

Keel-hauler's Ka-news

JUNE, 2026



President's Message From Robin Shell

Happy Summer everyone! Our rainy kayak season has been in full swing (with a few washed out days as well). For those who went to Stony Creek Rendezvous, the river and weather were perfect! Lots of wave surfing, LOTS of birthdays, and lots of time on the river. Thank you to ALL of the Keel Haulers and TRPC'ers that helped with the Jeff Prycl Memorial Skills Clinic: Chris Curley (who led the charge), Christina Curley, Andi Morgan, Michael Vogel, JB Day, Josh Feters, Charles McDo, and Loretta Mowry Given.

One takeaway I had from Stony was how amazing and engaged our club is. We may have a lot of overlap with TRPC and CPC, but the Keel Haulers have made a name for themselves, and we continue to live up to the reputation!

That same weekend was the 2nd annual NEO Adventure Fest put on by Open Trails Collective. With over 50 vendors, an amazing raffle and really awful weather, the turnout was still pretty great, and we may have some new members coming out of that event. Tim and Brian really showcased the club! Thank you for your volunteering.

We have Blazing Paddles Paddlefest coming up in August. If you would like to be on the safety team or the tent outreach team, please reach out to Tim Eberling who's heading up that endeavor.

We are looking for someone to take the baton for the summer picnic at LOYO. If you would like to give back to the club and help out with this event, please reach out to me or Jacki and we'll help guide you.

--

Robin Shell
President
216-482-6100



Veep's Views

By Jacki Zevenbergen

We had lots of great trips last month due to our aMAYzing trip organizers and participants. It was great to see both new and old friends!

Laura Vaughn and Mike Bailey kicked off the month with trips on the Cheat Canyon and North Branch Potomac/Cheat Narrows, respectively. Mark Spang organized a trip on the ever beautiful Grand River on the Saturday before Mother's Day. I really enjoyed the bald eagle sighting as we floated along. The Munroe Falls and Indigo Lake roll sessions began in May under the organization of Brian Smart and Doug Waltman. Doug is also the organizer for the popular Wednesday on the Water series on the Cuyahoga River. Stony Rendezvous was popular, and a great success as always, with Friday afternoon trips for the early birds and Mike Bailey leading popular trips on the Canyon on both Saturday and Sunday. In honor of Jeff Prycl, Chris Curley ran an all-day training session for newer boaters on the lower Stony. In true KHCC/TRPC spirit, about 7 additional skilled members gave up a day of paddling the Stony to provide safety support for this clinic. On that same weekend, Cliff Wire organized a Dry Fork with a North Branch fallback for those who weren't into the festival scene.

As I write this, we are just finishing up the Memorial Day weekend. This weekend we went from water famine to feast! Don Boehmer sponsored a Jackson Fun Tour trip on the Cheat Narrows on Friday. Levels were perfect, the water was really warm, and Steven Wright was giving great tips to the participants. I tried to organize a Special Stony release paddle on Saturday, but water levels blew up. We moved the trip to Scrubgrass Creek near Clintonville, PA. Levels were good in the morning but by the time we launched it was low runnable. 10 members participated. I had a great time, and I hope we'll get to try again this year when we have a little more water. Meesh Crum organized a Slip trip on Sunday. Most of the participants who ran the upper continued on the lower to provide support for a newer boater and a couple of longtime members who were knocking the rust off. It worked out well that no one had a trip on the schedule for Monday as many of the popular rivers blew up by Monday morning.

On the last 2 days of May, Micah Vertal is organizing a Cheat Narrows/LOYO weekend. By the time you receive this newsletter those trips will be over, but I anticipate they will be successful!

Kristina McKrone organized the potluck for Stony Rendezvous with a taco theme and Tim Eberling organized the coverage for the KHCC booth at the NE Ohio Outdoor Adventure Fest. Our conservation Chairperson, Xavier Rivera, is organizing a stream cleanup for May 30th.

Thank you to everyone who committed to organizing a scheduled trip and to all participants!

The first weekend in June is the TRPC Slip Clinic. Hopefully we have a lot of members teaching and learning this weekend. Michael Duvall is organizing a Savage release trip for those advanced paddlers who are not instructing at Slip Clinic. We currently have several trips planned for one or more days of the weekend of June 13/14. Mary Spikowski is organizing upper New River trips both days. Valentina Gomez is organizing a Middle Yough trip on June 14th. Karl Schmidt will be

organizing a LOYO trip one of those days (see the event schedule for an update). Ted Hess has agreed to organize a Slip trip on Saturday, June 20th.

Many members will be heading to NC at the end of June for the CCC Week of Rivers. Reach out to me if you have any questions about this event. Moneen McBride is organizing a cleanup on the Cuyahoga River on June 27th. Please volunteer if you are in town!

Please consider organizing a trip in June. We need organizers for the following:

June 13 or 14 Slip

June 13 or 14 Cheat Narrows (WV) or Casselman (PA)

June 13, 14 Stony Release

June 20 LOYO

June 27, 28 Stony Release

Slippery Rock is the closest stream for most of our Ohio members and many of our PA members. The lower slip is a great whitewater training ground with progression to the upper slip. Because it is natural flow, it can provide many opportunities for progression and flexibility to move from lower to upper sections. I would like to have a Slip trip at least one day per weekend. The Cheat Narrows or Casselman can be great for intermediate boaters and the Stony and LOYO releases can provide some reasonably stable water levels. Please help organize one trip on these rivers if you can.

Please thank all of our wonderful organizers when you see them! A vibrant club depends on members who volunteer their time and expertise.

Jacki Z

Link to view schedule: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iRGtZinVPHOzy-tfEbs3OfR3s93VSBp3ULA6l3gQoM8/edit?usp=sharing>

**Keel-hauler Treasurer's Report
May 30, 2026
From Michael Duvall**

Checking \$12,634.53

**Cuyahoga Valley Adventures to North Hampton
Point (4 miles River Cleanup)
June 27, 2026**

Join us for the River Clean-Up in partnership with Cuyahoga Valley National Park and supported by the H2Ohio Healthy Rivers Livery Program!

Meeting Location: Cuyahoga Valley Adventures

Date: Saturday, June 27th, 2026
Time: 4-7 PM

On River Clean-Up:

Arrive 15-30 minutes prior to start time of event at Cuyahoga Valley Adventures. We will do a quick talk then head to our designated River Access to kick off the river clean up.
What's included

- Kayaks, paddles and life jackets will be provided.
- Gloves, collection bags, and other necessary supplies will be provided.
- NO NEED TO BRING YOUR OWN KAYAK to clean up trash/debris from the water/riverbed.
- Guidance and support as volunteers paddle along the river, collecting trash/debris and ensuring our waterways stay pristine.

Who is eligible to participate?

- Those with kayaking experience and can self-rescue from capsizing.
- Open to adults and youth 13-17 with adult companion.
- Those that can move and lift at least 50 lbs.
- Participants MUST wear sturdy CLOSED TOE SHOES.

Items along the river can vary in size and weight. Examples of items could include: tires, bikes, various metals, glass bottles, various plastics/ cans, etc.

Registration: Registration is free, but spaces for the on river kayak clean-up are limited, so sign up early!

Contact Information: For more details, contact Moneen at Moneen@PaddleTheRiver.com or text (330) 298-5009.

Registration here: [Cuyahoga Valley Adventures to North Hampton Point \(4 miles\) River Clean Up Registration | Paddle The River](#)

Lake to Lake Paddle Challenge
August 22, 2026

The 5th Annual Lake to Lake Paddle Challenge is a timed paddle craft challenge for all skill levels. The event will be held on the class 1, Shenango River Water Trail. There is a guaranteed water release at Pymatuning Dam to help create ideal paddle conditions. Participants have the

choice of a 15 Mile Sprint Challenge Competitive Class or a 15 Mile Adventure Challenge. A post-challenge awards ceremony with food and refreshment vendors will take place at the Finish Line.

<https://sites.google.com/laketolakepaddle.com/home>

**Help Keep KHCC River Ratings Current (New Streamlined Submission)
From Domenic Bentz**

Spring and early summer are when rivers remind us they're living systems. Levels swing, channels shift, wood moves, and "normal" changes faster than we'd like. That's exactly why the Keel-Haulers River Rating System needs regular input from the people who are actually on the water.

Here's the honest status update: it's been over a month since we've received new river rating feedback. The good news is we now have a simple, streamlined process that makes submissions quick—something you can do from your phone in a couple minutes after a run.

We have a new streamlined submission process. To submit feedback, go to the River Ratings page and click "Submit River Rating Feedback": <https://www.keelhauler.com/river-ratings>

The form is designed to be fast:

- Pick the river/section from a dropdown (it includes the current KH number right in the label).
- If what you ran isn't listed, choose "New Rating – River/Section currently unlisted."
- Confirm the rating still feels accurate OR suggest an adjustment.

Even a simple "I agree—still feels right" submission is valuable. It tells us the rating is being actively verified by current paddlers, not just carried forward from the past.

What makes a great submission?

A strong submission is short and practical:

- How did it feel compared to other rivers near that KH rating?
- Was it more continuous, harder to rescue, or more consequential than expected?
- Any notable changes? (wood, new hazards, access issues, major feature changes)

If you disagree with the listed rating, please give your best estimate in the KH scale.

Let's bring this resource back to life! If everyone who paddles even a few times this season submits just one quick verification, we'll keep the River Ratings current, credible, and useful—especially for newer paddlers who rely on the list to choose trips responsibly.

Please volunteer to Lead a Trip!
By Jacki Zevenbergen

[2026 trip/release/event schedule as of 04/03/2026 - Google Sheets](#)

Please review this proposed schedule and reach out to me or Cliff to volunteer to organize at least 1 trip during 2026. We could especially use organizers for pre-planned, weekend Slip, LOYO and Stony trips. In addition to myself and Cliff, there are plenty of members who will mentor you through the trip organizer process if you are new to organizing. Please pay it forward to the club for the support you received as a new boater or the subsidized training you received from the club.

Jacki vpkeelhaulers@gmail.com or **Cliff** cwire64@sbcglobal.net

Contact Info - use FB messenger unless noted otherwise. Contact Jacki at vpkeelhaulers@gmail.com if organizer does not respond to messenger.				
		Purple = release, Red = event, Black = Trip		
Month	Date(s)	event	River Rating	Organizer
June	2,16,30	Indigo Lake Roll Sessions	Flatwater	Doug Waltman
June	9, 23	Munroe Falls Lake Roll Sessions	Flatwater	Brian Smart
June		Wednesdays on the Water (Lock 29 beginner WW)	11	Doug Waltman
June	5 & 8	Upper Yough (all Mon and Fri plus last 2 Sat)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
June	6	Savage	26	Michael Duvall
June	6, 7	TRPC Slip Clinic		TRPC
June	7	Munroe Falls Lake Kayak Soccer	Flatwater	Brian Smart
June	14	Slip	13-21	Ed Bachtel
June	13,14	Cheat Canyon	26	Expert level - needs organizer
June	13,14	Cheat Narrows (WV) or Casselman (PA)	18	**
June	13,14	Stony Release	21	**
June	13 or 14	LOYO	23	**
June	14	Middle Yough	12	Valentina Gomez
June	13,14	Upper New	Class II	Mary Spikowski
June	13,14	New River Gorge	26	Expert level - needs organizer
June	20	LOYO	23	**

June	20	Slip	13-21	Ted Hess
June	21	Happy Fathers Day		
June	27	Cleanup Cuy. Valley Adv. to North Hampton Point	Akron	Moneen McBride Cuy Valley Adv
June	27,28	New River Dries Release (Tentative)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
June	27,28	Stony Release		
June	28	LOYO	23	Karl Schmidt
June , July	27-6	Week of Rivers CCC (NC)		Jacki Z
July		Upper Yough (All Mon, Fri, Sat)	32	Expert level
July	5	Savage	26	Expert level
July	5	New River Dries Release (Tentative)	32	Expert level
July		Wednesdays on the Water (Lock 29 beginner WW)	11	Doug Waltman
July		Cheat Canyon	26	Expert level - needs organizer
July	5,6	Cheat Narrows (WV) or Casselman (PA)	18	
July	7, 21	Munroe Falls Lake Roll Sessions	Flatwater	Brian Smart
July	10	Cleanup SMP Valley View to CVA	Akron	Moneen McBride Cuy Valley Adv
July	11,12	Cheat Narrows (WV) or Casselman (PA)	18	
July	11,12	New River Dries Release	32	Mike Gillam
July	11,12	Stony Release	21	
July	11,12	LOYO	23	Mary Spikowski
July	11,12	Middle Yough	12	
July	12	Munroe Falls Lake Kayak Soccer	Flatwater	Brian Smart
July	14, 28	Indigo Lake Roll Sessions	Flatwater	Doug Waltman
July	17-18	Blazing Paddles	Flatwater	Tim Eberling
July	18	New River Dries Release (Tentative)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
July	19	Middle Yough	12	Ted & Wendy Hess
July	19	LOYO	23	Dave Roush
July	21 (Tues)	LOYO	23	Matt Fredmonsky
July		Upper New		
July		New River Gorge	26	Expert level - needs organizer
July	25,26	Stony Release	21	
July	25,26	LOYO	23	CPC Mary?

August		Wednesdays on the Water (Lock 29 beginner WW)	11	Doug Waltman
August	1,2	Turkey Bash		TRPC
August		Upper Yough (All Mon, Fri, Sat)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
August	4,18	Munroe Falls Lake Roll Sessions	Flatwater	Brian Smart
August	7	Ladies Day	23	Jacki Zevenbergen
August	8,9	Summer Picnic OhioPyle		Jacki Zevenbergen
August	8,9	LOYO	23	
August	9	Middle Yough	12	Meesh Crum?
August	8,9	Stony Release	21	Not likely to have water
August	11	Indigo Lake Roll Session	Flatwater	Doug Waltman
August	15	Whiskey Island Paddle fest		
August	15,16	LOYO	23	
August	15,16	Upper New		
August	15,16	New River Gorge	26	
August	22	Cleanup Tannery to Middlebury	Kent	Moneen McBride Burn Riv Adv
August	22,23	Stony Release	21	Not likely to have water
August	22,23	LOYO	23	Dave Roush
August	22,23	Middle Yough	12	
August	22,23	Upper New		
August	22,23	New River Gorge	26	Expert level - needs organizer
August	29	Rescue Practice at Slippery Rock Creek	13-21	Jacki Zevenbergen
September		Wednesdays on the Water (Lock 29 beginner WW)	11	Doug Waltman
September		Upper Yough (all Fri and Monday plus first 2 Saturdays)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
September	5,6,19,20	Stony Release	21	
September	11-14	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
September	11-14	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
September	12,13	LOYO	23	
September	12,13	Middle Yough	12	
September	18-20	Upper New		
September	18-20	New River Gorge	26	Expert level - needs organizer

September	17-21	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
September	17-21	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
September	17-20	Gauley Fest		
September	21	Cleanup Waterworks to River Front	Cuy. Falls	Moneen McBride Burn Riv Adv
September	26	Savage	26	Expert level - needs organizer
September	26,27	Upper New		
September	26,27	New River Gorge	26	Expert level - needs organizer
September	25-28	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
September	25-28	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
October		Upper Yough (first 2 Fri and Monday plus first saturday)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
October	2-5	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
October	2-5	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
October	3,4,17,18	Stony Release	21	
October		Slip		
October		Annual Election		
October	10,11	Fall Colors Trip - WV (Gauley, NRG, Upper New)		Harlie and Seth
October	10,11	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
October	10,11	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
October	12	Holiday Paddle		
October		LOYO	23	
October		Middle Yough	12	
October	17,18?	Upper New		
October	18	New River Gorge - Bridge Day	26	No Club Trip
October	17,18	Upper Gauley Release	33	Expert level - needs organizer
October	17,18	Lower Gauley Release	27	Expert level - needs organizer
October		Slip		
November	7,8	Tohican Release		Doug Waltman with Lehigh Club
November		LOYO	23	
November		Slip	13-21	
November	21	Holiday Party		

	Future ideas			
April	3-6	Spring Break TN, NC, WV	22-32	
April		Tallulah - Cheoah GA, NC	30-34	Expert level - needs organizer
April, May		Cheat and Potomac South Branch Watersheds - Casselman, Dry Fork, Upper Big Sandy or Little Sandy	18	
April	25?	Cheat Canyon Paddle (Sat) and Race Clinic (Sun) WV	26	Expert level

June Trips and Events

Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club

2 JUN, TUE

5 – 7pm, Indigo Lake Roll Session, 4300 Riverview Rd, Peninsula, OH 44264, USA

3 JUN, WED

Wednesdays on the Water, Weekly beginner runs on the Cuyahoga, Now through September 30th, Organized by Doug Waltman

6 JUN, SAT

TRPC Slip Clinic (Day 1/2)

Savage Release trip

7 JUN, SUN

TRPC Slip Clinic (Day 2/2), 1 – 3pm

Kayak Soccer @ Munroe Falls, 521 S River Rd, Munroe Falls, OH 44262

9 JUN, TUE

5 – 7pm, Munroe Falls Roll Practice, 521 S River Rd, Munroe Falls, OH 44262

10 JUN, WED

Wednesdays on the Water, Weekly beginner runs on the Cuyahoga, Now through September 30th, Organized by Doug Waltman

13 JUN, SAT

Stony Release (Day 1/2)

Upper New River KHCC and CPC (Day 1/2)

14 JUN, SUN

Stony Release (Day 2/2)

Upper New River KHCC and CPC (Day 2/2)

Middle Yough Trip

Slip Trip - Upper

16 JUN, TUE

5 – 7pm, Indigo Lake Roll Session, 4300 Riverview Rd, Peninsula, OH 44264

17 JUN, WED

Wednesdays on the Water, Weekly beginner runs on the Cuyahoga, Now through September 30th,
Organized by Doug Waltman

20 JUN, SAT

Slip trip

23 JUN, TUE

5 – 7pm, Munroe Falls Roll Practice, 521 S River Rd, Munroe Falls, OH 44262

24 JUN, WED

Wednesdays on the Water, Weekly beginner runs on the Cuyahoga, Now through September 30th,
Organized by Doug Waltman

27 JUN, SAT

KHCC presence at WOR (Day 1/9)

Stony Release (Day 1/2)

Cuyahoga Valley Adventures to North Hampton Point (4 miles) River Clean Up [Cuyahoga Valley Adventures to North Hampton Point \(4 miles\) River Clean Up Registration | Paddle The River](#)

28 JUN, SUN

KHCC presence at WOR (Day 2/9)

Stony Release (Day 2/2)

LOYO Trip

29 JUN, MON

KHCC presence at WOR (Day 3/9)

30, JUN, TUE

KHCC presence at WOR (Day 4/9),

5 – 7pm, Indigo Lake Roll Session, 4300 Riverview Rd, Peninsula, OH 44264

2025-2026 Club Officers

President:	Robin Shell	Clevelandkeelhaulers@gmail.com
VP:	Jacki Zevenbergen	VPkeelhaulers@gmail.com
Secretary:	Meesh Crum	
Treasurer:	Michael Duvall	

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

Membership: \$20 per year. Membership Chairman: Rachel Faber, membershipkeelhauler@gmail.com

New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, mail to the Treasurer: Keel-hauler Canoe Club, 2215 Atkins Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107.

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 damage resulting from such participation.

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.com

Please consider writing a trip report, an article, or sending a photo for the next newsletter! The deadline for the July 2026 issue of the newsletter is 6/23/2026. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Ka-news

June 2026

Kelly Miller, Editor

