

Keel-hauler's Ka-news

❄️ JANUARY, 2021 ❄️



Next Club Meeting:

To be announced.....

Mike Gillam, President...mikegillam61@gmail.com

President's Message From Mike Gillam



By the time you all read this, the holidays have come and gone, and we have started a new year! Here is a toast to a fantastic 2021. I hope everyone had a healthy 2020 and the new year will be your best yet!

Members will have the opportunity to attend Swift Water Rescue courses again this year. We are continuing to finalize all dates, but H2ODreams is scheduled for an SWR weekend on June 18-20 on Slippery Rock. This course will begin with a Friday evening presentation/discussion,

and then full days on Saturday and Sunday. Cost will be similar to last year and sign up procedures and final member cost TBA. We will begin a wait list once we have reached 12 participants. In addition, we are looking into the possibility (cost) of a 5 day program running (up to) 3+ rivers in the southeast. As you remember, we allocated extra money to the fund to support these types of programs. Once final details are confirmed, I will post via web page and FB.

As a club, the reason most members join is for the plethora of river trips that we run. Not to be dramatic, but I believe this summer's trips could be a determining factor in the future of the club. After canceling most of our club trips this past summer, we need people to step up and organize trips. Day trips, weekends, weeklong trips to local rivers, are all in demand. If you are interested in organizing a trip, please contact me. Remember, you do not have to be an expert paddler, not be an expert on the river, just have the desire to organize logistics for the trip.

Have a great winter and remember to play outside!

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of December 31, 2020
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402	\$2,314.67
CD 1077	<u>\$2,312.22</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,626.89

Checking \$20,236.77

Total \$24,863.66

Conservation Donations will go out next month.

**Stream Team
From Domenic Bentz**

When I was coming up as a new paddler, American Whitewater (AW) was an indispensable resource that allowed me to find local rivers. Unfortunately, the older I get the more I see the limitations of AW. It is not that I don't like the idea, I love the idea. However, the information is lacking or outdated. Luckily, we have the power to change that!

When AW create the original river database 3 decades ago, Keel-haulers help populate the initial data on local rivers. I want to harness that spirit and bring the stream team back. Use modern technology to take better pictures with more relevant perspectives. Update rapid

descriptions that have changed from high water events. Add in rapids that are significant, yet unlisted in the river descriptions.

I hope to bring back the Stream Team and make it a goal to detail 4 rivers per year. For many new paddlers AW is THE resource for information about whitewater runs. As a more experienced paddler, I believe that by updating the information on AW, we will be supporting the growth of not only the club but also the overall community.

If you would like to be a part of this initiative, please email me at Domenic.Bentz@gmail.com. I would like to jump on this project in the spring once winter breaks. If anyone has a waterproof drone and is interested, I would love to experiment with pictures taken from angles previously unavailable.

**Website Updates Coming Soon!
From John Kobak**

For the past two months our website team has created a new website using modern technology that should work better on computers, cell phones and tablets.

This is our website update team, each member worked on different sections of the new site:

John Kobak	john@keelhauler.org
Megan Thompson	meganthompson@musician.org
Kelly Miller	peetzaquy@aol.com
Domenic Bentz	domenic.bentz@gmail.com
Brian Smart	bsmartpcs@gmail.com
Chloe Shepherd	

The new site is expected to be operational on January 8th but it will remain a work in progress. The team would like to hear comments about likes, dislikes and what is missing, or what information you can't find on the site. The more feedback we receive the better the new site will be.

<https://www.keelhauler.com/>

The old website <https://www.keelhauler.org/> will continue to be fully operational, including our Forum (Message Board) for at least one more year.

**Trip Organizers Needed for 2021
From Mike Gillam**

We need trip organizers for 2021. Please volunteer to help. Email Mike Gillam at mikegillam61@gmail.com. Thank you ahead of time.

**Happy New Year
2020 Membership Wrap-up
From John Kobak**

We ended up the 2020 calendar year with **326** members, in 2019 we had **318**. Our average membership for the past 10 years is **314**

A year ago we had 246 members who had paid their 2020 dues by the end of December, today we have 253 paid-up members for 2021. But a big positive for future club membership is, we already have 68 members who have paid their dues in advance for 2022. We usually sign up 50 new members each year. Ask your paddling buddies to join.

Chloe Shepherd is completing the **2021 Yearbook & Roster** and there is no reason for you to have incorrect information or not even be listed in the new yearbook. Take a look at your membership information using this link.

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook21.pdf>

NEW – If you do not want your membership information listed in our yearbook or in any on-line directory. Send me an e-mail. membership@keelhauler.org

[Do Not List my Name anywhere](#)

Use New 2021 Membership Password

Our membership password **has changed for 2021**, and is shown in the e-mail sent with newsletter.

Make a note of the username & password, they will remain the same for all of 2021.

John Kobak – Membership Chairman

**Indoor Pool Sessions
2020-2021**

Roll Instruction: Please use [KHCC Message Board](#) to find persons willing to provide instruction. The forum is also a good place to find folks with loaner kayaks and gear.

Sea kayak rescue practice: Clean Sea Kayaks are welcome at both Lakewood and Orange High School pools.

For more information contact **John Banach** j_banacka@hotmail.com 330-606-5032

Orange High School Pool Roll Sessions - 2020-21

Sessions are scheduled on Saturdays

December 5 11am-12:30pm

January 16 11am-12:30pm

January 23 11am-12:30pm

February 6 1:15-3:00pm

February 20 1:15-3:00pm

March 6 1:15-3:00pm

Click to see [Available Pool Sessions](#)

Click the one you want to enroll and then on the 'enroll now' button

A charge of \$8 per person per session (\$7 for Orange School District residents) covers the use of the pool. **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.

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 HS](#)

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.

Kayak Roll Sessions

Work on your Eskimo roll in the comfort of our heated pool so you will be ready for the river this spring. Participants must bring their own boats (clean boats only, please) and gear. **Helmets are required** for anyone entering the pool. There are experienced boaters on hand to give pointers to new kayakers. Enter the pool area through West pool deck doors starting 10 minutes before start. Participants must fill out a registration form & pay before being allowed to enter the water. Please bring exact change each day.

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 our [Message Board](#).

For more information contact **Sandra Andrews** sandrews@orangecsd.org 216-831-8601x2316

Lakewood High School Pool Roll Sessions - 2021

Sessions usually begin in January. But due to Covid, we are still fine-tuning dates. Check the website for updates.

For Lakewood Pool information contact Matt Demaline - Aquatics
Manager Matt.Demaline@lakewoodcityschools.org - - 216-529-4081

Meyers Lake YMCA (North Canton) Pool Roll Sessions – 2021

Sunday sessions this year will look to start first Sunday in January and run to the end of March. Sunday Pool Session start at 8:45am and end promptly at 10:45am. The YMCA has agreed to open the back door at 8:30am to allow us time to bring in our kayaks/gear.

Just like last year, the 2021 classes will be **FREE!** Yes, no charge to members and non-members alike. Our club voted last year to offer this club sponsored class at no charge and will cover the costs for the entire season. Only **10 paid club members** will be allowed to participate each date. You must make a reservation with John Banach in advance to secure a spot. j_banacka@hotmail.com or 330-606-5032. Of course, we hope that non-members will see that joining our club is a good deal. You can complete our [Club Application](#) and join on-line today for only \$20. So, if you attended only 3 sessions you got your money back.

Directions to Canton Meyers Lake YMCA Pool

The Meyers Lake YMCA is located at 1333 North Park Ave NW in Canton. Easily located 1 mile west of I-77 using the 13th St exit. Turn Right on Park Street and you can't miss the YMCA on the building. If you see the lake on your right you have gone too far.

Meyers Lake YMCA

There are a few simple guidelines to follow. All boaters will bring their kayaks/gear through the back door. **All kayaks and gear must be completely clean, inside & out** before getting to the YMCA. No seal launching. It is important that all kayaks are out of the YMCA building immediately after the session ends, take your kayak out the back door to the parking lot then proceed with showers and changing. Please remember **Helmets are required**. Format for the Canton Roll Sessions as in the past, first hour roll practice second hour kayak soccer.

Cancellation Policy

Please check the Keel-Haulers [Message Board](#) the morning of a session, a post will be there in the event the YMCA needs to cancel.

For more information contact John Banach j_banacka@hotmail.com 330-606-5032

Kent State University 2020-21 Pool Roll Sessions

Open kayak roll sessions, Saturdays Nov 28, Dec 05, Dec 12, Dec 19, Jan 9
Doors open at 3:00pm and close at 5:00pm.
Cost is \$75 an hour with max 6 boaters, paid in advance
For more information contact Bret Rose

Akron University 2020-21 Pool Roll Sessions

Open kayaking sessions to learn basic kayaking skills on Tuesday nights from 8:00-10:00 pm. All boats, PFDs (life jackets), and paddles are provided. No experience is required. But you may bring your own, see below. Cost is free for students, faculty/staff and rec members, and \$10 per session for non members. Please arrive on the ONAT pool deck at the start time.

See [Akron U Pool Information](#)

Directions to Pool

Pool is near E. Buchtel Ave Exit off of SR 8.

[Map to Akron U Pool](#)

For more information contact Manager of Outdoor Adventure ident1@uakron.edu . 330-972-735

Cleveland State University 2020-21 Pool Roll Sessions

Open kayaking sessions to learn basic kayaking skills or rolling practice Tuesdays 6 to 7pm

Cost is \$5 for CSU students and Rec Members and \$10 for Non-members. You can sign up here: [Sign-up Information](#)

Various kayaks and equipment will be available for use for anyone who needs it.

Personal boats are welcome, but should be clean and free of dirt and debris.

If these dates don't work for you, I can make a specific open paddle or instructed skills clinic for a group or individuals!

For more information contact Chris Davey advr@csuohio.edu 216-802-3210

General Pool 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. Hand paddles will be available for learning hand rolls. To maintain a good relationship with the Orange & Lakewood, Canton or Akron, 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. Most 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 to [Join Our Club](#)
3. The roll session at Orange High School is preceded by an Open Swim session. If you arrive early, please wait outside the building with your boats until the Open Swim session ends at 4:10 PM. Please bring in boats through the back emergency exit, which will open at 4:10 PM.
4. Please sign in and pay the lifeguard/manager upon entering the pool. **Please bring exact change.**
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.

Slippery Rock Stream Health

Please submit comments by email, phone or letter. Zoning board meeting to decide on special permitting of an Asphalt plant by Heilman Pavement Specialties Inc. on 14.5 acres bordering Slippery Rock creek - 490 Stoughton Rd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057. This Cold Mix plant will likely store and use chemicals known to be detrimental to stream health and trout habitat of Slippery Rock Creek. This parcel was quietly rezoned from RC-1 Rural Conservation to IL-1 Light Industrial on 6/8/2020. Some are seeking that it be changed back to conservation area. This meeting seeks to permit the Asphalt plant. Comments should be sent to:

Karen Connell, Permits / Zoning Officer
PO Box 207, 155 Branchton Rd.
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
724-794-2369
SRTWP@SRTWP.com

Zoning board hearing: **6 PM Tuesday January 12, 2021**
Slippery Rock Township Committee Building, 155 Branchton Rd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057

SLIPPERY ROCK TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY

P. O. BOX 207
155 BRANCHTON ROAD
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057
E-MAIL: SRTWP@SRTWP.COM

PHONE: 724-794-2369
FAX: 724-794-0944

TO: ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS

FROM: Karen Connell, Permits/Zoning Officer

PURPOSE: Special Exception

PROPOSED USE: Asphalt mix plant including scale, scale house, plant, storage of raw materials and finished mix

Zoning: I-1 Light Industry

PROPERTY OWNER(S): Heilman Pavement Specialties, Inc.

PROPERTY LOCATION: 490 Stoughton Road, Slippery Rock, PA

MAPS PARCEL#: 280-4770-20-0000 (14.52 acres)

PUBLIC HEARING DATE: January 12, 2021 TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING LOCATION: Slippery Rock Township Community Building, 155 Branchton Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057

DIRECTED COMMENTS TO: Karen Connell, Permits/Zoning Officer

PHONE: 724-794-2369

Casselman Stream Health From Mountain Watershed

A 100+ acre coal refuse (coal ash, etc) site is being considered along the Casselman- a favorite paddling destination. Mountain Watershed Association is seeking first hand accounts, insight and expertise from you all regarding water quality impact and (1993, etc.) fish kills from Heritage Coal & Natural Resources Shaw mine complex site: 1117 Shaw Mines Rd, Meyersdale, PA 15552, along the upper reaches of the Casselman river. We don't think there is enough awareness about the confusing nature of this area and I'm hoping some of you can help out and even be involved with the upcoming public meets. Feel free to call 262-716-7151.

Hope you are all healthy. Take care.

-Mountain Watershed Association

Hello,

As you may know, Heritage Coal & Natural Resources has applied to construct a 100+ acre coal refuse (coal ash, etc) site at the Shaw mine complex site: 1117 Shaw Mines Rd, Meyersdale, PA 15552. This site is along the upper reaches of the Casselman river. Mountain Watershed Association was granted a hearing on the NPDES permit for the proposed site. We're expecting the 30 day notice announcing the hearing date to be posted any day now. When I spoke with Troy Williams, the chief permitter at the California, PA DMO, he said that they would not be allowed to discuss the associated mining activity permit at all during the hearing - only the NPDES permit.

What I understand this to mean is that DEP staff will not be able to discuss the actual coal refuse permit, just the pollution discharges it will create. Troy did say, however, that DEP would hold a small, informal meeting with us about the mining activity permit and I'd like to take him up on that offer. From what I can tell, Troy and his staff don't have a great handle on the history of the site and what caused that fishkill back in the 90's and why we're concerned it could happen again.

It would be great if we could have people with historical and technical knowledge join in - and we could take it as an opportunity to educate the Department on the existing issues of the site and why we think adding another refuse pile will only increase the threats. Are there any materials or data we'd want to put together for DEP to present at such a meeting? Or is there anything else we'd want to do in order to prepare? Would you be interested in participating in such a meeting? Any and all ideas would be welcomed.

If anyone's interested and wants to take a look, you can access the permit documents here:

<https://drive.google.com/.../1FX8TnDXX0PRXIFNcsaHsIYeS5oy...>

I've also attached our initial comments that we prepared with the help of one of our consultants.

Thanks so much for your time and help and we look forward to hearing from you all.

--

Melissa Marshall, Esq., Community Advocate, Mountain Watershed Association

T: 724-455-4200x7, F: 724-455-4201, www.mtwatershed.org

2021 Club Officers

President:	Mike Gillam	440-328-5547
VP:	John Banach	330-606-5032
Secretary:	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send temporarily to:

Keelhauler Canoe Club
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134

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. 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 February 2021 issue of the newsletter is 1/23/2021. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
peetzaguy@aol.com
January 2021



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

FEBRUARY, 2021



Next Club Meeting:

To be announced.....

Mike Gillam, President...mikegillam61@gmail.com

President's Message From Mike Gillam



What? We have a new website? Yes, we do! Huge shout out to the web team (Chloe Shepherd, Brian Smart, John Kobak, Domenic Bentz, Kelly Miller, and Megan Thompson) who spent countless hours and energy developing the new page. It was a true team effort, and I am excited as this team continues to improve the site, and I think everyone will agree. Check it out at <https://www.keelhauler.com/>

As we all prepare for Spring paddling or some continue to winter kayak, we need members to step up and organize trips. This is a fantastic opportunity for members who take advantage of our reduced SWR courses to pay it forward, organize a trip or two. Paddling trips are the backbone of this club and we need to get our organized trips back to pre Covid levels. You do not have to be an expert paddler nor an expert on a particular river, you just need to be able to organize a group, arrange shuttles, etc..Still nervous? Grab a partner and share responsibilities! **We are using the new webpage for organizing trips this year. After going to the home page, the Club Info tab will give you a drop down menu. Calendar of events will lead you here <https://www.keelhauler.com/events> Click "Add Event" and you will see a form to be completed, river name, difficulty, etc...after completing the form, the event will be reviewed and then posted to calendar. It is a very easy form to complete and should take approximately 2 minutes!** If you run into any difficulties/questions, feel free to contact me or Domenic Bentz.

We also have two excellent Swift Water Rescue Courses scheduled for this summer. While the sign up will have begun by the time you get this newsletter, don't hesitate to get your name on the wait lists. H2ODreams will again be running their Common Sense Rescue course on Slippery Rock Creek, June 18-20. Charlie Walbridge will be running his SWR June 25-27 on the Cheat River, near Teter's Campground. Registration for both courses can be found on our new webpage <https://www.keelhauler.com/>

I am hopeful that summer 2021 will be much better than summer 2020, and I am excited to see everyone on the river! Play outside!

Mike

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of January 29, 2021
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402	\$2,315.36
CD 1077	<u>\$2,312.91</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,628.27
Checking	<u>\$18,800.92</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$23,429.19</u>

Conservation Donations have been mailed out. Check out [Our Impact — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#) to see what organizations the club sent money to this year!

Conservation News From Jacki Zevenbergen

There are many different things that can impact the rivers we paddle and a whole lot of people dedicated to protecting the waters we love. Our conservation donations help these efforts. You can check out the 2021 donation summary on our new website at <https://www.keelhauler.com/our-impact>. I have been meeting monthly with American Rivers (AR) and the Friends of the Crooked River (FoCR). AR is working on water quality issues throughout the nation including river cleanups and dam removals - both things that keelhaulers have supported locally for a long time. FoCR advocates for a fishable, swimmable Cuyahoga River - obviously the swimmable part is more important to some of us than others. But seriously, when you paddle whitewater your exposure is high so it's nice to be able to paddle in clean water. In spite of the pandemic, FoCR managed the removal of the Canal Diversion Dam in 2020 and the pump to water the canal should be installed in 2021. I've been making an effort to share information from our other conservation partners on our facebook page. I would like to establish a more interactive relationship with some of our other partners - especially Friends of the Cheat. I have not been in contact with them yet so if any keelhauler member has a friendship with someone on their board or staff, I would love an introduction. Although our donations to the other friends groups are smaller, I would still appreciate introductions so I could get to know them better.

I've been posting information on our Facebook page about groups that are resisting the sale or lease of public land and rezoning efforts. Save Slippery Rock Creek was formed to oppose rezoning to allow an asphalt plant near the creek. Opposition to a drilling project on public land near LaDue in the headwaters of the Cuyahoga River is on the rise. In the floodplain just upstream of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Sycamore Golf Course is now a housing development and River Woods appears to be headed in the same direction. But there are some successes to celebrate. Valley View golf course was saved from development when it was purchased by Summit Metroparks and hopefully Brandywine Golf Course will become a part of CVNP someday. Preserve the Valley fought the plans to build yet another development in the area and their efforts seem to have made a difference.

There are several things members can do to support the rivers we love. Make a personal donation to a national or local watershed group. More members make the message louder. Join a stream cleanup. Organize it through American Rivers and your local community so they can send you free trash bags and put it on their map. Send pictures to your local news - share the message that clean water is important. Pay attention to how local and state officials vote on issues that impact our rivers. Write letters to the editor and public officials in support of good water policies. Remember that water is the universal solvent. It picks up pollution as it runs across the land and dumps it into our waters. The best zoning regulations keep a buffer of undisturbed land next to water bodies. Please support streamside and wetland protection.

I leave it up to members to determine whether they want to learn more or join the local groups fighting drilling and development near our streams and wetlands. If you need answers about the science of water protection to make informed decisions, I can help. Hope to see you on a CLEAN river soon.

Jacki

Dam Repairs to Affect Flows in New River Gorge and Dries (WV)

Posted: 01/21/2021 By: Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater, E-mail: kevin@americanwhitewater.org



The Bluestone Dam blocks the New River not far upstream of the popular New River Gorge and New River Dries, and is currently undergoing significant repairs. These repairs will keep 9 of the 16 gates out of service until 2027, allowing for total releases of around only 12,000cfs. To account for the reduced release capacity, the Army Corps of Engineers, who owns the dam, will attempt to capture high flow events in the reservoir and more slowly release them at 12,000cfs. This management will dampen high flows, resulting in longer and more moderate flows than naturally occur in the river.

Intriguingly, these releases will regularly overwhelm the 10,000cfs maximum diversion of the Hawks Nest Hydroelectric Project, and result in more frequent and predictable spill releases into the New River Dries in the 3,000-5,000cfs range counting tributaries that flow into the New River below Bluestone Dam. These are great levels for the Dries, which are growing in popularity following the recent restoration of 7 scheduled summer releases and the creation of several new river access areas.

It is uncertain how dramatic of an affect this upstream work will have on the paddling opportunities in the New River, but we expect paddlers will notice some changes. Enjoy!

Trip Organizers Needed for 2021

There are no organized trips currently posted for the 2021 year. We need trip organizers for 2021. Please volunteer to help. Fill out an easy online form to organize a trip: [Add Event — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#). Any questions? Email Mike Gillam at mikegillam61@gmail.com. Thank you ahead of time.

New River Gorge is now a National Park and Preserve

From: [West Virginia's New River Gorge is Now a U.S. National Park \(afar.com\)](https://afar.com/travel/destinations/new-river-gorge-national-park-and-preserve/)

The New River Gorge in West Virginia marks the country's 63rd national park.

In southeastern West Virginia, a forested gorge surrounding one of the world's oldest rivers has just joined the U.S. National Park System.

The New River Gorge, formerly a national river, was upgraded to a national park and preserve as part of the [COVID-19 stimulus package](#) signed by the president on December 27. The rugged stretch of Appalachian canyon has been a world-class rock climbing and whitewater rafting destination since its 1978 national river designation. It encompasses more than 70,000 acres of land along 53 miles of whitewater, which winds through towering sandstone cliffs that reach up to 1,000 feet in some areas.

A little over an hour's drive from West Virginia's capital, Charleston, the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve will measure about 7,000 acres around the heart of the gorge, which already has a number of designated trailheads and a visitor center, [Outside magazine](#) reports. The remaining 65,000 acres will be classified as a natural preserve, which makes it accessible to backcountry hunters. In total, the 73,000-acre national park and preserve will include three locations that are already managed by the National Park Service (NPS)—the Gorge itself, the Gauley National Recreation Area, and the Bluestone National Scenic River.



In addition to its outdoor adventure offerings—which include Class IV and V whitewater rapids, more than 1,500 rock climbing routes, and hiking and mountain biking trails—the New River Gorge area is home to wildlife such as white-tailed deer, river otters, and bald eagles. West Virginia's white and pink state flower, the great rhododendron, also blooms throughout the area during summer.

The New River Gorge National Park and Preserve marks the United States' 63rd national park and 20th preserve. It's one of five existing "combo parks" in the country, with the other four located in Alaska. West Virginia government officials originally brought forth the proposal in 2019, arguing that an NPS designation could boost tourism in the region.

More articles:

[New River Gorge is now a National Park and Preserve \(wvva.com\)](http://wvva.com)

[New River Gorge Now A National Park And Preserve \(nationalparkstraveler.org\)](http://nationalparkstraveler.org)

River Classifications By Kevin Whiting

Whitewater is rated on a scale of increasing difficulty from Class 1 to Class 6. This classification system provides a useful guide to the technical difficulty of a river, but there are so many other variables that can have a huge impact on the difficulty or danger of a river.

- Is it continuous in nature or drop and pool?
- Is the water warm or freezing in temperature?
- How remote is the run and how far away is help?
- Can you walk out if need be, or is it in a canyon?
- Is portaging an option for all rapids, or are you committed to running everything?

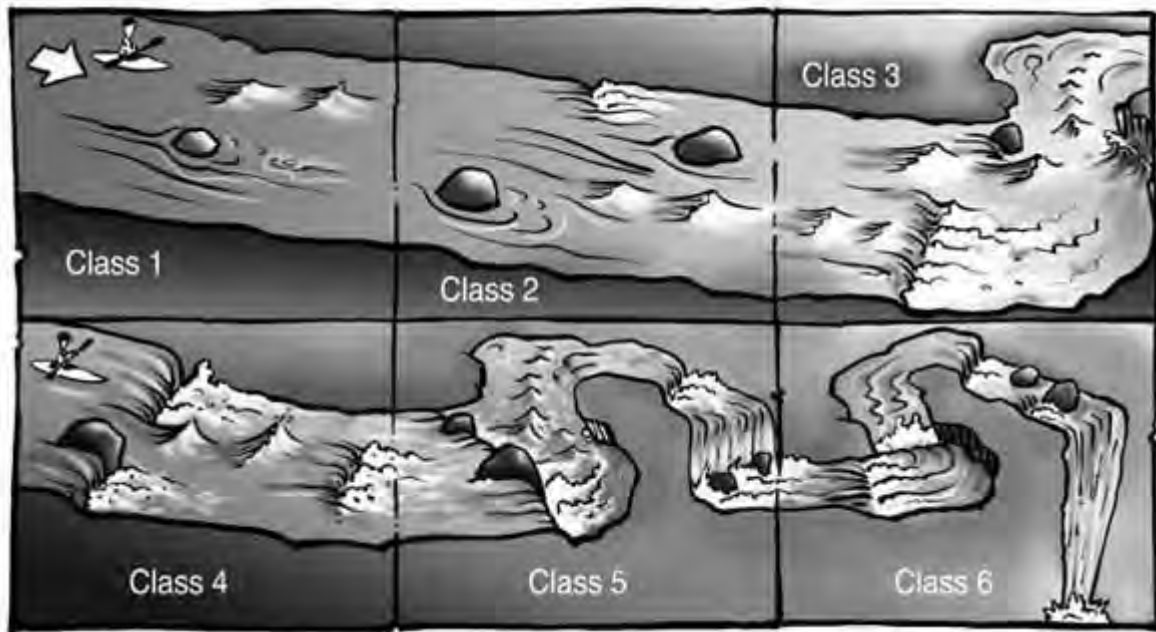
As you can see, there can be massive differences between two rivers of the same class. For this reason, it's your responsibility to find out more about any river you're considering paddling. For many areas, there are guidebooks with detailed descriptions and images of the rivers, and more of these are available each year. It's always a good idea to pick one of these up. You can also ask questions on On-line chat boards or stop in at the local retailer for information. You can never be too well informed.

The classification system is still very useful for giving a river a general level of difficulty. It must be accepted that this system is in no way an exact science, and that it's open to interpretation. Here are some general guidelines for the whitewater classification system.

Class 1 (Easy): Fast-moving current with small waves and few obstructions that are easily avoided. Low-risk. Easy self-rescue.

Class 2 (Novice): Straightforward rapids with wide-open channels that are evident without scouting. Occasional maneuvering is required. Trained paddlers will easily avoid any rocks or medium-sized waves. Swimmers are seldom injured.

Class 3 (Intermediate): Rapids with moderate, irregular waves, strong eddies and currents. Complex maneuvers and good boat control are required. Major hazards are easily avoided. Scouting is recommended for inexperienced paddlers. Self-rescue is usually easy and injuries to swimmers are rare.



Class 4 (Advanced): Powerful, turbulent, and predictable rapids with large, unavoidable waves and holes or constricted passages. Fast and reliable eddy turns and precise boat handling are needed to navigate safely through. Scouting is necessary, and rapids may require "must-make" moves above dangerous hazards. Strong Eskimo roll highly recommended, as there is a moderate to high risk of injury to swimmers. Self-rescue is difficult, so skilled group assistance often needed.

Class 5 (Expert): Extremely long, obstructed, or violent rapids with exposure to substantial risk. Expect large, unavoidable waves and holes, or steep, congested chutes. Eddies may be small, turbulent, difficult to reach, or non-existent. Reliable Eskimo roll, proper equipment, extensive experience, high level of fitness and practiced rescue skills essential for survival. Scouting highly recommended, but may be difficult. Swims are very dangerous and rescues are difficult.

Class 6 (Extreme): These runs exemplify the boundaries of difficulty, unpredictability and danger, and have almost never been attempted, if ever. The consequences of errors are very severe and rescue may be impossible. Only expert teams with ideal conditions and extensive safety systems should ever consider these rapids.

Ken Whiting was the 1997/98 World Whitewater Freestyle Champion. He has produced an award-winning series of instructional kayaking books and DVDs, and leads kayaking trips to Chile. Look for his latest book 'The Ultimate Guide to Whitewater Kayaking', and video 'The Ultimate Guide to Sea Kayaking'. Check out www.helipress.com

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VP:	John Banach	330-606-5032
Secretary:	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

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Geneva, IL 60134

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Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **March 2021 issue of the newsletter is **2/23/2021**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.**

Keel-Hauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
peetzaguy@aol.com
February 2021



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

MARCH, 2021



Next General Club Meeting:

March 23rd via Zoom.

Watch the website for more details.

Mike Gillam, President...President@keelhauler.org

President's Message From Mike Gillam



Almost 60 degrees today! Spring is here, or at least the first false Spring is here....and with warmer weather, longer days, more paddling is certainly in the planning. I am sure by now all of you have seen the new website, if not, you can find it at keelhauler.com The web team did a fabulous job remaking the website! It is (and always will) be a work in progress as pages are changed, updated, etc.. in order to keep things current.

Speaking of Spring, the new website, and paddling, we are still looking for trip organizers. You do not have to be a river expert or an expert paddlers, you just need to want to give something back to the club (and be able to organize a few logistic items). Take a look here

<https://www.keelhauler.com/organize-responsibilities> if you have questions. You can list your trip here <https://www.keelhauler.com/events> if you were a participant in one of our club sponsored events such as free roll sessions or club discounted SWR, organizing a trip is a great way to thank the club! If you have any questions, reach out to me or Dom Bentz.

The Board held a Zoom meeting and with the following items being discussed:

keelhauler.com - After some discussion, we should keep two, keelhauler.com, keelhauler.org. Pop up Information when searching for KH should be changed...Address and Phone Number should be removed, Info Email link to the new website should be added

Membership Committee - For the sake of access and posterity, current and future Membership lists should be put into Google Docs and shared (shared with Treasurer). Short discussion of using Squarespace for membership. Decision was made to leave as is.

Webpage Committee - Should be composed of 3-5 members where everyone has admin rights to make webpage changes as needed (or desired). To begin with, hopefully these volunteers will be current members of the website committee.

Members Taking Advantage of Club Discounts - Expectation is that members who participate and take advantage of club discounts for classes (such as SWR) will organize at least one paddling day. Organization can be shared and trips can be on any river chosen by the organizer.

We will have a general membership meeting via Zoom on March 23 at 7:00 pm. Link will be posted as we get closer.

As always, be safe and play outside!

**Keel-Hauler Treasurer's Report
as of February 28, 2021
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402	\$2,316.05
CD 1077	<u>\$2,313.60</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,629.65

Checking \$15,425.92

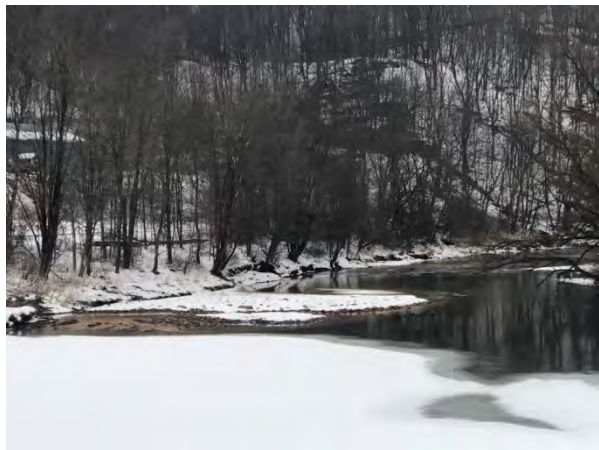
Total \$20,055.57

Conservation Donations have been mailed out. Check out [Our Impact — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#) to see what organizations the club sent money to this year!

Conservation News From Jacki Zevenbergen

Acid mine drainage (AMD) is a problem for many streams where mining has taken place in OH, PA, WV, and other states. It is especially bad in areas where old mines have been abandoned. Over time, old mines cave in and create a sinkhole (subsidence). When water flows through, it becomes acidic and heavy metals go into solution. This is why we sometimes see orange, blue or white discharges into the stream. This acidic water is deadly to fish and other aquatic animals.

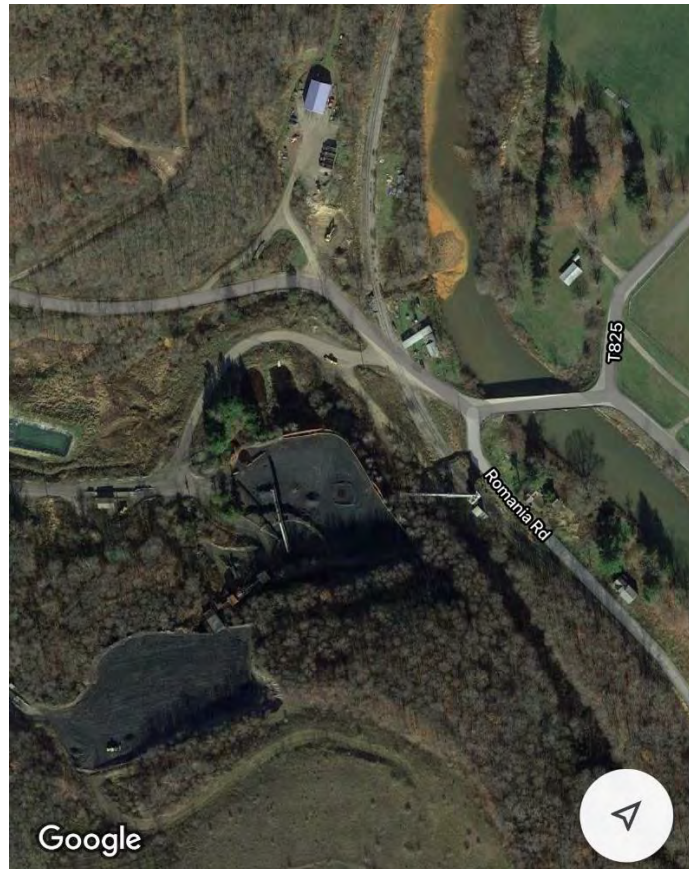
The most common remedies are treating (dosing) the water with alkaline materials to bring up the pH and rerouting water so it doesn't come in contact with the subsidence. Sometimes the site can be re-mined under new regulations that require the site to be managed during mining and restored after to prevent AMD. This is only practical when new technology allows a modern mining company to extract enough product to make the restoration worthwhile.



Pictures from Mountain Watershed Association

In 1993, a combination of heavy snowmelt and **illegal piping** caused a 42 mile fish kill on the Casselman that extended 11 miles into the Yough. After that devastating event, re-mining techniques were used to remediate some of the AMD with the help of \$400,000 in federal funds. A great news article about the event can be found at <https://old.post-gazette.com/regionstate/19981208action2.asp>.

According to the Mountain Watershed Association, the re-mining did not resolve the problem and the current surface mining operation in Meyersdale, PA continues to discharge pollutants into the Casselman in several places. The Google Maps picture shows just one of the continuing discharges into the Casselman right across from a river access point.



Google Maps image showing one of the discharges directly into the Casselman River
<https://goo.gl/maps/kY8hnQF3McEp7pJ9A>

Now the company that runs the Shaw mining operation wants to add a coal waste storage area to the property. They have applied for a permit and all though it is unlikely it will be denied, Mountain Watershed Association is hoping for two things. First, they want strict pollution management terms in the permit. Second, they want the PA Department of Environmental Protection to know that people are concerned and watching. This should help encourage closer monitoring and firmer enforcement.

Many people in the area are dependent on a tourism economy and they see that the coal economy is on its way out. We can encourage these sentiments by sending comments to DEP that stress our interest in recreating in the area and explaining how we spend money while we're there. If you have other connections to the area you may want to express additional

concerns. The **deadline for comments that will be considered for this permit is March 19, 2021**. They must receive them by then. Please send your comments to Bonnie Herbert. Her email is bherbert@pa.gov

The Story of Keel Haulers Outfitters By John Kobak

If you haven't been in our club for at least 20 years, you probably never heard of the little kayak store that grew to become the biggest WW kayak store in the state and then disappearing after over 25 years in the outdoor sports business.

So, I thought I would tell you the story. When I was young, I used to like to buy & sell things and always wondered why I didn't go to college to get a business degree instead of an Engineering degree.

I began working at NASA. I loved the challenge of testing rocket engines. But, I still had this urge to buy and sell things. I sent all my friends to my cousin's tire store for discounted tires and my father-in-law's wholesale feed & seed store in downtown Cleveland. I would sell fertilizer and grass seed and have him deliver a truck load each spring for my co-workers.

But I loved the even more challenging work at NASA. I was a test engineer starting with Rocket engines, then during the 70's energy crisis I worked on clean coal research, Gas Turbine Automobiles and Electric Vehicles. Next batteries and photovoltaic systems and finally preparing to test the Space Station's power generation system. I directed a large team of engineers with a budget of millions of dollars. But I never lost my need to sell something.

In 1967 we bought a canoe from Ohio Canoe Adventures in Sheffield Lake that was in the basement of his house. After I became the treasurer of Keel-Hauler Canoe Club in 1970-71 I began selling canoe paddles and wet suits from our home to our club members.



I thought why not buy canoes and sell them from our home. I found a canoe outfitter on the Mohican River that lived in Westlake. If I bought 3 at a time he would give me wholesale prices

and deliver them to me. I sold these to our club, our neighbors and friends from NASA. This helped me pay for my new sport.

Chuck Singer & I liked to paddle with our families in our canoes but we started to get interested in whitewater. Our wives were not interested in WW canoeing and Chuck and I paddled C-2 together but in early 1971 he bought a kayak, so I lost my partner.

When some kayakers joined our club, more paddlers were switching from canoe to kayak. I bought a new fiberglass kayak from England in the winter of 1971 since very few models were available in the USA.

Several club members started building their own fiberglass kayaks in Hiram, with Chuck Tummonds, but we had no access to use his molds. Since I was always a do-it-yourselfer and had two avid do-it-yourselfer friends from NASA, Pete Wanhainen and Dick Priem. They wanted to try to build fiberglass kayaks, Dick wanted 7 for his whole family, Pete wanted three and I wanted two for me and my son Jeff who was 8 years old.

They suggested why you don't just buy all the material that we will need, since you like to sell stuff. I bought 55 gallons of Polyester Resin, large rolls of fiberglass cloth, color pigment and all the tools we needed to get started. I read how to build molds and good molded fiberglass kayaks. We just needed to build some molds first. Al Eland had just built a Lettman Mark IV slalom kayak from someone's mold so before he put on the cockpit rim we talked him into letting us take a mold off his new kayak. We also needed a kid's kayak, so talked the club president, Gerry Moore, into letting us remove the cockpit rim from his daughter's brand new child's kayak which was a scaled down version on an Old Town design.



Dick, Pete and me laying up our first kayak in my old garage

I had just added a new garage and the old heated garage was available, at least until I converted it into a bedroom. So we had an adult mold and child's kayak mold, we were ready to go. Then a lot of club members also wanted to learn how to build their own kayaks. We built a

total of 20 kayaks that month before my wife Peggy closed up the shop because of the strong odor in our house. I kept a drum of resin on tap but we built the kayaks elsewhere.



Jeff – 9 years old in his new kayak



See all the new kayaks that people were building

We then started to make our own paddles, spray shirts, wet suits, helmets and even PFD's. But a lot of paddlers wanted more and better gear that they could just buy. I started to buy/sell stuff from companies like Seda, Perception, Extrasport, Cannon and Body Glove wetsuits. It wasn't even a real business, since I worked full time for NASA, but it kept growing.

My hours were Mon-Thursday 6pm to 10pm, I went paddling on the weekends. The sport was changing and large companies started making virtually indestructible plastic kayaks. Instead of making your own stuff anymore, everybody was just buying it. At first, I didn't mark things up all that much since these were all my friends and when they wanted something they paid me in advance and I would order it for them.

I found out that if I stocked more boats and gear I could sell even more at a higher price. So off we would go to bring home a load of boats on top of our van and tent trailer. Every year I would find even more things to sell. Now more people were coming to our house at all hours.

Many out of town paddlers were contacting me since our prices were so low. I had no overhead or salaries and had enough cash to get even bigger discounts by preordering kayaks. Even the Ohio Division of Watercraft and Red Cross started to buy boats and gear from me.

I then changed my business plan, realizing the people bought from me because I could tell them the best things to buy to get into the sport. There seemed to be a guy like me in all the large kayak clubs and he was usually the one helping their club members buy from me. So I set up mini-dealers in: Pittsburgh, Oil City, PA, Dayton & Cincinnati, OH and Columbia, MO. These club dealers would sell to their members and I would give them an additional discount that would be their profit. This way less people came over or called me.

In the late 70's I created a small catalog that I mailed to all of my customers. I would send out 2-3 per year. So I was now in the mail order business. The business grew to one of the largest kayak dealers around but even though it brought in money that Peggy and I could use to travel, she was not happy with UPS coming to our home every day as well as an occasional semi-truck dropping off boats or 55 gallon drums of resin.

I needed some sleeping bags so I called a manufacturer for samples and then started to sell them as well. These same companies made Polarguard and Down jackets. It seemed whenever I needed something I would just call up another manufacturer and buy for myself and then for the business. All these manufacturers had no problem selling to me because I always paid my bills on-time. I used to take these jackets to work in 1980 and must have sold over a hundred of them. Everybody I knew had one and they never wore out.

Perception started giving me a hard time about not having a real store and selling their kayaks at a big discount. I said because of my low overhead I could do that but they dropped me and many other backyard dealers from buying their boats. It didn't turn out too well for them. I mentioned this to a friend in the Federal Trade Commission and then they sued Perception for price fixing. Perception had put in writing why they were dropping us all as dealers. They had to reinstate their dealers and offer to make up for any lost sales.

My home was not zoned for business but the neighbors and the police knew I ran the business since they bought things from me as well. My son Jeff helped run the store and send out packages.

To be continued in next month's April newsletter.....

Trip Organizers Needed for 2021

We need trip organizers for 2021. Please volunteer to help. Fill out an easy online form to organize a trip: [Add Event — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#). Any questions? Email Mike Gillam at President@keelhauler.org

Upcoming Trip: Saturday, March 27: [Class II - KH 13 - Slippery Rock Creek](#)
[Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#)

Permanent Grand Canyon Mining Ban Advances to the Senate From the Grand Canyon Trust



by Amber Reimondo, Energy Director, February 26, 2021

The Grand Canyon region is no place to mine uranium. Indigenous tribes and nations have long known this and the [Havasupai Tribe](#) has led the decades-long campaign to protect the region — their homeland — from uranium mining. In 2021, that hard work is bearing fruit.

In the span of just two weeks, the Grand Canyon Protection Act, a bill that would make permanent a current temporary mining ban on about 1 million acres of public lands near Grand Canyon National Park, has been introduced in both chambers and passed out of the House.

ABOUT THE BILLS

[H.B. 1052, the House version of the Grand Canyon Protection Act ›](#)

[S. 387, the Senate version of the Grand Canyon Protection Act ›](#)

Mining interests hold over 600 active mining claims around the Grand Canyon, apparently still counting on the day when the temporary ban will be lifted, especially after they lobbied the Trump administration and Congress for millions of taxpayer dollars to pay them above market price for uranium mined from U.S. soil.

But the bottom line is our country doesn't need to mine uranium around the Grand Canyon. Only 0.2 percent of identified uranium resources are located on public lands protected by the temporary mining ban here. And industry itself has admitted that the entire state of Arizona holds just 2.2 percent of all reasonably assured uranium resources in the country.

Take action. [Urge your senators to support and co-sponsor the Grand Canyon Protection Act ›](#)

Full Article link: [Permanent Grand Canyon Mining Ban Advances to the Senate | Grand Canyon Trust](#)

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Kelly Miller, Editor
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peetzaguy@aol.com
March 2021



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

APRIL, 2021



Next General Club Meeting:

Watch the website for more details.

Mike Gillam, President...President@keelhauler.org

President's Message From Mike Gillam



Well, I think these past couple of weekends might have ushered in the 2021 paddling season. Warmer weather, sunny skies, and anxious paddlers made the "local" Slippery Rock a very busy place! New paddlers, experienced paddlers, all were enjoying getting on the river after a long winter (and even longer Covid season). I am looking forward to seeing everyone playing on the river this year. We have some trips planned, but we are still looking for more trip leaders. Some weekday paddles are happening on Cleveland area rivers and some weekday Slip trips will be getting started soon. At this time, it looks like StonyFest is back on! It would be a great weekend to see large club turnout! Newer paddlers get a few runs on the upper Slip and join us for the next step! There will be plenty of experienced paddlers to partner up with, and the Fest is always a great time!

Plans are in the making for our summer club meeting/paddling weekend paddling. There were numerous requests to move our meeting from Tall Oaks, due to poor upkeep, etc... This move may necessitate moving to a different weekend. Benners is an option, but we will need to be the last weekend in July or move to another month. I am also looking into moving the meeting to Carpenter Park, on the StonyCreek. If so, currently there is a release scheduled for July 17-18. I will share more info when I know more. If you have any suggestions/comments, please shoot me an email or text mikegillam61@gmail.com or 440-328-5547.

As always, play outside and have fun!

Mike

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of March 29, 2021
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402	\$2,316.23
CD 1077	<u>\$2,314.22</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,630.45

Checking \$14,927.61

Total \$19,558.06

**Membership Report
From John Kobak**

I would like to welcome the 28 new memberships who joined our club since the first of the year.

This is our biggest membership gain in a three month period for the past 20 years.

We now have almost 300 family memberships.

I know all our club members will welcome and help these new members advance their paddling skills and make them feel welcome on all our paddling trips.

You can see where all our members are from by viewing the membership directory, if the member chose to have their name listed in our password protected yearbook. User name: **dir**, The Password stays the same all year and is shown in the e-mail that is sent to club members each month.

<https://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook21.pdf>

New Members in 2021

Ackerman, Jon & Jenna

Allen, Tom

Bailey, Katelyn & Robert

Binder, Erik & Cung Dao

Bires, Nancy & Fran

Bixby, Brianne

Bowman, Carla

Conochan, Patrick & Sandy

Dorsey, Kathleen

Dunegan, John & Jessica

English, Gwen

Engstrom, Ken & Michele

Flower, Daniel

Flynn, Stephen

Giddens, Jeremy & Kelly

Kronk, Paul & Autumn Frist

Luecke, Mark

Merz, Rebecca

Miko, Bob & Nancy

Moore, Randy

Nobilio, Tom

Nunnari, Dee

Ryder, David & Polly

Slanina, Sara & Doug

Walker, Chris & Becca

Warren, Paul

Woodward, April & Justin

Yax, Max & Mallory

Conservation News From Jacki Zevenbergen

As spring melts the snow, we see a lot of ugly trash around the river. Kudos to Keelhauler Brian Smart for initiating a trash cleanup at the Doodlebug area of the Cuyahoga River. Keelhaulers and friends pitched in to help Brian gather a variety of trash that probably would have ended in the river. If anyone else wants to organize a trash pickup on or near their favorite paddle spot, please let me know if you need help or supplies. Our friends at American Rivers will provide really nice trash bags and advertise if you register your cleanup with them. They have great advice for how to organize a cleanup. If you want to play with some new technology, they can help you set up a challenge using the Litterati App. The app will allow participants to tag the types of trash they are finding so the information can be added to the American Rivers national database. Go to <https://www.americanrivers.org/make-an-impact/national-river-cleanup/> to

organize a cleanup, volunteer or take a litter pledge. Spring is a great time to see and remove litter - before the vegetation fills in and hides it. Here's hoping that spring rains fill the rivers with clean water – SYOTRS

The Story of Keel Haulers Outfitters-PART 2

By John Kobak

But, Peggy finally put her foot down in 1984 and said I needed to sell the business. However it is very hard to find someone willing and able to buy a business that didn't have a store front. Most of my paddling friends that I thought could take it over had no money to buy the inventory. I didn't know what to do.

Jeff was going to Cleveland State at the time to get a business degree. He said he hated school and could run the business full time. Peggy said that may be OK but the business has to go.

I needed to find commercial property that he could rent that was close to the interstate or turnpike because of all the out of state customers, it should be livable and with enough room to expand and display boats.



We found this Century Home on Lorain Rd in North Olmsted, I bought it as soon as I saw it although it needed a lot of repair and upgrades.



It had a two story barn for the boats.

The four bedroom house was on business property and only 1/2 mile from I-480 and 1 mile from the Turnpike. We couldn't have found a more ideal location.



It had a nice entrance directly to the basement store.

Of course it was not in the best shape so I had to replace the windows and have aluminum siding installed. We added some parking places. The barn was ready to fall down so we reinforced the structure and got rid of the resident raccoons. The basement was small, but it even had a change room, an old coal bin, to try on wetsuits. Jeff added shelving and displays. I created a point of sale computer program with inventory control records. So, he was now a 21 yr. old business owner.

Jeff got rid of the mini-dealers and expanded his product line to include Sea & Recreational

Kayaks. He expanded his catalog and the mail order business. He was a great salesman and the sole employee.



Jeff had built the business up to over 6000 customers from all over the world. He had products from over 70 manufacturers. However his prices were a little too low to ensure he made enough profit to support his growing family.

Jeff had gotten married in 1986 and by 1994 after their third child was born he realized that he needed to find a better job with more potential than this seasonal business or he would not be able to support his growing family.

Jeff tried to sell the business and found he had the same trouble as I did. Very few qualified buyers were interested. Keel

Haulers Outfitters slowly went away by selling off the entire remaining inventory. So by 2000 the business ceased to exist.

In 1994 I retired from my job at NASA after 36 years. I loved every minute of my time there and the people I worked with, but by that time I had no interest into going back into the retail business again. I guess I lost my desire to sell things.

Jeff still lives ½ mile away and has 8 children, four of which have completed college and have moved away.

Trip Organizers Needed for 2021 Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club

We need trip organizers for 2021. Please volunteer to help. Fill out an easy online form to organize a trip: [Add Event — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#). Any questions? Email Mike Gillam at President@keelhauler.org

Saturday, April 17

Class II - KH 8 - Grand River

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - First Saturday Release-Needs Organizer

Saturday, April 24

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Saturday Release-Needs Organizer

Saturday, May 1

Class III - KH Rating: 18 - North Branch Potomac

Class III-IV - KH Rating: 29 - Cheat Canyon Massacre-ence Race

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Saturday Release-Needs Organizer

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Keel-Hauler Ka-news
Kelly Miller, Editor
April 2021



Keel-hauler's Ka-news MAY, 2021



Next General Club Meeting:

Saturday, July 31st

Benner's Meadow Run Camping & Cabins

See some details below and watch the website for more details.

Mike Gillam, President...President@keelhauler.org

President's Message From Mike Gillam



The road to Eckert Bridge is getting patched, the weather is getting warmer (slowly), the summer campout/meeting has been scheduled...things are looking up! The Slip has been seeing a lot of paddlers and we have some great trips coming up. One of the best ways to get some water

time, gain experience on a large number of rivers, and meet some new paddling friends, is to sign up for one of our scheduled trips. And for those who have the desire, organize a trip, and help get paddlers on the water!

Speaking of the summer meeting/campout weekend, we have reserved <https://bennersmeadowrun.com/> for the weekend of July 29-August 1. The schedule usually includes a Ladies Only Day (confirmed), a Middle Yough trip, and multiple Lower Yough trips. The Stoney is also scheduled to release that weekend, but late summer releases are contingent on the amount of summer rainfall. If you have not run the LOYO, and have some experience on the Upper Slip (at various levels), this IS the weekend to give it a try. There will be a lot of LOYO experienced paddlers this weekend, so there will be plenty of help to identify lines or help gather gear...Our meeting will be Saturday evening, burgers and dogs, pop, condiments will be provided. I am not sure if we will be doing pot luck or purchasing sides for the group (using a volunteer server), trying to balance member concerns, safety, and practicality. More information will be coming as we get closer. **A group camping area has been reserved with a deposit.** As we get closer to the weekend, more information will be forthcoming. I didn't want anyone to reserve online and pay, since we have already paid for the site. It will be great to see everyone again!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Have fun and play outside!

Mike

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of April 29, 2021
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402	\$2,316.42
CD 1077	<u>\$2,314.90</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,631.32

Checking \$15,256.05

Total \$19,887.37

Conservation News From Jacki Zevenbergen

It's spring cleaning time. Please contact the friends or watershed group for your favorite river and find out when they're doing their spring stream cleanups. Most groups try to get to it before the vegetation all comes in and they're probably looking for volunteers. If you get information, please share it with me or announce the event on Facebook so others can help if they're in the area. Here are links to more information for a few Yough cleanups.

[Connellsville Yough River Cleanup, May 1 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm](#)

[West Newton Yough River Cleanup, May 22 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm](#)

Be On the Lookout.... From Kelly Miller

Many of our membership have been receiving spam emails from people pretending to be members of the club. Most of the time they are asking for money, gift cards, etc. Please be on the lookout for these types of emails. You can usually hover over the name and see the email address that the request is coming from. If you have any doubt and before acting, please contact the person by an address in the yearbook, or use the email addresses on the website. Please do not be a victim of these scams. Below is an example of a fake email request that I received this month:

From Mike Gillam (19phyl51jim@ntelos.net)

Hello Kelly,

Are you available to assist? I am quite unavailable now and I've got credence in you to take care of this. Keelhauler Canoe Club need some gift cards for donation to Veterans at Hospice and Palliative care units for preventive items from Corona Disease (COVID-19). I am liable for reimbursement. Need more info?

Sincerely yours,

Mike Gillam *President*
Keelhauler Canoe Club
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134

March Slippery Rock Trip

By Jacki Zevenbergen

The first official 2021 Keelhauler trip was a success! It was a beautiful day. We originally planned to paddle both sections but the water levels were low so we decided to get out at Eckert Bridge. That was more difficult than it sounds since the Fire Department was doing safety training and there wasn't much space to park at the bridge. We had 14 paddlers of all different skill levels. We even had a duckie in our group.

In the true Keelhauler spirit, the experienced boaters provided good advice and moral support for those who were less experienced. I really appreciated all the support I received since this was the first trip that I ever organized. I encourage newer members to offer to organize some trips. You don't have to be a great paddler- there are plenty of people who will help you out if you ask. If you don't whitewater, plan something on flatwater. Lots of Keelhaulers canoe, sea kayak, paddle board, camp and just generally like a pleasant day on the water with friends and family.

Breakneck Campground had graciously opened up for the Keelhaulers who wanted to camp. Thanks to Jeremiah for organizing that part of the trip. After we finished paddling, some of the group went back to the campground for steaks on the grill while several of us went out for dinner on our way home. Thank you to everyone who participated.



**The Birth and Early Years of the
Keel-haulers Canoe Club
By Tom Annable as recalled by Hank, Tom & Reeny
Annable, Written in 2016**

Part 1:

John Kobak proposed in the past that "old time club members" post a story in a future newsletter about the early days of the club. Hank Annable, being the only remaining active charter member of the club, is worthy of posting many stories about the club, but his most interesting collection of stories may be about the "birth" of the Keel-Haulers and his memories of its initial years.

So, Hank's recollections as told to his son, Tom, and daughter, Reeny, over several family dinners (and a few beers), as well as information gleaned from early club catalogues, presents the following account of the first years of the club. It must be understood that many of the "facts" presented in this article are from the sometimes imperfect memories of Hank (age 86), Tom (61), and Reeny (60), ages in 2016.....

In the spring of 1967 Reece Fabbro, owner of Ohio Canoe Adventures in Sheffield Lake, Ohio and Bill Conrad, local canoeing enthusiast, also of Sheffield Lake, got together with the idea of forming a club for canoeists. They submitted an article to the local newspapers asking anyone who was interested in joining such a club to meet at the local chapter of the Elyria Red Cross. In addition to Bill and Reece, attendees at the first meeting included: Hank Annable of Oberlin, John and Sharon Maroney, and Michael Rubin of Elyria, Jerry Vencel of N. Ridgeville, John and Doris Hutton of Westlake, Randy Morgan of W. Richfield, and a few others.

Because minutes of these first planning meetings are available, it's not remembered exactly how the Keel-Haulers club name or logo was determined, though much discussion and debate assuredly took place. It is believed that a flag and wood panel depicting "Mr. Keel-Hauler" were created, but their whereabouts today is unknown, though, this writer believes they may be stored away somewhere in Hank's garage among his many boats, paddles, and assorted camping and paddling gear.

The first elected Club officers in 1967 were: Bill Conrad-President, Jerry Vencel-V. President, Doris Hutton-Secretary and John Hutton-Treasurer. According to the 1968 yearbook, Bill and Jerry again served in their respective positions while Audrey & Paul Snahnican served as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Standing Committee Chairmen in 1968 were: Randy Morgan-Conservation, Hank Annable- Recreation, Sharon Maroney- Information, and Michael Rubin- Safety. It is interesting to note that the first membership roster that was located (1968) included 54 individual/family memberships. The Club's first "Aims and

Bylaws", printed in the 1970 catalog, listed the annual membership fee as \$5.00.

The Club's initial goals/purpose, as printed in 1968, was:

"The purposes of our club are recreation, safety, information, and conservation. The four preceding purposes run together in all of our activities. We do not value any one of these purposes higher than the other."

Our present membership consists of people interested in: canoe cruising, white water shooting, racing and sailing. We do not in any way consider ourselves as professional. Our club wants to form a membership group who are basically interested in having a good time pursuing canoeing interests.

Our 1968 events will consist of canoe cruising of various rivers with overnight camping stops, white water shooting in season, endurance races covering various distances, and canoe sailing. The club sponsors two monthly events. Members, of course, can get together at any time to pursue any canoeing interest.

Our meetings and events allow for complete exchange of information and experiences among our members. Any members of our club will gladly answer any questions that any interested person may have.

Persons interested in becoming members are urged to attend any monthly club meeting at the Elyria Red Cross building located on West River Road. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m."

The 1968 schedule of activities ran from March to November and included trips to the: Mohican River, Vermilion River, Sandusky River, Killbuck Creek, Kokosing River, Findley Lake, Clarion River, PA, French Creek, PA, Mohican River, Youghiogheny River, PA, Piedmont Reservoir, Kinzua Reservoir, PA, the initial Sandusky Race, Lake Erie, Walhonding River, Youghiogheny River, PA, and the Cuyahoga River.

Additional canoeing events presented to the membership in 1968 included: the Mad Hatters Canoe Race, the National Whitewater Canoe Championships in PA, a Boy Scout canoe race, Little Miami Canoe Race in Cincinnati, Cleveland Lakefront Canoe Race, and whitewater schools in Brinkhaven, OH and Pennsylvania.

Official Trip Rules/Guidelines were printed as: 1. Always be careful..., 2. Courtesy is essential..., 3. In Camp, the family is the controlling unit..., 4. Practice conservation..., 5. Obey all state boating regulations..., 6. Rules established by campground operators must be observed..., and 7. The trip captain is authorized to exercise judgement in interpreting these rules....

Suggestions made for comfort, health, and safety were also printed as: life jackets are recommended..., for cold weather use a wet suit or bring a change of clothes in a

waterproof bag..., bring rain gear, first aid kit, and sun protection..., for overnight trips bring camping & cooking gear..., bring enough food & water for the trip's duration..., bring a spare paddle, bailing bucket & sponge..., advise the trip leader of any physical limitations you may have..., the trip is more fun if you are in good physical condition..., and have your gear packed so you can get on the water promptly....

Everything considered, the initial Club organizers put together a very extensive list of trips, safety guidelines and recommendations for enjoying the rivers and lakes that the group was planning to enjoy. Hank Annable has always been very involved in the progress of the Keel-Haulers.



Hank & Reeny on the Cattaraugus Creek (NY) in 1970

He served as Club President in 1970 and was "gung-ho" those first years as evidenced by his active participation in nearly all of the trips the Club planned. This was undoubtedly caused by his undying lifelong love of the outdoors and search for adventure. One needs to understand that Hank, as a 15 year old living in Oberlin, drove a Ford Model A jalopy across the country to Seattle, WA with buddies Dick Gilbert and Jim Watson. He also took his new bride, Suzie, to the territory of Alaska in the early 1950's to begin their married lives together. So, he never had any trouble taking his young children to all of the outings he attended in the early Club years. Tom and Reeny learned very early (and young Chucky several years later) how to paddle the canoe and eventually the kayak. The open Grumman evolved to fiberglass whitewater boats, which became the family norm.

To be continued in the next newsletter.....

Support Whitewater Access in the Cheat Canyon and Big Sandy

For the past 15 years, Friends of the Cheat has developed and maintained access to the Cheat Canyon and Big Sandy Rivers in Albright, Rockville, and Jenkinsburg through our Whitewater Access program. In 2006, Friends of the Cheat partnered with American Whitewater to lease the Jenkinsburg Access for 25 Years. We then raised \$25,000 and arranged for a \$15,000 match from the West Virginia DEP. We are now working closely with the [West Virginia Land Trust](#), which took ownership of the land last Fall. In 2007, FOC partnered with Chesapeake Energy, who donated the land that was to become the Rockville Access on the Big Sandy. After a land swap with Allegheny Wood Products, the parking lot was improved.

In 2009, Friends of the Cheat began a decade-long project to stabilize and maintain the Rockville and Jenkinsburg Shuttle Roads. With state highway budgets cut to the bone, roads like this are simply ignored. The Whitewater Access Campaign is a long-term project. We've raised over \$139,000 to improve parking and maintain the roads used by river runners and hikers thanks to the generosity of hundreds of Cheat River Lovers just like you!

Please help as much as you're able. **\$100 renews your annual Friends of the Cheat membership; \$300 will get you a 2021 Cheat River Festival T-Shirt*** (please indicate your size in the "comments to seller" box in Paypal, or on the memo line of your check). *Cheat Fest shirts will ship after May 1st.

[Donate to the FOC 2021 Whitewater Access Campaign](#)



This year, with a goal of \$10,000, we are focusing again on continued maintenance and repairs on the Jenkinsburg access road: grading ditching, and filling. After a heavy winter, the hairpin turn just above the parking area is in particularly bad shape. FOC aims to have all repairs completed by May – just in time for the Cheat Canyon Massacre-ence on Saturday, May 1st.

Extended into 2021! The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act will let taxpayers deduct up to \$300 (\$600 for couples) in charitable donations from their taxable income. Taxpayers will be able to claim the deductions on their tax forms next year.

The Rockville Bridge remains closed after being shut down by DOH in August of 2020. Paddlers can use the road from Pisgah to reach the FOC public access point - but fair warning - the road is in bad shape. Only 4-wheel drive vehicles with a generous clearing should attempt this.

In 2020, the West Virginia Land Trust (WVLT) acquired the Jenkinsburg Recreation Area, securing and protecting it for future river and trail public access. FOC will continue to manage the area in partnership with WVLT - and assist in future improvements.

Trip Organizers Needed for 2021 **Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club**

We need trip organizers for 2021. Please volunteer to help. Fill out an easy online form to organize a trip: [Add Event — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#). Any questions? Email Mike Gillam at President@keelhauler.org

Saturday, May 1

Class III - KH Rating: 18 - North Branch Potomac
 Class III-IV - KH Rating: 29 - Cheat Canyon Massacre-ence Race
 Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Saturday Release

Sunday, May 2

Class III - KH Rating: 18 - North Branch Potomac

Monday, May 3

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Monday Release

Thursday, May 6

5:00pm Weekly Slip Run

Thursday, May 13

5:00pm Weekly Slip Run

Friday, May 14

Class II - KH Rating: All skill levels - NOC Women's Weekend Kayak Retreat - Spring Session
 Flatwater - KH 8 - Allegheny River kayak/canoe camping

Saturday, May 15

Class II - KH Rating: All skill levels - NOC Women's Weekend Kayak Retreat - Spring Session
 Flatwater - KH 8 - Allegheny River kayak/canoe camping
 Class II - KH Rating: 19 - Dry Fork of the Cheat with a North Branch Fall back

Sunday, May 16

Class II - KH Rating: All skill levels - NOC Women's Weekend Kayak Retreat - Spring Session
 Flatwater - KH 8 - Allegheny River kayak/canoe camping
 Class II - KH Rating: 19 - Dry Fork of the Cheat with a North Branch Fall back

Tuesday, May 18

5:00pm

Roll Practice - Nimisila Reservoir

Thursday, May 20

5:00pm

Weekly Slip Run

Saturday, May 22

Class III - KH 13-21 - Stonycreek - Canyon

Sunday, May 23

Class III - KH 13-21 - Stonycreek - Canyon

Tuesday, May 25

5:00pm

Roll Practice - Indigo Lake

Thursday, May 27

5:00pm

Weekly Slip Run

Saturday, May 29

Class II - KH 13 - Slippery Rock Creek
 Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Saturday Release

Monday, May 31

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Monday Release

2021 Club Officers

President:	Mike Gillam	440-328-5547
VP:	John Banach	330-606-5032
Secretary:	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send to: **Keel-haulers Canoe Club**
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.com and 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. 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 2021** issue of the newsletter is **5/23/2021**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Ka-news
Kelly Miller, Editor
May 2021



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

JUNE, 2021



2021 Stonycreek Rendezvous - Class II - III Options

Saturday, May 22, 2021, 8:00 AM through Sunday, May 23, 2021

Greenhouse Park, Green House Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905 [\[map\]](#)

The 2021 Rendezvous is on! Keel-Haulers will have a large presence at this event. If you would like to paddle with us, fill out the form below and we will ensure that you are placed in a group appropriate for your goals and skill level. [Here are details about the event and camping straight from the organizers.](#)

Form: [2021 Stonycreek Rendezvous - Class II - III Options — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club \(keelhauler.com\)](#)

Contact: Dom

Email: domenic.bentz@gmail.com

Phone 419-618-8266

The Keel-hauler's have Pavilion No. 5. Everyone is encouraged to setup around it. Please be respectful of your fellow Keel-hauler's and other boaters regarding noise, music, etc.



Next General Club Meeting:

Saturday, July 31st

Benner's Meadow Run Camping & Cabins

If you have not run the LOYO and have some experience on the Upper Slip (at various levels), this IS the weekend to give it a try. There will be a lot of LOYO experienced paddlers this weekend, so there will be plenty of help to identify lines or help gather gear... The Stoney is also scheduled to release that weekend, but late summer releases are contingent on the amount of summer rainfall. Our meeting will be Saturday evening, burgers and dogs, pop, condiments will be provided. I am not sure if we will be doing pot luck or purchasing sides for the group (using a volunteer server), trying to balance member concerns, safety, and practicality. More information will be coming as we get closer. **A group camping area has been reserved with a deposit.** As we get closer to the weekend, more information will be forthcoming. I didn't want anyone to reserve online and pay, since we have already paid for the site. It will be great to see everyone again!

Watch the website for more details.

Mike Gillam, President...President@keelhauler.org

Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report as of May 19, 2021 From Kelly Miller

CD 0402	\$2,316.42
CD 1077	<u>\$2,314.90</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,631.32

Checking \$14,622.95

Total \$19,254.27

Conservation News From Jacki Zevenbergen

Just a few decades after a 1969 Cuyahoga River fire caught the attention of the nation, Friends of the Crooked River (FoCR) began an annual day of stewardship and celebration of the water quality improvements that were being made in the Cuyahoga River, its tributaries, and Lake Erie. They called it RiverDay. About 5 years ago FoCR turned the event over to Cuyahoga River Restoration (CRR). CRR is also a non-profit organization but they had some staff and the all-volunteer FoCR was getting ready to embark on the ambitious dam removal project in Brecksville. This year CRR will hold the Cuyahoga River Day celebration on Saturday, June 26th - close to the June 22nd anniversary of the 1969 fire. I know that

many Keel-hauler's hail from areas outside of NE Ohio, but the restoration of the Cuyahoga is a story much bigger than one river in recovery. It is a testament to the progress that can be made when people pull together to support stewardship of and advocacy for rivers. It helped to provide the impetus for the Clean Water Act and the establishment of the US Environmental Protection Agency by Richard Nixon. Please go to <http://www.crookedriverday.org/> and find something to do to celebrate the Cuyahoga River watershed or plan your own event and submit it to CRR. Register a stream cleanup at American Rivers and CRR or plant vegetation or stencil storm drains. Organize a public paddle, paint a river picture, sing a song in her honor or raise a glass to celebrate her. If the Cuyahoga is out of reach, honor your favorite river instead. If you need ideas, call or email me - my contact info is in the directory. On June 26 just "Get Out!" and celebrate water that is safe for paddlers.

Family Friendly Summer Picnic

Calling parents and non-whitewater paddlers! Please contact Jacki Zevenbergen at jackizeven@gmail.com to join in our planning for flatwater paddling and other family friendly activities during the summer meeting at Benner's. PM me on Facebook or use the directory for contact information. We should have plenty of flatwater members to set up flatwater trips and non- paddling members to set up non-paddling activities (including lounging by the pool). Some Keel-hauler parents might like to take their kids on the river while others may just want to hike and let their kids enjoy the [campground amenities](#) like swimming, miniature golf, playground and a game room. Please help us plan a nice event for every member.

New KHCC Website By John Kobak

Now that you have been using our new website for the past 5 months I would like some feedback and suggestions about our new website.

<https://www.keelhauler.com/>

Our website team worked hard on different sections of the new site:

John Kobak	john@keelhauler.org	Brian Smart	bsmartpcs@gmail.com
Megan Thompson	meganthompson@musician.org	Kelly Miller	peetzaguy@aol.com
Domenic Bentz	domenic.bentz@gmail.com	Chloe Shepherd	

The more feedback we receive the better the new site will be.

1. Does the site work better or worse for the things you access it for?
2. Which section(s) works best?
3. Which section(s) need improvement, please share detailed criticism.
4. Which section(s) that were on old site are you still looking for?
5. Does the site need more (which will slow the site) or fewer pictures?
6. Should we create a Used Equipment Page or just use existing Facebook or Craigslist sites?

Please submit your comments to me, **John Kobak** at john@keelhauler.org.

The old website <https://www.keelhauler.org/> will continue to be operational, including our Forum (Message Board) for at least one more year, but many of the links now go to the new website.

**North Branch of the Potomac
May 1st and 2nd
By Mark Spang**

A collection of red, blue, green and yellow kayaks atop vehicles at West Virginia's Barnum Whitewater Area was not what the fishermen scouting a riverbank for the weekend wanted to see.

They hadn't checked the Army Corps of Engineers schedule, so the sight of brightly colored boats was their notice that this was one of four spring weekends designated for a whitewater release from the Jennings Randolph Dam. The increased flow would bring the North Branch of the Potomac River up over 1,000 cfs. One fisherman explained that when the flow gets that high, more than twice a typical fishing weekend, it is tough to get a fishing lure down to the trout.

But that's OK, he said. He'd move over to the nearby Savage River. The level of the Savage is also determined by dam release, but a whitewater flow wasn't scheduled to happen there until June 5. The good-natured angler wished us a good run.

Even though we drove through near constant rain on the way down the PA Turnpike from Cleveland -- the Youghiogheny River to our north was on the rise to near 4 feet by Saturday morning -- the flow on the North Branch of the Potomac River was still scheduled for a predictable but exciting whitewater release of 1000 cfs.

Thankfully, for tent campers, the rain ended by Friday evening and the stars came out as boaters continued to navigate through the hills to the campground. The group for the weekend included Eric Tucker and Lisa Brand who rented one of the 10 Mineral County Parks & Recreation primitive cabins along the river with Debbie Avallone and Sue Taft. Camping with the white noise of the river close by were Craig Bell, Mark Spang, Jackie Gosselin Zevenbergen, Brianna Wiser and Alissa Wilhelm. John Black arrived with his teardrop trailer in tow. Running the North Branch was a personal first for Craig, Jackie, Brianna, Alissa and John. For all, it was a return after a 2020 season throttled by Covid.

With the skies cleared and the stars coming out, the temperature dropped toward the upper 30s, but we were thankful to Craig for stoking a campfire for some heat before retreating to sleeping bags.

No need to set your alarm while camping in the Whitewater Area. The Army Corps sounds a siren when the water is about to rise. So, at 7 a.m. as the increased flow begins, the siren blares for about 5 minutes straight, giving campers a taste of what it may have been like in London during the blitz. Still not awake? The siren wails again just before 8 a.m. According to the schedule, the full flow is reached by 10 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. The siren system was installed last year, according to the Cumberland Times News, to warn people that the water could rise quickly.

Though the whitewater release is pretty gradual and not much of a threat, the sirens were built for an event like one in July 2017 when a big storm upstream dumped seven inches of rain on the watershed. The lake rose so quickly that the dam operators were forced to quickly release a flow of 7,000 cubic feet.

That would have made for a quick paddle from Barnum to Bloomington.



Photo taken by Chuck McDowell

Hot-to-cold was a bit of a theme for the weekend. Three layers were required to leave the sleeping bag, but as it neared time to run shuttle and prepare to put-in, the sun shone brightly and a bald eagle put on show majestically flying down river. Pulling on a couple layers under dry suits under the warming sun felt like overkill but to keep the cold-water loving trout happy, the Army Corps releases from the bottom of the dam where the water temperature hovers near 50 degrees. Once on the river, cooling off was no problem.

Joining the group on at the takeout in Bloomington, near the confluence of the North Branch and the Savage Rivers, on Saturday morning were Chuck McDowell, JB Day and Jeff Wilson. They caught a ride back to the put-in, bringing the total for Saturday to 13 Keel-hauler's.

It is worth noting that the air in town is much clearer now that the Verso Co. paper mill has ceased operation. It closed in June of 2019 after 131 years of operation, eliminating 675 jobs, according to the Baltimore Sun. Those who have paddled the North Branch in the past will recall the strong odor coming

from the stacks at the plant near the takeout. The loss of jobs was not good economic news for the area, but the cleaner air makes it more attractive to visitors.

At the put-in, a line hand painted onto an old bridge abutment showed the water was indeed at the 1,000 cfs mark. We launched and ferried to the Maryland side of the river where an eddy takes you up to a typewriter surf wave with a play hole right behind it that can get you all warmed up (or flipped and cooled off) rather quickly.

After counting heads we started down river and found an eddy with a rock well positioned for some peel-out practice. But it wasn't long before a paddler from another group was spotting having an out-of-boat experience. We gave him and his boat an assist to the riverbank, made sure he was OK and we moved on.

The sun sparkled on the waves hopping back upstream as the river met resistance from the rocks below. Whitewater on the top section of the North Branch is fairly consistent and we eddy-hopped our way down toward a section of ledge drops that create a series of surfable waves. The top waves can only be caught on the fly, but the lower ones can be reached with the help of eddies and ferrying through small holes.

Below that is a section of rock garden waves leading to a pool called Blue Hole with a majestic cliff on river left, sometimes used as a jump rock by rafting groups.

The river then turns left through a rock garden and dumps into a pool with the Lunch Stop play hole at its entrance, a good place to watch play boaters try their hand at surfing or spinning in the rather bouncy hole.

A Class II-III river, the North Branch leaves plenty of room to maneuver for the most part. The rapid listed as most difficult on the river is Robin's Nest, which has a hole near the middle of the river and a chute on river left that carries you past the hole. Typically, a North Branch paddle includes a few flips, swims and rescues, but this solid group of 13 kept the helmet-side up all day Saturday.

The next memorable rapid comes at the bottom of a visible gradient in the form of a wave train known as Top of the World. Stay in the main waves on the right and get a splashy ride lifting boats up as much as six feet.

The watch for surf waves continued to the takeout where bright sun greeted paddlers happily peeling off clammy dry suits.

It was back up to camp at Barnum where the dam release was coming to an end for the day and previously submerged rocks began to surface again.

After dinner and campfire, it was time to crash, wait for the next 7 a.m. siren and repeat on Sunday with a crew of 8. Thanks to Craig, who opted for backpacking on Sunday and offered to drive the shuttle, we got all the vehicles at the takeout for a quick exit and ride home.

Dam, that was fun.

**The Birth and Early Years of the
Keel-haulers Canoe Club
By Tom Annable as recalled by Hank, Tom & Reeny
Annable, Written in 2016**

Part 2:

One of Hank's earliest whitewater paddling memories was when he and Tom paddled the Youghiogheny River for the first time in the summer of 1967. They joined up with members of the CCA (Canoe Cruisers Association) and were initiated into the world of whitewater canoeing. Hank and Tom's canvas covered Grumman was quite a contrast to the CCA members' sleek whitewater boats. Hank remembers swimming twice on the run from Ohiopyle to Stewarton. He also remembers camping right next to the falls in Ohiopyle.

Another of Hank's favorite memories includes the start of the Club's sponsorship of the annual canoe race. The first race was in August of 1968 across Sandusky Bay, a grueling 25 mile, 4 hour test of paddling endurance. The positive result of that race was an anticipated afternoon of fun on the Cedar Point midway. Unfortunately, everyone was too tired after the completion of the race to truly enjoy Cedar Point. That race evolved into the first annual Vermilion River Canoe Race in March, 1969. It is believed that this race is one of the longest, continually running canoe races in the United States. This is a tribute to the strong leadership of the Club.

Another event that Hank fondly remembers was the CCA sponsored whitewater weekend on the S. Fork of the N. Branch of the Potomac River in Petersburg, WV in 1970. Keel-Haulers were well represented in several race classes and a few medals were brought home by the Annables, Don Roper, Chuck Singer, and the Linns.

Some may remember when Hurricane Agnes flooded most of the eastern U.S. in early July, 1972. Hank certainly remembers it because he and several club members paddled the New River at flood stage. Hank & Tom Annable, Chuck Singer, Greg Green, Don Roper, and Alan Tummonds all battled the "Big" water. Hank remembers that Tom was the only person who didn't swim that day.

In September, 1973 our Club took over the CCA sponsored Youghiogheny whitewater slalom race at Dartmouth Rapid in Ohiopyle, PA until 1986. Hank remembers this event as being very difficult to coordinate and run because the Club had never experienced setting up a slalom course or judging such a competition.

Hank's best Club memories may be when he reminisces about the many wilderness canoeing trips he enjoyed over the decades. His participation in these trips started in 1974 with travels down the Little Abitibi and Missinaibi Rivers in Ontario, Canada. These trips were taken with sons Tom and Chuck, and old paddling buddies Loren Schafer, Marty Kopp, Don Roper, Rita Tessman, and Sasha Chudnovski, as well as a few newcomers to the wilderness paddling scene. Hank chuckles as he remembers his old friend, Chuck Tummonds, once telling him, "Hank, you don't take bush country trips with people you don't know."



*Marty Kopp, Tom Annable, Hank Annable, Loren Schafer & Sasha Chudnovski
~ 1986 Little Abitibi Wilderness Trip*

Perhaps, Hank should have heeded this advice when he took his most memorable trip to the De Pas River wilderness area in Quebec, Canada in the summer of 1983. The trip covered approximately 300 miles and took five weeks to complete. Hank remembers losing about 15 lbs. of his body weight during the trip. Hank and Chuck Annable paddled a Grumman canoe while Rita Tessman, Sasha Chudnovski, and Sasha's cousin, Mark Kechinal [sic], fabricated a raft made of 8 truck tire innertubes, and a PVC pipe frame with wood sapling cross members. According to Hank this was a challenging and difficult trip because of the inexperience of Sasha's cousin and the very harsh weather and paddling conditions.

After hearing Hank recall the early years of the Club, this writer believes the Keel-Haulers would not have continued to exist without his active participation and guidance. He certainly enjoyed the many trips he took, and he relishes the many friendships he made over the last fifty years.

Trip Organizers Needed for 2021
Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club

We need trip organizers for 2021. Please volunteer to help. Fill out an easy online form to organize a trip: [Add Event — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#). Any questions? Email Mike Gillam at President@keelhauler.org

Thursday, May 20

5:00pm Weekly Slip Run

Saturday, May 22

Class III - KH 13-21 - Stonycreek - Canyon

Flatwater - KH Rating: 7 - Old Woman Creek Nature Paddle

Sunday, May 23

Class III - KH 13-21 - Stonycreek - Canyon

Tuesday, May 25

5:00pm Roll Practice - Indigo Lake

Thursday, May 27

5:00pm Weekly Slip Run

Saturday, May 29

Class II - KH 13 - Slippery Rock Creek

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Saturday Release

Monday, May 31

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Monday Release

Tuesday, June 1

5:00pm Roll Practice - Nimisila Reservoir

Thursday, June 3

5:00pm Weekly Slip Run

Saturday, June 5

Slippery Rock Paddling Clinic- Deadline for clinic registration is Monday, May 31st.

Sunday, June 6

Slippery Rock Paddling Clinic- Deadline for clinic registration is Monday, May 31st.

Tuesday, June 8

5:00pm Roll Practice - Indigo Lake

Thursday, June 10

5:00pm Weekly Slip Run

Saturday, June 12

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghiogheny (Loyo)

Sunday, June 13

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghiogheny (Loyo)

Tuesday, June 15

5:00pm Roll Practice - Nimisila Reservoir

Thursday, June 17

5:00pm Weekly Slip Run

Friday, June 18

Class III - KH N/A - Common Sense Swift Water Rescue Clinic-FULL

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Saturday, June 19

Class III - KH N/A - Common Sense Swift Water Rescue Clinic-FULL

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Class II - KH 13 - Slippery Rock Creek

Sunday, June 20

Class III - KH N/A - Common Sense Swift Water Rescue Clinic-FULL

Tuesday, June 22

5:00pm Roll Practice - Indigo Lake

Thursday, June 24

5:00pm Weekly Slip Run

Friday, June 25

Class III - KH N/A - 2021 Keel-Hauler/TRPC - Swift Water Rescue Clinic Taught by Charlie Walbridge

Saturday, June 26

Class III - KH N/A - 2021 Keel-Hauler/TRPC - Swift Water Rescue Clinic Taught by Charlie Walbridge

Flatwater - KH Rating: N/A - River Day (Cuyahoga)

Sunday, June 27

Class III - KH N/A - 2021 Keel-Hauler/TRPC - Swift Water Rescue Clinic Taught by Charlie Walbridge

Tuesday, June 29

5:00pm Roll Practice - Nimisila Reservoir

2021 Club Officers

President:	Mike Gillam	440-328-5547
VP:	John Banach	330-606-5032
Secretary:	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send to: **Keel-haulers Canoe Club**
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.com and 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. 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 **July 2021** issue of the newsletter is **6/23/2021**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Ka-news
Kelly Miller, Editor
June 2021



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

JULY, 2021



Next General Club Meeting:

Saturday, July 31st

Benner's Meadow Run Camping & Cabins

Please mark your calendar for our club picnic and our next club meeting on July 31 at <https://bennersmeadowrun.com/> campground in Ohiopyle, PA. This will be a very important meeting as we will be voting in our next club President. Camping (tents/car) spots have been reserved, so please make sure you sign up for the weekend via our website.

This weekend is a great weekend for paddlers of all abilities, trips will be running on the Middle Yough, Lower Yough, Upper Yough, and a Ladies only paddle. If there is water, Stonycreek releases are also scheduled for Saturday and Sunday! Our Saturday meeting will be a Potluck Picnic. The club will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, ~~condiments~~ tableware, and soft drinks. For the rest of the menu, please donate an item according to your last name:

A-E: Dessert or Fruit

F-L: Potato or Macaroni Salad

M-R: Salad, Vegetable or Baked beans

S-Z: Chips or Appetizer

Contact: Mike Gillam if you have any questions . . . 440-328-5547.

Mike Gillam, President...President@keelhauler.org

Invite a prospective member.

President's Message From Mike Gillam



And just like that, it is July! Rivers, lakes, woods, bike paths, campgrounds, just about any outdoor venue is busy. While I can't think of too many good things to come out of COVID, it does appear it forced many people to get back to recreating outside and close to home. Anything that gets people playing outside is good, good for physical health and mental health.

Looking back over the last couple years, with the time and efforts of our members, our club has continued to evolve in the direction that members expressed. If you remember back to the survey that was completed by you all in 2018 (or was it 2019?) club priorities (as listed by members) were Swift Water Rescue, Intermediate Paddler Progression, Creeking Instruction, Clinics, and Beginner Paddler Progression. The website issue was almost split between building a new website, keeping the old website, or keeping both. Almost 50% of the respondents had 0-5 years paddling experience at the time of the survey. While the club continues to grow and evolve, our progression towards these priorities is as follows;

Between H2O Dreams and Charlie Walbridge's SWR course, our club has helped almost forty kayakers train in swift water rescue!

At the first Cuyahoga (Lock 29) club paddle, I think we had 17 paddlers (13 new paddlers)! I was expecting three or four... These paddlers are now running (at least) weekly paddles on this section of the river. Many of these paddlers progressed to the Slip, then LOYO, and to more difficult rivers.

We have been organizing weekly trips to the Slippery Rock Creek

We began to offer free winter roll sessions at specific locations. I expect these locations will continue to grow. Seeing a need, Brian Smart began organizing weekly outdoor roll sessions at two local outdoor locations. .

A new website was developed and implemented by a skilled team of members. As expressed to me by many members, the quality and functionality of the new site was much appreciated.

70% of the survey respondents said that club trips and events were the main reason for being members. Club trips only happen if we have volunteers organize them. I was told of the difficulty in getting trip organizers three or four years ago, and it has only gotten worse. Covid certainly did not help. However, I would expect that many new members will start taking an active role and organize at least one trip. I do believe that future SWR participants will be required to organize at least one trip. It is what makes us a successful club.

I will be stepping down as club president, effective July 31 (club picnic). Brian Smart will be recommended as the new president. We will be having an official vote, July 31, at the club picnic. For those who cannot attend and want to vote, please contact a board member with your vote. As per the bylaws, the new president will hold an October meeting. In September the board will present recommendations for club officer openings, which currently will consist of the vice president position and one trustee.

Kelly Miller had our new club logo stickers printed and had two mailed out to all club member

Play Outside and I hope to see you in July!

**Special Keel-hauler Membership Prices
now available!
From John Kobak**

**Special KHCC Membership Prices are now available!
It is nearing the end of our membership year.**

Tell your non-member friends & paddling buddies if they join now, they **Save 50%**. So instead of paying for a \$20/membership for 2021, they can pay only \$10. But, if they also pay for 2022, Instead of a \$40/membership cost for 2021-22, they can pay only \$26. They just fill out our [Registration Form](#), and their payment options will be displayed.

All existing members can start paying their 2022 dues now, no need to submit an application.

Pay your 2022 Dues or pay for 2022 and 2023 and save \$4.00, by using this link [EZPay](#)

90 Members have already paid for 2022, so please disregard if you are already paid for 2022

You can review your current membership listing, using this link [KH Members](#).

If the last column by your name says **1**, then you are paid for 2021. If it shows **12**, you paid for 2022 also. The file is password protected for members only.

User Name: "dir" and the current 2021 password which is sent out in our monthly e-mail.

Remember all 2021 memberships expire on Oct 1, 2021.

I hope to be at the club meeting on 7/31 at Benner's, so you can also pay your dues there. I'll have extra club logo stickers that are free for asking.

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of June 28, 2021
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402	\$2,316.81
CD 1077	<u>\$2,316.26</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4,633.07

Checking \$13,757.59

Total \$17,390.66

**Conservation News
From Jacki Zevenbergen**

I understand and appreciate that our members come from all over North America. Several members have asked me why the Cuyahoga River is important to our members and the nation at large. The answer is that the 1969 burning event on the Cuyahoga River caught the attention of our nation. Unfortunately, rivers on fire were a common event in urban areas in the 1960s. This particular fire just happened to be featured in a very popular edition of Times Magazine. People were appalled to learn that US waters were so contaminated with pollutants that a river could catch on fire. They demanded change. Environmental laws don't happen in a vacuum, this catastrophe provided an impetus for the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Water Act.

I am proud that the Keel-Haulers support local organizations like Friends of the Crooked River as they advocate for fishable, swimmable waters. By the time you read this, the Cuyahoga River Day celebrations will be over. The Keel-Haulers will have participated in a cleanup of this historic river. If you didn't make it to this cleanup, please clean up the river you paddle. Register any and all cleanups with our partners at American Rivers. I hope to see you on a clean river soon!

Family Friendly Summer Picnic

Calling parents and non-whitewater paddlers! Please contact Jacki Zevenbergen at jackizeven@gmail.com to join in our planning for flatwater paddling and other family friendly activities during the summer meeting at Benner's. PM me on Facebook or use the directory for contact information. We should have plenty of flatwater members to set up flatwater trips and non-paddling members to set up non-paddling activities (including lounging by the pool). Some Keel-Hauler parents might like to take their kids on the river while others may just want to hike and let their kids enjoy the [campground amenities](#) like swimming, miniature golf, playground and a game room. Please help us plan a nice event for every member.

Early May Kent Run Doesn't Disappoint

By Matt Fredmonsky

I have been unable to paddle consistently for 8 months due to a knee injury, surgery and subsequent complicated and unsuccessful recovery. But when the forecast showed a Sunday-funday temperature nearing 80 degrees, and the Hiram Gauge on the Cuyahoga showed a nice crest at 750 cfs, it seemed like a good opportunity to test the months of physical therapy, dry-needle therapy, stretching, R.I.C.E.-ing and every other attempt to heal my knee and see if any of my hard work had paid off.

Brian Smart, who is a new-ish member of the club, has been doing a great job of recruiting new club members – even introducing people to whitewater who have had almost no whitewater experience. It was refreshing to only know two of the nine paddlers on the run. I knew Brian and John. Francis, Seth, Bret, Dan, Chris and someone else I'm missing were all new to me. It was a great experience to hop on a run that I had paddled years ago countless times while I was learning to paddle whitewater and see new people starting on that similar path on an old, familiar run.



Chris dodges the pin rock hole

The level was just over 4 feet on the stick gauge in downtown Kent (on the south side of the Stone Arch Bridge and east bank of the river downtown), and that meant all the fun waves downtown were at a great level for play. The excitement started at the put in at River Bend, when we encountered a hapless SUP'er casually floating down the river, standing on his board sans PFD with a small dog about the size of a large rat (and looking just as disheveled) perched nervously at the front of his board.

"Do you know where you're going?" I asked him.

"My girlfriend's going to pick me up," he responded.

"Do you know about the small rapids downtown?" I asked him. (I know, they're not really rapids, except to the uninitiated).

"There's rapids downtown? How bad are they?" He seemed mildly intrigued.

"If you don't know about them, they're bad – for you," I said.

I decided to encourage him to get off the river at Standing Rock Cemetery just about 100 yards downstream from the River Bend put-in. Every member of our group proceeded to offer the same advice. He confidently shrugged off our warnings and paddled on down river. "You know we're going to be fishing him out downtown," I told Brian. "You can't fix stupid," was his response.

We all played our way down at the few play spots there are above the Fairchild Bridge and the gorge pinch-point that marks the entrance into downtown Kent. Sure enough, as I approached the Brady's Leap seal launch I saw arms flailing on river left as he tried to scramble on top of the submerged ledge that is only about 2 feet wide and dry enough in summer to serve as fertile ground for native grasses. The man, his dog and his SUP narrowly avoided tangling in the mid-river strainer above the drop that marks the entrance to downtown by his fingertips.

Sensing his madness, I calmly paddled over and grabbed a slim eddy right below his board. After asking if he was OK, he nonchalantly exclaimed he had decided to get out of the river now and would do so right there. His only way out was to scale a 10-foot rock wall. His paddle was nowhere in sight, so I decided he had made a good choice. When he assured me he needed no assistance, I returned to my warm, sunny paddling.

I made my way down to Dave's Wave in the old canal lock washout, where two other paddlers who were not part of our group were already enjoying the surf. And on my way underneath the arch bridge I waved to Cuyahoga Falls Fest organizer Don Howdyshell, who appeared strange to not be in a boat in full gear.

I understand some further excitement ensued up-river of the arch bridge within our group, but I was too busy on the wave and was in a hurry to get off the river to avoid over doing it with my knee. I did make sure to stop and enjoy the Silk Mill wave, and give a quick surf lesson to Seth, who was a quick study.

Finally, I ran into our club Vice President John Banach as I got off the river, as he was putting on with a canoe to enjoy a calm trip from Tannery Park down to Cuyahoga Falls with the family.

It was great to run into so many new members who were doing exactly as they should – testing and progressing their skills on one of our area's most underrated runs for learning the basics of whitewater paddling in one of the calmest and safest of settings.



Unfortunate SUP paddler

**Friends of the Crooked River Summer
Picnic and Paddle
From Jacki Zevenbergen**

Our annual summer picnic is back! We will have a pavilion at Camp Hi on August 14th. We will launch at 1pm and have our picnic when everyone gets back. We'll provide sausages and store bought sides and desserts - please bring your own drinks (adult beverages are allowed) and dinnerware. I'll be sending out a shuttle/boat rental survey next.

Everyone is welcome. Any questions? Email at jackizeven@gmail.com.

Volunteerism-Clubs-Then & Now

By John Kobak

Clubs are created for all sorts of reasons. Our club invites those who share a common interest in the outdoors and all kinds of boating, including White Water, Sea Kayaking, Canoeing, Rafting, and Racing. Our purpose is simply to provide the framework to enjoy these things together.

Our members enjoy seeing new members learn all aspects of paddling safely and learning new skills. We are not professional instructors and our small yearly dues request helps fund meetings, newsletters and yearbooks. We contribute a lot of money back to national organizations that work for river access, protect the river environment or address safety issues. Organizations like American Whitewater, Friends of the Cheat River, Nature Conservancy or [OTHERS](#).

But first & foremost the club only works if members volunteer their time to help each other. We have big jobs like the [Club Officers & Chairman](#), and necessary jobs like **trip organizers, kayak rolling instructors or safety boaters**. Many of our members also participate in **river cleanups**.

Over the years we have had many big volunteer efforts like the **Yough Slalom** (1975-85) which attracted worldwide paddlers who were impressed by our well-organized event. For 50 years (1969-2018) we organized the Class I-II **Vermilion River Race**. For 25 years our members, working with the **American Red Cross**, set up training clinics where ARC supplied the equipment and we supplied all the instructors. About 10 years ago we conducted several **Rescue Rodeo & Clinics** for members of our club and the TRPC.

For the past 15 years both clubs decided to combine our limited volunteer resources in this way; we would organize paddling trips throughout the year and members from both clubs were free to attend. They would continue to operate 2 yearly training programs, the Slippery Rock Clinic in June and the Yough Turkey Bash in August. Our members would help out as instructors and safety boaters. Both of our clubs offer [Indoor Pool Programs](#) in the winter at various local pools. Last year our club started to pay all pool costs for our paid club members at the Canton pool. We now offer [Summer Roll Sessions](#). And since the demise of our rescue rodeo we help pay for a limited number of members to take professional [Safety Training](#).

However, I keep reading Facebook comments; why don't we offer more training, why don't we have more trips announced in advance, what happened to our trips on Southern Rivers or Colorado trips? And some of these people don't even want to join the club, they just want to attend our events. The answer to all of these is the same. Our more active members have to step up and fill the rolls of some of our old time volunteers. Is the culture that much different now? Is it all ME First and take advantage of everything? I can do it but I never want to give back. I don't think so. I think our club members still want to help but the club has lost some of our direction and the push we used to have from some of these old time members.

We don't need to do things like the old timers did, but we need to do something. We need to try to always give back to the sport. You will get a lot more pleasure in giving and helping, than just being a taker. I see a renewed hope in that some of our newer members took it on themselves to offer outdoor rolling sessions, Lower Cuyahoga training trips, and mid-week Slippery Rock training trips I had no problem getting volunteers to help get our new website updated. So now we just need our club leadership focused on giving back and keeping our 55 year old club going and being more active than ever. This year we have seen the biggest surge in new members in our history. But I expect many will again start to drop out if we don't make an effort to keep them interested, by offering more scheduled events for all types of paddling, not just whitewater trips.

Trip Organizers Needed for 2021

Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club

We need trip organizers for 2021. Please volunteer to help. Fill out an easy online form to organize a trip: [Add Event — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#). Any questions? Email Mike Gillam at President@keelhauler.org

Thursday, July 1

5:00pm

Weekly Slip Run - if 250cfs or higher

Friday, July 2

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Saturday, July 3

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Sunday, July 4

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Class IV - KH Rating: 27 - Savage river Maryland

Monday, July 5

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Monday Release

Tuesday, July 6

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

5:00pm

Roll Practice - Indigo Lake

Wednesday, July 7

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Thursday, July 8

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Friday, July 9

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Saturday, July 10

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Sunday, July 11

Variety - KH Rating: Variety - Week of Rivers

Class I - KH Rating: 7 - Lock 29 basic skills practice. Eddies and ferries.

Tuesday, July 13

5:00pm

Roll Practice - Nimisila Reservoir

Thursday, July 15

5:00pm

Weekly Slip Run - if 250cfs or higher

Saturday, July 17

Flatwater - KH Rating: 7 - Safety boating: O*H*I*O Masters Swim Club

Tuesday, July 20

5:00pm

Roll Practice - Indigo Lake

Thursday, July 22

5:00pm

Weekly Slip Run - if 250cfs or higher

Saturday, July 24

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Saturday Race Release

Tuesday, July 27

5:00pm

Roll Practice - Nimisila Reservoir

Thursday, July 29

Class II-IV - KH Rating: 13-32 - Summer Club Meeting and Paddling Weekend

5:00pm

Weekly Slip Run - if 250cfs or higher

Friday, July 30

Class II-IV - KH Rating: 13-32 - Summer Club Meeting and Paddling Weekend

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Class III - KH Rating: 23 - Ladies Day YOLO Paddle

Saturday, July 31

Class II-IV - KH Rating: 13-32 - Summer Club Meeting and Paddling Weekend

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Class II - KH Rating: 12 - Middle Youghiogheny

Sunday, August 1

Class II-IV - KH Rating: 13-32 - Summer Club Meeting and Paddling Weekend

2021 Club Officers

President:	Mike Gillam	440-328-5547
VP:	John Banach	330-606-5032
Secretary:	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send to: John Kobak, 1649 Allen Drive, Westlake, OH 44145

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Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the August 2021 issue of the newsletter is 7/23/2021. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Kanews, Kelly Miller, Editor, 701 Forrest Ave., Geneva, IL 60134

July 2021



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

AUGUST, 2021



Next General Club Meeting:

Saturday, July 31st

Benner's Meadow Run Camping & Cabins

Please mark your calendar for our club picnic and our next club meeting on July 31 at <https://bennersmeadowrun.com/> campground in Ohiopyle, PA. This will be a very important meeting as we will be voting in our next club President. Camping (tents/car) spots have been reserved, so please make sure you sign up for the weekend via our website. Each camper will need to register, and then pay the club through a paypal link or check. The cost is \$40 for two nights of camping.

This weekend is a great weekend for paddlers of all abilities, trips will be running on the Middle Yough, Lower Yough, Upper Yough, and a Ladies only paddle. If there is water, Stoneycreek releases are also scheduled for Saturday and Sunday! Our Saturday meeting will be a Potluck Picnic. The club will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, tableware, and soft drinks. For the rest of the menu, please donate an item according to your last name:

A-E: Dessert or Fruit

F-L: Potato or Macaroni Salad

M-R: Salad, Vegetable or Baked beans

S-Z: Chips or Appetizer

Contact: Mike Gillam if you have any questions . . . 440-328-5547.

Mike Gillam, President...President@keelhauler.org

Invite a prospective member.

**President's Message
From Mike Gillam**

No message this month.

**Special Keel-hauler Membership Prices
now available!
From John Kobak**

It's near the end of our 2021 membership year.
Tell your friends that they can join now and save 35%.
Instead of \$40 for both 2021-22 they can pay only **\$26**.

[On-Line Registration Form](#)

All their payment options will be displayed.

All existing 2021 members should start paying their 2022 dues now, no application required.
105 Members have already paid for 2022, so please disregard if you have already paid for 2022.
You can review your current membership listing, using this link [KH Members](#).
If the last column by your name says **1**, then you are paid for 2021. If it shows **12**, you also paid for 2022.

A new option is available for **two years dues for only \$36**

Just click to: **[Pay 2022 Dues](#)**

Remember all 2021 memberships **expire on Oct 1, 2021**.

You can review your current membership listing, using this link:

<http://keelhauler.org/khcc/members.htm>

User Name: "**dir**" and the current 2021 password found in our monthly newsletter e-mail.

**Friends of the Crooked River Summer
Picnic and Paddle
From Jacki Zevenbergen**

Our annual summer picnic is back! We will have a pavilion at Camp Hi on August 14th. We will launch at 1pm and have our picnic when everyone gets back. We'll provide sausages and store bought sides and desserts - please bring your own drinks (adult beverages are allowed) and dinnerware.
Everyone is welcome. Any questions? Email at jackizeven@gmail.com

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of July 30, 2021
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402 \$2,317.00
CD 1077 \$2,316.93
CD'S (2) \$4,633.93

Checking \$14,149.25

Total \$18,783.18

**Friends of the Cheat
Master Plan Revealed**

Check out the plans for the Cheat River! [Into the Canyon Summer 2021 \(adobe.com\)](https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/cheat-river/)

**Friends of the Crooked River Summer
Picnic and Paddle
From Jacki Zevenbergen**

Our annual summer picnic is back! We will have a pavilion at Camp Hi on August 14th. We will launch at 1pm and have our picnic when everyone gets back. We'll provide sausages and store bought sides and desserts - please bring your own drinks (adult beverages are allowed) and dinnerware.

Everyone is welcome. Any questions? Email at jackizeven@gmail.com.

**Trip Organizers Needed for 2021
Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club**

We need trip organizers for 2021. Please volunteer to help. Fill out an easy online form to organize a trip: [Add Event — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#). Go to the Calendar of Events link for more information on the trips listed below. [Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#)

Saturday, July 31

Class II-IV - KH Rating: 13-32 - Summer Club Meeting and Paddling Weekend

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Class II - KH Rating: 12 - Middle Youghiogheny

Sunday, August 1

Class II-IV - KH Rating: 13-32 - Summer Club Meeting and Paddling Weekend

Tuesday, August 3

5:00pm Roll Practice - Indigo Lake

Friday, August 6

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Saturday, August 7

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Class II - KH Rating: 12 - Kent basic skills practice

Tuesday, August 10

5:00pm Roll Practice - Nimisila Reservoir

Tuesday, August 17

5:00pm Roll Practice - Indigo Lake

Saturday, August 21

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghiogheny (Loyo)

Sunday, August 22

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghiogheny (Loyo)

Tuesday, August 24

5:00pm Roll Practice - Nimisila Reservoir

Tuesday, August 31

5:00pm Roll Practice - Indigo Lake

2021 Club Officers

President:	Mike Gillam	440-328-5547
VP:	John Banach	330-606-5032
Secretary:	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send to: John Kobak, 1649 Allen Drive, Westlake, OH 44145

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www.keelhauler.com and 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. 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 2021** issue of the newsletter is **8/23/2021**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Kanews, Kelly Miller, Editor, 701 Forrest Ave., Geneva, IL 60134

August 2021



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

SEPTEMBER, 2021



Next General Club Meeting:

October 25th at 7pm, 1763 Goodyear Blvd, Akron, Ohio, 44221

This is our annual meeting where we vote for new officers for the 2021-22 year.

The club will provide drinks and donuts. Members can byob drinks or food. Working on a zoom option as well.

More details to come. Invite a prospective member.

Any questions? Contact: Brian Smart, President...President@keelhauler.org

President's Message From Brian Smart



I want to thank everyone who came to the summer picnic. We had a good turnout and it was a lot of fun. We had a lot PFD's on the Middle and Lower Yough including my own. Every time I get on a new section of river, I am reminded how much support I have been given. I am grateful and honored to be voted President of the Keel-Haulers. I will do my very best in this role and plan on paying it forward whenever I can.

I have plans of bringing back more in person meetings-hopefully 6 a year every other month. The next meeting will be on October 25th at 7pm. We will be trying out a new location at 1763 Goodyear Blvd, Akron, Ohio, 44221. This is a large space where we can spread out and make ourselves at home, staying as long as

we would like after the meeting. The Club will provide Drinks and Donuts. Members can byob drinks or food. My plan is to also bring zoom into the mix for people who can't make it in person. More details on that will come closer to the meeting.

The October meeting will be eventful since we will be voting in a bunch of new and old volunteers. So here is the lineup. Not all Positions are filled, and we are looking to fill them so if anyone is interested in volunteering for any position in the club let us know!

Position	2021	Proposed Slate for 2022
President	Mike Gillam	Brian Smart
Vice President	John Banach	Megan Thompson
Secretary	Michael Duvall	Michael Duvall
Treasurer	Kelly Miller	Kelly Miller
Trustee	Domenic Bentz	Domenic Bentz
Trustee	Matt Fredmonsky	Jeremiah Richards
Trustee	Jeremiah Richards	John Banach
Conservation	Jacki Zevenbergen	Need a volunteer
Membership	John Kobak	John Kobak
Instruction	John Banach	Mark Spang
Safety & Rescue	Brian Smart	Seth Anderson
Pool Sessions	John Banach	Bret Rose
Library	Cliff Wire	Cliff Wire
Recreational	Moneen McBride	Moneen McBride
(Erie) Sea Kayaking	Moneen McBride	Lena Bear
Trip Schedule	Mike Gilliam	Need a volunteer
Newsletter	Kelly Miller	Kelly Miller
Meeting	None	Need a volunteer
Yearbook Editor	Chloe Shepherd	Chloe Shepherd
Website Development Team	Brian Smart, Chloe Shepherd, Domenic Bentz, John Kobak, Kelly Miller, & Megan Thompson	Brian Smart, Chloe Shepherd, Domenic Bentz, John Kobak, Kelly Miller, & Megan Thompson

We hope to see everyone at the October meeting!

Brian Smart

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of August 26, 2021
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402 \$2,317.20
 CD 1077 \$2,317.12
 CD'S (2) \$4,634.32

Checking \$13,925.32

Total \$18,559.64

Meeting Minutes from July 31, 2021 From Michael Duvall

Meeting held at Benner's campground with 40-45 members. Meeting called to order by President Mike Gillam at 7:00 pm.

Mike announced that he was stepping down as president and recommended Brian Smart as candidate for president. Brian had already accepted the nomination. No other candidates were nominated, and the vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's report was accepted and will appear in the newsletter.

Jackie Zevenbergen reported river cleanups on Cuyahoga and also at Week of Rivers with CCC. Jackie also mentioned the death of Andrew Edwards hit by a car while on motorcycle and suggested the club have some sort of memorial.

Topic of trips was brought up with previous KHCC Spring Southern Rivers and Week of Rivers by CCC discussed.

Meeting adjourned.

2022 KHCC Membership Dues are Now Payable From John Kobak

It's nearing the end of our 2021 membership year.
Remember all 2021 memberships **expire on Oct 1, 2021**.

All 2021 members should pay their 2022 dues now, no application is required.
Note that 125 members have already paid for 2022, so please don't pay again.

Am I Paid? - - See this link:

<https://keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/khint.pdf> (Password protected)

Please use - User Name: **dir** (not news), the directory password is listed in my monthly e-mail.

If you agreed to be listed in our yearbook you can see what years you are paid for in the last column.

1 = 2021 2 = 2022 3 = 2023

You have the option to pay for **two years for only \$36**
Just click to: [Pay 2022 Dues](#) (Options will be displayed)

I would like to thank our members for telling their friends & paddlers about the KHCC. Our membership for 2021 is the highest we have been for the past 20 years. We now have 355 paid memberships. So tell any interested paddlers that they should use this application form to join the club.

[On-Line Registration Form](#) All payment options will be displayed.

Conservation News From Jacki Zevenbergen

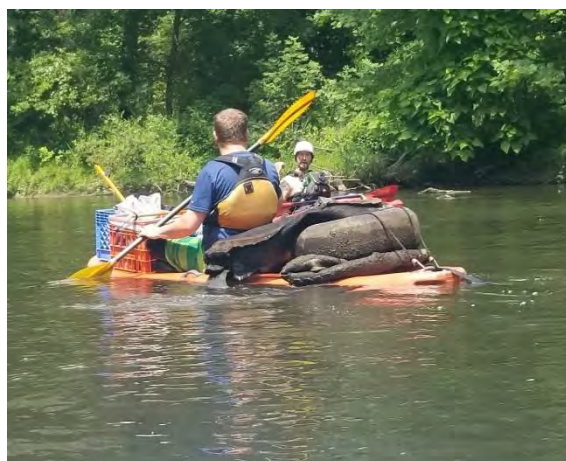
It's been a crazy, busy summer, but amidst all the fun some members have managed to find time for stewardship of our beloved rivers. On Cuyahoga RiverDay, June 26th, members pitched in to clean up a section of the Cuyahoga from Tannery Park in Kent to Brust Park in Munroe Falls. Many thanks to Brian N, Brian S., Shane, Moneen, Gary, Cooper, Owen, Manon, Jim, Emily Ann, Ronda and Anna. We found some interesting "treasures" to add to the dumpster. The following Friday, many Keel-Haulers headed to Week of Rivers in North Carolina. The Carolina Canoe Club held a cleanup on the Tuckasegee on the 5th of July. I attended on behalf of KHCC and made lots of new friends. After lunch, a small group headed to the Nantahala for a short run and a trip over the falls. I even managed to stay upright!

Here are some other things you can do to keep the environment healthier:

Please continue to participate in cleanups whenever you get the chance and consider organizing a local cleanup on water or land. Litter makes its way from the land to streams through ditches and storm drains. Wherever you are, I can help you get it registered with American Rivers so you get help with supplies.

Please join the Friends of [insert your favorite river here]. These groups usually have little or no staff and they rely heavily on volunteers to keep our streams healthy through stewardship and advocacy. Reduce the use of plastic - especially bottles. There is no market for recyclables right now and plastic is filling up landfills and clogging up water bodies.

Pick up after your pets - think about how many dogs walk the trails along streams. There is no "poop fairy" - pack it out.



Link to all cleanup pictures: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/dq6yFyx1mwMgarbq6>

Wednesdays on the Water From Jacki Zevenbergen

Our trips in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park have been well attended by both new and experienced paddlers. The low summer waters are a great place to test out a new boat on moving water. We spend about 2.5 hours on a 2.5 mile section of the Cuyahoga from Peninsula to Boston practicing skills and

dialing in outfitting. I like to practice rolling in moving water in the deeper sections and rapids. It's also a great place to practice catching eddys, peel-outs, paddle strokes, ferries and surfing. We're not instructors but if you flip, they'll be lots of people around to give you a bow rescue or help you get to shore and retrieve your gear. I find it easier to practice new things when I know friends are nearby. As the daylight hours shorten, we'll be forced to start a little earlier soon, but I hope new people continue to join us. Please watch for posts on Facebook to get the details. Don't use Facebook? I'm in the directory - text me with questions. Link to Wednesday on Water pics: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/17q7h55UnX9JLaPo7>



Paul McDonald, Chris Curley, Fran Hoven, John DeMuth and Mike Back

Andrew Edwards
October 4, 1971 – August 9, 2021
By Brian Thomas



Andy worked for the City of Parma for the last 28 years; he had a few years left before retirement. Andy has been with his girlfriend Trisha for the last 3 years. He was an avid Harley-Davidson motorcycle Rider.

Andy was a wonderful Craftsman he was very handy with arts and crafts; he was an excellent woodworker and has many wonderful projects that he did.

He was a member of the American Legion, although he did not serve, he helped them immensely with fundraisers and keeping the place going.

He absolutely loved the outdoors; he spent three weeks last year with his mother and sister in Montana and had beautiful pictures he showed me. That's why Andy really loved kayaking - he enjoyed being out there in the middle of summer in a 90-degree day or in a blizzard the day after Christmas which I included one picture of. LOL.



Photo from Chris Mockbee, Slip Clinic



Photo from Chris Mockbee, Slip Clinic



He was an absolute character who had a wonderful witty sense of humor always made people laugh and smile. Andy was a very kind and loving individual - give you the shirt off his back for anybody in need.



2021 Gauley Fest Now Delayed until 2022

After serious consideration and deliberation, the American Whitewater Gauley Fest event team made the difficult decision to postpone a full-blown Gauley Fest at the Veterans Memorial Park until September 2022.

All Summersville dam releases are as still as planned.

There was a Slug at Albright By John Kobak

On the weekend of our club summer picnic meeting, paddling opportunities abounded. Upper, Middle and Lower Yough, Stonycreek and we were watching the Cheat watershed since a heavy rain hit WV on Wednesday night. Only 0.5" of rain hit Albright, But Parson's got 1.6" while high up in the Cheat watershed got over 2.5" of rain. It looked like we were going to get a rise in water level but How Much?



Years ago, we told a story to cartoonist Nealy about a couple of boaters who were warning us about a slug coming down the Cheat. This is his sketch of Albright being visited by that SLUG. Well it was happening again, here is what happened and why there is a way to protect yourself from a bad slug encounter.

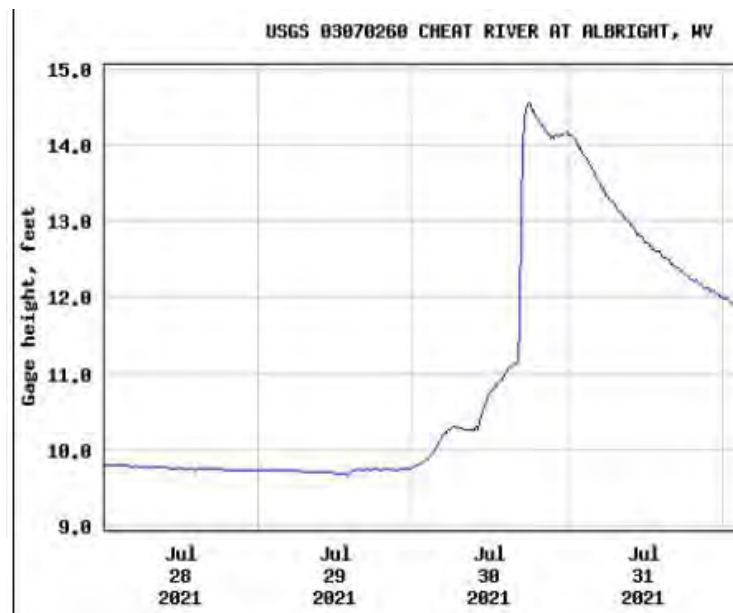
First if you think the watershed had some rain take a look at this link of the watershed river gauges to see if the rainfall might be significant.

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?site_no=03069500%2C03070260%2C03050500%2C03079000%2C03051000%2C03065000&format=gif_mult_sites&PARAMeter_cd=00045&period=5

Here is what the water level was doing in Parsons which is 12 to 16 hours upstream of Albright.



The level went up almost 5 feet in an hour but was now falling. This is what was happening in Albright.



If the rain had come a little earlier, anyone who thought that they could do a low water run on Friday would have found the level going up 3000 cfs in 30 minutes, a real slug. This happened to me once about 30 years ago when I was leading my daughter and 4 of her friends down the canyon in a raft. While we were at lunch all of the sudden the water level came up and we had a disaster at Coliseum, but that's a different story.

However you can predict and find a nice paddling level by noting that you need to view the Parsons water level which is 12 to 16 hours upstream and Rowlesburg level only 5 hours upstream by using this link: <https://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/Rowles.htm> to see what is happening at Rowlesburg and the prediction

for Albright. It was good news for us on Saturday morning. I could predict that by the time we put-on the river the level would be below 3', a challenging but a very good level.

I texted Domenic Bentz and found out that he was aware of the level and was heading to the Cheat. So I met up with him and Michael Duvall and 3 first timers who were more than ready to accept the challenge. JP Preisinger, Lena Meslat and Cody Kowalski.

It was pushy but all the lines were the same as at lower levels. But after my swim though Big Nasty I became aware that maybe I wasn't as skilled a paddler as I thought. A tee shirt my daughter bought me reads "The older I get the better I was".

I had Michael show me a couple of sneak lines at Fist and Coliseum. I decided to pay more attention at Pete Morgan's and paddle a little harder left to avoid the encounter with the big rock like last month in this picture by Jeff Macklin.



So stay safe and keep on paddling and I hope to see all the newer WW paddlers on the PA, WV and MD rivers soon.

PADDLE WISE

a responsibility code
for river runners



PADDLE SMART

- Paddle within your ability • Keep your skills sharp • Communicate with your team on the river • Think for yourself • Don't let bad decisions compound • Go big, but come home safe



PADDLE INCLUSIVE

- Share it • Everyone with the proper skillset is welcome • Find a mentor • Be a mentor • Acknowledge indigenous stewardship and land • Be a positive part of the community



PADDLE NO TRACE

- Leave no trace • Always be a river steward • Use existing access areas, trails and campsites • Pack it in • Pack it out • Use restroom facilities or bring your own waste disposal • Be aware of and remove micro-trash



PADDLE PREPARED

- Plan ahead • Consult existing beta • Understand International Scale of River Difficulty and your chosen river's rating • Carry proper equipment including medical kit, spare paddle and emergency food/layers



PADDLE SAFE

- Wear your PFD • Carry a throw rope, knife and other safety gear • Practice safe river running technique • Set safety where appropriate • Take a swiftwater rescue course • Practice whitewater rescue skills regularly



PADDLE AWARE

- Check weather and flow conditions • Check for closures and river regulations • Know your ability and your group's ability • Understand surrounding landscape and escape routes • Research existing hazards, portages and critical features



PADDLE RESPECTFUL

- Consider impacts to gateway communities • Consider impacts on other paddlers • Drive slowly • Park in designated areas • Respect closures • Be friendly and represent the whitewater community positively • Appreciate cultural resources but leave undisturbed

Trip Organizers Needed for 2021-22
Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club

We need trip organizers for 2021. Please volunteer to help. Fill out an easy online form to organize a trip: Add [Event — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#). Go to the Calendar of Events link for more information on the trips listed below. [Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#)

Friday, September 3

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Saturday, September 4

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Class IV - KH Rating: 27 - New River Gorge

Sunday, September 5

Class IV - KH Rating: 27 - New River Gorge

Monday, September 6

Class IV - KH Rating: 27 - New River Gorge

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Monday Release

Tuesday, September 7

5:00pm Roll Practice - Nimisila Reservoir

Tuesday, September 14

5:00pm Roll Practice - Indigo Lake

Thursday, September 16

Class IV - KH Rating: 27-32 - 4 Day Upper Yough, Gauley Fest Adventure

Friday, September 17

Class IV - KH Rating: 27-32 - 4 Day Upper Yough, Gauley Fest Adventure

Saturday, September 18

Class IV - KH Rating: 27-32 - 4 Day Upper Yough, Gauley Fest Adventure

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghiogheny (Loyo)

Sunday, September 19

Class IV - KH Rating: 27-32 - 4 Day Upper Yough, Gauley Fest Adventure

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghiogheny (Loyo)

Sunday, September 26

Class I - KH Rating: 7 - Immersion and cold water gear check. Basic skills. Cuyahoga River Lock 29 to Boston Store

Friday, October 1

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Saturday, October 2

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Saturday, October 16

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghiogheny (Loyo)

Sunday, October 17

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghiogheny (Loyo)

Saturday, November 13

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghiogheny (Loyo)

Sunday, November 14

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghiogheny (Loyo)

2021 Club Officers

President:	Brian Smart	330-809-7409
VP:	John Banach	330-606-5032
Secretary:	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send to: John Kobak

1649 Allen Drive

Westlake, OH 44145

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Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the **October 2021** issue of the newsletter is **9/23/2021**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubagh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Kanews,
Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.
Geneva, IL 60134
September 2021



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

OCTOBER, 2021



Next General Club Meeting:

October 25th at 7pm, 1763 Goodyear Blvd, Akron, Ohio, 44221

This is our annual meeting where we vote on the slate of new officers for the 2022 year.

The slate is listed in the President's Message. The club will provide drinks and donuts. Members can byob drinks or food. Working on a zoom option as well. More details to come.

Invite a prospective member.

Any questions? Contact: Brian Smart, President...President@keelhauler.org

President's Message From Brian Smart



We will be meeting at 1763 Goodyear Blvd, Akron, Ohio, 44221 at 7pm for a club meeting. This will be a different meeting place than normal, but it is a large venue that is free (at least at first) and we can stay for

as long as we like. There will be donuts and drinks. People are welcome to byob or food if they want.

Everyone is welcome we have a lot to talk about and plan.

The club is still looking for volunteers for two very important positions-Conservation and Meeting Coordinator. If anyone has an interest, please let us know so we can talk about it.

Position	Proposed for 2022
President	Brian Smart
Vice President	Megan Thompson
Secretary	Michael Duvall
Treasurer	Kelly Miller
Trustee 2021-2023	Domenic Bentz
Trustee 2020-2022	Jeremiah Richards
Trustee 2022-2024	John Banach
Conservation	Needs organizer
Membership	John Kobak
Instruction	Mark Spang
Safety & Rescue	Seth Anderson
Pool Sessions	Bret Rose
Library	Cliff Wire
Recreational	Moneen McBride
(Erie) Sea Kayaking	Lena Bear
Trip Schedule	Ethan Kay
Newsletter	Kelly Miller
Meeting coordinator	Needs organizer
Yearbook Editor	Chloe Shepherd
Website Development Team	Brian Smart, Chloe Shepherd, Dominic Bentz, John Kobak, Kelly Miller, & Megan Thompson

So, we hope to see everyone there!

Brian Smart, President...President@keelhauler.org

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of September 30, 2021
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402 \$2,317.40
CD 1077 \$2,317.32
CD'S (2) \$4, 634.72

Checking \$15,881.08

Total \$19,515.80

**On-Line Message Board (Forum)
From John Kobak**

Our on-line forum is being phased out. The [Message Board](#) has been active since 2007, but all the old posts are still searchable. You will no longer be able to post any new comments, but you will still be able to search for words in all the old posts. Over 3000 topics and 11,000 posts have been archived. It's a fast way to find information.

**It's That Time Again...
From John Kobak**

It's that time again.

All club memberships end on **October 1st.**

As soon as you can, please pay your **2022** membership dues. The sooner you pay the less work on my part. I would ask all of you to mail your check today or **pay on-line before the end of the month.** It doesn't matter when you originally paid your club dues; all memberships expired on September 30th.

All 2021 members should pay their 2022 dues now, no application is required.

Just click to: [Pay 2022 Dues](#) (Options will be displayed)

Note that 160 members have already paid for 2022, so please don't pay again.

Am I Paid? - - See this link:

<https://keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/khint.pdf> (Password protected)

Please use - User Name: **dir** (not news), the directory password is listed in my monthly e-mail.

If you agreed to be listed in our yearbook, you can see what years you are paid for in the last column.

1 = 2021 2 = 2022 3 = 2023

You also have the option to pay for **two years for only \$36**

If you can't use Paypal, just mail your check to:

Keel Haulers Canoe Club

1649 Allen Dr

Westlake, OH 44145-2506

If you need to change any of your membership information, you can use this form:

[On-Line Registration Form](#)

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. Send them the link above. In 2021 our club had 360 paid memberships, which was the most in the past 20 years. We have had a lot of active new members join this year, thanks to the encouragement and instruction of our more experienced members.

Also, all WW paddlers should **join AW**, the one organization that fights to remove dams and provides us with river access. Our club members can get a \$10 discount. Pick \$25.00 – Affiliate Club Member from this link: [Join American Whitewater](#)

John Kobak - Membership Chairman

Conservation News From Jacki Zevenbergen

I want to thank all of the members who pitched in on conservation by participating in cleanups and writing or calling to encourage public officials and agencies to protect the rivers that we paddle. Many of us remember a time before the Clean Water Act when rivers in industrial areas burned and were choked with raw pollution. Our contributions to local and national water conservation organizations help to support the ongoing fight to keep our streams fishable and swimmable. Although most boating is considered secondary contact, I think most of us will agree that our exposure is high and clean water is important to keep our sport healthy. We paddle when the rivers are swollen with runoff and most likely to contain high levels of bacteria and other pollutants. We're a large club and our actions and voices can make a difference. Special thanks to Moneen McBride for organizing the most recent cleanup on September 25th, National Public Lands Day. I've enjoyed serving as conservation chairperson for the last 2 years and I'll be happy to help the new chairperson.

Hope to see you all on a *clean* river soon.

Jacki

Trip Organizers Needed for 2021-22 Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club

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Saturday, October 2

Class IV - KH Rating: 32 - Upper Yough - Fri-Sat Release

Saturday, October 16

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghieny (Loyo)

Sunday, October 17

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghieny (Loyo)

Saturday, November 13

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghieny (Loyo)

Sunday, November 14

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghieny (Loyo)

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VP:	John Banach	330-606-5032
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New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send to: John Kobak, 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 **November 2021** issue of the newsletter is **10/23/2021**. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Kanews, **October 2021**

Kelly Miller, Editor, 701 Forrest Ave., Geneva, IL 60134



Keel-hauler's Ka-news NOVEMBER, 2021



Next General Club Meeting:

To be announced.....

Any questions? Contact: Brian Smart, President...President@keelhauler.org

**President's Message
From Brian Smart**



The October Colors trip was great. We want to Thank Dave Roush for his several decades organizing Lower Yough Trips. I am not sure how many paddlers he has taken down the river? But, it will take new and old paddlers to keep the traditions alive for the next decade.

The meeting went well. We tried a new location, and this was also the first time I have ever held a meeting. Thank you to everyone who came and helped me stumble through it.

Watch for upcoming news coming soon!

Training Programs

Indoor Pools

Christmas Meeting

Brian Smart, bsmart@keelhauler.org

330-809-7409

**Keel-hauler Meeting Minutes
from October 25, 2021
From Michael Duvall**

Meeting held at 1763 Goodyear Blvd, Akron. Approx. 20 members attending.

Meeting called to order by President Brian Smart at 7:00 pm.

First order of business was election of new officers

Brian was elected President at summer meeting July 31, 2021

Remaining officer slate:

Vice President - Megan Thompson

Trustee – John Banach (2022-2024)

Trustee – Jeremiah Richard to finish for Matthew Fredmonsky (2022 only)

Each elected unanimously.

Brian listed other positions and chairs:

Conservation – Jackie Zevenbergen (needs organizer)

Membership – John Kobak

Instruction – Mark Spang

Safety & Rescue – Seth Anderson

Pool Sessions – Bret Rose

Library – Cliff Wire (Note DVRs being deleted)

Trip schedule – Ethan Kay, Andres Morgen, Brian Smart

Meeting Organizer (needs organizer)

Newsletter – Kelly Miller

Yearbook Editor - Chloe Shepherd

Website development – Brian Smart, Chloe Shepherd, Dominic Bentz, John Kobak, Kelly Miller, and Megan Thompson

Brian presented the 2022 budget. Donations discussed in depth.

Members asked for explanation of benefits of Grand Canyon Private Boaters and Nature Conservancy.

Portage Park Dist. \$100 transferred to Save Slip Fund to be used when appropriate.

Voted and Approved.

Trotline laws discussed – Brian said club should write a letter.

Final budget item purchase of socker goals \$495. Voted and Approved.

Meeting adjourned 8:00pm.

Conservation News

There is a lot going on with river conservation. Check out a few of these websites:

[River Conservation Plans | Mountain Watershed Association \(mtwatershed.com\)](https://mtwatershed.com/)

[BLOG - Friends of the Cheat](#)

[Havasupai Tribe Opposes Mine Too Close to Grand Canyon | Grand Canyon Trust](#)

[Paddlers protest proposed asphalt plant in Slippery Rock TWP \(butlereagle.com\)](https://butlereagle.com/)

Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2021 From Kelly Miller

CD 0402	\$2,317.59
CD 1077	<u>\$2,317.51</u>
CD'S (2)	\$4, 635.10
Checking	<u>\$14,611.08</u>
Total	<u>\$19,246.18</u>

Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
Actuals as of Fiscal Year End 09/30/2021
From Kelly Miller

Category Description	FY 2021 Budget	FY 2021 Actuals
ASSETS		
CHECKING balance at start of FY	\$17,289.27	\$17,289.27
CD (2) balance at start of FY	\$4,622.86	\$4,634.72
INCOME		
Conservation	\$200.00	\$351.46
Dues	\$6,000.00	\$7,526.86
TeeSpring, Inc.	\$0.00	\$155.46
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,200.00	\$8,033.78
TOTAL ASSETS	\$28,112.13	\$29,957.77
LIABILITIES		
EXPENSE		
Conservation Donations	\$4,250.00	\$4,250.00
Access Donations*	\$600.00	\$600.00
Internet Domain	\$36.00	\$17.99
Webpage Development	\$200.00	\$220.47
Marketing	\$0.00	\$319.50
Education/Training/Outreach	\$1,350.00	\$1,387.28
Meeting Hall	\$210.00	\$152.83
Postage and Supply	\$0.00	\$415.87
Refreshments	\$200.00	\$223.93
Yearbook Expense	\$1,700.00	\$0.00
Yough Reservations-Intro	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pool Sessions	\$1,200.00	\$1,514.10
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$9,746.00	\$9,101.97
OVERALL TOTAL	\$18,366.13	\$20,855.80
DONATIONS:		
American Whitewater	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Friends of the Cheat	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Friends of the Crooked River	\$300.00	\$300.00
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association	\$150.00	\$150.00
American Rivers	\$300.00	\$300.00
West Virginia Rivers Coalition	\$300.00	\$300.00
River Network	\$100.00	\$100.00
Nature Conservancy	\$100.00	\$100.00
Mountain Watershed Assoc.-Yough Defense Fund	\$300.00	\$300.00

Portage Park Dist.	\$100.00	\$100.00
Special Donation/Benscreek-Stonycreek *	\$600.00	\$600.00
Friends of the New River Gorge	\$100.00	\$100.00
Additional Conservation		
TOTAL	\$4,850.00	\$4,850.00

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
Budget for Fiscal Year 2022
From Kelly Miller**

	FY 2022 Budget
ASSETS	
CHECKING balance at start of FY	\$15,221.08
CD (2) balance at start of FY	\$4,634.72
INCOME	
Conservation	\$250.00
Dues	\$7,000.00
TeeSpring, Inc.	\$100.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$7,350.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$27,205.80
LIABILITIES	
EXPENSE	
Conservation Donations	\$5,050.00
Access Donations*	\$1,200.00
Internet Domain	\$38.00
Webpage Development	\$300.00
Marketing	\$50.00
Education/Training/Outreach	\$2,000.00
Meeting Hall	\$400.00
Postage and Supply	\$50.00
Refreshments	\$300.00
Yearbook Expense	\$450.00
Yough Reservations-Intro	\$0.00
Pool Sessions	\$1,600.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$11,438.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$15,767.80
DONATIONS:	

American Whitewater	\$1,500.00
Friends of the Cheat	\$1,000.00
Friends of the Crooked River	\$100.00
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association	\$150.00
American Rivers	\$300.00
West Virginia Rivers Coalition	\$300.00
River Network	\$100.00
Nature Conservancy	\$100.00
Mountain Watershed Assoc.-Yough Defense Fund	\$300.00
Portage Park Dist.	\$0.00
Special Donation/Benscreek-Stonycreek *	\$1,200.00
Friends of the New River Gorge	\$100.00
Save Slippery Rock Defense Fund (SSRC)	\$500.00
Additional Conservation	\$600.00
TOTAL	\$6,250.00

**2022 Membership Dues are Overdue
From John Kobak**

All club memberships have ended on October 1st for 2021 membership year

Our club now has over 350 family memberships in 19 states.

About 1/3 of you haven't renewed your 2022 membership so far.

So, if you haven't gotten around to it, **DO IT TODAY!**

Don't miss out on all the club benefits like free indoor pool sessions and discounted advanced WW safety training.

You can use any credit card or a Paypal account and renew using this link:

<https://www.keelhauler.org/EZPay21.htm>

OR

If you still want to mail a check,

Please send a **\$20** for your **2022 Membership Dues** or a **\$36** check for **2022-23 dues**

Please Mail To our Treasurer:

Keel Haulers Canoe Club

701 Forrest Ave

Geneva, IL 60134

To check whether or not I have received your renewal, you can check this updated file:

<https://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/khint.pdf>

This file is password protected for your security.

User Name: "dir" and the current 2021 password found in each monthly newsletter e-mail.

If the last column by your name says 1 and not 2, then you are not recorded as paid for 2022.

If it shows 23, this means you have also paid for 2023.

Thanks

John Kobak – Membership Chairman

**On-Line Message Board (Forum)
From John Kobak**

Our on-line forum is being phased out. The [Message Board](#) has been active since 2007, but all the old posts are still searchable. You will no longer be able to post any new comments, but you will still be able to search for words in all the old posts. Over 3000 topics and 11,000 posts have been archived. It's a fast way to find information.

**Trip Organizers Needed for 2022
[Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#)**

We need trip organizers for 2022. Please volunteer to help. Fill out an easy online form to organize a trip: Add [Event — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#). Go to the Calendar of Events link for more information on the trips listed below. [Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#)

Saturday, November 13

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghiogheny (Loyo)

Sunday, November 14

Class III - KH 23 - Lower Youghiogheny (Loyo)

HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



2022 Club Officers

President:	Brian Smart	330-809-7409
VP:	Megan Thompson	
Secretary:	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, should temporarily sent to:
Kelly Miller, Treasurer, 701 Forrest Ave., Geneva, IL 60134

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Keel-Hauler Kanews,

November 2021

Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.,
Geneva, IL 60134



Keel-hauler's Ka-news

DECEMBER, 2021



Keel-Hauler's Xmas Party and Meeting 2021!

Friday, December 17, 2021, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Hines Hill Conference Center, 1403 West Hines Hill Road, Peninsula, OH, 44264 ([map](#))

Doors open at 5:00pm. We will start the meeting promptly at 5:30pm, then Dinner will take place after the meeting at 7:00pm. We must be finished by 9:00pm.

Potluck: Please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name. The club will supply beverages, plates, and plastic ware.

A-E: Salad or Vegetable

F-L: Bread or Appetizer

M-R: Main dish or Casserole

S-Z: Dessert or Fruit

Please keep in mind that adhesives, tacks, nails, or anything which may damage the historic buildings or endanger the natural resources of the park are prohibited. All setup and cleanup must be done within the contracted time period - spaces will not be available before or after the scheduled time.

Any questions? Contact: Brian Smart, President...President@keelhauler.org

President's Message From Brian Smart

No Message this month.

Brian Smart, President@keelhauler.org, 330-809-7409

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
as of November 30, 2021
From Kelly Miller**

CD 0402 \$2,317.78
CD 1077 \$2,317.71
CD'S (2) \$4,635.49

Checking \$15,606.43

Total \$19,241.92

**Keeping a Beloved Space Safe from Industry
Save Slippery Rock Creek
From Jacki Zevenbergen**

Slippery Rock Creek, and the area abutting the creek, are true gems in Western Pennsylvania that we all have enjoyed and are currently at risk due to industry. A company called Hei-Way, LLC is attempting to build a cold mix asphalt plant along a 15-acre piece of property right along the creek in Slippery Rock Township (Butler County), about eight miles upstream from McConnells Mill State Park. Cold asphalt is a quick-fix solution used for fixing potholes or road cracks.

For decades, this property was zoned as Rural-Conservation, but was changed to Light Industrial after the company successfully lobbied the Township's Zoning Hearing Board to amend their zoning code to accommodate plans for this plant, despite resident pushback since 2020. Allowing this asphalt plant to be built will destroy the peace, tranquility, and healthy environment, and allow toxic wastewater to be discharged into the creek.

[Save Slippery Rock Creek \(SSRC\)](#) has taken this fight to the courts and before the zoning board with exceptional counsel on their side and has won the first rounds to push this project back. They also intend to fight their requests for necessary permits before the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), should this project be approved by the Township.

During the latest public hearing for this project on November 22nd, the vice president of Hei-Way and their expert witnesses assured Slippery Rock Township Zoning Hearing Board and residents who attended, that a cold asphalt plant does not have the inherent nuisances and risks that are normally associated with hot asphalt plants, including highly carcinogenic air emissions, heavy truck traffic, and toxic wastewater discharged into the creek, and that they had done their due diligence of conducting air, sound, water testings/simulations, showing that the creek and surrounding area would be kept safe/not affected by the plant's operations. The vice president and owner of the company even went so far as to say that no emissions are coming off of the current asphalt site in nearby Sarver, PA, and that there wouldn't be at the Slippery Rock site, either.

However, upon cross-examination by SSRC counsel, many alarming contradictions and additional points were brought to light, including how the supposed environmental studies conducted by the expert witnesses were not submitted to SSRC counsel and potentially did not reflect the nature of the site, or that the witnesses were possibly not qualified to conduct the studies or provide expert testimony during the hearing. Some of the most shocking revelations include:

- The property was actually in TWO different zoning districts, one of which does not allow industrial activity to occur
- Air modeling was NOT conducted for the Slippery Rock site to see how emissions would travel from the asphalt plant to neighboring properties, and air studies themselves were only conducted for one hour on hand-picked days. This was also the case for the sound studies conducted.
- Chemical components for the asphalt mix not only contained carcinogenic materials that required special handling, but the vice president refused to disclose some of the ingredients in the asphalt mixture, claiming that it was “proprietary knowledge,” even though it may contain chemicals toxic to human and other wildlife
- Stormwater would be allowed to fall directly onto finished asphalt product, and be allowed to seep into unpaved ground, or runoff to travel directly to Slippery Rock Creek. The finished product includes (that we know of) diesel, styrene, and silica, all of which are classified as carcinogenic or harmful to human and wildlife if exposed to without the proper protection.

The next public hearing is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 15th, at 10am**. This battle will be long and arduous against a company with substantial resources. SSRC is asking for support in order to keep winning in court so that we can prevent this environmental and public health disaster! To view the full public hearings and for more information on SSRC or how to donate, please visit saveslipperyrockcreek.weebly.com

Paul Boas
Co-founder, Save Slippery Rock Creek

Robin Lynn Martin
PA Organizer, Food & Water Watch and Food & Water Action

Instruction From Mark Spang

Instruction is usually best on the water where real paddling happens. Unless, of course, it is the river giving you a lesson the hard way, in the whitewater school of hard rocks.

As the club's new instruction chairperson, I hope to use the newsletter to present some paddling tips and techniques that I have learned from better paddlers than myself, but this time I have a lesson from my own discomforting experience.

The book says that river paddlers need to look downstream, read the river and plan moves in advance. If you concentrate only on what is happening immediately underneath your boat there's a pretty good chance it will be too late to diminish what the river is going to dish out to you. Never paddle anything you would not want to swim and when in doubt, get out and scout. It doesn't matter if you've paddled the river hundreds of times or that no one had recently posted warnings on social media.

When in doubt, get out and scout.

On the day before Halloween, a group was planning a Saturday morning run on the Slippery Rock Creek. I decided to join in. I left home knowing the river was going to be high and challenging. As the river level rose, most of the others decided on an alternate plan on the Cuyahoga, which left me and John Black, who drove from Columbus, at the Rose Point put-in. We set shuttle for Harris bridge and started off. We hadn't paddled too far when we saw water splashing off a tree stretching across the river a little past Ranger Station but before the Airport rapid. We eddied out and looked downstream. So far, so good. What next?

You might say, get out of the boat, climb onto the shore and scout the obstacle and if there's no way around the strainer portage it. Good answer.

That's not what I did. I thought, there must be passage on river left where there isn't as much splashing. I left the safety of the eddy, soon saw that the log was barely underwater where I thought I could pass. I tried to get up and over but quickly capsized and flushed under the log. My paddle must have been wedged between the log and a rock and snapped. Praise the Lord, there was no pin and I washed under and swam out.

I had plenty to be grateful for this Thanksgiving including the thoughtfulness of Paul Eisner who came along with a breakdown paddle that allowed me to finish the trip. Getting back to the coming year in instruction, please message me at mwspang@gmail.com with any ideas for paddle skills that we all can work on. Perhaps we can take a corner of the pool or lake at a roll session and work on bracing skills or reverse stroke, for example. Or, if you have had an Ah-Ha moment while learning perhaps you could share that in the newsletter.

In the meantime: When in doubt, get out and scout.

**Even Old Dogs
By Bob Gedekoh**

Reprinted from American Whitewater, May, 2000, with permission from the author. Excellent advice some 21 years later!



Even Old Dogs

Last weekend I found myself sharing a river with an old friend, someone I had not kayaked with in nearly a decade. As we drifted toward the take-out he said, "You've watched me boat today. What would make me a better paddler?"

His question left me speechless. I had never been asked that question before. I was both astonished and flattered. The question implied that I had some level of expertise, that I might be expected to dispense paddling pearls of wisdom. The honest truth is that I am a decent paddler, but not a great one. Just an old schooler who has managed to negotiate countless moderately-difficult rivers and creeks by virtue of persistence, experience, stamina, and luck. If I am famous for anything it is not my form and technique, but rather my lack of them. No one has ever mistaken me for Eric Jackson.

But as I pondered my old friend's query, I realized what he was getting at. He wasn't implying that I had morphed into a great paddler since we last shared a river, he was just acknowledging that I had become a better paddler. And he wanted to know how I did it.

I have been paddling for nearly twenty-five years, but, as I remember, my paddling skills seemed to plateau after the second year. Sure, during the next fifteen years I got better at reading water and, like everyone else, I benefited from new boat designs. But, really, I don't think my technique started to improve

until ten years ago. And most of the progress has probably occurred in the past three years. My paddling style is still not "pretty," but it is better than ever before. It improved enough to impress my old friend, anyway.

I've never taken a formal lesson or read a book on paddling techniques. I'm not even comfortable with the instructional terminology. But I can pinpoint some things that made me a better recreational paddler, and I'm willing to share them. Many of my suggestions will seem laughably obvious, particularly to new school boaters. Nevertheless, I still see plenty of paddlers, young and old, who could benefit from my simple suggestions.

First and foremost, get in shape and stay in shape. About ten years ago I dropped thirty pounds of flab. Did it make a difference in my boating? You bet it did! Try running a river with a thirty pound sack of potatoes in your boat. A little cardiovascular conditioning and cross training helped as well. Twelve years ago carrying my kayak up the mountain at the Panther Creek take-out on the Gauley was a brutal 40-minute ordeal. Now, at 48, I do it in fifteen minutes with energy to spare. But I can't help noticing how many gasping 20 and 30 year olds I pass along the trail. And an surprising number of these breathless wonders are sucking on cigarettes. Get real!

Accept the sad fact that drifting a river does not constitute exercise. It doesn't take much energy to float like a turd down a

familiar Class IV river. And if you celebrate that accomplishment by pigging out on beer and pizza.... The bottom line is that a day on the river will only be a real work out if you bike or jog the shuttle. Or paddle aggressively.

Which brings me to my second point. If you want better technique, you have to work at it. Watch Johnny Regan paddle the Upper Yough, or Clay Wright paddle the Gauley, or Charley MacArthur paddle the Roaring Fork. They don't just make the mandatory moves; they are in perpetual motion.... driving through obscure slots into tight eddies, attaining, ferrying, boofing, spinning, surfing and cartwheeling. They paddle thirty miles during a single trip down a ten-mile river. Do you think that they need to do that to get down the creek? Of course not. They are maintaining and honing their technique. That technique serves them well when they tackle less familiar, more difficult rivers.

So, the next time you paddle your home river, follow their example and look for difficult moves that you can add to your repertoire. When I paddle the Upper Yough, I make it a rule to attempt a number of tough maneuvers that push me to the limit... moves that I successfully complete less than half of the time. They aren't dangerous or consequential, just challenging. If you don't practice moves that are really hard for you, you won't get any better.

My third suggestion is to take a good look at your boat and gear. There was a time when the Dancer and the T Slalom and the Crossfire were state-of-the-art boats. That day is gone. Long gone. If you are paddling a tub and you really want to get better, check out the new designs and find one that fits your build, style, and needs. Take advantage of the progress that has been made in boat design. If you want to paddle really big water and do some serious creeking and compete in rodeos, you will probably need two and possibly three boats. True, Eric Southwick could paddle a tiny rodeo boat down Mann's Creek and the North Fork of the Payette in flood. But your name is not Eric Southwick!

Take a look at your paddle as well. Several years ago I sustained a partial rotator cuff tear in a mountain bike accident. Within two weeks I was back in my boat, paddling in spite of the pain. I figured it would soon run its course. But it didn't. After nine months of unrelenting misery, I was ready to consider surgery. Finally, at a friend's insistence, I skeptically set aside my stiff, heavy, and long paddle and tried a short, light model. Within two weeks my shoulder was pain free! And my paddling improved to boot.

My fourth suggestion is to sit up in your boat. Paddle with an aggressive, forward posture and resist the temptation to lean back on

the deck when you run a drop. New school boaters and those who had formal instruction often have good paddling postures, but most old schoolers do not. I think there is a good reason for this. Fifteen years ago most of us were paddling long, pointy boats that were prone to dive. We would have been hard pressed to boof those boats, even if we had known how. So we cultivated the habit of throwing our weight back when we went over falls and ledges, hoping to avoid pitons. This became an instinctive habit, one that is hard to break. Many of us know in our heads that we need to lean forward, but when things get tense, we slip back to our old ways. Fight this tendency. Sit up. A back band or brace may help, but the rest is up to you.

Which brings me to suggestion number five. Take the time to outfit your boat correctly. You will not paddle well if you are rattling around in your kayak like a jumping bean in a tin can. Many of us who learned to boat a long time ago still find it disconcerting to oaddle tightly-fitted boats. This is understandable, our first boats had tiny cockpits and we worried about entrapment. I paddled for 15 years before I even tried a back band or hip pads. That was a mistake. You cannot use your legs, hips, and abdominal muscles effectively if you are not snug in your boat.

Suggestion number six: Don't just paddle with your arms, use your whole body to move your boat. Especially your shoulders, abs and hips. There is a reason why expert boaters like Coleen Laffey and Brian Homberg have washboard abs. They use them. Stretching a bit before you launch and periodically during the day seems to facilitate whole body paddling.

Number seven: Conquer your fear of rocks. Again, this is tough for old timers, especially those of us who spent time in fragile fiberglass boats. Not long ago I showed an extreme video to an old slalom paddler, one who had been on the national team 30 years ago. He had been away from the sport for more than a decade. When he saw the creekers in action he was horrified. "They don't even try to miss the rocks, they just bang into them!" he snorted. Of course, during his heyday creeks were rivers with gradients more than 125 feet per mile. And plastic boats were totally uncool.

Today's creekers often paddle streams that drop 300 feet a mile and more. They don't manage that feat by intentionally slamming headlong into rocks, but they certainly don't dodge them all, either. If you want to creek you need to learn to use the rocks, and the water that pillows up and swirls around them. Expect to lose a little knuckle meat and plastic in the process. It's the price of admission.

Number eight: When facing a difficult

move, look at the precise feature that you need to attain and focus on it. It might be a point on an eddy line, or the launch pad of a ledge. It might be the edge of a hydraulic, or the peak of a wave. Whatever it is, keep looking at it as you go for it.

My ninth suggestion is a simple mechanical observation: the last paddle stroke you take before you launch a vertical move

is the most important. The placement and timing of that stroke will determine whether you land flat or pencil in, whether you boof or goof. The mechanics of that stroke seem to be even more important than your approach speed and angle. Learning to place that final stroke correctly takes practice. This is not one of my strengths, but I am working on it.

Number ten: Visualize a difficult move

Less is More???

Not when it comes to whitewater...



American Whitewater The Wilder the Better

Since 1955 American Whitewater has been hard at work conserving, restoring and securing access to your favorite rivers. Now it's time to join us and help protect YOUR paddling future. As a member, you'll receive the best in whitewater access, conservation, safety, recreation and events. You'll also receive a free subscription to

AMERICAN WHITEWATER magazine- the cutting edge in whitewater information and entertainment.

Call Today to Join! It's the Best \$25 You'll Ever Spend.

P.O. Box 636
Margaretville, NY 12455

914-586-2355
whiteh2o@catskill.net

before you attempt it. Athletic coaches have been preaching this for years. And with good reason. It works. If you can't even imagine yourself performing a difficult, dangerous move, you probably shouldn't try it. For example, I cannot visualize myself boofing into the crux eddy in Jacob's Ladder on the North Fork of the Payette. Hence, I have not attempted it. Know and respect your limitations. Sometimes discretion is the better part of valor!

One final thought, keep paddling in perspective. Set goals for yourself, but don't forget that running whitewater is supposed to be fun. After all, it's only rock and roll!

Bob Gedekoh

Whitewater Dancer II

This video has it all! Underwater rolls, the 89 Worlds, Rodcos, Not wave and hole surfing, Class V wipe-outs, Tunes by world famous fiddlemaster PAPA JOHN CREACH! HI-FI stereo 55 Min.

The Grand Canyon

Get into the GRAND CANYON. See the big drops and an innertube run of Lava Falls, with some really wild tunes. HI-FI stereo 43 Min.

The Upper Yough, Gauley, Big Sandy, and The Russell Fork

See all of the big gnarly drops on these 4 great rivers all on one tape! HI-FI stereo 43 Min.

How to Modify a Sabre

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Obituary for Peggy Kobak (1938-2021)

Peggy was KHCC's oldest female paddler. She was an adventures outdoor person who loved to Bicycle & Canoe. She liked to travel in her motorhome and has been to every state in the USA and Mexico along with most of the Canadian provinces. She liked adventure travel to warm places in the winter like Ecuador & the Galapagos, Australia, New Zealand & Tasmania, Central America, the Virgin Islands or anywhere in the Caribbean.

She was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer on September 1st

and lost her battle on October 19th. We were married for 62 years. She loved the club. We joined in 1968 and she became the club's Secretary. She loved all paddling



activities WW, SK, FW, and CC. Peggy with our 2 kids on French Creek in 1968.



We bought a decked canoe and she even tried **WW** paddling in 1969. Our children grew up enjoying the



outdoors and paddling everywhere, southern US in spring and CO in summer. Our Kids in 1974 & 1978 from FL to MT.





Peggy welcomed everyone to our home when I started **Keel-Haulers Outfitters** store in our basement from **1972 to 1985**.

She loved biking, sailing and adventure travel.

With an old goat in New Zealand in 1989



She even tried **Sea Kayaking** on the Belize coral reef for 8 days in **1995** in our Foldbot.

Adams', Priem's, Peggy and Chuck Singer On our way to Alaska in 1994.





Peggy loved **welcoming everyone to her cabin**. She always made everyone feel like family.

Every weekend at least 15-20 Keel-Haulers would camp or stay in her small cabin.

Over the past 20 years 12 paddlers have now bought or built their own cabins on the beautiful Beaver Creek Dr in West Virginia.

She felt bad that not as many people were staying here, now they all had their own places.

For the past 5 winters we did a lot of **Biking &**

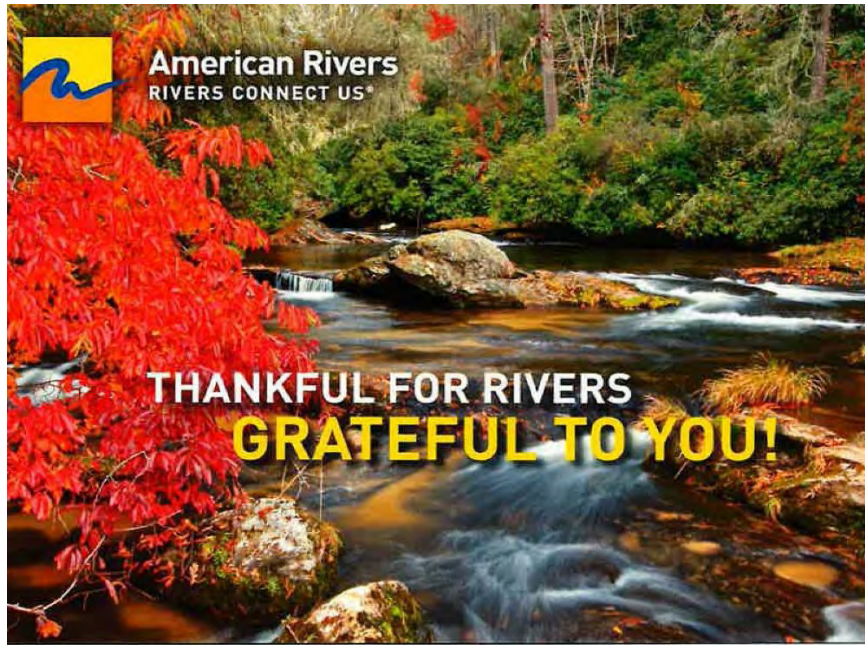
Canoeing in Florida after spending 12 winters driving our motorhome from one end of Mexico to the other.



We have 4 great kids and 12 grandchildren. Peggy touched many lives and always had a smile on her face. She was certainly the reason we had so many good friends.



I'm sure that we will all miss Peggy, please say a prayer for her. She will watch out for us, on the rivers that she truly loved. By John Kobak



Your support gives us reason to be thankful.
All of us at American Rivers wish you a
season of gratitude and healthy rivers.

Onward Together,
Tom Korman

Trip Organizers Needed for 2022
[Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#)

We need trip organizers for 2022. Please volunteer to help. Fill out an easy online form to organize a trip: Add [Event — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#). Go to the Calendar of Events link for more information on the trips listed below. [Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#)

2022 Club Officers

President:	Brian Smart	330-809-7409
VP:	Megan Thompson	
Secretary:	Michael Duvall	216-513-5921
Treasurer:	Kelly Miller	724-553-6816

Meetings: Approximately 4 meetings per year. Please check website for next meeting time and location.

Membership: \$20 per year. **Membership Chairman: John Kobak**

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone (email is fine), should temporarily sent to: Kelly Miller, Keel-hauler Treasurer, 701 Forrest Ave., Geneva, IL 60134

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.com and 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. 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 December 2021 issue of the newsletter is 12/20/2021. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Kanews,

December, 2021

Kelly Miller, Editor
701 Forrest Ave.,
Geneva, IL 60134

