

Keel-hauler's Ka-news

MAY, 2026



President's Message From Robin Shell

I don't know even where to begin. Slip Fest was a resounding success! Seeing new faces and old friends, having people come to the festival that weren't even kayakers, having people from as far away as Texas!! Weather was (almost) perfect and the river level was juicy and fun! We had nearly everyone finishing in under 30 minutes and only 5 swims! The music was phenomenal, both the live music (thank you SO much) and DJ Smart, every year the festival gets better and better and we can't do it without ALL of the volunteers. The following is a post from the slip fest page (written by Brian Smart) but definitely needs to be included here:

We want to take a moment to recognize something that truly makes Slip Fest possible... our incredible volunteers. This event is our biggest fundraiser for the [Keel-Haulers Canoe Club](#). And a lot goes into planning it. The event doesn't run without you — from safety teams, race operations, registration, setup, and everything in between. The amount of time, effort, and energy that goes into making this happen does not go unnoticed. And the truth is... a lot of these folks aren't just doing one job. Many of them are wearing multiple hats all weekend long — jumping from one role to another, filling gaps, and doing whatever it takes to keep things running smoothly. That kind of dedication is what makes this event special.

◆ Leading the charge:

Rachel Faber – Festival Director
Brian Smart – Assistant Festival Director & Swap Meet Director
Matt Pascal – Race Director
Andrea Morgan – Assistant Race Director
Seth Anderson – Committee Member
Robin Shell – Committee Member

◆ Keeping the race running:

Paul Kronk – Timing Director / Finish Line Judge
Kirstina McCrone – Registration Co-Director
Michele Crum – Registration Co-Director

◆ Keeping everyone safe:

Jason Rovira – Safety Director

Jacki Zevenbergen – Assistant Safety Director

◆ Rapid & Team Leaders:

Chuck McDowell

Jeremiah Richard

Brennan Steinbuck

Sammie Bennett

Mike Gillam

And then a whole crew behind them putting in the work all weekend:

Joyce McDowell

Robert Koenig

Laura Vaughn

Grace Liston

Jon Davidson

John Rooke

Wyatt Layton

Phil Raber

Jennifer Lee

Chad Hudson

John Wood

Greg Radencic

Matt Bennett

Lena Bear

Lynn Khalife

Adam Levine

Fran Hoven

Dawson Lewis

Autumn Forrest

Joe Lupica

David Lewis

Angela Eagle

Loretta Mowry Given

Dena Liston

John Zevenbergen

Doug Watman

Dominic Bentz

Mike Larkin

Jen Raber

Martin Wick

Harlie Custer

Brian Joy

Ethan Kay

Josh Scott

Hanna Elizabeth

Alysse Manda

David Joliff (DJ Double D)

Troop 160 – Cuyahoga Falls

Cheeseman Family

Whether you were organizing, leading, running safety, helping racers, or just jumping in wherever needed — you made this event happen. That doesn't go unnoticed. And if we missed anyone, that's on us — not you. We see the effort, and we appreciate it. We appreciate every one of you. ❤️

If you've made it this far, April also brought us Cuyahoga Falls Fest. The weather was chilly (of course it was warm on Friday) and the level was spicy, but for those who got on the water, fun was had, whether they ran above the falls, or the falls themselves. Thank you to all the photographers who came out as well. You captured some great shots. May brings us Cheat Fest, North Branch of the Potomac and Stony Fest among other rivers! I cannot wait to see you all on the river!!! ~Robin

Veep's Views
By Jacki Zevenbergen

It's hard to believe that 1/3 of the year has already passed! We've had warm temps and quite a bit of water in some of our favorite paddling spots this year. Scheduled and spontaneous trips have been abundant, and we've made some new friends along the way. In April, KHCC members attended the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Rendezvous, our very own SlipFest, and the Cuyahoga Falls Kayak Festival. Mike Gillam organized a trip on Slippery Rock Creek while some of us were in Tennessee and Tim Eberling organized a lake trip on Easter

morning. Dave Herron offered a late April trip for more experienced boaters and Doug Waltman has started the popular Wednesday on the Water trips that support new boaters on easier whitewater sections of the Cuyahoga River. This early start has been made possible due to the unseasonably warm air and water temps.

Thanks to Matt Fredmonsky's connection with the Kent Fire Department, we've had the pleasure of introducing their rescue team to some basic whitewater skills in the pool and on water. About a dozen members supported this effort, and I think it's safe to say that we all enjoyed it.

We have quite a few events scheduled in May but there is still room for more if members want to volunteer to organize them. We have plenty of members to support multiple trips in a weekend. First up, we have the KHCC presence at Cheat Fest which is being organized by Laura Vaughn on the first weekend in May. On the same weekend, Mike Bailey is organizing the always popular North Branch Potomac trips. Mark Spang has scheduled a Grand River trip for the second Saturday and we will have a pavilion at Stonyfest, organized by Kristina McCrone, during the third weekend in May. Cliff Wire is also organizing a trip on the Dry Fork on May 16 and 17th. Meesh Crum is organizing a Slip run on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend.

Please check the schedule for any updates and contact me if you are interested in organizing a trip.

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank Rachel Faber, Slip Fest Director, and all of the other wonderful volunteers for an amazingly successful 2026 Slip Fest! Everything went really smoothly; we made a lot of money and everyone I talked to was having a great time. This event really gets our name out in the larger paddling community. I'm especially grateful to Jason Rovira for keeping everyone safe. Being his assistant is always a pleasure. We had great safety team leaders and members. It's not easy to sit at a station for hours and then wait while we make sure we have everybody at the end. A lot of the same people do it year after year and we also appreciate the new people we recruited this year to make sure we were fully covered. ~Jacki Z

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

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

Checking \$13,878.37

**Cuyahoga River Sweep
May 2, 2026
From Jacki Zevenbergen**

If you aren't going to Cheat Fest...

Register now for the Cuyahoga RiverSweep being held this Saturday, May 2nd. There are numerous clean-up sites on the Cuyahoga River and its tributaries. There are land based sites for families and locations that require a boat to access.

[Volunteer](#) | [RiverSweep](#) | [Canalway Partners](#) | [Preserving the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area](#)

**North Branch of the Potomac River Trip
May 1st-3rd, 2026
Coordinator is Mike Bailey**

Ready, Set, Paddle! We're talkin' NORTH BRANCH POTOMAC River Trip 2026, class 2/3 May 1,2,3 Mike Bailey's your coordinator - 412-736-7880. Meet at G&S Coal Company parking lot, 21557 Maryland Highway, Bloomington, MD 21523. Don't be late - 11:00 a.m.'s the time! If you're lookin' for some R&R, Barnum cabin rentals has got you covered - 304 788 5732. Rustic cabins, bunk beds, and space heaters - just don't forget your toilet paper! All are welcome! RSVP if coming and bring a friend - or two!

**River Cleanup with CVNP
May 30, 2026
From Xavier Rivera**

Keel-hauler's will be doing a river cleanup with CVNP on Lock 29 on May 30th. Folks should bring a craft to carry trash if you are able. Last year the CVNP ranger also had a raft he took down the river with the group with supplies and extra room for garbage. Time is TBA. The group will meet in the morning and be off the river for lunch. Contact Xavier at xavirriv41@gmail.com or 440-554-7331.

[Lock 29 Spring Cleaning w/CVNP](#) | [Facebook](#)

**Grand River Paddle
May 9, 2026
From Mark Spang**

Grand River Paddle

Mark Spang

May 9th. Paddle the Grand River about 8 miles from the Harpersfield Covered Bridge to Hidden Valley MetroPark. The spring-time paddle will be level-dependent. We are hoping for a 3- to 6-foot level. Meet at 10 a.m. on the north side of the river below the bridge to unload boats and run shuttle. There are few Class 2 rapids, but most of the river is scenic float.

**Annual Prycl Memorial Skills Practice
May 16, 2026
From Chris Curley**

Annual Prycl Memorial Skills Practice

Chris Curley

May 16th, 8 am to 5 pm. Come knock off some rust and work on those skills... Will be meeting in the morning to clown car our way to the put in

-will start the day talking about various whitewater skills

-will spend a while at the put-in practicing ferries, edging, and other basic skills

after lunch we will head down the river practicing catching eddies, identifying hazards and just working on boat control

- at the end there will be an opportunity to practice surfing and hole escape in a safe environment

msg me and I'll get you added to the list

Participants are expected to know the basics of paddling (forward stroke, sweep stroke,) ...MUST know how to wet exit

We may be able to gather up loaner gear so reach out if you need gear.

**Stonyfest 2026!
May 15th-17th, 2026
From: Kristina McCrone**

[\(1\) Stonycreek Rendezvous \(aka Stonyfest\) | Facebook](#)

Now with SlipFest behind us let us all set our sights on our next gathering, Stonycreek Rendezvous (aka Stonyfest)! Before we do though I would like to take a second to recognize and thank Rachel Faber, organizer extraordinaire, and everyone who made this year's SlipFest such a success. It takes an army, so they say, and everyone really pitched in to make it bigger and better each year.

As the saying goes, April showers bring May flowers and Stonyfest has always been an amazing gem of a flower in May celebrating such a treasured local waterway and this year I don't see it being any different. We have secured Pavillion 7 for the club, which should provide plenty of parking and camping away from the main entrance traffic. We also are doing a club Potluck on Saturday evening to be able to come together catch up and just share in merriment with each other. The theme is walking tacos for the food, proteins are covered, including a vegetarian option. If anyone would like to sign up to bring any sides, taco toppings, etc., there is an excel spreadsheet on the Facebook event page. If you do not have Facebook, you can reach out to me directly at: kayakphoto76@gmail.com and I will get you added.

Chris Curley will be carrying on the baton in honor of Jeff Prycl and doing a skills practice session on Saturday. If you are interested in this, please coordinate with Chris so he can ensure enough safety and support for everyone to have a great experience. We will also be organizing a club trip of the lower and upper both days. If you can either lead or help with any of these please reach out so we can coordinate accordingly. As we all know by now though with water levels, anything can change, so we should be prepared to go with the flow and keep those hips loose to pivot direction as needed.

A few reminders, even if you don't paddle there will be live music, raffles and food trucks so you can still attend just to hang out and have fun, catch up with old or new friends and watch the show on the play waves. If you plan on camping, fires are limited to Solo Stoves or something similar that will leave no trace. This is not held at an actual campground, so we want to leave no trace for Ben's Creek Canoe Club to be able to continue this wonderful tradition and keep Greenhouse Park looking good for everyone who uses it.

Hope everyone is as excited as I am for this annual gathering and as always SYOTR (see you on the river), or by it!

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>

Paddle Technology 101: Offset By Jim Mazzola, a Carolina Paddler article

ALTON CHEWNING POSTED ON FEBRUARY 28, 2026 POSTED IN ARTICLES, CAROLINA PADDLER



Werner Strike offset paddle -photo courtesy of Werner Paddles

∞ When it comes to buying a new paddle there is always a discussion about length and to a lesser degree, about feather angle. Recently, the underlying trend has been to slightly longer paddles. Feather

angle has a couple of camps. One favors having some degree of feather, usually 30°, reigning on top as outfitters are predominately stocking these. The other camp prefers paddles with zero degree feather (no feather). The zero camp is still alive and well as they 'hide' amongst all the '2-piece adjustable length' offerings.

I want to introduce you to a third variable, one which isn't usually specified but is an important feature in paddle designs. It's called OFFSET. And to be clear, Offset is a DISTANCE, and Feather is an ANGLE. Too many paddle manufacturers simply get this nomenclature wrong! You don't specifically call out an offset when you buy a paddle, it's simply an inherent design feature of a paddle.



Werner Odachi offset paddle -photo courtesy Werner Paddles

Consider the diagram and explanation below. When you place the blade in the water and pull, forces on the blade face can cause the blade to flutter; the dihedral ridge on the front face of the blade 'splits' the water to flow more smoothly off the blade face to minimize flutter. Werner Furrer Sr. first incorporated dihedrals into paddles in the late 70's. It's the little ridge down the front of your paddle blade.

With more use of 'offset' in today's paddles, the dihedral feature is becoming less noticeable, especially as the offset amounts are becoming greater. Paddles like the Odachi and its fiberglass counterparts, Strike and Surge, are becoming more commonplace on the river. The ill-fated Stealth was also a forward offset paddle, but it had other issues and Werner discontinued its production.



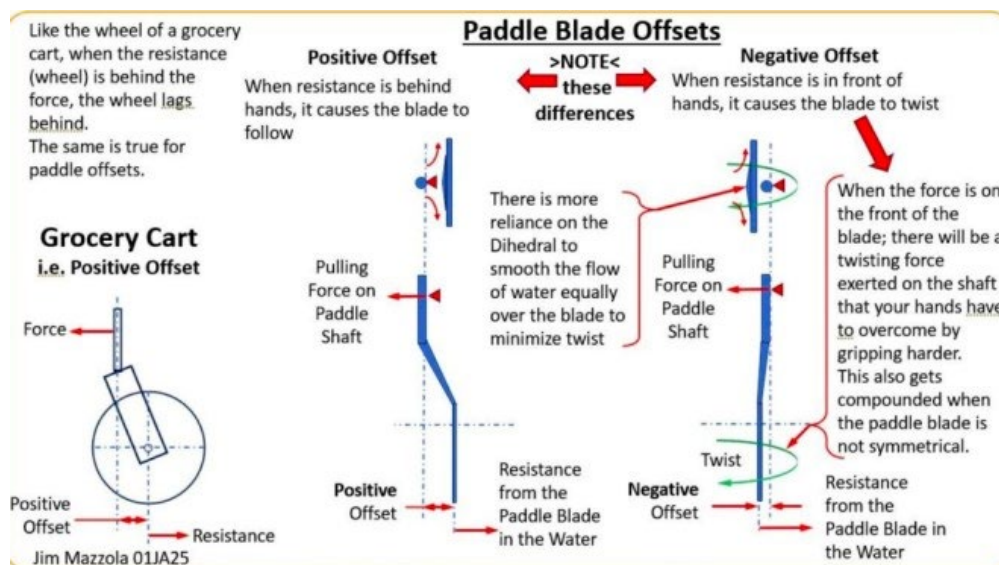
Arca Vulcan -Photo courtesy of Arca Works

Other forward offset paddles to consider are Lettmann's LCS 70, Galasports Manic MCQ, and Arca Works Vulcan. The old AT paddle lineup of Super Duty's is now resurrected as the Full Circle paddles by Nomadic. There are a few others like the Italian TDM AXEL or the German Prijon Finna, both of which have limited availability in the U.S.



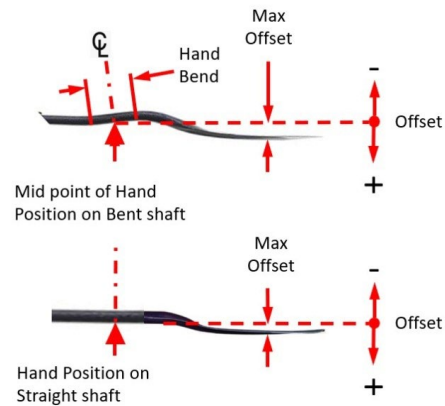
TDM Axel offset paddle -photo courtesy TDM

If you haven't given any of these a 'test drive', you should before you commit to your next paddle investment. There is no downside to paddles with more offset, but they do feel different. Granted, these aren't low-buck paddles, but the feel of a forward offset paddle in the water will be like nothing you've tried before. I've loaned my Galasports Manic paddle to at least a dozen paddlers and most, if not all, purchased an offset paddle within the next six months!



Graphic created by Jim Mazzola

Offset Dimensions



Here are examples of offset various manufacturers use. Offset specifications are typically not supplied by manufacturers. Numbers are in millimeters.

Paddle Make	Paddle Model	Shaft style	Blade Offset
Galasport	Manic MCQ	Bent	25.93
Werner	Strike	Bent	22.29
Lettmann	LC70	Bent	22.17
Werner	Odachi	Straight	21.50
Werner	Strike	Straight	21.06
Werner	Odachi	Bent	19.67
Werner	Surge	Straight	18.38
Werner	Surge	Bent	17.07
Galasport	Meg Medium	Bent	9.99
Waka	Prototype	Bent	5.53
Werner	Sherpa	Straight	4.10
Select	Wild	Straight	3.49
Werner	Powerhouse (CF)	Straight	3.07
Werner	Sherpa	Bent	2.70
Werner	Rio	Straight	2.19
Werner	Powerhouse (FG)	Straight	2.19
Werner	ShoGun	Straight	1.79
Aquabound	Aeral Minor	Straight	1.04
Werner	Shogun	Bent	0.00
Werner	Sherpa	Bent	-0.71
Werner	Rio	Straight	-1.20
Werner	Powerhouse	Bent	-4.27
Werner	Stikine	Bent	-5.50
Werner	ShoGun	Bent	-5.59
Select	Warrior	Bent	-6.24
Werner	Rio	Straight	-9.29
Werner	Desperado	Straight	-9.91
Aquabound	Shred	Straight	-11.57
Aquabound	Aeral Minor	Bent	-14.22
Arca Works	Honey Badger	Bent	-16.00
Arca Works	Honey Badger	Bent	-17.80

Table by Jim Mazzola

Slip Fest 2026 Community Update A HUGE THANK YOU!

We want to take a moment to recognize something that truly makes **Slip Fest** possible... our incredible volunteers. **THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

This event is our **biggest fundraiser for the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club**, and a lot goes into planning it. What people see over the weekend is only a fraction of the work happening behind the scenes.

The event doesn't run without you — from safety teams, race operations, registration, setup, and everything in between. The amount of time, effort, and energy that goes into making this happen does not go unnoticed.

And the truth is... a lot of these folks aren't just doing one job. Many of them are wearing **multiple hats all weekend long** — jumping from one role to another, filling gaps, and doing whatever it takes to keep things running smoothly. That kind of dedication is what makes this event special.

Leading the Charge

Rachel Faber – Festival Director
Brian Smart – Assistant Festival Director & Swap Meet Director
Matt Pascal – Race Director
Andrea Morgan – Assistant Race Director
Seth Anderson – Committee Member
Robin Shell – Committee Member

Keeping the Race Running

Paul Kronk – Timing Director / Finish Line Judge
Kirstina McCrone – Registration Co-Director
Michele Crum – Registration Co-Director

Keeping Everyone Safe

Jason Rovira – Safety Director
Jacki Zevenbergen – Assistant Safety Director

Rapid & Team Leaders

Chuck McDowell
Jeremiah Richard
Brennan Steinbuck
Sammie Bennett
Mike Gillam

Volunteers Working All Weekend

Joyce McDowell
Robert Koenig
Laura Vaughn
Grace Liston
Jon Davidson
John Rooke
Wyatt Layton
Phil Raber
Jennifer Lee
Chad Hudson
John Wood
Greg Radencic
Matt Bennett

Lena Bear
Lynn Khalife
Adam Levine
Fran Hoven
Dawson Lewis
Autumn Forrest
Joe Lupica
David Lewis
Angela Eagle
Loretta Mowry Given
Dena Liston
John Zevenbergen
Doug Watman

Dominic Bentz
Mike Larkin
Jen Raber
Martin Wick
Harlie Custer
Brian Joy
Ethan Kay
Josh Scott
Hanna Elizabeth
Alysse Manda
David Joliff (DJ Double D)
Troop 160 – Cuyahoga Falls
Cheeseman Family

Whether you were organizing, leading, running safety, helping racers, or just jumping in wherever needed — **you made this event happen.** That doesn't go unnoticed.

And if we missed anyone, that's on us — not you. We see the effort, and we appreciate it.

We appreciate every one of you.

Share Your Photos & Videos

Did you attend **Slip Fest & Race 2026** with us this weekend?

We'd love to see any photos or videos you captured — race action, river scenes, camp life, music, or great moments with friends.

Please add your photos to our shared Google Photos album here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/DbS1HHuSonPVeryq6>

Help us re-live the weekend through everyone's lens and preserve the memories.

Lost & Found

This year we only had **one lost-and-found item** — a paddle.

If you think it may be yours, please send us a message describing the paddle (brand, color, markings, etc.) and we'll help verify ownership. **Hint:** It was found near Andrea Morgan's van. You can also email us at keelhauler1@gmail.com. We'd love to get it back to its owner.

Congratulations to Our Antix 3.0 Winner

As part of celebrating the community that makes Slip Fest special, we also want to congratulate **Nico Pushic**, our **Antix 3.0 raffle winner**.

For those who have been asking, through a series of events we learned that Nico's mom purchased his winning ticket online — and it turned out to be the lucky one. Congrats Nico, enjoy the new boat! We can't wait to see you out on the water in it.

And a big thank you again to everyone who supported the raffles, volunteered, donated prizes, and helped make moments like this possible. It all comes back to the incredible community behind Slip Fest.

Thank You to Our Vendors & Sponsors

We also want to extend a huge thank you to the vendors and sponsors whose generosity and support helped make Slip Fest 2026 possible. Events like this do not happen without businesses and organizations that believe in community and give back.

Please join us in thanking:

Ace Adventure Gear

Immersion Research

Neshannock Creek Brewing Company

Rocky Mountain Raft

Shredder / Airtight Inflatables

High Water Hobbies

Three Rivers Outdoor Co.

Kayak Coffee

Wilderness Voyageurs

Pyranha

Lazzaro Law Firm

Float the River

Wind River Associates

Pin-Point Physical Therapy

Positive Strategies Now

Power of Water

Cheeseman Family

Scout Troop 160

Brown's Country Kitchen

Ben Franklin's Taproom & Grille

Spoke House Bike Rental Shop

Oakmont Bakery

From donated raffle prizes and gear to vendor support, community partnerships, and services that strengthen the paddling community year-round — **your contributions made a difference.**

Many of these supporters have been with us year after year, while others joined us for the first time, and we are grateful for every one of you.

Please support the businesses that support paddling, support Slip Fest, and support our community.

Thank you for helping make Slip Fest 2026 such a success.



THANK YOU!

Keel-hauler River Ratings Check-in From Domenic Bentz

River Ratings Check-In: Submit a Quick Verification This May

If you've ever used the KHCC River Ratings list to pick a trip, plan a step-up, or compare runs across regions—you're not alone. And good news: people have started submitting real feedback and verifications. Thank you! That's exactly how this system stays useful.

Now that we're getting into the heart of spring flows, we're making it even easier to contribute.

New this month: a River Rating Feedback Form

We now have a quick Google Form that streamlines submissions. The goal is simple: after you paddle a section listed on the River Ratings page, take a minute or two and tell us whether the current KH rating still feels right at the level you ran.

River Ratings page:

<https://www.keelhauler.com/river-ratings>

River Rating Feedback Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1mwQ_c7h56Wm6ezvNVvAHQP0TKIB0bLVn-iQTLTgdY2Y/viewform

How to help (fast + valuable)

- 1) Open the form.
- 2) Select the river/section you ran from the dropdown.
 - If what you ran isn't listed, choose "New Rating - River/Section currently unlisted."
- 3) Follow the prompts and submit:
 - Confirm the existing rating ("agree") OR suggest an adjustment ("disagree") and briefly explain why.

Even "I agree, still accurate" submissions matter. They tell us the rating is actively being verified by paddlers *right now*, not just inherited from years ago.

What makes a great submission

You don't need perfect words—just practical comparisons. Helpful details include:

- the level you ran (gauge/approx level if you know it)
- anything that changed (wood, new hazard, access change, etc.)
- how it compares to other rivers near that rating
- if you disagree: your suggested KH number (0–42), not just the International class

Quick reminder: KH numbers vs International class

If you think in International ratings, here's the conversion range used on the KHCC site:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| • I = KH 0–7 | • IV = KH 26–33 |
| • II = KH 8–14 | • V = KH 34–37 |
| • III = KH 15–25 | • VI = KH 38–42 |

And because KH ratings are intentionally granular, small differences are meaningful:

- +/- 1 point = very similar
- +/- 2 points = noticeable difference
- +/- 3 points = meaningful difference
- +/- 5 points = profound difference

Safety note (especially in spring)

Ratings are general guidelines—not a guarantee. Water level is extremely critical, conditions can change quickly, and nothing replaces scouting and honest self-evaluation. If you're running Class III or higher, KHCC strongly encourages completing an accredited Swiftwater Rescue Course.

Thank you again for keeping this resource accurate, relevant, and worthy of the trust people place in it.

Domenic Bentz—River Ratings Feedback Coordinator

Proposed 2026 Trip Schedule 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

May		Wednesdays on the Water (Lock 29 beginner WW)	11	Doug Waltman
May	1st fri,sat,Mon	Upper Yough	32	Expert level - needs organizer
May	1-3	Cheat Fest and Race (include Narrows or similar trip?)	18-26	Laura Vaughn
May	2	Cuyahoga River Sweep Cleanup		Canalway Partners
May	2,3	Stony Release	21	
May	2,3	N BR Potomac Release	18	Mike Bailey
May	2,3	Slip (Upper)	21	
May	9	Grand River	6	Mark Spang
May	9,10	Cheat Narrows (WV) or Casselman (PA)	18	**
May	9, 10	Cheat and Potomac South Branch Watersheds - Dry Fork, Upper Big Sandy or Little Sandy	21	**
May	10	Happy Mother's Day	13-21	
May		Intro to Cheat Canyon	26	Expert level - needs organizer
May	8 & 11	Upper Yough Release Tentative	32	Expert level - needs organizer
May	15	Upper Yough Release Tentative	32	Expert level - needs organizer
May	15-17	Stony Rendezvous and Race	21	Benscreek CC, Kristina McCrone
May	16	Stony Rendezvous Skills Practice (Lower)		Chris Curley
May	During fest	Stony Canyon or comparable	21	Mike Bailey
May	16, 7pm	Stony Potluck Dinner		Kristina McCrone, Anne Little
May	16	NEO Ohio Outdoor Adventure Fest		Tim Eberling
May	16,17	N BR Potomac Release	18	
May	16,17	Dry Fork with North Branch Fall Back		Cliff Wire

May	23	Stony Release Memorial Day Weekend	21	**
May	24	Slip	13-21	Meesh Crum
May	23, 24 or 25	Loyo	23	**
May	23, 24 or 25	Upper Yough Release Tentative	32	Expert level - needs organizer
May	30	Cheat Narrows (WV)	18	Micah Vertal
May	30	Stream Cleanup CVNP Lock 29		Xavier Rivera
May	31	LOYO	23	Micah Vertal
May	30,31	Stony Release	21	**
June		Wednesdays on the Water (Lock 29 beginner WW)	11	Doug Waltman
June	5 & 8	Upper Yough (all Fri and Monday plus last 2 Saturdays)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
June	6	Savage	26	Expert level - needs organizer
June	6, 7	TRPC Slip Clinic		TRPC
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	13,14	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	20,21	LOYO	23	**
June	20, 21	Slip (Fathers Day)	13-21	**
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 , July	27-6	Week of Rivers CCC (NC)		Jacki Z
July	5	Savage	26	Expert level - needs organizer
July	5	New River Dries Release (Tentative)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
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	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 (Tentative)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
July	11,12	Stony Release	21	
July	11,12	LOYO	23	Mary Spikowski
July	11,12	Middle Yough	12	
July	17-18	Blazing Paddles		Tim Eberling
July		Upper Yough (All Mon, Fri, Sat) ?	32	Expert level - needs organizer
July	18	New River Dries Release (Tentative)	32	Expert level - needs organizer
July	19	LOYO	23	Dave Roush
July	21 (Tues)	LOYO	23	Matt Fredmonsky
July		Middle Yough	12	
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	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	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
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		



[Cheat River Festival – Friends of the Cheat's annual Fundraiser and Outreach event for river enthusiasts, families, musicians, and artists!](#)

May Trips and Events Calendar of Events — Keel-Haulers Canoe Club

1 MAY, FRI All day, Cheat trip, fest and race (Day 1/3), Albright, West Virginia

2 MAY, SAT

All day, Cheat trip, fest and race (Day 2/3), Albright, West Virginia, All day

NB Potomac Trip (Day 1/2), All day

Stony and NB releases (Day 1/2), 2 – 7pm

Dayton Playboating Clinic, Whitewater Warehouse, [Playboating Clinic May 2nd 2026](#)

3 MAY, SUN

All day. Cheat trip, fest and race (Day 3/3). Albright, West Virginia

All day. NB Potomac Trip (Day 2/2)

All day. Stony and NB releases (Day 2/2)

6, MAY, WED All day, Wednesdays on the Water

9 MAY, SAT All day, Grand River trip, Mark Spang, **Grand River Paddle**

13 MAY, WED, All day, Wednesdays on the Water

14 MAY, THU

All day, Stony fest (Day 1/4), Greenhouse Park, 121 Green House Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905, USA
[Stonycreek Rendezvous \(aka Stonyfest\) | Facebook](#)

15 MAY, FRI

All day, Stony fest (Day 2/4), Greenhouse Park, 121 Green House Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905, USA

16 MAY, SAT

All day Stony fest (Day 3/4), Greenhouse Park, 121 Green House Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905, USA

All day, NEO Ohio Adventure Fest (Open Trail Collective), 8am, [NEO ADVENTURE FEST | OpenTrailCollective](#)

Dry Fork with a North Branch Fall Back (Day 1/2), Hendricks, WV or Bloomington, MD

[Annual Prycl Memorial Skills Practice](#), Chris Curley, May 16th, 8 am to 5 pm.

17 MAY, SUN

All day, Stony fest (Day 4/4) Until 5pm

Dry Fork with a North Branch Fall Back (Day 2/2) Hendricks, WV or Bloomington, MD 8 – 9am

20 MAY, WED, All day Wednesdays on the Water

23 MAY, SAT All day, Special Stony release

24 MAY, SUN All day, Slippery Rock Trip

27 MAY, WED, All day, Wednesdays on the Water

30 MAY, SAT
All day, Stony Release (Day 1/2)

All day, Cheat Narrows trip

All day CVNP Lock 29 Cleanup, [Lock 29 Spring Cleaning w/CVNP | Facebook](#)

31 MAY, SUN
All day, Stony Release (Day 2/2)

All day, LOYO trip

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 June 2026 issue of the newsletter is 5/23/2026. Please send articles and/or pictures to: Kelly Miller at peetzaguy@aol.com.

Keel-Hauler Ka-news

May 2026

Kelly Miller, Editor

