



Keel-Hauler's KaNews Apr. 2001

May Deadline - Apr 21

**April or May Forks of the Cheat
(Class III-IV)**

Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu
216-371-8250

**April 1 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers:
Lakeview Beach, Lorain**

Meet at 10 AM.

Jill Lauren 440-246-2993

<http://www.homestead.com/KAYAKERS>
JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net

**April 6-8 ARC Canoe and Kayak
School**

American Red Cross 216-431-3076

Info: Sherie Sanzenbacher

ritchkovacic@stratos.net 216-381-0599

Info: Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu

216-371-8250

**April 7 Slippery Rock Creek, PA
(13/21)**

We will meet at the 422 bridge at 10:00 AM. Please call the trip organizer in advance to be certain river conditions are acceptable.

Rachelle Schmidt 330-688-0499

shellys@corecomm.net

**April 7-8 Middle Fork and Tygart, WV
(29/28)**

You must call on Thursday since the trip may start on Friday.

Elliott Drysdale EDrysdale@aol.com

440-349-4787

April 7-8 Loyalsock Slalom

Rob Hammond

bhammond@tycoint.com

216-292-5618

**April 10 Meeting, Middleburg
Heights Community Center 7:30 PM**

Program: Kathy and Scott Hooker will speak to us about their experiences in Odyssey 2000. This spectacular adventure took place over 366 days, covering 20,000 miles (roughly 79 miles a day) and 45 countries. There were 250 riders from all over the world, including Kathy and Scott, who live in Cleveland, and Monika Hunscher (former KH member). Kathy and Scott will show video mainly concentrating on their time in Africa and parts of

Europe (Greece, Italy, and more). They will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have. If you'd like a sneak preview of the trip, check out these 2 websites, especially the worldriders site which has lots of awesome photos.

<http://www.odyssey2000.com/index.html>

<http://www.worldriders.com/>

**April 11 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers:
Bradstreet Landing**

Meet at 6 AM. See description on April

1. Please check their web page at

<http://www.homestead.com/KAYAKERS>

Jill Lauren 440-246-2993

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net

**April 13-20 26th Annual Southern
Rivers Week (16-31)**

The trip starts Friday on the Nolichucky and Watauga. The number of participants will probably dictate that we split up into several groups depending on skill level. We will need some intermediate trip leaders. Rivers that we may visit, depending on skill and/or water level, are the Nolichucky, Watauga, Doe, French Broad, Big Laurel, Little River, Tellico, Ocoee, Nantahala, and Chattooga III & IV. If the water levels are good, we will then travel to the Obed-Emory system in Tennessee near the Kentucky border where we will paddle Daddy's Creek. We will finish up on the Big South Fork before heading back home. If levels are too low for Tenn., we will head north to WV for the best water available. This is a great trip for intermediate paddlers wishing to tackle some challenging rivers with some of the more advanced paddlers. I guarantee that your skills will increase after an intensive week of paddling. You MUST call/e-mail me to let me know if you are coming. I need to know first and last days you intend to paddle, who you will be driving down with and your skill level. If you would like to share a ride I can help coordinate.

Southern Trip Itinerary:

<http://pages.prodigy.net/keelhauler/khcc/chat01itin.htm>

Southern Trip Map:

http://pages.prodigy.net/keelhauler/khcc/S_trip.jpg

Southern Trip Map Details:

<http://pages.prodigy.net/keelhauler/khcc/southdet.jpg>

John Kobak keelhauler@prodigy.net

440-871-1758

**April 14 Slippery Rock Creek, PA
(13/21)**

Jim Kosicki tat2saint@aol.com 216-

310-0785

**April 15 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers:
Mohican River**

<http://www.homestead.com/KAYAKERS>

Jill Lauren 440-246-2993

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net

**April 19 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers:
Edgewater Beach**

Jill Lauren 440-246-2993

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net

April 21 Grand River, OH (6)

Carl Kudrna sitesmart@aol.com 440-835-0222

**April 21-22 Forks of the Cheat (Class
III-IV)**

Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu 216-371-8250

**April 21-22 Middle Fork and Tygart,
WV (29/28)**

Elliott Drysdale EDrysdale@aol.com

440-349-4787

**April 21 and 22 2001 Stonycreek
Rendezvous**

Rick Bloom rickpb@aol.com

**April 26 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers:
Colorado and East Erie Ave. in
Lorain**

Jill Lauren 440-246-2993

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net

April 28-29 ARC Whitewater Wkd #1

Call Jessica Adams to register.

American Red Cross 216-431-3076

Info: Sherie Sanzenbacher

ritchkovacic@stratos.net 216-381-0599

Info: Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu

216-371-8250

**April 28 Grand River Canoe Race,
OH (6)**

Ed Berneike Ed_Berneike@msn.com

440-892-8589

Keith Clarke kclarke@mail.en.com
kclarke@on-b.com 440-888-7317

April 28 or 29 Big Sandy, WV (22)

Call for the plan.

Upper: Vince Kremperger

kvfuh2o@hotmail.com 330-666-7257

Lower: Brent Laubaugh

EzB7@aol.com 215-922-7178

April 28-29 ARC Basic River Course

Call Jessica Adams to register.

American Red Cross 216-431-3076

Info: Sherie Sanzenbacher

ritchkovacic@stratos.net 216-381-0599

Info: Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu

216-371-8250

April 28-29 West River, VT (III-III+)

Tom Cronin CroninTJ@Cobleskill.edu

518-255-5308

April 28-29 Riversport Rendezvous

Bob Ruppel whiteh20@qcol.net 1-800-216-6991

May 4 Slippery Women's Trip, PA

Cathy Schilling cschill20@aol.com

330-686-8924

May 4-5 Upper Yough, MD (32)

Be sure to call to confirm. The group campsite at Piney Mountain is reserved, so there will be plenty of room for the night.

Elliott Drysdale EDrysdale@aol.com

440-349-4787

May 4-6 Cheat River Festival, WV (18/23/26/31)

Friday's fun will include the "Cheat Canyon Mass-Occurrence," a full-bore race down the Cheat Canyon. Last year, this included a team event; let's get a bunch of Keel-haulers together to beat the Three Rivers Paddling Club! Saturday will have a race on the Cheat Narrows, and Sunday may see a race nearby.

Paddling: Ron Whitney

whitneyr64@msn.com 216-741-4405

Races: Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com

330-NOT A FAX

May 5-6 Forks of the Cheat, Cheat Canyon WV (III-IV)

See description on April 21-22 trip.

Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu 216-371-8250

May 5-6 Middle Fork and Tygart, WV (29/28)

You must call on Thursday since the trip may start on Friday.

Pam & Mark Poljak 440-238-1751

pamela.poljak@grc.nasa.gov

May 5 or 6 Grand River Cleanup Canoe Trip (6)

Please call for location and meeting times. Gary Tucker 440-357-7890

May 8 Meeting, Middleburg Heights Community Center at 7:30 PM

Chuck Singer will show slides on his recent trip to Patagonia and Anarctica.

May 9 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Bradstreet Landing

Please check their web page at

<http://www.homestead.com/KAYAKERS>

or call Jill Lauren, or Keith Clarke.

Jill Lauren 440-246-2993

JILLMKYAKER@gateway.net

May 12 Slippery Rock Creek, PA

Please call the trip organizer in advance to be certain river conditions are acceptable.

Kurt Reno kreno@neo.rr.com 330-335-3610

May 12 Lower Cuyahoga, OH (6) River Day

Meeting at 10 AM in Peninsula. Please call trip organizer to confirm the plan.

Chris Kiehl amcckkayak@aol.com 330-869-6549

May 12 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Black Fork River (pack a lunch)

Please check their web page at

<http://www.homestead.com/KAYAKERS>

call our Sea Kayaking Chair, Jill Lauren, or Dan Naugle.

Jill Lauren 440-246-2993

JILLMKYAKER@gateway.net

May 12-13 ARC Fundamentals of Kayaking Class

Call Jessica Adams to register.

American Red Cross 216-431-3076

Info: Sherie Sanzenbacher

ritchkovacic@stratos.net 216-381-0599

Info: Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu

216-371-8250

May 12-13 ARC Basic River Course

This will take place on the Middle Yough near Confluence, PA. Call for details and registration materials well in advance of the program date.

Participation and equipment are available on a first come, first served

basis. Call Steve Ingalls for more information, or Jessica Adams to register.

American Red Cross 216-431-3076

Info: Sherie Sanzenbacher

ritchkovacic@stratos.net 216-381-0599

Info: Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu

216-371-8250 first served basis. Call

Steve Ingalls for more information, or

Jessica Adams to register.

American Red Cross 216-431-3076

Info: Sherie Sanzenbacher

ritchkovacic@stratos.net 216-381-0599

Info: Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu

216-371-8250

May 12-13 ARC Whitewater Wknd #1

This program provides an instructional step beyond the ARC Beaumont basic river programs for canoe, kayak, and decked C1 paddlers. The instruction site is the Cheat Narrows near Rowlesburg, WV. This program is designed for students who have completed a basic river course or who have equivalent experience. Call for details and registration materials well in advance of the program date. Participation and equipment are available on a first come,

May 12-13 ARC Whitewater Wknd #2

This program provides an instructional step beyond the ARC Whitewater Program #1 for canoe, kayak, and decked C1 paddlers. The instruction site will be the North Branch, Potomac, near Bloomington, MD. This program is designed for students who have completed a basic river course or who have equivalent experience. Call for details and registration materials well in advance of the program date. Participation and equipment are available on first come, first served basis. Students pay for their own camping and meals.

American Red Cross 216-431-3076

Info: Sherie Sanzenbacher

ritchkovacic@stratos.net 216-381-0599

Info: Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu

216-371-8250

May 11-13 ODNR Div. of Watercraft / ACA Swiftwater Rescue Class

This Rescue Course will take place on the Olentangy River, Delaware County. It will consist of a classroom on Friday night beginning at 6:00 PM; rope work on Saturday morning; a river session on Saturday afternoon; Sunday morning — equipment considerations,

entrapments and pinning situations to finish with a set of rescue problem scenarios in the context of a river trip in the afternoon. The cost will be \$30. Participants are expected to supply their own boats, PFDs, helmets, paddles, paddling clothing, and skills adequate for paddling in class II and III rapids! It will be ACA Swiftwater Rescue Certified and ODNR Watercraft Certified. Note that the 1997 class filled before May 1, so plan accordingly. Janice will handle telephone registration in advance of the course. Steve Ingalls (information) sti@po.cwru.edu 216-371-8250 Janice Teague 877-4BOATER 614-265-6485

May 16 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Lakeview Beach, Lorain

Please check their web page at <http://www.homestead.com/KAYAKERS> for details, or call our Sea Kayaking Chair, Jill Lauren 440-246-2993 JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net

May 19-20 Cheat Forks, WV (26)

See description at April 21-22. Sherie Sanzenbacher ritchkovacic@stratos.net 216-381-0599

May 19 or 20 Slippery Rock Creek, PA (13/21)

We will meet at the 422 bridge at 10:00 AM. Please call the trip organizer in advance to be certain river conditions are acceptable. Ann Corey amcckkayak@aol.com 330-869-6549

KEEL HAULERS CANOE CLUB MINUTES

Meeting Date: March 13, 2001

The meeting/annual auction was held at the Chevrolet UAW hall with fifty-seven people in attendance. The meeting started at approximately 7:30.

Treasurer report: After printing the yearbook, there is \$4,201.95 in the treasury. \$400 to the Conservation fund.

New members and guests: Nine new members introduced themselves!

Minutes from previous meeting: were accepted and passed without review.

Chair Reports:

Canoe Sailing – Jim Botamer – nothing to report

Sea Kayaking – Jill Lauren – nothing to report.

Conservation – Matt Muir related an e-mail from Gib McGill:

See article about Slippery Rock

Instruction – Steve Ingalls – openings are left for the Basic River class April 6-8. Roll sessions are being offered at Tri-C on Mondays – see newsletter for dates and details.

Library – Mike Duvall – nothing to report
Membership – John Kobak – nothing to report

Pool Sessions – Dave Donnellan – nothing to report.

Programs – Judy Cleary - April topic will be Odessa 2000 – a trip around the world.

Safety – Chuck Singer – nothing to report (Chuck still on vacation)

Vermillion Race – Hank Annable related the clean up will start at Shofle gardens and asked for volunteers for all aspects of the race.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Newman Outfitters and the Wilderness shop donated several items for the auction. Auction receipts will be donated to the Conservation fund.

2. Help break the Guinness World Record! A canoe and kayak challenge will be held at Hinckley Lake on May 19. Call 216-351-6300 for more information and pre-registration is required by May 14.

3. Matt Muir motioned we donate \$100 to the West Virginia Coalition Fund. Motion passed.

Trip Reports: For Swiftwater Rescue, we will need insurance. Dolly Howard volunteered to research insurance. Thanks, Dolly.

Evening Program: The annual auction.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.

North Branch, Potomac Info by Ed Gertler

Last year, I said that I would discontinue these North Branch release announcements, since the internet use has become so widespread. (You can get the release schedule from the Corps of Engineers' website at <http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/wc/index.html>.) However, I wanted to update you on the takeout situation.

There is now an official public take-out at Bloomington, at the wastewater treatment plant, upstream left, just above the arch railroad bridge. Get there by driving west and uphill from the Savage River on Rte 135, over the railroad to the first left. Across from the school, take the next left downhill to the access. Once again, we emphasize model behavior (slow driving, no public nudity), as we will be creating traffic in a residential neighborhood. On the other hand, we can make some friends by patronizing the little restaurant in town (and by the way, don't forget the teensy snack and bait shop in Barnum too). As for using the traditional take-out at the mouth of the Savage: that is still OK, too. Just remember: **the popular parking lot at the take-out, in front of the two-story brick building, is on private property. Please take care not to block the driveway (even just to unload for a minute), change clothes in the open, or do anything else to offend the tolerant owner, or the caretaker who lives out back in the trailer (where we have no business being). Poor behavior by some in 1997 almost cost us the use of the lot. So be on your best behavior and watch over the other guy too.**

SYOR Ed Gertler 301-585-4381 egertler@mde.state.md.us

North Branch Releases 2001

The following weekends have been tentatively set for releases from Jennings Randolph Dam (aka Bloomington Dam) on the North Branch Potomac:

April 14, 15

April 28, 29

May 12, 13

May 26, 27

Sept. 1, 2

Oct. 6, 7

Expect releases of 850-1000 cfs each day from 9 AM to 4 PM. Keep in mind that a dry spring could result in cutbacks or cancellation. Always call beforehand at 410-962-7687 or check the Corps website at <http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/wc/index.html>.

LA AVENTURA COSTA RICAN

by Ann Corey and Chris Von Kiehl

We started our adventure Saturday November 25, 2000. We had an uneventful flight to Houston and then to San Jose. How awesome it is to be

able to leave 20 F weather, and then a few hours later arrive in 70 F temps.

We met ERA that evening for dinner with the group. This was a class III trip and our group included: Julian Richards, Heather DeRocher, Pat Stacy, Ursy Potter & Carter Hearn (yep, father of the world champion and Olympic C1'er). The other group consisted of a group of friends from Atlanta and a few others. Up early the next morning we set off to get our boats outfitted. Ann had a Kinetic and Chris had an X. We stopped for breakfast in Cartago then off to the hotel in Turrialba, the paddling mecca of Costa Rica, to ditch the luggage. Finally, we got to the river, Rio Pejibaye. The put-in is behind a family's house down through their pastures. The water was crystal clear and warm. I didn't remember that some of the drops were fairly steep. We stopped for lunch on the river where the shuttle vans met us and then finished the paddle.

Day 2: We headed to the Upper-Upper Pacuare, which was a new river for us and a recently opened section due to a new access road. The dirt road part of the drive lasted about 1.5 hours. Our stomachs were glad to see the put-in. The views on the drive were fantastic- lush green mountain sides, sometimes filled with coffee plantations. The river was drop pool with a few steep drops. The Circle de Fire rapid was congested with pinning rocks (See attached photo). Chris and Pat were the only two from our group to run that drop. Some of us took out for the day before a class 4 one mile long section that starts the middle section of the Pacuare. The remainder of the two groups joined forces here and had a great ride through 4 or 5 more rapids to the next bridge. If this mile were any indication, the next section would be a schweet run. The overhanging bridge at the takeout provided a good view of the end rapid, which was surrounded by dozens of white birds.

Day 3: This very sunny warm day was spent paddling the Reventazon river. The groups split up again here with some paddling the continuous section starting at the powerhouse. Due to the damn construction finishing last year, we had to paddle across the "new" lake to get to the take-out.

The fourth day was billed as one of the premier runs in Costa Rica, the lower Pacuare, which is a 16 mile long section. We missed this section our last time in Costa Rica due to high water. Here we encountered rafters for the first time in Costa Rica. We also ran into quite a few other paddlers while on the river, which came as a surprise, as usually we're the only ones on the water. After running the Upper-Upper section, the lower was a bit of a let down (only for Chris although he did get spanked in lower Huacas) but the scenery was still spectacular with high falls coming into the river through heavily wooded banks (See attached photo). We saw a sloth at lunch. Right before the take-out the river necks down between canyon walls. This "canyon section" seemed out of place but it was awe-inspiring, unfortunately this is the site of a potential damn.

The next day we left the Turrialba and headed north to the Sarapiquí River. It must have rained all night because the river was high and rising. It was raining heavily and some of the group elected to put in a couple of miles down stream. Once they figured out how to get to the alternate put in we were there waiting. This would be a quick trip. But lets back up a little 'cause we skipped a good trashing in there. The big rapid on the Lower Sarapiquí is called Confusion although it should be called Left. At this flow the instructions were straightforward; start left, stay left and at the bottom go as far left as you can even if that means running up on the left shore. Ursy started left and stayed left but when presented with the rocks at the bottom left, she got spun into the center and dropped into the hole that covered the bottom center and right of the rapid. It looked bad as her boat was slammed upside down against the right shore and held there between the shore and the hole. The Sarapiquí is know for "wall shots" where the river takes an abrupt turn with most of the flow smashing into the shore and creating some crazy currents. This wall shot – hole combo was giving Ursy the ride of her life, which for this senior paddler has been a long one. Ursy swam out of the mess OK and was hardly shaken. After joining the rest of the group, the trip was quick and we were soon eating lunch at the takeout as the

river continued to rise. Then along comes a paddle, which Ken jumped in his boat and rescued. Then a few minutes later along came a lone paddler of European origin. The initial exchange went something like this, Euro Paddler: "RPM", US: "paddle", "RPM", "Paddle", "boat", "paddle", "boat", you get the idea, but it took us awhile to figure out that he was looking for a boat that must have floated by at the same time as the paddle. After all that excitement it was time to relax in Hotel Tucano's hot springs fed hot tubs. Then back to the Sarapiquí the next day at a normal level. This time it was Ann's turn to try a little rodeo action at Confusion. She also chose the right side of the rocks at the bottom and ended up in the hole. After a couple cartwheels she washed out and rolled up to cheers.

Now on to the second half of our adventure, we were met at the Sarapiquí takeout by a taxi, which took us to La Fortuna, which is within sight of the active Volcano Arenal. We had a clear view of the volcano from our hotel, unfortunately (or maybe not) the lava is on the other side of the volcano. We saw a little red lava. Cool!!!! That night we went to the Tabacon hot springs and enjoyed many hot pools of varying temperatures up to 104 °F and a very hot 6 foot water fall. The surrounding gardens are lush. They even had a swim up bar. The buffet dinner was pretty tasty too. We only saw the lava briefly on the ride to the hot springs before the volcano clouded over.

The next day we headed to the Monteverde Cloud Forest by the van/motor boat/4 wheel drive route. This route was chosen over the 6 hour bus ride and the half day horseback ride. Needless to say it's not easy to get between these two attractions. Our hotel, Hotel Bosque, was spartan. Two double beds and a small bathroom. But the hotel restaurant was awesome. This was welcome since we were relying on taxis to get around. That afternoon we went to the Skywalk, which is a trail with elevated hanging bridges above the forest floor, in the tree canopy. We heard and then saw howler monkeys. They make a loud howwwlllllll, mostly when they saw Ann in her bright red raincoat, which by the way the hummingbirds also enjoyed

very much. A cloud forest is different from a rainforest in that it rains or mists daily. If the rain stopped, the forest would die. Things grow on top of things there. The bromeliads were so wet; one can squeeze the water out. The next day we took a guided tour in the Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve. Every 30 feet we saw a different animal. There were coatis at the reserve entrance because people were feeding them. We also saw a gray fox, the Resplendent Quetzal, which is endangered species and shouldn't have been there till January. The bird's breast are ruby red with a turquoise blue back feathers and long tail. We waited over an hour to see the quetzal, he really likes figs. The howler monkeys were going crazy and scared the bird out. The next day we went back to Monteverde and finished hiking most of the 8 trails. The reserve is private and was started in 1972 to protect the biodiversity of the land. There are 6 different vegetational communities (life zones). There are over 100 species of mammals, 400 species of birds and 2500 species of plants.

We spent three nights in a hotel on the mud road between Santa Elena and Monteverde. A dirt bike or ATV is the preferred mode of transportation in this region. We were constantly being passed, either while walking or in a cab, by locals on dirt bikes. In town, shoppers loaded their groceries onto an ATV for the trip home. During one cab ride, we drove through a dirt bike race as motorcycles jumped over the road in front of us. If we go back to this area we'll be arriving on dirt bikes. We enjoyed hiking and animal watching in the cool wet forest.

Now onto our last stop, leaving the cool forest for the hot and humid beaches of Manuel Antonio. Manuel Antonio is a national park composed of 4 beaches, a few trails through the forest and a bunch of aggressive Capuchin monkeys (white faced). We were attacked by two of these monkeys while leaving Play Gemelas. They surprised us by hanging in a tree at head level and jumping after us until they were out numbered by the arrival of two more hikers. These hikers said the monkeys had followed them after stealing food from them, it was obvious those hikers had fed the monkeys.

Please do not feed wild animals. This has made these monkeys very aggressive and fearless of humans. After an extremely overpriced meal at our hotel, we asked our guide at the park for a recommendation and were set for the rest of our stay with good cheap food right next to the beach. The little shack where the cooking was done didn't look like much with a few tables in front of it and no soap or water in the bathroom but the food was good. It turns out the water was on the other side of the building.

As a side note, Ann tried tres leches, 3 milk cake that is very moist, in 6 different restaurants. She prefers to think of our trip as the Tres Leches Tour of Costa Rica. So she had many opportunities to practice Spanish. Her tres leches recommendations are Hotel Wagelia in Turrialba and Hotel Bosque near Monteverde.

Tips to have your own adventure: use the Frommers Costa Rica guidebook, try tres leches carry at least one pair of binoculars, try tres leches, tiene cuidado de los monos caras blancas. Many club members have traveled extensively and are an excellent source of information. Thanks to John and Peggy Kobak for their recommendations. And by the way tres leches is AWESOME.

Alien Abduction, Steep Crickin', and Those Hard to Catch Eddies

By Brent Laubaugh

Ever notice how psycho-thrillers such as the *X-Files*, *Silence of the Lambs*, and *Blue Velvet* always seem take place in obscure, seemingly normal country towns? Contrary to conventional wisdom, the most perverse and strange events tend not to occur in large cities like New York or L.A., but in isolated, remote mountain towns like Albright, West Virginia.

These were my thoughts as my flashlight frantically searched through the sleet and darkness to find a suitable campsite at the Iron Furnace. It was February 16th 2001, I was alone, and a strong cold front was rapidly approaching from the northwest. The temperature was forecasted to plummet down to 15 degrees within the next two hours, and the wind began to ominously sway the leafless, barren trees up the entire mountainside. The

pavilion and ruins cast an eerie, lonesome presence, but the swirling patches of dead leaves created the sense that there was movement in the woods all around me. Despite the temptation to continually inspect the camp perimeter with my flashlight, I reminded myself to focus on the priority at hand – building shelter.

After tightly staking the tent into the frozen soil, I quickly assembled my personal survival gear for the cold night ahead - expedition polypro, sleeping bag, and a crash pad. Once inside the tent, I acted quickly to cocoon myself within my bag. From the inside I zipped the bag as far as possible and then began the task of cinching down the torso baffle and the mummy wrap around my head. By the time I had tightened all of the elastic drawstrings, only my nose and mouth were exposed to the night air. My body was snug, and quickly warmed within the bag's confines. Although still somewhat unsettled about my surroundings, I quietly succumbed to the fatigue of my long drive and slept.

At 2:15 am I awoke to find myself blinded by an intense, yellow light. There was a commotion of footsteps all around my tent. I tried to sit up, but immediately discovered that I had been blindfolded and bound tightly at the arms and legs. Confronted with the abject terror of abduction, I screamed. The scream was not meditated – it was the long, involuntary, and primal scream of a common man unexpectedly confronted with pure evil.

The two Preston County Sheriff's Deputies that were approaching my tent did not take kindly to the horrifying scream from within. They immediately drew their weapons and one commanded, "PRESTON COUNTY SHERIFF– SHOW YOURSELF NOW!" It was at that moment that I truly gained consciousness for the first time and realized what was happening. Because the headlights of the cruiser were less than four feet from my tent, I had no problem recognizing that I had been imprisoned by my own sleeping bag. I carefully extracted myself from my bag and poked my head out of the tent.

Snot-nosed kayaker: "Uh, good evening officers." I couldn't see them directly because one kept his flashlight in my eyes while the other inspected my tent.

Officer 1: "Looks like he's just camping..."

Snot-nosed kayaker: "I was told it's okay to camp here – is it?"

Officer 2: "Well...I reckon so...But why in the hell are you wantin' to camp out in the cold for?"

At that point I started to tell them that it was because I was boating in the morning, but I perceived very quickly that, to them, paddling in 22 degree weather made even less sense than camping in it. So I just told them I was probably only going to camp for the night and would be gone in the morning. That was enough to send them on their way.

The next morning I met Dave Broer at Little Sandy's for breakfast and told my unsettling tale. Earlier in the week, I had lured Dave with answering machine messages like, "Big Water in West Virginia..." and "Let the Season Begin." The original weekend forecasts had called for the low forties – we showed up and got the low twenties. The precipitation portion of the forecast, however, didn't let us down. Four days of continuous rainfall had brought the Saturday AM levels to 8.3' on the Big Sandy and 9.0' on the Cheat. We were goin' crickin'. As we paid for our food, Rob Swartwood, a NJ native, managed to ID us as boaters and asked to join us for the day. We agreed on Daughtery Run, a tributary to the Cheat that empties just upstream of the Albright power station.

Daughtery Run is a fantastic AW-rated class V run that averages 203 feet per mile. It is six miles long and drops 130,250,260,250,230,200 feet per mile respectively. With the Sandy at 8.3', the run was at an acceptable and very enjoyable flow of about 150 cfs (est.). The three of us agreed, however, that three more inches on the creek would have been ideal, as it would have buffered some of the pin spots. Conversely, many of the drops were blind and strainers were common, so the slightly lower flow was perfect for a first-time run.

Daughtery featured truly continuous whitewater and several

distinctive large drops. The most interesting rapid was a blind double slide about midway through the run. The water first accelerated down a slide approx 30 yards into a hole, and then fell immediately over another 40-yard slide in which all of the flow careened into a rock. "Work left" was the motto. Most of the rapids on the run, in isolation, would only be worthy of a class IV rating, but put together in a continuous six mile stretch, with the pin potential and frequent strainers, the small stream commands respect and a more difficult rating. Our group was forced to portage three times due to river-wide strainers and/or logs. As a benchmark to other local runs, the group rated Daughtery decisively more difficult than Fikes, Bear, and Roaring Creeks. If you run it, take along a beater paddle that you won't mind continuously bashing on the rocks.

After such a great day on Daughtery, Dave and I couldn't rationalize leaving WV with the rivers running, despite a forecasted low of 10 degrees Saturday night. Our only dilemma was what to boat on Sunday. If the Big Sandy held above 7.5' until Sunday AM, then many of the smaller creeks would still have water. If the Big Sandy dropped significantly, the Lower section would become an ideal option. Unfortunately, it was the prospect of a Sunday morning reading of 6.5-7.5' that scared us the most, because we knew that we would then have no other recourse but to embark down the Lower Big Sandy at high water.

We awoke Sunday morning to two inches of snow in Bruceton Mills, a temperature of 19 degrees, and a 7.03' level on the Big Sandy. We again met Rob for breakfast, and I think all of us unconsciously stalled hoping for the temperature to rise. We gained two degrees by the time we put on at 11:00 am, and the level had slipped to 6.85'. Kobak rates the Lower Big Sandy as a 34 above 6.8' – a jump that is certainly warranted when one considers the exponential rise in cfs that begins to occur when the water in the streambed exceeds 6.5'. As an example, a level of 6.5' on the Sandy corresponds to approx. 850 cfs. At 7.0' (a 7 % increase in level) the cfs rises to 1250 (a 46 % increase in cfs.) At these levels the Big Sandy becomes fast and

pushy, and much of the characteristic continuous class III+ "boogie water" separating the five big rapids becomes continuous class IV with munchy holes and funky currents. The curtain at Wonder Falls formed a uniform crease and much of the boil line below the traditional route fed directly back into the hydraulic. Combined with the low temps, all of us opted for the macho line through the rhododendron.

At high water, most of the big rapids could be run via the normal lines, and Little Splat actually became somewhat easier with the pin rock out of contention. One note of importance for anyone running the Sandy above 6.5' this spring – the portage around Big Splat is much easier (and safer) from the river-left shore. At high water the swirling last-chance eddy on river-right conceals an invisible, barely submerged rock on the eddy-line that can easily cause problems only 20 ft. from the point of no return. On our run, both Dave and I inadvertently glanced off of this rock back into the current. I was fortunate enough to recover, but watched from the eddy as Dave flipped and was washed with the flow directly towards a river-right entrance to the El Nasty Horseshoe Hole. He rolled up in time to finesse one or two well-timed strokes, and then dropped off the ledge out of my sight, inevitably committed to Big Splat.

What happened to Dave, you ask? Well, although Dave's misadventure in no way involved hostile aliens, he, like most boaters, still has a pretty good story to tell. I'll leave that one to him.

Slippery Rock News

A note to all you fans of Slippery Rock Creek: A notice in the Thursday, March 8 edition of the New Castle News, pp19 and 20: starting out, "PUBLIC NOTICE Pursuant to the Noncoal Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act and the 'Clean Streams Law', notice hereby is given that Quality Aggregates Inc., doing business at 200 Neville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15225, has made application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for a non-coal surface mining permit which discharges to nine (9) unnamed tributaries to Slippery Rock

Creek, etc....." It goes on to describe a 197 acre operation which proposes to do to the land on the right side of the 'Slip' the same types of things they've already done to the land on the left side, such as mining through these 'unnamed tributaries' and setting up 'permanent sediment ponds'. It describes these tributaries in terms of Township Roads 514, 419 and 520, and state route 2013, all of which put them either in or right next to McConnells Mill State Park. The notice winds up saying, "A copy of the application is available for inspection at the Lawrence Conservation District, County Courthouse, New Castle, Pa. Pursuant to the SMCA, written comments, objections, and requests for a public hearing or informal conference may be submitted to the Dept. of Environmental Protection, Knox District Office, P.O. Box 669, White Memorial Bldg, Knox, PA 16232, within 30 days from the date of the final publication of this notice. Written comments, objections, or requests for public hearing or informal conference to the Dept. must include the person's name, address, telephone number, and a brief statement as to the nature of his or her objection.

(I suspect they wouldn't mind also having the location where your children stand to await the school bus in the morning)

Gib McGill, JG & Merrienne McGill,
J.G. McGill Studio, RD 3 Box 109,
Volant, PA 16156, (724) 946-9158
<http://www.jgmcgill.com/>

Volunteers Needed for Ocoee Games 2001

It's time to start thinking about this year's Ocoee Rodeo. For the first time ever, we're combining American Whitewater's Ocoee Rodeo with the U.S. slalom team trails and calling it the Ocoee Games 2001. It all happens May 18-20 on the Upper Ocoee. The TVA offered fewer days of water on the Upper Ocoee in 2001 making the joint effort necessary but it's looking like it will be a win-win for everyone. More people, more action, more excitement. It'll be like wrapping the competitive excitement of the Olympics around the hee-haw-hootin'-and-hollerin' fun of Gauley Fest. To top things off, there'll be a super silent auction for bargain

hunters and a raffle you won't want to miss.

From the rodeo end of things, the Ocoee Games marks the first event in the Gorge Games Whitewater Series. Following the May Ocoee Games will be the Potomac Whitewater Festival on June 1-2, the Animas River Days on June 8-10, and ending the series will be the Subaru Gorge Games in Hood River, Oregon on July 14-22.

To make the Ocoee Games happen, we need your help. It'll take more than 300 volunteers working in a variety of capacities to bring it all together into the best ever Ocoee event. Jobs available to help with the rodeo include: timers, scribes, judges*, runners, check-in helpers, set-up/clean-up help, safety boaters** and people with throw ropes**, people to help with the party (check ids, set-up/tear down, silent auction, sell tickets) and more.

* Judges will need to complete an NOWR training program. Ask me for details.

** Safety boaters and throw rope people must be trained, experienced, and will be screened for safety suitability.

Volunteering for the rodeo is not only fun but helps raise money for American Whitewater's work for river conservation and access. To top it off, all volunteers will receive a free t-shirt, free entrance to the party, 1 free beer ticket (must be 21), and a chance to win great stuff in the volunteer only raffle.

To volunteer, contact me, Karen V'Soske, at either Kvsoske@aol.com or 419-877-9215. I'll need your name, address, email, phone number and what you'd like to do to help us. If you tell me what you do for a living and any other skills you may have, I can help you find the best way to help out at the rodeo. I'll also need to know when you'll be available - we'll need people to help set-up on May 12 and then we'll need people for a variety of jobs beginning May 16 and running through May 20.

If you can't volunteer, put it on your calendar to come watch the rodeo.

WVRC needs your help this Spring

The West Virginia Rivers Coalition has grown into a highly effective group, fearlessly tackling the big boys: the coal barons, loggers, big chemical companies, and their lackeys in the West Virginia legislature, all with the goal of protecting your favorite West Virginia streams. WVRC is facing a temporary cash crunch and needs your help to continue fighting threats to the Potomac, New, Cheat, Gauley, and Tygart, etc. The Coalition needs contributions this spring to make up for a gap in the organization's cash flow. The conservation group moved its annual river raffle from spring to fall at the request of volunteers, which means pushing \$25,000 in revenue toward year's end, according to Jeremy P. Muller, executive director of the coalition. A foundation that supplies the coalition with substantial money also changed its funding cycle so that money that usually arrives in May will not show up until September. Muller says the group has applied for special funding from a non-profit that helps environmental organizations, sought a line of credit from its bank and applied for emergency funding from a couple of foundations. Muller is confident that the group will have enough money to meet its 2001 budget and goals but is concerned about cash flow in March and April.

Please help by going to the WVRC website at: www.wvrivers.org
Please click on "Make a Contribution". This is a secure web site.
West Virginia's fabulous rivers thank you.

Dimple News

Readers of this newsletter learned of two fatal accidents at Dimple rapids on the lower Yough last summer. There was quite a lot of discussion of these accidents in Pittsburgh newspaper articles, and there were heartfelt calls by some surviving family members of one of the victims for alteration of the lower Yough riverbed at Dimple rapids. In the aftermath of the accidents, Charlie Walbridge and Ohio State Park representatives examined the riverbed in the vicinity of Dimple Rock at very low water flow rate. They found that the riverbed beneath the big rock

is deeply undercut. Charlie published an account of this discovery in the Usenet rec.boats.paddle discussion group. Paula Norris found Charlie's report there or elsewhere, and she sent it to me.

I replied to Paula in a letter which offered the opinion of an experienced (not expert) paddler of the problem of the undercut Dimple Rock, and undercut rocks in general. Email circulates widely. Larry Wentzel was safety chair for TRPC last year. He saw the letter which I wrote to Paula. Larry wrote to me to suggest that I send it to Dough Hoehn, the superintendent of Ohiopyle State Park, in advance of a scheduled coroner's inquiry into the accidents at Dimple Rapids. I added some sentences which suggested some hazard reduction measures short of riverbed alteration, and I sent it to Doug. The letter did not represent the view of the KHCC government on the matter, but I sent it to Rob Hammond for his information. Rob asked me to send it to our newsletter editor. He thought that it might be of some interest to some of our new whitewater paddlers. Here it is:

Doug;
It's been quite a few years since I spoke or otherwise corresponded with you. I still paddle at Ohiopyle frequently as I have for more than 15 years with Keelhaulers Canoe Club and Three Rivers Paddling Club people. I learned with sadness of the fatal accidents on the Yough this summer. There has been quite a lot of discussion of these events among recreational paddlers. Some mentioned that the Park was contemplating some kind of riverbed alteration at Dimple. I don't know whether that is true, but I thought of some other measures which might help some inexperienced lower Yough paddlers to make better choices at Dimple.

Possibly, some of these things could help: Informational signs at the permit booth could warn of danger and the history of fatal accidents at Dimple Rapids. A new warning sign about 100 yards above Dimple Rock rapids would inform paddlers who are unfamiliar with

the river's geography of their location. Perhaps a little bit (not a lot, no pavement) of shoreline alteration on the right at Dimple to open a portage trail would invite some marginally experienced paddlers to make a short portage around the most threatening part of the rapids. I realize that I probably haven't written anything here which you didn't know or haven't thought of already. This is my opinion only. It is not the collective opinion of either of the two aforementioned paddling clubs to which I belong.

About a week ago, one of our more thoughtful new members wrote to me about Charlie Walbridge's recently published description of the severely undercut riverbed geology at Dimple Rock. I sent a reply to her in which I meant to provide some perspective from which a serious recreational kayaker or canoeist could view Charlie's report. Larry Wentzel, the TRPC safety chair, saw the letter. He suggested that I send it to you for consideration as the Park discusses the problem presented by Dimple Rock and the fatal accidents there during the last 4 years. It is appended to this letter.

Sincerely yours
Steve Ingalls

Paula;

Thank you for sending this. The burst of fatal accidents on the Yough this summer has caused me to think some more than usual about the rivers which we paddle frequently, and about Dimple Rock in particular.

I've seen hundreds of people swim there. Almost all of these people were rafters and ducky paddlers. You've seen this yourself often enough to imagine the sequence of events. Paddlers in rented inflatable boats do nothing effective as they approach the rock, the current pushes the boats into the big rock, people lean upstream, and splash. The pillow which forms on the upstream face of the big rock at flows greater than about 550 cfs at the Confluence gauge tends to help by pushing the luckless craft away from the rock, so flips are less probable at higher flows. At low flows, the rubber boats tend to stick on the rock long

enough for the paddlers to lean upstream and seal their fate. People in the guided raft trip groups have fared better generally since the raft companies began to station guides atop the rock to shout instructions and push away the most uncomprehending teams who hit the rock anyway. There was a time when the raft companies didn't do that, and there were many low water raft trip holocausts at Dimple. My impression is that the boats flip, the people fall in, and in almost every case they pop up to the surface right away. The current then pushes the swimmers to the right. Once in a while, someone seems to be pushed deeper, but he or she reappears after a few seconds somewhere right of the rock. Perhaps 5 times in 15 years of weekend paddling at the Yough and lunches on Vulture Rock I've seen people vanish for so alarming a period of time that some of the lunch crowd reacted and moved to do something. I don't recall clearly that those swimmers seemed to fall out of their respective crafts farther left than most others do, but that is a reasonable hypothesis in light of this new information about the riverbed geology in that location.

The usual novice - paddled kayak or canoe flip at Dimple is somewhat different from the typical raft or ducky flip. Novice hardboaters usually make some effort to paddle past the big rock. Some fail to do this. The current pushes them up onto the pillow, they lean away, and splash. They virtually always are in water which runs right of the rock. They wash around to the right. Sometimes they attempt to roll about the time that they strike the usually submerged Trouble rock just downstream. Usually they eject and swim after hitting that rock, but sometimes they remain in the boat for another attempt. They make this attempt just in time to hit the next usually submerged rock, and then they swim. Usually they paddle in the company of friends who chase them all the way down to Swimmers', but who didn't set a throw rope. (Boat - based rescue below Dimple by weekend paddlers rarely is successful.) I think that something resembling this sequence of events is the most probable outcome of a bad run at Dimple by a novice hardboater.

There is a second failure category of hardboat runs at Dimple. This involves unsuccessful exits from the named - better - than - we - realized - before - now Danger Eddy on the left just above the big rock. It is not difficult to enter that eddy successfully. The comparatively hard part is getting out of it successfully. One has to drive upstream and right across the small but pushy diagonal wave which extends from the Pinball rock toward the big rock. (That wave actually is what makes the critical move in the usual run at Dimple so much harder than it looks.) The ferry upstream across the diagonal wave toward the Pinball eddy is harder than it looks, and this undoes people who don't know that or who don't act adequately on that knowledge. They get pushed into the big rock, and they can wind up farther left against the big rock than do almost all of the hardboaters who fail in their standard run attempts.

Every river which we paddle has undercut rocks. Some of these were pointed out to me by knowledgeable paddlers when I first started paddling on those rivers. Some of these I found by observation at low flow or in some cases when surprising and very unpleasant things happened on some river trips. After enough of that experience I came to regard any rock which receives a lot of current force on its upstream face as probably undercut. Some undercut rocks which look bad seem not to live up to their potential. Perhaps as in the case of Dimple Rock before 1996 they just haven't caused trouble yet. Some clearly are very dangerous (e.g. the Clamshell rock, the right shoreline of Dudley's Dip, and Undercut Rock on the New River). The Clamshell has been the site of fatal and nearly fatal accidents. Boats have disappeared forever beneath the right shoreline rocks at Dudley's Dip, and there has been at least one fatal entrapment of a raft company client beneath the Undercut Rock. I want to be quite sure that I can paddle successfully off of water which flows toward an undercut rock that I know about before starting down a ramp that leads to it, or I find another route. The orthodox run down the right side at Undercut Rock (now renamed Miller's Folly, probably on the advice of raft company legal counsel)

is completely unnecessary. There is no need ever to paddle on water that goes to the famous undercut shoreline rock at Undercut Rock, to the severely undercut shoreline rock on the right side of Dudley's Dip, or to the Clamshell rock at Lower Railroad at low water.

What is the practical meaning of this? I think that probability of surviving bad runs is with hardboaters at Dimple Rock. On reflection, I think that I am as willing to take the same groups of adequately skilled novice hardboat paddlers to the Lower Yough as I was before reading Charlie Walbridge's report. Now I will tell them something about the severely undercut left side of the riverbed beneath the rock. I will ask them to watch a few demonstration runs of the usual route by more experienced paddlers. If the novices want to run it, then I will stand with a throw rope as a measure of prevention against what is by far the most likely bad outcome - the swim all the way down to Swimmers'. I am less willing now, but not completely unwilling to paddle into the Danger Eddy than I was before reading Charlie's report. That is something which I rarely do in the C1 anyway. If we take an invitational American Red Cross Whitewater Weekend 3 class to the lower Yough this Summer, then I think that in the context of the class we should walk around the top of Dimple and the top part of River's End. Steve Ingalls

Want Ads

15' Fiberglass Indian Canoe Needs minor work, stored indoors \$150
Jeff Pratt – 440-599-8717

'97 Tomos Moped Like new. Excellent for solo shuttles. (45mph!) New \$1800. \$750 firm. Bob Weible (330) 882-6545
rweible931@aol.com

Wanted to try out (at Orange H.S. rolling session on Sat. afternoon)&/or on nearby river and will consider buying: Wavesport Kinetic or Wavesport Godzilla. Contact: Andy G. at 216. 321. 9284 or send e-mail to: a.gross@csuohio.edu 216-321-9284

Thule Rack for honda civic, used only 2 years in good condition--\$75 Meg Gableman – 330-926-0514

Wally's Woods cartoon book now on sale. Go to web site www.beavercreekfeatures.com or call Dean Norman, 216-251-1389.

Best Wishes to
The Happy couple !
Sue and Ron Whitney
were married on
Saturday, March 24...



2000 Officers

President: Rob Hammond 440-292-5618
Vice President: Ron Tomallo 440-953-1335
Secretary: Karen Daniels
Treasurer: Pam Poljak 440-238-1751

Meeting Place: Middleburg Hts. Rec. Ctr.
15700 Bagley Rd.
Second Tue each month, at 7:30 P.M.

Membership: \$20 per year. New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone send directly to Membership Chairman: John Kobak 440-871-1758
1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, Oh 44145

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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

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April, 2001
Address Correction Requested

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Keel-Hauler's KaNews June 2001



July Deadline - June 23

June 4, 11, 18, 25 ARC Sea Kayaking Classes

American Red Cross 216-431-3076
 Sherie Sanzenbacher 216-381-0599
ritchkovacic@stratos.net
 Steve Ingalls 216-371-8250
sti@po.cwru.edu

June 5, 19, 26 Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com
 330-NOT A FAX

June 10 Lower Cuyahoga, OH (6)

Ann Corey amcckkayak@aol.com
 330-869-6549

June 8-10 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: East Harbor State Park

<http://www.homestead.com/KAYAKERS> or Jill Lauren. 440-246-2993
JILLMKYAKER@gateway.net

June 9-10 Cheat Canyon, WV (26)

Anne Kmieck sti@po.cwru.edu
 216-371-8250

June 12 Meeting, 6:30 PM Wildwood Beach, Cleveland Outdoor meeting, bring your boats!!!!

From east of Euclid Ohio:

Take I-90 West to the E. 185th Street exit. Follow the signs to E. 185th. You'll merge from I-90 onto the marginal (Lakeland Blvd.). Before you get to 185th, you will approach a Stop-Light, this is Neff Road, turn RIGHT (northwest). Then follow Neff Road direction below.

From west of Euclid Ohio:

Take I-90 East to the E. 185th Street exit. The exit ramp loops around so stay in the right lane to head North onto E. 185th Street. After getting onto E. 185th Street, you will pass under I-90. Go approximately 200 yards to the second traffic light which is Neff Road. Turn LEFT (Northwest) onto Neff Road.

Neff Road directions, follow it until you come to Lake Shore Blvd. (State Rt. 283). Turn LEFT (west) onto Lake Shore Blvd. (There's a traffic light at this intersection.) Travel approximately ¼ mile west on Lake Shore Blvd. The entrance to the Park is on the RIGHT (north) side of Lake Shore Blvd. The sign out front reads:

**VILLA ANGELA & WILDWOOD AREAS
 Cleveland Lakefront State Park**

Immediately after entering the park, there is a sign indicating "Car Parking" on the right. Pass this unless you want to take a nice 1/8 mile walk on the bike path (or bring your bike or roller blades!)

Continue driving approximately 1/8 mile and you will cross a white concrete bridge over a small creek. There is sign indicating "Car Parking" to the left. Park here for the closest parking. However, there is more parking to the right (although the signs do not so indicate).

We will meet at the bathhouse by the beach. To access the beach, walk back across the bridge and take an immediate right. Follow the signs to the "Beach/Bathhouse Area." This is a bike path but has a "Villa Angela" street sign.

If you're bringing a boat, the easiest thing to do is simply drop it in the nearest water and paddle over either from the creek or the boat ramp. Head west, you'll see the beach just past the fishing pier.

Caution: Since this is a public boat ramp, there are always watercraft officers around, so don't bring an unregistered boat!

June 16-30 Western Rivers Trip (22-30)

John Kobak 440-871-1758
keelhauler@adelphia.net

June 16-17 Yough Weekend, PA (12/23)

Lower Yough: Jim Hunt
jfhunt@mcdermott.com 330-335-5203
 Middle Yough (Sat): Carl Kudrna
sitesmart@aol.com 440-835-5744
 Middle Yough (Sun): Brian Thies
 440-331-4216

June 22 Burning River Day

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com
 330-NOT A FAX

July 1 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Upper Cuyahoga

<http://www.homestead.com/KAYAKERS> or call our Sea Kayaking Chair, Jill Lauren 440-246-2993
JILLMKYAKER@gateway.net

July 4-8 Ocoee River, TN (24)

Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu
 216-371-8250

July 5 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Bradstreet Landing

<http://www.homestead.com/KAYAKERS> or call our Sea Kayaking Chair, Jill Lauren, 440-246-2993 or Keith Clarke.

July 6-7 Upper Yough, MD (32)

Stu Koster skoster4@home.com
 248-652-3241

July 7-8 Lower Yough, PA (23)

Fran Hoven
zenelan@concentric.net 216-961-1553

July 9 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Bradstreet Landing

<http://www.homestead.com/KAYAKERS> or call our Sea Kayaking Chair, Jill Lauren 440-246-2993, or Suzanne Martin.

July 10 Meeting and Cookout, Silver Lake Country Club

Annual club cookout
 Dolly Howard DollyCali@juno.com
 330-650-0140

**KEEL HAULERS CANOE CLUB
 MINUTES**

Meeting Date: May 13, 2001

The meeting was held at the Middleburg Heights Recreation Center. Thirty-five people were in attendance. The meeting started at approximately 7:30.

New members and guests: Three

Treasurer's report: \$4,171.40 in the bank. \$435 in the Glen Miller Fund, with the hope of increasing it to \$500. The Vermilion race grossed \$739.35 with expenses totaling \$708.10 so the net profit was \$31.10.

Minutes from previous meeting: were accepted and passed without review.

Chair Reports:

Canoe Sailing – Jim Botamer – None reported

Sea Kayaking – Jill Lauren – Lots of paddling opportunities coming up, see newsletter or contact the Bradstreet website for more information.

Conservation – Matt Muir – Saturday was river day on the Cuyahoga, see the WKSU website for Cuyahogariver.org. At the Slippery Rock mining meeting, Gib will represent the club.

Instruction – Steve Ingalls – Sixty new paddlers at Beaumont and the same number at Slippery Rock. Forty people signed up for Whitewater II. Sea kayaking class for May is full, some openings left in June.

Library – Mike Duvall – None reported

Membership – John Kobak – Seven new members equals 369 paid members.

Pool Sessions – Dave Donnellan – Over for the year.

Programs – Judi Cleary – For the June meeting, we voted for Wildwood Park and July will be held at Silver Lake.

Safety – Chuck Singer –

- Sea kayakers should not paddle alone since a problem far away from

shore could be fatal. There have been two recent fatalities with solo paddlers without wet or dry suits but with full other safety equipment. Survival time in 50-degree water is less than two hours.

- **Poison ivy** is starting to grow now and loves riverbanks. If you see three glossy leaves on a hairy vine or short shrub, don't fool with it! If you do, you have a short period of time (about an hour) to remove the oil that is now on your skin. **Gentle scrubbing with a strong soap or detergent and cold water will help. Rinse a lot! On the river, I rinse myself off immediately in the river water. This is not a guarantee and you might actually spread the oil but it hasn't happened to me yet.**

There is a new product called TECNU which destroys the poison ivy oil. You could carry a 2-ounce tube in your boat if you are really worried. If you do get it, there are topical things like Rhulicream, Calamine lotion, and others. My experience is nothing stops the itching. If it is extreme, your doctor could give you a cortisone shot which works in a matter of hours. The best plan is to avoid contact with the "dreaded leaves three."

Old Business:

- The new refreshment co-chairs are Jim Hunt and Dolly Howard. They will be taking over for Sue Whitney who has done a great job for many years. Thanks, Sue! And thank you to Jim and Dolly!
- Still need volunteers for the Swiftwater Rescue Day on August 11.
- Report on Glen Miller fund status - \$435 with hopes of obtaining enough donations to reach \$500.

New Business:

- The club needs to formulate a response to the drowning tragedy on Slippery Rock Creek last month. Matt agreed to write up a response. Had an open discussion and decided that inviting firefighters to the Rescue Rodeo may be taken in the wrong manner and may open liability for injury

toward the club due to lack of kayaking knowledge from firefighters. There are many rescue classes available geared toward this profession.

- American Whitewater invited two Keelhaulers members to be their guests at the Ocoee River Symposium on Friday, May 19. We are looking for anyone interested in attending. The meeting will coincide with the Ocoee Rodeo and Slalom trials.

Trip Reports: none reported

Evening Program: Chuck Singer gave a great slide show on his trip to South America and Antarctica.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.

Respectfully submitted
Karen Daniels, May 19, 2001

eKanews

Almost 100 members have opted to save the club money by agreeing not to receive their monthly copy of the Keelhauler Kanews. The money saved will allow the club to cope with rising printing and postage costs, while allowing more money to be spent on conservation and other issues important to club members. If you think you want to quit receiving your newsletter by mail and read it on your computer, please send Membership Chairman, John Kobak and e-mail. kobak@keelhauler.org, put "No_KHCC_Newsletter_need_be_mailed" in subject line.

Each month two copies will be posted on the internet. One a printable PDF version with color pictures, the other a HTML version which may be easier to read since stories are indexed.

NOTE: Around June 15th the club web pages will be moved from prodigy to adelphia. For continued access please use <http://www.keelhauler.org> to access the pages, instead of the direct Prodigy URL.

30% discount on Gasoline!

By Rob Hammond

Certainly we have all noticed what the price of gasoline is doing, now that we are ready hit the road and enjoy the rivers. You can imagine my delight when I discovered how to make my gasoline dollar go 30% further! I found this method, that is perfectly legal, easy to do, and you can get this discount anywhere you travel. But before we get to that, lets go over the basics, you know all things they have been telling us since the gas crises in the 70s.

It had been so long since the last tune-up, the spark plugs were rusted on.

Maintain your vehicle, yep that means check your tire pressure, there is usually some place, like the glove compartment (who keeps gloves in there anyway?), on the car with the recommended tire pressure, and do it when the tires are cold, not when you stop for gas, see the prices, and then consider conservation. Secondly, when is the last time you had a tune up on your car? In the days of old, we had to tune our cars up every 15 to 20 thousand miles, if we didn't they didn't start. But today automotive technology has allowed us to extend tune-ups to 50 thousand miles and more. So if you are like me, last winter I took my van in with 200 thousand miles, it last saw a tune-up at maybe 90 thousand miles. The mechanic did the best he could, but it had been so long since the last tune-up, that the spark plugs were rusted on. The mechanic tried all of the mechanic tricks, but he never did get the old ones out to replace them! And don't forget the filters, they get dirty and increase gas consumption.

Forget the 30% discount, go for 50%, its even easier: car pool with someone! Not only that, but if you are not in Matt Muir's car listening to the tenth time through his Louie Louie tape (yep been there done that), you can have enjoyable conversation to keep you company!

Before I get to "the rest of the story, let me tell you that I can not claim credit as the originator of this. This actually came to me back in the 70s with the

long gas lines, only buying gas on odd or even days, depending on your license plate number. Back then I was a service technician running around Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania, fixing things. I burned up a lot of gas in my travels, and since I was paid by the mile, the more gas I saved, meant more money I put into my pocket. Anyway, this technique was taught to me by no less of a person then Jimmy Carter. Yea the president who told us to put on a sweater and turn down our heat!

Like most of us, I have a technology laden vehicle filled with computers that tell the transmission when to shift, and automatically adjust the air/fuel mixture for the engine. My van also has a handy little computer that tells me how many miles per gallon I am getting. Being the stingy type (I am a boater you know!), I have always watched the mileage on my trips, I have even taken my racks off to save gas, and put my boat in the van. A few weeks ago, I was disgusted about having to pay \$1.80 per gallon, and then I remembered what my ole buddy Jimmy used to tell us. He said if you keep your highway speeds down to 55 MPH, your gonna save a lot of gas. On the interstate I usually fly just under the speed of police radar guns, which is generally about 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. So I slowed down from just under 75 to 65 and it made a huge difference! My mileage went from the 19 to 21 MPG that I was getting, to 24 and up to 26 MPG, about a 30% increase! So what was the big deal? It added about a half hour to my drive to Ohio, but I did not have to worry about Pennsylvania's convenient little gimmick for changing the speed on it's interstates to enhance local coffers, I mean to enhance safety, cause I was already under the speed that usually triggers the speed trap guns! So this summer, when the gas starts bumping up towards \$3.00 per gallon, get your car in shape, and slow down, you will save money and your planet will thank you!

Quality Aggregates (Slippery

Rock) Meeting, May 10

excerpted from Gib McGill

(Note: the following is a summary of a public meeting where, Quality Aggregates is seeking a variance from Pennsylvania environmental regulations to pursue mining in the area of some tributaries to Slippery Rock. The public meeting was held to gather comments from interested parties. The full account by Gib can be found eKanews, the online newsletter site.

First was a slide show on how Quality Aggregates had researched the safety issues regarding the "Myers Mine" just above Slippery Rock Creek directly across from the mill and covered bridge, and extending down to Eckert Bridge. The rock structures most vulnerable to blasting, were the cliff overhangs, numerous in the park. A computer simulation of blasting demonstrated "no effect on any rock structures from blasting." It was stated that rock wouldn't break off unless the level reaches 2dcf. The public was then invited to speak.

The first speaker was **Bruce Hazen, founder of Slippery Rock Stream Keepers**. He asked that the variance for encroachment into the 100-foot buffer zone be denied, then read the litany of Quality Aggregates' long violation history, the most notable of which were 36 violations of the clean water act during discharges of water from holding pools.

Next **John Stout of Quality Aggregates**, stated the headwaters of the Slippery Rock are already dead. "The company is environmentally right and does care." Three other QA employees proceeded to support QA and their position; stating the violations cited by Bruce Hazen are things of the past; QA is more responsible now.

John Schirar, regional manager of state parks for the region containing McConnell's Mill State Park had mixed feelings about the Myers Mine; "I'm not saying one way or another at this point."

Other voiced concerns included:

- the cumulative effect of all the things being done in and around an area that's supposed to be set aside so that it's a refuge

- worry about the discharges and the past violations, as S.R. serves as public drinking water for 30,000 (or 40,000) people.
- the quarries with their oversized trucks, muck and pollution were edging closer; stating that the buffer zone, to be violated by QA, is "only 300 feet"
- Concerns in light of tourism being the second leading industry in PA
- a study was quoted which had mentioned "significant archaeological sites" in the park which may be adversely affected

Gene Wilhelm of the Audubon

Society: Local chapter of AS recently submitted an application to make McConnell's Mill State Park an IBA. MM gorge is an ornithological gem, and should easily qualify. Birds are a major indicator of high quality environment.

Nance Bergey, of the National League of Women Voters urged the DEP to uphold section...of the state constitution. As chairperson of SR Stream Keepers "I believe the variance should be denied." She pointed out that the initial letter granting QA mining permission was done contrary to law.

Shelley Nilson, conservation chair of TRPC: "We are very concerned about the proposed mining. It represents a short-sighted use of natural resources by extraction industries." She said TRPC is submitting a petition.

Bob Tate, state coordinator for Northcountry National Scenic Trail stated that the national trail runs through MMSP and Hell's Hollow and he hopes that QA will help take care of this trail.

Roman Runkovich, a geologist, said he was hired to assess the area of the proposed mining, with a view to potential geological impacts: sandstone is structurally unstable, particularly when it is completely vertical and highly fractured as it is in MMSP. Blasting and removal (as well as tree removal) will further destabilize and erode it. The water will have increased dissolved solids and a concentration of alkaline and sulfates.

The president of the Sierra Club, Allegheny Group, said "We're real concerned about the proposed Myers Mine. It will destroy 162 acres of riparian buffer, and it could be centuries before the quality returns. This will leave permanent, ugly scars."

A few speakers spoke of the success of QA.

Bruce Hazen again: "It's time for the DEP to practice environmental protection instead of environmental procrastination."

Katie Winset, kayaker, got up to point out that the material being removed from around the park--limestone--is what cleans water from acid mine drainage.

Jeff Thomas, kayaker said he enjoys paddling the SR about 40 times per year. "McConnell's Mills has been there for millions of years; I hope it's there for millions more years."

Any further comments from the public will be accepted in writing up until June 11th. Send them to:

Chris Vieko
Dept. of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 669
Knox, PA 16332

Carpflop on the Tallulah

By Robyn Reporterwanabe - Staff reporter for the Eastside Solicitor on leave during an ethics investigation.

This is a story about one of North East Ohio's most under-appreciated and finest river Kayakers. The setting is on the 2001 Southern Rivers Trip with a group of Keel Haulers Canoe Club members on a daring decent of the Tallulah Gorge. This river has been kept under impoundment by Engineers who created a massive dam across one of Georgia's most picturesque places in the state. Back in the late 1800s this was a place where Atlanta's Elite came to play.

*Those damn nightmares -
they just won't go away.*

Today there is a huge dam and a reservoir where a free flowing river

once thrived. In recent years, negotiations between the American Whitewater, and the Georgia Power Corporation, created an agreement to have a fall and spring water release into the otherwise dry gorge. These releases make for some of the best class 5 whitewater in the East. I will be following this group as they descend this treacherous, beautiful, and wondrous river. Since there is no access to this river other than by boat, I will rappel down and climb back up the steep 750 foot high canyon walls, at significant places on the river. You may ask why so much work just to get one story of some otherwise boring guys? Well I need the one big story to land my dream job on the National Enquirer, and I was promised a good story here by Matt Muir, he could not make the trip due to some obligations to Chicky-Poo, but he told me if you want to see some magnificent boating, follow Rob Hammond, so here goes!

Robyn: Rob, it is good of you to agree to this interview of your team's daring decent.

Rob: Well thanks Robyn, I will be going down this river with Ron Whitney and Wayne Carey, they are both fine boaters with previous experience on this river. But this river is not exactly what I would call a big deal. I mean hundreds of people go down this river every year with nothing worse to show than a few stitches, and oh yea, those damn nightmares, they just won't go away.

Robyn: I admire your modesty Rob, but this is really a big story! But first I want to know what exactly is your name. I mean you introduce your self as Rob, but your email and voice mail message from your office call you Bob, what gives here?

Rob: Yea will that is a really long story, but to make it short, my family calls me Rob, but when I got to grade school, my teachers looked at their Class Roster and saw a Robert, they thought my nick name was Bob. I didn't think it was a good thing to repeatedly challenge an authority figure (until I got older), so after a couple of attempts to correct them, I gave up and accepted that I would become a Bob. Things went well until I was about to be married, on meeting my future father in law, he told me that

he was a Bob and there was already a Bob Jr. in the family, and he was not going to allow any more Bob's. I didn't understand that he was just trying to scare off a suitor to his only daughter, so when I agreed to be a Rob, I guess I threw him a curve that he didn't know how to deal with, so he grudgingly agreed to let me in the family.

Basically Bob is my "stage" name for work, and Rob is for friends and family.

Robyn: Gee, thanks for the short version! Anyway lets talk about your upcoming adventure. This is a really scary river huh?

Rob: Well I wouldn't say that, I was on this river 2 years ago, at that time it was one of the first few releases that they had. It was a little disconcerting going down a serious river with people who had no idea of what the lines were. But that was after I got nailed a rapid called Oceana.

Robyn: Oceana, yes my research tells me that this is the signature rapid on this river, and is one butt kicking rapid. I am told that this rapid is about a 150 foot drop down a slanting incline where boats can get up to speeds of 40 miles per hour. And two thirds of the way down is this ledge that sticks up, and when the water hits it, it shoots water up into the air like a geyser for maybe 20 feet high. And at the bottom of the drop is this big boat hungry hole that likes to catch boaters who do not hit it just right, and trash them around a while, before spiting them out. Isn't that right?

Rob: Yeeaa - well umm - I think that is about right, but I don't know about boats getting up to legal highway speeds. I mean you get going very fast, and it sure seems like you are going 40. Now there are 2 lines down this rapid. The left line is the most popular and is the simplest to run. The right line takes you down about two thirds of the drop, you pickup a lot of speed, then you crash into this big wave sideways, it stops with a bone crunching halt. From there, you ferry across just above the leading edge of the geyser, which we call the Thing, and then you go down the left side with as much speed as you can get up to punch the hole at the bottom. I am told that the right line is way easier then it looks, but generally this comes from people whom I either could not, or would not follow their lines down a

river. The left line is the least challenging, but you can't get too far right, cause if you do, you will go right into the Thing, smash into the ledge that is causing the geyser, and then spend the next 18 months in surgery and therapy to fix your two broken ankles.

Robyn: Wow, you must be very nervous?

Rob: Oh not in the least.

Robyn: Oh this is great, I finally get a chance to interview a true American hero!

Rob: Umm, Robyn, I am not scared, because I have no intention of running that rapid!

Robyn: What? I thought I was here for an adventure story?

Rob: I am not going to run that rapid, because it is the Devil Rapid! The rapid does not require any skill to run it, only luck. This is the only rapid that I know of where the American Whitewater (AW) people keep a large First Aid kit at the bottom of it. And it gets used a lot! The water going over the drop is only a few inches deep, so basically you are sliding down a well-lubricated rock, at a very fast rate of speed, trying to miss the Thing on the right, and stay lined up to punch the boat devouring hole at the bottom. The imperfections in the rock face can cause your boat to veer off to the right with no time to correct and avoid a calamitous ride! No I am defiantly passing on this rapid. It has already gotten a piece of me, kicked my butt, caused an injury to my elbow that hasn't healed in two years, and gave me a solid dose of humility. This is a Devil Rapid I tell you!

Robyn: Do you suppose there will be any "real" men or woman that will be running what you call the "Devil Rapid"?

Rob: Not to worry, Ron Whitney will be with us, and he has never seen a rapid that he would not run! And there will be no shortage of men and woman running the rapid. But there is absolutely no way, no how - will I be running that Devil Rapid! It's just too unpredictable

Robyn: Oh so there will only be one "real man" in this expedition?

Rob: You know the old saying "there are old boaters and there are bold boaters, but there are NO old bold

boaters"! Wayne, will also be walking, he and I are both old boaters!

Don't be a fool ... those rocks are too slippery!

Robyn: Ok, our group is now ready to start their expedition down this very dangerous and treacherous river. The men have checked in with the authorities and signed the waivers. They are now ready to start the trek down the steps built by the AW volunteers to protect the sensitive habitat and make it safer for the boaters, who would need to lower their boats with ropes down this very steep gorge, if it were not for the stairs. These stairs go on forever! There must be 600 steps; it is like walking down from the top floor on a 30-story building with a boat on your shoulder. Today is not very crowded, usually there are so many boaters waiting to launch that there is a long backup on the stairs. What makes this odd, is that this is the first weekend ever, that boaters did not have to submit applications to a lottery run by the AW that would pick a limited number of boaters for each release weekend. It's like taking away the lottery, took away the mystique of the river, and thus the interest in running it. Well, the men are now at the bottom of the stairs and ready to go. Ron leads off. There is only room for one boat on the deck at the bottom of the stairs, so he gets into his boat pushes off the deck, and drops about 2 feet into fast moving water. Wayne and Rob follow him, once they are all in the water Ron leads off. There is no room for a warm-up, 100 feet from the stairs are 2 offset class four holes, followed by a swift current pushing you into a wall, if you don't make a fast left turn. So the team, one by one, threads the needle between the holes avoiding the rock wall, and over a 5 foot drop, all with in the first 3 minutes on the river! They are out of sight now, so I will head back up the stairs and rappel down the steep canyon at Oceana to give you my report.

Whee, this rappelling business is hard work. I sure hope this story gets me that interview at the National Enquirer! Anyway I am at the bottom of the canyon at Oceana, but it seems like my long trip down caused me to miss our

daring adventurers running the drop, lets talk to them and see what they have to say.

Robyn: Wayne, how was your decent?

Wayne: Robyn, as you know it was raining all morning and the rocks are wet and a little slippery, since I was not running the rapid, I decided to take a hike down the river right path, it's a tough hike, but much safer then the river left route, with rocks so slippery, I was not going to take a chance. Rob took the river left path, Ron and I both told him not to, that it was too slippery this morning, but he said the he would be careful and that his trusty \$10 sandals that he bought on sale would see him through. Ron said "Rob, don't be a fool, take the river right route, yea its harder, but the left is just too slippery, especially with those cheap sandals you have". Anyway, since it took me so long to hike down, I did not see Ron's run or much of anything.

Robyn: Thanks Wayne, Rob how was your hike down?

Rob: It was uneventful, just a simple climb down.

Robyn: Rob I have information from witnesses that said your hike was anything but a simple uneventful hike down.

Rob: No! it was a simple climb down I tell you!

Robyn: Boater Dude, you said that you saw Rob climb down, how would you describe his simple little uneventful hike?

Boater Dude: Dudete! it was the most narley thing I ever seen! This dude starts walking with his boat around the top of the bowl that overlooks Oceana. He was walking along the rim of the bowl, about halfway across the top of the bowl, his feet slips out from under him, and he starts sliding down the side of the bowl. The top of the bowl, must be about 200 feet above the Thing, He picks up speed, he's on his back, he flops over and he's on his stomach, he's squirming around as he slides picking up speed as he goes. He holds on to that boat like it's his shield. And that is exactly what he needs, cause he is headed right for the Thing! Well he slides right into the Thing, and it spits him out, and he still has this death grip on to his boat and paddle! But his adventure is not over yet, the dude is headed for the smackdown

hotel! He continues his slide into the hole at the bottom, when he arrives, the paddle is ripped out of the hand, and he disappears into the meat of hole. He circulates around again but the hole had its fun, and spits him out, but it was still hungry enough to keep is boat! So the dude gets his sorry ass hauled out by some boaters as they laughed their ass off! But Dudete! the story gets even better! There is a guy at the top of Oceana who is telling the boaters when its clear to go down. Well he doesn't see the Sliding Dude coming down the bowl, so he signals the next boater to start, I think you can see where this is going!

Robyn: Ron, you would be that next boater?

Ron: Yea that was me. Rob was out of site, and I had no idea of what was going on. So I take off, and about halfway down, I see this big red boat stuck in the hole. It was standing straight up like it was doing an ender, but it wasn't going anywhere! I start picking up all kinds of speed, and I think "ohmygod! I am going to crash into that boat!". Then I go past the Thing, and it's lights out, cause the Thing is throwing off water spray in all directions. By the time my eyes clear I am about 20 feet from the hole, I didn't dare look up, I was hugging my deck getting ready for the crash! When I got into the hole, somehow the red boat was gone, but now I was stuck in the hole! Fortunately I was close to the edge of the hole and was able to get out without a big trashing!

Robyn: So Rob, what do you say now about your uneventful climb?

Rob: Ok, Ok, it was eventful, but it was not a swim, no way was it a swim. I am swimless this year and I can't have my record showing this as a swim!

Robyn: Gee, I don't know, it sounds to me like you were swimming?

Rob: No way! for this to be an officially sanctioned club swim, you have to start out in your boat, you can't just fall in!

Robyn: So if this was not a swim, what would you call it?

Rob: It was an event, yea that's it, a cataclysmic event!

Robyn: Ok well let me check with other sources, I have my cell phone, lets check in with the club's Chair on Linguistics, Matt Muir.

Matt: Robyn, I simply cannot accept Rob's contention that this was a cataclysmic event, stars and planets have cataclysmic events, boaters, on the other hand have SWIMS! And this interpretation is completely lacking of any bias, even though I dearly enjoy stories of any of Rob swims!

Robyn: Boater Dude, what's your take on today's event?

Boater Dude: Hell yea it was a swim, there was water, he was flailing around in it. It was a swim and one halacious one at that!

Rob: Robyn, you need to check with someone else, some one who is clearly unbiased, and has years of boating wisdom! You need to call Chuck Singer, he will give you an unbiased, and insightful answer.

Chuck: Robyn, I think Rob is correct, he did not start out in his boat, so I can't say that it was a swim, but on the other hand, it was not a cataclysmic event. I would have to say it is something else.

Robyn: Chuck what would you call this, if it were not a swim?

Chuck: Robyn, I have given this some deep thought, and I think we need to put a label on it, so our club archives will accurately record this event. From your witness's description, I would call it a Carpflop!

Robyn: Chuck, this indeed has become a late breaking story, please give us some insight on your decision.

Chuck: Well Boater Dude's description of Rob flopping around as he was sliding down the bowl, and then the flailing about when Rob hit the water, reminds me of a fish, and a Carp in particular flopping around, so hence this event will now be known as a Carpflop!

Robyn: There you have it ladies and gentleman, what happened to day on the Tallulah was a Carpflop, nothing more, nothing less! And I am so out of here! This is no story of heroic men conquering a raging river. This is simply a story about a bunch of boaters having fun on the river, which is all well and good for them, but this story will not be considered for a Pulitzer, nor will it even get me an interview with the National Enquirer. When I see Matt, he will pay for scamming me into doing

Keelhaulers Canoe Club 2001 Vermilion Race Summary Report	
Category Description	12/1/00-
INCOME	
VermRaceIncome:	
Refrechment stand	

Keelhaulers Canoe Club—Cash Flow Report

1/1/01 through 3/31/01

Category Description	1/1/01-3/31/01
INFLOWS	
Conservation	500.80
Dues	1,145.00
Interest	21.34
VermRaceIncome:	
Refreshment stand	100.35
Registration fees	639.00
TOTAL VermRaceIncome	739.35
TOTAL INFLOWS	2,406.49
OUTFLOWS	
Donations	100.00
MeetingHall	26.60
Misc	180.00
NewsLetter	190.61
Postage&Supply:	160.35
NewsletterPostage	150.54
TOTAL Postage&Supply	725.00
Refreshments	94.06
VermRaceExpense	
Publicity	160.35
Refreshments	150.54
TOTAL VermRaceExpense	310.89
Yearbook Print	1,240.20
YoughReserv	175.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	3,549.11
OVERALL TOTAL*	-1,142.62

**This amount reflects cash flow for the 1st quarter of 2001 only. The club receives the bulk of its income in the 4th quarter of each year and its major expenditures occur in the 1st quarter of each year.*

Account balance as of 4/16/01: \$4,171.40.

2000 Officers

President: Rob Hammond 440-292-5618
Vice President: Ron Tomallo 440-953-1335
Secretary: Karen Daniels
Treasurer: Pam Poljak 440-238-1751

Meeting Place: Middleburg Hts. Rec. Ctr.
15700 Bagley Rd.
Second Tue each month, at 7:30 P.M.

Membership: \$20 per year. New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone send directly to Membership Chairman: John Kobak 440-871-1758
1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, Oh 44145

Any opinions, views or recommendations expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the article's author. Printing these articles in no way implies approval or advocacy of any of the opinions, views or recommendations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or any of its Officers or members.

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

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June, 2001
Address Correction Requested

FOR SALE

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

SunFish Sailboats - 5 Sailboats \$175,\$400, \$400, \$500.

Call Jim Tyree at 330-688-4431 near Akron, OH at Silver Lake boathouse.

E-Mail to **Jim** - jgt4531@aol.com

05/29/01

Kayak - Dagger Outlaw, new last fall, used 4 or 5 times on the slip, chartruse & yellow. I thought it would work but its its too small for me. \$650

Call Helmut Schumacher at 724-346-4633 in Hermitage, PA

E-Mail to **Helmut** - helmut53@att.net

05/15/01

Kayak - Prijon Hurricane, \$300 or best offer **Drysuit** - Kokatat Front entry, 7 years old, three gaskets replaced, size small. If you over 5' 6" tall and/or over 135 lbs you won't fit. Size Small, **free**.

Call Chris Kiehl at 330-869-6549 in Akron, OH

E-Mail to **Chris** - AMCCKKAYAK@aol.com

05/15/01

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Keel-Hauler's KaNews July 2001



Aug Deadline: July 28

Directions to Silver Lake KHCC Club meeting.

The next meeting 7/10/2001 will be at Silver Lake Country Club in Akron, Ohio - 6:30 pm We will have a race or races around the island and back. Bring your craft of choice. Prizes to first place finishers! Also Wind Surfing, Roll Practice, and Club Picnic. July's meeting will have Hamburgers & Hot Dogs supplied please bring a covered dish ask food chairpersons Dragan & Jasna Trivanovic 330-908-1424. dtivanovic@hotmail.com

Click for map to Silver Lake
<http://home.adelphia.net/~keelhauler/khcc/SilverLake.gif>

From Cleveland:

1. Take I-271 S or the Ohio Turnpike to Route 8(Boston Hts)
2. Take Rt. 8 south for many miles(passing the Hudson exit, the Steels Corner exit, and the Graham Road exit) until you come to 2nd Street exit in Cuyahoga Falls, get off.
3. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Northlands St.
4. Turn left again at the stop sign onto Front St. (Rt. 59).
5. Drive 1.1 miles on Rt. 59 until you come to the traffic light at Silver Lake Blvd., and turn left.
6. This is Silver Lake Village, on your right you will see the lake and club house.

From Akron and south:

1. Take Rt. 8 North and look for the Broad Blvd. Exit(Cuyahoga Falls).
 2. Immediately after Broad Blvd. will be Front St.(Rt. 59) exit.
 3. Then follow instructions 5 & 6 above.
- Bring your boat or sailboard. We can use the lake until about 8:30.

July 4-8 Ocoee River, TN (24)

The really unfortunate thing about the Ocoee River is that it is out of range for weekend trips. This river offers lots of play spots and plenty of nearly continuous class III-IV action during a 5-mile run. There are plenty of holes and play spots to hold your attention and your boat until you've had enough. The overall difficulty (and the skill, which you will need to enjoy it) is intergrade between that of the lower Yough (class III+) and the Cheat Canyon (class IV at medium water levels). We have made this trip on the July 4th weekend during each of the last 7 years. Surprisingly, the crowds for which this river is famous generally aren't there on the holiday weekend. Call if you're interested.

Steve Ingalls sti@po.cwru.edu 216-371-8250

July 5 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Bradstreet Landing

Meet at 6 PM.

<http://www.en.com/kclarke/documents/schedule.htm>

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

July 6-7 Upper Yough, MD (32)

Call to confirm. The group campsite at Piney Mountain is reserved, so there will be plenty of room for the night. Stu Koster skoster4@home.com 248-652-3241

July 7-8 Lower Yough, PA (23)

Please call or email for the plan. Fran Hoven zenelan@concentric.net 216-961-1553

July 9 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Bradstreet Landing

Meet at 6:30 PM.

<http://www.en.com/kclarke/documents/schedule.htm>

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

July 10 Meeting and Cookout, Silver Lake Country Club

Dolly Howard DollyCali@juno.com 330-650-0140

July 12 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Colorado and Erie Ave., Lorain

Meet at 6 PM.

<http://www.en.com/kclarke/documents/schedule.htm>

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

July 14 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Portage Lakes

Meet at 10 AM (pack a snack).

<http://www.en.com/kclarke/documents/schedule.htm>

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

July 16 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Lakeview Beach, Lorain

Meet at 6:30 PM.

<http://www.en.com/kclarke/documents/schedule.htm>

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

July 17, 24, 31 Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com 330-NOT A FAX

July 18 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Huron City Beach

Meet at 6 PM.

<http://www.en.com/kclarke/documents/schedule.htm>

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

July 21-22 Yough Intro Weekend, PA (12/23)

This is the first of our summer Yough trips. A Middle Yough trip will be organized on Saturday and/or Sunday; if interested, call the Middle Yough organizers in advance. Call the Lower Yough trip organizer early to reserve a permit. The Club has reserved 10 permits on Saturday, and 10 permits on Sunday, from 9:00 to 10:00 PM You must check in with the Lower Yough trip organizer before 8:10 PM

Lower Yough: Tim Taubert

tim_taubert@adit.com 440-256-2506

and Fran Hoven

zenelan@concentric.net 216-961-1553

Middle: Gary Tucker 440-357-7890

July 21-22 Black River Festival, NY (26)

The Black River Fest is held in Watertown, NY during the long, lazy days of summer. The site is an excellent location to check out demos from all the major boat manufacturers. A large, friendly hole within easy reach of the display area provides the ideal location to test the latest boat designs and brush up on your hole-riding skills. New for this year, the Black River Festival Rodeo is included in the NOWR RiversLiv 2000 Series, which will draw Pro freestyle athletes to the competition. As well as the NOWR rodeo and boat demos, the Black River Festival also features classes/clinics, for fun river cruises, an exciting downriver race, and gear auction. The festival will also focus on drawing attention to whitewater access and conservation on the Black River, as well as a membership drive for American Whitewater.

Tom Cronin CroninTJ@Cobleskill.edu 518-255-5308

July 21 PA State Championship Canoe & Kayak Race.

[Race Registration Form](#)

July 25 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Bradstreet Landing

Meet at 6 PM.

<http://www.en.com/kclarke/documents/schedule.htm>

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

July 26 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Gordon Park

Meet at 6 PM.

<http://www.en.com/kclarke/documents/schedule.htm>

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

July 28 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Ohio Masters Swim Competition

Come join us to volunteer as safety boaters See description on April 1. Please check their web page at

<http://www.en.com/kclarke/documents/schedule.htm>

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

July 28-29 New River Gorge, WV(27)

When summer's low water hits, this big-water intro river is an excellent alternative to the Lower Yough for advanced paddlers with a reliable roll. It has plenty of play and reliable water. George Carroll gic333@aol.com 330-836-8049

July 21-22 WHITEWATER OPEN CANOE DOWNRIVER & SPRINT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, PA (12/23) On the Upper Yough

<http://www.nonprofitpages.com/mapa/nationalsonals.htm>

Aug 2-3 (Thurs-Fri) ARC Sea Kayaking

Red Cross classes will take place. Call for details.

American Red Cross 216-431-3081

Barb Bodemer b.bodemer@prodigy.net 216-226-1640

Aug 3-5 Upper / Lower Yough, MD / PA (23/32)

Join Rob, Ron, and Shelly for a good weekend with fun and challenge for paddlers from low intermediate to advanced!

Upper: Aug 3-4: Rob Hammond bhammond@tycoint.com 216-292-5618

Lower: Aug 4: Rachelle Schmidt shellys@corecomm.net 330-688-0499

Aug 5: Ron Tomallo rtomallo@hotmail.com 440-953-1335

Aug 4-5 Upper New, WV (16)

Experience "Big Water" in a Class-II setting. This is a fun seven-mile stretch of beautiful warm water. A reliable roll is not needed. We will paddle from Stonecliff to Cunard and have a great dinner as a reward. Directions are available. Call to confirm trip, meeting time, and location. Trips both days are possible.

Carl Kudrna sitesmart@aol.com 440-835-0222

Aug 4-5 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Camping Weekend - Upper Sandusky Bay

<http://www.en.com/kclarke/documents/schedule.htm>

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

Aug 5 New River Gorge, WV (27)

The New River Gorge is the biggest whitewater river in West Virginia. This trip is appropriate for advanced boaters with a reliable river roll. Please call ahead for camping locations and meeting times.

Ted Moore tedjmoore@alltel.net 330-653-5083

Aug 7, 21, 28 Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com 330-668-2329

Aug 8 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Bradstreet Landing

Meet at 6 PM.

<http://www.en.com/kclarke/documents/schedule.htm>

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

Aug 10-13- Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Camping Trip to North Bay in Michigan

Meet at 6 PM, Vermilion Main St Beach.

<http://www.en.com/kclarke/documents/schedule.htm>

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

Aug 11 Sea Kayak Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, OH

Fifteen miles east of Toledo lie Magee Marsh State Wildlife Area, Crane Creek State Park, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and Metzger Marsh State Wildlife Area. Paddle along the south shore of Lake Erie to see birds, eagles, and remnants of a vast wetland which once bordered western Lake Erie. Start at 10 AM.

Dennis Plank dmplakeerie@juno.com 216-228-4926

Aug 11 Swiftwater Rescue Demonstration Day

This clinic takes place at Slippery Rock Creek. Practice the basics of rope throws, whitewater swimming, and boat-assisted rescue. The rescue

practice will be followed by a potluck dinner. Space is limited, so call ahead to reserve your place.

Rob Hammond

bhammond@tycoint.com 216-292-5618

Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com 330-668-2329

Aug 14 Meeting, Huntington Beach, Bay Village, OH at 6:30 PM

Program: Outdoor meeting, bring your boats

KEEL HAULERS CANOE CLUB MINUTES

Meeting Date: June 12, 2001

The meeting was held at the Wildwood Beach Park in Cleveland.

Approximately 25 people were in attendance. The business meeting started about 7:30.

New members and guests: One new member –Tracy M. and one new guest – Carol Speece

Minutes from previous meeting:

Approved and passed

Chair Reports:

Sea Kayaking – Jill Lauren was not present. John Kobak mentioned that the Brad Street Kayakers have additional web page, with a lot of new information and links. You can access it from the Keel Haulers web page under paddle links. The old page is still available under paddle links, and then Canoe Clubs. John urged people to check out the new page, as it was packed with interesting info.

Conservation – Matt Muir - Three Rivers Paddling Club's upcoming program will have the President of Quality Aggregates. He will be talking about why the public needs to keep an open mind about their proposed expansion near the Slippery Rock Creek. Village on Green is building a bike trail at Nimisila Reservoir and is causing local controversy. Cuyahoga River clean up, as reported in recent Plain Dealer articles has shown tremendous improvement. However Matt quoted Elaine Marsh, the president of a local advocacy group, The Friends of the Crooked River, that there is still tremendous progress

needed. Akron, although they have invested a lot of money, still have a tremendous way to go. They need to spend significantly more money to greatly reduce their dumping raw sewage into the river.

Instruction –Steve Ingles was absent. 12 people were at the roll session at Nimisila Reservoir with Matt Muir.

Matt said it is possible to arrange for boat, if you don't have one, but you must call him ahead of time. A new Red Cross fundamentals class is being formed – call Red Cross, or Steve Ingles for details. Andy Gross said that he may be able to arrange sessions in the CSU pool from 4 to 6 pm at E 24th and Euclid, call him for details.

Reminder – Intro trip on the Lower Yough in July, a good opportunity for new paddlers to try a class III river with experienced paddlers – see trip schedule for more information.

Library – Mike Duvall – Donation from Judy Cleary (book). Thanks, Judy!

Membership – John Kobak – Fourteen new members make a total of 384, we are well on the way to have a record high membership this year.

Programs –Silver Lake is where the next meeting will be held and it will be a potluck – contact Dragen Trivanovic, phone: 330 908-1424 for ideas of food to bring.

Safety – Chuck Singer was on vacation. John Kobak talked about a former club member, Peter James, an experienced paddler, that drowned in May on the Numbers section of the Arkansas River, Rapid 5, in Colorado. Peter had been known as a loaner who would show up at the river and paddle with anyone who would give him a shuttle ride. The details are sketchy at this point. It is a good idea to paddle with people that you know, and where people are aware of everyone's skill level! (editor's note: see Matt Muir's article in this newsletter about the incident)

Old Business:

- Update on Glenn Miller Fund. Pam Poljak sent a check for \$622 and a letter to Glenn Miller on May 22. A

copy was sent to AWA. Pam received a very nice thank you note from the Miller's. It said: "Thanks to all for the wonderful gift. We can sure use it. Glenn is doing some better through prayers and love. Thank you. Glenn, Donna, and family." John Kobak stopped to see Glenn, he is walking with a cane and plans to resume the Cheat River shuttle next year. John said that Glenn has a very large scare on his head where a tree limb fell on him while he was in the woods logging.

- Kudo's to Pam for the excellent job on the treasury report.

- Swift Water Rescue day is August 11, and the Rescue Rodeo is the following day. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! for the Saturday training, the rodeo on Sunday, and for food for the Pot Luck dinner on Saturday. The Three Rivers Paddling Club (TRPC) is planning on fielding two teams to compete against the Keel Haulers on Sunday, so we need to be thinking of fielding two teams as well. We beat their team on the Cheat Race this year, so they will be fired up for retribution!

- John Kobak reminded us that Club's website URL has changed to <http://home.adelphia.net/~keelhauler/khcc/kh.htm>. This was done because John changed his personal ISP, and since John donates the website, the club's website also had to change. However you can still use www.keelhauler.org. It is recommended to use this address, as it is easier to remember, and points to club's website. So this domain, which the club owns, will stay constant if club's site changes in the future.

New Business: None reported.

Trip Reports: Matt Muir and Paul Lang ran the Lower Big Sandy, the Top Yough, and the Lower Yough for a total of 23 miles in one day. Michael Duvall stated the Memorial day trip on the Cheat and Cheat Forks was great.

Evening Program: Playing in the lake. Meeting adjourned about 8:30PM.

Second Annual Swiftwater Rescue Demonstration Day

By Rob Hammond

It was the Russell Fork, a notorious class 5 river, noted for the abundance of under cut rocks. The current was swift and Tammy's boat was pushed under the rock, up to the cockpit, she was upright, but she was plastered up against the rock and grasping it with every ounce of her energy, just to keep from being shoved under the rock. We were the rescue team, and we had to figure out how do we get her out fast, because it was obvious that she could not hold on for much longer! The water was moving too fast to paddle up for a boat-based rescue, there was no access from shore, and a wading rescue was out as well.

That was the scene, painted for us by our Safety Chairman, Chuck Singer. At last year's Swiftwater Rescue Demonstration Day (SRDD) in Slippery Rock Creek at McConnell's Mill State Park. And, I gotta tell you, Chuck really challenged us. Each new mock rescue scenario he came up with, got harder and harder, but the Russell Fork rescue was by far the toughest. If you were not at last year's SRDD, then don't even think about not coming this year on August 11th, if you did come last year, come-on back, cause we all need a refresher.

Last year was a great success, and throughout the year I have had people ask me to repeat it, so here it is! As in last year, registration will be limited, but we will open it to more people this year. We will have 3 training stations that people will rotate through, so everyone will get a chance to see and participate in mock rescues on land and the real thing on the water. Do you need to be a seasoned boater to participate? Nope, what you need to have is some experience on class 2 rapids. So if you have participated in Red Cross river classes, you should be fine, if you are in doubt, give me a call. But just because this event is planned to accommodate beginning boaters, doesn't mean that you "Big Dog Boaters" won't get anything out of it. My biggest complaint from the

instructors last year was that they did not get a chance to go and practice the skills being taught at the other training stations! We all need practice with the basic techniques!

This year the SRDD will be on Saturday August 11, with a potluck dinner afterward. But on Sunday we are organizing our first, of hopefully an annual Rescue Rodeo event. So we will be practicing on Saturday and on Sunday we will take some of those skills and compete against the Three Rivers Paddling Club. If you didn't like what the Pirates did to our Indians in June, then this is your chance to get back at some of their fans. Lets get out there and give those folks the whooping that they deserve! We will be taking some basic rescue skills and competing against the clock, but check out Matt Muir's article in this newsletter for more details.

If you are interested in participating in the SRDD, then send me some email (bhammond@tycoint.com) or call me at: (216) 292-5618. See Ya at the Slippery Rock on the 11th!

**First Annual Rescue Rodeo,
August 12
by Matt Muir**

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

Keel Haulers and TRPC are conspiring in this year's event. We're hoping that each club submits at least two teams. That should provide lots of amusement for the day.

What's this about?

It's a team competition. Teams of four paddlers get together and run through a series of events. Some are timed; others are judged. The events include a Rescue Rope Throw, a Yard Sale Pickup, and a Rescue Scenario. Each

team must include at least one woman and at least one open boat or inflatable.

When? Where is it taking place?

Sunday, August 12 (one day after the Swiftwater Rescue Demo Day), at Maytag Rapid (park at the picnic area uphill from McConnell's Mill); registration will end at 10 AM. The event will probably end in the early afternoon.

What's the entry fee?

Not sure at this point. If there is an EF, it'll be nominal, to cover insurance costs. We'll have some small prizes and goodies for the enthusiastic participants.

Who's coordinating this tawdry affair?

Matt Muir 330-668-2329

RivieraRatt@aol.com

Anything else I need to know?

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

This sounds great! I want to help out!

I knew you would. We need help with judging, publicity, planning, and safety boating. Please call me with your offers to help!

Two Former Keel Haulers Drown out West

by Matt Muir

In a one-month period, two former Keel-Haulers were drowning victims in the West. On May 7, David Ranson, 34, died on the North Fork Yuba in California; on June 2, Peter James, 35, died in the Numbers section of the Arkansas in Colorado. Both were Ohioans who had moved out West.

Many Keel-Haulers paddled with Peter a number of times, mostly on the Upper Yough. He was clearly a skilled paddler. Fewer knew David. I ran Tinker's Creek with him a few times. It was clear to me that he was not only skilled, but reasonably careful. For instance, he was comfortable walking a rapid that I chose to run.

Most of the information that I'll present here is second-hand. Peter's accident was best described in the Colorado forum, Mountainbuzz.com.

The [Numbers section of the Arkansas](#) is a Class-IV-V stream. It was running high in early June. Peter ran it with someone he had met that day. He apparently got caught in a hole and swam in rapid Number 5, one of the more difficult rapids on that stretch at that level. Swims in this section, at this level, are reported to be long and rescue is said to be very difficult. The water was cold, but he was in a full drysuit. "The fellow who tried to rescue him had him over to the side of an eddy and Peter had said he was ok and the guy chased down his boat. Minutes later, Peter comes floating face down. The guy gets him to shore and starts doing CPR."

This is not the first time that someone has drowned after telling a rescuer that he was all right. It is imperative to ensure the safety and security of the swimmer before going after his/her equipment. (This is not to criticize the effort of the rescuer, who was merely helping as best he knew how; but it's important to learn what we can from this tragedy.) Had there been a third boater on the scene, I believe that

he/she would have been free to go for the boat while the primary rescuer stayed with Peter.

Contact information for Peter James' family is 1900 West Grandville Rd., Worthington, Ohio 43085.

There is a detailed description of David's accident in the [American Whitewater Forum](#). The [North Fork Yuba](#) is continuous class II-V, with a couple of IV+ canyons in there; the point where David had his accident was only III. One paddler described seeing what looked like a sharp rock in the middle of a Class-III gravel bar rapid. Apparently David did not notice the hazard. Before anyone could react, David had become stuck on what turned out to be a log strainer.

The other members of the party did everything they could. They raced upstream within a few minutes and got a throw rope around David. Unfortunately, their attempts to pull David and/or his boat free were unsuccessful against the force of the water. They attempted several angles of pull, as well as wading out to him, without any success. Eventually, fatigue overcame David. When his body was recovered the following day, it became clear that a branch on the log had wedged into his cockpit, confounding any attempts he could have made to come free. I've seen a friend trapped in a similar manner by a limb, and rescue in such a situation can be astonishingly difficult and exhausting.

There doesn't seem to be any clear lesson to learn from this tragedy, except perhaps that the danger of whitewater is no way limited to Class V. I believe that there's a natural tendency to "let up" in the easier rapids; I can't say how many times I've cleaned several Class-V drops on the Big Sandy, only to get hung up on rocks, or held by a hole, in the Class-III boogie-water. I've seen the same thing happen to countless others. The eyewitness did say that David wasn't feeling 100% that morning. We'll

never know whether that was a contributing factor in what may have been a momentary lapse of attention.

The best contact that I have for David's widow is: Suzanne Ranson, 1120 Clement Street, San Fran, CA 94118.

Slippery Rock Streamkeepers Alert

Eckert and Breakneck **Bridge Reopening**

PLEASE HAVE YOUR ORGANIZATION WRITE A LETTER IN OPPOSITION.

We have alerted you to the possibility of the Lawrence County commissioners, specifically Ed Fosnaughts, attempts to obtain the funding to reopen Eckert Bridge Road including Eckert and Breakneck bridges to vehicular traffic (these are currently State owned road and bridges). Our group is opposed to this proposal for the following reasons:

- 1) The park already has adequate vehicular access routes for the general public.
- 2) Eckert bridge is currently used as a put in and take out point for many boaters. The bridge is crowded with parked cars on weekends. Opening this road and bridge to through traffic would pose a hazard to hikers/boaters using the bridge.
- 3) Eckert Bridge Road is a steep and winding road. It would be costly and environmentally damaging to widen and reconstruct this road to Penn Dot standards. Most importantly would be the impact to the park. Our group has asked the county to perform a study to determine the impact of additional vehicular traffic to the park environment by reopening this road. The county is unwilling to do an impact study or to really consider the impact to the park at all.
- 4) We have been recently told that Penn Dot DOES NOT have the funding to reopen this road/bridges and wants to give the portion of the road and bridges (that are currently closed) to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) basically

give it to the park. The road and bridges would then continue to be used for access to the stream and for emergency vehicle access to the park and stream.

However, Lawrence County Commissioner Ed Fosnaught is still pushing for this road to be opened to the public by the State road turnback program. The townships adjoining the park would have to bare the financial burden of maintaining this road, and the county would have to maintain the cost of the bridges as this road and bridges would no longer be state owned if turned back to the township/county and reopened to the public.

The Commissioners have given the public no valid reason why this road and bridges should be reopened after 20 years. Although, it had been denied by Commissioner Fosnaught, opening this road would also enable Quality Aggregates to continue limestone mining along the rim of the park. Once the township owns the road Quality Aggregates would undoubtedly be given permission by the township supervisors to cross the road for mining purposes.

The last chance is if Mary Jo White can find funding in Harrisburg to open this road and bridges. Thus, we need Senator White to receive letters and phone calls of protest to the road reopening ASAP. If we can convince her to backoff on this issue, it appears that Penn Dot will permanently give the closed portion of the road and bridges to the park this would be the best option for park and stream users. Write to:

Senator Mary Jo White
340 South Main Street
Butler, PA 16001
724-282-1234

Please contact Bruce, Kimberly or Lynn of Slippery Rock Streamkeepers with any questions.

2nd Annual Midwest FreeStyle Symposium

Based on a very successful first event, the Kilted Yak and Ohio-Penn Division of the ACA will host the second annual Midwest FreeStyle Symposium and Regional Competition/Exhibition on September 14-16, 2001 at Camp Manatoc/Butler in Peninsula, Ohio. Classes will be offered at all skill levels, novice through performance levels, in advanced quietwater techniques for tandem or solo open canoe. On Saturday, the 15th, an evening Regional Competition and Exhibition in FreeStyle paddling will be held. An ACA FreeStyle ICE will also be offered for those wishing to pursue instructor certification. All classes are taught by nationally known ACA certified FreeStyle instructors. For information or registration, contact Elaine or Bob Mravetz at (330) 239-1725 or e-mail at rmravet@uakron.edu.

Three Forks in Three Days

Catherine Curley

Fresh out of a cast, my right ankle was stiff and swollen. The orthopedic surgeon said to wait two weeks before "exercising", but surely boating wasn't included in those prohibited weight bearing/high impact activities. After all, I would be sitting down all weekend (in my kayak). So, I called Steve Ingalls for the Memorial Day Weekend plan. "The Cheat water shed has seen a lot of rain, I think the Laurel Fork will be available" he said...or words to that effect. So, off to Teeter's I drove, along with about 30 other Keelhaulers all following the call of lots of water in West Virginia. The drive was very foggy, and stressful. I do not recommend going through Uniontown and down the road to Ellitsville in fog. Just past Rt. 68 heading towards Teeter's, a car was tailgating the entire way, a rude local, I thought, but much to my surprise the car turned into Teeter's with me and out came Peter Turkaly with a Texas

twang, maybe he's adopted a Southern driving style.

Saturday's plan was for a Laurel Fork run. Another group headed down to the Bloomington Section of the North Branch of the Potomac, running at about 1000cfs. They later reported a great day in pushier than normal current. The Big Boys were joining Kobak for a run on the Sandy, and that's all we heard from them for the weekend. The group to Parsons consisted of me, Steve Ingalls, Ann Kmieck, Terry Markoff, Jim Hunt, Tim Taubert, Cliff Wire, Shelly Schmidt, Ron Tomallo, Dave Yerger, Casey Kaskey, Paula Norris, Jonathan Bachtel (son of Bill), and Steve Bateman. Steve checked the outflow at the confluence with the Dry Fork, judged it as "runnable" and we headed to Rt. 33. The level at the Rt. 33 bridge was 0.45 feet, or just under 6 inches. We have run it as low as 0.0, so 6 inches was plenty of water and Steve smiled when he saw the gauge. We met a pair from Atlanta, Amy in a kayak, and Steve in an OC-1, at the put in and they joined us. This is a big crowd for the Laurel Fork, which is a long 14 mile run, which ends in the "braided channels", a shallow, strainer laden, region that is a payment for the pleasure of the upper section.

The Laurel Fork starts with a couple of miles of Class 1-2 water, a nice warm up. The river bed consists of bedrock with lots of ledges, and great play spots. The river is tight and pretty technical. At this level it is Class 3+ water, but it's distance from the road, and the length of the trip make it more difficult. Steve likes "a strong group" for a Laurel Fork Trip. The first great play spot is a couple of river wide ledges with a lunch spot on river right, about a third of the way into the trip. Casey, Paula, and 15 year old Jonathan put us all to shame with their side surfing. Part of any Laurel Fork trip is the counting of the bridge abutments. Was this #2 or #3??? An important question when the 15ft. waterfall comes up **after** the 6th, and hardest to notice, bridge abutment. It's a Class 5,

runnable waterfall, and a Class 5 portage as well. We all walked around except for Steve from Atlanta and Ron Tomallo. The approach is relatively easy, head for the point on river right, aiming slightly right. They both had perfect runs, though Ron looked like he was too far left at first.

The river gets narrower, faster, and more exciting below the waterfall. There is a river wide ledge that is about as close to a natural low head dam, as I've ever seen. The section to run changes at each level, so it doesn't hurt to look, we went over just left of center. Below that are several chutes and more ledges. It feels like the Slip with but steeper and prettier.

We took out at about 5:30 or 6:00, when someone said, "Hey, has anyone seen Steve Bateman??" About 5 minutes later as we were getting very worried, and wondering how to go back and look for him, Steve and an MS and T boater appeared. Steve has a very elaborate tale, of taking a different turn in a braided channel, and chatting for a while during a strainer portage and not knowing if we were up or down stream. Then, somewhere near the confluence with the Dry Fork, he claims to have drifted sideways into a "monstrous hole". He surfed and rolled and wouldn't wash out, eventually getting out of his boat and still not washing out, he says. Steve Ingalls reports to me that there "actually is a huge hole on the DF below the confluence with the LF which forms in the right half of the riverbed at high flow in the DF. It devoured several people on a trip in May 1996." Steve Bateman clearly was devoured as well, but Steve and his new found friend, "Dave" made it back, thankfully for all, and we all headed to CJ's in Parsons for dinner.

Next day, Sunday, a tentative Shaver's fork plan had been made. The interested party had shrunk slightly, with several opting for a 2 section Dry Fork run. There are at least 3 runnable sections of the Shaver's fork. We opted for the Bemis to Rt. 33 section. The day started rainy

and cool, but was sunny all afternoon. We were all a bit nervous, since Cathy Schilling had pinned on the Shaver's fork last year. It is really different from the Laurel fork. The river bed is primarily boulders. As we started out, we met up with Amy and Steve from Atlanta, sitting in Bemis, waiting for a shuttle ride for the upper section, McGee Run to Bemis. That section has a number of runnable waterfalls, and according to the book, "the longest shuttle ride in the state". According to Steve Ingalls, about 70 miles.

So we waved and headed down a slightly tamer section of river. The book calls this section Class 2-3, but the first 4 rapids are steep, very technical, and as Steve Ingalls noted: "they would have names if they were on the Cheat Canyon", so we thought it was Class 3-4. The tough stuff is all before lunch, in the first 4 miles. Did I mention that it was awesome, blood pumping, adrenaline boosting fun. There are lots of blind turns, all OK for read and run paddling, but not much room for error. The second half of the river was class 2-3 wave trains, lots of eddies, good play spots and fun. We paddled it at about 900 CFS at Bowden gauge. The reading on the painted gauge on the old rt 33 bridge when we found it was 2.5 feet. By the way, there's a neat hotel/restaurant next to that bridge, where a famous Keelhauler couple spent their honeymoon. Best of all, Bill, Jonathan's dad was our shuttle savior, taking everyone and their gear to Bemis, so no shuttle at the end of the day!!

Monday, Memorial day was supposed to be an early Dry Fork day, home in time to BBQ, until Terry Markoff said, "you know, there was a lot of water in the Glady fork when we drove by yesterday...and we've never run it", not even Cheat Forks guru, Steve Ingalls had been on it. So after consulting the book and the group, we set out, even a smaller group, down to me, Steve, Ann, Terry, Dave Yeager, Cliff, Tim, and Jim. The Glady Fork comes into the Dry Fork down stream of the Laurel fork, but on the same side

of the river. It's supposed to be Class 2 mostly. It is a beautiful valley, open, sunny, and not quite enough water. We ran it at 4.15 feet on the Evenwood gauge on Rt. 33 on the Glady Fork. We put in downstream of Rt. 33 on the bridge that crosses the Glady fork. It's the Sully road, that you take from Jenningson up to Rt. 33. We all decided that another 6 inches of water would have been great, and another foot would make this a really fun, ride. Steve Ingalls notes that all we needed was 0.35 ft more for "good recreational boating". This is a beautiful run for people who like to "run " rivers, and don't need to play all the time. However, because of it's isolation and risk of strainers, it is not appropriate for beginners. Just before the confluence with the Dry Fork is an amazing stone house that was reportedly built by a woman artist by hand. When we reached Gladwin, on the Dry Fork, the drivers took out to retrieve our vehicles, and Ann, Jim and I headed down the Dry Fork to Otter Creek. We had some bonus play time, and the vehicles and the paddlers reached the Otter Creek parking lot within 5 minutes of each other.

So, we paddled 3 different Cheat forks in 3 days, on a sunny West Virginia weekend, after a week of rain, and can only hope that the rest of you had half as much fun.

2001 Officers

President: Rob Hammond 440-292-5618
Vice President: Ron Tomallo 440-953-1335
Secretary: Karen Daniels 440-458-5972
Treasurer: Pam Poljak 440-238-1751

Meeting Place

Second Tue each month, at 7:30 P.M.

Jun/Jul/Aug - Outdoors

Membership: \$20 per year. New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone send directly to Membership Chairman: John Kobak 440-871-1758
1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, Oh 44145

Any opinions, views or recommendations expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the article's author. Printing these articles in no way implies approval or advocacy of any of the opinions, views or recommendations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or any of its Officers or members.

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

KHCC WEB PAGE URL:

www.keelhauler.org

Editor KeelHauler Kanews

Cliff Wire

73 Berwyn Dr.

Bedford, Ohio 44146

440-439-6541

CLFWIRE@AOL.COM

July 2001

Address Correction Requested

FOR SALE

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

SunFish Sailboats - 5 Sailboats \$175,\$400, \$400, \$500.

Call Jim Tyree at 330-688-4431 near Akron, OH at Silver Lake boathouse.

Wanted: short kayak play boat

E-Mail to **Jim** - jgt4531@aol.com

One Thule Rack with fit kit for old

style Taurus/Sable. \$40. Tom Pumphrey - 216-283-2662.

Perception Overflow kayak Good for medium to large beginner. Including Paddle(197 cm, 90 angle). Boat is in good condition and paddle used not more than three times. \$450
Call Ingrid at (216) 227-1512 or email ikerscht@pccsri.com

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Keel-Hauler's KaNews August 2001

Sept. Deadline - Aug 27

Aug 2-3 (Thurs-Fri) ARC Sea Kayaking

American Red Cross 216-431-3081
Barb Bodemer b.bodemer@prodigy.net
216-226-1640

Aug 3-5 Upper / Lower Yough, MD / PA (23/32)

Upper: Aug 3-4: Rob Hammond
bhammond@tycoint.com 216-292-5618
Lower: Aug 4: Rachele Schmidt
shellys@corecomm.net 330-688-0499
Aug 5: Ron Tomallo
rtomallo@hotmail.com 440-953-1335

Aug 4-5 Upper New, WV (16)

Carl Kudrna sitesmart@aol.com 440-835-0222

Aug 4-5 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Camping Weekend - Upper Sandusky Bay

Jill Lauren 440-246-2993
JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net

Aug 5 New River Gorge, WV (27)

George Carroll gtc333@aol.com 330-836-8049

Aug 7, 21, 28 Rolling Practice at Nimisila Reservoir

You can never have too much rolling practice. See June 6 description.
Matt Muir RivieraRatt@aol.com 330-668-2329

Aug 8 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Bradstreet Landing

Jill Lauren 440-246-2993
JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net

Aug 10-13- Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Camping Trip to North Bay in Michigan

Call Ted Duffy or Jill Lauren 440-246-2993 JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net

Aug 11 Sea Kayak Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, OH

Start at 10 AM. Dennis Plank
dmplakeerie@juno.com 216-228-4926

Aug 11 Swiftwater Rescue Demonstration Day

This clinic takes place at Slippery Rock Creek. Practice the basics of rope throws, whitewater swimming, and boat-assisted rescue. The rescue practice will be followed by a potluck dinner. Space is limited, so call ahead to reserve your place.

Rob Hammond 216-292-5618

bhammond@tycoint.com

Matt Muir 330-668-2329

RivieraRatt@aol.com

Aug 14 Meeting, Huntington Beach, Bay Village, OH at 6:30 PM

This is our last outdoor meeting for the season. Jill Lauren will present a talk/demo on Sea Kayaking.

From East: Take I-90 to Clague Road exit (160). Go North to Lake Road. Turn left, Go West to Huntington Beach Reservation.

From West: Take I-90 to Crocker Road exit (156). Go North to Lake Road. Turn right, Go East to Huntington Beach Reservation

From South: Take I-480 to Clague Road exit. Go North to Lake Road. Turn left, Go West to Huntington Beach

Use parking lot on the North side of Lake Road. Meet at Picnic Pavilion on East side of park. You can put in watercraft on East side of swimming beach. If it is windy there will be good surfing. Also ask for help and there will be paddlers to assist with kayak roll practice.

Aug 17 (Friday) Lady's Day at the Yough (23)

Sherie Sanzenbacher

ritchkovic@stratos.net 216-381-0599

Aug 18-19 Yough Weekend, PA (12/23)

URGENT: Trip leader needed for lower Yough trip. The Club has reserved 10 permits from 9:00 to 10:00 PM on both Saturday and Sunday. Call Gary Tucker if interested in either Lower or Middle trip. Middle trip organizer: Gary Tucker 440-357-7890

Aug 18-19 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Yough Camping Trip

Overnight camping; Rafting on Lower Yough on Sat., Sea Kayak Yough Lake on Sunday. Call Barb Bodemer, Bill Heuser, or Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

Aug 20 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Colorado Ave, and Erie Ave., Lorain

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

Aug 23 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Lakeview Beach, Lorain

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

Aug 26 Bradstreet Sea Kayakers: Mohican River

Jill Lauren

JILLMKAYAKER@gateway.net 440-246-2993

Aug 31, Sept 1 & 3 Upper Yough, MD (32)

Scott Debalski scd@lubrizol.com 440-298-1718

Sept 1-2 Penn Cup # 1

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

Rob Hammond

bhammond@tycoint.com 216-292-5618

Sept 7-9 Gauley River Weekend, WV (28/33)

John Kobak keelhauler@adelphia.net
440-871-1758

Sept 11 Meeting, Middleburg Heights Community Center at 7:30 PM

Program: Darlene Snider to talk about kayaking injuries and their prevention, which will include some strength and conditioning exercises.

KEEL HAULERS CANOE CLUB MINUTES

Meeting Date: July 10, 2001

The meeting was held at Silver Lake. Thirty-five people were in attendance with no new members or guests.

Treasury report – there is \$3,482.17 in our account. Pam was tired and unable to attend the meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted and passed.

Chair reports: Jill Lauren - Sea kayaking – lots of fun trips going on, see newsletter. Next months program will cover the differences between sea and river kayaking.

Conservation – Matt Muir -American Whitewater is working on releases on the Savage and Friends of the Cheat is a good organization to join especially if you paddle the Cheat.

Instruction - Steve Ingalls – instruction schedule will be posted on web site.

(www.keelhaulers.org)

Library – Mike Duvall – We received a donation of a book “Road Fever” from John Kobak. Thanks, John!

Membership – John Kobak – two new members signed up for a grand total of 386.

Programs – Judy Cleary – the next meeting is to be held at Huntington Beach in Westlake– bring your boats!

Safety – Chuck Singer - Be aware of rivers that are not good to roll in – plan on using more braces or more conservative lines.

Silver Lake Race – Ron Tomallo came in first with a time of 5 minutes, 53 seconds. The last person took so long we gave up on timing her.

Old Business – nothing to discuss so we went right to

New Business –

1) Judy Cleary made a beautiful flag with the club logo. A motion was passed to reimburse her \$30 for expenses. Thank you, Judy!

2) Slippery Rock Rescue Weekend will be August 11 and 12, 2001. The Swiftwater rescue day will be on Saturday and the Rescue Rodeo on Sunday. We need a **BUNCH** of volunteers for manning stations, rotating, registration, etc. We will cover walking in whitewater, rope throwing,

rescue scenarios, and a new one for this year, first aid. This is for your benefit so please help out. Dinner Saturday will be potluck, so contact Sue Whitney for food coordination. Camping will be available at Campers Paradise and Rost Point campgrounds if you wish to stay overnight.

3) The club is going to purchase commemorative T-shirts for the Rescue Weekend and sell them to the participants with the profit going to our conservation fund. Cost for the shirts will be around \$7.00 each with a selling price of \$10.00. A motion was made to have the board decide the number of shirts to purchase. There will be no cost to participate in the rodeo. A suggestion was made to have people sign up for shirt purchase when they register for the event.

4) Insurance through ACA for the event will probably cost about \$35. The club authorized no more than \$60. We would like to have two teams for the rodeo to go against the TRPC. The teams must be coed with one open boat, four per team and register in advance. Events to be judged will be a rope throw, rescue scenarios, and a yard sale where the team has to pick up paddlers and their stuff in the river. Starting time is 10:00 am, call Rob or Matt with questions.

5) More **volunteer** opportunities! We still need **presenters and judges** for the Rescue Weekend.

Trip Reports: The Lower Yough was running at 2.2 on Saturday, Fran learned not to throw ropes at rapids. Andy Gross went to Slippery Rock on July 3, it was running about +3”. Western trip – John Kobak stated about 30 people attended with lots of first timers. Occoee – on the upper, paddlers had an interesting time with broken paddles and a two-mile swim. Paula Norris ended up with a concussion. Matt described a trip on the Upper Yough with a first timer who developed the TPTP look (too paralyzed to paddle).

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20.

FLOODING on the New River

To all private paddlers and river sport enthusiasts. WVRC has spoken to several friends in Fayette County to discuss the state of flooding around the New River Gorge area. Many folks have been able to rely on the predictable flow of the New to round out their boating season and we realize that frequent trips are made to this great resource for boaters from all over.

The situation in the Gorge is one of extremely limited access right now. This is due to landslides and washouts of many local roads. The following is a bulleted list of access road conditions to give you a view of what is happening right now in the area.

We will keep you up to date on conditions as they are reported to us. Please know that a meeting was held yesterday to discuss what options may be available to private access in the coming weeks but right now there are a lot of bulldozers busy opening roads to people's homes and clearing the access roads is a low priority by comparison. Waters are slowly subsiding and the cleanup efforts are underway. Many people who were considering coming to South/Central West Virginia for this weekend to boat may wish to consider contacting the American Red Cross in Oak Hill, West Virginia at 304-469-4636 to assist people in desperate need of help. You can still enjoy wild and wonderful West Virginia while helping residents who have suffered from this flooding rebuild their communities. Your help would be greatly appreciated. The following is a list of access road conditions
Cunard access CLOSED- This has seen a huge landslide and it is estimated that this road may be closed until September.

Fayette Station Road CLOSED - under the Gorge Bridge both sides, is washed out and it is estimated that this road may be closed 30 - 60 days
Teays Landing access CLOSED - Authorized traffic only, on a limited basis. This is a private takeout on the North side that is being rebuilt currently and will not be open to private boaters.

Thurmond/Dunglen road - It is reported that this road is in bad shape but is passable for one vehicle at a time. This road has the potential to be very crowded due to the fact that it is still passable. It is reported that some commercial outfitters may try to run trips from here or use Thurmond as a takeout, so if you use this road look out and be careful.

Hawks Nest lake road. Outfitters may use this road this month as the best chance of a take out for running trips out of the Gorge. The road is passable but being rebuilt right now. It is reported that it needs gravel and culverts. Access to this road has historically been by permission only and it is unlikely that the Hawks Nest State Park will allow any private access.

The consolation is that rain throughout the state has made many streams runable and the Gauley will have some water (currently around 600 CFS) and has no reported access issues. Thanks for your help

NOTE** We are currently involved in negotiations and discussion with the commercial outfitters to see if we can arrange a "boater shuttle" the same way that we run the annual Gauley shuttle at the Upper Gauley takeout. It is being discussed to see if we could funnel private river users into and out of Thurmond/Teays Landing respectively with a fee based boater shuttle. I hope we can overcome the current constraints to do this. If this is something you club would use or need in the coming four weeks I would ask that you please comment to me by emailing wvrc@neumedia.net about this issue.

Carl Bolyard, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Development Coordinator, 801 North Randolph Ave. , Elkins, WV. 6241 (304) 637-7201
WVRC@neumedia.net website @ www.wvivers.org

Potomac River Benefit West Virginia Rivers Coalition

On Wednesday, June 27, West Virginia Rivers Coalition hosted the 3rd annual gala benefit reception for the Potomac

River. The event was a success as 220 guests from the region gathered at the Old Ebbitt Grill in downtown Washington DC to celebrate the river and discuss work being done to help the river basin.

The Potomac is a watershed of over 14,000 square miles and is the drinking water supply for much of the basin. The recreation benefits of the Potomac as a fishery and a whitewater resource are tremendous. The Nation's River begins in West Virginia's Potomac Highlands as the North Branch and the South Branch. The South Branch has its highest tributary, Seneca Creek, at around 4200 feet on the west slope of Spruce Knob. The Potomac is the lifeblood of the region it flows through, crossing three states before feeding into the Chesapeake Bay where it is one of the major contributors to the health or detriment of the estuary. The Potomac is a river worthy of conservation, protection and much discussion.

The evenings mix of people and topics included land managers, land trusts, and non-profits concerned with Potomac issues. These concerns include conservation easements, water quality, boater access, fishery resources, drinking water, endangered species, and legislation in the basin. Representatives from National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Department of Energy, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Forest Service attended the evening. Senator Rockefeller had his legislative assistant Barbara Pryor attend to meet constituents.

The past year has been a tremendous one for Potomac issues. Dredging, factory farming waste, longwall coal mining projects, sedimentation, pollution discharge permits and riparian corridor damage are threats that have been fought this year on behalf of the Potomac. These efforts have involved many concerned groups, yet many of these issues still place the Potomac at risk. In 1997 and 1998 the Potomac was named by American Rivers as one of the country's most endangered rivers. Due to the precarious nature of the river's health, a tremendous number of people are rolling up their

sleeves to get work done in this watershed. The evening celebrated some of the immense work done by WVRC and others.

This year's benefit was a successful fundraiser for West Virginia Rivers Coalition and several businesses and organizations were recognized in making the event such a success. Immersion Research has made a significant commitment to furthering the health of the Headwaters. This apparel and equipment manufacturer from Confluence, Pennsylvania has always remained in touch with the source of their success and kept clean water issues in the scope of their vision for the future. The Wilderness Society has made a similar commitment to wilderness and clean water in the Mid-Atlantic region. WVRC thanked them both for their support. Camp Rim Rock, in Yellow Springs, West Virginia and River and Trail Outfitters near Harper's Ferry were thanked for their continued support. River Riders and Mike Aronoff's Canoe and Paddle Company (CAPCO) also received our thanks for helping with a great event. WVRC could not have had a successful event without these six business sponsors. Several other businesses helped support the evening: Elk River Touring Center, Grateful Heads Helmets, North American River Runners, Paddler Magazine and Wildwater Expeditions. We are proud to have this support in seeking solutions for the Potomac watershed.

Many members of WVRC were in attendance to enjoy music and great food and drink in one of the city's best gathering spots. A number of paddling clubs were also represented. Greater Baltimore Canoe Club, Canoe Cruisers Association, Blue Ridge Voyageurs, Coastal Canoeists, Monocacy Canoe Club and the West Virginia Wildwater Association. A special thanks goes to all of the paddlers who are the backbone of contributors and volunteers for efforts to protect the waters. The event was so much fun for us because of all the great people involved. Thank you and we hope to see you next year at the Old Ebbitt Grill!

Big Time Fun in Colorado

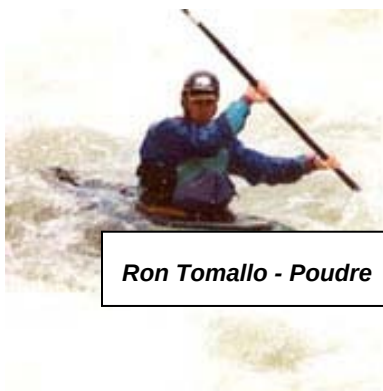
By John Kobak

Twenty-eight Keel Haulers from four States found their way to CO, our biggest trip in years. See the chart on the next page for summary of rivers, water levels and paddlers full names. The group paddled, over 1500 miles of CO rivers.



Great weather, hot days, cool nights and windy scattered showers daily in the Buena Vista area. The water was a cool 50 to 60°F.

This is a tale of three trips. The first group rolled into Mountain Park NF Campground on the Cache de la Poudre River (Poudre). Sunday morning after a 20 hour drive from OH. If you have never been in this canyon, I feel it is one of the prettiest places you could ever find. Although the road parallels the river it is unobtrusive and the steep canyon walls are spectacular.



Ron Tomallo - Poudre

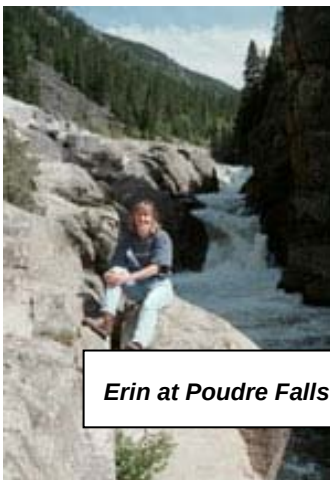
To warm up, the twelve of us paddled from the campground down to the Narrows. This easy 4- mi. portion whetted everyone's appetite for the paddling to come and got people used to the 6500' altitude.

Our hot dog paddlers, **Brent, Dave, Paul and Duke** wanted more and also

had fun on the Middle Narrows, a Class IV half-mile run.

Most of the paddling for the entire two-week trip was the half day variety, with time left for hiking, bicycling and motor cycle off-road riding. **Ron & Shelly** had brought their cycles; **Shelly** had a few thrills and spills. That night **Chuck, Judi and Kristen** rolled in. They had come via TX and NM, where they had visited Carlsbad Caverns, **Rita Tessmann** (old khcc member) and Mesa Verde NP.

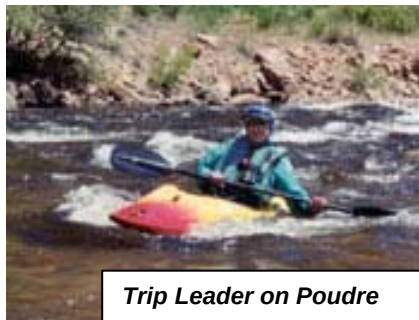
The advanced group of four drove up to try the Spencer Hts section of the Poudre, above and below the big falls 25 miles upstream. The remaining 13 paddlers ran either 8 or 13 mi. down to the campground



Erin at Poudre Falls

Judi and Kristen got their first taste of Colorado whitewater in their Shredder Raft. The water level was around 3' on the paddlers' gauge which made the four days challenging but not terrifying. On Tue we tackled the tougher

Mishawaka / PineVu section while the hot doggers spent the day scouting and running the Lower



Trip Leader on Poudre

Big South which is a steep isolated section of the Poudre above Spencer Hts. A few walked and a few swam in Pine Vu, names withheld by request of participants. The group was really doing quite well considering it was a CO first for a few.

Elliott, Bill, Cathy, Bob and I did our 25 mi. bicycle from Poudre Falls down to our campground. **Ron** had hauled us to the top with his cycle trailer.

The campground has hot showers but I brought my Sun Shower in honor of **Chuck Singer** who invented the Sun Shower at the same campsite 25 years ago. His was a little more crude then. A 15- gal black garbage bag filled with water which he tied to a tree branch, he then poked a small hole in the bag for his hot shower.

If the Poudre was a little higher we may have stayed longer, however people were anxious to try some other rivers before their one-week trip ended. So on Wed morning we repeated the 13 mi. White Mile section down to the campground and left for Golden CO. The renegade group headed back to repeat the Big South so **Brent** could get some good videos for his next production.



Mike Duvall - Clear Crk

We camped overnight in a NF campground above Black Hawk gambling casino. Clear Creek was running about 500 cfs and is lots of fun. It ends in downtown Golden at a whitewater park. Just before the takeout there is a diversion dam that most paddlers carry. We ran it last year with no problem; however, this year when **Elliott** ran it he got stuck in the backwash of the dam, rolled out, washed over a few rocks upside down and then successfully rolled up. He takes a lickin but keeps on tickin. The **Ratt** can't say that **Elliott** bails any

longer. It looked so bad that only **Ron** decided to attempt it. He made it look easy.



BLM Campground

Chuck had banged his shoulder on the Poudre so decided to give it a rest. **Chuck, Judi** and **Kristen** went off to hike at Rocky Mountain NP. **Chuck's** paddling was completed when his bad luck continued. He banged his elbow while sliding down a snow bank; also **Judi** had to put **Kristen** on a plane back to Cleveland. **Chuck & Judi** continued westward to Moab, UT and then to the Grand Canyon for a backpack trip.

After Clear Creek we all drove to the Buena Vista area. We camped at a free BLM campground, very remote and quiet. **Santo** and **Kris** arrived from St. Louis.

The hotdoggers decided on a 5pm run of Pine Creek Rapid and the Numbers. Didn't see them again until dark. We heard that Both **Daves** got stuck in the big hole after Pine Creek, but worked free. I guess they didn't quite scout downstream far enough.

Friday's trip on Brown's canyon was our biggest, fifteen paddlers. The Arkansas was a low 1000 cfs, but it was lots of fun. A few flips at Zoom Flume but everyone made it through Sidell's Suck hole as I recall. That night **Boris** and **Rex** arrived from MI.

The next day our renegade group headed up to Aspen where they ran



Paul Lang in Meatgrinder

Crystal River including the Meatgrinder and the Narrows. We need to hear from **Brent** for his report. Our group ran the Numbers on Sat. which had come up to 1350 cfs. Some did it twice. **Shelly** made it as far as #5 where she decided she had had enough excitement for the day.

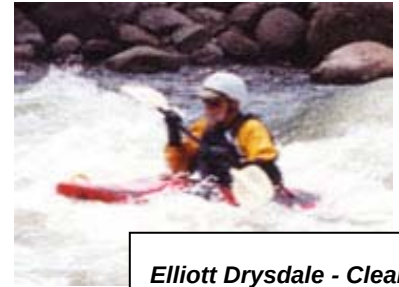
On Sunday the Royal Gorge provided the most interesting stories for the 12 paddlers. Most scouted Sunshine, the rapid that usually provides all the excitement. It's a little easier these days since the military inadvertently moved a rock while removing a pinned raft. I guess I made it look too easy hitting the right side eddy above the final drop. First, **Bob** didn't drive hard enough out of the eddy and got sucked to the shore upstream of a large rock, it flipped him over and he washed through the hole to roll successfully below. **Cathy** flipped on the eddy line and bailed, her boat and paddle came down quickly to the eddy below. However, Cathy was no where in sight. I could see her head bobbing up and down in the hydraulic for a long time. It seems she thought she could swim out of the end but finally gave up and headed downstream where she was quickly rescued.



Shelly at Sunshine

The real excitement came at the next drop which no one scouted, Sledgehammer. A few of us ran left and right of the large center hole which I guess wasn't too obvious. First **Kris** got stopped and sucked back in while **Ron** followed. He pushed her out of the hole while unbeknownst to him **Shelly** dropped in with him. After knocking around for a while **Shelly** went into the undercut on the far right and said it was really dark in there, that's when she bailed out. After a half-dozen or more window shades, **Ron** finally came up for good and saw rafts going by almost over his head since it was sooo

deep. Now **Ron** would have liked to bail out but was being tossed around so much that he couldn't reach his skirt. What luck, he finally ended out and paddled over with a smile indicating he just went in to rescue **Kris**. When **Boris** came by he flipped, rolled and headed toward the big undercut also, luckily he only went part way under and came out unscathed.



Elliott Drysdale - Clear Crk

We ate lunch under the 1000 ft high suspension bridge where **Rex** mentioned *we better keep our helmets on in case someone threw something off the bridge*. I laughed then looked down on the rocks where I saw coins and even a golf ball, *lets make it a short lunch*.

It was time to say goodbye to **Ron & Shelly**; however, **Rich Priem** and his sister, **Betsy Chisholm** & family were due to arrive that night. The group planned to run the Gunnison Gorge an easy Class III run immediately downstream of the Black Canyon, on Monday. Most of the group left to go directly there. **Santo** agreed to setup the shuttle early so that when the rest of the group arrived at 11AM they could do the 1 mi. walk down to the river and complete the run early enough to get back to Buena Vista.

Well first of all, no **Rich & Betsy**, they called to say that they were coming a day later. Then **Bill, Cathy, Elliott** and I got up at 6am and drove 4 hrs to the Gunnison. We discovered that the last 7 mi. of the road to the putin took almost an hour. It was a class 4 road with a few class 5's thrown in that we had to scout. **Cathy's** 4-wheel drive truck had no problems but **Elliott's** van was challenged. We got to the put-in at 11:30 AM, but found no one else was there. We discussed how we could still do the river when I realized that I promised to meet the Priem's back in BV tonight. The shuttle and river trip

would take at least another 7 hours, there was no way to do both and make it back to camp. **Elliott** and I volunteered to shuttle **Cathy's** truck to the takeout, however on our way up the dirt road we met **Santo** and the group, they were running a little late., about 4 hours as I saw it. **Paul** had already opted out and was going to shuttle **Santo's** van. **Elliott** decided he would like to paddle and my only choice was to drive back to BV; Yes 8 hours of driving and no paddling. The joys of a trip leader.



Shredding Zoom Flume

Rich, Tracey, Betsy, Jim and their boys, **Cory and Jamie**, arrived as planned. **Judi** had left her Shedder raft and **Erin** had left her Corsica S for their use. We would warm up on the Fractions which is immediately downstream of the Numbers. **Tracey** and I paddled the Shredder while **Betsy & Rich** paddled their kayaks. I had never paddled a Shredder before and had a time trying to figure out how to stay in and reach the water with the short paddles that **Judi** provided. Much to my delight a 6" longer canoe paddle from a commercial raft trip floated by. I now was in business with the correct length paddle.

After a fun run we decided to tackle Brown's canyon on Wed. The flow had come up from 1000cfs on last Fri.'s run to 1700cfs. This actually seemed to make the run easier. **Bill & Cathy** paddled with us while **Elliott and Bob** decided to run the Numbers a few times. **Rich** had the most fun, getting recirculated in Sidell's suckhole before swimming free.

The main part of the group stayed in Western CO to run the Upper Animas. You will have to read **Paul Lang's**

story to find out how much fun they had.



Betsy, Cory, Tracey, Rich, & Jamie

Betsy's family rafted Browns canyon again with **Rich & Tracey** while we finished up our trip running the Numbers several times.

This year's trip was really fun, I wondered why it was so different then the last two years. Then I realized it was all the people. The large group with their varied interests had lots of fun together. They enjoyed the discovery of new rivers, hikes, bike rides and great cookouts aand campfires. This is a fun trip that no one should miss.

Her First Ratt Point

*by Matt Muir
photos by Chuck Singer*

You know me. I'm the guy who flies solo.

For years, I'd make mention of the Lovely & Talented Mrs. Ratt, also aka "Chickey-pooh." Nobody in Keel-haulers met her for the longest time. Many Keel-haulers held to the opinion, and propagated rumors, to the effect that she was entirely a myth, a figment, an urban legend, like Sasquatch or like G Dubya Bush's compassion.

But she was real, and on occasion Keel-haulers would actually meet her. But none had ever seen her in a boat.

There were reasons. For one, she was never very interested in adrenaline sports...and camping was, as our friends across the Pond would say, "right out." Her idea of roughing it is a hotel room where the room service doesn't have crème brûlée. And I wasn't too interested in pushing it, for a couple of reasons.

I remember a Lower Yough trip, in late 1994, when several guys began telling stories of when they'd introduced their wives or significant others to whitewater. The disasters had been uniformly unmitigated. She would have a heinous swim through Double Hydraulic, and sit on shore, shuddering and crying; or she would get someone's helmet in the face, giving her a black eye or a punctured lip, and she would sit on shore, shuddering and crying. Or she would be whacked in the face by a paddle and sit on shore, shuddering and crying. An omnipresent theme in these stories was shuddering and crying. Dan Lichty summoned all the political correctness he could muster and asked, "Jeez, why don't you just beat them up at home and save yourselves the drive?"

Finally, there's that *other issue*. Let's call it "holdmebackitis." That's where a class-V paddler is hooked with a III boater. Typically, he (it's usually a "he") tries to bring her along, so that they can paddle the Upper Yough, Big Sandy, and the Gauley together. Typically, she has an ugly swim and a bad day, and he does six months' penance at Ohioptyle.

Who needs *any* of that? So, if the L&TMrs.R wasn't interested, that was fine with me. It makes it tough to get "permission" for multiday trips, but I can handle that. The only other disadvantage to the current situation is that my kewl paddling tales are met, at home, with a glazed look or an icy-cold stare.

Imagine my surprise, then, when driving home from Ron & Sue Whitney (nee Strumbel)'s wedding. "Guesss what?" asked Chickey-pooh.

"I don't know," I mused, "Shelly Schmidt went to the bar and chugged a whole bottle of tequila?"

"That probably happened," she answered, "but what I was getting at was that Judi Cleary offered to take me down the Lower Yough in a Shredder...and I accepted!"

Whoa. Back the TopoDuo up a couple of drops. Say what?

The die was cast. Back in March, she opened the gates, and the water hit the putin on this past Saturday, July 28.

In the days leading up to the event, her trepidation became more evident. "You'll be fine," I reassured her, "Judi knows what she's doing." (I'd never paddled with Judi. I was guessing.) "Chuck and I will be on hand, all the time." (Taking pictures.)



Judi (left) and Eva (right)

So, we got up real early-like on Saturday morning and packed into the vehicle. We were late getting going and late getting there, but soon we were good go go. After launching, Judi began giving instructions. "I'll apologize ahead of time," she said, "because sometimes it may seem like I'm barking at you. I assure you that it's nothing personal; it's just that sometimes immediate action is required."

"That's okay," my loving wife reassured her, "I get barked at all the time at home." It's probably true.

TRPC was having its annual Turkey Bash, wherein members learn to advance their skills in the company of 250 of their closest friends. Lots of open boaters and other strange craft were training for the Open Canoe



Eva showing strong potential!

Nationals, which are taking place as I write this (Jul 30-Aug 2). So I can't really say that we were alone on the river.

I'm sorry to report that there really isn't any carnage in this story. No swims, no split lip, no crying jags on the

riverbank. The pictures that Greg Green took at Cucumber showed two smiling, delighted women.

We lunched at Vulture Rock, just across from Dimple. It had been years since I'd done that, and it's much less fun than it was before last year's accidents. In the hour we were there, we saw two swimmers who disappeared for uncomfortable durations. Each year, there are probably hundreds of ugly, scary swims on the face of Dimple Rock. And the state continues to allow unguided rafts; its main contribution to safety is some small, content-free sign just above the rapid. I'm left shaking my head in resigned astonishment.

After lunch, the girls snuck Dimple. That line, at least, has become more popular of late.



Catching the eddy at River's End

Okay, there was a little carnage. Handsurfing at Swimmer's, I managed to get bowled over by a raft. It's almost, but not quite, shallow enough to bottom-brace your way up; I was forced to handroll. Mike Duvall and Catherine Curley, watching from shore, were desperately hoping that I'd pull the skirt in front of several dozen vultures. Was their excessive salivation due to their succulent lunches, or was it the taste-o-carnage that they were anticipating? You decide.

Once we were done, back at the putin parking lot, we saw Paul and JoAnn Lang, preparing to run the Loop in their new canoe. They wanted someone to keep them company, but the Lovely & Talented Mrs. Ratt wanted dinner, so that's where we went. When dinner was done, we found Paul and JoAnn loading their vehicle. They weren't bragging on a finely controlled run. Seems they hadn't run Youghish stuff

in a tandem canoe in some years, and they were more than a little rusty.

Eva (yes, Chickey-poo has a name) was effusive in her praise of Judi's mentoring. "I knew exactly what she wanted me to do, and why, as soon as she said it. She made it easy. And she made the whole thing fun."

Deciding to leave well enough alone, she opted out on the second day, which gave JoAnn a chance to Shred with Judi on Sunday. The Upper Yough was running 2.0' natural, and I even had permission to run it, but finding a bud would have been problematic. I didn't even ask the L&TMrs.R to shuttle me up to Sang Run to solo it. That dog would never have hunted. Instead, we drove over to Swallow Falls and hiked around in the rain. That was cool, too.

We'd like to thank Judi and Chuck for offering to introduce Eva to whitewater. We both had *big fun*. So: my lovely wife now has her first Ratt Point. She has shredded the Lower Yough. Can the Gauley be far behind? Will she soon be cleaning Big Splat? Stay tuned...



2001 Colorado Trip Participants

Lots of paddling by everyone

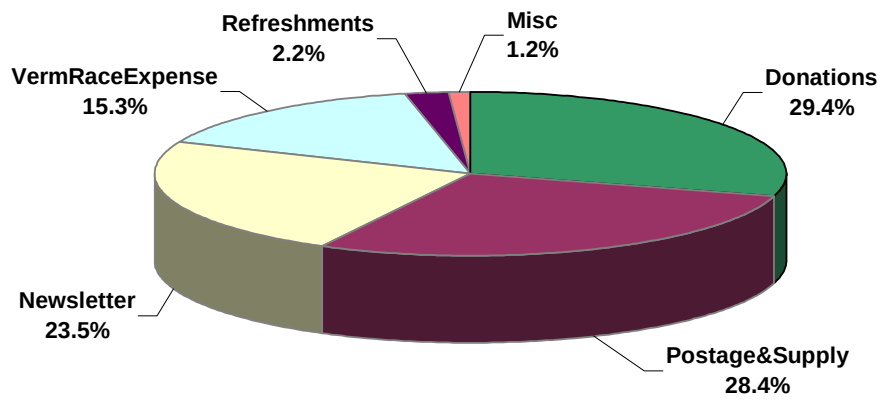
Date	6/17	6/18	6/19	6/20	6/21	6/22	6/23	6/24	6/25	6/26	6/27	6/28	6/29									
Day	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F									
River Section	Above Narrows/+middle Nar	Grandpa's Gorge	Spencer Heights	Mishawaka/PineVu	Big South	White Mile/GrandPa	Big South	Clear Creek-Lower	Pine Creek Can/Numbers	Brown's Canyon	Numbers (1-6)	Crystal, Meatgrinder & Narrows	Royal Gorge	Gunnison Gorge/ U-Uncompagne n.	Fractions/ Frog	Upper Animas	Brown's Canyon/ N - Numbers	Animas - Durango	Numbers (1-6)	Brown's Canyon	Numbers (1-6)	Roaring Fork
Water Level - CFS	650	640		585		630		500		1000	1350		1600	650	1400	800	1700	1500	1300		1200	500
Paddler's Gauge	3.0	2.9		2.8		2.9			2	2.0	2.6		2.8		2.8		3.3		2.6		2.4	
River Miles	4	8	5	8	6	13	8	6	6	13	6		9	13	7	27	13	5	6	13	6	5
Name																						
Aalbersberg, Kris										x	x		x	x				x				
Albright, Santo										x	x		x	x		x		x				
Bethea, Erin	x	x		x				x		x												
Broer, Dave	x+		x		x		x		x	x		x		U		x		x				
Chisholm, Betsy & Jim															x		x			x	r3	
Cleary, Judi & Kristen		r2		r2		r2																
Dalrymple, Rex											x		x	x		x		x				x
Drysdale, Elliott	x	x		x		x		x		x	x		x	x			N		x		x	
Duke, David	x+		x	x			x		x	x	x		x	U		x		x				
Duvall, Mike	x	x		x		x		x		x												
Glick, Boris											x		x	x		x		x				x
Kobak, John	x	x		x		x		x		x	x		x		r		r		x		x	
Lang, Paul & JoAnn	x+		x		x		x					x				x		x				
Laubaugh, Brent	x+		x		x		x		x	x		x		U		x		x				
Miller, Kelly	x	x		x						x												
Miller, Bill		x		x		x		x		x			x	x			x		x		x	
Needham, Cathy		x		x		x				x	x		x	x			x					
Nicholson, Bob	x	x		x		x		x		x	x		x	x			N		x			
Priem, Rich & Tracey															x/r		x/r			r2		
Schmidt, Shelley	x	x		x		x		x		x	x		x									
Singer, Chuck		x		x		x																
Tomallo, Ron	x	x		x		x		x		x	x		x									
Total Paddling	12	13	4	13	3	11	4	8	3	15	11	3	12	11	4	7	8	8	4	6	3	2

x- Paddled, r -rafted

Cash Flow Report

4/1/01 through 6/30/01

Category Description	4/1/01-6/30/01
INFLOWS	
Dues	540.00
Glenn Miller Fund	622.00
Interest	16.98
Youghiogheny reservations	80.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	1,258.98
OUTFLOWS	
Donations	722.00
Misc	29.91
Newsletter	576.80
Postage&Supply	
MiscPostage	44.00
Newsletter Postage	600.00
Supplies	34.58
Yearbook Postage	20.20
TOTAL Postage&Supply	698.78
Refreshments	54.70
VermRace Expenses	
Awards	26.60
Insurance	180.00
Miscellaneous	170.81
TOTAL VermRace Expense	377.41
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	2,459.60
OVERALL TOTAL	-1,200.62
Current account balance: \$3,482.17	



2000 Officers

President: Rob Hammond 440-292-5618
Vice President: Ron Tomallo 440-953-1335
Secretary: Karen Daniels
Treasurer: Pam Poljak 440-238-1751

Meeting Place: Middleburg Hts. Rec. Ctr.
15700 Bagley Rd.
Second Tue each month, at 7:30 P.M.

Membership: \$20 per year. New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone send directly to Membership Chairman: John Kobak 440-871-1758
1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, Oh 44145

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Sea Kayak - Dagger Apostle sea kayak with rudder, red with yellow swirl pattern. Bought 3-24-98 brand new, have receipt. Excellent condition, like new. Dagger quit making this boat last year from what I understand, and is a boat wanted by many. Paid \$1529, asking \$1200 Call at 440-989-2866 in Lorain, Ohio.
E-Mail to **Duffie** - duffie@adelphia.net

Kayak - Prijon T-Canyon, good condition, excellent beginner or expedition boat \$300.
Call Bill Robertson at 740-695-9222 St. Clairsville, OH
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Roof Rack - Thule, Complete with load bars and fit kit for old style Taurus/Sable. \$40 OBO Call Tom Pumphrey at 216-283-2662 in Shaker Hts, OH
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