



Keel-Hauler's KaNews JANUARY 2005

Snail Mail vs. E-Mail.....

Do you realize that you *COULD* have had received this Keelhauler newsletter via email rather than in hardcopy?

Here are the top 10 reasons you should seriously consider signing up to be on the email-only list for the newsletter.

(drum roll please.....)

10. It would reduce the weight of your mail carriers load.
9. You generally receive your newsletter 2-4 days earlier than by snail mail.
8. It would keep your computer's electrons exercised.
7. The links to various websites are live and you just need to click on them.
6. You could re-write the articles if you wanted to.
5. There would be less newsletters for Judi to put labels on.
4. It would give John Kobak something to do
3. You can print the newsletter on your color printer for the full effect.
2. You can help save a tree (or at least part of one) - assuming you read it on-line.

And, the #1 reason, it saves the club **money!!!!**
More than a dollar a month per person.

All you have to do is email John Kobak
(keelhauler@yahoo.com) and tell him you want to receive your newsletter by e-mail from now on.

PLEASE REMEMBER.....

There will be no January Keelhauler Meeting due to the usual bad weather/low attendance. We hope to see you in February!!!

December 14th Holiday Dinner and Raffle

On behalf of all our club members we thank the following sponsors and club members for their contributions and generosity. Many thanks to all of you and a happy holiday from all of us.

Rocky Mountain Kayak -

www.rockymountainkayak.com

(1-800-383-0909) Arona Rd., New Stanton, PA.

Little Mountain LTD - www.littlemountainltd.com

(1-440-946-5028) 7230 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH.
44060

Outback Steakhouse - www.outback.com

(1-440-205-9505) 8595 Market St., Mentor, OH.
44060

The Final Cut - 2742 Grand Ave., Cleveland, OH.
(1-216-231-8282)

Terence O'Flaherty, Atty. At Law

(1-440-946-1743) 7541 Mentor, OH. 44060

John Kobak and Pat G club members

Happy Holidays!

Bill Miller

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes, 12/14/04

37 Attendees

Judi Cleary read thank you letters for donations from Friends of the Cheat and Grand Canyon Boaters Association.

Door prizes raise \$148.00 for Conservation Fund.

Everyone enjoyed the potluck dinner.

Door prize winners were:

Gene Baker, Keelhauler T Shirt
Judi Cleary, Rocky Mountain Store \$10 gift Certificate
Jim Hunt, Keelhauler T Shirt
Ron Tomallo, White Water Adventure Book
Pam Poljak, Rocky Mountain Store \$10 gift Certificate
Pam Poljak, ProTec Helmet from Rocky Mountain
Hayden Thorne, Rocky Mountain Store T Shirt
Chuck Singer, Outback \$10 gift Certificate
Pat Guzowski, Olympic Pin
Mike Duvall, Keelhauler T Shirt
Pat Guzowski, Rocky Mountain Store \$10 gift cert.
John Kobak, Olympic Pin
Mary Modesitt, Life Preserver from Rocky Mountain
Pam Poljak, Simple Will
Jim Botamer, Olympic Pin
Karen Dearfield, Rocky Mountain Store \$10 gift cert.
John Kobak, Keelhauler T Shirt
Kathy Needham, Rocky Mountain Store T Shirt
Jim Botamer, Rocky Mountain Store \$10 gift Certificate
Pam Poljak, Olympic Pin
Phil Thorne, Keelhauler T Shirt
Ed Charlton, Olympic Pin
Elliott Drysdale, Little Mountain Store \$50.00 gift Certificate
Pam Poljak, Final Cut Produce
Phil Thorne, Final Cut Produce
Hayden Thorne, Final Cut Produce

PADDLER HEALTH ALERT - LEPTOSPIROSIS

This past week Strat Douglas was admitted to West Virginia University Hospital in Morgantown after three days of pounding headaches, severe muscle aches, and a fever of 104 degrees. He thought he had the flu, but initial tests gave early indications of kidney and liver damage. Further testing revealed that he had Leptospirosis, a rare water-borne bacterial infection. Antibiotics were administered intravenously and he was kept in the hospital for several days. He is now cured, and says he would have gotten to a doctor a lot faster if he'd knew about this condition. He also learned that another kayaker, an Emergency Room physician at the hospital contracted the disease last year.

Leptospirosis is caused by water contaminated with the urine of infected animals. The bacteria have been found in cattle, pigs, horses, dogs, rats, and wild animals. Humans become infected through contact with water, food, or soil contaminated by their urine. The infection usually begins with skin contact, especially via mucosal surfaces like as the eyes or nose, or through broken skin. The bacteria survive in fresh water for as many as 16 days and in soil for as many as 24 days. The time between exposure to the contaminated water and the onset of sickness is between 2 days and 4 weeks. The bacteria can spread to any part of the body but the liver and kidneys are especially at risk..

Leptospirosis is a known occupational hazard for farmers, sewer workers, veterinarians, dairy farmers, and military personnel. It's a known to infect campers, swimmers, waders, and paddlers who use contaminated lakes and rivers. In 1997 a group of Americans who went white-water rafting in Costa Rica contracted the disease. In 1998 a number of athletes developed Leptospirosis after completing a triathlon in Springfield, Illinois. The event included a swim in Lake Springfield. An outbreak also occurred among those competing in Eco-Challenge Sabah 2000 in Malaysia.

Strat traces his infection to a late fall run on the nearby Big Sandy River two weeks ago. It was made after an intense storm that dropped 2 inches of rain in just over an hour. Many local roads were badly

eroded. The rain actually fell on a very small area. The Little Sandy and Sovern Run were quite high, but the river at Rockville was moderate and at Bruceton Mills it was too low to paddle. Cattle ranching is a major occupation around here, and cows live on all the surrounding hills.

Symptoms of leptospirosis include high fever, severe headache, chills, muscle aches, and vomiting. It may include jaundice (yellow skin and eyes), red eyes, abdominal pain, diarrhea, or a rash. If the disease is not treated, the patient can develop kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, and respiratory distress. Some people die; others have no symptoms at all and become carriers of the disease. Treatment includes antibiotics like doxycycline or penicillin, which ideally should be given early in the course of the disease. Intravenous antibiotics are required for persons with more severe symptoms.

Charlie Walbridge
AW Safety Editor

American Whitewater Safety Committee
Route 1, Box A43B; Bruceton Mills, WV 26525
email: ccwalbridge@cs.com; phone 304-379-9002

PS: I've now heard about a handful of cases, mostly on the Lower Potomac. Ask anyone who knows something more about this to email me.

National Paddling Film Festival

Come to the National Paddling Film Festival
Saturday February 26, at the Lexington Convention
Center, 430 West Vine Street, Lexington, Kentucky.

Raising money for river conservation and access for over 20 years, the NPFF is an all-volunteer run competition which showcases paddlesport related film, video and still photography. Run by paddlers, we have divisions for film makers who are amateurs, professionals and something in-between. Motion entries accepted until January 21, and still photos until February 18. Check the website for details on entering or attending.

<http://www.surfbwa.org/npff>

The Film Festival, Silent Auction and Awards Party all will take place this year in the newly renovated convention center. Our special guest is Kent Ford, world champion kayaker, paddlesports commentator from the Summer Olympics, and prolific producer of instructional books and videos. Check our website for more details; tickets will be available on-line.

Zina Merkin

zmerkin@uky.edu

Bluegrass Wildwater Association (www.surfbwa.org)

Instructor Trainees wanted!

By Rob Hammond

Have you thought about learning how to be a kayak or canoe instructor? The Cleveland Chapter of the American Red Cross has decided to run another Instructor Training program this winter. We are looking for a few good men and woman that are looking for an opportunity to give back to the paddling community for all the help they received as they were learning the sport. Although we would love to have new instructors with advanced paddling skills; it is not a requirement. This program is designed to provide beginning boater instruction. Our goal is to provide new paddlers with enough skill to be able to competently navigate a class II river.

So why should you consider donating your time and energy to this program? Well for me the biggest pay back is watching new boaters progress from clumsily trying to paddle their boat in a straight line to proficiently executing river moves with a big smile on their face! You can also expect to see your own boating improve. Now you may ask, I have been boating for several years, how can teaching beginners improve my boating? Maybe you have heard the old adage "you want to learn? then teach". The simple answer is that when you have to teach something, it forces you to learn the right way to do it. If you have taken any my classes, you know that I am the "Stroke Nazi". I got that way because after many years of boating I was (and some people say that I still am) a lazy paddler. My strokes did ok, but it took more strokes to get my boat where I wanted it

then it should have. This was killing me when I got into racing and into more advanced rivers where I had to hit the small micro eddies. When I started teaching, it gave me a chance to evaluate what I was doing wrong and start doing what I was teaching. My stroke is still evolving, but teaching paddling strokes keeps me focused on refinements and using what I teach.

One of the things I liked about the Red Cross training program, is that it teaches you how to teach. There are many great boaters in our club, but there are few that are good at teaching what they know. A good part of what we learned in Red Cross Instructor Training was how to teach skills to adults. The Red Cross instruction is a volunteer program, which means that we don't get paid, and we don't get tips. So our payoff is the camaraderie of joining passionate people with similar interests, the satisfaction of watching people learn to love the sport that you love, the admiration of your students and it is a chance to meet new people.

This year we are changing our strategy by partnering with Keel Haulers Canoe Club, moving our river classes out to later in the season, and advertising our classes. Every year we all receive First Aid training, however this year we have Wilderness First Aid class coming up in February. This is a weekend class taught by a respected emergency medicine and rescue organization. Information on the class is at: www.soloschools.com/wfa.html Although there is a charge for this, we have a special rate for our instructors and instructor trainees. Another benefit we are looking into is securing some pro deals for our instructors.

Ok, so maybe now I have raised your interest a little, and you want to know what to do? The first thing you need to talk to Ernie Anderson or Ted Moore and see if this program is for you. Although the instructor training program is open for enrollment until mid February for you to enroll in our Wilderness First Aid training, we need you to enroll into our class very soon as the First Aid class deadline is January 8th. Ernie Anderson Phone: (216) 291-1093 Email: exande@earthlink.net Ted Moore Phone: (330) 653-5083 Email: tedmoore@alltel.net

NEW RAPID RATING SYSTEM

Copied from Coastal CaNews

Someone asked an anonymous boater about his Class IV comfort level and he answered something along the lines of "I'm comfortable that I can usually find an eddy to swim to." Thus, the interviewer was inspired to offer this.. International Scale of River Difficulty:

Class I: Easy Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. Swimming is pleasant, shore easily reached. A nice break from paddling. Almost all gear and equipment is recovered. Boat slightly scratched

Class II: Novice: Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels that are evident without scouting. Swimming to eddies requires moderate effort. Climbing out of river may involve slippery rocks and shrub induced lacerations. Paddles travel great distance downstream requiring lengthy walk. Something unimportant is missing. Boat hits submerged rock leaving visible dent on frame or new gash in plastic.

Class III: Intermediate: Rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid. Water is swallowed. Legs are ground repeatedly against sharp, pointy rocks. Several eddies are missed while swimming. Difficult decision to stay with boat results in moment of terror when swimmer realizes they are downstream of boat. Paddle is recirculated in small hole way upstream. All personal possessions are removed from boat and floated in different directions. Paddling partners run along riverbank shouting helpful instructions Boat is munched against large boulder hard enough to leave series of deep gouges. Sunglasses fall off.

Class IV: Advanced. Water is generally lots colder than Class III. Intense, powerful but predictable rapids requiring precise swimming in turbulent water. Swimming may require 'must' moves above dangerous hazards. 'Must' moves are downgraded to 'strongly recommended' after they are missed. Sensation of disbelief experienced while about to swim large drops Frantic swimming towards shore is alternated with frantic swimming away from shore to avoid strainers. Rocks are clung to with a death grip. Paddle is completely forgotten. One shoe is removed. Hydraulic pressure permanently removes waterproof box with all the really important stuff. Paddle partners running along stream look genuinely concerned while lofting throw ropes 20 feet behind swimmer. Paddle partners stare slack-jawed and point in amazement at boat that is finally pinned by a major river feature. Climbing up riverbank involves inverted tree. One of

those spring-loaded pins that attaches your watch to the wristband is missing. Contact lenses are moved to rear of eyeballs.

Class V: Expert: The water in this rapid is usually under 42 degrees F Most gear is destroyed on rocks within minutes if not seconds. If the boat survives. it is in need of about three days of repair There is no swimming, only frantic movements to keep from becoming one with the rocks arid to get a breath from time to time Terror and panic sets in as you realize your paddle partners don't have a chance in hell of rescuing you. You come to a true understanding of the terms mavtagging and pinballing. That hole that looked like nothing when scouted has a hydraulic that holds you under the rapid and usually lasts a mile or more. Hydraulic pressure within the first few seconds, removes everything that can come off your body. This includes gloves, shoes, neoprene socks, sunglasses, hats, and clothing. The rocks take care of your fingers, toes, and ears. That \$900 dry suit, well it might hold up to the rocks. Your paddle is trash. If there is a strainer, well, just hope it is old and rotten so it breaks. Paddle Partners on shore are

frantically trying to run and keep up with you. Their horror is reflected in their faces as they stare at how you are being tossed around! They are hoping to remember how to do CPR. They also really hope the cooler with the beer is still intact. They are going to need a cold one by the time you get out! Climbing out of this happens after the rapid is over. You will probably need the help of a backboard, cervical collar and Z-rig. Even though you have broken bones, lacerations, puncture wounds, missing digits & ears, and a concussion, you won't feel much because you will have severe hypothermia. Enjoy your time in the hospital...with the time you take recovering, you won't get another vacation for 3 years.

Class VI: World Class.. Not recommended for swimming.

HAPPY BOATING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

UPCOMING TRIP SCHEDULE

Date	Trip/Event	RR	Organizer	Phone #
Jan.	2005			
1/15,22	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		David Donnellan	330-405-8911
1/15	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		David Donnellan	330-405-8911
1/22	Downhill Ski at Seven Springs		Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
1/30	Extreme Kayaking for Teens		Mike Darrah	216-831-8601
Feb.	Top of Page			
2/5,19,26	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		David Donnellan	330-405-8911
2/5,12,19,26	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		David Donnellan	330-405-8911
2/13,20,27 3/3	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Orange High School Pool		Mike Darrah	216-831-8601
2/18	Rock Climbing at Kendall Cliffs Rock Gym		Ted Pablo	440-526-5552
2/25,26	National Paddling Film Fest		Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250



Keel-Hauler's KaNews

MARCH 2005

NEXT KEELHAULER MEETING

& Annual Auction
 Tuesday, March 8th at 7:00pm
 At the UAW Hall,
 5615 Chevrolet Blvd, Parma, OH

See Keelhauler website for map
 to the UAW Hall

Bring any outdoor or boating gear to sell and/or bring money and take home a bargain. The club does not charge any commission, just a good way to re-cycle gear you are no longer using, or find just what you are looking for.

3/12,13	Slippery Rock	13-19	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
3/13	Neshannock Creek	12	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
3/19	Slippery Rock	13-19	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
3/19,20	Stonycreek	21	Jim Steppenbacker	440-243-1695
3/26	West Branch of the Rocky River	17	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
3/26	Vermilion River Cleanup	8	Hank Annable	440-775-4953
3/26,27	WV Creeking	>30	Brent Laubaugh Dave Broer	724-272-6944 804-262-4457
April				
4/2	Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge OH	16	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549
4/2?	Loyalsock Slalom Race		Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
4/3	Vermilion Race	8	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
4/9	Slippery Rock	13-19	Jim Kosicki	216-587-4528
4/9	Conneaut Creek	8	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890
4/9,10	Casselman	16	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
4/9,10	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/9,10	Creeking in the Stonycreek Watershed	20-26	Shawn Reese	

February 8th Meeting

By Cathy Needham

The meeting was called to order by Judi Cleary at 8pm. It was reported that the Keelhaulers' coffers contain \$10,209.56. Current membership is 275. There were about 24 adults and 1 child including three new members; Kent, Kent's son, and Jim Lucky.

A novelty at this meeting was the introduction of food. Subs, snacks and dessert were offered with a suggested \$2 donation. This is on a trial basis to see if it encourages attendance for those who have no time after work to have dinner and attend the meetings.

Steve Ingalls gave an informative talk on the historic and present relationship between the Red Cross and the Keelhaulers. Unlike the past, due to possible liable suits, Keelhaulers do not give official instructional classes. They do aid in Red Cross classes. There was a suggestion to give graduates of Red Cross boating education classes a free intro membership to the Keelhaulers.

Mike Duvall talked of the upcoming whitewater film festival in Kentucky in 11/2 weeks. Steve Ingalls said they still need volunteers for judging of the films. Sponsors will take care of volunteers.

Trip reports need to be in to Kelly Miller by the 21st of the month to be in the newsletter.

On March 8th there will be the annual auction at the UAW hall. Participants will be able to ask for minimum bids on their merchandise.

Ed Charlton talked about safety as reported in the AW magazine.

There will be a Wilderness First Aid class the 2nd weekend in March. Contact Jim Hunt for details.

Hank Annable suggested getting a free copy of the North Coast Sports Magazine for local events

including the upcoming Vermilion River Race on April 3rd. The magazine can be found in local sporting goods stores and libraries.

At 8:30 the meeting ended and a ten-minute break was taken. At 8:45 Chuck Singer gave a wonderful slide presentation of his, John and Peggy Kobak's trip to Alaska. This was followed by Chuck's slide presentation of his trip to Baja California.

Mexico Trip 2005

By John Kobak

I'm submitting this story, about our RV trip to Mexico, as we go, it will be in three parts.

We used the warm spell after Christmas to get the RV ready and even fill the water tanks before we left. We left on Sunday the 2nd taking two days to get to Rich Priem's home in Houston, where the temperature was in the high 70's.

After a week visiting Rich, we left on Monday for the Mexican border. It's about a 7-hour drive to the border town of Progreso. We chose this crossing since it is very small and traffic is lighter. We got our visas and vehicle permit that afternoon, so that we were all set and could cross the border early in the morning.

The traffic was very light heading south. We drove south all the way to a little town called Cerro Azul which had a small hotel with a nice grassy place to camp. It is only three hours from here to where we planned to spend a few days on what they call the Emerald Coast, so we decided to take a side trip to El Tajin on the way.



El Tajin is archeological site with pyramids and ball courts like the Mayan ruins but the people were called Totonac Indians. They put on a show that involves

four Voladores descending from a very tall pole while whirling around tied to long ropes.



The Emerald Coast is about 100 miles north of Vera Cruz. It was sunny and 83°, however on Thursday morning it cooled to 74° and was very windy. We decided the weather was too cool to stay at the beach so on Friday we headed south, bypassing the city of Vera Cruz.

We headed up to a mountain lake called Catemaco. It was the weekend and lots of Spanish tourists were taking launches across the lake to see the wildlife. Again it was nice when we got there but after a short hike the rain started to fall. It rained on and off all day limiting what we could do.

If it would have cleared up on Monday we would have stayed. But no luck, the rain continued so we headed south to Villahermosa. It was big town, which had a nice museum/zoo called La Venta. It had huge stone objects of art from the Olmec Indians, who predated the Mayas. Actually, all of the stuff was moved from the original archeological site, since they discovered oil there and the art was in the way.



Instead of camping near the city, we headed into Chiapas to the big Mayan ruins of Palenque. Palenque was much more touristy than El Tajin and the total size of the area was 4 times as large. However most of it was off limits and you were confined to a small number of ruins. You could climb on the ruins whereas at El Tajin you could not. They had a big museum but it was under renovation and closed.



The Maya Bell campground was very convenient to the ruins. You camped right on the edge. We toured the ruins in the morning but they are much smaller than I had thought so that we were done by noon. We took a taxi to town and spent the afternoon shopping. No rain here and temps were in the mid 70's.

We didn't really see any need to stay another day so we left in the morning to see the beautiful water fall at Misol Ha



and the multiple turquoise falls at Aqua Azul. We thought maybe we would camp there but they had no services and you camped in a big parking lot with no security of any kind.



Since we had started early and it was only 100 miles to San Cristobal de las Casas we continued to drive. It took us 4 hrs to get to las Casas. The campground is on the edge of the city, it has nice large grassy sites and is very secure and quiet. It is much cooler at this altitude 7000', and it goes down into the low 30's at night. It was the coolest place since we left Cleveland. However it warmed up to the mid 60's by noon.

On Friday we decided to take a tour of two nearby Tzotzil Indian Villages with a local tour guide named Mercedes. She provided the minibus transportation to the village of Chamula. They were just finishing their Fiesta de San Sebastian and were shooting off fireworks and running around on horses. I don't have pictures of any of this since they do not allow any taking of pictures in the church or of any of the festivities.

Taking photos can be a hazard in Chamula, there are rumors of tourists killed for taking pictures in the church. The churches are not really catholic churches although a priest comes there every 20 days to perform baptisms. There are no pews, groups sit on the floor and burn candles, chant and drink Coca Cola, I'm not kidding, Coca Cola is part of the ritual and a Shaman is also involved.



Well outside the church I was careful to not aim my camera in an illegal direction, but I guess the people behind Peggy were wives of the city officials and they thought I took their picture. A large group of tiny men, these guys are less than 5' tall, start forming around me and start shouting that I took a picture. I protest while they try to grab the camera. Several recognize that it is a digital camera, so I offer to show all the pictures that I have taken. The crowd swells around me but they can't see the pictures well in the bright light. Someone says, take him to the tourist office. I'm relieved. I feel that the pictures will vindicate me. We move in mass past wide-eyed tourists wondering whether I'm about to be hanged. Once inside, they review each picture and are happy that none show any celebrations, rituals or costumes. I'm set free.

So when we go to the next town of Zinacantan I'm afraid to even take the camera out. They were in full celebration of the same holiday, dancing, bands, bike race, basketball game, wild-costumed characters running around with fireworks going off on their costumes. Three men dressed as Jaguars climbing a tree while the people below throw dead squirrels at them. Not to mention that all these Indian people wear beautiful dark blue and Turquoise embroidered costumes with iridescent threads that looked like upholstery material to me. This was a tour to remember, it was unlike any part of Mexico that I have ever seen.

To be continued.....

Christmas Eve Day

By Steve Zerefos

I had the day off work and nothing that needed done till later in the evening. Naturally I decided to try to get out for some kayaking if I could. There had been a spike in river levels a few days earlier and I was hoping to find some water in one of the Allegheny Gorge creeks. The temperature was lower than I would have liked, below 20 degrees F, but I packed all my extra cold weather gear, loaded up the boat and hit the road by 8:00 am.

I drove into Pennsylvania on I-80 and headed for my first choice for the day, Deer Creek. It had a bit larger watershed than most of the area creeks and might still be holding enough for a nice run. I got off the interstate at the route 308 exit, about 50 miles past the state line, and headed down into the lower Clarion River watershed. Within two miles I turned off the paved road onto a pine shaded gravel road and dropped down into the Canoe Creek valley. The view from the bridge wasn't encouraging - the water level in the creek was low, nearly down to summer levels. But Canoe Creek has a much smaller watershed and significantly higher gradient, so there was still a chance that Deer Creek would be holding. A few more miles of back roads and I drove down into the Clarion valley just below the mouth of Deer Creek. I stopped at the take-out bridge and checked the level - it was a little low but still good enough to make a run!

It only took a few minutes to drive up from the Clarion and under the big I-80 bridge to the put-in by the strange old humpback bridge. I stashed my boat and bag of gear in the woods near the creek and headed back to the take-out to park the Jeep. One of the nice things about this run is that the hike from take-out to put in, at 2.75 miles, was shorter than the 3.5 mile run. It was cold enough that I put on several layers for the hike back to the boat and started back up the long hill away from the river. A mile and a half later I was at the top of the ridge and turned onto the gravel road that led back to the creek. Soon I was passing through a tunnel of hemlock with the sound of heavy traffic intruding from the interstate bridge high above, then a few

minutes later the put-in came into view and I retrieved my stuff and geared up. It was a test of bravery to put on the icy cold gear, and I nearly couldn't stretch my frozen skirt over the rim of the boat.

The first half-mile from the bridge is the mildest section of the run, an easy warm up with class I riffles and a couple of pourovers. After passing under the highway the old concrete arch railroad bridge came into view. The railroad used to run down this valley and at this crossing it went into a tunnel through the ridge to cross the Clarion River. The old bridge is so wide that it's like a short tunnel, with a deep pool beneath. Immediately on the other side of this bridge the rapids start.

The first rapid is a nice class II, curving to the right against a crumbling cliff. Unfortunately a large boulder on the outside of the rapid is an excellent strainer trap, and over a dozen large tree trunks are caught in a jumble that extends out over the river, blocking the creek almost completely right at the run out. I caught the eddy on river right at the edge of the arch bridge and made the short portage around in a few minutes. To my surprise I found that the water, warm in comparison to the air, had softened up my skirt so that it was much easier to get back in the boat. Now the real fun started!

In the next three miles the creek has at least two dozen class II rapids, with lots of pourovers and waves that a class II boater would want to avoid. It seems that there is always a rapid in sight ahead and another behind as the creek heads down towards the Clarion. Before long I had a glaze of ice over my pfd and a thick layer on my paddle shaft. As I banged the paddle against the boat to clear it I thought that this day would be a very good day to keep ones head above water. I've swam in sub-freezing temperatures before and although I was warm enough inside my wetsuit I didn't particularly enjoy the experience.

After ten or so nice rapids I came to the second portage of the run. The current moves to the right around a cobble beach and then runs down to a cabin sized boulder that forces it sharply back to the left. Right at the bottom of this boulder is a long tree trunk trapped right at water level, running all the way

across the creek. Once again the portage was only a few minutes and I was back in the water.

Downstream a few more rapids I came to a nice double wave and caught a little surf. But as the ice thickened on my pfd, dry top & gloves I decided to keep the play to a minimum and headed downstream. At one long boulder garden drop I mistook a water covered rock for just water, spun off the top and dropped into the current below backwards. I quickly turned the bow back downstream, just in time to drop over a pourover that I really would have rather avoided. But luckily a quick brace and a few power strokes later I was back in control and rode out the end of the rapid. By now I was starting to feel a chill despite all my gear and was really, REALLY focused on not flipping before the end of the run.

After another couple of rapids I looked ahead and saw the river left cliff curve to the right, with a small tell tale waterfall dropping into the creek. This is my bookmark for the biggest waves on the run, two nice surfing waves on the right side of the creek. I wasn't really interested in dropping into these three foot deep troughs today, so I ran down the milder left hand side, then back to the center for the smaller runout waves. Downstream I rounded the curve at the waterfall and saw the take-out only two rapids ahead.

Once out of the boat I had the customary winter-time ten minute struggle against the ice on my pfd - first to get the key to the Jeep out of the pocket, then to get it unfastened and remove it. Luckily the water in my water bottle was still liquid and I poured small amounts over the zippers to try to melt the ice. As I went through this process a minivan full of people drove by, slowing to watch the ice covered nut pouring water on his chest. I smiled to myself - they'd have something interesting to discuss with the family on Christmas day. A short while later I was loaded up and enjoying a hot drink as I headed back home for my own Christmas Eve festivities.

Thirty-Seventh Annual Vermilion River Race

Sunday, April 3, 2005

Sponsor: Keel-Haulers Canoe Club, Inc.
<http://keelhauler.org>



Cancellation or failure to participate in the event forfeits the entry fee.

Please Read All Information

The course is an eight mile section of the Vermilion River from the Schoepfle Gardens in Birmingham, Ohio, (Rt. 113, 14 miles west of Elyria, Ohio) to the bridge at the Vermilion River, Mill Hollow-Bacon Woods Reservation near the city of Vermilion. This very beautiful stretch of river can be challenging at different water levels.

WATER LEVEL

The race will be run over the designated course described above, if the reading on the Birmingham Bridge Gauge is 3 feet or less and the river is deemed navigable by the race officials. If not, the race will be moved downstream to start and finish at the South Street Boat Launch Ramp on West River road in Vermilion. Because of the inability to predict the water level in advance, you may call Hank Annable at (440) 775-4953 or check <http://keelhauler.org> for a race status the day before the race.

KNOW YOUR ABILITY

At this time of year the water is 40 degrees F. or less. It is advisable to wear a wet suit or have a change of clothes in a waterproof bag tied to your canoe. A spray cover is a good idea. This is class I / II water.

Rules of the Race

1. EQUIPMENT

Boats for all classes except as otherwise noted shall be standard stock models of aluminum, plastic, wood, wood-canvas, or fiberglass construction. No alterations to the manufacturer's original measurements will be permitted. No movable controls are allowed - steering is limited to paddles only. No powered pumps or bailers are allowed.

Canoes – C1 and C2 classes

Paddles must be single-blade, of any type. Open canoes only, no closed boats.

Unrestricted

The canoe may be of any type, length, or width, except no Pro or ICF boats.

Standard

Length shall not exceed 18' 6" Minimum width shall be 14 3/8% of the length (.14375times the length) at the 4 inch water line, measured within 12 inches of the center of the canoe.

Kayaks - K1 classes

Any type double-blade paddle is allowed.

One person Kayaks - (Slalom or cruising type). Shall have a length as specified by the class.

2. BOAT INSPECTION

Contestants entering in any of the classes agree by entering that their boat conforms to these rules. All boats must be inspected on the day of the race. The decision of the race officials as to conformance for any boat and/or equipment proposed for entry will be final. If you have any questions on your boat's eligibility, contact: **Hank Annable at (440) 775-4953.**

3. AGE

In all classes which have an age restriction, the paddler's age shall be considered to be the age attained as of the day of the race. Senior class boaters must be at least 50 years old on the day of the race.

4. ENTRY FEE & REGISTRATION

An entry fee of \$12.00 (\$15.00 on the day of the race) per person per event is required. On the day of the race, all contestants (including those who pre-registered) must stop at registration to get a starting number and registration form. Numbers will be assigned in numerical order. Each boat will be identified by this racing number **worn on the chest by the bow paddler.** Registration is open from **9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.**

5. STARTING

An instructional meeting will be held at **10:00 a.m.** The race will start at **10:30 a.m. sharp!** All contestants will start individually at one minute intervals and will be racing against the clock. **Race starting will end at 12:00.** The finish line will close at 2:00 p.m. Any person not finishing within 2 hours after starting will be posted as DNF

6. CLASSES – Read carefully many changes from previous years

CLASS	Description
1 C2 Unrestricted (no Pro or ICF boats).	
2 C2 Mixed and Women's.	
3 C2 Men's Standard.	
4 C2S Men's Senior (Both 50 years or older). A handicap of 10 seconds per year per paddler over the age of 50 will be deducted from the finish time.	
5 C2 Over & Under Standard One contestant is 15 years old or under, the other is at least 18 years older than the first.	
6 C1 One person open canoe, no measurements.	
7 K1 Jr. Contestant must be 15 years old or younger.	
8 K1 Short One Man Kayak 11.49 feet and under.	
9 K1W Short One Woman Kayak: 11.49 feet and under.	
10 K1 One Man Kayak: 11.5 to 14.49 feet.	
11 K1W One Woman Kayak 11.5 feet and over.	
12 K1S One Man Senior: 14.49 feet and under (50 years or older).	
13 K1 Long One Man 14.5 feet and over & all downriver boats.	
14 K1S Long One Man Senior: 14.5 feet and over & all downriver boats (50 years or older)	

7. SAFETY

An approved vest-type life jacket (Personal Flotation Device, PFD) must be worn properly by each contestant throughout the race. **In each closed boat, the boater is required to wear a helmet.** Each boat will be subject to inspection for sufficient flotation. Each contestant is required to render assistance, if needed, to other contestants in trouble. Failure to comply with any of the safety requirements will result in disqualification. Boats may be checked by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for a current boat license and approved life jackets.

8. MULTIPLE RUNS

Each contestant intending to race in more than one class must arrive early and be prepared to start their first race by 10:30. Contestants must have transportation available and be ready to start their second run before the starting line closes. A starting time extension may be granted for multiple run racers if river conditions warrant and approved by the race committee.

9. CREWS & PORTAGE

Each crew must remain together and not substitute members after the race has begun. Once a crew starts an event, they must stay in the river bed. No trespassing will be allowed.

10. DISQUALIFICATION

Commonly accepted rules of good sportsmanship prevail. Intentional capsizing or damaging of an opponent's boat will result in disqualification. Any boat or team receiving assistance will be disqualified. If a team drops out of the race, they must report to a member of the race committee or be barred from future races. Any contestants interfering with officials at the starting or finish line or at the scoring area, will be disqualified.

11. PROTESTS

Protests must be submitted in writing to the Protest Committee at the No. 2 Picnic Shelter within 30 minutes after posting time.

12. TRANSPORTATION

Each contestant must provide their own transportation between the start and finish lines.

13. PHYSICAL CONDITION

If doubt exists as to the adequacy of a contestant's physical condition, the race officials reserve the right to disqualify the contestant.

14. AMATEUR STATUS

These races are open only to amateurs, and no professional racers may compete for awards. Professionals may compete for time only.

15. AWARDS

Awards will be provided for the first three places in each class. Awards are donated by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club, Inc. All awards will be given at 3:00 p.m. You should make arrangements for your award to be picked up if you're not still there. Awards will be mailed upon a request to the race chairman and receipt of proper postage.

16. FOOD

Hot food and refreshments will be available at the Picnic Shelter during and after the race.

17. USCA SANCTIONING

The event is sanctioned by the United States Canoe Association (USCA).

18. FINAL DECISION

In any matter involving interpretation of these rules, acceptability of canoes and equipment, or of any dispute, the decision of the race officials will be final.



37th ANNUAL VERMILION RIVER RACE WAIVER of LIABILITY FORM

WHEREAS, the undersigned (or his or her minor child, if applicable) wishes to compete in the Vermilion River Canoe Race on April 03, 2005, an event sponsored by the Keel Haulers Canoe Club Inc;

WHEREAS, the undersigned (or his or her minor child, if applicable), knows and understands the perilous nature of his or her undertaking (or the undertaking of his or her minor child) as it relates to the loss of life and or limb or to property damage, including but not limited to such hazards as boulders and other obstacles, strainers, undercut or entrapping formations, falls, holes, reversals and other water formations, changing conditions, cold, high water and other hazards;

NOW, THEREFORE, intending to be legally bound, it is agreed as follows:

That in consideration of being allowed to compete in the Vermilion River Canoe Race for awards to be offered by the Keel Haulers Canoe Club Inc, the undersigned hereby voluntarily assumes all risk of accident or damage to his or her (or to his or her minor child's, if applicable) person or property, and the undersigned, for his or her self (or for anyone else claiming through him or her) hereby releases the Keel Haulers Canoe Club, its officers, its members and the race organizers, as well as any persons or organizations owning land adjacent to or on which the race is conducted, from every claim, liability or demand of any kind for or on account of any personal injury or damage of any kind sustained by him or her (or by his or her minor child, if applicable). This waiver applies to any negligent act or omission and to any intentional act intended to promote the undersigned's (or his or her minor child) safety or well being.

The undersigned further agrees that he or she (or to his or her minor child) is solely responsible for judging his or her own (or to his or her minor child's) qualifications with respect to choosing to compete in the Vermilion River Canoe Race and that he or she accepts full responsibility for his or her (or his or her minor child's) own conduct and safety before, during and after such race.

ENTRANTS UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE MUST HAVE THE WAIVER SIGNED BY THEMSELVES AND THEIR PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

1. _____ Age _____
of Entrant

2. _____ Age _____ *Signature*
Signature of Entrant

Please print name on this line

Please print name on this line

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Parents or Guardians

The undersigned gives his or her permission for _____ to participate in the Vermilion River Canoe Race. The undersigned hereby waives the rights described above with respect to the named minor and agrees to indemnify the Keel Haulers Canoe Club, its officers, its members and the race organizers as well as any persons or organizations owning land adjacent to or on which the race is conducted from any claims arising from the participation of the named minor.

1. _____
Parent/Guardian Signature

2. _____
Parent/Guardian Signature

Please print P/G name on this line

Please print P/G name on this line

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

KEEL-HAULERS CANOE CLUB 37th ANNUAL VERMILION RIVER RACE APPLICATION
Sunday, April 03, 2005

Separate Application and Waiver of Liability forms must be filled out for each class you are racing in and then presented to Registration.

Contestant (Please Print)

Name _____ Age _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Classes - - Check one

Read rules for details

- 1 _____ C-2 Unrestricted
2 _____ C-2 Mixed/Women
3 _____ C-2 Men's Standard
4 _____ C-2 Senior >49
5 _____ C-2 Over & Under
6 _____ C-1 One Person Canoe
7 _____ K-1 Junior < 16 Years
8 _____ K-1 Short, Men <11.5'
9 _____ K-1 Short, Women <11.5'
10 _____ K-1 Men <14.5'
11 _____ K-1 Women >11.5'
12 _____ K-1 Senior >49, <14.5'
13 _____ K-1 Long, Men >14.5'
14 _____ K-1 LongS, >49yr, >14.5'

Contestant #2 - if applicable Classes 1-5 (Please Print)

Name _____ Age _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Boat Manufacturer & Model _____

EVERY OHIO BOAT MUST CARRY A REGISTRATION STICKER READING **2006** OR LATER.
ALL ENTRANTS MUST SIGN THE WAIVER ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM.

Make checks payable to Keel-Haulers Canoe Club
Return Registration Form, Waivers and Fee to:

Rob Hammond
27600 Emery Rd
Orange, OH 44128
Forwarding Service Requested



FIRST CLASS MAIL

MAIL TO:

_____ \$12.00 / Person - - Pre-registration
_____ \$15.00 / Person - - Race-day Registration
_____ \$6.00 / Person - - Second Race Class

Total Entry Fee \$ _____ Enclosed

West Virginia Rivers Coalition's Annual Appeal By Ed Gertler

WVRC is holding its annual raffle now and reaching out to paddlers in neighboring area to buy a few tickets, maybe win some great prizes*, and definitely support a worthy organization.

What is WVRC? Formed by a coalition of trout fishermen and paddlers, this nonprofit organization's mission is to protect some of the states wild rivers and to protect water quality throughout the state. Their issues include protection of water quality standards, prevent destruction and pollution from mountaintop and other forms of coal mining, prevent industrial and agricultural pollution, and train citizens and local groups to participate in environmental decisions.

What significance is this to me? You may paddle in the Mountain State occasionally, and if you don't you owe it to yourself to experience the beauty of the Cacapon, Smokehole, Cheat, Gauley and so many other beautiful mountain streams. Also, West Virginia is a Headwater State, meaning that when they pollute, it ultimately flows into neighboring states, such as Pennsylvania, DC and Ohio.

So if you can spare a few dollars to support us (and this is a relatively fun way to do so), and if nobody has called you yet, please visit our website at www.wvrivers.org. Send your name, address, telephone number, and number of tickets pledged (they are 6 for \$25, 2 for \$10, or 1 for \$6), and we will send you your tickets and instructions for payment. Drawing will be in May at the Cheat River Festival, but attendance is not necessary. Thanks, and see you on the river.

There are over 30 prizes offered, including a Riot kayak, cross-country skis, stay in a bed and breakfast, Teva thongs, paddles, helmets, dry bags, raft trips, paddling lessons at Riversport.

FOR SALE

JUST IN TIME FOR CREEKING SEASON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Liquid Logic Huck, blue, excellent condition, \$450. Call Brent at (724) 272-6944 or brent7@comcast.net.



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS APRIL 2005

NEXT KEELHAULER MEETING

Tuesday, April 12th at 7:00pm
At the Middleburg Heights Community
Center

Program: A EMT/Fireman from the
Middleburg Fire Department will give a
talk on what to do with accident victims
before aide arrives.

Keelhauler Meeting minutes, 3/8/05

Food was supplied by Jim Hunt before meeting was started.

Ed Charlton called meeting to order.

New Members were:

Chris Meluch who scuba dives, sit upon kayak and is interested in kayaking.

Dan Glomb who is a biker but bad knees has forced him in to kayaking interest.

Brad Lohiser who has raced and is interested in kayaking.

Greg Verosko transferred from Pittsburgh, has been in canoeing for 18 years and interested in sea kayaking.

John White has general interests.

Dick Murr asked for sale or donations of old kayak/canoe equipment for the Boy Scouts. Hank Annable offered some used canoes he no longer uses.

Approve last month's minutes as printed in the news letter.

Jim Hunt (food) asked about thoughts on the food supplied.

Bill Miller (meeting program) suggested April meeting have Middleburg Hts. Fire Dept. present safety discussion and May meeting have Kay Carleton from the North Ohio Nature Conservatory present information about the West Lake Erie basin sea kayak options.

Ed Charlton (safety) told about cold water shock that can disable a swimmer before hypothermia as a danger.

Rob Hammond (Vermilion Race) asked for volunteers. If the race is moved to the lower river due to low water Rob is looking into whether there will be a parking fee after April 1st.

No 'old business'.

No 'new business'

Meeting adjourned.

After refreshments the annual KHCC equipment auction was led by Rob Hammond. There were good buys and people sold equipment that might have gone to waste.

Southern Trip

Its time to let John Kobak keelhauler@yahoo.com know if you are thinking about coming on this years southern trip 4/15 - 4/22. See:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/SouthernTrip2005.pdf> for proposed itinerary.

This is a great trip for those looking to start to paddle rivers more difficult than the Cheat Canyon.

The trip starts easy and increases in difficulty. We split into groups and select rivers that match your skill level. If you did this trip with NOC it would cost hundreds of dollars. All it costs are your own food and campground fees. Car pooling is advisable, John can provide you with a list of drivers and/or riders.

Club Membership

The last few years we have seen a drop in the number of club members. We must not be providing the experience that people are looking for. If anyone has any suggestions on what the club can do to keep present members and attract new one please drop an e-mail to our club president Judi Cleary. judi@jctravels.us If you find yourself paddling with non-members give them a club application, it may be all they need to get them to sign on. You can print an application from this link: <http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/KHApplic.pdf>

ANYONE INTERESTED IN HELPING?

Dear Keelhauler Canoe Club Members,

Tim Balduff-Erie MetroParks Canoe Volunteer & Registered Nurse at Firelands Regional Medical Center, suggested that I contact your organization. Due to the fact that I had rotator cuff surgery, I will be needing assistance with our canoeing programs this year. If you have any members that would be interested in helping, please let me know. I have included pertinent information in this email. The canoe programs take place at The Coupling Reserve, 11618 St. Rte.13, Milan Twp. You may visit www.eriemetroparks.org for park information.

Canoe Volunteer Duties

1. Take canoes off the racks and carry down to the riverbank.
2. Assist program participants in and out of canoes.
3. Enjoy the canoe trip and assist as needed.
4. When finished place canoes on the correct racks.

2005 CANOEING PROGRAMS

Sat, May 7 Take Your Mom Canoeing 1:00-3:00 PM

Sat, June 18 Take Your Dad Canoeing 12:00-3:00 PM

Sat, July 23 Canoe and Root Beer Float 6:30-8:30 PM

Fri, Aug. 19 Full Moon Canoe Float 8:00-10:00 PM

Sat, Aug. 27 Canoe Excursion 9:30-11:30 AM

Thurs, Sept. 8 Coastweeks Canoe Float 5:30-7:30 PM

Sat, Sept. 17 Nearly Full Moon Canoe 7:00-9:00 PM

Sat, Oct. 1 Fall Foliage Canoe/Hike and Brunch
9:00-12:00 PM

****Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to have the canoes & supplies ready.*



I would appreciate any assistance. Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,

Judith Riems, Recreation Technician

Erie MetroParks

3910 Perkins Avenue

Huron, Ohio 44870

419-625-7783 or programs@eriemetroparks.org

Mexico Trip 2005

Continued from March Newsletter by John Kobak

We finally got tired of the 35° mornings and the high temperatures of only 65°. Peggy was looking for warmth and beaches. We drove down from the 7000' high San Cristobal to about 1500' at Tehuantepec.

The big thrill of this drive is the winds which sometime reach 100 mph at La Ventosa. Our large awning started to unfurl as we drove. We finally saw a small drive that I could pull off the road. A little duct tape solved the problem. Interesting enough, in the short time that we were pulled off the road, a Green Angel truck pulled up and offered assistance. I've seen the trucks before, usually on their turnpikes. They drive around Mexico and offer motorists in trouble free assistance. I talked to one camper who had tire and suspension problems. They not only stayed with him for 8 hours but made enough repairs to get him back on the road. On Tuesday we got to Huatulco. This is a resort development, with 9 separate bays, that was planned by the same group that built Cancun. It was started over 10 years ago, but growth has been slow. There are

several big all-inclusive hotels on one beautiful bay, along with a new campground with bathrooms and showers. It is right between a large hotel and the golf course. It is the public beach access but set amongst tropical bird filled trees. Temperatures were in the mid 80's with bright blue skies.

We enjoyed beach walking, bike riding, bird watching and trips to the little town of La Crucecita to shop at their market. Finally on Thursday after spending 9 days in Huatulco, we headed to Puerto Angel's, Zipolite beach.



Fishing off rocks at end of Zipolite Beach

The campground here is very small but right on the beach. Most of the people here are backpackers who just rent a hammock in the palapas along the beach.

An interesting thing about the beautiful one mile long beach is that it is one of the only places in Mexico that tolerates nudity. The sunbathers tend to congregate down near one end and frolic in the large surfing waves, so they didn't bother us. The weather since the mountains hasn't varied much, low 69° F and highs in mid 80's with sunny skies.

We really like having solar panels on the top of our RV. The last two places we stayed in did not have electricity but with all the sun, we had no problems keeping our batteries fully charged. We run our generator only for the microwave or toaster. We brought a lot of frozen meat from home but buy fresh fruit & vegetables, which are very good and inexpensive. We found a great restaurant here with well-prepared food that cost only \$11 for two including beer and tip.



Shopping in Zipolite Beach

On Monday we headed North toward Acapulco. We stopped at the little beach town of Playa Ventura. The town is so small that they don't have phone service yet, but they do have two miles of beautiful beach with lots of little restaurants and several small hotels and no tourists. Most places here allow camping in their parking lots. We stayed 4 nights by an outdoor restaurant on the beach, which had a nice palapa to hang my hammock.

On Friday, 2/11 we decided to head to Pie de la Cuesta, North of Acapulco. We made the mistake of driving right through the middle of Acapulco. Someone threw a stone and cracked my windshield. Then, in the heart of the city with buses and cabs all around me I get stopped by a policeman who claims that I ran a red light and need to pay a \$400 fine. After much negotiating he agrees to accept a \$20 bribe.

We only stayed here for two nights before moving further west. Yes, ever since we hit the Pacific coast, we have been heading west. This part of Mexico curves so that the Pacific Ocean is on the South coast.

It's about a 3 hour drive to Zihuatanejo & Ixtapa. Zihuat. is the old city and Ixtapa is the resort area that was built for the tourists like Huatulco & Cancun. Zihuat. has a nice beach but no nice campgrounds. We heard of a new free campground right on the beach at the far

end of Ixtapa called Playa Linda. Tourists here can catch a small boat to go out to the offshore, Isla Ixtapa, which is packed with little beach restaurants. But by night time all the people are gone.



View of Isla Ixtapa from our camp at sunset.

We enjoyed our six-night stay. There is a 10' wide, 5 mi long paved bike trail that goes along a Crocodile filled Lagoon to the center of Ixtapa and avoids all the hills along the coast. It is also easy to launch my kayak from the beach and paddle by all the big all-inclusive hotels or around the Island. The road to Playa Linda only goes about a mile more along the coast before dead ending. There is a small town off this road with Internet service.

Our next stop was Melaque. We camped at the Hotel Laguna Tule, and had views of both the lagoon and the ocean. They have a nice swimming pool and full hookups for RV's but the beach is steep and kayaking here is only possible on extremely calm days.

After dinner Peggy & I were in RV when a voice outside

heard from him at the Texas border but had heard nothing from him since then. We were worried that he may have crashed or was captured by a group of young Amazon women in the hills of the Copper Canyon. He looked like a wild-eyed Mexican on his combination road/dirt bike.

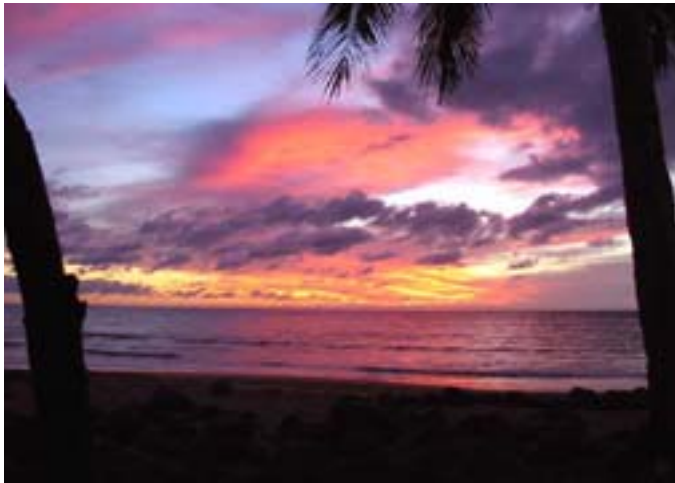


After a few Days, Dave continued South while we headed 60 mi North to Punta Perula (Photo Above). We enjoyed our stay here since we had met most of the campers last year when they gave us lots of free fish. However fishing was slow this year, so no free fish. I enjoyed paddling my kayak around the tranquil south-facing bay. A cold front brought in a little night time rain, less than 0.1" but the temperatures dropped to 60° at night and highs now were only 75°. Campers were wearing their sweatshirts.

We left early on Sunday, 2/27, so that we could avoid the heavy traffic in Puerto Vallarta. We stopped to restock at a Super Wal-Mart and continued to a tiny fishing village of Playa Chacala.



our window came begging for Pesos. Peggy yells, it's Dave Broer! He is doing a motorcycle tour of Mexico & Central America. He left VA about 3 weeks ago. We had



Playa Chacala Sunset

To be continued.....

DONATIONS NEEDED

Mountain Streams and Trails, the oldest outfitter in West Virginia's Cheat Canyon, recently purchased the takeout for both the Cheat and Big Sandy Rivers. This key piece of property, located just below the High Bridge at Jenkinsburg, has been used continuously by canoeists, kayakers, and rafters since the mid-1950's. Increased use by ATV riders and college party groups during the last two decades has caused considerable damage to the land. Jenkinsburg, is now known for terrible erosion and industrial strength litter.

After more than five decades in the hands of a regional power company the property was sold to Allegheny Wood Products, a large hardwood timber producer based in Petersburg, West Virginia. Efforts to negotiate an access agreement with AWP was unsuccessful. Although the access remained open, there was no formal agreement and the company regularly threatened to close it down.

During the past year Dave Hough, the managing partner of Mountain Streams and Trails, negotiated a land swap. He traded a portion of his property below Albright for the Jenkinsburg Access. He and his company are committed to maintaining river access for private paddlers but they need our support.

American Whitewater has agreed to take responsibility for upgrading and maintaining the upper parking lot, which is where most private paddlers park. The area s

now filled with deep potholes and truck-stopping mega-puddles, so considerable grading and filling will be required. The project is currently going out to bid, and ball-park estimates range from \$5000 - \$10,000.

We need your donations to make this happen and to fulfill our promise to the outfitter. Any money raised beyond the cost of improving the parking lot will be used to pay for other improvements at the site and to fund a police presence during busy weekends. American Whitewater has established a Cheat River Fund at their relocated offices in the Washington, DC area.

To donate, make checks out to American Whitewater - Cheat River Fund and mail

to: American Whitewater - Cheat River Fund, 204B Philadelphia Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Thanks, Charlie Walbridge

HEFFFEST NEWS

The 1st Annual HeffFest on the Nolichucky River will be held this May 21st at Big Rock Campground near Erwin, TN. The festival is in honor of fellow paddler and friend, John Heffernan, who lost his life on the Russell Fork this past Oct. It is being hosted by Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and all proceeds will go to American Whitewater.

HeffFest will run from 12-10:30pm with all kinds of great things planned. Bluegrass music, silent auctions, boat raffle, free instruction, vendors and, of course, paddling are just some of what's in store. Camping is available on-site. Please forward to your respective club members and, where possible, include on your web sites. We plan to advertise in other ways too but are counting on advertising through other area paddling clubs to be the single best way to get word out and bring paddlers from across our region together for a great time!

See this link for up-to-date information:

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/1294/>

Ohio Edison dam hydroelectricity permit meeting

On April 12th from 9AM to 12PM a meeting is going to be held at the Sheraton hotel in Cuyahoga Falls regarding a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Preliminary Permit for a new hydroelectric project proposed by Advanced Hydro Solutions at the Ohio Edison Dam.

Friends of the Crooked River will be in attendance in opposition to the project. We are trying to get as many interested members of the community as possible to also be in attendance to let FERC know that this will not just slip quietly through.

Advanced Hydro Solutions is proposing to increase kayak accessibility, but the project will further decrease water quality, the put-in will probably be several hundred feet downstream from the dam, and as long as the dam is in use there will be no chance of its removal.

You can sign an On-Line Petition against the dam:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/cuypetition.htm>

Or sign and mail a statement like this:

"I support the access and usage of the Cuyahoga River flowing through the City of Akron and Cuyahoga Falls for whitewater paddling.

I also support the efforts to prevent the licensing of all projects that limit whitewater paddling and fish habitats at various flow rates.

I further support all efforts to remove the Ohio Edison dam from the Cuyahoga River."

Mail to:

Neal Hess

Friends of the Crooked River

2390 Kensington

Akron, OH 44333

We need more newsletter articles

This is your newsletter. I can't just make up these stories. We need some more trip reports to make it even more interesting. Even if nothing really exciting happened, members like to read who is going on the trips and what is happening out there.

It would especially be good to hear from some Sea Kayakers and find out what brings them to the sport.

Send your short story to:

Kelly Miller, Editor

2767 Matthew Lane

Medina, Ohio 44256

peetzaguy@zoominternet.net

Submitted articles **MUST** be either typed, or on a floppy disk. All newsletter information to appear in the upcoming issue must be received before 4/22/2005

April	THE UPCOMING TRIP SCHEDULE			
4/2	Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge OH	16	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549
4/3	Vermilion Race	8	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
4/9	Slippery Rock	13-19	Jim Kosicki	216-587-4528
4/9	Conneaut Creek	8	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890
4/9,10	Casselman	16	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
4/9,10	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/9,10	Creeking in the Stonycreek Watershed	20-26	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
4/15-21	Southern Rivers Trip -- Map	22-31	John Kobak	440-871-1758
4/16,17	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/16	Grand River	8	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
4/17,18	Riversport RiverFest		Bob Ruppel	800-216-6991
4/17	Conoquenessing Creek	14	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
4/17	Bear Creek	??	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
4/22-24	Middle Fork & Tygart	29	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
4/22-24	Stonycreek Rendezvous	21	Jim Kosicki Ross Brinkerhoff	216-587-4528 440-286-1476
4/23,24	Slippery Rock	13-19	Rick Feinberg	216-321-9284
4/23,24	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
4/30-5/1	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
4/30-5/1	WV Creeking	>32	Brent Laubaugh John Garcia	724-272-6944 216-210-7544
May				
5/1	Little Beaver	7	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
5/1	Cheat River Race Clinic	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
5/6,7,9	Upper Yough	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

MAY 2005

NEXT KEELHAULER MEETING

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 10th
The program will be "Saving the Last Great Places of Northern Ohio"

Kay Carlson, the Lake Erie Watershed Program Director for The Nature Conservancy will discuss TNC's mission, both internationally and locally. She will talk in detail about the TNC's programs in Northern Ohio, including the Grand River watershed, Upper Cuyahoga River watershed, Western Lake Erie Islands, and the Oak Openings Region.

"In September, the New York Times travel section, in a story about kayaking Lake Erie, compared the Western Basin islands to the Pacific Ocean's San Juan Islands off the coast of Washington State. There are nearly 100 miles of paddle-friendly shoreline."

This will be an interesting and informative program.

Keelhauler Meeting minutes, 4/12/05

Hot dogs, chips and sub sandwiches were provided before the meeting.

20 Attendees

New Members:

Karen Vick has taken basic kayaking course and wants to do more.

Approved last month's minutes as printed in newsletter.

Treasurer, Rob Hammond:

Checking account has \$8,645. Vermilion Race has \$1,255 excluding refreshment cost, etc.

Conservation:

Dan Zaleski is becoming more active and plans WEB page link to conservation.

Instruction, Steve Ingalls:

ARC has first aid class May 3rd, Tuesday at 5 pm downtown for \$13.00. Class limit is 10 people. Arc has river kayaking classes May 14th at Slippery Rock, June 11th at Slippery Rock or Conoquennessing, and August 13th at Yough.

Library, Mike Duvall:

New kayak surf video in stock.

Rick Gusic Grand Canyon video won award at film festival for Advanced non-professional and is stock.

Membership, John Kobak:

292 paid members, 10 behind last year.

Webmaster, John Kobak:

Message board required new software and revamping causing 2 days rework and some down time. Everything working again,

Newsletter:

Asked for volunteers to solicit news stories from member trips.

Pool Session:

Complete for this session but looking for new chairperson for next year.

Meeting, Bill Miller:

May, Kay Carlson will talk about Nature Conservatory.

June at Hinckley Lake

July at Silver Lake

August at Huntington Beach or else where.

Refreshments, Jim Hunt:

Bob Bair will supply food this summer. Pop and chip only for outdoor meetings.

Safety, Ed Charlton:

Three things to prevent, 1) shoulder dislocation, 2) Slips and falls and 3) head injuries.

Remember that the water is still cold.

Vermilion Race, Rob Hammond:

Water was low but the upper section was run. Slowest times in 15 years. Keelline Co. donated \$109 to race and sells racing equipment at race. Check Web site Keelline.com.

Asked for race participation at the Cheat River race on May 6th.

Rescue Clinic June 25th and 26th on the Slippery Rock.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Dave Hill asked for attendees from the KHCC at the Kent River Fest on May 20th, 21st.

AW/GCPBA announced a new proposal on the Grand Canyon proposing the following:

1. Increase private trip from one to three per day by allowing smaller trips.
2. Replace existing waiting list
3. Reduce max usage
4. Rise private vs. commercial usage

Read Proposal at this web site:

<http://www.gcpba.org/access/comments/comments020105.pdf>

Cheat River take out purchased by MS&T. AW to provide monies to improve area. Voted and passed to donate \$500 to AW for Cheat River take out improvements.

OhioPIRG asked for endorsement from the club, but the board rejected it. Club members were encouraged to support the environmental advocacy group of their choosing.

KHCC will give Tom Annable a good Samaritan medal for stopping in the Vermilion River race to help a team who had wrapped their canoe around a rock.

Ed Charlton asked for volunteers to help Pam Reisinger and the Girl Scouts April 30th, three sessions 9:00 to 4:00 pm.

Meeting followed by a safety presentation by Middleburg Heights Fire Department, Shawn Zerman.

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

May 27 - 30

West Michigan Coastal Kayakers' Association (WMCKA) Symposium (16th annual)
Camp Pentalouan, Big Blue Lake, Muskegon County Michigan

Highlights: Recreational Kayak track, separate Youth program (VERY family oriented) and live music from BetsieBay and the Groove Engine See www.wmcka.org for details.

July 14 - 17

Great Lakes Sea Kayak Symposium (21st annual)
Grand Marais, MI.

Highlights: Harbor Race, Day Trips along Pictured Rocks Lakeshore, pre-symposium advanced instruction programs See <http://www.glsks.org> for details (registration info will be posted later this month)

August 18 - 21

Ladies of the Lake Sea Kayak Symposium (2nd annual)
Copper Harbor, MI

Highlights: The only all-women's symposium!
Outstanding reviews from
2004 inaugural event attendees.

See <http://www.downwindsports.com> for details

August 26 - 28

Qajaq USA Michigan Training Camp (4th annual)
Lower Herring Lake, Frankfort, MI

Highlights: The only regional event 100% dedicated to traditional skills, AMAZING venue and unmatched instruction. Gaining reputation as epicurean paddling event!

<http://www.waterholic.net/qajaqtc>

Contact: Dave Braun dave@qajaqusa.org

Nancy Thornton

Michigan Representative, Midwest Division
American Canoe Association
Coastal Kayak Instructor - Open Water

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michiganaca/>

Mexico Trip 2005 - Part 3

By John Kobak

Our Mexican RV trip started on the Gulf of Mexico in January and went South to the mountains of Chiapas and then followed the Pacific coast to just North of Puerto Vallarta, to a tiny little fishing village of Playa Chacala. Part 1 & 2 of my story, is in the March & April newsletters.

We had discovered Chacala on last year's trip and found that we could camp next to a small beach house that a local Mexican has been squatting in for the past 30 years. He built two other small homes for his children and grand children along with banos (toilets) and regaderas (showers) for tourists. We got a campsite on the water right next to where we had camped last year. Cost only \$25 per week but no hookups.



The town is showing signs of growth. They now have a library, which has been furnished by volunteers from the USA with computers and high-speed Internet access. I was able to connect my laptop to the network and finally do a little more updating of the club's website.

We stayed here for a week and enjoyed the slightly cooler temperatures. Highs were only in the mid 70's and lows in the 60's.

We hated to leave the beautiful Mexican beaches but it was March and we needed to start back North soon. Our next stop was Mexico's second largest city, Guadalajara. Its metropolitan area has 7 million people, quite a change from all the small towns along the coast. Its 5500' elevation gives it perfect year around weather, attracting lots of American retirees. The beautiful campground here is just outside the outer ring road (Periferico). It is set



John in his hammock on Playa Chacala

in large old Hacienda, which is slowly being converted to full time homes. Land here is almost too valuable to continue to use as a campground.

We decided to take a tour of the old colonial central city. They have a subway system from the South Periferico across the city connecting to an E-W line. We could take a short bus ride from the campground to the southern terminus of subway and easily get to the sprawling Mercado Libertad for only 70 cents per person, as opposed to \$10 for a taxi ride.

The market was rebuilt in 1958. It is the biggest in Mexico, three stories high with thousands of stalls with food, crafts, electronics and clothing.



Produce market in Guadalajara

After shopping at the market we walked all over the Colonial area downtown.

On Tuesday we had enough of the big city and got an early start to avoid the heavy traffic and stopped at a little town on the outskirts of Guadalajara, called Tonalá.



Guadalajara Cathedral

Everyone in this town is involved in the manufacture and sale of arts & crafts, like ceramics, glass, copper or even papier-mâché. After Peggy bought some nice crafts, we were on our way toward the border. We had good roads from here, mostly turnpikes. They are expensive but it saves lots of time and wear and tear on your vehicle. We made it to San Luis Potosi and spent the night in a turnpike rest area.

A camper had told me that it was much shorter to head toward Ciudad Victoria rather than Monterrey. I had asked, "Aren't there mountains to cross"? He said "It's the same both ways". Boy was he wrong. First of all, it is a rough two lane road, and they are rebuilding 35 mi of the mountain road. Then, we had a route choice which he hadn't discussed. Should we continue on RT 101 toward Ciudad Victoria or take a road that said Via Corta. We decided to stay on 101. We knew that this was not going to be fast when all the traffic kept going the other way. There was no traffic at all, and we were going up a well-maintained mountain road. If you were out for a day trip and looking for great views of the mountains, this was it. If you were trying to get to border before Customs closed, maybe this was a mistake. Luckily, we made it in plenty of time and chose a new border crossing called "Free Trade Bridge". It was the easiest way yet to cross with virtually no traffic.

We were going to head right to Houston to see Rich Priem again but found out that it was still snowing in Ohio, so there was no hurry. We drove to Padre Island National Seashore near Corpus Christi. This National Park has free beach camping or very inexpensive camping with facilities and a dump station. It was another great beach location, miles and miles of flat

beach, gentle surf but in early March it is still a little cool to swim.

Like last year, we had a great time in Mexico. The most asked question by Americans is; "Is it safe" or "don't you worry about the Banditos". The truth is that it is a very nice and safe place to travel. The people are very friendly and helpful. Fresh food and fish are very inexpensive. Bottled water is available everywhere for only \$1 for 5 gal.

The most asked question by Mexicans and foreign tourists is; "Where are all the people from the USA". I'll bet only 20% of all the tourists we saw were from the states.

For more pictures and for the complete story, use this link.

<http://www.keelhauler.org/mexico/Mexico05.htm>

If you are thinking of traveling to Mexico and have any questions; call or e-mail me at 440-871-1758, keelhauler@yahoo.com

Kent is on the Whitewater Map!

By David Hill

We've all heard the jokes about the Cuyahoga catching on fire and "there's no whitewater in Ohio". But things have changed for the better.

We put out the fire and the Clean Water Act has forced industry to reduce impacts on this resource. Combined sewers overflows are still a problem and will continue to plague some rivers, but until funding becomes available or pressure is applied to local governments; the problem will continue. One more legacy of older industrial areas in the U.S., but I digress.

As for whitewater, Ohio is not lucky like WV or NC, but we have a few gems. Some of the rapids may be small, but we utilize what we have or create new features when the opportunity presents itself. Examples of both of these scenarios were presented to local paddlers in Kent.

History

In 1836 a dam was constructed on the Cuyahoga River near downtown Kent. The project included the installation of a canal lock, which would allow canal boats to maneuver up and down the river and a mill race to power various industrial mills located below the dam. Several problems or obstacles had to be overcome in the construction of the canal. These however, were relatively few as the majority of the route was very favorable for the building of a canal. One especially difficult problem was the steep gorge on the Cuyahoga River at Franklin Mills. It was decided to deepen and widen the gorge at this point by blasting. The legendary Cuyahoga Rapids thought to be where Captain Samuel Brady leaped across the Cuyahoga to escape a group of angry Indians were sacrificed and destroyed for the progress of the canal around 1836. For that time in history, the dam and canal lock were a very important commercial asset, which played a decisive role in the development of the City. While the canal was abandoned in 1869, the mill race continued to be utilized for another 40 years until the 1904 flood washed away the top portion of the dam. The great flood of 1913 decimated the milling business in Kent as a large portion of the canal lock and dam were destroyed. The Kent Dam lay in disrepair until 1924 when a local company teamed up with the citizens of Kent and spent \$6,655 towards the dam restoration project which resulted in the Kent dam that existed up until 2004. The Kent Dam is part of the Kent Historical District, which is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. Research efforts have indicated that the Kent Dam is the 4th oldest dam in Ohio and the only dam remaining in Ohio originally built in the 1800's of stone masonry.

Problem

The Ohio EPA has formally identified the Kent Dam as a significant cause of water quality problems associated with the Cuyahoga River. These concerns were revealed in the Ohio EPA Middle Cuyahoga River TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) report issued in March 2000. The report explained that during the warm summer months the mile long dam pool stagnates and cannot hold sufficient dissolved oxygen to meet water quality standards established by Ohio EPA and the Clean Water Act. The depleted oxygen level creates an environment where viable aquatic life cannot survive in the dam pool. The dam has also been identified as a barrier to migrating fish and the associated dam pool

creates aquatic habitat non-typical of a riverine environment. Guided by the fact that the Ohio EPA has the legal authority to issue more stringent discharge limits at the City's wastewater treatment plant to improve Cuyahoga River water quality, the administration evaluated the EPA's alternative recommendation to modify or eliminate the Kent Dam for the purpose of meeting the standards of the Clean Water Act. This alternative would eliminate the stagnant dam pool and restore the area to a natural free-flowing river.

Solution

Numerous feasibility studies and designs were considered, but one fact that emerged as the top priority was that a majority of Kent citizens desire to retain the Kent Dam and associated waterfall. Therefore, in summer of 2002, Kent City Council endorsed the consultant's and City Administrations recommended alternative to install a river bypass around Kent Dam which would 1) meet the water quality standards of the Clean Water Act; 2) avoid costly discharge limits at the wastewater treatment plant; 3) allow canoe and kayak navigation around the dam, and 4) allow the Kent Dam to remain in its current location and maintain the waterfall over the dam. Grant funding was secured for the project and City Council decided to create a historical interpretive park in the area behind the dam (Heritage Park).

Designed for Paddlers

Now for the good stuff. In early 2004, I approached Bob Brown (Kent WWTP) about the overall project and how it would impact paddlers. He welcomed the inquiry and indicated that he had been previously unsuccessful with making contact with local paddlers. We talked about the concept of maintaining the waves below the dam and how best to redirect the flow back into the main channel once the dam bypass was completed. Many of you sent in your petitions supporting the efforts, and they help promote the cause. Thank you.

Several meetings with the construction manager, EPA and City occurred in Spring 2004 and a rock wall was installed on the upstream of the island. The May 2004 flood laughed at the effort, but the flows brought out the locals to surf the waves below the dam.

In June 2004, the rock wall was reconstructed. It was also suggested by the City to remove the large rock



Eric and Max surfing at >3500 cfs.

immediately below the canal lock. You must be crazy! This rock is actually a piece of slag that shows up in photos from 1970 and was probably deposited during one of the historic train wrecks in Kent. Besides it makes a great hole at higher flows and because of its location will upset a few paddlers, therefore it is named "Train Wreck". The City still wanted to move it, but the excavator that was used to rebuild the rock wall was no match for the weight of the slag; so it sits in wait for the next un-attentive paddler.

The original construction plan also had a portage path on river left around the former lock structure should it be needed for higher flows by canoeist since they don't want to carry their boats up the steps on river right. When I explained that exiting the river on the left will leave a paddler landlocked, or they have to get back into the river through the large recirculating eddy that feeds them into Train Wreck, or they will have to carry their canoe over 2 sets a railroad tracks, then up a 30 foot embankment; the City scrapped these plans. It seemed like we were on a roll and the City was willing to listen to our ideas.

Next was the push for installing features upstream of the Main Street in the former dam pool. All we needed was some rocks. The web was bursting with information on whitewater parks, the Olympic Stadium was getting press, and most importantly this spot is 5 minutes from my work! Can you say park & play. After all, the main focus for the City was to allow the public to enjoy the park. If you have paddlers "using" the river, then

people will stop and watch, maybe have lunch, spend time downtown, return regularly, etc. Besides a river with eddys and various flow regimes promotes fish habitats and migration along with increased dissolved oxygen. It's a win-win for everyone. So that was my pitch to the City. All they could say was no.

Well they said yes. But we needed some large rocks. The river bottom is the bedrock surface, and they were not going to cement the rocks in place. This is Kent not Reno or Golden! So I asked some paddlers, looked at the ideas that others were using for whitewater parks, and presented the plans to the City. Well, there was no way they would allow a feature (drop structure) across the channel, but I tried to get 2 at first and 1 at the end; but lost this battle. However, I did convince them to install 3 wing dams and several boulder clusters. But in hind sight the rocks were too small and the budget would not allow additional rock purchases.

OK so what's next, we have a few small rapids; big deal. Remember, this is Ohio which is not known as a whitewater mecca. This section is located downtown Kent and due to its short length can be run several times without a shuttle. You can even walk to several places for a bite and a cold one. The write up for this



Low flow (<200 cfs) looking upstream from Main St bridge.

section of the Cuyahoga is on American Whitewater and can be found here

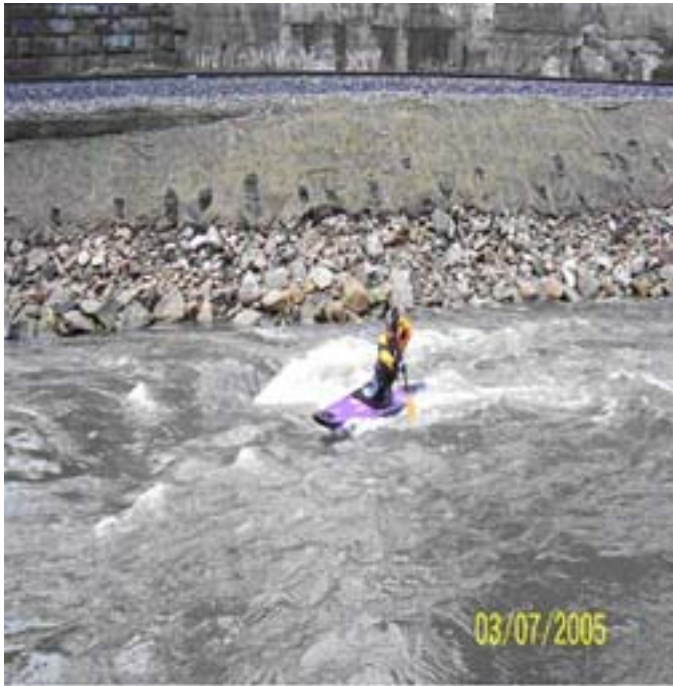
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/4124/>.

Now that the days are getting longer, this is the perfect opportunity for an after work park & play workout to keep the muscles loose for the weekend trips. So keep an eye on the USGS gage at Old Portage

(04206000), look for flows above 500 cfs, throw your boat in the car, and stop by for a little P&P work out.

Continuing Efforts

The best thing is to get out to Kent and paddle to show the City that their efforts are appreciated. Some will say that the features are too small, but we all need to practice basic skills. The winter floods have drastically modified the section below the dam and replaced the rock wall with wood. Clean up efforts by a dedicated few in conjunction with local fire departments removed most of the wood and opened some of the rapids. The future of this section is being spearheaded by the efforts of Chris Wing. His enthusiasm and organization skills will be instrumental in making the Dedication Ceremonies and RiverDay Celebration a success. You have marked your calendars for May 20-21, right? If not, you should.



Shawn on the middle features at ??? cfs.



Rob Hammond discussing strainer removal with local Fire Departments.

The City has invited paddlers to participate in the Dedication Ceremonies on May 20th and River Day Celebration on May 21st. Updates can be found on the official City website (<http://www.kentohio.org/reports/dam-dedication.asp>) or the Kent Cuyahoga River Fest site at <http://www.cfest.blogspot.com/> that focuses on paddlers' interests. There will be tents for American Whitewater, KSU Adventure Center, Keelhaulers, and others; a fish demonstration by Ohio EPA; swiftwater rescue demonstrations by the Kent Fire Department; a land based example of paddling gear/boats for the general public, and an open invitation to paddlers. River levels will dictate activities for each day. Plans are also being made to have Red Bull participate possibly on May 21st with a BBQ after river cleanup activities. Remember, these events also coincide with National River Cleanup Week (<http://www.nationalrivercleanup.com/>) so come down and help out.

Lastly, the river will always change the features and add or remove undesirable materials from upstream. This will require our attention to keep the river safe and remove strainers, etc. But it also provides an opportunity to let the City know that paddlers are using the park. The more we use this recreational venue, the more the City will assist with making it better. This means help with removing debris, providing better access and potential restrooms/changing areas,

swiftwater rescue clinics, and just maybe MORE ROCKS for better features.

So get out there and use the river in Kent. Then we can move downstream to pursue the real whitewater in Ohio below the Ohio Edison Dam
(http://www.cuyahogafallshistory.com/big_falls.htm).



May	UPCOMING TRIP SCHEDULE			
5/1	Little Beaver	7	Steve Zerefos	330-646-7235
5/1	Cheat River Race Clinic	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
5/6,7,9	Upper Yough	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758
5/6	Cheat Mass-Occurrence Race	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
5/7,8	Cheat Fest and River trips	26	Scott Debalski	440-298-1257
5/7,8	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/14,15	N. Br. Potomac Release	18	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
5/14	Slippery Rock Creek	13-19	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
5/14,15	Cheat Canyon	26	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
5/14,15	Red Cross - Basic River and Whitewater Paddling, WPA		Red Cross	440-298-1293
5/20,21	Kent Cuyahoga River Fest		cwing@kent.edu	330-212-7802
5/21	Slippery Rock	13-19	Ann Corey	330-869-6549
5/21,22	River Festival at Kent		Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
5/21,22	Cranberry River & Williams River	26	Paula Norris	216-407-1671
5/21,22	Lower Yough	23	Mike Duvall	216-521-0094
5/21,22	Middle Yough	12	Robert Bair	216-371-6390
5/21,22	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac Highlands	18-24	Steve Ingalls	216-371-8250
5/21,22	Cheat Canyon / Lower Big Sandy	26-31	Peter Turkaly	804-550-0256

5/27,28,30	Upper Yough Releases	32	Need organizer	
5/28,29	N. Branch of Potomac	18	Mark Cytron	216-227-1392
5/28-30	Cheat Canyon	26	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
June				
6/3,4,6	Upper Yough	32	Gib McGill	724-946-9158
6/4	Cuyahoga River, Peninsula to Boston Mills	8	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549
6/4,5	Cheat Canyon	26	Pam Poljak	440-268-9194
6/5	Lower Yough	23	Sabine Iben	440-543-4969
6/11	Walk - Deer Lick Cave Trail in Brecksville Reservation		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
6/11,12	Upper New	16	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
6/11,12	Red Cross - Basic River and Whitewater Paddling W PA		Red Cross	440-298-1293
6/12-24	Colorado Rivers - advanced/intermediate trip, trip could shift by a week if water levels are too high or too low.	25-32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
6/14	Club Meeting & Free Style Clinic		Elaine and Bob Mravetz	330-239-1725
6/18,19	Lower Yough - permits	23	Ron Tomallo	440-953-1335
6/18,19	Middle Yough	12	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
6/19,21,26,28	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool		Seanna Perry	216-431-3322
6/20,22,27,29	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool		Seanna Perry	216-431-3322
6/22	Cuyahoga - Burning River Day-trash pickup/poker		Jim Kosicki	216-244-0201 C
6/25 - 7/3	Colorado Rivers - Advanced paddlers	>32	Paul Lang	330-896-3468
6/25,26	Sea Kayaking Fundamentals Course		Red Cross	440-298-1293
6/25,26	Rescue Weekend & Rodeo		Rob Hammond	216-292-5618



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

JUNE 2005

NEXT KEELHAULER MEETING

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 14th at the Hinckley Reservation.

Be sure to bring your boat and paddle around in the lake. Come anytime around 6pm. The meeting will be held at dusk. Additionally, there will be a Freestyle Canoe Clinic. The first session will begin about 6pm, with a repeat session afterwards as needed. The clinic will include a demonstration of the principles and boat physics behind Freestyle Canoeing, and how to use boat pitch and heel, body mechanics, and efficient paddling strokes and placements to make the canoe perform precisely. Basic maneuvers will also be covered, and paddlers who are interested will have an opportunity to learn a few of the basic compulsory maneuvers used in competitions. You can bring your own solo canoe, or there will be several on hand to try while learning basic skills. Basic Freestyle skills are practical, make the boat respond to you, and are easily transferred to whitewater canoeing as well as canoe tripping and touring. The Clinic will be taught by Elaine and Bob Mravetz, Keelhauler members and 2003 National Interpretive Freestyle Canoe Champions in tandem class. For the meeting, we plan to meet at the Hinckley Lake Boathouse at the SW side of the lake, off of West Drive. We will meet at the south side of the Boathouse.

Directions to Hinckley Lake coming from the north:

From I-77: Exit at Miller Road in Brecksville. Turn left (east) on Miller Rd. to Rt. 21 (Brecksville Rd.) Turn right (south) on Rt. 21 to Rt. 303. Turn right (west) on Rt. 303 to State Rd. Turn left (south) on State Rd. Turn right onto Bellus Rd., then turn left on West Dr.

From I-71: Take the Brunswick exit 226 (Rt. 303). Go east on Rt. 303 and continue 4.5 miles. Go past Ridge Rd./Rt. 94 to Rt. 606 (Hinckley Hills Rd.). Turn right (south) on Rt. 606 to Bellus Rd. Turn left (east) on Bellus. The Hinckley Reservation entrance is 1000 feet. Turn right on West Drive.

From I-27: Exit at Hawkins Rd. and take it west. It will turn into Bellus Rd. Turn left on West. Drive.

Keelhauler Meeting minutes, 5/10/05

Attendees - 25

Guests:

Rob Kindry.

Brian Bigley with fiancée.

Approved minutes as printed in newsletter.

Treasurer, Rob Hammond. \$7,726 balance. \$99.01 profit from Vermilion race.

Conservation, Dan Zaleski.

1. Government to allow roads in forest lands in Alaska and western states.
2. AW and Friends of the Cheat raising money for Jenkinsburg (Cheat) take out. State matching 60/40 donations until June 1st.
3. May 14th national river cleanup week.
4. Builders at New River withdrew building request for homes with in national park.
5. Chattooga River ban over ruled on some sections.
6. River sweep collected 15 tons of trash on Cuyahoga Canal River Corridor.
7. May 14th Meeting at Vermilion on the Lake to discuss water shed problems.
8. Discussed proposed dam on Cuyahoga River that will eliminate some rapids.

Instruction, Steve Ingalls.

1. Red Cross CPR class was held on May 3rd.
2. White water I class on Slippery Rock in May and June.

Library, Michael Duvall.

1. Chuck Singer donated 'Girls at Play' DVD to library.
2. 'In the Surf' VHS added to library.

Membership, John Kobak. 301 paid members, 12 behind last year.

Web Master, John Kobak. If message board does not work (msg '500 service error') try 'refresh' or pick new name.

Cheat River Race, Rob Hammond.

1. Entered three teams, took 4th place ahead of Kent State, 3rd place.
2. Paul Lang took 17th out of 142, 4th in class.

Newsletter - Kelly Miller to continue in Pittsburgh.

Program, Bill Miller. June meeting at Hinckley Lake. Elaine and Bob Mravetz from 'ACA Midwest Freestyle Canoe Symposium' will demonstrate flat water canoe dancing.

Refreshments, Jim Hunt.

1. Bob Bair to take over for summer meetings.
2. No food at June Meeting except pop and chips.

Safety, Ed Charlton.

1. Asked John Kobak to describe accident on the Southern trip.
2. Andy Gross described accident on Cuyahoga River paddling alone.

Rescue Weekend, Rob Hammond. June 25th and 26th on Slippery Rock. Looking for volunteers.

Cuyahoga River Day, Rob Hammond on May 20th and 21st.

Old Business - None

New Business - Donate \$100 to Lorain Metro Park for Vermilion Race. Passed

Program Presented by Kay Carleson re: The Nature Conservancy.

A Visit to the Canal

By Judi Cleary

It was the beginning of March, and spring break was around the corner. So my daughter, Kristen, and I headed to a place where it was hot - Panama! I had wanted to see the canal for quite a while, but as I found out, Panama has much more than just the canal.

We left Cleveland with a foot of snow on the ground, arriving in Panama City just as the sun was setting. Although the taxi driver only spoke Spanish, we were successful in communicating our desired destination - a gated Bed-n-breakfast (Casa de Carmen) where a large dog barked our arrival. As it turned out, this same dog would sleep just outside our window and welcome all the other guests and passers by, too.

Casa de Carmen had a quaint décor and a lovely courtyard full of brightly colored tiles, tables and chairs so typical of Central American countries. This was the perfect spot for an open air breakfast the next morning.



Although the people who staffed the B&B spoke no English, almost all the guests did. We soon learned of a local park (Metropolitano) on the outskirts of town that had good hiking trails, wildlife, and a great view from atop a hill of the city. On one side you could see a panoramic view of the city and the Pacific beyond, and on the other side there were glimpses of the canal. After a nice hike in the morning (did I mention that it was a Sunday morning?) we realized we should have asked the cab to wait for us. But not to worry, a kind-hearted fellow tourist offered to share his cab and we made our way over to the Miraflores Locks Visitor's Center for the afternoon. Unfortunately it was an incredibly expensive ride, as I inadvertently left my digital camera in the taxi (ouch!).

The visitor's center was wonderful. There are three floors of displays explaining the mechanics of the locks - think gravity. There is also a hands-on canal navigation exhibit that Kristen demonstrated her skill at. And, being right at the locks, visitors were provided with an up close look at ships navigating the canal.



On day 2, we took a trip to visit the Embera Tribe about an hour and a half drive from the city. Once at the Chagres River, we traded our minivan for a dugout canoe. We motored (yes, it had an outboard motor) up the river a ways and stopped to hike up to a pretty waterfall. During the rainy season they can take the boat up to the waterfall, but since it was the dry season, we had to walk. I experienced a bit of quick sand as I put a foot on the sandy beach and sunk in up to my ankle (help)!

For lunch we visited a local Embera tribe, who make beautiful baskets and carve figurines out of cocobolo (hardwood) and more recently, tagua nuts. We were treated to a delicious lunch of Talapia fish server in a leaf "bowl", along with fried Plantains, which I definitely got tired of by the end of the trip. The company we went with was Gamboa Tours, and I would highly recommend them.



Kristen receives assistance from a young Embera tribesman.

Day three found us awaking at 4:30am (yawn) to catch an early flight to the island of Bocas del Toro. It was an hour flight in a prop plane reminiscent of the ones in the old movies. The airlines not only weighed our luggage (25 lbs per person limit), but they wanted to know how much we weighed! We got a great view of the many islands on the Caribbean coast as we flew toward Costa Rica. We traveled with Ancon Expeditions (I give them a rave review) and stayed at the Bocas Inn, an unassuming place right on the harbor with a wonderful wooden deck over the harbor, complete with Adirondack chairs and a hammock - right outside our room.



We stayed on Bocas for three days (two nights). Each day we went on an expedition by boat with a canopy to ward off the grilling rays of the sun. There were typically 4-6 other people with us and we toured island jungles, more indigenous tribes, and beaches (ahhh!). By ten each morning we would stop by a beachside local eatery where we would order our seafood of choice, to return around noon to devour the expertly prepared fare. My favorite was lobster tails (about 6 medium sized ones) grilled to perfection! Although the Conch stew was also quite tasty. Our guide was a local so he knew all the best places to eat and to snorkel, which we did a couple of times each day. I was particularly fascinated by the larger-than-usual jelly fish who basically hung out on the sea floor near the mangroves.

One morning we visited a small rocky island which was home to tropic birds (bright orange beaks) and yellow-footed brown boobies. It brought back memories for those of us on the boat who had been to the Galapagos Islands.

On the last day on the islands we took an unusual trip to visit a chocolate farm (called Green Acres). It was not a commercial setup but rather an effort by an American couple to restore the raising of cocoa trees to the area.

They make chocolate (very laboriously I might add - think of a process as labor intensive as making maple sugar) only for the family and the occasional visitor, e.g. us). Dave (the farmer) had an elaborate set of hand made tools to produce his chocolate bars. He has tried unsuccessfully to encourage the locals to go into cocoa farming also.

Dave and Linda Cerutti not only cleared out the area around the old cocoa tree orchard, but also landscaped a lovely area around a primitive house (no electricity, and a cistern for water) that they built on a lagoon off the mainland across from the island where we were staying. In addition to the wide variety of plants and trees, we saw green poison dart frogs, and heard stories of Bushmaster snakes. Not a place for the faint hearted.



Dugout canoes also make good flower pots!

That afternoon, Kristen and I were winging our way back to Panama City where we tried out a different B&B for our last couple of days. It was named La Estancia and is located on Ancon Hill, in the area formerly occupied by the US forces when they managed the canal. It was a very simple, clean (think Asian) décor with a great view of the Bridge of the Americas, with a view of sloths, monkeys, birds, etc, right outside your window! Our hosts, Gustavo and Tammy, spoke fluent English, were very attentive, and arranged tours, taxis, or whatever their guests needed.

The next day found us arising early again to meet a boat in Gamboa to visit Isla Barro Colorado, a research island managed by the Smithsonian. Many universities were represented among the island researchers who were spending various lengths of time in the endeavor to uncover new information about various plants, animals, and insects. Our guide, Sophie, was an attorney during the week, and a guide on the island one day a week. Our small group was mostly into birding, but the

leaf-cutter ants were what caught my interest. The island is in the waters of Lago Gatun which forms a part of the canal. The water was quite muddy while we were there due to the effort to deepen the canal by a couple of feet, which is expected to take a few years.

Back in Panama City, Kristen and I went out to dinner at a lively restaurant located on the causeway, which was built to connect the mainland to two nearby islands. Diners are treated to a view of the city aglow with dots of light. The open-air restaurant we enjoyed had a towering palapa roof which reached about 50 feet into the air. We liked it so much, we returned to the area the next night, too.

The last full day in Panama began by embarking on a partial transit of the Panama Canal - the reason for my visit. These tours are only run on Saturdays, and once a month the trip is a full transit. The partial transit that we took traverses the two locks that are on the Pacific side. Travelers are then bussed back to the pier where the trip began. The locks operate on gravity as water flows from the lake down to the Pacific (and Caribbean side), and rain water (nine months a year) replenishes the lake.



Also on our boat was a film crew from the BBC who were filming a documentary.

During our week-long stay we chatted with a couple of different people who were in various stages of moving to Panama to retire. This area of the world seems to be a popular retirement place for Americans as of late. I have more information on this if anyone is interested.

Panama has lots of good white water to run, I hear, but I didn't see/experience any of it. So, I am thinking of putting together a club trip here in the next year or two. Let me know if you are interested.

Upper Yough, Sept. 03, 2004

By Cliff Wire

(Written then, published now)

Friday, Sept. 03, the first day of my vacation to visit my brother in Charleston, SC. Friendsville, MD being sort of, kinda on the way down I-77 required a visit as a scheduled release was on. Elliot Drysdale was trip leader of a party of miscreants listed as: Mike Duvall, Jim Hunt, Scott Debalski, Gregg Debalski (did this count as gym class?) for his 2nd trip down the UY, Rob Hammond, Bob Nicholson, and I. The weather was glorious in the high 70's and sunny. The level was a nice 2'1".

The day was largely uneventful until National Falls. All but Scott, Gregg and I had taken the sneak route on the left. We three were still in the eddy above. Scott is telling Gregg how to boof the falls. I've been thinking that it is about time I tried the move. I started thinking about it last June when I cleaned John Denver Falls on the Roaring Fork in Aspen. Co. Scott then proceeds to explain how he has a 70-80% failure rate on that move. I start wondering what am I doing...

Well, they run it cleanly. I'm the only one left, and I can't let Gregg do it on his 2nd trip without my doing it yet. So off I go. Needless to say, names were taken, butts were kicked, and heads were handed out. Unfortunately, they were all mine. I don't quite get where I need to be. Quoting/paraphrasing Jim Hunt: "There is this crease in the current which feeds directly into the main part of the hole at the bottom of the falls. Cliff, you were right in it. And over the falls you went, calm, no frantic paddle strokes".

National Falls isn't really a direct drop as it is a big slope. It is interesting how your sense of down doesn't move forward to in front of you as you go over the falls. Penciling in I go! A major chundering occurs. Just as I am about to pull my skirt, I wash out, and was able to roll up. Much entertainment was provided for the rest of the party. It is nice to contribute my part.

The rest of the day was uneventful until we get past Luke's Final Insult. I happen to be the lead boat by this time and am just sort of paddling along with no great rush. After about a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, I look back and there is Rob going like 60! He calls it exercise, training and therapy for his shoulder as the next 2-3 miles is largely class 1-2 rapids mixed with flat water, and ending the last $\frac{1}{2}$ mile with flat. John Kobak (who was on his way to England) always finishes first, but wasn't here. I can't

let Rob finish first, at least without really working for it! And the race is on! In my corner: Youth, and a 2-3 boat length head start. In Rob's corner: Age (he has more than I do), boat length/hull speed, experience, and regular race training. For quite awhile, I hold the lead, but Rob is making constant advances in the flats. Inch by little bitty inch. Through the rapids we go, sometimes I'm in the lead, sometimes Rob. Who can edge whom out for the best line? Nothing is fully determined until we hit the final stretch of flat water. Then his superior hull speed really starts kicking in and Rob makes constant gain until the end when he finishes under the bridge about 50' ahead of me.

And so ends another fine day on the river. I continue on to Fayetteville, WV to camp for the night and to see if I can hook up with anyone to run the New or Gauley on Sat. I camp at Rivers campground (known as party central). They do have a quiet area which was a pleasant surprise, so it ends up being a nice place to camp. They are on the same road as the New R. takeout road. I find two gentlemen from Ky who have been paddling for 25 years and we set shuttle for a Sat. morning New R ride at 1900cfs.

Then off I go to Charleston, SC. I arrive at Ed's place around 10pm Sat.

One of the things I want to do while there is paddle around the harbor, see Ft. Sumpter from the water, and perhaps paddle some ocean. Come Friday, off I go. I find a local public boat launch that feeds the main harbor. From where I hit the harbor, I can't see Ft. Sumpter, but off I go downstream. It is a nice ride with 1-2ft swells. The fort comes into sight, and I pass it on the way to ocean. After I pass the fort by about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, I decide to start heading back. Uh-oh. The winds are contrary to the way I want to go. I have to put the wind on my right quarter in order to gain any measure of distance and take the longer loop back into the harbor. This kills my shot of paddling around the fort. I need to worry about getting back upstream. I do make it without incident; it just took longer than expected. I was already at low tide, so I wasn't fighting that at least. A cargo ship loaded with cargo boxes that fit on semis passes me by 200 yards. It creates a 3-4 ft swell for me to ride. From 200 yards away! If you ever get the chance to paddle there, rent a sea kayak or have a long boat. Short boats like my RPM are too much work for such a large flat water.

I get back to shore around 1pm. After lunch, I go walk the old town of Charleston. Fascinating place, full of history. Buildings range from 150-300 yrs old.

They are open as museums. Take a carriage ride to get a history lesson. Just plain wonderful!

And so ends the vacation in SC. I made plans ahead of time with Ron & Sue Whitney to ride the Upper Gauley on the way back Sunday, but that is another story filled with a rare sighting.

Vermilion River

Report Type: Day Trip Report

Trip Dates: April 2005

Nearest City: Vermilion, OH, USA

Difficulty: Easy

Submitted by: [emanoh](#) 🇺🇸, Eric Slough

Description:

Like a mail carrier on their daily rounds, the severity of the elements rarely keeps them from their appointed duties. It has been said that wind, rain, sleet and event snow won't keep them from making their deliveries.

For 37 years the Keelhaulers canoe club has hosted their annual river race around the middle section of the Vermilion River, braving the elements like a rain slicker wearing mail carrier. Without fail this annual race has weathered countless changes in our temperamental weather patterns in northern Ohio, except for spring 2005. A period of rain and a late spring snow storm that dumped almost a foot of snow and broke Cleveland's all-time snowfall record interfered with the running of this annual spring paddle. Race morning the USGS gauge read a blistering 6.5 ft and almost 5000 cfs, a lot of water for this usually pleasant paddle. Ideal race conditions would see the gauges closer to 3 ft. In addition the air temperature was hovering in the low 40's and there was a strong NW wind cutting across Lake Erie.

My partner and I pulled into the take-out the morning of April 3, 2005 excited and ready to race. We found the Vermilion to be in a bad mood at the Mill Hollow Bacon Woods Reservation. To quote George Costanza in an old Seinfeld episode "the sea's were angry that day my friend." There was a dusting of snow at the take-out, aftermath of the Cleveland snow storm. Vermilion is still an hour west of Cleveland but not outside the storm's reach. The river was screaming around the bend to the take-out and there was nothing but frothy, brown, whitewater. We looked to our left and right and found no other cars at the take-out. We drove to Schoepfle Gardens in Birmingham to check with race

organizers. We found 40+ racers huddled and waiting for a determination on the start of the race. At 9:30 a.m. a sigh of relief could be heard as organizers wisely cancelled and rescheduled for the following weekend.

Vermillion Race "part-deu" April 10, 2005 turned out to be night and day different as the previous weekend. Sunny skies, temps reaching the 70's and lower water levels greeted racers. Perfect weather conditions also produced water levels that dipped below 3ft and began leveling off at 2.8 ft.

As the sun started to peek, organizers and racers could be found stripping off gear quicker than the tires on a freshly stolen sports car. Racers had to find a middle ground in their clothing selection between dressing for the water temperature or the air. The rescheduled race date may have eliminated some racers, but check-in was still a bee-hive of activity and the contingent looked at least as large as the week before.

A quick racer meeting was held at 10 a.m. and by 10:30 our rainbow armada had moved to the race start. One minute intervals paced the distance between racers and the enthusiasm was high. It didn't take long for the enthusiasm to wane as you could hear paddles clanking the bottom even before racers rounded the first bend. From the beginning I knew we wouldn't be breaking any water-speed records.

The Vermilion is known for its fun series of class I-II rapids, its winding route, sheer rock walls and its beautiful scenery. Its designation as one of Ohio's official scenic rivers is well deserved. While the water level was a disappointment, the newly budding scenery and trickling waterfalls were still a treat to see and helped break-up the technical aspect of racing and finding the correct line. I probably had more time to sightsee this year than others because of the slower pace.

The Keelhaulers do an excellent job of clearing deadfall, sweepers and strainers from the race course, which also adds to the general health of this part of the river year round. Racers can float with confidence that they won't be swept into a dangerous situation when the current is up. Racers do have to pay attention to the current and the possibility of getting swept into a wall or submerged rocks.

While I've run the Vermilion at higher levels, the low water didn't damper anyone's spirits. I joked with my paddling partner about the trail of blue and white marks

I left on the rocks for him to follow, like a trail of bread crumbs. I can truly say the Vermilion is a wild ride at higher levels and I can now say from experience that is also frustrating, but still fun to race at depths below 3 ft.

As racers neared the Mill Hollow Bacon Woods Reservation finish line, families and friends cheered our final strokes toward home. A mere 12 seconds separated me and the racer that finished 2nd in my class. A few less missed paddle strokes, rock bumps and breaks to sightsee, would have put me in silver medal contention.

As usual, the race is well run, organized and populated by a fun group of racers. This is a great spring paddle that many use to knock the dust off their equipment and I have no problem telling my friends to paddle the Vermilion.

If you want to contact me, email me or you can contact me through the USA Olympic training center, where I'll be working on shaving at least 12 seconds off my time for next year!

Accommodations:

The put-in and take out area's are excellent parks with restroom facilities and ample, close to the river parking.

Fees:

Ohio boat registration.

Directions:

The course is an eight-mile section of the Vermilion River from the Schoepfle Gardens in Birmingham, Ohio, (Rt. 113, 14 miles west of Elyria, Ohio) to the bridge at the Vermilion River (Mill Hollow Bacon Woods) Reservation near the city of Vermilion. This very beautiful stretch of river can be difficult at different water levels.

The easiest way to get to the put-in is from the east or west travel down Route 2. You can go from Toledo to Cleveland Ohio on Rout 2. Go south on Route 60 and then go east on Route 113 (turn left at the wooly bear restaurant). The put-in is about a mile on your right. If you cross the river you've gone too far.

To the take out, retrace you steps, by going west on 113, north on 60, then take a right (east) on Mason Rd. Rodger Bacon Reserve will be on your right several miles down.

Resources:

Click on the Keelhaulers site and you'll find a map of the Vermilion River and more info about the race.

<http://www.keelhauler.org/>. Here is the USGS gauge for the Vermilion:

<http://rapids.americanwhitewater.org/gauges/id/5855/>

SOUTHERN RIVERS TRIP - 2005

By Michael Duvall (Liberally edited by John Kobak)

NOLICHUCKY

The Southern Rivers trip always starts on the Nolichucky. This year's cast included John Kobak and Elliott Drysdale, Judi Cleary, Bob Weible, Bob Nicholson, Shawn Reese, Eric Olle, Joe Yilek and Lee Owen and Kay. We all met at Warrior Path State Park, which has a great group camping area with showers. The St Louis group, Santo and Kris Albright and Eric Roush joined us on the 16th after doing a low run on Little River on the 15th.

We chose to schedule the trip in mid April in hopes that we would have milder weather. It turned out not to make much difference. The weather on Easter weekend was just as warm and more rivers had good water levels. This weekend we had plenty of water on the Noli and the Chattooga, however every place else was dry. So we skipped the Tellico and took advantage of the higher levels on the Noli. by running it both Fri & Sat at 3000 & 2700 CFS.

The Noli is basically class 3 and not much harder than the Lower Yough so it is a good place to wash off the cobwebs from a long winter. The weather was cool but sunny. Judi brought both a kayak and the shredder (2 person cataraft) but really wanted to shred so she was trying to round up a partner. Bob W stepped up and took the single blade paddle challenge on both days. Traditionally someone always has to swim at "On the Rocks" and this year was no exception. However the "prank" of the second day was when Eric O. played in "Jaws" then baited Joe to try it with less than perfect results.

OCOEE

Sunday on the Southern rivers trip means we must be at the Ocoee River. The nite before, Judi and I some how became the lead car from the Noli heading toward Cleveland, TN. Because we were coming from I-75 and



Michael on Nolichucky

not the back way we would miss the Mexican restaurant in Copper Hill. Kobak was surfing, the web not a wave, looking for a Mexican place to eat in Cleveland. As the lead car it was our job to find his elusive restaurant with vague directions. As luck would have it we found a different Mexican place, "Tres Hermanos" (3 brothers) right on the bypass at Ocoee St. We pulled into the parking lot and asked people leaving if they liked the food and they were very positive. That was it, Judi called Kobak and gave him the location. Everyone liked the place but a word to the wise; do not get the Grande Margarita (\$11) unless you plan to spend the whole day there. Even their Medium is huge.

Sunday always starts with a pancake breakfast with Kobak's secret recipe of adding bananas to the batter. John and Elliott worked at one grill and Shawn fired up his stove with a cast iron grill. Judi fried up the bacon. After everyone enjoyed breakfast we started to get ready to shuttle. Some of the play boaters went looking for boats to demo. The initial plan was for the remaining boaters was to drive to the put-in to unload and then we would take all but one or two cars to the takeout.

As we drove over the bridge from the campground to the main highway we noticed water coming from up stream. This could only mean one thing, the Olympic course had water. This was not a scheduled release weekend so we had no way of knowing what the flow was or how long it would last. Nonetheless, we continued to the put-in to get organized. Judi, who had convinced John to shred, and Lee were the only ones to wait at the put-in. Elliott, Bob W., Joe, Bob N. and I rearranged the shuttle to do the Upper and Lower. When we tried to get to the put-in for the Upper we

found that the gate was locked so we went to the Visitors Center and carried up to just above Mike's hole missing some boogie water and one named rapid. We saw people in slalom boats practicing although there were no gates. They were catching every eddy. Someone said that the course was class II but it was more like class IV. The current was very pushy and the holes very trashy. We were told "When in doubt go left" and that is certainly the case at "Humongous". I remember seeing more than a couple Olympians swim there during the '96 Games. We dodged the holes and caught a few eddies and thought we were finished with the course. That is when we almost blundered into a big pour-over hole named "Pumphouse", I think. Then it was fun boogie water to the lake and only about a third of a mile of flat water to the dam and the lower section.

When we got to the dam we joined up with John, Judi and Lee who patiently waited for us as well as the rest of the crew that went for demo boats. After putting on the Lower we went with the usual scenario, half the group broke off and cruised down with little play. I went with the much slower group that had a "play till you puke" attitude. When we finally got to "Hell Hole" I took two quick attempts at surfing then left the group to paddle out. At the take out I was grateful to find that Judi my co-pilot had retrieved my dry clothes from Bob's car and my car from the Visitors Center. All right, now we head to the Chattooga.

CHATTOOGA - Section IV

Elliott and Judi thought it would be a good day to hike instead of paddling so they helped with the shuttle and watched us put-on at "Bull Sluice." "Bull Sluice" provides the paddler with 3 choices; door number one, put-in below the drop, door number two, run the easy single boof in the middle, and the third door is the "hero" route. Those taking door three were both Erics and Santo, with only Eric Roush being successful. Bob W had an excellent line between door two and three. The remainder took door two with a simple boof or slide. We checked the gauges at the bridge, 2.05 and 1.95 (USGS & Bridge). Joe and Shawn were the only two that had never run this section, so John took the lead and only needed to provide minimal explanation. Woodall Shoals, Ravens Rock, and Seven Foot Falls all went smoothly.

It wasn't until the Five Falls area that we needed to take extra precautions. The problem with this section is that there is very little recovery time between rapids. Starting with Entrance John set up at the top and

directed us one at a time through the drop. At Corkscrew we all got out and scouted. Someone would have to walk this one and set up a throw line above Crack in the Rock. Having been the recipient of the rope a few times I figured it was my turn to be on the throwing end. After walking around river right and setting up on the downstream rock we were ready to start. Bob W ran first followed by John who ran it smooth without a bobble or splash. I will just say that not everyone was that smooth, but no one needed the rope. Then, we all ran the center crack without any problems.

The next rapid is Jawbone. With the water being a little high we could take the easier left line into the "Parking Lot" above Jaw Bone. Bob W. and John eddied in and John got out with his throw line to set safety above Sock-Em-Dog. This is where we had **the "Incident."**



Bob at Bull Sluice

John signaled the group to hold up but most did not see the signal. The group entered the crowded eddy one by one. When Bob Nicholson started along the left sneak into the eddy he flipped. He attempted a few rolls but then went into the crease of Jawbone. Erik O and Santo started down after him. Bob swam in Jawbone and bumped into Hydro Rock. He swept around the left side and drifted toward Sock-Em-Dog rapid. John, still running down to his set-up position, was shouting for Bob to swim right to avoid the serious pothole entrapments in the center of the drop. Eric & Santo followed in hot pursuit, Santo wisely went to river right and got out with his rescue rope. Bob swam over the drop falling onto a rock and self rescued. Erik got too close to Sock-em-Dog and ended up dropping sideways into the big hole and could not get out. He finally wet exited and was pulled out of the hole by Santo who just got there with his throw line.

The rest of us, not able to see what happened, ran Jawbone and went to see what we would do at Sock-Em-Dog. John and Joe then walked down and paddled across the pool to see how Bob was doing. We could see that Santo was with him just out of the water on river right. John came back to tell us that Bob's leg was broken and we needed to get help. I suggested that Joe accompany John because his truck was at the takeout and I knew that he had a cell phone. The rest of us walked the Puppy Chute and paddled across to help Bob.

When I got to the other side, the Erics were working on splinting Bob's leg with rope and sticks. Bob was in good spirits and had good color showing no signs of shock. It became obvious that no one had a good emergency kit. If we at least had a roll of Duct tape we could have almost made Bob a cast. I could see that Bob was being well taken care of, so I turned to help Santo who had started making 3 kayaks into a raft with long sticks and rope. To evacuate Bob, we still had Shoulder Bone and some class II rapids to run before the lake, then 2 miles of flat water to the take-out. The raft, like many other ideas was re-evaluated and modified to better fit the situation. If the raft went over a rapid and broke apart, the resulting tangle of boats, sticks and rope would be a dangerous. The decision was to put Bob in his boat with his splinted leg out and a boater on each side, Santo and Eric R, holding his boat steady. Eric Olle towed them across the pool to the other side of the river, which looked like a possible sneak. Erik R said to find a stick for a crutch and I said Bob should not walk. I was then told that Eric had rescue experience and was in charge. I don't know when that decision had been made but it is the first rule of both rescue and first aid, someone needs to take charge. The statement had a unifying effect on the whole group. We seemed to work together even better after that. The six of us working together carried Bob over the big boulders around Shoulder Bone then alternately walking and wading Bob in his boat, backwards with both legs out, along the shore and carrying him in the boat over smaller rocks until the river was calmer.

In the meantime, Joe and John raced ahead and reached a fisherman who had a cell phone that surprisingly enough could reach a 911 operator. They then paddled to the boat ramp to wait for the rescue people. Two ambulances, 5 cars and a motorboat eventually responded to the emergency call. The first two paramedics arriving commandeered a fisherman who took them up the lake in his fishing boat.

Once again we returned to the method of steadying the boat with Eric Olle towing until reaching the lake. We proceeded down the narrow lake a short way until a fishing boat arrived with paramedics. We met at the shore where the paramedics took over and replaced our sticks with an inflatable splint. They started an IV, and administered some morphine for the pain. While evaluating Bob, one of the paramedics said he grew up in the Toledo area very near where Bob lived, what a small world. After a while, the Sheriff's boat with another rescue worker in a wet suit appeared. All the rescue workers transferred Bob to a body board and into the boat and took off. Nothing left for us to do but continue across the lake with Eric Olle still towing Bob's boat.

Rumor has it that the sheriff was going to fly Bob out with a helicopter but Kobak couldn't find Bob's credit card so he negotiated down to borrowing a fishing boat!! Actually, the waiting ambulance took Bob to Oconee hospital in Seneca, SC which was 30 miles away. We gave Bob his cell phone so that he could call Dawn with the bad news. Bob Weible drove to the hospital to see how Bob was doing and called us to inform us that Dawn was flying down and would bring Bob home after his operation. They didn't operate until Wednesday where they fastened a steel rod for faster and better healing.

The next morning John dropped Bob's car off at the hospital and found Bob still in good spirits. He loved that Morphine I guess. Elliott shuttled John back to the section IV put-in where John, Joe, Eric O and Shawn would attempt to successfully run the river. The rest of the group headed back home as planned.

The day was uneventful, with a smaller group, communication was better and John set-up a throw rope at the two dangerous rapids but it remained dry.

It was only Tuesday and the trip still had three days to go, but where was the water. The weather had warmed to the 70's but everything in the South except for the Noli and Ocoee was dry. The group decided that since the Noli was on the way home they would head there. They all got together in Ashville for a nice dinner and camped at the picnic area at Rock Creek Campground. Lee & Kay had arrived earlier and were given permission to camp there, since the campground itself was still under repair with a delayed opening.

John took a rest day and worked out the shuttle so that all the cars would end up at the take-out. This would have been great except that Lee had his third

out-of-boat experience attempting to run "On the Rocks" and then decided to walk back to the put-in. He hoped to be able to hitch a ride back but was unsuccessful. He ended up relaxing in the sun until the group finished and Joe drove back to pick him up.

Lee, John & Elliott decided that they would head home but the die-hards, Eric O, Shawn and Joe drove up to WV. They took a rest day on Thursday but then headed for an Upper Yough release on Friday. Ted Pablo and Jason Miller met them and showed Shawn down for his first Upper Yough run. All did well so the group headed up to the Stonycreek Riverfest.

Safety Lessons Learned

Throw lines are mandatory on dangerous rapids. Communication with the entire group is very important. If a throw line had been set up before people started into the staging eddy, the waterfall swim may have been prevented. We all carry throw lines, some carry spare paddles but few carry good medical kits, duct tape can be used for lots of emergency situations and is as valuable as a spare paddle.

Update on Bob's condition.

Both the doctors in SC and OH said that the fast action of splinting the break helped prevent the break from coming through the skin. Dawn got him home on Saturday but by the following Thursday they realized that Bob had a blood clot that needed to be treated, so back to the ER for injections of a clot dissolver. Dawn needed to give Bob two injections daily for the blood clot. The clot finally dissolved and he is now starting physical therapy. The doctor and Bob are hopeful that he will be kayaking in August, while Dawn is figuring out a way to destroy that "Bad Mojo" kayak.

A Rescue on the River

By Rob Hammond

Wow... talk about a tough day on the river! Three of my friends and I were doing the run last year and we had a trip that we will never forget! About five miles into our trip we found some hikers on river's edge shouting and motioning to us. When we got closer we see that someone had waded out into the middle of the river and was stuck there! It appeared that one or both feet were entrapped in the river bed, even though the water depth was only a little over knee deep, the pressure of

the water against their body made it impossible for them to get their feet out, and worse the victim was obviously tired and struggling to keep from being completely pushed over by the strong current.

At that point his head was still out of the water, but it would not be long before this ugly situation turned tragic! I yelled for Tom and Julie to paddle to river right and be ready to catch a rope. Meanwhile Bill and I headed over to River left. Foot entrapments are one of the most difficult rescue scenarios on the river. We all knew from the river rescue clinics that there are several ways to extract a foot entrapment. But, it is a very difficult maneuver, and we learned that it is much easier to talk about it then to do it.

I pulled out my throw rope and Bill talked to the hikers. Bill knew that putting a line across the river creates a hazard to navigation, any boaters coming down river could potentially get tangled in the rope and endanger themselves along with the victim. He also knew that the victim has been in the water for quite a while at this point, and the cold was wearing him down, if he stayed in much longer he would become hypothermic, eventually loosing conscious and possibly dying from the cold. The victim's leg may also be broken, but even if it was not, it was possible that our extrication may break the leg. Bill instructed a bystander to go up river 100 yards and flag over any boaters to prevent yet another problem. Bill tells two other bystanders to hike out and call 911 and to advise them that we may have a hypothermic victim with a broken lower leg. Advising the 911 response team of what they could be facing will help them respond better, especially considering the team was at least an hour, and probably more like two hours away from the scene.

The immediate problem was to stabilize the victim, he was using all of his strength to hold himself up and keep his head above the unrelenting force of the water. We had to get a stabilization line across the river that the victim could hold on to. If we could set this line quick enough while the victim still had some strength and was conscious, things will go much better. The victim may even be able to get his foot out of entrapment by himself by bracing himself on a taut line across the river. I pulled out my throw rope and threw one end to Tom on the other bank. My throw is short! Damn... time is quickly running out. The victim is clearly loosing strength. No time to take a chance on another bad throw. I yell to Bill to get back in the boat and ferry

the line to Tom. While Bill is getting into the boat I frantically pull my rope back in.

Man, this was so much easier at the clinic; now in real life, we don't have the luxury of re-dos and debates about how to best pull this off, the clock is running against the victim we can not afford another mistake! Bill grabs one end of my rope, while I feed it out as he ferries to the other side. It is important for me to keep the rope high above the water as possible. If the rope dips into the water, the drag from the current on the rope may pull Tom off course, or cause him to let go of the rope or even flip. As Bill gets past midway to the other side, the rope starts to dip into the water. Soon Bill is struggling to get the line across. Tom is wading out in the eddy to receive the rope from Bill. Just as Bill gets close to the eddy, he flips over. Tom is only about 3 feet away, and is able to grab Bill's boat, pull him into the eddy, reach down and pull Bill up.

Fortunately Bill still has the line, Tom takes it to Julie, she knows that the line will be too short to tie off to a tree, so she beineers her throw rope to the line from my side of the river. At this point Julie and I walk the rope down stream to the struggling victim. He grabs it, and pulls himself up. Now the victim is stable but his foot is still stuck and he can't get it out. Bill comes back to my side to help me tie off the rope to a solid tree, Julie and Tom do the same to their side. The rope is taut across the river and we advised the victim to put the rope under his arms and to rest against the rope. Communication with the victim is very important, not only to instruct them, but to encourage him. We don't want him to give up because he mistakenly believes that there is no hope.

Now that we had the victim stable for the time being, our next move is to get him out of the entrapment and back to the river bank. On surveying the scene, we find that the victim is in about two and a half feet of fast moving water. Down stream 100 yards is a three foot drop with an undercut at the bottom on the river left side and a strainer on river right below the undercut. This is a class III drop that we have all run dozens of times, and there is no danger to boaters that are paying attention to their surroundings, but this could be a huge problem to an exhausted hypothermic victim unfamiliar with river features. Not only do we have to extricate the victim from the entrapment, but we have to assume that the victim will not have the strength to assist much in his own rescue to get back to the river bank. Making the problem worse, is that there are only

4 of us working against the hypothermia clock. There are still two hikers around that are of limited help, none are trained in swiftwater rescues.

My preferred technique would be to use a snag line across the river to pull back on the victim's leg and pull it out of the entrapment, but the down river threats make this too dangerous to the victim that would be unable to swim strongly. Also the distance is too short to assure that a person in a boat or a throw rope would reach them in time, and we certainly did not want to tie a throw rope to the victim for fear that it could snag on a rock. We all agreed that the safest and most likely to succeed scenario was to do a wading rescue to the victim.

This was not going to be easy, especially with only 4 people; we debated about doing a two or three man wade out to the victim. Finally we agreed to Bill, Tom and I wading out. Julie would remain on the bank and with the help of the 2 hikers handle a throw line. We also took Julie's PFD so that we could put it on the victim. The three of us formed a triangle with our arms around each others shoulders. Bill was the biggest of us so he took the point that was facing upstream, I took the left base and Tom took the right base. Tom was the only one of us with a rescue PFD so we bineered our third Throw line to his vest. Tom's job was to grab the victim in a bear hug while Bill and I got his foot loose. Tom would then float the victim to the bank. This should work because Julie and the hikers, holding the throw line, would be in an excellent position to pendulum Tom and the victim into the calm eddy well above the drop.

The three of us head out into the river, Bill is holding on to the stabilization line that the victim is on, Tom and I are holding on to Bill's shoulders with one arm and the other arm is around each other's shoulder. We take one step at a time, first Bill, then myself, and then Tom. Each time we give a verbal OK when we are sure that our footing is solid. We are also talking to the victim, giving him encouragement and telling him what we are doing. We are making good progress out to the victim, when about half way, the rope bineered to Tom's vest starts dipping into the water and pulling on Tom. Tom tries to fight it but as we move closer to the victim, the pull becomes too much for him. Finally he tells us that he has to let go, and we respond saying to go! Tom is pendulumed into the eddy and is fine, but now we have to start over again. The victim is

weakening from the stress and the cold, his voice is getting noticeably weaker.

Julie recognizes the problem and instructs the hikers to move up higher on the bank, while she grabs our forth and last throw bag. Julie finds a good position higher up, but it is further away, so she bineers the two bags together. The victim is definitely getting weaker to our voice communications as we encourage the victim to stay with it just a little longer. We move as quickly as we can safely, Tom cautions us to not be too hasty, as we can not afford at this point to make any more mistakes or create any more victims!

It seems like we have been at the scene for over an hour, sunset is three hours away, storm clouds are gathering and we have to splint the victim's leg, hike him up a steep bank and out to the road about a mile a way. Man... this stuff was so much easier in the rescue clinics we took! The cold water on my legs and Tom's admonishment brings me back to reality and the urgent task at hand. The three of us wade out again, all keenly aware that this was our last chance to save this victim. As we approach the victim, I step around to his left, Tom gets behind him and Bill to the victim's right. We carefully put the PFD on the victim, talking him through each step, taking one hand off of his life sustaining stabilization line, then putting that hand through the PFD arm hole, then we do the same with the other hand. Now we try to get his foot out, with a little maneuvering, the foot is free! Whether it was relief or just pure fatigue on the victim's part: he lets go of the stabilization line. Fortunately Tom has his arms around him and the two float off to the eddy where Julie runs down to pull the two to shore while the other two hikers pendulum the pair to safety.

The moment that the victim touches dry land a judge steps up and yells TIME! No... this was not a real rescue; this was just a sample of one of the scenarios that you may have missed if you have not attended the Slippery Rock Rescue Rodeo!

Yep, rescue clinics are an absolute requirement, we need them to learn the basics of what, we as paddlers, need to know to keep ourselves and our buddies safe while we are on the river. But talking about techniques in a clinic, detached from the realities of a serious injury or even a life on the line, is not going to prepare you as well we might like. Although nothing can replace a real life rescue, the rodeo does a great job of getting your adrenaline flowing and giving you a flavor of how you

might react when all of a sudden you come on a scene where there may only be minuets, possibly even only seconds to react! If you ask any of the people that have attended the rodeo, they will tell you that the competition, the realism of the scenario and the ticking clock all push you into a hyper drive that can only be exceeded by a real rescue!

I don't think a season has gone by since we started the Slippery Rock Rescue Weekend in 2000, that I have not had someone come up to me and tell me about how the rescue skills they learned at our clinic or rodeo helped them in a rescue situation. Maybe none of them were as dramatic as the story above, but then again, maybe they didn't get to be dramatic because they had the training and experience to keep the incident as a non-noteworthy incident with a good outcome, instead of something that got out of hand because they did not have the experience to realize how much the difficulty of even simple techniques multiply when you are under pressure.

Nothing from the story above, came from my imagination, the things that happened to this fictitious group are things I have seen at our rodeos, or have experienced myself in rescue drills. One of the things our group of paddlers did well was their team work, each paddler knew what had to be done, what options there were and what their buddies' strengths were. They had good communication and good leadership. These skills are built, not in classrooms, but in drills such as we have at the rodeo.

So come on out to the Slip on June 25 for our clinic and the 26th for the rodeo. If you don't want to compete, come out and help or just enjoy the camaraderie, the pot luck dinner and the action, I promise you... you won't be bored!

The Rescue weekend is brought to you by the Keel Haulers and Three Rivers Paddling clubs. For details check the website www.keelhauler.org or contact myself at Rob@SCD-Corp.com phone: 216 292-5618, or Karen Dearfield at: riverfun911@hotmail.com phone: 216 292-5618.

June				
6/3,4,6	Upper Yough	32	Gib McGill	724-946-9158
6/4	Cuyahoga River, Peninsula to Boston Mills	8	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549
6/4,5	Cheat Canyon	26	Pam Poljak	440-268-9194
6/5	Lower Yough	23	Sabine Iben	440-543-4969
6/11	Walk - Deer Lick Cave Trail in Brecksville Reservation		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
6/11,12	Upper New	16	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
6/11,12	Red Cross - Basic River and Whitewater Paddling in Western PA		Red Cross	440-298-1293
6/12-24	Colorado Rivers - advanced/intermediate trip, trip could shift by a week if water levels are too high or too low.	25-32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-8482 C
6/14	Club Meeting & Free Style Clinic at Hinckley Lake at 6pm		Elaine and Bob Mravetz	330-239-1725
6/18,19	Lower Yough - permits	23	Ron Tomallo	440-953-1335
6/18,19	Middle Yough	12	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
6/20,27, 7/11,18,25	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Orange High School Pool - Red Cross - \$95		Seanna Perry	216-831-8601
6/20,22, 27,29	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool - Red Cross \$95		Seanna Perry	440-974-5720



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

JULY 2005

NEXT KEELHAULER MEETING

**Tuesday, July 12th Outdoor Cook/Meeting
at Silver Lake**

The July club meeting will be held at Silver Lake Country Club in Akron beginning at 6:30pm. We will have a race around the island as has become tradition, so bring your craft of choice. There will be windsurfing, sunfish sailing, an opportunity for roll practice, and a club picnic. The club will provide burgers, hotdogs etc., pop, and table ware. For your contribution please bring a dish according to the following:

A-F Salad/vegetable/or baked beans
G-L Chips or Appetizer
M-S Dessert or Fruit
T-Z Potato/Macaroni Salad

We will serve from 7-7:30pm.

Directions to Silver Lake:

From Cleveland:

1. Take I-271 S or Ohio Turnpike to RT-8 (Boston Hts.)
2. Take Rt-8 south for many miles. Get off at 2nd Street exit in Cuyahoga Falls.
3. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Northlands Street.
4. Turn left again at the stop sign onto Front St. (RT-59)
5. Drive 1.1 miles on (RT-59) and turn left at the traffic light at Silver Lake Blvd. This is Silver Lake Village. Park at the club house on the right.

From Akron and south:

1. Take RT-8 north and get off at the Front St. exit (which is right after the Board Blvd. Exit).
2. Then follow directions item 5 above.

A map can be found at:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/SilverLake.gif>

We can use the Lake until about 8:30.

See you there.

"Big Sandy, sweet sausage -

A tale of two virgins"

Big Sandy Creek, May 21-22

By Peter Turkaly

Our story begins in south Philly, in some little meat shop, where a kindly butcher gently packs his meat with TLC. While most of the products coming out of his hands end up in the sewers of Philadelphia or south Jersey, our one particular package of sweetly spiced, succulent sausage was destined for greater things. For one day a man named Shaggy strode into the store to claim it as his own. This cylindrical protrusion of meat was to play the central role in turning a couple of virgin paddlers into real men.

The day was drawing near when my first ever official keelhauler trip was to take place. On the itinerary was Big Sandy, a place well known by virgin paddlers and experts alike. Ecstatic pleasure abounds in Big Sandy's lower regions; the initial plunge into Wonder Falls, the tongue at Zoom Flume, the bounciness of Little Splat, the pulsing slot in Big Splat, and the tight slippery cleavages in First and Second Island. As much as I like Big Sandy's lower regions, there are times when a lack of fluids makes it necessary to go Cheatin'. Such was the case on the Monday before trip weekend. It looked like Big Sandy was going to be sparsely lubricated, but then it came, and came and came some more (the rain, that is). By Friday afternoon wet liquids were gushing everywhere. Images of engorging rivers had now replaced milf-hunter's on my computer screen. Big Sandy was pumping faster than a stripper on a mechanical bull, and any thought of Cheatin' spelled trouble for sure.

All of this may sound enticing if you're a creekly kind of guy, but I only had one other person willing to

dip into the abundant waters. It was none other than Shaggy and his sweet sausage. I have seen Shaggy (aka Mark Canada), go down the James a number of times, but when it came to Big Sandy he was a virgin. Things looked a little better when Mike Elobitz phoned in on the hot line from Cincinnati. I had never met Mike, but he claimed to have hung out with the likes of John Kobak, Elliott Drysdale, Brent Laubaugh, and John Garcia. Though certainly not inexperienced, especially when cavorting with the above crew, he nevertheless was also a virgin when it came to Big Sandy. Even though we now had the requisite minimum of three, I was not willing to risk the dangers associated with unfamiliar creek beds of water. I decided to glom onto Steve Ingall's guaranteed fun ride in other parts of West Virginia on Saturday, and await the return of Big Sandy's less intense demeanor.

We awoke too late Saturday to catch Steve's trip. Mike drove off to get breakfast, while Shaggy and I sat on the driveway to Kobak's hot-tub haven savoring some of our own stiff morning sausages (of the breakfast variety on bagel with egg and cheese) under brightening skies. Upon meeting up with Mike at Little Sandy's restaurant, we discovered that Big Sandy had climaxed early during the night and was now flowing with just the right amount of fluid to make breaking in a couple of virgins pleasurable. Our individual choice of boating accessory was indicative of how each of us was going to enjoy the forthcoming excitement. Shaggy decided to practice some safe paddling, whipped out his Huka and put away his EZG. I opted for the familiar feel of my H2. Mike, meanwhile, donned his Big EZ for extra paddling pleasure.

The deflowering proceeded clumsily. While fumbling around with some straps beside Big Sandy, I managed to slip my finger between a plate of glass and a door frame (luckily it was a Subaru and was well padded with foam). A bag of ice was needed to prevent unwanted swelling before the real fun was supposed to begin. Later, as I was playing around in a petite hole during the warm-up to the main event, I failed to pull out in time to let Shaggy in. During the ensuing melee I managed to plant my face squarely on the bow of Shaggy's Huka. What was supposed to be an easy time with a couple of Big Sandy virgins had suddenly become very painful.

I chose to scout the first few cascades of rushing wet stuff. No, this was not going to be some hole-in-the-bathroom-stall kind of run, I wanted Shaggy and Mike to get a real good look at where they were about to plant their shafts. The approach was

just mild foreplay for the first big plunge, Wonder Falls. Shaggy's boof stroke was a little weak and he slid straight down into the frothy wetness below. He popped out backwards but managed to gather up his shorts and was able to safely guide himself away. Mike's boof was strong but a little off to the right. He nailed the foamy surge squarely and squirted calmly into the pool below. We all caught some tongue at zoom flume and came out with faces dripping wet with excitement. Little Splat was more bouncy and padded than Pamela Anderson. We gathered on the right for the portage of Big Splat, and watched as the procession of boaters took their turns plunking into the writhing, pulsing slot that piles up into the hardness of Splat Rock. I could tell that Mike was drawn into the spectacle and was eager to join in, but he would have to wait till the next day to satisfy his urges.

What followed was non-stop rocking and rolling through the wet slots and quivering holes that make up the tamer waters. Mike's choice of boating accessory was really paying off, as he found himself squirting left and right more often than a teenager on viagra. Shaggy and his Huka were taking a more steady and consistent ride through it all. After playing myself silly in the fun-hole near the end of the boogie water, we came upon the slippery crack that comprises the entrance to the joy-ride that is First Island. This time there would be no previewing the action like they do in Amsterdam. I gave instructions, plunged in, twisted right and watched Shaggy take his turn dipping into the slot. He dropped in and nailed it good, but got spun around trying to head right. He was about to ride it out doggy style, but with a quick tug on his shaft he straightened up and shot into the creamy center. More boogying until Second Island, where we opted for the tight, squeezing slit on the right side. The joint-bruising rock hard crevasse was lubricated by the plentiful liquid surging through at Saturday's level. We all penetrated the slit without incidence, but Mike had just enough left in him for one more squirt. We slid happily into the muddy waters of the Cheat, took out and savored the days events as conquering heroes.

But all of that was just foreplay for the culinary orgy that was to follow that evening. With plenty of wine, exotic sauces and tasty oils for our long slabness of sweetly spiced meat, which by now was steaming and sizzling in its' own juices, we finally gave in to the inescapable temptation and plunged...

---(censored)---

... fell asleep with the giddy grin of completely spent satisfaction. We had become one with the sausage and the sausage had become one with us.

Bolstered by the sweet sausage now within us, and full of the confidence that comes with familiarity, we were ready to take on Big Sandy another day, which surprisingly maintained just enough of the plentiful supply of flowing liquids to provide another day of enjoyment. We picked up two other boaters to join us, Jeff Wolfram, and Pete Dragon, both from the DC area. This was to be Pete's virginal run on Sunday's gentler level of 5.7ft. All went well, with Mike succumbing to the urges of his suddenly enlarged cajones. He plunked into the bottom drop of Big Splat better than Ron Jeremy on Ginger Lynn. Shaggy and I watched from the left shore and vowed to take the plunge another day. Shaggy again had some trouble with First Island and this time tried it upside down. He decided he preferred the standard position and with a properly timed thrusting of hips was able to finish under control.

It was a great weekend, considering that I had no idea what to expect going into Friday evening. We ended up with great weather, great water levels, and great food. Except for the marks left on my finger and face, and the loss of my trusty paddle of 5 years, a great kayak trip was had by all.

P.S. get your minds out of the gutter.

High Adventure on the Cheat

by David Herron

hey guys,

thursday night, 6:30PM : after *sitting* around all friggin' day watching some bozos dig up my yard and wreak havoc all around (my sewer was being dug up and replaced \$\$\$\$:-(, i decided to head to the UY and paddle with the keel haulers. got up real early friday and made it to friendsville by 11:00AM. seemed like the closer i got to friendsville, the more it was raining. had to change in the rain, and by the time we got to the put-in it was raining pretty good. needless to say, this was not what i wanted to see.

actually had a great day on the river tho. there was water pumping in from side streams in several places, and the river level was up, but i was doing fine. i think i might have seen 10 rafts throughout the entire day (maybe only 8??) and not a whole lot more hard boats. all in all a great day on the UY. the level at the takeout was 2.35. i see from the USGS graph that it peaked at about 1050cfs.

sat morning arrived and kobak seemed to think there was gonna be maybe another 200cfs based on the rain from the day before. well, i had had a good day and did not wanna get spanked, so i wussed out and headed to the cheat. there was supposed to be a KHer trip there, and i knew the OAC was somewhere around also. could not find the OAC. only found one KHer who was waiting for the KH "trip leaders" to show up at 10:30. it was gonna be her first time down the cheat.

11:00 arrived and no trip leaders, so we hooked up with two guys (mike and ryan) from PA. had seen several groups put on already; everybody seemed to be getting a 4:00 shuttle from glenn miller, so i called him too. oh yeah; i had checked the level and it was about 1.5' at the bridge gauge. (from the USGS parsons gauge it looks like about 700cfs).

we started the trip with another group from MD. stayed together until big nasty. lotsa rocks here. had two swimmers, but no big deal. while we stayed and played at typewriter (very forgiving---i coulda stayed here for 2 hours :-)) the MD group kept moving. caught up with them and *everybody* else at cue ball. mike jumped in the hole (not a wave!) and, with a heroic upstream high brace---which did keep him from flipping!---managed to dislocate his left shoulder. apparently he had just gotten over surgery to repair his right shoulder.

anyway, josh (from yet another group) had just retaken a wilderness first aid course and was able to reduce mike's shoulder. we were very fortunate in that there was a raft group there and they had room to haul mike off the river. unfortunately, mike had to leave his brand new jackson kayak (and paddle) sitting on the rocks at cue ball (we did not discover this until we got to the take out.)

down below cue ball we encountered maze which was just full of rocks at this level. well, josh managed to get stuffed under a tree; that is, his boat got swept under it and he was wrapped around the tree just hanging on for all he could (his legs were still stuck inside his boat). it took me some time to find a clean line down to where he was; meanwhile, one of his crew jumped out of his boat and was scampering back to josh. when i got there josh had washed under/thru the tree and was swimming with his boat. i pushed josh to a rock which he climbed up on, but then when i tried to move his boat it wouldn't budge. darn thing was full of water---no flotation bags at all :-(. ryan had a tow rope and he hooked on to the boat and, with some help from me, was able to get that darn thing into and eddy. after some effort we

got the boat turned upside down and dumped gallons and gallons of water out. high falls was real scrapy. think i left a years worth of plastic there. coleseum was amazing. the top hole stretched all the way across. again, rocks everywhere!

we managed to get to the take out just at 4. had to wait a short bit for another group. then the exciting ride back to teters. all in all a good day on the river. i would definitely paddle the cheat at this level instead of the lower yough. while it was not pushy anywhere, it sure was technical. most of the "usual" lines had rocks. great fun!

UPPER YOUGH ROCK RACE AND FESTIVAL JULY 22-23

Team Friendsville invites you to the "Upper Yough Rock" Race and Festival on Saturday, July 23rd! Wash off those drought season blues with a special summer Saturday dam release dam release and two days of festivities. Watch or paddle in the 25th annual Upper Yough Race, the oldest extreme whitewater race in the world! All types of boats are welcome. Race by yourself, or with a group of friends.

But there's more to do here than just race! Team Friendsville wants everyone to have a good time! Paddle the mighty Upper Yough or mountain bike up the old railroad grade and watch the action. Come to the barn party on both Friday and Saturday night and camp nearby. There's fun for all ages, so bring the whole family.

Profits from the race benefit American Whitewater, a leader on Upper Yough release and access issues for many years. They maintain the Sang Run and Friendsville river access points in cooperation with the State of Maryland and Mountain Surf.

Team Friendsville schedules the race release on Saturday for your enjoyment. Please respect the racers and stay out of their way! Get off the river and watch on shore when the race starts at 4:00 pm. If the race runs smoothly, we'll do this again!

Schedule: Friday July 22nd

10 am - 1 pm: Scheduled release on the Upper Yough

3 pm - 4:30 pm: Kids race registration at liquor store parking lot across from Mountain Surf. A \$15 entry fee covers the race, a T-shirt, prizes, the Friday Night Barn party AND the Saturday evening festival. SUCH A DEAL !! Run the river, gather the kids up, register them, and race.

5:00 pm: The race starts under the route 68 bridge and finishes 1 mile down stream at the Town Park. There

are several class 2 riffles. Adult kayak safety will be provided along the entire race course and parents are encouraged to paddle along.

6:30 pm: Kids race awards and Boom box party at the Barn. There will be refreshments, prizes and romping around.

Camping is available in the field across from the Barn. There's a \$2.50 charge per person per night to benefit American Whitewater. Register at kid's race registration 3-4 pm, or at the Barn after 6:30pm. The camping field is owned and maintained by the nicest old man. Please, NO FIRES or noise!! Behave responsibly so he will continue to let us use it for years to come.

Saturday July 23rd

10 am - 4 pm: Special Upper Yough Race dam release, courtesy of Team Friendsville.

9 am - 12 pm: Race Registration in the liquor store parking lot. \$30.00 Gets you Insurance, race entry, T-shirt, entry into Barn festival, beer and prizes.

12:30 pm: Competitors meeting at the registration area.

4 pm: Race starts at the Gap Run stretch rock, finishes at Kendall.

6:00 pm: The Upper Yough Rock Festival begins at the barn as soon as you get off the river. There will be vendors, food, beer, and a bluegrass band!

7:00 pm: Race results and award ceremony at the barn

8:00 pm: The Bluegrass Band starts playing.

Camping is available in a field across from the Barn.

There is a \$2.50 charge per person per night to benefit AW. The area is owned and maintained by the nicest old man. Please, NO FIRES or noise and behave responsibly so he will continue to let us use it for years to come.

Directions to Barn:

The Barn is only 3.2 miles from Friendsville. Starting at Mountain surf set your trip odometer for these directions:

1) Go west toward I-68 to stop sign (OD reading .4 miles.)

2) At the stop sign (Route 42) Go right, pass the CITGO gas station to the top of hill (OD reading 2.0 miles.)

3) At the top of the hill go right on Blooming Rose road until you hit a stop sign (OD reading 2.7 miles.)

4) At the stop sign Go left on Old Morgantown road until you see the Barn on your left (OD reading 3.2 miles.)

5) At the Barn turn right for parking and camping (well marked)

Douglas Hill Jr., A Charter Member of the Keelhauler Canoe Club

Hank Annable sent this article in for this newsletter

Douglas Wainwright Hill, Jr., 75, of Elyria, died Saturday, June 18, 2005, at Allen Medical Center in Oberlin following a short illness. Born in Cincinnati, he had lived in Lorain County for the past 44 1/2 years.

Mr. Hill was a graduate of Michigan State University of Lansing, MI, where he was on the golf team. He was the owner of Hills Office Products in Lorain, and was known as the "Typewriter Man".

He was a member of Unitarian Church in Rocky River and North Olmsted, a member of the Rotary Club in Lorain and enjoyed fellowship with other Rotary Clubs in Oberlin, Amherst and Vermillion.

Mr. Hill was a competitive canoe racer and had won many first place awards. He was an avid walker throughout Lorain County and was a volunteer with the Lorain County Metro Parks. He could identify wild flowers in their common and Latin names.

He enjoyed traveling to Denmark and Canada to attend international races. Survivors include his stepmother, Ruth Hill of Fort Myers, FL, a brother, Donald Hill of San Francisco, a stepbrother Cass Denton of Cincinnati, stepsisters Gayle Cummings of Dallas, and Carol Curry of Tennessee, and a special friend Jane Sweda of Wellington. He was preceded in death by his parents, Douglas W. Hill Sr. and Sarah (nee Scudder) Hill.

There will be no visitation and a memorial service is being held at a later date. Services are being handled by Cowling Funeral Home of Oberlin.

July				
7/1-4	Shawn Excellent Ocoee Adventure	25-28	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
7/1,2 & 4	Upper Yough	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 or Cabin 304-379-4747
7/9,10	Ohio River Way Paddlefest			
7/9-10	Lower Yough	23	Eric Marks	216-281-1517
7/12	Club Meeting at Silver Lake		Bill Miller	440-257-2970
7/16,17	Lower Yough (Yough Intro weekend) - permits	23	Fran Hoven	216-961-1553
7/16,17	Middle Yough	12	Karen Daniels	440-458-5972
7/19,21, 26,28	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool - Red Cross \$95		Seanna Perry	440-974-5720
7/22-23	Upper Yough Race & Paddle - Release from 10am to 4 pm- Paddle before or after race.	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 or Cabin 304-379-4747
7/23,24	New River Gorge	27	Cecil Tickamyer	740-593-8453
7/24	Bike Trek, Mary Jane Thurston State Park		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
7/30	Valley Falls	24	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
7/30,31	Lower Yough	23	Shawn Reese	330-688-4296
7/30,31	Upper New	16	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS AUGUST 2005

NEXT KEELHAULER MEETING

Our next meeting will be on **August 9th** at **Mentor Headlands State Park** at **6:30pm**. The meeting will be held at the far west end of the park. Bring your boat to practice your roll or just paddle around. Having your boat registered and a PFD would be a good thing. They do check at times. There are grills and picnic tables available. Directions: Take RT-2 to Mentor and exit at Heisley RD (aka RT-44 North). Drive north until you reach the Park Entrance at the end of RT-44, enter park and head west (left) to the end of parking lot. See you there!

Western Trip - 2005

By John Kobak

Elliott Drysdale again led this year's Colorado whitewater trip. The trip has always included the Poudre River near Fort Collins and the Arkansas River near Buena Vista. This year, since a lot of snow fell in Southwestern Colorado we also decided to head to the Pagosa Springs area to attempt to run the San Juan and the Piedra Rivers.

Our group consisted of Santo & Kris Albright, Judi Cleary, Wayne, Missy & Angie Carey, Elliott Drysdale, Michael Duvall, Carl & Donna Homberg, John Kobak, Bill Miller and Kathy Needham.

Carl & Donna had been in CO for a week paddling with their son Craig and Harry Guyton. We caught them on their way home and they just paddled with us one day on the Poudre. Judi flew in after we left the Poudre so she only paddled for the second half of the trip. The rest of the people did most of the trip.



[Click to get a bigger view](#)

I drove out with Elliott and due to my inattention as navigator we missed a turn in Chicago and were heading for Wisconsin. I finally realized this when we were paying too many tolls. We quickly got back on track and met up with Michael Duvall in Sterling, CO. The next morning we got our usual campsites on the Poudre as the weekend campers streamed home, because of the nasty weather. We had two very cool windy days and a little rain, it was really unusual for this time of year. It then got really hot which causes the rivers to rise from the snow melt. So in CO when it rains the rivers drop, when it's hot they rise. The water temperatures are cold compared to Eastern rivers. The Poudre runs about 45°F and the Arkansas about 50°.

We caught good levels on the Poudre, about 3 to 3 ½' on the rock gauge. It was a little different each day, but all were very nice levels. The Poudre generally runs too low for fun paddling by the end of June. Everyone had pretty good runs from the White Mile to Mountain Park Campground and Mishawaka and Pine Vu sections. We ran each of them twice. Five people did the annual downhill bike ride from Poudre Falls back to camp.



Missy at Pine Vu

Since we needed to pick up Judi who was flying in to Denver on Wednesday we left the Ft. Collins area and headed Southwest to the BLM campground near the Arkansas.



View of Collegiate Peaks from our BLM campsite

The campsite has a lot going for it except facilities, which it has none. Great views, convenient location, big enough for large group and best of all it's free. Pay showers are available in downtown Buena Vista.

The Arkansas river level had dropped because of last weekend's cold spell but was now starting to rise. Most of our group ran the Numbers section for two days at 775 and 900 cfs. Judi got used to the fast water with a smaller group on the Frog's Rock or Fractions section. Everyone had good runs. I demoed a Diesel 75 which I found it a little too big for me. I had a very short swim after running rapid 5, guess I'll stick with my GT for now.

We figured there would be crowds on the river this coming weekend because of the [FIBArk race](#) in Salida so we headed South to the Piedra River. When we got there we found that the river was roaring. It was running over AW's suggested maximum flow of 1500 cfs. Since it is a 19 mi. class V wilderness run and none of us had ever run it before, the group opted to paddle the class II-III Mesa Canyon of the San Juan River instead. It was running a high 2300 CFS, so it was a fast run with an easy shuttle.

Since I had been paddling for 6 straight days I decided to rest in my hammock while everyone paddled Mesa Canyon. On Sunday the Piedra had still had not come down so most of the group decided to take a 4 hour long horseback ride up the Piedra River, Judi & Bill hiked up to a hot spring along the river and I headed to town to try to get internet access to maintain our website.

We said goodbye to Santo & Kris but the rest of the group headed back to the BLM campground where we found that the Arkansas had risen to 2200 cfs because of the continued hot weather. This is a Medium-High level. The Carey's, Elliott, Michael and I ran Brown's Canyon. Zoom flume and Seidel's Suckhole were especially memorable to me. Wayne was running sweep and accidentally bumped me out of the hole at the bottom of Zoom Flume that I had just got stuck in. Thank you Wayne. Then while approaching Seidel's with Elliott, I warned him that I think we are heading into the rapid. I spun around on the hole that I use to get right of the Suckhole and Elliott submarined under me, however we both made it through successfully.



Kobak at Seidel's Suckhole

Judi & Michael headed for home and the next day The Carey's, Elliott and I headed to the Royal Gorge which was running a Medium-High 2300 cfs.

The Gorge trip is an awesome experience. The views of the gorge are incredible. You start in a small river valley and the 1000' high cliffs soar up around you as you paddle into the gorge. The water is very pushy at this level but none of the rapids seemed any harder then normal. In fact the approach to Sunshine is easier at this level since you can run on the right side all the way from the top of the rapid. Now that we knew where Sledgehammer Rapid was, that was a non-event also. It was a fast run which got us on the road early to Colorado Springs to visit Elliott's daughter and fiancé who have both taken up kayaking.



Royal Gorge Bridge from the river

Wayne and his girls headed back to Buena Vista. They have been visiting the highest point in each state. In fact they visited a few on their way out to CO. Wayne sent this picture of Mt. Elbert, at 14,433 the highest point in CO. Elbert also enjoys the importance of being at the headwaters of the Arkansas River which begins at its base near Leadville.

Their 12 mile round trip hike from Twin Lakes Campground took them almost 12 hours, it is a 5000' climb.

So if you haven't made a Colorado trip yet, there is something for everyone. You don't need to paddle every day and there are plenty of easier runs for less experienced paddlers. It's fun to go with a group that can point your way to the high points. However, unless you fly out it's tough to do in one week's time. My favorite time is mid June to early July.



Missy on Mt. Elbert, CO highest point

A Celebration of Laubaugh/Miller Wedding



A cookout will be held at Kobak's Kabin on Saturday, August 6th at about 6 PM after we paddle, to celebrate the marriage of Brent Laubaugh and Kelly Miller. **ALL club members** are invited to join in. Hamburgers/Hot Dogs will be provided, BYOB, bring a dish to share; Appetizer, Salad, Side dish, Snack or Desert. Anyone wishing to camp here is welcome. Two other properties on the street are owned by Keel Haulers, they may also allow you to camp if we fill up.

Map to Cabin

Questions? Contact: Cookout Coordinator,
Julie Garcia . . jgsmoltz@adelphia.net . . 440-777-6077

Paddling the Upper Yough that weekend?
John Kobak . . keelhauler@yahoo.com . . 440-871-1758
or cabin 304-379-4747

Gauley Outfitters to Close Midpoint

Access Areas

American Whitewater was notified late last week that two outfitters will discontinue their long-standing policy of permitting private paddlers to access West Virginia's Gauley River at Mason's Branch, Woods Ferry, and Bucklick. Lost Paddle Corporation is a partnership between Imre Szylagyi of Appalachian Wildwaters and Class VI River Runners, represented by Dave Arnold. The company owns all of the river-right land between Sweets Falls and Koontz Bend. Like many outfitters throughout the country they have generously permitted private paddlers to cross their land almost two decades. If you've run the Gauley, you've used their land.

So why change things now? When the Gauley River National Recreation Area was created the law required the Park Service to purchase an access area at Woods Ferry. The key parcel for this access is owned by Lost Paddle Corporation. After eight years of negotiations and two formal government assessments the Park Service and the outfitters are still miles apart on a price. Although they care about the land, they also see it as a business investment that they have held for over 18 years. They feel that the price they receive should reflect its worth in other uses, like sustained yield timbering or second home development.

As the talks stalled, Lost Paddle Corporation has become increasingly uncomfortable with their role as a free public access provider. The outfitters have told AW several times that the current "improvised access arrangement" would have to end soon. Now they are seeking, in their own words, to "create a crisis" that will force the Park Service to buy their property for public access.

As this story plays out, please remember that Lost Paddle Corporation is completely within its rights as a private landowner to take this step. We don't have to like what they are doing, but we must respect it. We all agree that the Gauley River is a unique natural treasure and want to see the Park Service purchase land that will protect the river, insure public access, and allow the park to reach its potential.

American Whitewater has been in contact with Gauley NRA Manager Cal Hite and West Virginia Congressman Nick Joe Rayhall. We will be working diligently to find legal ways for private paddlers to access the river

during Gauley Season and new information will be posted on our web site as it becomes available.

Woods Ferry Road Remains a Legal Gauley Access

In the early 1900's a county road crossed the Gauley River at Woods Ferry and continued over the mountains to Anstead, WV. This right-of-way is still legally active. Since Lost Paddle Corporation has never permitted private rafters to take out on their land, this has been the only place that they could legally drive down to river level and launch and their boats. The road as it now exists has been maintained for some time by two small outfitters, Wildwater Unlimited and Passages to Adventure. Private individuals maintaining little-used, out-of-the-way county roads is not uncommon in West Virginia. The road is very narrow and steep, and also deviates from the right-of-way and trespasses on Lost Paddle Corporation property for several hundred yards. There is parking for roughly 100 cars.

Partial Gauley Solution

At a West Virginia Tourism Commission meeting on July 23, Betty Carver, Tourism Commissioner, announced that the State's Tourism Division will provide gravel for Woods Ferry Road improvements. This assistance from the state helps to secure mid-river access for this Gauley season. American Whitewater requested that the Gauley access issue be placed on the Commission meeting agenda. The WV Tourism Division took a clear leadership role and engaged the Governor's Office with a request for mid-river access assistance. These actions demonstrate the importance of adventure-based tourism experiences in the state's mix of tourism products. AW will continue to work with the state and other entities to find additional short and long-term access solutions.

**Click link for
[Gauley Map](#)**

AW Membership Drive

From now until September 30 (AW's Gauley Fest), paddling club members using their AW Club Code save \$10 on an annual AW membership, and put our club on track to earn a free annual Club Affiliate membership (\$75 savings) if we get 20 new AW members.

Our AW Club Discount Code is **CL10kcc**. Be sure and use this code on your membership form or [on-line application](#).

AUGUST TRIP SCHEDULE

8/5,6,8	Upper Yough & Laubaugh/Miller Wedding Cookout on 8/6	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 or Cabin 304-379-4747
8/9	Club Meeting at Mentor Headlands Park		Bill Miller	440-257-2970
8/12-14	Bicycle trip - PA rails to trails		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
8/13	Sandusky Bay Sea Kayak		Rich Kish	419-621-7610
8/13,14	Red Cross - Basic River and Whitewater Paddling in West PA		Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
8/19	Yough (Ladies Day)	23	Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
8/20,21	New River Gorge	27	Needs Organizer	440-953-1335 or 216-692-7232
8/20,21	Lower Yough - permits available	23	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969
8/20,21	Middle Yough	12	Gary Tucker	440-357-7890

For Immediate Release
July 15, 2005

Contact: Barry Adams
American Whitewater
412-242-4562
E-mail: Bj2adams@juno.com
<http://www.FallsRace.com>

SEVENTH ANNUAL AMERICAN WHITEWATER OHIOPYLE OVER THE FALLS FESTIVAL

Ohiopyle, Pa. – American Whitewater, the Pennsylvania Organization For Watersheds & Rivers, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources announces that the seventh Annual American Whitewater Ohiopyle Over The Falls Festival will be held August 27-28, 2005. Whitewater paddlers nationwide will gather there to race over the spectacular eighteen-foot waterfall in the picturesque mountain village of Ohiopyle. Spectators are invited to watch paddlers sprint and cartwheel, end-over-end, off the waterfall. New this year will be The Upstream World Championships.

Other event features include the Falls Under Lights, a Film Festival, Live Music (The Mavens), Silent Auction and food booths. The area also offers biking, hiking, camping, magnificent scenery, photographic opportunities, history and cultural activities. Please visit www.FallsRace.com for more information and registration details.

Here is the event schedule:

Saturday, August 27

Registration will begin at 8am in Ohiopyle State Park.

9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon: Waterfall Practice Runs

12 Noon: Two competitions: Falls Race

200-yard whitewater course includes two-foot, four-foot and eighteen-foot drops.

After race - Freestyle – Kayakers will surf the rapids above the waterfalls' eighteen-foot drop, and do routines and cartwheels competitively, end-over-end, off the edge for points. Waterfalls practice runs will continue afterwards until 5:00 p.m.

6:15 p.m. Upstream Race on Entrance rapid on the Youghiogheny River

7:30 p.m.: Ohiopyle Town Party

The party will feature a paddling film festival, live music, food booths, exhibits and a silent auction. The Mavens will play at the Town Party. In addition, lights will be cast on the eighteen-foot waterfall, making it a spectacular spectacle and party centerpiece.

Sunday, August 28

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.: More Falls running.

3:30 p.m.: Fun Loop Race

Silent Auction wrap up.

Proceeds benefit American Whitewater and the Ohiopyle Stewart Volunteer Fire Co. High water date or cancellation date Sept 17-18. Volunteers needed for the event.



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2005

NEXT KEELHAULER MEETING

Sept. 13th Meeting/Program @ 7:30pm
Middleburg Heights Community Center

The Upper Yough Story video by Paul Lange.
(The Other Paul Lange). Also, some exciting
footage by Brent Laubaugh from a previous
Western Trip. Plus, some high water footage on
The Moose.

A Reminder.....

All club memberships expire on October 1st.
As soon as you can, mail a \$20 check for your 2006
membership dues. To:
Keel Haulers Canoe Club
1649 Allen Dr
Westlake, OH 44145-2506

Or pay \$21 on-line using Paypal
Use this link and click on the Paypal Logo -
<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/khcapp.htm>
Or just use your Paypal account and send your dues
payment to dues@keelhauler.org

Review your on-line membership listing, using this link:
<http://keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook5.pdf>
User Name: "dir" and Password: "people". You do not
have to fill out an application or waiver form, you only
need to send me any changes to your membership
record.

Please encourage any of your non-member paddling
friends to join/rejoin the club. Our total membership
has been decreasing in the last few years. The club
offers a lot to paddlers of all skill levels at less than
the price of a tank of gas to go paddling.

John Kobak, Keel Haulers Canoe Club
<http://www.keelhauler.org>

The Old Man's River **By Andris Niedra**

And why not? If climbers can have an Old Man's Route
and an Old Woman's why can't we?

Anyway, for this old man it had been a lot more than 84
days without catching a fish when an invite came from
Paul Lang to visit the La Riviere Bonaventure which has
it's headwaters in the Chic Choc Mountains of Quebec's
Gaspé Peninsula, all of which sounded like French to me.
It was related that the river trip would be about 75
miles (not too impressed), entirely of class I & II
rapids with one a maybe III (somewhat interesting),
with no portages (interested), no bugs (very skeptical),
and has salmon (I'm going!). All of which, but the last,
turned out to be quite true.

At the put in, as well as at the take out, there were five
of us. Paul and JoAnn, Charlie Brown and Bill Smith
from TRPC, and I the elder. We did it the last week of
May to be sure of enough water, and there was, albeit
pretty cold with patches of white stuff hanging around
in the shadows. Paul did all of the logistics and
arranged for the \$100/person, 5 hr shuttle. Well
worth the \$ in savings alone on your own vehicle.

The river starts out only about 20 ft wide with several
dead falls across the way in the 1st mile or so. Yet it was
quite entertaining, though disconcerting, to see two
experienced outdoorsmen (Paul and Charlie) one sawing
under the water while the other stood on the end of
the log blocking our path. I'm sure my shop teacher old
me not to do that. But I'm glad it worked for the rest
of us were getting dam cold sitting there watching
them. Once we got past a huge burned area of forest,
progress was rather rapid. Rapid indeed as we managed
to successfully do the only class III (I say it was so
because it felt like that when you are cold, in a loaded
canoe, even though we had spray covers on all the boats,
and we didn't scout it). In fairness to those ahead, the

rapid was just a couple of offset ledges so a swim would be cold but not dangerous. Fortunately we were able to find an old cabin with a wood stove and had her blazing (the stove) in no time and were dry before nightfall.

We hung around the next day hiking and fishing. Somebody even built a new stone entrance way to the cabin. To proceed was not much of an option. The river was too swift. As Bill, and his GPS, informed us the so called 'pools' on the river were actually moving at about 4.92035 mph (His was one of the cheaper GPS's) . The rest of the time the river moves at a quick 9-10 mph. A little math (that's why I was along) convinced us if we did nothing, no paddling at all, we would finish the trip days ahead of schedule.

Did I mention fishing? We had failed to get licenses at the ZEC, (Zone of Exploitation Control) since their office was closed, and lucky we were. They cost \$150/person. There were no salmon (it was too early), there were no trout since they follow the salmon, and there were no bugs or minnows in the water for them either. The water was crystal clear with a pebbly bottom, perfect for salmon and trout. We were told to look for campsites on the left shore by our outfitter. However the right shore seemed to be much better, especially when we found a screened in kiosk to dine in with a covered picnic table outside. Perfect. Screw the left shore. As it turns out, the ZEC, who controls the hunting and fishing had built an access road along the right side of the river with spurs leading to pools for salmon fishing. We were camped at one such pool. Oddly enough every pool had an English name like Easy Catch, Sockeye, Full Of It (I just made those up since I'm too old to remember much) . Later we were told it was to make the American tourists more comfortable. And so we were. As I understood it, your \$150 allowed you to fish in certain pools, certain days, as you luxuriated in your private kiosk. Our luxuriating ended abruptly at 8 in the morning when two burly guys on an ATV came roaring into our (their?) campsite. They asked numerous questions about who we were, did we have fishing licenses, did we like their camp, did we fish above here where no fishing was allowed. Though I can't be sure about this since they only spoke French. We only knew two phrases which we practiced quite often on the trip up. One was, "Sacrebleu". Which we were pretty sure was a swear word and didn't seem an appropriate thing to say to these two. The other, "Ou est la bibliotheque ?" (Where is the library ?) seemed an equally inappropriate thing to say to these guys. But being the

old pervert that I am I quickly smoothed things over by showing them a brochure of the river that pictured a number of scantily clad young maidens sitting under a waterfall. Using appropriate sign language I got across that we wanted to know where was this waterfall. They, mistakenly, thought we were looking for the girls and started laughing. Using appropriate hand signals they said the brochure was wrong and that the girls usually wore nothing at all, but for that we would have to come back later in the season. We got out our maps and they showed us the exact location of the place. We parted amicably and got no fines. When we got to the Falls on a side stream there were no scantily clad women. But to my joy there was a fish. The only fish I saw all week.

As we floated down stream we realized some other attractions of the river. For many miles (on the left shore) there is a maintained foot trail and further down it turns into a very long mountain bike trail with periodic, covered picnic tables. Very, very scenic. A true old mans paradise in the summer.

Ps. To Paul. When you referred to me as a minimalist I wasn't sure what to make of it. Yes it was true that I didn't bring multiple lawn chairs on a wilderness trip. But having looked it up (**Definition:** [n] an art movement in sculpture and painting that began in the 1950s and emphasized extreme simplification of form and color). I now thank you for the compliment.

Ps. To Charlie. I will never, never whine about a lack of portages. The Sand River you sent me to next had a true 29 portages with water in between, but not on the river portion. We were doing portages between portages there.

Bike Trip at Lower Yough

Aug 13-14

By Judi Cleary

There was a small but enthusiastic group of people who showed up for the Ohiopyle bicycle trip last weekend. On Saturday morning, after breakfast at Falls Market, Casey and Holly Kasky, Bob Bair and I headed out for Confluence and beyond.

As we pedaled along side the Middle Yough we saw several instructional groups navigating the rapids, as it was the Three Rivers Turkey Bash weekend. We decided to push on past Confluence but then returned



Holly and Casey Kaskey

there to have lunch at the Lucky Dog Café. By the time we returned to our cars we had covered about 35 miles. But that was not enough for Casey who proceeded to ride down to the Lower Yough take out and back, and then couldn't resist paddling the Loop. By the time he caught up to the rest of us, we were having dinner at the Ohiopyle house Café celebrating Kristen's 19th birthday.



Hunter Gadd, Kristen Hasse, Bob Barr, Judi Cleary

On Sunday, we were joined by Kristen and her boyfriend Hunter, and Lisa and John, friends of Holly. As some of us were a little tired from the previous day, we only went about 20 miles the second day. We biked downstream a little past the Lower Yough takeout. On the return trip, I stopped at Swimmers for some body surfing, where I ran into Anne Kmieck, and Missy &

Angie Carey who were teaching a Turkey Bash Group. A good time was had by all!

Bloodvein River Canoe Trip – 2005

By Jim Hunt

Last winter I was contacted by the Camping and Education Foundation to see if I would be interested in being on their staff for the summer of 2005. The Camping and Education Foundation operates camp Kooch-i-Ching which is a boys camp that runs canoeing, backpacking, and climbing trips out of their base camp in International Falls, MN. I convinced my employer to let me off for 4 weeks and signed on for the first half of their summer season. I had not been on staff there before but my son, Jay, works there and I have done volunteer work for them for many years.

A few months before I was to arrive, I began lobbying the trip planners to get me on a Bloodvein River canoe trip. They have been running trips down this river since the mid 60's but I had never been able to get on one. The Bloodvein River is Kooch-i-Ching's longest trip of the first four week session and one of their best whitewater trips. A few weeks before I was to report, I was informed that I would be on a Bloodvein River canoe trip and that I would be a trip leader. I was also told to expect very high water levels.



Typical class IV rapid on the Bloodvein River

The Bloodvein River is a Canadian Heritage River. It runs from Artery Lake, ONT to Lake Winnipeg, MAN and is one of the old voyager routes. It consists of lots of small lakes connected by the river with rapids between each set of lakes. Most people who canoe the river fly to Artery Lake in a float plane and begin there. At the end of the river there is a ferry that takes you

from the mouth of the river, across Lake Winnipeg, to a road access point.

I arrived at base camp in early June and had five days to get the trip planned, packed, and ready to go. I also needed to review the maps and previous trip logs to get familiar with the route and the trip. I would have an assistant trip head, Chase, who was 21 years old and a fellow kayaker. We would have six boys ages 14 to 16 on our trip for a total of 8 people. With the exception of one of the boys, all of us had canoe experience in the back country.

Our trip down the Bloodvein River would be 14 days including transportation. We would begin at Red Lake, ONT and from there paddle/portage to Artery Lake where we would enter the Bloodvein River for the trip to Lake Winnipeg. The trip would be about 235 miles by water, the longest portage would be about a half mile, and we would expect to see no other people other than a few fly-in fishermen. The first three days would be hardest since we would be traveling upstream through small streams with lots of portages. These streams are not widely used so the portage trails could be hard to find and would also be expected to be in bad shape. For the next two days into Artery Lake we would be paddling a small river and several large lakes which could lead to head winds, with the possibility of lost days due to being wind bound. In order to stay on schedule we had to be on Artery Lake no later than day six and preferably on day five. Once on Artery Lake, the trip is downstream to Lake Winnipeg with lots of rapids and a few rather ugly portages.

The first day we got dropped off about 3:30 pm on the Chukni River at the north end of Red Lake. We paddled/portaged upstream until about 9:00 pm and camped on Rathouse Lake. The next day we paddled all day up the Chukni River which is a winding, narrow beaver stream to Vallahala Lake. This day was mostly a navigation exercise to stay in the river and not get lost. It turned out that just looking for the major water flow at each junction was the best way to keep on track. When we finally got to the first portage, we knew we were where we belonged and had not made a wrong turn. We also noticed that the bugs were fairly bad and did not seem to be phased much by insect repellent. The portage trails were okay but there was lots of mud and downed trees so the portages were somewhat slow. On day three we continued up the Chukni River to Olive Lake. The river stayed narrow and the portages

somewhat difficult with lots of downed trees to crawl under or climb over (while carrying your load).



Rapid on the Sabourin River

On day four we finally got to start paddling downstream. We left Olive Lake via the Sabourin River heading for Bigshell Lake and then on to Thicketwood Lake where we camped. The Sabourin River was still very small but had some rapids we could run. It also had lots of strainers and steep waterfalls to portage around. By now we had the portage routine down, and we were getting used to carrying the heavy loads. We were also seeing lots of moose and bald eagles. Day five would bring several large lakes to paddle, Sabourin and Barclay, so we got a very early start to get as far as we could before the wind kicked up. We managed to make it to Sabourin Lake and cross it by 10:30 am. By then the winds were getting fairly strong and, of course, they were head winds. We spent the rest of the day getting up Barclay Lake into a big headwind. When we camped, we were into the upper reaches of Artery Lake. It was day five and we were on schedule.

The next day, day six, we paddle across Artery Lake and started down the Bloodvein River. Right away we noticed the river was 2 or 3 feet higher than normal. For the next 7 days we would run all the rapids we safely could and camp by rapids each night. Some of the rapids too big to run with loaded canoes we would try to run with empty canoes always to no avail. The high water had the added advantage that there was good current in the river so we could just float at times if we wanted to take it easy. There were numerous portages around rapids or waterfalls and some were fairly difficult with steep hills, slippery rocks, flooded

sections, mud, plus difficult take-out and put-in sites. Bugs would be an on-going problem on portages and in



Wolf Rapid - Bloodvein River

some camp sites. By being to Artery Lake on schedule we were able to take a day off mid way down the river.



Wolf Rapid at sunset

The last night we camped about four miles upstream from Lake Winnipeg at the last rapid on the river. The ferry was at 11:00 am the next morning and the bus would meet us about 3:00 pm at the road on the mainland. We were up early and at the ferry dock by 9:00 am. The ferry was right on time and we had a nice ride across the calm lake. The bus was late but when it did show up had lots of fresh food for us. We made it back to base camp in International Falls, MN about midnight.

It was a great trip. We had pushed hard when we needed to and relaxed when we could. We had paddled about 235 miles in 14 days. Most days we were on the water about 6:30 am and made camp about 5:00 pm. The longest day was about 30 miles and the shortest about 10 miles. Some days only had a couple of portages and other as many as 10. The weather was

good with just a few days of cold or rain. The high water levels let us run some rapids that usually cannot be run but also turned normally runnable rapids into class IV monsters. The high water also hid portage trails, put some portage trails under water, and made some portage put-ins quite dangerous. In the end - no one got hurt, no boats were damaged, no boats swamped, and we had just enough food. All in all, a good trip.



Author on the Bloodvien River

.....
● A Special Thank You.....
●
● We wanted to thank everyone who came to the
● "wedding cookout" August 6th to wish us well and
● for bringing a dish to pass. A special thank you
● goes to John and Peggy Kobak for hosting the big
● event and to John and Julie Garcia for planning it.
● We were glad to see everyone and really
● appreciated it!
●
● Sincerely, Brent and Kelly Laubaugh
●

Trip Notes on the New River 8/20 & 8/21 by Tim Reynolds

Our band of adventurous New River Newbies all arrived at various times on Friday night. Once assembled, the intrepid group consisted of Joe and Eric Marks, Bill

Layton and his daughters Astrid and Annelies, Debbie Avallone and Tim Reynolds.

Camping

We had made reservations at the North American River Runners (NARR) campground for the weekend. This is a pretty posh place. For \$8 per person per night, the campground provides a very clean wash house with real toilets and showers. There is a lighted pavilion in the camp area with picnic tables in the middle of the campground that provided for relaxed and dry dining and conversation during the brief rains we had each night. They have a volley ball court and horseshoes as well. If your group wants to go upscale from that, they have cabins and bunk houses that can also be rented. A restaurant is on the grounds that serves breakfast for \$8 (reservations should be made the night before) and dinner. Oh, and no trains. Riversport, it ain't.!

Food

The nearby town of Fayette also has several attractive dinner options, notably Pies and Pints, an awesome pizza place. For breakfast, the Cathedral Café is a happening spot, with good food, great coffee and internet accesses for the terminally connected. There is also a great nearby BBQ spot right off of Rt. 19 on the way to town. The world famous Tudor's Biscuit World is definitely a "must do" spot (or not). All that being said, we had a potluck dinner on Saturday night at the campground.

The River:

Friday:

Joe and Eric Marksz, being especially adventurous, arrived mid day on Friday and hooked up with some experienced paddlers to get an early run of the gorge in before the rest of us arrived. Both had a great run and were very excited to do it again on Saturday. When asked how it was, Joe would get a glassy look in his eye, stare off at some distant imaginary wave and just say "big water" two or three times. Eric would only smile.

Levels on Friday looked to be about 1 foot at Fayette Station. More on interpreting levels later, though.

Saturday:

John Price, kayak instructor and raft guide at NARR had the day off and joined our group for a run of the gorge. John has been on the New for eight years and has seen the river in all conditions. His generosity in showing us the lines and sharing his knowledge of the river made the trip both possible and really fun for all

of us. We are grateful. John's willingness to spend time with us is a great example of what makes the paddling community special.

We gathered on Saturday at about 10am with the idea that we would shoot for a put-in around 11:00. The most often used put-in for the Gorge is the Cunard river access. The stretch from Cunard down to Fayette Station takeout is about 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The alternative is at Thurmond which adds several more miles but only one rapid of significance ("surprise" rapid, a ledge hole).

We chose a late put-in in the hope we could miss a lot of the early raft traffic. Raft traffic is a big factor on weekends at the New. As it turned out, the river levels had risen significantly overnight. This had two repercussions. First, the rafts all put-in quite a bit up river at Thurmond in order to give the paying customers a better ride. This gave us considerably more space on the river.

The other repercussion, of course, was even bigger water. On Saturday the New was at 6,000 CFS and the gauge on the rock just above Fayette Station rapid was at about 3 feet. This put the river at the edge of Class III and Class 4. Generally speaking, the class 4 rapids on the New are rated that way because of significant consequences if you get well off line. The most impressive of these consequences is at Middle Keeney and is called "Meatgrinder". Simply put, if you swim and you float into that tangle of sieves and undercuts, you are not likely to come out. "Nearly always fatal" is what John said.

Thus re-assured, we listened closely as John explained the rapid. Starting at Upper Keeney, you catch the eddy behind whale rock. Set up for a left hand angle, entering center left at Middle Keeney and follow the wave train working left. If you miss the eddy at upper, no big deal. If you swim, swim hard left. If you are getting the idea that right is bad, you have the right idea. That's where Meatgrinder is. The fortunate thing is that the line takes you well away from danger and if you do swim, you have plenty of time to get to a safe place. Nevertheless, we were happy to very carefully follow John down the rapid and all paddlers successfully made it through.

Double Z rapid is another highlight of the day. At this level the rapid is long, but less technical than at lower levels. The name of the rapid is based on the preferred line at lower levels. At 6,000 CFS a number of rocks that would otherwise require navigation are under

water. As a result, the line is basically entering center left, angled right then moving back to center. Below Double Z is a river wide ledge hole of mammoth proportions called Greyhound Bus Stopper. Go far left or far right. Center would be very bad indeed. They don't call it that for nothing.

The run ends with a bang at Fayette Station. The river pinches in and creates a chaotic wave train with 5 foot waves coming at you from both sides. No real consequences for a roll or swim, but a very wild ride.

The group had so much fun a Fayette that we ran it again! The kids, of course, would have done it 5 or 6 times. The adults were heading for the beer cooler.

Overall the group had a great day with very few swims, and no swims in areas of consequence. A highlight of the trip was watching Eric, Astrid and Annelies tackle these rapids with the confidence of youth. Perfect rolls in gnarly water every time. When the adults crawled out of their boats for a much needed lunch break, the kids took the opportunity to swim in an eddy. Just to rub salt in the wounds, they would talk about how they wished they had started kayaking at an earlier age. It made this old fart (who started at 45 years old) just shake his head.

Sunday

With the Ohiopyle race looming, Eric and Joe and the Laytons had previously planned to go up to Valley Falls for a clinic on Sunday. This left Debbie and I to fend for ourselves. It was uncertain whether John could join us due to work schedules. As it turned out, John was free and the three of us put-in around 12:30 that afternoon. That morning Debbie and I took some time to visit the visitor's center on Rt. 19 just near the New River Bridge. This is an interesting little "museum" that gives you the history of the river and the surrounding community. You can also get a very good map of the area, complete with shuttle routes, for free. We met up with John at the Cathedral Café and got ready to run the river.

The river was up again on Sunday with John estimating the flow between 6,300 and 6,500 CFS. At the end of the day the Fayette Station Rock gauge was showing 4 feet, a foot higher than Saturday. This was nicely into class 4 range.

Having assessed our skills the day before, John felt comfortable with Debbie and me at this level. Having

followed John on Saturday, we were both comfortable with his judgment. The lines were basically the same. But the waves and were noticeably bigger and the river was generally pushier. The 3 of us carefully made our way down the river without incident. **I'm not saying upright the whole time, I'm just saying without incident**. We had a great time in some challenging water.

As we ran on Sunday we discussed how we should assess the New for paddlers who are at a skill level that is comfortable on the Lower Yough. On balance the conclusion was that a 6000 CFS and below was the "magic line". You are basically looking for the Fayette Rock Gauge to show 3.5 feet or less. 4 feet is a strong challenge, but doable if you have experienced paddlers with you.

This was a great "Intro to the New" trip and I think we all learned a great deal. Joe and I are already talking about including several trips to the New in our plans for next year and talking to the club about adding a scheduled trip or two to the KH schedule.

By the way, if you go home via route 60, be sure to stop and see the "Mystery Hole". I'd like to tell you all about it. But I can't. SYOTR

Greetings from the West Virginia Rivers Coalition

We have a lot of events and activities coming up in the fall so I thought I would let everyone know what they can all look forward to and support the work of Rivers Coalition at the same time.

Gauley Season: Weekends starting September 9th and ending October 16th. Schedule release dates: Sept. 9-12, 16-19, 23-26, 30-Oct. 3, 7-10, 15-16). The shuttle and the river will be running. The work has begun on the new access point at Woods Ferry but for the 2005 Gauley season WVRC will be running the boat shuttle at Masons Branch. We need shuttle volunteers to run shuttle so call WVRC if you can help out. Also get your raffle tickets at the takeout all during Gauley Season.

Our fund-raiser "Dining Out for Clean Water" will be held on the 17th in the town of Fayetteville, WV. When you're hungry after a great day on the Gauley River

come eat at one of the sponsoring restaurants, add your name into the WVRC drawing and support river protection and by eating great food. Participating restaurants will donate 15% of their proceeds from the evening to WVRC. Details will be posted around Summersville and Fayetteville, at the Masons Branch take out and on this web site.

WVRC will be supporting the "Animal" Gauley Race this year. Sign up for the race at WVRC's Gauley festival booth. We will have for sale a Perception Reflex kayak (a fast choice!) and WVRC will sponsor the new reflex owner in the Gauley Race and pay their entry fee. Our Raffle will start in late October so be ready for the phone call. This year's ticket has Boats and fly fishing rods along with over 40 other prizes to win. We are working on a winter Holiday Party, and check out the improvements to our web site. Coming soon! www.wvrivers.org

Questions or you would like more details?
Contact Joe at:
Jpeabody@wvrivers.org
(304) 637-7201

George Linn Jr., a long time member of the Keelhauler Club

George F. Linn Jr., 74, of Norwalk, died Wednesday, July 13, 2005, at Fisher-Titus Medical Center in Norwalk, OH. He was the former superintendent of EHOVE Career Center and was a lifelong educator, even after retirement. He was an avid kayaker, cyclist and Grand Canyon Hiker.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Alice Linn; a son, Dr. George F. Linn III of Kingston, Ont.; and a daughter, Laura Linn Jordan of Aberdeen, N.C.; four grandchildren; and a great-grandson; sisters Joan Linn Brutsche of Franklin, IN; and Sarah Linn Korbecki of Carol Stream, IL.

There was no visitation.

Don't forget to pay your 2006 membership dues, still only \$20 per year. Due by October 1st.



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

October 2005

NEXT KEELHAULER MEETING

**October 11th Meeting/Program @ 7:30pm
Middleburg Heights Community Center**

"Travel Panama"

Come see and hear about the adventurous side of Panama. From a dug out canoe ride to a waterfall, to snorkeling among pulsating jelly fish, to poison dart frogs at a chocolate farm. Travel along the canal as the locks operate to the cameras of the BBC. Visualize yourself in this tropical paradise complete with ocean-side seafood eateries, golden sand beaches and colorful sunsets. Your tour guide will be Judi Cleary.



A Reminder.....

The Keel Haulers Membership year ended on September 30, 2005.

Dues for 2006 are only \$20 but don't forget to include your donation for conservation causes. Last year the club donated \$1500. See our web site for list of what organizations received money.

<http://www.keelhauler.org/conservation/conorg.htm>

Mail your \$20 plus your conservation donation today.

To: Keel Haulers Canoe Club

1649 Allen Dr

Westlake, OH 44145-2506

Or pay \$21 on-line using Paypal

Use this link and click on Paypal Logo -

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

Or just use your Paypal account and send your dues payment to dues@keelhauler.org

Please pay you dues early this year so that you can check that all your membership information that will appear in our new 2006 Yearbook and Roster is correct.

On-Line membership information is password protected and is for members use only. Information is not to be shared with any non-members or organizations. The current User Name is "dir" and the Password is sent out to your e-mail address.

This link

<http://keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook5.pdf>

shows your membership information formatted for the new yearbook. Along with the phone numbers that you have selected to display. We only have room in yearbook for two phone numbers.

Please review this information carefully so that any mistakes can be corrected before the yearbook goes to print in mid December. Speaking of mid-December, this is the cutoff date for paying your dues and updating the information. But don't put this off, pay today.

To make it easy for you, you can use your credit card through Paypal and pay \$21. Use this link to update you membership information and to pay dues.

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

If you just want to print a copy of our application for yourself or a friend use the following links:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/KHApplic.pdf> for PDF Version or

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/aplicpg.doc> for Windows Word Version

John Kobak

Membership Chairman

Minutes, September 13th Meeting

Nineteen people attended with two new members: Tom Sutton and Deb Burk.

Jim Hunt gave a trip report for Labor Day where 20 to 30 Keelhaulers showed up for the Upper Yough. The weekend of Sept. 10th 13 Keelhaulers were at the Gauley.

Four new members joined the club.

The January meeting has been dropped. There was some discussion as to the right number of meetings and how to increase attendance. The club would like some input from nonattending members as to what would motivate them to come. The club would like to encourage members to share their ideas for programs for future meetings.

The Fox Creek Outdoors Experience on Oct. 7, 8, and 9th needs volunteers. Volunteers will receive free admission, food, T-shirt and a free pass to Clays Waterworks for next season.

SYOTR, Cathy Needham

2006 Proposed Officers

It is the time of year to hold elections for KH officers for 2006. The Board is proposing the following slate:

President: Judi Cleary

Vice President: Ed Charlton

Secretary: OPEN

Treasurer: Rob Hammond

Trustee through 2008: Elliott Drysdale

You will notice that we do not have a candidate for Secretary. After much arm twisting, no one has emerged. I strongly encourage all members to consider what they can do contribute to our club! There are a very few to contribute a very lot. In our case less than 10% does more than 90% of the work. And it is continually the same 10%.

In the area of club chair positions, I am happy to say that about 3-4 new people have accepted the challenge to volunteer. And about 10 people have agreed to continue their efforts in positions, which in some cases has extended for 20+ years! Now there are still 2 chair positions that are vacant: Program Chair and Safety chair. So once again, please consider contributing by volunteering for one of them!

Judi Cleary

Raise membership dues for those requesting Hardcopy Newsletters?

By Judi Cleary

Over the last several years the club has encouraged members to receive their newsletters by email, rather than by snail mail. The advantages are obvious, less work and less cost. At this point in time about 50% of members have stepped up to the challenge and opted for "no paper". However of the 160 members still receiving hardcopy, at least 120 have email, maybe more. So, the vast majority of club members could get the newsletters electronically.

Now let's consider the cost. Each hardcopy newsletter costs about \$1.37 to mail out. That works out to about \$16.50 per member who receives hardcopy, which is almost equal to the dues for those people! Consider that if the club completely did away with hardcopy newsletters, we would save \$2,526. per year! Just imagine what we could do with that money!

Since simple coaxing and cajoling has not worked to convince the 160 members who continue to receive hardcopy, a proposal has been made to charge members \$5 more per year to get the hardcopy. This proposal will be raised and voted on at the NOVEMBER meeting. We can have a preliminary discussion at the October meeting. If you are interested in determining the outcome of this vote, be sure to attend the NOVEMBER meeting.

In the meantime, pay your dues now at the normal \$20 level, no matter how you choose to receive your newsletter. But, please give thoughtful consideration to letting go of receiving hardcopy, if you have not already done so. Depending on the outcome of the vote, the new dues structure may increase after the November meeting.

For those of you who have already opted for electronic delivery, I thank you every time I hand stamp and label a hardcopy newsletter, that there aren't twice as many!

Ladies Day, 2005

By Julie Garcia

So what happens when the summer days start getting a little shorter but the sun and breeze still tell you its August? Ladies Day—the most relaxing day of the summer when it's estrogen-only on the closest thing I've got to a "home river" this time of year.

Our group this year featured many of our usual Ladies Day suspects: Sherrie Sanzenbacher, Sue Taft, Debbie Avallone, Barb Bodemer, Mary Modesitt, Lisa Brand, Sherrie Guess, and Kelly Laubaugh.

Our first surfing spot was the hole above Entrance. After taking plenty of turns spinning some 360's, we headed on down through Entrance and took a few turns in Nemo. When we got to Cucumber, we spent a great amount of time surfing the wave below Cucumber. We were fortunate that the river photographer didn't have many other boats to photograph, so some of us made out like bandits with photos, both running the rapid and surfing.

As we approached the end of the loop, we convinced Sherrie S, who had been sick with food poisoning, to run the rest of the river. After all, what's Ladies Day with the organizing Lady?

We made our way through the doldrums, laughing and catching up with one another. After clean lines through Dimple, we spent plenty of time surfing it up in Swimmers. Debbie and I put on our Big Girl pants and both tried hand paddling in Swimmers. To my surprise, I found it to be very easy and quite enjoyable to boot. It was great fun watching my fellow surfers-in-crime, Barb and Debbie, show my how it's really done. Needless to say, it took a while to get us out of Swimmers that day.

The rest of the river was fun and relaxing as well. One of my highlights of the whole day was watching Sue maneuver her canoe. Her strokes, balance and efficient way of catching eddies and running rapids was absolutely beautiful to watch.

We closed the book on another Ladies Day as we should—drinking a Corona or two at the takeout. Although Barb brought the best chili ever (thanks Rose), many of us heading in different directions, knowing full well that we'll back together next year.



Picture compliments of Barb Bodemer

Exercise caution, please.....

Date: Fri, 16 Sep 2005 21:18:35 EDT

The following information has been forwarded to us by Pat Bowers regarding the condition of Railroad Rapid on the Lower Yough.

Today was river clean up (trash) day on the LY. Whoever blocked Frog's Back really did a good job of jamming logs and rocks into the cracks. While removing one of the logs, a "natural" rock was moved, and it vanished under the big boulder. Apparently, the rock was balanced just enough to block the hole, it was only moved a few inches before being sucked under. Frog's Back is now dry and unrunable (at 1.5'), with a nasty sieve about 2' to the right. A 5 gallon bucket would probably fit through the sieve, so it's too small for a boat but would be a nasty place to swim. However, it is very shallow just before the sneak, so you'd be scraping bottom before you got that far. We decided to leave it

as-is, and let nature put another rock in the hole. We notified the DCNR, it's their decision if they want to manually put an obstruction over the hole. Our only real concern is because of the number of inexperienced paddlers who choose this route, they might not be able to tell that the slot is unrunable.

Exercise caution on the club's Fall Yough Trip in a few weeks!

An Engaging Proposal by the River Reporter

The fetching and magnanimous Ms Karen Dearfield has agreed to enter into a domestic partnership with the less then less then adequate, miserable river trash Mr. Rob Hammond. What on earth a beautiful and charming specimen of womanhood sees in this wretched human debris is for her and her God only to know, I certainly can't explain it! This bum is not worthy of paddling in her wake, let alone even talking to her.

This miraculous transaction was entered into at the Grand Canyon in Arizona where the pair was vacationing a few days ago. He tried to slide by with presenting her with a ring SHE purchased from at an Indian trading post near the canyon. She has rightfully insisted that the wretched one buy her a proper ring with a diamond sized in proportion to the extent of the sacrifice she is making to straighten out his worthless behind for the benefit of all human society! Does anyone know if the Hope diamond is for sale? The worthless one was last seen walking around in a daze, still unbelieving that she accepted his modest proposal!

A wedding date has not been set yet. There is still time, please take this opportunity to try and talk some sense into this girl!

Two Extremes of Paddling: from the Upper Yough to the Kiminginjoki by Gib McGill

The combination of escalating gas prices and the time demands of family and art career have conspired to reduce my paddling schedule in recent years. I didn't even make Gauley Fest last year, and I haven't been on the Big Sandy in almost three years. My only paddling trips this year have been an early June Keel Hauler double run down the Upper Yough and an early July sea kayaking trip with my son, who lives in Finland, from Kiminginjärvi (pronounced 'kee-meenken-yarvee') Lake to Pääjärvi Lake via the Kiminginjoki River. Two totally different adventures, worlds apart in more ways than one.

First, the Keelhaulers' Upper Yough trip the weekend of June 3rd to 5th. Although I was the designated trip leader, John Kobak was, as usual, the real brains and motivator behind the success of the venture. As the weekend approached, he was already informing me by email who would be on my trip and what the weather would be like. As I remember, it turned out to be sunny and rather warm. As usual, all paddlers on the trip were invited to camp at John and Peggy's cabin, a courtesy for which I for one and I think all us Keelhaulers are very grateful, and which makes the trip coordination much more convenient. It also doesn't hurt that the accommodations are not only more comfortable than those at Piney but are also free of charge and feature a rather uncommon feature for primitive camping: a hot tub for après paddling!

This June was Merrienne and my tenth wedding anniversary. We had sort of promised ourselves from the date we were married that we would do something special and adventurous to mark the occasion. Our first thought had been to go skydiving, since her dad had been a WWII paratrooper. We did investigate that option. But the operators wanted \$200 for each jumper, or \$300 to jump solo (i.e., not harnessed to an instructor). Since Merrienne's sister Judie wanted to join us on the adventure, we were looking at potentially \$900 worth of adrenaline. Besides, the thought of actually jumping out of a perfectly good airplane still scares me, as it has ever since the day in officer's candidate school when I realized I didn't wanna be an

airborne ranger. So I dreamed up another option: Merrienne and Judie could raft the Upper Yough with Precision Rafting Company on June 4th. For them, this would be HIGH adventure. As for me, I've discovered a little-known secret: if you paddle Class IV rivers less often, they become much more exciting! Five to ten years ago, when I was hitting the Upper Yough, Gauley, or Lower Big Sandy every other week, it was almost becoming ho-hum. Now I get adrenaline rushes again, just like in the beginning!

The first day on the Upper was Friday, June 3rd. We met as usual near Mountain Surf in Friendsville. Some of those present that day were, let's see...John Kobak, Greg Lewis, Scott Debalski, Dave Becker, John Garcia, Boris Glick, Patrick Henry, Paul Land, Brent Laubaugh, Doug Smith, Peter Turkaly. Certainly I've left someone out and added some who weren't there since the list I did make was outdated by deletions and editions when we met at the put in. Kobak had been right when he said, 'You won't really know who'll be there until you meet in Friendsville.' On both days there were enough paddlers to break up into at least two groups; the first day I stuck with Kobak and crew, which of course meant I was on the leading edge of the release right up until we pulled over for lunch on the usual rock on river right at the foot of Meat Cleaver.

It was a glorious day on the river, but I was quite nervous at first. I remember having to battle my tendency to try to power my way out of tight spots, which of course not only doesn't work but also makes you look like a herky-jerky beginner. I finally managed to calm myself down and work with the river, thereby reinflating my self-image to the point that I felt a little bit like a skilled paddler again. I did opt for all the easy slots, joining Kobak in the left sneak at National and the right side skirt around Tommy's Hole. The only excitement I remember is that Scott had to test his combat roll quite a few times, even after his brief surf in that little hole near the very end known by some as LFI (Luke's Final Insult).

The hot tub at Kobaks' felt very relaxing, particularly after some of us had sampled a few of my home-brewed IPAs (India Pale Ale). I know Dave Becker, who is a maple sugar maker, was able to appreciate the pumped-up taste and purity of the home brew, but it might have been a little strong for the others. I put up our tents, went to sleep, and after dark Merrienne, Judie and Emilie arrived. In the morning John Garcia convinced Emilie that he was ready for her to deliver his

scrambled eggs and coffee in the back of his truck. I almost thought she was going to get Kobak to go along with the gag.

The second day was quite a bit more exciting. Just after putting on, I stopped on river left at Precision Rafting's staging area, where I finally spotted Merrienne and Judie standing in a large crowd of rafters out in the blistering sun, all dressed in helmets, hi-float PFDs and drytops, getting the safety briefing from Roger Zbel. Luckily they had been permitted to wear their own personal helmets, which were blue and purple, allowing me to pick them out of a sea of yellow helmets. The reason they have their own helmets is that about ten years ago they were both whitewater kayakers, both with powerful rolls, including hand rolls. Unfortunately, things happen and both of their promising paddling careers were somewhat attenuated. Kobak's group had long since departed and I thought I was going to basically be on my own, playing dodge rubber in and among the Precision rafters. But I discovered that three kayakers had hung back with me as I waited for Merrienne and Judie to launch: Kent Tabor, who had paddled the Upper only once, Margaret Weise from Ann Arbor, who had never paddled it, and Boris Glick were all there in the eddy, relying on me to do my duty as trip leader and lead them down the Upper. I had a premonition that I wouldn't be seeing much of my wife and her sister, a feeling that turned out to be correct. I did catch up with them in the eddy just before Bastard, where the raft caravans always stop to regroup and get braced for the hard stuff just ahead. They were really pumped, telling of Merrienne's swim when she was bumped out at Gap Falls. I was reassured to see that they had not one, but two guides with them in their raft. The last I saw them was while I was waiting in a small eddy at the top of Triple Drop and they were careening downriver towards National Falls. They told me later that they had a blast, but Judie was so terrified she'd never want to do it again.

The first thing Margaret wanted to know was whether we could stop and scout all the major rapids. I managed to persuade her that it would make more sense for her to just stay close behind me, following all my lines exactly, and I would wait for her in the next available eddy. I'm convinced that this follow-the-leader technique works better than repeated shore scouting when you have a complex series of rapids, one Class IV after another in quick succession, as you do on the crux section of the Upper. Add to this the fact that, with a two-hour release, time is limited. I was a bit more

courageous this day than the previous day, and if I remember correctly I did the boof at National. I know for sure that Boris ran the boof because he was sure that Brent would be waiting and watching in the eddy below. He wasn't, but Boris contends that, had he run the sneak, Brent would've been there. After having briefed Kent and Margaret on how to skirt Tommy's Hole, I decided that I now had the guts to run it myself. To my surprise, they both wanted to run it too. We all ran it successfully and even right-side up. But in the ensuing long and bumpy run-out following Tommy's, known as Little Niagara, a raft caught up with Kent and bowled him over. This is a truly terrible place to be under a raft, as there are shallow spots and pinning rocks galore. He was under the raft for a while and made a valiant attempt to extricate himself without swimming, but it was not to be. After seeing that he had been helped to the safety of the left shore by the raft people, I followed the route his boat had taken, down through Zinger, perhaps a quarter mile to where Boris had it corralled on river right. I asked Boris whether he felt he could somehow get the boat over to river left where Kent could get it, but with the fast current and many holes and obstructions, he didn't want to try. Meanwhile, I was worried now that Margaret had no idea how to paddle Zinger, which winds around and has some strong holes, one of which is slanted, and at least one dangerous hidden rock. I began making my tortuous way along the shore back upriver when I suddenly remembered Kobak saying that there is a good trail on river right going all the way back up to National. So I clambered up fifteen feet and there it was, totally invisible from river level, a trail so good that I could trot upriver, where I arrived just in time to see Margaret courageously setting out just behind a couple of other paddlers who apparently knew the route. She made it OK, and I took the trail back to where she and Boris were waiting in an eddy. She told us that Kent had gotten his paddle, which had been missing for quite a while. As we were discussing what to do about getting Kent and his boat reunited, he finally appeared, slowly making his way down the rugged shoreline of river left. None of us relished the idea of ferrying across and offering to float him across in what would have been a perilous and scary rescue. But I had a idea. I told Boris and Margaret to position themselves as safety boaters, then motioned Kent (no way to shout over the din of the whitewater) to follow the shoreline back upriver a bit to where he could climb out on rocks almost out to midriver, then jump in and swim for all he was worth. This would put him within easy rope-toss distance from me, where I was waiting with my throw

bag. This plan worked perfectly; he was no more than ten feet from me when I hit him with the bag, which he grabbed. As he started to pendulum in, I set my footing and the tug on the line was like that of a 200-pound muskie. But then, as with most 200-pound muskie stories, the line snapped! Or so I thought. When I inspected the rope afterwards, it was not broken; my grip had just failed. Fortunately, he had been pendulumed just close enough to be able to claw onto the rocks and avoid being washed down through bad and scrappy stuff.

The rest of the run was just simply fun, made more exhilarating by how exciting this all was for Kent and Margaret, to whom this was all new.

On June 28th my 8-yr old daughter Emilie and I boarded a Finnair flight from JFK nonstop to Helsinki, where we were to spend the next two weeks with her brother Jon, his wife Minna, editor of two Finnish-language magazines, and their son Matti, 6 and daughter Meisa, 3 (Emilie's nephew and niece). All had a great time together, but this story is about the paddling. Jon rented a beautiful fiberglass, double cockpit sea kayak which we took to their summer cabin five hours north of Helsinki near a town named Karstula. Years ago I had taught Jon how to roll, and he had a strong one, coming up on the left side as I do. But he's gained at least 50 pounds since then, and when we first squeezed into that tippy thing I thought we'd be going for a swim for sure. But he soon got his balance back and before long we tried a roll. It worked perfectly the first time.

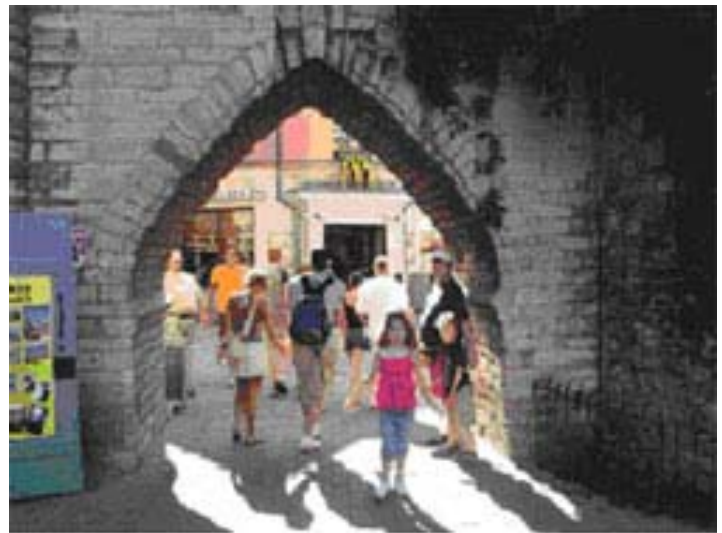


On placid Lake Kimingenjärvi

Their cottage was on Lake Kimingenjärvi. We were told that it drained through the Kimingingjoki River into Lake Pääjärvi. We were also told about the big, and 'only' rapid on this river. It just so happened that a nearby

road bridge crossed this rapid, so the day before our planned trip we drove over to scout the rapid. It was a fairly fast class II with an almost river-wide pourover at the bottom. I could see that the only clear line started on river left and ended with a strong punching of that pourover. The only problem was that the level was low and I couldn't be sure how scrappy it would be. The day came and we set off, lunches, camera and plenty of liquid to drink...we had lots of space to store all this stuff, as the boat was equipped with a waterproof hatch both fore and aft. The skies were cloudless almost the whole time of our visit and it was unusually warm for Finland, mid to upper eighties. We'd been told this trip would be close to 30 kilometers, but since we completed it in about 3 hours I would greatly downsize that estimate. At any rate, we weren't worried about running out of daylight because, at this time of year and at this latitude, you never do! By the time we got to the big rapid, we had discovered that it was definitely not the only rapid, although it was the biggest. I was rather nervous as we approached the big one, worried mostly about the expensive fiberglass kayak and my \$1000 digital camera. The line I had scouted worked perfectly, although we did hit a rock pretty hard at the bottom. Later inspection fortunately revealed no damage.

The main lesson I learned during this trip is the difficulty of turning a sea kayak. Forget the rudder. That's for slight changes to your heading when you're out at sea. When you really need to turn, like you're heading straight for a bone- and fiberglass-crushing encounter with a rock, a bow draw is the only thing that works in a timely manner. The scariest moment during the river trip occurred when we were convinced by what we'd been told that there would be no more rapids and unwisely left the aft hatch open with the camera in it, since the watertight rubber lid was so hard to get back on. Suddenly we came upon a rather fast rapid with lots of exposed and barely submerged rocks, against a couple of which we got broached sideways. This is when it was time for Jon to hop out into the thigh-deep current and secure the boat against flipping. Fortunately, he succeeded. For the rest of the trip we kept the lid on that hatch.



Emilie, Jon and Matti pause under an arch in the ancient wall around Tallinn (note the Golden Arches behind)

But the scariest part of our trip to Finland was not the kayak trip, but rather the 'Copterline' helicopter ride in which Jon, Emilie, Matti and I flew from Helsinki, across the Baltic Sea to Tallinn, capital of Estonia. Exhilarating while at the same time worrisome to be hovering that high, the scary part of that ride is mostly in retrospect: a month after our trip, on August 10th, the Copterline chopper crashed into the Baltic three miles off Tallinn, killing all fourteen people aboard. Storms were reported that day strong enough to cancel the ferryboat service between Tallinn and Helsinki, but to date they haven't concluded the investigation into the reason for the crash.



View from the Copterline helicopter, just off the coast of Estonia, exactly where it crashed into the sea one month later.

Due to space constraints, please look for the October trip schedule on the Keelhauler website!

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/tripdetail05.htm>



KEELHAULER KA-NEWS

November 2005

NEXT KEELHAULER MEETING

November 8th Meeting/Program
Middleburg Heights Community Center
Doors open at 7pm
Business meeting at 7:45

- This will be a planning meeting. We have 3 issues to vote on (described below).
- We will also review the 2006 trip schedule as well as brainstorm ideas for the meeting programs for the next few months.

See you there! Judi Cleary

Notice of items to be brought to Vote at the November Keelhauler's Meeting

The following 3 items will be brought to vote at the next club meeting on November 8th. **Please be present to be sure that your vote is counted.**

Item 1: Should the annual dues be increased by \$5. (for a total of \$25) for any member who opts to receive a hardcopy of the monthly newsletter rather than just receiving the electronic version. Note: if this is not passed, an alternative recommendation is to have the dues remain the same for all members but to strongly recommend that the people receiving hardcopy donate an additional \$5.

Item 2: Should the number of consecutive terms allowed for any officer to hold office be increased from the current maximum of 2. Suggestions have been made to increase the maximum number of terms to 3, 4 or 5 years. The reasoning behind this recommendation is due to the current difficulty in getting volunteers for officers and the fact that it

takes a year or two to really learn some of the jobs. A discussion will be held at the meeting followed by a vote.

Item 3: The following recipients and dollar amounts have been proposed for the 2005 conservation donations by our Conservation Chair, Mary Modesitt. This will also be discussed and voted on.

American Whitewater \$300
Friends of the Cheat \$250
Friends of the Crooked River \$100.
Grand Canyon Private Boaters Assoc \$100.
American Rivers \$100.
WV Rivers Coalition \$150.
The River Network \$100.
Nature Conservancy \$100.
Grand River Partners \$100.
This totals \$1300.

Note on the Grand River Partners from Conservation Chair Mary:

I bet at some point in everyone's boating career here in Northeastern Ohio one has found themselves on the Grand River, either enjoying a nice casual paddle down, lending instruction to newer boaters, or just taking a spin in the awesome park and play area below the dam. I know when I first started boating I spent many afternoon and evenings on the river and still see many paddlers on the river when it is running now. What people might not know about is the number of different wildlife species that are on the Ohio's endangered / threaten list and the affects that the new rush of urbanization could have on our beloved rivers. In undergrad I spent many afternoons out on the Grand River helping one of my Profs with a grant that dealt with keeping an eye on the mussel population and in turn keeping track of the water quality. It opened my eyes and later on I did a study on how Mayflies of all things can be used as an insight into the quality and health of rivers. As boaters besides just working towards river access issues we should also focus on preserving the

wildlife we encounter every time we set foot on a river. I know that we donate money to the Nature Conservancy but won't it be cool to help out an organization that has some of the same ideas right here in Northeastern Ohio too if we can. Look over the site and just think about it.

http://www.grandriverpartners.org/the_grand_river.htm

NOVEMBER IS TRIP PLANNING MONTH!!!

by Michael Duvall

Tired of the same old trips... then step up and make suggestions or organize a trip that you want to see. You don't have to be the best boater on the trip, just organize it! River trips, sea kayak trips, canoe trips, bike trips, hiking trips, and climbing trips. Keelhaulers have many outdoor interests besides whitewater.

November is trip planning month. I will be assembling the trip Schedule for the 2006 yearbook. Please call me (216) 521-0094 or email me at michael.duvall@amgreetings.com and we can put the trip on the schedule. I will also be at the November club meeting with a calendar to help plan dates and see that there are no conflicts.

Never organized a trip??? Its not hard (check the [organizer duties](#) on the web page). Pick a meeting place, set shuttle if necessary, get a volunteer for probe and sweep (see you don't even have to have run the river before!)

Previous organizers, I will be contacting you to confirm that you will do trips you had last year.

KEELHAULER DUES ARE DUE!!!

By John Kobak

The club membership year ended on September 30th. Only 25% of the club members have paid their dues. The newsletter mailing label indicates whether or not you have paid your 2006 dues. If not, please try to mail your check for \$20 today, and include a donation for our club's conservation program if you can. Please indicate any changes to your address, phone or e-mail listing. If no changes are required you do not have to fill out a club application or waiver to renew your

membership, however one is included on the last page. You can pay your dues at any club meeting or mail your check to:

Keel Haulers Canoe Club
1649 Allen Dr
Westlake, OH 44145-2506

You may now pay your dues and register on-line using Paypal at

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

Your last newsletter will be the December Kanews, please don't make us keep sending out notices. It costs the club time and money. If your dues are not received by 12/14/05, your name will not be listed in the 2006 Yearbook & Roster.

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

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook5.pdf>

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

KHCC Meeting Minutes October 11th, 2005

Attendees, 18

Welcome guests:

Cameron Schron, Nick Hyclak, and Ed Plant

All are from Hudson and want to improve their white water skills.

Approval of last months minutes as printed in news letter.

Treasure Report by Rob Hammond. \$3268 in checking, \$6030 in CDs. Total income down but reduced cost created \$1488 excess w/o donations. Recommend donations to conservation chair for next meeting. New Conservation Chair is Mary Modesitt.

Training Steve Ingalls: No Red Cross October classes but some possible in November at Orange. December will possibly have three (3) classes. February 11th is the Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Class (possible). New Library Chair is Pat Guzowski.

Membership by John Kobak. 9 new members, 65 paid, expect 80 paid today, total 324 members today, down 18 from last year

There was a discussion of adding ads to newsletter, yearbook or webpage. John Kobak suggested that TRPC has ads in newsletter. Alternative is listings in yearbook but space is limited (max of 100 pages). Discussion. Web site by John Kobak. He can add a forum for [member service](#) ads.

Pool Session Chair is still open

Program Chair is open. We require a plan for 5 meetings maximum.

Safety by Ed Charlton. Read article about neck/head injury at Pillow Rock. Listed advice, 1) there is no perfect helmet, 2) always look for swimmers.

Safety chair is open.

New Trip schedule planning Chair is Mike Duvall.

New Business:

Slate of Officers elected by acclamation.

President, Judi Cleary

Secretary, Gene Baker

VP, Ed Charlton

Treasurer, Rob Hammond

Trustee, 08 Elliott Drysdale

Old Business:

Discuss proposal for added dues for hard copy of newsletter, report in the newsletter. This item will be voted on at the next meeting.

New Business:

Discuss extending Officers terms to 3, 4 or 5 years. This item will be voted on at the next club meeting.

Program:

Judi Cleary presented slides of her Panama Trip.

PLEASE HELP!!!!

There are a couple of vacancies that need to be filled on the committee chairpersons list. Please consider giving some of your time to the club.

The following are the club officers for the 2006 term:

2006 Club Officers

President:	Judi Cleary
Vice President:	Ed Charlton
Secretary:	Gene Baker
Treasurer:	Rob Hammond
Trustee through 2006:	Chuck Singer
Trustee through 2007:	John Kobak
Trustee through 2008:	Elliott Drysdale

2006 Committee Chairpersons

Instruction:	Steve Ingalls
Conservation:	Mary Modesitt
Library:	Pat Guzowski
Membership:	John Kobak
Webmaster:	John Kobak
Newsletter Editor:	Kelly Miller
Newsletter Distribution:	Judi Cleary
Pool Sessions:	Judi Cleary
Program:	Tim Brightbill
Refreshments:	Jim Hunt/Bob Bair
Rescue Weekends:	Rob Hammond
Safety:	Position Open
Sea Kayaking:	Frank Webber
Yearbook Editor	Judi Cleary
Yearbook Layout/Printing	Helmut Schumacher
Trip Schedule:	Michael Duvall
Vermilion Race:	Rob Hammond
Advise & assist	Hank Annable

2005-2006 ROLL SESSIONS

The Keelhauler Club sessions are sponsored by Orange Community Education and Recreation & Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Department. They are to be held at Orange High School Pool and Lakewood High School Pool. This gives us east side and west side site locations. This may reduce crowds and allow sessions to be held when one pool session may be cancelled.

Orange High School Pool Roll Sessions:

Eleven sessions are scheduled on Saturday afternoons on December 10, 17, January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, and March 4, 11, 18. Pool time starts at 4:00pm and ends promptly at 6:00pm. **We must shower and be out of the building by 6:30pm. A charge of \$5 per person per session (\$4 for Orange School District residents) covers the use of the pool.**

Lakewood High School Pool Roll Sessions:

Seven sessions are scheduled on Saturday afternoons from **4:15-6:15 PM**. Dates are: December 3, 17, January 14, February 4, 18, March 4, 11. **Boats may be brought into the facility at 4:10 PM, and pool time begins at 4:15 PM. All must be out of the building by 6:45 PM. A charge of \$6 per person per session covers the use of the pool.**

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

Extra kayaks and equipment are not provided. While it is often possible to borrow other peoples' boats for short periods, it is a good idea to arrange this in advance. Hand paddles will be available for learning hand rolls.

To maintain a good relationship with the Orange & Lakewood, there are a few rules to observe.

1. Sessions are open to the general public.
2. All boats must be clean. Remove the air bags and wash the boat, inside and out. Do this at home. Dirty boats are not allowed in the pool.
3. Roll Sessions are preceded by an open swim session. If you arrive early, please wait outside

the building with your boats until 4:10 PM. Please bring in boats through the back emergency exit, which will open at 4:10 PM.

4. Please pay the lifeguard/manager upon entering the pool.
5. Participants must avoid damage to the facility, especially the pools' tiled surfaces. Remove metal rudders from sea kayaks. Do not bring aluminum canoes. Do not launch off the deck of the pool -- enter your boat while it is sitting in the water.
6. The pool may become crowded. In the interest of safety, neither free swimming nor diving is allowed. All children under the age of 18 must be supervised at all times by a paying adult.
7. The pool may become crowded. In the interest of safety, neither free swimming nor diving is allowed. All children under the age of 18 must be supervised at all times by a paying adult.
8. **Helmets are required, whether you are in a boat or standing in the water helping someone. This is for your own safety.**

Directions to Orange High School Pool...

The Orange High School Pool is on the south side of Chagrin Boulevard, between Lander and SOM Center Roads. It is two miles east of the Chagrin exit off I-271 (which is just north of the I-271 and I-480 interchange). From I-271 take the Chagrin Boulevard exit and head east. At the Lander Road turning circle stay on Chagrin Boulevard by taking the second road right. The school will be about one-half mile on the right side of the road. The pool is in the west end of the building. You can see it through the two-story-high windows. Park along the west end of the building. There is a very wide concrete pad leading to a double set of glass doors on the pool deck. If you arrive early, drop your boats on the concrete pad and go inside and wait until we are permitted to bring boats into the pool area.

Directions to Lakewood High School Pool...

Lakewood High School is at 14100 Franklin Blvd., and the pool is located in the back of the High School, so entering at the Robinwood Ave. entrance is easiest, especially when coming from I-90. Exit from I-90 at the Bunts Rd./W 140th St. Exit and head north on Bunts

to Madison Ave. Turn left on Madison Ave. and head one block to Robinwood Ave. Take a right on Robinwood Ave., which dead ends into the pool entrance. Kayaks should be brought through the delivery entrance/emergency exit, which is located just to the east of the Robinwood entrance. Pool staff will be stationed at the delivery entrance to assist you.

Cancellation Policy

If winter driving conditions are bad, the session may be canceled. When Orange Community Education and Recreation is closed, information is typically on local television and radio stations. We will also try to post closings on the Hotline at 216-556-4659 and Message Board. If Lakewood High School pool is closed, that information will likely be available on the pool's voicemail at (216) 529-4014.

FRIENDS OF THE CROOKED RIVER

There will be a public hearing on the alternatives to the Route 82 Study. Friends of the Crooked River is one of five organizations on the Steering Committee for this process which was established by the Ohio EPA to investigate the dam and its roll in the non-attainment of aquatic life standards in the lower Cuyahoga River.

Of course, we favor altering the dam to accommodate fish and water based recreation. One of the alternatives is to remove the dam. It is very important that we get a good turn out from paddlers. We know that the canal society will have a good number of people there who want to keep the dam.

The public hearing will be held on Nov. 30 at 6 PM at Happy Days Visitor Center in CVNP on Rt. 303 east of Peninsula and west of Route 8.

If you have questions, please call:

Elaine Marsh, Conservation Chair
Friends of the Crooked River
2179 Everett Rd., Peninsula, OH 44264
(330)657-2055, (330)657-2198 fax
ohgreenway@aol.com or www.cuyahogariver.org

11/5	Slippery Rock	13-19	Tim Taubert	440-256-2506
11/08	Club Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Bill Miller	440-257-2970
11/13	Slippery Rock	13-19	Kurt Haas	216-321-1763
11/19	Slippery Rock	13-19	Ross Brinkerhoff	440-286-1476
11/26	Slippery Rock	13-19	Brett Mancino	217-321-7878





KEELHAULER KA-NEWS



December 2005

KEELHAULER DUES ARE PAST DUE!!!

By John Kobak

The club membership year ended on September 30th. The newsletter mailing label indicates if you have not paid your 2006 dues. If not, please try to mail your check for \$20 today, and include a donation for our club's conservation program if you can. Please indicate any changes to your address, phone or e-mail listing. If no changes are required you do not have to fill out a club application or waiver to renew your membership, however one is included on the last page. You can pay your dues at any club meeting or mail your check to:

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Westlake, OH 44145-2506

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<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook5.pdf>

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

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**Next club meeting is Tuesday,
December 13th
at Middleburg Hts Community Center
at 15700 Bagley Rd.**

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

Program: Holiday Potluck Dinner & Raffle - Doors open at 7PM, Dinner at 8PM. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each for a chance to win some awesome door prizes which include as of the newsletter print: 2 \$25 gift certificates from Appalachian Outfitters, some promotional items from Dagger and Wavesport and a couple of free rentals from Blockbuster video.

Proceeds to go to the club conservation fund.

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

A-F	Maindish/Casserole
G-L	Salad/vegetable
M-S	Bread or Appetizer
T-Z	Dessert or fruit

The club will supply beverages, plates and plastic ware.

All meetings are open to guests.

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NEW YEAR'S OUTINGS

By Fred Oswald

At the last meeting, I promised a couple New Years Day outings. Here are the listings. I did not give an email address because I am in process of changing it.

For 2006 --

New Years Day, 1 p.m., XC Ski. This is the return of an

old annual tradition. Start '06 at one of the finest XC areas in the area with trails winding through the woods (requires ability to turn). Call shortly before for meeting location (depends on weather, hike if no snow). Fred Oswald, 440-888-5829.

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KHCC Meeting Minutes November 8, 2005

Members in attendance: 23

New member: Scott Pierce from Vermilion would like to learn and improve white water skills.

New Program Chairman: Tim Brightbill.

Last months minutes accepted as printed.

Treasurers Report: Rob Hammond stated that we have: Checking \$4498.80, CD's \$6000.00. The proposed budget for 2006 is to appear in the Dec newsletter. Conservation Report: Mary Modesitt submitted her recommendations for club donations in the newsletter. Concerns regarding the Cuyahoga Dam project were discussed. As mentioned on the message board Dave Hill has requested that members apply for river permits. It was noted that the permits request insurance and trip leader information. It is not necessary to list these to get a permit. The permit form will be included in the next newsletter.

Instruction Report: Steve Ingalls is has an upcoming meeting and information will follow.

Library Report: Michael Duvall turned the library over to Pat Guzowski. Pat will put together an updated list of our videos and propose a budget for new acquisitions. It was discussed, moved, and voted to purchase DVD's instead of VHS.

Membership Report: John Kobak reported 153 paid up memberships and that is a little above this time last year. The deadline for membership and inclusion in the yearbook is Dec 14th.

The message board now has a page that allows club members to list services that they may wish to advertise.

Pool Sessions: Judi Cleary made the arrangements for pool role sessions and printed a calendar. The times are listed on the web site.

Program Report: Tim Brightbill is the new chair and he would appreciate any suggestions.

Next months meeting is the annual Potluck Dinner. Judi will post a list of what to bring on the web site.

Safety Report: Ed Charlton discussed the recent death on the Cheat. A competent paddler got entrapped in an unknown downed tree at Pete Morgan's rapid and drowned.

Yearbook photos needed. Send them to Helmut Schumacher By Dec 15th.

Trip Schedule: Michael Duval has a tentative schedule using last year's trips as a template. Contact him if you would like to organize a trip. Activities other than boating are welcome (scuba, skiing, hiking, etc.).

Vermilion River Race: Race date April 2nd, alternate date April 9th.

There was a discussion regarding charging an additional \$5 to members whom receive a hard copy of the newsletter. That was voted down.

Increasing term limits of officers to a maximum of 3 terms (rather than 2) was discussed, voted on, and passed. This is a change to the bylaws.

The list of donations to conservation groups recommended by Mary Modesitt was discussed, voted on and passed as presented.

West Virginia Rivers Coalition's request to use our roster for fund raising was discussed and voted down.

Trip Reports:

Halloween Weekend about 9 boaters including some new members one of which was Tom Sutton. Jim Hunt mentioned that he tested the water and it was definitely cold.

Meeting adjourned for refreshments and afterward Michael Duvall laid out the template for the 2006 Trip Schedule so that members could edit and list trips.

This year every weekend that the Gauley had a release the club had a trip. Members, including Ed Charlton, Pat Guzowski, Mike Douglas, Deb Avallone, and Skip, ran the Lower for the first time.

Rob and Karen Hammond got married and then attended a wilderness survival weekend. Rob said that it was very informative and worthwhile, however, I'm not sure that this will prepare Karen for life with Rob.

Meeting adjourned for refreshments and afterward Michael Duvall laid out the template for the 2006 Trip Schedule so that members could edit and list trips.

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The Big Sandy/Jeff Mayfield River Access Fund

Rockville, West Virginia is the site of an old logging town best known today for providing access to the beautiful, Big Sandy River. Most of the riverside land owned by Allegheny Energy was sold to Allegheny Wood Products (AWP) in the Cheat Canyon sale several years ago. Outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the Big Sandy have been worried that AWP may try to block access to the river and its trails.

Last winter, while doing research in the Preston County Courthouse, Sandy Walbridge found a 1/3-acre parcel that Allegheny Energy still owned. The land is located upstream of the Rockville Bridge, where paddlers, hikers, and fishermen have parked for years. Keith Pitzer, Friends of the Cheat (FOC) executive director, contacted Allegheny Energy. After some negotiation, the FOC purchased the parcel for public use. With a generous \$500 donation, the FOC was able to pay the initial acquisition costs, but to fully fund the purchase we'll need to raise an additional \$2,500.

Many local paddlers know that Jeff Mayfield lost his life kayaking the Lower Big Sandy on April 13, 2003. He was an expert paddler who loved to kayak the streams in the Cheat River watershed. Nothing seemed to get Mayfield more excited than a run down the Sandy. Mayfield's family, friends, and the FOC have created the Jeff Mayfield Memorial Fund to raise money to buy the parcel and improve access to the Big Sandy

watershed. Purchasing this land gives those of us who knew and loved Jeff an opportunity to honor his memory and help solidify access to a place that should be enjoyed by all. In addition to providing river access for paddlers, the Jeff Mayfield River Access will serve as a parking area for those who wish to hike or bike the old railroad grade to Wonder Falls and Big Splat Rapid. The money will also help us improve the parking area. Any additional donated funds will be earmarked for maintaining this facility and the recently refurbished Jenkinsburg Access 5-miles downstream.

To donate, send check or money order to:

Jeff Mayfield River Access
c/o Friends of the Cheat
119 South Price St. #206
Kingwood, WV 26537

MasterCard and Visa are also accepted; call the FOC office at (304) 329-3621.

Thanks for your help in this,
Julie & Jason Black

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CONSERVATION CORNER By MARY MODESITT

Greetings my fellow boaters, this is your friendly neighborhood conservation chair giving you an update on what has been going on since I took over the position. My first task was to go over the donation list and to propose a local organization that we could donate some of the conservation funds to. I agreed with the organizations that received funds last year and to continue on for this 2005 year. I put in a proposal for the Grand River Partners, Inc. which was approved for a donation. Rob sent me the donation checks and has been mailed out to the different organizations. I am in the process of having John add more links to the conservation page as I come across them. Please take the time and check them out. If you find a site dealing with river and wildlife conservation and would like it to be added please feel free to email the site to me and I will look it over and then have John add it. Also if you have access to a computer check out the message board when you can, I will be using that as my key form of communications to get the latest conservation info out

to the membership. On the note of emailing me I have a new email address that was started up just for receiving information concerning the Conservation Chair: MPModesitt@gmail.com.

Now, on to some local issues. First, hats off goes out to David Hill for all his hard work on the Ohio Edison Dam study. If you have not checked out the AW site in a while you should go and see the article they have posted for a call for boater support of the removal of the dam. Please if you have not done so print off the special permit request and send it in. We need to show that boaters really do value our river access to both sections of the Gorge. David can still use your help with pictures of boaters in the section and also for your support at the Study Plan meetings that will be taking place at the Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls on Nov 17, 2005 at 9am and December 6 and 7th. The meeting on the 6th will be the first informal meeting to begin the Section 7 consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Agency. The Dec 7th meeting will include the Socioeconomic & recreation impact study among the topics to be discussed from 9-noon. If you can make an appearance to one of these meetings please do so.

Now most people know that this past spring and summer I was helping out Whitewater Warehouse down in Dayton with a signature drive. Thanks go out to everyone who took the time to sign the petition. I have been in contact with Jeryl and things are moving along great. She will be giving me more specific information on the project in the next month.

I have also been in communications with the president of Benscreek Canoe Club out of Johnstown, PA. Here is an update on the park and play section being built on the Stonycreek. They have just finished the land easement on both sides of the river and the entire packet has now been forwarded on to the Dept of Environmental Protect for final approval and permitting. The permit should be ready in about 2-3months. They have hired Gary Lacy (Hydrolic engineer that designed the park) to over see the project and to bid out the labor cost for the building of the park. So far they have \$250,000 in the coffer but need another \$400,000. \$250,000 of it has already been pledged by the Waste Management for hauling of the boulders. Things are still looking good for beginning the construction come Fall of 2006. They could use our support in the forms of a writing campaign showing support of the park towards there political folk and those controlling

the purse strings, on top of just coming out and boating the Stony and supporting the local economy while we are out there. I will be posting on the message board as soon as I receive the information from Steve, the letter of support and the addresses of the individuals who the letter needs to be mailed to.

The last thing that has come to my attention by way of Judi has to deal with the Gauley River access. Friends of the Gauley opened the first pubic river access for the 2005 season below the damn. This caused some reaction by AW/VI's temporary reopening the Mason's Branch and Bucklick access points for the 2005 season. It is unclear if this will be the same for 2006. Also by opening the Woods Ferry Road FOGR has made it possible for the NPS to look anywhere for Gauley access. In turn this allows FOGR also to look for additional access opportunities. To make the 2005 season possible the FOGR also had to lease two acres of private land to complete the newly reopened road access. The lease will run through 2006 but they would like to see the NPS to buy these two acres that the owners are currently willing to sell. Funding could become a problem for NPS for the Gauley access. It seems they were given funding in August but it was taken away due to Katrina. If funding because an issue FOGR will try and assist the NPS by raising money for the land survey, appraisal and land purchase if necessary. I will be getting in touch with FOGR to see if there is anything we could do to help and bring it to the attention of the board. When time comes around again for our annual conservation donations to go out, I will propose to the board that this organization receive some of the funds.

I believe for now that is it in terms of the latest on the conservation front. Please keep an eye on the message board for updates and if you come across something that needs the attention of the conservation chair feel free to email me. Happy boating!

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Proposed Licensing on Cuyahoga River Requires Paddlers Action! By David Hill

Some of you may have heard me asking for assistance on the message board, but for others including those without internet access, here's an update. We've all heard the jokes about no whitewater in Ohio and while the Cuyahoga is not known for its water quality, this project should be important to all local paddlers. It's about preserving access to the limited paddling opportunities Ohio has to offer, but more importantly it's about preserving the option to open up a serious section of whitewater in our backyard.

What if we could combine the Class V Sheraton section,



(Jason and Steve McClung below Rookie Drop, photo by Gretchen)

with some of these Class IV rapids hidden below the dam pool,



(Cuyahoga Falls Historical Society)

along with opening up the original Big Falls (City of Cuyahoga Falls namesake),



(Cuyahoga Falls Historical Society)

all the way down to Peck Road hole at the end of the Gorge section?



Well, then we would have about 2.5 miles of Class III-V whitewater dropping 200 feet and all within a short driving distance of most Keelhaulers! If that doesn't warrant an effort from the paddlers to step up then I don't know what does. If you want to help, please read on.

Metro Hydroelectric Company (MHC) has filed an application for the licensing of a small hydroelectric plant to be constructed downstream of the existing Ohio Edison dam on the Cuyahoga River. MHC is proposing to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the construction of a new power plant immediately adjacent to Butterfly Rock and the dewatering of the river between the dam and the power plant. This proposed dewatered section will comprise 800 feet, and some of the best whitewater in the gorge

section (like Butterfly Rock pictured below during low flow) will be lost.



(The Powerhouse is proposed to be located on the river left bank below the large rock. We have not been provided with drawings of the tail race location at this time.)

There has been a tremendous opposition to this project from concerned citizens, local advocacy groups, Metro Parks, Ohio EPA, etc. In addition, several public meetings have brought out the emotional testimony of park users opposing the licensing project. Irregardless of the tremendous opposition from the numerous groups, this project continues to march onward. Anyone can access all submittals from the applicant, various groups, agencies, meeting minutes, etc on the FERC website from the projects' initiation in December 2003 (<http://ferris.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercadvsearch.asp>) using Docket No. P-12484.

You may be asking why your assistance is needed if so many others are leading the opposition effort and you may not even paddle this section or plan to in the future! Hopefully the following will answer all questions as to why paddlers need to help, NOW.

The MetroParks currently issues Special Use Permits to kayakers for accessing the river across park lands <http://www.summitmetroparks.org/rules/>. MetroParks has no control over paddling the river, but they do manage park users leaving the trails to access the river; hence the Special Use permits. The hydroelectric license application process requires MHC to evaluate the current usage (recreational and others) of the proposed project areas and determine what losses may be incurred if the license is granted. MHC will also be required to consider mitigation efforts to reduce the usage losses. Believe it or not, paddlers are the biggest stakeholder in the loss of recreational use for this project and numerous opposition groups are counting on us (i.e., YOU) to step up.

As outlined in Appendix B of the Study Plans (check out the KH conservation page), MHC will be evaluating minimum flow rates for recreational usage; along with water quality, aesthetics, aquatic habitats, etc. In addition, MHC is required to conduct a socioeconomic study of the impacts by this proposed project, which will include surveys of park users and paddlers. MHC has already indicated that they will use the contact list from the previously issued Special Use permits as one of their sources for conducting the kayaker portion of the survey. Needless to say, this list has not been extensive in the past. That's where your help is needed.

We need to ensure that this list of issued permits is long. I'm asking all KH members (and anyone else you can find) to complete the Special Use application and mail it to Keith Shy at MetroParks. An example of the completed form is posted on the KH website and attached at the end of the article. When completing the application, here are some answers to previously asked questions:

- Enter 2005/2006 for the day/date.
MetroParks has agreed to honor a single permit for the remainder of 2005 and all of 2006.
- Enter 6 for the number of kayakers; this ensures that all potential paddlers are covered under the permit.
- Either attach a signed copy of your club liability waiver form (KH or TRPC) or enter your applicable insurance information.

I don't care if you plan to paddle this section or not your help is needed! If you don't support this opposition and don't do your part to protect access to this river; then the following is likely to happen:

- A 30-50 year permit will be issued for the construction and operation of a new power house that will generate minimal electricity.
- 800 feet of the river between the Ohio Edison dam and Butterfly Rock will be dewatered for most of the year and paddling opportunities will be reduced by approximately 70% due to flow constrains.
- The several billion dollars in prior and current projects along this river corridor to improve water quality will be for not.
- You will have missed the only opportunity to open up a new section of Class IV whitewater in

Ohio and within a short driving distance of most members.

- The local paddling community and KHCC will have let down all of opposition groups that are counting on us for support.

I will continue to monitor the licensing process, submitting comments on behalf of American Whitewater, and keep posting updates on the message board. The next meeting for this project will be on December 7th to discuss the proposed Study Plans which include socioeconomic and recreational usage, along with flow studies for aquatic and water quality. All comments to the proposed Study Plans will be due by January 11, 2006. I urge everyone to get involved, but most importantly send in your Special Use Permit application. Thank you for your support and contact me if you have any questions.

I will be updating the American Whitewater page for this section of the Cuyahoga (<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/1467>) in the near future. If you have any pictures, please contact me.

David Hill, American Whitewater Streamkeeper
(330) 221-0270, pkohes@earthlink.net

Here is how to fill out this request - Items shown in Red

MetroParks
SERVING SUMMIT COUNTY
975 Truax Lane Rd., Akron, OH 44316-5804
Special Recreational Use Permit Application

Name/Type of Activity: **KAYAKING**
Day/Date of Event: **2005/2006**
Location of event: **GEORGE METRO PARK**
Specific area in park: **ACCESS CUYAHOGA RIVER ON NORTH SIDE, DOWNSTREAM OF ORIO EDDONVILLE**
Estimated number of individuals attending event: Maximum of 6 individuals **6**
Sponsor's Name: **John Doe**
Address: **123 Main St** City: **Anywhere** Zip Code: **12345**
Person(s) in charge and responsible: **John Doe**
Telephone: **123-456-7890**
Address: **Some**
Insurance Co.: _____ Amount of Liability Coverage: _____

IT'S YEARBOOK TIME AGAIN!!!

Time to gather up your pictures for the yearbook. Keep file size down to 200-300k per picture. j-peg or tiff format and use winzip or stuffit for compression. Please include captions or info for each picture.

Deadline is 12/15/05.

You can e-mail files to helmut53@adelphia.net or send pictures or disks to: Helmut Schumacher, 3089 Hann Hill Rd., Hermitage, PA 16148.

If you want them back, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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DRAFT 2006 KH Trip Schedule

Club Members, please review for accuracy, and volunteer for any additional trips. The deadline for changes for the 2006 Yearbook is Dec 14. Please send all updates to Michael Duvall at Michael.Duvall@amgreetings.com.

2006 DATE	TRIP / EVENT	ORGANIZER
JAN		
21,28	KH Roll Session at Orange pool	Judi Cleary
14	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool	Judi Cleary
FEB		
4	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool	Judi Cleary
4, 11, 18,		
25	KH Roll Session at Orange pool	Judi Cleary
25	National Paddling Film Fest	Michael Duvall
25	Slippery Rock	John Yaro
	Fundamentals of Kayaking at	
?	Lakewood High School	Steve Ingalls
MARCH		
4-11	Roatan Diving and snorkel	John Kobak
4, 11	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool	Judi Cleary
4, 11, 18	KH Roll Session at Orange pool	Judi Cleary
3, 4	Slippery Rock	Ross Brinkerhoff
12	Neshannock Creek	Steve Zerefos
25	West Branch of the Rocky River	Pat Guzowski
26	Vermilion River Cleanup	Hank Annable Brent Laubaugh & Dave Broer
25,26	WV Creeking	
APRIL		
	Creeking in the Stonycreek	
1,2	Watershed	Shawn Reese
1	Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge	Chris Kiehl
2	Vermilion Race	Rob Hammond
8	Conneaut Creek	Gary Tucker
8	Slippery Rock	Jim Kosicki
8, 9	Casselman	Pat Guzowski
	Cheat Headwaters or Potomac	
8, 9	Highlands	Steve Ingalls
14-21	Southern Rivers Trip	John Kobak
15, 16	N. Br. Potomac Release	Ross Brinkerhoff
15	Grand River	Carl Kudrna
16	Bear Creek	Steve Zerefos
22,23	Cheat Canyon	Jim Steppenbacker

21-23	Middle Fork & Tygart	Elliot Drysdale Jim Kosicki	22, 23	New River Gorge WV class III-IV, New, Gauley etc.	Cecil Tickamyer Tim Reynolds
21-23	Stonycreek Rendezvous	Ross Brinkerhoff	29, 30		Joe Marks
22	Grand River Race (Alt date 4/29)	Brian Davidson	29, 30	Upper New	Carl Kudrna
23	Slippery Rock	Rick Feinberg	???	Upper Yough Race & Paddle	Need organizer
29, 30	N. Br. Potomac Release	Mary Modesitt	AUG		
		Brent Laubaugh & John Garcia	4, 5, 7	Upper Yough	Need organizer
29, 30	WV Creeking	Steve Zerefos	12	Sandusky Bay Sea Kayak	Rich Kish
29	Little Beaver	Rob Hammond	17	Skip Work Day at the Lower Yough	Pat Guzowski
29	Cheat River Race Clinic	Dennis Plank			Sherie
30	Walk Little Beaver		18	Yough (Ladies Day)	Sanzenbacher
MAY			19, 20	Lower Yough - permits	Need organizer
5, 6	Upper Yough	John Kobak	19, 20	Middle Yough	Gary Tucker
5	Cheat Mass-Occurrence Race	Rob Hammond			Jim
6, 7	Cheat River (Fest wknd)	Need organizer	26	Cheat Canyon	Steppenbacher
13, 14	N. Br. Potomac Release	Ross Brinkerhoff	SEPT		
13	Slippery Rock	Joe Marks	1, 2, 4	Upper Yough	Elliott Drysdale
13, 14	Cheat Canyon	Jim Hunt	1, 2, 3	Raquette/Beaver	Matt Muir
	Cheat headwaters or Potomac		3	Slippery Rock	Pat Guzowski
13, 14	highlands	Steve Ingalls	8, 9	Lower Gauley	Jim Hunt
20	Slippery Rock	Ann Corey	9, 10	Upper Gauley	Ron Whitney
20	River Festival at Kent	Pat Guzowski	16	Bike Kelley's & S. Bass Islands	Dennis Plank
20, 21	Lower Yough	Michael Duvall	15-17	Ohioyle Falls Race and Freestyle	Barry Adams
20, 21	Middle Yough	Robert Bair	15, 16	Lower Gauley	Terry Markoff
20, 21	Cheat Canyon / Lower Big Sandy	Peter Turkaly	16	Upper Gauley	Scott Debalski
27, 28	N. Branch of Potomac	Mark Cytron	15, 16	Upper New	Karen Daniels
27, 28	Cheat Canyon	Ross Brinkerhoff	22 - 24	Upper Gauley (Fest)	Cliff Wire
27, 28	Middle Fork & Tygart	Michael Duvall	15, 16	Lower Gauley	Terry Markoff
JUNE			23, 24	Slippery Rock	Tim Taubert
2, 3	Upper Yough	Gib McGill	23, 24	Lower Yough	Dave Roush
	Cuyahoga River, Peninsula to		23	Cheat Canyon	Jim Steppenbacher
3	Boston Mills	Chris Kiehl	30-10/1	Slippery Rock Creek	Mary Modesitt
3, 4	Esopus Race	Igor Birbrayer	30-10/1	Gauley	Bill Miller
3, 4	Cheat Canyon	Pam Poljak	OCT		
3	Ladies Day on the Slip	Mary Modesitt		Cuyahoga River, flatwater section	
4	Slippery Rock Creek	Mary Modesitt	1	from Eldon Park to Hiram	Dennis Plank
4	Lower Yough	Sabine Iben	6, 7	Upper Yough	Elliott Drysdale
4	Yough Lake Canoe	Gene Baker	7, 8	Upper & Lower Gauley	Need organizer
11, 12	Upper New	Ed Charlton	14	Slippery Rock	Ernie Anderson
		Bob Elaine	14, 15	Gauley River	John Kobak
13	June Meeting	Mravetz	13 - 15	Moose River (Fest)	Matt Muir
17, 18	Lower Yough - permits	Ron Tomallo			Sherie
17, 18	Middle Yough	Carl Kudrna	14, 15	Lower Yough	Sanzenbacher
18 - 23	Poudre River Colorado	Elliott Drysdale	14, 15	Middle Yough	Brian Thies
	Colorado Rivers part 2 (Before or			Russel Fork (above the breaks,	
24 to ??	after Elliott leaves)	Need organizer	28, 29	class III-IV)	Cecil Tickamyer
22	Cuyahoga - Burning River Day	Jim Kosicki	28, 29	Cheat Canyon	Jim Steppenbacher
	Rescue Wknd & Rodeo Race	Rob Hammond		Sea Kayak Huron River to Lake	
24 - 7/2	Colorado Rivers Advanced	Paul Lang	28	Erie (Nickleplate beach)	Rich Kish
	Shawn's excellent Ocoee		29	Slippery Rock	Brett Mancino
28 - 7/3	adventure	Shawn Reese	NOV		
JULY			4	Slippery Rock	Tim Taubert
6/30,			19	Slippery Rock	Ross Brinkerhoff
7/ 1,3	Upper Yough	John Kobak	25	Slippery Rock	Brett Mancino
8, 9	Lower Yough	Eric Marks	DEC		
	Lower Yough (Yough Intro		2	Slippery Rock	Cliff Wire
15, 16	weekend) - permits	Fran Hoven			
15, 16	Middle Yough	Karen Daniels			

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The Jenkinsburg River Access Project is Complete

The Jenkinsburg project is a partnership between a private landowner, two river-oriented non-profits, two state environmental agencies, a number of canoe and kayak clubs, and hundreds of donors from West Virginia and the surrounding states. The project sought to improve the only takeout for the Cheat below Cheat Canyon and the lower Big Sandy, both popular whitewater runs that draw thousands of canoe, kayak, and rafting enthusiasts to the area each year. It is also a popular place for swimming and picnicking in the summer. The road to the lower parking lot, once passable only by four-wheel drive vehicles, was graded and straightened to accommodate outfitter busses and trucks. The lower lot was expanded so that several companies could load trips simultaneously, and the path to the main takeout at the mouth of the Big Sandy River was hardened to resist erosion with a special honeycomb fabric. Now that the work is complete we want to take this opportunity to thank all the paddlers and organizations who contributed to the project. There is great strength in numbers, and we could never have done it without all of you.

Mud holes were characteristic of the parking area before Construction



The parking lot after construction



<http://cheat.org/Members/swilts/about/projects/cheatriveraccess>

Dec.	TRIP SCHEDULE		Last Chance to Pay Dues	
12/3	Slippery Rock	13-19	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
12/3,17	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
12/10,17	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Cleary	440-289-5511
12/13	Club Holiday Party at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Tim Brightbill	330-721-6822