

Keelhauler's Kanews October, 2009



**Next Club Meeting is Tuesday,
October 13th at 7:30 PM
at Middleburg Hts Community Center
16000 E. Bagley Rd**

Annual Election of Officers

Program: BBC Film on Anuta

In 2006, the British Broadcasting Corporation filmed an episode of their TV show, "Going Tribal," on Anuta, an isolated Polynesian island where Rick Feinberg has been conducting research since 1972. Rick was a consultant on the project. For those of you who missed it on "Discovery," he'll show the film and answer questions.



[Map to Middleburg Hts.](#)

**All guests are welcome.
Invite a prospective member!**

It's that time again.....

All club memberships expired on October 1st. As soon as you can, please mail a \$20 check for your 2010 membership dues.

To:

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

Or pay \$21 using Paypal. Use this link to pay:

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

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

<http://keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook9.pdf>

User Name: "dir" and the current 2009 password found on pg 20 of our yearbook or see monthly e-mail.

If you need to change any information use this form:

<http://keelhauler.org/Newregistration.htm>

To renew your membership you do not have to fill out an application, you only need to send your dues payment and any changes to your membership information.

Please encourage any of your non-member paddling friends to join/rejoin the club. The club offers a lot to paddlers of all skill levels at less than the price of a tank of gas to go paddling.

John Kobak

KHCC Minutes September 8th, 2009

New Members/Guests:

Ron Zoeleck is mostly interested in flatwater paddling and he does a lot of fishing from his kayak.

Devin Murray moved here from Colorado, where he was a whitewater paddler, a few years ago and is looking to get back into boating.

Bryan Asquith is a new whitewater paddler who made his inaugural

trip on the Lower Yough this past weekend.

Bill Schledwitz is interested in flatwater for now. Bill has paddled on Portage Lakes, Nimisila, and Hinkley Lake. Bill is also interested in a learning progression approach to kayaking.

Welcome to all and please accept my sincere apologies if I misspelled your name.

Meeting opened with a report by Chuck Singer on **safety**. The topic of Chuck's notes, listed below, was paddling alone.

We are told **never paddle alone** but there are times that we do. Even in a group, if you are the lead boat or the sweep, you often find that there is nobody around you, Use the buddy system to look after those in your group.

Many first descents have been made by lone boaters but the majority of boating deaths occur in groups. So:

- 1) Don't paddle alone. (A recommendation not a rule)
- 2) Even in a group, be aware that others will not save you from stupid mistakes, flips, or bad swims. In a class V rapid, it is likely that you will swim the entire rapid before a rope or boat rescue.
- 3) Often paddling in a group gives a false sense of security (John will save me) or to ego problems (Pam ran that so I should too)
- 4) If you decide to paddle alone, you are responsible for the rescue of yourself and your gear.
 - a) Never paddle anything that you could not swim to shore on your own,
 - b) Leave a float plan with someone.
 - c) Be extra careful and carry around any rapid that you have doubts on. The voyageurs had a saying "Nobody ever drowned on a portage"
 - d) Be aware that you may have to hike out on your own so have a plan.

There was a discussion of the need to organize trips that may constitute a learning progression for new boaters, This means that more members need to step up to organize trips and get the information about your trip to Michael Duvall so that it can be put on the schedule. Remember, you do not have to be an expert to organize trips. See the trip organizer responsibilities in the yearbook or

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

Andy Gross reminded us of the need to car pool as often as possible on our trips.

There was a lengthy discussion about promoting the club. Please see the thread on the message board to make your opinions known. The important questions identified by Ed Charlton are:

- 1) How should we finance promotions?
- 2) Should we raise dues?
- 3) Should we pay out of current funds? Current promotions budget is \$500.
- 4) What do we hope to accomplish by promotions?

Cliff Wire plans to attend a meeting of the Chagrin River Canoe & Kayak Club on September 30th to meet them and to see where our

interests coincide.

Terry Markoff reported that the Family Weekend that he organized was a success! Thanks Terry.

Trip Reports:

Fran Hoven reported on his recent experience, through St. Ignatius High School, of being exposed to rowing in the Flats.

Finally, Pat G. reported that there are new DVD titles in the Library.

7 Weeks in Tibet
In Flux
Whitewater Kayaking For Women
EJ's Rolling and Bracing
The Last Descent
Hotel Charlie Vol. 3 The Lost World
End Game
This Is The Sea
Into The Tsang Po Gorge

This report prompted a discussion about membership responsibility to return borrowed Library materials in a reasonable time frame, Note that there was a general feeling that if materials are not returned, a bill will be sent for the material. Please be considerate of the other members in this regard. The KHCC Library is useless if you borrow materials and fail to return them!

SYOTR,
Pat

No, Ohiopyle is in Pennsylvania...

*An outsider's view into the world of whitewater
(And a glossary of terms)
by Zack Cyphers*

"Ohiopyle is like our second home," mom said. This weekend I'm leaving the confines of my Philadelphia apartment for Southwestern Pennsylvania to get to know the world of whitewater boating. Ohiopyle State Park is an hour and a half south of Pittsburgh, in Fayette County. The Youghiogheny (pronounced "yock" for short), a tributary of the Monongahela (it's easier just to say "Mon") runs through the park.

My mom wasn't lying about this place. I'm surprised by how familiar she and her husband Hap are with everyone here. They spend so many summer weekends here that they know everyone from the owner of the campground to the wait staff at Falls Market. My mother can identify boaters from the shore just by the sight of their gear. Everyone knows one another on a first name basis. There is a strong sense of community. I'm amazed and excited to get to know this foreign culture.

There's a lot to do in this beautiful little corner of the country: kayaking, canoeing, fishing, hiking, biking, camping and the natural water slides. Frank Lloyd Wright's, Fallingwater house and a Revolutionary battlefield are just up the road. It's a popular spot for outdoor enthusiasts from Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. People come from even farther away, but this time for one reason only. It's "Over the Falls Fest". They've come to run Ohiopyle Falls.

The 18-foot waterfall at Ohiopyle is the centerpiece of the park. It is regulated by a dam that was built in 1944 to control flooding in the river valley. The falls are managed by the state and are only open to boaters one day a year. This weekend anyone who registers and pays a fee can run the falls. For \$20 plus \$10 for a T-shirt thrill seekers can strap on their "PFDs" and conquer the falls.

Local whitewater groups believe the falls should be open year round. Clubs like American Whitewater, the Keel-haulers of Ohio and the Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Paddling Club are working to free the falls for year-round boating. Hundreds of people have descended upon Ohiopyle to paddle the Yough, and over 300 have signed up to run the falls. These groups have an audience and are working to make their voices heard.

I'm awakened at dawn by a voice and a hand rattling my tent. "Let's get moving!" Mom says. We order dinner from the friendly staff at Falls Market, the diner in town. Then it's time to sign up. We grab a lucky spot at the head of a line fifty or sixty people long and growing. Not a seasoned boater myself, I've volunteered to capture the event on video. I take up my position on the sidelines and ready the camera to capture the carnage.

From a platform erected at the river's edge I can see the line of boaters waiting in the eddy. That's the calm at the top of the falls. There are two smaller rapids above the main falls, each a four to six foot drop. A wipeout at one of these smaller rapids could send a boater tumbling over the 18-foot drop upside down. I watch as several boaters meet this fate. The crowd collectively comments on the number of people getting "eaten alive" by the river this year. They wait until they see a paddle, a helmet, and then give a cheer as the swimmer steadies himself at the bottom and climbs back into his boat. He'll have to wait in line to try again.

Gary McCormick, an announcer with a thick Pittsburgh accent calls a droll play-by-play of each boater's performance. From his clipboard he can see the boater's name and hometown. One boater runs the rapids in an inflatable "duckie" that he paddles from a standing position. His paddle is extra long so he can reach the water from a higher position. One man, a friend of my mom's, paddles a hybrid boat that is more canoe than kayak. He paddles from a kneeling position using only one paddle. Spectators watch as he descends into the tongue of the main rapid. His large boat rushes over the falls as gallons of water pour over him. He makes it. With a loud "who!" he celebrates his victory in the pool at the bottom.

After the boaters in my mom's company successfully (or not so successfully) run the falls we prepare for our day of boating. Now it is my turn to test my mettle against the mighty river. I rent a large inflatable "duckie", sort of the Yough equivalent of training wheels. My mom and her husband give me a

few warnings about various rapids, following our "lines" and other general advice before we head to the put-in.

We run the Yough. I'm doing fairly well for a beginner, my mom tells me. At midday we pull up onto a large boulder and break for lunch. This is Vulture Rock, where boaters can sit in the sun and snack while watching hordes of tourists get dumped into the spray.

At a particularly technical section of river called "Pharaoh's Tomb", "Death Slot" or "Screaming Blue Angel" depending on whom you ask, I am warned to follow the easy line to the right, away from danger. Succumbing to the current for a moment I find myself pointed toward danger, a pourover between two rocks. Unable to maneuver back to the eddy, I am headed for the most dangerous part of the rapid. I paddle as hard as my arms will allow and brace myself against the rushing current, remembering to lean into the rocks not away from them. I paddle hard and suddenly I'm through. I've run the Death Slot! I rejoin the group and proudly accept congratulations from the more experienced boaters.

I survive with only a few bumps and bruises and sore arms and shoulders. My mom, the experienced boater, tells me I did much better this year. I only toppled out of my boat a couple of times, and once intentionally at a rapid called "Swimmer's". Every time the river reminds me who's boss I steady myself, secure my gear and climb back into my boat.

Listening to my mom and her friends on and off the river I realize that boater culture has its own vocabulary. Boaters have their own language that they use to communicate everything from who boated well or swam that day to how high the water level is. It can be humorous and whimsical at times. Here is a sample of the boater lingo I picked up this weekend:

attain *v.* to gain distance upstream by paddling against the current.
boil *n.* water that is turbulent and hard to paddle in, sometimes in an eddy and often caused by deep water pushing beneath calmer water.

boof *n.* the sound a kayak or canoe makes when landing from a large drop from a rock. *v.* "to boof"

bow *n.* the front end of a canoe or kayak.

boof stroke *n.* the last stroke one takes before plunging over a large drop.

dry bag *n.* a waterproof sack used to store, among other things, lunch.

eddy *n.* a patch of calm water on a river behind a rock. Some are still while others are "boily".

hole *n.* a confluence of rough, rushing water created by water flowing over and around rocks.

karma shuttle *n.* when a group of kayakers has only one car to shuttle them back to the put-in and one of the group (usually the cuter of the two and female) goes to the take out and attempts to hitch a ride back to the put-in.

line *n.* the route taken by a boater through a rapid, as in "follow my line."

maw *n.* the churning water at the bottom of a waterfall or rapid. The backward motion of the water in the maw can draw a boater back into danger.

play *v.* to remain in a "hole" by paddling against the current. To attempt tricks and turns in said whitewater.
 pfd *n.* personal flotation device.
 put-in *n.* the place where boaters enter the river.
 roll *v.* an emergency maneuver executed by a skilled kayaker to return to an upright position after being flipped over. also *n.* "To get one's roll back".
 spray skirt *n.* part of a kayaker's gear; it creates a seal around the cockpit of the boat.
 stern *n.* the back end of a canoe or kayak.
 surf *v.* to ride a wave by paddling against the current.
 swim *v.* to "pull skirt" and exit one's boat (intentionally or unintentionally).
 take-out *n.* the place where boaters get off the river. Also pizza, Chinese food, etc.
 undercut *adj.* invisible to all but the seasoned boater, a dangerous rock with a hollow under it through which water flows and under which a boater can become trapped if he or she is swimming.
 worked *v.* as in "to get worked". Getting the crap beat out of you in a big hole.

Rapids and natural features at Ohiopyle also have clever and sometimes silly names. Here are a few of them:

Bruner Run
 Cheese grater - a dangerous rock lying invisible just below the water's surface.
 Cucumber
 Danger Eddy
 Dimple Rock - a dangerous undercut rock.
 Double Hydraulic
 Killer Falls - a tiny rapid at river's end that, according to tradition, must be run backwards to appease the river gods and bring good karma to your trip.
 Squiggley Wiggly
 Swimmer's Rapid - a place on the river where it's safe to get out of the boat and enjoy the water.
 Vulture Rock - the boulder where we took out to eat our lunch and watch groups of inexperienced tourists get tossed out of their rafts against Dimple Rock.

At the close of the day we head back to our campsite for s'mores, snacks, beer and good company. We stay up late laughing by the fireside. This is another important boater ritual. Everyone, experienced or inexperienced, gathers as the sun descends behind the hills to share jokes and stories. We compare notes about the dangers we faced on the river. When our eyelids get heavy, we sleep. We awake Sunday morning and hastily pack up our gear, satisfied that we had run the river unscathed.

Zack is a recent graduate of Temple University (Film Major) and an avid writer, traveler and an expert on German beer (he works at a German Brew House when he's not film-making or writing). He is also the son of fellow Keelhauler Jamie Brinkerhoff.

A Turning Point

By Dave Hill

Whether it's a change in flow, a drop in gradient, or a twist in the direction; all rivers have a turning point in one form or another. Sometimes it can have nothing in common with the physical aspects of the river, but be more about what activities occur along its banks. The winds can shift and change the environment. There are also actions that only happen because the time is right.

All forms of the turning point come together in Cuyahoga Falls. The physical turning point gives the river its signature V shape and shows off 2 wonderful whitewater sections. They just happen to be separated by an obsolete dam and its associated pool. This 1.5 mile flat water feature sits between the Class IV-V upper and Class III lower gorge sections and many of us have wondered what lies below that damn pool. Could it be a series of small drops or a continuous boulder garden? If the Indian's portaged it, there must be something worth while for us whitewater paddlers to experience!



Now I realize that this is a dream that many have had and it may not occur in my lifetime since no one is guaranteed tomorrow, but we are closer today than we were yesterday. Since 2009 was declared Year of the River, it has been interesting to watch which activities have been reported in the watershed. There is no doubt that the Cuyahoga River has a long way to go before it is considered "clean" but steps to reverse the historical impacts are being completed.

On June 12th, Metro Hydroelectric Company withdrew their preliminary permit application (P-12484) for the project at the Ohio Edison dam. After many long battles, it appears that this project is finally dead. Was it a coincidence that this filing came only 10 days before the 40th anniversary of the fire? Who cares as it opens up the possibility that the dam "could" be removed now that there is no longer a permit associated with it or a power plant. In case you didn't notice the Gorge Power Plant has been completely demolished and regraded. So now the argument from First Energy about maintaining the dam to support the power plant is moot.



A while back I remember seeing one of many articles on the Cuyahoga whereby Ohio EPA commented about upcoming sediment sampling in the Ohio Edison dam pool. There has always been the question about what lies below the water and what pollutants are in the sediments? Well low and behold I received a few emails about a strange craft trolling the dam pool and piloted by men in white suits. Thanks John Rasinski (Token Canoe Guy) for the tip and photo.



I tried to find out the details, but no one is talking. However, I was able to gather the following information from the markings on the boat.

The link between contaminated sediment and water quality provides the basis for the U.S. EPA's **Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO)** sediment program. GLNPO has been responding in a number of ways to the need for gathering high-quality sediment information to assist **Areas of Concern (AoCs)** in making remedial action decisions. GLNPO provides technical, financial, and field support for Federal, State, and Tribal partners to assist in addressing contaminated sediments and work aimed towards reaching remedial decisions and environmental restoration. The Cuyahoga River has been identified as one of the 42 AoCs impacting the Great Lakes

<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc/cuyahoga.html>

In order to assist the AoCs with determining the nature and extent of sediment contamination, GLNPO provides the Research Vessel, *Mudpuppy* to conduct sampling across the Great Lakes tributaries and rivers. The *R/V Mudpuppy* is a 32-foot flat-bottom boat specifically designed for sediment sampling in shallow rivers and harbors. It is equipped with a vibro-coring unit that allows the

sampling of cores up to 15 feet long from locations with water depth between 2 and 50 feet. It is equipped with a differentially corrected global positioning system (GPS) with submeter accuracy that allows for precise and accurate determinations of sample locations. Once samples are collected, they can either be subsampled and processed onboard or at land-based facilities. A trailer allows the vessel to be transported easily from one project location to the next.

To date, the *R/V Mudpuppy* has been used to perform sediment assessments at 27 Great Lakes AoCs in the United States. The bulk of this work has been conducted to collect information on the physical, chemical, and biological nature of sediments, allowing the three-dimensional mapping of these project sites. Typically, projects use a two-phased sediment assessment approach. The first phase includes a comprehensive sampling of the entire AoC to help pinpoint the location of "hot spots." These "hot spots" are then delineated in the second phase to provide information necessary for making remedial decisions. The overall goal of this effort is to generate the information needed to make scientifically defensible remediation decisions.

GLNPO typically works closely with state agencies and local communities involved in the **Remedial Action Plan** RAP process to develop sampling plans, testing protocols, and QAPPs for individual projects. For more information on the process and information about impacts to sediments go to <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/arcs/citizen/citizen.html> and if you are interested in a plethora of information about the US EPA Contaminated Sediments Program then delve into the website

This is all great news for the dam pool and the lower gorge, but what about the upper gorge. Well, the City of Cuyahoga Falls has been very active in their redevelopment of the riverfront. Several former industrial properties downstream of the Sheraton Hotel have been acquired and are currently undergoing remediation through the Ohio EPA Brownfields program. One of the more interesting projects has been redevelopment of the High Bridge Glens Park and reconstruction of the Prospect Avenue pedestrian bridge which spans the narrow upper gorge. Initially the project was criticized by some for so many trees being cut down, but it was needed for the new deck and a lot of solid waste was removed from the property.



During the late 1800s, the original High Bridge Glens Park offered visitors from the train and other modes of transport a glimpse into the gorge below. Additional information on the High Bridge Glens Park can be found through the Cuyahoga Falls Historical Society website at http://cuyahogafallshistory.com/parks_high_bridge_glens.htm. This gorge can again be viewed with the recent Prospect Bridge reconstruction and deck/overview installation that will be the

"new" High Bridge Glens Park
<http://www.fallsnewspress.com/news/article/4661272>

So that's a summary of the projects over the last 3 months in this short 2 mile stretch. The timing seems perfect for these turning points to have a positive impact on the future of our local gem better known as the "Burning River".

October			Time to Pay Dues	
10/2, 3	Upper Yough - Last Saturday Release (MD)	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-4182 C
10/3, 4	Upper & Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	Bill Miller	440-257-2970
10/10, 11	Upper & Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	Needs organizer	
10/13	Club Annual Election of Officers at Middleburg Hts		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
10/16-18	Moose River Fest (NY)	27-30	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
10/17	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
10/17, 18	Russell Fork above Breaks (WV)	26	Cecil Tickamyer	740-593-8453
10/17, 18	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
10/17, 18	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
10/24,25	Russell Fork above Breaks (WV)	26	Cecil Tickamyer	740-593-8453
10/24	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Brett Mancino	216-570-7382
November				
11/7	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
11/7	Cheoah Release (NC) and/or Tallulah Release (GA)	32	Needs organizer	
11/10	Club Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
11/14,21,28	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
11/21	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Brett Mancino	216-570-7382
December			Last Chance to Pay Dues	
12/5	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
12/5,19,26	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
12/8	Club Holiday Party at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
12/12, 19	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
January	2010			
1/1	10th Annual New Year Paddle at Edgewater Beach		Stuart Warner	440-356-9550
1/2,9,25	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
1/16,25	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511



West Virginia Rivers Coalition working for you.

Do you ever look down and wonder what is in that water as you paddle? As you pass a discharge pipe, do you question what is coming out of it? Here at West Virginia Rivers Coalition we work every day to keep our state's water clean, for us and all our downstream neighbors.

In the Eastern Panhandle there are many issues that affect the water, but you wouldn't think discharges from water treatment plants would be one of them. Water that goes down the sewer gets treated to be clean before it is discharged, right? It should! But over the past year several Public Service Districts, the departments responsible for treating the water, have fought the more stringent discharge limits imposed by the WV Department of Environmental Protection. Fought these limits by not only appealing their discharge permits, but even the right for the DEP to enforce the permit limits.

But WVRC joined the fight too. In a legal appeal to the West Virginia Environmental Quality Board WVRC petitioned that these pollution limits are needed to protect the health of the rivers from their origins in West Virginia all the way to their outlets in the Chesapeake Bay

We are proud to report that in late August the Environmental Quality Board ruled in favor of WVRC and upheld the more stringent pollution limits. The ruling also upheld our DEP's right to enforce those limits.

Because of our action less pollution will end up in that water you paddle. Help keep your waters clean, support West Virginia Rivers Coalition.

For more information on all of our work visit www.wvrivers.org.

Shanda Minney,

Executive Director

West Virginia Rivers Coalition

329 Davis Ave., Suite 7

Elkins, WV 26241

(304) 637-7201

sminney@wvrivers.org

2009 Club Officers

President:	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
VP:	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
Secretary:	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
Treasurer:	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, on the second Tuesday of each month
Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

Membership: \$20 per year. New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send directly to

Membership Chairman: John Kobak, 440-871-1758
1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, OH 44145

Any opinions, views or recommendations expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the article's author. Printing these articles in no way implies approval or advocacy of any of the opinions, views or recommendations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or any of its Officers, editor, or members. Water sports are a potentially dangerous activity. Keel-Haulers Canoe Club recommends and encourages all of its members and others to abide by all laws, regulations and recommended practices when engaging in such activity. Each member is responsible for assessing her/his own abilities and for not engaging in activities which are beyond those limits. Members assume any and all risk when choosing to participate in any activity and the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club is not responsible for any damages resulting from such participation.

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

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

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the November issue of the newsletter is **10/21/09**.

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

Keel-Hauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@aol.com
October, 2009



Keelhauler's Kanews November, 2009



**Next Club Meeting is Tuesday, November 10th at 7:30 PM
at Middleburg Hts Community Center, 16000 E. Bagley Rd.**

Annual Election of Officers

Program: Future Club Activities and Paddling Schedule

We invite all members with an interest in seeing our club grow and remain a viable club to attend this meeting. We need club members to express their opinion on what kind of activities they would like to see and help organize in the future.

Subjects to be addressed like:

How to get more people to volunteer to help out in club activities or to give back to the club after they become experienced paddlers.

Should the club put their effort in bringing more non-paddlers into the sport or provide more activities and training for paddlers already in the club.

How to get young paddlers to take a more active role in what appears to be a graying membership.

Plan more family oriented outdoor outings.

Plan more scheduled trips for Sea Kayakers or Recreational Paddlers.

Plan instructional roll sessions for new paddlers including supplying kayaks.

Have more interesting meetings and/or social meetings at different venues.

Plan after roll session parties.

Appoint a social committee to plan the social meetings and parties.

Appoint a training committee that plans Skills & Safety Clinics for new paddlers.

Propose a progressive learning trip schedule for newer whitewater paddlers.

Remember all talking, but no volunteering will not help anyone.

Consider not what the club can do for you, but what you can do for the club.

[Map to Middleburg Hts.](#)

All guests are welcome. Invite a prospective member!

It's that time again... 2010 dues!

Take a look at your mailing label, if it says "**2010 Dues are now payable**", you are not paid-up and the December newsletter will be your last. If you are reading this newsletter on-line, go to this web page:

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

User Name: "**dir**" and the current 2009 password found on pg 20 of our yearbook or see monthly e-mail.

If the last column by your name says 9 and not 0 you are not recorded as paid for 2010.

Please mail your \$20 check to:

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

Or, pay \$21 on-line using Paypal. Use this link to pay.

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

As we get ready for the 2010 yearbook to go to print please make sure all your contact & paddling preference information is correct by reviewing the on-line copy of the yearbook. Note 2009 members are still listed.

You can **review your membership listing** on-line:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook9.pdf>

Please encourage any of your non-member paddling friends to join/rejoin the club. The club offers a lot to paddlers of all skill levels at less than the price of a tank of gas to go paddling.

Special Request– I will be out of the country starting 11/12/09 and would like to get membership wrapped up before I leave, so **send your money TODAY**, I need to wrap it up by 11/10/09.

John Kobak

KHCC Minutes October 13th, 2009

A brief October meeting was held.

Secretary's correction and apology: In the last minutes I totally misspelled the name of one of our new members. The correct name / spelling is Ron Czellath. Sorry Ron.

Terry Markoff gave a Treasurers report which is detailed later in the news letter.

Library: Pat G. reported that the library has recently received three new donations.

Sue Lan Ma donated her dvd River Runner's Edge by Kent Ford

Jen and Phil Raber donated their dvd LVM #29 and the book Every Crushing Stroke by Scott Shipley. Thanks to Sue, Phil, and Jen!

Membership: John Kobak stated that we currently have 124 paid members out of a total of 302. Time to pay your dues!

Trip reports: Jim Hunt and Terry Markoff reported on how well the KHCC was represented on the Gauley this past Gauley season.

Terry remarked on the slalom race held every year at Ram Cat rapid on the Middle Yough. He stated that it is a great way to improve skills.

New Business: Ed Charlton stated that the proposed slate of officers is not ready yet and the traditional election will be out off until November. There is an urgent need for volunteers to take on some club offices. This would be a great opportunity for some new blood to get in on management. If you are interested, please contact Ed.

Program: Rick Feinberg screened a film made by the BBC series Going Tribal about the island of Anuta and it's people. Rick has actively studied the culture there since the 1970's. Rick was a consultant on the production. Thanks Rick for another excellent program.

SYOTR!, Pat

Oct. elections were canceled by Ed Charlton because there wasn't a VP nominee. The folks showing up at the meetings are the same 12-15 folks who show every month and who are already filling positions or who have already done their turn at the various positions from Secretary, Treasurer, VP and President and department chairs. According to Joe Markz, clubs (not just paddling clubs) across the country are having trouble filling positions. Keelhaulers was founded in 1967 and is still following the same format. Perhaps it is time to come up with a new format. Suggestions are welcome. Please call or email Cliff Wire with suggestions. 440.439.6541

cwire64@sbcglobal.net

Income/Expense Report for FY 09 10/1/2008 through 9/30/2009

Category Description	Amount
INCOME	
Conservation Income	103
Dues	6,314
Interest	390
Meeting Room Refund	25
Rescue Weekend Income	846
Reservations	57
Verm Race Income	1,290
TOTAL INCOME	9,025
EXPENSES	
Cash	-9
Conservation Donations	2,075
Internet	135
Library	223
Meeting refreshments	196
Meeting Hall	60
Newsletter	1,578
Non Profit Corporation Continuation	25
Org Dues	75
Postage & Supply	466
Promotion	53
Rescue Weekend Expense	939
Verm Race Postage	242
Verm Race Expense	748
Yearbook Printing & Envelopes	1,224
Yough Reserv	180
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,210
OVERALL TOTAL	816
Terry Markoff - Treasurer	

Lil Mary's Lower Yough Trip Sept. 26th and 27th, 2009 By Brent Hendren

Worth Noting: There are *some* facts in the following account.

Although it was cloudy and rainy all day, spirits were high and the only thing that could have improved the trip was if Lil Mary could have actually been there. Ten paddlers met at the boater's lot Saturday around 11:00. Jill Noel, Luis and Chuck stayed with the boats while Sam Reynolds, Pat Guzowski, Don Case, Sue Lan Ma, Debbie Avallone, and I were shuttled by Cathy Chung.

Water temp was 62 air temp around 55- 59 flow was at 1.78 cfs. I was prepared to report a no swim day but there was a rumor Sunday that there may have been one swim and self rescue but I didn't see it so I can't report on it.

In preparation, I quietly asked a few of the seasoned paddlers to make it **look** like they were trying to rescue Luis (Jill's BF) if he swam. When asked why they should only pretend to rescue him I explained my absence on the river this summer was in part his fault as he was distracting my paddling buddy!! But he never came out of his boat no matter what lines I showed him or failed to show him LOL. I had him stuck in a little hole for a bit, but of course Phil and Jen Raber are just too kind and rescued him before he flipped.



Phil and Jen blatantly disregarding trip organizer's instructions & actually helping Luis out of hole. Photo by Jill

Cathy, a very talented and aggressive young paddler provided us with a little excitement as she attempted the pre-wash move at Railroad. She flipped in Charlie's and rolled up just in time to pin. Our crew got to her quickly and stabilized her boat while Pat G. with the quickness and agility of a cat jumped up on the rock to



Brent lounging & looking downstream in anticipation of Romance Eddy. Pat, Sam & Phil betting he gets no visitors. Photo by Jill Noel

lift her and her boat out of harm's way. Pat G to the rescue, way to go Pat! After a brief pause at the loop takeout, I rushed down to Romance Eddy where I settled in a waited... O boy, here they come I thought. One by one they approached and one by one they passed me by. Yes once again I was stood up in Romance Eddy. It was their loss because I have been in Romance Eddy with some pretty fun peeps. Just ask Ron (eat your heart out Shelly) Michael, Larry, and Ross to mention a few. Oh yeah and I can't forget the threesome with Jeff and Karen. If you ask any of them about their experience they will probably just blush and act innocent because we all know that "what happens in Romance Eddy **stays** in Romance Eddy"!!!



No waiting at Swimmers.. (Do you think Debbie chased everyone away?) Pat G and Lucky Duckie Luis also in photo. Photo by Jill Noel

When we approached Million Dollar Wave someone alleged a prize for the best splat move. The alleged prize was a kiss from Debbie. Geez you should have been there. The word had spread up and down the river and soon the place swarmed with contestants.

Following some great and not so great attempts and a short but heated debate, Jill was declared the winner! Unfortunately the awards ceremony was cut short by Debbie's proclamation that whoever alleged the prize did not have the authority to give away her kisses. (no attorney's present so it was dismissed). We all meet at Lonestar Restaurant for dinner and upon entering Pat G



Line forming for Splat Rock competition. Photo by Jill Noel

starting getting Nauseous LOL. The food was great but the décor was rather disturbing for NE Ohioans. Steelers yellow and black everywhere complete with banners, helmets etc. Food was good and rather disturbing for NE Ohioans. Steelers yellow and black everywhere complete with banners, helmets etc. Food was good and reasonably priced. Sue Lan can really pack the food away and definitely got her money's worth on the buffet!!! Three little pigs got desserts that looked deadly. I won't say who those three little pigs were but you could ask Debbie, Marcia and Chuck for desert recommendations. I would report on the evening at Chuck's place but I was asleep on his wonderfully dry porch by 8:00 PM. I guess it rained a lot and I heard there were reports of a bear nearby. At least I was told, rather rudely by Jill and Luis, that it sounded like a bear near my tent zzzzzzzzzzz...) I didn't hear anything and slept just fine.

Day two was little warmer with some occasional sunshine. We lost Don but gained Phil and Jen Raber, Jim Hunt and Marcia Karchmer who joined Chuck Singer on his shredder.

Since we had such an uneventful day on Saturday and since I was still plotting against Luis, I thought I would shake things up a bit. I won't go into details, as to avoid prosecution, but let it be known that Luis did in fact swim three times before we reached Piddly, once at the spin hole. Oddly everyone but Luis and I had dropped down to the staging eddy at Entrance and therefore no one can explain how under my cautious supervision Luis managed to get in the spin hole and flip, beats me. Once Luis was back in his Duckie we headed down to join the others. I may have failed to eddy out but the next thing I know Luis is out of his boat again. Ouch, Entrance can hurt, LOL. I mean geez I felt bad. I really did feel bad because **He *was helped to shore before Bryson's!*** For details on the third swim you may want to look at the commercial photos at Cucumber at 11:00 on September 27. The rest of the day was once again swimless. A real interesting thing happened to Sue Lan at the Loop take out, but I am not sure I can describe it. Let's start by saying I think she can probably claim first descent on a new line that ended her wedged between large boulders at the take out for the loop. All I could do was wonder how she got there as I watched Chuck tilt her boat on its side and pull her and boat through the slot. This time Jill beat me to Romance Eddy and I am happy to report no one joined her either! Not EVEN Luis.

Things were peaceful as we drifted the doldrums. For giggles I started chasing falling leaves and after actually catching one I challenged Jen to try and match that feat. She did! I was crushed as I thought I had finally out done her. I should have known better Jen is a superstar! Soon Debbie was catching leaves with her paddle, her elbow, her boat and I was expecting her to like flip roll up and snatch a leaf out of the air just to raise the bar out of my reach.

When we got to swimmers I planted myself on the sideline and watched all the skilled ones surfing, spinning and throwing ends as suddenly a swimmer slips through the hole right next to a spinning Pat G. I figured he was just a rafter swimming Swimmers. Wrong he had left his duckie in an eddy up stream. Phil and Jen eventually helped him to shore and while Jen went back to surfing, Pat to spinning and me to eating, Phil carries back up stream and rescues the guy's duckie. Phil's Karma account must be overflowing. Way to go Phil!

Cathy begs me to show her Decapitation Rock so reluctantly I agree and advise the group to take a look at Cathy as her face may soon change and off we go. Phil, who had warned Cathy several times not to follow my lines, fell in behind her. Cathy ran Decapitation just how she was expected to. She flipped and was in the middle of one of those teetering rolls, you know the roll where you are almost up and almost down trying to balance but it could go either way, when Phil reached out and settled her boat as I gasped with concern, or was it for oxygen as I was laughing too hard. Anyway Cathy looks forward to showing another unsuspecting newbie that line.

Cathy turned out to be my kind of girl. To repay Phil for his kindness she asks if she can probe Brunner's. I let everyone know of her request and they all drop back and allow her to take point. I am few boats back so I watch as Cathy defined her line. Phil is following her line perfectly when bam, Phil flips and I can only imagine the grin on Cathy's face as she finishes the rapid without him.

Thanks to all who paddled and made this a great weekend! We always find ways to have fun.

TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2010

Michael Duvall

The Fall releases are here so it must be time to think about all the paddling trips you have taken this year and all the trips you would like to see next year. Having been Schedule Chairperson for a couple of years I hear that we need more trips and trips to new rivers. I agree, but it takes someone to step up and organize the trip. If you would like to go to a specific river just pick a river and a date and put it on the schedule. You might have to say "Depending on responses" or some thing like that to let your fellow paddlers know that you can't do it alone. We can't expect to have the same people lead the same trips year after year without people getting bored.

I have also heard that we need progressive trips for newer paddlers to improve their skills from beginner to intermediate. I was fortunate enough to have gone through the red cross class and met three like minded friends that wanted to do our own progression. We started doing a couple of trips on the Grand, Middle Yough, Little Beaver and Cuyahoga, Peninsula to Boston Mills. We had to work our way up to the Lower Slip club trips. I understand that the Red Cross has been having fewer students in recent years so it is harder for an individual to make that progression. People we need to help these fledglings along so they can reach their potential.

I would like to remind everyone that class III-IV is not for everyone. We need flat water trips. I know that we have a large number of sea kayakers in the club and many that do flat water as well as white water. Many of our club members are also Brad Street boaters and plan trips. Lets put those trips on the schedule. Lets join together and have fun on all types of water.

If anyone would like to be the Schedule Chairperson please speak up. I would be more than happy to help them get started. It could be that two or more people (a committee) could get together and work on different levels. One for Flat through II and one for III-V.

If you have Ideas, please send them to me and Current VP, Cliff Wire.

Michael Duvall

Safety In Numbers

By Marty Cooperman

Late October. Not many paddling days remaining. I left work at 4, had the boat already tied to the car and the gear inside. A quick change into my light neoprene clothes and off to the 72nd St launch ramp on Lake Erie by 5:15.

It looked cloudy, a bit gray, but the anticipated rain and small craft advisory were for later in the evening. Right now I'd get a few hours practice in my new outrigger canoe and be home before dark, maybe 7PM this time of year.

'How's it out there' I asked a returning fisherman. 'Nice' he replied 'nothing big out there'. Did he mean fish or waves? There were lots of cars in the parking lot. Fishermen also taking advantage of the warm weather. Indian summer weather.

As I cleared the bulkheads I could see a gentle 1 foot swell coming in from the NW. The outer breakwall light was less than a mile off, and beyond that, 2 sets of fishing boats, the first another mile beyond the breakwall and a second group a mile beyond them to the north. Each group stretched out about a mile east-west. That would make a good destination, to head north and go out east of the furthest group, turn west and go beyond the far end of them, then head SE, clear the breakwall light and head back in. Maybe 6 miles in all.

It was fun taking the gentle 1 foot swells from the north, on the nose. The canoe rose nicely and settled back down. Occasionally an off-beat little wave would catch us and the outrigger would slap down on it, but the main hull is too long for that and remained steady.

Out past the first group of fishermen, and then out beyond the second. Not a bad strategy, I thought. If anything kicked up and caused me difficulty I'd be among some 25 – 30 fishing boats several of whom would be sure to see me and offer assistance. In an emergency, there's safety in numbers. Especially when those numbers include a lot of bigger boats than mine, with much bigger engines.

Passing the last group of fishermen I was now north of everyone, so I turned west with the waves now broadside, but with the outrigger on the downwind side in its stable position. Less stable is with the outrigger upwind, getting lifted with each wave and no support downwind. Passing the far end of the western-most fishing boats I noticed a little puff of air, then another, then a bit of a gust and then a steady increase in wind. Hmmmm, time to start heading back. I was at the furthest point from home.

As I turned SE for home, the outrigger on my left, was now partly upwind and the first part of the boat exposed to the waves. As a wave would pass it would lift and I would have to balance as there was no supporting outrigger to my right.

The winds quickly increased and the sky got noticeably darker. Was this the leading edge of the coming front? The wind was now around 15 knots and short, steep waves were starting to form. The boat would be very stable heading directly downwind to the south, but to the south was the outer breakwall. I had to angle east to clear it and that meant exposing that outrigger to the waves.

I was beginning to get anxious. I paddled hard, mostly on the left side where the outrigger was so I could lean on its buoyancy. Maybe I could paddle all the way back that way? Nope, I'd be exhausted trying to make that distance paddling on one side of the boat. Switching paddling sides to the less stable right side I cringed as passing waves sharply lifted and then dropped the boat. Gulp. I looked around for my friends, the 30 fishing boats. And to my surprise, they were nearly all gone. I'd been dimly aware that a few had motored in behind the breakwall, but when I took a good look there were only 3 or 4 remaining and they were underway as well. I'd be the last guy in.

As the waves grew I tried to plot a strategy of paddling on the safe left side while angling more to the east away from the breakwall, and then when paddling on the right, heading in a more stable direction south. But I had to paddle east more and more as the waves were pushing me south to that

breakwall. I had to clear that eastern tip. I didn't want to come too close to the breakwall as the rebounding waves would make things even worse. Whitecaps were in abundance. Streaks of foam were appearing on the surface. The water temperature was 56 degrees.

I barely cleared the breakwall end, too close, and got sloshed around by ricocheting waves, nearly thrown from the boat one time as it flipped up the crest of one sharp wave and down its backside. Now I had a mile to go to the protection of the bulkheads of the launch area and faced the same problem as before: the waves pushing me south towards the shoreline rocks, me having to paddled east and broadside to the waves to make it to the launch area.

It was then I saw what I took to be a coast guard boat. It was actually from the Division of Watercraft, but I couldn't tell from that distance. They were some considerable distance from me, had probably come out when the winds picked up to make sure all the fishing boats made it back and then spotted me. Well, that was some comfort, although I would have hated to be rescued. I'd practiced capsize recovery each time I'd gone out in the canoe, usually 3 times in a row. First this took place in warmish September waters, but more recently in 59 degree water with my new thin wetsuit. Chilly but do-able. Outrigger canoes are very rescuable. Once capsized, you flip the outrigger back over the boat, and with it righted, swim to the other side where you can get a foot hold on the outrigger and boost yourself back on board. No real skill here, just grunt work. The outrigger's got a huge amount of buoyancy. It's why I bought this kind of boat.

I was paddling harder, about as hard as I could without an all out sprint. Just a mile to go. The winds were still pushing me south to the rocks. I was furiously paddling east to clear them. I didn't care which side of the boat I paddled on now. The quick stroke even on the right side acted as a brace. Hundreds of braces, one for each wave. The waters looked pretty ugly, grey with long streaks of foam, whitecaps, dusk. Several off-sequence waves caught me by surprise and just swept over the boat filling the little footwells with water, which the venturi drains quickly emptied. And then I saw the Watercraft boat in the distance, surge forward with full engine power and disappear into the launch ramp area. Were they out there to keep an eye on me, or to watch the fishing boats at the launch ramp? Well, no need to worry about an embarrassing rescue now.

I pretty much became numb to the wind and waves. I just kept up a steady dependable stroke, a dozen to a side before switching. I kept eyeing the shoreline rocks getting closer and judging how far it was to the launch area. Suddenly I heard the hissing sound of a breaking wave. I looked to the north and saw a series of steeper, bigger waves, crests starting to tumble, about 80 – 100 feet away. 3 footers moving quickly towards me. I couldn't risk taking these broadside where the outrigger would lift first. I pressed hard on the rudder and paddled sweep strokes on the left and turned the boat to a safer dead downwind position as the first of the waves hit. The stern would lift, then the rest of the boat, and then we'd plunge down, the bow underwater for a moment before it lifted and the next wave hit. 5...6...7 waves, if these kept up I'd never get to turn back east and I'd go surfing right into the shoreline rocks. And then, that was the last of them. Jeepers.

Turning back east I realized I was being tracked by a big motor cruiser. Maybe the Watercraft boat had been in contact with him and left only when he showed up to keep an eye on me. I quickly raised my hand in a friendly wave meant to reassure the motor cruiser that I was just fine. I'm not sure I fooled him anymore than myself. He stuck with me, maybe

100 feet back as I came closer and closer to the launch area and finally got out of the waves into relatively calm waters. I turned, waved my paddle to him and saw him depart. That was very nice of the fellow. And then I saw the Watercraft boat appear from the bulkhead of the launch area. A fellow in a red drysuit hailed me with a megaphone from the bow and asked if I thought I could make it in to the launch. I was momentarily taken aback. NOW he asks me if I can make it in? I'm in flat, calm completely protected waters. I paddled over so he could hear me and told him I was fine, and thanked him for looking out for me. He waved goodbye, turned his boat away and roared off, leaving me slopping in his wake. And then it dawned on me what had spawned those 3 foot steep waves a half hour before. Jeepers.

The launch ramps were a mess of motorboats. There are, I think, 8 ramps and not only were all taken, there was a lineup one and two rows deep waiting to get out. There were all 30 of my fishing boat buddies scrambling for their pickup trucks. I'd have to wait. I'd paddle a few laps by the bulkheads to keep warm.

I only tried a single capsize practice this time, inside the bulkheads. The water was chilly but with the wet suit on, only briefly chilly. I flipped the boat upright, swam to the other side, stepped on the outrigger, hoisted myself aboard and paddled back to the ramps, now clear of boats. I hoisted the boat on my shoulder and carried it to the car, where I had a warm fleece jacket, a windshell and thick wool hat waiting. As I walked to the car, a fellow came past and asked if it was rough out there. All I could think to do was nod.



Chuck Singer keeping an eye on Marty in his Outrigger Canoe

Indoor Roll Sessions

by Judi Cleary Fordyce

It is that time of year again to think about indoor roll sessions. The club has once again made arrangements at both Orange and Lakewood Pools to have roll sessions on selected Saturdays in Nov through Mar. **Please check the KH website for exact dates as the pools (esp Orange) may need to make adjustments to the schedule due to High School Swim meets etc.**

Here are the **tentative** dates for Nov – Dec.

November:

- 7: Orange 4-6pm
- 14: Orange 4-6pm
- 21: Lakewood 3-5pm & Orange 4-6pm
- 28: Lakewood 3-5pm

December:

- 5: Lakewood 3-5pm& Orange 4-6pm
- 12: Orange 4-6pm
- 19: Lakewood 3-5pm& Orange 4-6pm
- 26: Lakewood 3-5pm

Here are some IMPORTANT Reminders regarding pool sessions:

1. PLEASE Remove all airbags and clean out your kayak so that no leaves, dirt etc will wash out in the pool.
2. PLEASE do NOT do any seal launches of kayaks from the edge of the pool. If you see anyone doing this, please remind them not to.
3. We have been very fortunate in having these two schools allow us use of their pools, and it is to us to respect their property.

Thanks so Much! Judi

2009-2010 Roll Sessions

Keelhaulers Canoe Club

These roll sessions are sponsored by Orange Community Education and Recreation & Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Department, and are to be held at Orange High School Pool and Lakewood High School Pool.

PLEASE CHECK KH Website for DATES of roll sessions. CHECK frequently as ALL DATES are subject to change!

Orange High School Pool Roll Sessions

Pool time starts at 4:00pm and ends promptly at 6:00pm. We must shower and be out of the building by 6:15pm. A charge of \$6 per person per session (\$5 for Orange School District residents) covers the use of the pool. All participants at Orange MUST complete a registration form with emergency contact information prior to entering the pool area.

Lakewood High School Pool Roll Sessions

Sessions are scheduled on Saturday afternoons from 3-5 PM. We must shower and be out of the building by 5:15pm. 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.

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

1. All boats must be clean. Remove the air bags and wash the boat, inside and out. Do this at home. Dirty boats are not allowed in the pool.
2. Sessions are open to the general public. Club membership is not required to participate. For those interested, membership forms will be available at the door. Annual club dues are \$20 per family.
3. The roll session at Orange High School is preceded by an Open Swim session. If you arrive early, please wait outside the building with your boats until 4:10 PM. Please bring in boats through the back emergency exit, which will open at 4:10 PM.
4. Please sign in and pay the lifeguard/manager upon entering the pool. Please bring exact change.
5. We must avoid damage to the facilities and especially the pools' tiled surfaces. Remove metal rudders from sea kayaks. Do not bring aluminum canoes. Do not launch off the deck of the pool -- enter your boat while it is sitting in the water.
6. The pool 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. Helmets will be 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, and on the local media as well.

November			Pay Dues	
1/7, 14, 21	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
11/7	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
11/7	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
11/7, 8	Tallulah Release (GA)	34	Tim Gill	706-296-1232
11/10	Club Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Joe Marksz	216-281-1517
11/14, 15	Tallulah Release (GA)	34	Tim Gill	706-296-1232
11/21,28	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
11/21	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Brett Mancino	216-570-7382
December			Last Chance to Pay Dues	
12/5	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
12/5,19,26	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
12/8	Club Holiday Party at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Joe Marksz	216-281-1517
12/12, 19	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511

2009 Club Officers

President:	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
VP:	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
Secretary:	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
Treasurer:	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, on the second Tuesday of each month
Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

Membership: \$20 per year. New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send directly to

Membership Chairman: John Kobak, 440-871-1758
1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, OH 44145

Any opinions, views or recommendations expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the article's author. Printing these articles in no way implies approval or advocacy of any of the opinions, views or recommendations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or any of its Officers, editor, or members. Water sports are a potentially dangerous activity. Keel-Haulers Canoe Club recommends and encourages all of its members and others to abide by all laws, regulations and recommended practices when engaging in such activity. Each member is responsible for assessing her/his own abilities and for not engaging in activities which are beyond those limits. Members assume any and all risk when choosing to participate in any activity and the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club is not responsible for any damages resulting from such participation.

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

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

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the December issue of the newsletter is **11/21/09**.

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

Keel-Hauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
[**peetzaguy@aol.com**](mailto:peetzaguy@aol.com)
November, 2009



Keelhauler's Kanews *December, 2009*



Next Club Meeting is Tuesday, December 8th.
Doors open at 7:00 PM, dinner is at 8:00 PM. at 7:30 PM
at Middleburg Hts Community Center
16000 E. Bagley Rd

Program: Annual Christmas Party, Pot luck dinner
Please bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name.

A-E: Main dish or Casserole

F-L: Salad or Vegetable

M-R: Bread or Appetizer

S-Z: Dessert or Fruit

The club will supply beverages, plates and plastic ware.

[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

All meetings are open to guests.

Invite a prospective member!

Last Chance to pay 2010 dues!

Take a look at your mailing label, if it says "**Last Newsletter - 2010 Dues unpaid**", you are not recorded as paid.

I will be back on December 18th and will catch up on any checks that were mailed since November 10th.

If you are reading this newsletter on-line, go to this web page:

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

User Name: "**dir**" and the current 2009 password found on pg 20 of our yearbook or see monthly e-mail.

Please mail your \$20 check to:

Keel-Haulers Canoe Club

1649 Allen Dr

Westlake, OH 44145-2506

Or, pay \$21 on-line using Paypal. Use this link to pay.

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

As we get ready for the 2010 yearbook to go to print please make sure all your contact & paddling preference information is correct by reviewing the on-line copy of the yearbook. Note at this point 2009 members are still listed.

You can **review your membership listing** on-line:

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook9.pdf>

If I don't get your payment by 12/22/09, your name will not be listed in the 2010 Yearbook.

John Kobak

[My Mexico Blog](#)

KHCC Minutes November 10, 2009

As noted on the message board, Bill Keane a member of both the KHCC and TRPC passed away recently. Our condolences go out to Sue and their family for their loss.

Officers election:

Nominations from the floor: Pat G was nominated for VP by John Kobak but he declined the nomination. Michael DuVall was nominated by John and accepted the nomination completing the slate.

Slate of officers:

President: Cliff Wire
Vice President: Michael Duvall
Treasurer: Terry Markoff
Secretary: Pat Guzowski
Trustees: Ed Charlton
Rob Hammond
Jim Hunt

The election was held and passed.

Patty Hunt made a motion that we recognize outgoing officers for their service. Motion passed. Thanks to them, and all past officers, for their hard work and dedication.

Special Notice: With Rob Hammond unavailable this year, there is an urgent need for volunteers to help organize the Vermilion race and the Rescue Rodeo. These are two very important events to the KHCC. Please consider volunteering. Contact Cliff to do so.

Treasurer's Report: Terry is finalizing the budget.

Roll Sessions: Judy reminded us to make sure that we attend the poll sessions with a clean boat and be sure not to seal launch from the pool deck to avoid damage to the pool.

Membership: John Kobak reported that we are currently at 189 paid members versus 210 at this time last year. Get your dues to John so that you may be included in the yearbook.

Trip Schedule: Michael Duvall is urging members to please

organize a trip. Contact Michael by mid December to get a trip listed in the yearbook. There is a need for trips of all levels but especially for flatwater.

Library: Pat G reported that Les Berke donated a new copy of the book, The Bombproof Roll and Beyond, to the club. Thanks Les.

Training: The Red Cross class schedule is posted on the KHCC web site under the instruction drop down menu.

Judy reports that Cleveland Kayak School will continue focused on whitewater. She also mentioned that they have their trip to Chile coming up January 9th to the 15th. The trip will mostly be intermediate in nature. There is still room for more participants, contact Judy or Larry Fordyce if interested.

SYOTR,
Pat G

State of the Club, November, 2009

By Cliff Wire, President

Trip Organizers

Trip Organizers are in need again. If you lead a trip in 2009, please lead again in 2010. Consider adding one more trip to your schedule.

Contact Michael Duvall with your planned trip.

Vermillion Race

Helpers are needed to make this race happen.

What types of help - registration day of race, boat measurement to qualify for a specific class, assistance recording finish times or start times.

Long time race starter Hank Annabel will continue to work the start.

Vermillion Race calendar

Sundays

March 21 - River Cleanup

March 28 - Vermillion River Race

April 04 - Easter

April 11 - High water makeup date

The world is small

By Sabine Iben

This happened on a 4th of July weekend (or Labor Day), I think in 2006- so I am kind of late for a trip report, actually more a shuttle bunny report...

Once again we were going with our ever expanding family for a paddling trip down south- this time without a baby- sitter, do taking turns paddling while pretending that hanging out at the take- out waiting for mommy or daddy is an exciting adventure for at that time 2 month- old Lisa, 2- year old Ronja and 4- year old Annika.

We were not going to make it all the way to the Ocoee that day where we were going to meet up with a group of people that included Barb Bodemer, I think Debbie Avallone, Art and Marya Teal and others. So we ended up joining a large group led by Steve Ingalls on the Dry Fork of the Cheat for a warm-up run. Terry ended up paddling while I got to drive shuttle, throw rocks and wave good- bye with the girls. Realizing it was a beautiful day and a large group of people that doesn't usually move very fast I was planning to kill a lot of time at the conveniently located playground and picnic area at the take- out in Hendricks, WV. On our arrival there was already a lively party going on in the large picnic pavilion. Pretty soon the two bigger girls started playing with the other children and it took not more than five minutes until a delegation came over to invite me to join their family

reunion. The next couple of hours were probably my best times as a shuttle bunny. Others helped watch my kids while I stuffed myself with burgers, hot dogs, salads etc., took a few sips of beer and made lots of friends- so did the girls. We even got to sing Happy 80th (or so) birthday to Uncle Bob (or so) and ate birthday cake.

And then I found out that some of the family members even came from Cleveland. Actually Uncle Bob (or so) has a nephew that kayaks.

Actually he just got married (or in the process of getting married) and he and his wife go all the time. They are even members in a kayak club.

What is his name?

Arthur.

I don't know any Arthur, so I am thinking rec boating.

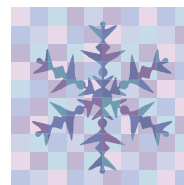
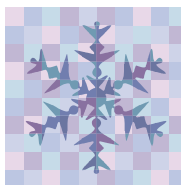
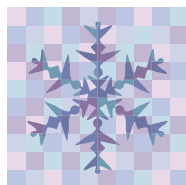
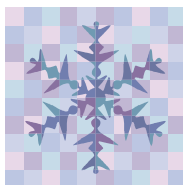
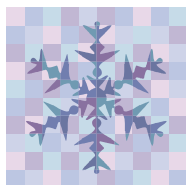
What is his wifes name? Marya.

Then it dawns on me, Art and Marya are missing their family reunion for a paddling trip down to the Ocoee while I got to sing Happy Birthday to Uncle Bob.

They sure were surprised when we called them a little later.... We had a big laugh and a great weekend paddling-like always.

I am still in shock after finding out that Art died this last Saturday of a heart attack at an age when this shouldn't happen. We will remember him.

December			Last Chance to Pay Dues	
12/5	Slippery Rock (PA)	13-19	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
12/5,19,26	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
12/8	Club Holiday Party at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Bob Bair	440-963-7008
12/12, 19	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
January	2010			
1/1	9th Annual New Year Paddle at Edgewater Beach		Stuart Warner	440-356-9550
1/2,9,23,30	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
1/16, 23	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511



Happy Holidays!!!

2009 Club Officers

President:	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
VP:	Michael Duvall	216-521-0094
Secretary:	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
Treasurer:	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, on the second Tuesday of each month
Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

Membership: \$20 per year. New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send directly to

Membership Chairman: John Kobak, 440-871-1758
1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, OH 44145

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KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

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Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the January issue of the newsletter is 12/21/09.

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@aol.com
December, 2009



Keelhauler's Kanews

January, 2009



**There will be no meeting in
January.**

**The next club meeting will be
on February 7th.**

Time and location TBA.

Publicity Czar or Czarina wanted

By Rob Hammond

Picture yourself on Madison Avenue at 'The Agency', the one with the penthouse office space in the tall glass building, managing the ad campaign for that Fortune 1000 company with their new killer product. You know that new thingamajig that will turn your client into a Fortune 10 company if only you can roll out the marketing campaign that will make everyone want their own thingamajig. And of course... you pull it off, make it look easy, the boss makes you a full partner, you buy that Maserati sports car, you hang with the movie stars and you owe it all to...well, your humble start as the publicity chair for the venerable Keelhaulers Canoe Club! Ok, ok, I can't promise you that you will learn to be the marketing genius responsible for marketing the next I-Phone. And no, we are not looking for someone with any experience or even marketing talent. What we want is someone

to let folks outside of our club know about upcoming club events, such as the Vermilion Race, our annual auction and the Rescue Weekend to attract new members and inform the public of what we are about. You would do that by sending announcements to local newspapers and posting on various message boards and sending flyers to local businesses. And no you don't even need writing skills, but if you have them all the better. We have folks who can create the materials, what we need is someone to do a little legwork or send a few emails to get the word out. Are you looking for a way to get involved, or to give back a little to our sport by getting new people excited about joining us on the rivers and lakes? Well give Ed Charlton or myself a call and see if this is something you would like to do.

Rob Hammond 216 292-5618 or rob@scd-corp.com

Ed Charlton 440-716-5489 or ed.charlton@gmail.com

Compliments of our Webmaster.....

Believe it or not, ten years of old newsletters are posted on our website.

<http://www.keelhauler.org/khnews/>

CLUB TRIPS

Remember that the new [2009 trip schedule](#) is now being planned. Please volunteer to organize at least one trip next year. The trip schedule is the most important part of the club. These trips are for YOU. Please step up and organize one. Please contact Michael Duvall at Michael.Duvall@amgreetings.com

Burning River Update

By Dave Hill

Things have really heated up on the Cuyahoga and 2008 had its good and bad points. Where to start? Well first off; this watershed has some real paddling opportunities that should not be missed.



Jon Janoski – Sheraton Section Rookie Drop @ 400 cfs

Would You Drink the Water?

The questions about water quality are valid concerns but what river doesn't have its issues? There are many stories about paddlers getting sick on runs in rural areas and remote runs alike. Direct contact and minor water ingestion is a part of our sport and everyone should be concerned about the water we paddle. Remember to do your part to reduce impact to this resource when you are on or off the water!

Now what about the Cuyahoga? Well it no longer burns. A November 2008 presentation by Ohio EPA (Steve Tuckerman) during a Friends of the Crooked River meeting indicated that water quality continues to dramatically improve throughout the watershed. The dam removal projects in Kent and Monroe Falls have achieved their goals of improving aquatic biodiversity as outlined in [EPA's 2007 study](#). *"This survey affirmed that the portion of the Cuyahoga River in and near Kent is in FULL attainment of the aquatic life use biocriteria. The reach in the former Munroe Falls dam pool improved slightly from pre dam removal conditions and is in PARTIAL attainment. This Munroe Falls reach was in NON attainment of the aquatic life use biocriteria prior to the dam removal. Habitat scores throughout the study area were more than adequate to support warm water habitat fish communities. There were no exceedances or violations of chemical/physical water quality. Total phosphorus concentrations in the river exceed the statewide TMDL nutrient target concentration of 0.17 mg/l. The aquatic life attainment status in the river immediately downstream from the both the Kent and Munroe Falls dams did not change from premodification conditions which indicate that the dam projects did not have a significant adverse effect on downstream reaches. Verified computer model predictions indicate that, with the exception of total phosphorus, existing effluent permit concentrations at existing and requested expanded flows will meet current water quality chemical/physical standards or targets."*

I don't currently have a summary report for the lower river reaches, however EPA indicated that water quality continues to show improvement but there are those 3 other dams that need addressed. Let's discuss the dams later. The water quality in the Gorge section below the Ohio Edison dam shows remarkable improvements and I believe it is in FULL attainment of the

aquatic life use biocriteria. Both the types and diversity of aquatic species are indicative of a river on the mend. Comments from the fishermen we see while paddling support the EPA findings, this section is hot for small mouth and I have seen steelhead trying to scale the falls below the dam. The City of Akron has completed the Rack 40/31 Detention Basin which is a 9.5 million gallon storage tank designed to minimize combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into the Cuyahoga River.



While this basin is downstream of the Gorge section it does reduce impacts to the flatter sections as the river turns back north. Not saying that the CSOs in the Gorge section don't run (there is physical evidence), but I have not seen any of them discharging during my 23 runs in 2008. The biggest impact I see are storm water remnants in the form of drink bottles, Styrofoam and other debris from rain events. I removed 7 trash bags last April (Earth Day) from the dam to Butterfly just on river right! So if you want to help in 2009 contact me.

Should You Paddle the Water?

DUH! Of course you should, unless you don't mind driving to other states or believe that myth about no whitewater in Ohio! Currently we have some very good options for all levels of paddler experience. The extreme upper reaches (above Lake Rockwell) provide Class I float opportunities in a more rural setting. From below Lake Rockwell all the way to Cuyahoga Falls is another Class I-II section that allows the paddler to stay in a mostly natural setting with urban influences. In Kent, the unaware could get wet! However, the experienced paddler will get wet and smile.



Need beta on this section? Then go [here](#) to read the AW write-up.

After Kent however, things mellow out all the way to the first dam in Cuyahoga Falls at LaFever's Restaurant. Below this dam is the put-in for those looking to run the Sheraton section which paddlers can get their beta [here](#) to read the AW write-up. So much for that myth about no whitewater!



After you paddle the great drops below the Sheraton, get ready for a flatwater workout before the next and last damn. About ½ way you will notice that the former Gorge Power Plant is being demolished and we should be one step closer to opening up this section of whitewater. Think about those drops you just ran and try to imagine what other [rapids](#) could be hidden below the dam pool as you reach the Ohio Edison dam.



After you portage the Ohio Edison dam make sure you hike high on river left to access as much of this last large drop before you run the Gorge section.

The Gorge holds a lot of variety based upon the flow and will offer up some good play or a big water run. Get your beta [here](#) and remember to have your boat registration up to date and a permit from Metro Parks to keep the rangers happy.

After the Gorge, one could paddle the flatwater and do the strainer boogie for awhile, but I recommend driving to Boston Mills. Right below the I-271 overpass, the construction has been completed and the river bed has been cleared. There is a natural ledge that creates a perfect park and play location with eddy service on river right that extends over 100 yards downstream! Did I also mention the heated restrooms at the parking area?



So there are some reasons as to why you should be paddling this gem. Need I say more?

Now about those Dams!

The Kent and Monroe Falls dams have been removed and the improvements to water quality have been documented. In regards to the LaFever and Sheraton dams, well stay tuned as I have a meeting in early 2009 that should shed some light on their future!

That leaves the Ohio Edison dam. The proposed hydroelectric project just won't die. When it seemed as if FERC made a final decision on terminating the license, the project was given a new life for 3 years. I still don't understand the process or the turn of events, and the best way to stay up to speed is to frequent the Friends of the Crooked River [Save the Gorge page](#). In addition, all submitted documents on this project can be accessed through the [FERC website](#) under the Documents & Filings heading, eLibrary, general search using Docket Number P-12484.

Kent Whitewater Park Update

The last time I reported on this project it included a discussion about potential funding from the DNR. Well in November, Kent learned that the application was not accepted and grant monies

would not be available. However, we did meet with DNR to better understand the application process and what DNR would accept for grant approval. The next application will be submitted in March 2009 and be limited to 3 boater access points in Kent. In addition, the City of Kent has asked [Recreation Engineering and Planning](#) to prepare a scope of work and cost estimate for the next phase of the project (Preliminary Design/Regulatory Pre-Application Process). This phase of the

project will outline the design requirements and permitting content for the instream modifications. While the initial DNR application was not approved, the City of Kent is trying to keep the project momentum moving forward. However, the recent financial issues affecting all aspects of spending will be problematic as communities evaluate budgets. A summary of all news articles and City blog postings on the whitewater park project can be found at the [Kent Whitewater Update](#) webpage.

January	2009			
1/1	8th Annual New Year Paddle at Edgewater Beach		Stuart Warner	440-356-9550
1/3,10,24,31	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Fordyce	440-554-8595
1/17,24	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Fordyce	440-554-8595
February				
2/7	Ohiopyle Winter fest		Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
2/7,14,21,28	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Fordyce	440-554-8595
2/7,21,28	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Fordyce	440-554-8595
2/7	Club Monthly Meeting - Location & Program - TBD		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
2/14,21,28	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Perry High School's pool - Saturday 1:30pm-5:30pm		Ernie Anderson	216-431-3076
2/21,22	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
2/20,21	National Paddling Film Fest (KY)		Michael Duvall	216-521-0094



American Red Cross Greater Cleveland Chapter Aquatics & Boating



For specific course information, call the

are on our website: www.redcross-cleveland.org

number next to the class. All classes

Fundamentals of Kayaking: 93308

The objectives of this course are to provide the participant with the skills to: Safely maneuver a kayak; rescue themselves and others from routine boating incidents; develop awareness of hazards associated with the sport of flat-water kayaking. Topics included: rescue breathing, hypothermia, trip planning, gear, and boat outfitting, prevention of related sports injuries, knot tying, and legalities. In-water practice sessions comprise the majority of the course, and focus on balance, stroke technique, maneuvering, rescues, and rolling. The course is aimed at beginners. **A 3-MINUTE SWIM TEST IS DONE AT THE FIRST SESSION. This class is a prerequisite for river classes.**

Cost: \$105: includes life jacket, paddle, and kayak.

Phone Ernie Anderson for information (216) 291-1093

Site	Registration	Meeting Dates and times
Perry High School	216-431-3076	4- Saturdays Feb. 14, 21, & 28. 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm. Must attend all sessions.
Lakewood High School	216-431-3076	4 Sundays: March 8, 15, 22 & 29 th . 2009, 4:30 pm-7:30 pm Must attend all sessions. (162123)
Orange High School	216-431-3076	4 Saturdays: April 18, 25, May 2, & May 9 th 2009 4:00 pm -7:00 pm Must attend all sessions. (162739)
Rocky River High School	216-431-3076	4 Sundays, April 26, May 3, 10, & 17 from 12-3pm. Must attend all sessions. (162739)

Boater Humor

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 is just slightly scratched.

Class II: Novice

Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which 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 river bank 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 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 which is finally pinned by major feature. Climbing up river bank involves inverted tree. One of those spring loaded pins that attaches watch to 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 and to get a breath from time to time. Terror and panic set in as you realize your paddle partners don't have a chance in hell of reaching you. You come to a true understanding of the terms maytagging and pinballing. That hole that looked like nothing when scouted has a hydraulic that holds you under the water until your lungs are close to bursting. You come out only to realize you still have 75% of the rapid left to swim. Swim to the eddy? What #%~~&*#* eddy!? This rapid 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 \$900.00 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.

2008 Officers:

President: Ed Charlton 440-716-5489
VP: Cliff Wire 440-439-6541
Secretary: Pat Guzowski 216-780-5734
Treasurer: Terry Markoff 440-543-4969

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KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@aol.com
January, 2009



HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Keelhauler's Kanews February, 2009



Next Club Meeting is Saturday, February 7th

at Pacers Restaurant after the Lakewood Roll
session at 5:30 PM.

Happy Hour, Food and shake away the winter
blues with Kayak videos.

[Pacers Menu](#)

14600 Detroit Ave, Lakewood, OH

A few blocks North of the pool on Detroit across
from the Hospital [See Pool Map](#)

All meetings are open to guests, so invite a prospective member!

Where in the World is our Webmaster?

Check out: <http://khmexico08.blogspot.com/> for his latest
moves.....



A Letter from the Office of Publicity Chair Elect:

The club has created a new position- Publicity Chair. I am happy to have this opportunity to serve the club as the first to hold this position. I feel this will be a great way to stimulate this proud and well-established club as well as bring some attention to our sport. I think the Keelhaulers are one of the best-kept secrets in town. Up until now I have not done much to serve the club or give back to the paddling community. I am very excited to do this now. My job will be to help get the word out about our club and the great things it has to offer. I have spoken to club

officials about various ways to promote the Keelhaulers and the events we have throughout the year. Part of our goal, as always will be to encourage new membership. However, I feel it is just as important to promote all paddle sports in general. I think we need to make people aware of the paddling opportunities around here and get them into boats. We can worry about them being club members after they decide if they like paddling or not. It has been realized that paddling (especially whitewater) and our club has a major P.R. problem. Most people in Northeast Ohio have no understanding what it involves or how to go about getting started. I plan to begin to take steps to remedy that. Our goal is to work with outdoor shops, other sporting clubs, various event organizers, and any form of media that will give us a minute of their time. We want to bring paddling into the public eye. This will be better for both the club and the people in our area. One of my personal goals is to spread the sport not just to other active people, but all those couch potatoes watching reality TV.

In mid January, David Hill and I attended a meeting to discuss planning for the upcoming "Year of the River" events. The Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization put on this public meeting. Their plan is to bring as much awareness to the river this year as they can. This is due to the fact that it has been 40 years since the infamous fire. They are celebrating the amazing improvements that have taken place since then. The plan is to have a series of river related events throughout the year. I made it clear to them that we would like to be involved whenever possible. Whether it is having info at a festival both or paddlers on the river. (This is when we will be begging for volunteers!) The other important part of this is that they will be pushing for a lot of media attention. I will be working with them so we can get some press time as well. Of course, all this requires two things. Money and volunteers. I am going to try and do as much of the legwork and PR stuff myself, so we can minimize the need for both of the things mentioned before. But what a better way to give back to your club/sport then by offering a few hours of your time at some event!

If you are reading this and not currently a Keelhauler member, I encourage you to join for many reasons. First of all we are trying to inject some new blood into the club. We need people with energy and new ideas. Secondly, if you are a past member, and don't like to renew, what gives? Put away any old grudges or feelings that "I don't do Keelhauler trips anymore". You don't ever have to show up at any club event and you can be anonymous if you like. So please cough up 20 bucks so we can use it to help promote the sport we all love.

Please feel free to contact me with any advice, criticism, or ideas you might have.

Peace, Mike Larkin, hikemike@hotmail.com,

H: 216 486-4833, C: 216 952-9525

A Whiter Shade of White

by Matt Muir

Low Bridge in December

(With apologies to Thomas S. Allen)

We got some rain on top of snow,
And y'know that means that the crick'll flow.
We had to get our ducks in a row,
But you know fer sher we wuz gonna go.
We had to wait for the ice to clear,
Cause the shelf can mess you bad, y'hear,
But you're gettin' all the play you seek,
If you find high water on old Flint Creek.

Low bridge, I hope you're gettin' ready,
Low bridge, and you'll have to catch an eddy.
'Cause you ain't gonna stand up
straight for a week,
If yo' haid whacks the bridge on old Flint Creek.



Adrian runs First Drop.

Like most of the Northern states, we had a snowy beginning to the winter. November snow had me skiing before Thanksgiving. By Christmas, Rochester had over 40 inches of snow! Just after Christmas, however, we got a heavy warming trend with rain. Rain + heavy snowpack → heavy snowmelt → flood!

I began to look at the local club Message Board, and saw that Adrian had posted about [Flint Creek](#), our favorite local run. It's III-IV, with good play and nice character. During a phone call on Saturday, he told me that it'd be pretty much unrunnable, due to persistent ice. Bummer, because the air temp was around 60°F, which is very rare up here in late December. Flint peaked overnight at ~2400 cfs, nearly twice my previous high. Steve Benedict, the longtime Flint Creek guru, walked it in the early morning and pronounced it substantially ice-free. Adrian would wait 'til after church, which was okay with me, because it was still upwards of 2000 cubes.

See, the high water on Flint doesn't just create big-assed holes and like that there; it also causes trouble at low bridges. There's one in particular that's pretty low at 700 cfs. Above about 1300, it's a real sketch to see whether or not you can get under it or not.

We ended up meeting a little after 1:30, with the crick still roarin'. We were four: Adrian, Steve, Drew, and I. The USGS gauge later told us that we were running it at ~[1600 cfs](#), still the highest I'd ever run it.

By this time, the weather was returning to a wintry 'tude, with temps in the low 40's and high-wind warnings. High wind is great: the flood softens up the trees on the banks, and the wind knocks 'em down.

The sketchiest bridge is the one after Double Drop. A quick scout convinced us all to portage the bridge. I thought I saw a line to the left, but with the cold, and big-ol' logs under the right side of the bridge, it was easy to decide to walk it.

There was a hole before the bridge, and though Drew and I made the eddy easily, Adrian got surfed by the hole, making him work harder than he'd expected in order to grab the eddy. Steve found the hole also, and as he extricated, he saw a line, so he changed his mind and went for the bridge, after all;

he made it fine, though he had to do a serious limbo to get under it.

Did I mention that Steve had just celebrated his 60th birthday? And that he was the only one of us in a playboat? (You can tell Rob Hammond that there's hope for him yet.)



Low Bridge after Double Drop.



Trippple Drop at 1600 cfs.

Soon after Double Drop is Trippple Drop, which usually culminates in a hole. On this day, it ended with a huge rooster tail, which I skirted but Steve ran the meat of and pronounced quite tasty.

There was great surfing all over. Despite the cold, we made good use of the great play opportunities. And we were lucky that the flood-wind combo didn't create any really bad strainers on this wood-infested creek.

When we got to the bridge leading to "Concrete Factory," a passing car stopped, waved enthusiastically, and watched us run the rapid. Ham I Am, I love that stuff.

The most dangerous rapid on the stream is the Tubes, caused by a railroad bridge with two supports in the river. The supports tend to collect wood, of course, so we always scout the spot from the road before running the creek. On this day, all "doors" were open, though "Door Number One" (the left-most of the three Tubes) had some wood by its support. We all opted for Door Number Three, which was easy and clean.



Walking back after scouting the Mill Drop.

At the end, we encountered the Mill Drop, a ten-foot waterfall which is tight and munchy at 500 cfs. A bunch of people came out of the wine bar at the site of the old mill and encouraged us to run it. Their exhortations notwithstanding, there would be no takers. A couple of weeks later, I found out that one of the spectators at the mill was a woman I worked

with. She showed me a hazy, low-rez photo of me in my boat in the take-out eddy.

After Flint, I headed for an hour or so of skiing at [Bristol Mountain](http://www.bristolmountain.com). The mountain had been damaged by the rain--losing such great trails as Universe, North Star, and Lower Challenger—butt there was good corn snow on many runs (and some ugly crusty ratty stuff on others). This was the first time I'd ever run whitewater...and then run even whiter water!

Check out my GPS track from the day at http://www.everytrail.com/view_trip.php?trip_id=96268.

Note: such a trip requires some preparation. I packed for paddling and packed for skiing—butt I didn't pack for the transition between the two. The result: I walked from the parking lot to the ski hut in my sandals and wet boating socks.



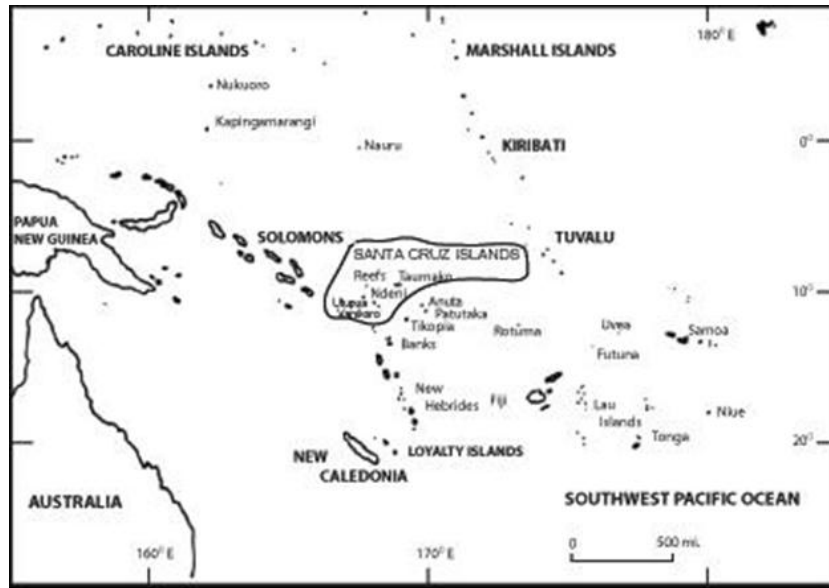
Man-made Jumps at Bristol Mountain.

FISH & SURF:

Canoes & Paddling in the Solomon Islands

by Rick Feinberg

For the second straight summer and fall, I've been absent from our favorite rivers. As many of you know, I returned just before Christmas from six months in the Solomon Islands, where I was continuing my study of Taumako ("Duff Islands") voyaging and navigation. Nancy joined me for the first three weeks, while we were in Honiara, the Solomon Islands capital. She made a website with some photos and memories: <http://thomasriddle.net/solomons/>.

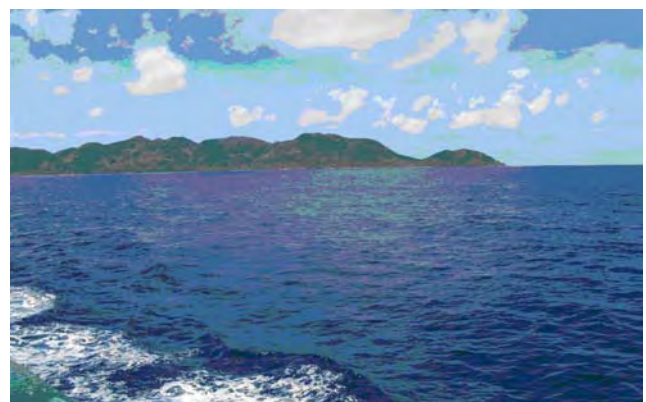


MAP SHOWING SANTA CRUZ GROUP IN RELATION TO OTHER ISLANDS OF THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC.

Taumako is not Polynesia's most isolated island, but it's pretty close. In the 3½ months I spent there this year, we had visits from three ships—only two of which carried passengers and cargo. (The other was a scientific visit by a team of malaria experts, conducting a survey on behalf of WHO, the Gates Foundation, and the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Health. They found an infection rate of 20%—about 100 cases out of the approximately 500 people on the island.) Before my arrival, there had been no cargo ship in six months, and such supplies as kerosene were virtually exhausted. Since our only light was campfires, we generally had dinner before dark, went to bed early, and were up at dawn—around 5 AM. I reached Taumako from the Reef Islands, about 70 miles away, by motor canoe. The return from Taumako to Lata, the provincial capital on Ndeni Island, 100 miles away, was via the same transport. My only mail was one letter from Nancy, which I received on my return to Lata in November. It was supposed to have gone via air mail; nonetheless, it took three months to reach me from Ohio. Taumako does have radio contact with other islands in the Solomons, so I wasn't completely cut off from the outside world, and I enjoyed weekly conversations with Nancy via satellite phone—a luxury I haven't had on previous field expeditions. Even so, it took until almost a week after the presidential election for me to find out the results.



Taumako as viewed from Haiava, one of the outlying islands of the Duffs Group.



Taumako as viewed from a departing ship in September 2007.

In many ways, my visit to Taumako was a great success. In addition to my time on the island, I spent 2½ months with Duffs people in other parts of the Solomons. While on Taumako I lived in three different villages and got a pretty-well-rounded picture of life there. My mastery of the language isn't quite what I'd hoped it would be at this point, largely because almost everyone speaks excellent Pijin. But my fluency has improved, and I often conduct conversations in the local language.



Tahua, Taumako's artificial island and home to community's oldest village.



A scene from Ngauta Village, my second Taumako home.

To get an understanding of island life, I spent time with people in their bush gardens and at sea. Fishing methods included trolling, drop-lines, spear fishing, and nets on the reef. I went on an exciting night-time turtle hunt, that ended abruptly when one of my comrades was injured by a stingray. I climbed one of the highest mountains to help pull down a canoe hull. (Unfortunately, the best trees don't grow near the beach.) I made a couple of canoe trips to the outer islands of the Duffs group. For about a month, I had use of a dugout canoe and, through participant observation, learned local techniques for paddling, poling (which I still do poorly), and sailing. I also brought with me an inflatable kayak, which was invaluable for exploring, paddling out to ships, observing people at sea when they didn't have room for me in their canoes, and for general flexibility of movement.



Madlyn and Peter working in their taro garden.



Rick with friends, Reginald, Damarest, and their son, Brilliant. Reginald is industriously building a rest house which he's calling "Okinawa Resort." He plans to charge twenty Solomon Islands dollars a night for meals and lodging.

That's the good news. The downside is that there was no voyaging canoe in service during my time on Taumako. In lieu of direct observation, I had long conversations with about a dozen people who have sailed and navigated voyaging canoes. I documented techniques for sailing and, to some extent, navigating single-hull dugouts and fiberglass motor canoes. And when traveling by canoe or ship, I did my best to use local techniques—primarily observing stars and ocean swells—to figure out where we were heading.



Ini Taupea *e volo maile*—getting ready to spear gar fish from a canoe at dusk



Preparing to pull canoe hull down the mountain.

During my time on Ndeni, home of the provincial capital, I spent a lot of time with “Old Man” Clement Teniau, a widely-respected navigator from Nukapu, an island that is culturally and linguistically similar to Taumako. We sailed and paddled to Teniau's home about a dozen miles from Lata, and I spent a week touring with him through four of the five Vaeakau islands: Nukapu, Pileni, Nifiloli, and Matema. We were in a motor canoe for that journey, but I did have plenty of time to quiz him about his understanding of where we were, where other islands were located in relation to our position, and how he knew all of this. And we did some of our traveling at night, so we could look at the stars and try to observe *te lapa*—a phenomenon described as “underwater lightning” which, people say, guides sailors to their destinations.



Teniau at the helm of his sailing canoe.



Tinakula volcano as viewed on voyage from Lata to Manongi, home of Teniau.

My conclusions from these several strands of information are mixed. I don't think Taumako navigators are as skilled as some reports suggest. Yet, they always have been able to point accurately to all the islands in their navigational universes, and, from what I could see, we never were off course while I was on the ocean. More importantly from the perspective of the National Science Foundation, which supported my research, I think I have some useful information on the cognitive maps that Vaeakau/Taumako navigators use to figure out where they are in relation to their starting point and destination in what, to most of us, would seem a vast, featureless ocean.

Last year, I sent you all a summary of one exhilarating sailing expedition to give you some sense of my experience. Let me continue that tradition with a segment from my field notes on a fishing trip with the same friend, Basil Tavake.

Last night I thought I had an invitation from Basil Mekau to go fishing today at Lua, an island about two miles off Taumako's southeastern coast; but he told me at the last minute that there was no room in the canoe. Getting bumped turned out to be a stroke of magnificent good fortune.

Around 9:30 last night, I saw a fire burning at a neighbor, Jeremia's, house and walked over to investigate. I learned that Jerry and Basil Tavake were planning a fishing trip of their own; and he advised me to talk to Tavake first thing this morning to see if I could join them.



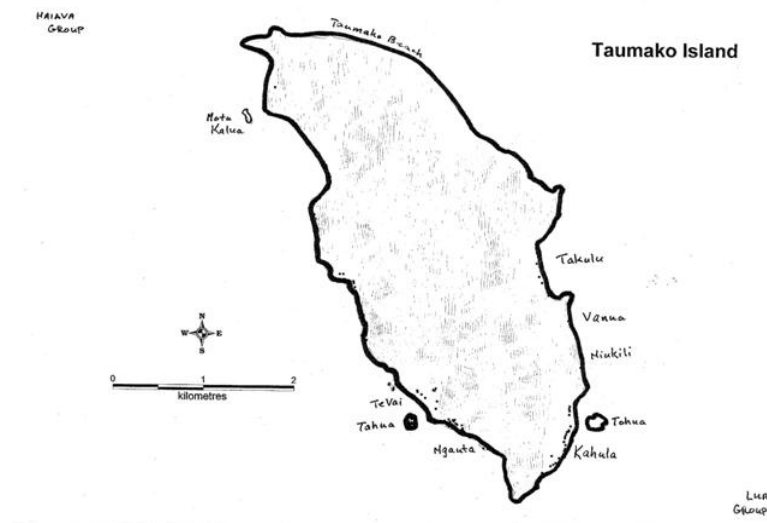
Basil Tavake, netting fish on the reef near the surf line off Niukili Village.



Dugout canoe of similar size and condition to Tavake's

I got up a little before six and immediately went to Tavake's house, where I found him asleep. The fishing trip was news to him, and he said he needed to "cook some bolts" (i.e., to make a sinker or two); but as soon as he could get ready he was game. "ASAP" did not arrive until mid-day.

I spent the morning helping to grate coconut for tomorrow's feast and going through fish name identifications with another friend, Geoffrey Niumama. By the time I got back to Tavake and we were ready to go, it was about 12:15. We went together in his old, dilapidated, but quite large canoe. He was in the stern and I in the bow. I started paddling on my right (starboard), and he started on his left (port) but changed sides a couple of times. It has been ingrained into my subconscious that bow and stern paddlers should never paddle on the same side, except for emergency maneuvers such as a cross-draw to avoid an oncoming rock. So I started changing sides to avoid that cardinal sin and was quickly reprimanded: *he* could change sides since he was steering, but I should stay on one side or the other. (He preferred that I paddle on port.) Initially, he also told me that I should sit on the port side of the canoe while paddling on the left, but he eventually changed his mind and told me to sit in the middle.



Map of Taumako

That having been settled, we headed for the passage at Vanua and out into the open sea. En route, we met Mekau's canoe on its way back from Lua. The fishermen hadn't had much luck; but the meeting was fortuitous, since it gave me a chance to reclaim the fishing line I'd lent out for that expedition.

Once we were through the passage and clear of the surf, Tavake decided it was time to troll for *maile*, a slender fish with a sharp bill several inches long. The weather was clear, and there was not much wind. We had large swells; judging by the distance I had to look up to see the biggest crests, and by sighting on the distant islands, I'd say that they ranged from two to three feet up to five or more. But they were gentle swells with nary a whitecap. A nice day to be on the ocean.

Tavake got out my 15-pound test fishing line with something that looked like a piece of rag on the end of it. He started to let it out behind the canoe, when I noticed that there wasn't any hook! Tavake explained that one doesn't use a hook when trolling for *maile*. Instead, one uses the inner portion of a piece of synthetic (probably nylon) rope that's about four inches long. *Maile* have long, narrow, pointed snouts with what look like hundreds of sharp but very small teeth. They bite the lure, their teeth get tangled in the threads, and they can't escape. In fact, this method seems more secure than a fish hook; of the ten fish that struck our lure, not one escaped. As in some other parts of the Pacific, Taumako people used a rolled-up spider web to make hookless lures before synthetic cord became available.

Tavake let out about fifty yards of line, and we paddled along a seemingly random course, first heading south toward Takulu, then out to sea, making gentle turns here and there. It wasn't long before we had our first strike, and in about a half hour we had three *maile*, two to three feet long including the bill, and weighing perhaps a pound each. (The Taumako word for trolling, by the way, is *trol lain*. There must be an indigenous term, but it seems to have been lost.)

At that point, my companion decided that it was time to try some bottom fishing. The spot he chose was deep enough that even around mid-day, with bright sunshine, we couldn't see the bottom. I asked if he were lining up with landmarks on the island, but he said it simply *felt to him* like a good place. He baited a hook with pieces of a small reef fish and attached it to 30-pound-test line and a two- or three-ounce sinker. With little wind or current that weight was sufficient to reach bottom, about 100 feet down. After a few moments he got a hit—a small *tonu*, a type of rock cod—but that was the last thing we would catch bottom fishing. I put down a second line, he soon lost patience and paddled to a new location. After fifteen minutes more of unsuccessful bottom fishing in two different spots, Tavake declared that we should go back to trolling.

He replaced my hook and sinker with another “rope” lure, and we started paddling in a zigzag pattern, generally in the direction of the point past Takulu. Every five to ten minutes he would get another strike, and by the end of two hours, we had one *tonu* (about a half pound), nine *maile* (a pound or a little more apiece), and one *pala*. *Te pala* looks like a much larger version of *te maile*: instead of being about 2 ½ feet long, the one we pulled in was four to five feet. It had the slender profile of *te maile*, however, and was probably not more than about four or five pounds. After we almost reached the point north of Takulu, we turned around and paddled generally back, picking up two more *maile* during this part of the expedition and reaching the passage at Vanua at about 2:30. Then began the most exciting part of our day.

The slot between the two large walls of breaking surf was fairly obvious. But the tide was also very high, and waves broke all the way in to shore. We got past the initial break with no trouble. Then, a curl came up behind us, and Tavake decided to surf it in. It was a great ride of about 100 yards! A dugout canoe does not require the wave to be continuously breaking, and for much of the way there was no white; but we went at the speed of the wave, which felt like ten to fifteen knots. We could have run right up onto the beach, but Tavake turned the canoe at the last minute. Then we paddled clockwise around the island, staying close to the shore at Vanua. In the process, we got hit broadside by a couple of large rollers, causing us to ship a lot of water. And by the time we'd bailed most of the water from the bilge, we were back into the surf at Tohua. To get from there to Kahula beach, the most expeditious route again was to find a good wave and surf.

This time, once we caught the wave we didn't paddle at all. Tavake kept the canoe going straight with a rudder, and the wave and canoe did the rest. It was an even more exhilarating ride than the first but didn't end quite so prettily. This time, just before hitting the beach, Tavake pulled out of the wave by turning to port; but as he turned, the wave broke again and poured directly in over the port gunwale, immediately swamping us. We were near shore and could stand up easily, but with the continuing waves, the large canoe—which was extra heavy because it was now full of water—proved hard to bail. Tavake got it started with his paddle, while I held the canoe perpendicular to the waves. He then rocked the canoe backward and forward and side to side to splash more water out. Eventually, I took over with the bailer. We jumped into the canoe from chest-deep water in two- and three-foot breaking waves. Then, our weight shifted at the same time that we got hit by yet another large breaker, and Tavake fell out. At length, he climbed back in, and we paddled back to the beach in front of his house. Amazingly, we didn't lose any gear or fish, although a pot full of *tupoe* (dried breadfruit—*nambo* in Pijin) did get drenched and had to be thrown away.

In a way, it was refreshing to see that even the expert makes mistakes and can end up with a sunken canoe. The difference between the expert and novice, I've become convinced, is not that one has fewer mishaps; but the expert is adept at handling them, takes them in stride, doesn't panic, and even enjoys the adventure. Tavake, in his irrepressible enthusiasm, was talking all the rest of the afternoon and evening about how we sank our canoe—with no sense of defensiveness or embarrassment.

I don't have any major expeditions planned for 2009 and hope to spend a lot more time on US rivers. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing many of you and sharing photos and more stories.

February				
2/7	Ohiopyle Winter fest		Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
2/7,14,21,28	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
2/7,21,28	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
2/7	Club Monthly Meeting at Pacers Restaurant after Lakewood Roll session at 5:30 PM, everyone welcome		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
2/14,21,28	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Perry High School's pool - Saturday 1:30pm-5:30pm		Ernie Anderson	216-431-3076
2/20,21	National Paddling Film Fest (KY)		Michael Duvall	216-521-0094
2/21,22	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
March				
3/7,14,21,28	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
3/7,14	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
3/8,15,22,29	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Lakewood High School's pool - Sunday 4:30pm-7:30pm		Ernie Anderson	216-431-3076
3/11	Club Monthly Meeting and Annual Auction		Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
3/14,15	Slippery Rock Creek (PA St. Patrick's Boating-n-Booze Weekend)	13-19	Ross Brinkerhoff	330-527-0262
3/15	Hike Cuyahoga Valley (OH)		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
3/14, 15	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
3/22	Vermilion River Cleanup (OH)	SK/FW	Hank Annable	440-775-4953
3/22	Rocky River or other local (OH)	8-17	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
3/22, 23	WV Class V Creeking	>30	John Garcia Brent Laubaugh	216-210-7544 724-272-6944
3/29	Vermilion Race (OH)	SK/FW	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
April				
4/4,5	Cheoah (NC) & Tallulah Release (GA)	32	John Garcia	216-210-7544
4/4, 5	Webster WW Weekend (WV) - Stay in a nice warm cabin, limited space available, contact Jamie		Jamie Brinkerhoff	330-527-0262
4/11 - 18 4/11, 12	Old Trip Report - Map - Detail map Cheoah (NC) & Tallulah Release (GA)	22-32	Wayne Carey	304-547-1777
4/11, 12	Lower Yough (PA)	16	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
4/11, 12	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)		Mary Modesitt	540-460-4008

2008 Officers:

President:	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
VP:	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
Secretary:	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
Treasurer:	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, on the second Tuesday of each month
Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

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

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KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

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

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the March issue of the newsletter is **2/21/09**.
Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@aol.com
February, 2009



Keelhauler's Kanews March, 2009



**Next Club Meeting is
Tuesday, March 10th at 7:30 PM**

Program: Annual Auction

**Bring any outdoor gear that you wish to
sell and bring some money to take
advantage of the great bargains.**

**Remember that there is a very limited
market for boats at this auction. You
will get a better price by placing an ad
on our used equipment page. Doors open
at 7PM, and the auction starts at
about 8:30 PM after a short business
meeting.**

[Map to UAW Hall Meeting](#)

5615 Chevrolet Blvd, Parma, OH

All meetings are open to guests, so invite a prospective member!

calendar. That's the date for the first opportunity to get out and exercise some of your winter atrophied muscles!

The river is an easy class II and very scenic. There will be many different race classes based on age, gender and boat length, so there will be a place for you to fit in. The race can be as much or as little as you want, some people take the race at a leisurely stroll with their buds, and others... well lets say that they are in it for blood.

Last year we had 124 racers from near and far. This year we are expecting the sun to shine, good water levels and temps in the 60s, so there is no reason to not come out and join us. Even Phil; that large rodent from Punxsutawney agrees with me that winter will be over.

After the race, there will be hot food for cheap. So come on out for an early spring chance to get ready for the season. Check out the race application, rules and map in this newsletter or online at www.keelhauler.org.

Also, I need a few good women and men to help out at the race and to help with registration and at the refreshment stand. So let me know if you want to hang out with some really cool folks and help us make the race a success! If you still have questions, or would like to help out...give me a call!

Rob Hammond phone: 216 292-5618 or email: Rob@scd-corp.com.

The Vermilion River Race is soon By Rob Hammond

As I write this there is a blizzard outside. So should we be thinking about getting in the water to race? Will there be icebergs to paddle around? Are you just plain nuts? Well yes? No? Most people that know me would say yes! We have held the Vermilion River race for over 40 years. So as sure as the buzzards return to Hinckley and those dinky little birds to Capistrano; the Keel Haulers will return to the Vermilion River for a race. Put Sunday March 29 on your

**Please consider
writing an article or
trip report for the
KaNews. Send it to
Kelly at
Peetzaguy@aol.com !**

40th Annual Vermilion River Race

Sunday, March 29th 2009

(High water backup date April 5, 2009)

Sponsors: **Keel-Haulers Canoe Club** www.keelhauler.org
 Keel Line Canoe and Kayak Supply www.keelline.com

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. If the water level is deemed too high, the race will be canceled and held on the high water date. 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 or less, in the event of boat upset, hypothermia is a very serious risk. It is advisable to wear a wet/dry suit or have a change of clothes in a waterproof bag tied to boat. 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 (.14375 times 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. Senior classes include men and women.

4. ENTRY FEE & REGISTRATION

An entry fee of \$13 (\$17 on the day of the race) per person per event is required. Keel Hauler members may take a \$2 discount. 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 to 11:30 a.m.** Cancellation or failure to participate in the event forfeits the entry fee.

5. STARTING

An instructional meeting will be held at **10 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 p.m.**

The finish line will close at 2 p.m. Any person not finishing within 2-hours after starting will be posted as DNF

6. CLASSES – Read carefully there are changes from previous years

Class	Description
0	nonconforming class or race for time only- no awardgiven
1	C2 Unrestricted (no Pro or ICF boats).
2	C2 Mixed and Women's.
3	C2 Men's Standard.
4	C2S Person Senior (Both 50 years or older) a handicap of 10 seconds per year per paddler over 50 will be deducted from the finish time.
5	C2 Over and Under Standard One contestant is 15 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 Person Senior: 14.49 feet and under (50 years or older).
13	K1 Long One Man 14.5 feet and over and all downriver boats.
14	K1S Long One Person Senior: 14.5 feet and over and all downriver boats (50 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 start 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 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

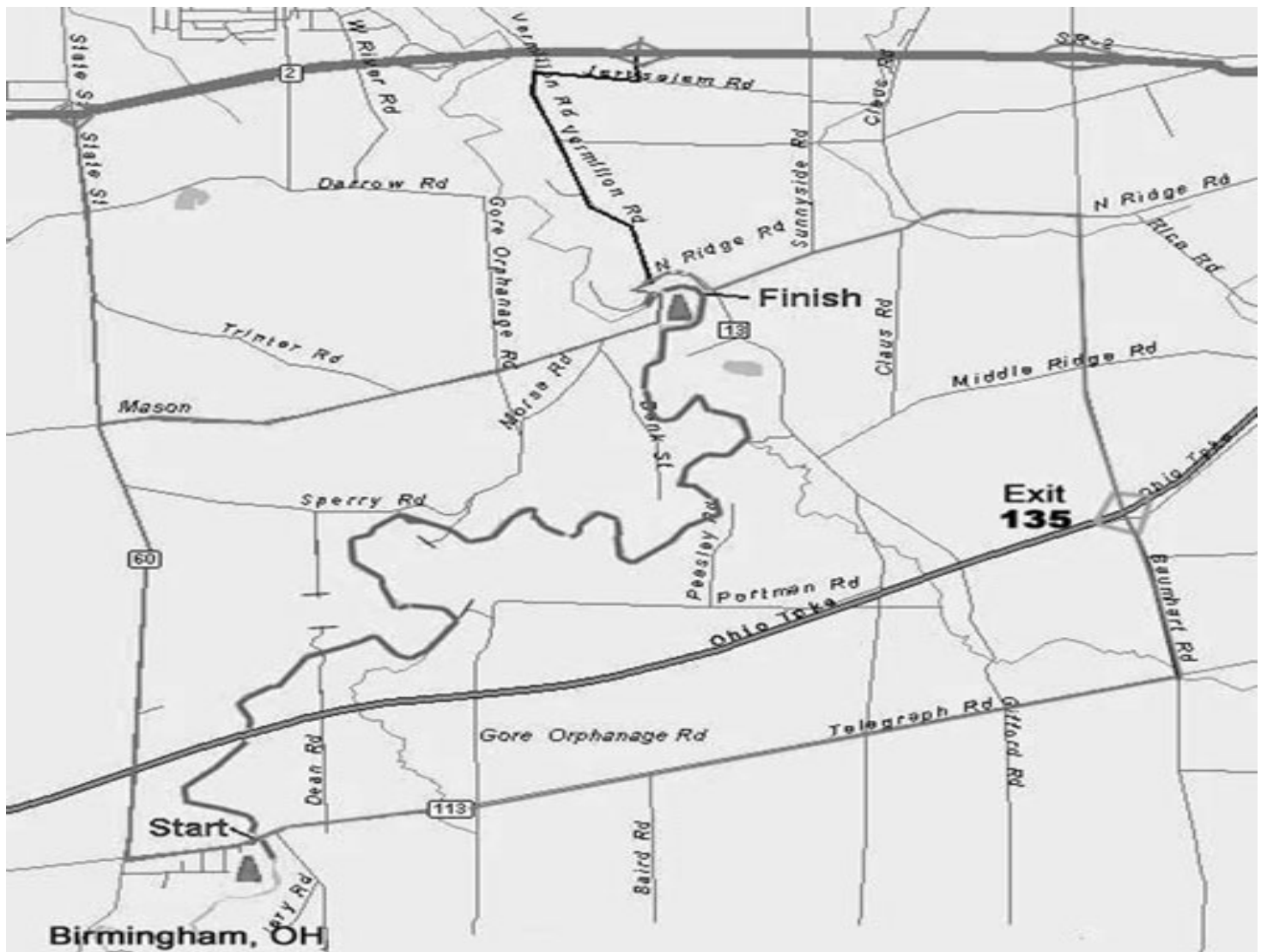
Hot food and refreshments will be available at the Picnic Shelter.

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.



March				
3/7,14,21,28	KH Roll Session at Lakewood pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
3/7,14	KH Roll Session at Orange pool		Judi Fordyce	440-289-5511
3/8,15,22,29	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Lakewood High School's pool - Sunday 4:30pm-7:30pm		Ernie Anderson	216-431-3076
3/10	Club Monthly Meeting and Annual Auction		Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
3/14,15	Slippery Rock Creek (PA) St. Patrick's Boating-n-Booze Weekend	13-19	Ross Brinkerhoff	330-527-0262
3/15	Hike Cuyahoga Valley (OH)		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
3/14, 15	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
3/22	Vermilion River Cleanup (OH)	SK/FW	Hank Annable	440-775-4953
3/22	Rocky River or other local (OH)	8-17	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
3/22, 23	WV Class V Creeking	>30	John Garcia Brent Laubaugh	216-210-7544 724-272-6944
3/29	Vermilion Race (OH)	SK/FW	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618



United States Canoe Association
Competition ★ Cruising ★ Conservation ★ Camping ★ Camaraderie ★

**AMATEUR ATHLETIC
WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY
READ BEFORE SIGNING**

Name of Event: **Vermilion River Race** Dates of Event: March 29 2009, Backup Date: April 5, 2009

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the **UNITED STATES CANOE ASSOCIATION** athletic sports program, related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, and agrees that:

The risk of injury from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,

I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or other and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,

I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and, I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS the **UNITED STATES CANOE ASSOCIATION**, and **Keel Haulers Canoe Club**, their officers, officials, agents, and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event ("RELEASEES"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

X _____ DATE SIGNED: _____
(Participant's Signature)

X _____
(Participant's name and address Please print)

FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE
(UNDER AGE 18 AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION)

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above, of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

X _____
(Parent/Guardian Signature) Date Signed (Emergency phone number)

KEEL-HAULERS CANOE CLUB 41st ANNUAL VERMILION RIVER RACE APPLICATION

Sunday, March 29th, 2009, high water backup date April 5, 2008

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

Contestant (Please Print)

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

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

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____
>14.5'

Email Address _____ Boat Manufacturer & Model _____

Classes - - Check one

Read rules for details

- 0 _____ Non-conforming time only
- 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 Long S, >49yr,

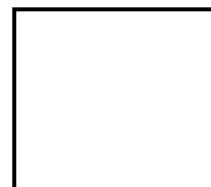
EVERY OHIO BOAT MUST CARRY A REGISTRATION STICKER READING **2010** OR LATER.

ALL ENTRANTS MUST SIGN THE WAIVER ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM.

Make checks payable to Keel-Haulers Canoe Club

Register and Pay Online at <http://keelhauler.org> or Return Registration Form, Waivers and Fee to:

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

- _____ \$13 per person - - Pre-registration
- _____ \$17 per person - - Race-day Registration
- _____ \$6 per person - - Second Race Class
- _____ \$-2 discount for Keel Hauler Members

Total Entry Fee \$ _____ Enclosed

MAIL TO:

Race Sponsor:

Keel Line Canoe and Kayak Supply

Located in Chesterland, Ohio the
Midwest supplier of DB Design kayak paddles
and Fox-Worx canoe paddles.

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

Bib Number _____

2009 Club Officers

President:	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
VP:	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
Secretary:	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
Treasurer:	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, on the second Tuesday of each month
Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

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

Any opinions, views or recommendations expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the article's author. Printing these articles in no way implies approval or advocacy of any of the opinions, views or recommendations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or any of its Officers, editor, or members. Water sports are a potentially dangerous activity. Keel-Haulers Canoe Club recommends and encourages all of its members and others to abide by all laws, regulations and recommended practices when engaging in such activity. Each member is responsible for assessing her/his own abilities and for not engaging in activities which are beyond those limits. Members assume any and all risk when choosing to participate in any activity and the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club is not responsible for any damages resulting from such participation.

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

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

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the April issue of the newsletter is **3/21/09**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@aol.com
March, 2009



Keelhauler's Kanews April, 2009



Club Meeting and Yoga Workshop: April 14th at 7:30 PM Middleburgh Hts. Rec. Center

Come to the April 14th Club Meeting and join in on the KH Spring Yoga Workshop. In an attempt to enhance our paddling performance and avoid some of those nagging overuse injuries, Antoinette Primo will show us some easy ways to prepare for our boating season. All you have to do is show up, and wear some loose comfortable clothing. There will be mats there, but if you have a yoga mat or rug, please bring it. See you there!

All meetings are open to guests, so invite a prospective member!

Generic Trip Report

by Paul Litzer Price

This newsletter sometimes looks like Kobak's personal paddling journal. Now, I'm not saying that he's not a good guy and a fine kayaker and an awesome writer or anything, but KaNews needs more diversity, if only to meet some federal standard or other and keep the club officers out of the slammer (although a little hard time would probably wipe the smirk off our club president's face...). The editor of KaNews is in a bind. She knows, for e.g. that there were people out there paddling on January 1, 2009. That would seem to be worthy of a trip report, but nobody submitted

anything. We're left surmising that some people don't know how to write one. Well, you'll all be out there in April, May, and June, so you'll have plenty to write about. In the interest of fostering the aforementioned literary diversity, we offer up the following Generic Trip Report. Just use the sections and phrases that apply, and you, too can be a writer! On (date) we ran the (Lower Yough /Slippery Rock / Gauley / I tchy footsy). The weather was (warm and sunny / raining /cold enough to freeze your butt to the boat and make you ride on top of the car all the way home / cold enough for the President to keep his pants on). On the drive to the river (Elliott got lost / Matt Muir got a speeding ticket / Rob Hammond drove over his paddle / Kobak showed everyone where they could save a (penny / 5 cent) on gasoline). We arrived (half an hour late / an hour late / two hours after everyone had given up on us).When we ran shuttle, (Doug Smith got lost /Ron Whitney got a speeding ticket / Kobak found the cheapest gas in 3 states. / Cliff Wire mooned the town sheriff). I hadn't met (name of paddler) before, but he assured me that he had run(the Upper Gauley/ the Green Narrows /the Upper Yough) several times without a problem. We took a look at the gage and the level was (perfect for a first-timer / perfect for the certifiably insane). Our spirits (if not our teeth) brightened, we put in. (Name of boater mentioned above) swam at the first Class-2 rapid. This was his/her first swim (in four years / this year / of several dozen that day). When questioned again about his experience, it turned out (he had rafted the Upper Gauley / he had seen a video of the Narrows / he had once driven through Friendsville).At the next rapid, (name of boater) swam. What a doofus. Please abuse him/her when you next see him/her. At (fill in name of rapid) Falls, Steve Ingalls(scouted for 45 minutes / scouted for an hour / scouted until there was no daylight left), then (almost screwed up the line /screwed up the line / really screwed up the line). Matt Muir laughed at him, then(wedged his paddle in a rock and lost it /wedged his paddle in a rock and broke it /set his boat down on his paddle and broke it).At the takeout, we all (drank beer /

drank beer and created a scene / drank beer and got drunk enough to marry Twila / drank beer and joined Cliff in mooning the town sheriff). This also applies for the Sea Kayakers and Flat Water Boaters. Tell us about the Great Blue Heron catching frogs and the eagles snagging fish and all the other cool stuff that you see on your trips. Otherwise I will have to start naming names like Brent Laubaugh who was in Ecuador and promised me something three years ago. Or Duncan Campbell who is still writing part two.

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes March 10th, 2009

That night was the annual KHCC auction. A brief meeting was held. Approximately 20 people were in attendance.

New Members/Visitors:

Ron Tabb from the West Side of Cleveland is a new member whose interest is in the area of Flat water/Sea Kayaking. Currently Ron is taking the Red Cross Fundamentals of Kayaking class.

Adam Gerber whose areas of interest are whitewater and canoeing.

Kimberly Reid who described herself as a beginner.

Jess who has recently moved to the area from Alaska who is a former class III paddler who has not paddled in a while and is ready to get back into the sport. Jess owns a Jackson Fun so she obviously has good taste in boats!

Ryan Russel was visiting along with 2 friends. Ryan is a whitewater paddler from the COP group out of Columbus.

Business:

Ed Charlton expressed gratitude of the KHCC to Patty Hammond for her exemplary work on the 2009 yearbook. Patty obviously worked very hard and the product that she produced shows the results.

Treasurer:

Terry Markoff reported that the KHCC currently has a balance of \$5663.

Rob Hammond reported on the preparations for the 2009 Vermilion River race which is scheduled for Sunday March 29th. As always, volunteers are needed to help staff the race. Help is needed in areas such as registration and the finish line. The race is about 8 miles of class II water. At the end of the race there will be refreshments available and the awards will be presented.

On Saturday, one week and one day prior to the race, the annual river clean up will be held under the direction of Hank Annabelle. Volunteers should contact Hank. The clean up is listed on the trip schedule.

Promotions:

Mike Larkin has volunteered to take on the new position of Promotions Chair. Mike Reported that he has been working on contacting various media. He has contacted the Plain Dealer and they have shown some interest in doing a story. They are interested in doing a story about the Cuyahoga Gorge to tie into the PD's Cuyahoga Year Of The River. This year is the 40th Anniversary of the Cuyahoga catching fire. Mike also stated that he will be looking for volunteers, at various times, to man booths and pass out flyers at local events. Mike's stated focus is to promote not only the KHCC but also the sport in general.

Safety:

Chuck Singer reminded us to be especially aware of how we dress for a day on the river. Check weather reports. Be mindful that even though the air temperature may be 60 or 70 degrees, the water temperature can be very cold. As an example, this week the temperature on the Rocky River topped out at 40 degrees.

Library:

Cliff Wire Donated a new DVD. Pulse a year with Tao Berman and Team.

Trip Reports:

Mike Larkin reported that some folks have been running the Cuyahoga Gorge for about the last month. Mike also recommended the I-271 wave on the Cuyahoga near Boston Mills Road and Riverview Road. There is a parking lot nearby at the tow path and a heated rest room. The waves are present over a wide range of flows with friendly eddy service.

Pat G. reported that he and Kate Koskoris ran the West Branch of the Rocky River, from Pat's house on Pearl Road down to Valley City, the day prior to the meeting and encountered a river that was at a near perfect surfing level, just over 2 feet, and essentially free of any problem wood.

Patty Hammond reported that she has extra yearbooks available if you did not receive yours.

FYI: Chuck Singer reported that the Falls Market in Ohiopyle has been sold to the people who own the Firefly Grill and that they expect the Market to remain as it is.

SYOTR, Pat G

2009 Vermilion River Race Results

Because of Low Water in the Vermilion River the race was moved to the Vermilion Lagoons and the canoes ran a shortened course to protect them from high winds. It was a cool, windy day with lots of sunshine.

Bib	Place	Time	Name	Name 2nd Racer
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Class 0 - No Race Classification

684	1	0:58:19	Spang, Mark	Hidock, Mike
700	2	1:07:14	Safran, Brett	

Class 1 - Unrestricted Canoe

680	1	0:43:04	Harrison, Brian	Huhra, Chad
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Class 2 - C-2 Mixed or Women Canoe

699	1	0:38:28	Masek, Dan	Masek, Sarah
722	2	0:39:07	Boger, Rusty	Boger, Shelby
732	3	0:41:44	Fabian, Erin	Morgan, Erin
734	4	0:45:00	Bennett, Michael	Knisel, Sarah

Class 3 - C-2 Men's Standard Canoe

748	1	0:33:47	Krizman, John	Krizman, Joe
676	2	0:35:55	Leszek, Ed	Skip Conant
723	3	0:40:33	Boger, Jim	Boger, Chris
688	4	0:43:14	Wood, Scott	Wood, Keith
725	5	0:43:30	Philys, Dean	Neal, Eric
696	6	0:43:50	Parker, James	Parker, Jim
737	7	0:43:58	Saltis, Denis	Saltis, Tom
733	8	0:45:05	Oravec, Dave	Burt, Richard
697	9	0:46:59	Strohsack, Daniel	Walker, David
698	10	0:50:47	Logan, Ted	Logan, Ken
740	11	1:18:59	Robinson, Joel	Robinson, Andrew

Class 5 - C-2 Over & Under

695	1	0:49:05	Parker, Jim	Parker, Jimmy
741	2	0:49:48	Hall, Stephen	Hall, Emily
682	3	0:49:58	Annable, Chuck	Annable, Sam

Class 6 - C1 One Person Canoe

739	1	0:34:35	Conant, Skip	
708	2	0:47:09	Tenbusch, Richard	
724	3	0:56:13	Boger, Jim	

Class 7 - K1 Junior < 16 Yrs old

726	1	1:22:54	Wardrope, Kyle	
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Class 8 - K1 Short Kayak < 11.5', Men

710	1	1:06:47	Yakunovich, Dar ren	
727	2	1:22:29	Wardrope, Scott	

Bib	Place	Time	Name
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Class 9 - Short Kayak <11.5', Women

685	1	1:12:31	Homberg, Donna
720	2	1:15:49	Iben, Sabine
702	3	1:18:41	Lemak, Debra
707	4	1:22:16	Holman, Denise

Class 10 - K1 Kayak < 14.4', Men

694	1	0:52:44	Rabatin, Jacob
716	2	0:57:46	Gary, Tim
728	3	0:58:54	Roberts, Ian
721	4	0:59:57	Markoff, T Austin
703	5	1:02:58	Mocnil, Bill
746	6	1:03:18	Hippensteele, Andrew
719	7	1:04:14	Singer, Chuck
744	8	1:06:35	Harple, Brian
738	9	1:09:31	Safran, Mike
704	10	1:16:46	Colonna, Chris
729	11	1:16:55	Koser, Michael

Class 11 - K1 Kayak >11.5', Women

730	1	0:55:50	Monte, Mary Jo
735	2	1:07:30	Schreiber, Joanne
745	3	1:11:55	Hippensteele, Sarah
717	4	1:16:51	McFarland, Coleen

Class 12 - K1 Senior Kayak, >49 years old <14.5'

693	1	0:52:24	Rabatin, Jacob
731	2	0:55:17	Henderson, Jeff
679	3	0:55:46	Mellblom, Peter
715	4	0:57:20	Gary, Tim
712	5	0:58:55	Cameron, Mike
690	6	0:59:37	Kobak, John
709	7	1:09:08	Yakunovich, John
711	8	1:09:28	Chandonnet, Jerry
689	9	1:11:51	Housholder, Bob
714	10	1:15:06	Moran, Ken

Class 13 - K1 Long Kayak >14.5', Men

706	1	0:45:08	White, Joe
677	2	0:45:29	Leszek, Ed
718	3	0:49:16	Betz, Donald
747	4	0:49:35	Way, Jay
705	5	0:54:12	Rogers, John
681	6	0:57:40	Chapman, Thomas
742	7	1:15:52	Payerchin, Richard

Class 14 - Senior > 49 yr old Long Kayak >14.5'

736	1	0:59:10	Davis, Daryl
743	2	1:01:55	Siesel, Steve
678	3	1:03:12	Pauley, Robert

Bonjour from Quebec

by Michael Duvall

We were four voyagers off to Canada “French” Canada that is, “the only Canada” according to South Park. This trip was the brainchild of our organizer Jim McHale. At Cheat Fest he ran into Alden Bird and picked up an autographed copy of his book Let It Rain, guidebook of New England and Quebec. Armed with this book and a road map of Quebec Province he made a list of possible class IV rivers making a loop North of the city of Quebec, as well as a list possible paddlers.

As we approached the border between Ontario and Quebec, the language border between English and French, we felt the need to become French, even if it would be in name only. Jim McHale our organizer became Guy (rhymes with key) Becky Sink became Bridgette (Bridg-eat) Rex Dalmyple was Roger (Rog-air) and I was a boy named Michelle. Roger and Bridgette actually spoke French although Bridgette would throw in some Spanish just for good measure.



The best part of running these rivers was the feeling of making first descents. With only minimal information from the book, we ran the rivers without a guide. The words “Just follow me” were never spoken. Nor were there any preparatory speeches explaining the next rapid around the corner or any crux moves that needed to be made. We were on our own. If we couldn’t see the entire rapid from our boat we would catch the last eddie and get out and scout. One time a rapid was particularly long and complex with blind turns requiring us to get out and scout three times. Jim, Rex and Becky live in Michigan so I joined them in the Detroit area on Friday evening and we headed to Port Huron for the border crossing into Sarnia, Canada. We drove on just past Toronto to Darlington Park campground for the first nite. It was a little rainy which became a theme for the next week. We endured some off key loud singing teenagers which is something we never encountered again. One species that were quick to greet us were the

mosquitoes. They and their friends the black flies would be with us for the rest of the trip.

Saturday we drove to the city of Donnacona, the takeout for that section of the Jacques-Cartier River. Roger broke out the French and found us a camp ground by the putin. This was the easiest river we would do, but a good warm-up rumored to have over 100 surf ledges.

The next day we went to the put-in and found a bunch of cars and even a kayak class and a raft group. Everyone was friendly and asked where we were from and then were surprised at how far we had driven to kayak. Once on the river we left the crowd behind and hardly saw anyone. After paddling the Donnacona we headed toward the City of Quebec.

The plan was to drive to Quebec City then turn North but as we got close to Quebec Jim got on the walky-talky and informed everyone that there was an “Old Town” that might be worth seeing. Everyone agreed so we got off the highway and headed for the city center for sightseeing and something to eat. We toured the walled city area and I explained the epic battle between the French and English of 1759. Rex is a big Disney fan so he determined that Walt must have copied the architecture when making “It’s a small world.”



Next was the Tewkesbury section of Jacques-Cartier. We camped at a raft company but there was no one around. Then two brothers from Montreal showed up. We invited them to camp there even though we did not have permission ourselves yet. In the morning we ran shuttle and shuttled the two brothers as well. They paddled with us for a while until one of us dropped into a keeper hole, got window shaded a few times, swam, and lost a paddle. We got out a breakdown paddle and noticed the guys from Montreal left us. We stopped cursing them when we went around the next bend and saw our paddle sitting on a big rock next to shore. We never saw those two boys again, but we didn’t have any more swims for the rest of the trip either.



The next day we did the St Catherine section, which had some good class 4 rapids. We walked Blueberry, a sweet sounding name for a class 5+ rapid. This portage including handing the boats through a narrow crack between two huge boulders. However the takeout was very convenient, right beside a restaurant where we stopped for lunch.



Many of the rivers in this area were not pool drop but lake drop. Some consisted of five or six good class IV rapids separated by a half mile of a flat water lake. The real surprise was the Metabetchouane that ran into Lac St-Jean. There was very little info on this river in the book but we were in the area and decided to give it a look. We had to drive through the “Bat Fairy” tourist trap (rough translation from the French) to get to the river. When we saw three huge waterfalls that turned directly into class IV white water at the put in so we knew we had to give it a shot. We found that this was continuous class III-IV for about five miles to the lake. We didn’t have any idea of the volume but it felt like more than twice the volume of a Gauley release. It was a deep gorge with no pools and very small eddies at the shore. Every time we came around a bend we expected to see the lake but every time we found more challenging whitewater. When we finally got to the lake we were glad to only paddle a quarter of a mile to our camp on the shore.



From this most northern area of our trip we started working our way back South and West stopping in Montreal to surf the “Habitat wave” on the St Lawrence River. Then it was on to our last river, the Rouge. The Rouge is very commercial, we saw as many rafts as you see on the Gauley, Occoe or Yough, and the only other kayaks were safety boaters. This river is known for the Seven Sisters that are deadly waterfalls. Everyone we spoke to gave us landmarks to recognize the last eddie before the Sisters. Thanks to everyone’s directions we hit the eddie and started the portage which was about a half mile on a rough trail. We didn’t mind the long hike because every time we looked the river we were thankful not to be there. After the sisters we paddled less than a mile of Class II-III to the take out.

Then it was so long Quebec, hello USA.



Tentatively Approved Releases in the Dayton area.....

Tentatively Approved Releases:

March 14 Paint Creek
 March 28 Paint Creek
 April 18-19 Paint Creek
 April 25 Caesar Creek
 April 26 Olentangy
 Oct 10-11 Paint Creek

ODNR will verify the week prior to each release.

Also, "Fee Increases in Proposed State Budget".

As part of the transfer of Scenic Rivers to the Division of Watercraft, a "Waterways Conservation Assessment" fee would be attached to all nonmotorized boat registrations: \$5 per three-year registration for personal canoes, kayaks and other nonmotorized boats, and \$1.50 per year for each livery boat. This assessment would begin being collected in 2010.

Affecting all boat registrations and unrelated to the Scenic Rivers transfer, the Watercraft Registration Agent Writing fee -- currently \$3 and attached to the cost of all registrations -- would be raised to \$5 beginning in 2010. This is the fee that agents are paid for providing the service of writing boat registrations."

<http://www.ohiodnr.com/watercraft/contact/tabid/2069/default.aspx>
<http://www.governor.ohio.gov/Contact/tabid/153/Default.aspx>

April	There are still trips that need an organizer! Please contact John Kobak at kobak@keelhauler.org to volunteer or click on Needs organizer! Thank you in advance!			
4/4,5	Cheoah Release (NC) & Tallulah Release (GA)	32	John Garcia	216-210-7544
4/4, 5	Webster WW Weekend (WV) - Stay in a nice warm cabin, limited space available, contact Jamie		Jamie Brinkerhoff	330-527-0262
4/11 - 18 4/11, 12	2007 Trip Report - Map - Detail map Tallulah Release (GA)	22-32	Wayne Carey	304-547-1777
4/11, 12	Lower Yough (PA)	16	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
4/11, 12	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)		Mary Modesitt	540-460-4008
4/14	Club Monthly Meeting		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
4/18	Cuyahoga River, Lower Gorge (OH)	20	Chris Kiehl	330-869-6549
4/18	Grand River (OH)	SK/FW	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
4/18, 19	Middle Fork & Tygart (WV)	29	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-4182 C
4/18, 19	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
4/18, 25 & 5/2, 9	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Orange High School's pool - Saturdays - 4:00pm-7:00pm		Ernie Anderson	216-431-3076
4/24 - 26	Stonycreek Rendezvous (PA)	21	Ross Brinkerhoff	330-527-0262
4/25, 26	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
4/25	Grand River Race - Alternate Date 5/2	SK/FW	Brian Davidson	800-669-9226
4/25, 26	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Needs organizer	

4/25, 26	WV Class V Creeking	>32	John Garcia Brent Laubaugh	216-210-7544 724-272-6944
4/25, 26	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)		Needs organizer	
4/26	Cheat River Race Clinic (WV)	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
4/26	Little Beaver (OH)	SK/FW	Needs organizer	
4/26, 5/3, 10 & 17	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Rocky River High School-Sundays - 12:00pm-3:00pm		Ernie Anderson	216-431-3076
May				
5/1	Cheat Mass-Occurrence Team Race (WV)	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
5/1,2,4	Upper Yough (MD)and/or Big Sandy (WV)	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
5/2, 3	Cheat Fest (WV)	18-26	Needs organizer	
5/3	Cheat Fest and River trip on Narrows (WV)	18	Phil Raber	740-498-7063
5/9, 10	Cheat Canyon (WV)	26	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
5/9, 10	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
5/9, 10 ?	Basic River Kayak & Canoe - (OH)		Ernie Anderson	216-431-3076
5/9, 10	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
5/10	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
5/10	Upper Cuyahoga (OH)	SK/FW	Needs organizer	
5/12	Club Monthly Meeting		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
5/16	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Ann Corey	330-869-6549
5/16	RiverDay 2009 Friends of the Crooked River (OH)		Dave Hill	330-221-0270
5/16, 17	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Mike Duvall	216-521-0094
5/16, 17	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
5/16, 17	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
5/23, 24	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Needs organizer	
5/24, 25	Upper Yough Release (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
5/23-25	Cheat Canyon, Big Sandy & Narrows (WV)	26	Ross Brinkerhoff	330-527-0262
5/30, 31	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
5/30,31	C. Walbridge Swift Water Rescue Class (WV) Limited to 10 Keel-Haulers, register early @ \$65/person, 2 day Class Outline		Joe Marks	216-281-1517

2009 Club Officers

President:	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
VP:	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
Secretary:	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
Treasurer:	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, on the second Tuesday of each month
Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

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

Any opinions, views or recommendations expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the article's author. Printing these articles in no way implies approval or advocacy of any of the opinions, views or recommendations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or any of its Officers, editor, or members. Water sports are a potentially dangerous activity. Keel-Haulers Canoe Club recommends and encourages all of its members and others to abide by all laws, regulations and recommended practices when engaging in such activity. Each member is responsible for assessing her/his own abilities and for not engaging in activities which are beyond those limits. Members assume any and all risk when choosing to participate in any activity and the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club is not responsible for any damages resulting from such participation.

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

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

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the May issue of the newsletter is **4/21/09**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@aol.com
April, 2009



Keelhauler's Kanews May, 2009



Next Club Meeting is Tuesday, May 12th at 7:30 PM

at Middleburg Hts Community Center
16000 E. Bagley Rd

Program: Slide Show about Peru &
Columbia

Chuck Singer will present a program on this year's trip
to Peru & Colombia. Share his adventure.



[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

**All meetings are open to guests, so invite a
prospective member!**

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes April 14th, 2009

Treasurer's report:

Terry Markoff reports that the club currently has about \$5,500.

Membership:

John Kobak reports that the membership is running about equal to the membership at this time last year. John also added that he'd like to see the membership make a better use of the message board to get together for impromptu trips.

Vermilion Race:

Rob Hammond reports that the race took place as scheduled but was moved to the lagoons because of low water. The race took in \$1,577 and should make a profit of about \$700. Thanks to all those who volunteered.

Safety:

Chuck Singer presented some information that he looked up regarding skin cancer.

A brief summary.

Those most often affected are white males.

There are 3 basic types:

Basal - white and raised - most common with a less than 1% death rate.

Squamous - red and scaly - less common except for the lips and ears with a less than 1% death rate.

Melanoma - brown or black - often deadly with a 20% death rate.

Caused by exposure to UVA and UVB rays of the Sun. UVA rays penetrate deeper and cause wrinkles while the UVB rays cause tanning. Most often found in indoor workers. Areas most affected are those not normally exposed to the Sun. There is a 20 to 30 year latency period.

Some studies seem to indicate that sun screen users get more Melanoma cases. If you are worried about this disease, use of physical barriers to the sun light such as Zinc Oxide or clothing is suggested.

What to watch for:

A - Asymetry - not round

B - Border - not well defined

C - Color - dark or varied

D - Diameter - larger than a pencil eraser

E - Evolution or Elevation - watch for changes in moles

There is a possibility of a vaccine for skin cancer within 10 years.
New Business:

Hank Annabelle suggested making a \$100 donation to the Vermilion Port Authority for the use of the port property for the race. This motion was put to the membership and passed.

Rob Hammond reported that he is looking for anyone who would like to form a team for the Cheat Race. As usual, Rob will have a race clinic 1 week prior to the race.

SYOTR,
Pat

Peace cannot be kept by force, It can only be achieved by understanding.
- Albert Einstein

Keelhauler Swiftwater Rescue Training '09

Charlie Walbridge, American Whitewater's Safety Guru, will be conducting a Swiftwater Rescue Clinic exclusively for *Keelhaulers* over the weekend of May 30/31. His Clinic will cover the full gamut of safety instruction from group dynamics, self rescue, pin/broach recovery, strong swimmer rescue, etc.. If you look at charliewalbridge.com/swiftwater_rescue.htm you will find a complete course outline. You can also read a recent report of his clinic at:
<http://gotboof.blogspot.com/2008/06/swiftwater-rescue-class.html>

Our reservations are all set at Teter's Campground for Friday and Saturday. Saturday and Sunday will be comprised of dry-land work in the morning and in-water work during the afternoon. The dry-land work will be right there at Teter's unless it's raining. In that case we'll make the short drive to Charlie's place to do it in his barn. The in-water training will be at an appropriate nearby section of river depending on levels that weekend. Charlie has been conducting these Clinics in that area for a long time so I'm sure he knows all the best places to work. If energy and time permits we'll try to get in a run or two someplace during the weekend. Between the **Swiftwater Rescue Weekend (May 30/31)** and **Rob Hammond's renowned Rescue Rodeo Weekend (June 27/28)** *The Club* is offering it's members an unprecedented opportunity to enhance their skills and safety on the water. I really hope that every member will seriously consider taking advantage of both programs this year.

Contacts:
Charlie Walbridge's SWR (May 30/31): joemarksz@gmail.com

Rescue Rodeo Weekend (June 27/28): rob@SCD-Corp.com

Keel-Hauler Message Board

The club has a very active message board that currently has 177 members who have added about 1600 posts since it was updated 1-1/2 years ago.

What is the message board good for?

Asking questions about boating equipment and places to paddle.
Discovering impromptu trips that are not on our trip schedule.
Finding out that scheduled trip may be cancelled or moved to new location,
Finding out about conservation issues or other paddling news.
Finding out about river problems to watch out for.

The Keel-Hauler Message Board is the fastest way of finding out what's happening in our paddling community.

I find that only 100 of the registered posters are paid-up club members. I'm surprised that more members have not taken advantage of this useful resource considering the fact that counting spouses/significant other, that we have 437 potential club users.

So, less than 25% of our membership has bothered to register. I realize that some of you use the message board as **lurkers**, but really don't contribute or make better use of the board. To become a registered board user you need to click on the link near top of the board that says **register**. Her is a direct link to our board:
<http://keelhauler.org/phpBB/viewforum.php?f=2>

You need to pick a name you will be know as
You need to pick a password
You need to use a valid e-mail which will receive an instant reply as soon as you register.
You must open the message and click on the link to activate your message board membership.
You should then return to the page to sign in. You can select leave me signed in and whenever you return to the board it will automatically sign you in and show you any new messages since your last visit.

Don't worry that you will get spams, your e-mail address cannot be viewed by anyone.
If you do not get the instant reply to your registration, your spam filter may have blocked the reply. If this happens you can always send me an e-mail at kobak@keelhauler.org, tell me the user name that you picked and that I can activate your membership manually. Don't send me your password, but you should remember it so that you can sign into the board.
So why not make better use of this great club resource.

Register today.

Colombia

By Chuck Singer

Every Winter I spend time south of the Equator. Here is some of what I did this year. These are from my trip Blog.

I left Peru and traveled to Colombia. I can't spell many things but Colombia is with an "O" at least in Colombia. I landed in Bogota, which is a huge (8 million) city at 8500 ft elevation. It's supposed to be safer now but the cabs I've been in lock their doors. I had problems with my passport and got to the recommended hotel at 11:30pm. It was a dive and my room was on the fourth floor, no elevator. I quickly moved to a backpackers hostel which was clean, quiet and on the 1st floor, Cheaper too. The food here is unbelievably cheap!

I had a breakfast with a bowl of beef soup?, uncooked scrambled eggs, two big tortillas, and a cup of very good cocoa. The cocoa was the only thing I finished. The total cost was \$1.75. Supper was much better with a thick bowl of chicken vegetable soup, rice, beans, a plantain, a potato and a chicken leg. That was \$1.66. Breakfast this morning was two fried eggs, fresh OJ, cocoa and toast for \$0.85. Fresh OJ on the street is \$0.45

I left Bogota and flew to the coastal city of Cartagena. It's about 90°F here. Cartagena was the first and most important city in the Americas. Most of the gold ships to Spain left from here and it was a magnet for pirate attacks. Capt Drake sacked twice. The Spanish built a wall around the entire city with outlying smaller forts. It took about 200 years and was finished about 20 years before Colombia kicked out Spain (bad timing) There are more historical churches here than you can shake a stick at.



There are thick, high walls surrounding the entire old city and many of the buildings there have balconies.

My room on the second floor has a balcony, AC, hot water, TV for \$13. There are markets every where and I've been lost at least three times so far today. The streets are not all straight and they change names every block.

It's hot and muggy here but with a brisk sea breeze. As you might guess, the women are in halter tops. The only shorts are on tourists.

I'm taking a day trip tomorrow to some local beaches.



Today I went to the Rosario Islands by lancha. A lancha is a 26ft long 9ft wide Boston whaler type of boat. They are powered by twin 200HP Yamaha outboards. As you might guess they go pretty fast! Getting to the lancha was my usual mess. I followed direction to the dock but somehow was off 180 degrees. I asked a Tourist cop where to go and he flagged down a motor scooter and instructed the driver to take me to the dock. Unfortunately he knew less than I did but on we rode! We were on a four lane divided highway with cars, bikes, buses and one horse drawn cart (He was in the slow lane!) Its exciting to have the shadow of a BIG bus slowly overtake you. And of course, since I'm a guy, I can't hold on to the scooter driver. Anyhow we got to the dock with all parts intact. The harbor (and town) are enormous.

Once we left the harbor, we were in three foot swells and lanchas are not known for their soft ride! As an aside, Colombia is well known for it's Plastic Surgery and I'm thinking I might have some augmentation in my nether regions. I used to be bigger there and I really miss it. Yes, I'm talking about a butt implant. Riding on buses, boats and even planes reminds that I don't have enough padding there. I haven't decided between a halfback butt or a full Jerome Bettis. I'll tell you later.

The poorer fishermen are in log dugouts paddling standing up. Their paddle is a seven foot broomstick with a 10" circle of wood nailed at the bottom. There are also a few fiberglass canoes with the high (Indian?) bow and stern. Whenever we stopped, there were fresh lobster or shrimp that were caught by diving (snorkel)

Today I goofed off and went on a volcano trip. After driving an hour or so on very good roads, we arrived at the volcano. All thirty of us trudged up the steep side, pulling ourselves upward until we reached the crater. We waited, and then followed each other into the depths. It's a mud volcano and all thirty of us were in the 15X15 ft mud pool. It was pleasantly warm and the consistency of THICK chocolate pudding. I have no idea how deep it was because you couldn't sink in it. It was difficult to try and stand since you floated chest deep.

When you entered the pool, a guy grabbed you and skipped you to the other side where another guy smeared mud all over you, front and back. I asked how can I get that job but he didn't understand. The tourist women were all in bikinis, get the picture?



Another guy grabbed all the cameras and took pictures of you with your camera. After a while, we got out by pulling along the side, swimming was out of the question. As we climbed up the ladder, another guy hand squeezed some of the mud off. I volunteered for that job too. We then went down a really steep set of stairs with slippery hands and feet. We mud people were then sent to the nearby lake where women were waiting with dish pans to rinse us off. I was sitting in waist deep water enjoying the bath as she scrubbed the mud out of my hair, beard and ears. Then came the fateful words "Da me tus pantalones" In English, that's "Give me your pants" I was going to say "But we just met!" She was bigger than me so I gave up my pants and watched as everyone else sank into the lake while the pants, bikinis, etc were being washed. I volunteered for that job too!

After everyone was sparkling clean, we went back to the bus to collect our cameras. Lo and behold, we needed to tip ANYONE who had ever touched us the day, the pantalone washers, camera man, both masseuses and the ladder boy each got \$0.80. I definitely want those jobs, fun and big money too!

Then we went to lunch on the ocean with 85°F breezes and thatched shade. It reminded me a lot of Ohio. Tomorrow is a travel day up the coast to another seaside town, on the Caribbean coast, Santa Marta. I got here by minibus. The company picks you up at your hotel and drops you off at your new hotel. Saves on taxis and it's fast if you are the first dropee. The best part is that they showed "Shanghai Noon" with Jackie Chan. It's a four trip so they showed it TWICE. I love Jackie Chan so life was good.

I signed up for a six day trek into the "Lost City" It's a very big area about 28 miles from any road. I've decided from now on I'm going to stick with six day walks, saunters, strolls or moseys, not treks. We loaded eight people into a six person jeep and drove an hour on a great paved road. We then got off that road and drove to an army check point where our passports and gear were checked. We all passed so on we drove. We were on the worst four wheel drive road I have ever been on. We often bottomed out in mud holes, felt like tipping over, and driving right next to edge of a mud slide looking over a BIG drop. It was great!! We passed

through a very small town (ten houses, 100 yards of concrete road) then on to the starting point, the town of Machete (three houses, restaurant)

The first day was five miles, 3.5 hours 2000 ft elevation change.. After 20 minutes we stopped at a small stream and swam for ten minutes. I was already very hot and it felt good. The next three hours were mostly uphill with an occasional downhill. The bad part is that it was ALL very steep. It was a mule trail and mules apparently climb almost anything. It was far steeper than the Grand Canyon trails and even steeper than parts of the Inca trail.



We stopped twice, once for an orange and once for a watermelon. I stopped a lot more often just to breathe. We finally arrived at our first campsite, a homestead of our guide's family. It was in the most beautiful area but we in the States would consider it a hovel. The walls were wood with half inch gaps between them, there was no electricity and food was cooked on a wood fire. We had chicken, rice, salad and potatoes for supper and it was some of the best food I have ever eaten. There was a candy bar for dessert. All the food and gear was carried on mule back, we only carried our personal gear. Sleeping was in hammocks, the skinny kind where you don't move. After getting in, mosquito netting was tied to the hammock. It was then I realized I should have gone to the bathroom first. The bathroom was a slatted boards building with a bowl. No lid, no tank, a bowl only. When finished, there was a drum of water with a small bucket to perform the flush.

We all looked like butterfly cocoons in our netting and I thought we looked like a bad scene from "Alien" where we were just larva food! We were way too close to each other and if you moved an elbow, you would touch your neighbor. There was only one snorer and they were at some distance. I slept well until 3:30am when I awoke. I rested until 6:30am when I got up. Now comes the bad part. I sometimes have trouble with my middle ear which causes vertigo and nausea. Bingo, there it was and there I sat down and tried not to barf. After talking it over with the guides, I decided to return since I wasn't sure I would recover enough to continue. They were very nice about it and offered to get me a horse to continue. I wimped out, cowardliness or good sense, and rode back with the guide's father leading me.

We made it back in 2.5 hours. It was a little scary up on the mule since my stirrups would be over space sometimes and the mules head would also be over the drop off. I had to trust the mule was not suicidal on the switchbacks.



We drove back into town in the same six person jeep. This time there were 10 adults, two infants, two children and two chickens. The road was no better going back down! When I got back for a shower, I found a "bed sore" on my butt, Saddle sore or jeep sore? I plan to go to the beach today and relax!

I've decided to call this Chuck's Whine Tour so go to the kitchen, grab a piece of cheese and settle in. Have you ever had a period of time where everything you plan turns to shit? (See Bush's last eight years)

My last letter told of the aborted "Lost City" trek and I then decided to go to the beach. So I bought a ticket for a ride to the beach in Toyrona National Park. It was in a "Surrey" jeep, one with a top but no sides. The weather was great at 9am but at 9:30, it started to sprinkle and it was pouring at 10am. The ride ended at 11am. I was going to the beach so my raincoat was safely back in my hotel room. We went to the first spot and I asked the driver when he would continue to the next spot. He replied that this was the end of the road and you had to walk the rest of the way. No problem, I like walking on the beach sands. The trail went AWAY from the beach past a bunch on horses and mules, that should have been a clue. It was supposed to be a 45 min hike but the trail was churned to a wonderful mud bath. The horses and mules added their own green goop. It was a wonderful mixture and as I walked through it, I felt the skin on my feet soften and all the dead skin gently exfoliated. They were as soft as a baby's butt and as smelly. I plan to bring some of this back and start my own spa, Char-lays de Lago Sheffield. You laugh, but I will be rich. Anyhow after 90 min's, I got to the beach (Did I mention it was raining?) I was slow because I stopped to help short people across the deeper spots.

There is no competition there so the food was expensive and you could rent a tent for \$20, more than my hotel! Hammocks were \$8 but there were a lot of mosquitoes so I got the tent. Blankets were not available so I dressed in what clothes I had and used my sarong as a blanket. It is long enough to cover you feet or your shoulders, just not at the same time.

I did walk 500yds down the beach and discovered a bakery! It was a wood fired stone oven. I shared a chocolate filled roll and a cheese roll with a German tourist. It was the high point of the trip. The scenery was primeval with large granite rocks stopping the six ft. waves with tremendous towers of spray.



The seas were so rough that there were no swimmers or even surfers! After supper, I went to bed (Did I mention it was raining?) I woke up itching in a lot of places. Apparently sand flies can drink DEET and still bite. I'm not sure what the record is but I have over 100 bites. The good news is that they only itch when I'm awake. The bad news is that I can't sleep with the itching. Anyhow, I left Paradise and trudged back to the main road and washed off as well as possible. I got on a local bus and got my own seat! After two hours we were back in Santa Marta at the bus station. When I got off, I asked how far my hotel was and it was 10 blocks through the main market area so I decided to walk.



After eight blocks, a guy next to me called to me "Hey buddy", He must have had a stomach ache as he was holding his arm and hand in a funny position across his stomach. He then moved one hand and showed me an 8" knife! A knife salesman?? No, a robber!!

I have no idea why I reacted as I did but I yelled "NO" a couple of times pretty loudly and swung my day pack between him and me. I then backed up 20 ft to a store. He ran up a side street. Usually I'm alert to those situations but it was at 1pm in the afternoon on a main street. That's my only, almost, robbery story in 18 years of traveling. I then got a room and bought a ticket to Cartagena for today. The bus was two hours late but apart from that, uneventful.

In next months tale, I will tell of my adventures on some off-shore islands and my return to Bogota.

Making a Difference

by David Hill

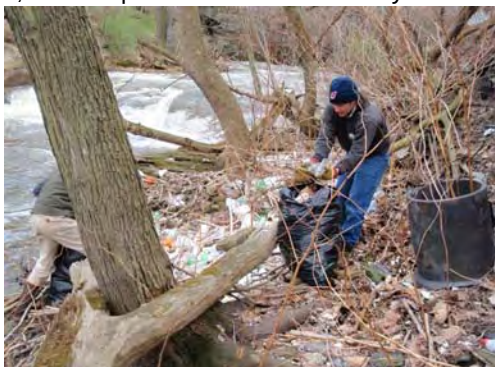
There is an urban whitewater run that few know about and even fewer have paddled. It is a true urban section complete with its share of trash and other non natural obstacles, but there are some decent drops along this short stretch of water. There are also some local paddlers who wanted to share this gem with others and what better way to tempt them than with the promise of libations for performing civic duties and an opportunity to paddle something new.

Maybe it was that they were feeling the need to do something for the community, or maybe they were caught up in the hype of Earth Week. Whatever it was that got them to the meeting place doesn't matter. The important thing is that their efforts were greatly appreciated.

Today was about giving something back to the community while at the same time taking something that didn't belong. When people arrived to help clean up this spot as part of Keep Akron Beautiful, the litter and trash scattered throughout the parking area could have kept us busy but that is not why we were here. As paddlers, the sound of rushing water will always tempt us to see what is causing that glorious sound. When we peered over the bank to see the source of the sound we were greeted by trash lining the high water mark.



This is why we were here today. The volume of plastic bottles and Styrofoam was daunting. If anyone ever doubted that a redemption fee on plastic bottles would be beneficial, they only need to look around. Aluminum cans were noticeably absent due to their value, but the plastic was another story.



However, the crew stepped up to the challenge and removed 18 bags of material from the rivers edge.



With some daylight still available and boats in hand, several of the cleanup crew were given a tour of the river. Even though the water level was less than ideal, the ELF conditions would not deter these paddlers who had traveled to the urban jungle to clean up after others and were bent on abusing their watercraft.



Brandon at the middle ledge of Riverside Rapid.



Larry running the left side of Bus Stop.

Thanks to Brandon, Brent, Larry and Mike for making a difference!

Bayouhazard Alert!

by Matt Muir



2009 hasn't been much of a boating year for me. As some of you know, my company has sent me to Houston for a few months. Not a lot of whitewater down these parts, y'all.

I figured there might be something boating-related. There's a coast, after all. So in prep, I checked out the Keel-haulers' Directory. I found one name in Texas: Bob Boyce. Well,

shit howdy—I know Bob well! So we got together.

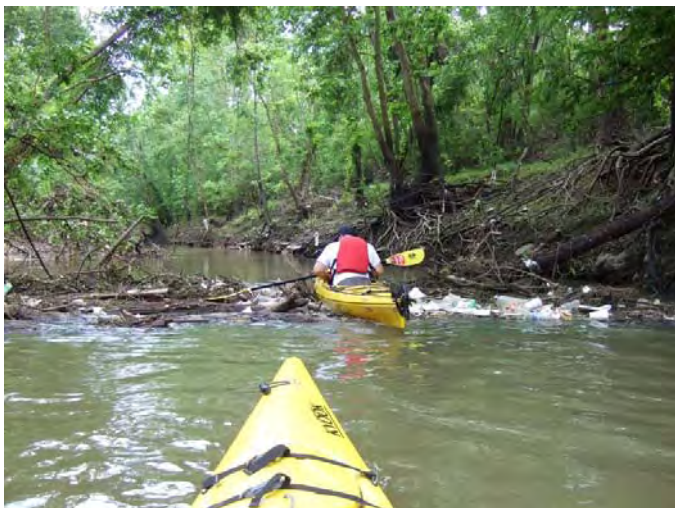
Finding info on paddling in the area isn't too easy. I checked out the Houston Canoe Club and went to a meeting. Talk about *lame*. They were doing a demo on canoeing strokes. One of the trips in their schedule is on a (relatively) nearby river with some rapids. They very seriously cautioned people that this has Class-II rapids, so they'd better be experienced in whitewater.

And...believe it or not...I was below the median age of the group. Yikes. Imagine a club full of Kobaks and Drysdales, with a couple of Hammonds and Duvalls thrown in for good measure. I shudder at the thought.



1. Bob at the putin.

But...there are shops that rent kayaks and canoes. And there's a stream that has some promise. "Buffalo Bayou," it's called. It winds through the center of Houston, so it's got some urban character. But there are parks and stuff, and it's a designated paddle trail. Seems like the place to be in the area. So I called some of the shops, and Bob found one that would rent a rec boat for \$30/day. "They might rent racks, too," said Bob hopefully. Good, because he had no rack, and all I had were a couple foam blocks and some rope.



2. Bob paddling over an easy strainer.

We got there at the appointed hour. Turns out, they stick this rack on your car for you. It's similar to a Thule or Yakima, but it's quickly adjustable to accommodate a variety of vehicle. You have a big-ol' strap running through the passenger compartment, right next to the driver's head, but that's no biggie. And the *real* bonus

was, we weren't getting rec boats. We were getting 17-foot sea kayaks. This was looking good!

We scoped out the Bayou from a couple of websites. We picked out a section that I estimated to be 17 miles—a full day's paddle, but not too onerous for two hard-charging paddlers like us, in reasonably fast boats. We parked at a park in downtown Houston, and headed for the putin.

We knew that the rack on top of my car was fine; however, we weren't sure how we'd handle Bob's two-door Pontiac. (You remember Pontiac, don't you? Used to be a unit of GM?) I'd brought a bunch of towels for padding, in addition to my tow foam pads and the rope I'd bought that morning at Target.

Soon after putting in, we encountered complications. It was pretty, a narrow stream, very slow with little gradient and a current that might have measured half an MPH, thanks to the previous day's torrential thunderstorms.

The complications came in the form of downed trees. We could limbo under or handwalk over some of them (one was low enough that we had to take off our PFDs to fit under it), but some required a portage.

The banks were steep and muddy from the recent torrents, and the boats were heavy, maybe 60 lbs empty. So when we had two portages in the first mile, and we made a mile and a half in an hour...we were hoping that we'd be able to paddle the rest of the trip without interruption, or we wouldn't make it by dark.



3. The Ratt looks at the river-wide strainer which required our worst portage.

Luckily, it did become easier. The stream got bigger, and we could make it past what trees were down while staying in our boats. We focused on the scenery, especially the turtles that scampered off the banks into the water when they heard us coming and the birds. There were a *lot* of birds: Great Blue Herons. Little Blue Herons. Green Herons, and even a Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Snowy Egrets and Great Egrets made an appearance, and we also saw Kingfishers, Cardinals, and a mated pair of Wood Ducks.

Some poor Blue-winged Teal was there, with her brood. She didn't like us *at all*, and she pulled the trick of faking an injury in an attempt to draw us away from her young. That's cool—but she stayed worried, even after we were well out of sight of her young. She must have kept that up for a half mile, before she finally hid

out in a nook in the riverbank and waited for us dangerous predators to pass.



4. Debris way high in the trees.

This part of the world gets massive thunderstorms; a recent one dropped 5 inches in two hours. The effects were evident all through the trip, as we often saw debris stuck to trees ten feet above the current water level. In one place, the trash we saw was a full 20 feet above us! That kind of flow would make for a bit of fun, I reckon.

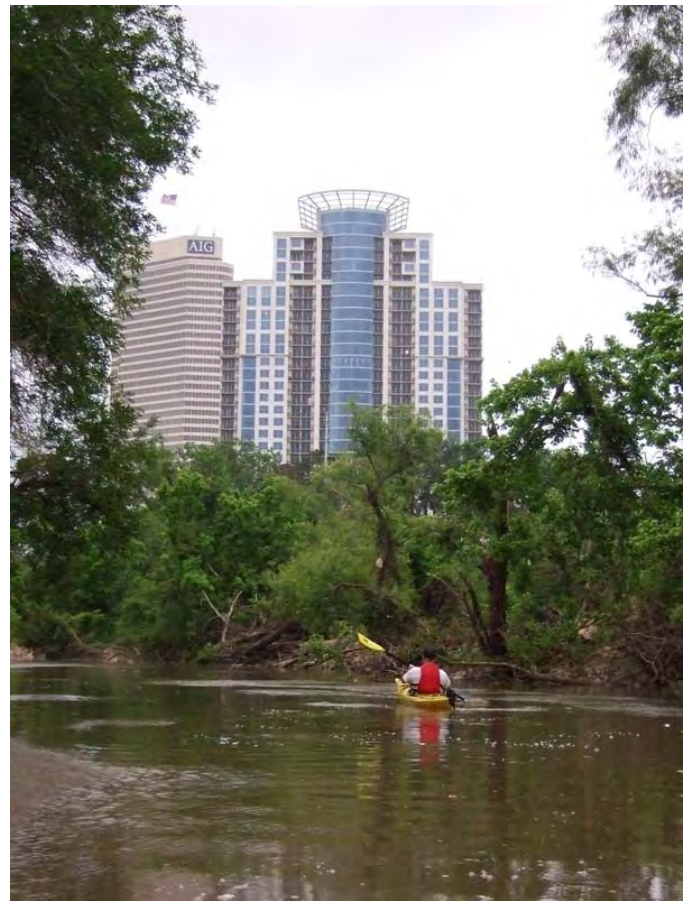
We were treated to some small rapids in places. Nothing was bigger than Class I, but it was fun to run those drops in the big-ol' sea kayaks. Some waves were big enough to drop water into the cockpit of my skirtless boat. Biggest drops I'd run in months.

I kept checking my GPS. Though we were paddling continuously (when I wasn't taking a photo or checking the Garmin), the progress we were making was slow. "The sun doesn't go down 'til 7:30," Bob said hopefully. I was hoping we wouldn't be close to that. But the center of town remained a far hope, as the stream meandered in no hurry toward our destination.

As we got to signs of suburbia, we found places with ugly foam and an unpleasant smell. Sometimes the smell persisted for half a mile or so. It was as smelly as anything I've ever seen on the Cuyahoga or Tinker's.



5. Canoe sculpture at the takeout, Sabine St., Houston.



6. Bob views an icon of modern American capitalism.

As it got to five o'clock, we saw no sign of an end. We were getting pretty tired—neither of us with arms in paddling shape—but we knew that we'd have to soldier on. My back was very annoyed, since those off-the-shelf sea kayaks don't have any lumbar support, and Bob's shoulders were causing trouble. We kept paddling.

It was after six when we hit I-610, the main loop surrounding the city. That was *progress*, though slow.

We finally touched down at our takeout at 7:20. We were sorely beat, and there was a long, tough carry up about four flights of stairs to the street. It felt like the Panther Mountain trail.

We took a look at the GPS. 17 miles? Make me laff. It said we'd paddled 24.7 miles. That's almost a Gauley Marathon, without the flow to help you along. No wonder we were feeling like the last mile of the Cheat Race for two hours.

Then...how to load the boats? Recall, the rack was back at the putin with my car. We simply protected Bob's roof with towels and strapped the boats down. This worked well for the 20-mile shuttle.

Bob invited me to his house, three miles from the putin, for a beer and a shower. In my state, legs covered in mud, the shower was more important. I bade adios to Bob around 10 and got to my apartment past 10:30, feeling as though I'd been "rode hard and put away wet," as we say in the Lone Star State.

So...

Hope y'all enjoy CheatFest!

**Would you like to read a
blog of John Kobak's
Mexican Road trip
2008-2009?**

Just follow this link:

<http://keelhauler.org/WordPress/>

**There are still trips that need an
organizer! Please contact John
Kobak at kobak@keelhauler.org to
volunteer or click on Needs
organizer!**

Thank you in advance!

May				
5/1	Cheat Mass-Occurrence Team Race (WV)	26	Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
5/1,2,4	Upper Yough (MD)and/or Big Sandy (WV)	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
5/2, 3	Cheat Fest (WV)	18-26	Needs organizer	
5/3	Cheat Fest and River trip on Narrows (WV)	18	Phil Raber	740-498-7063
5/9, 10	Cheat Canyon (WV)	26	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
5/9, 10	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
5/9, 10 ?	Basic River Kayak & Canoe - (OH)		Ernie Anderson	216-431-3076
5/9, 10	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
5/10	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
5/10	Upper Cuyahoga (OH)	SK/FW	Needs organizer	
5/12	Club Monthly Meeting		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
5/16	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Ann Corey	330-869-6549
5/16	RiverDay 2009 Friends of the Crooked River (OH)		Dave Hill	330-221-0270
5/16, 17	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Mike Duvall	216-521-0094
5/16, 17	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
5/16, 17	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
5/23, 24	N. Br. Potomac Release (MD)	18	Needs organizer	
5/24, 25	Upper Yough Release (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
5/23-25	Cheat Canyon, Big Sandy & Narrows (WV)	26	Ross Brinkerhoff	330-527-0262
5/30, 31	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
5/30,31	C. Walbridge Swift Water Rescue Class (WV), Limited to 10 Keel-Haulers, register early @ \$65/person, 2 day Class Outline		Joe Marks	216-281-1517

2009 Club Officers

President:	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
VP:	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
Secretary:	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
Treasurer:	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, on the second Tuesday of each month
Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

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

Any opinions, views or recommendations expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the article's author. Printing these articles in no way implies approval or advocacy of any of the opinions, views or recommendations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or any of its Officers, editor, or members. Water sports are a potentially dangerous activity. Keel-Haulers Canoe Club recommends and encourages all of its members and others to abide by all laws, regulations and recommended practices when engaging in such activity. Each member is responsible for assessing her/his own abilities and for not engaging in activities which are beyond those limits. Members assume any and all risk when choosing to participate in any activity and the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club is not responsible for any damages resulting from such participation.

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

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

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the June issue of the newsletter is **5/21/09**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@aol.com
May, 2009



Keelhauler's Kanews June, 2009



**Next Club Meeting is Tuesday,
June 9th at 6:00 PM
at Hinckley Lake**

Program: To be announced

**There will be opportunity to try out kayaks and
practice rolling.**

[Map to Hinckley Lake Boathouse](#)

**All meetings are open to guests, so invite a
prospective member!**

Keelhauler Meeting Minutes May, 2009

New Member:

Jim Farrell of Cuyahoga Falls. Jim has been a canoeist for some time and is interested in whitewater kayaking. Welcome Jim.

Library:

A new DVD, Steep Creek Skills from Penstock Productions was donated to the library by Jen and Phill Raber. Thanks to our good friends for their contribution!

Safety:

Chuck Singer spoke about the need to paddle within your capabilities and also the need to take into account the skills of your group as a whole and the environmental conditions. An example of this is seen below in Jim Hunt's description of how the KHCC Team approached the Cheat Race this year.

Jim Hunt reported on the Cheat Race:

The level was about 3.5 feet. After seeing the level the team got together and decided that they should each paddle the boat that they are most comfortable with. They, at least most of them, decided to run together as a group. The team consisted of Jim,

Rob Hammond, Chris Kiehl, and Michael Duvall. Rob decided to run on his own and the other three stayed together. The strategy of the team to stay together, paid off when one of them visited Big Nasty and they were quickly able to recover boat and paddler to get back on their way. The intrepid Mr. Hammond, paid for his strategy with some out of boat adventures but the rest of the team came to his aid. All in all, the team finished the race about half way down the pack but, most important, they finished ahead of TRPC so it was MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

Membership:

John Kobak reported that the KHCC picked up three new members and we are down a couple from this point last year.

Hank Annable reported that KHCC member Jim Botamer has been having some health issues and will be recovering at home if anyone would like to send him get well wishes there.

Trip Reports:

Cliff Wire reported that the North Branch trip went well and they were able to get in runs on the North Branch and the Savage both days.

Jim Hunt reported a trip on the Stony with a great water level.

Michael Duvall reported that he joined some TRPC members to run a Southern trip and had some excellent runs with a bit of carnage thrown in to weed out the group.

The program was an interesting, informative and fun report by Chuck Singer of the South America trip that he and Marsha took. Thanks Chuck and Marsha.

SYOTR, Pat

Peace cannot be kept by force, It can only be achieved by understanding.

- Albert Einstein

Earth Week Activities

By Mike Larkin

Thanks to Billy Howser for the heads up, the club was invited to NASA for their Earth Week demonstrations. The Keelhaulers and Cleveland Kayak School shared an information table on April 15 and 16. Larry Fordyce and John Kobak manned the table the first day while David Hill and Mike Larkin took care of things the second day. For the couple of hours that we were there it was definitely a success. We had some interest with people asking the basic questions and taking some informational flyers. People are interested in the sport but just don't know how to get started.

Many people expressed interest in paddling some of the lakes and rivers around here. The best way to get people interested in water and boating is to introduce them to what is available right here in Northeast Ohio. We need to find more ways to get people on the water. I'm glad to see there are kayak schools in the area to get people started in the sport. By working with them as well as the park services and some college rec programs we should be able to get more people in kayaks. The only way to grow the sport is to make people aware of the opportunities that are around here and let them try it out for themselves without making a big investment or personal commitment. Then they will decide if this silly sport is for them or not.

Acting on a lead from the NASA display, the Keelhaulers and Cleveland Kayak School were asked to participate in Earth Day celebration at the Cleveland Zoo on April 19. It was short notice but we managed to put together a nice display. There were lots of people who came by and the kayaks we had on display were put to the test by all the kids. We were in the area that linked physical fitness with being green which was a perfect fit! We were also supposed to do a 30 minute presentation but unfortunately that got rained out. It looks like we will be invited back next year, when we will have more time to prepare. So if anyone has any ideas or wants to get involved, please let us know.

These are the things our club needs to do to get the word out and continue to network. There are people in this area that want to get out and get active we just need to help show the way.

A Rainy Day with the Stooges!

This is actual account of a day on the river. Only the names have been changed to protect the obtuse.

The section of the Little Cuyahoga featured in this account is runnable after a heavy rain but keep in mind it rises and falls quickly. Depending on the level, you may experience class II to class IV features. Caution must be used due to the high probability of river wide strainers and push of the current. Water quality is yuck yuck at best.

Larry, Curly, Moe and Shemp met at the put in for the class III-IV (at this level) section of the Little Cuyahoga River. While Larry, Curly and Moe scouted an area that is very prone to wood collection and very sparse of eddies, Shemp drove home to pick up his spray skirt that he had forgotten (1st sign of a bad day coming!). The group put on about 8:45 for what should have been a fifteen minute run down about a mile and quarter section of the Little

Cuyahoga River. This stretch is primarily class II flush interrupted by two significant rapids. The first rapid is about 200 yards into the run and is immediately following a double arch railroad bridge. The bridge must be run through the river left arch. Coming out of the arch start preparing for a fun 90 yard class III-IV rapid (Riverside Rapid) consisting of three distinctive class III ledges.

This stretch had only been run by Moe and Shemp a few times prior (and never at this level) so they cautioned Larry and Curly that they really didn't know what was ahead so stay alert for wood and look for eddies at choice opportunities. About a third of the way into Riverside Rapid, Shemp and Moe eddied out with the idea that they would take a peek at the middle hole before dropping into it. Larry and Curly apparently surprised by the unexpected move flew by heading right toward an unavoidable hole. At lower levels the hole is sticky but punchable and yet capable of handing out a beating to the intrepid but unprepared paddler. Moe and Shemp weren't sure what the day's level would bring but it looked like they were about to find out at Larry and Curly's expense. Fortunately the hole had transformed into more of a huge wave and allowed the newbies to pass unharmed. When Moe and Shemp caught up with Larry and Curly at the bottom of Riverside Rapid, their huge (holy s..t) smiles and wide eyes clearly projected the message that they were thrilled by the experienced.

Larry, Curly and Moe had earlier scouted the next (and only other significant) drop ahead, Shemp, aware of the increase rise in flow, and who was also running probe, decided to eddy out and have a look for himself. Following a few minutes of Curly proclaiming that he would man the camera and Larry and Shemp promising to be ready with throw ropes for any needed extraction, Moe tucked tail and walked the 4'drop lovingly referred to as Bus Stop. Normally our trip would have ended about 100 yards down river but with the flow so high we decided there may be a few play spots further down stream and decided to reset shuttle for another couple miles. Shemp stayed with the boats and Larry, Curly and Moe set shuttle. When we returned to the boats, Shemp informed us that he needed a ride back to the put in where he had left his truck and PFD. Geez he just ran a mile of flush without a PFD. (2nd sign that a bad day was in the making!)



Back in their boats it was agreed that it would be ok for the newbies to probe and lay claim to this first decent. They were cautioned to stop high of any wood they encountered as eddies

were still likely to be scarce. Larry was running probe as the group approached what looked to be a river wide strainer. It appeared that Larry was picking out an appropriate eddy when suddenly he was pinned about two feet from shore and was leaning on his paddle in what seemed to be a desperate bottom brace. (As you may have guessed this also blocked our path to what might have been slack enough water to pull into in order to portage the strainer). As Moe came along side Larry he noticed that Larry was not pinned by an underwater obstruction but instead by a 1 inch thick tree limb that was wedged between Larry's helmet strap and his temple (3rd sign of a bad day in the making!). Larry is skewered, so to speak, by a limb in a fairly strong current and a mere 15 feet above a river wide strainer, and of course no eddy in sight!

Moe who was stunned by Larry's situation felt helpless as he back paddled in search of a sheltering eddy. Unable to assist Larry for now, Moe quickly committed to hit the wood in what he hoped was its weakest area. After a few tense seconds of entanglement (4th sign of a bad day in the making), Moe managed to break through just as Curly crashed through on his left. Shemp meanwhile had managed to catch a micro eddy just above Larry's position but soon found himself being flushed out and toward Larry's boat. With a determined sweep and power stroke combo, Shemp managed to avoid hitting Larry's boat which would have only caused more injury and danger to Larry's circumstance. Shemp then negotiated the wood, flipped and rolled up and joined Moe in an eddy. Shemp sensing Moe's agitated concern yelled that Larry had managed to break the limb that was caught under his helmet strap but that he wasn't sure if Larry was able to get out of his boat or safely to shore before the strainer. Moe and Shemp power ferried across the river and scrambled up the bank to where Larry was last seen. Larry was calmly sitting on shore scouting a route thru the wood while a stream of blood dripping down his cheek. Moe was telling Larry to forget about running the strainer when Curly arrived announcing that he had flipped coming out of the strainer and lost his boat (5th sign of a bad day in the making).

The group designed a plan calling for Curly to walk back up to Shemp's truck and drive ahead of his boat. The other stooges would continue down river and hopefully find the boat before the planned take out. When Larry, Shemp and Moe arrived at the take out they found Shemp's truck but no Curly or boat. Assuming that Curly decided to walk down river in search of his boat, Moe wrote a note and left it on Curly's windshield telling him that they would continue down river and would meet him at Akron Peninsula Road. As they were ready to jump back in their boats a jogger ran up to them and handed Shemp his truck key. The jogger explained that Curly had located his boat but was suffering from a severe cramp and asked us to drive to his location and to be sure to bring a rope. Since neither Larry, Moe or Shemp recognized the place as described by the jogger, they decided that one of them would drive and two would paddle. Moe headed up to his truck and as he pulled onto the road there was Curly. Moe accelerated but Curly was able to jump out of the way. Curly told Moe to follow him to the site of his pinned boat and off they drove. When Curly and Moe arrived, Curly's boat had worked itself loose (6th sign of a bad day in the making) and was again drifting down river. Curley ran to his car and drove to the next bridge crossing while Moe waited for Shemp and Larry to inform them of the new plan. The boat was only 8 minutes in front of Larry and Shemp and Moe predicted that they would catch the boat before it passed the footbridge at the

Valley View Golf Course. Moe told the Shemp and Larry that he and Curly would meet them at Akron Peninsula Bridge.

Moe caught up with Curly at the AP Bridge. Moe decided to bring his boat down to the river so he would have it handy in case Larry and Shemp had not yet caught up with Curly's boat. In preparation for the boat rescue, Moe asked Curly for a carabineer which was quickly dropped into the river (7th sign). Luckily Curly had a second bineer that attached his camera to his PFD. Equipped with the bineer, throw bag and boat, Moe hikes a 100 yards up stream and climbs over the fence and towards the river twenty feet below. Moe falls down and drops his boat which bounced perfectly through the shrubs and rocks and launches itself into the river (8th sign). Curly sees what has happened and starts to run down river in search of a strategic location to retrieve the drifting boat. Unfortunately Moe has the throw rope and knows Curly will need it. Moe in an all out run desperately tries to catch up to Curly. When Moe gets to a section of the tow path submerged by the rising Cuyahoga, splash he wipes out inadvertently allowing 6 feet of the rope to work itself out of the bag. Moe jumps up tripping on the trailing rope, picks himself up stuffing the rope back into the bag as he runs. Moe thinking his boat has caught an eddy (and wondering if his boat could catch an eddy without a paddler why had the group had so much trouble earlier) yells to Curly that his boat has eddied out.

Curly runs back upstream arriving just in time to see Moe's boat enter the flow on the opposite side of the river. Moe hands Curly the throw rope and Curly is again off in hot pursuit. Moe approaching a fence decides to swim after his boat instead of wasting time (mostly energy) running around the long fence. Needless to say, his boat quickly out distances him especially as his spray skirt snags a log causing him to waste more energy pulling against the current in order to free himself. Curly sees the boat drifting close to shore and prepares to toss the throw bag into the cockpit. As he makes his throw, the rope which had been poorly stuffed back into the bag by Moe just minutes earlier, snags and pulls the bineer from Curly's hand (9th sign). Now Curly is faced with the throw rope floating away, the boat floating away and Moe swimming towards him. Curly utters a few choice expressions and leaps into the water retrieving the rope and the boat and climbs out just as Moe floats up and says throw me the rope I am too tired to swim the next 4 feet. Breathing heavy but feeling good that we were over that chase we reached for a cell phone to call the other boaters and at that time discovered that when Curly had jumped into the river his camera which was no longer secured by the borrowed bineer had floated out of his PFD pocket and was gone (10th sign). Moe suggested they retrace their steps but Curly was done and was sure it was useless so they made their way back upstream to the cell phone and learned that Curly's boat had been overtaken and rescued at the Golf Course and that they were to pick up the Larry and Shemp at the Club House. Moe now that all was good was pumped and excitedly telling Curly that this was the most fun he had on the river in a long time. Curly was less enthused and looked at Moe questionably but offered an obliging "sointently" grunt of affirmation as his smile widened.

Now off to re-group over a cold beer at the Club House. When Moe and Curly joined Larry and Shemp in the parking lot of the Club House what was up to now a GREAT day finally turned Bad....

The Club House was closed!!.

Colombia Part 2

By Chuck Singer

At the end of last month's hair raising tale, we left me going back to Cartagena. Well, there were no major problems so I rested there for a day. I left Cartagena and flew to San Andres, a small island complex 500 miles north of Cartagena. I went by way of Bogota which is like flying from Cleveland to NYC by way of St Louis.

I'm staying in the largest city on the island. It's funny that this is a freeport so there are a hundred upscale stores here. It looks like a colision of Outlet Malls here. When I first got here I couldn't find a restaurant and thought I would have to live on perfume. Then I found where the poorer people live and where they eat. Food and everything is more expensive here since everything is flown in. Think Hawaii. I took a tour around the entire island, 17 miles and saw Morgan (the pirate) Cave. Remember him from Panama City_ Anyhow there is this sink hole that Morgan was said to have hidden treasure in but after the advent of Scuba, there was found to be no treasure. Besides pirates probably spent all their ill-gotten gains on wine, women and song! Who wouldn't! The tour was a couple of wagons with seats pulled by a tractor made up to look like a train.



One interesting scene sticks out in my mind. There was a couple with a 10 year old child that came to the train. The father was in a wheel chair and three passengers got off the train and picked the man up and put him on the train. Nothing special about it, just what you do here I guess.

We went to a swimming area where you could feed the fish or rent a diving helmet. The water is very clear here. There aren't many good beaches on the island. From there we went to the geyser. There is a coral cave that sprays water 20 feet in the air. The tourists would stand RIGHT next to it and sometimes get knocked over. That wouldn't happen in the USA!

The next day I went to Johnny Cay, a small key a mile off the coast. It's where everyone goes to sunbathe. Small launchs take you over but there are no docks at either end so enter and exit over the side. It's OK where the seas are calm but it was a hoot getting back. The launch would nose into shore and a crew member

would pick up a woman and set her on the bow deck, sometimes. Guys were on their own. This was happening with three foot swells. I dove for the deck a little late and managed to stop the boat with my large and powerful nose. This was after a rogue wave knocked down about six of us and dropped my day pack into the ocean.



I had a bunch of idle thoughts as I lay in my rented cabana,\$7. Why aren't people afraid of falling coconuts, thousands more are killed than by sharks. Why do people tear the last chapter of books and why am I not bright enough to check. Are people ever killed by falling ceiling fans? Every place I've been has a fan badly out of balance vibrating back and forth with only 3/4" conduit holding it up. Maybe there is no metal fatigue here? Why is Old Milwaukee beer sold here, Cheap!! Why don't I carry sunburn lotion instead of sunscreen which I don't use. I'm burnt today. I'll fly back to Bogota tomorrow.

I've spent the last few days in Bogota and the near areas. I visited a cathedral in a salt mine in Zipaquirá. I've decided getting lost is not completely my fault. This time I started out with written directions to Porte de Norte. I gave them to a cab driver and told him I wanted a bus there that would take me to Zip. He said OK, then took me to Porte de Norte 80, a shopping center 10 miles in the wrong direction. I didn't know any different so I got out.

You remember "Gone with the Wind" where Scarlett O'Hara said "I depend on the kindness of strangers" Well, that's my new technique! I asked one person how to get to the other Porte and an Art teacher who spoke English took me by the hand and put me on the right bus. When I got off, another person put me on the bus to Zip. The guy next to me on the bus told me where to get off for the salt mine and a taxi took me the rest of the way.

The cathedral is way underground but it's all ramps, not stairs. It's still a working mine but not in the sacred area. Colombia is a Catholic country (lots of people had ashes on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday) so the mine was loaded with Catholic symbolism. There were the 14 Stations of the Cross, and numerous statues. There were two big domed ceilings and a pretty big area with pews. The walls are only 50% salt with the rest dirty-looking rock.

Yesterday I toured a few churches and if you've seen one, you've seen them all. There big with ornate gold altars, fixtures and lots of dark paintings. I then went to the Gold Museum. It was started

by a bank and just grew and grew. There are fantastic examples of gold pieces with delicate filligree and weird mixtures of humans, birds and animals all done in gold. It's a great museum and has three floors of exhibits. And to think, the Spanish melted down 95% of all the gold to send ingots back to Spain



The local food is cheap in Bogota. I spent less than \$1 for breakfast and lunch and only \$2 for supper (soup, meat, rice, vegetables, plantains, beans and a drink) Just a few observations from here. There are very few tattoos here and even fewer piercings. McDonalds charges \$3.75 for a Quarter Pounder Meal. The local Metro charges \$0.50 for some really long rides. They are really crowded and are known for pickpockets. Today I was on when a 10 month pregnant woman got on so I gave her my seat. I was nervous when she started panting! All I could remember from First Aid was that when the babies head was at the opening and it is as big as a 50 cent piece, something? was about to happen. Fortunately nothing happened!!

The woman's attire here is low cut blouses with push up bras. I'm not sure there is a real bra in the entire country. Pants are usually tight jeans. Guys wear the same boring stuff the world over. Cigarettes are sold one at a time \$0.08 and people stand around selling cell phone usage. He hands you his phone, you make your call and give him about \$0.05 per minute. Most of the college students here have cell phones. Hand held video games are as big as a paperback book and as heavy.

I'm not sure Colombia is ready for full tourism yet. I've talked to two other people who were robbed. It's probably OK if you are on a tour or if you only stay in "safe" areas. It's a beautiful country with friendly people and some awesome colonial buildings.

If you are ever in Bogota, you MUST stay to Sunday! They shut the main street down to traffic and let bicyclists, skaters, walkers and dawdlers use the street. It goes right past their Senate Building (think Pennsylvania Ave in DC) There are a few guards with AK-47's but that just adds to the ambiance. This street goes for two miles with all sorts of goings on. I saw magicians, a protest march, people on stilts, a three foot dwarf in a white hat singing love songs. There was a Calypso family with a four year old playing rhythm. There were people doing charcoal drawings and caricatures. There, of course, were a million vendors selling bracelets, necklaces, ear rings and hats, scarves. There was fruit,

juices, slushies and ice cream. There was a guy dressed as a Plains Indian (full eagle headdress) singing and playing Peruvian songs.



There were mimes and a storyteller. You need to stay away from those guys because they LOVE to grab a gringo into their act and watch the puzzlement on their face. There were games of chance with the old three half tennis balls and a marble. A cute one was where a guy had six hamsters (guinea pigs?) and twelve little houses. You could but your money on top of one house and if the one hamster released went to your choice, you would get to get to keep half the money bet.



My favorite scene was watching a group of twenty or so people watching a guy review a health book he was selling. It was a big book with illustrated pop-up diagrams. I swear I'm not making this up but he opened it up to the page showing male genitalia and it popped up!

Well, I'm home safe and almost sound. The end of the trip showed the same luck as usual. My 1:15am flight didn't leave until 2am. The Immigration computers were down so I missed my connecting flight. The next three flights were fully booked but I was able to get on the next as the last person (stand by) loaded. All the overheads bins were filled so my small day pack and hat rode with me. Do you have time for another rant? Some peoples' carry-ons are BIGGER than my checked backpack.

I forgot how cold it is here but it's nice to sleep in a familiar bed. I'm open to suggestions for my next trip, so feel free!

Rescue Clinic and Rodeo By Rob Hammond

The Keel Hauler and Three Rivers Paddling clubs are once again holding the Slippery Rock Rescue Weekend. This event is for boaters who want to learn how to self rescue and rescue their fellow boaters in moving water. The event will be held on easy Class II whitewater, teaching basic river rescue skills that all whitewater boaters should know.

Where and When:

We will meet at the Kildoo Picnic grounds at McConnell's Mill State Park; website:

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/mcconnellsmill.aspx

Saturday and Sunday June 27-28. Sign in both days is at 9 a.m., events start promptly at 10 a.m.

Camping:

We will be camping and having the Potluck dinner at Breakneck Campgrounds near the Eckert Bridge takeout; website:

www.breakneckcampground.com They have nice clean facilities with tent camping or cabins for rent.

Clinic:

The clinic will be on basic river rescue skills and is intended for new boaters, as well as, a brush-up for intermediate and advanced boaters. There will be several learning stations, with some new ones this year, both on land and in moving water. Students will rotate through these stations to learn various rescue skills. Skills taught include first aid, rope throwing, snag line rescues, boat-based rescues, and wading rescues. For your added enjoyment we will simulate some more complicated rescues in the comfort and safety of the picnic grounds. Admission to the clinic is limited, so sign up early at the contact below.

Potluck Dinner:

Saturday night is a potluck dinner for all. Bring a dish to share (main dish, salad or desert) and join us for a good time with old or new friends. If making a dish is not your thing, bring some chips or soda to share and a \$5 donation to have some burgers or dogs.

Rescue Rodeo:

Think you are a pretty hot boater, or maybe you have been boating for a year and think that you would like to test your rescue skills in a safe environment with your buddies? Well then, the Slippery Rock Rescue Rodeo may be for you! New boaters and experienced boaters compete head to head and you may be surprised to find out which teams come out on top. Hint: the teams that do best... attend the clinic the previous day!

The rodeo team competition is in basic river rescue techniques. Each team must have four (4) people. The events are timed or judged and the team with the highest cumulative score for the events wins the rodeo. Rodeo events include such things as rescuing a boater and equipment, ferrying a snag line across the river, and simulated rescue event where teams are judged by timeliness, and effectiveness of their rescue. Most people find that even easy tasks become much harder when under the pressure of a rescue. Although nothing can simulate a real rescue, I think you will find that the demands of competition go a long way to duplicate that pressure.

Besides bragging rights the winning team members will be awarded prizes!

Cost:

The fee for the clinic or the rodeo is \$23 for TRPC and Keel Hauler club members, and \$27 for non-members. Additional discounts are available for pre-registration and for attending the clinic, see application for details.

Sign up early and save:

Save \$4 for pre-registering Go to the Keel Haulers web site: www.keelhauler.org/Instruction/#rc and download an application to send in or sign up online and pay with Paypal

For more information or a registration form you can also call me at

Contact Info:

Rob Hammond 216-292-5618 or send me an e-mail at

Rob@security-fire.com

Dave Altman 412-977-7099 or Dave@classv.org

or check the website www.keelhauler.org

Event T-Shirts: Event T-shirts are available. Thanks to our sponsor, Rocky Mountain Kayak, the shirts will be free! This year we are going to have a limited number of men's and woman's Ts. All shirts have a cool new design, front and back. Shirts and sizes are on a first registered first served basis, so if you want a choice, register early and check off the size and style. The shirts run true to size.

Sponsors: Need Boating gear? check these guys first!

Rocky Mountain Kayak www.rockymountinkayak.com

Wind & Water Boatworks www.windwaterboatworks.com/

Weigel on the Water www.weigelonthewater.com



June				
6/5 & 8	Upper Yough (MD) and/or Big Sandy (WV) No UY release on Sat	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
6/6	Cuyahoga River, Peninsula to Boston Mills (OH)	SK/FW	Ann Corey	330-869-6549
6/6	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Sabine Iben	440-543-4969
6/6, 7	Esopus Slalom Race run by KCCNY (NY)		Igor Birbrayer	440-479-5636
6/6, 7	Cheat Canyon (WV)	26	Cliff Wire	440-669-7177 C
6/7	Yough Lake Cruising Trip (PA)	SK/FW	Gene Baker	440-967-6454
6/7	Vermilion or Black River (OH)	SK/FW	Chuck Singer	440-949-6681
6/7 to 22	Rivers in Colorado - advanced/intermediate trip	25-32	Needs organizer	
6/9	Club Meeting possibly at Hinckley Lake at 6pm	SK/FW	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
6/13, 14	Slippery Rock Creek (PA)	13-19	Ross Brinkerhoff	330-527-0262
6/15 & 17, 22 & 24	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool. 6PM - 9PM		Ernie Anderson	440-974-5720
6/19,20,22	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
6/20	Walk the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (OH)		Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
6/20, 21	Lower Yough - permits (PA)	23	Ron Tomallo	330-666-7340
6/20, 21	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Carl Kudrna	440-835-5744
6/20, 21	Cheoah Release (NC)	32	Needs organizer	
6/27, 28	Rescue Weekend & Rodeo (PA)		Rob Hammond	216-292-5618
July				
7/3, 4, 6	Upper Yough (MD)	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
7/5,6	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Eric Marks	216-281-1517
7/5	Savage River (MD) - Scheduled Dam Release	26	Bud Chavez	513-703-4108
7/14	Club Picnic at Silver Lake	SK/FW	Jim Tyree	330-688-4431
7/18	Upper Cuyahoga Eldon Park to Camp Hi (OH)	SK/FW	Needs organizer	
7/18, 19	Lower Yough Intro weekend - permits (PA)	23	Fran Hoven Ross Brinkerhoff	216-671-4931 440-313-5875
7/18, 19	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
7/18, 19	New River Gorge (WV)	27	Cecil Tickamyer	740-593-8453
7/18, 19	Niagara River, Buffalo Small Boat Harbor, Paddle under the Peace Bridge (NY) - Last Year Photos - Map	SK/FW	Mark Spang	440-892-6972
7/21 & 23, 28 & 30	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool. 6PM - 9PM		Ernie Anderson	440-974-5720
7/24,25,27	Upper Yough (MD) - Race & Festival Saturday, 6 hr release - Race & Festival Info	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747

2009 Club Officers

President:	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
VP:	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
Secretary:	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
Treasurer:	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, on the second Tuesday of each month
Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

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

Any opinions, views or recommendations expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the article's author. Printing these articles in no way implies approval or advocacy of any of the opinions, views or recommendations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or any of its Officers, editor, or members. Water sports are a potentially dangerous activity. Keel-Haulers Canoe Club recommends and encourages all of its members and others to abide by all laws, regulations and recommended practices when engaging in such activity. Each member is responsible for assessing her/his own abilities and for not engaging in activities which are beyond those limits. Members assume any and all risk when choosing to participate in any activity and the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club is not responsible for any damages resulting from such participation.

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

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

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the July issue of the newsletter is **6/21/09**. Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@aol.com
June, 2009



Keelhauler's Kanews July, 2009



Next Club Meeting is Tuesday, July 14th at 6:00 pm at Silver Lake

Program: Cookout - Pot Luck Dinner

Be sure to bring your boat and paddle around in the lake, kayaks can try roll practice. Bring your kids and bathing suits for the beach. Come anytime around 6 PM. We will serve picnic dinner from 7-7:30pm. We can use the Lake until about 8:30. The meeting will be held at dusk. Additionally, there will be our annual race around the island.

The club will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, tableware and soft drinks. Members should bring appetizers, salads, vegetables and desserts according to your last name:

A-F - Salad/vegetable/or baked beans

G-L - Chips or Appetizer

M-S - Dessert or Fruit

T-Z - Potato/Macaroni Salad

Food Question? - [Patty Hammond's E-Mail](#) or call her at 216-292-5618

Directions to Silver Lake: [Click for Map](#)

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.

All meetings are open to guests. Invite a prospective member!

Cheat'n—Memorial Day Weekend 2009 by Pam Poljak

On Saturday, May 23rd at around 11:00 am, Mark Poljak, Bill Miller, Cathy Needham, Terry Markoff, T. Markoff, Anne Kmieck and I made up the second wave of Keelhaulers to put on the Cheat. John Kobak led the first wave, putting on between 9:30 am and 10:00 am with a 2:00 pm Glenn Miller shuttle. The last we saw of John's group was as they were driving through Teter's campground to the put-in. A third group of Keelhaulers, led (I think) by Jim Hunt, caught up to us at Big Nasty and we saw them off and on for the rest of the day. Jim's group ran a reverse shuttle, having Glenn Miller drive them to the put-in in the morning rather than pick them up at the end of the day. Our group had a 4:00 pm shuttle scheduled with Glenn.

Now, you may be asking yourself, "What the heck? Why all the different put-on times and shuttles?" I could say that this was the Keelhauler's thoughtful attempt to keep from overcrowding the river by putting on in phases, but in fact, we just couldn't all agree on shuttle arrangements. This all started out as Ross (Happy) Brinkerhoff's Memorial Day Cheat trip. Hap made a valiant effort to organize the trip, but it turned out to be like trying to herd cats. I think Hap ended up not paddling at all that weekend. I don't think it was completely our fault he didn't paddle, but maybe...

Our group ended up putting on a little later than planned. Anne Kmieck and Steve Ingalls drove down Saturday morning, planning on arriving between 10:00 am and 10:30 am. They were delayed when they found the Eastbound Ohio turnpike completely closed shortly before the east gate due to unknown reasons. The detour cost them about $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour. Anne was understandably stressed when they finally arrived, but was soon smiling happily once we put on. It was an amazingly beautiful day, with blue skies and warm air temperature. The water level was pretty low, but the water temperature was refreshingly cool rather than cold.

Cathy hadn't paddled the Cheat in quite a while and was feeling a bit nervous, but she had a really good day with only one minor swim when she was caught by surprise in an unnamed rapid and just couldn't quite get a roll off.

There were several large groups paddling the Cheat that day, but most of the time we just saw them in passing and never had to wait too long in line to play. Mark, T., and I had a great time playing in

Big Nasty. Terry (you would never guess that he is only six months out from major back surgery) wasn't playing and kindly offered to take pictures with my new waterproof camera. After capturing quite a few pictures of the bottom of our boats, he switched to taking video and got some great clips of us in the hole. Mark had rented a Jackson SuperFun and had SO much fun he ended up buying one!

Cue Ball was pretty juicy, being a bit more violent than at higher levels. I ended up flipping myself at least twice while playing, but the current below was not as squirrely as at higher levels, so it was easy to roll up. After taking a short break for lunch, we continued on down the river. Teardrop was uneventful, though much more technical than usual and Cathy decided to walk around the lower part of the drop.

All made it through High Falls without incident and Maze was truly a maze at the low level. Cathy took the left path at Upper Coliseum which involved a short portage, while the rest of us took the usual route.

All was uneventful until Pete Morgan's rapid. This has always been one of my favorite rapids on the Cheat. Although it's changed a bit in the past couple of years, it's usually run on river left where the river funnels into a somewhat narrow path between a rock garden on river left and a large boulder on river right. It's a short, kind of steep, flume-like ride down into an impressive curling/breaking wave. The water comes in forcefully from a couple of different directions, making it a bouncy, swirling hoot of a ride. As it turned out, it was a bigger "hoot" for Bill Miller than he expected. Bill was the second-to-last to come through being followed by Cathy. He flipped in the curler and was pushed towards river right as he attempted and missed his first roll. (The current below the curler is pushing forcefully to the right, is pretty squirrely and can be difficult to roll in.) In the meantime, Cathy came through and was accelerated to the right as Bill attempted his second roll. She bumped into him as he was halfway up and he went back over. After his third attempt was unsuccessful, he bailed and Cathy got a chance to rescue him for a change.

Since we were running close to time for meeting Glenn's shuttle, Anne, Terry and T. headed on down. Then Mark suggested that Cathy and I take off as well and he stayed to help Bill get put back together. The low water meant that the flat water was really flat, so we had to keep up a steady pace at the end and were only about 5 minutes late. Fortunately, the shuttle was running late and they were just starting to load boats as we walked up the hill.

As it turned out, the scariest part of the day was the ride back to the put-in. I've ridden the Glenn Miller shuttle too many times to count over the years, and this was the first time that I've ever felt the least bit scared. Glenn was driving much faster than usual and the truck was bouncing and swaying alarmingly. It may be that he was trying to make up time as he was running a bit late, but he was going way too fast. At one point, as we were careening around a bend in the road, the truck bed abruptly shifted hard enough to rub the wheels and we could smell burning tire rubber. I've always considered the shuttle to be a great convenience and part of the fun and adventure, but this time it was pretty scary. At least four other people later mentioned similar feelings of concern about the ride.

All in all though, it was an absolutely great day. Thanks to everyone for such pleasant company!

Reprinted from the Cleveland Plain Dealer, June 14th, 2009 (without permission...)

Tainted Cuyahoga River sees sporadic return of recreation

Posted by [Michael Scott/Plain Dealer Reporter](#) June 14, 2009 14:00PM

Categories: [Cuyahoga River](#), [Environment](#), [Real Time News](#), [Recreation](#)



Thomas Ondrey/The Plain Dealer

Dave Hill maneuvers his kayak over white-water rapids of the Cuyahoga River in Cuyahoga Falls. The rough-and-tumble middle section of the river is a destination of kayakers from around the region. As the Cuyahoga's water becomes cleaner, more outdoor enthusiasts are using the river for recreation.

The Year of the River

This is one of a series of stories The Plain Dealer will print this year as a part of "[The Year of the River](#)," a recognition of the Cuyahoga River's return to health 40 years after it caught fire.

CUYAHOGA FALLS -- Mike Larkin's snub-nosed kayak has just been shot from an unseen underwater cannon.

The lightweight and slender one-man boat springs out from a craggy jumble of rocks, then appears to briefly hover above unruly waters.

When the little, red plastic craft smacks loudly into the frothy pool at the bottom of the rapids, Larkin whoops and waves his paddle. A few fellow kayakers holler their appreciation along with several whitewater watchers on a ledge high above the banks of the Cuyahoga River.

That's right, the Cuyahoga River.

That's right, whitewater kayaking.

And in The Year of the River -- marking the 40th anniversary of the June 1969 fire on the Cuyahoga and its ongoing ecological recovery -- Larkin's leap is much more than a brief but wild ride down Cuyahoga rapids.

It's also high-flying evidence of advances along a much lengthier journey: restoration of recreation on a river known mostly to outsiders for its fires than its waters.

Kayaking on the Cuyahoga River

[PDF of graphic](#)



Recreation returns

http://videos.cleveland.com/plain-dealer/2009/06/kayaking_on_the_cuyahoga_river.html = Link to video if the above does not work.

While a work in progress (we're still reminded not to eat too many fish and not to ingest any water if we fall in), the return of recreation on the Cuyahoga has people excited.

"There are a lot of things you can do on this river -- this is just the most extreme," said whitewater kayaker David Hill, director of environmental safety for ParkOhio and unabashed river-recreation evangelist.

None are more spectacular than kayaking, however, in the rough-and-tumble middle section of the Cuyahoga, making it a destination for kayakers from around the region. In fact, an eighth-of-a-mile stretch near Cuyahoga Falls is considered expert-class (class IV) whitewater.

"We have geography here more extreme than the Niagara River -- over a stretch of 2.32 miles, the river falls over 208 feet," said Elaine Marsh of [Friends of the Crooked River](#). "That's an unheard of drop in most of the Great Lakes region -- OK, maybe around Lake Superior, but not anywhere else around here."

That is why the Cuyahoga -- already designated a Heritage River along its entire length and a state Scenic River along 25 miles of its upper reaches -- is unique, Hill said.

"Sure, it's been the poster child for a number of years because of the [Clean Water Act](#) and the fires," Hill said. "But when you look at the Cuyahoga, you have to look at all the different facets of it.

"It's not characterized by one event -- or even just one type of environment."

The Cuyahoga is best understood as a three-part river.

The upper reaches -- from the headwaters in Geauga down to Lake Rockwell near the city of Kent -- are mostly pristine, if slow and casual.

The middle section becomes wild, especially in rapids through Kent and Cuyahoga Falls and near the Gorge Dam in Summit County -- though the waters there also become more tainted by Akron's wastewater and suburban runoff.

And the lower end, where water quality and fish populations are improving dramatically in places like Cuyahoga Heights, remains urban and gritty, especially at the mouth.

On-water recreation there is limited to mostly boats and jet skis passing through the shipping channel near Lake Erie.

And it is that very lowest section -- the 6-mile-long shipping channel and steel-mill, oil-refinery-lined urban waterway that caught fire June 22, 1969 -- which many outsiders still imagine when they think of the Cuyahoga River.

But that was 40 years ago.

And, of course, that description was never true of the rural upper reaches of the river in Geauga and Portage counties, where it meanders lazily through marsh and forest.

And the middle section -- drastically less foul than it once was -- had always featured the rapids and riffles where Larkin and Hill and friends play all summer.

There are, of course, many natural parks along the nearly 100-mile river that have improved along with the quality of water in the river -- most notably the sprawling 33,000-acre [Cuyahoga Valley National Park](#).

The park formed during the course of the Cuyahoga cleanup. President Gerald Ford signed the legislation that created Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in 1974, and it was redesignated a National Park in 2000.

But there are others, from Headwaters Park in Geauga County where the Cuyahoga is born out of a series of small streams and swamps, to the Gorge Metro Parks in Summit County to the [Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation](#) in Cuyahoga Heights.

But while those parks and others allow visitors to experience the Cuyahoga from land, on-water activities are harder to find.

Fishing and boating

The general goal of the 1972 federal Clean Water Act was to bring America's waterways back from the brink of death toward being "fishable and swimmable." The Cuyahoga River is not there just yet but is getting closer, according to EPA standards.

It's certainly not swimmable -- except unofficially in the upper portions of the river. Even up there, however, there are no designated swimming holes, just canoers who turn into swimmers.

"This is probably the only place on the Cuyahoga where most people would consider swimming," said Kendra Hazlatt-Becker at [Camp Hi Canoe Livery](#)

in Hiram.

But the Cuyahoga most certainly is fishable. Recent environmental reports have chronicled great numbers of healthy fish species (and the macro-invertebrates they feed upon) to the river.

For that reason, officials expect that the crucial middle portion -- from just north of Kent through Akron all the way up to Harvard Avenue in Cleveland -- will meet U.S. EPA standards for aquatic life habitat (fish and bugs) in time for the river fire commemoration this month.

Even so, that 45-mile section continues to struggle with industrial pollution, sewage and suburban runoff.

And the Ohio EPA still advises against eating too many fish from portions of the Cuyahoga -- only one smallmouth bass caught anywhere on the river in Summit and Cuyahoga counties because of excessive mercury, for example.

(To see the entire list, go to

www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/fishadvisory/waters/Cuyahoga.html)



Thomas Ondrey/The Plain Dealer

Mike Larkin and his kayak shoot over a steep drop in the Cuyahoga River in Cuyahoga Falls. Larkin and others are finding ways to enjoy the river's improving water quality, 40 years after the waterway caught fire.

Still, park officials and anglers will tell you that there is good sport fishing -- catch and release -- on the river.

Fly-fishermen line the riverbanks in the National Park just below the Ohio 82 bridge in Brecksville. In Summit County, the park district suggests Cascade Valley Metro Park and Deep Lock Quarry.

As for boating, the river still lacks a great number of public access points. You can put in at places in Mantua and Hiram in Portage and Burton Township in Geauga, where you can also rent a canoe or kayak.

Downstream, however, you will rarely see canoes or kayaks on the Cuyahoga -- even though it courses its way down the center of the gorgeous national park.

That's because up to 2 billion gallons of Akron sewage still end up in the river each year.

The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) filed a lawsuit this year seeking more than \$100 million in penalties from the city, claiming that it had violated the Clean Water Act for the last 15 years.

Until that sewage is treated completely before reaching the river, it is unlikely that canoeing and kayaking would thrive in the park. In fact, the National Park Service "discourages using the river at this time, however, due to highly variable water quality."

But pioneers like Marsh and her husband do it, and so do others -- thrilled to boat on the river but cautious not to go *in* it.

It's a fitting contradiction for the crooked Cuyahoga.

But that recreation exists at all along a river with a legacy of filth and fire is evidence of how far the river has come in 40 years, and how far it has to go. It also is proof that we no longer consider the waterway as a place to dump things, but as a natural resource to enjoy.

"The recreational benefits of a river are exceedingly important in determining the value of the river to the people around it," Marsh said.

Spring Paddling- 2009

By John Kobak

Photos by Jeff Macklin & Jim Murtha

It's has really been a nice Spring for paddling. The surprising thing is that for some reason less and less Keel-Haulers are paddling. A lot of new paddlers have been on the Slippery Rock, a group of paddlers have been getting to the Lower Yough but I don't see many people trying to advance their paddling skills and trying to tackle some of the more difficult runs. There are also fewer new members joining & paddling.



Charlie Walbridge below Ohiopyle Falls

See this link for generally accepted river ratings, <http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/khccralph.htm> and then check your paddling skills with this link, <http://www.keelhauler.org/khcc/selftest.html>

Most of the paddlers I see have all the skills they need to advance but just don't seem to be able to give the more challenging rivers a try. If you are paddling the Slippery Rock Gorge (KH rating 20) and are having fun it's a very small step up to the Lower Yough. If the Lower Yough (KH rating 23) is a lot of fun, the next step up is the Cheat Canyon. But be sure you paddle it from 1.5' to 3' on the Albright Bridge gauge with some paddlers familiar with the run.



Paddling Pete Morgan's Rapid on Cheat

The biggest thing you will notice is that there are a lot more rapids on the Cheat than the Yough. The Cheat Canyon (KH rating 26) is said to have 38 class III or better rapids in it's 10 miles compared to about 10 rapids on the Lower Yough's 8 miles.

You may also notice the longer paddle and the lack of flat water on the Cheat. Big Nasty, High Falls, Coliseum and Pete Morgan's are the rapids that will challenge the newer paddlers but are really not that more difficult than say Cucumber or Dimple on the Yough. Paddling the Cheat? Looking for more a little more challenge? The Middle Fork and the Tygart (KH rating 29) is your next step up but unless we get a late week rain, it is really only a early Spring run.

Jim Murtha on Mary's Facial, Middle Fork

But watch out for high water or you will find out why Jim named it



after Mary Smith. The dry rocks to Jim's left are under Mary below.



Mary took a hard blow to the face, fracturing some cheek bones and she had to get many stitches. This is a very hard rapid at this level.

I got a slow start paddling this Spring. After the Vermilion Race, I decided to try my favorite the Upper Yough (KH rating 32). I know the lines and have confidence that I can hit them at normal levels.



Ready for the Boof at Bastard on Upper Yough

Late May was a little dry so we tried the Cheat Canyon at 1.5', that was a really fun level with lots of rock dodging.



Playing with Typewriter on the Cheat

We had a couple of higher water runs on the Upper Yough and I was having trouble rolling my Pyranha Burn on one run at Powerful Popper. I decided that it was time to try out a new kayak that was a little easier to roll for an old man getting even stiffer in his old age. I bought an almost new Liquid Logic Remix 69 and found out that it was much easier to roll. My first run was a quick run down the Lower Yough on Memorial Day. I saw lots and lots of Keel-Haulers getting ready to paddle. They seemed to act surprised to see me there, I guess it's been a few years since I have endured getting a river permit, a launch time and a bus token. I would have liked to paddle with the group but I was really tired after three days of paddling and just wanted to try the new boat and get on my way.

After almost two weeks, I got out paddling again and hit the Upper Yough and Cheat with my new kayak. I've gained confidence in it's handling and my rolling and roll I did on the Cheat and Lower Big Sandy. I pinned on a couple of rocks on the Sandy, pushed backwards and upside down through a slot. I think this next picture is where it happened. But my roll worked for a change.



An un-named rapid on the Big Sandy after Big Splat

The only new local Keel-Hauler I've paddled with this year is our great Publicity Chairman, **Mike Larkin**. He got us the front page

coverage in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. If the article doesn't show up somewhere else in the newsletter here is the link to the story and video.

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2009/06/tainted_cuyahoga_river_sees_sp.html

I keep taking new people down these runs from out-of-state but where are the up and coming Keel-Haulers? Come on guys if an old guy like me with a questionable roll can do these runs, most of you can.

The Fourth of July weekend will be the next big paddling weekend. Hope to see some new folks out there.



Jim Hunt at First Island, Big Sandy

This is an actual news release from DCNR dated May 14 out of Harrisburg... These Parks are treasures, **PLEASE** write or call your State Representative and encourage your friends to do the same. Here is the link to email your rep: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/>

SENATE'S BUDGET WOULD CLOSE AT LEAST 35 STATE PARKS, PUT HELP FOR COMMUNITIES, NATURAL RESOURCES AT RISK

HARRISBURG (May 14, 2009) - The millions of visitors who flock to Pennsylvania's state parks and forests to relax and experience nature's beauty would have fewer opportunities to do so under a budget plan that passed the Senate last week. If enacted, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources acting Secretary John Quigley said the Senate proposal will force the agency to close at least 35 state parks and 1,000 miles of state forest roads, which would sharply reduce access for anglers, hunters and hikers.

Under Senate Bill 850, an additional \$19 million would be cut from DCNR's budget beyond the difficult but prudent reductions Governor Edward G. Rendell proposed in February. "Families that cannot afford to take a vacation because of the tough economic times could always count on enjoying a little rest and relaxation at a nearby state park or forest," said Quigley. "However, if the Senate's budget proposal is enacted, there would be even fewer of those opportunities as we would have to close a number of state parks. That means less traffic and fewer dollars being spent in the rural communities with businesses and jobs that count on these parks and forests.

"The Senate's proposal would be absolutely devastating to these rural areas and to our efforts to preserve our natural resources for present and future generations. In contrast, the Governor's budget proposal reflects the difficult economy we now face and would still allow us to provide a quality outdoor experience for our citizens and visitors," Quigley said, also noting that closing 35 state parks would turn away more than 3 million visitors and wipe out at least \$57 million in visitor spending on products and services in nearby communities.

Many other programs that enhance a visitor's experience at a state park or forest, protect natural resources, or help communities offer more recreational opportunities also would suffer under the Senate's proposal. About 40,000 acres of forest would be vulnerable to gypsy moths because the department will not be able to apply treatments, while a program that offers one million tree seedlings for purchase by landowners would be eliminated. The seedling program helps protect watersheds, control soil erosion, reclaim former mining areas, and provide food and cover to wildlife.

In addition, DCNR would likely remove state forest rangers who serve as the primary contact for visitors and who promote safety and enforce the law on forestlands. Local governments and communities that depend on DCNR for important topographic, geologic and technical information, as well as help with 1,000 active grants for parks, trails and other recreational developments will receive less help under the Senate's proposal.

Quigley also noted that the Senate's plan does not restore funding for the department's heritage tourism grants, despite repeated criticisms by the caucus when Governor Rendell made the difficult decision to cut the program.

Pennsylvania has 117 state parks and 2.1 million acres of state forests, including 3,000 miles of roads that provide access to the forests.

CONTACT: Christina Novak -- DCNR Press Secretary -- (717) 772-9101

The 04 Massacrance

By Robin "Reporter" Wannabhee
Reprinted from May 2004 KaNews

Dateline April 30, 2004

I am here in Albright WV as we kick off the 2004 Cheat Fest, one of the oldest whitewater festivals in the US. The festival officially runs on Saturday noon until the beer runs out. But things start getting into the spirit Friday evening for the Bridge to Bridge Down River race. The Keel Hauler race organizer this year is Rob Hammond, lets talk to him and get some insight about the race.

Rob: Robin, it is going to be interesting this year, 3 of our top racers are not with us this year. Out with injuries are Ron Whitney and Paul Lang. The biggest disappointment is Matt Muir, seems that the bum wouldn't lie his way into taking a sick day from work. We picked up some new racers. Ron Tomallo is a first timer for the race, but a seasoned and respected racer, we also have Michael Duvall, Chris Kiehl and a relatively new boater, Jason Miller.

This year we have an historic event for this race. For the first time ever, we have the Keel Hauler Chicks Team! This is the first all female team for the club and the Cheat race! The team consists of Sue Whitney, Shelly Schmidt and Julie Garcia. The women are going to race as a group to watch out for each other, and help each other with the race lines.

We will have 3 teams this year, the most of any club! Team I has the venerable Chuck Singer, they guy who has probably made more trips down the river than just about anyone. We will also have Ron Tomallo, Jason Miller and myself. This team could have been a bicentennial team! Yeah the cumulative ages of the racers would have been over 200 years if Jason hadn't dragged the average boater age down! Team II will have Jim Hunt, Cliff Wire, Chris and Michael.

Robin: Sounds like a great lineup. How's the competition look this year?

Rob: As usual our toughest competition is the punks in the Kent State Club. They have a couple of new guys this year, so it is hard to say how they will do. The Three Rivers Paddling Club, are always a worry, we have beat them every year so far, but they could pull their act together this year and squeak out a win!

Robin: I see you brought down several boats this year, what is the story on that?

Rob: I have a collection of older plastic boats that are much faster than the play boats of today. I am lending my Quest to Jason. He has never paddled a boat longer than 8 feet, so he may have some getting used to with a boat that is 13 feet long. I also have a

Mirage, and a Pirouette to lend to our team. I would take one of the longer boats, but my shoulder has been giving me trouble so I want to stick with a boat I am comfortable with.

Robin: So what are your goals this year?

Rob: As always, it is to beat the Punks from Kent State! There is nothing finer than for us old farts to beat the young bucks! We came close 2 years ago, but we have never beaten them. Secondly it is to beat the Three Rivers guys. We have beaten them pretty handily every year, but they have good potential, and this year will not be our strongest team. And Thirdly is for me to finish in the top half of the boaters. It doesn't sound like much, but there are a lot of serious down river racers at this race, and a lot of people who boat this river professionally as river guides. And the rest of the top half of boaters are younger, in faster boats, or just plain better than me!

Robin: So how was the trash talking rivalry this year?

Rob: Well Robin, that is my favorite part of the race! The Keel Hauler message board is usually full of insults from the punks and from TRPC. All trash talk statements on the board have absolutely nothing to do with truth or reality, and the more outrageous the better! But this year it was kind of lame. Since Matt was not racing, I don't think his heart was into the trash, but he did get a few licks in. And David Knox from the punks had some pretty creative stuff. But the punks were definitely off their game this year. Come to find out, they were all suffering from the same thing... employment! They already hold the record for spending the most years in college without earning a degree, but I guess it finally caught up with them and they had to find jobs!

Robin: Wow, there is no shortage of rivalry there! The race is just about to start, so lets go down to the river and see what's going on.

The river level at the Albright gage is 3 feet, a nice level that is not too pushy, but still challenging. And the temperature is a balmy 75 degrees with a slight overcast. The race committee tells me that there are 101 boats this year for the biggest race ever! There was so many racers, that they ran out of race bibs. Last year's race had 80 boats; and that was a record breaking year as well. All of the boats are waiting behind the broken down bridge for the start signal. They are trying to stay behind the bridge, but the current wants to sweep them down river. If that happens, they will be disqualified. The gaggle of boaters is something to see, boats of every color and type, even a couple of Topo Duos, or 2 person kayaks. I don't think that most of the racers can even hear the start signal above the noise of the rivers and the bumping boats as they jockey for position. There are a bunch of boaters well back from the lead, not wanting to get run over in the stampede.

And they are OFF!! The boaters in the sleek downriver boats take an early lead followed by about 90 other boats of all kinds in the biggest mass start in all kayak racing! The first rapid is Decision, and the racers break up into 2 lines, the right line is the fastest, but you have to go through the meat of a relatively big rapid. The left line is less challenging but noticeably slower. So I guess the decision to be made here is between speed with risk, or slowness

with the certainty that you won't be a swimmer on the very first rapid! Let's head down to the takeout and talk to some of the racers as they come in.

Robin: It looks like we got here just as some of the racers are coming across the finish line! We have a couple of the regulars on the wildwater racing circuit in their fast boats. There is Jess Whittemore at 1 hour 1 minute. Oh dear, this looks like trouble, here comes David Knox from the Kent State team and right behind him is Steve Knechtel from Three Rivers at 1 hour 11 minutes. And here comes another Kent Stater and a TRPC boater, this does not look good for the good guys. Wait, wait, that is Ron Tomallo I see leading the Keel Haulers. And his time is 1 hour 15 minutes. Now I see Chuck Singer at 1 hour 17 minutes. And now comes a mass of boaters, I hope scoring can keep this all straight, cause I have lost track of who is who here.

Wow, this is some kind of race! There is free Micro Brew Beer for everyone, Jeff Prycl, owner of Rocky Mountain Kayak, and a main sponsor is filling the cups of all racers. These men and woman, don't look like they are too tired to hoist a few. We won't get the official results until later tonight, but right now, no one seems to care! Let's see how the Keel Hauler teams did. Rob how did things go out there!

Rob: Robin, it was an awesome race! I got my butt kicked a lot more than I would have liked, but the race was a lot of fun. I really love the mass start! It is pretty crazy at the beginning, and we actually had to hold back on the early rapids because the crowds were too big to fit through some of the narrow lines, but everyone was polite and we did not have too many situations. Well... I take that back, most of the other suckers were polite, I hated to take advantage of them, but what the hell, this is a race!

Robin: Ok I won't get into race etiquette here. Jim Hunt, how was your race, I understand things didn't go so well for you?

Jim: Yeah you could say I had an out of boat experience. It was a nothing rapid, but I guess I zigged when I should have zagged, and the next thing I knew the scenery got a lot wetter! And I have to tell you I don't know what the secret is to rolling these old boats, but they sure don't roll like the ones we paddle today! These boats are great on the flat water, very fast, but I had to slow down in the rapids and take careful lines, because I knew that my chances for rolling this beast were not good!

Rob: And let me interject here, one thing I don't like about the big mass starts, is that you don't have to know the lines. There are enough boaters out there that you can just follow their lines, and the people in front are all taking the best race lines, so most people had pretty good lines even if they didn't know what they were doing. And the thing I like about a big mass start is that there are plenty of people around to gauge how well you do. I was neck and neck with this younger guy (well most all boaters are) he

was a faster boater, but he did not have good boat control, so here and there I could make some headway on him cause I took a slightly more efficient line, but his superior speed would pass me up sooner or later. Then I passed him at Que Ball, he took a sloppy line and got eddied out. I passed him and was feeling pretty smug, that I took care of that whippersnapper for good. I got to High Falls and he was nowhere in sight. I had a good line at the top but, I remembered that the fast line was way right just before you get to the final drop. I wish I could blame that bone headed move on the beer, but I hadn't been to the keg yet. That, dear Robin was a way bad call! I ended up in this huge pool of very slow moving water, while I watched 5 other boaters, including the whippersnapper jet by me, in a fast current. That move had to cost me over 90 seconds! But I learned the fast line at High Falls!

Robin: Jason, how did you do in that big boat you were using?

Jason: I tell you what, I have a lot of respect for the early boaters, I don't know how they got to where they did with those things. First of all there are no edges; I don't know how to boat without using my edges to make my turns! It was half way down the river before I started getting the hang of things, then I was able to kick it into high gear. Next time I race, I am not going to wait until race day to learn how to drive a long boat!

Robin: Ok we are back at Mountain Steams facility. They had a great catered dinner for us by a local restaurant, and there is still plenty of beer. That's a good thing, because, due to a computer failure, they just announced that the race results won't be ready until tomorrow at the Cheat Fest. Fortunately this crowd does not seem to care too much!

Cheatfest: Rob, you look a little down, how were the results? Well Robin, it is a sad day today. It seems we got our collective butts kicked this year. The Punks beat us again this year, but the real tragedy is the TRPC boys, they took second, leaving us with Third!! This has never been done in the history of the Cheat Race! But the good news is that we did beat the Baltimore, 3 West Virginia teams, and one to two TRPC club teams. Even our Woman's team beat one of the West Virginia teams!

So there you have it, the Good Guys slip to Third place but they still have a lot to be proud of. And who knows, there is always next year!

***Family camping trip at Teeter's on
the weekend of Aug. 6,7,8. Bring
the kids. Non paddler's welcome
and encouraged. Come and spend a
day or two hiking, playing, resting,
boating etc. There are
accommodations nearby for those
not wanting to camp.
Trip sponsored by:
Terry Markoff, 440-543-4969***

July				
7/3, 4, 6	Upper Yough (MD)	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
7/5,6	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Eric Marks	216-281-1517
7/14	Club Picnic at Silver Lake	SK/FW	Jim Tyree	330-688-4431
7/18	Upper Cuyahoga Eldon Park to Camp Hi (OH)	SK/FW	Needs organizer	
7/18, 19	Lower Yough Intro weekend - permits (PA)	23	Fran Hoven Ross Brinkerhoff	216-671-4931 440-313-5875
7/18, 19	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
7/18, 19	New River Gorge (WV)	27	Cecil Tickamyer	740-593-8453
7/18, 19	Niagara River, Buffalo Small Boat Harbor, Paddle under the Peace Bridge (NY) - Last Year Photos - Map	SK/FW	Mark Spang	440-892-6972
7/21 & 23, 28 & 30	Fundamentals of Kayaking at Mentor Dept. of Recreation Pool. 6PM - 9PM		Ernie Anderson	440-974-5720
7/24,25,27	Upper Yough (MD) - Race & Festival Saturday, 6 hr release - Race & Festival Info	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
August				
7/31, 8/1	Upper Yough (MD) - Friendsville Days - Fri 6:00-10:00pm, Sat 12-10pm	32	Doug Smith	419-823-1423
8/1, 2	New River Gorge or Lower Gauley (WV) Here are the details	27	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
8/7, 8	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
8/7, 8, 9	Family Campout - Hiking, Floating, etc. At Teeters Campground on Cheat River (WV)	FW	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969
8/8, 9	Basic River Kayak & Canoe - (PA)		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
8/11	Club Meeting at Huntington Beach Park	SK/FW	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
8/13	Lower Yough - Skip Work Day (PA)	23	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
8/14	Lower Yough - Ladies Only Day (PA)	23	Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
8/15	Upper Cuyahoga Eldon Park to Camp Hi (OH)	SK/FW	Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
8/15, 16	Lower Yough (PA) - permits available, call before Thursday at noon.	23	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
8/15, 16	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
8/21, 22	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
8/22	Ohiopyle Falls Festival & Race (PA)		Barry Adams	412-242-4562
8/28,29,31	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-4182 C

2009 Club Officers

President:	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
VP:	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
Secretary:	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
Treasurer:	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, on the second Tuesday of each month
Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

Membership: \$20 per year. New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send directly to

Membership Chairman: John Kobak, 440-871-1758
1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, OH 44145

Any opinions, views or recommendations expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the article's author. Printing these articles in no way implies approval or advocacy of any of the opinions, views or recommendations by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club or any of its Officers, editor, or members. Water sports are a potentially dangerous activity. Keel-Haulers Canoe Club recommends and encourages all of its members and others to abide by all laws, regulations and recommended practices when engaging in such activity. Each member is responsible for assessing her/his own abilities and for not engaging in activities which are beyond those limits. Members assume any and all risk when choosing to participate in any activity and the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club is not responsible for any damages resulting from such participation.

KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

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

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the August issue of the newsletter is 7/21/09.

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@aol.com
July, 2009



Kee1hauler's Kanews August, 2009



**Next Club Meeting is Tuesday, August
11th at 6:00 PM
at Huntington Beach Park in Bay
Village on Lake Erie.**

**Program: Be sure to bring your boat
to paddle & Surf, kayaks can try roll
practice.**

**Directions & Map to Huntington Beach
Park:**

[Click for Directions](#)

[Click for Map](#)

All meetings are open to guests. Invite a prospective member!

Father's Day the Way it Should Be. By Joe Marks

I thought I'd briefly share the Father's Day experience I had with my son Eric this year.

We had not planned on getting on the river that weekend but late Saturday evening we decided to throw the gear in the car and get out for Sunday (Father's Day) and Monday. We got into the Tall Oaks campground around midnight during a driving rain storm. Eric quickly pitched his tent and I crawled into the van to go to sleep.

While looking for places to paddle the next morning we overheard some guys talking about Indian Creek. Being one of the creeks on our 'to do' list, we introduced ourselves and proceeded to find out more. Well, after one incredible multi-hour shuttle ordeal we were on Indian Creek with the

3 guys we met that morning. We didn't know any details about the run but, of course, that made it all the more interesting. We were treated to a number of 4 to 8 foot ledges with a variety of boof options. After being on the water a short time we started hearing the other guys talk about Terminator. Even though they had been on Indian many times, they told us that they had always portaged Terminator. Hmm..... Eric and I looked at each other and smiled. "That sounds interesting", he said.



Eric watching Dad's boof

When we came up to Terminator, we all got out and took a short, easy walk to scout it. What we found was a rather intimidating looking rapid. Fairly long with one of the nastier looking undercuts I've seen sitting down at the bottom right. I won't get into describing the details of the rapid but I will say that we spent a fair amount of time discussing possible lines. Eric and I decided on our line and were just getting ready to hike back up to our boats when I saw a Kingfisher land in the water right at the top of the rapid. Eric was already up on the trail so he missed it, but I watched that Kingfisher run/float the exact line through the rapid that Eric and I had decided on. I thought; "well, that must be the right one."



Eric and Dad on Indian Creek

So Eric and I put in at the top, gave each other a 'high five' and said "see ya at the bottom." Now, to any of you who have boated with the both of us in the past it will come as no surprise that Eric's line was just a little cleaner than mine. Never the less we both arrived at the bottom with a smile and another 'high five.' Eric and I were sitting down in the eddy below while we were waiting for the other guys to finish their portage. We were having a great time discussing the details of our lines with each other and reliving the excitement of the run. All of a sudden I remembered this was Father's Day! I've got to admit that I started to get a little misty while thinking about that. Thinking about what lucky Dad I was to spend Father's Day doing something like this with one of my kids.



Indian Creek

What a great family sport! On thing I've always loved seeing in kayaking was family involvement. From toddlers in rafts to teens guiding their 'old man' down class 5's!

Family camping trip at Teeter's on the weekend of Aug. 6,7,8. Bring the kids. Non paddler's welcome and encouraged. Come and spend a day or two hiking, playing, resting, boating etc. There are accommodations nearby for those not wanting to camp.

**Trip sponsored by:
Terry Markoff, 440-543-4969**

Two Days with One of My Favorite Paddling Buddies

by Matt Muir

Note: none of the photos in this article shows a paddler. Sorry 'bout that; I'm afraid there was nobody to hold the camera.

After a four-month exile in Houston, I was itching to hit up my first whitewater of the year. (!!) I posted to the local FLOW club message board, asking about overnight trips. See, I'd read an article a couple of years ago in *American Whitewater* about self-supported multi-day kayaking, and it appealed to me. My big-ol' Jackson Super Hero has plenty of room in the stern for a tent, sleeping bag, food, and a few gold ingots to serve as a squirt assist. So I should be good to go...if the water would hold for mid-summer.

One OC-1'er, Hans, was very interested. "I'm there!" he enthused. So we made tentative plans.

When I knew which weekend would be good to go, I emailed him. No response.

See, Hans doesn't get to the Web that often. He's pretty laid back. So I phoned him and left a message. No response. (Hans also doesn't always answer his phone.)

As the day approached, there was good news and bad news. The good news was that the water levels were holding. The min for the section I was looking at—the [Piercefield section of the Raquette](#), deep in the Adirondacks—is 1700 cfs, and the gauge was bouncing between 1700 and 2000. There'd been unseasonably good rain in June and July, so that was looking good.

The bad news was that Hans just wasn't responding; nor was anybody else. Would I have to go it alone? Could I do so without worrying my poor tolerant wife to death?



Burnt Island rapid

The day approached, and I was still determined to go. The Lovely & Talented Mrs. Ratt was very worried about the possibility of my running a river solo, in the middle of nowhere. She had a point, but I assured her that I would be careful. This would not be a very difficult run, save for a few spanky rapids at the end. Those, I could portage if necessary. So, well before 7 AM on Friday, July 17, I began the 4.5-hour drive. I tried one last time to reach Hans. Miraculously, he returned my call, only to say that he'd been out the last night, and he was in no shape to paddle (read: hungover). So, well. If I met people at the putin or takeout, I'd be happy to paddle with them; however, this isn't a section with a lot of traffic. Especially on a weekday, I'd be unlikely to see anyone.

As I arrived at the putin, I didn't see a soul. I unloaded the boat and headed for the takeout. I left my car near the state campground, scoped out the takeout (a boat ramp, easy to see), locked my car and headed for the road.



The view upstream from camp

I think you know my shuttle plan. I headed for the road, and started walking with my thumb prominently displayed. I was wearing my PFD and helmet, so they'd know that I wasn't just any derelict; I was a *kayaking* derelict. I walked about a mile before a couple stopped. They were a retired couple (the "Gibsons"), going my way, very friendly. I sat in the back with their dog, "Whipple," and chatted with them. Whipple alternated between sticking his nose out the window and

leaning on the stranger. I was back at the putin at roughly 1 PM, and the Gibsons were on their way to Tupper Lake.

(Now, I don't want to hear any lectures about "never paddle alone." There are two types of paddlers: those who adhere to that rule, and those who don't. We all take risks every time we hit the river. I consider the additional risks associated with solo boating, and I accept them. If you don't ever want to go boating on your own, you are quite welcome to make that choice for yourself.)

I hiked my laden boat past the dam, past the powerhouse, to the bank. Oh, damn; the bank turned out to be steep and ugly. I was wishing I'd scoped that out before hauling my boat around.

I found a spot that I could horse the boat over to, and lowered myself to a small outcropping of branches. I grabbed my boat; the heavy stern came down the bank with surprising force; the boat ripped itself out of my hands, plopped into the water, and quickly floated out of reach. Dang. I immediately jumped into the water, swam after the boat, and hauled it to shore.



**My campsite after striking the tent.
The bathroom is in the upper left.**

First swim of 2009? Nah; that doesn't count. Does it? After I got into my boat, I paddled across the river to a sign, which said something like "canoe trail." Aha. The putin is on river right. D'oh.

This 17-mile section of river, quite a ways upstream of the better-known, class-V [Stone Valley section](#), is beautiful and remote. Except for two fishermen just below one rapid, I didn't see anyone. There are long stretches of flatwater, punctuated by Class-II and III rapids which would certainly be unnerving to the two-person open canoes that sometimes ply these waters. Then, the last mile is juicy, with three IV+ - V+ rapids in quick succession.



Moody Falls

There were some fun rapids (Sol Island and Burnt Island, to name two) among the flats, and I found that my heavy boat was maneuverable enough. The birdlife wasn't as exotic as in Texas, but there were kingfishers, red-winged blackbirds, and the occasional merganser.

It's hard to know exactly where to camp. There are no official campgrounds along the way. There's definitely some private property, but there's also state forest land. I saw at least one spot that looked campable on river left, but it was way too early to stop. I was looking to camp just above Moosehead Rapid, about 2/3 of the way through. That would give me a short paddle out in the morning, and I could drive and join the FLOW paddlers' picnic along the [Salmon River](#).

Not having paddled much, my arms felt out of shape, and I was happy to come to the pool above Mooshead around 6 PM. (I judged that I could probably make it to the takeout, but that would be just before dark. Better to camp now, relax and enjoy myself.) This campsite was *very* rustic. There was no evidence of prior human life, but for a cut log and two small cooking grates hanging from a tree.



The hole in Upper Jamestown

The first order of business, after taking off my drysuit, was to cover myself with DEET. Then I set up the tent area.

The campsite was full of ferns, about a foot or two high. Since I was traveling without my trusty ThermaRest, I wanted some soft bedding. Boy-scout training from 40 years ago kicked in: I cut down a bunch of ferns and laid them on the ground, under where my tent was to go. Combined with two short $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick closed-cell foam pads, that would be padding enough. Got my tiny bivy tent set up and sat down for dinner: nuts and dried fruit. I had to wonder why everything tasted like DEET.

After dinner and a couple shots of tequila, I heard a huge splash! Was it a bear? (They have a reputation for stealing food in the Adirondacks.) After another splash, I saw a mammal swimming. So the splash had been from a beaver. Man, those flat tails do pack a wallop.

The tent was "cozy." It was so "cozy" that I couldn't sit up in it. Getting into or out of the tent required flexibility and contortions reminiscent of two teenagers in the backseat of a '66 VW Bug. But it was all good, with the possible exception of my "pillow." A dry bag makes an okay pillow for half an hour, but it's not completely air-tight, so two hours later you have to refill it. But it was enough pillow to prop my head as I read some excerpts from Powell's book about the Grand Canyon.

The beavers woke me up at least twice during the night with their loud tail-slaps. I didn't mind the intrusion.

Up at 5 AM in the morning, I had some more nuts and fruit, lightly seasoned with DEET, for breakfast, struck camp and packed the boat for another day. I was on the water at 6:15, ready for Moosehead just around the corner.

Moosehead was a simple enough rapid, with a little surfing opportunity. Another mile or so brought Moody's Falls, the first scoutable rapid.

Moody's is a multi-tiered drop (Class IV or IV+), with the holes and complications that you'd expect. I saw a line down the middle, but paddling a stern-heavy boat solo, I didn't risk it. There was a solid sneak down the far right, and that was what I took.

The final excitement came a mile later with Jamestown Falls. The book lists Upper Jamestown as V and Lower Jamestown as V-V+. I was expecting to walk Lower, and maybe Upper. A scout of Upper showed a huge, river-wide keeper hole. It had a weak point and a probable line down the middle—but again, there was the risk of getting shoved off-line by a hole above it and a backender in the main hole. I dragged my boat past the drop for a look at Lower J.



Lower Jamestown

I was pleasantly surprised. I saw a Class-V line through Lower J (maybe it's V+ at higher levels), and a IV sneak down the far right. Once again, I let discretion be the better part of valor and snuck the suckah. It went well, and soon I had a two-mile flatwater paddle to the takeout.



A family of mergansers

It was only 9 AM; I had plenty of time to make it to the Salmon...which was a good thing, because I made a bit of a wrong turn and, rather than admitting my error and backtracking, tried to find a road over the Tug Hill Plateau. That's as confusing as the back roads of West Virginia, and after an hour or two of snowmobile trails (with signs saying, "Minimal Road Maintenance" and ruts as deep as the lines in Kobak's face), I admitted defeat and backtracked on the main roads. Rolled to the putin on the Salmon at 2:something, grabbed a body shuttle and found some boaters I knew halfway down the river. Paddling solo on a deserted river is fun, but it's also fun to paddle with good buds.

Now: Who's coming up North for the Beaver over Labor Day weekend?

27 Kayakers YOU want to boat with

By Rob Hammond

On June 27, 2009, there were officially 27 kayakers who now understand how to help you if you need help on the river, know how to help themselves on the river and more importantly how to stay out of trouble in the first place.

The Rescue Weekend was a great success. The students learned a lot at the Saturday clinic and more importantly we all ate well at the pot luck dinner! On Sunday, teams competed at the Rescue Rodeo for prizes, medals and glory at five stations along Slippery Rock Creek below the mill.

After all of the teams completed the last scenario, most of them paddled down to Eckert Bridge. Although some of them were beginner paddlers, they knew that they could not have been in safer company!



John Kobak gives a talk

We did something new this year and followed the American Canoe Association guidelines for one day Swiftwater Rescue: level 4 clinic. As Dave Altman, my co-conspirator, and I are certified by the ACA to teach this course, we are authorized to issue course participation cards.

Rescue Rodeo

At the last minute on Sunday, we had several people who had committed to competing at the rodeo on Sunday cancel out due to illness and family emergencies. So as to not disappoint the people that did want to compete, the rodeo officials quickly decided to have 3-person teams, rather than the traditional 4-person teams. All the teams did extremely well and I am proud of everyone! This was the first time competition for everyone this year, so no one really knew what to expect and what a rescue rodeo really was...now they do and I hope they will be back next year and bring along some buds!



The Rescue Rodeo Teams of 2009

The rodeo is a team event where they compete at various scenarios for the best time or executions of the rescue. Each year we change it up so that every year competitors will see something different. Some scenarios we have every year such as the Garage Sale where the team has to rescue a swimmer, boat and paddle before going over Brink of Death Falls! Teams are judged on how fast they pull off the rescue and if they, the paddler or any equipment goes over the falls. Waterfalls are hard to find on that section of the river, so we make do with a rock marking the falls, anyone or thing going past the rock gets penalized!



Rope throw scenario at the rodeo

Some of the scenarios are tougher than others, so each scenario is weighted according to its difficulty and importance. The team that has a low score on the scenario extracting a foot entrapment victim can possibly get more points than a team scoring well on the Garage Sale.

This year the rodeo was on the section below the dam, so the teams put in at McConnell's Mill, paddled to the first scenario and when they finished the scenario they paddled down to the next one. Then the next team would be called



Dave demonstrates the wading technique

to put in and go to the first scenario. The rodeo ended before the most difficult rapids. Most of the competitors chose to paddle down to Eckert's bridge, but a few decided to take out and hike back to the mill.



Foot Entrapment Scenario at the rodeo

We all joined up at the picnic grounds. The judges tallied the points and the award ceremony started. This year we had gold, silver and bronze medals for the winning team members. The first place team got gift certificates from Wind and Water Boatworks in Pittsburgh. The winning teams were:

1st Place – Radioactive Flippers

John Smith
Mary Smith
Cathy Chung

2nd Place – Nuclear Fusion

Zach Dickinson
Matt Dickinson
John Cullivan

3rd Place –Chaos Theory

Jon Miller
Wendy Miller
Clay East



The first place winners: The Radioactive Flippers

I want to thank all of the instructors and Volunteers who made this event possible including: Dave and Amy Altman who were on the water teaching swimming, wading, rope throwing and boat based rescues. Back on dry land we had the tag team of John Kobak, Judi Fordyce and Michael Duvall. Additionally we had Elliot Drysdale, Jami Gray, Kathleen Wyatt and Adi Sitnica help out as rodeo judges, and of course most importantly we had my wife Patty help at registration, T-shirt design, potluck dinner organization, and event coordinator.

I also want to thank this year's sponsors. Jeff Prycl from Rocky Mountain Kayak generously agreed to supply all of the event T-shirts and Wind & Water Boatworks for donating

the gift certificates. When you are looking for kayaks or boating gear, check out the companies who support events like this. You can find them at Rocky



Mike and Judi demo a pin

Mountain Kayak, web site: www.rockymountinkayak.com

Wind & Water Boatworks web site:

www.windwaterboatworks.com It takes a tremendous group effort to put this event on and I have already started planning for next year. I will need your help, so think about volunteering. You don't have to be an expert to make a difference. And again thanks to all of the volunteers and sponsors!

You can see pictures from the event at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/pattyhammond08/RescueClinicRodeo?feat=directlink#>

7/31, 8/1	Upper Yough (MD) - Friendsville Days - Fri 6:00-10:00pm, Sat 12-10pm	32	Doug Smith	419-823-1423
8/7, 8	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
8/7, 8, 9	Family Campout - Hiking, Floating, etc. At Teeters Campground on Cheat River (WV)	FW	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969
8/8, 9	Basic River Kayak & Canoe - (PA)		Ernie Anderson	216-291-1093
8/11	Club Meeting at Huntington Beach Park	SK/FW	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
8/13	Lower Yough - Skip Work Day (PA)	23	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
8/14	Lower Yough - Ladies Only Day (PA)	23	Sherie Sanzenbacher	440-298-1293
8/15	Upper Cuyahoga Eldon Park to Camp Hi (OH)	SK/FW	Dennis Plank	216-939-8229
8/15, 16	Lower Yough (PA) - permits available, call before Thursday at noon.	23	Karl Nelson	330-497-2483
8/15, 16	Middle Yough (PA)	12	Needs organizer	
8/15, 16	New River Gorge or Lower Gauley (WV) Here are the details	27	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
8/21, 22	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Needs organizer	
8/22	Ohiopyle Falls Festival & Race (PA)		Barry Adams	412-242-4562
8/28,29,31	Upper Yough (MD)	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-4182 C

2009 Club Officers

President:	Ed Charlton	440-716-5489
VP:	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
Secretary:	Pat Guzowski	216-780-5734
Treasurer:	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969

Meeting Place: Middleburg Heights Recreation Center, 15700 Bagley Rd, on the second Tuesday of each month
Doors open at 7:00 P.M., meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

Membership: \$20 per year. New memberships, renewals, change in address or phone, send directly to

Membership Chairman: John Kobak, 440-871-1758
1649 Allen Dr.
Westlake, OH 44145

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KHCC WEB PAGE URL: www.keelhauler.org

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

Please consider writing a trip report or article for the next newsletter! The deadline for the September issue of the newsletter is **8/21/09**.

Please remember that articles should be sent to Kelly Miller (Laubaugh) at peetzaguy@aol.com or peetzaguy@comcast.net.

KeelHauler Kanews
Kelly Miller, Editor
1515 Fox Chase Dr.
Sewickley, PA 15143
peetzaguy@aol.com
August, 2009



Keelhauler's Kanews September, 2009



**Next Club Meeting is
Tuesday, September 8th at
7:30 PM**

*at Middleburg Hts Community Center
16000 E. Bagley Rd*

Program: Life in Polynesia

Rick Feinberg will share slides and thoughts about his nine months in the Solomon Islands in 2007-08. He was there to study Polynesian voyaging canoes and learn how locals make a living from the sea.



[Map to Middleburg Hts Meeting](#)

All meetings are open to guests.

Invite a prospective member!

It's that time again.....

All club memberships expire on October 1st. As soon as you can, please mail a \$20 check for your 2010 membership dues.

To:

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

Or pay \$21 using Paypal. Use this link to pay:

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

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

<http://keelhauler.org/khcc/memb/yearbook9.pdf>

User Name: "dir" and the current 2009 password found on pg 20 of our yearbook or see monthly e-mail.

If you need to change any information use this form:

<http://keelhauler.org/Newregistration.htm>

To renew your membership you do not have to fill out an application, you only need to send your dues payment and any changes to your membership information.

Please encourage any of your non-member paddling friends to join/rejoin the club. The club offers a lot to paddlers of all skill levels at less than the price of a tank of gas to go paddling.

John Kobak

**Don't see any news?
Nobody wrote any reports**

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September				
9/4,5	Upper Yough (MD)	32	John Kobak	440-871-1758 304-379-4747
9/5 - 7	Raquette/Beaver (NY) Adirondack WW Release Schedule	27-35	Matt Muir	585-421-9826
9/8	Club Meeting at Middleburg Hts Community Center		Joe Marks	216-281-1517
9/12, 13	Lower Gauley (WV)	27	Jim Hunt	330-335-5203
9/12, 13	Upper Gauley (WV)	33	Joe Marks	216-281-1517
9/14 to 18	Upper Yough (MD) Releases for Gauley Fest Week	32	Needs organizer	
9/18-20	Upper & Lower Gauley (Festival Weekend) (WV)	27-33	Cliff Wire	440-439-6541
9/19-20	Lower Gauley (WV)	27	Terry Markoff	440-543-4969
9/26, 27	Upper & Lower Gauley (WV)	33	John Kobak	440-871-1758
9/26, 27	Lower Yough (PA)	23	Mary Modesitt	540-460-4008
October			Time to Pay Dues	
10/2, 3	Upper Yough - Last Saturday Release (MD)	32	Elliott Drysdale	216-496-4182 C
10/3, 4	Upper & Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	Bill Miller	440-257-2970
10/10, 11	Upper & Lower Gauley (WV)	27-33	Needs organizer	
10/13	Club Annual Election of Officers at Middleburg Hts		Joe Marks	216-281-1517

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