strip of shore was now a detailed landscape with a sort of Holy Land aspect to it, peppered with groves of date palms and eucalyptus trees sheltering small hovels, with a large villa here and there. Powerful, laser-like beams from the gunners' IR (infrared) flashlights panned the reed-lined river banks, pausing momentarily at each break where an insurgent sniper might be hiding. The dozen or so members of the bomb disposal company of the Iraqi Army's 5th Infantry Division sat or lay all across the foredeck between me and the gunners. I could see them plainly, even recognize most of their faces, although all were wearing Kevlar helmets and some, like me, wore their NVGs down over their eyes. The faces I could see glowed green in the light cast by the UV chemlite sticks we had clipped to their helmets. Chemlite even shone through uniform pockets here and there. I was amazed by the brightness of these lights, invisible to the naked eye. The unknown orange object I'd seen in the sky was a bright quarter-moon, known in this part of the world as the hilaal, the symbol of which adorns the pinnacle of many a mosque. As I looked at one large villa with its balcony and well-lit window behind, the bright searchlight chased along the angles of its walls and intruded right into the window. It looked as if that should certainly alert the inhabitants, but when I lifted my NVGs the villa fell back into the near-total darkness of this Arabian night; the entire landscape regaining its midnight pall. No light invaded the empty darkness of that villa's window. Were it not for the location, the time and the purpose of our trip, this'd pass for a lazy midnight boat trip on flat water.

This was our second night mission on the Euphrates River here at Ramadi. Our mission the previous night had been to search several mid-river islands for ordnance, reportedly hidden by insurgents to use later in the making of IEDs (improvised explosive devices), but mission planners had neglected to take into account the rise and fall of the river, controlled by the Haditha Dam. Unfortunately for that evening's mission, the level had been high and all the islands submerged, although their locations were readily discernible from the tall cane-like grass growing on them...bulrushes, as I call them. The secondary mission that night had been to burn off the bulrushes to deny use of the islands as hiding places for insurgents, but it had been too wet even for that, and the incendiary grenades had fizzled. That mission had been enjoyable for me, and having it behind us helped us all to relax and enjoy the current one. I was again surprised by the speed of the river's flow, and wondered what the CFS might be. I'm told the clear, travertine water comes from snowmelt up in Turkey and Kurdistan. They tell me there is good whitewater up there.



The mission tonight was slightly different from our previous one, but once again it had a double-pronged objective. We were to launch at a location I'm not at liberty to disclose, somewhere below the Jisr Ar-Ramadi, a weir built by Saddam to help divert water to feed huge artificial lakes by means of which he shrift the so-called 'Marsh Arabs' of the water that fed their marshes and comprised their birthright. We would then motor downriver, past Ramadi City to a suspected weapons cache on the river bank. Secondly, a raid was planned this evening. Several other boats had launched with us; one of them containing a special forces raiding party whose object was the home of a reputed insurgent about a half kilometer north of a sharp curve in the river. My job, as the Arabic linguist, or 'terp', was to stay on the boat and act as liaison between the Iraqi and the U.S. contingents of the mission. I had two radios, one a hand held Motorola with which I could speak to LTC Abdel Mejid, (name changed to preserve OPSEC) the Iraqi bomb disposal commander, whose company would sweep the area with metal detectors. The other radio, a clumsy headset called an imbiter perched precariously under my helmet, was for contact with Warrant Officer Garza (name likewise changed), the U.S. Marine Corps bomb disposal advisor, who, along with 1LT Hammond, would be set ashore in another area and would maintain contact on another band with the boat crew. Again the water level was rather high, and it seemed for a while we might not find a place for the Iraqis to disembark without stepping off into knee-high water. At the first attempted landing, I felt the boat rise and scrape to a stop, stranded on the muddy bottom about fifteen feet from shore. The mighty engines howled into reverse, finally managing to pull us free. At last we found a good landing, and the excited Iraqis filed down the gangway, their spots and strips of chemlite bobbing into the blackness. The boat backed off and we set the lieutenant and warrant officer off a couple hundred yards downstream. Then we heaved off again and held a position in mid river, the gunners keeping vigil and the engines working at a low growl to keep us level with the onshore working parties. My only worry now was whether my Arabic would be up to the job of translating all the commands accurately and quickly. I learned Arabic as a boy in Egypt, where my parents were lifelong missionaries, but that was a very long time ago, and Iraqi Arabic differs substantially from the Egyptian dialect. '*Glib*,' the radio crackled with LTC Abdul Mejid's voice. '*Jahizeen, jahizeen* (we are ready, we are ready)'. The warrant officer, through me, had instructed him to line up his men perpendicularly to the shoreline and search downriver. The going was rough, due to all the bulrushes, and at one point the LTC's voice came through laughing over the radio. Khaldoon, his sidekick, had just fallen up to his waist in water. Once in a while WO Garza's voice came through on my headphones, speaking in a hush. 'Tell the colonel to veer off to the left a little'. He must have been able to see the

Iraqis, although I couldn't. There was a bright light (bright per the NVGs) in a window behind a balcony in a large villa several hundred yards from where the search was being conducted. Suddenly, the light flicked off. Garza's voice came over the imbitter in my ear, 'Tell the colonel to stop moving...somebody knows we're here.' Awhile later the colonel reported that somebody was walking nearby. All was quiet for a long while. My mind wandered to other river trips I had taken in the past few years, trips also exciting and dangerous, but in totally different ways. I moved from the gunwale to sit on the less comfortable floor as the thought occurred to me that if I happened to fall overboard my 50-lb body armor and Kevlar would not make a very good PFD. I looked at my watch. It was 1:17AM. We had been on the river about two hours.

The radio crackled; it was the LTC speaking to Mahdi, the Iraqi warrant officer who was carrying a Motorola and presiding over the search at the other end of the line. He was asking him what he had found. I thought the answer included the word 'itaad' (ordnance). When the Iraqis speak to one another I understand only bits and pieces of what they're saying, they speak so quickly and with such localized slang. But most of them are good at imitating the Egyptian dialect or at speaking in classical Arabic, thereby enabling themselves to communicate with me. I informed Garza of the find; he was closing on the Iraqis' location, and had them in view. I then heard his voice again, but not on my headset; it was coming over the radio at the boat's bridge; he was reporting the discovery to the captain. 'A bunch of blasting caps, some copper wire, two 122s and about six 80 mike mikes'. He was enumerating by type the weapons found in the small cache. Soon his voice came over my headset again, instructing me to tell the LTC to bring the Iraqis back to the same point at which they had disembarked. Our boat made its way from mid river back over to the black mass of the island.

Out of the darkness I finally made out the chemlight on the Iraqis' helmets. They spoke in hushed tones as they came aboard. 'Giib,' the LTC said as he joined me on the deck, 'waynak'. He had wanted me to come ashore with them, but I was glad to have stayed on the boat. It had been both more comfortable and more efficient to do it that way; the radios had worked well and the translation had not been difficult.



But Garza told me later that the object of the raid, the suspected insurgent, had not been home... possibly tipped off. The warrant officer and lieutenant came on board long enough to get the demolition, fuse and blasting caps they would need and to radio higher headquarters about the impending controlled detonation. We put them back on the island to set the charges. Fifteen minutes later they climbed back up the plank; 'We've got ten minutes,' Garza announced. The engines revved and we pulled away from shore, peeled out into the current and began the upriver journey back to our launch point. After a while Garza's voice broke the silence, 'ten seconds'. I saw a flash first, far behind, followed several seconds later by the sound of the explosion, rocking the predawn silence. Now the insurgents had several fewer pieces of ordnance with which to construct their IEDs...I envisioned the folks in the neighborhood

awakening with a shock, then rolling over and going back to sleep as they had probably done a thousand times now since 2003. At any rate, our mission, insignificant as it was, *had* been accomplished.

Back at the launch site our boat bobbed in a river left eddy as we waited our turn to be hooked up, a scenario vaguely reminiscent of takeouts during kayak trips, when boats jostle in an eddy awaiting their turn in the limited space. We all remained aboard as the boat was winched onto the trailer, then we traversed over into the back of the 7-ton armored troop carrier after it had been hauled onto the flat of the upper river bank. As our convoy crossed the Jisr Ar-Ramadi Bridge, we could see through the darkness the seething whiteness of the water below, highlighting frothy eddy lines and exploding waves behind the weir. LTC Abel Mejid told me the Arabic word for the sound of whitewater, *khareer al maa*.



East Sandusky Bay Water Trail - 06/02/2007 By Gary Porter

[East Sandusky Bay Water Trail - Fact Sheet](#)

18 paddlers dropped by the Porters' in Sandusky prior to the East Sandusky Bay Water Trail dedication and inaugural paddle. We ate well with eggs, bagels and orange juice.



Rick Payerchin explained the route and the east Sandusky Bay or Back Bay area. We looked at maps and talked about a route. Rick answered questions about the route and area.

We caravanned to the put in/take out point at the Pipe Creek Wildlife/Big Island Area, taking the back way to avoid Cedar Point

traffic. Boats were unloaded, prepared, and we all "signed in". Then we waited, and waited.



Finally the dedication ceremonies began. We learned about approximately a dozen partnerships which contributed to the water trail's existence. The number of speakers was at least 6 or 7. They quit talking when the then current speaker's toddler kept constantly yelling "DADDY!"

The "dignitaries" then proceeded to get into provided 17" aluminum canoes for a photo opportunity. They rafted up; bows toward the shore launch area at about 10' out. A large ribbon was unrolled and an oversized scissors were held open in the cutting position for several minutes until all necessary photos had been captured with appropriate decorum for posterity.

The first canoe of dignitaries out from shore contained those anxious to be included in the photo opportunity. This first canoe held a Sandusky City councilman who suddenly decided that an emergency exit from this first canoe was unequivocally, absolutely, and immediately necessary. He recently had a hip replacement and did not move well or easily. However, he felt the need to exit the canoe about 10' from shore into water about 1.5 feet deep. He had a hard time getting his legs over the side but gave it the ultimate effort along with a lot of yelling and shouting. He ran through the water as well as he could towards shore screaming something about a snake, having definitely forfeited the previous dignity he had claimed. He remained on shore and lost forever the possibility of being recorded for posterity on digital media, as a dedicator and ribbon cutter of the East Sandusky Bay Water Trail.

The last canoe of dedicators and ribbon cutters was also in a hurry since they might miss the photo opportunities, and one dignitary in this last canoe hurried offshore without benefit of a life jacket so as to not miss this best of golden opportunities. As old as I am, I learned even more about politicians that day.

Finally, we were able to launch. There were a lot of people there. There were probably about 100 people, with about 50 paddlers and boats. Launching was not a fast process and everyone seemed to be in everyone else's way. Some of our group got launched earlier than the rest and headed southeast down the Back Bay on the south shore. Rick and John Norris had two-way radios to communicate in just such a need. Most of the balance also assembled and followed the first group. We reunited in the area of Eagle Point and observed an active eagle nest even though we did not see an eagle. The low level winds

had switched from southwest to northeast, kicked up some and produced a small chop on the Back Bay.

A shore break was then a group desire, and Rick found a nice place that some one had recently mowed. A few rocks, but the shore outing was at a neat place! This portion of the Back Bay is undeveloped and most has been recently purchased to turn into parks and future water trail facilities. Approximately 2/3rds of the group then headed back to the starting point because of time constraints, partly brought on by the possibly extreme but definitely amusing dedication ceremonies.

We then headed to the Condos at Point Retreat, at the base of the Cedar Point Chaussee (east end of the Back Bay). As we approached the northeast corner of the Back Bay we were protected from the northeast wind and the Back Bay became as calm as glass. We rafted up for a group picture. We then passed under a low bridge and went by the Point Retreat Condos. There was a sandy beach extending from Sheldon's Marsh that we only observed since the area is closed this time of year due to the nesting of an endangered Plover that is extremely sensitive to human contact. There were snakes at this area as the endangered Lake Erie Water Snake is protected and thrives overrunning the area.



3 paddlers decided to take the lake side of the Cedar Point Chaussee northwest to Cedar Point, around the seawall, back into Sandusky Bay, under the causeway bridge into the Back Bay and then to the launch or starting point. This route around Cedar Point was about 3.5 times as far as the way the balance of paddlers chose which headed us west on the Back Bay side of the Chaussee sheltered from the northeast wind.

As we headed west protected from the north east winds by the Chaussee, we noticed a storm to the south, quite a ways off, but we all felt the northeast wind would blow or carry it away from us and not towards us. This was a mistake. At our home in Sandusky (1.5-2 miles from the lake), Mardell was sunbathing in the yard. She said the wind never shifted from the southwest all day. Apparently, what we were experiencing on the water was the normal afternoon on shore winds coming from the still cold lake onto the warm land (it was a warm, muggy day). Not realizing this on shore flow was occurring would soon cause problems.



The next time I looked at the storm 15 minutes later, it was much closer and looked twice as large as previously. The storm was not going the other way with the prevailing winds in our location, it was coming towards us. A few minutes later I heard the first sound of thunder signifying lightening. At this point we were in the middle of the Back Bay and headed back to the put in point. We were smack dab in the middle and no where to go. The Chaussee or south shore was probably closer, but no one wanted to go towards the storm, and it looked like we could get in OK. We all paddled quickly towards the put in or launch point at the Pipe Creek Wildlife Area.

The storm seemed to pick up speed and barrel down on us. All Back Bay paddlers made it back to the start in point except 2. One craft was a 17' canoe with 3 people and the other one a single small kayak. Both craft were paddlers from the Toledo area. We were on the shore and could see them coming in and then the storm hit hard. So near but yet so far, it was scary. It began to rain and the wind picked up out of the southwest, and began blowing them away from us into the open Back Bay. Lightening began all around. We were in the middle of it. The group stayed on the shore watching. The wind blew them; they corrected their orientation/direction and continued on their way in.

Soon the storm's intensity mushroomed exponentially. The wind picked up, there was lightening, the rain came down through the trees so hard it hurt, a large branch fell out of a tree at the launch and hit someone, and the paddlers simply vanished and could no longer be seen.

All present ran for their cars in fear. At the parking lot it was decided to call the police for the use of the police boat. All paddlers of course were wearing life jackets, but it was possible they were being blown out into the Back Bay and needed a boat for rescue.

The paddlers still could not be seen from the launch area. Rick Payerchin then sprinted down the trail toward Big Island and was able to hail the canoe into shore, and then found the kayaker. He had capsized about 150 feet from the dikes of the Big Island marshes, found he could stand up, and pushed his kayak and wedged it into the rocks on the dike of Big Island. He then huddled down on the rocks until found. The rain, wind and especially the lightening was extremely punishing. Rick said he could not even remember the lightening; he truly was the right person to have been the paddle leader.

The police came by and wanted to know who was missing and went looking for the 3 sea kayakers on the lake. They were following the shore at the time the storm hit, went to ground, found shelter, later portaged across the narrow Chaussee and headed back to the put in

point. Nearly returned they were stopped by the police boat and told to report to confirm their identities.

It was an interesting day, with all paddlers returning uninjured, and a few stories to tell!

Friendsville Boater Etiquette

posted May 17, 2007 on AW

by Mark Singleton

With additional water in the Upper Yough this summer from a newly negotiated flow schedule it's time to talk about boater etiquette in Friendsville. Remember that community standards are not the same from one town to the next and the conservative index ranks high in this area. When visiting Friendsville, here are some things to consider in this tight knit community:

Time and time again the local residences complain about boaters changing cloths in the street. We are not talking naked, but under a towel or "Boof" cover or behind a car door. These may be things we (as boaters) think are acceptable. Well, it turns out, that it's not acceptable to town residence. Their family's live, work, play and go to church here. They don't want to see boaters changing in the street. Please make clothing changes behind Mountain Surf in the change rooms.

Be extremely aware of traffic! Park as far off the road as possible. Use commonsense; do not walk out in front of a moving vehicle and when loading boats do not swing your kayak out into traffic.

Do not drink alcohol out in public view, it's illegal and makes a bad impression.

Refrain from crazy driving maneuvers and slow down.

For those who have time, taking out at the Town Park is a very good idea. It alleviates the high profile scene in town and results in a smaller boater footprint.

Parking down by the church on Water Street is frowned upon.

Tap your friends on the shoulder and remind them of these guidelines while enjoying this outstanding section of whitewater. With just a little decorum we can all go a long way to improving community relations in Friendsville.

54th Mug Race, 2007

by Robert G. "Bob" Halsey

This is my annual report of my attempts to sail this Mug race. It is a 40 mile race of sailboats, and the winner gets the permanent trophy of a 3 ft. high ornamental beer Mug. It is a one day event. All must finish by 8:15p.m., or get a "did not finish" record. This is the 54th year of the event. I have finished a few times in my sailing canoe.

This year, I was convinced I would race once more in the Mug Race, a 40 mile sailing race on the St. John's River from Palatka to Jacksonville, FL. Even though it would be on May 5th, and my 90th birthday would be June 1st, 2007. It would only take good wind and I would be among the leaders. So, I spent many days during the winter sanding and epoxy patching my canoe, "Sugar", designing a new halyard attachment for my ACA class sail to get a wrinkle out of the sail, and other little loving touches including making some practice sails and doing some exercising to get my old bones and muscles to wake up.

So, on May 3rd, I drove 320 miles from Naples to the Riverfront Inn in Palatka, and parked the trailer and canoe near the launch spot. Then, I drove to the Rudder Club of Jacksonville for my race papers and race sail number-DQ, and got together with Noble Enge who was not racing this year to plan for the race. Weather predictions were not too good, but could have been worse.

Friday, I worked to uncover and assemble the rigging and put the race number on the sail, then unloading the canoe. Some friendly catamaran sailors helped me move the canoe into my launching spot, a grass and rock slope to the water. I would be starting at 7:30, so I would be out of the way of the catamarans that would start later. Noble came in the afternoon to stay overnight, and help me with the start. The winds on Friday were very light early, but filled in nicely later.

Friday evening, we attended the Skipper's meeting in Palatka riverfront amphitheater, mainly to coordinate the time on my watch with the start boat's clock. All of the boats have predetermined start times. Slow classes start first, and the faster boats later over a period of several hours. Then, I got my clothes ready for the next day, and packed the rest in the car because I would not be there to check out at 11:00a.m.

Saturday, 5a.m., and time to rise, have a little to eat in the room, clear the room, and load the canoe with water, a little food of bananas, apples and granola bars. I check my life jacket, hat, rain jacket, paddle, etc. Now, I raise the sails. Noble helped me get the canoe in the water. I wade about to get the canoe pointed the right way, and climb in and a few paddle strokes get me clear of the dock, and I head for the start line. It is 7a.m., and the start line is about ¼ mile out off of the hotel. The wind is very light, and I just made it for the 7:30a.m. start. About 5 boats are in our group of starters.

Now, the race begins with five boats in our group at 7:30a.m., and about seven for starting at 7:31, all types of monohulls, but no wind. We are drifting N'ly with a very light SE 'ly occasional light air. About 1.5 miles, a high tension power line on high towers goes across the mile wide river. It took over an hour to reach that area. I would ordinarily have turned back, for it would have been hard to finish 40 miles at that rate. But, I thought this would be my last time to race the Mug Race that I would continue, and give the weather a chance to improve. Four miles on this N'ly course, we turn around Forrester Pt., and head E'ly. On the N shore is a large power plant. It has two plumes of steam rising and drifting NW'ly, and at times the steam goes straight up. On the water, I am looking for lightest ripples to make a little progress. I notice a couple of Flying Scots doing the same thing with me. It is about 3.5 miles to Whetstone PT., and the river turns NE'ly for a mile, and then NNE'ly for 3 miles to Nine Mile Pt.

I was following the left shore tacking out and in, trying to make headway. Gradually, a light variable breeze would fill in. As I got closer to Nine Mile PT., the wind got strong out of the East. I was getting tired. Noble and I had walkie talkies, but we only made contact with each other once, early on the first leg. As I approached Nin Mile Pt., the wind really cranked up. Off Nine Mile Pt. is a large shallow bar swimmers and fisherman wade to out there. I saw a small catamaran capsize ahead of me. As I came up on him, he was standing on the pontoon, but not righting the boat yet. I heard he did get it up, and sailed away. As I approached Nine Mile Pt., the river opens out o the right in a bay a couple of miles deep. The wind and waves were getting heavy, and I was tired. I had been sailing about nine hours. I decided I would sail across to Racey Pt. , and try to contact Noble. Well, tat sail from off Nine Mile Pt. to Racey Pt., about 2 miles, turned out to be a struggle. I could see the black gusts of wind frothing, the water coming at me. Then, I was struggling to keep the boat right side up, and stay inside the boat as it bobbed and twisted in the wind and waves. As I approached the north shore, I got a little shelter from the wind. There were houses and docks along the shore. And, on one of the docks right ahead was Noble. I sailed right up to the beach, and collapsed in the canoe.

Noble and the owner came down to get me, but said I just needed time to recover, and after a few minutes, I got up and out of the canoe. The owner told us that just beyond the next door house, we would find a private launching ramp we could use. So, I took down the sails and mast, and paddles under the dock to the ramp and pulled the boat on up. Then, I called the Rudder Club on the cell phone to report I was safely off the course. We then went back to Palatka to get the car and trailer back to load up the canoe. We drove back to Noble Enge's before sunset. We found out later that the winner, a big fast catamaran, didn't finish until around 7:00 much later than their usual finish time.

Philadelphia Canoe Club Open House Canoe & Kayak Race Sunday, July 8, 2007

Schuylkill River, 8.5 Miles

Mass start at Noon – Start/Finish at Philadelphia Canoe Club, \$15 Entry Fee

Classes: Unlimited K-1 (ICF Racing Sea Kayak/Surfski), Sea Kayak K-1, Downriver K-1, Touring K-1, Recreational K-1, ICF C-1, ICF C-2, Outrigger OC-1, Outrigger OC-2, USCA C-2, USCA C-2 Mixed, USCA C-2 Standard, USCA C-2 Mixed Standard, USCA C-1.

Age Categories: Men & Women: Junior (11-18), Open (19-39), Master (40+), Senior (50+), Veteran (60+), Grand Veteran (70+), Grandmaster Veteran (80+)

Prizes for all finishers.

Registration on Race Day: 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

Directions: http://www.philacanoe.org/maps_and_directions.html

Course Map: <http://www.swanboat.org/pccraceschedule.html>

Contact for Race: Glen Green, chairman@swanboat.org

Congratulations are in order!!!

Tuesday, June 12 at 11:10 AM Casey and Jason Anderson welcomed their daughter, Kira Madelyn Anderson, into the world. She was 7 lbs even and 18" long. She defied the odds and was born with some hair on her head, though the jury is out on the color. (It's described by most as "reddish blondish brown.") They are all home doing great. Now, if Kira just knew the difference between day and night...

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter!
Deadline for the August issue of the newsletter is 7/19/07.

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

Thanks!!!



Photo of Doug Smith and Mark Warren on the Lower Yough.
 Picture taken and submitted by Duncan Campbell. Original caption not "printable".....make your own!

July				
7/4-10	Shawn Excellent Ocoee\Cheoah(7/7,8) Adventure	25-32	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
7/6, 7	Upper Yough	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 or 304-379-4747
7/7, 8	Lower Yough	23	Eric Marks	216-281-1517
7/10, 12, 17, 19	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool. 6PM-9PM To register - Call 440-974-5720		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
7/10	Club Picnic at Silver Lake	SK/FW	Jim Tyree	330-688-4431
7/21, 22	Lower Yough (Yough Intro weekend) – permits	23	Fran Hoven	216-671-4931 or cell 216-375-3718
7/21, 22	Middle Yough	12	Needs organizer	
7/21, 22	New River Gorge	27	Cecil Tickamyer	740-593-8453
7/27, 28	Upper Yough-Race Saturday, 6 hr release	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 or 304-379-4747
7/28, 29	New River Gorge or Lower Gauley	27	Tim Reynolds Joe Marks	330-656-3006 Ext. 277
7/28, 29	Lower Yough	23	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296

2007 Officers

President: Ed Charlton 440-716-5489
VP: Mary Modesitt 216-581-4111
Secretary: Andy Gross 216-321-9284
Treasurer: Rob Hammond 216-292-5618

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Rec. Ctr.,
15700 Bagley Rd., on the second Tuesday of
each month. Doors open at 7:00 P.M.,
meeting starts 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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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

Keelhauler members are entitled to a 10% discount on AW dues.



For Sale:

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

**Please consider writing a trip report or article for the
next newsletter!**

**Deadline for the August issue of the newsletter is
7/19/07.**

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or
peetzaguy@comcast.net.



KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@comcast.net
peetzaguy@aol.com
July, 2007



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

AUGUST, 2007



**Next Club Meeting is Tuesday,
August 14th, at 6:00 PM at
the Heritage Park in Kent, Ohio.
The location is on the west bank of
the Cuyahoga River and can be
accessed at the Main Street Bridge
in Kent.**

The map to the meeting:

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

All meetings are open to guests.

Kayak practice will be available.

The Upper Blackwater beckoned....

By Duncan Campbell

I had been watching the weather intently in West VA on the Wednesday and Thursday (not having the luxury of having to work for a living). I couldn't believe that the streaky clouds on the weather satellite were delivering so much of the good stuff to almost the precise catchment of all of the northern West VA rivers (the perfect storm?).

I called Sinky (nickname only provided to protect the innocent) who was paddling in the area at the time and she confirmed that it had been belting down for most of the day while she was in the middle of her umpteenth run of the Lower Yough. I emailed everyone I could think of to let them know of this fortuitous event (we don't get a lot of rain in summer in Aus) and began to

compile a list of possible trips for the long weekend we were about to undertake.

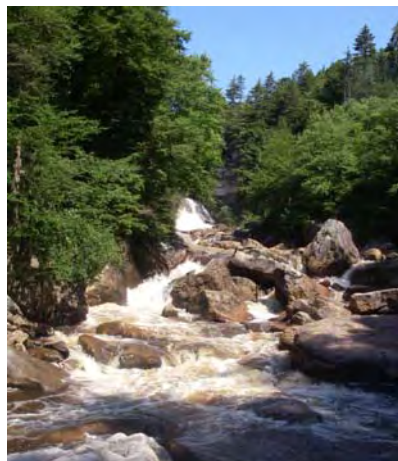
Late Thursday, the two inches of rain that had fallen began to show its effect on the upper catchments of the Cheat, Yough and Tygart. By early Friday morning many of these rivers were in high water and I was on cloud nine as we headed down for our first run on the Middle Fork of the Tygart and lower part of Tygart Gorge. This section was run uneventfully and the following day we completed the Top Yough and Upper Yough (with a disappointing partial Deep Creek release owing to the volume of natural flow on the Top Yough). The main event was still to come though as the promise of the Upper Blackwater beckoned....

I had seen the rain stop abruptly on Thursday night and the Upper Blackwater had gone from an insane 1320cfs on Friday to 500cfs on Saturday. Would it fall quickly overnight and be too low for our planned run on Sunday? The call from Brent's understanding wife Kelly on Saturday night was that the river would still be high enough tomorrow at a lowish 200cfs (I can only imagine how that call went, "Hey honey, love ya'...what's the level on the Upper Blackwater? Great, thanks hon' love ya" – apologies to the editor but we all really appreciated your good work and you did get an article for August's newsletter out of it).

We (Jonathon Bachtel, Brent Laubaugh and myself) took the mandatory "shortcut" from Keelhauler avenue/crescent/glade to the Upper Blackwater and somehow didn't manage to lose anyone. Surprisingly enough, it actually seemed to take less time than the alternative route. We completed the car shuffle/turnaround and then Brent had to explain to me how the put in for the North Fork of the Blackwater was the take out for the Upper Blackwater ("See," he explained, "the water in this section of the Upper

Blackwater falls up". You'll see what I mean if you look at the map for the rivers). I was a bit confused. We climbed down into the beautiful gorge of the Upper Blackwater and were rewarded with a great view of Blackwater Falls and Puke. Fortunately, Brent explained to us that neither of these rapids are commonly paddled which was a bit of a relief. The level was on the low side which was good for Jonathon and myself as first timers on the river.

Blackwater Falls and Puke



I volunteered to take video of Brent and Jonathon as they ran the first rapid, Phil's. There are no lead in rapids on the Upper Blackwater and hence the footage of Brent was extra shaky but recovered a little for Jonathon. Both Brent and Jonathon made the first two drops of

Phil's look relatively easy and I shortly thereafter "opened my account" on the river without incident.



Brent was the trip leader and explained the way we would run the trip. The river has many vertical drops ranging from 4 to 8 foot. At these drops we would stop at the horizon line for Brent to detail at the the line and then follow him down this line. Needless to say, most of these lines ended with, "then boof". The remainder of the river in between the horizon lines was essentially read and run class IV. Following on from Phil's was a ¼ to ½ mile of continuous class IV read and run before the next rapid of note.



Brent boofing the first drop of Tomko's

Many of the rapids from then were a blur and difficult for me to remember as they were so numerous however, Tomko's does stand out. The first drop was a relatively straight forward and clean ~8 footer with a rock conveniently located at the end of the landing eddy (instead of in the landing zone). The following drop in Tomko's was another 8 footer but this one had a large rock halfway down and across the drop creating an obvious and ugly rooster tail. This drop was negotiated by calmly and precisely angling to the right hand side of the channel and then straightening up in the boof to avoid the shallow water also located at the bottom of the fall. This was aided by a very friendly approach pool.

Brent, second drop of Tomko's



In spite of the low level, many of the drops were clean with no hard impacts provided you were on your game in this boof fest. The one rapid with

serious consequences is called Sticky Fingers which has numerous ugly lines, most of which lead into sieves. We approached this cautiously from upstream before portaging on the river right.

Jonathan, second slide of nerves

Too soon we were at the last rapid of note, this one rather dramatically called "My nerves are shot



Jonathan on the run out of the third slide of nerves



and I can't take it any more". It consists of five slide drops, all very different in nature and a feature rapid in their own right. I performed the video duties while Jonathon and Brent made their way down and then Brent filmed me as I made my way down.

During the run I had to fine tune my paddling style. Having been brought up in the good old days of fibreglass, missing rocks is important to me. However, trying to finesse this run too much inevitably led to boat oversteer, which then necessitated hasty correction before you broached on the next rock or missed the must make line of the rapid. Soon enough, I relaxed my kayaking quality standards to more of a "line up and go style". I think I caught Jonathon making the same adjustment at some point on the river.



Once in a while, an opportune micro eddy would catch our eye and we would test out the "turn on a dime" capabilities of our boats. I was straining at times to get the boat I was paddling - a Pyranha Burn to turn quickly enough and I'm sure that Jonathon would have been working just as hard to get his longer Savage into the eddy. However, judicious mid rapid eddy selection

would often work wonders in "straightening out" a fast turn in a rapid and so became a handy tool in "Negotiation of Upper Blackwater 101".

I have always been a fan of a slightly smaller paddle blade and had wondered about these massive buckets that were "must haves" for creeking. After completing this section, I was beginning to understand why. Paddle strokes cannot be taken for granted and are often a case of when you get the opportunity for a stroke you'll take as much as you can get, hence the bigger the blade the better the blade.

Black River Trip Report, 6/10/07 running between Elyria and Lorain by Chuck Singer

What a great day it was with 13 great people! We put in at Bur Oak at 11:15am after shuttling in a record 33 minutes. There was a little problem with the Park Ranger who asked us to move our cars which we were planning to do for the shuttle anyway. We had a tandem canoe, two single canoes and ten kayaks, some whitewater and some rec boats. Everyone launched down a muddy slope with elan. The river was running at 180 cfs which allowed us to paddle everything. Last week at 100 cfs was another story with a lot of dragage!

After paddling for an hour, we found a shady beach and shared lunches. My Special Dark Chocolate bar was a treat and pepped me up. There were a number of narrow chutes and a couple of log jams to be negotiated but everyone handled it perfectly. The only mishap was when Marcia and I nearly tipped our canoe. It doesn't count as a dump since our heads didn't get wet. (My rules) We did have to wade back to shore.

There were a couple of spots where those in whitewater boats surfed on humongous(?) waves. We passed E 31st bridge and paddled another 1-2 miles to French Creek and then up it for a half mile. It was like paddling in the Everglades with tight channels, overgrown trees and murky water. I was watching for Cottonmouth snakes hanging from limbs like salamis, and alligators lurking in the depths but ferocious minnows seemed to be the worst FC had to offer. We finished at 2:15pm. It was a great group to paddle with and I would go with them again in a heartbeat.

Thanks for making my trip a breeze!

Excursions in MA, ME, NY, PA and OH (Some Nice Trips and...) June and July, 2007 by Andy Gross

In late June, we set sail (well, not literally) for New England and the Finger Lakes area of NY State. First stop was a scenic lookout point near Jamestown, NY overlooking Lake Chautauqua. This is a rest area on I-86 eastbound with nice outdoor benches. A longer, more memorable stop was the Corning Museum of Glass, also on I-86, which recently added some spectacular exhibits of glass sculptures to its holdings. We found a discount coupon for EconoLodge in Binghamton, NY and they still had room; the much pricier Fairfield or Hampton Lodge was sold out.

Stopped in a suburb of Boston to pick up a used kayak-- a Savage Skreem, bought from a paddler in Vermont who delivered it there. Brett H. recommended this model and the price seemed reasonable at \$250. Put it to good use the next three days, while paddling Ryerson's Cove, a nice sea inlet near Chatham, MA. Had fun exploring this bay and watching wildlife. The put-in was less than 50 ft. across the road from our hostess' house- now that is convenient! On to Southern Maine where my wife's brother has a summer home on the Little Ossipee river near North Shapleigh. This is a nice, slow-moving river, pretty to explore, again with some scenic wildlife; also a chance to do some cycling and jogging-- paradise! Oh yes, we also visited Boston sites, noting how its downtown is really booming.

On the Fourth of July we visited family in Ithaca, NY but had no chance to boat as it was a truly rainy day (yes, we need rain, but why on the Glorious 4th?). Checked river levels upon returning home to Cleveland and found the Slip to be at about -0.5'. Still, some hardy souls decided to go on Sunday, July 8th- in fact, a lot of folks, mostly from the Canton area: Pirate/Joey, Happy B. and several newbies. I was able to carpool with Viktor K and his daughter, Irina. We all had fun; I had one swim and one roll. Others had some similar adventures; we all did ok in the end. Slippery Rock creek is truly bony, rocky, technical at this level- but still do-able. Terry M. reports boating next day at -1'

almost and yet still able to get down from 422 to Eckert.

Barely 24 hours later I had trips of a different sort-- ugly runs all night, possibly from having swallowed some Slip drops or bad food. Yikes! I was wiped out and could not attend the Great 40th Anniversary Picnic on the 10th. Bummer!

Recovered by late in the week, while watching the drought move in. No rain at all. But a friend from CSU, Marty C who is a big time cyclist is also a boater and prides himself on discovering runs barely known to others. So we met on Saturday, July 14th at the Canal Rd Towpath CVNP Visitor Center and put on-- the Cuyahoga is right there. Marty C. did shuttle earlier on his bike. About 3.5 hours later we reached the takeout on old Harvard Ave. in the industrial flats.

But before that we were surrounded by greenery and great blue herons. And yes, we only had to portage twice, both times for just a few feet. But surely would not want it any lower! (It was below 3' at the Independence gauge.) And the river smelled and looked ok about 95% of the time. Marty C paddled his canoe, Karen D and Joe were in Old Town Otter kayaks and Irina (another Irina) was in her sea kayak that is not quite the best for river running. But we all made it to the end and enjoyed this urban adventure. Reminded me of a trip to downtown Kent a few years back-- one can paddle in one's backyard. Hey, it ain't the Slip or the Yough, but is sure nearby and can make for a good local outing.

Now am having an assist from Chuck S. in putting in more outfitting foam (hip-pads, etc.) in the Savage Skreem and hoping to try it out on a lake or river soon. Looks like a good boat, but it is just as heavy as my Perception Matrix. So am still looking for that elusive 30 lbs. kayak (John K says no such thing, but Robson, the German firm is trying with its 'Armorlite' -- but been promising that for years, so I guess John K is right). See you on the river!

MIDWEST FREESTYLE CANOE SYMPOSIUM

Perhaps you are looking for a good way to while away an early fall weekend. Well, the perfect combination of great paddling, superb instruction, tasty meals, and

scenic surroundings awaits you at the Midwest FreeStyle Canoe Symposium to be held September 7 – 9, 2007 at Camp Manatoc / Butler in Peninsula, Ohio. Tucked into the corner of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, this Northeastern Ohio venue offers a lovely Boy Scout Camp that contains a number of scenic hiking trails, and a serene wooded paddling site on which classes and the National Interpretive FreeStyle Canoe Competition will be held. In addition, home cooked buffet style meals will be provided once again by our own "Church Lady", Diane Turner for those who wish them. Ask one of our previous attendees, and they will tell you that meals here are "good eatin'" served with a smile.

The Midwest FreeStyle Canoe Symposium is the youngest in the series of FreeStyle symposia offered in various locations, but is ideal in its middle America location. In asking several years ago why there was no event in more of a centralized geographic location, the answer was, "I don't know. Why don't you host one?" Thus was born what is now known as MFS. What the event lacks in age and tradition is made up in warmth and friendliness. Two older running FreeStyle events, the Adirondacks FreeStyle Canoe Symposium and La Louisianne are held earlier in the paddling season.

You may wonder why the "S" in FreeStyle is capitalized. FreeStyle is a body of knowledge in precise boat control that is accomplished smoothly and with grace—Style if you will. The principles of quietwater boat control (we call it obedience training your boat) are easily applied to other paddling pursuits such as river paddling, tripping and touring, and there is even application to kayaking. The principles of using boat pitch, boat balance, paddle manipulation, heel of the boat are all combined to make hulls of various sizes and /or shapes perform more effectively for the paddler. As one student stated, "FreeStyle is all about physics."

In addition to the opportunity to enjoy some exceptional FreeStyle instruction from our corps of nationally recognized instructors, MFS is also pleased to host the National Interpretive FreeStyle Canoe Championships again, and it is free to the public. Competitors from a wide variety of states will be presenting their finely tuned routines for your enjoyment. So bring your lawn chair and prepare to be treated to a fine display of interpretive FreeStyle paddling. Competition will begin at 5 p.m. on Saturday,

September 8 at Lake Litchfield (located in the valley between the Boy Scout and Cub Scout camps).

For additional information, contact Bob or Elaine Mravetz at rmravet@uakron.edu or (330) 239-1725 (home), and if that number is busy, call (330) 321-5111, or visit the FreeStyle Canoeing webpage at www.freestylecanoeing.com
Hope to see you all there!

The Surfer's Ear, Part II

Intro by Michael Duvall

This is part two of a story on Jackson Kayak web site. After sending in the first part I learned that quite a few

Keel Haulers, both young and old have had this problem caused from repeated exposure of cold water to the ears. How cold is cold, I have no idea. However, on the water you will see many boaters with special fitted ear plugs to help prevent this problem.

Surfer's Ear Sux Volume 2: Hotel California, July 2, 2007

By Clay Wright

Re-cap: End of October 06 I got an ear infection that closed my ear canal up then burst my ear drum and due to surfer's ear bone growth neither drops not ENT scrapers could get inside to treat it. After numerous ENT visits and rounds of antibiotics and 100\$ bottles of 1/4 oz. drops I was still deaf in one ear and as infected as ever.

The pain, gross-factor, and loss of hearing are bad, but when I find my drytop gaskets dry-rotting and realize how long it's been since I paddled I knew action was required. So I booked a Southwest fare to LA, got a car, and headed north up highway 1. While not the most direct route, my 'chaperone' Tara and I thought some R n R would be the perfect way to start the trip. We sipped wines near Santa Barbara, took side-hikes to see the redwoods, sea lions, and watch the kiteboarders at Wadell Beach and just drank in the scenery along the winding road as well. Arriving in Santa Cruz, we set up shop at the Terrace Court Inn for what I knew would be a long week.

I am in Santa Cruz because Doctor Hetzler has a webpage devoted to surfer's ear and has graciously answered my questions about what I was going through and provided E-mail feedback long after my Tennessee Doctors office was closed. He seems like the only outfit seriously prepared to fight these bone growths in a way in which returning to watersports as fast as possible is a priority. And he's done 350 ears already with none of the pesky facial paralysis or head infection business I've been warned about. Meeting him was confidence inspiring. He is checking me in, taking blood pressure and all the things nurses usually do, as well as giving me a detailed rundown of what is about to happen. I am relaxed . . .

Her lips were moving and I could hear just a bit of her voice as the nice nurse held out a cup of the most delicious apple juice I've ever seen. As i sucked down the last drop I saw concern in her face, and read 'NO! just small sips' from her lips right before it hit me: I hadn't had fluids in 15 hours but I instantly wished I had passed on the juice anyway. You remember that time in college when the floor seemed the most comfortable place in the world till your stomach began turning itself inside out with gut-wrenching seizures ...eventually clinching up so tight you thought you may pass out before your next breath? Now add lots of nurses and doctors watching it all in bright lights mouthing 'this is normal' between bowl changes as you begin to feel Shish-ki-bob skewers that have been carefully placed down both ears with all the accompanying swelling and bleeding and gauze you would imagine. Inner panic is how i can best describe waking up after having my ears chiseled. It's not like there is that much pain, just that inability to hear creates a sense of isolation that compounds the many minor unpleasanties into a more personal attack.

Dr. Hetzler comes in and he's not smiling and I realize it's not just my sputtering that worries him. He's trying to be very clear about this...something about infection, mastoid, perforation, and another surgery or two after a couple months ... See you Friday.

"Are your ready to go home?" the nurse asks, but I just stare blankly and continue to throw up. What other answer could I give? An hour later my chaperone finally convinces me to climb into the wheelchair for the trip to the rental car and off to my motel by the sea. I don't remember much else, except that the patch on my ear was finally kicking in to relax my stomach

when I took the next Oxycodone and I retired from the hell I had woken to in hopes of awaking in a much happier, less thirsty place. The next days were spent blasting the TV, catching up on fluids, and trying to communicate with my lovely chaperone when between escape pills. Little victories like taking off the ear patch, learning to take half a pill every 2 hours to maintain a level of coherence without pain, and going outside to take a walk only to find the Pacific right outside the door. The week flies by (for me) and soon I'm getting the packing removed in Dr. Hetzler's office while my chaperone takes surf lessons within sight of the hotel.

Dr. Hetzler is what you would ask for in a Doctor if the sky were the limit. He goes to work clearing my ears and right away i can hear like I haven't in months. The effect is downright trippy, so many more things going on out there than I realized, but I'm trying to concentrate on my list of questions I've brought in when he starts into what sound like a well rehearsed monologue. All my carefully written questions have answers beside them when he is finished. He couldn't repair the ear drum because the infection was active and needed to drain, and while he would put me on antibiotics and drops, he believed I would have to have wait 2 months and then have mastoid surgery to clean the bone of infection, and then follow that up a month later with ear drum repair. "It might just drain our over the next month and heal up on it's own, but it's not likely." This isn't the happy ending I expected. I see my Spring and early summer paddling plans ripping apart like my gaskets. I don't know what I will do. But it's not his fault, and I'd better just get up and get moving. I arrive at the shore near the hotel and the first standing surfer I see is my chaperone, gliding across the bay to the cheers of those around her before hopping back into the ocean. Something good to think about - helping and watching others have fun - that will get me through this and I've got plenty of great candidates all around.

<http://www.jacksonkayak.com/articles07/article.cfm?article=200707024>

<<http://www.jacksonkayak.com/teamjk/teammember.cfm?member=clay>>

<<http://www.jacksonkayak.com/articles07/article.cfm?article=200707024>

Western Trip - 2007

By John Kobak

Elliott Drysdale was again in charge of organizing our almost annual Western paddling trip. We had twelve paddlers total with Michael Duvall, Cliff Wire, and Jim McHale from MI only staying for the first week. Becky Sink from MI, Lee Owen from CT via FL, Duncan & Marina Campbell, from Australia via Bowling Green, OH and Doug Smith were heading out west for their first experience with paddling the fast, cold western whitewater. The usual suspects were there; Bob Nicholson from Bowling Green, Elliott Drysdale, John Kobak and Bill Miller from the Cleveland area.



My new kayak at Sunshine, Royal Gorge

The new paddlers paddled 12 straight days, some days paddling more than one river section each day. Some of us old guys paddled only 8 days and did some resting along the way. Our one week paddlers did 6 straight days before heading back home. We never really all paddled together in one group, but we paddled on the same sections.

Water levels were a little high this year. Not too high, but enough for us to have added the Eagle River, and Roaring Fork. We had challenging levels on all the sections of the Arkansas which ran as high as 2300 cfs.

We got our usual camping spots on the Poudre at Mtn. Park Campground which makes it easy to set up shuttles. The Poudre ran about 4' for the four days we were there. Duncan was the only one who challenged the Middle Narrows with a local paddler. We set safety, he did great.



Duncan Campbell

Our one week paddlers, Michael, Jim and Cliff left the Poudre a day early to do the Roaring Fork in Aspen with Becky. Things didn't start out too well at the first rapid "Entrance Exam". They had two swimmers with Cliff bruising a rib which turned him into a photographer and a shuttle bunny for the remainder of his trip. The level was about 1000 cfs.

The next day our group headed over to run the Eagle River and a rapid called Dowd's Chutes, right under the I-70 bridge in Minturn. Of course communication was not too good which resulted in us dividing up into two groups of four. Duncan's group ran only a one mile section of the Eagle then went back to Vail to run a section of the Gore. This way they got to run Dowd's twice. Both groups had one swimmer at Dowd's which was running about 1500 cfs. We continued on our way to Buena Vista and caught up with Michael's group who had just gotten off of the Numbers run. We all camped together on Thursday night at BLM and decided we would all paddle the Royal Gorge on Friday since that was the last day our one week paddlers could paddle.



Elliott at Sunshine, Royal Gorge

The Royal Gorge of the Arkansas River was running at 2300 cfs. Cliff Shuttled for us and tried to take pictures from the 1000' high suspension bridge. It's a long way down, anyone see Elliott?

We broke up into two groups, a play group and a cruising group. The cruising group beat Cliff to the take-out.

The Arkansas level had dropped to 1600 cfs on the weekend, which made for a nice run on the Numbers. Duncan gave Pine Creek Canyon rapid a try and found out that the big hole is not only hard to miss but gets very sticky at this level. However, even though his skirt popped he managed to make it safely to shore to empty out.



Below the Royal Gorge Suspension Bridge

Monday's flows went back up to 2200 cfs so we decided to do the popular Brown's Canyon run. This way the new people could experience all that the area had to offer. The newbies had even added on the Frog's Back section to their Numbers run on Sunday so that they wouldn't miss anything.



Marina Campbell at Zoom Flume

Tuesday was a bad day for paddles; we decided to run the Numbers one more time even although the level had climbed to 2200 CFS. Things went OK until we got to Rapid Four, the hardest rapid at this level. I was leading and flipped, heading toward the diversion ditch. A missed roll and some nicely placed shore rocks allowed me to quickly get out of the water without a swim but my paddle and kayak went in. I figured, that was good, they would hit a dead end and I could retrieve them. While I was looking for the paddle I saw Bill flip and have a really bad swim in the center of the river. My paddle was stuck on some rocks but eventually disappeared. The kayak just went right back into the river and kept going along with Bill, his boat and paddle. Bill finally got pulled to shore but was told to let go of boat and paddle and that was the last time he saw his paddle. Bob & Elliott were able to snag our kayaks before they got to the bridge above Rapid Five. Bill & I, sans paddles, decided that this was enough paddling for us today. So we drove to Aspen to have a nice meal at Annie's.

After dinner, Elliott, Bill and I decided to scout the Roaring Fork. Elliott and I decided that if the other group had some swims here at lower water level that maybe we should just head home a day early. However, our newbies, Duncan, Marina, Doug and Becky had come to paddle and with Bob and Bill along they would paddle the Roaring Fork on Wed. morning before heading back to run the Clear Fork in Golden and then back to Ohio.



Jim McHale

As usual it was a great trip and we all enjoyed the rivers, the weather, the camping & camaraderie.

August				
8/3	Niagara River, Buffalo Small Boat Harbor, Paddle under the Peace Bridge	SK/FW	Mark Spang	440-892-6972
8/3, 4, 6	Upper Yough	32	Scott Debalski	440-298-1257
8/4	Whitewater Slalom National Championships at ASCI - MD		Race Info	
8/11, 12	Red Cross Kayak & Canoe Instruction River Course		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
8/14	Club Meeting at Heritage Park - Kent, OH	SK/FW	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
8/16	Lower Yough - Skip Work Day	23	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
8/17	Lower Yough - Ladies Only Day	23	Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
8/18, 19	Lower Yough – permits available	23	Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
8/18, 19	Middle Yough	12	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890
8/18, 19	Kokosing River /Kokosing Gap Trail - Canoe, Bike	SK/FW	Trish Voss	440-975-0433
8/18	Paddle for a Purpose - Guinness World Record for the largest free-floating raft of canoes and kayaks. 9 AM	SK/FW	David Herpy	440-256-3821
8/25	Ohiopyle Falls Festival & Race		Barry Adams	412-242-4562
8/25, 26	New River Gorge	27	Tom Sutton	216-937-4137
8/31, 9/1	Upper Yough	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
Sept.				
9/1, 2, 3	Raquette/Beaver	27-35	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
9/7, 8	Lower Gauley	27	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
9/8, 9	Upper Gauley	33	Ron Whitney	440-946-1213
9/11	Club Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
9/15, 16	Upper Gauley	33	Scott Debalski	440-298-1257
9/15, 16	Lower Gauley	27	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969
9/16	Cuyahoga River - Eldon Park to Camp Hi	SK/FW	Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
9/19, 20, 21	Little Miami - Paddle and Pedal	SK/FW	Trish Voss	440-975-0433
9/22	Discover Ohio Pedal Paddle Porch Party	SK/FW	Trish Voss	440-975-0433

2007 Officers

President: Ed Charlton 440-716-5489
VP: Mary Modesitt 216-581-4111
Secretary: Andy Gross 216-321-9284
Treasurer: Rob Hammond 216-292-5618
Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Rec. Ctr.,
15700 Bagley Rd., on the second Tuesday of each month. Doors open
at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts 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.keelhauleder.org

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

**Please consider writing a trip report
or article for the next newsletter!
Deadline for the September issue of
the newsletter is 8/22/07.**

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller
(Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.



KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@comcast.net
peetzaguy@aol.com
August, 2007

KEELHAULER KA-NEWS SEPTEMBER, 2007



**Next Club Meeting is Tuesday,
September 11th at 7:00 PM
at Middleburg Hts Community
Center**

16000 East Bagley Road

[Map to Meeting](#)

**Program: Yoga for Paddlers by
Antoinette Primozic**

**She will run a 30 minute class in the
Multi-Purpose Gym immediately after the
business meeting. The Gym is outfitted
with mats, so wear loose comfortable
clothing. The focus of the class will be on
daily exercises that can be done to keep
the paddling muscles strong and flexible
as well as a few exercises that can be
done at the put-in before paddling.**

**All meetings are open to guests, invite a
prospective member!**

It's that time again.....

All club memberships expire on October 1st. As soon as you can,
mail a \$20 check for your 2008 membership dues. To:
Keel Haulers Canoe Club
1649 Allen Dr
Westlake, OH 44145-2506
Or pay \$21 on-line using Paypal Use this link and click on the Paypal
Logo - <http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/khcapp.htm> Or just use
your Paypal account and send your dues payment to
dues@keelhauler.org
Review your on-line membership listing, using this link:
<http://keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook7.pdf>

User Name: "dir" and the current password.

You do not have to fill out an application or waiver form, you only
need to send me any changes to your membership record.
Please encourage any of your non-member paddling friends to
join/rejoin the club. Our total membership has been decreasing in
the last few years. The club offers a lot to paddlers of all skill
levels at less than the price of a tank of gas to go paddling.

John Kobak

Keel Haulers Canoe Club

<http://www.keelhauler.org>

AW Over the Falls Ohiopyle Falls Festival and Access Update Festival. The Event Will Now be September 15, 2007!

Unfortunately we cannot control Mother Nature. We just got to
much rain for us to meet our required minimum water level for the
weekend of August 25th. All activities of the Festival will be
postponed until September 15, 2007. We hope that you can make
this date.

We will continue to accept registrations for Sept. 15, 2007. We
hope to see you then. Keep checking the Web site for updates:

www.FallsRace.com

The Festival this year will be a one-day event with a number of
activities scheduled:

Over the Falls Race and Freestyle Event

Practice Runs

How to Run a Waterfall Clinic

"The Upstream World Championships" held on the Lower Yough and
sponsored by Wilderness Voyageurs

Silent Auction

Town Party with live band 706 Union

Falls Under Lights

For additional information, registration and updates see:

www.FallsRace.com.

We need plenty of Help! Volunteers will get discounts and T-shirts.
We have submitted a number of proposals to the Bureau of State
Parks and had a number of conversations with Ohiopyle State Park.

After some positive conversations in 2006 we were disappointed with the Bureau of State Parks response to our proposals. After subsequent proposals and conversations the Park has agreed to let area outfitters who wish to participate in a specific program allowing access to Ohiopyle Falls. The details are still being worked out but paddlers will have access to the Falls by contacting participating outfitters after the details are worked out. We hope to have these details soon.

In addition the Bureau of State Parks just had a meeting on private boater access for 2008. We are helping Ohiopyle State Park submit a history and new plan for 2008 that will be reviewed by the new Director of the Bureau of State Parks. Ohiopyle State Park is optimistic that we can have a plan for private boaters for 2008 for additional access. We hope to have some sort of an announcement by our Festival date.

The registration forms for the running the falls and volunteer registration forms are on the above web site. We will also have information about the Outfitters falls access program on our web site as soon as we get the details.

This is another small step toward our ultimate goal of opening up the Falls to responsible public use. We can assure you that we will continue to pursue our ultimate goal of unlimited access. Your participation in the above events is a way of showing Park Management that falls running is not a stunt, but rather a challenging component of whitewater sports.

Thank you! AW Ohiopyle Access Committee,
Barry Adams 412-242-4562, Bj2adams@juno.com

Lake Erie Islands

Report Type: Weekend Trip Report

Trip Dates: June 8-10, 2007

Nearest City: Put-in-Bay, OH

Difficulty: Moderate

Submitted

by: emanoh,
Eric Slough,
Toledo, OH

Description:

As the hurricane force winds and the driving rain pounded the strained sides of my three season tent, I lay spread-eagle



in my tent praying that gravity would work in my favor and not lift me into the trees that lined our campsite. And so began the third annual South Bass Island Kayak Rendezvous on June 8-10, 2007. This review will outline how 20 minutes of savage rain, didn't put a damper on another successful gathering at South Bass Island.

Actually, my rendezvous began earlier in the day on June 8 as my friend Jay and I suited up and left from my parent's beach on the outskirts of Port Clinton, OH. This launch point usually adds about

6 miles of warm-up paddling as we paddle across the Catawba Island peninsula and out to our usual regrouping point east of the Miller Ferry near the tip of the peninsula. We had not made plans to rendezvous with any additional paddlers this year, but I wanted to take a peak to see if anyone was suiting up for the crossing to South Bass. Paddling to the beach we saw two kayakers readying their boats for launch. The paddlers ended up being past attendees of the rendezvous and familiar faces. As we stood on the beach, several additional paddlers either drove by on their way to the ferry or stopped to say hello before dropping their gear for launch.

After a brief rest and regrouping the four of us launched for the three mile crossing to South Bass Island. High winds and an impending thundershower provided a sense of immediacy as we made a bee-line due north for the island. Winds were speeding out of the west and a dark horizon foreshadowed the incoming shower. We figured we had about three hours to make the crossing, set-up camp and batten down the hatches.

Other than adjusting for the 15 knot and increasing winds, we made a speedy crossing and rounded the tip of South Bass Island near its lighthouse and headed for the State Park. We beached our boats and didn't waste time checking-in and hauling gear to our cliff top campsites. I was happy to see many regulars already set-up and readying their campsites. We were hoping for a large turnout for this years rendezvous and from the looks of the boats and campers, kayakers would be in the majority this weekend. Eddyline Steve, Sharon from Lansing, Kathy and her friend Amy from Detroit and a host of past and new kayakers were already on the island to greet us.

Jay and I cooked a quick meal, sat at our campsite and watched the whitecaps as they began to pound the beach. I remember wringing out my shirt as the first lightning bolt struck in the distance. We were glad to be off the water and as the waves increased in size and the white caps started to roll further and further in the distance. I've never wished to visit Hell, but if it looks anything like this storm, I'll make every attempt to meet St. Peter instead. Lake Erie is known for its powerful and fast approaching storms and this one was playing true to form. A shared set of binoculars pointed out two kayakers in the distance only one step ahead of the blackness. With shock and amazement we cheered and nervously waited for the two bodies that were a good distance offshore in open water. In a flurry of arms, paddles and whitecaps, the two paddlers closed the distance from their position to the beach in a matter of minutes and were approximately five paddle strokes ahead of a wall of rain you could bounce a ball against. In one motion the two paddlers skidded several feet up on the beach and safely jumped out of their boats just as the following whitecaps pounded at their heels. With adrenaline pumping and their chests beating, past attendee Kelly and a new arrival Lee described how they rode over on the ferry, but wanted to paddle to the State Park. They had swung way out to the west of the island to take advantage of the following seas to surf into camp.

Before Kelly and Lee could catch their breath, stabbing pebbles of rain and sky the color of graphite knocked on the door of our campsites and we quickly realized we were directly in the eye of the storm. A mad rush to secure tents, boats and gear helped to distract our crew as the teeth of the storm began to bite down on the island. Without the luxury of radar or the internet, we had no idea how long we'd have to hunker down in our tents as the storm passed. After checking on several members of our group, I dashed to my tent and made a diving leap for semi-dry shelter and a good

book. I looked at my cell phone and noticed a text message from Findlay Joe, a regular that had to stay home this year. His message said "hold on, you're going to get pounded." He also wanted to know what we were up to and I typed back "sitting in my tent praying."

Almost as quickly as the storm pounced upon us, it blew through and passed over the island like a car passing through a motorized car wash. Like newly formed butterflies emerging from cocoons, the distinctive sound of zippers started to echo along the cliffs. Familiar sounds of bodies stretching and exhales of tightness retorted along our row of tents as the sun unexpectedly blazed through the rapidly parting clouds. In twenty minutes, I witnessed an amazing amount of water fall from the sky in a surprisingly short amount of time.

Round one for the evening had passed with relatively little damage, but at least one tent was uprooted and rolled through camp. Just before the storm another paddler had ridden the Miller Ferry across, but had launched for the short trip to the beach at the State Park. In all the pre-storm commotion, we had watched the paddler pass in front of the park and disappear around the bend to the north. After the kayaker didn't re-appear before or after the storm, a ranger was flagged and the search began. Within 20 minutes, the paddler was spotted standing, dripping wet under a tree near downtown with paddle and gear. He had missed the beach, tents and boats lined on shore and continued around the north side of the island in search of the State Park. Once he reached downtown Put-in-Bay he must have realized that he should have taken that turn at Albuquerque. The paddler was quickly retrieved and reunited with his traveling companion from Cincinnati.

With bodies, gear and tents re-secured, the sun was now in full bloom, many hands pitched in to assemble our base-camp meeting area for the weekend. A large tent was erected for our first ever pot-luck dinner. Our official rendezvous banner was hung and the dinner bell sounded. All attendees were invited and mounds of food were presented for consumption. As our group gathered, socialized and ate, we welcomed everyone to the island for the third year and ran through the basic outline for the weekend. We also took roll call and found that we had kayakers from many every major city and a few minor cities in Ohio, a cast of characters from as far away as Traverse City, Detroit, and Lansing Michigan and as well as other parts of Michigan. We also had a couple from Indianapolis that had read about the Rendezvous on paddling.net and a paddler from Kentucky by way of Toledo. Each year the scope of attendees continues to grow.

Another new item for this year's outing was the design of a logo and the creation of t-shirts. Shirts were distributed and quickly hailed as collectors items! As the evening continued, car-after-car with kayaks in tow kept arriving from the ferry. As dusk started to settle a small group of us wanted to try a night paddle. Five of us geared up, donned our headlamps and taped glow sticks to our paddles. The water was still a bit rough as we launched into dark water and amber skies. We paddled the mile long shore to the Put-in-Bay lighthouse and back to the beach. Jay and I decided to extend our paddle and headed north towards Green Island. We stopped in the shadow of South Bass Island and watched with childlike amusement as dozens of sailboats rounded Green Island as part of the Annual Mills Trophy Sail Boat Race. Jay and I bobbed in the water and smiled at each other. Without saying a word, we knew that neither one of us wanted to be anywhere else but in our kayaks watching sailboats speed by under dusk heavy skies. In the dark we were close enough to hear captains calling out

commands and winches cranking beneath wind strained sails. Good wind from the storm was pulling the boats along at a good clip, but the sailors still had a long night of sailing ahead of them. As wild as day one began, its ending was relatively mild as a group of us closed the evening with cocktails, cigars and a campfire.



On day two, more than 50 paddlers started making their way to the beach for our 10 a.m. group launch. The weather was perfect for paddling, sunny, but refreshingly cool, waves were mild and the wind wouldn't be an issue. Like the previous two years, I hung back and watched with giddy amazement as 50 sets of kayak blades in every shape and size dipped into the water. The plan for the morning was to paddle to the Put-in-Bay harbor, regroup, paddle to a lunch spot on Sugar Island and then split into two groups for an afternoon of paddling. After leaving Sugar

Island, one group would continue around North Bass Island and a second group would head south and around Middle Bass Island. It must have been quite a sight from shore as our rainbow armada cruised in front of the cottages along the island. I noticed more than a few observers emerge from their homes with cameras in hand.

After a quick stop in the harbor, we headed for Sugar Island and lunch. This year our larger party took up pretty much every square inch of our rocky landing spot. In years past we could land below the waterline on the rocky sand bar that stretched south towards Middle Bass Island and enjoy a quick lunch. Higher water levels reduced the area we could land and it didn't take long before one of the island's few inhabitants realized they had visitors. We were pretty much loaded and launched by the time word went out that we needed to vacate. In the future we agreed that we'd head right for Manila Bay on the north side of North Bass Island for our annual lunch. On North Bass Island, there's plenty of shoreline, the island is pretty much uninhabited and owned by the State of Ohio. As we left Sugar Island, we waved goodbye to the Middle Bass party and turned our boats north.

I was with the group that went to North Bass. I had traveled out there for the first time last year and was enamored with the extremely clear water and the totally white shell beach of Manila Bay. I also knew there was an inland lake near the northern edge of the island and accessed from the bay. I had seen aerial photos of the island and wanted to see if I could bushwhack my way inland and explore. As we rounded the island clockwise and into Manila Bay, we were not disappointed, the water was just as clear, calm and warm as it had been last year. It was a good spot for a dip or to practice a roll or two. I scanned the shoreline for any inlet that looked like it connected to the inland lake. Towards the eastern end of the bay I spotted a little cut-in that looked like it could connect. I couldn't paddle up the cut-in due to the mounds and mounds of zebra mussel shells, but I exited my boat and hiked up a

tiny creek-like waterway into muck up to my knees. Craning my neck, I could see through the jungle-like reeds and could tell there was definitely something back there! I called out to my buddy Jay, whose boat was smaller than mine. We carried his boat over the shells and launched him into the undergrowth. Jay was swallowed by jungle foliage in a matter of seconds. After Jay didn't immediately return, I figured he found something or was eaten alive by some near extinct giant lake reptile. Jay soon returned and reported that there was a navigatable lake behind the 10 ft. tall reeds and undergrowth. With my interest even more peaked, I talked Kathy into joining us on our expedition party. Bending low, we picked our way through the only kayak-wide access channel to the lake. Once we emerged through the reeds, we found what looked like a 2-3 acre lake. Cattails and reeds were starting to choke off the lake and in my guesstimation, it will cease to exist in five years. The three of us paddled the length of the lake and explored the lily pad covered coves and cut-ins. As we exited the lake we had to again bend low in our boats to sneak through the outlet and back to Manila Bay. Where the waterway ended we had to carry our boats over the mussel shell break water and launch into the bay. Jay and I practiced a couple of rolls to wash some of the muck off our bodies and boats. The rest of our group had gone ahead while we explored and our larger party was now a party of three. We quickly made up time and caught our group as they were finishing a rest stop on the southern side of North Bass Island.

With good weather ahead of us, we plotted a course for Rattlesnake Island. We had cut around Rattle snake last year, but I wanted to actually circumnavigate the island this year. There's always been mystery surrounding the island. For years I've heard stories about mob ties to the island and gun wielding security guards and trained Dobermans. While all of these rumors are unsubstantiated, the island is still off-limits to non residents and privacy is strongly enforced. We finished the 4 mile open water paddle to the north east shore of Rattlesnake and continued to round it clockwise. Like most of the Bass Islands Rattlesnake has steep cliffs and interesting shoreline. In several places we could paddle between large chunks of island that have broken from the larger mass and settled close to shore.

After our full circumnavigation, the sun and a full day of paddling started to take its toll and we set a course for the 3 mile crossing back to South Bass for food and dry clothes. As we passed in front of the campground cliffs, cheers arose from fellow paddlers who had landed earlier in the day. We landed, stowed our gear and headed to the showers for a well deserved scrubbing. As in the past we gathered as many paddlers as we could and walked into town for cold beverages and food. As usual our path led us directly to the newly renovated Boardwalk restaurant. Our party quickly pounced on three tables of food, beer and appetizers. Downtown had it's usual buzz from the hundreds of sailors that had landed from their all night race. By evening they had regained their second wind and were starting to crank up the party meter. It was fun to feel the energy of the island and look out on the Harbor to see hundreds of sailboat masts and the colorful yacht club and boat class finishing flags. Boats were moored four deep in the harbor and every mooring ball was attached to a fancy racing machine. A



cruise through downtown and a leisurely walk back to the campsite found us again by the campfire with cocktails in hand and more than enough conversation to last all night.

Day three brought another set of new additions to the rendezvous. During our planning, Mark Pecot, co-owner of 41° North, a Cleveland area outfitter and instructor offered to teach a full day of classes. Various paddlers had registered for a rolling class or an advanced rescue skills class. I think attendees were excited for the opportunity to increase their knowledge, because nobody is teaching kayak classes in the northwest Ohio area. I hadn't signed up for a class this year, because Jay and I had already made plans to paddle to breakfast Sunday morning and continue adding too our weekend mileage. Jay and I were joined on our breakfast crusade to Frosty's Bar by a couple of paddlers from Cincinnati and following our meal we had arranged to meet another party to circumnavigate South Bass Island. It had been a few years since I had circumnavigated our home island, so I was excited to revisit this trip.

We had timed our finish just right to meet up with Eddyline Steve and our pre-arranged group for our trip around the island. Before we left I made a t-shirt delivery to Vicky Wiggle over at Kayak the Bay, a kayak rental business on the island. Upon regrouping we started out of the harbor towards Perry's International Peace Monument and clockwise around the island. We took our time and enjoyed a leisurely group paddle around the south side of the island. Jay and I stopped in the shadow of the monument to practice a roll and an assisted re-entry rescue. In an amazing demonstration of endurance and perseverance, Jay was able to roll, exit, re-enter his boat underwater, perform an assisted rescue and roll, which he proceeded to continue rolling back over by accident and then finally orientating himself enough to perform a final and successful assisted rescue. It was like watching a washing machine tumble around and around. We rejoined our group wet and happy for the final push back to the State Park.

By the time we reached the take-out beach, the afternoon class was heading out for their rescue skills class and we headed back to our campground for lunch and packing for home. Apparently the afternoon class received quite a scare as a pleasure boat careened out of control and headed directly for the class which was close to shore practicing. The group leaders are still unsure if the driver wasn't paying attention, drunk, irresponsible or all of the above. In a mad dash and flash of paddles and boats everyone was able to safely maneuver out of the way of the boat and in typical fashion the boat never slowed or showed any concern. Word from the class was that the encounter was only feet from being disastrous and nearly plowing through the large class of 10+ boats. The group reported that in the race to escape danger, one boat had t-boned another and punctured a hole in its hull. The class instructors signaled the Coast Guard and reported the incident. With everyone safe, they regrouped and were able to finish the class and tragedy was averted.

Jay and I packed for home, said goodbyes to the few paddlers left on the beach and pointed our kayaks towards Port Clinton. The waves were below one foot and the wind was non-existent. Instead of heading for Catawba Point and along the northern shore of Catawba Island, we arrowed our boats in a bee-line directly for Port Clinton. We were going to attempt a beach-to-beach, 10 mile, open water crossing back to my parents landing point. Without having to correct for wind and waves, we were able to keep right on our target plot and without incident traversed over some of the flattest, glassy water I've ever paddled. The only wave action we

encountered was from passing boats and pleasure craft. Not even jet skis travel that far out in the lake. After an hour and forty plus minutes we landed safely at our targeted location and with little fanfare ended our rendezvous weekend. After checking our maps, we had paddled a little more than 40 miles of water in our weekend and were entertained by the many personalities and paddlers who joined us on the island. The little rain shower we encountered on the first day did not put a damper on our weekend and I'd deem the 3rd Annual South Bass Kayak Rendezvous a marvelous success and I can't wait to return next year.

Accommodations:

The South Bass Island State Park houses fine facilities. The sites are clean, the tent sites overlook Lake Erie and the showers/rest rooms are well maintained. The park is still suffering from poor well water. Reservations can be made online at www.ohio.reserveworld.com or through www.ohiodnr.com.

Weekend campers are required to book a minimum of two nights and the cost in 2007 was \$58. Sites book quickly, especially in the summer.

Outfitting:

Sea Kayaks, typical navigation equipment, charts, compass, GPS

Fees:

Ohio boat tags and payment for your campsite.

Directions:

Getting to the Port Clinton, OH area or the Erie Islands is easy. Both can be found by traveling east or west on Either Route 2 or the Ohio turnpike. Getting to South Bass Island can be done by taking the Miller Ferry or paddling to the island.

Contact:

This report covers the Third Annual South Bass Kayak Rendezvous which is scheduled each year on the second weekend in June. The weekend also coincides with the annual Mills Tophy Sailboat Race.

Our 2008 date is June 13-15, 2008. See the [message boards on paddling.net](http://message.boards.on.paddling.net) for updates after the first of the year.

Resources:

Lake Erie Navigational charts.

There is also a neat website to consult for aerial photos and history of the Erie Islands: www.middlebass.org/index.shtml

WORDS OF CAUTION ON INITIATING NEWBIES

by Rick Feinberg

Nancy and I recently took our friends, Richard and Laura, on their first whitewater outing. The crime scene was the Middle Yough—arguably a Class II river at normal levels; no more than Class I on the day we paddled. They had done some kayaking on flat water and were looking for new challenges. We all had a good time—but with one major scare, thanks mostly to errors of judgment on my part. Richard's companion article, which follows, recounts the experience from his perspective. Here, I try to analyze what happened in the hope of keeping others from repeating my mistakes.

Choice of River. We chose the Yough because our friends had done a little paddling and were up for something new. We thought the drive would be reasonable for them since they live south of us, in New Philadelphia. In addition, we'd had no rain in over a month, and the Yough was just about the only place with water. Even at a foot and a half, however, the Middle Yough was a little much for Richard and Laura, who had never done any kind of whitewater and had limited boat-handling skills. Actually, Laura, in Nancy's old Torrent sit-on-top, had little trouble with the rapids; but twelve miles of paddling at low water led to a long day. By the end, she was pretty fatigued. So for her a slightly higher level might have been better. I had estimated time for the trip at three to four hours; but I was thinking in terms of my own paddling pace and didn't allow for a leisurely lunch stop. I also failed to factor in the delay caused by a frightening swim. In retrospect, we should have found a shorter section of a mostly-flat river with a few riffles. The Upper Cuyahoga might have been a good choice. Alternatively, we should have waited for some rain and done perhaps the Lower Cuyahoga or Beaver Creek.

Choice of boat. I'd originally thought of putting Laura, the more experienced of the two, in my Crossfire, and put Richard on the sit-on-top. However, Laura had a painful hip and needed some freedom of movement. Were I to do it over, I would not put either in a decked boat with a spray skirt on any kind of whitewater—even Class I—until they'd demonstrated some level of comfort and a successful wet exit in a pool, lake, or flat river.

Safety drills. When Richard got into my Crossfire, couldn't make it go straight for more than two or three paddle strokes, kept inadvertently turning himself upstream, and would then clutch the grab loop on his spray skirt for balance, I could tell we were in for a long day. But by then I figured that we were committed. More importantly, his stress level made it likely that he'd capsize when we hit some rapids, and I worried about whether he'd have the presence of mind to pull his spray skirt when that happened. I thought about insisting that he try a wet exit in flat water so he'd know the drill when he needed it. However, the water was cold, the air temperature was in the low 70s, and I knew he'd be uncomfortable if he got wet. So I didn't raise the issue. I should have.

Helmet. Richard's article makes reference to his bike helmet coming off his head. He shouldn't have been wearing a bike helmet at all. We only have three kayak helmets—one each for Nancy and me, plus one spare. My original plan was for Laura to paddle the Crossfire and wear our spare helmet. Since the odds of one's head going underwater when paddling a sit-on-top in Class I rapids are pretty slim, I figured it would be an acceptable risk to have Richard wear a bike helmet in the Torrent. That plan was nixed when Laura decided to paddle the Torrent and Richard donned the bike helmet as he climbed into the Crossfire. If I'd made an issue out of it, they probably would have agreed to switch helmets, but with everything else going on, the helmet question escaped my notice. I shouldn't have allowed that to happen.

Shoes. Richard also mentions taking off his shoes. I didn't realize he'd done that until after the rescue, when he was resting on a boulder near the left bank. Apparently, his tennis shoes were getting stuck inside the kayak, making it hard for him to sit erect and causing him to worry about getting out in case of capsize. He asked Nancy if it was OK to remove his shoes, and she agreed. One could argue either way. It is important to have good footwear when walking in the river, as one inevitably does after a swim. On

the other hand, if he could not get into a good paddling position with the shoes on, that made a swim more likely. The lesson here is that we should have made sure he had appropriate footwear before we started out. Of course, if he were in a ducky or a sit-on-top, the problem of shoes getting stuck inside would not have arisen.

Photography and respect for the river. Richard had a nice digital camera protected by a plastic zip-lock bag and attached to a string around his neck. I suggested that he leave it in the van, or at least keep it in my dry bag, only getting it out to take pictures when he was safely on shore. My immediate concern was for the camera, which seemed likely to get drenched. That, however, was a risk he was willing to take. A more serious concern should have been the time and energy he would put into picture-taking, thus diverting concentration from the river. For most of us, Class I is insignificant; but as a first-time whitewater paddler, he had little sense of what he was getting himself into—something I failed to appreciate fully. Even Class I water can be dangerous if not treated with respect, as the river was determined to remind us.

This turns out to have been a delicate issue of interpersonal diplomacy. I did try to discourage Richard from taking his camera in the boat, but it would have been awkward for me to be too insistent. He actually was *Nancy's* friend and colleague; I'd only met him once or twice before. Had I been heavy-handed, it could have caused some strain between Richard, Nancy, and me. Furthermore, I feel that people are entitled to risk their own safety as long as they know what they're doing and don't endanger others. But while I embrace people's right to take risks, others have no obligation to encourage or facilitate them. Experienced paddlers should take responsibility for telling those who are less knowledgeable when they have a bad idea and—in extreme cases—refuse to paddle with them. Richard, Laura, and Nancy might all have been upset with me if I had taken a hard line; but that's better than being an accomplice to a drowning.

Attention to fellow paddlers. As time went on, Richard looked more comfortable and exercised better boat control. So I was willing to take my eye off him from time to time, particularly when I encountered a surfable wave. That was a mistake. I was looking upstream at my little surfing wave when he broached on a rock and got pinned. Nancy saw what happened, but it took several seconds for her to get my attention and for me to respond.

Priorities. When I got to Richard, his first concern was that I rescue the camera. That was easy enough; but our priority should have been to get *him* unpinned. By the time I reached him, he was mostly underwater and was clearly not going to escape right-side up. Finally, I told him to prepare to swim. Since I knew he wasn't going to roll, I should have told him to pop is spray skirt before turning completely over. I didn't, and he flailed around for what seemed like half a minute, trying desperately to get his head up high enough to gulp some air. He later said he was attempting to roll, which may have been true in his mind. But he had no idea of *how* to do it and, at some point, didn't even have his paddle. Nancy and I were in a position where it was hard to get to him, and, from our vantage point, it was the closest to a drowning we have ever witnessed first hand.

Don't take anything for granted. Richard says that after he had grabbed my stern, "I put my bare feet in front of me to meet the oncoming rocks." He was dutifully following the usual instruction about how to swim in rapids: get on your back with feet close to the surface and pointing downstream. I should have made it clear

that the rule only applies when swimming by oneself. Once he grabbed onto my kayak, his feet should have been behind him, and he might have helped by kicking. I couldn't see directly behind me to know what he was doing. It seemed awfully hard to pull him, but I attributed that to being in my Strobe—a boat with little volume in the stern and one that I don't paddle very often. It didn't occur to me that he might be trying to put his feet out front (which, under the circumstances, produced a lower profile in the water for himself, creating more opportunity to hit rocks and offering more resistance for the paddler). When paddling with newbies, we need to remind ourselves that there are things we take for granted which they can't be expected to know. Our instructions have to be both thorough and explicit.

Bottom line. All's well that ends well, and this was a learning experience for everyone. But we were also lucky. We can't expect good river sense from others who have no experience, and they depend on us for guidance. Whitewater can be run safely, but only with good judgment, effective communication, and respect for the river. Richard and Laura have the mindset and physical coordination to become good paddlers. I hope we haven't scared them off.

Learning from Experience by Richard Renner

[Click here for the photos that go with this story.](#)

It's funny how your understanding of something is based on your experience. When Nancy mentioned how she and Rick like to kayak, I had in mind my own experiences kayaking. My experiences included kayaking the Tuscarawas River on two or three hour trips, with flat water and a few obstacles to avoid. We had also kayaked in Chincoteague, Virginia, in the intercoastal waters. My wife Laura had recently introduced us to kayaking on Lake Atwood, also flat water. Nancy and Rick's experiences could be different, but kayaking together would be a good way to compare.

We made plans for Friday (July 13, 2007). I would have to miss the internet planning meeting of the Ohio Employment Lawyers Association (OELA), but that was a sacrifice I was willing to make. On Thursday, we got the time and place to meet. Ohiopyle, Pennsylvania, at 11:00. It would take us about an hour to drop one car there, drive together to Confluence, and then put into the water. Nancy estimated that we would be out by 4:00 pm, in plenty of time to get to Maggie's Mercantile vegetarian restaurant in Stahlstown before it closed at 6 pm.

We all arrived early. I found the first obvious parking place, and it was right next to the van from Portage County. The van had 4 kayaks on it. Rick and Nancy returned to their van quickly to meet us. We transferred some dry clothes to our car, and then took the van to Confluence.

On the way, Rick gave us some pointers about kayaking. Never stand up in moving water. Some stuff about paddling. When he was about done, I announced that I learn better from experience, especially the bad experiences. Rick chuckled (for the first and last time today).

In Confluence, we came to an intersection with lots of "no parking" signs. We stopped at the first house and asked for advice on where to park. A woman and a young girl came to the van. The woman said we could park on the other side of her house. We did. We changed.

Rick was surprised that I wanted to take my digital camera on the water. I had a ziploc bag to protect it from splashes. Rick correctly pointed out that a ziploc is not watertight. I agreed, but correctly pointed out that getting the photos was more important.

My kayak was an older style sit in type. When we got the kayaks to the shore of the Youghiogheny River, I noticed that there was some rubber material in it. "Go ahead and pull your skirt up, Richard," Nancy said. I gave her a look. She immediately agreed that she should not report that remark on the OELA listserv.

The skirt had a small tubular opening in the middle for my waist. Then we had to stretch the rest of it around the cockpit of the kayak to make a water resistant seal for my hips, legs and everything else in the kayak (including my water bottle). The front tip of the skirt had a pull handle. It is like the rip cord of a parachute. To get out of the kayak, one must pull the cord to detach the skirt from the kayak. Nancy made sure I knew this in case I was ever upside down in the kayak. I wore my camera around my neck with the ziploc almost completely closed (except for the hole where the lanyard came through to go around my neck).

I can tell you that steering a kayak is not as easy as steering a unicycle. I think that my paddles had a defect that caused them to pull to the left, because that is how I started to travel in it. I would try the big grinding paddle strokes on the left side to push me toward center, but the kayak would soon be pointing up river. The nice thing about kayaking backwards down a river is that you don't have any of the stress of looking for rocks and steering around them.

Soon Rick taught me that steering in a kayak is more about the angle of your paddle stroke than it is about the strength of your paddling. I experimented with paddle strokes that pushed away from the bow, and that did help. Soon, I was able to travel far enough to exchange whole sentences before I spun around backwards. Nancy told me how she and Rick also like to ski. Kayaking, however, has two advantages. Kayakers are dedicated to helping one another, and their club newsletters have better stories.

Another advantage of kayaking backwards is that you can take pictures of the other kayakers behind you and capture their faces. Simultaneously, the rocks in the river can capture you. Rick advised that it is better to kayak forward. I practiced getting photos more quickly, rezipping the ziploc in time to turn around and face the rapids.

Did I mention the rapids? The Youghiogheny has quite a few. The river still looks flat, but it makes more noise. You can see some rocks sticking up, and you steer around those. You can also see some prominent standing waves. I tried to steer around those too. Sometimes there is a rock right next to the standing wave. These are called brakes. Sometimes I could not get around the standing waves. Of these times, I would sometimes sail right through, and sometimes I would get stuck on a rock. Rick and Nancy never got stuck on rocks. I never even heard a rock scrape the bottom of their kayaks. They are definitely better kayakers.

After about two hours, we agreed to stop for a rest. Rick led Nancy and Laura to an island. I used the opportunity to take a few photos. After a minute or two, I could see them on the island beach. I could also see that I was in a shallow rock garden. I had to use my paddle as a pole vault to get over each rock. It would have

been easier if I had just followed Rick and gone around the rock garden.

On shore, I noticed that my legs had not moved in two hours. A few stretches were in order. I enjoyed being reunited with my water bottle. I used the facilities, making sure they were not made of poison ivy. I put my shoes in storage so my feet would have more room. I took the keys out of my pocket so they would not grind into my side. We are off again.

Soon, we are approaching another rapid. I heard someone call to move left. I was approaching a rock. I tried to get to its left side. In a moment, my kayak was pressed against this rock, and the water was pushing the left side of the kayak down. I used my paddle to reach out and hold me up. My leg started to cramp. I decided to rest for a minute here. I saw that my camera and its ziploc were in the water, with the water getting dangerously close to the opening for the lanyard. After a minute, Rick pulled up. He was on the downstream side of this same rock. I handed him my camera. He picked it up with his paddle. Now, I visualized how easy it would be to get out. All I had to do was push myself past this rock. What I should have visualized was passing my glasses to Rick, but giving up my glasses was nowhere close to my thoughts at that moment. It would also have been a tremendous foresight to pull my skirt cord up.

In the next moment, the water succeeded in pushing the left side of the kayak down stream, with the right side of the kayak just a little less down stream. In this position, the kayaker is under the water.

It is curious what you think about when you are underwater with a kayak over you, and rocks are beneath you and on both sides. I was thinking about what my airline pilot client had told me on Monday. If a cabin loses pressure at high altitude, you have about three seconds of useful consciousness. How, this has been a lot longer than three seconds. I did not think at all about the water temperature. I normally do not like to swim unless the water is about bathtub warm. But the following events occurred in water that was 15 degrees Celsius, without me caring at all about freezing. The other thing I was not thinking about: the OELA internet planning committee meeting. I now think those are safer than kayaking.

I noticed my glasses getting scraped off my face, and I could feel them with my hands. I decided that I should focus more on seeing my family again rather than saving my glasses. I could hear Nancy and Rick yelling something to me repeatedly, and I decided I should get up to hear what they were saying. I tried to roll the kayak up on one side. No luck. I tried the other side. Same result. I reached for the skirt cord. It was hard to pull off. I decided I should pull as if my life depended on it. It came free. In the next moment, I was breathing again.

Okay. I am breathing. I am still in the middle of the rapids with no paddle (did I mention that I lost my paddle, too). I reached over my kayak, but it wanted to move faster than I did. Rick yelled that Nancy had my kayak, and I should hold onto his kayak. This sounded reasonable to me. I held on. I put my bare feet in front of me to meet the oncoming rocks while Rick kayaked toward shore. Next time, I might think to put my feet behind me and help with a swimming kick. Now I notice that my bike helmet was off of my head, but the strap was still around my neck. It had been too loose to be of any use. I found the latch and took it off. I found a big

rock near shore, climbed up, and understood why turtles like to lay on big rocks.

While I caught my breath, Rick went to look for my paddle. Other boaters said they saw it and called out some directions, but Rick did not find it. When Rick got back, he put my camera in the dry bag. It was not offered to me again until we got back to the car. I thanked Rick for saving my life. He said I had saved my own life. Laura later said that she would like to take a water safety class before she goes kayaking with me again.

Richard recovers on a rock.



Before starting again, I tightened my bike helmet. I stretched my legs. Nancy got out the SPARE PADDLE which had been stowed in my kayak. As we continued kayaking, I asked Rick if he would let me buy him a new paddle. Nancy said she never liked that paddle anyway.

I am legally blind without my glasses -- somewhere between 400 and 700/20. Luckily, I had all that experience kayaking backward. Kayaking blind is practically the same. Rick led the way. I followed Rick. Nancy followed me. I was sensing that I was the subject of a new safety plan, and appreciating it.

We pulled out at Ohiopyle. Nancy explained that the take out was in a new location from the last time they kayaked here -- 15 years ago! Laura had paddled Nancy's old sit-on-top kayak the whole way. She handled all the rapids well, didn't get stuck anywhere, and didn't come out of her boat. It was our longest kayaking trip ever (about 12 miles) and at low water levels.

Since I was no good as a driver, Rick and Laura went to get the van. Nancy and I stayed in Ohiopyle. A few raindrops pushed us to the nearest porch. There, Nancy got a map of the route we had just taken. It was the "Middle Youghiogeny." It is a "Class II." river. Nancy said that since the water was low, she would have rated it Class I. For tomorrow, Rick and Nancy have plans for the next stretch -- the Class III "loop" of the Lower Yough. I downloaded my photos to the laptop. We looked them over and definitely found a few shots that were worth the adventure. I invite you to call on me to share them with you.

When Rick and Laura returned, we collected the kayaks. Other boaters asked if two helmets belonged to us. They did not. I joked

that what we lost was a paddle. "What color?" she asked. It was Nancy's paddle. The guy with an orange hat saw it sticking out of the rocks in "Victoria Falls." He was concerned that it might slice a raft, so he walked out to retrieve it. All it takes, though, to get in trouble is one river and one rock.

Laura and I left about 7:30 pm, appreciating that we could once again go home together.

Group shot: Richard, Laura, Nancy & Rick



GOVERNOR PRINTZ CANOE AND KAYAK RACE AND RAMBLE

All Competition Canoes, Pro Canoes, ICF Canoes, Recreational Canoes, ICF Kayaks, Touring Kayaks, Sea Kayaks, Unlimited Kayaks, Recreational Kayaks, Outrigger Canoes, and Surf Skis are welcome. Mass start at 1 P.M. Saturday, September 15, 2007. Scenic and interesting course (something for everyone).

Shallow (6 inches to 12 inches) at the beginning of the course (muddy bottom), medium depth in middle of course (2 feet to 6 feet), deep at the finish (6 feet to 30 feet). If you are not familiar with Darby Creek you can follow the right shoreline going downstream and the left shoreline after reaching the Delaware river and you will be taking the shortest route to the finish.

For an actual photograph of the race course [See last page of attached "Gov Printz Canoe & Kayak Race 2007 flier"].

A "Wildlife Festival" is happening at the start (John Heinz Wildlife Refuge) [See attached "Wildlife Festival 2007 flier"].

A "Riverfront Festival" is happening at the finish (Governor Printz Park) [See "Riverfront Ramble 2007 flier"].

BRING THE FAMILY (the following events are happening at the finish line):

Makin Music Children's Fun	Noon - 5:00pm
Children's Arts & Crafts	Noon - 5:00pm
Kid's Games	Noon - 5:00pm
Pirate Encampment	Noon - 8:00pm
Pony Rides	1:00 - 5:00pm
Media Theater's Idols	1:30 - 2:30pm
Car Shows	2:00 - 8:00pm
Hedgerow Theater	3:00 - 4:30pm
Oldies Band, Flashback	3:00 - 5:00pm

There is a free shuttle from the finish (Governor Printz Park) to the start (John Heinz Wildlife Refuge) to transport paddlers at the end of the race. Note: There are three fliers regarding these events. For more information, please contact me, Glen Green, at americanswanboat@verizon.net.

Sept.				
9/1, 2, 3	Raquette/Beaver	27-35	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
9/7, 8	Lower Gauley	27	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
9/8, 9	Upper Gauley	33	Ron Whitney	440-946-1213
9/11	Club Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
9/15, 16	Upper Gauley	33	John Kobak	440-871-1758
9/15, 16	Lower Gauley	27	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969
9/15	Re-scheduled Ohiopyle Falls Festival & Race		Barry Adams	412-242-4562
9/16	Cuyahoga River - Eldon Park to Camp Hi	SK/FW	Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
9/19, 20, 21	Little Miami - Paddle and Pedal	SK/FW	Trish Voss	440-975-0433
9/22	Discover Ohio Pedal Paddle Porch Party	SK/FW	Trish Voss	440-975-0433
9/21-23	Upper & Lower Gauley (Festival Weekend)	27-33	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
9/22	Cheat Canyon or Lower Big Sandy	26/31	Jim Steppenbacher	440-655-4052
9/22, 23	Slippery Rock	13-19	Tim Taubert	440-256-2506
9/22, 23	Lower Yough	23	Dave Roush	440-461-6456
9/29, 30	Upper & Lower Gauley	27-33	Scott Debalski	440-298-1257
9/29, 30	Lower Yough	23	Mary Modesitt	216-581-4111
Oct.			Time to Pay Dues	
10/5, 6	Upper Yough - Last Saturday Release	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
10/6, 7	Upper & Lower Gauley	27-33	Bill Miller	440-257-2970
10/9	Club Annual Election of Officers at Middleburg Hts		Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
10/13, 14	PENN CUP Bellefonte Slalom race		Igor Birbrayer	440-479-5636
10/13, 14	Gauley River	27-33	Needs organizer	
10/12-14	Moose River Fest	27-30	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
10/13	Slippery Rock	13-19	Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
10/13, 14	Lower Yough	23	Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
10/13, 14	Middle Yough	12	Brian Thies	440-331-4216
10/14	Bike East Harbor State Park and Marblehead Lighthouse		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
10/27,28	Russell Fork	26	Cecil Tickamyer	740-593-8453
10/27,28	Cheat Canyon or Lower Big Sandy	26/31	Jim Steppenbacher	440-655-4052

2007 Officers

President: Ed Charlton 440-716-5489
VP: Mary Modesitt 216-581-4111
Secretary: Andy Gross 216-321-9284
Treasurer: Rob Hammond 216-292-5618

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Rec. Ctr.,
15700 Bagley Rd., on the second Tuesday of each month. Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts 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

Wanted: Don and Helen Skelton are looking for a canoe. If you have one for sale, please contact them at dnhnskelton@aol.com.

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

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter!

Deadline for the September issue of the newsletter is 9/22/07.

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaug) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@comcast.net
peetzaguy@aol.com
September, 2007

