

KEELHAULER'S KANews OCTOBER, 2008



**Next Club Meeting is Tuesday, October
14th, at 7:30 PM,
at Middleburg Hts Community Center
15700 Bagley Rd**

Program: CPR Workshop

In the clubs ongoing effort to enhance safety, Debbie Avallone (aka: Nurse Debbie) will give us a guided workshop on current CPR technique. We will use the American Heart Associations CPR Anytime kit. To all of you who participated last year, please bring your kits and come for a review. To those who would be joining us for the first time, you can purchase your kit for \$29.95 at [CPR Anytime Kit](#), or call 800-233-1230. The kit is a great investment because you can use it to review at home as needed and to help family and friends become familiar with CPR. Order your kit early because it could take a week or so to get it. We'll try to share as much as possible so come even if you aren't able to buy your own kit. Wear loose comfortable clothing and perhaps bring something to kneel on. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. [E-Mail to Joe Marks](#)

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

All meetings are open to guests invite a prospective member

It's that time again... 2009 membership dues

All club memberships expired on October 1st. Please mail your \$20 check.

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 directly to dues@keelhauler.org.

You can review your membership listing on-line:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook8.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. Please encourage any of your non-member paddling friends to join/rejoin the club. The club offers a lot to paddlers of all skill levels at less than the price of a tank of gas to go paddling.

Special Request - I will be out of the country starting 11/15/08 and would like to get membership wrapped up before I leave, so **send your money TODAY**.

John Kobak

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 9th

The meeting opened with the introduction of guests/ new members. All of these folks joined the club tonight!

Present as new members:

Chris Malek - Chris is a 20 year canoeist from Strongsville learning to kayak.

James Martin - James recently moved to the area from Atlanta and wants to get into whitewater.

Scudder and Alberta Kelvie - Scudder and Alberta are longtime canoeists from Hudson who have spent their summers canoeing in the Adirondaks and decided to bring their boat home this year. They are interested in flatwater/mildwater on local streams.

Treasurer's report: Terry Markoff reports that the KHCC has \$4730.28 in the bank account. The KHCC also has 3 CD's which total approximately \$6000.

Membership: John Kobak reports that the KHCC has 300 families currently. John also urged members to pay their dues ASAP. Doing so will insure your listing in the new yearbook.

Judy Cleary reported that the discussions with the Lakewood and Orange pools are underway. The roll sessions should begin at

Lakewood in the middle of November and the Orange sessions should begin in the middle of December. Watch the schedule online for the concrete dates to be added soon.

Safety: Chuck Singer spoke of the unfortunate drowning of Isaac Ludwig recently on a river trip. Chuck also spoke of the need to know what the conditions are on the river and where you need to take out. Cliff Wire mentioned the possibility of making the KHCC annual donation to AW in Isaac's name.

Library: Pat G. listed the new titles that he is purchasing for the KHCC library.

- DVD's:
- All About Kayaking (Kent Ford)
 - Rolling A Kayak (Ken Whiting)
 - Riversense (Kate Geis)
 - Night Of The Living Donkey (On the strong recommendation of Chris Wing!)
 - Genes Advanced Creeking
 - Legend Of The Falls (Corran Adisson)

Books:

- Appalachian Whitewater Northern States 4th edition
- New York Exposed Vol 1
- New York Exposed Vol 2
- Sea Kayak Rescue
- The Nealy Way Of Knowledge

Expect these new titles to be available at the next meeting!

Jim Hunt reported on the much improved Gauley access situation with the new put in at Woods Ferry on the Middle Gauley, off of Panther Mountain Road, run and staffed by the National Park Service.

Jim also reported on his Lower Gauley trip the first week of Gauley Season. Jim reported that the hardest of the rapids gained by using the new put in caused most of his group to flip in the bottom hole on Friday and caused him to swim out of the hole. Friday's group consisted of Six KHCC members, Saturday had nine, and Sunday had three. Thanks to Jim for a successful trip.

There was no old business.

New business: a proposed slate of officers for the coming year.

- President - Ed Charlton
- Vice President - Cliff Wire
- Secretary - Pat G.
- Treasurer - Terry Markoff

Staying on as Trustees:

- Judy Cleary
- Rob Hammond

Elliott Drysdale's term as trustee is expiring, and we are looking for someone to replace him.

The board discussed creating a new position of Promotion Chair to help publicize the KHCC and the events put on by the club. The position would likely involve sending out press releases to area newspapers and magazines to get the word out on club events. **Any volunteers?**

The KHCC will be making our annual donation to various organizations for conservation in the approximate total value of \$2000. These will be recommended by our Conservation Chair Dave Hill and voted on at the next meeting.

Finally, Rob Hammond reports that Patty Murphy has accepted his proposal of wedded bliss. The couple will be tying the knot on October 18th. Congratulations!

The program for the evening was a wonderful trip report by Judy of the trip that she and Larry Fordyce took to Spitzbergen. Judy showed slides and spoke of their experiences and the stark beauty of the landscape. Judy also fielded questions from the audience. Thank you Judy.

SYOTR, Pat G.

CLUB TRIPS

by Michael Duvall

I have seen many of our Club members on rivers this year. Some trips were scheduled and some were spontaneous unplanned trips posted on the message board. If you were on any of these club trips I am sure you had a good time.

These trips are successful because a few members step up to schedule a trip in the yearbook or post a trip on line. Everyone who has been on a club trip should think about stepping up and organizing a trip next year. In November, we start to schedule trips for the coming year. If you can organize a trip or have a trip idea, please let me know so it can be printed in the year book and posted to the online schedule.

Michael.Duvall@amgreetings.com

NAME THAT FREESTYLE MOVE

By Michael Duvall

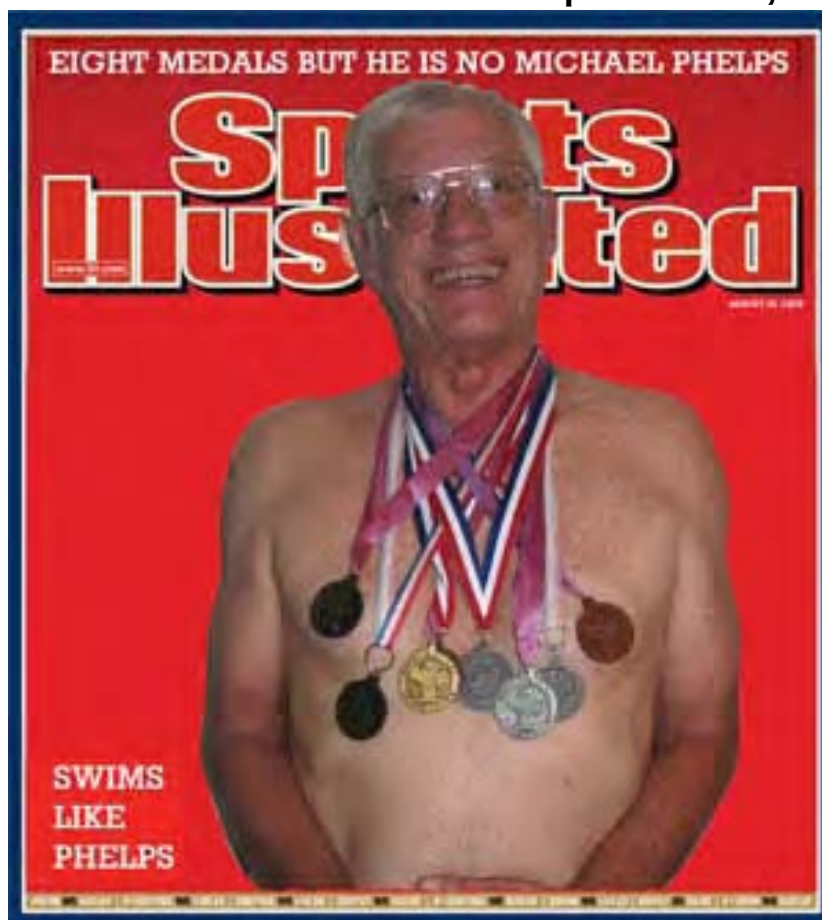
Play boaters do some crazy tricks. Maybe you watched someone do some strange flipping twisting move at a play spot on the river or in some insane video. The names are sometimes more crazy than the move itself. Here are a few names and descriptions, some simple and some difficult.

- SPIN - 360 rotation of the boat at 0-45 degree angle retaining the feature.
- CLEAN SPIN - 360 degree rotation of the boat at a 0-45 degree angle retaining the feature, initiate with only one paddle stroke, the paddle not being used while executing the move.
- BLUNT - Elevated 180 degrees of rotation on green water at an angle greater than 45 degrees, clear of the foam pile, where the competitor rotates around the bow of the boat landing in a back surf.
- LOOP - Two consecutive ends over 70 degrees from bow to stern where the boat remains facing the direction of the water, starting and finishing facing upstream.
- SPACE GOZILLA - An aerial loop with a 90 degree rotation between ends. Both ends must be over 70 degrees. The boat must retain the hole or wave.

More to come in future months.....

October			Time to Pay Dues	
10/3, 4	Upper Yough - Last Saturday Release (MD)	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-4182 C
10/4, 5	Upper & Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	Bill Miller	440-257-2970
10/11, 12	PENN CUP Bellefonte Slalom race (PA)		Igor Birbrayer	440-479-5636
10/11, 12	Upper & Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	Needs organizer	
10/11, 12	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
10/11, 12	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Brian Thies	440-331-4216
10/12	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
10/14	Club Annual Election of Officers at Middleburg Hts		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
10/18,19	Lower & Middle Yough (PA)	12/23	Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
10/17-19	Moose River Fest	27-30	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
10/25,26	Russell Fork (WV)	26	Cecil Tickamyer	740-593-4153
10/25,26	Cheat Canyon or Lower Big Sandy (WV)	26/31	Jim Steppenbacker	440-655-4052
10/26	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Brett Mancino	216-570-7382

Who is the Keelhauler Gold Medal Swimmer of the Year?
Our very own Webmaster and Membership Chairman, John Kobak!!!



DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!! DUES DUE!!! DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!!!

2008 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

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, editor, 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

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! The deadline for the November issue of the newsletter is **10/21/08**.

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@aol.com

October, 2008



KEELHAULER'S KANews NOVEMBER, 2008



**Next Club Meeting is Tuesday,
November 11th, at 7:15PM,
at the Middleburg Hts Community Center,
15700 Bagley Rd.**

Program: Jim Hunt will present a slide show from the canoe trip he led on the Clearwater River in northwest Saskatchewan this past summer. The Clearwater River is both a Provincial Park and a Canadian Heritage River due to its importance during the fur trade days. The highlight of the trip besides the beauty of the deep canyons was a 12 mile portage to exit the watershed. Laurel Archer says about the river: "If you had to pick just one river in Saskatchewan to paddle, this might well be it. This river simply has it all....great beauty, big whitewater and a long history. This river will challenge intermediate paddlers with solid whitewater skills, and you are recommended to have a more advanced leader or a guide in the party. This is not a river for a group of beginners. The river will challenge beginners paddling with advanced and exceptional paddlers in the same canoe. Advanced and exceptional paddlers really find this river very stimulating to run; it keeps them coming back."

2009 Trip Planning: Michael Duvall will ask for trip organizers for next year's trip schedule. The reason our club has so many out-of-town members is our outstanding yearly trip schedule. So bring some ideas and plans to make 2009 a banner trip year. We really need the Sea Kayakers and Flat Water paddlers to volunteer to organize more trips. It doesn't take paddling skill, just someone willing to organize an outing.

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

All meetings are open to guests.

Invite a prospective member!

It's that time again... 2009 dues!

Take a look at your mailing label, if it says "**Please pay dues now for 2009**", you are not paid-up and the December newsletter will be your last. If you are reading this newsletter on-line, go to this web page:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/khint08.pdf>

User Name: "dir" and this year's password.

If the last column says 8 and not 9 by your name you are not recorded as paid.

All club memberships expired on October 1st.

Please mail your \$20 check.

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>

As we get ready for the 2009 yearbook to go to print please make sure all your contact & paddling preference information is correct by reviewing the on-line copy of the yearbook. 2008 members are still listed.

You can review your membership listing on-line:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook8.pdf>

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

Special Request – *I will be out of the country starting 11/15/08 and would like to get membership wrapped up before I leave, so **send your money TODAY**, I need to wrap it up by 11/11/08. **John Kobak***

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 14th

Trip reports:

Cliff Wire reported on one of the Upper Gauley trips. Cliff stated that Michael Duvall had the best rescue at Pillow Rock. Michael was rescued by a boat full of women!

Chuck Singer reported on Karl Nelson's Fall Colors Trip at the Lower Yough. Beautiful weather was the order of the day. Sunday after a brief swim, Karl was lining his boat along the shore when he slipped on a rock twisting his ankle. The view of the group was that the ankle was not broken and we decided to float him off the river ASAP. (It was later discovered that there was a fracture to the lower leg) The group pulled together nicely to help Karl around Dimple and River's End then up the hill at the take out. Karl drove himself home and later received medical attention.

Safety:

Chuck Singer noted that the last two rafting deaths were a result of heart attacks. This fit in with the CPR program for the evening which included the use of an AED (automatic external defibrillator)

Membership:

John Kobak reported that the collection of dues is progressing nicely with 1/2 of the membership paid up. Current membership is at 307.

Webmaster John Kobak reported that he was able to successfully block porn on the message board!

Roll Sessions:

Judi Cleary reported that the dates are set for Lakewood and Orange pools. Note that the Lakewood sessions have been moved by 1 hour from previous years, New time for Lakewood sessions is 3-5PM while Orange remains 4-6PM. See the web site for detailed dates.

Conservation:

David Hill has suggested that the KHCC increase our donation to Friends of the Crooked River.

Library:

Pat G. reported that some of the books that he ordered were unavailable so he has ordered 2 more videos. Enter

The Donkey, and Steve Fisher's Black Book.

The election of officers for 2009 was held with the slate approved.

Trustees: Judi Cleary, Rob Hammond, Jim Hunt (new)

President: Ed Charlton

Vice President: Cliff Wire

Treasurer: Terry Markoff

Secretary: Pat Guzowski

Program: Debbie Avallone led a session on CPR. The presentation was well done and we all learned a lot. All members are encouraged to keep up with the latest CPR recommendations. Thanks Debbie!

SYOTR,

Pat G.

My First Combat Roll

by Jack Andraka, age 11

We had a day off from school on October 9th so my family went to the lower Youghiogeny river to kayak. The river was running 1.8 feet and it was warm and sunny. I did not see any other boaters on the river. A few weeks earlier my brother, Luke, and I ran the lower Yough for the first time but I was still a bit nervous about Cucumber Rapid. Luke walked out after Entrance because he forgot his glasses and couldn't see. I had a good run at Cucumber and practiced ferrying in the waves below. I ran the frog's back at Railroad and felt pretty confident as we went under the railroad bridge. Everything was going well until we reached River's End. I got pushed too far to the right and slowly flipped on the curler coming off snaggletooth rock. I opened my eyes and saw racing bubbles everywhere. My head bumped along the rocks even though I tucked. It was really hard to get my paddle to the surface. I felt a flame in my heart that said I could roll up. I didn't want to swim and bump my butt on the rocks. I set up, swept and hip snapped and I was up! My first combat roll!!!

I had practised so hard all summer on the Lehigh river. Once I did 50 rolls in the flatwater there. My dad made me practise rolls above rapids a lot. Now I have a lot more confidence on the water and I plan to go on the Cheat canyon when it is warm and 2 feet.

CLUB TRIPS NOVEMBER MEETING

At the November meeting there will be a calendar to schedule trips. If you organized a trip in 2008 or want to organize a trip in 2009 but can not make the meeting, please let me know before the November meeting. If you want to exchange weekends with someone else let me know. If you had a trip on the schedule last year but can't make it this year, please let me know so someone else can step up and take it this year. I don't want to call or email everyone who has ever had a trip to see if you will do it again. These trips are for YOU. Please step up and organize one. Michael.Duvall@amgreetings.com

Treasurer's Report from Terry Markoff

Well the past year has been an interesting learning curve with Sabine manning the computer and me trying to find a sharpened pencil. We are wrapping up last year's finances, and so far between the CD's and the bank balance, seem to be in pretty good shape especially due to the Vermillion

Race and the Rescue Rodeo. (thank's Rob and Company). Conservation donations are down a bit but we will still be able to do our share for the organizations we've helped support in the past The New budget will be read at the November meeting posted in December's newsletter.

Indoor Roll Session Time! by Judi Cleary

It's that time of year again to wash off your boats, take out the air bags and head for the (heated!) pool. The club has once again arranged for sessions at both Orange (east side) and Lakewood High School (west side). The drill is pretty much the same as previous years (Sat afternoons) with a couple of notable changes. The Lakewood roll sessions will be from 3-5pm (instead of 4-6pm), and the Lakewood sessions run through the very end of March. There are more sessions planned for this winter, so don't let the winter pass you by without taking advantage of these sessions which can provide valuable practice time and make the difference between a long, uncomfortable, possibly dangerous swim, and a successfully performed roll! And remember to bring your helmet! Any questions? Contact Pool Chair: Judi Cleary or President: Ed Charlton. Here are more details:

Orange High School Pool Roll Sessions:

Ten sessions are scheduled on Saturday afternoons on December 13, 20 2008; January 17, 24, February 7, 14, 21, 28 and March 7, 14 2009. Pool time starts at 4:00 pm and ends promptly at 6:00 pm. We need to see that the lane lines are back in place before we leave. We must shower and be out of the building by 6:15 pm. A charge of \$6 per person per session (\$5 for Orange School District residents) covers the use of the pool.

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. [Map to Orange High School](#).

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.

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.

Lakewood High School Pool Roll Sessions:

Seventeen sessions are tentatively scheduled on Saturday afternoons: November 15, 22, 29; December 6, 20, 27 - 2008; January 3, 10, 24, 31 - 2009; February 7, 21, 28 - 2009; March 7, 14, 21, 28 - 2009 at Lakewood High School Pool. Saturday Pool time starts at 3:00 PM and ends promptly at 5:00 PM. You can not enter the building until 2:50 PM. All must shower and be out of the building by 5:30pm. A charge of \$6 per person per session covers the use of the pool.

Directions to Lakewood High School Pool:

Lakewood High School is at 14100 Franklin Blvd., 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. You can not enter the building until 2:50 PM. [Map to Lakewood High School](#).

Cancellation Policy:

If Lakewood High School pool is closed, that information will likely be available on the pool's voicemail at (216) 529-4014.

General Rules:

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

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. For those interested, club membership forms will be available at the door. Annual club dues are only \$20 per family. Click [Join Our Club!](#)

3. The roll session at Lakewood High School is preceded by an Open Swim session. If you arrive early, please wait outside the building with your boats until the Open Swim session ends at 2:45 PM. Please bring in boats through the back emergency exit, which will open at 2:50 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. So print one and fill it out before you arrive.

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

6. The pool becomes crowded. In the interest of safety, neither free swimming nor diving is allowed. 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.

!WARNING! from Michael Duval

Don't Swim at Cucumber!

While waiting in the eddie below Cucumber Rapid on the Lower Yough I noticed a boy fishing from the near by rocks. His rod was bent over and he was cranking hard on the reel. I thought he had snagged a log or rock but it became obvious that he was fighting something on the end of the line. He worked his catch over to the shore and grabbed it. It was a good size "Muski". Look at those teeth!!



Club Leadership for 2009

by Ed Charlton

At the October meeting the members elected the officers and trustees for the coming year. They are:

President: Ed Charlton

Vice President: Cliff Wire

Secretary: Pat Guzowski

Treasurer: Terry Markoff

Trustee: Jim Hunt (2009 thru 2011 term)

Trustee: Rob Hammond (2008-2010 term)

Trustee: Judi Cleary (2007-2009 term)

On behalf of the Club, thank you to all of the committee chairpersons for 2008. Continuing in 2009 are:

Conservation: David Hill

Instruction: Steve Ingalls

Library: Pat Guzowski

Membership: John Kobak

Webmaster: John Kobak

Newsletter Editor: Kelly Miller

Pool Sessions: Larry Fordyce

Program: Joe Marksz

Refreshments: Patty Murphy/Bob Bair

Rescue Weekend: Rob Hammond

Safety: Chuck Singer

Sea Kayaking/Rec Boating: OPEN

Trip Schedule: Mike Duvall

Vermilion Race: Rob Hammond

Yearbook Editor: Patty Murphy

The leadership of the Club needs new blood. We need fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Volunteer! You'll note we seriously need someone to lead and grow our sea kayaking and rec boat schedule. **We'd also like someone to be a Promotions chair for things like the Vermilion Race, the Rescue Weekend, and to promote the Club in the media. Help shape your Club. Lend a hand!**

NAME THAT FREESTYLE MOVE

By Michael Duvall

SPLITWHEEL - Two consecutive ends, with a change of direction in between each. Play boaters do some crazy tricks. Maybe you watched someone do some strange flipping twisting move at a play spot on the river or in some insane video. The names are sometimes more crazy than the move itself. Here are a few names and descriptions, some simple and some difficult.

CARTWHEEL - Two consecutive ends in the same rotational direction and both ends at an angle greater than 70 degrees retaining the feature. One end of more than 45 degrees and one with more than 70 degrees retaining the feature.

TRICKY WOO - A three ended sequence - two ends must be over 70 degrees and the other over 45 degrees. The entire sequence is performed using one paddle blade only. The first end is initiated on the bow one way. the second tail end is split back and rotated through 180 degrees. the third bow end is followed through in the same direction as the first landing in the hole or on the wave.

PHOENIX MONKEY - Move is initiated by a pirouette elevated at 30 degrees minimum and followed by a front loop to end up facing upstream of the feature. Only one paddle stroke must be used to achieve the move.

BTW, I can explain some of these moves but don't assume I can do any of them.

More to come in future months...

November			Pay Dues	
11/9	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
11/11	Club Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Joe Marksz	216-281-1517
11/15, 22	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
11/23	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Brett Mancino	216-570-7382
December			Last Chance to Pay Dues	
12/6	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
12/6, 13, 20, 27	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
12/6, 13	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
12/9	Club Holiday Party at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Joe Marksz	216-281-1517

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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KeelHauler Kanews

Kelly Miller, Editor

1515 Fox Chase Dr.

Sewickley, PA 15143

peetzaguy@aol.com

November, 2008



DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!! DUES DUE!!! DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!!! DUES DUE!!!!

KEELHAULER'S KANews DECEMBER, 2008



**Next Club Meeting is
Tuesday, December 9th. Doors open
at 7:00pm and dinner is at 8:00pm
at the Middleburg Hts.
Community Center,
15700 Bagley Rd.**

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

Program: Annual Christmas Party,

Potluck dinner

**Please bring a dish according to the
first letter of your last name.**

A-E: Salad or Vegetable

F-L: Bread or Appetizer

M-R: Dessert or Fruit

S-Z: Main dish or Casserole

**The club will supply beverages,
plates and plastic ware.**

All meetings are open to guests.

Invite a prospective member!



Last Chance... 2009 dues

Take a look at your mailing label; if it says "**Please pay dues now for 2009**", this is your last newsletter & reminder that you will receive, since your club membership expired on October 1st.

If you are reading this newsletter on-line, go to this web page, to see if you are listed as paid-up:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/khint08.pdf>

User Name: "dir" and Password: "khcc08".

If the last column by your name says 8 and not 9, then you are not recorded as paid.

Please mail your \$20 check. 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>

Remember if you are an AW(American Whitewater) member or want to become a member, you can get a discount by checking the **\$10 discount** box for members of a affiliate clubs.

As we get ready for the 2009 yearbook to go to print please make sure that all your contact & paddling preference information is correct by reviewing the on-line copy of the yearbook. All 2008 members are still listed here:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook8.pdf>

You can view the 2009 database on-line at:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook9.pdf>

If your name is not listed you will not be in our new 2009 Yearbook & Roster.

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

Of course, I 'm gone for the season, see where I am:

[Where in the World is our WebMaster?](#)

John Kobak

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 11th

Program: Jim Hunt gave an excellent report leading his trip this past summer to the Clearwater River in Canada. The trip followed one of the most important fur trading routes. Thanks Jim!

Trip reports: Mike Duvall reported on his trip to the Cheoah and the Ocoee with Tom Sutton and Mary & Steven Smith. Michael reported that the hardest section of the Cheoah comes in the last mile with 3 major rapids.

Safety: Chuck Singer reported on the condition Surfer's Ear which results from prolonged exposure to cold water. The body reacts by forming a bony growth in the ear canal which must be removed by a doctor. To help avoid this problem, it is advised that you use ear plugs to limit the exposure.

Membership: John Kobak reported that there are currently 203 paid members of the 311 total.

Library: Pat G. reported that 2 more videos have arrived. Enter The Donkey by Spencer Cooke, and Steve Fisher's Black Book by Scott Lindgren.

Treasurer's report: Terry Markoff reported that the KHCC currently has assets of \$10,230.

The Budget of \$10,280 for 2009 was voted on and approved.

Terry Markoff reported that the Red Cross has classes scheduled for March and April. See the KHCC web site for details.

Terry also reported that there will be a meeting pertaining to Fall's access at Ohiopyle on November 22. See the post on the KHCC message board for details.

John Kobak repoted that there is a new parking lot at the Lower Big Sandy put in across the bridge on river right.

Mike Duvall suggested moving KHCC Lower Yough permits from 9AM to 10AM to be more in line with Slacker time.

SYOTR, Pat

Compliments of our Webmaster.....

Believe it or not, ten years of old newsletters are posted on our website.

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khnews/>

CLUB TRIPS

Remember that the new 2009 trip schedule is now being planned. Please volunteer to organize at least one trip next year. The trip schedule is the most important part of the club. These trips are for YOU. Please step up and organize one. Please contact Michael Duvall at Michael.Duvall@amgreetings.com

An Unfortunate Cheat Report

by Jim Snyder

Hi Ya'll,

I just wanted to relate the details of my recent overnight trip down the Cheat. I came from St. George down to my house last weekend. It rained and snowed the whole time- so I loved it! I saw an eagle, 3 osprey, a great blue heron and several hundred geese- which I was able to sneak by without disturbing. I also saw a fisherman in a snow storm on the Narrows- and two other kayakers too! This shows how much of a valued resource the Cheat is.

But I was sorely disappointed when I got to the dam at the Albright power station. The level was 1.25' which is a perfect level for running the dam on the left where there is a ski slope kind of bottom to the dam which makes it safe to run at levels up to 4' at least. Well- it seems after about 50 years of having a 95% lethal mantrap across the river- the power plant has finally succeeded in creating a full on perfectly and completely lethal river impediment. Of course- everyone who runs rivers know the entire right 95% of the dam is lethal- it's a classic low head dam - low head dams have killed hundreds if not thousands of people world wide since their inception. But the left 30' of the dam has always been runnable because the base of the dam has a slope at the bottom which gets you safely away from the hole. I have been running the dam there for about 20 years- as have others. There have been two ugly incidents on the right side of the dam at low water which almost killed my brother Jeff and Keith Backlund at two different times. Running the right side of the dam (especially solo with a 150 lb. loaded boat in winter conditions) is unthinkable at any level really even (especially) for an old salt like me. So- when I approached the left side of the dam to run the safe route- I saw something was up because there was recent construction right into the river from the new cooling towers construction. I approached slowly and cautiously because it looked like they made it impossible to run the safe section. As I got near- I saw there was still about a 4' space where I could safely run- but I was still suspicious- so I snuck up real slow hoping not to get swept over the dam by the currents before I got a good look at what I was getting into. I finally had to have my bow hang over the edge of the dam by 1' before I got a good look at the bottom. Good thing I did! It turns out they had pile driven large I-beams into the river bottom and used them to support a vertical wall structure made of 4X4s bolted together. So- there was a 20" high wall waiting for me at the bottom of the "safe" side! I was really disappointed. Had I run the same way I have for the last twenty years I would have had both ankles broken and then been ejected into the lethal hole at the base of the dam. It would

have been a painful drowning. It amazes me that they can create a fully lethal mantrap across a public waterway without so much as a thought for passersby. It's the equivalent of me stretching barb wire strands across the bottom of Big Nasty rapids so I can make money somehow. They don't even have a sign. If they did- it should say- "Caution! Totally lethal dam is imposed on your nice trip here. Go to the back yard of the people who live on the right side of the river and lug your boat through their yard past the barking dog- up the hill and across the road over the guardrail and then down the unbelievably dangerous and steep hillside back to the river. And if you have a loaded canoe- it might take several trips up and down the hill and you will have to leave your gear untended at each end of the portage. But- if you're still considering running the dam- enjoy your last few moments on this planet- because YOU WILL DIE!"

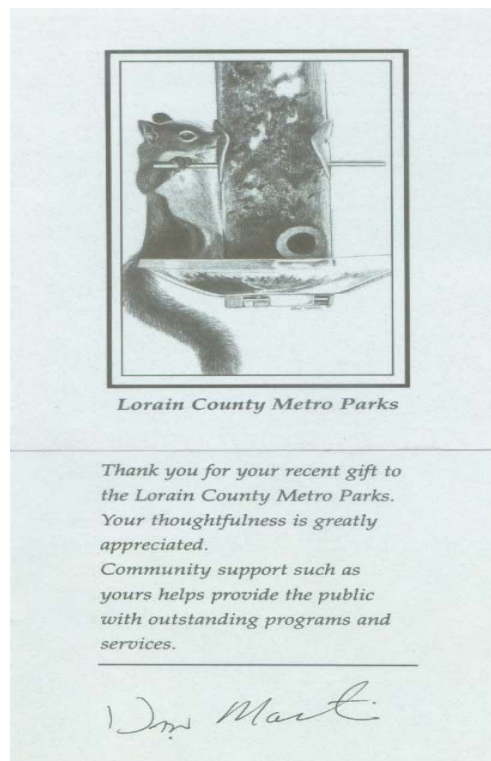
So- I did the portage- it was so hard- dragging my heavy boat up the hill 18" at a pull because it was so heavy. And I was really exciting the landowner's dog. Then after I got my boat over the guardrail on the other side of the road- the trail down was so hazardous. It was all my cold fingers could do to hold on to my boat to get it to a resting point near the bottom. Had I known there was a lethal mantrap waiting for me I would have brought a long rope to help with the portage. So- I got the boat near the bottom- gave my fingers a rest- and then when I freed my boat for the last 15' descent to the river- it broke free from my frozen fingers and went hell-bent-for-leather lickedy split down the hill for the river. I literally dove after it down the rocky hill. It crashed into a pinch of rocks at the river's edge and I landed face first on my back deck- banging my knee and hand in the process. It would have been quite amusing to any onlookers I'm sure. So- a bunch of cuss words escaped my mouth at that point (let's just say I didn't get way far into the alphabet...) It took me over ten minutes and a good deal of effort to get past a 5' long man-made death trap on the river. Even the big dams on the Ohio and Mississippi have to operate the locks for small boats to assure safe passage- but not here.

So- one of America's longest cleanest free flowing rivers has finally went down and succumbed to technology. No one will ever be able to run the dam again. You can probably tell I'm still a bit peeved. I used to be able to run the whole river unimpeded and

had run the dam many many times without incident. It's funny that you can't have mantraps built on your personal property- but if you want to put one on a public waterway- go right ahead!

All in all- it was a wonderful trip- with a quiet camp at Seven Islands. But- expect gruesome portage descriptions in all my "Long Run" (where I run the entire 140 miles of the Cheat in two days) trip reports in the future.

Whew! I feel better now- a little. If the power plant could just build a slanty trough or a fish ladder somewhere on the left it would solve the problem- but I'm sure they don't see it as a problem. They should at least put up a sign warning paddlers about the lethal structure. I haven't talked with anyone at the power plant as of this writing- and perhaps I will. This is all really recent and so I am just rendering my unvarnished opinion of the state of the river at this point.



December	2008		Last Chance to Pay Dues	
12/6	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
12/6, 20, 27	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool, 3-5pm		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
12/13, 20	KH Roll Session at Orange pool, 4-6pm		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
12/9	Club Holiday Party at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
January	2009			
1/1	7th Annual New Year Paddle at Edgewater Beach		Stuart Warner	440-356-9550
1/3	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool, 3-5pm		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
1/10, 24, 31	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool, 3-5pm		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
1/17, 24	KH Roll Session at Orange pool, 4-6pm		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511

Treasurer's Report from Terry Markoff

David Hill is planning to do a thorough review of the distribution of our conservation donations. Please be sure to let him know which organizations you have strong feelings about, and suggest reasons for supporting them. ~Terry Markoff

Financial Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Category Description	Actual Expenses	Actual Expenses	Actual Expenses	Actual Expenses	Actual Expenses	Budget

INCOME

Conservation Income	\$ 332	\$ 552	\$ 779	\$ 463	\$ 268	\$ 400
Dues	\$ 6,607	\$ 6,341	\$ 5,811	\$ 7,060	\$ 4,858	\$ 6,300
Interest	\$ 34	\$ 30	\$ 54		\$ 179	\$ 30
Rescue Weekend Income	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,545	\$ 1,815	\$ 1,041	\$ 1,632	\$ 1,500
Reservations	\$ 240	\$ 38	\$ 70	\$ 94	\$ 45	\$ 120
Vermilion Race Income	\$ 2,010	\$ 1,399	\$ 1,318	\$ 2,219	\$ 1,731	\$ 1,700
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 10,303	\$ 9,905	\$ 9,847	\$ 10,877	\$ 8,713	\$ 10,050

EXPENSES

Club Promotion	\$ -	\$ 240	\$ -	\$ 1,000		\$ 400
Conservation Donations	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,050	\$ 2,000
Internet	\$ 115	\$ 261	\$ 105	\$ 95	\$ 112	\$ 100
Library	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 121	\$ 151	\$ 200	\$ 250
Meeting Hall	\$ 695	\$ 455	\$ 440	\$ 320	\$ 640	\$ 450
Misc	\$ 261	\$ -	\$ 99	\$ 40		\$ 100
News Letter	\$ 2,150	\$ 1,685	\$ 1,545	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,513	\$ 1,550
Organization Dues	\$ 105	\$ 255	\$ 330	\$ 300	\$ 200	\$ 300
Postage & Supply	\$ 1,484	\$ 1,131	\$ 590	\$ 884	\$ 368	\$ 800
Refreshments	\$ 257	\$ 307	\$ 140	\$ 215	\$ 113	\$ 200
Rescue Weekend Expense	\$ 1,068	\$ 1,261	\$ 1,489	\$ 1,038	\$ 906	\$ 1,200
Vermilion Race Expense	\$ 1,654	\$ 1,253	\$ 1,458	\$ 1,765	\$ 1,138	\$ 1,300
Yearbook Print	\$ 1,296	\$ 1,358	\$ 1,302	\$ 1,393	\$ 1,360	\$ 1,400
Yough Reservations	\$ 175	\$ 165	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 180	\$ 180
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,460	\$ 10,171	\$ 9,859	\$ 10,891	\$ 8,780	\$ 10,230

OVERALL TOTAL	\$ (157)	\$ (266)	\$ (12)	\$ (14)	\$ (67)	
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	Conservation	Donations		2007	2008	2009
		2006				
American Whitewater		\$ 500		\$ 500	\$ 575	
Friends of Cheat		\$ 500		\$ 500	\$ 450	
Friends of Crooked River		\$ 150		\$ 150	\$ 300	
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Assoc.		\$ 175		\$ 150	\$ 100	
American Rivers		\$ 125		\$ 100	\$ 100	
West Virginia Rivers Coalition		\$ 200		\$ 200	\$ 175	
River Network		\$ 150		\$ 125	\$ 100	
Nature Conservancy		\$ 150		\$ 150	\$ 150	
Grand River Partners		\$ 150		\$ 125	\$ 100	
Total:		\$ 2,100		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,050	

Friends of the Crooked River Present

2008 River Rat Revelry

Our Annual End-of-Year Meeting

When : Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., program begins at 7:00 pm

Where : Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium

See below for directions

Agenda

- Presentation on the State of the Cuyahoga River given by representatives of the Ohio EPA
- Update on the proposed Gorge Metro Park hydroelectric project
(Yes, it's still being pursued)
- Latest news about the Cuyahoga River
- Seeing old friends and meeting new friends

Light refreshments will be served

For more information, contact:

John Kaminski, 440-356-8974

Elaine Marsh 330-666-4026

or email

riverkeeper@wideopenwest.com

Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium

2345 Fourth Street

Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

330-971-8080 (for directions only)



2008 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

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, editor, 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

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! The deadline for the November issue of the newsletter is **12/21/08**.

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@aol.com

December, 2008



HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

KEELHAULER'S KANews JANUARY, 2008



Next Club Meeting is Tuesday,
February 12th, 2008,
at the Middleburg Heights Community
Center
16000 East Bagley Road
Meeting starts at 7:30pm
[Map to Meeting](#)

Program: To be announced.

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



December 12th Meeting Minutes

The December consisted of the annual holiday potluck. A good time was had by all. Please note that there will be no meeting in January, 2008.

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.

CANOE SAILING IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

by Rick Feinberg
December 10, 2007

You haven't seen me on the river since the end of August. The reason is that I've been on Taumako, a remote island in the Solomon Islands, learning about voyaging canoes, their construction, operation, and systems of non-instrument navigation. I've just returned to Ohio for a few months before going back to Taumako to continue the project.



Children on Kahula beach (Taumako).



Feasting on Day of the Holy Cross.

The eastern Solomons is still as isolated from the outside world as any place on earth, and for most of the past three-and-a-half months I couldn't even receive the most basic news. The trade-off is that I got to live on a stunning tropical island; swim in clear, warm water over a beautiful reef; watch the preparation of two canoes for inter-island voyaging; and talk with accomplished traditional navigators about how they find their way between islands over dozens—and sometimes hundreds—of miles of open sea. I learned enough of the Taumako language to hold brief conversations without resorting to Pijin, the Solomons' version of Melanesian Pidgin English. And my Pijin also improved, although it's not what it should be for someone who has spent as much time as I have in that part of the world.



Dance at celebration for Day of the Holy Cross.



Rick at ear piercing ceremony for young child.

The Vaka Taumako Project involves some introduction of resources into the community, and that means competition for control of those resources. As a result, I learned as much about political processes as navigation and sailing. It wasn't exactly what I'd gone there to do, but it was no less interesting for that. The most frustrating part of the past few months is that it took a long time for the canoes to be properly fixed up, so I actually did very little sailing. My colleagues and I were hoping to sail about seventy miles, from Taumako to Nifiloli in the Outer Reef Islands in October. However, the canoes weren't ready until the end of the month, and by that time the easterly trades had given way to unstable monsoon winds. I managed to get out on the reef one night for a crayfish hunt (they're actually more like tropical lobster), did a little spear fishing in the open sea, and had a wild ride in a small dugout (as opposed to one of the large voyaging canoes). To give you a little flavor of the experience, here's an account of the later outing:

Today was my first opportunity since diving for crayfish to engage in participant observation of some maritime activity—great sailing on the reef flat with Basil Tavake. The morning broke grey and windy, with storm clouds on the horizon, occasional rain, and a generally threatening appearance. The wind was swirling all around, but coming mostly from the north (*te palapu*). The surf line was white with spray whipped up by winds of 20 knots and gusts to 35 or more. I was surprised to see a couple of canoes heading past Kahula village—one powered by an outboard, the other with a person poling. I was even more surprised, around 10 AM, to see someone I recognized from a distance as Tavake in a small canoe, raising a blue plastic sail. With the swirling wind he had trouble keeping the sail upright, and three times it collapsed on him. Finally the mast snapped, and he paddled back to the beach in front of his house. I walked over to ask what he was up to; he said he was just sailing for fun and adventure. But the wind was too strong for the small sail and little dugout. He got out a larger sail and found a fresh stick to replace the old boom, which he figured was too weathered to endure the stress. Then, after a few moments of reflection, he asked me if I'd like to sail with him.



Dugout canoe of type I sailed with Basil Tavake.



Voyaging canoe under sail on reef flat.

It was chilly even before getting wet, so I put on a long-sleeved polyester shirt and kayaking dry top. I also figured that the greatest danger was swamping and having to walk on sharp coral with a strong wind and current while trying to retrieve the canoe. So I put on my wet suit booties. It turned out that they weren't needed, but it felt good to have them just in case.

While I got out my gear, Tavake cut the new boom to appropriate length and lashed the long pole to a forked stick. He got a second, smaller pole and lashed it to another forked stick which would hold up the point at the top center portion of the sail. We got out a slightly larger dugout, one I'd estimated at fifteen feet in length. It had many rotting spots, and the one thwart, which also supported the mast, was coming out on one side. Strips of metal were nailed to various spots on the outside of the hull, seemingly to patch leaks and perhaps to reinforce the hull's structural integrity ... to the extent that such terminology can be applied.

At first, Tavake had me sit in the bow facing him, and he didn't expect me to do anything more than help him counterbalance the force of the wind. The canoe was long and narrow, with no outrigger, and probably not more than six inches of freeboard. We sailed out toward the surf line with the wind coming hard to port. The tide was high, which meant that there were two- and three-foot waves even on the reef flat. Each time there was a strong gust or a large wave hit the canoe, sea water would wash over the gunwales, and before long before we'd taken on enough water to be in danger of foundering. My companion had neglected to bring a bailer, so there wasn't much we could do except try to stay more or less upright until we got back to shore. It was especially exciting as we approached the surf line and plowed through some breakers. Then we turned toward the beach and surfed some fairly large waves back. Tavake held the steering paddle and sheet, so except for balance he was in complete control of the canoe.



Life aboard a voyaging canoe.

When we got to shore, he paddled us back to the beach in front of his house and got a pole (*tokotoko*) to add to the paddle for propulsion, as well as a plastic bottle with the bottom cut off to serve as a bailer. He asked if I'd like to hold the steering paddle, to which I readily agreed. He poled us to the point between Kahula and Niukkili valleys; we bailed the water that had accumulated in the bilge; and we positioned ourselves with me in the stern and him a few feet in front of me. He handed me the paddle, while he grabbed the bailer and sheet; and we started back, working our way clockwise around the island and toward the surf line.

At first we had a little trouble catching much wind, since we were in a large shadow cast by the point between the two valleys and by Tohua, a small island a hundred yards from the beach. But once we passed Tohua, we caught the full force of the wind. It took all my strength and leverage, bracing the paddle against the gunwale, to keep us going straight, with the wind coming from port and my paddle to starboard. I was impressed at how well the canoe tracked and how little leeway there was, considering that we had neither a keel nor an outrigger. And with both of us sitting toward the stern, the bow rode higher, which meant we didn't ship as much water. Tavake did a great job of handling the sheet and helping to steer from his position; but he also gave me pretty clear instructions about where he wanted me to direct the canoe and when to turn. We sailed past Te Veni (a huge hole in the reef, perhaps 100 yards in diameter) and reached the edge of the surf line. This was definitely the scariest part of the trip, since it wouldn't have taken long to allow ourselves to get blown into the meat of the surf, where we would certainly have swamped in the powerful four- to six-foot breakers. But at the last minute he had me jibe to starboard and switch the paddle to the port side. Although I use a left-handed kayak paddle, my right side is a little stronger, and my left shoulder is still sore from an old biking injury; so it took a while to find a position where I could comfortably steer with the paddle to port. Once I got that sorted out, we maintained

a course pretty much straight toward the next point—Miango—which juts out onto the reef, then headed up onto the beach. There we bailed the water that Tavake was unable to get while we were underway, and he poled us back to Lokakehu at the north end of Kahula, where we made one more pass. We didn't go around the point to Niukkili because the waves were too big on that side of the island, and we didn't go around Miango point to Ngauta because that would have put us in the shadow of the island and made it difficult to catch a good wind. So we had three wild rides along the southeastern coast, from Lokakehu to the end of Hapapa. Although we were constantly in danger of swamping and always had some water accumulated in the bilge, it never interfered with our ability to handle the canoe. At one point, as we were approaching the beach, Tavake leaned the wrong way while the wind changed, and we had about three inches in the vessel when we reached shore; but by that time we were over a sandy bottom, close to land, and out of the strongest winds. The wettest we got was actually pulling the canoe onto the beach back at Vangahala (the section of Kahula where I was living), when a breaker crashed over the canoe and into my face. This was the most exhilarating day I've had since paddling the New River Gorge at two feet back in August!



Introducing a new generation to the pleasures of sailing.

More relevant to my ostensible reason for being here: I learned some useful lessons about Taumako sailing. Obviously, we were not in a voyaging canoe—or anything even close. And this was not an inter-island voyage. In fact, we didn't even get outside of the fringing reef. But many of the attitudes and skills that Tavake demonstrated are the same ones that have enabled his ancestors to develop their fine canoes and become renowned sailors and navigators. This can be seen in Tavake's interest in testing his skills under challenging and potentially even risky conditions, loving every minute of it; and his understanding the behavior of the wind and the reaction of the boat and sail to different wind conditions. His ability to deal with wind that was swirling and not coming steadily from one direction is something a skilled navigator and captain must have in dealing with emergencies caused by suddenly-inclement weather on the high seas—as was his understanding of how to modify the sail to handle changing wind conditions. His ability to deal with one of the prongs breaking on the fork that connected the boom to the mast and not let it interfere with the canoe's performance is an indication of the resourcefulness that would be important on an inter-island voyage. And his ability to remain enthusiastic but under control should serve him well under a variety of circumstances. He has never made an inter-island journey on a voyaging canoe but loves to fish and to be at sea. He sees it as a challenge and almost a game, although it is a game with potentially large stakes—whether putting food on the table (actually on the floor mat) or safely reaching the destination island. He indicated that he would like to make a voyage sometime on a proper voyaging canoe (*te puke* or *te alo lili*). But until that happens, he's content to enjoy himself with more local challenges, sailing his canoe around Taumako and learning the skills that may, one day, put him on the same path as his namesake, Basil Tavake, the great Pileni navigator of the middle portion of the past century.

At least one of the large canoes is now ready for a lengthy voyage, and another is suitable for local voyages in the vicinity of Taumako, so I'm optimistic about getting some quality time at sea when I go back. In the meantime, I hope to hear from—and maybe see—many of you over the coming months while I'm in the US.

Upcoming Trip Schedule

Please note that the tentative trip schedule is posted. There are lots of opportunities for new trip organizers. Please take the time to review and volunteer to organize a trip, especially Flat water trips. We need to plan now so that all trips can appear in our annual trip schedule and roster which goes to print very soon. Call or e-mail Michael Duvall at (216) 521-0094 or Michael.Duvall@amgreetings.com.

Date	Trip/Event	RR	Organizer	Phone #
Jan.	2008			
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.				
2/2	Ohiopyle Winterfest		Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
2/9,16,23	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
2/2,16,23	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
2/12	Club Monthly Meeting		Joe Marksz	216-281-1517
2/16,17	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
2/22, 23	National Paddling Film Fest		Michael Duvall	216-521-0094
2/24	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	John Yaro	216-566-2501
March				
3/1,8,15	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
3/1,8	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
3/1, 8,15	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Rocky River School Pool - Saturday 12:00pm-4:00pm		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
3/2, 9,16	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Lakewood High School's pool - Sunday 4:30pm-8:30pm		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
3/1, 2	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
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3/22	Rocky River or other local	8-17	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
3/22, 23	WV Creeking	>30	Brent Laubaugh	724-272-6944
3/30	Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge	20	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549
3/30	Vermilion Race	SK/FW	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618

A tentative copy of the entire 2008 Trip Schedule has been posted on-line.
It will continually updated. Note we still need trip organizers and more Flat water trips.
Please consider organizing a trip and submitting to John Kobak our webmaster.

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/tripschedule08.htm>

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/yearbook8.pdf>
You need to use these passwords for access to our databases. User Name: dir; Password: see monthly e-mail.

Treasurer's Report from Rob Hammond and Terry Markoff

Financial Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Category Description	Actual Expenses	Actual Expenses	Actual Expenses	Actual Expenses	Budget

INCOME					
Conservation Income	\$ 332	\$ 552	\$ 779	\$ 463	\$ 400
Dues	\$ 6,607	\$ 6,341	\$ 5,811	\$ 7,060	\$ 6,300
Interest	\$ 34	\$ 30	\$ 54		\$ 30
Rescue Weekend Income	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,545	\$ 1,815	\$ 1,041	\$ 1,300
Reservations	\$ 240	\$ 38	\$ 70	\$ 94	\$ 120
Vermilion Race Income	\$ 2,010	\$ 1,399	\$ 1,318	\$ 2,219	\$ 1,100
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 10,303	\$ 9,905	\$ 9,847	\$ 10,877	\$ 9,250

EXPENSES

Club Promotion	\$ -	\$ 240	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 500
Conservation Donations	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000
Internet	\$ 115	\$ 261	\$ 105	\$ 95	\$ 100
Library	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 121	\$ 151	\$ 200
Meeting Hall	\$ 695	\$ 455	\$ 440	\$ 320	\$ 450
Misc	\$ 261	\$ -	\$ 99	\$ 40	\$ 100
News Letter	\$ 2,150	\$ 1,685	\$ 1,545	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,550
Organization Dues	\$ 105	\$ 255	\$ 330	\$ 300	\$ 300
Postage & Supply	\$ 1,484	\$ 1,131	\$ 590	\$ 884	\$ 950
Refreshments	\$ 257	\$ 307	\$ 140	\$ 215	\$ 225
Rescue Weekend Expense	\$ 1,068	\$ 1,261	\$ 1,489	\$ 1,038	\$ 1,200
Vermilion Race Expense	\$ 1,654	\$ 1,253	\$ 1,458	\$ 1,765	\$ 1,300
Yearbook Print	\$ 1,296	\$ 1,358	\$ 1,302	\$ 1,393	\$ 1,400
Yough Reservations	\$ 175	\$ 165	\$ 140	\$ 140	\$ 140
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 10,460	\$ 10,171	\$ 9,859	\$ 10,891	\$ 9,415
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ (157)	\$ (266)	\$ (12)	\$ (14)	\$ (165)

CONSERVATION DONATIONS

	2006	2007
American Whitewater	\$ 500	\$ 500
Friends of Cheat	\$ 500	\$ 500
Friends of Crooked River	\$ 150	\$ 150
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Assoc.	\$ 175	\$ 150
American Rivers	\$ 125	\$ 100
West Virginia Rivers Coalition	\$ 200	\$ 200
River Network	\$ 150	\$ 125
Nature Conservancy	\$ 150	\$ 150
Grand River Partners	\$ 150	\$ 125
Total:	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,000

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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.

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1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, OH 44145

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

The deadline for the February issue of the newsletter is 1/22/08.

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
January, 2008



KEELHAULER'S KANews FEBRUARY, 2008



**Our Next Club Meeting will be
held Saturday, February 9th,
at 6:45 PM, at the
Fox and Hound Restaurant and
Pub at 1479 S.O.M. Center Road
in Mayfield Heights
after our roll session
at Orange High School.**

[Map to Orange HS](#)

**Program: Kayak Videos on Big
Screen**

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

January Meeting Minutes

There was not a meeting in January, 2008.
Happy New Year to all! See you in February!

Paddling Highlights from 2007 From Gary Porter

This is part of a group of postings denoting paddling highlights of 2007. This one is about a Karen Deerfield and Rick Payerchin adventure. The goal is to think of paddling this winter, and pass them on to have a communication network ready come spring! The JNX referred to is the "John Norris Experience" meaning maximum chaos.

Best of 2007 is here!

But not everyone will get every one. So when you get yours, forward it to as many paddlers as you think will enjoy it. This will create maximum chaos - a hallmark of the John Norris Experience - but lots of new connections with long-forgotten emails. Hahahahahahahahahahaha.

Rick :P

Vermilion Beach to Old Womens Creek 07

The day was beautiful, light winds sunny hardly any waves. Marty Cooperman was putting together this trip. We had Marty, his friend Ken, John Norris, Rick Payercheck and myself.

Marty and John had their sails on and we felt oh so sorry for them sitting back relaxing eating bon bons and painting their toe nails in the soft breeze. Rick, Ken and I had to actually paddle. We didn't get our toe nails done that day...

Marty felt bad for us, so we stopped for a break and he passed out his famous bagels. He's the man! We took off from there and ended up at Old Women's creek.

Rick asked me if I wanted to paddle back instead of driving back, Jumped on that baby!!!! Now funny, the main characters, as to why we are doing these stories, had to leave. I think they had to go plan more adventures. So, Rick and I stood on the beach contemplating what to do. A very strong head

wind and waves were really picking up. We knew we had a long paddle back under those conditions, but with Marty's help - coming in back of us and stating - "This is your conscious - go for it" we decided to give it a try.

So with the guys' assistance to get going, we did, and what can I say? I've been on some hard paddles, but I think this one is right up there. Nonrelenting winds and waves hit us the whole way. We got back at sunset. It took us that long to paddle. A police officer was there when we got back, but just eyeballed us. All the people there looked at us like we were nuts for being out there.

We did have a guide though, the whole way back - the coolest thing I have ever seen for that long - our friend a BALD EAGLE!

It was fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Thanks Rick!
Karen Dearfield

Think Pink this Valentine's Day – Paddles that Battle Breast Cancer

Canoe enthusiasts can make a difference and help save a life by purchasing a [Pink Paddle](#) to fight breast cancer. Designed and developed by Sue Prom, owner of [Voyageur Canoe Outfitters](#), and manufactured by Wenonah Canoe with the support of its CEO Mike Cichanowski, the Pink Paddle is a proud supporter of the National Breast Cancer Foundation whose mission is, "To save lives by increasing awareness of breast cancer through education and by providing mammograms for those in need."

The Pink Paddle is not only a functional, bent-shaft, graphite, paddle but is also a beautiful piece of art. The logo on the paddle is a wish or a blessing to anyone, but especially to those who have been affected by breast cancer. Created by Sue and a few Maori symbols, the logo is a wish that means, "May your new beginning bring you strength, peace

and tranquility and may your journeys over water always be safe."

Sue Prom owns and operates Voyageur Canoe Outfitters along with her husband Mike. Voyageur is located at the end of Minnesota's Gunflint Trail on the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. She also updates a daily blog about the BWCA and produces a bi-monthly newsletter. For more information about Pink Paddles visit the website at <http://www.pinkpaddles.com> or call Sue Prom at 1-888-CANOEIT.

A Historic Paddling Adventure

from Don McMurtry

Several groups will be commemorating the 200th anniversary of David Thompson's cross-Canada trade route later this year. It involves paddling from Rocky Mountain House in Alberta to Lake Superior. Along the way, there are already over twenty communities planning to host the paddlers and help organize celebration events. Needless to say, this is going to be a very unique event and one that doesn't come along very often! The trip begins in mid-May and ends in early July. More details, including the list of specific communities and paddling dates are on the event website:

<http://www.2008thompsonbrigade.com/>
I am helping assemble a team of paddlers and I plan to paddle the entire route; others will participate for a few days, weeks or months. Anyone who might imagine themselves in a flotilla of voyageur canoes and likes to paddle should check out the website. Registration information, costs, river difficulty information, etc., is listed. I am happy to answer questions by email or phone. Thanks !

Don McMurtry, home: 519-883-4174
email: donmcmurtry@gmail.com,
Waterloo Ontario

Overheard at Kobak's kabin....."Getting old doesn't keep you from kayaking. Kayaking keeps you from getting old."



Brent L. wishes he could paddle like Duncan.....



and Duncan C. wishes he could paddle like a girl.

February	We still have lots of opportunities for new trip organizers.			
2/2	Ohiopyle Winter fest		Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
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2/2,16,23	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
2/9	Club Monthly Meeting - Location, Program – TBD		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
2/16,17	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
2/22, 23	National Paddling Film Fest		Michael Duvall	216-521-0094
2/24	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	John Yaro	216-566-2501
March	Please take the time to review and volunteer to organize a trip, especially Flat water trips.			
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Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@comcast.net
peetzaguy@aol.com
February, 2008



KEELHAULER'S KANews MARCH, 2008



Our Next Club Meeting will be held Tuesday,
March 11th, 7:30 PM,
at the UAW Hall,
5615 Chevrolet Blvd,
Parma, OH

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, and the auction starts at about 8:30 PM after a short business meeting.

[Map to UAW Hall Meeting](#)

All meetings are open to guests.

Invite a prospective member!

February Meeting Minutes

There was not a formal business meeting at the February get-together. See you in March.

News from the Whitneys! from Phatt Ratty Ratt

There's a new kayaker! Clarissa Rose Whitney was born this morning at 4:30 AM. She weighed in at 6 lbs and change. Sue and Clarissa are doing fine. Daddy Ron is grinning from ear to ear.

Hope all's well with y'all!

My Trip to Nicaragua by Chuck Singer

Hi!

Well, the flight out of Corn Island was delayed for an hour while the crew ate and drank? We landed in Managua at dark and I now have a new rule, don't travel after dark! My taxi took me and another guy to the guy's hotel where he argued with the driver about the fare. After that was settled, the driver drove all through town, like a maniac. Without exaggerating, he nearly hit four cars playing Rambo, or who flinches first. We kept going into worse and worse areas until we went down this one dark street lit only by two 40 watt bulbs and a half moon. The street was completely filled with trash to a height of six feet and a truck was parked in the only clear area. The whole area was grey, filled with grey people. I knew I was about to have my body parts recycled. The driver got out and moved my pack to the back seat (to avoid blood?) The truck moved and we also moved 30 feet. The driver then loaded 300lbs of oranges into the trunk, picked up another passenger and took off. He didn't know where the hotel was so I showed him on the map and after another 15 minutes, we found it. It was full but there was another one 100yards away. I started to walk but the driver grabbed me and said he would take me there. It was too dangerous to walk. We are in the bad part of town apparently.

Well the new hotel in nothing to write home about except for the price \$12. The window wouldn't lock so I tied it shut with my shoe laces. I survived as you can tell and things looked better in the morning.

I then took a colectivo to Leon, a city northwest of Managua. Colectivo rules are that you can sleep on anyone's shoulder. The girl next to me nearly put her butt in my lap to stretch out.

Leon is very old with a gazillion churches and wall murals. I went to Juan Venado Nature preserve yesterday and saw a lot of birds and two small crocs. We also toured a clam raising co-op. It was Concha Negra, a black clam, that is prized for some reason. (Nicaraguan Viagra?) The people take the clams and transfer the larva to burlap cloth to let them grow for a month, then keep

transferring them three times as they get bigger. This is all done in a mangrove swamp in smelly mud. There is a wooden path over part of the swamp where the tourists walked. We ate lunch there with black clam cerviche, fried fish and rice. Everything was tasty. But I don't feel stronger or more macho so I'm not sure about the clams. We went there and back by public buses and I stood the whole way as the bus was filled to double capacity.

I just moved to a wonderful new place, far nicer than my house for \$13/day

Today, I went volcano boarding. Cerro Negro, the newest volcano in Nicaragua has a normal cone and two sides are totally volcanic sand at a 45 degree slope. We got a small board, about 4 feet long by 1 foot wide. You sit on the board like a toboggan and steer by dragging your feet. You crash a lot! At least I did. After half way down, I got the hang of it and zapped to the finish. The sand was everywhere on my face, clothes, and inside my shoes. It was probably 800 vertical feet drop and there was one person who tried a snowboard but fell a lot more that we did. One the way back I was standing up in the back of our pickup truck when one of the local kids nailed my eye with some sort of fruit so it's not horrible but it may turn black.

It's nearly time for me to return to Ohio since I have run out of toothpaste and shampoo (plus my ticket says so too)

Hope you enjoyed my trip as much as I did.

Chuck

40th Annual Vermilion River Race

By Rob Hammond

It's that time of year again...no, I am not talking about taking off the snow tires and chains, and I don't care what that rodent in Punxsutawney prognosticates about the coming of spring. The sure sign that spring is near, is the running of the Vermilion River Race! The old gang is back: Hank, Jimmy, Elliott, Cliff, Patty, John, Bob, Jim, Ed, Judy and a bunch of others will be at Birmingham Ohio registering racers, measuring boats, starting the boats, running safety, timing and scoring the runs, feeding hungry racers and all of the other things we need to do to kick off the 40th annual Vermilion River Race!

This year we are celebrating one of the longest running river races. We will be giving away 40th anniversary water bottles to the first 50 registered racers (only one bottle per racer). The race will be Sunday March 30. If the water level is too high, the back up date will be April 6.

The Vermilion River is an easy class II and very scenic run. The race will have 14 different race classes based on age, gender and boat length and type, so there will be a place for everyone. The race can be as much or as little as you want, some people take the race as a leisurely stroll, and other racers... well let's just say that they don't often take prisoners.

Here is a heads up for the guys registering in the men's kayak class. When you see Chuck Singer signing up for the men's class, don't look at his gray hair and think that he is going to be an easy mark. Don't try to correct him and suggest that he sign up for the "ole farts" class. The reason he doesn't sign up with the rest of us ole farts, is that he loves kicking whippersnapper butt! And almost every year he brings home the medals to prove that age really is a state of mind! I like to kick whippersnapper butt to, but since I can't, I have to leave it to Chuck!

Last year we had near perfect conditions with temperatures in the 70s, plenty of water with river gauge showing 6 inches. This brought out a century record-breaking race turnout. We had 148 enthusiastic racers, 113 boats and the best turn-out since 1984.

This year to add a little competition and to reduce the waiting time at the start line, we will be starting boats two or three at a time. So bring your buddy and have your own private grudge match, or maybe you and your bud want to hang together to encourage each other on, or maybe your idea is to have a nice springtime paddle with your buds at your own pace down this beautiful stretch of wilderness in Ohio. If you want to race with your buddy, talk to Hank at the start line and he will put your group together.

Like last year, you will be able to signup at the Keel-Hauler website and pay online. So if you want to be one of the lucky 50 racers that will get the way cool commemorative water bottle with the race anniversary and club logo, sign up early; either online or by snail mail. If you just want to join the excitement without getting wet, let me know, cause we still need volunteers to help out at the race and distribute race publicity.

After the race, there will be hot food for cheap. So come on out for an early spring chance to get in shape for the season, have some fun, and maybe take home some bragging rights! Check out the race application, rules and map in this newsletter. If you still have questions...give me a call or drop me an email!
Rob Hammond, Rob@SCD-corp.com or 216 292-5618.

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/rules2008.pdf>
Vermilion Race 2008 Rules and Map

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/applic2008.pdf>
Vermilion Race 2008 Application

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/waiver2008.pdf>
Vermilion Race 2008 Waiver

http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/Vrace_Reg.htm
On Line registration - Pay using Paypal or credit card

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3/30	Vermilion Race	SK/FW	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
April				
4/5	Grand River	SK/FW	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890
4/5, 6	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/5, 6	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Jeff Macklin	724-331-7873
4/5, 6	Webster WW Weekend (WV)		Needs organizer	
4/5,12,19	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Orange High School's pool - Saturdays - 4:00pm-7:00pm		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
4/8	Club Monthly Meeting		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
4/12, 13	Lower Yough (PA)	16	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
4/13	Bike North Central Ohio		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
4/19	Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge	20	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549

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For Sale: Dagger RPM, Red, well loved. \$350. Wave Sport EZ, Blue/Black, good shape, \$350.
Call Kelly or Brent at 724-940-9088. Pittsburgh area.

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! The deadline for the April issue of the newsletter is **3/21/08**. 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
March, 2008



KEELHAULER'S KANews APRIL, 2008



**Our Next Club Meeting will be held
Tuesday, April 8th, at 7:30 PM
at the Middleburg Hts Community Center,
15700 Bagley Rd**

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

Program: A Video: Gene's Advance
Creek/River Running Discussion/Show-and-
Tell to follow. Come share your experience,
and learn from others: planning, cold weather
gear, safety gear, group dynamics, first aid
kits, etc.

Also: May 13th Club Meeting Program: CPR Workshop
In preparation for our upcoming paddling season,
Debbie Avallone will once again give us a guided
workshop on current CPR technique. We will use the
American Heart Associations CPR Anytime kit. To all
of you who participated last year, please bring your
kits and come for a review. To those who would
be joining us for the first time, you can purchase your
kit for \$29.95 at
www.cpranytime.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3040526,
or call 800-233-1230. The kit is a great investment
because you can use it to review at home as needed and
to help family and friends become familiar with CPR.
Order your kit early because it could take a week or so
to get it. We'll try to share as much as possible so
come even if you aren't able to buy your own kit. Wear
loose comfy clothing and perhaps bring something to
kneel on. If you have any questions feel free to
contact me. joemarksz@adelphia.net

All meetings are open to guests.

Invite a prospective member!

KEELHAULER MEETING MINUTES March 11th, 2008

The KHCC Meeting was at the UAW Hall, and included the annual auction.

New Members/Visitors: Dan Fretz- 7-8m year paddler, and
Paul Hudak attending with Andy and Natalie Hudak and their little girl.
The Hudaks interest/experience mostly lie with open canoe/camping,
although Andy is starting a kayak class at Brunswick Recreation.

Rob Hammond reported that the Vermilion race preparation is on track.
This will be the 40th Annual race! The first fifty registered racers and
volunteer staff will receive a water bottle.

Ed Charlton thanked Patty Murphy for her work on the year book.
Thanks again Patty. Ed also encourages the membership to take more
video this year in the hopes that we may, in the future, have a KHCC film
festival at a meeting similar to this year's February meeting.

Hank Annabelle reminded the membership that the Vermilion cleanup is
the Saturday before the Easter meeting at the Birmingham put in. Check
the trip schedule for further details.

Chair reports: Chuck Singer, just returned from Nicaragua, and
mentioned that you should be careful about consuming alcohol right after
paddling since you may be dehydrated and that would speed/increase the
effects of the alcohol on your system. We look forward to hearing more
from Chuck on his trip.

Library: there was a brief discussion about the library and what could
be done to get materials returned in a timely fashion.
The Auction was attended by about 20 people and went well although
some items went home with their owner unsold.

The minutes were submitted by Pat G.

GEARING UP: EVOLUTION OF MY EQUIPMENT OVER THE YEARS...

COMMENTS AND CRITIQUE

By Andrew Gross

Over the past 30 years I had only one bicycle, a yellow Peugeot made in France with 10 gears (of which I use only 2). Served me

Well, but must admit I only use it on weekends for recreation. By contrast, I changed kayaks several times, even though I do

not use them every weekend (but should?!). Bought into other equipment, though stayed with my current paddle for 20 years or so. Finally switched to a new life vest or PDF recently and bought a new 'Farmer John' wetsuit too. Well, here it goes, a bit of rambling. would enjoy hearing from you especially if you have some different views and/or good advice!

KAYAKS - Well, my first one in 1978 or thereabouts was a Perception Quest. A real dog of a boat-- heavy and awkward. Won't name those who talked me into it, ok. Moved on to a Phoenix Slipper; light, but a bit fragile. Then a Dancer-- good boat, but pretty long and not so light. Great for the Slip and nearby rivers; recently loaned out to Joe M. Then did switch to a Perception Matrix (lost one -don't ask; Chuck S and Pat G know- and then did replace it and even bought a second, just in case, eh). Most recently, I bought a Savage Skreem out East, thanks to Brent H for finding it. Easier to roll, will try it on the Slip this spring; did well already on Ohio rivers and on Cape Cod sea-coves and ponds. But here is my 'beef'-- there is no great creek/downriver kayak out there that weighs less than 40 lbs. Or is there?! John K told me that it is like wanting an SUV that is under 2000 lbs. But noted that some playboats -- hey, I do not play, old guys are happy to go just down-- e.g.those by Jackson, are lighter. Note: also I find the short boats a bit confining, but thanks to all of you who allowed me to sit in them to try it on for size. One of the companies I am sore at is Robson of Germany (website is RobsonUSA) that promised a light-weight boat made of 'Amberlite' two-three years ago, but has not delivered on its promise. So am still looking, because while I like the Savage, it is 40 lbs. Any new developments on the horizon?! Am not eager to read lots of catalogues though.

PADDLE. Honestly, forgot what make my first paddles were, but they were white and long and heavy. Maybe Perception, maybe not. They sure were not Werner. That is the brand I see most often. I own two Schlegels, made in Germany. Colorful- yellow-green and red. They are not light-weight either, but am very fond of them; they seem sturdy, comfy, grippy. Tried some Werners and even tried a Hungarian-made paddle, but did not switch. I think my angle (feather?) offset is almost 90 degrees , but again that works for me. Still, am always ready to consider or try a new one. Any recommendations? But why do they cost so much?!

BODY-COVER: WETSUITS AND BEYOND. Bought stuff from NRS and from MEC over the years. MEC is a Canadian company out of Vancouver, but now has a store in Toronto (yes, the Canadian dollar was a good buy for us Yankees for awhile-- now it is at par!). Farmer Johns from either firm held up pretty well. The MEC one that I have now is a bit lighter, brand is 'Bare.' Bought a Kokatat dry top about 10 years ago, but is wearing out-- how is that possible?! Am happy with my Helly Hansen's Lifa polypro body-wear, top and bottom, they have held up very well. I do believe in layering and bought into nylon shirts, but am eager to hear how good those costly Hydroskins and silks are. Do not

wish to buy a dry suit though; they are much too costly and too hard to get into...and am not a cold weather fan. So won't get into that. Have an old Protec helmet, it still works very well. My backup is a Predator (also with a visor) and that is a good fit too, but not quite as comfy on my ears. As to PDFs, bought a Lotus from NRS and that is much better than my old bulky Extrasport. Life vests did slim down. Sprayskirts have improved too. Am happy with my new Seals one which fits a big cockpit. One made by Perception worked well for years. Have another one, called 'The Kilt' it seems too heavy and not easy to put on. What brands do you recommend?! Sometimes I think there are too many choices in PDFs and in other gear too. Am happy with my booties from NRS = Rodeo Socks, but still remember fondly my Seda boots (and still use them now and then). Gloves-- am happy with >my NRS ones, though they are not all that warm. Bought heavier Chota gloves awhile ago, but they seem too bulky and not that much warmer. Pogies are not for me, but am told they are warm.

OTHER GEAR.- Let's see-- throw ropes: yes, one should carry them, but my bag is so bulky and am not sure that am good at rescuing. So-are there small, light weight ones?! I would not wish to be drummed out of the club. Sheathed knife: got one as a gift from my son-in-law, but am a bit scared to wear it; what if it slides out?! Just kidding, but am not using it. Water bottles- got my dirty old one, need to consider new one. Safety kit: yes, again should carry one. but do not. Is there a small box you would recommend?! Have a real old nylon lunch bag (does it smell?!) but often just resort to plastic bags so as to recycle them 'til they wear out. Have a 'biner or two, (carabiners) but am not wearing them; are they 'compulsory?! Sunscreen-- yeah, 15 PF rating is ok or higher! Let's see. You gotta put the boat on the car, no?! (Except for lucky/smart folks who have long truck beds and short boats, and so put them inside, eh!). My old Thule rack is still working fine on top of our old Toyota Camry wagon, though getting a bit rusty and shopworn. And, hey, I learned how to tie them down...with good straps. Not all straps are made equal! Thanks NRS, yours are 3 inches longer than Thule's when it comes to the 9 ft. length. Makes a big difference in tying down the Savage which does have a big curve on its bottom.

SHOPPING - Miss you John and Jeff K and your Keelhauler Outfitter shop on far west side! But understand why you did close. Then other shops closed, including Newman Adler. Never did much shopping there. Visited and spent some money at the Outdoor Equipment place in Poland, Ohio. Visited Whitewater Warehouse in Dayton, but did not buy stuff there; nice folks though. Dealt with a few shops at Ohiopyle for minor items. Have not visited Jeff Prycl in Pennsylvania, but heard nice things about them. Already mentioned NRS and MEC in Canada. Yes, there is Boater Talk on the web with long list of boats for sale. But shipping or driving can be costly. The Club auction items have not been all that great, but I recall fondly some real antique paddles. And, bought a pewter plate of the Mill at the Slip from Chuck S. that is a great treasure. Have a sweatshirt from my brother in California that says: Life is short, paddle Hard. Plus other souvenir shirts with other great statements such as: Living on the edge! And do own some cool hats, one of which says 'The Cool One' and another says, 'The Performer.'

In closing, thanks for reading and listening. Please feel free to comment in the Newsletter or via e-mail. Always happy to learn...

Signed: the old professor = Andy

**Wanted: Cheat Race Members!
Men and Women!**
**Please contact Rob Hammond at
216-292-5618 or Rob@SCD-corp.com.**
Help the Keelhaulers win this year!

How to avoid the snowstorms

Winter in the South

By John Kobak

Last year we went to Mexico with our RV, bikes and kayak. This year it was back to Florida. I'm often asked why. Mexico is warmer and a great cultural experience. There is little difference in gas, food and camping expenses. Both have great wildlife if you look for it, but for biking and canoeing we prefer Florida. In Mexico we are usually close to the ocean and the surf which makes it fun kayaking but not canoeing. Florida has some great paved rails-to-trails for biking; Mexico's streets are either cobblestone or sandy. So it depends on what you looking for.



Peggy on Jekyll Island

of this year's trip, follow the links from [blog page](#).

In Florida we generally try to stay north of Tampa for several reasons. We prefer the cooler temperatures because we are physically active and we prefer wilderness and wildlife to RV neighbors and full hookups. The ideal daytime temperature for us is between 55-75°F, with lows in the 40's which makes sleeping great. We never used our A/C but needed to use our furnace or radiant heater on many mornings. We biked over 300 miles and canoed over 100 miles. Good work outs, but we ate so well that we only lost a couple of pounds each. If you want to read a detailed report with more pictures



We love our 17' ABS canoe and I use my bike as a shuttle vehicle when we can. This year we decided since many of the streams are slow flowing that we could paddle upstream and then float back to camp. We found it fun attaining the class 1 riffles.



We also paddled in coastal estuaries where we saw lots of big manatees along with Egrets, Heron and Ibis. Our favorite rivers were the Silver River for wildlife including monkeys, Juniper Springs for a wilderness

experience, Alafia River for little rapids and great camping at Lithia Springs. If you want to see more gators than any other place in Florida, head to the Myakka River, east of Sarasota. Bill Miller met up with us in Feb. and paddled with us for a week before heading further south with Cathy.



Bill Miller watching the kayak eating gator

Another reason for staying North in Florida in the winter is the lack of available campsites south of Tampa.. The state parks in Florida are great, but they take reservations for all of their campsites. So unless you know exactly when and where you are going, it's very hard to find an available campsite, even if you arrive after a weekend. However there are lots of other available places. In general, the county parks and state forests do not take reservations so if you arrive after a weekend there is no problem snagging a campsite. RV's generally don't like to stay anywhere where there are no electrical hookups, so Ocala National Forest almost always has room. We have solar arrays on our RV which allows us the luxury of enjoying light & TV at night using the batteries that usually get recharged by the next afternoon as long as it is sunny. This works better in Mexico.

The weather was a little cooler this year but the only rain we got was in the evening or while we were traveling. We began our trip in southern GA on Jekyll Island & the Okefenokee. The furthest south we got to was Sarasota.



Great Heron



Lithia Springs County Park

Roatan Honduras

We would have stayed even longer in FL and possibly headed south with Bill & Cathy but we had made plans to go even further south on March 1st for a week on the island of Roatan which is about 30 mi north of the coast of Honduras.



Carl & Donna Homberg, Elliott & Pegge Drysdale, Larry Fordyce & Judi Cleary, John & Peggy Kobak

This is our 6th time in Roatan, our favorite Caribbean Island. The off shore reef is spectacular with coral and tropical fish. You can snorkel off the beach where we stayed or scuba dive a short 5 min boat ride to the reef. Six of us were certified divers and we all did 10 dives including a night dive and a deep wreck dive.



Judi and Larry got their advanced divers certif. You may wonder why we like Roatan. Of course for me it starts with value.

Accommodations in the West End go from youth hostel cheap to Luna Beach luxury. We chose Luna again since we could rent a 4000 ft² four bath/bedroom beach house with huge living room, dining room and kitchen for less than \$100/couple/day. Peggy & I got to Roatan a day early and stayed at a beautiful room at Posada Arco Iris for only \$40/day of course it did not have a kitchen but it did have a frig,

Rich & Tracey Priem came with their two boys Cade & Dane. They stayed in a three bedroom beach house. The kids did some swimming with the Dolphins. Rich took a [lot of pictures](#).



The West End of Roatan has 10 dive shops and dozens of good restaurants. The restaurants are getting more expensive each year but you can still get a dinner with two lobster tails for \$18 and fresh fish filets for \$12. Our favorite restaurant has been The Lighthouse. It burned to the ground last summer and it has been rebuilt bigger and better than ever. The original owner Mavis has teamed with her daughter Dixie to open a new restaurant right next door.





John the waffle man made breakfast each morning for the hungry crew.

Pegge Drysdale put on her big all you could possibly eat lobster and shrimp dinner one night for everyone including the Priem's.

We had plenty of snacks and food, I probably gained back some of the weight I lost in FL.

Everybody left Luna on Saturday, Judi & Larry were continuing on to Corn Island, Nicaragua. Peggy and I were heading back

to the mainland for a night in San Pedro Sula before heading back to Atlanta where we left our RV. The Priems' got back to Houston OK but the big snowstorm in Cleveland caused all flights to be cancelled so that the Drysdals' and Hombergs' ended up in Atlanta stuck for three days. We met them there and continued our partying.



One of the several grocery stores nearby



"Conserve the Environment,
Energy and Cash- Carpool"

~Andy Gross

53TH RUNNING OF CCA POTOMAC DOWNRIVER RACE SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2008 By V. Star Mitchell, Co-Race Chair

What race do you know of that has lasted consecutively for 53 years? The 53rd running of the CCA Potomac Downriver Race hosted by Sycamore Island will be Saturday, May 17th. **COME AND BE A PART OF MORE THAN A HALF-CENTURY OF LIVING HISTORY AND PADDLE THE RACE! JOIN THE FUN!**

The pre-registration fee is only \$15 if received by May 10th! Obtain a registration form from www.sycamoreisland.org, or www.canoecruisers.org. Follow the instructions for mailing. At registration the fee is \$25. Tandem teams pay as individuals **UNLESS** they are a parent and child. A parent and child (under age 18) go for \$15 a boat pre-registered and \$25 a boat at the sign-in. Liability forms **must** be signed on race day.

The race begins at Rocky Island on the Potomac River just above Wet Bottom Rapid and goes for 7.5 miles to Sycamore Island. At the end of the race, a free T-shirt and a free lunch will be given to all workers and racers, and there will be a ceremony with awards and prizes for the winners. (If you **DO NOT** attend the ceremony, **do not** expect to receive the above! No awards will be mailed!)

Sign-in begins at 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Great Falls Inn (Maryland) followed by a mandatory meeting for all racers. If the river is over 5 feet, the race will start at Old Anglers Inn. This is a race for **anyone** from the pros to parent/child tandem teams, but this is **NOT A NOVICE** race. All participants should have experience in and be comfortable with up to Class III rapids. Any kind of a boat can enter provided it is properly outfitted with adequate floatation (air bags) and the paddlers (and all occupants of the boat) are wearing a helmet and a PFD (life jacket).

If you plan to paddle the race, **PLEASE PRE-REGISTER** to help with our head-count for how many T-shirts and lunches we need to order. Please **DO NOT** bring two cars to the race. Parking is a problem. A **shuttle** will be provided.

VOLUNTEER helpers are needed for **safety boats** and for helping at the registration at Great Falls and at the finish at Sycamore Island. Volunteers will receive the gratitude of the racers, a sense of participating in an important annual river event, a race T-shirt, and lunch. Anyone interested in helping out with this year's race should call Star Mitchell @301-530-3252 or e-mail starmitchell@verizon.net. **DO JOIN THE FUN!!**

For use by Race Committee Only

BIB NUMBER:

CLASS:

53rd CCA POTOMAC DOWNRIVER RACE - MAY 17, 2008
2008 RACER REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out a form for *EACH* racer. Make sure to COMPLETE and PRINT all fields.

Racer's Name: _____ Male/Female: _____ Age on race day: _____

Address, City, State & Zip: _____ E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____ Emergency Contact (Name/Phone): _____

Parent's Name (if Entrant is under 18): _____ Signature: _____

Please CHECK your Boat Class AND Age Class:

- ☐ Boat Class #1: Wildwater Kayak (WWK1) (e.g., Zastera K1s, No Limit, Savage, Match II)
☐ Boat Class #2: Wildwater Canoe (WWC1) (e.g., Zastera C1s, Bala)
☐ Boat Class #3: Long Kayak (K1) over 9 feet (e.g., Slalom, Cascade, Isere, Dancer, Outburst, RPM Max)
☐ Boat Class #4: Short Kayak (K1) under 9 feet (e.g., Fun, All-Star, Godzilla, X, RPM, Fly, Solo, Flirt)
☐ Boat Class #5: Closed/Decked Canoe Solo (C1)
☐ Boat Class #6: Open Canoe Solo (OC1)
☐ Boat Class #7: Canoe Tandem* (OC2 / C2 / Raft) Name of Partner: _____
☐ Boat Class #8: Mixed Canoe Tandem* (OC2 / C2 / Raft) Name of Partner: _____
☐ Boat Class #9: Any Kayak Tandem* (K2 / IK) Name of Partner: _____
☐ Boat Class #10: Parent & Child Class** (Any boat & child under 17) Partner: _____

Make, Model, & Length of boat: _____

- ☐ Age Class #1: Junior → 17 and under
☐ Age Class #2: Open → 18 - 29
☐ Age Class #3: Senior → 30 - 54
☐ Age Class #4: Master → 55 - 69
☐ Age Class #5: Legend → 70 and over

*Tandem Boats must use **oldest** paddler for Age Class

** Parent & Child Class does **not** need to mark an Age Class.

BCE Overall Winner Awards

- * Fastest Overall
* Fastest Kayak (not wildwater)
* Fastest Canoe (not wildwater)
* Fastest Female
* Fastest Tandem

- All paddlers **must** wear helmets and life vests. Each boat **must** have proper flotation
→ Race Officials at the **mandatory check-in (9-10:30am)** will confirm boat class and safety equipment
→ There will be separate classes for male and female paddlers in each boat class
→ Race Officials reserve the right to combine classes when numbers registered for a class are under three

Entry Fee for Pre-Registration: **\$15** (must be received by **May 9**). Enclosed \$ _____ Check No. _____
Entry Fee for Race Day Registration: **\$25** (9am - 10:30am only). Attached \$ _____

Please enclose your check payable to the "CCA" and mail to:
Star Mitchell, Co-Race Chair, 8705 Hempstead Ave., Bethesda, MD 20817

Ecuador trip 2007/2008, Part 1

by Duncan Campbell

This is a scarcely factual account of our trip to Ecuador. It contains a random accumulation of lies, exaggerations and fabrications. I hope it doesn't put anyone off going paddling in either Ecuador or with any of the trip participants. The below is a tabulation of the statistics for the trip:

Attendee	Nickname	In date	Out date	Reason for arriving	Reason for leaving	Awards
Bob Nicholson	Bob "I just need a shot" Nic	12/26/07	01/01/08	Relive past glories	Shoulder dislocation	The "Most pain to be suffered by a member of the trip" award.
Doug Smith	Junior	12/26/07	01/03/08	To visit the 51 st state of the US	I'll leave that one for Doug to tell	The "Since when have I needed a passport to visit a state of the US?" award.
Rebekah Sink	Binky	12/27/07	01/09/08	Further her ambition to be boater scum	To make sure that no child was left behind	The "Survive the biggest hole for the longest time with a total absence of hole surfing skills" award.
Marina Campbell	Probito	12/27/07	01/11/08	Maintain the work/life balance	Ran out of paddling partners	The "Most number of holes to be surfed in a day" award (awarded twice).
Duncan Campbell	Bela	12/27/07	01/11/08	Hell, it's paddling	Ditto	The "Without peer, the most disgusting water socks in the universe" award. See exhibit A below, the black dalmation effect is mould.



To be fair, he did break out a new pair on New Year's Day though.

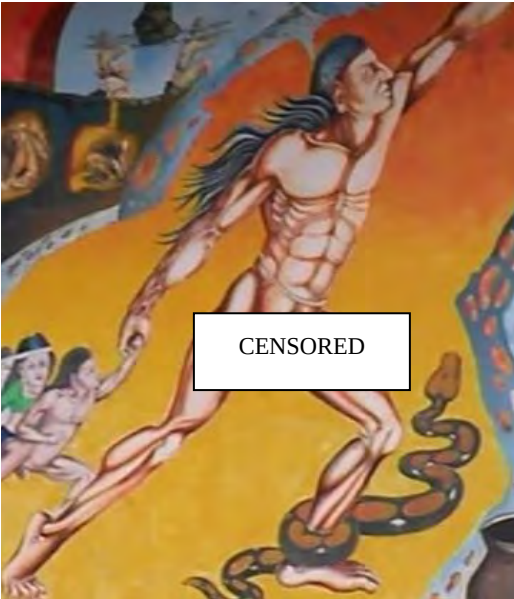
We started on a moderately easy river called the Cotundo section of the Misahualli (pronounced Misa-wa-hyi). For the Guidos, this river was their test piece to determine if the abominable lies bandied about via email prior to the trip regarding the party's skills and experience could hold water (literally). Our group was found wanting with two swims. Bela took pains to point out to the party in general that swims (what the juice?) would be unlikely to give our guidos much confidence in the aforementioned overstated claims of paddling competence. He further outlined that we would now be likely relegated to paddling for twelve days on the Ecuadorian equivalent of the Middle Yough.

Day two saw Bela's prophetic message come true as we paddled the nightmare that was Ecuador's Middle Yough called the Jatun Yacu. There were however, a few moments of levity as Binky dropped into a huge hole, mouth agape, loudly screaming something very obscene and funny shortly before being spanked for what would be the first of many occasions on the trip. After the embarrassing start of the day before, Junior redeemed himself and, in a moment of immense clarity and ingenuity, discovered the secret to paddling was to rub his paddle on Bela's filthy river socks for luck (akin to rubbing the Buddha's belly it would seem). Noone else was keen on the idea. After a "clean" run sans swims we felt justified in taking a little more proactive and persuasive role in the Guido's



river recommendation for the following day. No more Middle Yough trips for us for the rest of the trip. One of the benefits of this untaxing trip was that it did give Junior leave to explore a side of evolution that many had possibly never before considered. In what was a very entertaining and enlightening oration, we caught a glimpse of what it would be like in a world without clothes and, perhaps a window into Junior's mind/mentality-frightening.

Day three saw us enjoying some of the culture of Ecuador as we passed through a small town called Archidona to look at its mural depicting a fierce looking Amazonian warrior, bollock naked and looking rather, shall we say errr proud. He also had an impressive looking snake coiled around his ankle.....



And now to the river.....

The start of the Lodo section of the Upper Misahualli was a rather ominous looking trail leading off into semi dense jungle. The trail looked substantially slippery and muddy. Bela prepared the video camera. Some time along the trail, with almost no incidents to speak of, certainly none that were worthy of preserving for posterity, Bela decided to take it upon himself to entertain the group. Already having been up to his knees in the dark, rich Ecuadorian rainforest mud, he revived his dancing routines from eons ago and then succumbed to the peer pressure from Junior to continue the performance in a likely looking mud hole. After Bela did his level best to work up to his neck in the mud but fell disappointingly short by about four feet, the Guido was



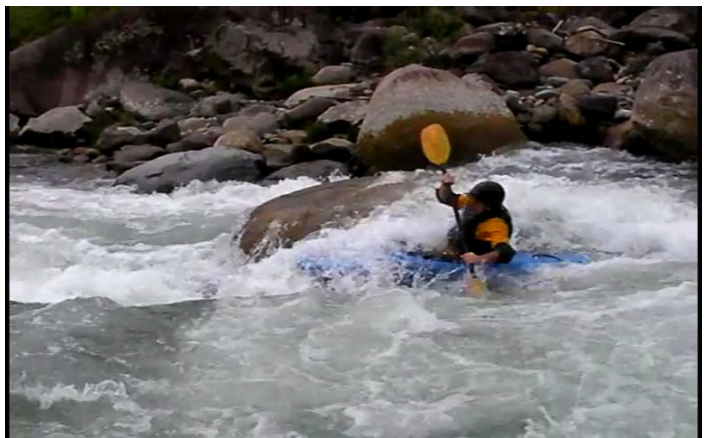
asked what he thought of the performance (he looked distinctly concerned about the whole show). Binky tried some of the well honed Spanish she had been practicing with her Mexican brother-in-law by way of explanation to the Guido, "sir-sough", she said. Sensing some measure of lost in translation, she tried again, "sairrrdough", rolling her r's. At this point the Guido broke into laughter having made allowances for her pidgin Spanish and caught on to her meaning – pig.



Once we made the river we were rewarded with pristine water and very enjoyable rapids which commenced immediately downstream of the put in. This river was characterized by small pool drop type rapids created by large boulders. Although the flow was relatively low, the channels were few meaning lines down rapids were quite clean and enjoyable. A short portage around a rapid which looked suspiciously paddleable had an interesting side trip to the top of a large rock which had native petroglyphs carved in it. The rapid immediately following provided a challenge involving two small drops interspersed around an 'S' bend. The Probito made a rare error and negotiated the two drops and bends from the perspective of a fish (which is ironic considering her prodigious talents in water sports although word has it she is yet to be blessed with gills). The next incident of note occurred when Binky pulled into an eddy and then found herself falling out of it into a relatively scary drop confined into a restricted channel. Her cheers at the bottom indicated that she was either relieved or pleased with herself for surviving it upright. Abruptly however, Bela's and Binky's attention

was turned to the plight of BobNic who had ignored a picturesque pool for a break with the rest of the crew and had instead chosen to continue downstream only to fall out of his boat.

To be continued in the
May issue.....



April				
4/5	Grand River	SK/FW	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890
4/6	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Jeff Macklin	724-331-7873
4/5, 6	Webster WW Weekend (WV)		Needs organizer	
4/5,12,19	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Orange High School's pool - Saturdays - 4:00pm-7:00pm		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
4/8	Club Monthly Meeting		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
4/12, 13	Lower Yough (PA)	16	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
4/13	Bike North Central Ohio		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
4/19	Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge	20	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549
4/19	Grand River	SK/FW	Carl Kudrna	440-835-0222
4/19, 20	Middle Fork & Tygart (WV)	29	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-4182 C
4/18 - 26 4/19, 20	Southern Rivers Trip - Map - Detail map Cheoah Release (NC)	22-32	Wayne Carey	304-547-1777
4/19, 20	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/25 - 27	Stonycreek Rendezvous (PA)	21	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/26	Grand River Race - Alternate Date 5/3	SK/FW	Brian Davidson	800-669-9226
4/26, 27	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Needs organizer	
4/26, 27	WV Creeking	>32	John Garcia Brent Laubaugh	216-210-7544 724-272-6944
4/27	Cheat River Race Clinic (WV)	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
4/27	Little Beaver	SK/FW	Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
May				
5/2	Cheat Mass-Occurrence Team Race (WV)	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
5/2, 3, 5	Upper Yough and/or Big Sandy (MD)	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
5/3, 4	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands (WV)	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/3, 4	Cheat Fest (WV)	18-26	Needs organizer	
5/4	Cheat Fest and River trip on Narrows or Canyon (WV)	18	Phil Raber	740-498-7063
5/10, 11	Basic River Kayak & Canoe - OH		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
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5/10	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
5/10	Upper Cuyahoga	SK/FW	Needs organizer	
5/10	Lower Big Sandy (WV)	31	Needs organizer	
5/10, 11	Cheat Canyon (WV)	26	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
5/13	Club Monthly Meeting		Joe Marks	216-281-1517

2008 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

Any opinions, views or recommendations expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the article's author. Printing these articles in no way implies approval or advocacy of any of the opinions, views or recommendations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or any of its Officers or members. Water sports are a potentially dangerous activity. Keel-Haulers Canoe Club recommends and encourages all of its members and others to abide by all laws, regulations and recommended practices when engaging in such activity. Each member is responsible for assessing her/his own abilities and for not engaging in activities which are beyond those limits. Members assume any and all risk when choosing to participate in any activity and the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club is not responsible for any damages resulting from such participation.

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

For Sale: Dagger RPM, Red, well loved. \$350. Wave Sport EZ, Blue/Black, good shape, \$350.
Call Kelly or Brent at 724-940-9088. Pittsburgh area.

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! The deadline for the May issue of the newsletter is **4/21/08**. 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

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April, 2008



KEELHAULER'S KANews MAY, 2008



**Our Next Club Meeting will be held
Tuesday, May 13th, at 7:30 PM
at the Middleburg Hts Community
Center,
15700 Bagley Rd**

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

Program: CPR Workshop

In preparation for our upcoming paddling season, Debbie Avallone will once again give us a guided workshop on current CPR technique. We will use the American Heart Associations CPR Anytime kit. To all of you who participated last year, please bring your kits and come for a review. To those who would be joining us for the first time, you can purchase your kit for \$29.95 at

[CPR Anytime Kit](#), or call 800-233-1230. The kit is a great investment because you can use it to review at home as needed and to help family and friends become familiar with CPR. Order your kit early because it could take a week or so to get it. We'll try to share as much as possible so come even if you aren't able to buy your own kit. Wear loose comfy clothing and perhaps bring something to kneel on. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. joemarksz@adelphia.net

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

KEELHAULER MEETING MINUTES April 8th, 2008

Ed Charlton opened the meeting.

There were 2 guests in attendance:

Ken Burney whose interests are camping/canoeing, and Augusto whose interests are family canoeing and kayaking.

Rob Hammond reported that the Vermilion race was well attended with 124 racers and stated that the race should net about \$1,000 profit.

Membership: John Kobak reported that we have 269 paid members as of now with 3 new members this month. There was a brief discussion about why the membership is declining. With some discussion of the possibility of promoting the club. John Blanton offered to make a professional banner for free if the club decided to have a booth at area events. John mentioned that it is hard to get members to volunteer to staff a booth at events. In the past, Chuck Singer, Gene Baker, Dave Hill, Mary Modesitt, Rob Hammond, and others have generously donated their time at events.

Library: Andy Gross donated Ohio Coastal Atlas on DVD. This interactive DVD is put out by the ODNR.

Terry Markoff reminded us that there are Red Cross classes coming up. Check the web for details.

Safety: Chuck Singer reminds us to keep your eyes open for strainers as they may appear at any time. Chuck cited, as an example, the river wide strainer that appeared overnight at this years Vermilion race. Chuck recounted how one unlucky paddler pinned on the strainer and could

have been seriously injured or killed when his foot caught in the loop of a loose seat cushion. Luckily, he was able to get free after going under water 4 times.

There was also a comment about some of the sea kayakers, in the race, using a paddle leash and the consensus was that this posed an entrapment/entanglement issue.

Conservation: John Kobak commended Dave Hill for his work on the Kent project and suggested that members take a look at the document linked from the KHCC site that details the project.

John also noted that Advanced Hydro is appealing the denial of their permit to use the Ohio Edison dam for a hydro project.

New business: Ed Charlton reported that the Lorain Port Authority wants the KHCC to sponsor a race on the Black River in mid July. Members would have to volunteer to put on such an event. If interested in this, contact Ed Charlton.

Ron Croissant commented that the new entry form for the 2008 Rescue Rodeo is not up on the web site yet. It was noted that the dates on the site are correct. The new form will be up as soon as Rob recovers from the Vermilion Race.

Rob Hammond noted that the Cheat Race will coming up the week before the Cheat Fest. Rob is looking for racers. Rob will be running a clinic the week before the race for prospective racers.

Andy Gross commented on trip organizers not following through on their responsibilities as defined by the club. Trip organizers should try to follow the guidelines.

SYOTR, Pat

Vermilion Race Results

Vermilion River, Ohio, Sunday, March 30, 2008

Race day this year gave us typical March temperatures in the 40s. At the start of the race the USGS gauge was at 4.0 feet (a moderate level), by the end of the race the water had dropped to around 3.8. We had a few swims, a few Did Not Finish (DNF) and we even had a DNF caused by a cracked hull. The moral of racing on a falling river level is: race early, with the faster water! As one of the last racers I figure that my late entry added 10 maybe 20

to 30 minutes to my time (that's my story and I am sticking with it). I have attached the results; and you can go the Keel Haulers web page www.keelhauler.org and see them along with previous year's results.

This was the 40th anniversary race, making our event one of the oldest in the U.S. Our turnout was very good with 98 boats and 124 racers. The last 5 years have shown a nice up turn in attendance to an average of around 100 racers.

We did have a scary surprise on the river, just above the Gore Orphanage road bridge there was a very dangerous strainer. A tree fell into the river sometime after the river cleanup crew went down the river the day before. The tree spanned the narrow channel and one unlucky racer lost his boat in the strainer but fortunately came away unhurt. Chuck Singer, one of the first racers, stopped at the strainer, helped the swimmer, warned his follow racers and moved some of the branches so racers could sneak around the strainer on the river right. Chuck, who usually medals every year, along with some other racers like Larry Hebert, sacrificed their race to keep our fellow racers safe. We all owe them a very big thanks and our respect.

Other then the strainer, the race went pretty smoothly. We had a few glitches in scoring, but they were all worked out before the award ceremony. With the cold weather, turnout at the award ceremony was low so if you did not get your medal, come to the next Keel Hauler meeting on April 8th, or send me your address. Usually we charge to send out medals, but this year, I will send out medals at our expense.

We need to thank all of the volunteers who worked so hard on this race. Weeks before the race, volunteers spend weekends preparing mailings to former racers. At the race, work includes registration, boat inspection, starting and finish lines, scoring, refreshments and safety. We could not do it without the support of over a dozen volunteers whose paycheck only comes when you have a great race day! I want to take this opportunity to give all the volunteers a big thanks on behalf of all the racers! Next year we will need more volunteers, if you know of someone, please encourage them to contact me.

Also, I don't want to forget our race sponsor **Keel Line Canoe and Kayak Supply**. If you were not happy with your race times, check out Don Maistros web site at: www.keelline.com, or phone (440) 729-2047. He has the paddles, boats and gear to improve your performance.

Don has generously supported our race financially for the last several years and has helped individual racers improve their performance. So, support Don, who has supported us, when you are thinking about upgrading your equipment.

Our next Keel Hauler meeting is on April 8th at 7:30, at the Middleburg Heights Community Center. The program will be about creek and river running, it should be fun and all are welcome. Map and other details are on the website: www.keelhauler.org.

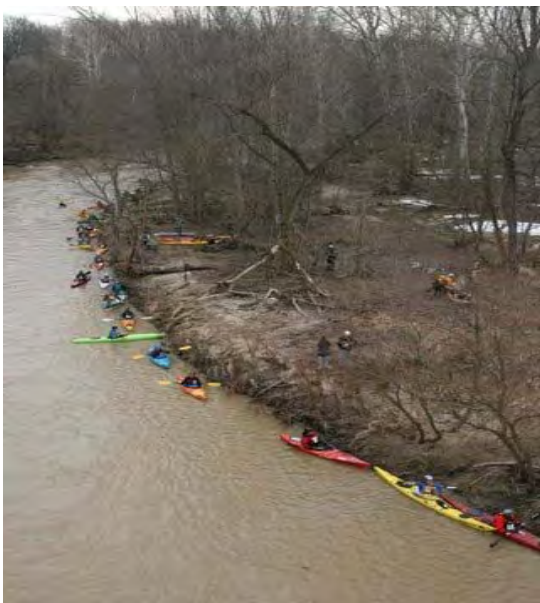
Rob Hammond, Keel Haulers Race Chair



Sam and Chuck Annable

Bib #	Time	Name/class	2nd racer		Bib #	Time	Name/class	
2 C-2 Mixed or Women Canoe					10 K-1 Kayak < 14.4', Men			
605	1:06:23	Conant, Skip	Conant, Karen		614	1:04:50	White, Joe	
617	1:06:50	Boger, Rusty	Boger, Shelby		611	1:04:53	Gary, Tim	
623	1:10:41	Monte, Mary Jo	Skinner, Norm		654	1:05:35	Rabatin, Jacob	
643	1:09:48	Hook, Jeffrey	Hook, Betsy		626	1:09:08	Larkin, Mike	
665	1:16:19	Wood, Scott	Wood, Margaret		613	1:10:11	Roberts, Ian	
					596	1:10:12	Raber, Phil	
3 C-2 Men's Standard Canoe					668	1:14:54	Harple, Brian	
582	1:07:11	Leszek, Ed	Way, Jay		671	1:15:16	Wire, Cliff	
586	1:09:49	Parker, James	Parker Sr., Jim		642	1:17:42	Robinson, Andrew	
629	1:10:21	Clark, Jay	Rojas, Mauricio		609	1:17:57	Coleman, Randy	
650	1:11:10	Saltis, Tom	Saltis, Denis		598	1:32:51	McDowell, Charles	
646	1:12:45	Arndt, Eric	Arndt, Ray		610	1:40:19	Williams, George	
644	1:14:12	Strohsack, Daniel	Walker, David		651	1:49:41	Spoores, Corey	
636	1:14:34	Hudak, Andy	Ziemke, David		589	2:18:08	Singer, Chuck	GSA
666	1:14:50	Burt, Richard	Oravec, Dave					
587	1:16:36	James, Caleb	Buckner, Keith		11 K-1 Kayak > 11.5', Women			
628	1:16:41	Futo, Will	Yakunovich, Darren		621	1:09:24	Monte, Mary Jo	
655	1:17:50	Hudak, Paul	Hudak, Matthew		571	1:11:52	Johnson, Karen	
637	1:21:05	Lowstetter, John	Kory, Andrew		624	1:12:13	Schneiber, Joanne	
595	1:22:14	Luppino, Frank	Luppino, Tom		635	1:14:11	Homberg, Donna	
673	1:33:48	Anderson, Eric	Anderson, Troy		649	1:14:23	Shapiro, Irina	
					638	1:14:48	Morse, Chris	
4 C-2 Senior > 49 yrs old				Handicap	597	1:17:42	Raber, Jennifer	
603	1:15:23	Kallevig, Jim	Kallevig, Christine	0:00:40	663	1:26:19	McFarland, Coleen	
648	1:17:23	Burney, Ken	Schwinn, Jim	0:01:00	652	1:28:25	Sharp, Sarah	
661	1:22:04	Zackowski, Ron	Kropel, Elisabeth	0:00:10				
					12 K-1 Kayak < 14.5', Senior			
5 C-2 Over & Under					653	1:03:25	Rabatin, Jacob	
576	1:18:04	Annable, Chuck	Annable, Sam		612	1:07:06	Gary, Tim	
631	1:21:34	Piros, Julia	Piros, Gayle		641	1:07:25	Henderson, Jeff	
647	DNF	Snyder, Mike	Snyder, Olivia		585	1:08:08	Mellblom, Peter	
6 C-2 One Person Canoe					591	1:08:49	Kobak, John	
670	1:09:38	Teeple, Dick			600	1:14:31	Hammond, Rob	
667	1:15:13	Tenbusch, Richard			599	1:16:35	Spang, Mark	
672	1:41:52	Anderson, Diane			594	1:18:14	Toothaker, Dave	
					664	1:25:44	Warren, Charles	
					573	DNF	Wanosik, Tom	
					580	DNF	Croissant, Ron	

Bib #	Time	Name/class			Bib #	Time	Name/class	
7 K-1 Junior					13 K-1 Long Kayak > 14.5' Men			
674	DNF	Croissant, Kevin			584	1:03:15	Webber, Frank	
8 K-1 Short Kayak < 11.5', Men					577	1:03:26	Slough, Eric	
606	1:10:32	Simo, Michael			618	1:05:24	Boyce, John	
602	1:11:36	Safran, Mike			620	1:06:17	Davis, Daryl	
633	1:13:33	Duvall, Michael			630	1:08:01	Forrester, Patrick	
607	1:14:03	Mixon, Cullen			622	1:09:09	Davis, Ben	
639	1:15:38	Park, Jim			662	1:13:25	Amato, Jim	
588	1:18:41	Parker, James			592	1:14:15	Glomb, Dan	
590	1:23:32	Gardner, Anthony			640	1:22:49	Farrow, Neil	
608	1:38:10	Urban, Al			578	1:39:41	Chapman, Thomas	
656	1:48:48	Gillam, Mike			634	1:44:06	Konszal, James	
658	1:56:16	McGovern, John			632	1:45:02	Konczal, Alex	
					659	1:57:22	Maag, Chris	
					-			
9 K-1 Short Kayak <11.5' Women					14 K-1 Long Kayak >14.5', Senior			
572	1:19:49	Machczynski, Lydia			657	1:06:22	Batizy, Arpad	
579	1:21:13	Holman, Denise			574	1:11:45	Pauley, Robert	
593	1:33:59	Glomb, Janine			660	1:22:44	Solem, Chet	
645	DNF	Estle, Leah			615	1:23:29	Heuser, Bill	
					601	1:23:54	Fries-Maloy, Terry	
					619	2:43:04	Hebert, Larri	
					616	2:44:05	Greenwood, Barbara	
		DNF= Did Not Finish			0 Timed Run, No class			
		GSA = Good Sportsman Award			604	1:25:32	Brennan, John & Family	



Vermilion River



Donna Homberg

Ecuador trip 2007/2008, Part 2

by Duncan Campbell

BobNic was without his paddle and boat and was apparently stranded in the middle of some relatively calm water. Upon getting closer they could see BobNic was displaying the classic hand supporting wrist pose of someone who had dislocated their shoulder. They helped him to shore and worked to make him comfortable. BobNic must have had some serious endorphins in play as he put his personal welfare and comfort aside and enthusiastically exhorted us to launch a salvage mission for his beloved boat and paddle. With the conversation turning to, "ok who remembers that scenario we did in the wiffer course on 'how to reduce a dislocated shoulder in the Amazonian jungle'?", Bela and Brian, the other Guido (who looked and sounded surprisingly like a local but was actually from Colorado) made strategic exits stage left to make good on the promise to retrieve the insubordinate boat which pulled BobNic's shoulder out of its socket.

At this point, the stage is set for the author to launch into lurid detail about BobNic's harrowing and epic salvation from the source of the Amazon back to civilization fighting disease, anacondas, caiman, piranha and that nasty little bugger that follows urine trails to their source.....but I won't. It was all a bit of an anti-climax really.



BobNic's shoulder tormentors (Guido, Binky and Probito) were unsuccessful in reducing said dodgy shoulder and were left feeling unfulfilled and deflated having been relegated to strappers and comforters instead of heroic and miraculous healers. Junior got some good photos for the insurance company and the Guido got to use his evacuation plan (ie walking along the completely flat and largely devoid of vegetation river bank to the take out with his charge). Oh, and BobNic was fine – he just needed a shot, and possibly lots of them gauging by the number of times he said that in the next hour or two while waiting for the transport out of the valley. Once the transport arrived we gingerly packed Bob into it (kicking a few locals out of the "comfortable" seats) and sent him on his way to the hospital

on a trip BobNic would later describe to us in a possibly completely inadequate way as "excruciating".

The epic that was BobNic's injury was not in the evacuation from the river but in the subsequent hospital treatment (where they were also not able to reduce the dislocation). This was followed by numerous flights back to the US and delays in getting to a surgeon where the tormented shoulder could finally be restored to its rightful location with the aid of ropes and what sounded suspiciously like a Z-drag and the entire front row of a rugby team (you never know what these so called doctors get up to while you're under and blissfully unaware of the happenstances around you). BobNic now enjoys deserved celebrity status both with his Ecuadorian trip mates, the doctors who treated him and his fellow waiting room patients. I understand he is "the guy who survived the Ecuadorian jungles and literally single handedly returned home to finally have his shoulder fixed after four days with a woefully inadequate supply of hallucinogens" (with the possible exception of the self medicated kind illustrated). Or something like that. I personally wish him well in his recovery and look forward very much to paddling with him again in the not too distant future.



The following day after seeing Bob off on his exclusive and expensive flight from Tena to Quito, we headed back to the Upper Misahualli to run the San Francisco and Cotundo sections. The most memorable rapid of note (The Steps) consisted of three drops each spaced by a couple of boat lengths with fast and turbulent water in between. The consequences of handling the underwater work our play boats would deliver us after each drop proved enough deterrent for all but Bela. His line and ratio of above water time to underwater time did nothing more than vindicate everyone else's decision to walk.



As it was New Year's Eve, we decided to make our way into Tena to enjoy the celebrations. All the local men were dressed in skimpy clothes and wore garish papier mache masks to hide their embarrassment at exposing so much to everyone at large. The town had a concert going on the soccer field and a bonfire which was touted to be the main event where you get to burn physical manifestations of your most hated evils. However, the bonfire turned out to be the most uninteresting part of the evening. Of more interest were the moves our Guido was putting on the majority of the unattached females in the town. He quickly became known as "the beach" (you'll have to look up the Spanish meaning for beach to see what we mean). At the completion of the concert we made our way to a night club where the group started dancing the house down.

The next day we headed for the Lower Jondachi. This river was renowned for the extensive hike in through mud and a dog who literally couldn't get the monkey off its back (see photo). Our arrival at the put in was met with excitement by the locals who arrived en masse to provide porter services for what turned out to be a very



worthwhile \$US3 per boat. There was a twinge of guilt when we noted the insubstantial stature of some of the women who were stepping up to carry our boats, especially when we noted one was pregnant. Thankfully, one of the more chivalrous local men stepped in to carry the boat

instead of her (although he of course got the cash as well). As we walked along the path we began to feel guilty about not feeling so guilty about handing boats over anymore – the path was a nightmare. Bela fell ungracefully into the mud with his hands full and for three minutes struggled with the concept of how to get himself out without muddying everything.



The Lower Jondachi was a magnificent river, deep in a gorge with numerous cascading water falls and boisterous, hole ridden rapids just waiting to ensnare the unwary paddler. One of these holes made Binky revisit her worst nightmare of being trashed in a hole, rolling up and coming face to face with the monster again. On this occasion her eyes widened to dinner plates as she saw the eye of the monster after some uncontrolled rodeo moves and was trashed one more time before it kicked her out again whereupon she rolled to rapturous applause from her fellow paddlers.



We had a specific order to run the rapids, whether it made any difference to our success at running said rapids is anyone's guess but it seemed to make sense at the time. First went Jaime our Guido, heading down the rapid only after leaving behind a confusion (collective name for a group of incorrectly assigned words eg saying left when obviously meaning right) of instructions and some paddlers somewhat perplexed by the barely decipherable directions. Next came Probito, being the most proficient of our group at understanding the often confused directions. Junior was next in line having no clue as to what the Guido was saying but being very happy to follow the Probito and totally pleased with himself to be making use of his fluent Australian to understand what she was saying. Binky came next having interpreted the affects of the chosen line on two more paddlers in smaller boats than the Guido was using. Lastly came Bela taking up position:

- a) close behind Binky so he was in good position to rescue all the pieces and appurtenances that may have come adrift depending on the affect the rapid had on her;
- b) a long way behind Binky in the case where her temper had frayed to the point where the slightest incident would be enough to have her come unglued on his posterior; or
- c) in front of Binky in the case where the previous two "probes" had provided inconclusive or downright frightening feedback on the route.

I hope you have enjoyed this account of the first half of our trip to Ecuador. If the newsletter editor allows me, I will complete the rest of this account for next month's newsletter.

2008 Southern Trip by Wayne Carey

I guess I just don't have that Kobak charisma. I planned a trip and everybody bailed. My bags were packed and I had a van load of firewood to keep my paddling buddies warm at night. I couldn't very well cancel my leave and go into work with my tail between my legs. So it was off to the Nolichucky. And believe it or not, there were about 100 boaters there. Bluegrass Whitewater Association was having their annual clinic. They were nice enough to let me tag along on the Noli for two days. It was running about 800 cfs. A few students stayed over Monday to run the lower Noli. I headed over to the French Broad.

There was plenty of water in the French Broad, but no boaters. I hung around at the takeout for a while and then drove over to the Pigeon. There was a release and raft trips, but no kayakers. Planned releases don't start until the end of April, but there were releases all week.

The Pigeon is right next to the eastern side of Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). Just up the road from the put-in is Big Creek Campground. It is a cross between walk-in camping and drive-in camping, like a mule, which is what you need to haul all your food, coolers, and cooking gear back and forth from your campsite to your car every morning and night. There are twelve sites. I picked the one closest to the parking lot.

Big Creek from Big Creek Campground to Walter's Power Plant, the put-in for the Pigeon, is a popular class IV run. A virtual gauge is on Boatingbeta.com at <http://www.boatingbeta.com/cgi-bin/myflows.cgi>. Upper Big Creek, above the campground is seldom run.

There are two good hiking trails from Big Creek Campground; Big Creek Trail and Baxter Creek Trail. Big Creek Trail follows an old road bed for five miles along upper Big Creek. Midnight Hole swimming hole is at 1.8 miles and Mouse Creek Falls is at 2 miles.



Midnight Hole

Big Creek Trail also serves as a horse trail. Horses are available at liverys. Baxter Creek Trail climbs 4100 feet in 6.2 miles to the top of Mt. Sterling. There is a fire tower at the top with great views in all directions over the Smokys. Both trails have back country campsites at their ends. There is also a trail connecting the two campsites, which would make a great two night backpacking trip. I had my backpacking gear but chose to hike the two trails out and back and stay at the campground. I did have that van load of firewood.

April 23-27 was the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage at GSMNP. This may sound lame to a bunch of badass boaters, but they were spectacular. There were trout lilies, painted trilliums, crested dwarf iris, fire pinks, and many more. The scent filled the air on sections of Baxter Creek Trail.



Crested Dwarf Iris

Gas - \$165, camping - \$69, one meal at Ryans - \$11, springtime in the Smokys - priceless. And no mosquitoes! The rest of the photos are at:

http://www.kodakgallery.com/Slideshow.jsp?UV=489302436532_957001137208&mode=fromsite&collid=24724407608.957401137208.1209166099809&conn_speed=1

For all you would be trip leaders, have a backup plan.

May				
5/2	Cheat Mass-Occurrence Team Race (WV)	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
5/2, 3, 5	Upper Yough and/or Big Sandy (MD)	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
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5/10	Upper Cuyahoga	SK/FW	Needs organizer	
5/10	Lower Big Sandy (WV)	31	Needs organizer	
5/10, 11	Cheat Canyon (WV)	26	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
5/13	Club Monthly Meeting		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
5/17	RiverDay 2008 Friends of the Crooked River		Dave Hill	330-221-0270
5/17	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Ann Corey	330-869-6549
5/17, 18	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Mike Duvall	216-521-0094
5/17, 18	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
5/17, 18	Cheat Canyon / Lower Big Sandy (WV)	26-31	Peter Turkaly	804-550-0256
5/17, 18	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
5/17, 18	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
5/24-26	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands (WV)	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/24-26	Cheat Canyon, Big Sandy & Narrows (WV)	26	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-313-5875
June				
5/31, 6/1	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Needs organizer	

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

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

For Sale: **Dagger RPM, Red, well loved. \$350. Wave Sport EZ, Blue/Black, good shape, \$350.**
 Call Kelly or Brent at 724-940-9088. Pittsburgh area, and on the way to the Lower Yough.

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! The deadline for the June issue of the newsletter is **5/21/08**. 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
May, 2008



KEELHAULER'S KANews JUNE, 2008



**Our Next Club Meeting will be held
Tuesday, June 10th, at 7:30 PM
at the **Hinckley Lake Boathouse.****

[Map to Hinckley Lake Boathouse](#)

Program: Free Style Clinic

Be sure to bring your boat and paddle around in the lake, kayaks can try roll practice. Come anytime around 6pm. The meeting will be held at dusk. Additionally, there will be a Freestyle Canoe Clinic taught by Elaine and Bob Mravetz. (330) 239-1725 or [e-mail Mravetz](#)

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

KEELHAULER MEETING MINUTES May, 2008

Visitors/ new members: Augusto who joined at the last meeting brought his wife Melanie to her first meeting.

Terry Markoff gave the Treasurer's report. KHCC has a balance of \$5511.06 and also three CD's with balances ranging from \$2100 to \$2500. The club is up to date on all bills.

Program: The CPR workshop had to be postponed due to circumstances beyond our control that made our instructor unavailable. The last minute replacement was the video Hotel Charlie 2 – River of Doubt. It features kayaking in Columbia, Costa Rica, India and Mexico.

Trip Reports: Jim Hunt spoke about the Cheat race. The race day level was 3.5 feet. Unfortunately the KHCC team lost to TRPC again! Evidently the KHCC race team was also the KHCC swim team. With the exception of Cliff Wire.

Vic Case reported on his trip on the Little Miami River from Millford to

the Ohio River. Vic reports that the run is a scenic class II.

Joe Marks organized a mammoth trip on the Slip May 10th which grew to 25 to 30 people. A fun day on the river with a large number of newer boaters on the lower section. Sunday the 11th, Joe Marks, Gordon Lorensen, John Yaro, Pat G, Bill and Analise Leyton ran the Little Sandy into the Upper Big Sandy and had a great day with a very good water level.

Chuck Singer announced that he will organize a flatwater mystery trip on June 8th in NE Ohio. Contact Chuck if interested.

Instruction: Terry Markoff reports that Fundamentals of Kayaking and Whitewater 1 will be coming up soon. Check the web site for specifics.

Jim Hunt will be stepping down as refreshment chair for the club meetings. Thanks to Jim and Patty for their service. **Any volunteers?**

Jim will be spending his summer in Canada again working with a youth education group and will be leading a new trip in Saskatchewan.

Judy Cleary will be passing out KHCC information at River Day in Kent. Ed Charlton reported that he received an e-mail from Mike Barenti about his new book describing his new book ***Nine Hundred Miles from Idaho's Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.*** <http://mikebarenti.com>.

SYOTR, Pat

This "mass" e-mail is being reproduced without permission, but due to the importance to our group and the request for comments from interested parties, I didn't think American Whitewater would mind.....

Sincerely, Kelly

Coal Mine Proposed Near Lower Yough (PA)

A mining company is proposing a mine on a 588 acre tract of forest land near the Youghiogheny River in Pennsylvania. The proposed mine would be within hearing range and likely within sight of



Ohiopyle State Park, the Craelicks Rocks climbing area, Morgan Run, and the Allegheny Highlands Bicycle Trail which follows the Lower Yough. The mining operations would divert water from Morgan Run and Johnson Run and would deliver mining wastes into 7 sediment ponds and 5 treatment facilities; these will discharge into 5 unnamed tributaries of the Youghiogheny River. Given water's tendency to flow downhill this will result in a new source of mine discharge into the Youghiogheny River.

Anyone familiar with Pennsylvania, Ohio, and western Maryland knows how incredibly important the Youghiogheny River and Ohiopyle State Park are to the vitality of the region. Tens of thousands of paddlers, hikers, bikers, swimmers, and climbers all flock to the area to experience the relatively intact ecosystem and great recreational opportunities. Opposition to the mine has begun in earnest, as the PA Department of Environmental Protection considers a permit application that if granted would allow the mining to occur.

You can gain more insight by reading the April 13th [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) article.

Paddlers with photos and descriptions of Morgan Run are encouraged to add them to the AW site or send them to [Kevin Colburn](#), National Stewardship Director.

Paddlers that are familiar with the Ohiopyle State Park area are encouraged to submit written comments via mail or email to the State of PA. You can read [talking points](#) developed by the Mountain Watershed Association. Comment letters should be submitted by May 15th, 2008. Letters should reference the "Curry Mine - NPDES permit PA No. 0251305" and be addressed to:

[Mike Gardener](#), Professional Geologist
Greensburg District Mining Office
Armbrust Professional Center
8205 Route 819
Greensburg, PA 15601

Annual Rescue Weekend

by Rob Hammond

The annual Rescue Weekend is coming up June 28-29. This is a joint volunteer effort between the TRPC and Keel Hauler Canoe Clubs at McConnell's Mill State Park on Slippery Rock Creek. This weekend is designed for beginning to experienced boaters, with something for everyone to learn or to hone your skills.

Saturday will be the rescue clinic; we will practice basic rescue skills on moving water and dry land. There will be several stations that participants will rotate through, learning different skills at each station. From first aid or how to rescue your buddy stuck in an undercut rock, deal with a strainer, to walking in moving water. In the evening there will be a pot luck dinner and campfire at Cheeseman's campground.

On Sunday we will set up realistic rescue scenarios where your team will compete against other teams using various rescue skills. The rodeo is a lot of fun, and great practice. It will also show you how hard a rescue can be when you are under stress and are thinking on your feet, as well as seeing the challenge of effectively deploying your rescue team!

If you are a new boater, the Saturday clinic is definitely for you. As well, the rodeo may also be for you, because, it builds on the things learned at the clinic. If you don't want to compete, stay to watch or help, it is a lot of fun and very insightful. If you are an experienced boater, the review at the clinic is good. When is the last time you practiced throwing that throw bag? If you were one of the guys I saw recently on the river trying to get a throw bag to a boater stuck on a rock, you need to come! If you haven't recently thrown that bag, you definitely need to come! Also, we will have some new things on Wilderness First Responder topics.

The fee for the clinic or rodeo is \$21 for TRPC and Keel Hauler club members, and \$25 for non- members. Additional discounts are available for pre-registration, ACA members and attending both the clinic and rodeo. See the Keel Hauler website for more information and application for details: [www.keelhauler.org](#).

We will be camping at Cheeseman's near the Eckert road bridge takeout. The pot luck dinner will be there on Saturday night starting around 6:30 p.m. Bring a main dish to share, or a \$5 donation and some soda pop or chips/dip. We will have some burgers for those who would rather donate then experiment on us with their culinary skills. Registration is 9 to 9:30 a.m. both days. If you don't have a team, be at the campfire after the potluck. After a few beers, some tedious bragging, and incessant haranguing about deeds past, it is the perfect environment for forming teams. It works every year!

I think a lot of us are cutting back on driving this year with the over the top gas prices. Stay close to home and join us at the Slip this year. If you are coming to the weekend, bring lunch, sunscreen, helmet, PFD, drinking water and dress for spending time immersed in the river.

Annual Rescue Rodeo

by Matt Muir & Rob Hammond

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

We are looking for 5-8 teams. That should provide lots of amusement, instruction and enlightenment for the day.

What's this about?

It's a team competition. Teams of four paddlers get together and run through a series of events. Some are timed; others are judged. The events include a Rescue Rope Throw, a Yard Sale Pickup, and a Rescue Scenario. Teams can have open or closed boats, male or female, adult or teenager.

When? Where is it taking place?

Sunday, June 29 (one day after the Swiftwater Rescue clinic), at Maytag Rapid (park at the picnic area uphill from McConnell's Mill); registration is from 9 to 9:30 a.m. The event will end in the early afternoon.

What's the entry fee?

The fee is \$25 for the rodeo, with discounts for club members, pre-registering, and for attending the rescue clinic, see the application for details. Check the Keel Hauler website for details: [www.keelhauler.org](#). We have bragging worthy awards for the winning team members.

Who's coordinating this tawdry affair?

The Rescue Rodeo is sponsored by the Keel Haulers and TRPC clubs, with support from the McConnell's Mill State Park.

Anything else I need to know?

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

This sounds great! I want to help out!

I knew you would. We need help with judging, publicity, planning, and safety boating. We also need a couple of "victims" for the rescue scenario. Please call or email Rob Hammond, (216) 287-8580, [rob@scd-corp.com](#) or Dave Altman (412) 977-7099, [dave@webpa.net](#).

Have you heard? There is a new
Kayak School in town.... Check us
out on the web

www.learn2kayak.com

Cleveland Kayak School has
whitewater kayak instruction, kayak
roll instruction, kayak tours, and
corporate and organizational outings
in and around North East Ohio.

CheatFest 2008

A New Yorker's Perspective

by Matt Muir

Despite having spent two weekends in a row away from home, playing (skiing and paddling), the Lovely & Talented Mrs. Ratt allowed me to blow off her birthday and attend CheatFest. (Yes, I know that I'm blessed. But I figure: they were throwing a party down in WV. It's not my fault that she wouldn't attend her own birthday party.) The KHCC Massage Board was fast and furious with flame talk—perhaps less active than some past years, but still impressive—all centered around the longstanding rivalry in the Cheat Canyon Downriver Race between TRPC and the Keelhaulers. I didn't want to tip KHCC's hand by broadcasting that I would be heading into town, ala the Cavalry, to save the day.

I gave my bud, Paul Young, a call, and he was all over it. He'd been down for one CheatFest and one GauleyFest before...and he loves West Virginia. We planned to leave Thursday evening and paddle Friday through Sunday, staying at Kobak's Cabin. The three-day weekend is well worth the 6-7-hour drive, even at today's gas prices.

On the prior weekend, the levels were looking bleak. The Cheat was running in the low 2's. We could hope for a bit of rain, but it was looking like another low-water Cheat race—a long, hard slog for the takeout.

Luckily, some afternoon showers hit during the week, and everything was up. As I saw that the Cheat would be above 3 feet, I chickened out of running it in my WaveHopper; Chuck Singer consented to bring his Mirage down for me to race in, as per usual. Racin' Rob Hammond called my home Thursday evening to ask if I was going to make it. I called him back, and hedged. "I'm...I'm..." I croaked. Rob accused, "You're bailing on us, aren't you?" I replied, "I'm at the Cooper's Rock exit on I-68." Rob enthused, "You da man!," but we knew that.

On Friday, John Kobak, David Herron, and I hit the Big Sandy at 5.8 feet. Paul joined Bud and Mary Jo Chavez and Paul Beard for a run of the Lower Yough at 4.7'—much higher than Paul's previous high. Paul had a great day, topped off by a great stir-fry dinner at Chez Chavez.

I hadn't been on the Sandy in *6 years*, and I was *lovin' it*. I made some concessions to lack of practice, as I walked the first drop of Big Splat—putting in just above the Horseshoe Hole, boofing just next to it and running the final drop. Splat has some serious pucker factor, but if you hit it in the right place, it's *such a sweet boof*. That was a great warmup for the Cheat.

Our teams were: Team 1: Jonathan Bachtel, Cliff Wire, Barry Adams, and I; Team 2: Rob Hammond, Isaac Ludwig, Jim Hunt, and Michael Duvall. The Cheat level was 3.5' at the Bridge. With over 140 racers and high-ish water, this was a recipe for carnage.

We Keel-haulers created more than our share of the carnage. Soon after Decision, I was surprised by a small pourover. Having worked seriously on all the elements of rolling mechanics, I seem to be over my three-year rolling slump (really!). However, I still didn't get it to go at that point. A couple of gentlemanly racers towed my sorry carcass to a large eddy, and then I told them to head downstream. Swimming from the eddy line to shore, with my boat, was still long, exhausting work. Elapsed time: perhaps 10 minutes. Dang. I got back in and passed a bunch of the slow boats.

I got some karma points back somewhere between High Falls and Coliseum as I towed a swimmer to shore. Unfortunately, it was our own Jim Hunt. We had two other swimmers, as it turned out: Rob and Michael. Somewhere after Decision, Michael was getting back into his boat, and he looked across the river...and saw Rob getting into *his* boat. Rob called it a case of "sympathy swims." The Keel-haulers Swim Team was in its glory!

Used to be, the beer at the takeout was local microbrew stuff—tasty, too. This year it was Bud Light. *Bummer*. (I guess the rough economy took out another sponsor.) It was still a great party afterwards, and TRPC deserves credit for beating us by 20 points. When they gave some swag (donated by Jeff Prycl of Rocky Mountain Kayak) as door prizes, I scored a Rocky Mountain Kayak hat. I'd had one before, but the last I'd seen of it, it had been blown off my head by a stiff wind and was swiftly heading downstream to run Niagara Falls without me. (Bummer when my hat has all the fun.)

On the way back to Kobak's, Cliff treated us to some fine driving maneuvers, threading the needle between two deer at 45 mph. For pucker factor, Big Splat got nothing on Cliff's piloting of a van!

A bunch of us headed for the Middle Fork / Tygart on Saturday: Kobak, Cliff, Rob, Michael, David, Pauls Young and Beard, Tom Willis and I. The level was 3.5' at Audra, which was low but quite fun. Paul Young had never seen the MF before, and he was in his glory—proclaiming it his new favorite river. The big water of the Tygart caused him some anxious moments—notably at Hook, where he was unwise enough to follow me.

Hook has two gaping maws of offset holes, preceded by an eddy guarded by a large pourover. Heading for the eddy, I got grabbed by the edge of the pourover. Following me, Paul met the same fate.

The two of us began playing bumper boats bigtime—desperately trying not to bounce into one another, trying not to get sucked back into the hole, trying to stay upright in the chaos. It took some time, but Paul worked free, and then threaded the needle between the two holes without a problem. Soon after, I followed suit.

I don't know if Paul enjoyed the carry along the railroad tracks, but it was a very good day, topped off with the Festival (where he scored a few videos for a buck apiece) and a few turns in Kobak's hot tub.

I was kinda hoping to show Paul the Cheat Canyon, especially if it dropped to ~2.5'. However, it stayed at 2.9'; more importantly, I couldn't figure out decent logistics to get back to Rochester at a decent hour. Plan B would be to introduce him to Slippery Rock—which, just off I-79, is right on our way home. When the Slip was running 0.9' and rising, our decision was made. We didn't need to rush to get out. Before saying our good-byes, we surprised a hermit sleeping in Brent Laubaugh's yet-unfinished "Newport Cottage" neighboring Kobak's. Turned out to be Dave Broer. I wish I had a photo of his scraggly ole face staring out of the unfinished window. *Deliverance* meets Bob Marley, with a touch of Maynard G. Krebs added for good measure.

On the way to the Slip, I had an idea. I'd heard that Gib McGill was back in town after a seven month-stint working as an interpreter in Iraq. We gave him a call, and Merrienne kindly encouraged him to go out and boat.

I hadn't seen Gib in five years. He remarked on how grey I'd gotten. He looks as young as ever (which means, contemporaneous to diatomaceous earth).

Gib hadn't been in his boat in two years. He remembers the shuttle...but the road that we're accustomed to has long since been closed. He and Paul asked my advice. I told them to look for the Upper takeout, but if they couldn't find it, we'd run the Lower too. They got back in half an

hour. We'd be running the Lower. (That would earn them two Ratt Points, but I only told them that good news when we were done.)

At the putin, Paul found out that he'd left his sprayskirt at the takeout. D'oh. What'd Robt. Burns say? "The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley." I don't know what that means, either, but our plans of being home for dinner were not materializing. "It's only a half hour," I suggested, "go get it." Paul hiked back to the Ranger Station parking lot, ready to drive to the takeout, then called down to me. "Can you bring my car keys up to me?"

Half an hour later, they were back. We all had our gear. We stopped at Airport. For old-times' sake, I pursued a couple of old-skool enders. For old-timers' sake, Gib begged off. Paul didn't play in the hole, but he got flipped and got clocked upside the temple by the slopy rock below the hole.

The Slip was actually running 1.3 feet, which is a tasty level indeed. We surfed and ran rapids and eddy-hopped and played and had fun in the sun. The Lower Slip didn't have much in the way of rapids, but it was pretty and it only took an hour. Near the takeout, we encountered a group of boaters. As I pulled into the eddy next to a C-1 paddler, I recognized Steve Ingalls. Geez, I don't think we'd seen each other since the Grand Canyon, 2004. He and Anne were running their first river trip after their respective injuries, and it seemed that they'd had a good day with Terry Markoff, Ernie Anderson, and Dave Toothaker.

As Paul and I were driving home, he saw that we had Gib's paddle. That could be a huge bummer, because who knows when we'd be down that way again? We tried calling his cell, but it wasn't on. Nobody was at his house to take our call.

Luckily, Paul had the KHCC Yearbook on hand (having just joined the club!), and Gib and Merriane had kept their membership current. So we plugged his address into Paul's GPS and found our way to Chez McGill. Since it's north of the Slip, it turned out not to be much out of our way at all. We left a voice mail, basically berating Gib for his absent-mindedness—but considering the incident with Paul's sprayskirt, and the fact that Michael Duvall found Paul's PFD in his van...well, let's just say that lots of plans gang a-gley this weekend.

Sorry I don't have any great photos of paddlers running gnar; my waterproof camera gave up the ghost at Gauley Fest, and pulling the new digital camera out of the drybag is a bit of a hassle. I got this goofy photo of Gib, me, and Paul taken at McConnell's Mill for your amusement:



That's it for Cheat Fest. See y'all at the Beaver on Labor Day weekend!

Upper Yough Current Summer Schedule

All scheduled releases are from 11am-2pm, except for July 26th which is scheduled from 11am-5pm. The Newsletter Editor takes no responsibility for any changes made by Deep Creek Hydro!

June 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

July 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

This is what happens to members who promise to have their article done, and don't follow through on their promise:



Duncan Campbell due to the fact that he left us "hanging" with his unfinished Ecuador article

June				
5/31, 6/1	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Needs organizer	
6/1	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Sabine Iben	440-543-4969
6/6 & 9	Upper Yough (MD) and/or Big Sandy (WV) No UY release on Sat	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
6/7	Cuyahoga River, Peninsula to Boston Mills	SK/FW	Ann Corey	330-869-6549
6/7	Yough Lake Cruising Trip (PA)	SK/FW	Gene Baker	440-967-6454
6/7, 8	Esopus Slalom Race run by KCCNY (NY)		Igor Birbrayer	440-479-5636
6/7, 8	Cheat Canyon (WV)	26	Pam Poljak	440-268-9194
6/8	Vermilion or Black River	SK/FW	Chuck Singer	440-949-6681
6/7 to 22	Rivers in Colorado - advanced/intermediate trip, Tentative Trip Plan	25-32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-4182 C
6/9,11, 16, 18	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool. 6PM-9PM		Ernie Anderson	440-974-5720
6/10	Club Meeting & Free Style Clinic at Hinckley Lake at 6pm	SK/FW	Elaine & Bob Mravetz	330-239-1725
6/14, 15	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Needs organizer	
6/21, 22	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
6/21, 22	Lower Yough – permits (PA)	23	Ron Tomallo	330-666-7340
6/28, 29	Rescue Weekend & Rodeo (PA)		Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
July				
7/4-10	Shawn's Excellent Ocoee Adventure (TN)	25-32	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
7/4, 5, 7	Upper Yough (MD)	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
7/5, 6	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Eric Marks	216-281-1517
7/8,10, 15, 17	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool. 6PM - 9PM		Ernie Anderson	440-974-5720
7/8	Club Picnic at Silver Lake	SK/FW	Jim Tyree	330-688-4431
7/18-21	Allegheny River (PA)	SK/FW	Karen Dearfield	216-406-9433
7/19	Upper Cuyahoga Eldon Park to Camp Hi	SK/FW	Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
7/19, 20	Lower Yough Intro weekend – permits (PA)	23	Fran Hoven	216-671-4931 216-375-3718
7/19, 20	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
7/19, 20	New River Gorge (WV)	27	Cecil Tickamy	740-593-4153

2008 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

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

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

For Sale: Wave Sport EZ, Blue/Black, good shape, \$350. Call Kelly at 724-940-9088.
Pittsburgh area, and on the way to the Lower Yough.

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Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the July issue of the newsletter is **6/21/08**. 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, 2008



KEELHAULER'S KANews JULY, 2008



**Our Next Club Meeting will be
held Tuesday, July 8th, at 6:30
PM**

at Silver Lake.

<http://Map to Silver Lake>

Program: Cookout= Pot Luck Dinner

**Be sure to bring your boat and paddle
around in the lake, kayaks can try roll
practice. Come anytime around 6pm. The
meeting will be held at dusk. Additionally,
there will be our annual race around the
island.**

**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 - Dessert or Fruit

F-L - Potato/Macaroni Salad

M-R - Salad/vegetable/or Baked beans

S-Z - Chips or Appetizer

[e-mail - Bob Bair](mailto:Bob Bair) or call him at 440-963-7008

All meetings are open to guests.

Invite a prospective member!

Friends of the Cheat Needs Your Support!!!

From Charlie Walbridge:

Friends of the Cheat is trying to purchase an outstanding piece of scenic recreational land along West Virginia's Big Sandy. I can't give you too many details, as the purchase is still in negotiation. But it covers 2.2 miles of shoreline and trails along the lower section, one of the West Virginia's most beautiful rivers for paddlers, hikers, and fishermen. The trail is very popular, and our goal is to keep both it and the shoreline protected and open to public use.

The Redwood Creek Wines "Greater Outdoors Project" is offering a \$50,000 competitive grant. Friends of Cheat applied for this grant to support this effort. A panel of judges reviewed over 100 applications from trail clubs and conservation groups. We finished in the top five.

We really need your help in the next phase, but it won't cost you a penny.

On June 15th, a short 150-word bio on the project and a photo will be posted on the RedwoodCreek.com website. Please go there and cast your vote for the Big Sandy Project. **You can vote every day, once per computer. The voting lasts through July 31st**, and the project getting the most votes is the winner.

The direct link for the voting is:

<http://www.redwoodcreek.com/greatoutdoors/voting.asp>. You have to register with the site, which involves giving a valid e-address. (the same as for the Keelhauler Message Board). After registering and confirming your registration, scroll down three projects and click on the

"Friends of the Cheat" project. Please bookmark this site and go there every day when you check the weather, news, or river levels. **Vote early and often for the Big Sandy Project.** Then spread the word! Copy this to friends and contacts who you think would help us.

This grant could make or break our effort to protect this land! If you're already voting, thank you. If not, we need you! Please tell your friends, too! Thanks, everyone, for helping out!

Thanks,

Charlie Walbridge, President, ccwalbridge@cs.com
Keith Pitzer, Executive Director, kpitzer@cheat.org
Friends of the Cheat, 304-329-3621

A Memorable Week

By John Kobak

The rain had been falling steadily for the past two weeks in WV and all the rivers have been all running on the high side. Family commitments kept us close to home until Memorial Day Weekend.

Peggy and I decided to spend a week at our cabin in WV which is near the PA & MD borders. We headed down on Thursday morning and had made arrangements to do lots of paddling on a non-scheduled trip. Happy had a trip scheduled for the Cheat and Steve Ingalls was planning on hitting the Forks of the Cheat. But I was looking at all the great Class IV runs available.

After watching the rain amounts and the warm weather forecast I figured out that the best paddling was going to be near our Beaver Creek cabin. There are now 8 Keel-Haulers who own lots and cabins on the street so it is really a boater friendly neighborhood with plenty of places available to camp. At least 20 people were staying at the other places taking the load off of our place. Of course now I miss everybody when they are not here.

After checking the anticipated water levels, I laid out a plan. Starting on Friday it would be **Lower Big Sandy, Middle Fork/Tygart, Upper Yough** and finally the **Cheat** on Monday. Believe it or not that's exactly what happened. While Steve and Happy were changing their paddling destinations daily we were able to stick with our original plan.

We had first timers **Steve & Mary Smith**, old timers, **Jim Hunt, Michael Duvall** and **Elliott Drysdale** for

Friday's **LBS** trip with 6.15' on the gauge. This is a medium high level but with the temperatures in the 70's it would be a great day. Steve and Mary handled it all with ease. I had some excitement above Wonder Falls, I smashed by knuckles on the shore missed my roll and if not for some friends in the group ahead of us, just above the falls, I could have easily swum over. My kayak executed the move perfectly without me. At least I wouldn't have to worry about running the falls today. Elliott missed his boof and came hurtling down vertically as I've seen him do a few times in the past. The group did great and we headed back to the cabin for a big cookout.



Wonder Falls, Lower Big Sandy. Photo by Jeff Macklin.

Jim needed to do some work at his place so he skipped our **Middle Fork (3.6')** and **Tygart Gorge (4.7')** trip on Saturday. However **Joe Marks, Paul Beaird** and **Cliff Wire** joined the group while **Bob Spohn, Pete Dragon, Brenda** and several more from Bob's cabin followed closely behind on the MF and joined us on the larger Tygart. These are great levels but Paul had a new kayak which he hadn't bothered to properly balance so he had a few unexpected out-of-boat experiences. Sort of bummed him out, but boats do funny things when they are not set up properly. Both groups had a great day except for being overtaken by two trains on the walk up the tracks to the covered bridge. These two rivers are gems and it's great to be able to paddle them so late in May.

The **Upper Yough** had releases scheduled on Friday and Saturday and those Zinc Faced kayakers from Toledo had a good time there with high water on Saturday. No release was scheduled for Sunday and the lake wasn't quite at its high limit, so I felt that we could have a nice run at low natural flow. But while waiting for the shuttle to return we heard a rumor that they would do a release, which would bring the flow up to 2.5', a high but doable level. However this cancelled Jim Hunt's and Steve Smith's plans but **Mary Smith**, even though it was her first UY run, said she was willing to follow me down. **Bill &**

Annelies Layton decided that **Elliott and Joe** could lead them for their first UY runs while **Cliff Wire** aka (The Big Red Dog), took the sweep position. **Michael Duvall** helped Elliott & Joe find their way.

Everything was going reasonably well until the last drop at Charlie's Choice. I relaxed, thinking that I had made it with a perfect executed line when I was quickly back-ended in the bottom hole. I missed a crucial roll and was swimming again. Mary blew her whistle to alert the group and I was able to get myself and my paddle to a safe eddy but the boat looked like it was heading to National Falls. Like superman to the rescue, Jon Reagan heard the whistle and came out of nowhere and got my kayak into an nearby eddy before it could head toward Triple Drop. While I was busy getting ready to re-launch, the rest of the group paddled by looking for my kayak and headed all the way down to National Falls. They were surprised when Mary and I paddling up a few minutes later wondering how they had missed seeing us.



National Falls, Upper Yough. Photo by Jeff Macklin.

We had hoped early on that if we paddled fast we could get ahead of the release but with the swim this wasn't going to happen. We paddled at the 2.5' for the entire day. We decided to take the right hand sneak past Heinzerling and then maybe sneak Meat Cleaver. I was leading and never had snuck the cleaver brothers in the past so I wasn't quite sure how to set up the initial move. I ended up running the normal line but my back band broke when I moved left causing me to probe the left cleaver with by head, but at the high flow it barely touched me, this time my roll worked so everyone followed and ran the standard line as well.

By Monday I was tiring as the group prepared to meet up with Happy's scheduled trip on the **Cheat**, which was running around 2.7'. They had several first timers but it

sounded like everybody had a good time. Peggy and I took our bikes over to near Confluence and biked on the Allegheny Highlands trail along the Casselman.

Everybody left for home on Monday but **Carl & Donna Homborg** called and said they were coming down on Tuesday to meet up with **Craig & Brian** to run the Cheat. I warned them that we just got a heavy rain and it was likely to be running over 3'. They had a late start but had a fun run, getting to our cabin in time for a late dinner. The rain had also brought the Big Sandy back up and I promised that I would paddle with them on Wednesday.

The five of us found the **Lower Big Sandy** running about 5.9'. We put on at Rockville but agreed that we should have added the Little Sandy to make the shuttle easier and the run longer since the LS was still at a nice level. The temperature had gone back up after a cool evening and even though Carl & Donna had not done this run for several years they had great runs. They were going to be paddling the rest of the week but we needed to get back home on Thursday, so they went over to camp at Swallow Falls and ran the Top Yough.

The Rain Continues

The following week the rain pounded Northern WV bringing everything up to near flood stage. After looking at the rain gauges and seeing that the weather would be dry and in the 90's, for the weekend of June 7th, I figured that we should head back down to the cabin as this would be a great combination of warm weather and good paddling that would be hard to beat.



Big Splat, Lower Big Sandy. Photo by Jeff Macklin.

Peggy stayed home so I drove down with Elliott on Friday night. **Brent Laubaugh, John Garcia and Duncan Campbell** had paddled the Lower Big Sandy on Friday at 6.5'. They saw Precision Rafting there who had a customer

swim over Big Splat, breaking their pelvis. They all slept in Brent's partially completed cabin next door.

On Saturday, the Sandy had come down to 5.9' and we had a strong group. **Bud Chavez, Bill Miller and Cathy Needham** would paddle the **Little Sandy** with **Michael Duvall, Cliff Wire, Dave Heron, Mike Elovitz, Elliott Drysdale** and me who would join them and continue down the **Lower Big Sandy**, simplifying the shuttle. We had a late start and saw no one else on the river; it was a really fun day, everybody did very well.



First Island, Lower Big Sandy. Photo by Jeff Macklin.

On Sunday the natural flow of the **Upper Yough** had dropped to about 700 cfs which would make the level about 2.1'. Since the lake was high and the weather was hot we knew that they would do an unscheduled release from Deep Creek to make power but figured that if we got an early start we could get off the river before the release. **Michael Duvall, Cliff Wire, Dave Heron, Mike Elovitz, Elliott Drysdale** and I got off the river by 1:30 PM and never saw higher water. One note that 2.1' natural flow seems a little higher than 2.1' with the release since the entire river is at full flow. Mike, who has seldom run the UY thought that Wright's Hole was a play spot and got a big surprise, he was not able to extract himself from the shallow hydraulic.

Cliff and Michael headed home but the remaining four of us decided to do a run down the **Top Yough** at 600 cfs on Monday. Mike & Dave were first timers. Most of the run went well, although at one point three of us flipped boofing a small hole. Dave hurt his knee getting out of his kayak below Suckhole and I almost got speared by Jon Reagan who passed by, near the end of the trip, with a large group of friends. It was the last good rapid of the day, a slot move. I momentarily pinned across the slot and Jon came flying in, oblivious to my plight. The good thing was that he hit my kayak pushing me out of the pin and at the same time providing a bow to grab to roll myself back

up from the upset. I hope that all the rivers don't run dry now. This year's late Spring paddling has been great.

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www.learn2kayak.com

Cleveland Kayak School has whitewater kayak instruction, kayak roll instruction, kayak tours, and corporate and organizational outings in and around North East Ohio.

Tidalbore rafting in Nova Scotia May 2008 by Andy Gross

In late May we were touring Nova Scotia and decided to include a visit to the tidal waves of the Bay of Fundy. While there are many places to watch and experience these waves -in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick- we did our home work and found Shubenacadie River Runners in Maitland, NS. Contacted them by e-mail and found their website and e-mail address. Punch in their name into "Google" and it will come up.

The place is less than an hour from Halifax airport. Had good directions and got there at 11 am as the tide was scheduled to arrive at about noon. Got dressed in heavy suit and boarded a Zodiac that was piloted by Brian who runs the place. There was only one other person that morning, but we had a super time. We put on the river and the tidal waves kept rolling in. It was unusual, different than rapids on a river or the surf on Lake Erie.

We cruised up river for 1/2 hour with one stop and then cruised back. Just an exhilarating experience. Brian also explained lots of details about the Bay of Fundy and the giant tidal waves...plus about the geological formations along the banks and the history of this area of Nova Scotia. The cost as reasonable (as I recall \$55) and afterwards we were served cookies and hot chocolate. Brian, his wife Kim, his sidekick Ben, and others run a nice operation. I recommend them strongly to anyone touring the area. We stayed at a nearby motel with a great breakfast= Palliser.

July				
7/4-10	Shawn's Excellent Ocoee Adventure (TN)	25-32	Needs organizer	
7/4, 5, 7	Upper Yough (MD)	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
7/4 & 5	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Bud Chavez	513-703-4108
7/6	Savage River (MD) Scheduled Dam Release	26	Bud Chavez	513-703-4108
7/8,10, 15, 17	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool. 6PM - 9PM		Ernie Anderson	440-974-5720
7/8	Club Picnic at Silver Lake	SK/FW	Jim Tyree	330-688-4431
7/18-21	Allegheny River Canoe Camp (PA)	SK/FW	Karen Dear field	216-406-9433
7/19	Upper Cuyahoga Eldon Park to Camp Hi	SK/FW	Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
7/19, 20	Lower Yough Intro weekend – permits (PA)	23	Fran Hoven	216-671-4931 216-375-3718
7/19, 20	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
7/19, 20	New River Gorge (WV)	27	Needs organizer	
7/25	Niagara River, Buffalo Small Boat Harbor, Paddle under the Peace Bridge (NY)	SK/FW	Mark Spang	440-892-6972
7/25, 26	Upper Yough-Race Saturday, 6 hr release (MD)	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
7/26, 27	New River Gorge or Lower Gauley (WV)	27	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
August				
8/1, 2, 4	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
8/3	Savage River (MD) Scheduled Dam Release	26	Needs organizer	
8/9, 10	Basic River Kayak & Canoe - OH		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
8/12	Club Meeting at Kent Heritage Park	SK/FW	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
8/14	Lower Yough - Skip Work Day (PA)	23	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
8/15	Lower Yough - Ladies Only Day (PA)	23	Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
8/16, 17	Lower Yough – permits available (PA)	23	Needs organizer	
8/16, 17	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890
8/23	Ohiopyle Falls Festival & Race (PA)		Barry Adams	412-242-4562
8/29,30, 9/1	Raquette/Beaver (NY)	27-35	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
8/29,30, 9/1	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-4182 C
8/31	Savage River (MD)-Scheduled Release	26	Needs Organizer	

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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

For Sale: Wave Sport EZ, Blue/Black, good shape, \$350. Call Kelly at 724-940-9088.
Pittsburgh area, and on the way to the Lower Yough.

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Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the August issue of the newsletter is **7/21/08**.

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, 2008



KEELHAULER'S KANews AUGUST, 2008



Our Next Club Meeting will be held Tuesday, August 12th at 6:00pm, at Huntington Beach Park in Bay Village on Lake Erie.

Program: Cookout - Pot Luck Dinner

Be sure to bring your boat to paddle & Surf, kayaks can try roll practice. Come anytime but cookout will start around 7:30 PM. We are scheduling this meeting to make up for the storm soaked Silver Lake outing.

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 - Dessert or Fruit

F-L - Potato/Macaroni Salad

M-R - Salad/vegetable/or Baked beans

S-Z - Chips or Appetizer

**[e-mail - Patty Murphy](#) or call her
at 216-292-5618**

[Directions & Map to Huntington Beach Park](#)

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

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 8th from Silver Lake

There were no minutes from the July 8th meeting, but here is brief report.

The annual cookout at Silver Lake was nearly drowned by a severe thunderstorm. The attendance was about ten people with three new folks. The cookout was moved under cover at the boathouse. There was not much interest in racing around the island after the storm cleared away, so John Kobak won with his young partner in an aluminum canoe!

Pat G

New River Trip, August 16-17 by Joe Marks

The drop dead beautiful steep walled New River Gorge has some of the biggest whitewater in West Virginia. A very good place to get ready for Gauley Season. We will have one guided raft available on Saturday so this could be a good opportunity to share a paddling weekend with someone who doesn't kayak or is not ready for the Gorge. Many other activities are available in the area for non-paddling friends/family. Anything from hiking, biking, rock climbing, visiting historical sites to antique shopping. You can check it out at:
<http://www.nps.gov/neri/index.htm>

We will meet in the parking lot of the Visitor's Center at 10:00 Saturday and 9:00 Sunday to organize for the Class III/IV Gorge section (Cunard to Fayette Station). Consider this if you're an advanced intermediate with a good roll and looking for some big-water experience. If

someone volunteers to lead, there could be the option for some to do the Class II Upper Section (Thurmond to Cunard) which is great for a practiced beginner/intermediate paddler. Last year, some folks who rafted the Gorge on Saturday kayaked the Upper Section on Sunday.

At this point the plan is to stay at the New River Gorge RV Park. This is an open field type of campground with decent facilities. Other options abound in the area but this is a convenient location just 2 miles on the North of the Bridge. It's on Milroy Gross Road just East of RT. 19.

Contact me if you plan on coming or have questions. If you want to reserve a spot in the raft please call me as soon as possible as there will be limited space.

joemarksz@adelphia.net, 216-281-1517, 216-533-0604c



Midyear Treasurer report with Vermillion river race and rescue weekend financial summaries by Terry Markoff

We have approximately \$6,000 in CDs; we made \$240 in interest this year. The donations that were paid to conservation were actually for last year, so we'll need approximately \$2,000 of the \$4400 in the bank for donations this coming fall. Thanks to Rob for his past year's work in setting up the CDs, the work for the Vermillion river race, and the rescue rodeo. The Vermillion river race income looks pretty good. We did not have to buy medals or bibs this year, that's an expense we will have to look at for the next race.

The rescue rodeo went pretty well. We had people from as far away as Cincinnati and Columbus outdoor pursuits sent notifications to their members about the weekend. Its starting to get pretty well known. And of course a number of TRPC people participated. It would be nice if somebody would plan on doing some promotion next year to take the burden off of Rob and push up the number of participants.

Balance 4401.92

Vermillion River Race

Expenses		Income	
Mugs	224.28	Cash	1201
Office Max	28.32	Checks	428
Wal Mart	10.23	Donation	123
Miscellaneous	17.13	Food	<u>102</u>
Insurance	375.00		1854
ACA Membership	30.00		
Park Donation	<u>100.00</u>		
	784.96		
			1854.00
			- 784.96
		Income	1069.04

Rescue Weekend

Expenses		Income (Registration and T-Shirts)	
T- Shirts Design	140		697.2
T-Shirts	472.69		<u>433</u>
Insurance deposit	45		1130.2
Refreshments/ Food	78.37		
Insurance deposit	<u>155</u>		1130.20
	891.06		- 891.06
		Income	239.14

Conservation

Donation	Expenses
24.45	125
39.13	150
21	500
12.05	500
8.48	150
36	100
4	200
110	150
<u>13</u>	<u>125</u>
268.11	2000

**Please consider writing
an article for the
newsletter. We would like
to hear from you! Please
send your articles to
peetzaguy@aol.com!**

Jamie and Ross Brinkerhoff's Wedding

The wedding was held on a beautiful sunny day (June 12) at Railroad Rapid on the Lower Yough. Paddling friends accompanied the happy couple down the loop to arrive at the wedding location, then, following the ceremony, attempted to keep up with them to Bruener's run, where they shared some champagne before heading off on their honey moon – a river trip, of course.



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August				
8/1, 2	Upper Yough (MD)& ASCI on Thursday so call by Wed Friendsville Days - Fri 6:00-10:00pm, Sat 12-10pm	32	Doug Smith	419-823-1423
8/3	Savage River (MD) Scheduled Dam Release	26	Bud Chavez	513-703-4108
8/9, 10	Basic River Kayak & Canoe - OH		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
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8/31	Savage River (MD) Scheduled Dam Release	26	Needs organizer	
September				
9/5, 6	Lower Gauley (WV)	27	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
9/6, 7	Upper Gauley (WV)	33	Needs organizer	
9/9	Club Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Joe Marks	216-281-1517

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KeelHauler Kanews

Kelly Miller, Editor

1515 Fox Chase Dr.

Sewickley, PA 15143

peetzaguy@comcast.net

peetzaguy@aol.com

August, 2008



KEELHAULER'S KANews SEPTEMBER, 2008



**Next Club Meeting is Tuesday,
September 9th, at 7:30 PM,
at Middleburg Hts Community Center
15700 Bagley Rd**

Program: Above the Arctic Circle

**A Slide show by Judi Cleary
& Larry Fordyce.**

They will share their experience of traveling to the land of Svalbard, a grouping of Norwegian islands. They abound in glaciers, are home to seals, walrus, polar bear and beluga whales. Imagine yourself on a sea kayaking trip which included camping out where the sun does not set. The water here is frigid and the air is crystal clear. This a very stark and austere environment, full of grays and whites. The sporadic flora here is brightly colored and very close to the ground. The only tree that grows is barely an inch or two tall!

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

All meetings are open to guests, invite a prospective member.

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes Tuesday, August 12th from Huntington Beach Park

There were not really any minutes for the last meeting. It was at Huntington Beach and there was no meeting. There was a pot luck dinner to make up for the rain soaked one at Silver Lake and, the highlight of the "meeting" was probably the chocolate cheesecake brought by Sue Lan Ma! Next month we will be back to regular meetings!

SYOTR
Pat G

It's that time again.....

All club memberships expire on October 1st. As soon as you can, mail a \$20 check for your 2009 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

You can review your on-line membership listing, using this link: <http://keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook8.pdf>

User Name: "dir" and the current 2008 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. 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

Doug Smith's Trip Leader Debut

"Adrenaline"

August 1-2, 2008

by Mary Smith

After 3 weekends of not boating, I was ready for some whitewater! I was also able to get Friday off work, so my goal was to paddle the Upper Yough for two days in a row, and hit the Savage release on Sunday. Doug Smith was leading the UY trip since John Kobak couldn't paddle. I was used to John's style of explaining and leading rapids, so I didn't know exactly what to expect. Doug was an official trip leader for the first time. My husband, Stephen, decided he would prefer to stay home and work on stuff on the computer. (!) So, I set out alone on Friday morning for the weekend adventure.

Friday went exactly as planned. The weather was beautiful, and it was a great day on the river at a normal summer release level. The paddlers were Doug, Mark, Norm, Duncan, Marina, Becky, Allen and me. Highlights of the day for me included: (1) cramming 6 people into and 4 boats onto my Hyundai Elantra for shuttle (while all of the big vehicles were left at the takeout!) (2) discovering why it is important to stay RIGHT at Triple Drop (3) learning an interesting new line at Powerful Popper which includes pitoning off a rock (4) watermelon margarita and tasty dinner at Santa Fe. Friday night, thunderstorms rolled in and it rained most of the night.

Saturday morning we checked the gauges to see what was running, and what was too high. The Upper Yough was 1300 CFS and rising, and with the scheduled release that would be too high. Top Yough was also too high. The Big Sandy was at 8.5 feet and rising, so it was out of the question. Tygart Gorge, Middle Fork, and Cheat Canyon were too low – apparently the rain was very localized. Doug remembered that if the Big Sandy was above 7 feet, Fikes Creek was running. So, we got some directions from Brent and Becky and we (Doug, Norm, Mark and I) headed off. Brent, Becky, and Marina were headed to Daugherty Creek which was described as Fikes Creek on acid, and that didn't sound like something I could handle. After several wrong turns and directions from locals of varying friendliness, we arrived at the put-in. It was clear we were in the right place because about 15 other paddlers were there already.

WOW. Fikes Creek was way more difficult than we had planned. It was running at an extremely high level. Doug had paddled it before at a low level and knew where the two unrunnable spots were. He said it was easier than the Upper Yough. However, it was significantly harder than the Upper Yough at this level (in our opinions). There were no rocks visible in the streambed and the water was in the trees. We pulled into the rare eddy that we were able to find panting, wide-eyed, and said to each other "HOLY SHIT"! When we were able to breathe normally again, we peeled out for more excitement. Once I concluded that it was too scary and I was definitely hiking out. Unfortunately that was between two large drops, and there wasn't even an eddy much less access to shore at that point. Doug said that he

remembered it getting easier at some point. We were all ready for that point when it happened. That was about 200 yards from the takeout! At the takeout we heard stories of whole groups hiking out through the woods, lost equipment, etc. After hearing those tales of woe, Mark was really glad he had decided to stay at the put-in and not run with us. Someone said it was the highest it has been in 27 years. Unfortunately, there isn't an official gauge so it is hard to tell how high it actually was. In my paddling log, I'm going to record "insanely high". We're really lucky things went well for our group. Only one of us rolled, and there were no swims. However, with this water level, there was little margin for error. It would have been nearly impossible to rescue a swimmer and his equipment.

Apparently we had not had enough adrenaline yet, so we (Doug, Mark and I) met up with Brent, Becky and Marina for a late afternoon run of the Upper Yough. As it turned out, they never did have the scheduled release that day. We heard that the level was 2'1" and dropping. When we got on the river, the gauge painted on the bridge said 2'4". Before we got to Gap Falls, there was a thunderstorm and torrential downpour. The river was rising and although we didn't know the exact water level, it was definitely higher than I had paddled it before. It peaked at 1590 CFS, and we were on the river during the peak. It would have seemed difficult at that level if we hadn't just paddled Fikes Creek. Charlie's Choice and Gun Barrel succeeded in testing my combat roll. Mark once again proved to be more sane than the rest of us when he carried out near Little Niagara. We waited for him in Friendsville and then headed to Santa Fe for another yummy dinner.

All in all it was a wonderful, adrenaline-packed trip. That doesn't even include Thursday's run on the Lower Big Sandy at 7'2"! (unfortunately, I had to work...) Doug gave us perfect lines all weekend, and coordinated the trip well. It was definitely a memorable trip for all of us. A good note for next time: If you can't see any rocks from the takeout bridge at Fikes Creek, be prepared for a really challenging day!

Savage River Trip Report

August 3, 2008

After 2 adrenaline-packed days on the Upper Yough and Fikes Creek, I was ready for a relaxing day on the river. I joined Bud's Savage River trip on Sunday. This time we arrived an hour earlier (around 9 am) to try to take maximum advantage of the release. Luckily the road to the put-in had been repaired, and the danger of bottoming out a car on the drainage pipe was no longer a concern. This time the release was the standard level, around 1000 CFS. The surreal fog was not covering the river, but the water was still cold. For the first trip down, we had a total of 11 boaters. These were Bud, Fred, Colleen, Ben, Kelly, Dylan, Paul, Ira, Dave, Karl, and I. (hopefully I didn't forget anyone!) I believe Ira, Paul, and Kelly were paddling this for the first time, and Ben had only paddled down to the dam before. I hadn't been in my C-1 since May, so I was feeling a little less confident than last time. Bud organized the group into 2 subgroups to help keep track of everyone on the river. Everyone had fun and there were no swims. Paul was enjoying the river

but took out shortly after the dam since he could barely see due to his glasses fogging up. Ben, Ira and I got to practice our combat rolls. The difficulty was more reasonable at this water level than the 1300 CFS release we had last time, but it was still lots of fun at 1000 CFS. We got on the shuttle van soon after our first run. Most paddlers decided that one trip down the river was enough. Ira, however, was very enthusiastic about paddling again. Bud had family obligations and took off, leaving Ira and I in the able hands of Karl and Dave, who were dressed in drysuits in case a rescue situation became necessary. We ran the river more quickly the second time with only 4 paddlers, and the only mishap was my flip and roll at the dam (again!) When we arrived at the parking lot for the shuttle van, there were around 60 boaters waiting there already. Since only 14 boaters get on each van and the van was nowhere in sight, it was clear we would be waiting a while. We had accepted that we probably wouldn't get a third run due to the long line, when Ira showed up in his van and told us to throw our boats on! We're not sure how he got up to the top and whether it was legal or not, but we didn't ask any questions and quickly loaded our boats before someone else beat us to it. So, we were able to have a third run. Things went exactly as before, including my combat roll at the dam. After that, Dave asked me, "Do you like to roll at the dam?" No, not really. I just kept getting back-ended every time! I guess I won't get to run that thing clean in my C-1 this year. At least I didn't roll up and find myself in the cave under the dam, which happened to another Columbus paddler, Jimi, earlier in the day. I also hear there is rebar down there, so luckily I didn't encounter any while upside down. At the takeout, the parking lot was empty and we were first in line for the shuttle bus. We all agreed that it was a great day of paddling. I'm guessing that Ira had the most fun that day, and was grinning from ear to ear. His description of the river was, "This is as good as it gets!" That pretty much sums up my paddling weekend too.

From Judi Cleary.....

Attached is a letter from the NPS about Gauley access for 2008.

Congratulations again to FOGR for breaking the Congressional roadblock on access, saving the NPS an estimated \$400,000 on the purchase price at Woods Ferry and creating the opportunity for the Mason's Branch access purchase!

We worked our butts off and it paid off big time.

Hope to see you on the river. I will be guiding Surf City down the first 4 weekends of Gauley season. Keep an eye out for swimmers from my boat!

Bill Tanger

An Open Letter to Gauley River Boaters

August 13, 2008

Dear Boaters,

The 2008 Gauley season is going to be an exciting time for the Gauley River National Recreation Area. For the first time in

the since the Gauley River NRA was established, the park now owns mid-river access where upper Gauley trips may take off the river and lower Gauley trips may put on. The river accesses recently acquired are the Masons Branch river access and the new Woods Ferry river access. In both cases, the park was only able to purchase what the landowners were willing to sell. Therefore, the areas are not as large as we would like, and parking will be limited.

The Woods Ferry access is the larger of the two river access we purchased. The Woods Ferry access is located on river right and off of Panther Mountain Road approximately 4.7 miles west of Route 129 and 1.1 miles west of Masons Branch. By river, the Woods Ferry access is approximately 2.75 miles down stream from Masons Branch. The access has a medium size parking lot at river level that will be designated for private boater vehicles. The Parking area is a short walk, approximately 100 yards, from the boat ramp. At the river's edge, we leveled and graveled two ramps to the river, one for private boaters and one for commercial boaters. Next to the private boater ramp we will designate a vehicle loading and unloading area. Private boaters will be able to drive up to the ramp to drop off boats and equipment. The commercial boat ramp is just up stream, approximately 25 yards, so private and commercial vehicle traffic will be on the same road and will share the same turnaround. The park will provide portable toilets near the boat ramps and the parking area.

At Masons Branch the park acquired the road to the river access, the small turnaround, and the boat ramp. In addition, several of the commercial rafting companies retained legal access to, or across, the land in the form of retained rights-of-ways. Due to the limited amount of land available at this access and the retained rights, we plan to restrict vehicle access at Masons Branch this year. Access will be managed much like it has been in past years. To help with parking, American Whitewater has leased the Legg field above Masons Branch. The field will be available throughout the Gauley season for private boater parking. During the Gauley Festival and the following weekend, the West Virginia Rivers Coalition will be providing a boat shuttle from Legg field to the Masons Branch river access. This shuttle will be operated as a fundraiser for the West Virginia Rivers Coalition.

Depending on visitation/traffic levels, the park is going to try to allow private boater vehicle access to Masons Branch river access on Fridays and Mondays. Access will be allowed for loading and unloading only. Boaters will still park at the Legg Field. Our park maintenance crew has been working to improve the road to Masons Branch. They will be trimming back the road shoulders and repairing the potholes; however, the road will still be a one lane narrow road with limited pull-offs for passing oncoming traffic. Please restrict use of this road on Mondays and Fridays to vehicles used for dropping off or picking up equipment. On the weekends when the West Virginia Rivers Coalition is not running the equipment shuttle at Masons Branch, the park will try to provide an equipment shuttle. The details of this are being worked out at this time and we anticipate having the equipment shuttle in place for the opening weekend of Gauley Season.

As our planning efforts progress, we will post information on our web page at www.nps.gov/gari as well as continuing to communicate with private boaters through partnering organizations such as American Whitewater and the West Virginia Rivers Coalition. This will be our first year managing these two new accesses on the Gauley River. We expect there will be some growing pains and there are still many details to be worked out. However, with the cooperation of the boating community, we anticipate this year's Gauley season will be very successful and a significant improvement for private boaters.

Sincerely,

Gary Hartley, Chief Ranger
New River Gorge National River
Gauley River Nat. Recreation Area
Bluestone National Scenic River

The third annual Boss/Bird/Slacker trip (AKA Skip Work) by Pat G

Thursday we put on with about seven paddlers, including Sue Lan who was making only her third descent of the LY. The level was 1.7 feet and the weather was beautiful. Entrance was uneventful but the excitement began at Cucumber. The experienced boaters set up in various positions in the rapid to be there if Sue Lan got in trouble. I watched as she proceeded to run the approach nearly clean but got off line right above the pour-over rock. Our unfortunate newbie dropped over the rock into the hole sideways, flipped, and was rudely introduced to the rocks that lurk under the water there. By the time I dropped down, Sue was almost to shore. I looked at her lovely face with blood running from her scraped up nose, her fat lip, and her bruised cheek, YIKES! It turned out that she was OK and was eager to continue. She is one tough cookie! All I know is that if that had happened to be, I'd have been crying on the beach!

Most of the rest of the trip was pretty smooth with the exception of the creative line taken by our intrepid newbie at Double Hydraulic. Somehow she got ahead of her guide Lisa in the approach. I frantically tried to get her to follow but she lacked the power to get there. I dropped through the edge of the top hydraulic and turned just in time to see Sue ride through Squiggley Wiggley upside down.

The remainder of the day was great.

Upper Yough Virgin Run and Redemption at ASCI by Dave Hill

August 23rd: This is as stout as it gets, for me. The classic east coast Class IV, none other than the Upper Yough! To say

that I am nervous would be an understatement but I try to calm myself by not focusing on the river and realizing I have a great support crew to lead me on this virgin run.

It is a beautiful day and the feel of a waning summer is in the air. The fields are just starting to show a change of color as the goldenrods reflect the sun. Blue skies and warm temperatures will make this a great weekend trip. We hook up with Harry at the rest stop and he provides a little encouragement for the trip ahead.

Craig and I share the ride to Friendsville and we meet up with his parents (Carl and Donna), his nephew Nathan and Harry. Brian is going to meet us at the put-in and we pick up a slalom boat for him at somebody's house. Boats and gear is transferred below the bridge and the chatter starts about this being my virgin run.

We pull into the put in and join the others waiting for the water to arrive. There is a large group lying in the shade as I notice something strange. Almost everyone has creek boats! Maybe I should have listened to others advice to bring a longer boat! Maybe I wasn't ready to step up! Maybe nothing, catch a grip and water to the water to calm down. This doesn't look so bad as I approach the bank and step into the water. I'll be fine in my 4Fun after all the boat has improved my confidence level and has allowed me to step up before. As I bow down to "pay homage to the river gods" by showing my respect to the water I ask for forgiveness from the forthcoming carnage! At this point the water starts to arrive as the ripples talk back and the minnows become active in the growing pools.

I head back to the shady area and meet some Keelhaulers as Kobak tries to figure out my last name. We talk about the current activities on the Cuyahoga associated with the attempted hydroelectric project licensing and the proposed whitewater park in Kent. Some in our group are anxious to get on the water ahead of the rafts and others don't want to get ahead of the bubble. I'm just here for the ride! One thing I notice and it becomes more evident through the day, is that the Homberg family being together for a paddle is a special event. These people know everyone and vice versa.

As we paddle the flatwater I get a sense of the people who regularly paddle this section and the importance of the release. It is nice to know that the additional summer releases have allowed regular runs to be had and the crowd is thin. It may also be the result of the Over the Falls Festival being held today in Ohiopyle. We move through the boogie water and I warm up with a few rolls to get prepared for whatever lies ahead. I try to get information on the rapids and lines, but I'm told take it one eddy

at a time and break up the rapids. As we move through Gap Falls and the other un-named rapids I think, this ain't so bad as we get to Bastard. At this point I'm told Bastard is the first "named" rapid! What the hell is that we just came through?

The line at Bastard is to hit the easy boof into the eddy. I'm second in line behind Craig. Well I miss the boof and proceed to read and run the rest of Bastard. Other than the missed boof,

my line is ok. Its time to focus as it only gets better. Things are a blur as the rapids are continuously coming at you and the action seems non stop. I get back ended at the bottom of Charlie's Choice and proceed to join the swim team. All is good and I'm reunited with my gear. A little heart to heart talk from the support staff gets my head on straight as we roll into Triple Drop. I make it through the top 2, but get ended again in the last drop. I roll up only to get flipped in the next hole. Swim #2 but I get out before National Falls. As I walk down the left side and see what makes up National Falls, I witness one of the smoothest moves by some guy in an open canoe at National Falls. He caught the eddy above the drop on the right and proceeded to slowly ferry left above the falls before running the left line. That summed up the caliber of paddlers on the river today.



As I get my gear together I have a little heart to heart with myself. I am not Michael Phelps and this is not Beijing so future swims are not an option. Its time to "put on my big boy pants" and start driving the boat aggressively. The rest of Miracle Mile runs together in my mind but a few things stick out. The first is that I had a few more rolls but no swims! I think it was Tommy's Hole where I was told of the "must make" eddy, which I did. At Heinzerling I'm told to get on the pillow and ride the left side around the hole. This was a blast as you get on the pillow and ride the thin tongue past the ominous looking hole below. I remember having a good line through Meat Clever thanks to Carl's lead.



At Double Pencil Sharpener I should have known something was up when Harry said "follow me" with an evil look in his eye. He said something about being similar to the Heinzerling Move as he

disappeared over the drop. I took the bait and found myself at the top of a steep pourover with Harry set up to watch the show and smiling. As I slid into the hole the river gods took pity on me with a short side surf before spitting me out.

The rest of the paddle was trying to stay behind the bubble which proved amusing. I made it down the Upper Yough and had some decent lines but that was a function of the lines provided by my support crew "Harry and The Hombergs". The river was for me a work out, and after a great dinner, some homemade peach pie, and a few libations; I was snoring like a banshee!

August 24th: Today we plan on heading to the ASCI for a few runs before heading home. Other than being sore I am ready for some redemption on this course. I had paddled it once before and got my ass handed to me! It was during a seminar on Whitewater Parks in April 2007 and the course was not open to the public. There were some serious paddlers that day and the designers were showing them what the features could dish out for their play time with 4 pumps running!



Today we would start with the Cascades release (2 pumps) and work our way to 4 pumps later. Whatever your feelings are with the artificial vs real river debate, this place rocks. Not only will it expand the sport by getting first timers on the water in a "controlled" environment it will allow experienced boaters to work on skills. There were many rafts of screaming kids and families (joyful and terrified) having fun. There were paddlers in slalom boats working on skills and play boaters having a blast. Personally, I had fun and that is what paddling is all about for me.

After yesterdays Upper Yough run I was not intimidated by the course and worked on hitting my boofs and dealing with the surging eddys. It helped to have Brian Homberg with us so that he could tell the other workers how to "tune in" the features for best play.



The play for me was great as the waves were steep and fast. Everyone was having fun with surfing. In the section above the last drop are many whirlpools and other features that allowed me to work on attainment skills. At the end of the run you just paddle to the conveyor belt for a ride to the top and do it again.

Say what you will but this place is something different and may be a market for the future of paddling. Where else can you paddle on serious whitewater, work on your skills, ride a conveyor back to the top without leaving your boat, paddle until your spent, and have a mountaintop view of beautiful valleys around you? This weekend put a smile on my face and that's what paddling is all about – having fun with good company.

A Reminder from Charlie Walbridge.....

**Donations at the Upper Yough put-in are

greatly appreciated and needed!!!**

Friends of the Cheat as the runner-up!

**Redwood Creek® toasts the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

as the winner of the Greater Outdoors Project and**

Friends of the Cheat as the runner-up!

7. ONE (1) RUNNER-UP GRANT: One (1) \$10,000 check made payable to the Non Profit Organization listed on the Runner-Up Finalist Application. Total value of the Grant: \$10,000.

Thank you to everyone who voted. Friends of the Cheat may not have won first place, but we did win \$10,000.00 for our river!!!



**Who is the Keelhauler Gold Medal Swimmer of the Year?
Find out in the next issue of our newsletter.....**

September				
9/5, 6	Lower Gauley (WV)	27	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
9/6, 7	Upper Gauley (WV)	33	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-4182 C
9/9	Club Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
9/12, 14	Upper Gauley (WV)	33	John Kobak	440-871-1758
9/13, 14	Lower Gauley (WV)	27	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969
9/19-21	Upper & Lower Gauley (Festival Weekend) (WV)	27-33	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
9/20	Cheat Canyon or Lower Big Sandy (WV)	26/31	Jim Steppenbacker	440-655-4052
9/20, 21	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Dave Roush	440-461-6456
9/27, 28	Upper & Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	Needs organizer	
9/27, 28	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Mary Modesitt	540-460-4008
October			Time to Pay Dues	
10/3, 4	Upper Yough - Last Saturday Release (MD)	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-4182 C
10/4, 5	Upper & Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	Bill Miller	440-257-2970
10/11, 12	PENN CUP Bellefonte Slalom race (PA)		Igor Birbrayer	440-479-5636
10/11, 12	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
10/11, 12	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Brian Thies	440-331-4216
10/12	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
10/14	Club Annual Election of Officers at Middleburg Hts		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
10/17-19	Moose River Fest	27-30	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
10/25,26	Russell Fork (WV)	26	Cecil Tickamyer	740-593-4153
10/25,26	Cheat Canyon or Lower Big Sandy (WV)	26/31	Jim Steppenbacker	440-655-4052
10/26	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Brett Mancino	216-570-7382
November			Pay Dues	
11/9	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
11/11	Club Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
11/15, 22	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Larry Fordyce	440-554-8595
11/23	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Brett Mancino	216-570-7382

2008 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

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! The deadline for the September issue of the newsletter is **9/21/08**.

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

KeelHauler Kanews

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September, 2008

